



## ***Planorbarius corneus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

### **Diagnostic features**

Large sinistral, biconcave shell, whorls rounded and spire sunken.



*Planorbarius corneus* (adult size up to 40 mm)

Umbilicus very wide. Animal brown or red with thin tentacles. It differs from the similar *Planorbella duryi* in having more rounded whorls and lacking the distinct mantle mottling of that species.

### **Classification**

***Planorbarius corneus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Common name:* Ram's horn snail.

*Class:* Gastropoda

*Infraclass:* Heterobranchia

*Megaorder:* Hygrophila

*Order:* Lymnaeida

*Superfamily:* Planorboidea

*Family:* Planorbidae

*Subfamily:* Planorbinae

Genus *Planorbarius* Duméril, 1806 (Type species: *Helix corneus*, Linnaeus, 1758) (Synonym *Coretus*, Gray, 1847).

*Original name: Helix corneus* Linnaeus, 1758. In Linnaeus, C. (1758). *Systema Naturae, per regna tria naturae, secundum classes, ordines, genera, species, cum characteribus, differentiis, synonymis, locis. Editio decima, reformata*. Holmiae : Laurentii Salvii Tom. 1-824 pp.

*Type locality:* Northern Europe.

*Synonym: Planorbis adelosius* Bourguignat, 1859

## Biology and ecology

On water weeds etc. in ponds. Feed on algae and detritus. Egg mass an elongate capsule containing 12-40 small eggs. Development direct.

## Distribution

Introduced from Europe, common in aquariums but not established (to our knowledge) in the wild in mainland Australia but in ponds in urban areas in Tasmania (Launceston) and at least one plant nursery in Melbourne.

Native distribution Western Europe to Siberia and the Middle East.

## Notes

This large, red-coloured species is sometimes encountered in the aquarium trade. It has gone by the name of *Planorbis corneus* for many years.

## Further reading

Albrecht, C., Kuhn, K. & Streit, B. (2007). A molecular phylogeny of Planorboidea (Gastropoda, Pulmonata): insights from enhanced taxon sampling. *Zoologica Scripta* 36: 27-39.

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