



Sermyla H. & A. Adams, 1854

Diagnostic features

Shell: Relatively small, elongate conical with up to 8 whorls and an evenly rounded last whorl. Main sculptural elements are the widely spaced axial, sometimes pronouncedly opisthocline ribs on the upper part of all whorls, while on the basal part of the last whorl there are prominent spiral grooves. Some forms from near Darwin in NT (*Sermyla venustula*) have smooth sculptureless shells.

Shell colour - black to dark brown to pale yellowish horn with reddish brown spots and flecks. Operculum oval and paucispiral.

Mantle edge with many finger-like papillae. A brood pouch is located in the neck region of the head foot in females.

Classification

Sermyla H. & A. Adams, 1854

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Megaorder Cerithiimorpha

Order Cerithiida

Superfamily Cerithioidea

Family Thiariidae

Genus *Sermyla* H. & A. Adams, 1854

Type species: *Melania tornatella* Lea, 1850

Original reference: H. & A. Adams, 1854. Adams, H. & Adams, A. 1853. The genera of Recent Mollusca; arranged according to their organization. Vol. 1. John Van Voorst, London. 1-256, plates 1-32.

Type locality: Java.

Synonyms: *Sermylasma* Iredale, 1943

Biology and ecology

Sermyla feed on algae and detritus, and inhabit fresh to brackish waters of rivers and streams. *Sermyla* females are parthenogenic, and reproduce either ovoviviparously (*i.e.* releasing juveniles only as free swimming veligers, as is the case for *Sermyla riqueti*) or euviviparously (*i.e.* releasing crawling juveniles as more advanced in size and development, seen in *Sermyla venustula*). This is reflected in the habitats of both species - *Sermyla riqueti* inhabits more brackish waters and has a wider Indo-Pacific distribution, whereas *Sermyla venustula*, which is exclusively freshwater and endemic to northern Australia.

Distribution

Widely distributed, occurring in Southeast Asia, the Indo-Malay Archipelago ranging far into the Pacific region, and in northern Australia.

Further reading

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To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/freshwater_molluscs/

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