Sermyla onca (A. Adams & Angas, 1864)

Melasma onca (adult size up to 27 mm)

Distribution of *Melasma onca*. Black dots indicate additional records from Glaubrecht et al. (2009).

Katherine River, about 5 km W of Katherine. One of the rivers in which *M. onca* occurs. Photo V. Kessner.

Diagnostic features

This species is characterised by its slender, straight, evenly spaced axial ribs with a chain of subsutural grain-like nodules.

Classification

Sermyla ***onca*** (A. Adams & Angas, 1864)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Megaorder Cerithiimorpha

Order Cerithiida

Superfamily Cerithioidea

Family Thiaridae

Genus Sermyla A. Adams & Angas, 1864 (Type species: *Melania mitra* Dunker, 1844 = *Sermya riquetii* (Grateloup, 1840)

Original name: *Melania* (*Melasma) onca* A. Adams & Angas, 1864. *In* Adams, A. & Angas, G. F. (1864). Descriptions of new species of freshwater shells collected by Mr. F.G. Waterhouse during J. McDonald Stuart's overland journey from Adelaide to the north-west coast of Australia. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1863: 414-418.

Type locality: North Australia, tributary of Adelaide River, Northern Territory.

Biology and ecology

Lives on sandy or stony substrata in the upper and middle sections of seasonal rivers and creeks. Diet consists

of detritus and algae. Brood pouch contains a high number (>150) of juveniles in various stages of development.

Distribution

Tropical wet northern part of the Northern Territory, but inland from the coast.

Notes

Listed as *Melasma onca* in previous versions of this key.

Further reading

Beesley, P. L., Ross, G. J. B. & Wells, A., Eds. (1998). *Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis. Parts A & B*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing.

Glaubrecht, M., Brinkmann, N. & Pöppe, J. (2009). Diversity and disparity 'down under': systematics, biogeography and reproductive modes of the 'marsupial' freshwater Thiaridae (Caenogastropoda, Cerithioidea) in Australia. *Zoosystematics and Evolution* 85: 199-275.

Glaubrecht, M. & Neiber, M. T. (2019). Thiaridae Gill, 1871 (1823). Pp. 86-89 *in* C. Lydeard & Cummings, K. S. *Freshwater Mollusks of the World: a Distribution Atlas*. Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press.

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Smith, B. J. (1992). Non-marine Mollusca. Pp. i-xii, 1-408 *in* W. W. K. Houston. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia*, 8. Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service.

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Willan, E. C. & Kessner, V. (2021). A conspectus of the freshwater molluscs of the Daly River catchment, Northern Territory. *Northern Territory Naturalist* 30: 108-137.

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

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