



## *Sinotaia guangdungensis* (Kobelt, 1906)



*Sinotaia guangdungensis* (adult size 18-28 mm)



*Sinotaia guangdungensis* - living animal. Photo: S. K. Tan.

### Diagnostic features

This taxon differs from all the Australian viviparid species in having heavy spiral ridges on the shell. It is unlike any other freshwater snail found in Australia.

### Classification

*Sinotaia guangdungensis* (Kobelt, 1906)

*Common name:* Chinese river snail

*Class:* Gastropoda

*Infraclass:* Caenogastropoda

*Informal group:* Architaenioglossa

*Order:* Viviparida

*Superfamily:* Viviparioidea

*Family:* Viviparidae

*Subfamily:* Bellamyinae

*Genus Sinotaia* Haas, 1939 (Type species: *Paludina quadrata* Benson, 1842; Chusan, (Zhoushan) China)

*Original name:* *Vivipara quadrata heudei* var. *guangdongensis* Kobelt, 1906. In Kobelt, W. (1906). Die Gattung *Paludina* Lam. (*Vivipara* Montfort). Neue Folge. In *Abbildungen nach der natur. Systematisches Conchylien-Cabinet* 1(21): 97-128, plates 15-19, 21.

*Type locality:* Canton, (Guangzhou) Guangdong Province, China.

## Biology and ecology

Under logs, rocks etc. in river. Although the biology of this taxon has not been studied, its anatomy shows that it is a suspension feeder, using the gill for filtering food from the water as in other viviparids, and that it broods its eggs in the pallial oviduct.

## Distribution

Introduced from southern China by way of the aquarium trade and is (was?) established in the freshwater part of the Lane Cove River and in Centennial Park ponds, Sydney, New South Wales (Shea 1994). They have not been recorded in recent years and there is, to date, no evidence of it having spread beyond those localities.

## Notes

Previously referred to the African genus *Bellamya*.

Species of this genus are used for animal and human food in parts of Asia.

A related Asian species, *Sinotaia quadrata* (Benson, 1842), has been intercepted by Australian Biosecurity. It differs from the present species in lacking strong spiral ridges.

## Further reading

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Ximena, M. C. O. & Cuezco, M. G. (2012). Discovery of an established population of a non-native species of Viviparidae (Caenogastropoda) in Argentina *Molluscan Research* 32: 121-131.

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