



***Sphaerium (Musculium) cf. lacustre* (Müller, 1774)**



Sphaerium (Musculium) cf. lacustre (adult size up to 11.5 mm)

Diagnostic features

Shells usually thin and fragile, medium-sized (usually 8–10 mm long). Umbos narrow central or slightly shifted posteriorly, prosogyrous (bent anteriorly), protruded, with clearly separated prodissoconch sometimes forming a bean-shaped cap. Hinge plate relatively narrow; tendency to hinge teeth reduction evident in many (but not all) species. Ligament not visible from exterior. Both siphons tubular. Upper (exhalant) siphon with one pair of retractor muscles, lower (inhalant) with two pairs. Siphons long, dorsal retractors of branchial siphon normally developed, with their scars well marked as appendages of posterior adductor scars or separated. Outer demibranch of two lamellae, relatively small (height about 1/3 inner demibranch height), begins at 5th filament of inner demibranch. Brood pouches multiple.

This species differs from native species in their large size (up to 11.5 mm in length), and distinct prosogyrous beaks bearing clearly separated prodissoconchs referred to as 'caps' by Korniushev (2000). The ligament is not visible externally (it is in *Sphaerium (Sphaerinova)*) but, unlike *Sphaerinova*, the siphonal retractor muscles are well developed.

Classification

Sphaerium (Musculium) cf. lacustre (Müller, 1774)

Common name: Pea shell, pea clam, pill clam

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Heterodonta

Megaorder Neoheterodontei

Order Sphaeriida

Superfamily Sphaerioidea

Family Sphaeriidae

Subfamily Sphaeriinae

Genus *Sphaerium* Scopoli, 1777

Type species: *Tellina cornea* Linnaeus, 1758. Europe.

Subgenus *Musculium* Link, 1807 (Type species *Tellina lacustris* Müller, 1774) (Synonyms *Calyculina* Clessin, 1872; *Cyclas (Phymesoda)* Rafinesque, 1820).

Original name: *Tellina lacustris* Müller, 1774. In Müller, O. F. (1773-1774). *Vermium terrestrium et fluviatilium, seu animalium infusoriorum, helminthicorum, et testaceorum, non marinorum, succincta historia*. Vol. 1, Havniæ (Copenhagen) & Lipsiæ (Leipzig), Heineck & Faber.

Australian record: Korniuschin, A. V. (2000). Review of the family Sphaeriidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia) of Australia, with the description of four new species. *Records of the Australian Museum* 52: 41-102.

Type locality: Unknown.

Biology and ecology

M. lacustre is a protandric, simultaneous hermaphrodite - populations can contain two overlapping populations at any one time. Young are brooded in multiple brood pouches. Maturation can occur at 2 mm in size, however most become mature at 4-6mm. Suspension and deposit feeder.

Members of this group prefer temporary or unstable water bodies. Inhabit almost all types of freshwater habitats including springs, rivers, lakes, ponds, billabongs, waterholes, small creeks, drains and peat bogs. Lives in sediment and in weeds.

Distribution

Introduced in eastern South Australia (in the vicinity of Adelaide).

Native distribution Europe. Also introduced to Hawaii.

Notes

First recorded in Australia by Korniuschin (2000), however identification is tentative - similar to large European forms of *M. lacustre* particularly in the narrow, protruding umbos and the separated prodissoconch (cap).

Further reading

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

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