



Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum queenslandicum E. A. Smith, 1883



Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum queenslandicum.
Syntype. (Adult size up to 6.6 mm)



Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum queenslandicum. Bullet Ck, Wollgorang Str, NT.
Photo: V. Kessner.



Distribution of *Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum tasmanicum* and *Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum queenslandicum*.



Esey Falls, Roper River, Northern Territory. One of the locations where *Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum queenslandicum* has been found. Photo: V. Kessner.

Diagnostic features

Korniushin (2000) noted that this subspecies is distinguished from typical *S. (S.) tasmanicum* mainly by its peculiar shell outline and posteriorly shifted umbo. Anatomically, *queenslandicum* differs in having weaker siphonal retractors and an elongate dorsal lobe of the nephridia.

Classification

Sphaerium (Sphaerinova) tasmanicum queenslandicum E. A. Smith, 1883

Common name: Pea shell, pea clam, pill clam

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Heterodonta

Megaorder Neoheterodonte

Order Sphaeriida

Superfamily Sphaerioidea

Family Sphaeriidae

Subfamily Sphaeriinae

Genus *Sphaerium* Scopoli, 1777

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

Subgenus *Sphaerinova* Iredale, 1943

Original name: *Sphaerium queenslandicum* E. A. Smith, 1883. In Smith, E.A. (1882). On the freshwater shells of Australia. *Journal of the Linnean Society of London, Zoology* 16: 255-316.

Type locality: Limestone Creek, Burdekin River, Queensland.

State of taxonomy

The Northern Territory records are tentatively assigned to this taxon.

Graf & Cummings (2023) treat this subspecies as a synonym of *Sphaerium tasmanicum* but without justification.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in sand/mud in creeks, ponds, swamps and lakes. Suspension and deposit feeder, larvae brooded. Suspension and deposit feeder.

Distribution

Northern Queensland and in streams running into the Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory.

Further reading

Graf, D. L. & Cummings, K. S. (2023). The Freshwater Mussels (Unionoida) of the World (and other less consequential bivalves). MUSSEL Project Web Site, <http://www.mussel-project.net/>. Accessed April 2023.

Komiushin, 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.

Kuiper, J. G. J. (1983). The Sphaeriidae of Australia. *Basteria* 47: 3-52.

Lee, T. (2019). Sphaeriidae Deshayes, 1855 (1820). Pp. 197-201 in C. Lydeard & Cummings, K. S. *Freshwater Mollusks of the World: a Distribution Atlas*. Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press.

Lee, T. & Ó Foighil, D. (2003). Phylogenetic structure of the Sphaeriinae, a global clade of freshwater bivalve molluscs, inferred from nuclear (ITS-1) and mitochondrial (16S) ribosomal gene sequences. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 137: 245-260.

Willan, R. 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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