



***Tarebia granifera* (Lamarck, 1816)**

Diagnostic features

Shells are highly polymorphic, elongate conical and strongly



Tarebia granifera (adult size up to 35 mm)

sculptured with both spiral cords and axial ribs, and there are usually nodules along the axial ribs. There is no umbilicus and the operculum is oval and paucispiral with an eccentric nucleus.

Mantle edge with ventral papillae of which usually 3–4 are most pronounced on the anal side of the mantle. A brood pouch is located in the head.

Classification

Tarebia granifera (Lamarck, 1816)

Common name: Quilted melania

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Megaorder Cerithiimorpha

Order Cerithiida

Superfamily Cerithioidea

Family Thiariidae

Genus Tarebia H. Adams and A. Adams, 1854 (Type species: *Melania granifera* Lamarck, 1816).

Original name: Melania granifera Lamarck, 1816. In Lamarck, J. B. P. A. d M. C. d (1816). Histoire naturelle des Animaux sans Vertèbres, présentant les caractères généraux et particuliers de ces animaux, leur distribution, leurs classes, leurs familles, leurs genres, et la citation des principales espèces qui s'y rapportent; précédée d'une Introduction offrant la Détermination des caractères essentiels de l'Animal, sa distinction du Végétal et des autres corps naturels, enfin, l'exposition des principes fondamentaux de la Zoologie: Paris, Déterville & Verdrière.

Type locality: Timor, Indonesia.

Synonyms: Melania obliquigranosa Smith, 1878; *Melania lateritia* Lea, 1850; *Melania batana* Gould, 1843; *Melania broti* Reeve, 1859; *Melania celebensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1834; *Melania chocolatum* Brot, 1860; *Melania coffea* Philippi, 1843 *Helix lineata* Gray in Wood, 1828; *Melania lirata* Benson, 1836; *Melania verrucosa* Hinds, 1844; *Melania asperula* Brot, 1868; *Melania granospira* Mousson,, 1857; *Melania crenifera* Lea, 1850; *Melania flavida* Dunker, 1844; *Melania semigranosa* v.d. Busch, 1842; *Melania rudis* Lea, 1850; *Melania microstoma* Lea, 1850; *Melania lyrata* Reeve, 1859; *Melania granospiralis* Zollinger, 1860; *Melania junghuhni*, Martin, 1879.

Biology and ecology

On and in sediment, rocks and on water weeds in estuarine and freshwater rivers and streams, irrigation canals and ornamental ponds. A detritus and algal feeder. Parthenogenic and broods eggs and larvae in a brood pouch in the head which contain shelled juveniles in different stages of development. This subhemocoelic brood pouch is modified as a "pseudoplacenta" that, via matrotrophy apparently helps to nourish the developing juveniles. *Tarebia granifera* is a host of oriental lung fluke (*Paragonimus westermani*) and therefore of medical and economic importance.

Distribution

Native to southern Asia. Introduced into North, South and central America and the Caribbean, Africa and Israel, apparently mainly by way of the aquarium trade.

Notes

The shells of this species are very polymorphic. A highly invasive species that has spread throughout the tropical world and can displace native gastropods as well as causing damage to water systems by clogging pipes and machinery. *Tarebia* does not yet occur in Australia but is mentioned here as there is a possibility *Tarebia granifera* could be introduced via the aquarium trade or by some other means.

Further reading

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