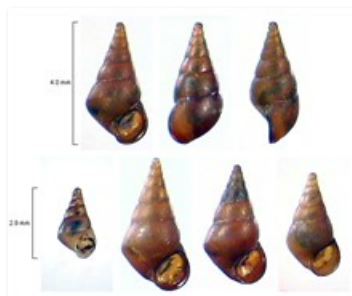




Tatea huonensis (Tenison Woods, 1876)



Tatea huonensis (adult size 4-5.6 mm)



Distribution of *Tatea*.



Tatea huonensis clustering on the shore of an estuary, South Australia. Photo W. Ponder.

Diagnostic features

There are two species of *Tatea*, both have elongate shells and the adults have a thickened aperture and the operculum bears several pegs. *T. huonensis* has a broader shell than *T. rufilabris*, the spire has a straight outline and the last whorl is less angulate at the periphery.

Classification

Tatea huonensis (Tenison Woods, 1876)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Tatea* Tenison Woods, 1879

Original name: Bythinia huonensis Tenison Woods, 1876. In Woods, J. E. Tenison (1876). On the freshwater shells of Tasmania. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* 1875: 3 - 89.

Type locality: Huon River, Tasmania.

Synonyms: Tatea paradisiaca Pilsbry, 1897; *Tatea ballina* Iredale, 1943.

Biology and ecology

In leaf litter, under logs, rocks, etc. amongst mangroves, in salt marsh and along river banks in estuaries and coastal lagoons. Often abundant. Assumed to feed on microalgae and bacteria. Solitary, sand-covered hemispherical capsules with single egg. Development includes a short planktotrophic phase.

Distribution

From southern Queensland to southern Western Australia and Tasmania.

Notes

Tatea differs from other tateids in having the following combination of characters: a protoconch of two whorls consisting of protoconch I and II (not about 1.3-1.7 whorls with no protoconch 11), a black pigment ring around the distal end of the cephalic tentacles, and the female genital opening located beneath the middle of the capsule gland. It differs from nearly all in having more massive opercular pegs and a thicker operculum. In addition, *Tatea* has several small ciliated folds on the left cephalic tentacle, a feature that is absent in related freshwater taxa.

Further reading

Ponder, W. F., Colgan, D. J. & Clark, G. A. (1991). The morphology, taxonomy and genetic structure of *Tatea* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae), estuarine snails from temperate Australia. *Australian Journal of Zoology* 39: 447-497.

Ponder, W. F., Clark, S. A. & Dallwitz, M. J. (2000). *Freshwater and estuarine molluscs: an interactive, illustrated key for New South Wales*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing.

Robinson, K. & Gibbs, P. (1982). *A field guide to the common shelled molluscs of New South Wales estuaries*. Sydney, Coast and Wetlands Society.

To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

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

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