



***Thiara amarula* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Diagnostic features

The large shell with a single row of prominent upward-pointing spines



Thiara amarula (adult size up to approximately 50 mm)



Distribution of *Thiara amarula*.

on the whorl shoulder, thick black periostracum, and decollate spire are characteristic for this species.

Classification

Thiara amarula (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common name: Spined marsh snail

Class: Gastropoda

Infraclass: Caenogastropoda

Megaorder: Cerithiimorpha

Order: Cerithiida

Superfamily: Cerithioidea

Family: Thiariidae

Genus: *Thiara* Röding, 1798

Original name: Helix amarula Linnaeus, 1758. In Linnaeus, C. (1758). *Systema Naturae, per regna tria naturae, secundum classes, ordines, genera, species, cum characteribus, differentiis, synonymis, locis. Editio decima, reformata*. Holmiae : Laurentii Salvii Tom. 1 824 pp.

Type locality: Asian waters (Asiae fluviis).

Synonyms: *Melania coacta* Mörch, 1872; *Melania cybele* Gould, 1847; *Melania diadema* I Lee & H. C. Lee, 1851; *Melania villosa* Philippi, 1849.

Biology and ecology

Burrows in sediment and gravel in cool running freshwater streams in tropical rainforest areas in the reaches above tidal influence. Biology unstudied, but presumably a detritus feeder. Brood pouch in head; swimming veliger larvae released (Schütt & Glaubrecht, 1999).

Distribution

Tropical north-eastern Queensland in streams and rivers. It also occurs from the southern and eastern coasts of Africa to the Malay Archipelago, the Philippines and some Indo-West Pacific Islands including Fiji and Samoa (Schütt & Glaubrecht, 1999).

Further reading

Beesley, P. L., Ross, G. J. B. & Wells, A., Eds. (1998). *Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis. Parts A & B*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing.

Brandt, R. A. M. (1974). The non-marine aquatic Mollusca of Thailand. *Archiv Für Molluskenkunde* 105: 1-423.

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Iredale, T. (1943). A basic list of the fresh water Mollusca of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 10: 188-230.

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Schütt, S., & Glaubrecht, M. (1999). *Thiara amarula* (Linné, 1758) (Caenogastropoda: Thiaridae) in Australia—new evidence on the anatomy of the reproductive system in a viviparous freshwater mollusc. *Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg* 215: 181-188.

Smith, B. J. (1992). Non-marine Mollusca. Pp. i-xii, 1-408 in W. W. K. Houston. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia*, 8. Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service.

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

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