

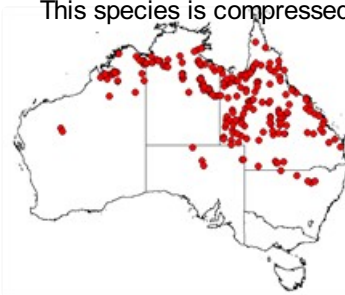


## *Velesunio wilsonii* (Lea, 1859)



### Diagnostic features

This species is compressed and rather elongate for the genus



Clarke Creek, Isaac River waterhole is the type locality of *Velesunio wilsonii*. Photo M. Klunzinger.

(height/length ratio <53%). Shell length up to 125 mm; tapered posteriorly, not winged or very slightly winged; ventral margin slightly rounded in juveniles, straight in adults. The anterior muscle scars are moderately impressed, and the hinge teeth are smooth. Siphons are lightly pigmented (cf. *Velesunio angasi*).

### Classification

*Velesunio wilsonii* (Lea, 1859)

*Common name:* Wilson's mussel

*Class:* Bivalvia

*Infraclass:* Heteroconchia

*Cohort:* Palaeoheterodonta

*Order:* Unionida

*Superfamily:* Unionoidea

*Family:* Hyriidae

## Subfamily Velesunioninae

Genus *Velesunio* Iredale, 1934

*Original name: Unio wilsoni* Lea, 1859. In Lea, I. (1859). Descriptions of twenty one new species of exotic Unionidae. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 11: 151-154.

*Type locality:* Issac River, Queensland.

*Synonyms: Unio (Alasmodon) stuarti* A. Adams & Angas, 1864; *Centralhyria wilsonii caurina* Iredale, 1934.

## State of taxonomy

The last major taxonomic revision of Australian freshwater mussels was by McMichael & Hiscock (1958).

Based on the available molecular results, Walker et al. (2014) pointed out that a re-assessment of Australian hyriids is needed.

## Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in silty sand/mud in streams, billabongs, and slow-flowing rivers. Suspension feeder. Larvae (glochidia) are brooded in the marsupia of the gills of females and, when released, become parasitic on the gills or fins of fish where they likely undergo metamorphosis before dropping to the sediment as free-living juvenile mussels. May be able to tolerate low oxygen concentrations and long periods out of water.

## Distribution

Lakes, streams and rivers of coastal Queensland between the Mary River and Cairns; most of inland Queensland; western Gulf of Carpentaria and Murray-Darling basin extending into NSW; SE inland Northern Territory; NE South Australia and the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

## Further reading

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