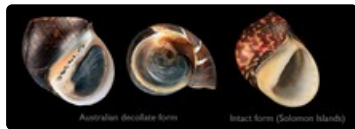




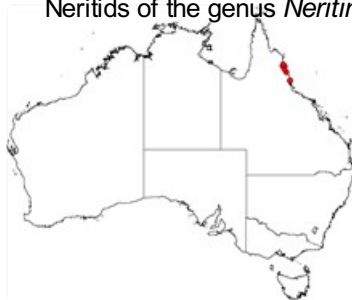
Vittina variegata (Lesson, 1830)



Vittina variegata (adult size 16-27 mm)

Diagnostic features

Neritids of the genus *Neritina* and similar genera such as *Vittina*



Distribution of *Vittina variegata*.

have cap-shaped, globular, or semiglobose, shells with a low- to flat spire that is often submerged by last whorl. The surface is generally smooth, sometimes with spines. The periostracum is usually thick or at least well-developed. Colour may vary from black to multi-coloured, often with distinct and complex colour patterns. Columella very pronounced, broad and shelf-like, sometimes with wing-like projections, and often brightly coloured; columellar edge smooth or with fine denticulations. There is no umbilicus. The operculum is 'D'-shaped with a smooth glossy outer surface, often spirally patterned, with a prominent internal often bi-lobed elongated peg (apophysis) and a low internal spiral raised area or bulge mid-way. Their cephalic tentacles are narrow with the eye situated on a short stalk next to the outer edge of the tentacle. The snout is short and truncated with a scalloped edge. The spermatophores are variable in length, with or without an enclosing envelope or an internal radial thread but never with an external filament. Vaginal duct long and leaves the vagina near the spermatophore sac. Penes are variable but generally an external long curved organ with a prominent lateral or terminal groove; there is never a penis pouch in the male head.

Vittina variegata is a rather medium-sized species (length to about 27 mm) has variably coloured shell with dark wavy lines and a pale yellowish to white aperture. The spire is moderately raised. The operculum is externally black. A similar species, *V. lugubris* (Philippi, 1843) has a pale brown operculum and lives together with *V. variegata* in the brackish parts of rivers and streams.

Classification

Vittina variegata (Lesson, 1830)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Neritimorpha

Order Neritopsida

Suborder Neritina

Superfamily Neritoidea

Family Neritidae

Subfamily Neritinae

Genus *Vittina* H. B. Baker, 1924 (Type species *Nerita roissyana* Récluz, 1841) (Synonym *Paranerita* Bourne, 1908, preoccupied)

Original name: Neritina variegata Lesson, 1831. In Lesson R. P. (1831). Chap.XI. Mollusques, Annelides et Vers. pp.239 - 471 in, *Voyage Autour du Monde Execute par Ordre du Roi, sur la Corvette de Sa Majeste, La Coquille, pendant les annees 1822, 1823, 1824 et 1825*. Zoologie. Paris: Bertrand Vol. 2(1).

Type locality: New Ireland.

Biology and ecology

On rocks in running water in streams and rivers. Can also occur in the upper estuarine parts of rivers. As with other neritids, egg capsules are small, oval and white.

Distribution

Tropical northern Australia. Also, SE Asia, some larger Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Further reading

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Bentham Jutting, W. S. S., van (1956). Systematic studies on the non-marine Mollusca of the Indo-Australian Archipelago. 5: Critical revision of the Javanese freshwater gastropods. *Treubia* 23: 259-477.

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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