

Potamopyrgus oppidanus (Haase, 2008)

One stream and one fountain

Photos of this species wanted. Send to
info@endangeredspecies.org.nz

Quickfacts

A freshwater snail, only known from
Wadestown in Wellington

Known from one stream, and one fountain
that is fed by water from that stream

Potamopyrgus oppidanus is a water snail in the family Tateidae, which includes the mud snails. Snails in the genus *Potamopyrgus* are usually found on woody debris, stones and leaf litter in freshwater streams in New Zealand and South-East Australia.

Potamopyrgus oppidanus has only been found in one stream and a nearby man-made fountain in Wadestown, Wellington. It has since disappeared from the fountain. It isn't known if this species occurs elsewhere as the local area hasn't been fully surveyed.

Data on *Potamopyrgus oppidanus* population numbers is lacking as there are few people who can identify this snail. The vegetation surrounding its current location has declined considerably in the past, and now any remaining habitat tends to be extremely fragmented. Threats to its continued existence include fires in the surrounding vegetation, clearance of shading vegetation from the stream banks causing the stream water to become warmer, and channelization of the stream.

Potamopyrgus oppidanus is known to have disappeared from channelised portions of the stream it inhabits.



What next?

Encouraging people to search for *Potamopyrgus oppidanus* in streams in the wider Wellington area would be beneficial in assessing whether the species is more widespread, and therefore safer. While difficult to identify, the most likely similar water snail in the area potentially inhabited by *Potamopyrgus oppidanus* is the common *Potamopyrgus antipodum*. Both snails are light brown in colour, but the shell of *Potamopyrgus antipodum* in this area is larger (>3.9 mm long), and is relatively broad in that the length is about twice its width. In *Potamopyrgus oppidanus* the shell is 2-3.8 mm long (usually 2.8 mm long), and the length of the shell is about three times longer than the width. Taking a photo of any suspected *Potamopyrgus oppidanus* and uploading them to NatureWatch ([link](#)) is the best way of confirming the snail's identity.

More information

Webpage: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: *Potamopyrgus oppidanus*. [Link](#)

Webpage: World Register of marine Species: *Potamopyrgus oppidanus*. [Link](#)

Webpage: Te Papa: Taxon, *Potamopyrgus oppidanus*. [Link](#)

Web page: Gastropoda. By University of Otago, 2015. [Link](#)

Scientific paper: The radiation of hydrobiid gastropods in New Zealand: A revision including the description of new species based on morphology and mtDNA sequence information. By Martin Haase. Systematics and Biodiversity Vol. 6 (1), 2008. [Link](#)

Report: Conservation Status of New Zealand Freshwater Invertebrates, 2013. By Natasha Grainger, Kevin Collier, Rod Hitchmough, Jon Harding, Brian Smith and Darin Sutherland. Department of Conservation New Zealand Threat Classification Series 8. [PDF](#)

Scientific paper: Rapid and convergent evolution of parental care in hydrobiid gastropods from New Zealand. By Martin Haase. Journal of Evolutionary Biology Vol. 18, pages 1076-1086, 2005. [PDF](#)

Report: Are you interested in native plants and animals? Have your say on Our Natural Capital: Wellington's Draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014. By Wellington City Council, 2014. [PDF](#)

This webpage represents the views of the Endangered Species Foundation of New Zealand and not necessarily those of other individuals or organisations involved in the conservation of this species.

Have a comment on this page? Send it to us info@endangeredspecies.org.nz