Quick guide to common New Zealand freshwater Mollusca

Prepared by Brian Smith (2007)

NIWA
Taihoro Nukurangi

YES → **Sphaeriidae**

Is the shell <6 mm & pale?

NO → **Hyriidae** → Does the shell have distinct nodules & ridges?

YES → ***Cucumerunio***

NO

note: juvenile Echyridella have distinct ridges present

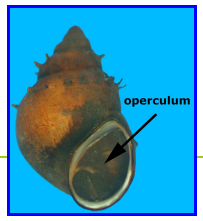
Echyridella

Bivalvia (clams)

YES → Is the shell composed of 2 halves & cockle-like?

NO → **Gastropoda (snails & limpets)** → Is an operculum present, & the shell always spired?

YES → **Prosobranchia**



Is the shell strongly elongated (tips may be broken) & distinctive striae present?

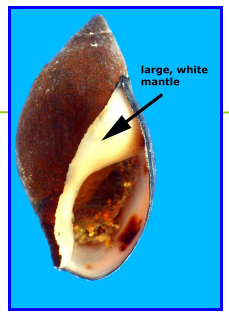
YES → ***generally restricted to thermally influenced waters***

Melanoides **(exotic)**

NO → Is the shell smoothly coiled, with a large white mantle on the ventral surface?

YES → **Melanopsidae**

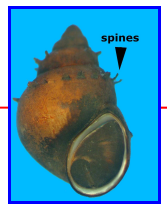
shell dark & smoothly coiled, up to 30 mm



Melanopsis

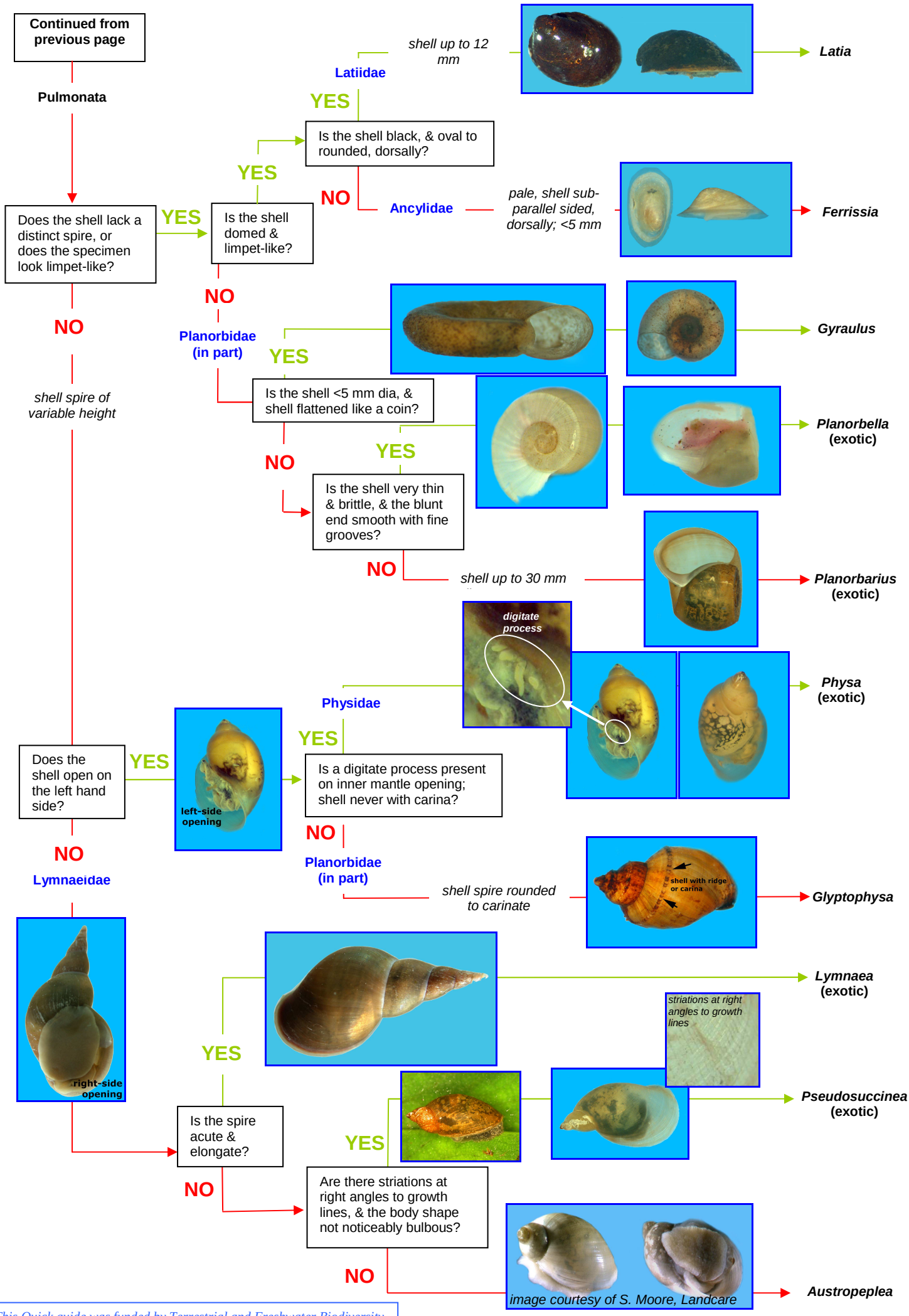
NO → **Hydrobiidae**

usually <12 mm, may have spines



Potamopyrgus

NO → **Continued overleaf**



This Quick guide was funded by Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) programme number 194.