

## Black Nerite

### *Nerita melanotragusa*

Marine snail up to 3 cm. Black, round or globe-shaped shell. Older snails will sometimes have a white patch on the side of their shell

#### Where look:

Mid to high shore, rock pools and crevices in WA, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC

#### When to look:

Year-round

#### Similar species:

Black nerites are common on rocky shores and easily distinguished from most other marine snails by their black colour and rounded shape. Black nerites (*Nerita melanotragusa*) can be mistaken with a similar species called the ribbed nerite (*Nerita costata*) which occurs in Queensland and southern NSW. The ribbed nerite has 12-15 ribs that swirl up to the flattened apex of the shell and a grey or green operculum (shell door or lid). The black nerite, is smooth shelled and has a black operculum (sometimes spotted orange).

*Image courtesy of Lydia Borg*