Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

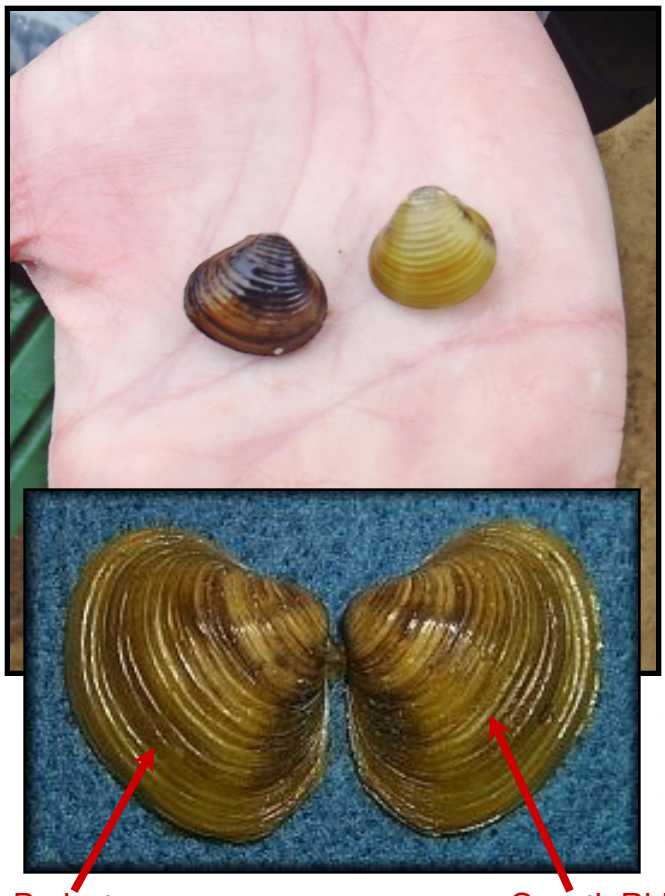
Description

The Asian Clam, *Corbicula fluminea,* is a small bivalve that is native to southern Asia, the eastern Mediterranean, and Australia. They are found in sandy, muddy bottoms of streams, rivers, and lakes, usually slightly submerged in the sediment, but have been found buried in up to 7 inches below the surface.

Asian Clams are hermaphroditic and have the ability to produce hundreds of juveniles per day. They can spread rapidly and reach densities up to 8,000 clams per square meter. Their average lifespan is 1-4 years.

Size: Small, usually less than 20 millimeters.

Exterior Features



Color: Light tan or brown colored shell, but color can vary.

The shell has thick elevated concentric growth rings.

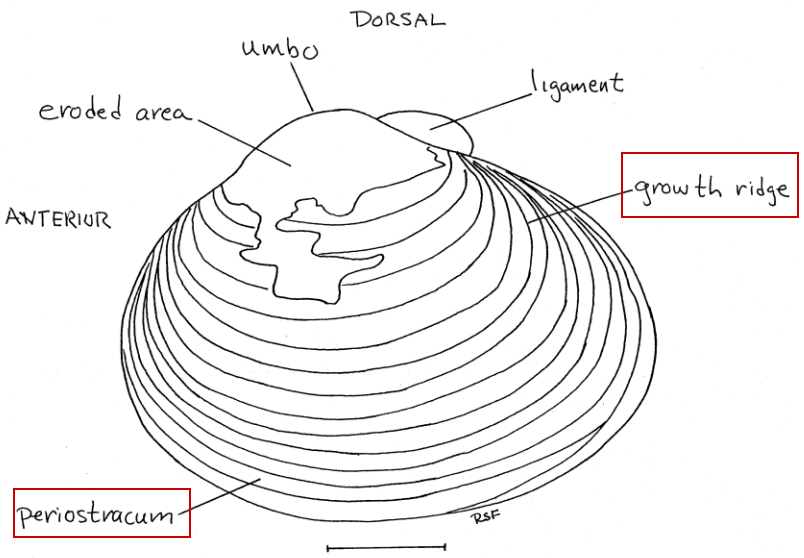


Figure 1. *Corbicula fluminea*. Exterior of left valve.

Interior Features

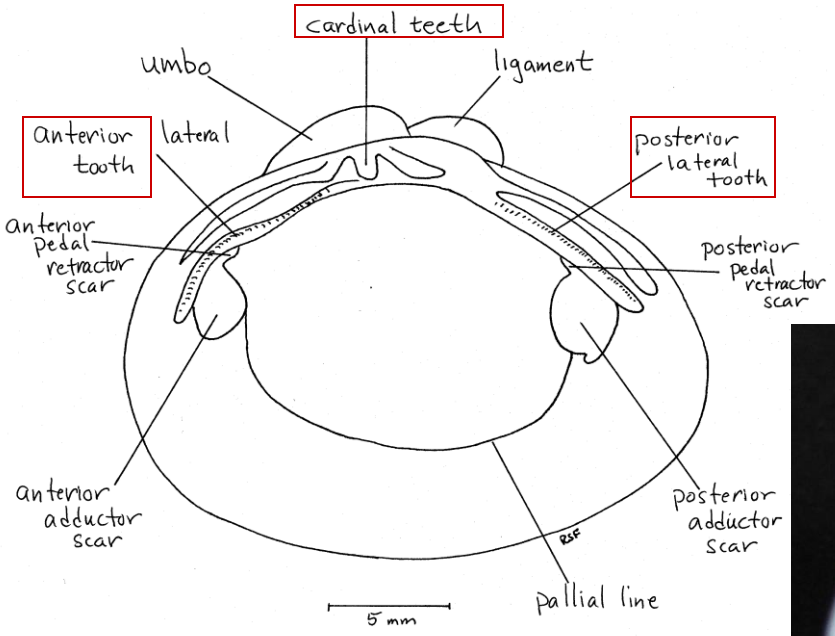
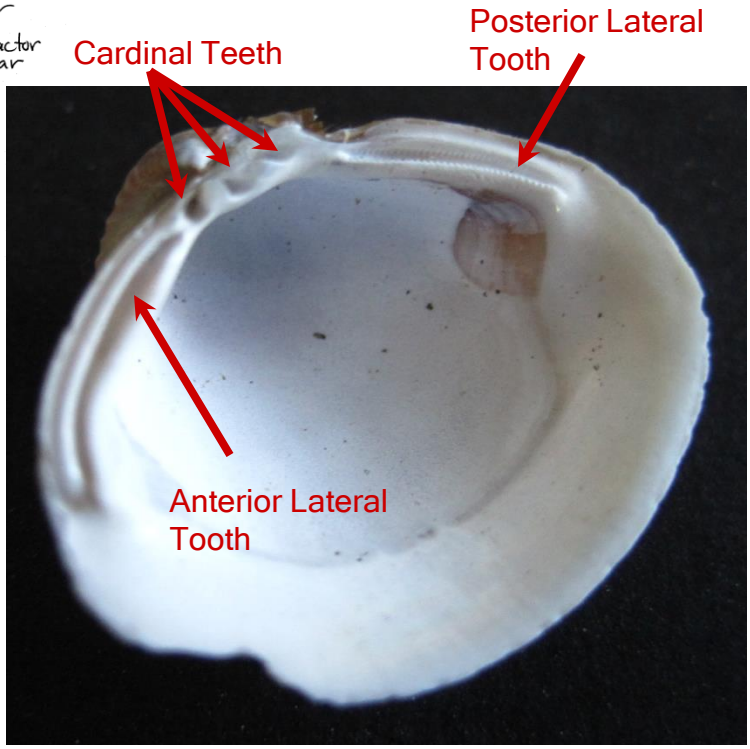


Figure 2. *Corbicula fluminea*. Interior of right valve.

Color: The interior of the shell is layered with polished, white to light blue or light purple nacre.



Asian Clams have 3 cardinal teeth visible in each valve.

The hinge has 2 lateral serrated teeth in each side of the right valve and one on each side of the left valve.

Native Fingernail Clam vs. Invasive Asian Clam

The Asian Clam is an invasive species that are competitive filter feeders that can drastically alter aquatic ecosystems by decreasing available food quantities and outcompeting the native species. **The 3 cardinal and 2 lateral teeth are what most distinguish the Asian Clam from our native clams. Fingernail Clams do not have serrated lateral teeth and only have 1 or 2 cardinal teeth.**

Native Fingernail Clam

Size: Very Small, 1-5 mm

Invasive Asian Clam

Size: Small, 1-10 mm

If unclear whether or not you have found the invasive Asian Clam, please contact the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force at 518-620-6240 or info@stoptheasianclam.info

LAKE GEORGE ASIAN CLAM RAPID RESPONSE TASK FORCE

References: Richard Fox,Department of Biology, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649; Tahoe Resource Conservation District