



## Newsletter of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society

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### Who We Are

Several pages in this issue are devoted to presenting the current Membership List for our Society. While any FMCS member could look up other members on our web site, putting the full membership list in *Ellipsaria* gives all of us a quick reference to the full list and reads into our permanent record exactly who was a member way back in 2011. Working up this list also gives us a chance to look at the variety of people who have decided it is worth their time and money to become members of this society -- to see who we are.

For starters, there now are 541 of us, more than 2 ½ times the 200 members on the first published list, just eleven years ago (in August 2000). And our members are spread out, coming from 10 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Luxembourg, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom) and 44 of the 50 United States (all of the states except Alaska, Connecticut, Montana, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont).

The institutional affiliations we listed (or not) also indicate the range of our diversity. In decreasing order of occurrence, we are affiliated with colleges or universities (31%), federal governments (19%), state and local governments (16%), private companies (15%), “not indicated” (11%), museums and zoos (3%), and non-governmental conservation groups (3%). The “not indicated” group appears to include retirees and others who are just interested in freshwater mollusks.

All in all, our 13-year old society is now composed of over 500 individuals representing diverse geographic areas, job requirements, and personal interests; but with a shared desire to know more about and to improve the conservation status of freshwater snails and mussels. Thank you for being part of who we are.

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## Society News

### Committee Goals and Plans

Much of the work that gets done by our society is accomplished by the chairs and members of our various committees. Since several committees now have new leadership, this seems like a good time to let the new chairs present their long-term goals and immediate plans. Here are the statements from four of these committees.

#### Ecosystem Services Committee

Freshwater mollusks represent one of the most imperiled groups of organisms in North America and are currently in an unprecedented state of decline in both richness and abundance. Despite this, their functional significance to ecosystems and societal importance remains largely understudied. The primary goal our committee is to synthesize and build upon research addressing the functional importance of freshwater mollusks. We also recognize that public outreach and conservation awareness programs are best served when links to the human condition can be made. As such, our secondary goal is to evaluate how freshwater mollusks provide ecological services that benefit society, and to help translate these benefits to the public. To achieve these goals, we encourage collaboration among other committees within the society.

*Areas of interest to our committee include but are not limited to:*

- 1) Indicator populations, species, and communities which can be monitored to gauge changes in environmental health and climate effects.
- 2) Mollusks as vectors for contaminant and disease movement and/or mitigation.
- 3) The capacity for mollusks to ameliorate water quality issues via filtration, biotransformation, and biodeposition activities
- 4) The supply of energetic and nutritive benefits to aquatic food webs Habitat engineering benefits such as substrate stabilization
- 5) The potential for mollusk restoration and propagation as a tool to restore ecosystem services.

*Proposed activities to achieve the committee's goals*

- 1) Synthesize and promote research to evaluate the ecological roles of freshwater mollusks.
- 2) Promote studies that evaluate quantitative changes in community composition and abundance. These data can then be used to forecast mollusk-derived services at the population, community and watershed scale.
- 3) Develop models to predict ecosystem services that are applicable to various scales, geographic regions, and with changing watershed conditions.
- 4) Develop realistic models that estimate the economic value for mollusk-derived ecological services. In turn, these models can be used for conservation outreach activities and for assessing mitigation penalties and success for managers.
- 5) Promote comparative research to evaluate the functional similarities and differences among services provided by native and invasive mollusks.

If you have an interest in joining or assisting this committee, please contact either of us.

Co-chairs: Daniel Spooner and Danielle Kreeger

#### Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is responsible for the administration and oversight of all FMCS awards, but approval of those awards, unless otherwise stated, is granted by the Executive Board. The duties of the Awards Committee are to:

- 1) solicit nominations and recommend recipients for each professional award given by the Society;
- 2) administer awards to students, including selecting the awardees in conjunction with a panel of independent judges; and
- 3) coordinate all award activities with the FMCS Treasurer and Executive Board to ensure the timely and smooth implementation of award programs.

Co-chairs: W. Gregory Cope, [greg\\_cope@ncsu.edu](mailto:greg_cope@ncsu.edu); Teresa Newton, [tnewton@usgs.gov](mailto:tnewton@usgs.gov); and Emy Monroe, [emy.monroe@usd.edu](mailto:emy.monroe@usd.edu)

### Symposium Committee

At the meeting in Louisville, the membership of the Symposium Committee was formalized to include the chairs and co-chairs of the immediate past and upcoming symposia and workshops, and the Society officers. It now will be chaired by the President Elect. All members of this committee will rotate on and off as the events occur and new officers are elected. This committee helps plan and execute all workshops and symposia, including making recommendations for locations, dates, themes or topics, and hosts. It helps provide for smooth transitions from event to event by maintaining files and standard operating procedures, and conveying lessons learned to upcoming event teams. The committee is currently helping with the planning for the 2012 workshop at Athens, Georgia, and the 2013 symposium at Guntersville, Alabama. Submitted by: Patricia Morrison, Chair

### Regional Mollusk Meeting Ad-Hoc Committee

At the Louisville Symposium, President Vaughn asked Susan Oetker and Steve McMurray to head up an ad-hoc committee to look into the relationship between FMCS and the many informal regional mollusk meetings that are held each year around the country. This topic has been the subject of an ongoing discussion of the Executive Board for many years following proposals from some of these regional groups to form Chapters of the Society.

The ad-hoc committee was tasked with developing a survey or questionnaire to research the relationship between the regional meetings and FMCS to find ways that we can work together to achieve our common goal: bringing those of us who work with freshwater mollusks together to conserve the fauna. As we develop this survey, there is one important piece of information that we are missing:

**CONTACT INFORMATION!** So, if you lead, are involved with, or know someone who coordinates one of the many regional mollusk meetings, please forward contact information to either Susan ([Susan.Oetker@fws.gov](mailto:Susan.Oetker@fws.gov)) or Steve ([Stephen.McMurray@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Stephen.McMurray@mdc.mo.gov)).

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### Recent Publications

Hinck, J.E., Ingersoll, C.G., Wang, N., Augspurger, T., Barnhart, M.C., McMurray, S.E., Roberts, A.D., and Schrader, L., 2011, Threats of habitat and water-quality degradation to mussel diversity in the Meramec River Basin, Missouri, USA. US Geological Survey Open File Report 2011-1125, 18 p.

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### FMCS 2012 Workshop

The 2012 FMCS workshop will be held on April 19 and 20 at the Holiday Inn adjacent to the University of Georgia Campus in Athens, Georgia. The theme of the workshop is "Environmental Flows, Climate Change and Freshwater Mollusks". Registration details will be posted on our web site, in *Ellipsaria*, and emailed to the membership once they are available.

The Holiday Inn is located on the corner of the North Campus, which contains the original buildings of the University of Georgia. It is also located on Broad Street at the edge of downtown Athens. In addition to being the home of the University of Georgia (How 'bout them Dawgs!), Athens is noted for its vibrant music and cultural life. The Holiday Inn is two blocks from the Georgia Theater, a noted stop for touring musicians. Athens is home to more than 100 eateries, ranging from brew pubs to regionally noteworthy restaurants. Many of these restaurants are within walking distance of the

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Holiday Inn.

Those traveling by air can fly into Atlanta's Hartfield-Jackson International Airport and have the option of taking either shuttle service to downtown Athens or flights by regional air carrier into the Athens Ben Epps airport. More information on Athens can be found at: <http://www.visitathensga.com/>

## Other Upcoming Meetings

**October 1, 2011** - Ohio River Valley Unified Malacologist Meeting, Thomas More College Biology Field Station, northern Kentucky. Meeting information and directions are available at [www.thomasmore.edu/fieldstation](http://www.thomasmore.edu/fieldstation)

**November 13 – 17, 2011** – 32<sup>nd</sup> North American Annual Meeting, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA, USA. Theme: *Navigating Environmental Challenges: Historical Lessons Guiding Future Directions* <http://boston.setac.org/>

**November 28 – December 2, 2011** – International Congress for Conservation Biology, Christchurch NZ Theme: *Engaging Society in Conservation.* <http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2011/index>

**April 19 & 20, 2012** -- FMCS Workshop Holiday Inn, Athens Georgia Theme: "Environmental Flows, Climate Change and Freshwater Mollusks"

**May 20 – 26, 2012** -- North American Benthological Society Annual Meeting, Marriott Louisville Downtown, Louisville, Kentucky Theme: [to be determined] <http://www.benthos.org/Annual-Meeting/Future-Meetings.aspx>

**March 11 – 15, 2013** -- FMCS 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium, Guntersville, State Park, Alabama Theme: [to be determined]

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## Contributed Articles

The following articles have been contributed by FMCS members and others with interest in freshwater mollusks. These contributions are incorporated into Ellipsaria without peer review and with only minimal editing. The opinions expressed are those of the authors.

### **Lake Michigan Drainage Records in Wisconsin for the Pink Heelsplitter, *Potamilus alatus* (Unionidae, Lampsilinae)**

**Joan P. Jass**, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W Wells St, Milwaukee, WI 53233,  
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*Potamilus alatus* has a current State Conservation Status of "Apparently Secure" in Wisconsin as designated by NatureServe. Hay et al. (2003) warned that the distribution for this species should be characterized as "Presently widespread but declining." No records for the pink heelsplitter in the state were cited by Klocek et al. (2008), who mapped both pre-1975 and post-1975 sites, and whose mapping boundaries included southeastern Wisconsin.

Baker (1928) gave the Wisconsin distribution of this unionid as the Mississippi, the Wisconsin, and the Fox River plus several Lake Michigan drainage rivers which he hypothesized it may have entered "by way of the old Lake Chicago of Pleistocene days." For example, among the records that he cited under the subspecies *Proptera alata megaptera*, Baker (1928) included a number of localities to the east and south of the Mississippi River drainage, such as the Milwaukee River (Chadwick 1906) as well as unspecified "southern Wisconsin" sites (Wiswall 1897).

In order to document the historic presence of *Potamilus alatus* in this eastern Wisconsin part of its range, records from the collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) are recounted here. The earliest MPM pink heelsplitter specimens (MPM Mollusk #3511/Z11073) from this geographic area are dated 1897, a purchase from the Mrs. E.C. Wiswall of Kenosha who authored the southern Wisconsin species listing cited by Baker (1928). In 1902, with the support of the state Natural History Society,

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George H. Chadwick began a project at the museum to document the Wisconsin molluscan fauna, depositing vouchers and citing MPM Zoology accessions for a few selected lots in his publication (Chadwick 1906). These early Zoology accession numbers, now appended to those in a subsequent Mollusk catalog system, identify specific MPM specimens with historic records in Chadwick (1906) and Baker (1928). Five MPM lots of the pink heelsplitter collected as part of the Chadwick project are: 3 from the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee County, 1 from Two Rivers in Manitowoc County--further north along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and 1 from Lake Winnebago in Calumet County--adjacent to Manitowoc County to the west.

Within a narrow, 4-county zone slightly further to the west in central Wisconsin, Mathiak (1979) mapped 6 Lake Michigan drainage localities for this unionid (Fig. 1). Among these are his vouchers from the Embarrass River in Green Lake County and the Fox River in Shawano County, which he deposited in The Ohio State Museum of Biodiversity and the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum. Detailed data for these lots can be viewed on the MPM website documenting Mathiak's 5-year statewide survey <http://www.mpm.edu/collections/research/invertebrates/mussels/>. These more recent collection records in the state are those reflected in the Cummings and Mayer (1992) range map, not older localities such as Chadwick's (1906). Whether *Potamilus alatus* persists in any of the historic collecting sites further to the east and south in the Lake Michigan drainage in Wisconsin is questionable, but it may be a question worth pursuing, given the apparent ability of this species to retain a secure status elsewhere.



Figure 1. Lake Michigan drainage indicated in color on Mathiak's (1979) pink heelsplitter spot map; shown with MPM Mollusk #3511, note repaired damage to left valve interior.

#### References:

- Baker, F. 1928. The freshwater Mollusca of Wisconsin. Part II. Pelecypoda. Bulletin 70. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Madison, 495 p.
- Chadwick, G.H. 1906. Notes on Wisconsin Mollusca. Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society, 4(3):67-99.
- Cummings, K.S. & Mayer, C.A. 1992. Field guide to freshwater mussels of the Midwest. Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign. 194 p.
- Hay, R.; Heath, D. & L. Kitchel. 2003. Freshwater mussels of the Upper Mississippi River. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, 60 p.
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Klocek, R.; Bland, J. & L. Barghusen. 2008. A field guide to the freshwater mussels of Chicago Wilderness. [http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/guide\\_pdfs/CW6\\_mussel\\_guide.pdf](http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/guide_pdfs/CW6_mussel_guide.pdf)

Mathiak, H.A. 1979. A river survey of the unionid mussels of Wisconsin 1973-1977. Sand Shell Press, Horicon, Wisconsin, 75 p.

<http://www.mpm.edu/collections/research/invertebrates/mussels/links/>

Wiswall, E.C. 1897. Shells of southern Wisconsin. Natural Science Journal, I(2):47-48.

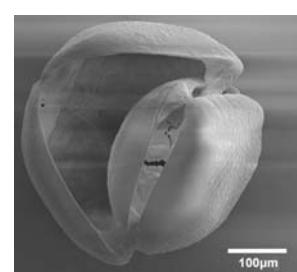
## Additional Suitable Hosts Identified for Rock Pocketbook (*Arcidens confragosus*)

**Mark Hove<sup>1,3</sup>, Alex Fulton<sup>1</sup>, Kiru Wolf<sup>1</sup>, Bernard Sietman<sup>2</sup>, Dan Hornbach<sup>3</sup>, Sarah Boyer<sup>3</sup>, and Nicole Ward<sup>2</sup>**

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Rock pocketbook glochidia

Table 1. Results of rock pocketbook host suitability trials.

Common name (Scientific name)	No. of individuals inoculated	No. of fish survivors	Juvenile recovery period (days)	No. of juveniles recovered
common carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	1	1	13	1
creek chub ( <i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i> )	3	3	13-20	23
white sucker ( <i>Catostomus commersoni</i> )	2	2	11-22	287
shorthead redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i> )	5	5	11-20	80
banded killifish ( <i>Fundulus diaphanus</i> )	3	2	13-25	147
brook stickleback ( <i>Culaea inconstans</i> )	10	2	15-27	11
yellow perch ( <i>Perca flavescens</i> )	3	3	13-15	5

Fish species (mean number of fish per trial, last day to rejection) that did not facilitate glochidia metamorphosis: longnose gar (2, 4), shortnose gar (5, 7), brassy minnow (5, 13), burbot (1, 18), Johnny darter (8, 15), blackside darter (2, 15), river darter (1, 18), and sauger (3, 15)

Partial funding for this research was provided through Minnesota's State Wildlife Grants Program.

**Literature Cited**

Ward, N., B. Sietman, M. Hove, K. Baumann, A. Edgcumbe, and C. Weggler. 2011. Suitable host fishes for the rock pocketbook, *Arcidens confragosus*. Ellipsaria 13(1): 27-28.

**New or Confirmed Potential Host/Mussel Associations**

**Trisha Gibson, Jennifer Cecil & G. Thomas Watters**

Department of Evolution, Ecology & Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University, and Columbus Zoo & Aquarium Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Facility

*Pleurobema clava* – Allegheny River, PA

Fish	Days to first transformation	% Transformed	# Transformed/fish
Blacknose dace	22	18%	8
Bluntnose minnow	20	26%	19
Common shiner 1	19	38%	7
Common shiner 2	16	28%	42
Common shiner 3	13	40%	57
Creek chub	26	50%	3
Fathead minnow	22	29%	5
Hog sucker	24	37%	80
Stoneroller 1	24	31%	32
Stoneroller 2	13	13%	21
Stoneroller 3	20	3%	7
Yellow bullhead	-	0%	0%

*Pleurobema cordatum* – Muskingum River, OH

Fish	Days to first transformation	% Transformed	# Transformed/fish
Creek chub 1	15	2%	5
Creek chub 2	15	42%	179
Creek chub 3	15	2%	4
Creek chub 4	15	19%	87
Creek chub 5	15	25%	74
Bluegill	-	0%	0%
Green sunfish	-	0%	0%
Largemouth bass	-	0%	0%
Pumpkinseed	-	0%	0%

“Villosa” *fabalis* – Allegheny River, PA

Fish	Days to first transformation	% Transformed	# Transformed/fish
Spotted darter	21	13%	2
Tippecanoe darter	21	11%	3
Creek chub	-	0%	0%
Largemouth bass	-	0%	0%
Longeared sunfish	-	0%	0%
Rainbow darter	-	0%	0%
Sand darter	-	0%	0%

All transformations at ca. 17° C. % Transformed = transformed juveniles/(dead glochidia+transformed juveniles)\* 100. Common names of fishes are those recognized by the American Fisheries Society.

Study funded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium.

## **Additional Information Concerning the Conquest of Europe by the Invasive Chinese Pond Mussel *Sinanodonta woodiana*. 25. News from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Poland**

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The presence of the exotic Chinese Pond mussel *Sinanodonta woodiana* (Lea, 1834) in Europe remains a popular topic among the malacological studies carried out in that part of the world. In this issue publications dealing with this invasive species in ten countries are briefly reviewed. Of particular interest is the long-awaited first record of *Sinanodonta* from the Netherlands (van Peursem, 2011). This species is known to be on sale there in most garden centers and shops for aquarium requisites at least far more than 10 years and warnings for its possible presence in that country has been published several times since 1999 (Mienis, 1999 & 2003a-b). In addition, the Round goby *Neogobius melanostomus* may be added to the growing list of host species on which glochidia of *Sinanodonta woodiana* develop with success.

### **Austria**

Specimens of the Round goby *Neogobius melanostomus* caught near Orth, in the Austrian part of the Donau, turned out to be infected with gochlidia of *Sinanodonta woodiana* (Francová et al., 2011). *Neogobius melanostomus* is a new intermediate host of the Chinese Pond mussel.

### **Belgium**

On 27 April 2011, Koen Berwaerts published a photograph of a large freshwater mussel on the website "waarnemingen.be" (Observations Belgium). The shell had been observed in an aquatic biotope near the Balkestraat, west of Wilder, Kampenhout, Flemish Brabant, Belgium, and was thought to represent the Swan mussel *Anodonta cygnea* (Linnaeus, 1758). However, the form of the shell, especially the rounded ventral margin, shows that we are dealing here, in fact, with another record of the invasive Chinese Pond mussel from Belgium.

([www.waarnemingen.be/foto/view/2052096](http://www.waarnemingen.be/foto/view/2052096))



Figure 1: The Chinese Pond mussel *Sinanodonta woodiana* (Lea, 1834) from Kampenhout, Flemish Brabant, Belgium (Photograph K. Berwaerts).

### **Bulgaria**

Round gobies *Neogobius melanostomus* caught near Ruse and Vidin in the Donau turned out to be infected by glochidia of the invasive Chinese Pond mussel (Francová et al., 2011). The Round goby is a new host species for the glochidia of *Sinanodonta woodiana*.

### **Germany**

Wirtz (2011) published merely a warning concerning the expansion potential of the Chinese Pond mussel, a species widely sold as an aquarium and garden pond mussel in Germany. His short note is illustrated by good figures previously published by Adam (2010).

### **Hungary**

A survey of the aquatic fauna at 17 localities of the river Rába in Austria and Hungary revealed the presence of *Sinanodonta woodiana* only at the three most northern localities in that river in Hungary: Nick, Arpás and Györ (Kovács et al, 2011).

### **Italy**

Mazza et al. (2011) paid attention to the highly overlooked statement in Berni et al. (2004) that the invasive Chinese Pond mussel has been released intentionally in some Italian rivers for the production of freshwater pearls! Ciutti et al. (2011) mention *Sinanodonta woodiana* as an abundant invasive species in Lake Garda.

### **The Netherlands**

Two large specimens of the Chinese Pond mussel were recovered from a reclaimed garden pond in the neighbourhood of Utrecht (van Peursen, 2011). Koi carp were the only fish species which had inhabited that pond. Although this find has not been done in so-called open water, it represents the first long awaited record from the Netherlands.

### **Poland**

Empty shells of the Chinese Pond mussel were found in a complex of fish ponds near Spytkowice in the valley of the Vistula River in southern Poland. These ponds are not heated and also harbor a population of the Swan mussel *Anodonta cygnea* (Linnaeus, 1758), which is considered a protected species in Poland. *Sinanodonta woodiana* is new for that part of Poland; however, its influence on the Swan mussel population has remained unknown.

### **Slovakia**

In a short article dealing with the first find of *Achatina fulica* in Slovakia, Steffek & Kušík (2009: 15) published as an example of another recent introduction a picture of *Sinanodonta woodiana*.

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- Francová, K., Ondračková, M., Polačík, M. & Jurajda, P., 2011. Parasite fauna of native and non-native populations of *Neogobius malanostomus* (Pallas, 1814) (Gobiidae) in the longitudinal profile of the Danube River. Journal of Applied Ichthyology, 27: 879-886.
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- Steffek, J. & Kušík, P., 2009. Achatina žravá (*Achatina fulica*) – d'alší introdukovaný ulitník na Slovensku. *Chránené územia Slovenska*, 78: 15-17.
- Wirtz, P., 2011. *Sinanodonta woodiana* Die „gelbe Gefahr“. *Die Aquarien- und Terrarienzeitschrift*, 7 (2011): 35.

### ***Pyrgophorus* in Israel: Additional Localities**

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Tel Aviv, Israel. E-mail: [mienis@netzer.org.il](mailto:mienis@netzer.org.il)

Since the discovery of the presence of a *Pyrgophorus* species in Israel in November 2010, this New World species has been reported from three different areas: the Tanninim River basin (Nahal Tanninim and Enot Timsah) (Mienis et al., 2011), the Dahlia River basin (the Difla swamps), and a brackish water canal near Sede Eliyyahu (Mienis, 2011). Additional fieldwork carried out by rangers of the Israel Nature Reserves and National Parks Protection Authority has revealed that this exotic species is also present in the basins of the Zippori River and the Yarqon River. This information is based on the following new records:

ISRAEL: Nahal Zippori near Ras Ali, leg. Y. Hershkovitz, 16 May 2011 (TAU MO 73207/4); "Mekorot"-canal near the Nuphar Pond in the upper region of the Yarqon River, leg. U. Suleimani, 13 January 2011 (TAU MO 73212/3).

Especially the latter locality is of some concern. The "Mekorot"-canal diverts water from the National Water Carrier to the upper part of the Yarqon River. If *Pyrgophorus* indeed lives in the National Water Carrier then we may expect this species in the near future at numerous additional localities in Israel. On the other hand, we have also to check whether *Pyrgophorus* is also living in the Sea of Galilee, which is the major source of the water in the National Water Carrier.

#### **Acknowledgements**

I like to thank Dr. D. Milstein, Dr. Y. Hershkovitz and Mr. U. Suleimani (all of the Israel Nature Reserves and National Parks Protection Authority) for their constant support and for lodging the collected material in the Mollusc Collection of the National Collections of Natural History of the Tel Aviv University.

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- Mienis, H.K., Rittner, O. & Vaisman, S., 2011. Another riddle from Israel: How can we explain the presence of a *Pyrgophorus* species in the Tanninim River basin? *Ellipsaria*, 13 (1): 17-18.

### **Will the Uncontrolled Sale of the Snail-eating Gastropod *Anentome helena* in Aquarium Shops in Israel Result in Another Disaster for Israel's Native Freshwater Mollusc Fauna?**

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During the past 100 years the freshwater mollusc fauna of Israel had to cope with one disaster after another. Among these disasters we may mention:

- the drainage of all the major coastal swamps and the inland Lake Hula and its swamps;
- the pollution of all the coastal streams;
- the over-pumping of the aquifer resulting in a drastic lowering of the groundwater level;
- the unintended and intended import of freshwater snails.

The first three items all directly influenced aquatic biotopes and have led to the extinction of some local species among the freshwater mollusc fauna like: *Heleobia longiscata* (Bourguignat 1856), *Acroloxus lacustris* (Linnaeus 1758), *Biomphalaria alexandrina* (Ehrenberg 1831), *Gyraulus crista* (Linnaeus 1758), *Segmentina nitida* (Müller 1774), *Leguminaia saulcyi* (Bourguignat 1852) and *Pisidium milium* Held 1836, and the possible extinction of *Potomida littoralis delesserti* (Bourguignat 1852), *Unio mancus eucirrus* Bourguignat 1857 and *Unio terminalis delicatus* Lea 1863.

The unintentional and intententional import of freshwater snails has altered the composition of the local mollusc fauna completely. The American gastropod *Haitia acuta* (Draparnaud, 1805) is at this moment the most common species in any aquatic biotope: spring, stream, canal, pond or small lake. Two other species of American origin: *Pseudosuccinea columella* (Say, 1817) and *Planorbella duryi* (Wetherby, 1879), turn up more and more in widely separated areas, usually but not always, in the neighbourhood of human settlements. These three species are well-known aquarium and garden-pond snails, which are distributed unintentionally by means of the sale of infected aquatic plants.

During the last ten years some snails of tropical origin have also invaded the natural waters of Israel: *Tarebia granifera* (Müller, 1774) and *Thiara scabra* (Müller, 1774). These are species which had been imported intentionally for the aquarium trade in Israel; however, they multiply at such a fast rate that they often become a nuisance in aquariums. Since aquarists consider themselves "nature lovers" they release their excess snails in nearby natural aquatic biotopes. This already has turned *Thiara scabra* into the most common snail species in the Sea of Galilee, the only natural and major source of drinking water in Israel. It also managed to invade the National Water Carrier and, if no proper measurements will be taken, then *Thiara* will turn up soon all over Israel in suitable habitats.

The presence of these and other exotic freshwater snails may endanger in the long run any autochthonous species living in the same habitat. However much more danger is hovering over Israel's native freshwater mollusc fauna: since shortly *Anentome helena* (von dem Busch, 1847) [some prefer to call it *Clea (Anentome) helena*], Family Buccinidae, is on sale in most shops selling aquarium equipment. These Helena snails (or Assassin snails, Killer snails or Bumble Bee snails), native to S.E. Asia: Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, are fierce predators of any aquatic snail ranging in size from a few millimetres to a fist-sized Apple snail *Pomacea* species. Although these Helena snails are not cheap -- they are sold for about US \$ 10 each in Israel -- there seems to be a good market for them. My question reads: How long will itlaste before we will encounter also these predators in the wild? As soon as that doomsday arrives then we may place the extinct sign in front of almost every entry in the checklist of freshwater molluscs of Israel.

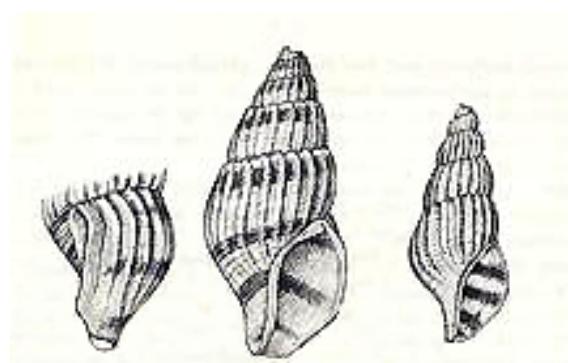


Figure 1. *Anentome helena* (von dem Busch, 1847), Fam. Buccinidae, height of largest specimen about 20 mm. Indonesia, Java, Sukabumi. (drawing Abdulkadir in Butot, 1954: Pennggemar Alam, 34 (3-4): Ill, fig. 1.)

## History of South American Continental Malacology: The Malacological Contribution of the German Entomologist Fritz Plaumann (1902 - 1994) in Santa Catarina State, Southern Brazil

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Fritz Plaumann was born on May 02, 1902, in the city of Preussich Eylau, in the north of Eastern Prussia, near Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Lithuania). He was, therefore, a German citizen (the Kaliningrad region, at the border with Poland, was granted by the 3rd Reich to the Soviet Union in 1945 and is nowadays independent). He arrived in southern Brazil in November 1924 with his parents and reached the west of Santa Catarina, SC – specifically “Nova Teutônia”, a little village and valley near Seara Municipal District, in the southwest of the State (Agudo-Padrón 2010 b: 11) (Figure 1). This was a region strongly influenced by the culture of Italians and Germans who colonized the county in the end of the nineteenth century. He was a farmer, photographer, teacher, musician, trader, and worked in several other activities. He devoted himself to the observation, recording, and collection of specimens of the fauna around him – mostly insects, but also regional freshwater and terrestrial mollusks (Haas 1959; Agudo-Padrón 2010 b: 11).



Figure 1.- Seara Municipal District, headquarters of the “Nova Teutônia” Valley in the context of the western Santa Catarina State - SC territory, southern Brazil region (left) and the outstanding German naturalist Fritz Plaumann (right)

Plaumann kept intense correspondence – he wrote in German, English, French, Italian and Spanish – and active collaboration with national and international researchers in the discipline of South American malacology (Haas 1959: 364-368<sup>1+</sup>; Breure 1975: 101, 103, 108; Paraense 1975: 123; Paraense 1982), those who impressed him by the relevance of their research activities in entomology. This is neither generally known nor well published.

He also kept and preserved the specimens he collected according to the rigorous taxonomic standards of his time. His years of intensive scientific activity – most in perfect solitude, discussing and

<sup>1+</sup> Several of the continental mollusk species named for this author, collected by Plaumann at various localities of Santa Catarina - SC (Nova Teutônia, Tatú Creek, Engano River, Chapecozinho River, Xanxere, Pinhal-Preto, Linha Falcão, São Carlos) and Rio Grande do Sul - RS (Rio Douradinho, Erechim, Rio Aratiba) States, are referred and included in synonymies by Simone (2006: 41, 42, 46, 162, 179-180, 186, 228, 230-233, 235, 238, 300) and Simone (2008: 31). Other species are still related for “Nova Teutônia” in Agudo-Padrón (2010 b: 11).

arguing by mail with renowned researchers -- brought to him an accurate, reflective and diligent frame of mind.

The result of his disciplined commitment to natural history, a personal collection of preserved and classified specimens, can today be consulted in the “Fritz Plaumann Museum of Entomology” located close the house where he lived in the Nova Teutônia Valley (Agudo-Padrón 2010 b: 11). It holds approximately 80,000 specimens of 17,000 different species, 1,500 of them new species – result of 70 years of collecting in the Upper Uruguay River Basin region and adjacent territories (Haas, 1959: 364-365).

Unlike the outstanding German naturalist Fritz Müller (1821 - 1897), who preceded him in the Santa Catarina State localities of “Blumenau” – Itajaí River Valley region – and “Florianópolis” (West 2003), Plaumann was openly opposed to Charles Darwin's evolutionary ideas (Prof. M.Sc. Kay Saalfeld, ECZ/CCB/UFSC, Florianópolis, Pers. comm.), and objected to it in his book titled “Die Entstehung des Lebens” (The Origin of the Life), written entirely in “Nova Teutônia” in the German language (1943) and only printed once in 1949, in Germany. Today the book is exhibited in the Museum that takes the author's name (Martini 2008).

A considerable part of the collection was obtained prior to the use of pesticides in the agriculture of the county (Agudo-Padrón 2010 a: 34-35, 2011: 60). Plaumann himself documented changes in the insects and other invertebrate fauna. Estimates today are that approximately 75% of the collection represents species that are now extinct in the region, some of them perhaps totally extinct.

Plaumann died on September 22, 1994 aged 92 years. He was considered by the Californian Academy of Science as the most prolific collector of insects in Latin America in the 20th Century. However, being a contemporary of the pioneer of Brazilian malacology Morretes (1949, 1953), Fritz Plaumann modestly maintained that his work would contribute to building another important chapter in the malacology of Southern Brazil and Santa Catarina State, SC in particular. This sentiment reflected that made by Haas (1959) and was mainly due to the valuable resource he left and which is lodged in the Museum that today perpetuates his name and his scientific contribution to the region's natural history (Agudo-Padrón, 2010 b: 11).

## **Species List of the Southern Brazil Continental Mollusks Collected by Fritz Plaumann\***

(Including 50 representatives – 46 Gastropoda and 4 Bivalvia)

### **I. Freshwater/limnic forms**

(19 species – 15 Gastropoda and 4 Bivalvia)

#### Class GASTROPODA

##### Subclass Prosobranchia/Caenogastropoda

###### Family AMPULLARIIDAE

*Asolene (Pomella) megastoma* (Sowerby, 1825)<sup>1</sup>

###### Family HYDROBIIDAE

*Littoridina australis* (d'Orbigny, 1835)<sup>1</sup>

*Littoridina charruana* (d'Orbigny, 1840)<sup>2, 3, 4, 5, 8</sup>

*Potamolithus catharinæ* Pilsbry, 1911<sup>1, 8</sup>

*Potamolithus lapidum* (d'Orbigny, 1835)<sup>1, 10</sup>

*Potamolithus philippianus* Pilsbry, 1911<sup>8</sup>

##### Subclass Pulmonata

###### Family CHILINIDAE

*Chilina fluminea* (Maton, 1809)<sup>1</sup>

*Chilina parva* Martens, 1868<sup>1</sup>

###### Family ANCYLIDAE

*Uncancylus concentricus* (d'Orbigny, 1835)<sup>1, 12</sup>

###### Family PHYSIDAE

*Aplexa (Stenophysa) marmorata* Guilding, 1828<sup>1, 12</sup>

###### Family LYMNAEIDAE

*Lymnaea columella* (Say, 1817)<sup>8, 12</sup>

*Lymnaea rupestris* Paraense, 1982<sup>1</sup>

Family PLANORBIDAE

*Acrorbis petricola* Odhner, 1937<sup>1</sup>

*Biomphalaria tenagophila tenagophila* (d'Orbigny, 1835)<sup>1, 11</sup>

*Drepanotrema pfeifferi* (Strobel, 1874)<sup>1</sup>

Class BIVALVIA

Order Unionoida

Family MYCETOPODIDAE

*Anodontites elongatus* (Swainson, 1823)<sup>1</sup>

*Anodontites patagonicus* (Lamarck, 1819) (Fig. 2)<sup>1</sup>

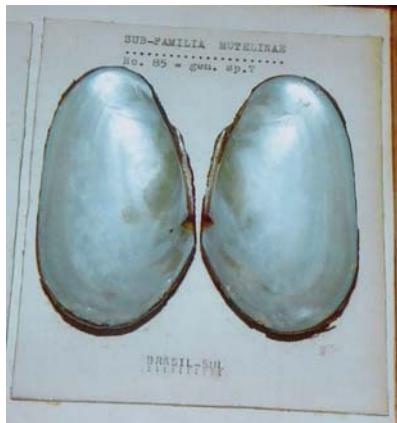


Figure 2. Specimens of freshwater naiad *Anodontites patagonicus* (Lamarck, 1819) in the “Fritz Plaumann Museum of Entomology”, Nova Teutônia Valley, SC Photos: A. I. Agudo-Padrón

Family HYRIIDAE

*Diplodon multistriatus* (Lea, 1834)<sup>1</sup>

Order Veneroida

Family SPHAERIIDAE

*Pisidium globulus* Clessin, 1888<sup>1</sup>

## II. Terrestrial forms

(31 snail species – 3 Caenogastropoda and 28 Pulmonata)

Class Gastropoda

Subclass Prosobranchia/Caenogastropoda

Family Helicinidae

*Oxyrhombus densesstriatus* Wagner, 1910<sup>1</sup>

*Alcadia iheringi* Wagner, 1910<sup>1</sup>

Family Diplommatinidae

*Adelopoma paraguayanum* Parodiz, 1944<sup>1, 7</sup>

Subclass Pulmonata

Family Charopidae

*Lilloiconcha gordurasensis* (Thiele, 1927)<sup>1, 7, 9</sup>

*Radiodiscus bolachaensis* Fonseca & Thomé, 1994<sup>1, 9</sup>

*Radiodiscus costellifer* Scott, 1957<sup>1</sup>

*Radiodiscus goeldii* (Thiele, 1927)<sup>1</sup>

*Rotadiscus schuppi* (Suter, 1900)<sup>1</sup>

*Zilchogyra clara* (Thiele, 1927)<sup>1, 7, 9</sup>

Family Systrophiidae

*Happia insularis* (Boettger, 1889)<sup>6, 9</sup>

*Happia microdiscus* Thiele, 1927<sup>1</sup>

*Happiella grata* (Thiele, 1927)<sup>1</sup>

*Miradiscops brasiliensis* (Thiele, 1927)<sup>1</sup>

Family Euconulidae

*Pseudoguppya* (= *Habroconus*) *semenlini* (Moricand, 1846)<sup>1, 7</sup>

Family Subulinidae

*Leptinaria monodon* (C. B. Adams, 1849)<sup>1</sup>

Family Vertiginidae

*Vertigo ovata* Say, 1822<sup>1</sup>

Family Bulimulidae

*Drymaeus poecilus* (d'Orbigny, 1835)<sup>1</sup>

*Mesembrinus interpunctus* (Martens, 1887) (Fig. 3)<sup>1</sup>

*Naesirotus eudiopus* (Ihering in Pilsbry, 1897)<sup>1</sup>

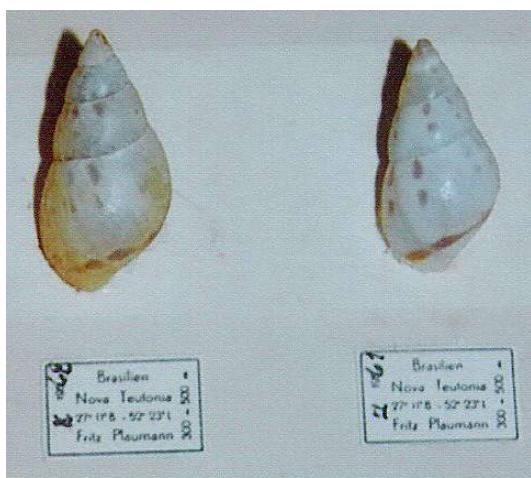


Figure 3. Specimens of tree snail *Mesembrinus interpunctus* (Martens, 1887) in the “Fritz Plaumann Museum of Entomology”, Nova Teutônia Valley, West SC Photo: A. I. Agudo-Padrón

Family Amphibulimidae

*Simpulopsis (Eudiopus) araujoi* Breure, 1975<sup>1</sup>

*Simpulopsis (Simpulopsis) pseudosulculosa* Breure, 1975<sup>1</sup>

*Simpulopsis (Simpulopsis) wiebesi* Breure, 1975<sup>1</sup>

Family Megalobulimidae

*Megalobulimus gummatus* (Hidalgo, 1870)<sup>1</sup>

*Megalobulimus oblongus* (Müller, 1775)<sup>1</sup>

Family Odontostomidae

*Cyclodontina tetriculata* (Martens, 1868)<sup>1</sup>

*Macrodontes fasciatus* (Sowerby, 1824)<sup>1</sup>

*Macrodontes gargantua* (Férussac, 1821) (Fig. 4)<sup>1</sup>

*Macrodontes odontostomus* (Sowerby, 1824)<sup>1</sup>



Figure 4. Rare jagged tree snail *Macrodontes gargantua* (Férussac, 1821) specimen in the “Fritz Plaumann Museum of Entomology”, Nova Teutônia Valley, West SC Photo: A. I. Agudo-Padrón

## Family Bradybaenidae

*Bradybaena similaris* (Férussac, 1821)<sup>1</sup>

## Family Gastrodontaidae

*Zonitoides arboreus* (Say, 1816)<sup>1</sup>

## Family Zonitidae

*Oxychilus nitidus* (Müller, 1774)<sup>1</sup>

A curious and controversial taxonomic situation, still unresolved Salgado & Coelho (2003:154) and Thomé *et al.* (2007:28) include the exotic species "*Oxychilus nitidus* (Müller, 1774)", in the Family Zonitidae, while Simone (2006:310) mentions this same exotic species as "*Zonitoides nitidus* (Müller, 1774)", in the Family Gastrodontaidae. For their part, Poppe & Tagaro (2006: 10) mention the Family Zonitidae in their broad classification but not the Gastrodontaidae.

**\*Collection localities:**

- 1 – Nova Teutônia Valley, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 2 – Palmeira Municipal District, Santa Catarina State - SC Plateau
- 3 – Tatú Creek, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 4 – Engano River, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 5 – Chapecozinho River, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 6 – Xanxerê, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 7 – Pinheiro Preto, Santa Catarina State (... non "Pinhal Preto", Paraná - PR State)
- 8 – Linha Facão or Falcão, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 9 – São Carlos, Santa Catarina State - SC
- 10 – Rio Douradinho, Rio Grande do Sul State - RS
- 11 – Erechim, Rio Grande do Sul State - RS
- 12 – Rio Aratiba, Rio Grande do Sul - RS

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### **A Little South American Freshwater Mussel/Naiad Taxonomic Controversy: *Rhipidodonta* or *Diplodon* ?**

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Based in the production of parasitic (with presence of teeth) or non-parasitic (with no teeth) "glochidium" larval forms, Simone (2006: 255, 264) separates the South American freshwater mussel/naiads of the genus *Diplodon* Spix, 1827 (representatives of the family Hyriidae Fleming, 1828 and subfamily Hyriinae Swainson, 1840) in two genera: *Diplodon* Spix, 1827 and *Rhipidodonta* Mörcz, 1853 (Simone 2006: 29), generating parallel resulting synonymies. However, Mansur and Pereira (2006: 1143-1144) consider that these taxa actually correspond to subgenera of the genus *Diplodon* Spix, 1827, representative of the tribe Diplodontini Ihering, 1901.

For its part, Pimpão and Mansur (2009: 382) raised the subgenera (*Diplodon*) *Rhipidodonta* and (*Diplodon*) *Diplodon* to generic level based on only one character of the glochidium larvae, of which the reason for adopting more conservative classification would be that the larvae of most species of this tribe are not known, making it therefore necessary to find other morphological characters, especially in adults, so you can set best generic separation proposed by Simone (2006).

All this has been generating a complicated and confusing situation regarding the correct taxonomic treatment to be applied to certain regional species involved, clearly reflected - for example - in Aguido-Padrón (2008: 167-168, 2011 a: 6, 2011 b: 24, 2011 c: 63-64).



*Rhipidodonta charruana* (d'Orbigny, 1835) or *Diplodon aethiops* (Lea, 1860) ?



*Rhipidodonta charruana* (d'Orbigny, 1835) variations or *Diplodon* spp?

For more information about parasitic larvae of regional freshwater mussel/naiads, see Aguido-Padrón (2010).

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## **Colonization of Anthropogenic Spaces by Freshwater Mollusks in the Southern Brazil Region, South American Atlantic Slope**

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River basins, wetlands, and other smaller waterbodies are the basic/ frequent natural habitat of freshwater/ limnic mollusks in southern Brazil (Agudo-Padrón 2007, 2008 b). However, many of them – a nurtured number of species – can successfully adapt to the artificial conditions imposed by man in this region (Fig. 1), including irrigated rice fields (Agudo-Padrón & Oliveira 2008), artificial lakes for fish farming (Fig. 3), agricultural irrigation channels (Agudo-Padrón 2007 b, 2008 a) (Fig. 3), aqueducts and reservoirs (Agudo-Padrón 2010: 11) (Fig. 4), and even channels for water runoff in great industries (Fig. 2):



Figure 1. Freshwater exotic asian mussel *Limnoperna fortunei* (Dunker, 1857) “macrofouling” in Oil Refinery installations, Sinos River Basin region, Canoas Municipal District, Rio Grande do Sul State - RS. Photo: Paulo Lenhard.



*Rhipidodonta charruana* (d'Orbigny, 1835)



*Anodontites patagonicus* (Lamarck, 1819)

*Pomacea canaliculata* (Lamarck, 1804)

Figure 2. Oil refinery channel for water runoff located in the Sinos River Basin region (upper left) and your limnic mollusk fauna (below and right), Canoas Municipal District, Rio Grande do Sul State - RS. Photos: Paulo Lenhard.



*Pomacea canaliculata*  
(Lamarck, 1804)



*Corbicula fluminea*  
(Müller, 1774)



*Rhipidodonta charruana* (d'Orbigny, 1835)



*Rhipidodonta grata* (Lea, 1866)



*Mycetopoda legumen* (above) and *Anodontites patagonicus* (below)



*Anodontites trapesialis* (left) and *Leila blainvilleana* (right)



Figure 3. Artificial lakes for fish farming (upper left), agricultural irrigation (rice) channels (lower right) and your limnic inhabitants, EEA/ IRGA, Gravataí River Basin region, Cachoeirinha Municipal District, Rio Grande do Sul State – RS. Photos: Paulo Lenhard.



*Pomacea canaliculata* (Lamarck, 1804)

Figure 4. Reservoir area called “Banhado do Shopping” (upper – left) and eutrofized dam of the City Garden “Chico Mendes” (upper right), Cachoeirinha Municipal District, Gravataí River Basin region; Temporary lagoon, Canoas Municipal District, Sinos River Basin region (lower right); and your limnic inhabitants (lower left), Rio Grande do Sul State – RS. Photos: Paulo Lenhard/ Agudo-Padrón.

**Involved aquatic mollusk forms in the northern region of the “Great Porto Alegre”, Rio Grande do Sul State – RS, Southernmost Brazil**

(Ref.: Agudo-Padrón, 2009)

Total of 14 species – 6 Gastropoda & 8 Bivalvia; Systematic arrangement based on Simone (2006)

**Class GASTROPODA**

Subclass ORTHOGASTROPODA

(= PROSOBRANCHIA)

Order CAENOGASTROPODA

Superfamily AMPULLARIOIDEA

Family AMPULLARIIDAE

Genus *Pomacea*

*Pomacea canaliculata* (Lamarck, 1804)

Genus *Asolene*

*Asolene platiae* (Maton, 1809)

Infraclass HETEROBRANCHIA

Superorder EUTHYNEURA

Order PULMONATA

Suborder BASOMMATOPHORA

Superfamily PHYSOIDEA

Family PHYSIDAE

Genus *Aplexa*

Subgenus *Stenophysa*

*Aplexa (Stenophysa) marmorata*  
(Guilding, 1828)

Superfamily PLANORBIOIDEA  
Family PLANORBIDAE  
Subfamily PLANORBINAE

Genus *Drepanotrema*

*Drepanotrema depressissimum*  
(Moricand, 1839)

Genus *Biomphalaria*

*Biomphalaria t. tenagophila* (d'Orbigny, 1835)  
*Biomphalaria t. guaiensis* Paraense, 1984

### Class BIVALVIA

Subclass PALEOHETERODONTA  
Order UNIONOIDA  
Superfamily UNIONOIDEA  
Family HYRIIDAE  
Subfamily HYRIINAE

Genus *Rhipidodonta*

*Rhipidodonta charruana* (d'Orbigny, 1835)  
*Rhipidodonta grata* (Lea, 1866)

Superfamily MUTELOIDEA  
Family MYCETOPODIDAE

Genus *Anodontites*

*Anodontites patagonicus* (Lamarck, 1819)  
*Anodontites trapesialis* (Lamarck, 1819)  
*Mycetopoda legumen* (Martens, 1888)  
*Leila blainvilleana* (Lea, 1835)

Subclass PTERIOMORPHA

Order MYTILOIDEA  
Family MYTILIDAE

Genus *Limnoperna*

*Limnoperna fortunei* (Dunker, 1857)

Order VENEROIDA

Superfamily CORBICULOIDEA  
Family CORBICULIDAE

Genus *Corbicula*

*Corbicula fluminea* (Müller, 1774)

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## Parting Shot



Mussels in the south central United States have been hit particularly hard by this summer's drought and record high temperatures. On July 31, Oklahoma Biological Survey staff visited a mussel bed on the Kiama River that is a long-term monitoring site for the Ouachita Rock Pocketbook (*Arkansas wheeleri*), a federally listed endangered species. Many parts of this bed were completely dry, and in areas that still had water, the water temperature exceeded 100° F. Nineteen species of freshly dead mussels were found in the dry reach. Oklahoma currently has no in-stream flow requirements for wildlife, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was able to work with other federal and state agencies to get water released from an upstream reservoir and is now monitoring the situation. Photograph by Caryn Vaughn.

If you would like to contribute a freshwater mollusk-related photograph for use as a **Parting Shot** in *Ellipsaria*, e-mail the picture, caption, and photo credit to [jjjenkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:jjjenkinson@hotmail.com).

