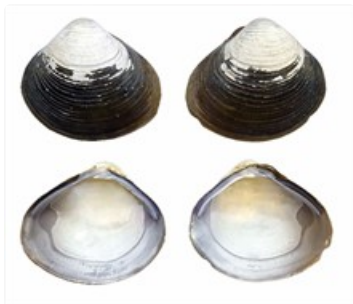




***Corbicula fluminea* (Müller, 1774)**

Diagnostic features

This species and the similar *Corbicula fluminalis* are invasive species



Corbicula fluminea (adult size up to 65 mm)

in Europe and North America. It differs from *Corbicula australis* in having a thicker, more triangular shell, with heavier concentric ribs. As with some forms of *C. australis*, the shells are usually purple on the inside.

Classification

Corbicula fluminea (Müller, 1774)

Common name: Asiatic clam, golden clam.

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Heterodonta

Megaorder Neoheterodonte

Order Venerida

Superfamily Cyrenoidea

Family Cyrenidae

Genus *Corbicula* Mühlfeldt, 1811

Original name: *Tellina fluminea* Müller, 1774. In Müller, O.F., 1774. *Vermium terrestrium et fluviatilium, seu animalium infusoriorum, helminthicorum, et testaceorum, non marinorum succincta historia*, pp. 1 - 214 (Havniae et Lipsiae).

Type locality: China

Synonyms: *Corbiculina maroubra* Iredale, 1943 (based on Australian occurrence of shells of *C. fluminea*); *C. manilensis* (Philippi, 1841); *C. leana* Prime, 1864 and many other synonyms.

State of taxonomy

This species has been the subject of numerous investigations, with species limits difficult to define.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in rivers, lakes, dams, irrigation channels and other water courses. Sometimes a major pest as a clogging and contamination agent in water/irrigation/cooling systems in other countries. The biology of this species has been extensively studied by Sinclair (1961, 1963); Britten and Morton *et al.* (1977, 1979, 1983, 1986, 1987). Like other cyrenids, it is a suspension and deposit feeder and the larvae are brooded.

Distribution

A few records of what appear to be this species from the New South Wales central and lower north coast, but all (to our knowledge) based on dead shells (see Notes). Thus, it has apparently not been established in Australia to date.

The natural distribution occurs from Russia and Japan in the north, to Indonesia in the south and from Africa in the west to the Philippines in the east. It has been introduced into the Americas and Europe, where it has become a pest species. It has also been recently found in the Waikato River in New Zealand.

Notes

Known from water supply pipes in Newcastle and Kempsey (single valves); Catherine Hill Bay (a coal loader is located at the southern end of the bay) and from the southern end of Maroubra beach. Apparently, the species has not successfully colonised in Australia - possibly because of the presence of native *Corbicula*, although it may have been transported to Australia on occasion, perhaps in ballast water of ships.

Further reading

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