



Asian Clam

Corbicula fluminea

History

- * First confirmed report in North America was in 1938 in the Columbia River drainage
- * Since then Asian clams have become widely distributed especially in the southern United States

Characteristics

- * Shells greenish-yellow to brown with thick concentric rings
- * Thick symmetrical shell
- * Up to 2 inches (5 cm) long
- * Inside of shell is smooth and polished with a light purple tinge
- * Three cardinal teeth in each valve

Habitat

- * Large rivers and lakes
- * Clams burrow prefer sandy or silty sediments into which they burrow up to 6-8 inches

Known Distribution

- * Widely distributed in southern and western United States, in the Great Lakes and in southern New England
- * Discovered in 2010 in Lake George, NY in the Champlain basin

Impacts

- * Clogging of power plant and industrial water systems, irrigation canals and pipes and drinking water supplies
- * Competes with native species for limited resources
- * May promote algae blooms due to localized nutrient loading from dense clam beds (observed in Lake Tahoe, CA)



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Credit: Emily Debolt, Lake George Association



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