

AN EXTENSION OF THE KNOWN RANGE OF THE ASIATIC CLAM *CORBICULA FLUMINEA* (MÜLLER) IN THE OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS. *Corbicula fluminea* (Müller), a small clam native to Asia, was first noticed in the Mississippi River system during the summer of 1957, when it caused difficulties by clogging up small cooling water pipes at the Shawnee Steam Plant on the Ohio River at Paducah, Kentucky (Sinclair and Isom, 1961). Fechtner (1962) reported finding it in the Ohio River just east of Metropolis, Massac County, Illinois, in 1960. At present this introduced species is known to have become established in the Tennessee River (Sinclair and Ingram, 1961; Sinclair and Isom, 1961), in the Cumberland River (Sinclair and Isom, 1961), and in the lower Green River (Bates, 1962). It has not previously been reported from the Mississippi River, nor from the Ohio River above Paducah.

On September 24, 1961, I found a single shell of *C. fluminea* on the gravel shore of the Ohio River below the ferry landing at Ghent, Carroll County, Kentucky. A return visit to the same site on September 21, 1962, yielded 28 shells of this species, but no living specimens were collected. More than 200 specimens were collected from Tacoma Park Beach at Dayton, Campbell County, Kentucky, across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, on September 21, 1962. Many of these were still living in mats of filamentous algae which had been washed up on the sand and gravel shore. All three collections are deposited at The Ohio State

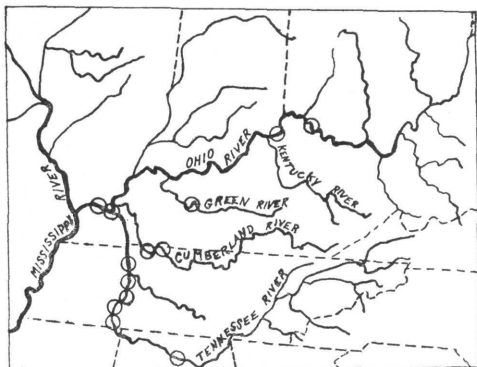


FIGURE 1. Present known distribution of *Corbicula fluminea* (Müller) in the Ohio River system.

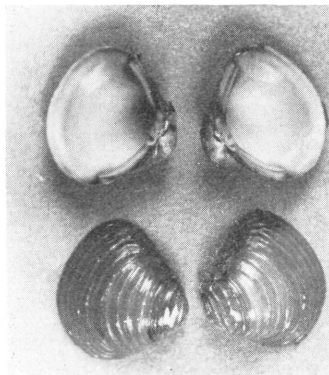


FIGURE 2. *Corbicula fluminea* (Müller) collected at Ghent, Kentucky, September 21, 1962 (OSM-6585). Figures actual size.

Museum (OSM-5385, OSM-6585, and OSM-6543). I am grateful to Dr. David H. Stansbery, Curator of Natural History at The Ohio State Museum, for verifying the identification of these specimens. A lot of 37 shells of *C. fluminea* in The Ohio State Museum collection (OSM-4416) is labelled "Mississippi River, Louisiana, January 1961." Unfortunately, further information on these specimens is not known.

As Bates (1962) has noted, the rapid spread of this bivalve mollusk through the Mississippi River system appears to be confined to the larger streams used in commercial navigation. It has not yet been reported from the heavily-traveled Kentucky River, but future collections will probably establish its presence in this waterway. It will be of interest to see whether this species will extend its range into those Mississippi and Ohio River tributaries which have not been extensively dammed and dredged for navigation.

Ingram (1959) reports that *C. fluminea* is frequently taken in great numbers from canals and even irrigation ditches, as well as from the larger rivers, in western United States. This suggests that dredging operations or other modifications of natural waterways may aid in the dispersal of the Asiatic clam, or may provide a habitat which this species can readily colonize.—CAROL B. STEIN, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus 10.*

LITERATURE CITED

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