



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

Lampsilis cardium Plain Pocketbook



Identification: A round to rectangular mussel, inflated (females more than males). The shell is thin but thickens varies with age. Yellow to green in color, prominent dark green rays of different widths. Mother-of-pearl is white, blue, or salmon.

Measurements: 7 inches in length.

Taxonomic comments: No recognized subspecies.

Status: Global ranking is **G5** and state rank is **S1**.

Habitat: In the mud, sand, or gravel substrates of various sized waterways with flowing water including small streams to large rivers.

Range: Mississippi river interior basin drainages.

Food habits*: Mussels are continually pumping water through their siphon. Their diet is composed of the various microscopic plants and animals from the water and organic matter from stream bottoms that they filter from this water.

Reproduction: Sexes are separate. The female carries immature glochidia from August till July of the following year. Hosts include white crappie, sauger, smallmouth bass, and bluegill.

Reason for decline: Possibly historically rare in Louisiana. *Loss of habitat as a result of siltation, impoundment, and the addition of pollutants to streams and rivers may also contribute to the decline of this species.

Interesting facts: Like other species of *Lampsilis* (*sandbank pocketbook* and *southern pocketbook*) this mollusk has a fish-like extension that moves and mimics small fish. This behaviour may serve to attract fish to the vicinity so they may act as hosts to the glochidial stage.

Known distribution in Louisiana:



Dates of documented observations are: 1994

References

Cummings, K.S., and C.A. Mayer. 1992. Field guide to freshwater mussels of the Midwest. Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 5.

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Murray, H.D., and A.B. Leonard. 1962. Handbook of Unionid Mussels in Kansas. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. Lawrence, Kansas.