



# Rare Animals of Louisiana

## Southern Hickorynut

*Obovaria jacksoniana*

**Rarity Rank:** S1S2/G2

**Identification:**

- Rounded shape, and moderately inflated.
- Thick shell that is light to dark brown often with fine green rays.
- Shell interior is bluish-white with some iridescence.
- Up to 1.7 inches in length

**Taxonomic comments:** The western Louisiana population was formerly considered a different species, *Obovaria castenea*

**Habitat:** Rivers and creeks with moderate current, often found in medium-sized gravel.

**Food habits:**

- Mussels are filter feeders that continuously pump water through their siphons.
- Their diet is composed of the plankton and detritus that they are able to extract during this process.

**Reproduction:**

- Most freshwater mussels have a parasitic stage in which the glochidia (larvae) attach to the gills or fins of certain types of fish.
- Glochidia have been reported in October, but the host fish is unknown for this species.

**Threats:**

- Loss of habitat as a result of siltation, and impoundments.
- The addition of pollutants to streams and rivers may also contribute to the decline of this species.

**Beneficial Management Practices:**

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams

**U. S. Range:** AL, AR, LA, MO, MS, OK, TN, TX

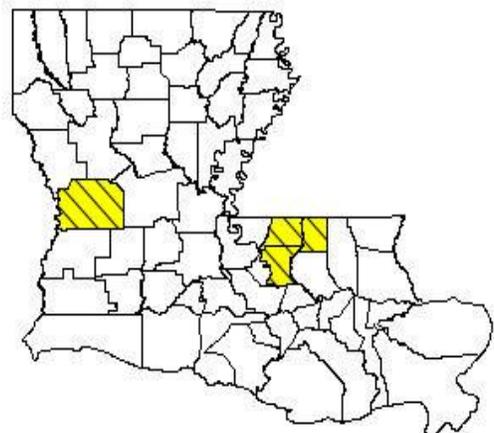
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Photo by Steve Shively





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