



## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

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### *Obovaria olivaria* Hickorynut

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**Identification:** This mussel has a rounded shape and is inflated; shell thick and smooth, green to yellow-brown in color; mother-of-pearl is white and iridescent.

**Measurements:** Length is 4 inches.

**Taxonomic comments:** No recognized subspecies.

**Status:** Global ranking is **G4** and state rank is **S1**.

**Habitat:** Found at moderate depth in sand and sand mixed with gravel bottom of medium to large rivers.

**Range:** Mississippi river interior basin drainages.

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**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. Glochidia stage can be found on the gills of the freshwater drum and shovelnose sturgeon.

**Reason for decline:** \*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:** Little is know about this species.

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



**Dates of documented observations are:** 1992 and 1994

**References**

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