



# Rare Animals of Louisiana

## Mississippi Pigtoe

*Pleurobema beadleianum*

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G3

**Identification:**

- Inflated with an almost triangular or rhomboid shape.
- Solid shell with a rich reddish brown color.
- Shell interior is whitish, purple tinted, or salmon.



**Taxonomic comments:** A larger and thicker form of this mussel occurs in the Amite and Pearl Rivers and may be eventually be considered a new species.

**Habitat:** Eastern Gulf drainages in Louisiana and Mississippi, also occurs in Lake Pontchartrain.

**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.
- The host fish for this species is unknown.

**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:** LA, MS





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## ***References:***

- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: Jan. 18, 2007 ).
- Vidrine, M.F. 1993. The historical distributions of freshwater mussels in Louisiana. Gail Q. Vidrine Collectables, Eunice, Louisiana.