Pyramid Pigtoe

Pleurobema rubrum

Rarity Rank: S2/G2

Identification:
- Shell is thick, with a triangular shape and notable inflation of the beak cavity.
- Umbos project forward.
- Brown surface is smooth.
- Rose-colored nacre (inside of shell)
- Grows to four inches in length

Taxonomic comments:
- One of four species of Pleurobema in Louisiana.
- Similar to other pigtoes (Fusconaia and Pleurobema).
- Also known as pink pigtoe.

Habitat:
- This species lives in sand or gravel in medium to large rivers that have moderate current.
- It may also occur in medium-sized lotic environments.

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:
- Virtually nothing is known about P. rubrum’s reproduction.
- It may breed in Mid May to late July in Ohio (Ortmann, 1919).
- Based on counts of annual growth lines, this mussel may reach the age of 22 years.

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:
- Erosion prevention
- Preserve SMZ’s

U. S. Range: AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MS, NE, OH, PA, TN, VA
Rare Animals of Louisiana

References:


