



# Rare Animals of Louisiana

## 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.

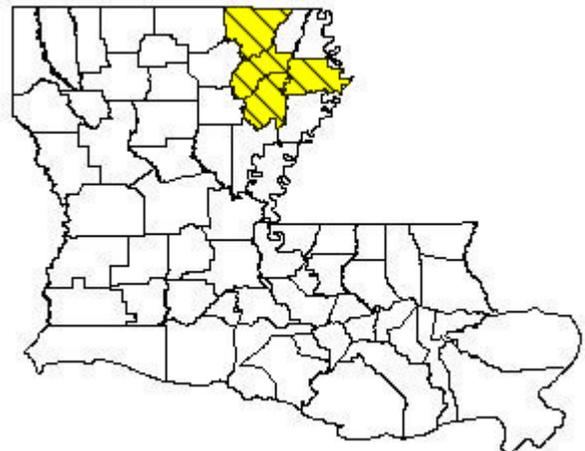
**Threats:**

- 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





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## **References:**

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