



## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

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### *Quadrula metanerva* Monkeyface

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**Identification:** Round to square shape, slightly inflated. The shell is thick and rough with a defined ridge running from the hinge to the anterior region of the shell. Color is green to light brown, green chevron pattern repeated throughout; small wing near hinge; mother-of-pearl white and iridescent.

**Measurements:** Length is 4 inches.

**Taxonomic comments:** No recognized subspecies.

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

**Habitat:** Gravel and sand bottoms in 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:** Host fishes include sauger and sunfishes.

**Reason for decline:** 1) Overharvesting as a result of the button industry. 2)\*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:** The shell of the monkeyface was commercially harvested for the button industry in the early 1900's.

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



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

**References**

Cummings, K.S., and C.A. Mayer. 1992. Field guide to freshwater mussels of the Midwest. Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 5.

Obermeyer, B.K. 2000. Recovery plan for four freshwater mussels in southeast Kansas. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Vidrine, M.F. 1993. The historical distributions of freshwater mussels in Louisiana. Gail Q. Vidrine Collectables, Eunice, Louisiana.