

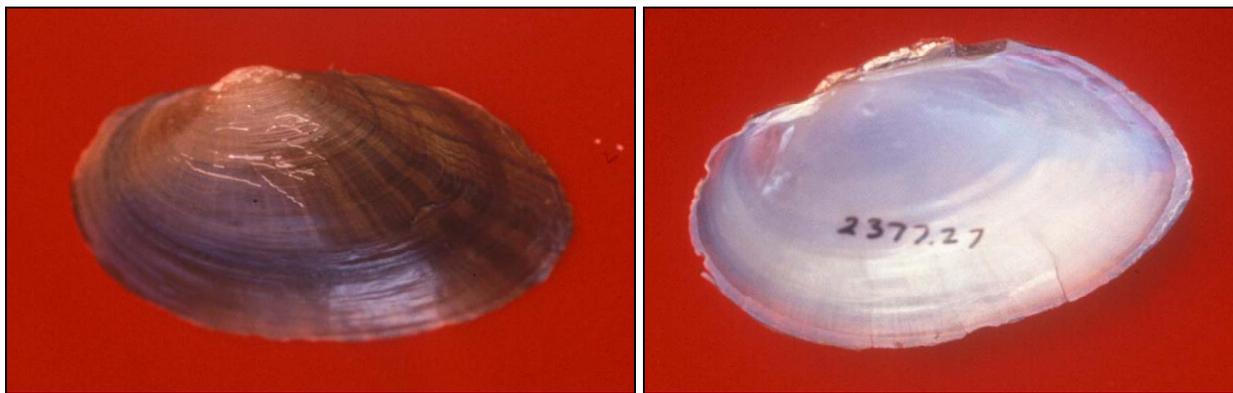


## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

---

### *Strophitus subvexus* Southern Creekmussel

---



**Identification:** Oval shaped mollusk. The shell is inflated and thin, olive colored with visible rays in juveniles. Mother-of-pearl is bluish and slightly yellow.

**Measurements:** Length is 3.5 inches.

**Taxonomic comments:** Three closely related species found in Louisiana, *S. subvexus*, *S. sp. cf. subvexus*, and *S. undulatus*. All three forms look slightly different but are sometimes difficult to distinguish by appearance or location.

**Status:** Global ranking is **G3** and state rank is **S1**.

**Habitat:** Found in sandy to muddy substrates of small to large creeks with little to no current.

**Range:** Gulf drainages throughout Georgia, Florida, southern Mississippi, and Louisiana.

---

**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.

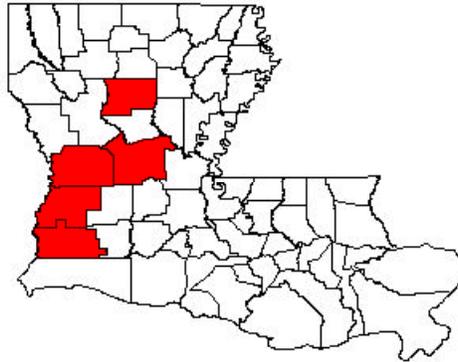
**Reproduction:** Sexes are separate. Females store fertilized eggs between February and March. Optimal breeding temperature is 8°-13° C. A wide variety of fish species are known to be hosts for the glochial parasitic stage.

**Reason for decline:** Sedimentation and channel modifications affecting mid-channel habitats are a large threat for the southern creekmussel. Additional impacts on river ecosystems, such as pollution and urbanization can have large effects on this species.

**Interesting facts:** This species is considered very rare. Habitats where the southern creekmussel was found in 1915-1918 no longer have a single individual. However, individuals are found in new habitats that did not previously house this species.

\* Indicates generalized information for freshwater mussels in the absence of information specific to this species

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



**Dates of documented observations are:** no records available

**References**

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

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2002. Version 1.6. Arlington Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://ww.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 19, 2003).