



**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**

Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

ABOUT

This small clam is native to Southeast Asia, Asia Minor, Australia, and Africa. It was first found in North America in the early 1900s and has become an established invasive species in Eastern Canada and in 38 U.S. states. This species is likely spread through the food trade and for use as live bait, which is prohibited in B.C. Asian clam infestations have the potential to alter water chemistry, outcompete native species for food and habitat, and damage aquatic infrastructure.

LEGAL STATUS

Asian clam is considered an invasive species in B.C. and is listed on the B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Provincial Containment list.

DISTRIBUTION IN B.C.

The current known distribution of Asian clam in B.C. includes one lake on Southern Vancouver Island, the Fraser, Pitt, and Coquitlam River systems in the Lower Mainland and in 2020 were detected in Shuswap Lake.

IDENTIFICATION



USGS, Bugwood.org

Mature clams are typically 2-2.5 cm long but can grow up to 6 cm. Shells are triangular in shape and may be yellow-green to brown or tan in colour. The exterior of their shells are marked by deep, concentric ridges.

ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Habitat: This clam inhabits brackish to freshwater rivers, lakes and streams. It can live on and within a variety of substrates ranging from silt to gravel, and can tolerate a wide range of water temperatures. It filter-feeds on plankton and algae, and grows best in areas with running water, where new food and oxygenated water is continuously drawn over the animal. Thus, water intake pipes may become infested.

Reproduction: These clams are hermaphrodites and can self-fertilize, meaning the introduction of a single individual can lead to the establishment of a population. They require water temperatures above 16°C for reproduction.

Dispersal: Asian clams can spread by human activities and larvae can disperse naturally through water currents.

IMPACTS

Economic: Asian clams form large colonies which may cause problems with water treatment facilities and hydroelectric plants by blocking intake or outflow pipes. They are known to alter water chemistry through feeding activity, which may lead to algal blooms and the fouling of drinking water.



L. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org

Ecological: Asian clams can compete for habitat and food with native freshwater species and may precipitate algal blooms causing aquatic ecosystem impacts.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Prevention: Do not purchase Asian clam for use as live bait or for private aquariums — **Don't Let it Loose!** If you are using a private boat or watercraft in an affected waterway, follow [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) protocols to ensure you are not transporting any invasive species out of the waterway.

Reporting: Any invasive species sightings in B.C. including Asian clam should be reported using the Report-Invasives B.C. apps at www.reportinvasives.ca.

ISCBC:

Toll Free: 1-888-933-3722

E-mail: info@bcinvasives.ca / [Online form](#)



REMEMBER

- CLEAN**
plants, animals and mud
from my boat and gear
- DRAIN**
all water from my boat
and gear onto land
- DRY**
all parts of my boat
and gear completely

Report Invasives or Quagga mussel sightings to the R.A.P.P. Hotline: 1-877-952-7277

CleanDrainDry.ca

REFERENCES/INFORMATIVE LINKS

<https://www.saobserver.net/news/invasive-clams-discovered-in-salmon-arm-of-shuswap-lake/>
 USGS profile: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=92>
 Clean, Drain, Dry Program: <https://bcinvasives.ca/resources/programs/clean-drain-dry>

Additional Contact Info



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

