



Dwarf Wedgemussel

Alasmidonta heterodon

Endangered

Key Features

Size: Up to 1.5 inches, though usually around one inch.

Shape: Somewhat triangular or “wedge-shaped” at the posterior end, which is sometimes pointed. Adults are small and often exhibit much more shell erosion than comparably sized juveniles of other species.

Periostracum: Color yellowish-brown, olive-brown, or blackish-brown. Shell rays present but sparse, particularly in adults.

Lateral Teeth: Present but thin. Two on the right valve and one on the left valve, which is the opposite of all other North American freshwater mussel species that possess lateral teeth.

Pseudocardinal Teeth: Present. Two on the left valve and one on the right valve.

Nacre: Color usually bluish-white and somewhat iridescent along the posterior margin, sometimes with greenish or yellowish markings toward the beak cavity.

Often Confused With...

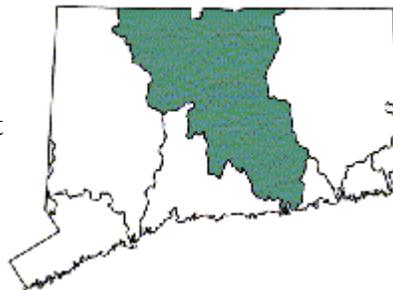
[Creeper](#), [brook floater](#), and [triangle floater](#)

Habitat

The dwarf wedgemussel is found in streams and rivers, where it prefers stable substrates in slow or moderate currents. In slow moving, sandy rivers it is often found near the banks among roots.

Range in Connecticut

Though once distributed throughout parts of the Connecticut River and Quinnipiac River watersheds, it is now thought to exist in only a few Connecticut River tributaries.



External Shell



Internal shell, right valve



Hinge teeth

Conservation

This is the only federally endangered freshwater mussel in New England. Historically, it was found in

nearly 70 locations in 15 watersheds along the Atlantic seaboard, but its range and population sizes have dramatically decreased in the last century.

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