

POTAMILUS CAPAX (GREEN, 1832)
Plain Pocketbook

SYNONYMY:

- Lampsilis capax (Green, 1832). (Simpson, 1914:47)
Proptera capax (Green, 1832). (Frierson, 1927:87) (F.C. Baker, 1928:248)

CLASSIFICATION:

- Family Unionidae (Fleming, 1828) Ortmann, 1911.
Subfamily Lampsilinae (von Ihering, 1901) Ortmann, 1910.
Genus Potamilus Rafinesque, 1818.

CHARACTERISTICS: Shell medium to large, obovate, greatly inflated, subsolid; umbos extremely full, high, sculpture very finely double-looped; surface of disc without sculpture, periostracum light gray-green to yellow to smoky olive brown, rayless; hinge sinuous, cardinal teeth lamellate, long, dorsal cardinal of right valve much longer than ventral cardinal, lateral teeth thin, curved, fairly short; nacre white.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Lampsilis ventricosa (Barnes, 1823) umbonal sculpture coarse concentric ridges; periostracum yellow or yellowish green to brown, usually rayed, rays often striking, green; hinge simply curved, not sinuous, dorsal cardinal tooth of right valve much smaller than ventral cardinal.

RANGE: At least up until Simpson's time (1914:47), P. capax existed in the:

"Lower Ohio River drainage; southwest to St. Francis River, Arkansas; north to eastern Iowa; Elkhorn and Blue River, Nebraska? (Aughey)."

RANGE IN OHIO: The only in-state records for this species include Sterki's (1907:388) "Ohio River" record and various other collectors' non-committal "Ohio". Recent records indicate that the only known Ohio River tributary that supports this species is the Wabash River in Indiana and Illinois.

HABITAT: F.C. Baker (1928:250) noted that the habitat of P. capax is "[n]ot well recorded. In Mississippi found on a mud bottom." Parmalee (1967:83) also commented on the habitat:

"[P. capax] is a large river species. . . This mussel has been taken on both a sand and mud bottom, in flowing water, and at depths of only a few inches to 8 feet or more."

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Baker, Frank Collins

- 1928 The fresh water Mollusca of Wisconsin. Part II Pelecypoda.
Wisc. Geol. Nat. Hist. Surv. Bull. 70:1-v1, 1-482,
pl. 29-105, fig. 203-299.

Frierson, Lorraine S.

- 1927 A classified and annotated check list of North American
Naiades.
Baylor Univ. Press, Waco, Texas, 111 pp.

Simpson, Charles Torrey

- 1914 A descriptive catalogue of the naiades, or pearly fresh-
water mussels.
Bryant Walker, Detroit, Michigan, 3 volumes, 1540 pp.

Sterki, Victor

- 1907 A preliminary catalogue of the land and fresh-water Mollusca
of Ohio.
Ohio State Acad. Sci. Spec. Pap. No. 12:365-402.