

# CORBICULA CLAM

*Corbicula fluminea*



Lake Elmo Corbicula  
*Corbicula fluminea*

FWP



Corbicula Clam

Bjorn S., Wikipedia Commons



Corbicula Clam Color

Smithsonian, Wikipedia Commons



Böhringer Friedrich, Wikipedia Commons

## IDENTIFICATION

### SIZE:

Adults are between 3-5 cm in length.

### COLOR:

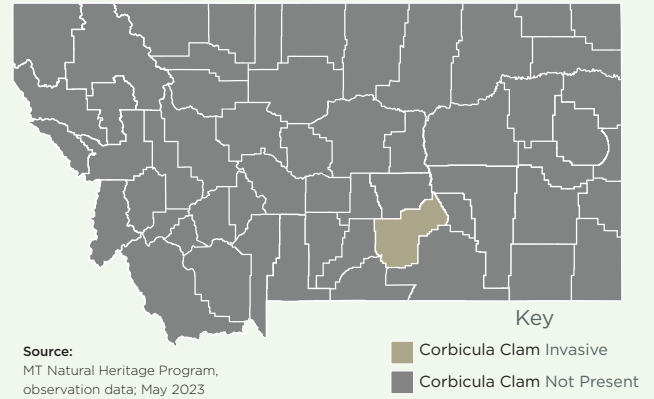
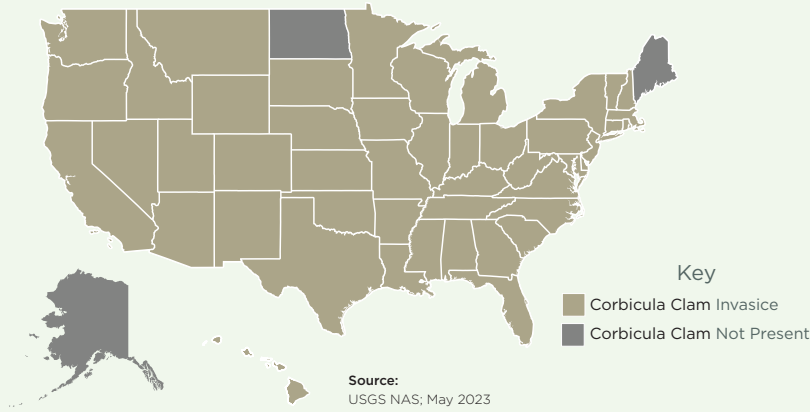
Generally yellow or tan in Montana. Color varies from yellow to light brown with dark brown morphs possible.

### SHAPE:

Triangular shaped shell with concentric ridges. Tiny, serrated teeth on the hinge plate are visible when open.

For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

# DISTRIBUTION



## HABITAT:

Prefer sand and gravel substrates in running water, but can be found in the sediment of lakes, streams, and reservoirs.

## NATIVE TO:

Asia, Africa, Australia

## PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

Spread in North America is due to human activities that include accidental introduction via aquaculture operations and bait bucket introductions. Larvae can also free float or attach to debris to disperse long distances. To prevent further spread, do not use Asian clam as bait and ensure that you clean, drain, and dry any fishing equipment, boats, or anything else that has come into contact with water.

## IMPACTS:

Can outcompete native mussels for resources, alters substrate habitat, and can clog water intake pipes, irrigation, and other industrial water uses.

## IN MONTANA:

The only reported observations in Montana have been at Lake Elmo in Billings, MT

Sources:  
*Aquatic Invasive Species Threatening the Crown of the Continent*  
Montana Field Guide

## NATIVE LOOKALIKES:

Can be distinguished from native pea and fingernail clams by its hard shell that will not crack under pressure from fingers and the more pronounced ridges on the shell. Native clams are also less triangular.



**Corbicula Clam**  
*Corbicula fluminea*

Paul Skawinski UW-Stevens Point Extension Lakes



**Fingernail Clam**  
*Sphaerium striatinum*

MTNHP David Stagliano

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at  
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>  
Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440

