

Limnoperna fortunei

Golden mussel



CONICET
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MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE FOR ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

- Bivalve of variable color, from yellow to brown. Valves equal in size and shape.
- Outer surface shiny and smooth. Inner surface nacreous.
- Umbo nearly terminal. Without hinge teeth.
- Ligament on the anterior-dorsal margin, straight or slightly curved.
- Ventral margin (V) variable, straight or arched.



Photo: Grupo de Hidrobiología - UBA



Length: aprox. 45 mm

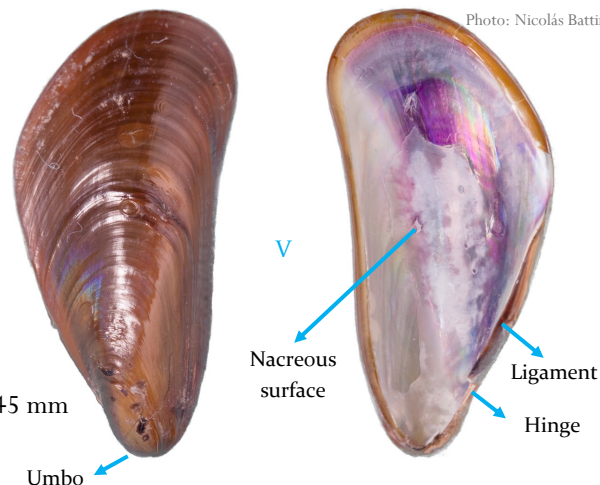


Photo: Nicolás Battini

HABITAT

Freshwater and estuarine species. It grows over different natural and artificial hard substrata, including filters and pipes of water treatment and power stations.

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SIMILAR SPECIES

Mytilus spp.: Status unknown. Marine species. It can be yellow during the juvenile stage similar to *L. fortunei*, but the adults are dark blue. The inner surface is not nacreous.

INVASION STATUS

L. fortunei is native to China. It was first reported in Argentina in 1991 in a beach close to La Plata (34° S). Presently, it is found in the entire La Plata drainage basin, including Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Paraguay.

IMPACT ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

This species grows densely in colonized habitats, generating new refuges for other small invertebrates and altering the trophic network. It is able to filter high amounts of water, extracting particles and nutrients from the water column (including plankton), indirectly affecting other organisms that depend on those nutrients. Several native fish species feed upon larvae and adults golden mussels.



Photo: Nicolás Battini

Mytilus spp.

CONTACT US

This guide has been developed by the Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC), from CENPAT (CONICET). If you find this species outside the reported areas please contact us and let us know the date, locality, approximate number of individuals and, if possible, send us a picture

 especiesexoticasarg@gmail.com



Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC)