

Corbicula fluminea

Asian clam

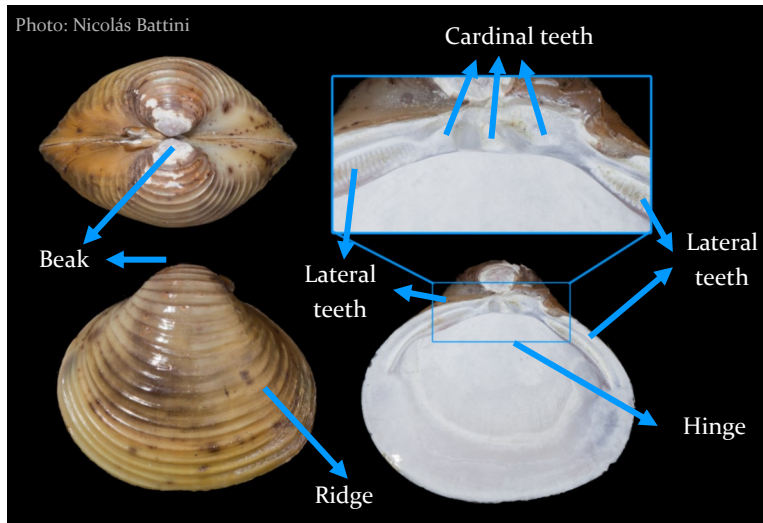


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MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE FOR ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

- Similar in size, thick, heavy, near triangular yellow-brownish valves.
- External surface with pronounced concentric regular ridges.
- Central beak, typically inflated.
- Heterodont hinge with three cardinal and two serrated teeth.



Length: 50-65 mm

HABITAT

Corbicula fluminea is a freshwater species, but it can also be found in estuaries. Usually, it lives buried in natural substrates like sand, gravel or clay, but it can also be found on artificial structures like pipes and industrial filters.

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SIMILAR SPECIES

- *Corbicula largillierti*: Exotic. Very similar to *C. fluminea*, but with lighter valves with less marked and closer ridges. The interior is violet and the beak is less inflated.
- *Macra isabelleana*: Native. Ridges are smaller, irregular and less notorious than in *C. fluminea*. It is found exclusively in coastal-marine environments.



Photo: Paola Reyna

Corbicula largillierti

INVASIVE STATUS

Corbicula fluminea is native to Southeastern Asia and has been introduced in USA, Europe and South America. In Argentina, it was first recorded in 1979 in the Rio de la Plata estuary (35° S), but currently has spread up the river basin to Misiones and Formosa provinces, and to other river basins of Buenos Aires, Río Negro and Córdoba.



Photo: Nicolás Battini

Macra isabelleana

IMPACT ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

In Argentina, its impact is not completely understood, but it is known that its larvae are an important food source for native fish. In other regions where it was introduced, *Corbicula fluminea* critically reduced the availability of phytoplankton for other filter-feeding organisms such as zooplankton and native bivalves.

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

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