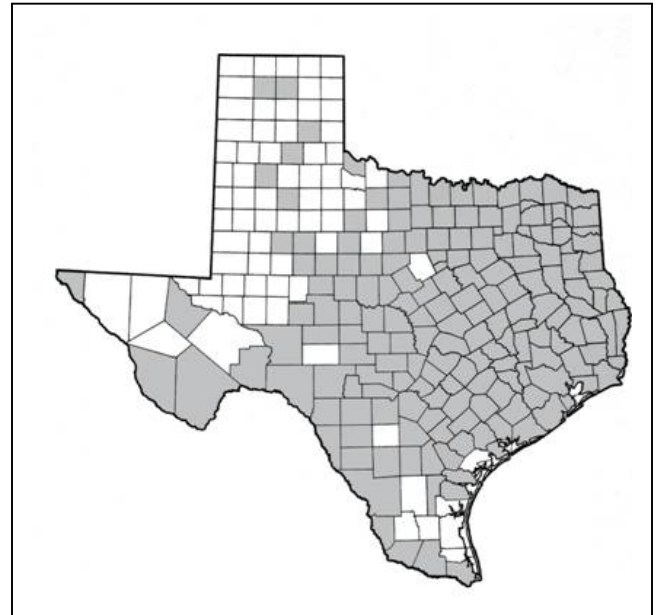
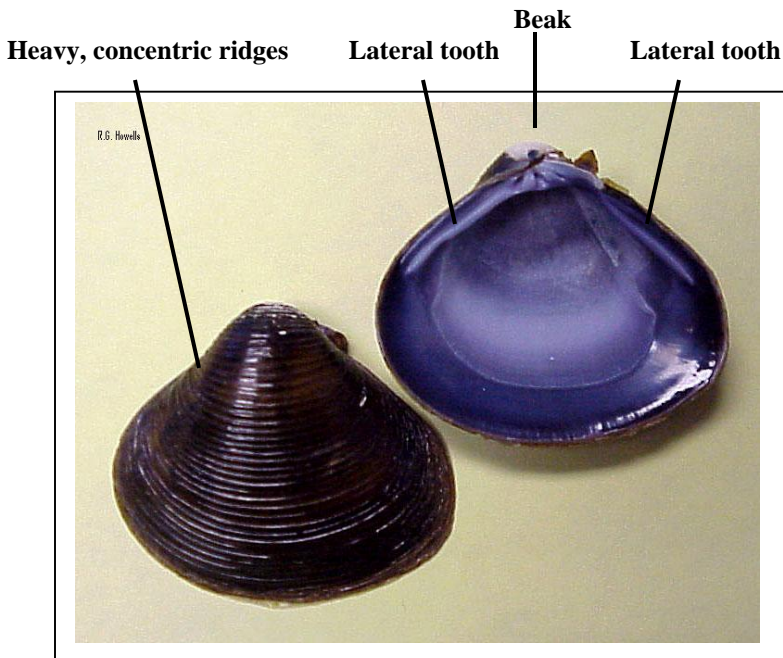


ASIAN CLAM (*Corbicula fluminea*)



Asian clams may have shells that are yellow, brown, or black on the exterior, or may show dark and light bands of color. Internally they may be white or purple. Though widely distributed in Texas (shaded counties above), Asian clam has not been documented in some counties. Please report any specimens found in unshaded counties.



Asian clams are oval to nearly triangular in shape. They can reach sizes of at least 60 mm (2.4 inches), but most are far smaller. Externally their shells have heavy, concentric ridges like a wood rasp (native freshwater mussels may have growth and rest lines, but never heavy ridges). Internally, they have long, leaf-like lateral teeth on each side of the beak (native freshwater mussels have only lateral teeth on one side of the beak or lack them entirely). Asian clams were first documented on the West Coast in 1938, but were introduced from Asia several years earlier. They were first found in Texas in the Neches River in 1958, then near El Paso in 1964, but have now invaded statewide. Some experts believe at least two species occur in Texas; others believe we have only one variable species.

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