# The National Biodiversity Data Centre

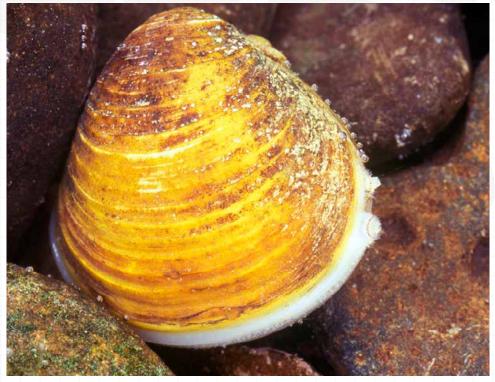
# Asian clam Corbicula fluminea

## **Species profile**

Habitat:	Freshwater.
Distribution in Ireland	Localised to areas of the River Nore, River Barrow and recorded north and south of the River Shannon.
Status:	Established.
Family name:	Corbiculidae.
Reproduction:	Capable of self-fertilization.

### **Identifying features**

- **Shell:** Yellow to olive green to brown shell, with concentric, evenly spaced ridges on the shell surface. Shell is white inside and glossy yellow when cleaned. Obvious external ligament seen near the central beak/umbo of the shell.
- **Size:** Usually up to 25mm in length but larger specimens have been found growing up to 50-65mm.
- **Not attached:** The species is not attached to the water bed, but rather lying half-buried.



Asian clam underwater Shutterstock



## Invasive: High impact



Single Asian clam, showing its diverse colouring © Roy Anderson



Collection of Asian clams © GBNNSS



Please report your sightings of this species at: http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie



### Asian clam

### **Invasive: High impact**

#### Threats

The species can compete with native species, which is particularly worrying for species which are already vulnerable or threatened.

It's population can reach high densities quickly (with adults producing up to 100,000 offspring in a life time).

### **Similar species**

- No other similar species in Ireland, but expert verification of your sighting should be sought.
- Some bivalve shells may be mistaken for young Asian clam, especially Psidium.



Asian clam with mucous thread to aid dispersal  $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$  D. Minchin



Young Asian clam individuals  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  D. Minchin

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council



Produced with funding from The Heritage Council and the EPA STRIVE Programme 2007-2013 View Ireland's distribution of this species on http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie

Biodiversity Maps

National Biodiversity Data Centre fact sheet. Text: Colette O' Flynn & Oisín Duffy (Version 1) November 2013.