

INVERTEBRATES:

Atlantic pigtoe mussel *Fusconaia masoni*

FEDERAL LIST

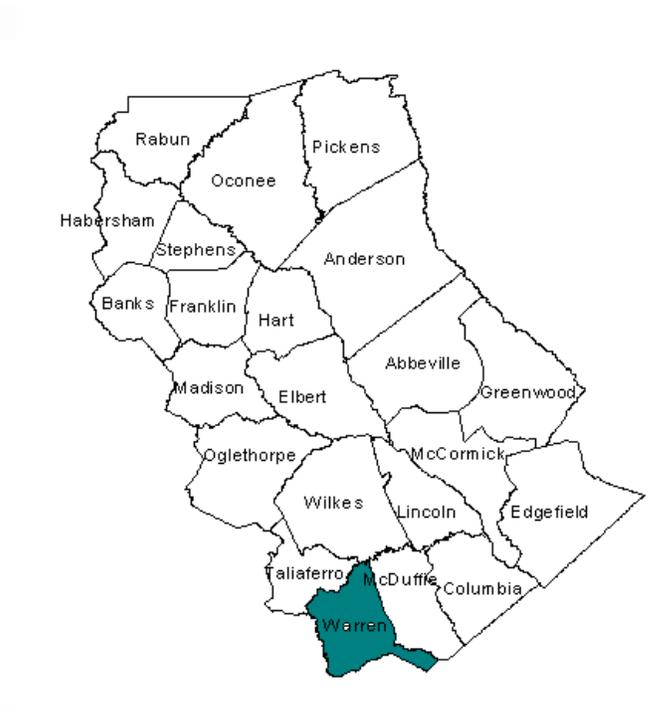
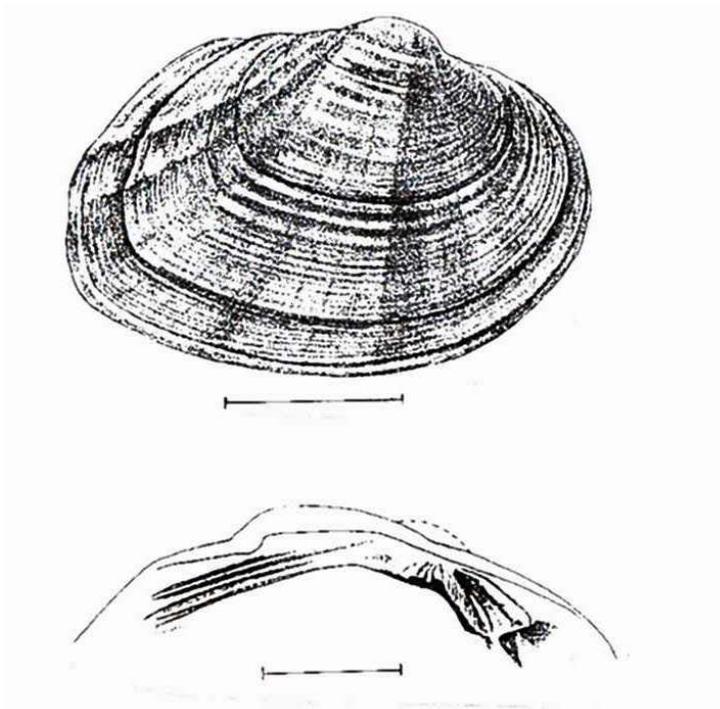
GEORGIA
Concern

SOUTH CAROLINA
Concern

STATE LIST

GEORGIA
Endangered

SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted



(Note: Top drawing shows details of external shell; bottom drawing shows interior hinge area with teeth. Line represents 1 cm.)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This two-shelled mussel is triangular-rhomboidal except in headwater areas where individuals are more elongate. The convex, posterior ridge is distinct and extends from the umbo to the margin of the shell. The beak or umbo (knob-like area near the junction of the two shell halves) usually protrudes well above the shell edges. The thin outer layer of the shell (periostracum) is smooth, parchment-like and yellow to dark brown. The internal lining of the shell (nacre) ranges from an iridescent blue to salmon, to white to orange. When the shell is open the "teeth" in the hinge area are evident. Both pseudocardinal and lateral teeth are present; however, the anterior pseudocardinal tooth is vestigial in the right shell.

GENERAL HABITAT: Found in unpolluted, fast-flowing water in coarse sand/gravel substrate. Most Georgia populations have been coastal plain inhabitants in water underlain by limestone and dolomite. The only extant population is in the Ogeechee drainage in Williamson Swamp Creek, Jefferson County, although the type locale is in the Savannah River above Augusta.

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INVERTEBRATES:

Carolina Heelsplitter *Lasmigona decorata*

FEDERAL LIST

GEORGIA SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted Endangered

STATE LIST

GEORGIA SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted Endangered



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This freshwater mussel has a greenish brown to dark brown, unsculptured, oval shell which has a trapezoid shape. Younger specimens may have faint greenish brown to black rays. The largest specimens measure about 11.5cm (4.6in) in length, 3.9cm (1.6in) in width, and 6.8 cm (2.7in) in height. The inside surface (nacre) is typically pearly to bluish white, grading to orange in the umbo area or may be entirely mottled, pale orange in older specimens (Keferl 1991).

GENERAL HABITAT: The current distribution is very fragmented. It has limited distribution in North Carolina and historically was known from the Pee Dee and Savannah River systems and possibly the Saluda river system in South Carolina. Alderman (1995) collected this species in the Steven’s Creek watershed; it has also been found recently in Edgefield County in Beaverdam, Mountain, and Turkey Creeks.

Its preferred habitat appears to be mud, muddy sand, or muddy gravel substrates along stable, shaded stream banks. In Mountain Creek it was found in the center of the stream channel in a mix of sand, gravel, and cobble (Fridell of USF&WS, Asheville, NC). Human disturbance of streams, from siltation and pollution to inadequate shading, further threatens the habitat of this species.

Reference and photos:

Kerfl, E. P. 1991. A Status Survey for the Carolina Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*), a Freshwater Mussel Endemic to the Carolinas. Unpublished report to the USF&WS.



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INVERTEBRATES:

Broad River Burrowing Crayfish

Distocambarus devexus

FEDERAL LIST

STATE LIST

GEORGIA
Unlisted

SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted

GEORGIA
Threatened

SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The overall color of the Broad River burrowing crayfish is tan to brownish with dark mottling. The areola is fairly narrow and the rostrum is wide, gradually converging anteriorly to a blunt point. The moveable fingers of the claws are about the same length as the mesial margins of the palm of the claws. The abdomen appears narrower than the cephalothorax. This species reaches a maximum total body length of about 75 mm (3 inches).

GENERAL HABITAT: Simple and complex burrows adjacent to streams or in low areas where the water table is near the surface of the ground.

INVERTEBRATES:

Lean Crayfish *Cambarus strigosus*

FEDERAL LIST

GEORGIA
Unlisted

SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted

STATE LIST

GEORGIA
Threatened

SOUTH CAROLINA
Unlisted



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The overall color of the lean crayfish is bluish-olive with the margins of the rostrum creamy orange. The areola is very narrow to non-existent and the abdomen appears much narrower than the cephalothorax. The claws may be robust. This species reaches a maximum total body length of about 75 mm (3 inches).

GENERAL HABITAT: Complex burrows adjacent to streams or in low areas where the water table is near the surface of the ground.