

Golden mussel

Limnoperna fortunei

Description

It was introduced into Argentina in 1991. Within a decade it had spread to four other South American countries. Introduction to North America is predicted.

Identification

Golden or yellowish in color, shell length of about 20 mm. is common, while a maximum length is about 40mm. - 60mm. Umbones very nearly terminal, dorsal ligament margin is nearly straight. Does not possess hinge teeth or byssal notch. Mantle fusion occurs dorsally.

Habitat

Native to China and southeastern Asia. Prefers freshwater lakes, rivers and estuaries. Tolerant of polluted and contaminated waters.

Reproduction

External fertilization, larval stage is 30-70 days. Life cycle rarely exceeds 2-3 years but can reach 5-10 years of age in its native region. Spawning





occurs 1-2 times per year in water temps
between 16-28 degrees C.

Impact

High filtration rates which can reduce phytoplankton, suppress zooplankton populations, outcompete native species for available food, increase sedimentation rates and alter contaminant and nutrient cycling.

Similar

False dark mussel (*Mytilopsis leucophaeata*), Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Desiccation, predation by fish such as *Leporinus obtusidens*; Chemicals, including chlorine, are effective in controlling larvae within facilities, but are not often used due to resulting complications with their uses. Also physical removal of mussels is effective in controlling populations.

Credits

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