

Chinese Pond Mussel (*Sinanodonta woodiana*)

Also called: Eastern Asiatic clam or swan-mussel

Family Name: River Mussels (Unionidae)

Native Range: Eastern Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All new occurrences should be eradicated. First record in North America found in Hunterdon County in 2010.

General Description:

- Periostracum (thin coating on outside of shell) is brown showing distinct shell rays that run perpendicular to growth lines
- Nacre (inner shell surface) with wide pink band along the outer edge
- Size ranges up to 12"



Look-alikes:

Alewife floater (*Anodonta implicata*)

- Native, Common
- Periostracum color variable, shell rays often not visible in older individuals
- Nacre without pink band
- Size ranges up to 7"



Species identification is difficult and requires expert verification; contact NJDEP – Endangered and Nongame Species Program for confirmation.

Behavior and Habitat:

- Occupy slowly running rivers to eutrophic ponds
- Glochidia (larvae) attach to gills of carp species
- NJ occurrence associated with constructed fish ponds containing bighead carp – Immediate threat to Wickechoeke Creek and Delaware River downstream.