

HEMISTENA LATA (RAFINESQUE, 1820).
Narrow Scale Shell

SYNONYMY:

Lastena lata (Rafinesque, 1820). (Simpson, 1914:453)

CLASSIFICATION:

Family Unionidae (Fleming, 1828) Ortmann, 1911.
Subfamily Ambleminae (Rafinesque, 1820) Morrison, 1955.
Genus Hemistena Rafinesque, 1820.

CHARACTERISTICS: Shell small to medium size, elongate, compressed, thin to subsolid; umbos low, sculpture coarse, trapezoidal; surface of disc without sculpture; periostracum yellow to smoky green or brown, rays dark green, narrow to wide, interrupted; hinge edentulous or with a barely discernable cardinal tooth; nacre with a wash of light purple in the umbonal cavity.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Elliptio dilatata (Rafinesque, 1820) similar in outline but hinge complete, heavy.

RANGE: Simpson (1914:453) reported that this species occurred in the "Ohio, Cumberland, and Tennessee River systems." We have never seen specimens of this species anywhere outside the Ohio River basin.

RANGE IN OHIO: Records of this species for the state are few and far between. Sullivant (1838:9) recorded it for the Scioto River and Sterki (1907:393) found it to be uncommon in the Ohio River drainage. Other collectors have found it in the "Ohio River at Cincinnati" (1838), in the Muskingum River (1930) and in the Tuscarawas River (1800's). Its range today seems to be limited to the tributaries of the lower Ohio River, not in the state of Ohio.

HABITAT: In Indiana, Call (1900:533-534) found that H. lata

". . . is a rare species, whose habits tend to keep it unknown; it buries itself deeply in the mud and gravel of bars, and rarely crawls about like most of the Unionidae."

Yokley (1972:66) adds:

"This single live specimen was a lucky find and it was amazing how extended the foot was when pulled from its habitat completely below the gravel surface."

This is a species of firm silt-sand-gravel substrates of riffles and runs where it is all but completely buried. They are not only rare but easily overlooked even when present! Its foot resembles that of the South American Mycetopoda.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Call, Richard Ellsworth

- 1900 A descriptive illustrated catalogue of the Mollusca of Indiana.
Ann. Rept. Dept. Geol. and Nat. Res. Ind. (24th) for 1899:335-535, 78 pl., index: 1013-1017.

Simpson, Charles Torrey

- 1914 A descriptive catalogue of the naiades, or pearly fresh-water mussels.
Bryant Walker, Detroit, Michigan, 3 volumes, 1540 pp.

Sterki, Victor

- 1907 A preliminary catalogue of the land and fresh-water Mollusca of Ohio.
Ohio State Acad. Sci. Spec. Pap. No. 12:365-402.

Sullivant, Joseph

- 1838 An alphabetical catalogue of the shells, fossils, minerals, and zoophites in the cabinet of Joseph Sullivant, curator of the Philosophical and Historical Society of Ohio.
Columbus, Ohio, 38 pp.

Yokley, Paul

- 1972 Freshwater mussel ecology, Kentucky Lake, Tennessee.
Project 4-46-R for Tenn. Game and Fish Comm., Nashville, Tenn., pp. 1-v, 1-133, 53 fig., 22 tables.