

PLEUROBEMA RUBRUM (RAFINESQUE, 1820)
Pink Pigtoe; Pointed Pigtoe

SYNONYMY:

- Quadrula pyramidata (Lea, 1831). (Simpson, 1914:888)
Pleurobema obliquum rubrum (Rafinesque, 1820). (Ortmann, 1919:84)
Pleurobema pyramidatum (Lea, 1831). (Ortmann & Walker, 1922:24)
Quadrula obliquata (Rafinesque, 1820). (Frierson, 1927:52)
Pleurobema coccineum mississippiensis Baker, 1928. (F.C. Baker, 1928:121)

CLASSIFICATION:

- Family Unionidae (Fleming, 1828) Ortmann, 1911.
 Subfamily Amblesinae (Rafinesque, 1820) Morrison, 1955.
 Genus Pleurobema Rafinesque, 1820.

CHARACTERISTICS: Shell small to medium size, scalene triangular, compressed to subinflated, solid; umbos very narrow, pointed, directed anteriorly, sculpture concentric, nodulous; posterior ridge closely approximates hingeline, creating a very narrow escutcheon; surface of disc distinctly sulcate from umbo to ventral margin, periostracum smooth, lustrous, yellowish brown to reddish brown, with diffuse green rays in young specimens; hinge heavy, curved, cardinal teeth heavy, lateral teeth short, thick; nacre pink, occasionally white.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Pleurobema plenum (Lea, 1840) is higher, asulcate except old specimens; umbos full, apposed; escutcheon wide; periostracum clothlike, dull. Pleurobema cordatum (Rafinesque, 1820) is less oblique, has distinct, interrupted bright green rays in young specimens; nacre usually white. Pleurobema sintoxia (Rafinesque, 1820) is rounded, less oblique; asulcate; umbos apposed.

RANGE: The range of this species is described by Simpson (1914:889) as including:

"Ohio, Cumberland, and Tennessee River systems; southwest to Arkansas; west to Nebraska?; north in the Mississippi to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin."

Records indicate that this species, or species of this complex, are as widespread as indicated.

RANGE IN OHIO: This is a species which seems to have all but disappeared from Ohio. Sullivant (1838:10) recorded it from the Scioto River and Sterki (1907:392) found it to occur in the "Ohio River and tributaries. . . Tuscarawas River." OSUM records indicate its past presence in the Ohio River main stem and the Muskingum River system (including the Walhonding, Tuscarawas and Mohican Rivers) but the only recent specimens of fresh or living material have come from the Muskingum River proper.

HABITAT: In describing the habitat of Pleurobema concinnum mississippiensis, F.C. Baker (1928:122) said:

"In the largest rivers on sand, gravel, and mud bottoms, in fairly deep water with good current."

We have taken this species on several occasions from the upper Clinch River above Norris Reservoir and Sterki (1907:392) discovered a population in the Tuscarawas River at New Philadelphia. The habitat described by Baker (above) is typical except that it is not always restricted to deep water or large rivers.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

- Baker, Frank Collins
1928 The fresh water Mollusca of Wisconsin. Part II. Pelecypoda. Wisc. Geol. Nat. Hist. Surv. Bull. 70:1-vi, 1-482, pl. 29-105, fig. 203-299.
- Frierson, Lorraine S.
1927 A classified and annotated check list of North American Naiades. Baylor Univ. Press, Waco, Texas, 111 pp.
- Ortmann, Arnold E.
1919 A monograph of the Naiades of Pennsylvania. Part III. Systematic account of the genera and species. Carnegie Mus. Mem., 8(1):1-384, 21 pl., 34 fig.
- Ortmann, Arnold E. and Bryant Walker
1922 On the nomenclature of certain North American Naiades. Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 112:2-75.
- 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.