

# Freshwater Mussels of Michigan



**Mucket**  
*Actinonaias ligamentina*



**Elktoe**  
*Alasmidonta marginata*



**Slippershell**  
*Alasmidonta viridis*



**Threeeridge**  
*Amblema plicata*



**Cylindrical Papershell**  
*Anodontooides ferussacianus*



**Purple Wartback**  
*Cyclonaias tuberculata*



**Pimpleback**  
*Cyclonaias pustulosa*



**Eastern Elliptio**  
*Elliptio complanata*



**White Catspaw**  
*Epioblasma perobliqua*



Female



Male

**Northern Riffleshell**  
*Epioblasma rangiana*



Female



Male

**Snuffbox**  
*Epioblasma triquetra*



**Spike**  
*Eurynia dilatata*



**Wabash Pigtoe**  
*Fusconaia flava*



**Plain pocketbook**  
*Lampsilis cardium*



Female



Male

**Wavy-rayed Lampmussel**  
*Lampsilis fasciola*



Female



Male

**Fatmucket**  
*Lampsilis siliquoidea*



**White Heelsplitter**  
*Lasmigona complanata*



**Creek Heelsplitter**  
*Lasmigona compressa*



**Fluted-shell**  
*Lasmigona costata*



**Fragile Papershell**  
*Leptodea fragilis*



**Eastern Pondmussel**  
*Ligumia nasuta*  
(= *Sagittunio nasutus*)



**Black Sandshell**  
*Ligumia recta*



**Three-horned Wartback**  
*Oblivaria reflexa*



**Hickorynut**  
*Obovaria olivaria*



**Round Hickorynut**  
*Obovaria subrotunda*



**Clubshell**  
*Pleurobema clava*



**Round Pigtoe**  
*Pleurobema sintoxia*



**Pink Heelsplitter**  
*Potamilus alatus*



**Pink Papershell**  
*Potamilus ohioensis*



**Kidney-shell**  
*Ptychobranthus fasciolaris*



**Giant Floater**  
*Pyganodon grandis*



**Lake Floater**  
*Pyganodon lacustris*



**Mapleleaf**  
*Quadrula quadrula*



**Salamander Mussel**  
*Simpsonia ambigua*



**Strange Floater**  
*Strophitus undulatus*



**Purple Lilliput**  
*Toxolasma lividum*



**Lilliput**  
*Toxolasma parvum*



**Fawnsfoot**  
*Truncilla donaciformis*



**Deertoe**  
*Truncilla truncata*



**Paper Pondshell**  
*Utterbackia imbecillis*



**Ellipse**  
*Venustaconcha ellipsiformis*



**Rayed Bean**  
*Villosa fabalis*  
(= *Paetulunio fabalis*)



**Rainbow**  
*Villosa iris*  
(= *Cambarunio iris*)

Freshwater mussels (Unionidae) occur in nearly all of Michigan's rivers and lakes. They play an important role in aquatic ecosystems, have a unique life history, and are indicators of environmental change and water quality. Unfortunately, freshwater mussels are one of the most endangered groups of animals in North America. Currently two thirds of Michigan's mussel species are at risk.

Freshwater mussels can be identified to species by the characteristics of their shells. These include bumps, ridges, size, shape, green rays, and other characteristics. Shells of the same species are like pieces of art created by the same artist. Each one is different, yet there is a consistent theme of shape, color, and texture that holds true.

For more information about freshwater mussels, refer to the "Freshwater Mussels of Michigan" brochure (available from

Michigan Natural Features Inventory, <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/>, 517-284-6200). For assistance in identifying mussel species or information on aquatic conservation, contact Pete Badra at Michigan Natural Features Inventory ([badrap@msu.edu](mailto:badrap@msu.edu)).

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Shells pictured were provided by the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Mollusk Division, <https://lsa.umich.edu/umzm/mollusks.html>, except for lake floater, which was provided by Dr. David Zanatta, Central Michigan University. Shells are shown approximately life size.

