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Freshwater mussels of the Mississippi River tributaries: North, North Central, and Central drainages

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Preface

While broad geographic information is available on the distribution and abundance of mussels in Illinois, systematically collected mussel-community data sets required to integrate mussels into aquatic community assessments do not exist. In 2009, a project funded by a US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grant was undertaken to survey and assess the freshwater mussel populations at wadeable sites from 33 stream basins in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)/Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) basin surveys. Inclusion of mussels into these basin surveys contributes to the comprehensive basin monitoring programs that include water and sediment chemistry, instream habitat, macroinvertebrate, and fish, which reflect a broad spectrum of abiotic and biotic stream resources. These mussel surveys will provide reliable and repeatable techniques for assessing the freshwater mussel community in sampled streams. These surveys also provide data for future monitoring of freshwater mussel populations on a local, regional, and watershed basis.

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Introduction

Freshwater mussel populations have been declining for decades and are among the most seriously impacted aquatic animals worldwide (Bogan 1993, Williams et al. 1993). It is estimated that nearly 70% of the approximately 300 North American mussel taxa are extinct, federally-listed as endangered or threatened, or in need of conservation status (Williams et al. 1993, Strayer et al. 2004). In Illinois, 25 of the 62 extant species (44%) are listed as threatened or endangered (Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board 2011) and an additional 5 species are species in greatest need of conservation (SGNC; IDNR 2005a). The Upper Mississippi River tributaries in Illinois and are broken into three sections for this report. We summarize the mussel surveys conducted in the North, North Central, and Central Mississippi River tributaries from 2009 to 2012 at IEPA/IDNR basin survey sites and previously-ranked disturbance sites.

North Mississippi River Tributaries

The North Mississippi River tributaries are located in the far northwestern corner of Illinois and contain the Galena, Apple, and Plum River drainages and several tributary creeks. This region drains approximately 1376 km² (855 mi²) and covers parts of Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties (Page et al. 1992). The North Mississippi tributaries flow through several natural divisions, including the Mississippi River Sand Area, Upper Mississippi River Bottomlands, Rock River Hill Country, and, primarily, the Wisconsin Driftless Area (Schwegman 1973).

Much of the landscape in this drainage is characterized by canyons, v-shaped valleys and varying topography, since most of the area escaped glaciation. Land use in the region is mainly pasture and row-crop agriculture, and urban areas are sparse. The largest urban center is Galena, Illinois, with a population of approximately 3500 people (US Census Bureau 2010). While this area remains rural, Galena has experienced growth in recent decades of vacation homes and weekend getaways (IDNR 1998). In addition to the threat of growing development, silt exists as a primary pollutant from runoff from livestock yards and agricultural lands (Page et al. 1992). Streams are subject to frequent and seasonal flooding due to the high gradient landscape, and some areas exhibit bank erosion and elevated levels of suspended sediments. Stream habitats in the region vary greatly; some streams are dominated by boulder, cobble, and bedrock and others are comprised of soft substrates.

North Central Mississippi River Tributaries

The North Central Mississippi River tributaries are located south of the Rock River drainage and contain the Edwards River, Henderson and Cedar Creek drainages, and several minor tributaries. These streams flow through portions of Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, Mercer,

Rock Island, and Warren counties and drain approximately 2630 km² (1630 mi²) of western Illinois (Page et al. 1992; IDNR 2005b). The North Central tributaries flow through several natural divisions, including the Western Grand Prairie, the Galesburg section of the Western-Forest Prairie, the glaciated section of the Middle Mississippi, the Mississippi River Sand Area, and the Upper Mississippi River Bottomlands (Schwegman 1973).

The primary land use in the North Central Mississippi tributary region is agriculture, both rowcrop and pasture. Urban areas are few, and Galesburg is the largest urban area with a population of approximately 32,000 residents (IDNR 2005b; US Census Bureau 2010). Stream habitats consist of firm to shifting sandy runs, cobble and gravel riffles, and occasional claypan banks. Stream banks are often steep and consist of mostly vegetated banks or bedrock outcroppings. Impairments to aquatic habitat are in the form of agriculture run-off (e.g., chemical pollutants, elevated turbidity, etc.) and effluent from wastewater treatment systems from Galesburg, Monmouth, and other smaller municipalities.

Central Mississippi River Tributaries

The Central Mississippi River tributaries are comprised of Bear and Bay Creeks, The Sny, and several minor tributaries to the Mississippi River and are located in the westernmost portion of Illinois. These tributaries encompass portions of Adams, Calhoun, Hancock, and Pike Counties and flow through the Galesburg section of the Western Forest-Prairie, the Mississippi River Bottomlands, and the Glaciated and Driftless sections of the Middle Mississippi Border (Schwegman 1973). The region currently drains approximately 2375 km² (1475 mi²). Most of the stream sections within the Mississippi River floodplain have been dredged, channelized, leveed, or diverted for agricultural drainage. Furthermore, several drainages to the Mississippi River have been permanently modified; the Sny drainage previously contained McCraney, Hadley, Six Mile and Bay Creeks, although these streams now are diverted via ditches to the Mississippi River (Page et al. 1992).

Land use in the Central Mississippi tributary region is mainly row-crop agriculture and pastureland. Forested areas persist along steep banks outside of the Mississippi River floodplain. Urban areas and impacts are sparse in this region, since the largest municipality of Quincy (population ~40,000) lies on the Mississippi River (US Census Bureau 2010). Impairments to aquatic habitats include agricultural runoff, chemical pollution, bank destabilization, silt input (Figure 1), and channelization and alteration of stream drainages. Streams in this region are highly variable and are comprised of sand, gravel, cobble, and occasionally bedrock.

Methods

Freshwater mussel data were collected at 60 sites between June and September of 2009-2012: 18 sites in the North Mississippi tributaries, 23 sites in the North Central Mississippi tributaries, and 18 sites in the Central Mississippi tributaries (Figure 2; Table 1). Locations of sampling sites are listed in Table 1 along with information regarding IDNR/IEPA sampling at the site. In most cases, mussel survey locations were the same as IDNR/IEPA sites.

Live mussels and shells were collected at each sample site to assess past and current freshwater mussel occurrences. Live mussels were surveyed by hand grabbing and visual detection (e.g., trails, siphons, exposed shell) when water conditions permitted. Efforts were made to cover all available habitat types present at a site including riffles, pools, slack water, and areas of differing substrates. A four-hour timed search method was implemented at each site (Table 1). Live mussels were held in the stream until processing.

Following the timed search, all live mussels and shells were identified to species and recorded (Table 2). For each live individual, shell length (mm), gender, and an estimate of the number of growth rings were recorded. Shell material was classified as recent dead (periostracum present, nacre pearly, and soft tissue may be present) or relict (periostracum eroded, nacre faded, shell chalky) based on condition of the best shell found. A species was considered extant at a site if it was represented by live or recently dead shell material (Szafoni 2001). The nomenclature employed in this report follows Turgeon et al. (1998) except for recent taxonomic changes to the gender ending of lilliput (*Toxolasma parvum*), which follows Williams et al. (2008; Appendix 1). Voucher specimens were retained and deposited in the Illinois Natural History Survey Mollusk Collection. All non-vouchered live mussels were returned to the stream reach where they were collected.

Parameters recorded included extant and total species richness, presence of rare or listed species, and individuals collected, expressed as catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; Table 2). A population indicated recent recruitment if individuals with lengths less than 30 mm or with 3 or fewer growth rings were observed. Finally, mussel resources were classified as Unique, Highly Valued, Moderate, Limited, or Restricted (Table 2) based on the above parameters (Table 3) and following criteria outlined in Table 4 (Szafoni 2001).

Results

Species Richness

A total of 34 species of freshwater mussels were observed in the upper Mississippi tributaries, 27 of which were live (Table 2). Live mussels were collected at 30 of 60 sites, and of the remaining 30 sites, 17 sites had no unionids, 6 sites had only relict shell, and 7 sites had only

dead shell (Figure 3). Across all sites, the number of species collected ranged from 0 to 13 live, 0 to 15 extant (live + dead), and 0 to 17 total species (live + dead + relict). Examined by drainage, the North Mississippi drainage species richness ranged from 0 to 10 live, 0 to 12 extant, and 0 to 13 total species. Species richness for the North Central Mississippi drainage ranged from 0 to 13 live, 0 to 15 extant, and 1 to 17 total species. The Central Mississippi drainage species richness ranged from 0 to 13 live, 0 to 15 extant, and 1 to 17 total species. The Central Mississippi drainage ranged from 0 to 13 live, 0 to 15 extant, and 1 to 17 total species. The Central Mississippi drainage species richness ranged from 0 to 9 live, extant and total species. Across all sites in the upper Mississippi tributaries, the lilliput (*Toxolasma parvum*) and creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*) were the most widespread species, both collected at 14 of 60 sites (23%; Table 2d). In the North Mississippi drainage, the fatmucket (*Lampsilis siliquoidea*) was the most widespread species, collected at 3 of 18 sites (17%; Figure 4a). In the North Central Mississippi drainage, the creeper was the most widespread species, collected at 13 of 23 sites (57%; Figure 4b). Other widespread species were the plain pocketbook (*Lampsilis cardium*; 43%) and mapleleaf (*Quadrula quadrula*; 43%). In the Central Mississippi drainage, the most widespread species was the lilliput, which was collected at 7 of 18 sites (39%; Figure 4c). The pondmussel (*Ligumia subrostrata*) was collected at 5 of 18 sties (28%).

Abundance and Recruitment

A total of 1359 individuals were collected across 60 sites, and the number of live individuals collected at a site ranged from 1 to 162. By drainage, the range of live individuals collected ranged from 10 to 136 in North Mississippi drainage sites, from 1 to 162 at North Central drainage sites, and from 1 to 136 in Central Mississippi drainage sites. A total of 240 collector-hours were spent sampling, with an average of 5.7 mussels collected per hour. The most commonly collected species across all sites was the lilliput, which comprised 22% of all individuals collected (n=296; Table 2d). The giant floater was the most commonly collected species in the North Mississippi drainage (n=91; Table 2a), the plain pocketbook was the most commonly collected species in the North Central Mississippi drainage (n=247; Table 2c).

Recruitment for each species was determined by the presence of individuals less than 30 mm or with 3 or fewer growth rings. Smaller (i.e. younger) mussels are harder to locate by hand grab methods and large sample sizes can be needed to accurately assess population reproduction. However, a small sample size can provide evidence of recruitment if it includes individuals that are small or possess few growth rings. Alternatively, a sample consisting of very large (for the species) individuals with numerous growth rings may suggest a senescent population.

Recruitment observed at individual sites ranged from none to high across the basin; over half of sites where live mussels were collected (n=30 sites) had no observed recruitment (16 of 30 sites; Figure 5). We observed recruitment in over 50% of species collected at three sites,

Edwards River (site 24) and two sites on Bear Creek (sites 44 and 49). Several sites had observed recruitment of 30-50% of species collected: sites 21, 25, and 30 in the North Central Mississippi drainage (Edwards River, Pope and North Henderson Creeks), and sites 45, 46, and 48 in the Central Mississippi drainage (Bear Creek and South Fork Bear Creek).

Mussel Community Classification

Based on the data collected in the 2009-2012 basin survey, 60% of the sites where mussels were collected (18 of 30 sites with mussels) in the upper Mississippi River tributaries are classified as Moderate or Highly Valued mussel resources under the current MCI classification system (Table 4, Figure 5). Two sites in the North Mississippi drainage, South Fork Apple River (site 6) and Apple River (site 13), were classified as Highly Valued mussel resources. Three sites in the North Central drainage, including Camp Creek (site 22), Edwards River (site 24) and Cedar Creek (site 34), were also Highly Valued mussel resources. In the Central Mississippi drainage, four sites on Bear Creek (sites 42, 44, 45, and 49) were classified as Highly Valued mussel resources (Figure 5).

Noteworthy Finds

This survey collected 27 live species and 34 total species; 37 species were known historically from the upper Mississippi River tributaries. Two species, elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*) and pyramid pigtoe (*Pleurobema rubrum*), were found as relict shells during our survey and had not been documented from these drainages previously. Five species with historical records from this drainage that were not collected during this survey were the mucket (*Actinonaias ligamentina*), rock pocketbook (*Arcidens confragosus*), purple wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*), washboard (*Megalonaias nervosa*), and hickorynut (*Obovaria olivaria*).

Six species, elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), spike (*Elliptio dilatata*; state-threatened), ebonyshell (*Fusconaia ebena*; state-threatened), flutedshell (*Lasmigona costata*; SGNC), pyramid pigtoe (*Pleurobema rubrum*; state-endangered), and round pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*) were only represented in our surveys by relict shell. Our survey also found relatively few or no live occurrences for the flat floater (*Anodonta suborbiculata*), slippershell mussel (*Alasmidonta viridis*; state-threatened), wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*), paper pondshell (*Utterbackia imbecillis*), and ellipse (*Venustaconcha ellipsiformis*; SGNC), although dead and relict shell records were found at one or more sites.

Two state-listed species, slippershell and black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), were found alive in our survey (Table 2a). The slippershell was recorded alive at one site (site 6; South Fork Apple River) and was represented by three individuals. The black sandshell was recorded alive at two sites, 13 and 34, which are Apple River and Cedar Creek, respectively (Table 2a and 2b).

Discussion

Noteworthy species

Two state-threatened species were collected alive in our survey, the slippershell mussel and black sandshell. Three live slippershell mussels, a rarity in the North Mississippi tributaries, were collected at one location in the South Fork Apple River (site 6) and one relict shell was collected in the Galena River (site 2). The North Mississippi tributaries are on the periphery of the range for the slippershell mussel, and it is not expected to occur in any of the Central Mississippi tributaries (Cummings and Mayer 1992). The black sandshell was collected at one site in the North tributaries (Apple River at Hanover; site 13) and one site in the North Central tributaries (Cedar Creek; site 34). Sietman et al. (2002) collected live black sandshells at four sites in the lower Apple River (at or downstream of Hanover); this species appears to persist in the lower Apple River and Cedar Creek, but remains rare or absent elsewhere in the upper Mississippi tributaries. The areas containing these state-threatened species are unique and these populations should be protected. Of additional note is that our surveys documented elktoe and pyramid pigtoe for the first time in these Mississippi tributaries. Although they are new (relict) records, the pyramid pigtoe is considered extirpated in Illinois and the elktoe, if present alive, is likely a small portion of the mussel fauna.

Community Comparisons and Historical Species

Species assemblages varied among the three drainages. While the Mississippi tributaries share the commonality of the Mississippi River, the three drainages covered in this report vary latitudinally thus we expected differences in mussel assemblage. For example, the range of the pondmussel (*Ligumia subrostrata*) is generally restricted to central and southern Illinois (Cummings and Mayer 1992), and our survey coincidentally only collected them in the Central Mississippi tributaries. Similarly, the range of the ellipse is restricted to northern and central Illinois, and we only collected them in the North and North Central Mississippi tributaries. Several species that are common across all of Illinois were collected in all three drainages. These are: fragile papershell (*Leptodea fragilis*), giant floater, lilliput, mapleleaf, pink heelsplitter (*Potamilus alatus*), threeridge (*Amblema plicata*), and white heelsplitter (*Lasmigona complanata*).

Thirty-seven species have been documented from the North, North Central, and Central Mississippi tributaries, but very few studies have been published regarding the freshwater mussel fauna of these streams. Thus, it is difficult to determine the intactness and/or historical fauna of these drainages. The only published study available (Sietman et al. 2002) covers the lower Apple River, which was extensively sampled by INHS in the 2000s. Much of the sampling area cited was not sampled in our surveys due to non-wadeable water depths in the lower

Apple River. A few historical records for the remainder of the region do exist in the INHS Mollusk Collection database, yet most collection sites do not coincide with IDNR/IEPA basin survey sites (i.e., NDA for Historical Records in Table 2). Nevertheless, we can partially infer the historical species richness from shell records and current shell condition. Based on our survey and past surveys (INHS Mollusk Collection; Sietman 2002), we have identified several species that are likely extirpated from the Upper Mississippi tributaries: ebonyshell, elktoe, mucket, purple wartyback, pyramid pigtoe, round pigtoe, and spike. These species have not been collected as live or dead in several decades and, if collected, were only represented by relict shell in our surveys (INHS Collections database; Table 2). The elktoe, round pigtoe, and mucket are common in other areas in Illinois, and reasons for their decline here are unknown. The other species are rare (or extirpated) throughout their range in Illinois and are federally or state-endangered.

Summary

On the whole, tributaries for the Mississippi River in Illinois do not contain exceptionally diverse or abundant freshwater mussel resources. Half of the sites sampled (i.e., 30 of 60 sites) in our survey did not have live unionids, and 17 sites had no shell material present (Table 2; Figure 3). Many of the sites of the North and Central Mississippi basins had drainage areas of less than 100 km² and the topography in these regions is dominated by canyons, v-shaped valleys and rocky substrates due to lack of glaciation present in the Driftless area. However, within the drainages, a few sites stand out as noteworthy based on presence of listed or intolerant species, reproduction, richness, or individuals collected. In the North Mississippi tributaries, South Fork Apple River and Apple River (sites 6 and 13, respectively) were Highly Valued mussel resources. These sites both contained live individuals of state-listed species. The most musselrich drainage was the North Central Mississippi tributaries; Camp Creek, Edwards River, and Cedar Creek (sites 22, 24, and 34) were classified as Highly Valued Mussel Resources. These sites each had at least 10 extant species, more than 50 total individuals collected, and/or listed or intolerant species present (Camp Creek, site 34). The sites within this region extend into the forest-prairie division and tend to have larger drainages (200 to 800 km²) than other streams sampled in these basins. In the Central Mississippi tributaries, mussels were only collected in the Bear Creek drainage. Four sites on Bear Creek, which has the largest drainage in the basin, were Highly Valued mussel resources (sites 42, 44, 45, and 49). These sites had many individuals collected (90 - 136), at least 5 extant species, and high rates of reproduction. The most widespread species, as well as the most-collected species in these drainages (e.g., lilliput, creeper, fatmucket, plain pocketbook, giant floater; Table 2 and Figure 4), are among the most common and widespread species in Illinois (Cummings and Mayer 1997; Tiemann et al. 2007). However, populations of diverse, reproducing mussels persist in several areas in these drainages and should be recognized for future preservation.

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Table 1. 2009-2012 Survey sites for the Mississippi River tributaries. Types of samples MU-mussel sampling, W-water chemistry, CM- Continuous Monitoring, F-fish sampling, FF-fish flesh, M-macroinvertebrate, and H-habitat. *estimated.

Site	IFPA Code	Stream	Types of Samples	County	Location	Watershed
Number			.,,,			area (km²)
North M	ississippi Tı	ibutaries				
1	MU-01	Menominee River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	3.7 mi E Dubuque, Iowa, at Tranel Road bridge	56.1
2	MQ-02	Galena River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	5.75 mi E Menominee, Council Hill Rd. bridge	387.4
3	MQB-01	East Fork Galena River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	4.4 mi W Scales Mound, North Ford Rd. bridge	5.9
4	MPA-01	Smallpox Creek	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	3.7 mi SSE Galena, South Rocky Hill Rd. bridge	70.5
5	MN-07	Apple River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	7.3 mi N Stockton, Apple River Canyon State Park	103.3
6	MNI-12	South Fork Apple River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	5 mi N Stockton, Kuppersmith Rd. bridge	87.7
7	MNIA-11	Clear Creek	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	4.3 mi SW Warren, Apple River Canyon State Park	33.6
8	MN-04	Apple River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	6.8 mi NW Stockton, Townsend Rd. bridge	294.1
9	MN-13	Apple River	MU	Jo Daviess	2.3 mi NW Woodbine, near S Grebner Rd.	453.8
10	MN-05	Apple River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	1.4 mi NE Elizabeth, Goosehollow Rd. bridge	458.9
11	MNDA-01	Long Hollow	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	2.9 mi NW Elizabeth, off Long Hollow Rd.	20.3
12	MND-01	Furnace Creek	MU	Jo Daviess	2 mi NW Elizabeth, Long Hollow Rd. bridge	46.4
13	MN-01	Apple River	MU	Jo Daviess	at Hanover, off Fulton Rd. bridge	629.9
14	ML-01	Rush Creek	MU	Jo Daviess	4 mi ESE Hanover, Gamble Hill Rd. bridge	140.0
15	MJ-02	Plum River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	7.5 mi SSW Stockton, East Knapp Rd. bridge	75.2
16	MJE-01	Muddy Plum River	MU, W, M, H, F	Jo Daviess	7.5 mi S Stockton, S. Brunner Rd. bridge	35.9
17	MJB-03	Carroll Creek	MU, W, M, H, F	Carroll	Mount Carroll, Galena St. bridge	132.1
18	MJB-02	Carroll Creek	MU	Carroll	5.3 mi E Savanna, Scenic Palisades Rd. bridge	164.9
North Ce	entral Missi	ssippi Tributaries				
19	MZA-03	Copperas Creek	MU, W, M, H	Rock Island	2 mi S Illinois City, 238th St. W bridge	120.6
20	MWD-01	Eliza Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Mercer	1 mi S Eliza, 675 E bridge	77.2
21	LF-08	Edwards River	MU	Henry	2.3 mi SW Andover, 500E bridge	385.5
22	LFD-01	Camp Creek	MU	Mercer	3 mi S Sherrard, 140th street	164.8
23	LF-07	Edwards River	MU	Mercer	2 mi S Cable, 297th street	710.8
24	LF-10	Edwards River	MU	Mercer	2 mi NNE Aledo, Rt 94 bridge	845.7
25	LE-03	Pope Creek	MU, W, F	Mercer	4 mi W Aledo, 1600E bridge	355.3
26	LD-22	Henderson Creek	MU	Knox	5 mi NW Galesburg, Moshier Hill Road bridge	88.0
27	LD-07	Henderson Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Warren	3.5 mi SW Alexis, 900E bridge	254.5
28	LD-06	Henderson Creek	MU	Warren	2.0 mi N Little York, 285th street bridge	265.6
29	LD-05	Henderson Creek	MU	Warren	1.5 mi NW Little York, 1st street bridge	436.3
30	LDE-03	North Henderson Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Mercer	5 mi E Seaton, 2100E bridge	115.8
31	LDE-01	North Henderson Creek	MU	Henderson	4 mi S Seaton, 2800N bridge	223.4
32	LDD-24	Cedar Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Warren	6 mi WSW Galesburg, 1550E bridge	93.8
33	LDD-14	Cedar Creek	W, F, M, H, FF	Warren	3 mi NW Monmouth, 600E bridge	269.8
34	LDD-11	Cedar Creek	MU	Henderson	2 mi W Little York, 1st street bridge	429.4
35	LD-08	Henderson Creek	MU, W, F	Henderson	2.5 mi E Big River State Forest, off 2450N	1160.2
36	LDB-01	Smith Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Henderson	2 mi E Oquakwa, 1470E ford	47.7
37	LDA-03	South Henderson Creek	MU	Henderson	Country Club NW edge Biggsville	212.9
38	LDA-01	South Henderson Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Henderson	NE edge Gladstone, Liberty Rd. bridge	243.1
39	LC-01	Ellison Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Henderson	5 mi NW Stronghurst, 1050E bridge	253.0
40	LZF-01	Honey Creek	MU, W	Henderson	1.5 mi NE Lomax, 800E bridge	145.1
41	LB-02	Camp Creek	MU, W, F, M, H	Hancock	3 mi SE Dallas City, 2820N bridge	80.9
Central I	viississippi	riputaries		there a l		
42	KI-06	Bear Creek	MU	Hancock	2.3 mi WSW Basco, 800N bridge	212.0
43	KIJ-01	Slater Creek	MU	Hancock	2.7 mi NE West Point, 1900E bridge	53.4
44	KI-09	Bear Creek	MU, W, CM, F, M, H	Hancock	4.1 mi SW Basco, 600N bridge	150.0*
45	KI-05	Bear Creek	MU	Hancock	4.6 mi SW West Point, 250N bridge	335.9
46	KIF-04	South Fork Bear Creek	MU	Adams	4 mi N Coatsburg, 1850E bridge	118.0
4/	KIF-05	South Fork Bear Creek	MU, W, CM, F, M, H	Adams	0.8 mi SW Loraine, 2603N bridge	351.9
48	KI-08	Bear Creek	MU, W, CM, F, M, H	Adams	4.6 mi W Loraine, 1050E bridge	854.1
49	KI-10	Bear Creek	MU	Adams	1 mi W Marcelline, 603rd Rd. bridge	1000.0*
50	KGA-01	KUCK LIPER		Adams	2 mi SV Ursa, 1950N	118.0
51	KD-01	Will Creek	IVIU, W, CM, F, M, H	Adams	o mi SE Quincy, Hwy 96 bridge	112.6
52	KDA-01	Burton Creek	IVIU, VV, CIM, F, M, H	Adams	4.5 KIN NW Payson, HWY 96	129.2
53	KCI-02	McCraney Creek	IVIU, W, CM, F, M, H	PIKE	4.5 mi NE Hull, at 1850E bridge	112.1
54	KCH-01	Hadley Creek	IVIU, VV, CM, F, M, H	PIKE	1 mile of Kindernook, at 12/5E bridge	180.6
55	KX-02	KISER CREEK	MU, W, CM, F, M, H	PIKE	New Canton, Hwy 96 bridge	156.7
56	KC-03	The Shy	IVIU, W, CM, F	PIKE	2.0 mi SSE Kockport, HWy 54 bridge	150.0
5/	KCB-05	Six Mile Creek	IVIU, W, CM, F, M, H	PIKE	o mi S New Hartford, at 2500E bridge	65.2
58	KCA-03	bay Creek	IVIU, VV, CIVI, F, IVI, H	PIKE	2 mi SW Dittefield, 2025 bridge	130.1
59	KCAG-03	Honey Creek	MU	PIKe	5 FILIS of Nobo at 775N ford	10.5
00	KCAG-04	noney creek	IVIU UIVI	FIKE	S.S IVINE OF IVEDO, AL 77SIN TOTO	/0.4

Table 2. Mussel data for sites sampled during 2009-2012 surveys (Table 1) in the North Mississippi tributaries (a), North Central Mississippi tributaries (b), Central Mississippi tributaries (c) and a summary of all sites (d). Numbers in columns are live individuals collected, "D" and "R" indicates that only dead or relict shells were collected. Shaded boxes indicate historic collections at the specific site location obtained from the INHS Mollusk Collection records. Extant species is live+dead shell and total species is live+dead+relict shell. Proportion of total is number of individuals of a species divided by total number of individuals at all sites. MCI scores and Resource Classification are based on values in Tables 3 and 4 (R=Restricted, L=Limited, M=Moderate, HV=Highly Valued, and U=Unique). NDA = no data available.

Species	North Mississippi Tributaries								Proportion		
	2	4	5	6	7	9	10	13	14	17	of total
Subfamily Anodontinae											
Alasmidonta marginata	R										-
Alasmidonta viridis	R			3							1.1%
Anodontoides ferussacianus				38					R		14.4%
Lasmigona complanata									9		3.4%
Lasmigona compressa				5			R				1.9%
Lasmigona costata	R										-
Pyganodon grandis	R	1		90	R			D		R	34.6%
Strophitus undulatus	R						D	7			2.7%
Utterbackia imbecillis								D			-
Subfamily Ambleminae											
Amblema plicata							1	2			1.1%
Elliptio dilatata	R						R				-
Fusconaia flava	R						1	1			0.8%
Pleurobema sintoxia							R				-
Quadrula quadrula								2			0.8%
Tritogonia verrucosa								25			9.5%
Subfamily Lampsilinae											
Lampsilis cardium	R			R			6	43			18.6%
Lampsilis siliquoidea	R			R		R	1	3	4	R	3.0%
Leptodea fragilis	R							2			0.8%
Ligumia recta								4			1.5%
Potamilus alatus								1			0.4%
Toxolasma parvum		11						R	2		4.9%
Truncilla truncata											-
Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	R			R			1				0.4%
	_	_					_	_	_	_	
Individuals collected	0	12	0	136	0	0	10	90	15	0	263
Live species collected	0	2	0	4	0	0	5	10	3	0	17
Extant species	0	2	0	4	0	0	6	12	3	0	18
Total species collected	11	2	0	7	1	1	9	13	4	2	22
Historical species richness	1	NDA	1	8	NDA	3	11	14	NDA	NDA	
Catch per unit effort (CPUE)	0	3	0	34	0	0	2.5	22.5	3.75	0	
Mussel Community Index (MCI)	0	6	0	13	0	0	9	12	6	0	
Resource Classification	R	L	R	HV	R	R	M	HV	L	R	

a. North Mississippi Tributaries (sites 1-18)

b. North Central Mississippi Tributaries (sites 19-41)

Species North Central Mississippi Tributaries									Proportion															
-	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	of total
Subfamily Anodontinae																								
Anodontoides ferussacianus							D																	-
Lasmigona complanata	D			30		D	4			2	1	D			54	30	D				R			20.2%
Pyganodon grandis						D	D		D	D	D	1			R	2				1				0.7%
Strophitus undulatus			D	24	1	1	2	3	1	D	3	9	R	D	2	9			2	1	1			9.8%
Subfamily Ambleminae																								
Amblema plicata	R		R		D		R		R	1	1					7	D			R	6			2.5%
Elliptio dilatata							R									R								-
Fusconaia flava				6		28	1			R						R								5.8%
Quadrula nodulata																D	1							0.2%
Quadrula pustulosa		R	R	24		25										2								8.5%
Quadrula quadrula			1	33	R	9	4		2	12		1			1	5					6			12.4%
Tritogonia verrucosa						13				2					4	17	1							6.2%
Uniomerus tetralasmus																			1			R	R	0.2%
Subfamily Lampsilinae																								
Lampsilis cardium				1		D	D		5	12	5		1		17	77	2		D	3	5	D		21.4%
Lampsilis siliquoidea		D					R								R			R	R					-
Lampsilis teres					R	1																		0.2%
Leptodea fragilis				4			D		D	D	3		D	D	D	D	4							1.8%
Ligumia recta																5				D				0.8%
Obliquaria reflexa																	R							-
Potamilus alatus										1	4				1	4				R				1.7%
Potamilus ohiensis				1					D		3					2					1			1.2%
Toxolasma parvum		D	1	20	D		1					12									2			6.0%
Truncilla donaciformis																1								0.2%
Truncilla truncata						1										1								0.3%
Venustaconcha ellipsiformis																					R			-
									_		_													
Individuals collected	0	0	2	143	1	78	12	3	8	30	20	23	1	0	79	162	8	0	3	5	21	0	0	599
Live species collected	0	0	2	9	1	7	5	1	3	6	7	4	1	0	6	13	4	0	2	3	6	0	0	19
Extant species	1	2	3	9	3	10	9	1	6	9	8	5	2	2	7	15	6	0	3	4	6	1	0	21
Total species collected	2	3	5	9	5	10	12	1	7	10	8	5	3	2	9	17	7	1	4	6	8	2	1	24
Historical species richness	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	1	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	
Catch per unit effort (CPUE)	0	0	0.5	35.8	0.25	19.8	3	0.75	2	4.75	5	5.75	0.25	0	19.8	41.3	2	0	0.75	1.25	5.25	0	0	
Mussel Community Index (MCI)	0	0	7	12	4	14	11	4	7	8	10	10	4	0	9	15	7	0	4	9	7	0	0	
Resource Classification	R	R	L	HV	R	HV	М	R	L	М	М	М	R	R	М	HV	L	R	R	М	L	R	R	

c. Central Mississippi Tributaries (sites 42-60)

Species			Proportior									
	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	51	56	58	of total
Subfamily Anodontinae												
Anodonta suborbiculata										D		-
Lasmigona complanata	4		18	8		D	D					6.0%
Pyganodon grandis	4		1	D					D	D	R	1.0%
Utterbackia imbecillis			D	1								0.2%
Subfamily Ambleminae												
Amblema plicata								21		R		4.2%
Fusconaia ebena										R		-
Pleurobema rubrum										R		-
Quadrula pustulosa										R		-
Quadrula quadrula						1		11		R		2.4%
Uniomerus tetralasmus	7		D	1								1.6%
Subfamily Lampsilinae												
Lampsilis teres				5			D	10			D	3.0%
Leptodea fragilis	R			D			D	1				0.2%
Ligumia subrostrata	61		27	40	3	D	1					26.6%
Obliquaria reflexa								4				0.8%
Potamilus alatus								1				0.2%
Potamilus ohiensis								3				0.6%
Toxolasma parvum	60	4	44	81	16		4	38				49.7%
Truncilla donaciformis								17				3.4%
	_	_			_	_	_		_	_	_	
Individuals collected	136	4	90	136	19	1	5	106	0	0	0	497
Live species collected	5	1	4	6	2	1	2	9	0	0	0	14
Extant species	5	1	6	8	2	3	5	9	1	2	1	15
Total species collected	6	1	6	8	2	3	5	9	1	7	2	18
Historical species richness	NDA	NDA	NDA	2	NDA	NDA	NDA	1	NDA	NDA	NDA	
Catch per unit effort (CPUE)	34	1.33	22.5	34	4.75	0.25	1.25	26.5	0	0	0	
Mussel Community Index (MCI)	12	6	12	13	9	4	10	13	0	0	0	
Resource Classification	HV	L	HV	HV	M	R	М	HV	R	R	R	

d. All upper Mississippi Tributary sites (60 total sites) sampled from 2009-2012. **Actinonaias ligamentina, Arcidens confragosus, Cyclonaias tuberculata, Megalonaias nervosa,* and *Obovaria olivaria are included in the historical table but are not represented in the table.*

	Total	No. sites	No. sites	No. sites	Proportion
	individuals	live	extant	relict	of total live
Subfamily Anodontinae					
Alasmidonta marginata	0	0	0	1	-
Alasmidonta viridis	3	1	1	2	0.2%
Anodonta suborbiculata	0	0	1	1	-
Anodontoides ferussacianus	38	1	2	3	2.8%
Lasmigona complanata	160	10	16	17	11.8%
Lasmigona compressa	5	1	1	2	0.4%
Lasmigona costata	0	0	0	1	-
Pyganodon grandis	100	7	16	20	7.4%
Strophitus undulatus	66	14	18	20	4.9%
Utterbackia imbecillis	1	1	3	3	0.1%
Subfamily Ambleminae					
Amblema plicata	39	7	9	15	2.9%
Elliptio dilatata	0	0	0	4	-
Fusconaia ebena	0	0	0	1	-
Fusconaia flava	37	5	5	8	2.7%
Pleurobema rubrum	0	0	0	1	-
Pleurobema sintoxia	0	0	0	1	-
Quadrula nodulata	1	1	2	2	0.1%
Quadrula pustulosa	51	3	3	6	3.8%
Quadrula quadrula	88	13	13	15	6.5%
Tritogonia verrucosa	62	6	6	6	4.6%
Uniomerus tetralasmus	9	3	4	6	0.7%
Subfamily Lampsilinae					
Lampsilis cardium	177	12	16	18	13.0%
Lampsilis siliquoidea	8	3	4	11	0.6%
Lampsilis teres	16	3	5	6	1.2%
Leptodea fragilis	14	5	14	16	1.0%
Ligumia recta	9	2	3	3	0.7%
Ligumia subrostrata	132	5	6	6	9.7%
Obliquaria reflexa	4	1	1	2	0.3%
Potamilus alatus	12	6	6	7	0.9%
Potamilus ohiensis	10	5	6	6	0.7%
Toxolasma parvum	296	14	16	17	21.8%
Truncilla donaciformis	18	2	2	2	1.3%
Truncilla truncata	2	2	2	2	0.1%
Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	1	1	1	4	0.1%
			Individua	la collected	10tals
				is collected	1322
			Every Specie	es collected	2/
			Total ongo	es collected	20
			Total specie	es conected	34
			HISTOR	ical species	3/~

Extant species	Species	Catch per Unit	Abundance (AB)
in sample	Richness	Effort (CPUE)	Factor
0	1	0-0.99	0
1-3	2	1-10	2
4-6	3	>10-30	3
7-9	4	>30-60	4
10+	5	>60	5
% live species with	Reproduction	# of Intolerant	Intolerant species
recent recruitment			
	Factor	species	Factor
0	Factor 1	species 0	Factor 1
0 1-30	Factor 1 3	species 0 1	Factor 1 3
0 1-30 >30-50	Factor 1 3 4	species 0 1 2+	Factor 1 3 5

 Table 3. Mussel Community Index (MCI) parameters and scores.

Table 4. Freshwater mussel resource categories based on species richness, abundance, and populationstructure. MCI = Mussel Community Index Score

Unique Resource MCI ≥ 16	Very high species richness (10 + species) &/or abundance (CPUE > 80); intolerant species typically present; recruitment noted for most species
Highly Valued Resource MCI = 12- 15	High species richness (7-9 species) &/or abundance (CPUE 51-80); intolerant species likely present; recruitment noted for several species
Moderate Resource MCI = 8 - 11	Moderate species richness (4-6 species) &/or abundance (CPUE 11-50) typical for stream of given location and order; intolerant species likely not present; recruitment noted for a few species
Limited Resource MCI = 5 - 7	Low species richness (1-3 species) &/or abundance (CPUE 1-10); lack of intolerant species; no evidence of recent recruitment (all individuals old or large for the species)
Restricted Resource MCI = 0 - 4	No live mussels present; only weathered dead, sub-fossil, or no shell material found.





Figure 1. Impairments to aquatic habitats, including suspended sediments (top; site 51) and destabilized banks (bottom; site 58).



Figure 2. Sites sampled in the Mississippi River basin: North, North Central, Central drainages in 2009 - 2012. Site codes referenced in Table 1.



Figure 3. Sites sampled with no unionids (brown dots), relict shell only (blue dots), dead shell only (yellow dots), and live mussels (red dots).









Figure 4c. Central Mississippi Tributaries



Figure 4. Number of sites where a species was collected live compared to the total number of sites sampled in the North Mississippi Tributaries (a. 18 sites), North Central Mississippi Tributaries (b. 23 sites) and Central Mississippi Tributaries (c. 18 sites).



Figure 5. Comparison of Mussel Community Index (MCI) and MCI component scores for Mississippi River tributary sites based factor values from Table 3.

Appendix 1. Scientific and common names of species. Status (in 2012): SGNC-Illinois' species in greatest need of conservation, ST-state threatened, SE-state endangered, FE-federally endangered, X-extirpated in Illinois.

Scientific name	Common name	Status
Subfamily Ar	nodontinae	
Alasmidonta marginata	elktoe	
Alasmidonta viridis	slippershell mussel	ST
Anodonta suborbiculata	flat floater	
Anodontoides ferussacianus	cylindrical papershell	
Arcidens confragosus	rock pocketbook	SGNC
Lasmigona complanata	white heelsplitter	
Lasmigona compressa	creek heelsplitter	SGNC
Lasmigona costata	flutedshell	SGNC
Pyganodon grandis	giant floater	
Strophitus undulatus	creeper	
Utterbackia imbecillis	paper pondshell	
Subfamily A	mbleminae	
Amblema plicata	threeridge	
Cyclonaias tuberculata	purple wartyback	ST
Elliptio dilatata	spike	ST
Fusconaia ebena	ebonyshell	ST
Fusconaia flava	Wabash pigtoe	
Megalonaias nervosa	washboard	
Pleurobema rubrum	pyramid pigtoe	Х
Pleurobema sintoxia	round pigtoe	
Quadrula pustulosa	pimpleback	
Quadrula quadrula	mapleleaf	
Tritogonia verrucosa	pistolgrip	
Uniomerus tetralasmus	pondhorn	
Subfamily La	ampsilinae	
Actinonaias ligamentina	mucket	
Lampsilis cardium	plain pocketbook	
Lampsilis siliquoidea	fatmucket	
Lampsilis teres	yellow sandshell	
Leptodea fragilis	fragile papershell	
Ligumia recta	black sandshell	ST
Ligumia subrostrata	pondmussel	
Obliquaria reflexa	threehorn wartyback	
Obovaria olivaria	hickorynut	
Potamilus alatus	pink heelsplitter	
Potamilus ohiensis	pink papershell	
Toxolasma parvum	lilliput	
Truncilla donaciformis	fawnsfoot	
Truncilla truncata	deertoe	
Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	ellipse	SGNC