

Bivalve Mollusks



Arjan Gittenberger



Lexie Neffinger

Ostrea edulis
Flat Oyster

Non-Native

Identification

- Flat, thin, and typically round shell, slightly scalloped on the outside
- Gray, cream, or brownish outside shell, and white inside
- Up to 8 inches in length
- Bumps (chomata) on inside of shell hinge, white muscle scars
- Attaches to rocks and artificial structures such as docks or piers, also occurs on mudflats or other firm substrates

Distribution

- Intentionally introduced to several areas in New England in the mid-1900s
- Found throughout New England and in sheltered waters of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
- Native to the Northeast Atlantic

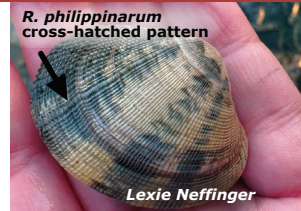


Lexie Neffinger

Ruditapes philippinarum
Asari Clam, Manila Clam

Non-Native

- Roughly oval shaped shell with cross-hatched, raised ridges
- Cream or gray with dark lines, chevrons, streaks, or other patterns
- Up to 3 inches in length
- Burrows in the intertidal or subtidal, also found along sandy, muddy, mixed-coarse, or rocky shorelines



R. philippinarum
cross-hatched pattern

Lexie Neffinger



M. mercenaria
concentric rings only

El Fernekees
Hartshorn

- First reported in Massachusetts in 2023
- Establishment status and distribution are currently being researched
- Native to the Northwest Pacific

Bivalve Mollusks: Similar Species



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Crassostrea virginica
Eastern Oyster

Native

- Light gray or white shell
- Shell shape highly variable, from elongated to cup shaped
- Up to 10 inches long
- No chomata on inside of shell hinge
- Purple muscle scar on inside of shell
- Attaches to hard substrate



Alison Frye

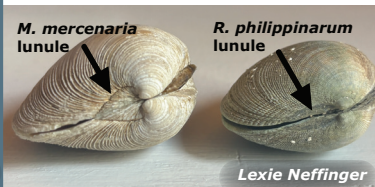


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Mercenaria mercenaria
Hard-Shell Clam, Quahog

Native

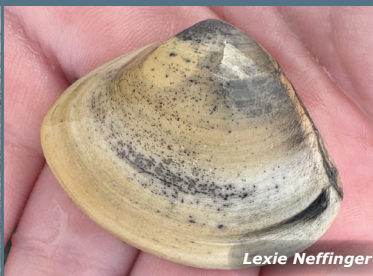
- White, gray, or gray-brown, can have dark irregular patterns
- Thick, oval-triangular shaped shell, slightly bends to one side
- Raised ridges on young clams, older clams are smoother but retain concentric rings
- Up to 5 inches long



M. mercenaria
lunule

R. philippinarum
lunule

Lexie Neffinger



Lexie Neffinger

Spisula solidissima
Atlantic Surf Clam

Native

- White or yellow-white
- Triangular or "V" shaped shell that is roughly symmetrical
- Smooth shell with concentric growth rings
- Largest bivalves in the Northwest Atlantic, can reach nearly 9 inches long
- Adults burrow in medium to coarse sand and gravel from the lower intertidal to subtidal



Alison Frye

Mya arenaria
Soft-Shell Clam, Steamer Clam

Native

- Dirty white, cream, or tan
- Roughly oval shaped shell
- Usually less than 4 inches long, can grow up to 6 inches
- Brittle shell with irregular concentric growth rings
- Adults burrow in sand or muddy-sand in the intertidal



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