

Round Pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*)

Freshwater Mussel Species of Concern

State Rank: S2 (imperiled) Global Rank: G4/G5 (apparently secure/secure)

Identification

The round pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*) has a variable shell. The shells of mussels in large rivers are inflated while those in smaller order streams are compressed (NatureServe 2008). The shell is moderately thick and reaches lengths up to 4 inches. The periostracum or outer covering of the adult shell is chestnut to dark brown (Cummings and Mayer 1992).



Photo source: Tam Smith

Habitat

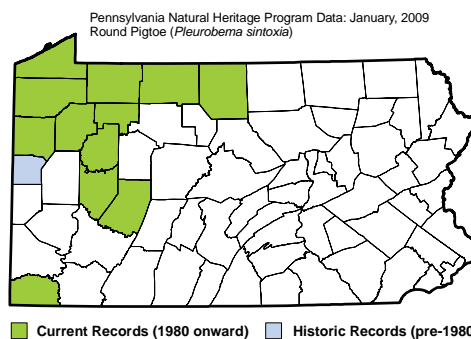
This mussel is found in the mud, sand or gravel of large to medium rivers (NatureServe 2008).

Host Fish

In Pennsylvania, hosts for the larval glochidia include the: bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), bluntnose minnow (*Pimephales notatus*), and creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*) (Hove 1995; Watters, et al. 2005).

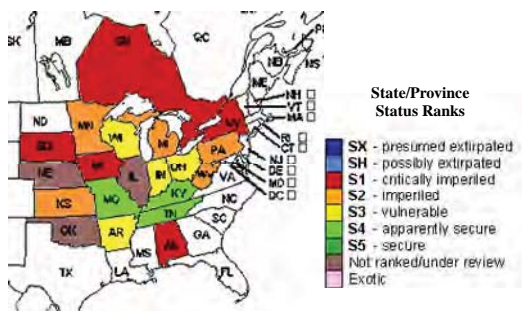
Status

This species is found in eastern North America from Ontario, Canada south to Alabama. Its range extends westward from South Dakota to Oklahoma. It is absent from the Atlantic drainage.



North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2008



In Pennsylvania the round pigtoe is restricted to the Ohio and Lake Erie drainages (PNHP 2008). The Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) has proposed a state status of Pennsylvania Endangered (PT) for *Pleurobema sintoxia*. This species is threatened throughout its range in Pennsylvania.

References

- Hove, M. C. 1995. Host research on Round Pigtoe glochidia. Triannual Unionid Report 8:8.
- Cummings, K.S., and C.A. Mayer. 1992. Field guide to freshwater mussels of the Midwest. Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 5. 194 pp. http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cbd/musselmanual/page162_3.html (accessed March 5, 2009)
- NatureServe. 2008. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) files accessed December, 2008. Presence records of *Pleurobema sintoxia*.
- Watters, G.T., T. Menker, S. Thomas, and K. Luehnl. 2005. Host identifications or confirmations. *Ellipsaria*, 7(2): 11-12.

