

Key to the Mussels of Wyoming

- 1a. One shell –
Gastropod.....(Snail or Limpet)
- 1b. Two shells – Bivalve
.....(Mussels and Clams) go to 2

- 2a. Shell is triangular shaped.....go to 13
- 2b. Shell is not triangular shaped.....go to 3

- 3a. Lateral teeth on both sides of the pseudocardinal tooth; shell usually ≤ 2 inch (5 cm) in length.....(Clams) go to 4
- 3b. Lateral teeth on one side of pseudocardinal tooth or teeth absent; shell usually ≥ 2 inch (5 cm) in length.....
.....(Mussels) go to 5

- 4a. Lateral teeth look like a saw blade (may need magnification to see serration, but you can feel it with your thumbnail); shell usually ≥ 0.75 inches (2 cm) in length.....Asian Clam (*Corbicula*, Non-native)
- 4b. Lateral teeth smooth; shell usually ≤ 0.75 inches (2 cm) in length.....Fingernail Clams (*Sphaeriidae*)

- 5a. Teeth absent near hinge.....go to 6
- 5b. Teeth present near hinge.....go to 8

- 6a. Posterior fin clearly present.....California floater (*Anodonta californiensis*)
- 6b. Posterior fin absent or not

- obvious.....go to 7
- 7a. Beak with rounded ridges; beak nearly level with hinge.....Cylindrical papershell
(*Anodontoides ferrusacianus*)
- 7b. Beak with “M” shaped ridges; beak above hinge.....Giant floater (*Pyganodon grandis*)
- 8a. Prominent posterior fin present, shell angular.....go to 9
- 8b. Posterior fin much less prominent or absent, shell oval shaped.....go to 10
- 9a. Pseudocardinal tooth distinct; nacre white, periostracum darker.....White Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona complanta*)
- 9b. Pseudocardinal tooth tiny; nacre pink, periostracum lighter.....Pink Papershell (*Potamilus ohioensis*)
- 10a. Lateral tooth reduced, rays (dark lines from beak to edge) sometimes present.....go to 11
- 10b. Lateral tooth distinct, rays often present.....go to 12
- 11a. Muscle scars present; shell arched, nacre purple to pink.....Western Pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*)
- 11b. Muscle scars absent; posterior shell sharply pointed, nacre pink to white.....Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- 12a. Hinge relatively curved.....Plain pocketbook (*Lampsilis cardium*)
- 12b. Hinge relatively straight.....Fatmucket (*Lampsilis siliquoidea*)
- 13a. One shell is flat and one shell is rounded.....Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*; non-native)
- 13b. Both shells are rounded.....Quagga Mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*; non-native)