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THE COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF FRESH-WATER MUSSELS.\*

It is a matter of general knowledge that the common names of mussels, like those of fish, are not fixed. Therefore, in recording definite information regarding the distribution or qualities of species it becomes necessary to use the scientific or Latin names, which correspond not only to explicit published descriptions of species, but also to type specimens located in museums. There are examples of shells which may seem intermediate and of doubtful identification, but the scientific name offers the nearest practicable approach to a positive nomenclature.

Should one write of the "bank-climbers," a reader familiar with common names as used on the Wabash River understands that reference is made to a shell of white naere very similar to the yellow sand-shell but inferior in quality (*Lampsilis fallaciosa*); while one more familiar with the common names applied in Arkansas would think reference was made to a very different species having a purple naere and regarded as worthless for purposes of manufacture (*Quadrula trespoides*). It is unavoidable, therefore, that in its publications the Bureau should use the scientific names of unmistakable application, while it endeavors to couple with such names the appropriate common names.

On account of the direct commercial value of some 40 species of fresh-water mussels, there are many persons without scientific training who are yet interested in scientific papers dealing with their distribution, habits, and life history.

It has been suggested that the Bureau should publish in convenient reference form a list of the species most commonly mentioned, showing the scientific name with its common equivalent. The list which follows is not offered as complete. Where two or more common names occur, the first-mentioned is given as the one in most general use and the one which it is desirable should be universally accepted. The species adapted for present commercial use are indicated by the use of boldface type, but some of the marked species

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LIST OF THE COMMON MUSSEL SPECIES AND SOME OF THEIR CHARACTERS.

[NOTE.—After the scientific name indicates that the species is used commercially, but that owing to its scarcity or inferior quality it has little standing as a commercial shell.]

Scientific name.	Common name.	Characters.
<i>Ancodontia calceola</i> .....	Slipper-shell.....	Very small.
<i>Ancodontia maculata</i> .....	Elk-toe.....	Small.
<i>Ancodontia corparbata</i> .....	Slap-bucket.....	Inflated, thin-shelled.
<i>Ancodontia grandis</i> .....	Fisher.....	Thin-shelled.
<i>Arctidens confragosa</i> .....	Rock-pocketbook; bastard, rock-shell.....	Rough exterior, inclined to be thin and brittle.
<i>Cyprogenia lirorata</i> , C.....	Fan-shell; tinged warty-back.....	Quality acceptable but hard; rather small and scarce.
<i>Dreanus dreana</i> , C.....	Dreanery nut-shell.....	Similar to fan-shell in quality.
<i>Lampsilis anata</i> .....	Pink heel splitter; pancake; hatchet-back.....	Thin, brittle; generally purple or pink.
<i>Lampsilis anodontaoides</i> .....	Yellow sand-shell; banana-shell.....	Best for novelty and export trade; well known.
<i>Lampsilis cupax</i> .....	Pocketbook.....	Thin, inflated, often pink; not commonly obtained here from ventricosa.
<i>Lampsilis fallaxia</i> , C.....	Slough sand-shell; bank-chamber (to-burn).....	Thin; large shell, but similar to yellow sand-shell, but restricted in distribution, and generally too thin and small.
<i>Lampispira</i> .....	Paper-shell.....	Very thin.
<i>Lampsilis bigginsi</i> .....	Biggins' eye.....	Ranker with pocket.
<i>Lampsilis</i> .....	Hambro shell.....	Small; like a very young mucket.
<i>Lampsilis boylii</i> .....	Paper-shell.....	Very thin.
<i>Lampsilis ligamentina</i> .....	Mucket; inchida; grass mucket.....	Staple shell; well known.
<i>Lampsilis ligamentina</i> .....	Southern mucket; yellow-back mucket.....	Unsurpassed for buttons.
<i>Lampsilis luteola</i> .....	Fat mucket; Lake Popin mucket.....	Cuts and finishes with least waste; quality excellent.
<i>Lampsilis ovata</i> .....	Grandin; southern pocket-book.....	Like ventricosa, but thinner and more brittle.
<i>Lampsilis pedis</i> .....	Pha-sand-shell.....	Like mucket, but too brittle and thin.
<i>Lampsilis purpurata</i> .....	Purple.....	Thin and purple-tinged.
<i>Lampsilis recta</i> .....	Black sand-shell; long John; honest John (Michigan).....	White examples good; in form like yellow sand-shell.
<i>Lampsilis ventricosa</i> .....	Pocketbook.....	Inflated; inclined to brittleness; useful for novelties.
<i>Margaritana margaritifera</i> .....	River pearl mussel.....	Thin; not found in Mississippi Basin; pearl mussel of Europe and north-Atlantic drainage.
<i>Margaritana monodonta</i> .....	Spectacle-case.....	Thin and brittle.
<i>Mediantus subeentus</i> .....	Fluted kidney-shell.....	Small.
<i>Mionya cecata</i> .....	Bird-wing.....	Very small.
<i>Obliquaria reflexa</i> , C.....	Three-horned warty-back.....	Small; otherwise equal to pimple-back.
<i>Obovata elliptica</i> .....	Hickory-nut; Missouri niggerhead.....	Good; yields some "iridescents;" acceptable with niggerhead.
<i>Plagiola elegans</i> .....	Deer-toe.....	Small, white.
<i>Plagiola securis</i> .....	Butterfly.....	Excellent, but never abundant; quality like mucket, but superior.
<i>Pleurobema asopus</i> , C.....	Butthead; sheepnose; "clear profit".....	Tough, brittle.
<i>Ptychobanchus phaeolus</i> , C.....	Kidney-shell.....	Good, but hard and scarce.
<i>Quadrula coccinea</i> , C.....	Flat niggerhead.....	Quality good, but yields many "tips;" thin; often pink.
<i>Quadrula cylindrica</i> .....	Rabbit's foot.....	Long, narrow, rough back; hard; often stained.
<i>Quadrula cheutis</i> .....	Niggerhead.....	Unsurpassed; yields "iridescents."
<i>Quadrula granifera</i> .....	Purple warty-back.....	Good quality, but purple-tinged.
<i>Quadrula heros</i> .....	Washboard.....	Very large; usually second grade; often discolored by stains; valued chiefly for large buttons.
<i>Quadrula lachrymosa</i> .....	Maple-leaf.....	Rough back; excellent in texture; yields "iridescents," but thinish at tips.
<i>Quadrula metanetra</i> .....	Monkey-face.....	Like maple-leaf, but inferior.
<i>Quadrula obliqua</i> .....	Ohio River pig-toe.....	Good quality; pure white, but lacking in luster.
<i>Quadrula plicata</i> .....	Blues-point.....	Staple shell of second quality.
<i>Quadrula pustulata</i> , C.....	Pimple-back; warty-back.....	Quality good; yields iridescents; almost equal to niggerhead. These two species not commonly distinguished.
<i>Quadrula pustulosa</i> .....	Pimple-back; warty-back.....	Quality good; yields iridescents; almost equal to niggerhead. These two species not commonly distinguished.
<i>Quadrula subrotunda</i> , C.....	Long solid.....	Like niggerhead.
<i>Quadrula trapezoides</i> .....	Bank-chamber.....	Purple murex.
<i>Quadrula tuberculata</i> .....	Purple warty-back.....	Purple; not distinguished from granifera.
<i>Quadrula undata</i> .....	Pig-toe.....	Good; somewhat inferior to niggerhead.
<i>Quadrula undulata</i> .....	Three-ridge.....	Like plicata; quality superior, but thinish at tip.
<i>Strophilis edentulus</i> .....	Squaw-foot.....	Thin, inflated; generally yellowish.

\* Book name; no common name.

## LIST OF THE COMMON MUSSEL SPECIES AND SOME OF THEIR CHARACTERS (Con.)

Scientific name.	Common name.	Characters.
<i>Amphidoma complanata</i> , C.	White-headed slip shell; backie-backie; elephant's ear (Hobbs).	Larger examples good, but often difficult.
<i>Amphidoma rotunda</i>	Plated shell	Generally too thin and soft to eat.
<i>Tridacna cuneata</i>	Black-brown slip shell	Round exterior, quadrilateral.
<i>Tridacna maculosa</i>	Black slip shell	
<i>Tridacna emarginata</i>	Oyster mussel	
<i>Tridacna bay</i> , C.	Acorn shell	Small.
<i>Tridacna subata</i>	Clit's paw; paw shell	
<i>Tridacna tenax</i>	Snail bay	
<i>Ulo crassidens</i>	Elephant's ear	Naere generally purple, pink, or salmon quality otherwise unsurpassed, naere being soft but firm; preferred for naechies. Resembles elephant's ear, but smaller, longer, and often with uneven inner surface.
<i>Ulo gibbosus</i>	Lady-finger; spike	

• Book name; no common name.