

SHORT PAPERS

RANGE EXTENSIONS OF *CORBICULA*
MANILENSIS (PHILIPPI) IN THE ATLANTIC
DRAINAGE OF THE UNITED STATESSamuel L. H. Fuller
and

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ABSTRACT

Corbicula manilensis (Philippi) is newly recorded from the Savannah, Pee Dee, and Delaware river systems in the Atlantic drainage of the United States.

In a recent issue of this journal, Sickel (1973, *The Nautilus*, 87 (1): 11-12) discussed the appearance of *Corbicula manilensis* (Philippi) in the Altamaha river system of Georgia, where this Asian species was first detected in 1971. According to the age of Sickel's oldest material, establishment of *Corbicula* in this system had probably occurred as early as 1968. "It will be only a matter of time [Sickel concluded] before *Corbicula* moves northward to inhabit the remainder of the Southern Atlantic Slope region." To the probable detriment of the native Atlantic drainage benthos, that time is come.

Several living *Corbicula* were taken 20 September 1972 by Dr. Selwyn S. Roback and one of us (SLHF) from the Savannah River, about 9 miles northeast of Milhaven, Screven County, Georgia. The specimens lived in shifting sand on a bar at the mouth of an enormous slough; none was found at depths greater than about 1 foot of water. Visits to this locality in 1971 had failed to produce *Corbicula*, but this material falls into at least two size classes, and, at 20.0 mm in length, the largest individual may have been in its second year of life.

During the previous week (12 September), Mr. C. Kirkland Dunlap, Jr., and one of us (SLHF) had found one living *Corbicula* and several "gapers" in the Pee Dee River, about 3 miles southeast of Society Hill, Darlington County, South Carolina. At this point the Pee Dee floor is chiefly of hard clay, with pockets of sand, which drifts in from springs along the river margin. The living specimen was found on bare clay in a few inches of water. The

largest individual (a gaper) measures 28.5 mm in length, shows extensive erosion at the beaks, and appears to have reached at least two years of age.

During September and October, 1972, one of us (CEP) found *Corbicula* at numerous localities in the Delaware River between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Trenton, New Jersey. The species was common in no more than 18 inches of water on a variety of substrates, primarily muds and fine gravels. The largest individual collected is 16.5 mm in length and appears to have been in its second year.

Thus *Corbicula* has now invaded the Savannah, Pee Dee, and Delaware river systems, in each case probably as early as 1971. Sickel argued persuasively that the species reached the Altamaha system from the Apalachicola river system of the eastern Gulf of Mexico drainage by means of man's inadvertent carriage overland. We, on the other hand, have no evidence which would incriminate any given vehicle in the rapid and far-reaching dispersal of *Corbicula* recorded here.

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STREAM POLLUTION
REPORTED 104 YEARS AGO

"In the Erie Canal, *Anodonta Lewisii* Lea, formerly very abundant, is now quite scarce, probably on account of chemical contamination from the gas works and armory at Ilion, a mile and a half west from Mohawk" [N.Y.]. -- James Lewis, M.D., *Amer. Jour. Conch.*, vol. 4, p. 245, 1869.

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JUNE A. M. U. MEETING
PLANS COMPLETE

Delaware will be the site of the 39th Annual Meeting of the American Malacological Union from Monday, June 25, through Thursday, June 28, 1973. The main meetings will be held at the new air-conditioned conference center on the campus of the University of Delaware, Newark, Del. On Tuesday there will be a guided tour of the Delaware Museum of Natural History, with special films and additional A. M. U. papers being given there. Prospective new A. M. U. members are also welcome, and are asked to send their annual dues (\$4.00 per person and \$1.00 for an additional family member) to obtain registration and dormitory reservation forms from Mrs. Marian S. Hubbard 3957 Marlow Court, Seaford, New York 11783.