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NOTES ON THE NAIAD FAUNA OF THE OLENTANGY RIVER IN
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(Abstract)

The Olentangy River, tributary of the Scioto River of the Ohio system, drains an area of 536 square miles of glacial till plain in north central Ohio. Twenty-nine species of Unionidae have been collected from this drainage. Of these, *Elliptio crassidens* (Lamarck 1819), *Actinonaias carinata* (Barnes 1823), and *Dynomia torulosa* (Rafinesque 1820) are known only from a very few subfossil shells, and are probably now extirpated from the Olentangy. *Cyclonaias tuberculata* (Rafinesque 1820), *Pleurobema clava* (Lamarck 1819), *Lasmigona compressa* (Lea 1829), *Simpsoniconcha ambigua* (Say 1825), and *Obovaria subrotunda* (Rafinesque 1820) have been found only as dead shells but may still be maintaining low-level populations. Living specimens of the following 21 species have been collected within the past seven years: *Fusconaia flava* (Rafinesque 1820); *Amblema plicata* (Say 1817); *Quadrula cylindrica* (Say 1817); *Pleurobema cordatum* form *coccineum* (Conrad 1836); *Elliptio dilatatus* (Rafinesque 1820); *Unio merus tetralasmus* (Say 1830); *Lasmigona costata* (Rafinesque 1820); *Anodonta grandis* (Say 1829); *Anodonta imbecillis* (Say 1829); *Anodontoides fersacianus* (Lea 1834); *Alasmidonta calceolus* (Lea 1829); *Alasmidonta marginata* (Say 1818); *Strophitus undulatus* (Say 1817); *Ptychobranthus fasciolaris* (Rafinesque 1820); *Carunculina parva* (Barnes 1823); *Villosa iris* (Lea 1829); *Villosa fabalis* (Lea 1831); *Lampsilis radiata siliquoidea* (Barnes 1823); *Lampsilis ovata* form *ventricosa* (Barnes 1823); *Lampsilis fasciola* (Rafinesque 1820); and *Dynomia triquetra* (Rafinesque 1820).

The number of species tends to increase with the distance downstream, but this increase is interrupted by a large flood-control dam in northern Delaware County and again below the sewage treatment plant of the city of Delaware. Another slight decrease in number of species present occurs below the Fifth Avenue Dam in Columbus, 1½ miles above the river's mouth. This decrease in variety seems to be accompanied by an increase in size of individuals present. An isolated relict population of the formerly widespread mussel *Unio merus tetralasmus* exists in this portion of the Olentangy River between Fifth Avenue Dam and its confluence with the Scioto River. Since *U. tetralasmus* is known west of Ohio as a pond and creek form, its persistence in the rocky riffles and runs below the dam is an enigma.