

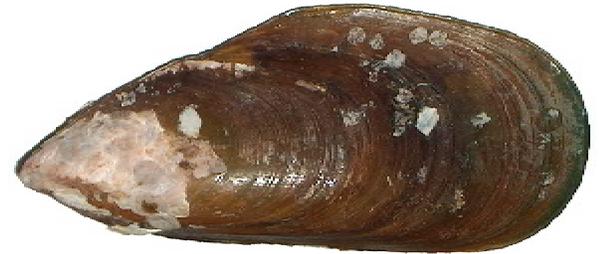


Perna perna

Brown mussel, edible brown mussel, Mexilhao mussel

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - “Salaya (1973) also noted that the brown mussel competed with unidentified species of *Balanus* and *Tetraclita* for substrate settlement” (Molnar 2008).
 - The brown mussel can sink navigation buoys and affect shipping safety (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
 - The mussels are expected to move farther east to the Yucatan peninsula and farther north in along the Gulf of Mexico coast. The expansion and effects of distribution of this bivalve is currently being monitored in Texas (Molnar 2008).
 - The mussel was probably dispersed southward by long range and inshore currents (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
 - Found colonizing offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico up to 9m below the surface (Molnar 2008).
 - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
 - Reproductive strategies and long range dispersal make eradication likely impossible. Ballast water treatment necessary.



Geography and Habitat

1. “Origin: Atlantic coastlines Uruguay to Caribbean areas; Rocky-shored coastal eastern Venezuela. Mozambique to the southwestern Cape, rare along the Cape west coast, and reappears in the northern Namibia-Diddo Valley, False Bay” (Molnar 2008).
2. First introduction: 1990
3. 1st reported in the Gulf of Mexico in 1990 on the Port Aransas Jetty, Texas. Thought to have been introduced by ballast water releases from ships of Venezuela (Molnar 2008).
4. Intertidal zones, estuaries/bays

Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast Water and Sediments
 - Accidental probable
 - Thought to have been introduced by ballast water releases from ships of Venezuela (Molnar 2008).
2. Natural Spread
 - Probable
 - Cause- inshore currents

The mussel was probably dispersed southward by long range and inshore currents.

Non native locations

1. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico
2. 70- Floridian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://elrinconmarinos-nogasteropodos.iespana.es/Fotos%20coleccion/Mytilidae/Perna%20perna.jpg>