

QUAGGA MUSSELS

Dreissena bugensis



Be on the lookout for this invader!



Photo: Amy Benson, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

Description:

Freshwater mollusk reaching up to 1.5" in length. Similar in appearance and size to the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), the quagga mussel, when placed on a surface, fall over as they lack a flat underside (hinged side), while zebra mussels are stable on their flattened hinge side. Quagga mussel shells are also rounder, lack ridges, and usually have dark concentric rings, yet are pale in color near the hinge.

Habitat:

Quagga mussels are commonly found in waters more than 90 ft. deep, while zebra mussels are usually found at depths of less than 50 feet. Unlike zebra mussels, quagga mussels can live and thrive directly on a muddy or sandy bottom. They also tolerate a wider range of extremes in temperature and water depth than zebra mussels and spawn at colder temperatures.

IDENTIFICATION

Zebra Mussel



Quagga Mussel



Not shown at actual size.

Photo: USGS

Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Lake Michigan
- Lake Huron
- Lake Charlevoix
- Crooked Lake

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