

Pill clams - Family Sphaeriidae

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5 SNR

Population Status: Unknown

Limiting Factor: Unknown

Comment: None

Introduction

Pill clams (fingernail clams) are bivalve mollusks (Pearse and Buchsbaum 1987). They are nearly ubiquitous in Wyoming waters and represented by the single family Sphaeriidae and two genera, Sphaerium and Pisidium (Beetle 1989). They are water-column filter feeders and do not require a host for reproduction and dispersal.

Habitat

Pill clams inhabit fine substrates in cold to warm water that is flowing, stagnant, and even temporary from lowlands to elevations over 9,600 feet (Beetle 1989).

Problems

h None.

Conservation Actions

h None.

Monitoring/Research

None.

Recent Developments

None.

References

Beetle, D. E. 1989. Checklist of recent Mollusca of Wyoming. *Great Basin Naturalist* 49:637-645.

Pearse, V., J. Pearse, M. Buchsbaum, and R. Buchsbaum. 1987. Molluscan Radiation. Pages 327-386 in *Living Invertebrates*, The Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, California.

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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. A range map is unavailable for the taxa because distribution and ecology are poorly known in Wyoming.