

SCAMIT Code: PL 77

Date Examined: 9 May 1988
Voucher by: Paul Scott (SBMNH)

Synonymy: Mysella aleutica Dall, 1899
Mysella cf. aleutica (LACO, Hyperion, MBC, Scott, and others)
Mysella ferruginosa Dall, 1916
Tellimya tumida Carpenter, 1864

Literature: Carpenter, P. 1864.
Dall, W.H. 1899.
Dall, W.H. 1916.
Scott, P.H. 1987.

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Shell small (4 mm length), thick for genus, with only irregular growth striae.
2. Shape subtrigonal to subquadrate, moderately inflated, inequilateral with longer anterior.
3. Beaks prominent, extending near the posterior margin, opistogyrate.
4. Cardinal teeth stout to small, anterior tooth larger.

Comparisons:

The thick, moderately inflated shell with subtrigonal to subquadrate shape separates this from other southern California species of Mysella. M. tumida is extremely variable in shell shape. The most common southern California form is subquadrate with the beaks forward of the posterior margin (fig. 1); whereas some forms may be much more truncate, have beaks on the posterior margin and have very stout teeth (Fig. 2).

Distribution: San Diego, California to arctic Alaska (intertidal - 400 ft).

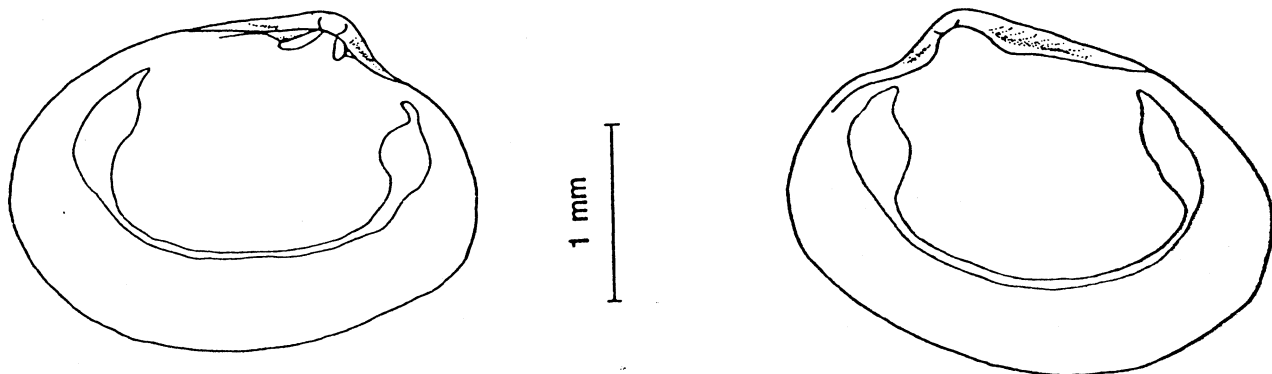


Figure 1
Drawings by Laurie Marx (SBMNH)

Mysella tumida (Carpenter, 1864)
Bivalvia, Montacutidae

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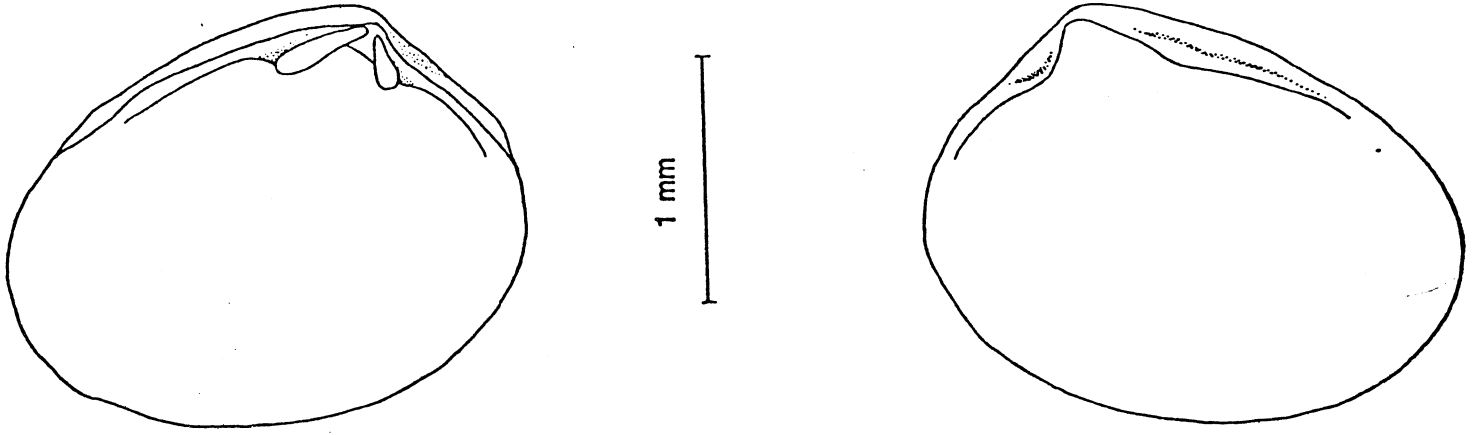


Figure 2

Mysella tumida