

Modiolus spp. juvenile
Mytilidae

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Synonymy:

None

Literature:

Soot-Ryen, 1955

Diagnostic characters:

1. Shell elongate, inflated, beaks sub-terminal.
2. Shell without definite external sculpture, but with growth striae.
3. Hinge without teeth.

Additional notes:

1. Several species of Modiolus are present in the intertidal and continental shelf of southern California. Juveniles of the genus are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to separate. The leading authority on Modiolus does not feel juveniles can be identified to the species level if they are less than 35 mm in length (B. Wilson, pers. coms. 1984). Until a complete size series (juvenile to adult) for each species is assembled, it seems best to report our juveniles as Modiolus spp. juvenile.