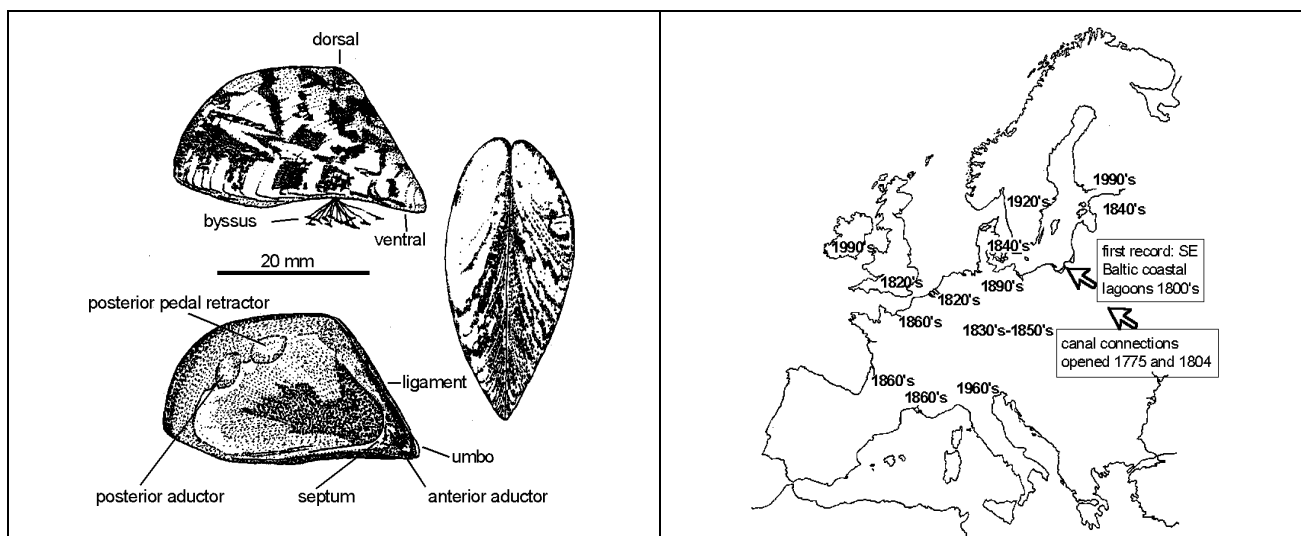


Dreissena polymorpha (Pallas, 1771) Dreissenidae, Bivalvia

Common names: Zebra mussel (Engl.); Zebrauschel, Wandermuschel, Dreikantmuschel (Germ.)
Estuarine and freshwater bivalve mollusc

*Dreissena polymorpha*.

Known inland and brackish water distribution including range expansion (in decades) of *Dreissena polymorpha*.

Impact:

(* = possibly harmful, ** = harmful, *** = very harmful, ? = not known, \$ = beneficial)

Resources/Environment			Uses of the Sea		
Commercial stocks	\$?	Food for commercial fish Alterations of fish communities	Fisheries	**	Interference with fishing gear
Other biota	** \$	Competition for space and food Food for birds	Aquaculture	**	Fouling of cages
Human health	*	Cuts to bathers feet	Water abstractions	*** **	Fouling of water intake pipes Taintrip of water
Water quality	* ?	Bioaccumulation of pollutants May encourage toxic algae	Aquatic transport	**	Fouling of ship hulls and navigational constructions
Habitat modification	*** *	Changes in bottom sediments Reduced plankton abundance by filtration	Tourism	? *	Changed environment Reduced angling catches

Vulnerable habitats: Estuaries, rivers and lakes, particularly where there are firm surfaces suitable for attachment.

Biology: A mature female may produce up to 1,000,000 eggs per year. The newly hatched larvae are free swimming, they are distributed by currents in summer–autumn. The juveniles settle, attaching to various firm surfaces including each other. Their life span varies from 2 to 19 years. The largest size known is 50 mm. Mussels of different ages form dense colonies. They feed by filtering microscopic plankton organisms < 53 µm and organic particles from the water. Small molluscs are used by different fish species (e.g. cyprinids: roach, carp etc and eel). *D. polymorpha* is capable of becoming established in all temperate regions of the world in rivers, lakes, estuaries and brackish water sea areas.