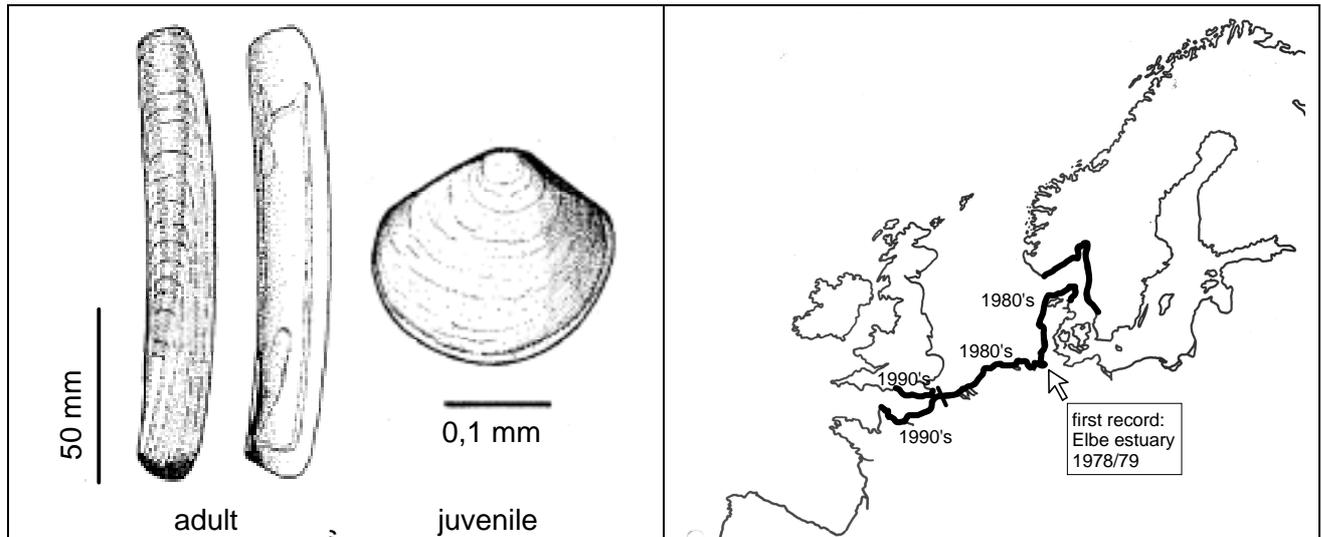


Ensis directus (Conrad, 1843), Solenidae, Bivalvia

Common names: Jackknife Clam (North American, Atlantic), Razor Clam (American), Amerikanische Schwertmuschel (German), Amerikansk Knivmussla (Swedish)



Ensis directus [7].

Known distribution including range expansion (in decades) of *Ensis directus*.

Impact:

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

Resources/Environment			Uses of the Sea		
Commercial stocks	*	Dense populations may change community structure of the benthic fauna.	Fisheries	**	Damage of bottom-drawing nets
Other biota	*	Competition for space and food.	Aquaculture	*	
Human health	*	Bacterial infections of injuries, resulting from cuts	Water abstractions	*	
Water quality	-	-	Aquatic transport	-	-
Habitat modification	*	Dense populations may have an impact on the sediment structure by their burying activities.	Tourism	*	When stepped on, the shells can cause deep cuts.
Special considerations	?		others	?	

Vulnerable habitats: Temperate subtidal and intertidal areas with clean sand substrates [1].

Biology: The free-swimming larvae are distributed by currents in spring. Secondary dispersal of post-larval stages in summer. The juveniles settle on clean sands in the lower zone of the intertidal areas, where they burrow in the sediment and filter-feed on algae. They live near the surface, but are able to disappear rapidly to great depth when disturbed. *E. directus* is also able to swim or use byssus threads for drifting [4, 6]. They show a diurnal rhythm, being more abundant in the water column at night [6].

A length of about 6 cm is reached after the first winter. The life-span is up to 5 years [4]. The maximum sizes 16-17 cm [3].

E. directus prefers muddy, fine sand with small amounts of silt in the low and subtidal zones in bays and estuaries [3, 4]. Birds seem to be the only predator (in Europe: Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*, in America: *Larus delawarensis*) [4].