

# Mussels and Clams (*Bivalvia*)

Many families of *Bivalvia* have common names. These names are given in the key immediately before the Latin name.

- a. Shell with lateral teeth (longer ridges inside the shell near the hinge) only on one side of pseudo-cardinal teeth (pointed nobs nearest the hinge); adults generally > 25 mm  
 . . . . . *Freshwater Mussels, Unionidae*

## 1

*The Unionidae are diverse and abundant in suitable habitat of lakes, rivers and ponds. [X/X/23/C]*

- b. Shell with lateral teeth on both sides of cardinal teeth; size variable  
 . . . . . 2

- a. Shell large (adults usually 25-50 mm), thick and massive with prominent concentric growth rings  
 . . . . . *Asian Clams, Corbiculidae*

*The Asian clam (genus Corbicula) is not native to Maryland. [M/1/1/C]*

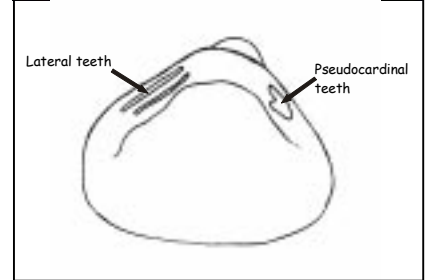
## 2

- b. Shell small (adults usually < 25 mm), thin and usually fragile  
 . . . . . *Freshwater Clams, Sphaeriidae*  
 (a.k.a. Pisidiidae)

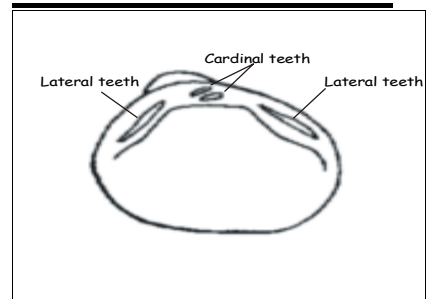
*The Sphaeriidae are also known as "fingernail clams" because of their size and translucent shell. [H/2/3/C]*

The zebra mussel, a freshwater mussel in the family **Dreisseneidae**, has not yet been found in Maryland. However, it is easily transported and biologists should be watchful in order to control the spread of this troublesome exotic species. It is recognizable from dark and light striped patterns on the 5-40 mm shell.

## Unionidae (1a)



## Corbiculidae and Sphaeriidae (1b)



## Corbiculidae (2a)



## Dreisseneidae (zebra mussel)

