

Upper Saranac Lake Foundation - Asian Clam Identification



Photo courtesy of Emily DeBolt, Lake George Association

Asian Clams have a typical oval-triangular shape, with a dorsal “beak” or umbo at the peak of the shell. The outside of the shell is olive, or yellowish to black-brown in color, with 1-3 brown/purple colored radial bands (particularly in juveniles) and white erosion rings near the umbo. As the clam ages, the shell becomes darker in color. There are also distinctive, thick, concentric growth rings. The inside layer of the shell is typically white-bluish white in color. Inside each shell half there are also 1-2 pair of small, elongated and , finely serrated lateral “teeth” that extend on either side part way down on the inside edge.

- Centrally located beak or umbo on shell

- Triangular or rounded triangular shell shape

- Many, coarse concentric rings on outside of shell

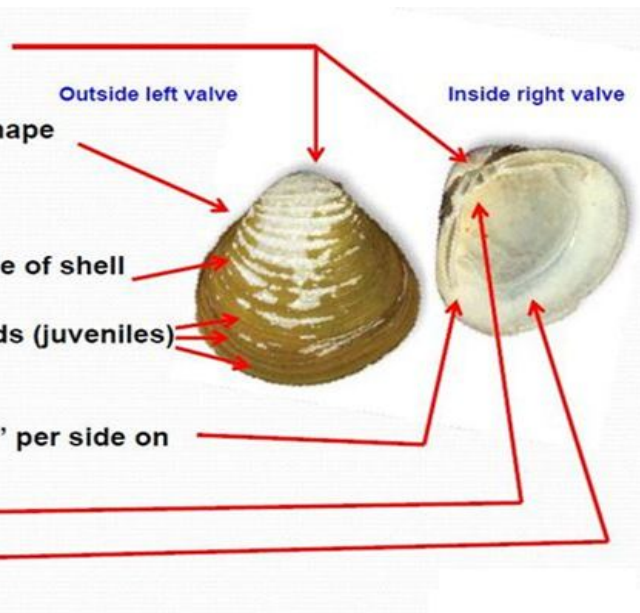
- 3 brown/purple colored radial colorbands (juveniles)

- 2 pair long, finely serrated lateral “teeth” per side on right valve: 1 pair per side on left valve

- 3 pseudocardinal “teeth” per valve.

- Interior of shell bluish white.

- Most similar to native fingernail clams.



Basic Identification characteristics for Asian clams. Graphic: Center for Biodiversity and Conservation