

*Modiolus americanus* (Leach, 1815)  
American Horsemussel

Class Bivalvia  
Family Mytilidae

Classification according to Turgeon *et al.* (1998)  
References used: Description from Abbott (1974)

**Diagnostic characters:** Adults 2 to 4 inches, very fat, rather fragile; with swollen umbones which are either pinkish or purple (never white). Color chestnut-brown at the anterior end, with a white oblique streak in the middle, and rose purple-rayed and brownish at the posterior end. Periostracal hairs stringlike and smooth. Interior of shell pearly-whitish, usually rose-tinted, rarely purplish.

**Habitat:** Shallow water to 6 m.

**Range:** South Carolina southward; Bermuda; Brazil.

