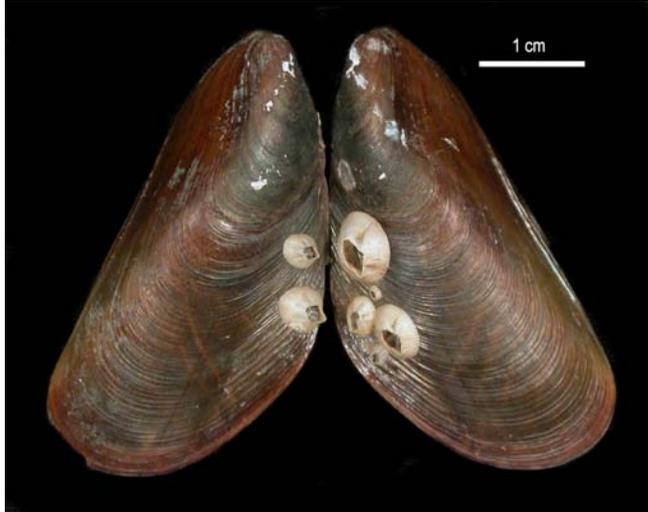


**charrua mussel (*Mytella charruana*)**

In the same family that includes the invasive Asian green mussel and several native species of marine mussels, *M. charruana* poses the potential to foul structures submerged in seawater. Native to the Atlantic (Venezuela to Argentina) and Pacific (Mexico, El Salvador and the Galapagos Islands) Oceans, large numbers of the charrua mussel first



appeared in the United States in 1986 in the seawater intake pipe of a power plant in Jacksonville, Florida. Although cold winter temperatures eliminated that population in 1987, it has since returned to the Indian River Lagoon, where it has increased in number since its discovery in 2004, suggesting that a reproducing population has become established there. The mussel has been discovered recently in Liberty County, Georgia, near Savannah, and the population there is a large reproducing one, arousing concern

that it might cause economic hardship due to its fouling ability and ecological alteration due to competition with native shellfish species. In 2008 it was found in the Ashepoo River, SC, which is the most northerly record of its occurrence to date, although it has also been observed in large numbers fouling the hull of a barge engaged in interstate transport between Jacksonville, FL and Norfolk, VA.

