

# Invasive Mollusks

9A

Quagga  
Mussel



Photo: Amy Benson,  
U.S. Geological Survey,  
Bugwood.org

9B

Zebra  
Mussel



Photo: Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Species  
Prevention Specialist, Bugwood.org



**Quagga Mussel**

Amy Benson, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org



**Zebra Mussel**

Amy Benson, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

**Class: Bivalvia**  
**Order: Veneroida**  
**Species: Quagga -**  
***Dreissena bugensis* Andrusov**

## Quagga and Zebra Mussels

These mussels have caused profound ecological changes in freshwater ecosystems where they have become established, including losses of phytoplankton and microzooplankton. These losses in plankton can have cascading effects on the whole ecosystem as plankton is the base of aquatic life. They can cause the mortality of native clams and mussels. They cost municipal and industrial water facilities millions of dollars to control. If introduced into Montana they will likely survive, become established and result in significant environmental and industrial damage. They are transported overland in bilges, livewells, motors, and attached to boats and trailers. Their larval stage is too small to be seen by the naked eye and therefore may be transported unknowingly in what appears to be clean water. Adult mussels can survive out of water for extended periods of time depending on conditions. You can help stop this invader when you Inspect, Clean and Dry your aquatic equipment and by reporting any sighting to FWP by calling 406-444-2449 or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/AIS/aisSighting>. For more information and to visit the source link to:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/>

**Class: Bivalvia**  
**Order: Veneroida**  
**Species: Zebra -**  
***Dreissena polymorpha***  
**(Pallas)**

### Zebra Mussels

Photo: Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Species  
Prevention Specialist, Bugwood.org