



European stream valvata

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Common Name	European stream valvata
Genus & Species	<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>
Family	Valvatidae
Order	Heterostropha
Class	Gastropoda

Diagnosis: This species has a pinched aperture and an attenuate spiral. Shells often exhibit 4 to 5 whorls with a coloring that is typically white to beige with more orange to red pigmentation apically. The operculum has approximately 10 spiral markings that originate near the center. Adult shell size may reach a maximum length of 7 mm.

Ecology: The European stream valvate is considered hermaphroditic with reproduction usually occurring between April and September. Individuals may lay up to 150 eggs, and are deposited on aquatic vegetation. Eggs hatch within 15 to 30 days. Reproduction can occur 2 to 3 times a year with individuals having an average lifespan of 1 to 2 years. This species is typically a grazer of algae and detritus; however, in eutrophic conditions individuals are capable of filter feeding.



Habitat & Distribution: This species is found inhabiting freshwater lakes and streams. Its native range extends across Europe to central Asia. In the U.S., it was originally recorded from Lake Ontario. Introduction of the species to the U.S. is believed to be the result of using marsh grasses as packing material in crates shipped from Europe. In Oneida Lake (New York), where the species was inadvertently introduced, presence of this species is thought to have caused a decline in native gastropod abundance.

Status: In Illinois, established populations of this species have only been recorded from Lake Michigan.

USGS Fact Sheet: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1043>