

SPECTACLECASE (*Cumberlandia monodonta*)**Description**

The spectaclecase is a freshwater mussel with an elongate, arcuate and compressed shell. Colors of shells will range from greenish or brownish in younger shells to black. Larvae (glochidia) of freshwater mussels generally are parasitic on fish and there may be specificity among some species. No host has yet been identified for glochidia of *Cumberlandia monodonta*.

**Distribution****Habitat**

This species is confined to flowing, freshwater systems only. Adults of this species are essentially sessile; about the only voluntary movement they make is to burrow deeper into the substrate. The spectaclecase occurs in large rivers and is a habitat-specialist. It occurs in substrates from mud and sand to gravel, cobble, and boulders in relatively shallow riffles and shoals with slow to swift current.

**Status**

Global: G3-Vulnerable. Federally listed as a Candidate. State not listed. Nebraska: S1-Critically Imperiled. The decline of the spectaclecase in the Mississippi River system and other mussel species in the eastern United States is primarily the result of habitat loss and degradation. These losses have been well documented since the mid-19th century (Higgins, 1858). Chief among the causes of decline are impoundments, channelization, chemical contaminants, mining, and sedimentation (Williams et al., 1993; Neves, 1993; Neves et

**Management**

No research programs are known at this time for this species. Preferred habitat and environmental ranges, sensitivity to various pollutants and siltation, and glochidial hosts should be determined. Investigate genetics of individual populations. Investigate propagation techniques. Life history information lacking.

**More Information**

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=F00X>