

Macoma nasuta (Conrad, 1837)



Nomenclature

Phylum	Mollusca
Class	Bivalvia
Order	Cardiida
Family	Tellinidae
Common Synonyms (S) Previous Names (PN)	<i>Tellina nasuta</i> , <i>Macoma (Macoma) nasuta</i> , <i>Macoma kelseyi</i> , <i>Tellina tersa</i> , <i>Macoma jacalitosana</i>

Distribution

Type Locality	
Geographic Distribution	Montague Island, Cook Inlet, Alaska (60.2°N) [LACM], to Punta Rompiente (27.7°N) [LACM] and perhaps Cabo San Lucas (22.9°N) [CAS], Baja California Sur, in the intertidal zone to 50m, in exposed to sheltered situations, usually in sand or silt

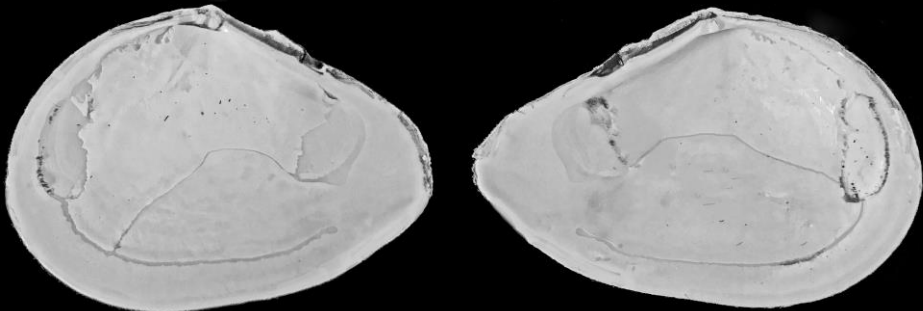

Description

Length to 110 mm; **shape** narrowly subovate; **inflation**: rather compressed; **shell** moderately thin, smooth, not polished; **color** chalky white; **sculpture** lacking except for fine radial lines, dark brown-gray parchment **periostracum** especially near lower edge and near siphons on valves; no **interior shell color**; **posterior** end subequilateral, produced, flexed to the right (most noticeable in adults); **anterior** end rounded; **beaks** slightly nearer the anterior end, slightly prominent; **external hinge ligament** relatively long; two **cardinal teeth** in each valve, **lateral teeth** absent; **pallial sinus** in left valve extremely deep, merging with anterior adductor scar; **pallial sinus** deep, not detached in right valve

Related Species and Characteristic Differences

Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Macoma calcarea</i>	Posterior end produced, shorter than anterior end; pallial sinus very deep in left valve, moderate in right
<i>Macoma elimata</i>	Posterior end produced, much shorter than anterior end, truncate terminally; escutcheon beveled; pallial sinus very deep in left valve, moderate in right;
<i>Macoma inquinata</i>	Posterior end longer than anterior end, produced; pallial sinus very deep in both valves, not detached; not very common in Puget Sound

Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics	Photo Credit: Marine Sediment Monitoring Team
pallial sinus merging with anterior adductor in left valve; deep, not detached in right	 <p><i>Macoma nasuta</i></p>
posterior subequilateral; shape narrowly subovate	 <p><i>Macoma nasuta</i></p>

Literature

Coan, E.V., Valentich-Scott, P., and F.R. Bernard. 2000. Bivalve Seashells of Western North America Marine Bivalve Mollusks from Arctic Alaska to Baja California. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Monographs Number 2. Studies in Biodiversity Number 2. Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. pp. 407, 418, 420.

More Information

More information about Puget Sound benthic invertebrates is available at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/psamp/index.htm>

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