

*Ennucula tenuis* (Montagu, 1808)

Nomenclature	
Phylum	Mollusca
Class	Bivalvia
Order	Nuculoida
Family	Nuculidae
Common Synonyms (S) Previous Names (PN)	<i>Ennucula bellotii</i> ; <i>Nucula tenuis</i> ; <i>Nucula inflata</i> ; <i>Nucula leptodonta</i> ; <i>Nucula expansa</i> ; <i>Leionucula inflata</i>



Distribution	
Type Locality	Near Dunbar, about 30 mi east of Edinburg, Scotland, south side of the Firth and Forth (56°N, 02.5°E)
Geographic Distribution	Cicumboreal and Arctic Ocean (71°N) [LACM], throughout the Bering Sea [LACM] and the Gulf of Alaska (60°N) [LACM], to San Diego, California (32.7°N) [SDNMH]. Ecology depth 4 to 239 m.

Description
<b>Length</b> to 17 mm; <b>shell</b> ovate-trigonal, truncate posteriorly; moderately <b>inflated</b> ; thin; <b>periostracum</b> light olive to dark brown, shiny, usually iridescent; <b>sculpture</b> smooth except for fine commarginal growth striae and microscopic dimples (more pronounced in young specimens); <b>beaks</b> near posterior end; <b>hinge plate</b> narrow posteriorly, broadening anteriorly; <b>resilifer</b> large, deep, projecting antero-ventrally; <b>inner ventral margin</b> smooth.

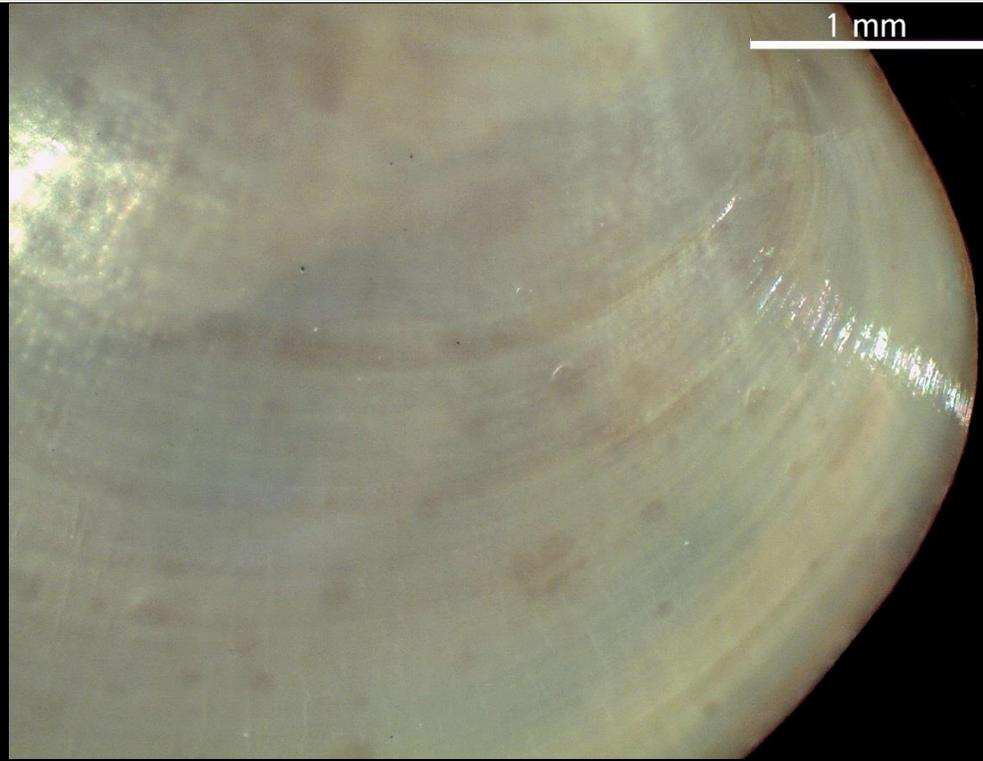
Related Species and Characteristic Differences	
Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Acila castrensis</i>	Divaricate sculpture; inner ventral margin crenulate; trigonal shape; small oblique resilifer; periostracum dull

## Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics

Photo credit: Marine Monitoring Team

sculpture of commarginal striae; microscopic dimples pronounced on smaller specimens (bottom photo)





## 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 Mnographs Number 2. Studies in Biodiversity Number 2. ISBN 0-936494-30-1. Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. pp 76-77.

Valentich-Scott, P. 1998. Class Bivalvia. In: Valentich-Scott, P., and J.A. Blake. Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and the Western Santa Barbara Channel. Volume 8. The Mollusca Part 1 The Aplacophora, Polyplacophora, Scaphopoda, Bivalvia, and Cephalopoda. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. pp 110-111.

## 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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