

## Rayed Creekshell

The Rayed Creekshell (*Anodontoides radiatus*) is a little-known freshwater mussel that inhabits several Gulf Coast rivers from the Yazoo River drainage in Mississippi east to the Apalachicola drainage in Georgia and Florida. Its name refers to the many thin, green rays on its shell, a feature that helps distinguish it from other mussel species. Biologists believe there is much to learn about this mussel. Although the Rayed Creekshell is relatively widespread, it occurs sporadically, often in small isolated populations. For this reason, a molecular study is in progress to examine the genetic structure of the different populations to better understand how much variation exists between them.



The Rayed Creekshell is an “at-risk” species, meaning it is at risk of becoming threatened or endangered in the future. The species is threatened by numerous impacts that have degraded its stream habitats including sedimentation, contaminants, channelization, and reduced flows due prolonged drought and groundwater withdrawal.