

## *Potamocorbula amurensis* Asian clam

## MARINE PEST GUIDE



Overbite

### Identifying features

- Has a **distinct overbite** – the two valves (shell halves) are unequal in size and shape.
- Dirty white, yellow or tan in colour.
- 2 to 3 cm across.

### Where are they found?

- Occurs in estuaries and brackish waters.
- Occurs in mud, sand, peat and clay substrates.
- Found subtidally, buried in large clumps with 1/3 to 2/3 of shell exposed above sediment.



Photos: United States Geological Survey

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)  
0800 80 99 66



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Photo: US Geological Survey

Distinct overbite - shells of unequal size. Dirty white, yellow or tan. 2 to 3 cm across. Estuaries.

### What looks similar to it?

A large number of New Zealand native bivalves are similar in shape and size to the Asian clam. BUT the only native species with shells of different sizes occurs in a different habitat.

### If you think you have seen this clam in an estuary

- Note the location and if possible collect a sample and freeze it in a plastic bag.
- Contact Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.

### *Corbula zelandica* Basket shell



Photos: Kate Neill

Overbite - shells of unequal size. Dirty white to tan. Up to 1.5 cm across. Sandy shores and harbours.

### *Maorimactra ordinaria* Surf clam



No overbite - shells of equal size. Dirty white to tan. Up to 1.5 cm across. Sandy shores on open coasts.

### *Mactra tristis* Surf clam



No overbite - shells of equal size. Dirty white to tan. Up to 6 cm across. River mouths flowing into estuaries.

Unequal shell size is only a useful identification feature if live specimens are found, or for dead specimens in which both shells are still joined together.

May 2006

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