



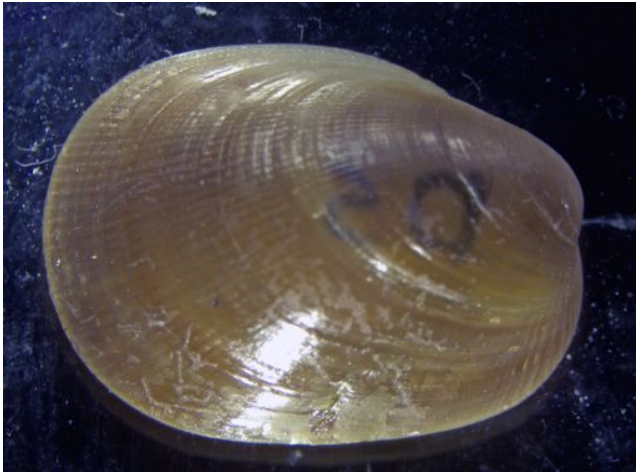
Greg Jensen was sorting through old photos and found this one he had taken in Prince William Sound, AK back on December 16, 1995. This little mussel is likely *Vilasina seminuda* (Dall, 1897), a subtidal species few of us have seen outside of museum collections. It is clinging to our native eelgrass, *Zostera marina*. More information is available on page 3.

The Partly-Sculptured Crenella, *Vilasina seminuda* (Dall, 1897) and Varnished Kelp Mussel, *Vilasina vernicosa* (Middendorff, 1849)

by Linda Schroeder and André Martel, photos by André Martel except as noted

In order to try and verify the identification of the *Vilasina* in Greg Jensen's photo shown on the front page, we sent the photo to André Martel of the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. André had provided the photo of *Vilasina seminuda* for our club's website and we thought perhaps he would be able to verify the identification.

André not only answered in the affirmative but replied with notes on how to separate *Vilasina seminuda* from *Vilasina vernicosa*. More information about *V. vernicosa* is also available on the club's website in the article "Discovery of the Varnished Mussel, *Vilasina vernicosa* - A southern range extension and a new Canadian record" which was published in *The Dredgings* in 2012.



Vilasina seminuda, ranges from Cape Flattery, Washington to the Kuril Islands, Alaska

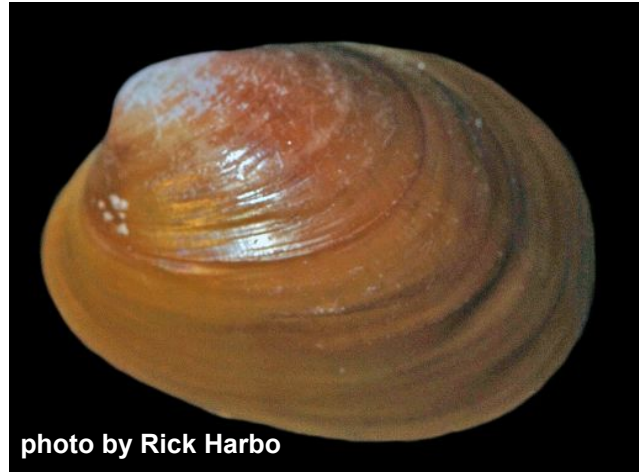


photo by Rick Harbo

Vilasina vernicosa, ranges from Haida Gwaii, British Columbia to central Alaska

From André:

Vilasina seminuda, from my examination of specimens from the LACM collections, displays a more round or circular shell morphology by comparison with *V. vernicosa*.

In short, morphological characters that I would say allow us to more or less easily separate *V. seminuda* from *V. vernicosa* are:

- *V. seminuda* has a more compact shell, having a slightly more circular shell morphology compared with that of *V. vernicosa*
- *V. seminuda* is a significantly smaller species, with adult shell size usually less than 11 mm [*V. vernicosa* grows to 24 mm]
- *V. seminuda* has an umbo that is pretty much terminal, i.e. being flush to the anterior end of the shell
- *V. seminuda* may (I say 'may') have a prodissoconch that significantly differs from that of *V. vernicosa* (**Fig. 1**)

The two species display inner crenulation at the shell margin (**Fig. 2 – *V. seminuda***) (**Fig. 3 – *V. vernicosa***)

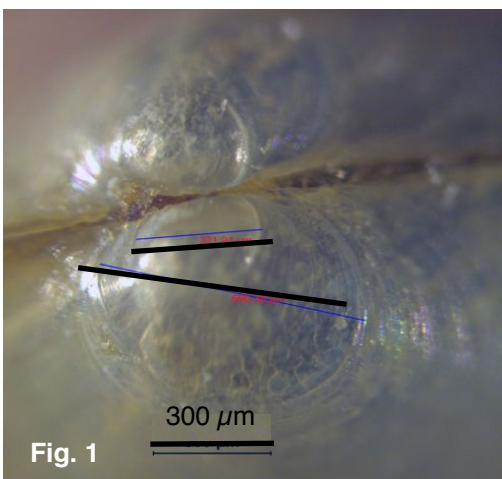


Fig. 1

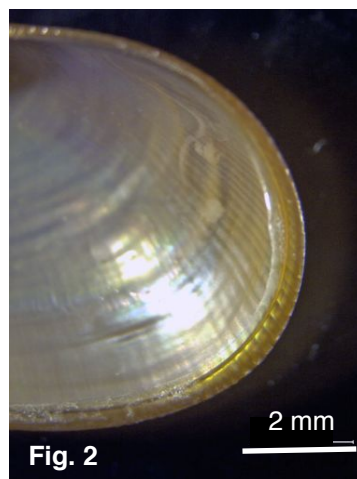


Fig. 2



Fig. 3 photo by Rick Harbo