

being larger and more nearly circular in outline. The young have the epidermis lighter in color—a light, yellowish horn-color. It is three and one-half to four inches long and nearly as high.

It is never found living where it can be exposed even by the lowest tides, and hence, can be taken only by dredging or when cast up by the waves. It seems to prefer mud bottoms, and Gould says,—“is most frequent near where some river empties into the ocean.” It does not live very deeply buried, as it is frequently cast up on beaches in great numbers by the waves after a storm.

ECONOMICS. A useful and good food-mollusc, and frequently eaten along with *Venus mercenaria*, from which it is not usually distinguished except by large dealers. It is said by good judges to be of very good flavor. Willis says it is considered excellent food in Nova Scotia. The writer has seen, at Lynn Beach, Massachusetts, dozens of men collecting this species which had been cast up in great numbers after a heavy storm. Many of them were shelled upon the spot, while the rest were carted away to Lynn. They seemed to be highly esteemed by those who were taking them. We do not know whether or not they are ever cast up in numbers upon our own shores, but they are taken not infrequently in dredging. They are neither abundant enough nor easily enough obtained to make it pay to take them for market. We cannot find that they are ever sold by themselves in our towns. They are a food of Cod and perhaps other fishes.

21. *Mactra solidissima* Chemnitz.

Mactra gigantea [of Willis].

Spisula solidissima Gray.

Sea-clam, Giant-clam, Hen-clam, Beach-clam, Surf-clam.

[*Mactra*, a kneading-trough; *solidissima*, very solid].

DISTRIBUTION. (a) *General*.—Low-water mark to ten fathoms. Florida and Gulf of Mexico to Labrador.

(b) *In Acadia*.—(in N. B.) Grand Manan, *Stimpson*. Bay of Fundy, low-water mark to ten fathoms, *Verrill*. Passamaquoddy Bay, large and abundant, *Ganong*. Shediac, Point du Chene, *Whiteaves*. (In N. S.) St. Mary's Bay, very