

QUAGGA MUSSEL

Dreissena bugensis rostriformis

What is it?

A highly invasive non-native species, similar to Zebra Mussel. Significantly alters whole ecosystems by filtering out vast quantities of nutrients. Also a serious biofouling risk, blocking pipes, smothering boat hulls and other structures.

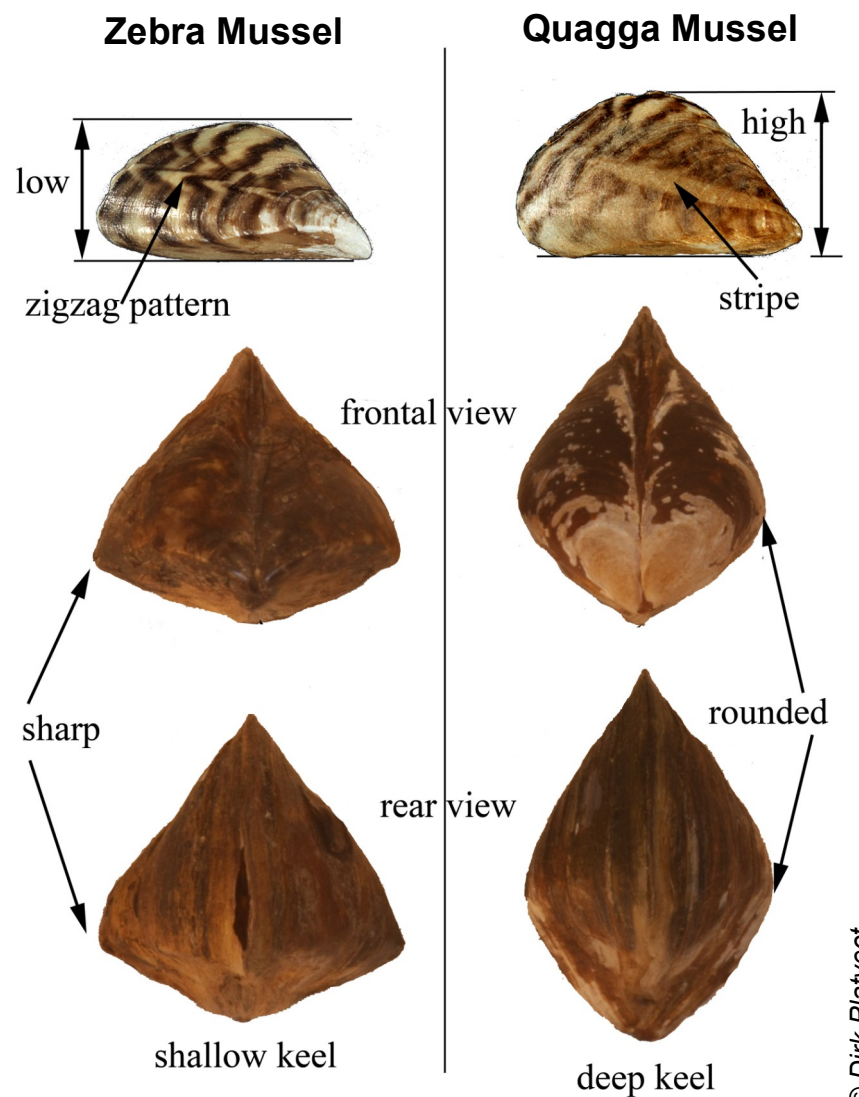
What is the urgency?

Unlike Zebra Mussels this species has not yet been found in Great Britain, but based on its spread through Europe is expected to arrive soon. It is essential to identify any new invasion as early as possible.



Quagga Mussels, like Zebra Mussels, are very small

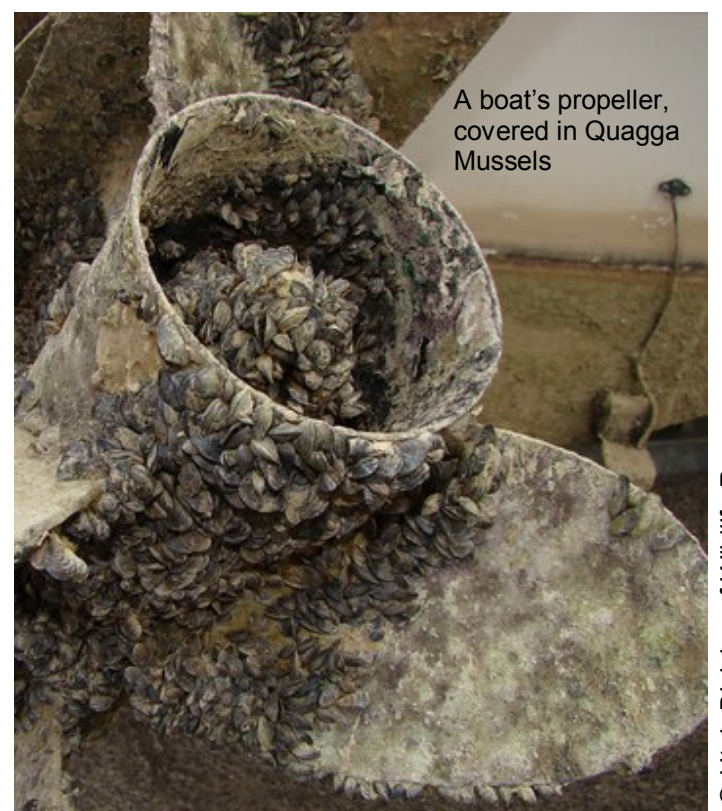
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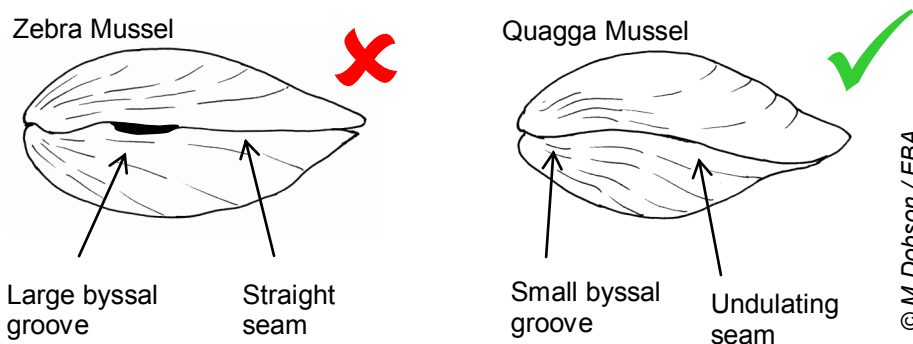
How do you identify it?

- Similar to Zebra Mussel (small with a stripy shell)
- More rounded in cross section, unlike Zebra Mussel which is triangular
- Has an undulating seam between the valves (shells)
- Rolls to the side when placed on its front, Zebra Mussel tends to lie flat
- Has a small byssal groove, unlike Zebra Mussel which has a large groove towards its middle (this may not always be obvious)



A boat's propeller, covered in Quagga Mussels

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If you suspect you have found this species it is essential to report it. Please send details, along with a photograph, to:

alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk