

## INTRODUCTION

In peninsular Florida the Unionidae offer two advantages as a group of animals for zoogeographic study. There are a reasonable number of species, most of which are clearly distinguishable; they have a limited mode of distribution, being unable to pass over land from one drainage system to another. Their ability to move between drainage systems is dependent on the mobility of fishes to which the glochidia attach themselves. For this reason the distribution of the species of Unionidae may afford evidence of former stream confluences and of lowland flooding in the coastal regions that were, or are, reduced to base level.

The Unionacea of most of the Apalachicolan region were studied by Clench and Turner (1956). They supported the idea that the fauna was distributed by mechanical means, though they were vague as to what these mechanical means might have been.

Clench and Turner described 32 of the 49 species of Apalachicolan Unionacea. The distribution of this fauna was reinterpreted (Johnson, 1970), and the Southern Atlantic Slope species were revised. The distribution of these faunas gave evidence of a former confluence of the headwaters of the Alabama-Coosa, Apalachicola, and Savannah river systems. Exception was taken to Clench and Turner's theory of distribution so far as the Unionacea are concerned, as the zoogeographic evidence failed to show that unionid distribution is fortuitous. In peninsular Florida the unionids offer no examples of stream capture that can be demonstrated specifically, but their distribution does not indicate that it occurred by any passive agents other than natural fish hosts.

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