

Left valve with two stumpy pseudocardinal teeth, one in front of the other, often of about equal height. Hinge line short and narrow; two long, straight lateral teeth. Right valve with two roughly parallel pseudocardinals, the posterior one apt to be serrated and chunky, the more anterior one low and vestigial; one lateral tooth. Beak cavities very shallow, with a few dorsal muscle scars. Anterior and posterior adductor muscle scars and pallial line all distinct. Nacre generally purplish, though sometimes salmon, bluish-white, or pinkish; posteriorly iridescent.

MEASUREMENTS. — L 85 mm, H 41 mm, W 29 mm (Black Creek, 2 mi. E of [town of] Kingsley Lake, Clay Co.); L 76 mm, H 39 mm, W 27 mm (Lake Beresford, Volusia Co.); L 56 mm, H 30 mm, W 17 mm (Magnesia Springs, 3.5 mi. W of Hawthorne, Alachua Co.).

HABITAT. — Found in lakes, ponds, small streams and large rivers in nearly every type of substrate. *Elliptio icterina* (Conrad) is sometimes found with *E. buckleyi* (Lea) and other Unionidae, but like *E. buckleyi* it is often found alone. One or the other of these species is generally more abundant than other unionids at a given station.

REMARKS. — *Elliptio icterina* (Conrad) is a highly variable species and a number of populations have been named, some several times over. While some populations are often more or less identifiable, there is usually a gradual transition between one river system and the next, such that while specimens from extremes of the range bear little resemblance to one another, there appears to be no point at which subspecies can be separated. There is often a great deal of ecophenotypical variation, even at what appears to be a single station, the extremes usually connected by intergrades.

In the Apalachicolan region *E. icterina* can be confused with *E. complanata* (Lightfoot) (Johnson, 1970: 314) and *E. arcata* (Conrad) (Johnson, 1970:331). The latter is a rare species outside the Alabama River system. It is distinctly and consistently arcuate with compressed valves, whereas *icterina* has a generally straight or curved ventral margin, is bluntly or acutely pointed posteriorly, and when occasionally produced postbasally, the valves are somewhat inflated. *Elliptio icterina* occurs with *E. complanata* in the Chattahoochee River system, and it can be distinguished from *E. complanata* by its less rhomboidal, more elongate, often pointed shape.

The most common form *E. icterina* takes in the Apalachicolan region is subrhomboidal to subelliptical, sometimes appearing quite pointed posteriorly if the biangulated posterior ridge ends near the medial line. The tendency to be pointed is more prevalent in specimens from the Apalachicolan region and western rivers of peninsular Florida than in those from the Southern Atlantic Slope. The similarity between the populations of this species from the Chattahoochee River and the upper Savannah River, first noted in the localities of some of the taxa Isaac Lea described, affords evidence of the commingling of the headwaters of these two systems. The shell form just described includes most of the taxa Simp-