

**Jingle shell,
Saddle oyster**

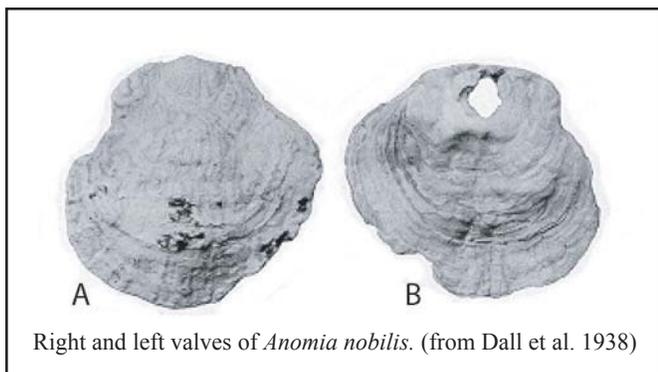
Phylum Mollusca
Class Bivalvia
Family Anomiidae



Photo by R. DeFelice

DESCRIPTION

Jingle shells superficially resemble true oysters, but their mode of attachment, a byssal plug passing through an opening in the right (lower) valve, and their delicate translucent shells distinguish them. Shells are orbicular, irregular and distorted, and thin. The upper shell (left valve) is somewhat convex and milk-white, beige or pale green. The shells have scalelike, concentric lamellae sculpturing with slanting radiating threads. Many individuals are commonly found piled one on top of the other in the fouling community (from Kay, 1979).



Right and left valves of *Anomia nobilis*. (from Dall et al. 1938)

HABITAT

A very common fouling organism, typically found on pier pilings and floating docks in harbors in characteristic stacks (one on top of the other). Also found intertidally on the under surface of flat stones.

DISTRIBUTION

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

In harbors throughout the main islands

NATIVE RANGE

Indo-Pacific

PRESENT DISTRIBUTION

Widespread Indo-Pacific and Hawaiian Islands

MECHANISM OF INTRODUCTION

Unintentional, most likely as fouling on ships' hulls

IMPACT

Fouling organism. Ecological impact unstudied, but observations suggest competition for space with other fouling invertebrates

ECOLOGY

Feeding

Bivalves are suspension feeders. Water is moved through an incurrent siphon into the mantle cavity by cilia on the ctenidia (gills). Water passes over the ctenidia, food particles are extracted by the cilia, and water is expelled through an exhalent siphon.

Reproduction

Bivalves are typically gonochoristic (having separate male and female individuals), fertilization is external, and the developing larva (veliger) settles to the bottom after a time in the plankton.

REMARKS

Although this brackish-water jingle shell was described from the Hawaiian Islands, it is thought to be an early ship-fouling introduction. Unlike the endemic oyster *Ostrea sandvicensis*, with which this species is often found, *Anomia nobilis* is found throughout the Indo-West Pacific (Kay, 1979). It is unlikely to have been missed in collections of some two or three decades earlier. It is thus another example of a species being first described from the site of introduction. It has been widely reported in Hawaiian waters by numerous authors.

REFERENCES

Kay, E.A. 1979. Hawaiian Marine Shells. Reef and Shore Fauna of Hawaii, Section 4: Mollusca. B.P. Bishop Mus. Spec. Pub. 64(4), 653 pp.