

A series of found poems reflecting on the existence and extinction of the Stirrupshell, a bivalve endemic to the waters of the Tombigbee River

Employees' Catalog for American Mussels

Found poem from Hartfield 1987 By Laura Legzdins

Based on political experience, mussels have increased importance,

Were it a pearl packed in their shell.

A federal bulletin reads:

Rivers have a unique service and species, Ancient organisms and natural cycles on which ecological stability is dependent.

Regard scientific review:

Freshwater mussels like Q. stapes are endangered, in special concern, declining, reduced, eliminated, threatened by construction, destruction, fragmentation, inundated, impounded, channelized, destroyed, exposed, in danger, dead, extinct, negatively affected by private entities which invade stable communities and are obstacles to a stable future -

Below, in small text,

ATTENTION EMPLOYEES

Requirements: Protect private interest

The history of the Theliderma stapes as told by the Lower Tombigbee River 1972. Work on the Tennessee-Tombiquee Waterway begins 1973. The US Endangered Species Act is passed 1976. The stirrupshell is listed as federally endangered. 1978. The last live stirrupshell was observed. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway 1984 is completed 1987. The last evidence of the stirrupshell... a single freshly dead specimen in the Lower Sipsey River in Alabama.

The stirrupshell is officially declared extinct (on the 50th anniversary of the Endangered

2021. Proposed for delisting due

and Wildlife Service

Species Act)

October 16, 2023

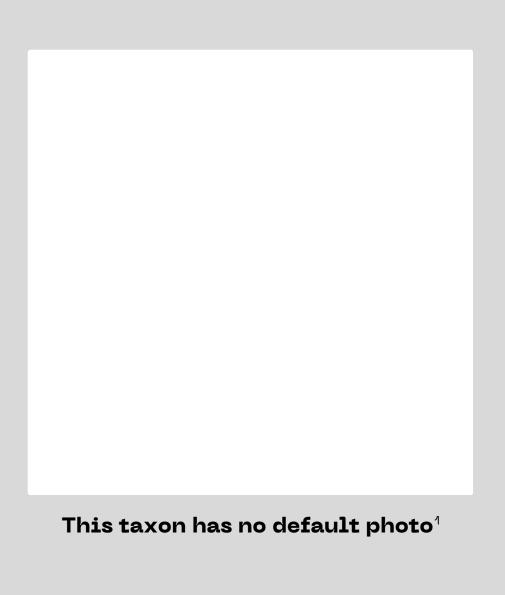
to extinction by the US Fish

1: Error percent

By Aisha Shaikh

Еггог.

Here we are not original.
100 percent
Finding the collection of species with names known across the maps, but striking and eliminating the most rich and diverse.
80 percent.
If one follows history, we reveal the poor way we have caused destruction. Stretches of flowing rivers drastically restricted. 75 percent.
Between the north and south, there is an abundance of reports but we are looking specific to Alabama and Mississippi, along the river of the Black Warrior.
Historically with rich aquatic fauna, from fishes and mussels and clams, only for those that remain to decrease in number.
50 percent.
Of the most distinctive mussels, it has many names like Quadrula stapes or stirrup naiad and swift zigzag markings. The shell of young ranging from yellow to green or older specimens with a variable color of brown. Taken from their habitats, we spoil it all by hand.
40 percent.
Activities like dredging caused adverse effects. We made an error.
35 percent.
One of the greatest threats to their survival. The possibility of recovery becomes more difficult.
15 percent.
Possible or not The conservation status is changed.



¹ The photo of the last extant specimen is property of the Smithsonian and requires written permission to reproduce