A NOTE ON MERCENARIA MERCENARIA
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

ROBERT G. FORSYTH and TAMMERA J. FORSYTH

2574 Graham Street, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada V8T 3Y7;
E-mail: robert_forsyth@telus.net

Two recent publications have mentioned our discovery of Mercenaria mercenaria (Linnaeus, 1758) in Boundary Bay, British Columbia (Turgeon et al. 1998: 194; Coan et al. 2000: 373). We here give additional unpublished information on this record and provide photographs of the specimen.

A single specimen of Mercenaria mercenaria (Figure 1) was found by us in Boundary Bay, British Columbia (circa 49°04′N, 122°57.5′W), on 24 May 1996, on the intertidal flats south of the south end of 96 Street, Delta District Municipality. It was live, mostly buried in muddy sand with a small portion (approximately 1 cm) of the posterior end of the shell exposed. The shell is 117.6 mm long, and is larger than any other west coast specimens seen by Coan et al. (2000). The inner margins of both valves are deep violet.

The size and establishment of a population of M. mercenaria in Boundary Bay is unknown. Over several years we did not encounter additional individuals or shells in the immediate site of discovery and in Boundary Bay – Mud Bay region in general. The specimen (Figure 1) is now deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of the Royal British Columbia Museum (Victoria), catalog number 000-00148-001.

LITERATURE CITED

COAN, E.V., P.V. SCOTT, & F.R. BERNARD


Figure 1. Mercenaria mercenaria, 2 views. Boundary Bay, British Columbia, Canada. RBCM 000-00148-001.