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Endangered or Threatened Fresh-Water Mussels
(Mollusca: Bivalvia: Unionidae) of the
Waccamaw River Basin of the Carolinas

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Elliptio waccamawensis (Lea) of Lake Waccamaw resembles specimens occasionally occurring in the Waccamaw River; unknown beyond the Waccamaw basin, this species is endangered by "development" girdling the lake. Typically exhibiting yellow periostracum with uniformly spaced growth rests, another *Elliptio* occurs in the Lake and upper River and possibly in Ortons Pond, Brunswick County, North Carolina. Probably a depauperate member of the *E. crassidens* (Lamarck) complex, a third *Elliptio* occurs in the middle River and perhaps in the Northeast Cape Fear River of North Carolina. The latter, undetermined species (or morphs) appear threatened. Remarkable because male shells so closely resemble those of *E. waccamawensis* of either sex, a conchologically unique, endangered population representing the "*Lampsilis*" *radiata* (Gmelin) complex dwells in the Lake. — *This research was supported, in part by the Pew Foundation and by National Science Foundation grant GB-40064.*

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