

# Fingernail/Pea Clam (Native)

*Pisidium*



The fingernail or pea clam performs critical ecosystem functions similar to freshwater mussels. It provides or improves habitat for other aquatic wildlife by creating physical structures and stabilizing sediments. As filter-feeders, the clams also cycle nutrients in the system by consuming and processing detritus, algae and bacteria, which they then excrete as nutrients and organic matter. Like the Western pearlshell mussel, their loss would be detrimental to the entire Tahoe Basin ecosystem.



**Preferred Habitat:** Silt, sand and clay beds at depths ranging from 6-600 ft (2-180 m)

**Characteristics:** *Very small* bivalve, light-colored.

**Size:** 1/25-1/5 in. (1-5 mm)

**Food:** Filter particles suspended in water including bacteria, algae, and detritus

# Freshwater Limpet (Native)

*Ferrisia fragilis*

Limpets are a type of snail characterized by a simpler shell and, like other snails, perform important roles in the Tahoe Basin. They are an important food source for a variety of wildlife such as ducks, turtles and fish. They also help to maintain good water quality by controlling algae levels, which then promotes nutrient cycling in the ecosystem.



**Preferred Habitat:** Cobble or aquatic vegetation in relatively shallow water

**Size:** 1/25-1/5 in. (5-15 mm)

**Food:** Periphyton (algae)