Functional traits of a native and an invasive clam of the genus *Ruditapes* occurring in sympatry in a coastal lagoon

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| Scientific Name | Ruditapes decussatus (Linnaeus, 1758) | Ruditapes philippinarum (Adams & Reeve, 1850) |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Common Name | Grooved Carpet Shell clam | Manila clam |
| Diagnostic Features | Shell broadly oval to quadrate, umbones distinctly anterior. | Shell equivalve, inequilateral, somewhat broadly oval in |
| | Posterior hinge line straight, posterior margin truncate, | outline. Lunule elongate heart-shaped, not particularly well |
| | anterior hinge line grading into the down-sloping anterior | defined and with light and dark brown fine radiating ridges. |
| | margin. Posteriorly, the shell is conspicuously decussate and | Sculpture of radiating ribs and concentric grooves, the latter |
| | prominent. Sculpture of fine concentric striate and bolder | becoming particularly sharp over the anterior and posterior |
| | radiating lines. Growth stages clear. Lunule and escutcheon | parts of the shell, making the surface pronounced decussate. |
| | poorly defined. Three cardinal teeth in each valve, the central | Growth stages clear. Three cardinal teeth in each valve, the |
| | one in left valve and the others (bifid) in right. Pallial line and | central one in left valve and the others (bifid) in right. Pallial |
| | adductor scars distinct. The pallial sinus presents U-shaped, | sinus not extending beyond the centre of the shell, leaving a |
| | not extending beyond mid-line of shell, but reaching a point | wedge-shaped space between its lower limb and the pallial |
| | below the posterior part of the ligament. Lower limb of sinus | line. Colour and pattern variable (white, yellow or light brown, |
| | distinct from pallial line for the whole of its length. Inner | sometimes with rays, steaks, blotches or zig-zags of a darker |
| | surfaces glossy white, often with yellow or orange tints, and | brown, slightly polished). Inside of shell polished white with an |
| | with a bluish tinge along dorsal edge. Its colour varies | orange tint, sometimes with purple over a wide area below the |
| | (cream, yellowish or light brown), often with darker markings. | umbones. Similar to <i>R. decussatus</i> but differs from it by the |
| | Long siphons completely separated and little marked radial | much more pronounced dessate sculpture and colour; and |
| | striate are the main characteristics differentiating this species | smaller siphons not completely separated. Maximum length |
| | from <i>R. philippinarum</i> . Length up to 75 mm ⁴ . | 80 mm ⁵ . |

| Habitat | Sand, muddy gravel or clay, usually in quiet waters. Lower | Sand, muddy gravel or stiff clay in intertidal and subtidal areas |
|------------------|---|---|
| | shore and shallow subtidal. This species can burrowed up to | of estuaries and coastal lagoons. It is a shallow burrower, |
| | 100-120 mm depth ^{4,6,7} . | commonly found between 40-80 mm depth ^{5,7,8} . |
| Geographical | From southern and western England to the Iberian Peninsula | R. philippinarum is native to Japan with a wide distribution in |
| Distribution | and into the Mediterranean. South to western Morocco and | the Indian and Pacific Oceans from Pakistan to the Russian |
| | Senegal, west Africa ⁹ . | Federation (Kuril Islands). It has been introduced along the |
| | | north American Pacific coast, the Hawaiian Isles and along the |
| | | European coastline from the United Kingdom to the |
| | | Mediterranean Basin⁵. |
| Feeding Strategy | Suspension-feeding. It filters water through its two siphons | Suspension-feeding. It filters water through its two siphons |
| | (one in and the other out) catching organic matter (detritus) | (one in and the other out) catching organic matter (detritus) |
| | and phytoplankton ^{4,6.} | and phytoplankton ^{5,10} . |
| Reproduction | Sexes are separate, although hermaphrodites can be found. | Strictly gonochoric. The period of reproduction varies |
| | Reproduction is external and takes places mainly during | according to the geographical area. A period of sexual rest is |
| | summer. In spring, clams can be artificially conditioned for | observed from late autumn to early winter. Gametogenesis |
| | hatching with higher temperature water and abundant food. | lasts 2-5 months, followed by the spawning. A second |
| | Larvae swim freely for 10-15 days before settling as spat of | spawning event may occur in the same season, 2-3 months |
| | about 0.5 mm on a sand and silty mud substrate ⁴ . | later. Temperature and feeding are the two main parameters |
| | | affecting gametogenesis, which can be initiated at 8-10 °C and |
| | | is accelerated by rising seawater temperature. Although the |
| | | optimal temperature to spawn efficiently is between 20 and 22 |
| | | °C, 12 °C is the minimum threshold below which it cannot |
| | | spawn. Larval development lasts 2 to 4 weeks before spatfall. |
| | | Settlement size is between 190-235 µm in shell length⁵. |