

PRESENT STATUS OF *ELLIPTIO*
COMPLANATUS IN DOUGLAS
LAKE, MICHIGAN

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Matteson (1948) in studying the species' life history in the mid 1940's, transported mussels from Ocqueoc River and Ocqueoc Lake to Douglas Lake and placed them in shallow water near shore to serve as a storage population and stock for experimentation. He states that some clams stored over the winter moved into deeper water with the return of warmer weather and became scattered and difficult to retrieve.

Evidently the small population of *E. complanatus* accidentally released is maintaining itself along the sandy, wave swept shoal areas of the eastern and southeastern shores of Douglas Lake.

Perca flavescens, the yellow perch, has been found to serve as a glochidial host (Lefevre and Curtis, 1912). Matteson (1948) found that only yellow perch, obtained in Douglas Lake, became infected with glochidia and served as a natural host.

It was somewhat surprising on the basis of distribution (Athearn and Clarke, 1962) to find two specimens of *E. complanatus* in Douglas Lake (Cheboygan County) in August, 1968 and two in August, 1969. Furthermore, Dr. W. Fennel found one specimen in early August, 1969. The nearest occurrence of *E. complanatus* is from Ocqueoc River and Lake, approximately 25 miles to the east.

In Michigan this species occurs throughout the Upper Peninsula. However, to date the only authentic Lower Peninsula records are from Alpena and Presque Isle counties, which comprise the extreme western limits of the Northern Atlantic pelecypod faunal region (Goodrich and van der Schalie, 1939); van der Schalie and van der Schalie, 1950).

Eggleton (1952) lists four species of unionids as occurring in Douglas Lake, *Anodonta grandis*, *Ligumia nasuta*, and *Lampsilis siliquoidea*. The fourth, *Anodontoides ferussacianus subcylindraceus* has not been collected for many years and is quite rare, if not extinct, at this time.

E. complanatus occurs in a variety of lentic and lotic habitats, except in very small brooks, and on a variety of marl, clay, sand, and gravel substrates, except on relatively soft mud bottoms.

Matteson (1948) noted that when this species occurs with the same three species as found in Douglas Lake, *E. complanatus* occurs in a zone of deeper water beyond the others. These observations may explain why only a few specimens have been found to date in Douglas Lake.

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