

**A Third Tresus Found In Pacific Northwest** by George P. Holm

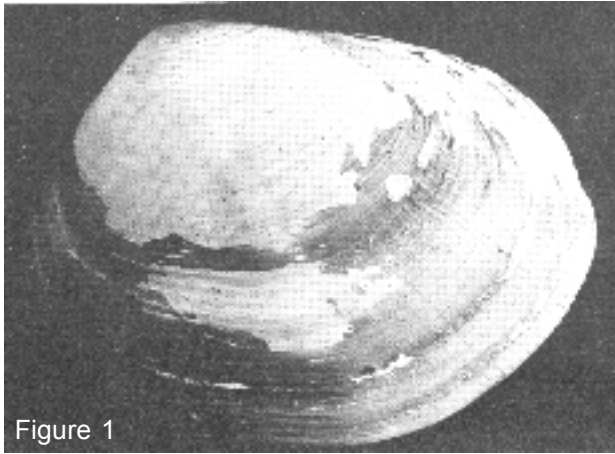


Figure 1

While volunteering at correcting the names in the study shell collection at Shannon Point Marine Center, Linda Schroeder and I were each passed a reprint from Dr. Paul Dinnel who is a Marine Scientist on faculty at the facility.

In 1974, Dr. Dinnel and John D. Martini wrote of a supposedly extinct bivalve species found living off California. The species was identified as *Tresus parajoana* (Conrad, 1857), a fossil species previously known only in Miocene to Pliocene deposits. The live specimens were found in crabpots in 1969 off Clam Beach, Humboldt County, California and news of the find was published in *The Veliger*, 17(1): 44-46, 1 pl., figs. 1 and 2. [illustrated here].

Closer examination of the shell shape and hinge by E. V. Coan and P. Valentich Scott, did not support the conclusion that it was *T. parajoana* and instead they

determined it to be a distinct species that they named *Tresus allomyax*. *Tresus allomyax* Coan and Valentich Scott, 2000 is on page 460 in *Bivalve Seashells of Western North America* (2000) by E. V. Coan, Paul Valentich Scott and Frank R. Bernard. *T. parajoana* remains a valid fossil taxon.

In a personal email, Dr. Dinnel wrote that he “knows the shells do wash ashore along the Washington coast and that this species seems to occur offshore of razor clam beaches (and possibly other areas)”. This was news to me since all previous information I had seen about the species showed it to be a Californian species occurring from Humboldt County south to Sonoma County. This adds a third species of *Tresus* to our local molluscan fauna, the other two being *Tresus capax* (A. A. Gould, 1850) and *Tresus nuttallii* (Conrad, 1837).

If any club member should find the species while razor clam digging or beach-walking on the coast, then please relay the information of the location to Linda Schroeder or myself.

**Literature:** A Supposedly Extinct Bivalve Species Found Living off California (Mollusca : Bivalvia : Mactridae). *The Veliger*, 17(1): 44-46, 1 pl. by Paul A. Dinnel & John D. Martini. - *Bivalve Seashells of Western North America* (2000), p. 460 by E. V. Coan, Paul Valentich Scott & Frank R. Bernard.

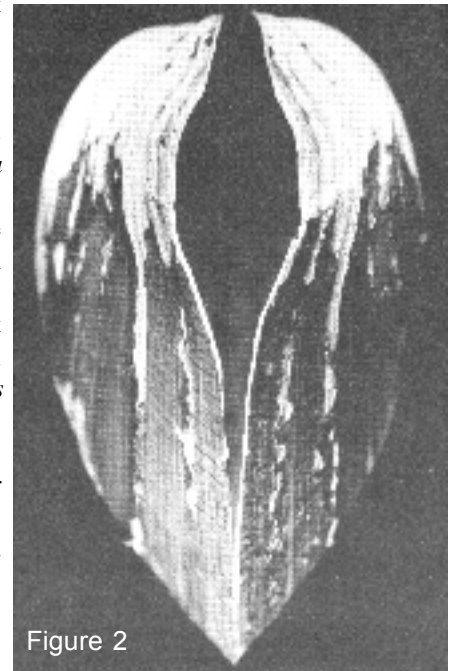


Figure 2

A specimen of *Tresus allomyax* that Dr. P. A. Dinnel found washed ashore at Ocean Shores on the open coast of Washington State. Specimen in George P. Holm collection.

