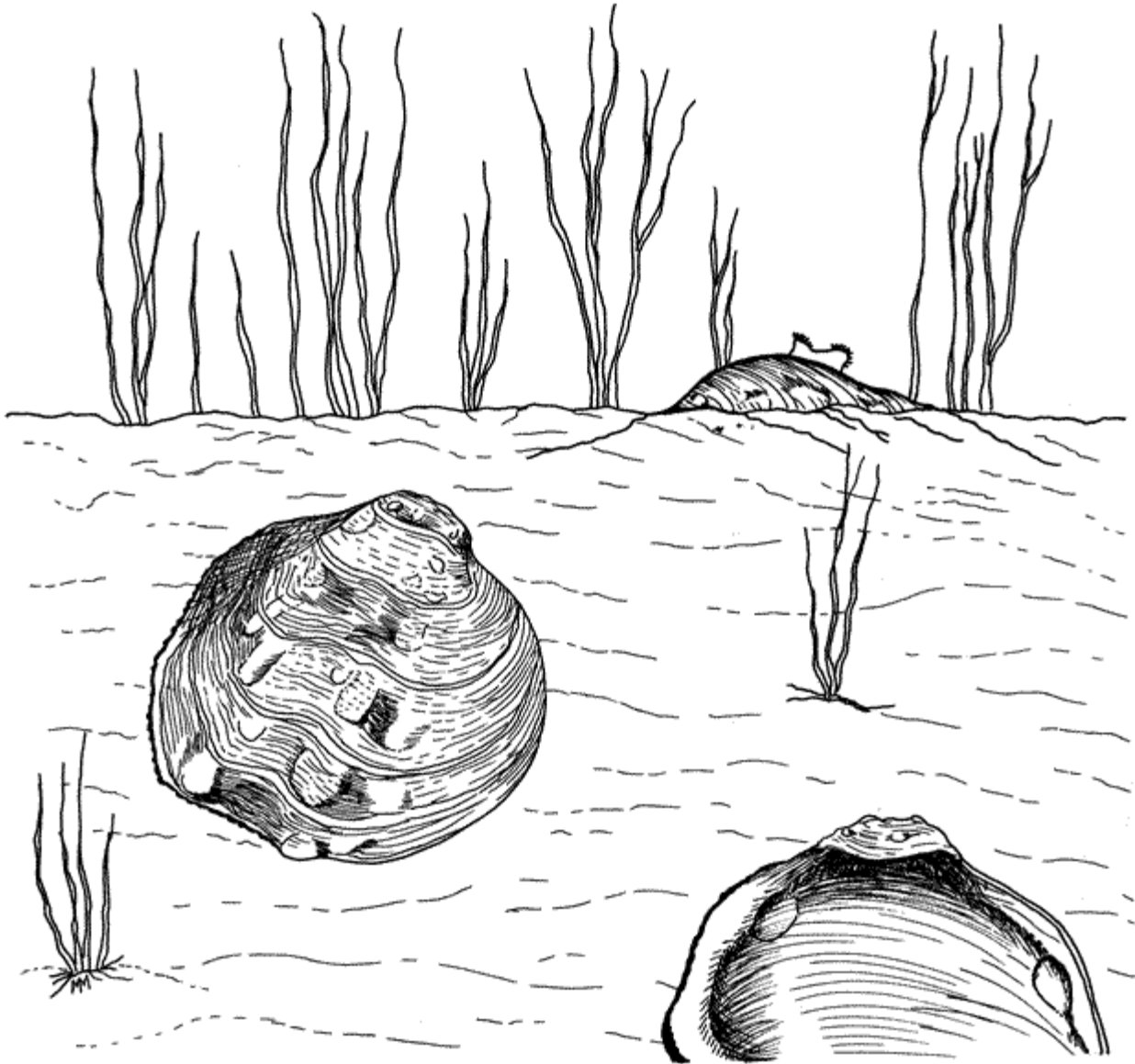


Winged Mapleleaf Mussel



This mussel is known from only a very short stretch of the St. Croix river which forms part of the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Healthy mussel populations can improve water quality because mussels filter water to get the food and oxygen they need to survive. Most mussels rely on fish or other river dwellers to help “babysit” their young. The baby mussels hitch a ride on the gills or fins of their host fish to move up or downstream.

