

THE ASIATIC CLAM, *CORBICULA MANILENSIS*,
AS A FOOD OF THE NORTHERN RACCOON, *PROCYON LOTOR*

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In the growing mass of literature concerning the Asiatic clam, *Corbicula manilensis* (Philippi), few references have been made to their use as a food item by other organisms. Lowery (1974) noted in his mammal survey of Louisiana that the northern raccoon, *Procyon lotor* (L.) utilizes many molluscs in its diet. Many small streams in West Virginia attest to this habit as sand bars in these streams are often littered with many broken, empty shells of bivalves surrounded by footprints and scats of *P. lotor*. The present note reports the use of *C. manilensis* as a component in the diet of *P. lotor* in West Virginia.

Shells of *C. manilensis* were found in great numbers along the southern bank of the Ohio River, adjacent to a marsh, 2 miles north of

Lesage, Cabell County, West Virginia, in September 1976. Many of the shells were broken and found in scattered heaps. Surrounding the shells were the footprints and scats of *P. lotor*. Analysis of the scats revealed the presence of shell fragments and one intact valve of a young *C. manilensis*, as well as assorted varieties of seeds.

Voucher specimens have been placed at the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH 111490).

LITERATURE CITED

- Lowery, G. H., Jr. 1974. The Mammals of Louisiana and Its Adjacent Waters. *Louisiana State Univ. Press* (Baton Rouge). xxiii:565 pp.