

LEPTODEA FRAGILIS

In comparison with *laevissima*, it is more elongate; the lateral teeth are relatively longer and less curved; the umbo is more anterior, the wing is less developed; the shell more inflated, shell color yellow in comparison to darker brown; nacre white with some pink & yellowish tint whereas in *laevissima* it is deep mauve or pink.

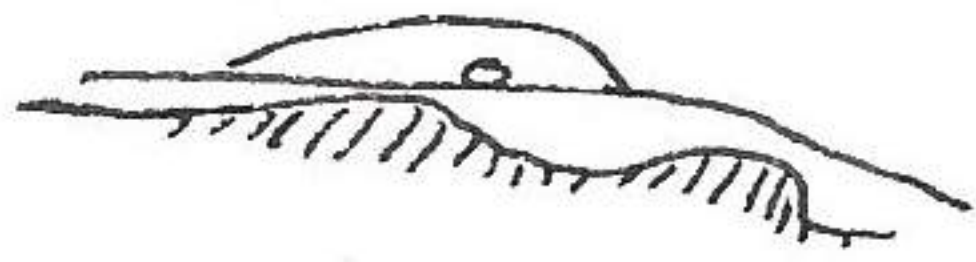
Dorsal muscle scars easily seen and entrenched. (For sexual dimorphism see *Leptodea laevissima*)

Comparisons with *fr. laevissima*:

Posterior wing high in *laevissima* & lower in *fragilis*

Umbo large

In left valve the 2 knobs or teeth are present, both



rounded. The one under the umbo can be the largest or merely a change in direction of the tooth line. Ordinarily the one under the umbo is the best character to differentiate *fragilis* from *laevissima*. Hypostracum more developed to support tooth.

In the right valve the tooth is usually short and rounded

The teeth are more at an angle from the hinge line than in *laevissima*

Anterior adductor muscle scar smaller

Distance between umbo & dorsal edge ant. add. m. long.

Perostracum - dark - yellowish, green brown, Posterior slope (dorsoposterior) dark brown in contrast to light of remaining shell (demarcates upper edge of posterior ridge. Green stripes sometimes on posterior part of shell.

Nacre - pink in scar (ant. & post add.) first in posterior then anterior, then between but rarely ventral edge of shell. General base color salmon or white.

Hinge line - long height - less in proportion to length depth - greater than in *laevissima* (good)

Ant. wing at edge of ant. add. scar (use as measurement in addition to standard)

Ant. part of shell from umbo short.

Posterior part of shell from notch short



Diagnostic.

1. yellow shell
2. distribution purple of nacre
3. anterior wing forward of or at anterior edge ant. add. m.
4. pseudo. below umbo (large to end of tooth line)

*laevissima*

umbo small

In the left valve the tooth is long, angular at distal end and usually split or showing a shelf on tooth or showing a sharp

In right valve the tooth is usually long, angular and sometimes split

There is variation in the length of these teeth but in the main are longer than in *fragilis*. The angle from the hinge line is usually parallel but sometimes at an angle

[There are examples where teeth arrangement is indistinguishable between the two species, but there are features

Ant. add. muscle scar larger & directed toward umbo

Distance between umbo & ant. add. m. short.

Perostracum - light brownish yellow. Less contrast between posterior slope & rest of dark shell.

naacre. all purple, pink or salmon

In small shells purple shows through perostracum & is characteristic.

Faded shells (extremely old) very light pinkish-salmon.

Hinge line short height & greater in prop. to length depth - less than in *fragilis*

Ant. wing in middle of posterior to ant. add. muscle scar

Ant. part of shell from umbo long

Posterior part of shell from notch long