



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

Pacific oyster (*Magallana gigas*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/1676>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

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Magallana gigas at Batten Bay, Plymouth Sound.
 Photographer: Guy Baker
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See online review for
 distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
 Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
 interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Joelene Hughes	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Thunberg, 1793)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	<i>Crassostrea angulata</i> (Lamarck, 1819), <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> (Thunberg, 1793)

Summary

Description

The shell can grow up 18 cm long. An off-white to yellow or bluish grey in colour, the shell often has deep purple patches. The left valve is deeply cupped with 6 or 7 bold ribs making the shell margin rough. The right valve is flat or slightly convex and has ribs corresponding to channels of left valve.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Introduced initially in Cornwall, Essex and Wales for mariculture. It has been farmed on around 300 sites throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 'Escapees' have established populations in various regions.

Global distribution

Present throughout Europe from Norway to Spain and Portugal on the Atlantic Coast. Present in the USA and south west Canada. It occurs naturally in Japan and south eastern Asia.

Habitat

Found on the lower shore and shallow sublittoral to a depth of around 80 m.

↓ Depth range

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🔍 Identifying features

- An elongate oval shell with a crenulate shell margin.
- The left valve is deeply cupped with a coarse concentric sculpture and has 6 or 7 prominent ribs.
- The flat or slightly convex right valve sits inside the left valve.
- The troughs of the right valve correspond to the ridges on the left valve.
- The shell often overgrows the beaks and umbones.
- The external colour may be off-white to brown with patches or streaks of purple.
- Internally the shell is white with the adductor scar typically purple (mauve).

🏛️ Additional information

Similar to *Crassostrea virginica* although this species lacks the crenulate shell margin and bold ribs of *Magallana gigas*. *Magallana gigas* was introduced from Portugal to Essex in 1926 as a commercial crop and has since established itself in the wild. It occurs naturally in Japan and south-east Asia. *Magallana gigas* is also known as the Portuguese or Japanese oyster.

✓ Listed by

🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



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Datasets

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