

A new species of deep-water bivalve, *Ascetoaxinus quatsinoensis*, from off the coast of Vancouver Island, B.C.
by George Holm

A single valve of a small bivalve with a scalloped edge evoked a lot of interest in the research world when a paper describing it was published this past November in the journal *Zootaxa*. The new species is in the family Thyasiridae and is named *Ascetoaxinus quatsinoensis* Oliver & Frey, 2014. It was found in very deep water, 1086-1318 meters, in 2004, by a Department of Fisheries and Oceans ship off northern Vancouver Island, and it was discovered five years later by member, Melissa Frey, while she was cataloguing a number of species in the collection of the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria.

Dr. Frey thought the shell with the unique scalloping was special, and after she compared it to everything that was previously described on the West Coast of North America, and didn't find a match, she asked for the opinion of Graham Oliver, a world expert on bivalves at the National Museum in Wales, who confirmed it was a new species.

Only one of the clams has ever been found, but it was unusual enough to merit a species description based on one individual.

The paper *Zootaxa* 3869 (4): 452-468 can be viewed online at >www.mapress.com/zootaxa/<

