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A Misunderstood Fresh-Water Mussel from the
Savannah River System in South Carolina
(Bivalvia: Unionidae)

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In Mill Creek of the Savannah River drainage in Aiken County, South Carolina, dwells an *Elliptio* whose marsupium occupies only about a medial one-half of the (outer) female demibranch, much as in another unionine genus, *Hemistena* (see Ortmann, 1915, *The Nautilus*, 28: 106-108). Fuller (1971, *The ASB Bulletin*, 18: 137-146) mistakenly referred this species to *E. icterina* (Conrad 1834), whose marsupium extends the length of its demibranch, as is typical of the genus. The new marsupial type necessitates a broadened concept of *Elliptio* and, perhaps, subgeneric recognition. A mussel whose chief character is anatomical cannot be unequivocally identified with conchologically similar type specimens of early taxa, because their soft parts are invariably destroyed. Interpreting such early taxa as *nomina dubia* and creating a new specific name for the Mill Creek *Elliptio* are just as unsatisfactory because there may exist presently unexploited criteria (e.g., chemical composition of shell) for evaluating old type material.

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