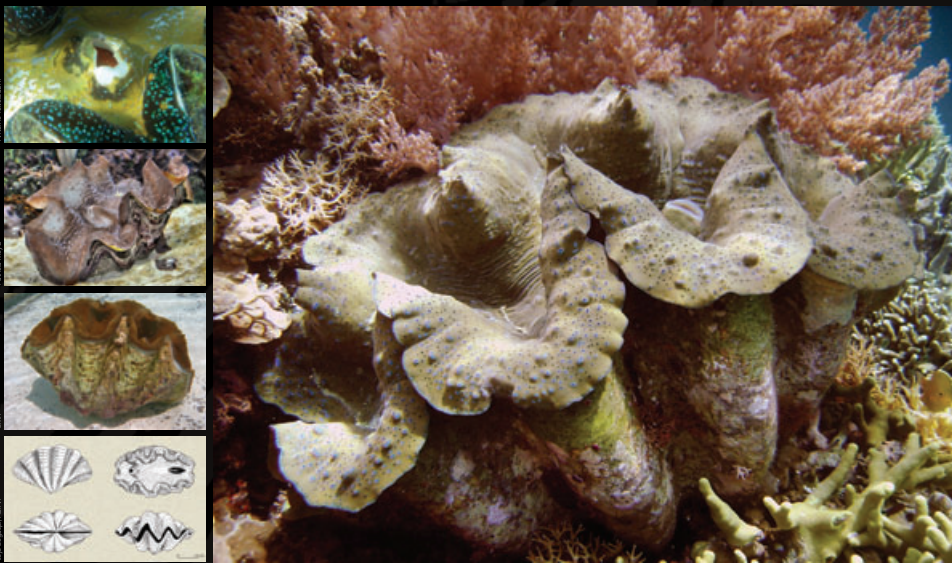


# GIANT CLAMS OF PALAU



## OKTANG

True giant clam  
*Tridacna gigas*

**ID features:** Typical max. size: 48 in. • Shell shape asymmetrical • Upper margins shape strongly curved • 4-5 large and well-spaced ribs • No scutes • No tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Vulnerable



## KISM

Smooth giant clam  
*Tridacna derasa*

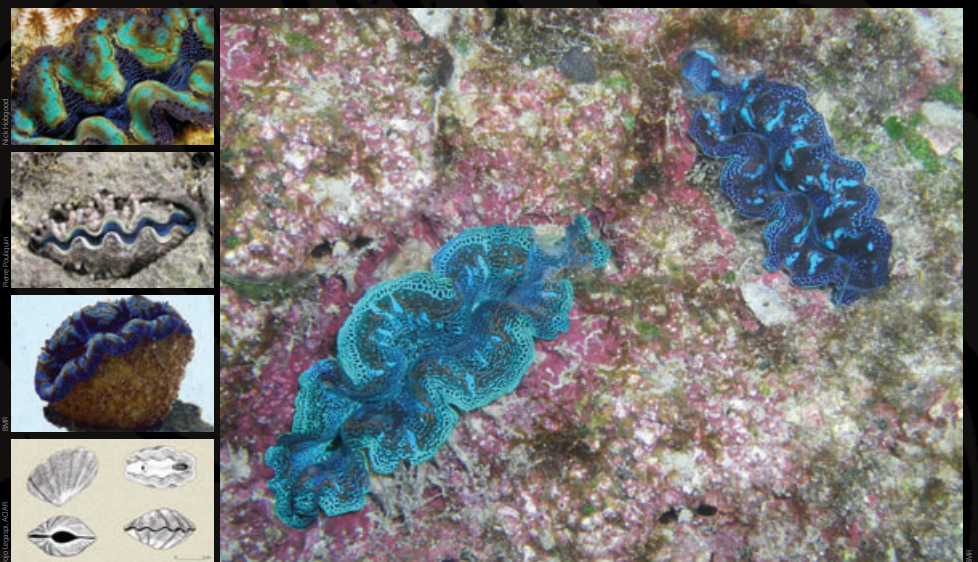
**ID features:** Typical max. size: 20 in. • Shell shape very symmetrical • Upper margin shape moderately curved • 5-7 moderate size ribs • No or barely visible scutes • Numerous, large and elaborate tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Vulnerable



## RIBKUNGAL

Fluted giant clam  
*Tridacna squamosa*

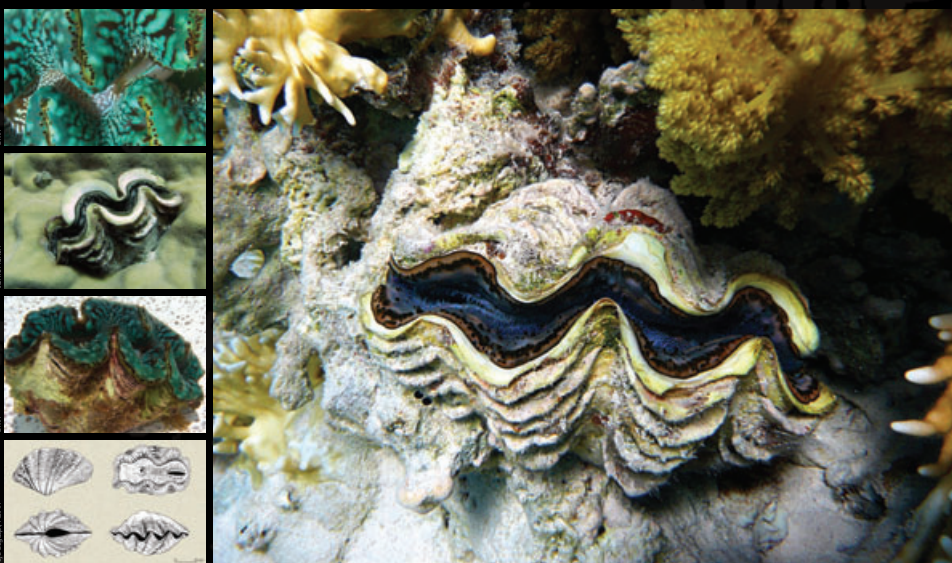
**ID features:** Typical max. size: 12 in. • Shell shape very symmetrical • Upper margin shape strongly curved • 4-5 well-spaced and distinct ribs • Large, well-spaced and heavy scutes • Numerous, large and elaborate tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Lower Risk / Conservation Dependent



## ORUER

Crocus giant clam  
*Tridacna crocea*

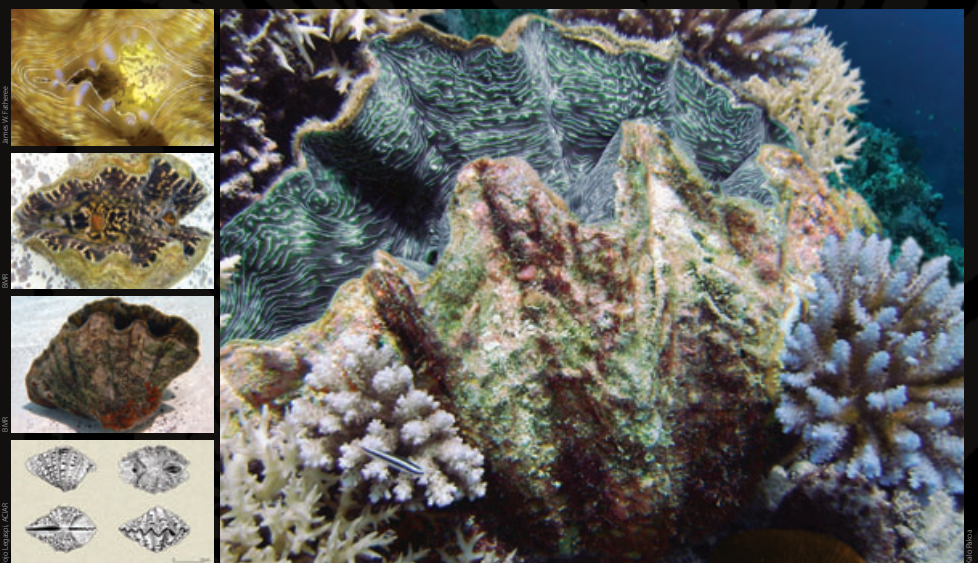
**ID features:** Typical max. size: 6 in. • Shell shape moderately symmetrical (slightly longer than tall) • Upper margin shape moderately curved • 4-5 large and well-spaced ribs • Numerous tightly-spaced scutes, but only close to shell margins in wild specimens (burrowing species) • Numerous, small and simple tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Lower Risk / Least Concern



## MELIBES

Elongate giant clam  
*Tridacna maxima*

**ID features:** Typical max. size: 12 in. • Shell shape asymmetrical (longer than tall) • Upper margin shape strongly curved • 5 distinct ribs • Numerous tightly-spaced scutes, but only close to shell margins in wild specimens (burrowing species) • Numerous, small and simple tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Lower Risk / Conservation Dependent

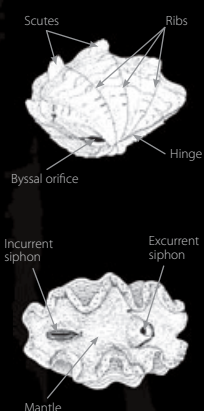


## DUADEB

Bear paw giant clam  
*Hippopus hippopus*

**ID features:** Typical max. size: 14 in. • Shell shape very symmetrical • Upper margin shape strongly curved • 7-8 distinct major ribs • No scutes • No tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Lower Risk / Conservation Dependent

### Giant clam features



### Giant clam habitats and feeding

Giant clams are distributed in areas of coral reef. They feed by filtering food (small drifting plants) from the seawater that passes through their incumbent and excurrent siphons. They can also obtain food from the very small plant cells (called zooxanthellae) that live within the flesh of the clam. Because the plant cells within the flesh require sunlight, giant clams can only live and grow in water that is clear and shallow.

### Giant clam reproduction and lifecycle

Giant clams begin life as males and mature at about two years of age, after which they act as both males and females. Spawning occurs during the warmer months. About 30 minutes after releasing sperm, an individual clam releases its own eggs, thereby avoiding its eggs being fertilised by its own sperm.

The number of eggs released by each individual varies between species. Hundreds of millions can be produced by large individuals. The fertilised eggs hatch into very small floating forms (larval stages) that drift in the sea for about ten days. Less than one in every thousand of the small floating forms survives to become a young clam (juvenile) that settles permanently on the seafloor. And less than one in every hundred juveniles survives to become a mature adult!

### IUCN red listing criteria for giant clams

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has evaluated the status, trends and threats to thousands of species in order to "inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation". The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. The status of giant clams presented in this poster correspond to:

- **Vulnerable:** Species facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.
- **Lower Risk / Conservation Dependent:** Species that are the focus of a continuing conservation programme, the cessation of which would result in the species qualifying for one of the threatened categories (vulnerable or endangered or worse) within a period of five years.
- **Lower Risk / Least Concern:** Species that do not qualify for any of the threatened categories.

### Palau giant clam regulations

It is against the law to export any of the seven species of clams (kim) present in Palau waters, or part thereof, regardless of where such species may have originated, except cultured ones (Ref. 27 PNCA 1204).



## DUADOU

China giant clam  
*Hippopus porcellanus*

**ID features:** Typical max. size: 14 in. • Shell shape moderately symmetrical (slightly longer than tall) • Upper margin shape strongly curved • 5-6 distinct major ribs • No scutes • Large and branching tentacles around incumbent siphon  
**IUCN status:** Lower Risk / Conservation Dependent