

The Mollusca of the estuarine region of the rivers Rhine, Meuse and  
Scheldt in relation to the hydrography of the area.  
IV. The genus *Sphaerium*

by

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### INTRODUCTION

This paper is the fourth of a series on the distribution and ecology of the Mollusca occurring in the Delta area in the south-western part of the Netherlands. An introduction to the aims of this study was given in the first paper, together with a description of the area investigated and its hydrography (Wolff, 1968). The sampling methods used in this investigation are described in that paper and also in one by Kuiper & Wolff (1970). During the period in which the samples for this investigation were collected, the hydrography of the Delta area did not differ from the situation described in the first paper (Wolff, op. cit.). The persons mentioned in the first paper assisted us once again in various ways, for which I should like to express my gratitude to them. I should also like to thank the Deltadienst of Rijkswaterstaat (Delta Service of the Department of Water Affairs) which provided us with important information on current velocities in the freshwater tidal area.

### SYSTEMATIC PART

*Sphaerium solidum* (Normand, 1844) (fig. 1)

Van Benthem Jutting, 1943: 190-192; Adam, 1960: 358-359.

Distribution: *Sphaerium solidum* ranges from Central Europe to the Ural Mountains (U.S.S.R.). In the Netherlands it was once fairly common in the rivers Rhine and Meuse, but rather rare in other parts of the country. Its distribution in the Delta area is shown in fig. 1.

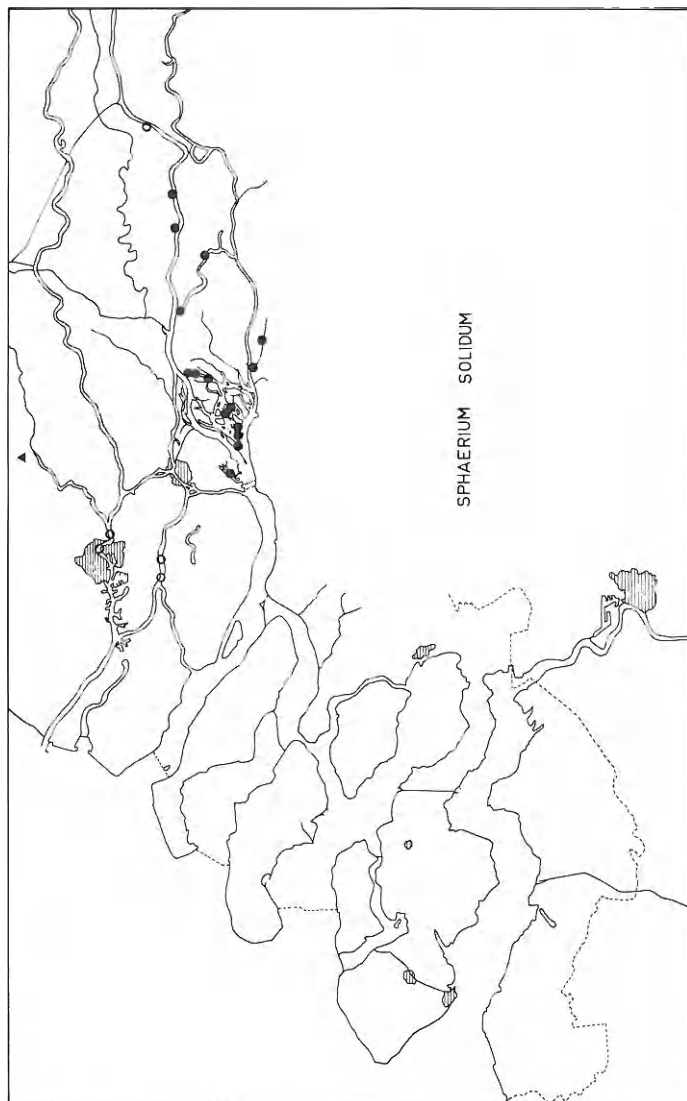


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Sphaerium solidum* in the Delta area. Triangles denote localities inside the dikes, i.e., non-tidal localities; dots and circles denote tidal localities outside the dikes. Closed symbols indicate localities where the species was found to live during this study, while open symbols indicate records of dead material.