EDITORIAL

I have edited Tentacle since issue 5 of May 1995. That’s 17 issues and almost 18 years. Issues 1 and 2 were prepared on a typewriter and copied somehow (I don’t know how). I am not sure how issue 3 was created, but issues 4-5 were published with assistance from the Shell oil company. This became quite complicated, and I was somewhat ambivalent about it anyway, given the environmental reputation of many oil companies. Because of the problems with Shell, which happened just at the time when it became possible to produce quite good looking documents using word processing software, every issue from issue 7 onwards, including this one, has been produced entirely using word processing software. As the software has become more sophisticated and my ability to use it to its full potential has increased, Tentacle has become a much more attractive, and bigger, newsletter. The structure has been re-organized from time to time to give prominence to the more important and interesting issues. And colour was introduced in issue 14 in 2006 because the constraints of photocopying in black and white and mailing hard copies were no longer limiting. Additional format changes have been made since then to make Tentacle more attractive visually. In addition, distribution of Tentacle has changed. Originally it was sent by snail mail to a small group of people, the members of the Mollusc Specialist Group. The mailing list rapidly increased, but by 2000 was still fewer than 200 people. Since at least 2002, the costs of mailing were supported by Unitas Malacologica, and that is why the UM logo has appeared on all issues of Tentacle since then and why all readers of Tentacle are encouraged to join UM. Of course, it was sent to all members of UM also by this time. Gradually, it has changed into an on line only publication, as a pdf, with all issues available on my lab website and announced via my personal list of Tentacle contacts, the UM list of members and the Mollusca listserver, thereby reaching probably around 1000 people directly.

I have done my best for Tentacle over almost two decades, but I think the time may have come for me to pass the baton. I have enjoyed editing Tentacle and electronically meeting so many wonderful people who are committed to mollusc conservation. I think Tentacle is a marvellous publication.

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TENTACLE – PUBLICATION GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

I am hoping that by this time next year someone else will be editing TENTACLE. However, if it is still me, then please take note of the following guidelines. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES REGARDING REFERENCES. DESPITE MY PLEAS, PEOPLE STILL DO NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THE CORRECT FORMAT, WHICH MEANS I SPEND MANY EVENINGS FORMATTING AUTHORS’ REFERENCE LISTS. PLEASE FOCUS ON COMMAS, INITIALS AFTER NAMES, ITALICIZATION, ETC. SO...HERE IS WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE:

TENTACLE is a web-based newsletter, accessed at www.hawaii.edu/cowiellab/Tentacle.htm, where all issues are available. Guidelines for submission of articles to TENTACLE, and other related IUCN links are also on this website.

If you plan to submit something to TENTACLE, please read these guidelines. Carefully following the guidelines will make my life a lot easier!

I usually make only editorial changes to submitted articles and I accept almost everything sent to me. However, before I accept an article I will assess whether it really includes anything explicitly relevant to mollusc conservation and whether any conclusions drawn are supported by the information presented. For example, new records of non-native species will not be accepted unless there is a clear and significant relevance to mollusc conservation. So, explain the conservation relevance in your article and be sure not to speculate too wildly. Unjustified statements (even if probably true) do a disservice to conservation as they permit our critics to undermine our overall arguments. TENTACLE, however, is not a peer-reviewed publication and statements made in TENTACLE remain the authors’ responsibilities.

I stress that TENTACLE is not a peer-reviewed publication. Because I accept most articles that are submitted, TENTACLE might be seen as an easy way to get your original data published without going through the rigours of peer review. TENTACLE is a newsletter and so it is primarily news items that I want, including summaries of your ongoing studies, rather than full, data-rich reports of your research. Those reports should be submitted to peer reviewed journals. I will increasingly decline to publish articles that I feel should be in the peer-reviewed literature, especially if they are long.

There is, therefore, a limit of three published pages, including all text, illustrations, references, etc., for all articles that I accept for publication in TENTACLE (though I reserve the right to make rare exceptions if I consider it appropriate).

Please make every effort to format your article, including fonts (Times New Roman), paragraphing styles, heading styles, and especially citations, in a way that makes it easy for me simply to paste your article into TENTACLE, which is created in Microsoft Word. Please pay special attention to the format (paragraphing, fonts, etc.) in past issues. Despite many reminders, it still takes me many many hours formatting your submissions – please do it for me! Especially, please pay very careful attention to the format of references in the reference lists - I still spend inordinate amounts of time deleting commas, inserting colons, changing journal titles to italics, putting initials after not before names, deleting parentheses around dates and so on. Here are examples of how it should be done:


Also note that all illustrations must fit in a single column, so make sure your maps and diagrams are readable and show what you intend when they are reduced to this size.

Printing and mailing of TENTACLE has been supported in the past by Unitas Malacologica, the international society for the study of molluscs, for which the Mollusc Specialist Group is most grateful. To become a member of UNITAS, go to its website and follow the links to the application.

Membership of the Mollusc Specialist Group is by invitation. However, everyone is welcome to submit articles to TENTACLE and to promote its distribution as widely as possible. Since I announce the publication of each new issue to all who are on my TENTACLE e-mail distribution list, please keep me updated with your current e-mail address so that you do not drop off the list. I also announce the availability of each issue on the MOLLUSCA listserver (for details, see p. 54 of this issue of TENTACLE) and the Unitas Malacologica members e-mail list.

As always, I reiterate that the content of TENTACLE depends on what you send me. So I encourage anyone with anything relevant to mollusc conservation to send me something now, and it will be included in the next issue (published once a year, usually in January).
NEWS

Rather than bury the following news item in the ‘IUCN, SSC and Mollusc Specialist Group news and announcements’ section, I thought it was sufficiently important to be given more prominence here. This is the official news release from IUCN.

New species from the Pacific added to IUCN Red List

Suva, Fiji, 17 October 2012 (IUCN) - New information for Pacific Island freshwater fishes, land snails and reptiles is part of the latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ released today by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These data indicate that 32% of these species are threatened with extinction.

This is an important milestone for understanding the challenges of managing plant and animal life in the Pacific Islands. IUCN Oceania, in partnership with the IUCN Red List Unit and other regional partners, is currently expanding the assessment of Pacific Island species for the IUCN Red List.

‘The Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia are home to an astonishingly diverse range of terrestrial species, many of which are found nowhere else on earth’, says Helen Pippard, Species Programme Officer for IUCN’s Oceania Regional Office in Suva Fiji. ‘But in order to conserve the species that are so vital for the health, culture and livelihoods of Pacific Islanders, we must improve our knowledge of these species’.

In the most comprehensive assessment of its kind in the Pacific, an expert team evaluated 167 freshwater fishes, 166 species of land snail and 157 reptiles for inclusion in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (IUCN Red List). This two-year project is the first step in a process that aims to systematically address different Pacific Island species groups over the next 10 years.

Although these species may not be seen as ‘charismatic’, they are extremely important in maintaining general ecosystem health: land snails play a vital role in nutrient-cycling, especially of calcium; reptiles can take on the role of predator or prey and often act as seed dispersers; and in the freshwater realm, fishes recycle nutrients, purify water and provide an important food source for many Pacific Islanders.

Land snails are found to be the most highly threatened group, with 70% of the assessed species threatened: half of all threatened species are listed as Critically Endangered, and many, including Aaadonta angaurana from Angaur island in Palau and Lauopa mbalawana from Vanua Balavu in Fiji, also qualify for Possibly Extinct, as no live or dead shells have been found in recent times. Land snails also have the highest number of species found nowhere else, with 86% of species recorded from a single country. In Fiji, three quarters of all assessed species are endemic, and in Palau, over 90% of species are unique to the archipelago. These restricted range species are especially vulnerable to the presence of invasive species such as the giant African snail, Rosy wolf snail and predatory mammals like rats and mongooses, which are decimating these snail populations. Habitat destruction for logging, agriculture and development has also been identified as a major threat.

The threatened freshwater fishes are confined to single or few river systems and are severely impacted by the existence of dams (e.g. Futuna’s emperor, Akihito futuna (CR) from the island of Futuna) and by pollution from deforestation, agriculture and mining effluents - for example, Stiophodon discotorquatus (CR) from the Tubuai Islands in French Polynesia is affected by land clearance, pesticides and the construction of dams, and Sicyopterus eudentatus (EN) from the Federated States of Micronesia is threatened by agricultural run-off devastating its habitat. Whilst many fish species are not listed as threatened (due to their larger range and ability to occupy a variety of freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats), a large number (40%) are listed as Data Deficient. We urgently need information on these species in order to evaluate their conservation status, protect them and ensure that people’s livelihoods are safeguarded.

Almost one fifth of reptiles have been assessed as threatened, and are impacted by invasive mammals and plants, and by habitat degradation (e.g. the Pohnpei forest skink, Emoia ponapea (EN), and the Fijian banded iguana, Brachylophus bulabula (EN)). Some species are affected by hunting and trade (e.g. the widespread Pacific boa, Candoia bibroni (LC) and the endemic Fijian crested iguana, Brachylophus vitiensis (CR)). Future impacts from climate change may affect the thermo-regulation of some reptiles such as the Polynesian slender treeskink, Emoia tongana (LC), Tachygrycia microlepis, previously recorded from Tonga, has been driven to extinction as a result of habitat loss, human colonization and invasive predators such as dogs, pigs and rats. Conservation efforts are therefore needed to protect the identified threatened species and prevent further extinctions.

This study highlights the enormous strain on our natural environments. The results are particularly important for guiding decision-making and conservation activities of Pacific Island governments, NGOs and the private sector and enabling direct action on the ground.

‘Until now we have not had the information we need about species and the threats they face’, says Bernard O’Callaghan, IUCN Oceania’s Regional Programme Coordinator. ‘But these IUCN Red List assessments can now help decision-makers develop suitable policies and plans, to manage these threatened species and protect and value Pacific Island biodiversity.’

The findings of this assessment are being published in a regional report, and summary documents are now available from the IUCN Oceania website.

The Red Listing Project to carry out assessments on land snails, freshwater fishes and reptiles in the Pacific region is supported by funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the Fonds Pacifique.

For more information please contact Salote Sauturaga, IUCN Oceania Regional Office Communications Officer, +679 7437512, salote.sauturaga@iucn.org; or Helen Pippard, Species Programme Officer, IUCN Oceania Regional Office,
LAND MOLLUSCS AND PROBLEMS FOR THEIR CONSERVATION IN THE MONTE BARRANCA MANAGED FLORISTIC REFUGE, EASTERN CUBA

By David Maceira Filgueira, Jorge Reyes Brea, Armando Tizón Pérez, Senén González Fajardo, Beatriz Lauranzón Meléndez & María del Carmen Fagilde Espinosa

Monte Barranca Managed Floristic Refuge is located in Palma Soriano municipality, Santiago de Cuba province. It constitutes the only primary forest in the Palma Soriano savanna with an area of 311 ha and hills between 149 to 203 m above sea level, surrounded by sugar cane plantations (Salmeron López et al., 2011). The land snail fauna of this protected area has not previously been studied, except for a few collections. This study contributes to the knowledge of the terrestrial molluscs of Monte Barranca Managed Floristic Refuge and the threats they face.

On 14 February 2012 we recorded all tree snail species and individuals from 8 to 10 am and ground dwelling snails from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the semideciduous mesophyll forest. All collections are deposited in the Malacological Collection of the Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO - BSC-M).

Eleven species of land snails were recorded, of which eight are endemic to Cuba, one is widely distributed on many Caribbean islands and two are introduced. Nine are pulmonates and two are operculate snails (formerly ‘Prosobranchia’). Eight live in trees and three on the ground. The molluscs recorded are widespread in eastern Cuba, with the exception of Parachondria dilatatus torensis, for which this is only the second known locality.

The threatened endemic Polymita venusta was the most abundant land snail and was observed on 12 plant species (see list below). In the forest Oxandra lanceolata was the plant most used by adults and juveniles, although juveniles were seen on three other plants. In forest clearings and along the roads juveniles were mostly on the grass Panicum maximum. Green shells are the most frequent in both adult and juvenile Polymita venusta, followed by red and banded shells (Fig. 1).

Adult Polymita venusta are found highest above the ground on Cupania americana, followed by Bursera simaruba and Coccoloba sp., while juveniles occur highest on Xanthoxylum martiniensis (Fig. 2).

In contrast, all individuals of the endemic Liguus fasciatus achatinus, the biggest tree snail in the area, were observed on two tall trees of Lysiloma latisilicum (L.) Denth. (Soplillo) at the side of the road, with trunk circumferences of 7.2 m and 1.2 m. The average height from the ground was 5.4 m.

In general, mollusc abundance was low, with the exception of Polymita venusta and Caracolus sagemon.

Threats to the land molluscs inhabiting the semideciduous mesophyll forest at the Monte Barrancas Managed Floristic Refuge include intense human activity that has resulted in destruction and fragmentation of the original plant formation and the introduction of one species of terrestrial mollusc not characteristic of this ecosystem (Subulina octona). In addition to this habitat loss and deforestation, other threats include illegal extraction of wood for craft, firewood and building houses, introduction of alien animals (Rattus rattus), droughts and natural and human caused fires. The Liguus fasciatus achatinus population is at risk of extinction from tree felling or fire. There are difficulties obtaining the necessary resources to develop an adequate technical infrastructure to support an ecological station for the development and maintenance of research. Communities of people resident in the reserve ignore the value of the natural resources in their surroundings and a program of environmental education is still insufficient.

The research and monitoring program includes

- Carrying out a Liguus fasciatus achatinus captive breeding program and subsequent re-introduction in other sites of the semideciduous mesophyll forest to prevent its extinction and to re-establish its ecological role in the ecosystem as the biggest species of mollusc.
- Monitoring population density of the endemic and threatened Polymita venusta, which requires specific conditions of humidity and litter for laying its eggs in the ground, making it an indicator of ecosystem condition.
• Reforesting forest clearings with the original plant species belonging to the semideciduous mesophyll forest.

• Replacing Panicum maximum in the clearings with Oxandra lanceolata, Eugenia pinetorum and Xanthoxylum martiniensis, plants that are important for adult Polymita venusta.

• Establishing a program of environmental education for the local human communities.

• Establishing a program to control Rattus rattus in the area.

Land mollusc species list

The number of snails of each species that were found per hour living in the semideciduous mesophyll forest is given in parentheses.

Class GASTROPODA

Subclass ‘PROSOBRANCHIA’

Family HELICINIDAE

Emoda pulcherrima (Lea, 1834). Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (1).

Family ANNULLARIDAE

Parachondria (Parachondria) dilatatus toroensis (Torre & Bartsch, 1938). Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (3).

Subclass PULMONATA

Family VERONICELLIDAE

Veronicella cubensis (Pfeiffer, 1840). Widely distributed in many Caribbean islands (2).

Family ORTHALICIDAE

Liguus fasciatus achatinus Clench, 1934. Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (5,5).

Family UROCOPTIDAE

Macroceramus caninarescis (Pfeiffer, 1839). Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (2).

Family SUBULINIDAE

Subulina octona (Bruguierè, 1792). Ground dwelling snail introduced to Cuba (3).

Family OLEACINIDAE

Oleacina solidula (Pfeiffer, 1840). Ground dwelling snail endemic to Cuba (1).

Family CAMENIDAE

Caracolus sagemon (Beck, 1837). Tree snail endemic to Cuba, sometimes seen on the ground (23).

Family XANTHONICHIDAE

Polymita venusta (Gmelin, 1791). Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (167).

Coryda alauda (Férrusac, 1821). Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (1).

Hemitrochus lucipeta (Poey, 1854). Tree snail endemic to eastern Cuba (3).

List of plant species used by Polymita venusta, with common names used in Cuba

Family ANNONACEAE

Oxandra lanceolata (Sw.) Baill. (Yaya)

Family ASTERACEAE

Panicum maximum Jacq. (Hierba de Guinea)

Family BURSERACEAE

Barsera simaruba (L.) Sargent. (Almácigo)

Family LAURACEAE

Ocotea coriacea (Sw.) Britt. (Sigua)

Family MYRTACEAE

Eugenia pinetorum Urb. (Guairaje)

Family MALVACEAE

Giasuma ulmifolia (Lam.). (Guásima)

Family PICRAMNIACEAE

Picramnia pentandra Sw. (Aguedita)

Family POLYGONACEAE

Coccoloba sp. (Uvero)

Family RUTACEAE

Xanthoxylum martiniensis (Lam.) (Ayúa)

Family SAPINDACEAE

Cupania americana L. (Guáriano)

Family SIMARUBACEAE

Simaruba glauca DC. (Palo Blanco)

Family ZAPOTACEAE

Crisophyllum olidiforme L. (Caimitillo)

We thank Empresa de Flora y Fauna, Refugio Florístico Manejo ‘Monte Barranca’ and Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO) for support of the fieldwork, and the driver, Ramón Cueto.


David Maceira Figuere, Jorge Reyes Brea, Beatriz Lauranzón Meléndez & Maria del Carmen Fagilde Espinosa, Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO), Enramadas #601 esquina Barnada, Santiago de Cuba 90100, Cuba, davidmaceira@yahoo.es, jorge@bioeco.ciges.inf.cu, beatriz@bioeco.ciges.inf.cu, fagilde@bioeco.ciges.inf.cu

Armando Tizón Pérez & Senén González Fajardo, Empresa para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Avenida de los Libertadores esquina Avenida Paseo Martí, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.

CERION COUTINI (PULMONATA, CERIONIDAE) AT TAKO BAY KEY, BARACOA, GUANTÁNAMO, CUBA

By Alexis Suárez Torres & Norvis Hernández Hernández

The eastern Cuba region includes Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Guantánamo and Santiago de Cuba provinces. Among the Cerionidae of Cuba, 40% of the species are found in the region, with each one found in a particular area. They occur in all provinces except Santiago de Cuba (south coast) (Espinosa & Ortea, 2009).

There is little knowledge of the ecology of Cerionidae in Cuba. Some limited information has been provided by Espinosa & Ortea (2009), Maceira Figuere (2000), and Rodríguez, et al. (2006), with more detail on Cuban species by Suárez Torres et al. (2012a, b), Suárez Torres & Fernández Velázquez (2012) and on other species by Woodruff (1978) and Baldini et al. (2007).

During 1-19 April 2010, the Bariguá, Barigüita, Yara, Nibujón, Bahía de Taco, Nava and Yamanigüey localities of Baracoa, Guantánamo were surveyed with the goal of locating Cerion populations.

Tako Bay Key, in Tako Bay (20°31’N, 74°40’W), which is within the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, is the type locality and supports the only known population of Cerion coutini Sánchez Roig, 1951. The dominant vegetation is coconut plantations (Fig. 1).
In an area of 4000 m² all individuals were counted and the substrate on which the snails were found was recorded: coconut plants, earth, fallen coconut leaves, coconut shells and fallen coconut trunks. The height of the snails above the ground was measured with a 5 m stick marked every meter and categorized in 1 m classes. Density was calculated by the direct technique suggested by Berovides et al. (2005).

This place had been lashed directly by two hurricanes and a violent penetration of the sea during the previous two years, which resulted in several changes to the shore ecosystem. In particular the Sea Grape (Coccoloba uvifera) was badly damaged at the time of the survey, with the plants reaching no more than 1.5 m in height.

In total, 126 individuals were counted, for a density of 0.03 ind/m². Of these, 62 were on living coconut trunks (Fig. 2), 23 were on coconut shells on the ground, 21 were on fallen leaves, 19 were on fallen trunks and only one was found on the ground. This relationship between C. coutini and coconut in this locality is notable, as the plant was introduced about 500 years ago, at the beginning of 16th century. Cerion coutini was associated neither with Coccoloba uvifera nor with the secondary vegetation that grows in this location. It could be that this resource is used because of the shortage of natural resource resulting from the effects of the recent storms in the area but notes made previously to these events refute this idea.

Cerion species exhibit marked variation in substrate preferences. Cerion alberti Clench & Aguayo, 1949 at Península de Antíllas prefers a rocky substratum (Suárez Torres et al., 2012a). Cerion politum maisianum Pilsbry, 1902 at Paso de los Azules, Punta de Maisí, prefers dead vegetal substrates (Suárez Torres & Fernández Velázquez, 2012). Cerion peracutum Clench & Aguayo, 1951 at Loma de Bellomonte, Guanabo, was associated with dry grass and bushes (70%), live plants (29%) and the ground (1%), and at Boca de Jaruco this species prefers a sandy-stony substrate (Suárez Torres et al. 2012b). Cerion monaensis was associated with limestone at Mona Island (Thompson, 1987), and Cerion nanus Maynard, 1889 preferred crab bush (Evolvulus arbascula) on Little Cayman (Hounsome & Askew, 1980).

The 62 individuals on coconut plants were found at heights above ground as follows: 0-1 m, 35% (22 snails); 1-2 m, 39% (24); 2-3 m, 11% (7); 3-4 m, 11% (7); and above 4 m, 3% (2). The other snails found on other substrates were at least 1 m above ground, and only one was found on the ground.

Cerion politum maisianum was found at low heights < 0.50 m above ground (Suárez Torres & Fernández Velázquez, 2012).

The reason for 99% of the C. coutini being found above the ground could be to avoid predators. The crab Gecarcinus lateralis, a common inhabitant of our shores is know to prey on Cerion (Quensen & Woodruff, 1997).

Human activities in the area include the use of coconut plants for many purposes. Their fruits are valued as food, the leaves for building huts and the trunks for construction of corrals. The level of use of the coconut plants means that there is concern regarding the health of this Cerion population, such that constant environmental education is a basic necessity for the protection of this species.

We thank the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park for facilitating this work, Guillermo Ponce de León for company during this work, Alejandro Fernández, José Espinosa, José Antonio Ruiz, Gladys Gil, Iriel Hernández and Nayla García for their help and Teresita de Jesús Ruiz for help with translation.


Alexis Suárez Torres, Sociedad Cubana de Zoología, Cuba. alexys4202@yahoo.com

Norvis Hernández Hernández, Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt. Baracoa, Guantánamo, Cuba. norvis.bcoa@yahoo.es

FIVE LAND SNAIL SPECIES PREDICTED TO DECLINE WITH CLIMATE WARMING IN PENNSYLVANIA, USA

By Timothy A. Pearce & Megan E. Paustian

For taxa that have an altitudinal range determined by temperature, climate warming is expected to shift altitudinal ranges upward, as has been shown for plants (Gottfried et al., 2012). Where higher elevations occupy less surface area than lower elevations, an upward shift in altitudinal range will mean a geographical reduction in range. Climate warming could have a particularly large effect on high-altitude endemic taxa (Dirnböck et al., 2011).

Land in Pennsylvania, USA, spans only a moderate elevational range, from sea level to 978 m. Of the US states traversed by the Appalachian Mountains, Pennsylvania has the lowest high point. However, elevations are not equally represented, with only 2% of the surface area being above 700 m. Consequently, snail populations currently in cooler habitats at higher elevations would be expected to suffer population declines with climate warming.

In a study of potential effects of climate warming in Pennsylvania (Pearce & Paustian, in review), we sampled 108 localities (12 localities for each of nine elevations from 100 to 900 m) and we supplemented those samples with data from museum specimens having precise enough location data to assign reliable elevations. Fieldwork yielded 1137 species occurrences of 69 species and examination of museum specimens yielded 7036 species occurrences of those 69 species.

We found that overall numbers of species and abundances of land gastropods decreased at higher elevations. Regressing numbers of occurrences in 100 m elevation increments showed that five species, Helicodiscus shimeki, Mesomphix perlaevis, Neohelix dentifera, Striatura ferrea and Striatura milium, occurred significantly more at higher elevations. Four additional species, Mesomphix inornatus, Pallifera dorsalis, Philomyces flexuolaris and Philomyces togatus, had non-significant trends to occur more at higher elevations, and all but the first of those are native slugs. While none of these species is currently scarce in Pennsylvania, we predict they will probably suffer marked population declines as the climate warms. Assisted migration (Örstan, 2009) might help these populations.

We did not examine other aspects of climate change, e.g. precipitation changes and indirect effects such as habitat shifts and new species moving into an area (predators, parasites, diseases or competitors). These other aspects of climate change can be expected to affect snails. For example, the Aldabran banded snail (Rhachistia aldabrae) gained the distinction of being the first documented species extinction due to climate change (Gerlach, 2007), evidently because reduced rainfall increased mortality of juveniles.

We thank Rocky Gleason (Western Pennsylvania Conservancy) and James Whitacre (GIS Manager at Carnegie Museum Powdermill Nature Reserve) for site selection and GIS assistance. Funding was in part from the Pennsylvania Wild Resources Conservation Program.


Örstan, A. 2009. Will assisted colonization be a viable option to save terrestrial gastropods threatened by climate change? Tentacle 17: 14-16.

FIRST RECORD OF *COCHLODINELLA MANZANILLENSI S* (UROCOPTIDAE) IN HOLGUIN, CUBA

By Alejandro Fernández Velazquez & Steffen Franke

The land mollusc fauna of Cuba includes 476 species of operculate snails (formerly Prosuberbranchiata) in 52 genera and 6 families, and 922 pulmonate species in 103 genera and 27 families (Maceira *et al.*, 2011). Among these groups, the Urocoptidae are the most diverse (Espinosa & Ortea, 2009).

The genus *Cochlodinella* includes 39 species in four subgenera: *Orientocoptis*, *Ventricoptis*, *Cochlodinella* and *Blainia*. Twenty species of subgenus *Cochlodinella* have been recognized; they are widely distributed but most abundant in central Cuba, with only one species, *Cochlodinella (Cochlodinella) manzanillensis*, exclusively confined to Granma province (Torre & Bartsch, 2008).

In November 2003, *Cochlodinella manzanillensis* (Fig. 1) was discovered in Holguín province for the first time. Its known distribution had thus been extended more than 130 km north-east of the type locality, Manzanillo, Granma province (Fig. 2).

Previously, *C. manzanillensis* was known from a few localities between Cabo Cruz and Manzanillo in Granma province: Ojo de Agua, Ceiba Hueca, Central Niquero, Las Coloradas, Mota and La Vigía, Ensenada de Mora (Torre, 1930; Espinosa & Ortea, 1999; Torre & Bartsch, 2008).

This species has been found in two tourist areas, at the Hotel Villa Islazul Mirador de Mayabe and the Motel Villa Azúcar, which are separated from each other by a road, and where the original vegetation was semideciduous forest; both sites are at the top of a hilly region (215 m asl), less than 200 m apart, and about 8 km south-east of Holguín (Fig. 2).

These populations could be considered as a relict nucleus of this species, which in the past was more widespread, and many populations have probably been extirpated by human activities, mainly during expansion of agriculture. Today, no

Fig. 1. *Cochlodinella manzanillensis* from the Hotel-Villa Mirador de Mayabe. (Scale in mm).

other populations of *C. manzanillensis* are known in the Cauto river basin between Granma and Holguín.

The microhabitats where *C. manzanillensis* is found are exclusively composed of limestone outcrops in shady vegetated areas around the buildings of the two tourist villas. The area occupied is small: at the Hotel Villa Islazul El Mirador de Mayabe there are two patches of about 50 m² behind and near the restaurant; in the Villa Azúcar, the population is in an even smaller area in front of the manager’s offices.

Living specimens were found under and on top of calcareous rocks and in crevices, usually covered by dead leaves or fallen twigs, in the upper leaf litter among large fissured rocks, specifically restricted to limestone outcrops.

There is probably no gene flow among these populations because *C. manzanillensis* have low vagility and only occur on isolated limestone outcrops. Grassland, roadways, paths, bare ground and so on, where there is no connection via limestone outcrops or calcareous rocky areas, are barriers to dispersal.

Since 1980, after building the two tourist villas, these populations have not been directly affected by human activities, because the snails are naturally protected on the limestone outcrops, which are covered by large trees, bushes and lianas, making these places a safe microhabitat for *C. manzanillensis*. Of course, some demes were probably extirpated during the constructive of the tourist villas, but in reality the magnitude of impacts on these calcareous rock dwellers is unknown.

Also, people have limited access to these sites, and the staff of these tourist villas pay careful attention and do not disturb them. Many times, at least once per year (2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011) the sites have been visited, confirming the continued existence of these populations.
Other species of land snails have been listed at El Mirador de Mayabe Hill, for a total of 18 species belonging to 11 families: *Alcadia minima* (d’Orbigny, 1842), *Troschelviana holguinensis* (Aguayo, 1934), *Annularisca holguinensis* Torre & Bartsch, 1941(Potamiidae); *Liguus fasciatus* (Müller, 1774) (Orthalicidae); *Brachypodella angulifera* (Gundlach in Pfeiffer, 1858), *Torreoptis holguinensis* (Aguayo, 1934) (Fig. 3), *Cochlodinella manzanillensis* (Torre, 1930) (Urocopidae); *Subulina octona* (Bruguère, 1792), *Obeliscus bacillus* (Pfeiffer, 1861) (Subulinidae); *Oleacina solidula* (Pfeiffer, 1840) (Oleacinidae); *Caracolus sagemon* (Beck, 1837), *Zachrysis auricomia* (Féussac, 1822), *Zachrysis gundlahiana* Pilsbry, 1928 (Camaenidae); *Euclastaria euclasta* (Shuttleworth, 1852) (Sagitidae); *Hemitrochus lucipeta* (Poey, 1854), *Coryda alauda* (Féussac, 1821) (Cepoldiae); *Praticolella griseola* (Pfeiffer, 1841) (Polygyridae) and *Polymita muscarum* (Lea, 1834) (Xanthonychidae).

Most of these species are Cuban endemics, with the exception of two alien species: *P. griseola* and *S. octona*. Three species are threatened, categorized as Vulnerable according to the IUCN criteria (Bidart et al., 1995): *P. muscarum*, *L. fasciatus* and *T. holguinensis*.

At El Mirador de Mayabe Hill more species could probably be recorded if the same amount of field work were to be carried out as in El Yayal, which is located toward the western part of El Mirador de Mayabe, about 2 km away, where 31 species have been recorded (Bidart et al., 1996; Fernández et al., 1999; Franke & Fernández, 2005). The entire hilly zone must be considered as a faunal refuge near Holguín, and we think further that it should be set aside as a protected area.

The specimens of *C. manzanillensis* from Mirador de Mayabe conform very closely regarding conchological features to the original description of this taxon (Torre, 1930; Torre & Bartsch, 2008), with only one exception: the marmorated appearance of the shell in all the specimens from Holguín is lost. In the light of this, a taxonomic study might distinguish a new subspecies, which would be important from a conservation perspective.


Alejandro Fernández Velázquez, Centro de Investigaciones y Servios Ambientales y Tecnológicos de Holguín (CISAT), Calle 18 S/N entre 1ra y Maceo, Reparto El Llano, Holguín, CP 80100, Cuba. ale@cisat.cv

Steffen Franke, Geistenstraße 24, 40478 Düsseldorf, Germany. ste.franke@arcor.de

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALIEN ACHATINA FULICA AND NATIVE MEGALOBULIMUS PARANAGUENSIS ON THE COAST OF PARANÁ STATE, BRASIL**

By Carlos João Birekolz & Marcos de Vasconcellos Gernet

The first intentional species translocations from one region of the planet to another were intended, primarily, to meet agricultural and forestry needs, among other kinds of use. Biological contamination is worrisome because it is a threat to natural populations, being the second biggest cause of extinctions throughout the planet. The use of these species has jeopardized the integrity of ecosystems, compromising their ecological function and causing the extinction of native species (Keane & Crawley, 2002).

The invasive alien snail *Achatina fulica* Bowdich, 1822 in Brasil (Fig. 1) is native to East Africa, its original distribution having a southern limit in Natal (South Africa) and a northern limit in Somalia (Raut & Barker, 2002). Currently, due to its success as an invader, its distribution extends to almost all continents (Africa, the Americas, east and south Asia) and to islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including temperate regions (Raut & Barker, 2002). It can act as an intermediate host of the nematode *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, which causes disease in humans and other mammals. It can also cause environmental damage, including ecological pressure on native populations of molluscs that share the same environment (Fischer & Colley, 2005), and economic losses in
The first records of *A. fulica* in Brasil are from 1988 (Teles et al., 1997). On the coast of Paraná state, the first records of the species in the municipalities of Antonina and Morretes were in 1994, and in 2002 it had already spread to all coastal municipalities of the state (Kosloski & Fischer, 2002).

The native Brazilian species *Megalobulimus paranaguensis* (Pilsbry & Ihering, 1900) (Fig. 1) has as type locality the municipality of Paranaguá on the coast of Paraná state. Its range extends to the south as far as the municipality of Garuva, in the state of Santa Catarina, and to the north as far as Peruíbe, in the state of São Paulo (Morretes, 1954). Recently it was also recorded further north, in the municipality of São Vicente, São Paulo (Pecora et al., 2011). This species is common on the coastal plain areas, where it was once widely used in the everyday lives of traditional people for food, medicinal purposes, crafts, decorations and tools, and even as a symbol of power (Birckolz & Gernet, 2012).

Previously most easily found on the coast of Paraná state, this species is currently suffering from anthropogenic pressure resulting from the housing boom and vegetation removal. The use of the shells of these animals in craft activities also causes their rapid disappearance. Currently, one of the major threats to this species is the presence of the alien snail *Achatina fulica*, which is an intermediate host of *Angiostrongylus* and is often eliminated by local people. However, the people confuse them with native snails, causing indiscriminate extermination of the native species as well (Fischer & Colley, 2004, 2005). Thus it became important to conduct educational activities in the municipalities of Guaratuba, Matinhos, Morretes, Paranaguá and Pontal do Paraná, all on the coast of the state of Paraná (25º06’-25º58’S, 48º06’-48º53’W), explaining the main morphological differences between the two species, and discussing observations on their behaviour, feeding and reproductive habits. The problems caused by *A. fulica* to health and agriculture and the ways to control it, were also explained, seeking ways to decrease their populations. As well as the cultural and environmental importance of *M. paranaguensis*, the decrease of their populations caused by the expansion of urban areas and the possible trophic competition with alien species were discussed in the workshops (Birckolz, 2011; Paz et al., 2012).

These activities began in November 2009. In schools, two terrariums were used, placed one beside the other, with living specimens of each species (Fig. 2). In the activities with local residents shells and eggs of the two species were used. Most of the people who knew the native species were elderly, young people knew mostly *A. fulica* (Birckolz, 2011; Paz et al., 2012).

Similar efforts to educate people about *Megalobulimidae* have also been conducted in other states of Brasil, including Goiás, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo (Coelho, 2005; Pecora & Silva, 2011; Silva et al., 2008, 2009). They also could potentially contribute to the conservation of other families of terrestrial gastropods, such as Stropheocheilidae and Bulimulidae.


Fig. 1. Left: *Achatina fulica* shell. Right: *Megalobulimus paranaguensis* shell.

Fig. 2. An educational activity in progress at a school in the municipality of Pontal do Paraná.


Carlos João Birckolz & Marcos de Vasconcellos Gernet, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Setor Litoral, Matinhos, Paraná, Brazil. carlosbirc@gmail.com, lmy.gernet@gmail.com

INSIGHTS INTO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF AMPULLARIIDS FROM THE LOWER RÍO DE LA PLATA BASIN, ARGENTINA

By Pablo R. Martín, Silvana Burela & María José Tischer

Apple snails (Ampullariidae) are renowned globally as successful invaders, as voracious pests of aquatic crops and as promoters of ecosystem changes in natural wetlands. However, a recent review highlighted that only 14 species of apple snails have been translocated beyond their native areas and less than half of them have caused ecological or economical impacts (Horgan et al., 2012). Most of their reputation is attributable to a few New World species of the genus Pomacea (in particular P. canaliculata) and to the ramshorn apple snail, Marisaria cornuarietis. This prompted the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group to include Pomacea canaliculata in the list of 100 of the World’s Worst Invasive Alien Species (Lowe et al., 2000), although at least one other species of the genus, Pomacea maculata (see Hayes et al., 2012), could probably be included in the list.

The apple snails that have received most attention from the scientific community and the public during the last few decades are mainly the invasive ones such as M. cornuarietis, P. canaliculata and P. maculata. The Florida apple snail, Pomacea paludosa, a non-invasive species with a limited Caribbean distribution, is a remarkable exception although in this case most of the interest comes from it being the staple food of the specialized apple snail predator, the snail kite Rostrhamus sociabilis, an endangered raptor in Florida. Other Pomacea species such as P. patula and P. urceus have also raised some conservation concern because they are overexploited for human consumption in Central and South America (Ramarine, 2003; Espinosa-Chávez, et al., 2005). The aforementioned apple snail species are just the emerging tip of the apple snail diversity ‘iceberg’ the underwater part of which is the large number of species still living beyond the reach of scientific inquiry in tropical and subtropical areas around the world. Many of them inhabit inland waters of the Neotropics (Central and South America), where four genera are recognised (Pomella has recently been synonymised with Pomacea; Hayes et al., 2012) and dozens of species have been described (Cowie & Thiengo, 2003), although only a few of them have received more than a name, a brief description of the shell and an imprecise type locality.

The Lower Río de la Plata basin hosts representatives of all the genera of Neotropical apple snails, including some endemic genera and species (Rumi et al., 2004; Gutiérrez Gregoric et al., 2006), but it is also the source of the three Pomacea species introduced into Asia, North America, Pacific islands and, recently, Europe (Hayes et al., 2008; López et al., 2010). The fame of their invasive relatives probably leads to the conservation of these non-invasive apple snails being of least concern but in fact little is known about their natural history, distribution, demography and conservation status. The large number of genera and species in the area almost certainly reflects a high diversity of life history strategies and degrees of habitat specialization. Probably many of these species are not as flexible and adaptable as the invasive representatives.

The apple snails inhabiting the Río de la Plata basin, the main hydrographic drainage in southern South America, face the impacts of habitat modifications resulting from the construction and operation of several very large dams as well as the impacts of invasive species (Scarabino, 2004; Gutiérrez Gregoric et al., 2006). Beyond changing the nature of the habitat from lotic to lentic over large distances, these dams have disrupted the naturally variable hydrological regime of these rivers and hence affected the cycle of high and low waters in their flood plains. Deforestation, reforestation and land use intensification may provoke changes in detrital inputs, water quality and aquatic communities. Furthermore, the Paraná river has become a major ‘hydroway’ and is one of the main routes for transporting cargo among the various countries of the region (Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay and Uruguay). The Uruguay river, which supports the highest diversity of apple snail genera in the world, serves as the border between Argentina, Uruguay and Brasil and has been the focus of recent environmental concerns related to the installation of paper mill industries.

Only five out of twelve species of apple snails inhabiting Argentinean waterbodies have been included in the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2012), and none of them was considered as endangered. Pomacea canaliculata was
categorized as of Least Concern because of its wide distribution and positive population trend. *Pomacea megastoma*, *Felipponea neritiformis* and *Asolene pulchella* were also considered as of Least Concern because of their wide distributions, although their population trends were unknown. *Felipponea iheringi* was categorized as Data Deficient because of the lack of reliable information on its distribution. The status of the only species of *Marisa, M. planogyna*, which is restricted to the middle Paraná river (Castellanos et al., 1976), has not been evaluated.

Some of these species were considered as widely distributed and hence of Least Concern because of their presence in three countries (Argentina, Brasil and Uruguay), although in fact they inhabit only a single drainage basin or part of it (i.e. the Uruguay or Paraná river basin). However, Rumi et al. (2006) considered that *Asolene plateae, Felipponea elongata* and *F. iheringi* were endangered on the basis of their ‘continuous restricted distribution’. Some species, such as *P. megastoma* and *Felipponea neritiformis*, apparently restricted to places with bedrock and running water, seem to be especially prone to reductions in habitat extent by the impoundment of sections of the rivers. Moreover, *P. megastoma* seems to be mostly restricted to the left bank of the Uruguay river and Río de la Plata because of this habitat requirement (Hylton Scott, 1943; Clavijo et al., 2008). The fouling of apple snail shells and hard substrates by the invasive golden mussel, *Limnoperna fortunei*, has raised some concern especially regarding these apple snails associated with rocky bottoms (Scarabino, 2004; Clavijo et al., 2008).

During the last decade there have been important advances in knowledge of the distribution of Argentinean apple snails (Rumi et al., 2006). However, there were almost no studies concerning the natural history of apple snails other than *Pomacea* spp. (but see Martín, 2002). Even information about the basic aspects of the anatomy and biology of very conspicuous species such as *P. megastoma* has emerged only in the last few years. For instance, the left nuchal lobe of *P. megastoma*, used for aerial respiration in apple snails, was described as rudimentary and almost absent (Hylton Scott, 1943) but our observations showed that it can be used as a snorkel to reach the surface in the same way as in *Pomacea*. Only recently the egg masses of this species have been reported (Hayes et al., 2009) and they are more calcareous, as in *Pomacea*, and not gelatinous and subaquatic like those of the genus *Asolene* in which it was placed until recently (Hylton Scott, 1943; Castellanos et al., 1976).

Presently there are two ongoing projects funded by the Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS, PGI24/B185) and the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET, PIP11220090100473) on the biology and ecology of Argentinean apple snails. Our aims in the short term are to study the natural history of at least one of the non-invasive species of each genus of apple snails with the goal of achieving a better comprehension of the evolution of their behavioral and physiological adaptations. The apple snails are collected with the required legal permissions, and then taken to the laboratory to establish populations that are maintained under controlled water temperature, light and food. All possible aspects of the life history of the snails are studied, including life span, egg-laying behaviour, fecundity, thermal limits and other habitat requirements. Our experience indicates that *P. canaliculata, P. maculata* and *Asolene pulchella* (Fig. 1) readily grow and reproduce under laboratory conditions, but some species of *Pomacea* (P. megastoma and P. americanista; Fig. 2) and *Felipponea* (Fig. 3) at first proved to be difficult to maintain in laboratory cultures even under carefully controlled conditions. Most species do not thrive in tap water, unlike *P. canaliculata*. *Asolene pulchella* preys readily on its own egg masses and hence requires special care; in individual aquaria females frequently deposits an egg mass and eat it in the course of a single night, even with lettuce provided ad libitum. Some species are slow growing and long lived, apparently maturing in their second year of life at 25 ºC, which makes demographic studies difficult.

It is common sense that we cannot conserve what we do not know. We hope that the information that we are gathering in our projects will help to categorize the different species of apple snails from the Lower Río de la Plata Basin and hence to preserve as much as possible of the Neotropical ampullariid diversity.
MARK-RECAPTURE METHODOLOGY: A SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE TECHNIQUE FOR THE STUDY OF BIVALVES AND GASTROPODS IN BRASIL

By Vanessa Fontoura-da-Silva, Jéssica Beck Carneiro, Igor Christo Miyahira, Sonia Barbosa dos Santos & Carlos Henrique Soares Caetano

The mark-recapture technique typically involves repeated sampling of a target population, allowing recognition of uniquely marked individuals previously sampled and can be used to analyze the specific capture history and movements of each individual animal (Seber, 1992). It was first used in ecology in 1896 to analyze fish movements (Ricker, 1975).

The method is as follows. The first time that you capture an individual, you have to mark the animal with a tag (or something else). The second time that you sample this same population, some individuals (the marked ones) can be identified as recaptured. Mark-recapture models are widely used in ecology, providing information on individual mobile organisms (Krebs, 1999), and the method has proven to be a great tool for quantifying various demographic parameters such as survival rate, recruitment and migration (Schwars & Seber, 1999; Senar et al., 2004; Amstrup et al., 2005; Kurth et al., 2007; Wilson et al., 2011) as well as information on absolute abundance (Krebs, 1999). It is considered one of the most reliable methods for these analyses (Villella et al., 2004), but to be accurate some restrictive assumptions must be made. The study should be well-designed so that it takes into account the importance of various factors that affect these parameters, including characteristics of individuals (e.g. sex), changes over time (e.g. seasonal effects) and impacts of management (e.g. predator control) (Lettink & Armstrong, 2003).

It is also important that the animals have the same probability of being caught and tags are not lost or become illegible. Recaptures must be recorded accurately, tagging and handling must not affect the survival or recapture of animals and tagged animals must be representative of the target population (Villella et al., 2004).

Most studies of population biology using the direct method of marking and recapture have focused on vertebrates and have relatively rarely been performed on invertebrates (Strayer & Smith, 2003; Henry & Jarne, 2007). Henry & Jarne (2007) reviewed studies on gastropods and concluded that mark-recapture had been used 10 times more in terrestrial vertebrates than in gastropods. In freshwater mussels this
situation is not so different (Villella et al., 2004). Most studies of gastropods have been short-term and marked each individual with paint (Giokas & Mylonas, 2003; Bolton & Konvicka, 2007; Takada, 2008; Michel-Morfin et al., 2009). However, long-term research requires a more resistant label (Henry & Jarne, 2007). Usually, such long-term studies of gastropods employ colored plastic marks, which have also been used for queen honeybees (Henry & Jarne, 2007), fluorescent markers (Chatzinikolaou & Richardson, 2008), numbered Floy laminated disk tags (Catchpole et al., 2001), a code written on the shell and covered with cyanoacrylate adhesive (Riascos & Guzman, 2010), drilled holes on the shell (Chatzinikolaou & Richardson, 2008; Kleewein, 1999), photographs of the mantle surface to identify each individual by color patterns (Luüttmann et al., 2006; Kawai, 2008), elastomers injected beneath transparent tissue (Wallin & Latty, 2008) or plastic circles affixed to the shell (Chlyeh et al., 2003; Bloch & Willig, 2008; Peel & Aranda, 2012). There are some long-term studies of bivalves and the most common marking method, though expensive, is the use of passive integrated transponder (PTT) tags (Villella et al., 2004; Kurth et al., 2007; Wilson et al., 2011), although other methods have also been used, including numbered tags (Hart et al., 2001; Haag & Commens-Carson, 2008; Haag, 2009) and colour-coded ink dots placed on each valve (Peterson et al., 1994). In Brasil few mark-recapture studies have been undertaken and all were short-term. For gastropods, individuals have been marked with drilled holes on the shell (Coelho et al., 1986) and bee tags attached to the shell (Miglioli, 2000). Only one mark-recapture study of bivalves appears to have been done in Brasil, on the mussel Diplodon sp. (Oliveira et al., 2009).

We initiated a research project in 2009 with the objective of evaluating some biological aspects of the marine snail Tegula viridula (Gmelin, 1791) from Fleixeiras beach, Itacuracá island, Sepetiba Bay, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (22°56’ S, 43°53’ W). At first, only the indirect method (modal progression analysis based on monthly length-frequency data) was used to analyse population biology. Subsequently, we decided to mark the individuals in order to obtain direct data for comparison with the indirect data.

The first method used to mark the snails was numbering the shell with aeromodelling paint. However, this method did not work as expected and no marked individuals were recaptured. According to Henry & Jarne (2007), the painting method is not suitable for long-term studies but is very useful in short-term studies.

We then tried to mark the shells with vinyl numbering made with a labelling device (Fig. 1A). Before marking, shells were dried and gently brushed using towels. These numbers were attached with a 5-minute epoxy glue to the outer surface of the last whorl, opposite to the aperture (Fig. 1B).

In total, 765 individuals were tagged and 407 were recaptured, some of them more than once. The individual that was caught over the longest period was marked in July 2010 and recaptured six times, the last time in December 2011. The highest number of recaptures of an individual snail was eight times, although in a shorter period. The population size did not change from one year to another. The results indicate that the method did not affect the snails’ life history or population dynamics.

Fig. 1. A - labeler used to create vinyl tags. B - individuals of the marine snail Tegula viridula collected at Fleixeiras beach and marked with the tags.

With the success achieved in marking and recapturing this marine gastropod, we decided to test the methodology on freshwater Unionoida mussels. We initiated a study with a population of Diplodon sp. in a small lake in the municipality of Piraí, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (22°39’ S, 43°50’ W). The study started in October 2012 and is planned to continue until June 2014. The only difference from the methodology used for T. viridula is that the tag is attached on the posterior region of the left valve (Fig. 2). In the first three months of the study we marked 979 individuals and recaptured 202, some of them more than once. This Diplodon population is an exception in terms of its large size; other population in the state of Rio de Janeiro are smaller (Miyahira et al., 2012). This large population is good news for the conservation of the genus and could be used as a model for the study of mussel population biology.

Fig. 2. A tagged individual of the freshwater mussel Diplodon sp. collected in Piraí, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.

The study of population dynamics of freshwater bivalves can be an important tool for monitoring endangered species. Unionoid mussels are some of the most imperiled animals in the world (Ricciardi & Rasmussen, 1999), with 26 species listed in the Brasilian Red Book of Endangered Fauna (Machado et al., 2008). Several mussel populations have not been found again because of modification of the habitat and the introduction of alien species (Miyahira et al., 2012; Mansur et al., 2012). Attempts to address the cause of these
declines are often limited by insufficient knowledge of the biology and ecology of mussel populations (Villella et al., 2004). For example, it is necessary to have information about life expectancy, population dynamics, mortality, etc., which for most of our species is lacking.

Using this mark recapture methodology we achieved success and were able to monitor the population of Telgula viridula for two years (May 2010 to May 2012) and begin monitoring a population of Diplodon sp.

Long-term studies of marked animals can be important for answering many fundamental questions related to population dynamics and for conservation of these species.

The choice of tagging method will depend on shell thickness, habit characteristics and ease of implementation in the field (Kurth et al., 2007). In some studies, funding is limited. Here we have described a cheap, easy and reliable method for marking snails and mussels from marine and freshwater environments for long term studies as an alternative to other expensive or non-persistent methods.


Vanessa Fontoura-da-Silva1, Jéssica Beck Carneiro1, Igor Christo Miyahira1, Sonia Barbosa dos Santos2 & Carlos Henrique Soares Caetano1

1 Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Departamento de Zoologia, Laboratório de Zoologia de Invertebrados Marinhos, Av. Pasteur, 458, IBIO sala 309, CEP 20290-240 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil.

2 Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Departamento de Zoologia, Laboratório de Malacologia Límnica e Terrestre, Rua São Francisco Xavier, 524, PHLC sala 525/2, CEP 20550-900 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil.

3 vanessa.fontoura@globo.com

**PUPINIDIUS ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF THE HIMALAYAS, NEPAL**

By Qin Xu, Prem B. Budha & Min Wu

The enid genus Pupinidius Moellendom, 1901 has a wide distribution across the Himalayas (southwest Himalayas: Kuznetsov & Schileyko, 1997, 1999; northeast Himalayas: reviewed by Wu & Zheng, 2009). The three Pupinidius species of the region constitute a geographically discrete group distinct from the rest of the genus. Their distribution pattern prompts the question of how they are differentiated both morphologically and genetically, and this motivated our field work in Annapurna National Park, Mustang district, Mid-Himalayas of western Nepal. We trekked from Beni, 880 m elevation and warm and humid, partly along the classical ABC trekking route, via Tatopani, Ghasa, Tukuche, Jomsom and Kagbeni, mostly cold and dry, to our final destination, Muktinath, 3800 m elevation and chilly and wet (Fig. 1). The landscape from Beni to Tatopani is characterized by slates and dense vegetation, with much rain in late August, and in this area we found land snails in the families Ariophantidae (all arboreal), Corillidae (in grass and shrubs, rock crevices) and Cyclophoridae (in grass and shrubs). In the area to the north, from Tatopani to Kalapani, only one ariophantid species was found.

Near Tukuche, the environment changed completely, becoming much more arid and dominated by reddish yellow sandy stone/slate. What most excited us here was finding typical specimens of *Pupinidius siniayevi* Kuznetsov and Schileyko, 1999 and a very few specimens of *Laevozehrinus cf. nepalensis* Schileyko & Frank, 1994. In this region, the animals lived on the rocky wall, usually up to 30 m above the road aggregating in high density. Interestingly, we observed two forms of the earth crust stuck to their shells by juvenile *P. siniayevi*, one smooth, the other with regularly arranged granules; such coatings were absent in the adults. In this season the animals, as observed on the west bank of Kali-Gandaki river, were aestivating attached to the rocky walls. The environment became even more arid, perhaps because of the constant wind throughout the valley of Kali-Gandaki from Tukuche to Jomsom. The bare rocks of reddish sandy stone and the connected darker slate, in some cases dead trees, constituted another appropriate habitat for *P. siniayevi* as evidenced by their relative abundance. In contrast to the habitat high above the road that we saw in Tukuche, in this region the *Pupinidius* snails lived quite low on the cliff.

Near the Muktinath Hindu temple (3267 m, 28°49’41’’N 83°48’28’’E), large fragments of slate and limestone are mixed, piled up in heaps making numerous variously dimensioned crevices, and the vegetation is composed of high mountain herbaceous and woody plants, including dwarf Rhododendron
LAND AND FRESHWATER MOLLUSCS IN TWO WET ZONE FOREST RESERVES, SRI LANKA

By Santhushya Hewapathiranage

Udawattha Kele Sanctuary and Gannoruwa Forest Reserve are located in Kandy, Sri Lanka (Figs. 1, 2). Gannoruwa forest is a remnant primary forest patch of about 267 ha with an elevation of 500-580 m above sea level. Udawattha Kele forest is the only man made urban forest in Sri Lanka, (Illangasinghe et al., 1999) with an extent of 257 ha and elevation of 500 m above sea level. Both forests possess semi-evergreen type vegetation (Illangasinghe et al., 1999). The mollusc fauna of these two forests has not previously been studied. The present study was carried out to inventory the species and to strengthen conservation strategies. From August to November 2012, I surveyed the arboreal, litter dwelling and freshwater molluscs that inhabit both forests. Surveys were done during the day from 8 am to 10 am. In Gannoruwa forest only the natural forest was surveyed. Adjacent mahogany plantation was neglected.

Molluscs were categorized in each of the forests as commonly

spp., the final blooming of which indicated the end of summer. This particular structure provided a good environment for P. siniayevi and other landsnail species, i.e. Pyramidula sp. The environment changed little as the altitude increased. The limestone outcrops are well exposed on the upper grassland (3854 m, 28°49’02''N 83°52’28''E) on which small pieces of limestone rocks are scattered. The snail species here are not surprisingly minute, and included Macrolechlamys sp. and Vallonia sp. found in the upper surface of the thin humus layer, and pupillids and pyramidulids that were always found on the undersides of the rocks scattered in the meadow.

With the exception of several tributaries of the Kali-Gandaki river, this trek covered most of the localities indicated in the map that summarizes the three collecting trips conducted by A. G. Kuznetsov and V. V. Siniayev (Kuznetsov & Schileyko, 1999: Fig. 3). As a result of this field work, we found that the Nepalese Pupinidius species have a more northern distribution and the northernmost known population, i.e. the P. siniayevi in Muktinath, prefers the lower habitat of fragmented rocks to higher limestone outcrops.

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Qin Xu & Min Wu, School of Life Science, Nanjing University, Hankoulu 22, Nanjing 210093, China. minwu1969@yahoo.cn Prem B. Budha, Tribhuvan University, Katmandu, Nepal.
species of land snails were recorded in Gannoruwa forest, 90% of them endemic to Sri Lanka. Of these species four are oecopulcates and six are pulmonates.

Threats to the conservation of land molluscs of Gannoruwa forest include intense human activities that have led to destruction and fragmentation of the forest ecosystem. People from the local communities illegally extract wood for fuel and house building. So, a better monitoring system is needed for conserving this forest ecosystem and its land snail fauna. And in Udawattha Kele, due to the gravel roads that have been built within the forest for the use of people who visits the sanctuary, most of the land snail populations are isolated and fragmented and population size has been reduced. Also the non-native snail *Lissachatina fulica* has invaded the forest ecosystem, in an area where there are some anthropogenic habitats within the forest (Senanayake Hermitage and German Temple, numbers 3 and 4 on the map, Fig. 1). More surveys of the molluscs are needed in the mahogany plantation area of Gannoruwa forest, since this survey was done only within the natural forest. Furthermore, increasing the awareness of local

| Table 1. Checklist of molluscs reported from Udwattha Kele forest. *Endemic to Sri Lanka. | *Introduced |
|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **Habitat** | **IUCN Sri Lanka Red List (2007) status** | **National Red List (2012) status** | **Status in Udwatthakele** |
| Acavidae | Acavus phoenix phoenix* | arboreal | - | NT | I |
| | Acavus phoenix castaneus* | arboreal | - | NT | C |
| | Acavus superbus grevillei* | arboreal | DD | VU | I |
| Ariophantidae | Cryptozona bistrialis | litter | - | LC | C |
| | Ratnadipia irriandia* | litter | - | VU | I |
| | Macrochlamys kandyensis* | litter | DD | CR | R |
| Corilliidae | Corilla colletti* | litter | VU | VU | R |
| Streptaxidae | Indoartemon layardianus* | litter | NT | VU | R |
| Cyclophoridae | Cyclophorus menkeanus* | litter | NT | VU | C |
| | Aulopoma grande* | litter | DD | VU | C |
| | Theobaldius cratera* | litter | DD | DD | I |
| Achatinidae | Lissachatina fulica* | arboreal + ground | NE | NE | I |
| Viviparidae | Bellamya dissimilis | aquatic | - | - | C |
| Unionidae | Lamellidens consobrinus | aquatic | - | - | I |

| Table 2. Checklist of molluscs reported from Gannoruwa forest. *Endemic to Sri Lanka |
|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **Habitat** | **IUCN Sri Lanka Red List (2007) status** | **National Red List (2012) status** | **Status in Gannoruwa** |
| Ariophantidae | Cryptozona bistrialis | litter | - | LC | C |
| | Ratnadipia irriandia* | litter | - | VU | I |
| Camainidae | Beddomea albizonatus* | arboreal | - | VU | I |
| Corilliidae | Corilla colletti* | litter | VU | VU | R |
| Cyclophoridae | Cyclophorus menkeanus* | litter | NT | VU | C |
| | Aulopoma grande* | litter | DD | VU | C |
| | Theobaldius cratera* | litter | DD | DD | I |
| Endodontidae | Philalanka irratula* | arboreal | DD | CR | I |
| Helicarioidae | Sivella galerus* | litter | DD | CR | C |
| Pupinidae | Tortulosa haemastoma* | litter | EN | EN | C |

**Fig. 3.** Left, *Acavus phoenix castaneus*; right, *Cyclophorus menkeanus*.

**Fig. 4.** Left, *Aulopoma grande*; right, *Ratnadipia irriandia*.

**Fig. 5.** Left, *Corilla colletti*; right, *Sivella galerus*.

**Fig. 6.** Left, *Beddomea albizonatus*; right, *Tortulosa haemastoma*.

**Fig. 7.** Left, *Bellamya dissimilis*; right, *Lamellidens consobrinus*. 
communities, including school children, about the importance of these two forest ecosystems and their faunas is needed in order to promote their conservation.


Santhushya Hewapathirana, EES Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. sanbushya@gmail.com

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**CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT OF FRESHWATER BIVALVES IN NORTHERN VIETNAM, 2012**

*By A.E. Bogan & V.T. Do*

Recently, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed the conservation status of aquatic organisms in the Indo-Burma (eastern Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam) area including freshwater molluscs (Allen et al., 2012). We participated with six colleagues in developing an up-to-date faunal list and evaluating the conservation status of known freshwater molluscs of the Indo-Burma area (Köhler et al., 2012). This project listed 325 species in 20 families of gastropods and 116 species in 10 families of freshwater bivalves. Köhler et al. (2012) listed a total of 430 freshwater molluscan taxa and assessed 8 as Critically Endangered, 12 as Endangered and 28 as Vulnerable.

A two-week field trip in 12 northern provinces of Vietnam was conducted to assess the status and distribution of the freshwater bivalve species. Freshwater shrimp, crabs and molluscs were sampled at 60 stations. Numerous local markets were visited to check freshwater molluscs and crustaceans being sold. Local farmers, fishermen and market vendors were all interviewed regarding the local occurrence of freshwater bivalves, where animals for sale in the market were collected, how abundant they are and the last time they had seen any live bivalves in the local area. Local people were interviewed and shown examples of different shaped freshwater bivalve shells, including specimens of *Corbicula* spp.

We were particularly concerned about the status and continued survival of six species of *Lamprotula* in the Bang River Basin and tributaries of Li Chiang in northeastern Vietnam and China. Six species of *Lamprotula* (*L. crassa* (Wood, 1815), *L. blaisei* (Dautzenberg & Fischer, 1905), *L. contritus* (Heude, 1881), *L. lieddkei* (Rolle, 1904), *L. nodulosa* (Wood, 1815), *L. ponderosa* (Dautzenberg & Fischer, 1905)) and *Cuneopis demangei* Haas, 1929 have not been seen in the past several decades. No shells or live specimens of these taxa were collected during our fieldwork, strongly suggesting that these taxa are extirpated from their former range in Vietnam. *Lamprotula leai* (Gray, 1834) was collected from three sites and a few markets. Dry shells of *Lamprotula quandrangulosa* (Heude, 1881) (taxonomic status uncertain) were collected from two sites. Dead shells of *Protunio messageri* (Bayvay & Dautzenberg, 1901) were collected from two rivers, but no live specimens were seen. *Protunio messageri* has not been reported in many years.

Recently, *Margaritifera laosensis* (Lea, 1863) has been collected alive from five sites in northern Laos in the Mekong River basin (M. Kottelt, pers. comm.; Lorraine Scotson, IUCN, pers. comm.; Artamonova et al., 2012). Historically it was collected from the area around Dien Bien Phu, Dien Bien Province (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Mollusc Collection) and northern Vietnam (Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle, Geneva). No shells or live specimens were seen or collected during this field trip. Several rivers in Dien Bien and Son La provinces were visited as well as local markets, but no one had seen this species.

The Biochemistry Department of Tay Bac University in Son La, Son La Province, was visited and all of the freshwater molluscs and crustaceans in their limited collection were examined. The biology professor and two instructors agreed to ask their biology students from western and northern Vietnam to look for shells around their homes when they go home for the New Year break. Any shells collected would be identified by Do Van Tu.

We were told by vendors in the local markets that freshwater clam species were selected for market depending on their taste. *Sinanodonta* spp. and *Nodularia* spp. can be regularly sold, but *Lanceolaria* spp., *Scabies* spp., *Lamprotula* spp. and *Hyriopsis cunningi* (Lea, 1852) are considered bitter and not good to eat. This affects the species that may show up in markets. Another factor influencing the use of market surveys to assess the local molluscan fauna is that mussels and gastropods found in northern provinces were shipped in from southern provinces (Yen Bai, Vinh Phuc, Phu Tho, Nam Dinh) as far south as Ha Noi (over 100 km). Just because it shows up in the local market does not necessarily mean it was locally collected. The vendors need to be asked where their animals were collected and if they are of local origin.

Many impacts on the freshwater environment were visible during this trip including deforestation, road construction, instream sand and gravel mining, harvesting for food, domestic pollution and construction of various dams and hydroelectric projects (Figs. 1-3). Streams have been locally modified by restriction of channels, diversion of water for rice fields and flood plains that have been terraced for rice production. Most of the large trees have been cut from the mountains, having an effect on the rain runoff patterns. All of these modifications are impacting freshwater mussels and gastropods. A few species are doing well in disturbed habitats and show up in the markets, including *Sinanodonta* spp., *Cristaria plicata* (Leach, 1815) and *Nodularia* spp.

In addition to established national parks and conservation areas, beginning in 2008 and extending to 2020, Vietnam will establish 45 areas for protection of inland water bodies. Some parts of the Hong and Da rivers (in the north of Vietnam) will be included in protected areas. However, conservation activities for freshwater bivalves have never been mentioned.
Fig. 1. Open pit mining, Cao Bang Province, Vietnam. (Photo: Arthur Bogan)

Fig. 2. Road construction and disposal of debris over the edge of the road and the impact on the local river; the river is the same color as the earth being dumped. Lang Son Province, Vietnam. (Photo: Arthur Bogan)

Fig. 3. In stream gravel mining, Dien Bien Province, Vietnam. (Photo: Arthur Bogan)

Some of freshwater bivalve species already seem to have disappeared from northern Vietnam and the future for endangered freshwater bivalve species is pessimistic. New outreach materials are being developed for distribution to local people, aquaculture agencies and universities to describe the unique life cycle of freshwater mussels in the family Unionidae and to illustrate the native freshwater bivalve fauna of northern Vietnam.

J.M. Smith, H. Fredricks and C.M. Bogan are thanked for kindly reviewing drafts of this article.


A.E. Bogan, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West Jones St. Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, USA. arthur.bogan@naturalsciences.org

V.T. Do, Department of Aquatic Ecology and Environment, Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Nghia Do, Cau Giay, Ha Noi, Vietnam. dovantu.iebr@gmail.com

ONE UP, ONE DOWN, ALL CHANGE: THE STATUS AND IDENTITY OF TWO CRITICALLY ENDANGERED MADEIRAN LAND SNAILS

By Robert Cameron & Dinarte Teixeira

Even the most cursory inspection of Mary Seddon’s (2008) The Landsnails of Madeira shows the large number of Critically Endangered species in the archipelago. Some of these have not been found for over a century, and have the grim addendum ‘possibly extinct’. Among these Critically Endangered species is one currently named Discus guerinianus (Lowe, 1852) with two described subspecies, D. g. guerinianus from Madeira itself, and D. g. calathoides from Deserta Grande and Bugio. Both were recorded alive in the 19th century, although Wollaston (1878) had not seen anything other than subfossil shells of the latter, and Seddon listed it as possibly extinct, as various later visits to the Desertas had failed to find it.

Until recently neither form had been found alive for many years. Cameron & Cook (1999) claimed to have rediscovered D. g. guerinianus at two sites at the west end of Madeira. A closer inspection, prompted by new surveys of endangered species, has shown that this was a misidentification (the identity of these juvenile shells remains unknown). A search of all recent records has failed to turn up any of living D. g. guerinianus and efforts to find it at recorded locations have failed. It must be regarded as possibly extinct.

By contrast there is good news about D. g. calathoides. As a part of the Natural Park of Madeira, the Deserta Islands are
shows that this species is not anatomical material available for study. Work in progress. The story does not end there. Until now, there has been no information in the malacological database of the Madeira Province regarding the geographical distribution of Discus guerinianus calathoides. This species is considered one of the most endangered groups at risk of extinction, distributional studies and systematic studies are important in their conservation as they allow recognition of potential priority areas for protection. Camon, R.A.D. & Cook, L.M. 1999. Island snail relocated. Journal of Molluscan Studies 65: 273-274.


Robert Cameron, Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK. r.cameron@sheffield.ac.uk

Dinarte Teixeira, Department of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Madeira Government, Caminho do Meio – Bom Sucesso 9064-512 Funchal, Portugal. dinarreteixeira.sra@gov-ma.de

**IMPORTANCE OF BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF NAIAD POPULATIONS (MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA: HYRIIDAE) IN ARGENTINA**

By Santiago Torres & Gustavo Darrigran

Freshwater mussels (naïads) in the families Hyriidae and Etheridae are infaunal species occurring in the Neotropical region. Habitat alteration and competition with the invasive species Corbicula fluminea and Limnoperna fortunei (Darrigran et al., 1998; Clavijo, 2009) impact their natural populations. Given that they are considered one of the most endangered groups at risk of extinction, distributional and systematic studies are important in their conservation as they allow recognition of potential priority areas for protection (Bogan & Roe, 2008). This communication presents the start of a research project on the geographical distribution of Diplodon spp. that uses information in the malacological database of the Museo de La Plata (Argentina).

The genus Diplodon (Fig. 2) belongs to the family Hyriidae and is endemic to the Neotropical region. It is found in the Guayano-Brasilian sub-region, extending in Argentina to the...
The distribution of *Diplodon* spp. in Argentina enables the recognition of potential priority areas for conservation (Torres et al., 2012). Based on the available literature and on specimens of *Diplodon* in the Malacological Collection of the Museo de La Plata (FCNyM-UNLP), a data matrix was built that includes the specimen identification, the collection where it is deposited, catalog number, locality and date of collection. Each locality was identified by using maps of Argentina and literature reviews, mapping the coordinates for each point using Google Earth satellite imagery. The results permitted the distribution of the native species and the degree of overlap with the two species of bivalve invaders to be determined (Figs. 4, 5, Table 1).

The analysis of malacological database collections deposited in museums, as here in the Museum of La Plata, and the use of new technological tools (Google Earth, GPS, GIS) is an important step in the investigation of the geographical and temporal distribution of native freshwater bivalve species, allowing work with historical records so we can assist in defining priority areas for conservation.

This note is the start of a taxonomic study of the naiads in southern South America, taking as the subject of study in the first instance, the species *Diplodon chilensis*, endemic to the mountainous region of west and central Patagonia.
EXTRAORDINARY ENDEMIC SPRINGSNAIL RADIATION: JUSTIFICATION FOR EXPANDING THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT, SOUTHWEST OREGON

By Edward J. Johannes

On 9 June 2000, President Clinton (Clinton, 2000) designated the 221 km² (additional 130 km² in state and private land holdings) Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). This was the first U.S. National Monument set aside solely for biodiversity preservation, finally realizing a much broader scope of protection under the 1906 Antiquities Act. The CSNM is southeast of Ashland on the south end of the Cascade Range abutting the Siskiyou Mountains (Fig. 1).

Table 1. Records of Corbicula fluminea from the MLP collection (from Torres et al., 2012).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of records</th>
<th>Locality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alvear, Arroyo Brazo Chico, Arroyo Tabai, Bella Vista, Centenario, Chajari, Chimay, Colón, Concepción del Uruguay, Confluencia, Dto. Candelaria, Dta. San Ignacio, Federación, Gualeguaychú, Iberá, La Cruz, La Cumbre, La Plata, Mocoreta, Paraje Absente, Pichimalauí, Rio Colorado, San Isidro, San Nicolás, Selva del Río Oro, Tapes, Viedma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Concordia, Ituzaingo, Monte Caseros, Paso de los Libres, San Ignacio, Yapeyú</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paso de la Patria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ensendada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Isla Martín García</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Olivos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Torres, S., Darrigran, G. & Damborenea, C. Distribución del genero Diplodon (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Mytilidae) en territorio Argentino mediante el uso de Colecciones Biológicas. Actas 7mo Congreso de Medio Ambiente AUGM

Santiago Torres & Gustavo Darrigran, Research Group on Bivalve Molluscs, Division of Zoology, Museo de La Plata (FCNyM-UNLP), Argentina. invasion@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

In total, 129 sites on federal land and 24 on state and private land in the CSNM were surveyed for mussels between 1991 and 2004 (Frest & Johannes, 2005; Fig. 1). Of the sites on federal land 81 lacked mussels or only had mussels other than Fluminicola; 48 (springs and creeks) had Fluminicola; 101 are cold springs, and 41 of these (41%) had Fluminicola. This proportion of springs with springsnails is high compared to adjacent basins such as the Upper Klamath Lake (26%), Interior Oregon (10%) and similar to the Upper Sacramento River drainage (40%). In the western U.S. springs are important reservoirs of mussel diversity (Frest & Johannes, 1995, 1998, 2005; Hershler, 1999; Hershler et al., 2003, 2007) and the Monument has a large number and higher density of springs than the surrounding region. Five bivalve and 25 gastropod species have been found in the CSNM (Table 1). Three Juga spp. (1 endemic to CSNM) and at least 14 Fluminicola springsnail species (3 endemic to CSNM) are
endemic to portions of drainages both in and just outside the Monument, with most occurring at 10 or fewer sites (Frest & Johannes, 2005). The CSNM covers only 1-2% of the areas of the nearby Upper Sacramento River drainage and adjacent Upper Klamath Lake basin, but has a mollusc diversity that is 38% and 43% of those areas, respectively (Table 2).

Significantly, 9 of the 14 species of CSNM *Fluminicola* (64%) are found only in a 2 km² area in the southeast corner of the Monument, in Spring Creek (including Shoat Spring) and Schoolhouse Meadow springs and runs (Tables 1, 2; Figs. 1, 2). Endemism and sympathy (up to 6 species in a single site) are high here, and there are several species with atypical shell morphologies for the genus (e.g. collumellar node; Fig. 3).

Since the CSNM formation, additional surveys revealed that this *Fluminicola* radiation extends outside the southeast corner of the Monument into lower Fall Creek and springs on the south side of Close Butte (Frest & Johannes, 2005; Figs. 1-3).

*Fluminicola* species fall into two groups, one generally with shells 2-6 mm high (smaller group) and the other with shells often 6-12 mm high (larger group). The CSNM springsnails belong to the former group. There are 10 described (Hershler & Frest, 1996; Hershler & Lui, 2012) and probably around 5 undescribed species in the larger group and 19 described (Hershler & Frest, 1996; Hershler, 1999; Hershler et al., 2007) and at least 50 undescribed species in the smaller group. It has been proposed that a new genus be erected for the smaller group (Hershler & Frest, 1996; Hershler & Lui, 2012). *Fluminicola* are found in streams of all sizes (usually the larger group) or in cold springs (often but not always the smaller group) and are among the most commonly encountered northwestern U.S. freshwater snails. The CSNM *Fluminicola* are commonly spring dwellers or inhabit particularly pristine creek stretches, especially if these are spring-fed or have obvious spring influence. The CSNM is on the western edge of the distribution of the smaller group of *Fluminicola* (Frest & Johannes, 2005).

The degree of local springsnail diversity, endemism and sympathy found adjacent to and in the southeast corner of the CSNM is exceptional for North America, quite unusual on a worldwide basis and may be an extreme example of sympatric speciation of springsnails (Table 2; Figs. 1, 3). Perhaps the closest similar example is Steptoe Valley, a very small internal drainage basin in Nevada, which has 5 endemic *Pyrgulopsis* species within a few km² (Hershler, 1994; Hershler & Sada, 2002), although none are sympatric. Occurrence of more than

### Table 1. Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument mollusc fauna.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 10</td>
<td>n.m. pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 11</td>
<td>toothed pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 12</td>
<td>diminutive pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 13</td>
<td>topaz pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 14</td>
<td>Fall Creek pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 15</td>
<td>conch pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 16</td>
<td>Keene Creek pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 17</td>
<td>Fremont pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 18</td>
<td>Chinqapin pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 19</td>
<td>Pilot Knob pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 20</td>
<td>Shoat Spring pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 21</td>
<td>subglobule pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fluminicola</em> sp. 22</td>
<td>picayune pebblesnail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fossaria</em> (B.) bulimoides</td>
<td>prairie fossaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fossaria</em> (F.) parva</td>
<td>pygmy fossaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gyraulus</em> (T.) parva</td>
<td>ash gyro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juga</em> (C.) n. sp. 1</td>
<td>Fall Creek juba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juga</em> (J.) silicula sthastaenstis</td>
<td>Shasta juga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juga</em> (O.) n. sp. 1</td>
<td>Spring Creek juba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juga</em> (O.) n. sp. 2</td>
<td>Close Butte juba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Physella</em> (P.) gyrina</td>
<td>tadpole snail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Planorbeella</em> (P.) subcrenata</td>
<td>western rams-horn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Radix auricularia</em></td>
<td>big-eared radix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Comparison ofCascade-Siskiyou National Monument with significant springsnail diversity areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land unit or basin (area)</th>
<th>Total diversity (highest sympathy)</th>
<th>Number of endemic gastropods</th>
<th>Number of springsnail species (area / springsnail diversity)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSNM</td>
<td>24 snails 4.6.7</td>
<td>3 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
<td>14 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>5 clams 3</td>
<td>1 <em>Juga</em></td>
<td>(16 km²/sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(221 km²)</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall/Spring</td>
<td>16 snails 4</td>
<td>7 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
<td>9 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creeks &amp;</td>
<td>3 clams 4</td>
<td>(4 km²/sp.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close Butte</td>
<td>19 total 6</td>
<td>8 total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>springs,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California &amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(39 km²)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sacramento</td>
<td>57 snails 4.6.7.10.11</td>
<td>13 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
<td>13 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>20 clams 4</td>
<td>1 <em>Colligyrus</em></td>
<td>(1525 km²/sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California &amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 <em>Pyrgulopsis</em></td>
<td>1 <em>Colligyrus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>77 total 14</td>
<td>9 <em>Juga</em></td>
<td>6 <em>Pyrgulopsis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(19,530 km²)</td>
<td>(all 992 km²/sp.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Klamath Lake</td>
<td>49 snails 4</td>
<td>11 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
<td>11 <em>Fluminicola</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin, Oregon</td>
<td>19 clams 4</td>
<td>3 <em>Colligyrus</em></td>
<td>(1342 km²/sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14,763 km²)</td>
<td>16 total 6</td>
<td>2 <em>Pyrgulopsis</em></td>
<td>3 <em>Colligyrus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California &amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td>16 total 6</td>
<td>3 <em>Pyrgulopsis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td></td>
<td>(all 868 km²/sp.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croato</td>
<td>13 snails 4</td>
<td>9 (endemic genera)</td>
<td>13 <em>hydrobioid</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cienagas, Mexico</td>
<td>5 (6)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(923 km²/sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12,000 km²)</td>
<td>10 total 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Artesian</td>
<td>26 snails 10.11.13.14</td>
<td>26 (3 endemic genera)</td>
<td>26 <em>hydrobioid</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin, Australia</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(74,391 km²/sp.)</td>
</tr>
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<td>(1.7 million km²)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>10 snails 4</td>
<td>6 (2 endemic genera)</td>
<td>10 <em>hydrobioid</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Balcones Fault Zone)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1127 km²/sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquifer, Texas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11,266 km²)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*listing proposed under ESA (Cury et al., 2008; Johannes, 2012; USFWS, 2011, 2012)

*survey and manage species (USDA & USDI, 1994; Johannes, 2012)

*endemic to CSNM

*found in Close Butte springs

*found in Shoat Spring

*found in Schoolhouse Meadow springs and spring runs

*found in lower Fall Creek

*formerly Juga (C.) acutilfolia (Campbell et al., in prep.)

*formerly Juga (O.) nigrina (Campbell et al., in prep.)

*introduced species
one species of a springsnail genus at a site in the western U.S. is unusual, although 2-3 taxa may co-occur at a few Amargosa Valley (Nevada) springs (Hershler & Sada, 2002). A single taxon per site is the usual pattern for *Fluminicola* but 2 per site is not unusual in springs in the Upper Klamath Lake drainage and in a portion of and just west of the CSNM (Frest & Johannes, 1998, 2005; Fig. 1).

Threats to spring and creek habitats in the CSNM include cattle grazing, pump chance development (artificially created ponds fed by diverted spring flow) and road construction. Timber harvesting, expansion of current or granting of new water rights, mining and geothermal activity are restricted on federal land in the CSNM, but not in private inholdings. Shoat Spring and the Schoolhouse Meadow springs are protected from cattle grazing by enclosures or fencing but most springs in the area are not. Spring Creek is partially diverted to Schoolhouse Meadow by a concrete canal. Outside the CSNM a portion of lower Fall Creek is diverted for the city of Yreka water supply and above this by one of the oldest, continuously operated hydroelectric facilities in the Pacific Northwest. This project includes a diversion dam, canal and penstock to a powerhouse, where a 2.7 km stretch of Fall Creek is partially diverted. In addition, lower Fall Creek is impacted by water withdrawal for and effluent from the Fall Creek Hatchery.

Under Presidential Proclamation 7318 (Clinton, 2000), the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM is required to

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**Fig. 2.** Map of the southeast corner of CSNM including Fall Creek, Spring Creek, Shoat Spring, Schoolhouse Meadow and Close Butte springs. Red shaded area is BLM land in the CSNM, gray shaded area is BLM land outside CSNM. A is Spring Creek just below Shoat Spring; B is the west spring run in Schoolhouse Meadow; C is the westernmost spring run on the south side of Close Butte. (Photos: A & B - T. Frest © Deixis Consultants; C - S. Clark © Invertebrate Identification Australasia)

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**Fig. 3.** Unusual shell morphology in *Fluminicola* in the southeast corner of the CSNM. A: nodose *Fluminicola* n. sp. 11 (toothed pebblesnail) from Shoat Spring, Jackson County, Oregon; B: neritiform *Fluminicola* n. sp. 10 (nerite pebblesnail) from Fall Creek, Siskiyou County, California. Scale bar = 1 mm. (Photos: E. Johannes © Deixis Consultants)

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protect ‘objects of biological interest’, one being the ‘significant center of fresh water snail diversity’. The proclamation withdrew public lands in the CSNM from a number of uses and limited commercial harvest of timber within the Monument ‘except when part of an authorized science-based ecological restoration project’. Also, the proclamation directs the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a study of livestock grazing within the CSNM and to retire grazing allotments ‘should grazing be found incompatible with protecting the objects of biological interest’. Of the CSNM *Fluminicola*, only the Fredenburg pebblesnail has additional protection as a Survey and Manage species under the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan (Table 1). A petition to list 32 Pacific Northwest terrestrial and freshwater gastropods (Curry et al., 2008) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was modified by the USFWS (2011) to include only 26 but did include 2 CSNM *Fluminicola* species. Listing of 14 (all freshwater gastropods) of the 26 was recently rejected (USFWS, 2012; Johannes, 2013). Even within the CSNM, federal ownership is not complete, but this is especially the case south and southeast of the Monument (Figs. 1, 3). Despite most springs in the CSNM being on federal land, areas with the highest *Fluminicola* diversity (usually in the largest springs and most pristine creeks) in the southeast corner of the Monument and adjacent areas are in private hands (Fig. 3). As a result, the current CSNM configuration fails to uphold one of the mandates of the 1906 Antiquities Act, that the President reserve ‘the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected’. The proclamation forming the CSNM states ‘Lands and interests in lands within the proposed monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States’. Both the BLM and private organizations should consider these high diversity springsnail areas within and outside the CSNM to be a priority for purchase and President Obama should consider expanding the CSNM to include those areas outside the Monument for protection. In doing this, Obama would finally join the ranks of Presidents who have used the Antiquities Act for the good of the nation.
Thanks to Stephanie Clark (Invertebrate Identification Australasia, Chicago) for providing information and references on the Great Artesian Basin molluscs and for the photo of a Close Butte spring. I also acknowledge the efforts of Karen Bolda, Jayne LeFors, Steve Miles, Jay Doino and David Hering, former members of the Medford District BLM springsnail survey crews.


USFWS. 2011. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; 90-day finding on a petition to list 29 mollusk species as threatened or endangered with critical habitat; proposed rule. *Federal Register* 76(193) 76: 61826-61853.

USFWS. 2012. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; 12-month finding on a petition to list 14 aquatic mollusks as endangered or threatened; proposed rule. *Federal Register* 77(181) 77: 57922-57948.

Edward J. Johannes, Deixis Consultants, 16827 51st Avenue South, SeaTac, Washington 98188-3245, USA. Tel +1 206 931 1038, edjohannes@yahoo.com

MOLLUSCS ASSESSED BY COSEWIC IN 2012

By Dwayne A.W. Lepitzki & Gerald L. Mackie

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) was established in 1977. In 1994 its mandate was expanded to include some groups of invertebrates and in 1996 the first mollusc was assessed. When the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) became law in 2003, COSEWIC was confirmed as the body that advises the Canadian government on which species to list and be legally protected under the Act. The best available scientific, aboriginal traditional and community knowledge are compiled into a COSEWIC status report that goes through various levels
of review and scrutiny. COSEWIC then meets twice each year to review the status report and assess the status of the wild species, subspecies, varieties or other important units of biological diversity considered to be at risk in Canada. Results of these assessments are communicated to the federal government and the public at the same time and within days of each meeting. As of November 2012, there were 668 wildlife species in various COSEWIC risk categories and another 15 that are extinct. So far, 31 molluscs have been assessed in Canada: 1 Extinct, 2 Extirpated, 18 Endangered, 3 Threatened, and 7 Special Concern. An additional 2 molluscs have been assessed as Not at Risk and 5 others as Data Deficient. In 2012, two molluscs were assessed, one for the first time and the other a reassessment. COSEWIC is required to review its assessments of species every ten years.

**Magnipelta mycophaga — Magnum Mantleslug:** This large slug, up to 80 mm in length (Fig. 1), is endemic to the northern Columbia Basin in western North America. About half of the species’ global range extends into southeastern British Columbia, Canada. It occurs in a number of widely separated habitat patches and is confined to cool, moist microhabitats in coniferous forests at mid to high elevations. While hundreds of sites have been searched for slugs and land snails within the range of this slug, mostly within the past decade, there were only 13 records for it in Canada as of November 2010. Since the 1960s its habitat has become increasingly fragmented. The number and variety of threats, including logging, recreational developments and activities, wildfire and changes in moisture regimes caused by climate change, increase the level of risk. Given these reasons, COSEWIC assessed this slug as Special Concern in April 2012.

**Physella winnipegensis — Lake Winnipeg Physa:** This freshwater snail was described as being endemic to Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and originally assessed as Endangered in 2002 by COSEWIC. Despite annual searches, the last observation of the taxon was in 2006. The taxonomic uncertainty and the lack of genetic material for further study resulted in a designation of Data Deficient in November 2012. Data Deficient is a status category that applies when the available information is insufficient (a) to resolve a wildlife species’ eligibility for assessment or (b) to permit an assessment of the wildlife species’ risk of extinction.

More information on COSEWIC can be found online. Finalized status reports of COSEWIC assessed species are available on the SARA Public Registry; the two most recent mollusc reports should be available after September 2013.

The Molluscs SSC of COSEWIC thanks the 2012 status report writers, Kristiina Ovaska, Lennart Sopuck and Dwayne Lepitzki, for their expertise on these species. Because Dwayne wrote the report on the Lake Winnipeg Physa, Gerry was the responsible co-chair for editing and steering the report through the COSEWIC process. COSEWIC was asked if Dwayne could remain in the room when the species was discussed. While Dwayne was allowed to be present and could answer questions about the species and the report at the species assessment meeting, he did not vote on the species’ status.

Dwayne Lepitzki, Wildlife Systems Research, P.O. Box 1311, Banff, Alberta T1L 1B3, Canada. Co-chair, Molluscs Species Specialist Subcommittee (COSEWIC), lepitzki@telusplanet.net

Gerald L. Mackie, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1, and Water Systems Analysts, 23 Avra Court, Guelph, Ontario N1H 7B2, Canada. Co-chair, Molluscs Species Specialist Subcommittee (COSEWIC).

Gerry.mackie@sympatico.ca

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**TERRESTRIAL GASTROPODS OF THE HORBAT QARTA NATURE RESERVE AND THEIR ROLE IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN TWO TYPES OF KURKAR OUTCROPS IN ISRAEL**

By Henk K. Mienis, Oz Rittner & Svetlana Vaisman

On 4 December 2012 the two senior authors undertook fieldwork to collect terrestrial gastropods on a kurkar outcrop near Atlit, Israel. Kurkar is the Hebrew name for a local aeolian calcareous sandstone. The work was restricted to a relatively small nature reserve, Horbat Qarta (= Khirbat Karta), overlooking the former salt-ponds of Atlit. On the top of this outcrop are the remains of a Crusader stronghold ‘Casel Destreiz’ (Fig. 1) [also spelled Dustrey and le Destroit (Nir, 1959)].

This kurkar ridge consists of two layers: the upper one a hard fine-grained sandstone, ‘Kurkar-Dor’, and the lower one a rather soft, coarse-grained sandstone, ‘Kurkar Ramat-Gan’. The upper layer, formed 40-60k years ago, is separated from the lower layer, formed 60-100k years ago, by a layer of ‘hamra’, a reddish-brown soil, which is the result of erosion of the lower kurkar layer (Galili & Tiroslo, 2009). Westwards near the sea and especially southwards along the coast of Israel and north of Akko only the older kind of kurkar outcrops are present.

Many of the snails encountered in the reserve were still actively crawling after the rains of the previous night, others
Fig. 1. Ruins of the Crusader stronghold ‘Casel Destreiz’ near Atlit. (Photo: Oz Rittner)

Fig. 2. Normal specimen of *Sphincterochila cariosa*. (Photo: Oz Rittner)

were found under large stones scattered on the slopes or near the ruins. A litter sample was also collected and screened for the presence of shells by the third author. The following 12 species were found:

*Granopopa granum* (Draparnaud, 1801)
*Truncatellina haasi* Venmans, 1957*
*Euchondrus sauleyi* (Bourguignat, 1852)*
*Euchondrus septemdentatus* (Roth, 1839)*
*Paramastus episomus* (Bourguignat, 1857)*
*Eopolita protensa jebusitica* (Roth, 1855)
*Deroceras berytensis* (Bourguignat, 1852)*
*Sphincterochila cariosa* (Olivier, 1804)* (including a subscalarid specimen, Figs. 2, 3)
*Monacha syriaca* (Ehrenberg, 1831)
*Xeropicta vestalis joppensis* (Schmidt, 1855)
*Helix engaddensis* Bourguignat, 1852
*Levantina spiriplana caesareana* (Mousson, 1854)* (Fig. 4)

Asterisks indicate the five species that are typical of the fine grained Kurkar-Dor sandstone and are found under similar conditions between Ma’agan Mikhael and Jisr ez Zarqa, among other locations (unpublished previous observations by HKM, and by HKM and OR on 4 December 2012). They are typical mountain species. The nearest place where they

normally live near Atlit or Ma’agan Mikhael – Jisr ez Zarqa is formed by the Carmel Mountains some 3 km east of the Kurkar-Dor ridge. The Carmel Mountains have several valleys orientated east-west and during pluvial periods large amounts of sediments were deposited in the form of saddles east of the Kurkar-Dor ridges (Nir, 1959). It is possible that snails were transported with this erosion material from the Carmel Mountains and reached the sandstone ridge, finding a suitable habitat on the fine grained substrate of these rocks.

The slug *Deroceras berytensis* was commonly encountered on the Kurkar-Dor sandstone, but in areas with Kurkar-Ramat Gan sandstone it occurs only in hamra patches among the kurkar rocks.

The above five snail species never occur naturally on kurkar-outcrops of the Ramat Gan type. Instead, we find several species that are more-or-less confined to coarse-grained sandstone outcrops. Noteworthy among them are:

*Truncatellina cylindrica* (Férrussac, 1807) (although more typical of sandy patches within the kurkar outcrops)
*Euchondrus* species (until recently referred to as *E. ovularis*)
Euchondrus sulcidens (Mousson, 1861) (although more typical of sandy patches within the kurkar outcrops) Sphincterochila aharonii (Kobelt, 1913) Xerocrassa davidiana davidiana (Bourguignat, 1863) Xerocrassa davidiana picardi (Haas, 1933) Xerocrassa simulata lothari Mienis, 2011

None of these seven species has ever been encountered on the fine-grained Kurkar-Dor outcrops. Since each type of Kurkar sandstone is inhabited by a number of highly characteristic terrestrial gastropods these snails can be used to differentiate between the two types of local sandstone. This can be important from a conservation point of view, because some of the characteristic species occurring on the Kurkar-Ramat Gan sandstone are threatened or endangered and one, Xerocrassa davidiana picardi, is probably already extinct. In fact all sandstone habitats in Israel are in constant danger of disappearing. From early historic times this type of material has been exploited intensively as building material and the number of undisturbed outcrops is rapidly dwindling. Moreover some of the most important sandstone hills were located in the now densely built up areas of the greater Tel Aviv region and most of them have completely disappeared.

Since both types of sandstone outcrops are unique to the Levant and in need of protection, from the malacological point of view the establishment of Nature Reserves on Kurkar-Ramat Gan outcrops should be an urgent priority.


Henk K. Mienis, The Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, IL-69978 Tel Aviv, Israel, and the National Natural History Collections, Berman Building, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL-91904 Jerusalem, Israel. mienis@netzer.org.il

Oz Rittner, The Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, IL-69978 Tel Aviv, Israel. ozrit@netzer.org.il

Svetlana Vaisman, Plant Protection and Inspection Services, Ministry of Agriculture, P.O.Box 78, IL-50250 Bet Dagan, Israel. svetak@moag.gov.il

**NATIVE SPECIES AND URBAN HEAT ISLANDS**

*By Heike Kappes*

This is an extended summary of work that was published by Kappes et al. (2012).

While human populations in cities and metropolitan areas continue to grow globally, urban areas create a novel type of ecosystem that sprawls into the countryside. Based on the sheer size of urban areas, these also need to contribute to biodiversity conservation. Overall gastropod species richness readily exceeds 100 species in German cities (Bößneck, 2005, and references therein). High urban species richness, however, is often achieved through beta diversity, that is, a high spatial turnover with patchy occurrences in different habitat types of non-native species (Bößneck, 2005; Horsák et al., 2009; Lososová et al., 2011).

Habitat has a stronger effect on snail assemblages than macroclimate for European cities across a large macroclimatic gradient (Lososová et al. 2011). However, sealed areas (roads, car parks, etc.) can decouple the meso- and microclimates from the macroclimate, causing warmer winters and overheating effects during summer. This phenomenon is called ‘urban heat islands’ and recently thermal maps have become available for several larger cities. The aim of the pilot study in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, was to assess whether meteorological data provide a meaningful proxy for urban biodiversity assessment.

To this end, 34 sites were sampled along a transect from the city center through an unsealed low heat stress area to some recently sealed northern suburbs, in which a total of 31 species were found. This represents less than 30% of the overall species richness to be expected from the data of Bößneck (2005), but the area covers only a portion of the metropolis. The study underlines that gastropod species richness is substantially impaired in sealed areas with high thermal stress classes (Fig. 1). Native species experienced a higher proportional loss in species richness than introduced species, but introduced species richness was not increased in the highly sealed areas (Fig. 1). Only four introduced species were observed in the course of the study, which certainly only represent a fraction of the total non-native gastropods of the city: Arion lusitanicus auct non Mabille (synonym A. vulgaris), Deroceras panormitanum (synonym D. invadens), Oxychilus draparnaudi and Monacha cartusiana. All four species originate from a warmer, less continental climatic zone, supporting the assumption of warmer conditions during winter. Urban cover as such explained less variability in gastropod richness than thermal stress class. The data suggest that thermal stress (on native species) contributes to the depletion of metropolitan alpha diversity.

Fig. 1. Gastropod alpha diversity along the gradient of thermal stress classes from 34 sites in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.


Heike Kappes, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands; and Department of Ecology, Cologne Biocenter, University of Cologne, Zülpicher Str. 47b, 50674 Köln, Germany. Heike.Kappes@naturalis.nl

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REJECTS 14 OF 26 PACIFIC NORTHWEST SNAILS AND SLUGS PROPOSED FOR LISTING AND SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT**

By Edward J. Johannes

The 2007 decision to discontinue the Survey and Manage Program (SMP) under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) (USDA & USDI, 1994) prompted five conservation organizations, led by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2008 to list 32 terrestrial and freshwater gastropod species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Curry *et al.*, 2008; USFWS, 2011; Johannes, 2012). These species are found in California, Washington and Oregon. All but 2 of the petitioned species are SMP species. Of the 44 SMP mollusc species, 15 were not included in the petition. Since 1993, 8 of the 19 undescribed SMP mollusc species have been described (Hershler *et al.*, 2003, 2007). To reflect the taxonomic changes, the petition was amended by CBD in 2009 to include 29 species of molluscs. USFWS found that the CBD petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information to indicate that listing 26 of the 29 petitioned molluscs as threatened or endangered might be warranted under the ESA (USFWS, 2011; Johannes, 2012). USFWS felt 3 petitioned SMP molluscs did not warrant listing. USFWS initiated a status review of the 26 species. Public comment was requested on scientific and commercial data and other information on the 26 molluscs during a 60 day comment period, which ended on 5 December 2011 (USFWS, 2011).

USFWS has submitted a 12-month finding on 14 (freshwater molluscs only; terrestrial species to be handled at a later date) of the 26 species (USFWS, 2012; Table 1). Listing of the 8 undescribed species was not considered warranted because these snails do not constitute listable entities under the ESA (Table 1). However, USFWS (2012) admits ‘It is rare for us to list entities that have not been formally described, but we have occasionally done so in the past’. Since the inception of the ESA, 5 undescribed species or subspecies have been listed. Three are fish: Hutton tui chub (*Gila bicolor* ssp.), Foskett speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus* ssp.) and Bluemask Darter (*Etheostoma* sp., now *Etheostoma akatulo* Layman & Mayden, 2009); and 2 are molluscs: Banbury Springs lanx or limpet (*Lanx* sp.) and Bliss Rapids snail (now *Taylorconcha serpenticola* Hershler, Frest, Johannes, Bowler & Thompson, 1994). It is curious that only 2 undescribed fish are mentioned in the 12-month finding despite the listing of 2 undescribed middle Snake River molluscs (USFWS, 1992). Listing of an additional 6 described snails was not considered warranted under section 4(a)(1) of the ESA (USFWS, 2012; Table 1). The CBD petition included both *Fluminicola* n. sp. 3 (diminutive pebblesnail) and *Fluminicola* n. sp. 11 (nerite pebblesnail) (formerly *Etheostoma* sp., now *Etheostoma akatulo* Layman & Mayden, 2009); and 2 are molluscs: Banbury Springs lanx or limpet (*Lanx* sp.) and Bliss Rapids snail (now *Taylorconcha serpenticola* Hershler, Frest, Johannes, Bowler & Thompson, 1994). It is curious that only 2 undescribed fish are mentioned in the 12-month finding despite the listing of 2 undescribed middle Snake River molluscs (USFWS, 1992). Listing of an additional 6 described snails was not considered warranted under section 4(a)(1) of the ESA (USFWS, 2012; Table 1).

The CBD petition included both *Fluminicola* n. sp. 3 (diminutive pebblesnail) and *Fluminicola* n. sp. 11 (nerite pebblesnail) (Curry *et al.*, 2008). However USFWS (2012) believed that these were ‘incorrect rather than simply alternate common names because Frest and Johannes (the original discoverers of these snails) referred to all four named molluscs as separate species’ and ‘in this document we will refer to the petitioned mollusc *Fluminicola* n. sp. 3 as the Klamath Rim pebblesnail and to the petitioned mollusc *Fluminicola* n. sp. 11 as the Fredenburg pebblesnail, rather than as the diminutive and nerite pebblesnails, respectively’. It is obvious that the

<table>
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<th>Common Name</th>
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<td>Vorticifex n. sp. 1</td>
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*Fluminicola* n. sp. 3 (diminutive pebblesnail) replaced in USFWS (2012) *Fluminicola* n. sp. 11 (nerite pebblesnail) replaced in USFWS (2012) 1 Fig. 1.
species information supplied for the diminutive pebblesnail and the nerite pebblesnail in the CBD petition is a mix of these two species and the Klamath Rim and Fredenburg pebblesnails, respectively (the latter two being SMP species). However, the replacement of the diminutive and nerite pebblesnails by two other species not on the amended CBD petition raises the question of the legality of such an action by USFWS and sets a bad precedent for future petitions.


USDA & USDI. 1994. Record of decision for amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management planning documents within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Standards and guidelines for management of habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl. U.S. Forest Service, Portland. ii + 73 p.; viii + 143 p.


USFWS. 2011. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; 90-day finding on a petition to list 29 mollusk species as threatened or endangered with critical habitat; proposed rule. Federal Register 76: 61826-61853.

USFWS. 2012. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; 12-month finding on a petition to list 14 aquatic mollusks as endangered or threatened; proposed rule. Federal Register 77: 57922-57948.

Edward J. Johannes, Deixis Consultants, 16827 51st Avenue South, SeaTac, Washington 98188-3245, USA. Tel +1 206 931 1038, edjohannes@yahoo.com

SNAILS ON THE ROCK: KARST CONSERVATION

By Heike Kappe & Menno Schilthuizen

The exploitation of karst terrains by quarrying for cement manufacture is one of the 15 hot global conservation issues identified by Sutherland et al. (2012). Karst destruction is accompanied by disturbances of karst forests by fire, logging and tourism. This is particularly worrying for taxa such as terrestrial snails that have high population densities on calcareous substrates (Schilthuizen et al., 2005; Clements et al., 2006). For these taxa, conservation of entire communities may be linked to the protection of limestone hills. However, a much debated issue is the dilemma of choosing between establishing a single large or several small reserves (SLOSS) (e.g. Diamond, 1975; Higgs & Usher, 1980; Ovaskainen, 2002; Johst et al., 2011), and conservation planning for karst systems urgently needs information on the relevant spatial scales.

Calcereous outcrops are heterogeneously structured macrohabitats. In addition, they fulfill one of the basic needs of snails, namely a high calcium availability. Calcereous outcrops are amazingly rich in snail species (Nekola, 1999). They are key structures for snail diversity and their species richness readily surpasses that of otherwise favourable microhabitats provided by coarse woody debris or historical mining pits (Kappes et al., 2012).

We have begun a project that aims to lay the foundations for building a model that incorporates ecological theory on species richness and community assembly (e.g. Rosenzweig, 1995; Weiher et al., 2011, and references therein), such as the relative effects of niche differentiation, competition, dispersal, extinction and speciation. It aims to identify the relevant spatial scales for each of the processes. Such a model will not only help us to understand biodiversity patterns in this study system, but may also provide a point of reference for similar studies in other systems, and can be applied in conservation.

For the nine smallest spatial scales (from 1 km$^2$ down to 10 x 10 cm), we will select two mostly undisturbed limestone hills of approximately 1 km$^2$ in Malaysian Borneo. This project will be undertaken together with local cooperating partners at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Danau Girang Field Center. The latter organization kindly helped to gather the first data set from an outcrop in the Kinabatangan area (Fig. 1). However, limestone or karst areas are found in different climatic conditions around the world. It thus appears promising to compare different climatic and evolutionary backgrounds and areas that differ in primary plant productivity. We are therefore also undertaking field work in limestone areas in Central Europe, for example in the area around the Kakushöhle in the Eifel Hills, Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany (WGS84: approximately 50.545°N, 6.66°E). Collecting in 2012 revealed that several of
the snail species occurring at that outcrop are listed as vulnerable or endangered in this Federal State (Kobialka et al., 2009), e.g., Azaea goodalli, Sphyraunium doliolum, Papilla muscorum, Truncatellina cylindrica and Balea perversa. Further analyses will consider potential management issues in that area, among other issues.

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Heike Kappes, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands; and Department of Ecology, Cologne Biocenter, University of Cologne, Zülpicher Str. 47b, 50674 Köln, Germany. Heike.Kappes@naturalis.nl

Menno Schilthuizen, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands; and Institute of Biology Leiden (IBL), Leiden University, P.O. Box 9516, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Schilthuizen@naturalis.nl

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**FLAGSHIPS AND UMBRELLAS: UNBALANCED CONSERVATION EFFORT TOWARDS CHARISMATIC SPECIES AS POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE UNKNOWNS**

By Vincent Prié

It is a basic tenet of conservation that charismatic vertebrate species draw most of the conservation effort (Régnier et al., 2009). The other 99% (Ponder et al., 1999), although representing the bulk of biodiversity, are poorly considered or not considered at all. Molluscs, and particularly unionoids, were in fashion in Europe during the 19th century. Shells attracted collectors and naming species new to science stroked their egos. Since then, they have been buried in the other 99% graveyard, missing the advent of conservation policies in the mid 20th century, which focused mostly on bird species: the European Bird Directive dates to 1979, while the Habitats and Species Directive came into force only in 1992.

The Habitat and Species Directive listed two bivalve species in Annex II: the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Margaritifera margaritifera, and the Thick-shelled Mussel, Unio crassus. This conservation status has probably contributed to drawing the attention of European naturalists back to freshwater bivalves (Fig. 1), as evidenced by the success of the International Meeting on Biology and Conservation of Freshwater Bivalves held in September 2012 in Portugal, and coordinated by Amílcar Teixeira and Manuel Lopes Lima. For four days, this meeting gathered about 250 people in the small town of Bragança; there were 46 oral and 58 poster presentations. However beyond the warm welcome, the quality of the presentations and the pleasure of the discussions, this meeting left a bitter taste in my mouth, as I expected a more balanced program.

As might be imagined due to the geographical location of the congress, European species received the lion’s share, with 69% of the talks dedicated to European species (invited speakers excluded). Among the 18 European unionoid species (including the introduced Sinanodonta woodiana), a single

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**Fig. 1.** Cumulative number of papers dealing specifically with M. margaritifera and the date of the Habitat and Species Directive.
species, the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, *Margaritifera margaritifera*, accounted for an astonishing 60% of European speakers’ communications (Fig. 2). And indeed, the European commission supports as many as 21 conservation programmes targeting *M. margaritifera* through the LIFE programme, for a global amount of over €51 million. Six of them (in Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Luxembourg, France and Finland) are dedicated specifically to this species for a total amount of €4.678 million (LIFE Programme, 2013). There is funding for hatching farms in the Czech Republic, U.K., Austria, Sweden, Germany, Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium, Spain and France.

Why did the Freshwater Pearl Mussel become such a flagship species for freshwater bivalve conservation?

The key to success probably relies on a few social and cultural issues. The Freshwater Pearl Mussel is widely distributed across Europe (Fig. 3), and is therefore a species of concern for many countries and environmental stakeholders, thus bringing people together, for example at conferences, congresses and other meetings. It is accessible to the general public, living in small, shallow and clear streams and is easy to identify, as it is generally the only bivalve species found in the habitats where it lives. It is associated with attractive stories about pearls, charismatic fish hosts (salmon and trout) and water quality. The Freshwater Pearl Mussel has become the tiger of mollusc conservation.

![Fig. 2. The distribution of European speakers’ talks at the International Meeting on Biology and Conservation of Freshwater Bivalves in 2012 illustrates the imbalance among species listed in the Habitat and Species Directive.](image)

Whether conservation strategies and efforts should focus on *M. margaritifera* (Geist, 2010) is however questionable. This species is admittedly locally threatened, and has been locally extirpated, but it is not globally threatened by extinction: it remains widespread in Europe and large populations are still found in Finland and Russia, with an estimated 140 million specimens in the environmentally preserved Varsuga River alone (Henrikson & Söderberg, 2010). If it can arguably be considered a flagship species, it is questionable as an umbrella species. Umbrella species are generally defined as ‘a species with large area requirements for which protection of the species offers protection to other species that share the same habitat’ (Noss, 1990; Simberloff, 1998; Ozaki *et al.*, 2006).

![Fig. 3. Approximate distributions of *M. margaritifera* (blue line), *M. auricularia* (red line) and *U. crassus* (green dashed line) in Europe. Although less vulnerable, widespread species are more likely to attract conservation efforts.](image)

In contrast, its ‘sister’ species (sister is not used here in a phylogenetic sense) the Giant Pearl Mussel, *M. auricularia* (Fig. 4), is critically endangered (Altaba, 1990, 1997; Araujo & Ramos, 2000, 2001; Cochet, 2001; Nienhuis, 2003; Prié *et al.*, 2008; Prié & Cochet, 2010; Cuttelod *et al.*, 2011) and could become extinct within a few decades (it was even believed extinct for a while). As usual, large species disappear first and *M. auricularia*, which is one of the largest freshwater invertebrates, relies on the largest west European fish ever found in rivers, the critically endangered European Sturgeon, *Acipenser sturio*, the only known natural host fish for Atlantic populations. It lives in habitats suitable for most unionoid species. As a downstream specialist species, it depends on the quality of the whole river network. It is therefore indisputably a good candidate umbrella species.

But having been extirpated from most of its original range (western European countries), its conservation now relies only on Spain and France, and is a matter of concern for very few people. It is not easily accessible to the general public, living in deep and turbid waters, and it is not identified with pristine and healthy stream ecosystems (Geist, 2010). For all these social and cultural reasons, and in spite of its alarming conservation status and its valuable umbrella species status, it has not become a charismatic species and receives little attention.

Nowadays, in European countries, most conservation efforts follow the European Habitats and Species Directive, which lists in Annex II the species for which Europe requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation, and in Annex
IV the species in need of strict protection. Inexplicably, the Giant Pearl Mussel was not listed in Annex II, which questions the relevance of these lists for conservation (Bouchet et al. 1999). As a consequence, very few conservation efforts are focused on the Giant Pearl Mussel and fund raising is difficult.

Fig. 4. The Giant Pearl Mussel, *Margaritifera auricularia*, is one of the largest continental invertebrate species in Europe.

The Thick-shelled Mussel, *Unio crassus*, is in between: *M. margaritifera* yields about 80,000 results when Googled, *U. crassus* about 40,000, *M. auricularia* about 15,000. The difference between *M. auricularia* and *U. crassus* probably lies in their distribution (Fig. 3); although it is not as accessible as *M. margaritifera*, being harder to identify and living in less clear streams, 30 European countries are concerned (Fauna Europaea, 2013). It is thus more likely to bring people together. Paradoxically, the more widespread a species is, the more it attracts conservation efforts!

Funds for conservation are limited. Drawing most of the European financial support for freshwater molluscs, *M. margaritifera* unavoidably focuses conservation efforts on its peculiar environment and limits the resources allocated to other species. Nature conservation is strongly linked to social issues. While freshwater bivalves seem to have become visible from a conservation perspective, the other 99% syndrome remains ambushed. European (and other) malacologists should be aware of this pitfall when ranking conservation priorities.


Vincent Prié, Biotope, 22 boulevard maréchal Foch, BP 58, 34140 Mèze, France. Tel +33 (0)4 67 18 18 75, fax +33 (0)4 67 18 46 29, prie.vincent@gmail.com

**ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION: FATE OF THE PEŢEA THERMAL LAKE (ROMANIA) AND ITS ENDEMIC SPECIES**

By Ioan Sîrbu, Adrian Gagiu & Ana Maria Benedek

The Peţea Lake (also known as the Ochiul Mare Lake on the Peţea rivulet) lies in the north-western part of Romania, close to the town of Oradea, in Bihor county. The lake is situated above a rich geothermal aquifer, which has been known and
valued since ancient times. The accessibility of thermal waters in the area favored the establishment of two resorts situated close to one another: Băile 1 Mai (Băie meaning Baths) and Băile Felix. At the first site (in the past also known as Băile Episcopiei, Püspökfürdő in Hungarian or Bischofsbad in German) thermal springs supplied the Peţea Lake (Fig. 1), formed in the second half of the Holocene (Sümegi et al., 2012a, b). Peţea Lake became world-famous especially because it is the only location in Europe where the Egyptian white water-lily (Nymphaea lotus thermalis) grows naturally, here represented by an endemic thermal variety. Along with this plant, which was the main reason for declaring the lake a nature reserve in 1932, another two local endemic species occur, namely the fish Scardinius racovitzai Müller, 1958 and the snail Melanopsis parreyssii (Philippi, 1847). Later, custody of the area was taken over by the Ţării Crişurilor Museum in Oradea, and in early 2007 it became part of a Natura 2000 Site of Community Importance.

This snail probably diverged from its closest living relative Fagotia acicularis or Esperiana (Microcolpia) daudebartii acicularis (Férussac, 1823). Why and when it happened, and what the current status of the local endemic species is, remains debatable. According to Smoleń & Falińowski (2009), who analyzed partial sequences of ribosomal 18S and mitochondrial COI, Fagotia should be synonymized with Melanopsis. The application of a molecular clock, with one point calibration for COI for the Hydrobiidae, estimated the times of divergence as 2.53 ± 0.56 Mya for M. parreyssii and F. acicularis. This age of 2.5 Mya coincides with the beginning of the glacial period in Europe. Recently Sümegi et al. (2012a, b) undertook palaeontological research in this area; malacological examinations were completed in conjunction with sedimentological, geochemical, radiocarbon, anthracological and palynological examinations. There is continuity in the changing variation, which can be traced through the Holocene, and according to Sümegi et al. (2012a, b), this morphological variation along the lineage suggests that Melanopsis parreyssii is (or was) an eco-form of Fagotia acicularis, adapted to thermal conditions of 28-32 °C. However, there are two possibilities: M. parreyssii may be an eco-morphological form of F. acicularis adapted to 32-34 °C thermal water conditions, or it may be a separate species that became adapted to thermal water. If they really are distinct taxa, then M. parreyssii is the youngest endemic to have evolved in the Carpathian Basin (Sümegi et al., 2012a, b). Whatever its true status, the shell morphology and ecology of present-day representatives of the two taxa are seemingly different. Fig. 2 shows the shells of Melanopsis parreyssii and its closest relative, Fagotia acicularis, sampled from an isolated, relict, meso-thermal spring and rivulet in Răbăgani about 30 km east of Peţea Lake.

Fig. 1. The thermal Peţea Lake in August 1999, highlighting two of its marvels: a, Nymphaea lotus thermalis; b, the local endemic snail Melanopsis parreyssii. (Photos: I. Sîrbu, 1999; O. Pascu, 2013, respectively)

In the malacological and conservation biology literature there have been many mistakes or overstatements concerning the present day distribution of Melanopsis parreyssii. The cing of this species from Hungary has two causes. The first is because before World War I Transylvania (including the area of reference) was part of Hungary or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The second is because some M. parreyssii individuals were introduced to Malom-tó, in Budapest, as well as Körösładány, but after several years of persistence it seems that the colonizers have disappeared (Fehér, 2012, and pers. comm., 2012). It was also reported in 2000 from a spring at Pyasachnik Dam in the Upper Thracian lowland (Bulgaria), but the destruction of the habitat made it impossible for Georgiev (2010) to find any live individuals or shells in order to draw any conclusions about its former presence. Thus, the species is either extinct in Bulgaria (the possibility that it was introduced should also be considered) or it never existed there, having been reported erroneously.

It thus remains obvious that Melanopsis parreyssii is still to be considered as a therophilous, endemic taxon that requires strict protection. The problem is that the thermal waters that supplied and sustained the unique Peţea Lake were also the reason for its decline. Especially after the political changes in the early 1990s, the villages and resorts began to expand, more and more tourist facilities were built: villas, pensions, hotels, spas and recently a waterworld, all of them drilling and exploiting the main resource of the area: the geothermal
waters. Much of the drilling is done officially, but other unknown and illegal drilling also takes place. Thus, a reduction of the flow of the thermal springs and of the water level and surface area of the lake were witnessed in the last few years. Along with the habitat’s deterioration, a constant decline in the size of the *M. parreyssii* population occurred. The poor condition of the lake and its surroundings worsened because of the increased tourism, siltation, collection of specimens for different reasons by people from all over the world (Sirbu, 2006), introduction or expansion of populations of allochthonous species, e.g. *Sinanodonta woodiana* (Lea 1834) in the first decade of the 21st century, etc. Changes in the Peţea Lake water level, vegetation and general view of the habitat, between 2007 and 2012, can be seen in Fig. 3.

Considering all these, as well as the threats caused by pollution and habitat disturbance, which are ongoing, *M. parreyssii* was assessed by Z. Fehér in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (2012, v. 2012.2) as Critically Endangered (CR B1ab(iii,v)+2ab(iii,v), v. 3.1).

The decline in population size became exponential in the last months of 2011. On 13 December 2011, the thermal underwater spring that supplied Peţea Lake ceased activity, resulting in an abrupt reduction of both water level and surface area. Divers, called especially to investigate this event, recorded the lack of flow and clogging of the spring. The Ţării Crişurilor Museum, legal custodian of this nature reserve as well as of the related Natura 2000 site alerted the local and national environmental authorities. Consequently, beginning in spring 2012, several meetings and discussions, with all possible authorities, scientists, naturalists, mass-media, etc., resulted in the establishment of two commissions: one (with the Regional Environmental Agency, the Environmental Guard, etc.) aiming to find solutions for the problems, and a second to control the first. As a favour and at the request of the Museum, SC Turism Felix SA, which owns the rights to water of the thermal aquifer, pumps water into the dying lake, usually intermittently, from one of its drilling sites in the vicinity. The Peţea Lake is now like an intubated person in a coma, living only with the help of artificial respiration and other medical devices. Thus, for now, the lake is artificially kept in a form of existence by the same process that destroyed it: thermal aquifer exploitation. Nothing comic: the tragedy prevails!

Since February 2012 the Ţării Crişurilor Museum has established two aquariums, one with *Scardinius racovitzai* and another with *Melanopsis parreyssii*, in order to have a last and desperate source of potential repopulation. The representatives of this custodian institution asked for permission to plant *Nymphaea lotus* in an artificial thermal ornamental basin from the neighboring Băile Felix, but so far they were refused, and anyway the procedure for obtaining the required legal permits is very slow.

In the spring of 2012, the state of the lake seemed to improve partially, probably because, due to the rising temperatures, the urge to exploit the thermal waters to heat guest houses in the area has diminished. A limited flow of the thermal underwater spring was noticed. During the summer of 2012 the first established commission carried out an inspection of the whole area to identify illegal consumers of the thermal waters. Only some could be traced, because many ‘were not at home’, others were not willing to open their doors, some had already established drills, but did not use them, while others have contested the inspection. During the autumn of 2012, the water level dropped once again, and the spring has again become less active. This acute event was surely also linked to the establishment of an aquapark in Băile Felix on 29 October.

The situation during December 2012 - January 2013 can be seen in Figs. 4 and 5; the custodians and their supporters are visiting and monitoring the state of the lake weekly. They also ask for water to be pumped from the drilling site mentioned above, to keep the patient alive. In the small remaining pond, there are still many overcrowded snails and fish facing a food shortage and being at the mercy of many predators (birds, turtles, tourists, etc.). The viability of these remnant populations is between extremely low and non-existent.

A helping hand was recently raised by a NGO and a University from Hungary, in order to establish at least one project to send specimens of the endemic taxa to be maintained and bred ex-situ. Legal requests have already been made and the search for grants and funds has begun. However,
all possible assistance, at the entire range of scales and from all fields of knowledge will be crucial to save these taxa, including the endemic snail Melanopsis parreyssii and its habitat, the thermal Peţea or Ochiul Mare Lake, and to save this heritage for future generations. There is Sisyphean work to be done in order to try, in extremis, to keep as much as possible of the former habitat and its unique species.

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Ioan Sîrbu & Ana Maria Benedek, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Environmental Sciences and Physics, 5-7 Rațiu St., 550012 Sibiu, Romania. meosirbu@yahoo.com

Adrian Gagiu, Țării Crișurilor Museum, 1-3 Dacia Avenue, 410464 Oradea, Romania. adriangagiu@rdslink.ro

HAVE INVASIVE FRESHWATER GASTROPODS CONQUERED THE LOWER PART OF THE TANNINIM RIVER IN ISRAEL?

By Henk K. Mienis and Oz Rittner

Until recently the Tanninim River (Nahal HaTanninim or Crocodile River), between Ma‘agan Mikha‘el and Jisr ez Zarqa (Fig. 1), was considered the only unspoiled Mediterranean coastal river in Israel. All other coastal rivers have suffered intensively since 1948 from urban, industrial and agricultural pollution. Most of the lower part of the Tanninim River and its surroundings has been declared a nature reserve.

Fig. 1. South bank of the Lower Tanninim River with the village Jisr ez Zerqa in the background. (Photo: Oz Rittner)

The status of being a reserve is important from the conservation point of view. The lower part of the river is the only tidal river in the Mediterranean coastal belt of Israel in which a brackish water fauna still thrives.

The biodiversity of aquatic molluscs of the Tanninim River was still relatively high in 1986 (Mienis & Ortal, 1996, 1997). Yet the first changes in the composition of its fauna were already evident during an intensive survey of its waters in that year. Not only had some species disappeared, for example most of the large mussel species, but also the first introduced species, including the North American Haitia acuta (Daraparnaia, 1805) and the Nilotic Ferrissia clessiniana.
(Jickeli, 1882), had arrived in the river.

The fauna of the lower part of the Tanninim River, i.e. from the Roman Dam westwards to the mouth of the river in the Mediterranean just beyond the ruins of the Turkish bridge, consisted of the following 13 species (asterisks indicate those that were extremely common on or near the south bank of the river):

*Theodoxus karasuna* (Mousson, 1874)
*Islamia gaillardoti* (Germain, 1911)
*Heleobia phaeunciaca* (Pallary, 1939)
*Bithynia phialensis* (Conrad, 1852)
*Melanoides tuberculata* (Müller, 1774)
*Melanopsis buccinoides* (Olivier, 1801)
*Melanopsis lampra* Bourguignat, 1884
*Haitia acuta* (Draparnaud, 1805)
*Gyrinus ehrenbergi* (Beck, 1837)
*Gyrinus piscinum* (Bourguignat, 1852)
*Phytia myosotis* (Draparnaud, 1801)
*Unio terminalis delicatus* Lea, 1863
*Corbicula consobrina* (Cailliaud, 1823)

On 4 December 2012 we briefly surveyed the south bank of the river for the presence of the amphibious gastropod *Phytia myosotis*, which we found still present here and there under *Halimione portulacoides* growing on the banks just above the water. At the same time we sampled aquatic weeds growing in the water and those terrestrial plants hanging into the water. To our surprise only four species of aquatic snails were encountered alive: *Pseudoplotia scabra* (Müller 1774) (better known as *Thiara scabra*) (Fig. 2)

*Pyrgophorus* species (Fig. 3)
*Haitia acuta* (Draparnaud, 1805)
*Pseudosuccinea columella* (Say, 1817)

All four are invasive alien species. In particular, we found hundreds of specimens of an extremely variable New World *Pyrgophorus* species. Sometimes it was the only species present in our sieve.

Of the native species only old empty shells of *Theodoxus karasuna, Heleobia phaeunciaca, Bithynia phialensis, Melanoïdes tuberculata, Melanopsis buccinoides* and *Melanopsis lampra* were found in fair numbers.

The question is have these four invasive species conquered the Lower Tanninim River and outcompeted the local species? We hope sincerely that in the future the local species may regain their place among the aquatic mollusc fauna inhabiting the southern banks of the Lower Tanninim River.

It will not be an easy task because they not only have to compete with the invasive species but also to cope with deterioration of the water quality. The south bank of the lower part of the river is suffering here and there from a continuous stream of raw sewage, which has its origin in one or more overflowing sewer pits collecting the sewage of the nearby village Jisr ez Zarqa. We think it will be a fine job for a dedicated group of conservationists to clear up this mess.

Henk K. Mienis, The Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, IL-69978 Tel Aviv, Israel; and the National Natural History Collections, Berman Building, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL-91904 Jerusalem, Israel. mienis@netzer.org.il

Oz Rittner, The Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, IL-69978 Tel Aviv, Israel. israelbutterflies@gmail.com

THE PULMONATE SNAILS OF TRINDADE ISLAND, BRASIL

By Rodrigo B. Salvador, Carlo M. Cunha & Luiz R.L. Simone

Trindade Island (*Ilha da Trindade* in Portuguese) lies about 1140 km off the Brasilian coast (Figs. 1, 2). It is the top of a volcanic cone rising 5500 m from the ocean floor, part of the Vitória-Trindade Seamount Chain left by a magma plume. Trindade has just a handful of known pulmonate snails (Fig. 3), all endemic: *Bulimus brunoi* and *Naesiotus arnaldoi*.
Fig. 1. Location of Trindade Island off the coast of Brasil.

Fig. 2. Trindade Island.

Fig. 3. A, Bulimulus brunoi (shell length 21 mm); B, Naestottus arnaldoi (10 mm); C, Vegrandinia trindadensis (7 mm).

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Fig. 1. Location of Trindade Island off the coast of Brasil.

Fig. 2. Trindade Island.

Fig. 3. A, Bulimulus brunoi (shell length 21 mm); B, Naestottus arnaldoi (10 mm); C, Vegrandinia trindadensis (7 mm).

(Orthalicidae), Oxyloma beckeri and Succinea lopesi (Succineidae) and Vegrandinia trindadensis (Subulinidae).

And this fauna seems to have gone through hard times during the last few decades.

Recently, five non-native pulmonate species were found on the island: Bradybaena similaris (Bradybaenidae), Discus rotundatus (Discidae), Pupisoma dioscoricola (Valloniidae), Gastrocopta pellucida and Vertigo substriata (Vertiginidae). When they were introduced and their precise place of origin are unknown. The island was discovered in 1501 by Portugal, later claimed by England, and finally became part of Brasil in 1822. Many military and scientific expeditions from Europe, North America and of course Brasil visited the island. As such, there were many opportunities for introducing such diminutive snails, as they are easily carried around and rarely noticed. Land snails have been unintentionally introduced in many regions around the globe, impacting native vegetation and preying upon or outcompeting native species. However, whether these non-native snails had any effect on the native ones is also unknown. Still, one astonishing fact remains: no living animal, native or non-native alike, has been found on the island since the end of the 1980s. So the real problem for the native snails might lie somewhere else.

The military expeditions sent to claim and occupy the island brought goats and house mice with them. Introduced mammals are extremely destructive to the native fauna and flora of oceanic islands. The house mouse population on Trindade is estimated at tens of thousands and they might have played a part in the snails’ disappearance: it is well known that mice can voraciously prey upon land snails, especially if other food sources are scarce. However, they will only eat medium-sized to large snails and, on Trindad Island, this means the native orthalicids. Goats are the main cause of extinctions on many islands. On Trindade, goats were responsible for drastic deforestation, leading to the extinction or almost extinction of many endemic plant species. This resulted in a loss of habitat and food resources, which might have been the major cause of the disappearance of the native snails.

Even so, it is still too early to embrace an extinction scenario for Trindade’s land snails: after a great campaign to eradicate the goats, concluded in 2005, the flora seems to be recovering with the help of some researchers. With this, snail populations should be able to re-establish themselves, provided that some managed to survive somewhere on the island. However, this is valid for both native and non-native species alike.

Unfortunately, Trindade is still open to future invasions and some measures should be taken to prevent them. Previous experience with invasive snails make it painfully clear that preventing an invasion is much easier than trying to control or eradicate an invasive species. Since the island does not have a large permanent settlement and thus the flow of people is very restricted, it would not be too difficult to implement and maintain an inspection and quarantine program.

Rodrigo B. Salvador, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart. Stuttgart, Germany, and Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany. salvador.rodrigo.b@gmail.com

Carlo M. Cunha & Luiz R.L. Simone, Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil.
FRESHWATER AND TERRESTRIAL MOLLUSCS IN BRASIL: CURRENT STATUS OF KNOWLEDGE AND CONSERVATION

By Sonia Barbosa dos Santos, Igor Christo Miyahira & Maria Cristina Dreher Mansur

Brasil, a country of continental dimensions, is recognized as one of the most megadiverse countries, harbouring high diversity of biomes and fantastic species richness. However, current knowledge about our biota is still scarce and heterogeneous, focused on just a few groups, especially when talking about invertebrates, including hidden invertebrates, i.e. parasites (Lewinsohn & Prado, 2002; Lewinsohn et al., 2004). This ignorance is an impediment to conservation action.

The publication of the Red Book of Brasilian Fauna Threatened with Extinction (Machado et al., 2008) aimed to consolidate the national effort for animal conservation and indicated a significant advance concerning invertebrates. Although the role of Red Lists in conservation is questioned by some (Bouchet et al., 1999), there is no doubt about the importance of so-called ‘Red Books’ for decision makers, politicians, environmental professionals, researchers and the general public.

Considering the continental dimensions of Brasil, it is clear that an overall list of Brasilian endangered species does not provide information about regional differences (Bergallo et al., 2000; Machado, 2008). These differences are related not only to the peculiar characteristics of each ecosystem but also to local levels of habitat degradation, scientific knowledge of the biology and distribution of species and extinction risk for local populations (Bergallo et al., 2000). So the elaboration of regional lists is important because each list reflects different pressures and threats in each region, which will help build more consistent national lists (Bergallo et al., 2000; Gardenfors et al., 2001; Machado, 2008).

The Brasilian fauna has been the target of severe threats, especially environment modifications (Amaral et al., 2008). In terrestrial environments the destruction of native vegetation to establish crop plantations and grassland is a major problem. In freshwater environments the construction of hydroelectric dams is a serious problem because the transformation of lotic environments can reduce (Pereira et al., 2012) or even eliminate species typical of rapids and well oxygenated water, such as gastropods of the genus Aylacostoma (Thiengo et al., 2005).

Talking about invaders, Achatina fulica Bowdich, 1822 stands out in the terrestrial environments, whereas in the freshwater habitats Asian clams, Corbicula spp., and the golden mussel, Limnoperna fortunei (Dunker, 1857), are the stars (Santos et al., 2012). In addition to this, we have the introduction of an unknown number of small sized alien species (Santos et al., 2008).

It was clear from the preparation of the official national list that molluscs as a group had received little attention. The first list of Brasilian Endangered Fauna (Carvalho, 1968), approved by the Brasilian government (Portaria IBDF nº 303, 29/5/68), featured 44 species but no molluscs. The first list published by IBAMA (Portaria nº 1.522), in 1989, included 206 animal species under threat of extinction, 174 vertebrates and 32 invertebrates, but no molluscs.

The current official ‘List of Endangered Species’, published through the Normative Statements of the Ministry of the Environment (MMA nº 3/2003 and nº 5/2004) and consolidated in the Red Book of Brasilian Fauna Threatened with Extinction (Machado et al., 2008), includes 627 species: 130 terrestrial invertebrates, 78 aquatic invertebrates, 16 amphibians, 20 reptiles, 160 birds, 69 mammals and 154 fish. Among the invertebrates, 12 are gastropods (11 terrestrial and one limnic) and 26 are limnic bivalves, comprising 18% of the invertebrates listed as endangered (Table 1). Thus, it took 40 years until the molluscs, the second largest phylum in terms of described biodiversity, garnered the attention of Brasilian researchers involved in conservation.

Despite the importance of the regional lists (Bergallo et al., 2000), up to 2010, out of the 26 Brasilian States and the Federal District (Brasilia), only nine states (Pará, Minais Gerais, Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul) had official lists of threatened fauna, but only four states (Pará, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul) included limnic and terrestrial molluscs in their lists (Table 1). Table 2 shows the number of species according to threat category for each state in comparison to the federal list (BRL). Looking at the current list for Rio de Janeiro state it seems that a number of terrestrial gastropods could act as flagship and umbrella species for the Atlantic Forest: Streptaxis contusus (Férrusac, 1822) (Streptaxidae).

Table 1. Numbers of molluscs in the official state lists and in the Brasilian Red List in comparison to the total number of threatened invertebrates. PA - Pará (SEMA-PA, 2007), RJ - Rio de Janeiro (Bergallo et al., 2000), SP - São Paulo (SP, 1998), RS - Rio Grande do Sul (Marques et al., 2002), BRL - Brasilian Red List (Machado et al., 2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Gastropoda</th>
<th>Freshwater Bivalvia</th>
<th>Total invertebrates</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RJ</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

by the Brasilian government (Portaria IBDF nº 303, 29/5/68), featured 44 species but no molluscs. The first list published by IBAMA (Portaria nº 1.522), in 1989, included 206 animal species under threat of extinction, 174 vertebrates and 32 invertebrates, but no molluscs.

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Table 2. Numbers of molluscs listed as threatened in the Brasilian State Lists and in the Brasilian Red List, with the IUCN threat category. Sources as for Table 1. DD - Data Deficient, NT - Near Threatened, EN - Endangered, VU - Vulnerable, CR - Critically Endangered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Gastropoda</th>
<th>Bivalvia</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Terrestrial</td>
<td>Limnic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RJ</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Threatened non-marine molluscs in Brazil. Some species need careful taxonomic revision as noted by Pereira et al. (2012) for freshwater mussels. VU- near threatened, EN- vulnerable, CR- critically endangered, EX- extinct.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common names</th>
<th>Threat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater snails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrobiidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potamothula troglophilus Simone &amp; Mirarchioli, 1994</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ampullariidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomacea sordida (Swainson, 1823)</td>
<td>aruú-do-brejo</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land snails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthalicidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eudolichus lacerta (Pfeiffer, 1855)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthalia pulchelius (Spix, 1827)</td>
<td>caramujo do café</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulimulidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drymaeus spp.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomigerus biotuctus turbinatus (Pfeiffer, 1845)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>VU, EX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomigerus (Digerus) gibberulus (Burrow, 1815)</td>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>VU, EX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megaobulimidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus cardosoi (Marretes, 1952)</td>
<td>aruú-do-mato</td>
<td>EN, CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus grandis (Martens, 1885)</td>
<td>aruú-do-mato, aruú-gigante, caracol-gigante</td>
<td>EN, EX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus lopesi Leme, 1989</td>
<td>caracol-gigante-da Boracéia</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus pragafiliigcor Leme &amp; Indrusiak, 1990</td>
<td>caracol-gigante</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus oblongus (Müller, 1774)</td>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus procellis (Martens, 1888)</td>
<td>aruú-alongado</td>
<td>EN, CR, EX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megalobulimus spp.</td>
<td>aruú-do-mato</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptaxidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectarteron depressus (Heynemann, 1868)</td>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>VU, EX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sellochoeleidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonyostomus gonyostomus (Férrussac, 1821)</td>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonyostomus henseli (Martens, 1868)</td>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>VU, EN, CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonyostomus insularis Leme, 1974</td>
<td>Caracol-da-ilha</td>
<td>VU, EN, CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mininaba curyiana (Morretes, 1952)</td>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>EN, CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bivalvia (freshwater mussels)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyriidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castalia undosa Martens, 1827</td>
<td>concha-borboleta</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon besoueau (Dunker, 1848)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon caipira (Ihering, 1893)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN, CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon dunkeri (Lea, 1856)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon expansus (Küster, 1856)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon fontainianus (d’Orbigny, 1835)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon greve freezes (Ihering, 1893)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon iseringii (Simpson, 1880)</td>
<td>Marisco-burgudinho</td>
<td>EN, CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon iseringii (Ihering, 1893)</td>
<td>Marisco-no-juco</td>
<td>EN, CR, EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon martensi (Ihering, 1893)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon pfeifferi (Dunker, 1846)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>VU, EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplodon rotundus (Spix, 1827)</td>
<td>Concha disco</td>
<td>VU, EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycetocidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites elongatus (Swainson, 1823)</td>
<td>Marisco-pantaneiro</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites ensiformis (Spix, 1827)</td>
<td>Estilete</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites ferrarisi (d’Orbigny, 1835)</td>
<td>Redondo-raiado</td>
<td>VU, EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites iheringii (Clesse, 1882)</td>
<td>Alargado-raiado</td>
<td>VU, EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites soleniformes (d’Orbigny, 1835)</td>
<td>Alargado-raiado</td>
<td>VU, EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites ternebrocensis (Lea, 1834)</td>
<td>Marisco-riu</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites trapezialis (Lamarck, 1819)</td>
<td>Prato-saboneteira</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anodontites trapezicus (Spix, 1827)</td>
<td>Marisco-do-água-doce</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartletta stefanensi (Moricand, 1855)</td>
<td>Ostra-de-rio</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossasia oncifera (d’Orbigny, 1835)</td>
<td>Fóssea</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila clamitiliana (Lea, 1834)</td>
<td>Leila</td>
<td>EN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila esula (d’Orbigny, 1846)</td>
<td>Cofrinho</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monoclydella paraguayana (d’Orbigny, 1835)</td>
<td>Leila</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycetopodidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycetopodidae gaeguanae (Martens, 1888)</td>
<td>Faquinha-aranhada</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycetopodidae silizeria (Spix, 1827)</td>
<td>Faquinha-truncada</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leiostracus perlucidus (Spix, 1827) (Bulimulidae) and species of Megalobulimus (Santos et al., 2009; Santos, 2009).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considering all the state and federal lists combined, there are 47 threatened non-marine species (27 freshwater bivalves, 2 freshwater and 17 terrestrial gastropods) (Table 3). This is almost 20% more species than actually listed in the federal Brazilian Red List (Machado et al., 2008), which does not include all the species in the four state lists, for example Pomacea sordida, listed in the Rio de Janeiro list but not in the federal list. The real number of threatened species is probably even higher, particularly as in some poorly studied genera, for example Drymaeus Albers, 1850 and Megalobulimus Miller, 1878 in the Rio de Janeiro list (Bergallo et al., 2000), there is more than one species, not identified, but under threat.


3São Paulo List (SP, 1998); 4Rio de Janeiro List (Bergallo et al., 2000); 4Rio Grande do Sul List (Marques et al., 2002); 5Brazilian Red List (Machado et al., 2005); 6Pará List (SEMA-PA 2007); 7Brazilian Red List (Machado et al., 2008); 8IUCN Red List (2010).
Sonia Barbosa dos Santos & Igor Christo Miyahira, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto de Biologia Roberto Alcantara Gomes, Laboratório de Malacologia Límica e Terrestre, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, gündlachia@yahoo.com.br, icmiyahira@yahoo.com.br
Maria Cristina Dreher Mansur, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Centro de Ecologia, CENECO, prédio 42411, Av. Bento Gonçalves 9500, CEP 91540-000 Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil. mcrismansur@gmail.com

**THREATS TO CONTINENTAL MOLLUSCS IN BRASIL, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LAND GASTROPODS**

*By A. Ignacio Agudo-Padrón*

Currently, around 700 species of terrestrial gastropods are known from South America. Of these, only 11 are listed in the Brazilian Red Book (Machado et al., 2008). All are stylommatophorans: two species of Bulimulidae, five Megalobulimidae (Fig. 1), one Streptaxidae and three Strophocheilidae. The status categories listed in the Brazilian Red Book differ in some cases from those in the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2012). In practice, many more species than just these 11 are threatened.

It is the general consensus among those who work with terrestrial gastropods in Brasil that many native mollusc species are under serious threat of extinction, including species that are as yet unknown. The reason why these 11 species are already listed is because they are very well recognised by everyone. However, the destruction and alteration of natural environments, mainly caused by deforestation and the spread of agricultural plantations, often involving indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals, in conjunction with lack of adequate studies mean that the sizes of their remaining populations are unknown.

Introduction of alien species, such as the giant African snail, *Achatina (Lissachatina) fulica* Bowdich, 1822, is one of the most serious threats that our malacoafauna faces. *Achatina fulica* has spread rapidly to all states in Brasil (Thiengo et al., 2007). Hasty public attempts aimed at eradication and control of *A. fulica* in particular, with increasing efforts since at least 2003, have led to a further unexpected and serious threat to our already suffering and vulnerable fauna of native and endemic molluscs. Prompted by the threats posed by *A. fulica*, campaigns conducted through the news media have alarmed the public, who now indiscriminately consider any snail to be a dangerous enemy to be quickly banished or destroyed, an attitude that prevails in the face of what should be effective defense and conservation of our scientifically little known species of South American snails (Agudo-Padrón, 2012).

This situation needs immediate urgent attention from the relevant authorities to provide the necessary clarification for the public and to seek collaborative solutions that are truly effective, viable and considered that can solve the catastrophic environmental conflict now underway.

On a continental scale of priorities regarding mollusc conservation, freshwater molluscs are the most in need of immediate attention, as many human actions are recklessly detrimental to their restricted and fragile habitats. Terrestrial species are the next priority, with marine species lowest priority. However, this is in contrast to general practice, as whenever the issue of the conservation status of molluscs in Brasil is addressed, almost invariably the immediate center of attention is directed in the first instance to marine species, followed soon after by freshwater species, leaving terrestrial species last in the ranking, a situation that is invariably explained/justified immediately by the lack of researchers focussed on terrestrial snails, and the consequent lack of required minimum ecological and population data.


A. Ignacio Agudo-Padrón, Project Avulsos Malacológicos, P.O. Box 010, 88010-970 Centro, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina - SC, Brasil. ignacioagudo@gmail.com, noticias-malacologicas-am.webnode.pt

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**THE MONSOON FOREST REFUGE OF THE ONLY CHINESE AMPHIDROMUS**

By Li Du, Qin Xu & Min Wu

*Amphidromus* Albers, 1850 is a camaenid genus comprising more than 70 splendid tropical species widely distributed in South Asia including Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, China (Hainan and Taiwan), Singapore, Indonesia and some nearby islands. In 2005, we found an empty shell of *Amphidromus rhodostylus* Moellendorff, 1901 (Fig. 1) on the ground of the partially burned monsoon forest of Exianling, Dongfang county of Hainan, accompanied by many shells of *Achatina fulica* Bowdich, 1822. Before and after that find, no empty shells or living specimens were found by us again, even in the well preserved part of Exianling forest, which is not far from the Jianfengling National Park. In June 2008, Mr. Gang Lu, a biodiversity conservation volunteer took a photograph of *A. rhodostylus* near Weidong Forest Conservation Station, 230 m asl in Jianfengling National Park (established in 1976, ca. 447 km²) (Fig. 2). One juvenile specimen was observed active on a broad leaf of *Castanopsis fissa* (family Fagaceae) (Fig. 3).

To date only one species, *A. cognatus*, of the genus *Amphidromus* has been listed by IUCN, assessed as Lower Risk/Near Threatened (IUCN, 2012). More information on nearly all *Amphidromus* species is needed so that they can be assessed, although in recent years many malacologists have been working on various aspects of this genus. Our several years’ field investigation in Hainan Island suggests Jianfengling is the only known locality of *Amphidromus rhodostylus*, a highly endangered land snail species deserving
to be focused upon right now.

Funding for this project was provided by the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC, 31071882).


Li Du, Qin Xu & Min Wu, School of Life Science, Nanjing University, Hankoulu 22, Nanjing 210093, China
minwu1969@yahoo.cn

**NON-MARINE MOLLUSC CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN BRASIL: CURRENT SITUATION IN NORTHWESTERN RIO GRANDE DO SUL STATE, UPPER URUGUAY RIVER BASIN**

By A. Ignacio Agudo-Padrón

The municipalities of Derrubadas (27°15′54″S, 53°51′39″W; elevation up to 485 m asl; with river borders with Argentina in the north-west and the Brasilian state of Santa Catarina in the north-east) and Iraí (27°11′38″S, 53°15′03″W; elevation up to 235 m asl; with a river border with Santa Catarina state to the north) are located in the upper Uruguay River basin region of Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brasil (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Locations of Derrubadas (left - downstream) and Iraí (right - upstream) municipal districts of Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brasil. Insets: location of Rio Grande do Sul State in Brasil.

The general area, a region of seasonal deciduous forest, has a mesothermal humid climate, with high temperatures in summer and relatively low temperatures during the winter, and an average annual temperature of 24.5 °C (from June to October the temperature can drop to 0 °C).

The Parque Florestal Estadual de Turvo (Turvo State Forest Park) is in Derrubadas municipality. The famous Salto do Yucumã (Yucumã falls) (Figs. 2, 3), one of the longest waterfalls in the world at 1800 m (Gonçalves, 1999), is located within the park. The park lies within the so-called Paraná River Basin Basaltic Plateau, and has altitudes ranging between 100 and 400 m with steep slopes and valleys that open to the west and north, resulting in natural drainage into the Uruguay River system.

The park covers an area of 17,491 ha and supports some of the tallest forests in the state, with trees up to 30-40 m tall, the last remnants of the dense forest of the upper Uruguay, a formation with similar characteristics to the Iguacu Waterfalls National Park in southern Paraná State (Agudo-Padrón, 2008).

Upstream is Iraí municipality, well known as a hidromineral resort, its thermal mineral waters recommended as a treatment by doctors and specialists and attracting visitors from all over Brasil and neighboring countries. The Rio do Mel (Honey River) (Fig. 4), an important tributary of the Uruguay River, and flows through the Oswaldo Cruz Thermal Spa, 2 km distant from its entry into the Uruguay. At 200 m outside the Spa, its average depth is 2 m and average width is 20 m.

On 15-18 November 2011, in the course of travelling for environmental survey work in the upper Uruguay River basin region, we visited these two localities. Only the Turvo State Forest Park remains relatively intact, resisting the relentless advance of the agricultural fields that surround it and the threats that they pose.

This region has suffered severe deforestation as a result of logging, intensive monoculture of crops (specifically wheat, soy and corn), clearing for pastures (Fig. 5), livestock farming (pigs and poultry) and constant and indiscriminate application of pesticides, leaving only sparse small areas of preserved forest known as ‘legal reserve’ that are mandated by the Brasilian Forest Code and that unfortunately are unrepresentative of the great forests of former times.

Fig. 2. The Yucumã falls and their environment between Argentina and Brasil.
Another big regional problem is the proliferation of both large and small hydroelectric power plants throughout the watershed of the upper Uruguay River basin.

This continuing environmental degradation is clearly reflected in the impacts sustained by the local faunal biodiversity, particularly the terrestrial molluscs, with native endemic forest megasnails such as *Megalobulimus gummatus* (Hidalgo, 1870) (Megalobulimidae) and others that were formerly abundant and widespread in the region now fast disappearing, becoming increasingly rare and difficult to encounter in nature (Agudo-

In addition there has been a parallel and alarming introduction and spread of invading alien molluscs (Agudo-Padrón & Lenhard, 2010; Agudo-Padrón 2011a, 2012a, b).

The only land snail we found was the alien Asian garden snail, *Bradybaena similaris* (Rang, 1831). In the two freshwater localities visited, alien Asian clams, *Corbicula fluminea* (Müller, 1774) and *Corbicula largillierti* (Philippi, 1844), were predominant (Fig. 5), with very few native species and these only rarely observed, suggesting that they are under some degree of threat.

The Uruguay river basin is important from a mollusc biodiversity perspective. For instance, it supports 42 species (18%) of Brasil’s freshwater bivalves, making it the third most diverse hydrogeographic basin in Brasil after the Paraná/Paraguai and the Atlântico Sul/Sudeste basins (Pereira et al., 2012).

This short article is the first report of non-marine molluscs occurring in the northwestern region of the state of Rio Grande do Sul and the corresponding section of the upper Uruguay river basin.
Native mollusc species found

Class GASTROPODA
Family AMPULLARIIDAE
*Pomella americanista* (Ihering, 1919) (Fig. 6). Known from the vicinity of Iguazu and Encarnación in the Rio Paraná system (Ihering, 1919). Previously recorded in Rio Grande do Sul by Agudo-Padrón (2009).

*Felipponea neritiformis* Dall, 1919. The genus is endemic to the Uruguay River basin (Clavijo et al., 2010). Previously recorded in Rio Grande do Sul by Agudo-Padrón (2009).

Family HYDROBIIDAE

Class BIVALVIA
Family MYCETOPODIDAE
*Anodontites tenebricosus* (Lea, 1834) (Fig. 7). Assessed as IUCN threat category Vulnerable (Agudo-Padrón, 2011b). Previously recorded in Rio Grande do Sul by Agudo-Padrón (2009).

*Anodontites tenebricosus* (Lea, 1834) (Fig. 7). Assessed as IUCN threat category Vulnerable (Agudo-Padrón, 2011b). Previously recorded in Rio Grande do Sul by Agudo-Padrón (2009).

Fig. 6. Fresh shells of *Pomella americanista* (left) and eggs in the Rio do Mel (right).

Fig. 7. Fresh shell of *Anodontites tenebricosus*.


A. Ignacio Agudo-Padrón, Project Avulsos Malacológicos, P.O. Box 010, 88010-970 Centro, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina - SC, Brasil. ignaciosagudo@gmail.com, noticias-malacologicas-am.webnode.pt/

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**PACIFIC ISLAND LAND SNAILS**

**Hawaiian land snail project**

*By Norine W. Yeung, Kenneth A. Hayes & Robert H. Cowie*

Taxonomy is crucial to credible, reproducible and comparable biological studies and the rapid loss of biodiversity underlines the urgency for training taxonomic experts. Gastropoda is the largest class of Mollusca, the second largest phylum in the world in relation to land area: >750 currently valid species. Yet reflecting the isolation of the Hawaiian Islands only 10 families are represented, making the fauna eminently tractable taxonomically. Although certain groups were revised during the early 20th century none has been comprehensively analyzed in a contemporary systematic-phylogenetic context using modern morphological and molecular techniques and the real species diversity is poorly known.

The Hawaiian land snail fauna is arguably the most diverse in the world in relation to land area: >750 currently valid species. Yet reflecting the isolation of the Hawaiian Islands only 10 families are represented, making the fauna eminently tractable taxonomically. Although certain groups were revised during the early 20th century none has been comprehensively analyzed in a contemporary systematic-phylogenetic context using modern morphological and molecular techniques and the real species diversity is poorly known.

The fauna is under severe threat, but levels of extinction have been based solely on conjecture (Solem, 1990; Lydeard et al., 2004) and never adequately assessed. Our project, which is funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, is using a comprehensive approach to understanding the diversity.
Fig. 1. Adult specimens of Cookeconcha hystricella (left) and Pleuropoma oahuensis (right) from the island of Oahu. Scale bars = 1 mm. (Photos: K.A. Hayes)

Fig. 2. Two species of Auriculella from the island of Oahu. Top: A. tenella; bottom: undescribed species. (Photos: N.W. Yeung)

Fig. 3. SEM images (left to right: apertural, aperture, umbilical) of genetically distinct Tornatellidinae individuals from the island of Maui. Scale bars = 1 mm. (Photos: N.W. Yeung)

phylogenetic relationships and taxonomy of the Hawaiian land snail fauna. The primary goals of the project are:

- Complete a comprehensive and systematic survey of the Hawaiian land snail fauna
- Develop comprehensive phylogenetic hypotheses for all Hawaiian land snail species using material from the above survey and the extensive museum material available
- Update the taxonomic framework of Hawaiian land snails using an integrated phylogenetic and morphological approach, and describe/redescribe taxa as necessary

So far we have collected >60 species, several of which have not been seen in decades, and a few not seen since their original descriptions and that were thought to be extinct. In particular, we discovered species of Endodontidae and Helicinidae that are extremely rare and have only been recorded a few times since their original description, but were found in our early surveys (Fig. 1). We have obtained genetic data (mtDNA and nDNA) for 95% of the species collected recently and >250 specimens from the Bishop Museum (Honolulu) collections. Preliminary phylogenetic analyses of these data indicated a large amount of cryptic diversity, which translates into a much higher biodiversity of land snails in Hawaii than previously thought. For example, there are only three species of the genus Elasmias described from Hawaii. However, our data recovered five discrete genetic lineages that correspond to distinct morphologies. Similarly, we have already found 29 species of Helicarionidae while only 66 have been described from Hawaii (Cowie et al., 1995). Additional sampling is sure to recover numerous others. We have also found an undescribed Auriculella sp. (Fig. 2) on Oahu and an undescribed succineid on the island of Kauai. Thus, despite the grim reports of the demise of much of the land snail fauna, many species (described and undescribed) still remain and there is hope that they can be preserved for future generations.

We have obtained scanning electron micrographs of shells (Fig. 3) and radulae from numerous species representing the five subfamilies of the Achatinellidae, and these data corroborate the patterns of species diversity and monophyly recovered in our molecular analyses.

In addition to phylogenetic, anatomical and biogeographic data, we have also begun collecting ecological and life history
data from a number of species. In particular we have targeted species that are extremely rare (e.g. helicinids, achatinids, endodontids) with little to no data on their reproductive habits. We have already documented previously unknown details of the life history of *Catinella lumbalis*, a Kauai endemic succineid (Fig. 4), and recorded the eggs of *Pleuropoma* sp. and *Auriculella* sp. from Kauai and Oahu respectively.

Addressing our ambitious goals will provide major contributions to malacology and to evolutionary biology and offers the opportunity to address fundamental issues related to the conservation of a vanishing fauna.

We thank all the students in our lab, the large and extensive group of collaborators from the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, Oahu Army Natural Resources Protection Program, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Nature Conservancy, and Brenden Holland, Gary Barker and Marta deMaintenon.


Norine W. Yeung, Kenneth A. Hayes & Robert H. Cowie, Pacific Biosciences Research Center, University of Hawaii, 3050 Maile Way, Gilmore 408, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA. Tel +1 808 956 4909, +1 808 956 0956, nyeung@hawaii.edu, khayes@hawaii.edu, cowie@hawaii.edu

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**RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO MOLLUSC CONSERVATION**

All reviews and comments are by the Editor of *Tentacle*, Robert Cowie.

**The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating**


The book is now available in Taiwan (left hand cover, above) and mainland China (right hand cover). Later in 2013 French and Japanese editions will come out.

The author tells me that she is ‘working with a group of 9th grade biology students this winter [2012/13] on a project we are calling the Wild Snail Migratory Book Project. The students will ‘release’ about 40 books to public locations and then track where the books go via a website. It should be fun and interesting!' Check out the author’s website.

Bivalve Seashells of Tropical West America

- The most extensive book ever written on tropical marine bivalves
- 890 species, with detailed descriptions and distributions
- Over 5000 full color photographs, and 150 drawings
- 3 new genera, 15 new species

‘A magnificent, full-color revision of a rich tropical fauna. A book of lasting value not just for the region, but for anyone interested in marine bivalves. Sure to become a modern classic.’ - Dr. David Jablonski, University of Chicago.

‘The color illustrations are superb and clearly depict morphological characters with taxonomic value. It will immediately become a crucial reference for biodiversity and ecological studies.’ - Dr. Martha Reguero, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

‘It is clearly written and exhaustive ..... definitively an essential reference book for every amateur and professional malacologist.’ - Dr. Eduardo Rios, Universidad de Guadalajara, México.

‘This is an indispensable work for professional and amateur malacologists interested in the identification, systematics and biogeography of marine bivalves..... destined to become an enduring classic.’ - Dr. George M. Davis, George Washington University Medical Center, Editor of Malacologia.

‘...destined to become instant classics that needs a prime spot on the malacological bookshelf...’ - Dr. Rüdiger Bieler, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Download PDF to order.

MalaCo – an online journal

MalaCo (ISSN 1778-3941), a peer reviewed journal referenced by the Zoological Record, is an electronic open access publication. Articles, in French or English, focus on the ecology, biology, systematics and conservation of continental [European] molluscs. MalaCo publishes original work as well as news, short notes and practical tools for species identification.

Since the last issue of Tentacle, two issues of MalaCo have appeared, issues 8 and 9.

Since November 2007, articles have become available on the MalaCo website as soon as they are accepted. To submit papers, please see author recommendations and contact the editorial team: J.-M. Bichain, X. Cucherat, B. Fontaine, O. Gargominy and V. Prié.

For more information contact Mollusc Specialist Group member jean-michel.bichain@educagri.fr

Journal of Threatened Taxa

The latest issue (Vol. 5, No. 5) of the Journal of Threatened Taxa is available on line now.

Other publications of interest

This is by no means a comprehensive list, but simply a list of publications I have happened to come across. If you want to have your publications listed in the next issue of Tentacle, please send details to me, Robert Cowie, the editor of Tentacle.


News and announcements provided by Mary Seddon, chair of the Mollusc Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

Freshwater species in Indo-Burma region under threat

An assessment of 2515 described freshwater species in the Indo-Burma region by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and partners has revealed that 13% of these species are threatened with extinction. The report comes at a time when large scale hydrological development is underway, or is proposed, throughout this region, which is known for its exceptionally high diversity of freshwater species. This IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessment details the location and status of all described species of freshwater fish, molluscs, odonates, crabs and selected families of aquatic plants within each of the 1082 individual river or lake sub-catchments across the region. As the most comprehensive assessment yet of freshwater species in this global biodiversity hotspot, it provides valuable information that can help mitigate and minimize the impact of ongoing and future hydrological developments throughout the region.

The report is available online: The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in Indo-Burma.

New IUCN SSC Policy Subcommittee underway

The new Policy Subcommittee (PSC) aims to increase the visibility of species issues in policy fora with a view to achieving the best possible conservation outcomes for species. The committee will coordinate SSC activities related to policy in multilateral and intergovernmental fora and provide advice to SSC and IUCN, based on the best available science. SSC Steering Committee members and Chairs of Specialist Groups have been asked to nominate members of the PSC. Stay tuned for more information as the committee members are selected and activities get underway. Please contact the Chair, Susan Lieberman slieberman@pewtrusts.org with any questions.

2012 IUCN Congress Resolutions

Resolutions and recommendations from the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress are now available online in English, French and Spanish, along with the related voting records. The Resolutions process remains a central element of IUCN’s governance system and an important means by which members can influence future directions in the conservation community and seek international support in various conservation issues. These Resolutions and Recommendations, together with the IUCN Programme 2013-2016, constitute the foundation for the work of the Union and assist IUCN in achieving its mission.

IUCN’s Red List of Ecosystems is now starting assessment work

From Australia to Patagonia, from coral reefs to rainforests and deserts, the new IUCN Red List of Ecosystems will assess the status of ecosystems worldwide, to identify their risks and the potential impact on both ecosystems and human wellbeing. Modelled on the influential IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Red List of Ecosystems will identify if an ecosystem is Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered, based on an agreed and internationally accepted set of criteria for risk assessment. In addition to providing a global standard for assessing the status of ecosystems, the outputs of the Ecosystem Red List could also be used to inform on the current and future threats to the services that such ecosystems provide, such as clean water, climate regulation and natural products.

‘Natural environments are under increasing pressure from unsustainable use and other threats’, says Jon Paul Rodriguez, Leader of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management’s Ecosystems Red List Thematic Group. ‘Functional ecosystems are essential to our livelihoods and wellbeing. We will assess the status of marine, terrestrial, freshwater and subterranean ecosystems at local, regional and global levels. This, in turn, will help inform on the link between such systems and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. The assessment can then form the basis for concerted implementation action, so that we can manage them sustainably if their risk of collapse is low, or restore them if they are threatened and then monitor their recovery’.

The Red List of Ecosystems can help guide conservation action on the ground, including land use planning and investment priorities, by evaluating the risks of ecosystem collapse and the subsequent loss of ecosystem services. This can be a basis for landscape and economic analysis, which then forms the basis for action, leading, for example, to ecosystem restoration and improved governance.

WCPA-SSC Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas seeks population abundance data for global study

The WCPA-SSC Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas is continuing its work to understand the best predictors of success in conserving protected areas. The Task Force has been successful in assembling and analysing a
global data set, but still needs to broaden the analysis and reduce data biases. In a new collaboration with the Zoological Society of London and WWF, we are seeking additional population abundance time series data to support the global study and refine regional analyses for both terrestrial and marine realms. This project aims to gather data on changes in population abundance for vertebrates and invertebrates, both inside and outside protected areas, to address this issue. To find out more about the project and how to contribute, please contact Sarah Whitmee: sarah.whitmee@ioz.ac.uk.

IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals to amend CITES Appendices for CITES CoP16

In preparation for the CITES CoP16 meeting that took place 3-14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, IUCN and TRAFFIC released the Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices on 24 December 2012. More information and the Analyses are available.

Changes to the IUCN Red List assessment process

Some significant changes to the IUCN Red List assessment process have been made that are intended to help expedite the time taken to complete a Red List assessment in order for it to be included on the global IUCN Red List. These new rules are in immediate effect and it is hoped they will help dramatically improve the time taken to complete any single assessment while still maintaining the necessary rigour of the Red List. The new supporting information requirements for IUCN Red List assessments can be found as Annex 1 to the document Rules of Procedure for the IUCN Red List Assessment process 2013-2016.

IUCN workshop on freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in Bosnia

The Freshwater Biodiversity Unit of the IUCN Global Species Programme organised a workshop bringing together a range of stakeholders to validate freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the southern European part (Balkan region) of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Hotspot.

In this workshop, held in Jahorina (Bosnia and Herzegovina) during 11-13 December 2012, experts evaluated, completed and validated the river or lake catchments previously identified and proposed as freshwater KBAs for this part of the Mediterranean. They also identified priority actions for each catchment. This work aims to provide the foundation for the creation of a representative protected areas network for freshwater species, as well as the resources that are essential for guiding decisions on the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater biodiversity in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. This includes all the species of freshwater molluscs (gastropods and bivalves) that were assessed as part of the European project that was completed in November 2011.

KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.

The importance and urgency of this work is evident from the concentration of species found in the fresh waters of the Mediterranean Basin, the ecosystem services that are supplied to human communities by these fresh waters and their biodiversity, and the increasing threats to these ecosystems. This was the first stakeholder KBA workshop, organised in collaboration with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. This project is part of the initiative ‘Mediterranean Biodiversity Assessment II’, identification of important freshwater areas funded by various partners including EU project Biofresh, MAVA Foundation and CEPF.

Access the Freshwater BioBrowser on your iPhone

The Freshwater BioBrowser, a simple interactive map that allows you to explore the biodiversity of Africa’s freshwaters, can now be accessed on your smartphone! It works best on iPhones but is also available on android phones. To access it, download the ArcGIS app and search for ‘Freshwater BioBrowser’.

Conservation Leadership MS Program - Colorado State University

CSU’s Conservation Leadership Program, also called, Conservation Leadership Through Learning (CLTL), is a 21-month Master of Science degree that will prepare students to be a part of the next generation of conservation leaders who will tackle these dynamic challenges. CLTL merges trans-disciplinary university education with real-world action to train leaders who can deliver on-the-ground benefits for conservation and communities. By reaching far beyond the classroom walls, students will develop the knowledge and real-world skills to become effective conservation leaders making a difference for the environment and people’s lives. CLTL is a partnership between Colorado State University’s Warner College of Natural Resources, Universities, NGOs, government agencies and local communities around the world. For more information see the CLTL website or contact leadership@warnercnr.colostate.edu. It is too late to apply for admission in 2013 but there may be an opportunity in 2014.

Masters in Conservation Leadership at the University of Cambridge

The course is a full-time, one year Masters degree, aimed at graduates of leadership potential with at least three to five years of experience relevant to biodiversity conservation. The unique feature of the course is its delivery by a collaboration between six University of Cambridge departments and nine leading conservation organizations based around Cambridge, and its focus on issues of management and leadership. A key aim of the course is to build the capacity of conservation leaders from tropical countries. Further details of the course and scholarships can be found at its website.
IUCN Commission Newsletters
World Commission on Protected Areas: WCPA News update
Commission on Education and Communication: CEC Newsletter
Commission on Environmental Law: CEL Newsletter
Commission on Ecosystem Management: CEM News Ecosystem
Commission on Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy: CEESP Newsletter

MEETINGS 2013-14
This is not a comprehensive list of mollusc and conservation related meetings but includes those for which people have sent me details and those that I am generally aware of without doing a thorough search.

World Congress of Malacology

The World Congress of Malacology is the emblematic event of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA (UM). The 2013 congress will be held on the main campus of the University of the Azores, at Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, 21-28 July 2013. It is the 18th International Congress of UM, the 6th after UM has become a worldwide association. The congress will be run in conjunction with a number of its affiliated societies, including the Malacological Society of London and the American Malacological Society (which will not have a separate annual meeting in 2013) and others. Details at the congress website.

Western Society of Malacologists 2013

The 2013 WSM meeting will be held in San Diego, California, USA, 23-26 June 2012.

American Malacological Society 2013 meeting

The American Malacological Society will hold its 2013 meeting in conjunction with the World Congress of Malacology in the Azores. Check the AMS meetings website and the WCM website for details.

Conchologists of America 2013 Convention

The COA will hold its 2013 convention in Sarasota, Florida, USA, 17-21 July 2013. See the COA conventions page for more details.

Brasilian Society of Malacology: 23rd EBRAM

The Brasilian Society of Malacology (SBMa – Sociedade Brasileira de Malacologia) will hold its XXIII Brazilian Malacological Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, 22-25 October 2013. The congress will be hosted by the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Maracanã Campus. A Symposium of Young Latin-American Taxonomists is planned. It will be a great opportunity for all young researchers to discuss and exchange their results. As 2013 is the International Year of Water Cooperation, there will be an emphasis on aquatic molluscs and environments. In addition, special sessions of contributed papers, oral presentations and posters will be open to all aspects of malacology. Registration will begin on 1 March 2013. More information will become available as soon as possible at http://www.sbmalacologia.com.br, or contact Dra. Sonia Barbosa dos Santos, President of the SBMats: sbmalacologia@yahoo.com.br.
First Argentinean Congress of Malacology

The first Congreso Argentino de Malacología will take place 18-20 September 2013, organised by the Asociación Argentina de Malacología (ASAM) and the la Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo de the Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

For more information, visit the congress website or contact Dr. Gustavo Darrigran at darrigran@gmail.com.

Society for Conservation Biology 2013

The SCB’s 26th International Congress for Conservation Biology, previously annual, is now biennial. The 2013 Congress will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, 21-25 July. Details are available at the ICCB 2013 website.

Mollusca 2014: The Meeting of the Americas

Mollusca 2014: The Meeting of the Americas, the first All-America malacological conference, will be held at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City, 23-27 June 2014. This first All-America meeting is jointly organized by Sociedad de Malacología de Mexico, Western Society of Malacologists, American Malacological Society and Asociacion Latinoamericana de Malacologia. The President is Dr. Edna Naranjo from UNAM.

Follow Mollusca 2014 on Facebook, Google Plus, Orkut (Brazil) and Twitter, join our email list writing to mollusca-2014-subscribe@googlegroups.com, or write to mollusca2014@gmail.com for more information.

American Malacological Society 2014 meeting

The American Malacological Society will hold its 2014 meeting in conjunction with the Mollusca 2014 meeting in Mexico City. Check the AMS meetings website and the Mollusca 2014 website when it

INTERNET RESOURCES

These are just a few of the many websites dealing with molluscan conservation, and with molluscs and conservation in general.

Red List

The entire IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals can be searched at any of the following addresses, which all take you to the same website:


IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group

The ISSG website includes details of the Aliens-L listserver and the ISSG newsletter, Aliens.

Unitas Malacologica

Unitas Malacologica (UM) is the society for worldwide malacologists and malacology. Its aim is to further the study of Mollusca by individuals, societies and institutions worldwide. UM has provided financial support for the production of Tentacle and I urge all readers to become members. The UM website has links to many interesting and useful sources of malacological information, including all the UM newsletters, which have a lot of information complementing information in Tentacle.

Mollusca list

The MOLLUSCA listserver is intended as an informal forum for discussions of molluscan evolution, palaeontology, taxonomy and natural history. There are over 700 subscribers. From time to time it has something of interest related to conservation. To subscribe to the list send e-mail to listproc@ucmp1.berkeley.edu

Then on the first line of the body of the message:

sub mollusca <your_name without the brackets>

Alternatively, send e-mail to

Majorjdomo@listlink.Berkeley.Edu

And on the first line of the message:

subscribe molluscalist <your_name without the brackets>

You will get a reply soon after saying that your name has been added. You will then receive anything that is posted to the list. MOLLUSCA is maintained and managed by David R. Lindberg of the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, USA.

Mollia

The MOLLIA web site includes instructions to authors, subscription information and links to malacological journals. It also allows you to subscribe to the MOLLUSCA listserver (above) and to access the MOLLUSCA archives.

MOLLIA, like MOLLUSCA, is maintained at the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, USA.
Unio listserver

Unio is an unmoderated internet listserver focusing on the biology, ecology and evolution of freshwater unionid mussels. The list is sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology and administered and managed by Rick Tankersley (rtank@fit.edu).

American Malacological Society

The homepage of the American Malacological Society carries a link to its conservation policy and to the newly introduced AMS Conservation Committee Imperiled Species News. Student research grants are available.

Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) is devoted to the advocacy for, public education about, and conservation science of freshwater mussels, North America’s most imperiled fauna. Its website has an excellent page of links. The FMCS now publishes the journal Walkerunga and has all issues of volume 1 on line and available, which includes Jack Burch’s Identification of Eastern North American Land Snails and two-part North American Freshwater Snails.

Malacological Society of Australasia

The Malacological Society of Australasia is networked with the leading conservation organizations, and is working with the IUCN Mollusc Specialist Group to list Australia’s threatened and endangered species of molluscs.

The Malacological Society of London

One of my favourite logos, Pomacea canaliculata by David Reid, modified from the original Malacological Society of London logo. Research and travel grants and awards are made each year.

Conchologists of America

The homepage of the COA carries a link to a number of pages dealing with its conservation policy and conservation issues. Research grants are available.

Western Society of Malacologists

The WSM home page carries links to membership, conferences, grants, and other news.

The National Museum Wales – Mollusca

The Mollusca page of the National Museum of Wales provides information on the global projects on molluscs underway based in Cardiff.

Field Museum land snails

The on-line database of Chicago’s Field Museum mollusc collections contains information for over 158,000 lots (a lot is a collection of a single species taken from a single locality on a single occasion), including over 2500 type lots, of land snails.

Illinois Natural History Survey

The Illinois Natural History Survey’s mollusc page has much information on the mussels of North America, with links to other mussel sites.

Tropical land snail project at the Natural History Museum, London

The Tropical Land Snail Diversity site provides access to the Sri Lankan and South and South-east Asian snail projects of Fred Naggs, Dinarzarde Raheem and colleagues. There are some marvellous photos of brightly coloured snails.

Samoan Snail Project

The Samoan Snail Project has as its goals assessing the diversity and historical decline of the native Samoan non-marine snail fauna, as a first step in its conservation. It is part of the Bishop Museum’s Pacific Biological Survey.

Jamaican land snail project

A key to Jamaican land snails is now online, on the DiscoverLife website. The key, with many excellent photographs, is part of Gary Rosenberg’s work on the Jamaican fauna. Comments can be sent to Gary Rosenberg, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1195, USA. Tel +1 215 299 1033, fax +1 215 299 1170, rosenberg@ansp.org.

CLEMAM: Check List of European Marine Mollusca

The Check List of European Marine Mollusca database provides a list of taxonomic references concerning all molluscan taxa living in marine waters of Europe.
SSC MOLLUSC SPECIALIST GROUP

In order to keep these details up to date, please inform the editor, Robert Cowie, of any changes or corrections.

Chair
Mary B. Seddon, Bracken Tor, Saxongate, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1QW, UK. Tel +44 (0)1837 54771, fax +44 (0)1837 53965, Mary@mollusca.org.uk
Landsnails@gmail.com

Editor (Tentacle)
Robert H. Cowie, Pacific Biosciences Research Center, University of Hawaii, 3050 Maile Way, Gilmore 408, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA. Tel +1 808 956 4909, fax +1 808 956 0956, cowie@hawaii.edu
www.hawaii.edu/cowie/lab/

Members
Christian Albrecht, Department of Animal Ecology and Systematics, Justus Liebig University, Heinrich-Buff-Ring 26-32 IFZ, D-35392 Giessen, Germany. Tel +49 (0)641 99 35722, fax +49 (0)641 99 35709, christian.albrecht@allzool.bio.uni-giessen.de
http://www.uni-giessen.de/cms/faculties/f08/dep/tsz/en/wilke/staff/albrecht?language.sync=1

David Aldridge, Aquatic Ecology Group, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK. Tel +44 (0)1223 334436, fax +44 (0)1223 336676, d.aldridge@zoo.cam.ac.uk

Louise Alcock, Zoology, Ryan Institute, School of Natural Sciences, NUI Galway, Ireland. Tel +353 (0)91 495868, fax 353 (0)91 525005, louise.alcock@gmail.com

Maria Rosario Alonso, Universidad de la Laguna, Departamento de Biologia Animal, Astrofisico Francisco Sánchez, s/n, 38206 La Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 38206 Spain. Tel +34 22 603746, fax +34 22 253344, malonso@ull.es

Rafael Araujo, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC), c/ José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, E-28006 Madrid, Spain. Tel +34 91 411 13 28, fax 915645078, rafael@mncn.csic.es

N.A. Aravind Madhyastha, The Academy for Conservation Science and Sustainability Studies, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Royal Enclave, Sirrampura, Jakkur PO, Bangalore 560064, India. Tel +91 80 23635555 ext 225, fax +91 80 23530070, aravind@atree.org www.atree.org/aravinda

Takahiro Asami, Department of Biology, Shinshu University, Matsumoto, 390-8621 Japan. Tel/fax +81 263 574 190, asami99@shinshu-u.ac.jp

Sonia Barbosa dos Santos, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto de Biologia Roberto Alcantara Gomes, Laboratório de Malacologia Límnica e Terrestre, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. gundlachia@yahoo.com.br

Gary M. Barker, Biodiversity & Biosecurity, Landcare Research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton, New Zealand. Tel +64 7 858 3708, fax +64 7 858 4964, BarkerG@LandcareResearch.co.nz

Arthur E. Bogan, North Carolina State Museum of Natural History, Research Laboratory, 4301 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607, USA. Tel +1 919 715 2606, fax +1 919 715 2614, arthur.bogan@naturalsciences.org

Kevin J. Bonham, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, c/o 410 Macquarie Street, South Hobart, Tasmania 7004, Australia. k_bonham@tassie.net.au

Philippe Bouchet, Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Département Systématique et Evolution, USM 603/UMR 7138 ‘Systématique, Adaptation, Evolution’, Équipe ‘Exploration de la Biodiversité’, Case Postale 51, 55 Rue Buffon, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05, France. Tel +33 (0)1 40 79 31 03, fax +33 (0)1 40 79 57 71, pbouchet@mnhn.fr
John Stanistic, Queensland Museum, PO Box 3300, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101, Australia. Tel +61 7 840 7718, fax +61 7 846 1918, johns@qm.qld.gov.au

Peter Tattersfield, Bar Cottage, Bar Road, Baslow, Bakewell, DE45 1SF, UK. Tel +44 (0)1298 872918, fax +44 (0)870 0567851, peter@petertademon.co.uk

Fred G. Thompson, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611-2035, USA. Tel +1 352 392 1721, fax +1 352 392 8783, fgt@flmnh.ufl.edu

Kostas Triantis, University of Athens, Greece. island.biogeography@gmail.com

Do Van Tu, Vietnam National Museum of Nature, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Vietnam. dovantu.iebr@gmail.com

Dirk Van Damme, Dries 57, B-9070 Destelbergen, Belgium. dvidamme1@gmail.com

Jackie Van Goethem, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. Tel +32 2 627 4343, fax +32 2 627 4141, jackie.vangoethem@naturalsciences.be

L’ubomíra Vavrová, IUCN Sub-regional Office for South-eastern Europe, Dr. Ivana Ribara 91, 11070 Belgrade, Serbia. Tel +381 11 2272 411 (office), +381 63 358 102 (cell/mobile), fax: +381 11 2272 531, lubomiravavrova@iucn.org

Jaap J. Vermeulen, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569. Tel +65 471 99 23, fax +65 475 42 95, Jaap_jan_vermeulen@nparks.gov.sg

Maxim Vinarski, Museum of Siberian Aquatic Molluscs, Omsk State Pedagogical University, 14 Tukhachevskogo Emb., Omsk, Russian Federation, 644099. radix.vinarski@gmail.com

Anton (Ton) J. de Winter, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, PO Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Tel +31 71 5687567, fax +31 71 5687666, Winter@mm.nl

Min Wu, School of Life Science, Nanjing University, Hankoulu 22, Nanjing 210093, China. Tel +86 (0)25 83593389, fax +86 (0)25 83592705, minwu1969@yahoo.cn

Xiaoping Wu, Departmental of Biological Sciences, Nanchang University, Nanchang. Jiangxi, 330047, P.R. China +86 791 8305213, Fax +86 791 8305207, wuxiao@public.nc.jx.cn

Peter Wponder, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland, 40 Clifton Court, Bulimba, Brisbane, Queensland 4171, Australia. Tel +61 7 3355 7424, fax +61 7 3355 7425, wponder@bigpond.net.au


ted@biotope.fr

Canella Radea, Department of Ecology and Systematics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece. kradea@biol.uoa.gr

Christine Parent, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, California 94720-3144, USA. christine.parent@berkeley.edu

Paul Pearce-Kelly, Invertebrate Conservation Centre, Zoological Society of London, Regent’s Park, London NW1 5JL, UK. Tel +44 (0)171 449 6470, fax +44 (0)171 722 6087, p.p.parkinson@ucl.ac.uk

Kathryn Perez, Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, 1725 State Street, Cowley Hall 3009, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601, USA. Tel +1 608 785 6998/8257, perez.kath@uwlav.edu

Howard Peters, Environment Department, University of York, York YO10 5DD, UK. hp510@york.ac.uk

Beata M. Pokryszko, Museum of Natural History, Wroclaw University, Sienkiewicza 21, PL-05-335 Wroclaw, Poland. Tel +48 71 225041, fax +48 71 402800, bepok@biol.uni.wroc.pl

Winston F. Ponder, Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia. Tel +61 2 9320 6120, fax +61 2 9320 6050, wponder@bigpond.net.au

Vincent Prié, Biotope - Recherche et Développement, 22 Boulevard Maréchal Foch, BP58, 34140 Mèze, France. Tel +33 (0)4 67 18 61 62, vprie@biotope.fr

Ted von Proschwitz, Section of Invertebrate Zoology, Göteborg Natural History Museum, Box 7283, 402 35 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel +46 (0)31 775 24 40, ted.v.proschwitz@vgregion.se

Canella Radea, Department of Ecology and Systematics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece. kradea@biol.uoa.gr

David G. Robinson, USDA/APHIS/PPQ, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, USA. Tel +1 215 299 1175, fax +1 215 299 1170, robinson@ansp.org, dgr37@dreamel.edu

Barry Roth, 745 Cole Street, San Francisco, California 94117, USA. Tel +1 415 387 8538, fax +1 415 387 2133, barryroth@earthlink.net

Rebecca Rundell, State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, New York 13210, USA. Tel +1 315 470 6619, rundell@esf.edu

Rajko Slapnik, Agencija Republike Slovenije Okolje, Gosposka 13, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel +386 1 470 6316, RajkoSL@zrc-sazu.si

Eike Neubert, Naturhistorisches Museum, Bernastrasse 15, CH-3005 Bern, Switzerland. Tel +41 (0)31 350 72 68, eike.neubert@nmbe.ch

Richard Neves, Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0321, USA. vprie@biotope.fr

Barna Pald-Gergely, Mosonmagyaróvár, Kölcsy Ferenc u. 21. H-9200, Hungary. pallgergely2@gmail.com

Somsak Panha, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Phayathai Road, Bangkok 10330 Thailand. Tel +66 2 218 5273, fax +66 2 253 0337, somsakp@sc.chula.ac.th

Christine Ngerera, National Museums of Tanzania, PO Box 512, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. cngereza@yahoo.com

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