

Mollusc World

Issue 23

July 2010

Leeds Regional Meeting

Introductions and “Alien” species

Recorders reports

A year in the field

Sherwood Forest slugs



THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

From the Hon. Editor



“Silent Summer”*, an important review of the state of wildlife in Britain and Ireland published in May this year, includes chapters reporting on the status of specific groups (e.g. “Land and freshwater molluscs” by Ian Killeen) where the increasing impact of introduced species is a particular emphasis. In April I noticed for the first time an adult specimen of *Hygromia cinctella* in my Bedfordshire garden. This was the first record locally of this introduced species, despite our previous hard winter in the U.K. It’s not surprising that there are several articles in this magazine which relate to the discovery of alien species from both marine and non-marine environments.

It is always satisfying to be able to include aids to identification in the magazine and I would highly recommend Ben Rowson’s image of upper shore crevice fauna, included on page 17 as part of the Marine Recorder’s report.

Once again, thanks are due to all who have sent in interesting contributions. I continue to value input on a wide range of subjects from members in the UK and Ireland and internationally, as this adds an essential wider context and interest. Latest copy submission date (dependant upon space available) for the next issue is 30th September.

Peter Topley

*Norman Maclean Ed., CUP, ISBN 978-0-521-51966-3

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Mollusc World

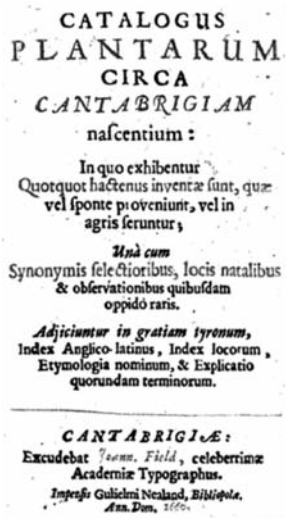
This magazine is intended as a medium for communication between members on all aspects of Molluscs. We include articles, field meeting reports, research news, results from the mapping schemes and identification aids. We welcome all contributions in whatever form they arrive (See back cover for further details).

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Front cover: Rosemary Hill with Sam Topley photographing molluscs in Sherwood forest (see page 7) (Photo: Peter Topley).



This year marks the 350th anniversary of a significant event in the history of malacology. In 1660, English naturalist John Ray published his first book, *Catalogus plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium*, which was an annotated list of the plants of Cambridgeshire. The annotations included not only information about the plants themselves but also occasional digressions on not so related subjects. Hence, hidden under the deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) was a little gem²:-

‘Not even this lethal plant escapes the teeth of snails and slugs for its leaves are freely eaten in spring by these creatures. In passing one may mention that they are hermaphrodite. That they alternately function as male and female by impregnating and receiving at the same time will be clear to anyone who separates them as they are having intercourse in Spring, although neither Aristotle nor any other writer on Natural History has recorded this fact.’

We shouldn't be surprised that Ray revealed his discovery of land snail hermaphroditism in a book about plants. That was a time when the boundaries between the branches of science were still hazy and many scientists were versed in botany, zoology, geology, meteorology, medicine and other fields. Not surprisingly, Ray's subdued announcement didn't escape the attention of his fellow mollusc enthusiasts during the following decade. When in 1670 the Royal Society's incipient journal *Philosophical Transactions* reviewed Dutch anatomist Jan Swammerdam's 1669 book *Historiae Generalis Insectorum*^{3,4} and mentioned that according to Swammerdam 'Snails discharge their excrements by the neck, and are each of them, both Male and Female', the polymath Dr. Martin Lister made a point of reaffirming Ray's priority in a letter published in the same journal the following year⁵:

‘...when I read in the Account given us by you of [Swammerdam's] Book, Numb. 64; that Snails are both Male and Female; that Caterpillars may teach us, by their feeding, the correspondence of the vertues of Plants, &c; I am desirous to know, whether he quote Mr. Ray for the former, as having publish't the Observation ten years ago at least...’

Swammerdam had indeed acknowledged Ray's precedence, but without mentioning his name³:

‘But we must also add here that this English gentleman, who has described the new plants growing around Cambridge, has also found by experiment that the snails are male & female together.’

That was probably good enough for the more relaxed standards of the period. Swammerdam also put a drawing of a pair of mating snails on the cover of his 1667 doctoral thesis *De Respiratione*, although that was apparently out of context, because his work was about respiration⁶.

Others followed in Ray's and Swammerdam's footsteps. In a book published in 1679, Swiss physician Johann Jacob Harder wrote about snail anatomy and mentioned their hermaphroditism, citing Swammerdam only⁷. Almost 300 years later, Libbie Hyman erred in her extensive review of the malacological literature and credited Harder for the discovery of snail hermaphroditism⁸. Heppell, however, was more careful in his brief history of malacology and affirmed Ray's priority⁹.

Meanwhile, Lister published his drawing of mating hermaphrodite snails in 1678¹⁰ (Fig. 1). Note that the plate in Lister's book was reversed during printing, which was a common practice during that time¹¹. Thus, all the shells are sinistral. Also, the mating snails are not properly oriented (neither are those of Swammerdam⁶); normally, the snails would have the right sides of their heads, where a dextral snail has its genital opening, against each other.



Figure 1: Drawing of the heads of mating snails from Martin Lister's 1678 book. Also shown are a shell and a love dart. The image was reversed during printing.

There are two ways to determine if a species is a hermaphrodite. First, one may dissect and compare the genitalia of many individuals. If everyone is found to have the same set of reproductive organs, one will assume that they all are hermaphrodites and then try to identify the male and female parts. Second, one may watch or separate mating pairs. If one happens to see that each individual in a pair is using its penis simultaneously to inseminate its partner, one will then conclude that they all are hermaphrodites. Ray used the second method. And he was lucky that the mating of the snails he separated, probably a large *Helix* species, was simultaneously reciprocal. We now know that in some species of pulmonates, even though they all are hermaphrodites, sperm exchange is not reciprocal and only one individual is the 'donor', while the other is the 'receiver'¹². Had Ray happened to interrupt the mating of such a species, he would not have discovered that they were hermaphrodites.

Notes

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² John Ray. 1660. *Catalogus plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium*. (The quote is from the 1975 English translation, *Ray's flora of Cambridgeshire* by A. H. Ewen and C. T. Prime. Welden & Wesley.) Ray's original is available from Google Books: <http://tinyurl.com/yk2j55t>.

³Jan Swammerdam. 1669. *Historia insectorum generalis*. Available from Google Books: <http://tinyurl.com/yfkr7r>. (The quote is my translation from the 1685 French edition, *Histoire Générale des Insectes*. Available at <http://tinyurl.com/ygrmbx4>.)

⁴Anonymous. 1670. An Accompt of Some Books. *Philosophical Transactions* 5:2074-2082.

⁵Martin Lister. 1671. A Letter of Mr. Martin Lister, Written at York August 25 1671, confirming the Observation in No 74. about Musk Sented Insects; adding some Notes upon D. Swammerdam's book of Insects, and on that of M. Steno Concerning Petrify'd Shells. *Philosophical Transactions* 6:2281-2284.

⁶A picture of the cover of Swammerdam's *De Respiratione* is available at <http://tinyurl.com/yfejb8d>.

⁷Johann Jacob Harder. 1679. *Examen anatomicum cochleae terrestri domiportae*. Available from Google Books: <http://tinyurl.com/ygc86gm>.

⁸Libbie Hyman. 1967. *The Invertebrates*, volume VI, Mollusca I. McGraw-Hill.

⁹David Heppell. 1995. The long dawn of malacology: a brief history of malacology from prehistory to the year 1800. *Archives of Natural History* 22:301-319.

¹⁰Martin Lister. 1678. *Historiae animalium Angliae tres tractatus*. Available from the Biodiversity Heritage Library: <http://tinyurl.com/ykwrnfr>.

¹¹Warren D. Allmon. 2007. The evolution of accuracy in natural history illustration: reversal of printed illustrations of snails and crabs in pre-Linnaean works suggests indifference to morphological detail. *Archives of Natural History* 34:174-191.

¹²Aydin Örstan. 2009. An observation of the mating of *Chondrus tournefortianus* (Pulmonata: Enidae). *Zoology in the Middle East* 48:117-118. Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/yhn88qu>.



ARKive and the search for mollusc imagery

ARKive, the world's centralised digital library of films and photographs of threatened wildlife species, is calling on all *Mollusc World* readers to help in the search for films and photographs of endangered molluscs.

A project of UK-based NGO, Wildscreen, ARKive's objective is to raise public awareness of the world's

threatened species and the need for their conservation through the power of wildlife imagery.

To date, ARKive has created digital multi-media profiles for over 5,000 species, digitising and storing more than 38,000 still images and over 100 hours of moving footage, from over 3,000 contributors, including the BBC, National Geographic, and a wide variety of photographers, scientists and conservationists. These important audio-visual records are being preserved and maintained for the benefit of future generations, and are made freely available for non-commercial awareness-raising and educational purposes via the ARKive website www.arkive.org. The ARKive website regularly receives over 30,000 visits a day from around the world, with visitor demography ranging from research scientists, conservationists, educators to the general public.

Having recently become a formal partner of the IUCN Red List, ARKive is collaborating with the IUCN Species Programme and the Species Survival Commission to find photos, and films for as many of the threatened species on the IUCN Red List as possible. All images sourced under the partnership will also be made available for use in IUCN Red List activities. The immediate aim is to compile audio-visual profiles for those c. 18,000 species most at risk of extinction (CR – VU), including all 1036 threatened mollusc species.



Dlinza pinwheel - *Trachycystis clifdeni*
Photo: Dai Herbert - Natal Museum

Despite being one of the most abundant invertebrate groups on the IUCN Red List, the lack of readily available media has left the soft-bodied denizens of the planet comparatively underrepresented on ARKive. However, with your help, it is hoped that ARKive will become home to the most comprehensive online collection of still and moving images of mollusc species. If you have films or photographs of any Red List molluscs, or indeed of any of the world's threatened species, then ARKive would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact the ARKive team at: arkive@wildscreen.org.uk

Please note that ARKive does not sell photographs, but rather the ARKive website acts as a showcase for image providers, displaying copyright and contact details with every image, as well as links to each media donor's own web activities.

The Discovery of *Granaria frumentum illyrica* (Rossmässler, 1837) on the Isles of Scilly

Barry Colville¹ and Adrian Norris²

On June 12, 2009 whilst on a visit to St Agnes, as part of a visit to the Scilly Islands by the Lakeland Horticultural Society, Barry Colville collected two freshly dead specimens of *Granaria frumentum illyrica* (Rossmässler, 1837) from under a mat of red fescue grass *Festuca rubra*, in a sheltered south-facing bay formed on St Agnes by its bar connecting it to Gough (NGR SV886083).



The site is only a few feet above sea-level and the ground cover has trapped small quantities of sand

within its surface structure. Geologically the Islands are granite with a mild oceanic climate. The coastal granite rock outcrops are one of the most important habitats for lichens. Over most of the island the granite is covered by mainly superficial deposits which are acidic in character. Thus any lime requirements of land snails must rely on the presence of lime within the shell-sands present at the site.

The specimens were firstly forwarded to me (A.N.) and subsequently sent on to Dr Edmund Gittenberger at Leiden Museum who made the following observations: The *Granaria frumentum-illyrica* group is still poorly understood. In northern Italy, for example near Lake Garda, *illyrica* can be very large, whereas in northernmost Greece the shells are much smaller, like *frumentum*, but more slender and without any conspicuous radial swelling at the outside behind the apertural lip. From southern Austria I know rare forms that are in between 'typical' *frumentum* and *illyrica*. The species name is somewhat more problematic, since *frumentum* and *illyrica* may be considered conspecific subspecies (Gittenberger pers. comm.). On the continent both are getting increasingly rare. If the specimens found on St Agnes are an introduced form of *G. frumentum*, their origin is problematic. They are not from the range of *G. frumentum frumentum*. However, from what I have read about the Scilly Islands nothing immediately excludes the possibility that the snails do in fact belong there!

Even if more specimens could be found it may be difficult to interpret this find. Anatomical data is limited due to the fact that the *G. frumentum* group has hardly been investigated anatomically. In order to compare data on the genital apparatus within and between populations of this widespread and variable species a large number of living samples would be required from across Europe. However, some unpublished DNA data is available and so it might be possible to investigate which are the closest related populations (closest to a sample in the sequenced material). So a piece of tissue collected from the site on St Agnes, could in principle, tell us a little more about its status.

The specimens found by Barry Colville are small, but not slender, prominently sculptured with no trace of the transverse thickening behind the apertural lip (see Kerney & Cameron, page 82.). Also all four palatal-basal lamellae reach the lip in the specimens collected on St Agnes.

¹Pool Foot, Clappersgate, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9NE
²17, West Park Drive, Leeds, LS16 5BL (Photos: Adrian Norris)

Hygromia cinctella- More locality details

Further to the notes in MW issue 21 by David Harfield and myself, as well as finding fresh dead shells at the old St Andrew Church ruins below Pennsylvania Castle, empty shells also occurred under stone walling alongside the steps down to Church Ope Cove. Also several hundred metres away in the Pen Weare, on a rock pile covered with sparse ivy and brambles I found several long dead, damaged shells.

Finally, a number of years ago I was visiting Truro docks in Cornwall and found an empty shell of *H. Cinctella* at the south end of the docks under a boundary fence, by the access road. This also was covered in sparse ivy and brambles.

Adrian Brokenshire



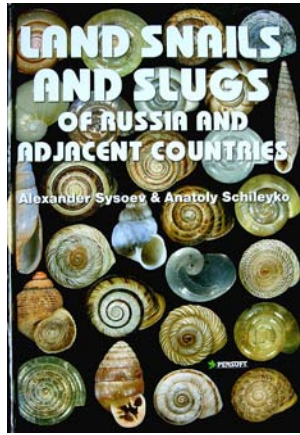
Hygromia cinctella emerging after rain, Bedfordshire April 2010 (see Editorial) (Photo: Peter Topley)

BOOK REVIEW

Land snails of Russia and adjacent countries

Sysoev, A.V. and Schileyko, A.A. 2009.

Pensoft, Sofia & Moscow.
pp 312 + 142 Colour plates.
ISBN 978-954-642-474-7



Those of us living and working in relatively small countries in northern Europe can turn to authoritative and reasonably complete guides to the land mollusc faunas of their native lands, or even to works covering the whole of non-Russian Europe north of the main mountain chains (the fauna of Mediterranean and Balkan Europe is more difficult). While there may be difficulties over names, finding out what lives where and identifying specimens does not require visits to museums or very specialist papers.

Russia, and the many countries once part of the Russian Empire or the Soviet Union, is a different and altogether more daunting proposition. The huge size, the immense range of habitats and environments, and the relatively unexplored nature of much of the terrain make the compilation of a fauna difficult. The great work of Likharev and Rammelmeier (1952), *Terrestrial Mollusks of the fauna of the USSR* (translated into English in 1962) was the only easy resource for those interested in the fauna of the old USSR.

Since then, of course, many new species have been described, ranges are better known and systematics and nomenclature have changed. Major revisions and guides to family and superfamily groups have been produced. In particular, major works by Likharev and Schileyko himself have been supplemented both by regional faunas and monographs. For those not able to read Russian or German, Roman Egorov's series *Treasure of Russian Shells* provides a point of access to the fauna (also relating to the USSR and not exclusively Russia).

In this book, Sysoev and Schileyko give an account of all species of terrestrial molluscs currently recognised within the borders of the old USSR. Nearly 800 species are listed. For each, the original description is referenced by page and figures (and by full citation in the bibliography, a rare and useful practice); some synonymy is given, as are the type locality (where known), the location of types (often not known, or missing), shell dimensions (snails) or length (slugs) and brief notes on distribution within the borders of the USSR. The systematic arrangement follows Schileyko's own designation of higher categories, which may be unfamiliar to some readers, but, thankfully, it avoids designation of subgenera. Within genera, species are listed alphabetically by their trivial names. Nearly all the species listed are illustrated. Most of the snails are shown in colour plates (photographs) of the shells, with a few shown as line drawings in text figures. The authors have gone to considerable trouble to obtain images of type specimens. Slugs are illustrated by colour paintings (mainly of preserved specimens) and some photographs. It is a heroic achievement, thoroughly researched, well presented and

comprehensive. It opens up to non-Russian speakers the results of many years work by Schileyko and the late I.M. Likharev, including much unpublished material. The literature has been followed intensively right up to the present.

This is a detailed catalogue, and not an identification guide. There are no verbal descriptions, and there are many species which can be identified only by dissection, or by shell characters (e.g. the clausilium and lamellae in Clausiliidae) which are not illustrated. The numerous illustrations, while useful, are not in themselves a means of accurate determinations, and will have added considerably to the price. Guidance on difficult separations is given in a few cases, and doubts are expressed in others, especially in the case of the many species of *Cochlicopa* described by Starobogatov. It is a place to start, not to complete, the identification of fauna found in the territory covered.

There are a few points where the user may be confused or have difficulties. In terms of detail, it falls somewhere between a truly comprehensive catalogue such as that of Riedel (1988) for the Polish fauna, and a simple check-list, for example the very spare account presented in the original CLECOM list for northern and central Europe (Falkner, Bank & von Proschwitz, 2001) which lacks any synonymy or reference to original descriptions. For synonymy, recently and commonly used generic names rejected by the authors are not indexed (e.g. *Nesovitrea* for *Perpolita*). Hence, it is not always possible to trace a change in generic names, and some disappear completely. Some synonymies will surprise workers in other European countries, most notably the inclusion of *Vertigo geyeri*, *V. genesii* and *V. alpestris* under *V. modesta*. No published reference is given to justify this suppression of generally accepted species. Geographical distributions are outlined verbally, but in some cases the reader unfamiliar with the fine detail of Soviet geography would be hard put to it to locate the area from the description. Even the CLECOM list indicates in which countries species have been found.

Despite these points there is no doubt that this will be a key source for those studying land molluscs in the territories previously within the USSR. The price, at least through British suppliers, is so high (c. 100 Euros) as to deter many individual purchasers, but it is clearly an essential work for museums and libraries. We can hope that it will be followed by guides to identification, though of necessity, given the size of the fauna, these will have to be separated by taxonomic groups or by geographical region. Without these, recording of fauna, essential to inform conservation policies, will remain the preserve of professional specialists of whom there are very few relative to the area involved.

ROBERT A. D. CAMERON

British Shell Collector's Club

31st October 2010, 9am to 5pm: Shell Show
Theydon Bois Village Hall, Essex, CM16 7ER
Free admission. An opportunity to meet others with an interest in shells and to seek advice from experienced collectors. The Show includes fascinating displays on many aspects of conchology.

Some events in 2011:-

30th April: Shell Convention, Theydon Bois Village Hall
17th September: Shell Show, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire

For further information see: www.britishshellclub.org.uk/



Field trip to the Sherwood Forest area, Nottinghamshire, 24th October 2009

Chris du Feu

This is the fourth field visit to the north of Nottinghamshire that I have been privileged to lead. It is always motivating to find new 10km square records and this part of the country is an excellent place for doing that because it is generally under-recorded. However, the lack of species records also results from the thin, free-draining, sandy soils.

After the obligatory health-and-safety briefing at the start of the day I gave the bad news and the good news. The bad news - molluscs are likely to be hard to find. The good news - any species which we identify will add to the Sherwood Forest species list which was singularly lacking in mollusc records.



Figure 1: Chris and others in Sherwood Forest (Photo Peter Topley)

The main target species was *Malacolimax tenellus*. This has one record in the 1979 Atlas to the north of this square. I had rediscovered the species, again in the same square to the north, a year earlier and also a little to the south in another country park - a fragment of Sherwood Forest that is now a conifer plantation. A few days earlier, the species had been found again in the square to the north. Happily, the weather was damp after a long, dry, slug-unfriendly autumn and many fungi were now visible. If the slug was present here, we had a good chance of finding it.

We began by walking from the visitor centre, past the “No Entry to the Public” sign (that made us feel important) and I stopped the group at the first heap of fallen wood I saw. Ron advised that we would be better looking under oak than birch wood, but a member of the team, on his first

field visit, ignored that advice. The log was rolled over and there lay our target species. Magic! And it was not the only one of the day - more followed in several places. I had never seen so many in a single day.



Figure 2: *Malacolimax tenellus* feeding on fungus (Photo Peter Topley)

What about other species? It was pretty hard work - but the team members were pretty dedicated. Amongst the mandatory finds of *Discus rotundatus* and *Arion distinctus*, we found a small, temporarily unidentifiable species and kept specimens for later. We passed the remains of a military ammunition store (WWII era rather than from the times of Robin Hood). All that remained was a pit with four concrete pillars which was neither attractive nor natural looking. I suggested we stop and look - not for historical interest but simply that it represented a different habitat. We did that - just as well. There were more *Cepaea* snails there on the concrete pillars than we saw in total during the rest of the day. We also identified the mystery snails and added another species record or two. The mystery species was just *Cepaea nemoralis*. What was different was that the shell was almost translucent so that internal organs could be seen and the shell was pliable rather than brittle. It seems that the habitat is so calcium-impoverished that young *Cepaea* snails have difficulty in producing sufficiently thick shells and that only the full adults eventually manage to secure enough calcium to make a shell of normal appearance. The abundance of the snails in the ammunition pit was simply a result of the calcium-rich material of the concrete pillars. What is really gratifying is to see experts struggling with common species which have a different appearance from what is normally expected.



Figure 3:-
Thin shelled juvenile and sub-adult *Cepaea nemoralis*
(Photos: Peter Topley)

There is another lesson for mollusc hunters - always take care to search in different micro-habitats when you see them. *Arion ater* gave us a problem too. We found many specimens of a small, pinkish-yellow slug climbing trees up to about 1.5 metres. At a glance they could have been dismissed as some *Limax* species. Close inspection revealed them to be *Arion ater*, all of this unusually colouration.

We began the afternoon session with a look around the public car park. Again, this was worth looking at since it is a different habitat and it turned out to be very worthwhile. There were very few individuals of very few species and we were about to give up. I then saw a shiny something in a small rotting branch lying on the ground. Happy days. It was not *Arion ater* but a half-grown *Limax cinereoniger*. What a find - it is a new vice county record. There were a good many people around the visitor centre and I took the opportunity to show this rather special creature to several of them. The reaction was pleasingly unexpected. None of them backed away in disgust. Almost all were fascinated by the rarity and interested to learn a little about its ecology. That did reduce the mollusc hunting time but it was time well spent.

What did we not find? I was most surprised not to find any *Limax maximus* or *Lehmannia marginata*. The area is very well wooded and very large. It has had forest cover since time immemorial. Even here in the dry east Midlands, it should be suitable habitat for the tree slug. We found not a single one – not for want of looking, either. Curiously we did find two specimens of *Lehmannia valentiana* - one in

the car park (not surprising) and one in the woodland (more surprising). Although we were a small group - just six people overall (Ron Boyce, Marion Bryce, Chris du Feu, Rosemary Hill, Peter Topley, Sam Topley), it was quite a pleasing day with 17 species added to the rangers' country park list and 3 new 10km records and one new county record. A good PR job was done with the slug visual aid and there was a press release from the very happy park authorities to mark the finding of the special slugs. Subsequent to this, at least one branch of the media read it and I was called by BBC Radio Nottingham for a live interview about the find. I should add that I know the chap who does the programme from previous slug appearances I have made. I was able to give about 5 minutes of Conch Soc. radio exposure time.

Species list

Arion ater agg.
Arion distinctus
Arion intermedius
Arion subfuscus
Cochlicopa cf. *lubrica*
Discus rotundatus
Euconulus cf. *fulvus* seg. - new 10km record
Zonitoides excavatus
Cepaea hortensis
Cepaea nemoralis
Trochulus hispidus
Lehmannia valentiana - new 10km record
Limax cinereoniger - new 10km and vice-county record
Malacolimax tenellus
Tandonia budapestensis
Oxychilus alliarius
Oxychilus cellarius



Figure4: Chris showing the juvenile *L. cinereoniger* to an interested young visitor
(Photo: Rosemary Hill)

“Coquilles in the kitchen” by J.E.Llewellyn-Jones BSc.

The other day I settled down and made some “Cockle cakes” or “Coquilles”. These little cakes were a traditional Easter specialty and there was a street cry to advertise them “Hot penny coquilles, smoking all hot”. We were told that fishermen’s wives originally used cockle shells to mould these small cakes before tin utensils were available. This is very unlikely in fact: the word “coquilles” actually refers to “A scallop-shaped dish or a scallop shell in which various foods are cooked and served”. We also know that in Southend-on-Sea these small cakes were actually baked in scallop shells. It is also most likely that they used the valves of *Chlamys opercularis* rather than the larger valves of *Pecten maximus*. Certainly the old baking tin that I have in my kitchen has a dozen scallop shaped cups of the size of *Chlamys opercularis*.

As can be seen in the pictures I tried making these little cakes and not only was it very simple and easy, it was extremely successful. Cheats recipe: Take a packet of Sponge mix (I used a Tesco value 227g packet but I’m sure that the other supermarkets have identical packets) and follow the instructions on the back. Take one egg and 50ml of water in a mixing bowl. Mix together well, beat, then add a further 25ml of water and beat for another minute. Divide the mix up into 12 well greased scallop shells. Bake in an oven at around 200°C/350°F/Gas Mark 6 for approximately 15 minutes. Keep an eye on the cakes through the oven window and if they have risen and are light brown take them out immediately. One can, of course, use a baking tray with 12 scalloped cups instead but the shells are more fun.

When the cakes are cool remove them from the shells. This might be a little tricky but like prizing a limpet off a rock one must take a thin, sharp kitchen knife, gently run it round under the cake and lever it out of the shell. Place a dollop of strawberry jam on one of the cockle cakes followed by some clotted cream. To make them look even more delicious sprinkle with icing sugar (or sweetener, if diabetic) over them. You can also use them as an addition to a dessert like a custard cream for instance.

Below is a proper recipe one can use for the cake mix. For further information look under ‘British recipes Southend-on-Sea Cockle cakes’ on the Internet.

Recipe-

Ingredients

1 oz.(28g) yeast; 2 oz.(56g) sugar or equivalent of sweetener); 2oz.(56g) butter; 1 lb.(454g) plain flour or leaving out the yeast use self raising flour instead; ½ pint (284ml) water and 1 egg.

Method

Cream the yeast and sugar (sweetner) with a little water. Rub the butter into the flour and work in the egg. Add the yeast mixture. If using self raising flour leave out the yeast mixture. Add a little of the remaining water to make a soft dough. Leave in a warm place for 30 minutes to prove/rise. Break up into scallop shell sized pieces. Place them into well greased scallop shells and bake. Carry on as above.



1 Ingredients



2 Cake mix and scallop shells.



3 Straight out of the oven



4. The cakes taken out of the shells

In a future issue of ‘Mollusc World’ I will give another quite different use and recipe for ‘cockle cakes’.

The 19 individuals who attended this meeting at the Leeds Museum Discovery Centre included 12 members of the Society, a visiting group of seven students from the University of York, and our host, Clare Brown, Senior Curator Natural Sciences. The numbers don't add up because Caitlin Potter is both a member of the Society and also currently studying at the University; she has been double-counted!



Figure 1: Attendees in the main storage facility
(photo: Adrian Norris)

Clare Brown started the morning session by introducing us to the Discovery Centre. This state-of-the-art building, Heritage Lottery funded and opened in July 2007, replaces the former Museum Resource Centre. It houses all the collections that are not currently part of public displays in the city's museums, and provides office and research accommodation for staff. The area that holds the collections looks, at first sight, like a huge warehouse, but is in fact purpose-built for museum collections, e.g. it maintains a constant temperature of 16°C. Clare provided us with an impressive array of facts and figures, including that the animal, plant and geology holdings accumulated since the 1820s amount to more than 800 thousand specimens. The shell collection is the third largest in the UK (after London and Cardiff), and is used by researchers from around the world. Adrian Norris then outlined the history of the mollusc collection, which was one of the first specialities of the museum back in the 1820s, and includes a fair amount of type material. The start of the Leeds collection could be said to date back to the Conchological Society's founding fathers, all of whom were based in

Leeds: John W. Taylor, William Nelson, Henry Crowther and W. Dennison Roebuck.



Figure 2: detail from the illuminated presentation given to John W. Taylor by the Society on the occasion of his 70th birthday, on display at the meeting (Photo: Peter Topley)

Since then there have been more than 150 donations, from quite small and specialised through to large collections of several thousand specimens. For a long time individual donations were kept separate, but in recent years, as the result of a large grant from the fund for Designated Collections, these were amalgamated into one large systematic collection. There were some interesting tales about conchologists, and the strange and difficult circumstances under which some collections were acquired.



Figure 3: Members between two of the many sliding shelving units housing the mollusc collection (photo Terry Crawford)

Most of the morning was spent in the main storage facility, and what an eye-opener it was! There were of course, thousands of shells, held in all manner of containers, many wrapped in tissue paper, the result of the recent move from

the old Resource Centre. You could closely discuss with conchologists, for example, the difficult systematics of the species-rich assemblage of south-east European Clausiliidae; or you could range more widely through the collections: entomology, other natural history, through to every imaginable facet of our lives — furniture, fruit machines, clothing, a motor scooter ... One student, potentially interested in museum work, whispered to me that it was “A dream come true”!



Figure 4: Just a few of the Clausiliidae! (photo Terry Crawford)

Back to our very comfortable meeting room where there was a rich display of archive material and artwork from the Leeds City Museum (much related to John W. Taylor), documents from the A.E. Ellis archives (Peter Topley), Barry Colville’s exhibits of some introduced species, British and European Pupillidae, and some examples of *Granaria* and *Balea*, and Adrian Norris’s display of a variety of early and modern books on Mollusca and (appropriately in the year of Evolution MegaLab) the Philips school chart on *Cepaea* by A.E. Ellis and his father. Over lunch the exhibitors said a few words of introduction to their material, and then we had plenty of time to browse at our leisure.

The afternoon session was devoted to a presentation by Adrian Norris, “Climate Change: a Recorder’s Observations — Introductions and Alien Mollusca”. Adrian first covered the history of the recording and mapping of British and Irish non-marine molluscs, and he particularly emphasised (and showed) how different impressions can be gained of distribution and abundance depending on the scale of the mapping. He then asked what we mean by “introductions”, and by way of answering his own question, took us through the history of introductions in Roman times (7 species), post-Roman/Medieval (8 species), 18th century (4 species), 19th century (6 species), 20th century (17 species), and probably already four taxa in the 21st century (*Arion occultus*, *Papillifera papillaris*, *Selenochlamys ysbryda* and *Granaria frumentum illyrica*). (Note: in the 3 months following the meeting a fifth, and possibly a sixth, species have been brought to our attention; Adrian Norris, personal communication.) Their distributions are hard to understand, and it is unclear why some species are more widespread than others, and why some spread so much more rapidly

than do others. Nevertheless, the fact that some introduced species can spread very rapidly indeed, and the accelerating frequency with which introductions are establishing, is notable, and the big question is whether climate change and warmer winters may be playing a part. Should we be concerned? — asked Adrian. He considered the possibility that there will be an introduction that turns out to be a real pest, or one that carries a disease agent. He noted that the USA spends millions of dollars attempting to eradicate molluscan introductions, whereas by comparison the UK seems hardly bothered. One thing, though, is clear: we need much more detailed and determined mapping because, with introductions, it is important to know where they are and how they are spreading.

Adrian’s talk generated a lively discussion which concluded with the core need for there to be more people recording in the field, and that there is an especial need for generating interest in younger people and providing them with appropriate training. Given the presence of the students from York, this seemed to me to be a singularly appropriate note on which to finish the meeting. Also, as a recently retired university academic, I found it distinctly heart-warming to see, in this age of utilitarian approaches to education and knowledge, a group of young people simply revelling in their enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, ecology, conservation and natural history, for its own sake and not in the pursuit of learning outcomes, exam marks, etc. Two of them did, however, comment to me that in their exams a couple of months later they were able to include in their answers relevant information gained from this meeting!



Figure 5: Adrian Norris delivering his presentation on “Climate Change: a Recorder’s Observations...” (Photo: Peter Topley)

We all enjoyed a most interesting and stimulating day in very congenial surroundings, for which we owe our thanks to Clare and the Discovery Centre.

Members should note that the Discovery Centre welcomes, by appointment, visitors who wish to see, or carry out research on, its rich resources; please call 0113 214 1548.

A colleague, who works on fossil fishes in the Natural History Museum (Palaeontology Dept.), complained to me “Your wretched molluscs are eating all the flowers in my garden”. I denied responsibility and asked for details, particularly the size. A forefinger and a thumb indicated a shell about 3-4cm. He added “There seems to be two kinds”. So I asked for some empty shells, which eventually arrived on my desk.

My colleague lives on London Clay with a light cover of Kempton Park gravels, about 300 metres north of Wimbledon Chase Station. The bag of shells did contain two kinds. *Cornu aspersum*, with its characteristic “beaten copper” shell texture, came as no surprise, on London Clay or any formation. The other was up to 1.5cm larger, lower spired, with prominent growth bands crossed by brown helical bands on a cream background. I had seven shells nearly all with one or more shell damage repairs; one had the shell ‘peeled’ back about 2cm and the previous whorl broken into. Natural justice for eating the flowers of my colleague! Two had a closed umbilicus, the rest with just a chink.

Convinced that I had *Helix pomatia* living on London Clay, a matter of some interest since *H. Pomatia* is a well known calcophile, I asked for some shells with the living animal inside. Convinced also that the shells came from a French restaurant and were of no biogeographical significance, I was not hopeful. But there was no local French restaurant and a plastic box with two live specimens arrived on my desk. The larger of the two is a splendid ‘beast’ measuring 9cm from the mouth to the tip of the foot and a pale grey colour when fully extended. Still convinced I had *Helix pomatia*, the Roman Snail, I exhibited the empty shells and two living specimens at the October 2009 meeting of the Conchological Society. I am glad I did (figure 1, below).



Figure 1: *Helix lucorum* from Wimbledon. (Photo taken at the Conchological Society’s NHM indoor meeting, 3rd October 2009)

After some hilarious speculations as to how the Roman Snail got to Wimbledon, without help from a French restaurant, I suggested it was a hangover from the Roman occupation, when it was called ‘Wimbletonium’. Then, three members quietly told me it was not *Helix pomatia* but *Helix lucorum* (L.,1758). Further, *H. lucorum* was not on the British list, even as a casual introduction.

Now it was looking serious and having spent more time looking at marine molluscs than terrestrials, I was clearly out of my depth. So, on the scientific principle ‘When in doubt, quantify’, some biometrics seemed appropriate. The trouble with measuring helical objects is that contact surfaces are never opposite and constant orientation is difficult. The table of measurements (figure 2, below) gives some ideas of overall size and height/width ratios in mm.

	Height (mm)	Width (mm)	H/W %
1	37.9	39.4	96.2
2	32.6	36.5	89.3
3	34.4	38.6	89.1
4	32.5	41.0	79.3
5	32.9	42.0	78.3
6	broken	predated	
7	13.1	15.6	83.8
8 (live)	32.5	44.2	73.5
9 (live)	25.6	27.8	92.1

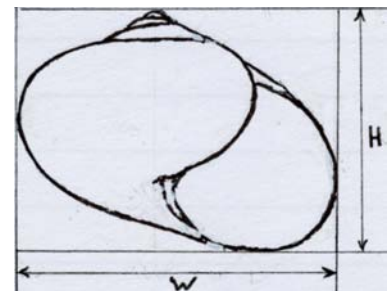


Figure 2

I wasn’t serious about ‘Wimbletonium’, but maybe the following hypothesis might explain this unexpected presence of a foreign snail. Someone, or a family, on holiday in eastern Europe, noticed the brightly banded shells, took a few home and found that some of the ‘empty’ shells had living animals inside and turned them out into the garden. My colleague has lived in his house for 14 years, so the snails are well established. If a *Helix* can survive the winters of eastern Europe, it would have no problem in milder ‘Wimbletonium’. I also now understand why gardeners rage against snails: keeping two specimens alive for four months, I learned of their love of lettuce.

My thanks to Peter Topley for providing the photograph forming figure 1.

Non-Marine Recording – Activity and Highlights 2009.

The installation of the two Irish databases into the main Conchological Society database has dramatically increased the number of records in the system and I would like to thank all of those involved within the Irish networks for all of their help in making this information available.

Over 200,000 records are now installed within the Conchological Society database. This is mainly thanks to the following who have submitted bulk records for inclusion within the system, Keith Alexander (1,000 plus), Janet Boyd (1,500 plus), Carl Ruscoe (1,000 plus), Chris du Feu (380 plus) and E.J. Redshaw (1,000 plus) as well as many others who have also kindly forwarded smaller numbers of records for inclusion within the dataset. Of the records added to the dataset, I have only received, for the year 2009, records from 39 of the 131 vice-counties, with only five, (VC11 South Hampshire, VC56 Nottinghamshire, VC61, 62 and 65, three of the Yorkshire vice-counties) exceeding 100 records throughout the year. A quick survey of the database revealed that it now contains over 1,100 names of collectors who have supplied data to the mapping scheme over many years and this number will grow as more data is entered. It is almost impossible to trace the majority of these people, many of whom have only submitted small numbers of records. I would like to take this opportunity to state once again that the database is being passed over to the National Biodiversity Network for the NBN Gateway. If any of our members, or associates, do not wish their records to be made available to a wider audience, and therefore to be used by conservation organisations and agencies such as Natural England, they must contact me as soon as possible stating their wishes.

The highlights of the year's recording include the re-discovery of *Omphiscola glabra* in Ireland. It was found sparingly in July in a *Menyanthes/Juncus* swamp on the margins of a coldwater spring at Carrickavrantry in south County Waterford by Roy Anderson. Ben Rawson reported the discovery of the Ghost Slug *Selenochlamys ysbryda* from three further vice-counties.

However, the new discovery of the year goes to Barry Colville who found two fresh examples of *Granaria* under a mat of Red Fescue in a sheltered south-facing bay on St Agnes (SV886083) in the Scilly Islands on 12th June 2009. The two specimens were forwarded on to Edmund Gittenberger at Leiden Museum in the Netherlands who stated that the specimens belong to the *Granaria frumentum illyrica* group but the group is poorly understood and live examples are required for DNA examination before any further determination can take place. [see article, page 5]

A possible further interesting development relates to a specimen of *Limax cinereoniger* I forwarded to Ulrich Schnepf at the Bündler Naturmuseum in Switzerland who is working on the genus *Limax* on a European scale. The specimen was found at the top of Gunnerside Gill (VC65), North-west Yorkshire (SD94546991) by David Lindley and myself on 24th July 2009. After examining the specimen Ulrich commented that the specimen was strange. It is of

Adrian Norris, Non-Marine Recorder

an early male stage/sub-adult with a total length of 130mm, 9.0g total weight, with genital pores visible but only slightly open. The colour of the mantle and back is a uniform dark grey and so are the side fields of the sole. The keel is the same colour over its extreme length right up to the hind margin of the mantle! This is in fact, very strange and Ulrich states that only one species known in the genus with the same characteristics and that is *L. wohlberedti* from the southern Balkans. Included with this report are two photographs of the specimen. It may turn out to be just an extreme form of *Limax cinereoniger* but only time will tell. Rather like the specimens of *Granaria* we need further examples for DNA tests to establish the true identity of these animals.



Figure 1: Specimen of *Limax cf. cinereoniger* from Gunnerside Gill VC65 Yorkshire North-west (SD94546991) by David Lindley and Adrian Norris on 24th July 2009.

New Vice-County Records

RMNH = Published in Gittenberger, Preece and Ripken 2006

West Cornwall (VC1): *Balea heydeni*, Bosigran Castle, Zennor, (SW4136) 24.05.1979 Col. & Det. K. Alexander; *Granaria frumentum illyrica*, St Agnes (SV886083) 12.06.2009 Coll. B. Colville Det. E. Gittenberger.

East Cornwall (VC2): *Balea heydeni*, Lanhydrock (SX0862) 27.05.1989 Col. & Det. K. Alexander.

South Devon (VC3): *Balea heydeni*, Eastern Cleave Wood, Lydford (SX5084) 24.05.1990 Col. & Det. K. Alexander; *Balea perversa*, Sidmouth (SY1694) 15.03.2009 Col. & Det. K. Alexander; *Arion flagellus*, Chardstock (ST2902) 17.02.1995 Coll. & Det. D.E. Bolton & G. Musker.

North Devon (VC4): *Balea heydeni*, Beckland Wood, Hartland (SS2826) 30.05.1990 Col. & Det. K. Alexander.

North Somerset (VC6): *Selenochlamys ysbryda*, Knowle, Bristol (ST587696) 05.08.2005 Conf. B. Rawson.

Dorset (VC9): *Balea heydeni*, Durweston (ST80) Coll. D. Holyoak Conf. R.C. Preece RMNH.

Isle of Wight (VC10): *Balea heydeni*, Freshwater (SZ38) Coll. & Det. R.C. Preece RMNH.

West Sussex (VC13): *Balea heydeni*, Newtimber Hill (TQ2712) Coll. D. Holyoak Conf. R.C. Preece RMNH.

East Sussex (VC14): *Balea heydeni*, Seaford (TQ40) Coll. D. Holyoak Conf. R.C. Preece RMNH.

East Kent (VC15): *Balea heydeni*, Dover Castle (TR34) Coll. & Det. R.C. Preece RMNH.

North Essex (19): *Arion hortensis* ss, River Lee Country Park (TL376027) 18.11.2009 Coll. & Det. Peter Topley; *Sphaerium nucleus*, Chelmsford (TL724064) 05.10.2009 Coll. P. Wilson Det. I.J. Killeen.

Oxfordshire (23): *Arion circumscriptus* ss, Oxford (SP515048) 24.05.2008 Coll. & Det. A. Wardhaugh; *Arion owenii*, The Warren, Caversham (SU692753) 29.10.2009 Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Cambridgeshire (29): *Balea heydeni*, Grantchester (TL45) Coll. H. Watson Conf. R.C. Preece RMNH; *Limacus maculatus*, Coton (TL460589) 27.09.2002 Coll. R.C. Preece Conf. B. Eversham; *Pisidium tenuilineatum*, Cambridge Fen (TL447573) 11.12.2007 Coll. P. Wilson Conf. M. Willing.

Northamptonshire (32): *Balea heydeni*, Ring Haw Nature Reserve (TL0597) Coll. & Det. R.C. Preece RMNH.

East Gloucestershire (33): *Balea heydeni*, Baunton (SP020045) 04.05.2009 Coll. T. Walker Conf. D.C. Long.

Monmouthshire (35): *Balea heydeni*, Pye Corner, Nash (ST3485) 22.08.2008 Coll. & Det. K. Alexander; *Selenochlamys ysbryda*, Newport (ST344871) 03.10.2004 Conf. B. Rawson.

Staffordshire (39): *Arion hortensis* ss, *Limacus flavus* ss, *Lehmannia valentiana*, All Norton nr Cannock (SK020084) 18.08.2009 Coll. John Fleming Conf. A. Norris.

Glamorgan (41): *Selenochlamys ysbryda*, Caerphilly (ST134866) 30.09.2002 Conf. B. Rawson; *Paralaoma servilis*, Cardiff (ST182770) Coll. J. Gallichan 2008 Conf. N.M. Wales.

Caernarvonshire (49): *Balea heydeni*, Caerns, SW of Llanaelhaern (SH34) Coll. D.C. Holyoak Conf. R.C. Preece RMNH.

Durham (66): *Arion circumscriptus* ss, *A. distinctus* ss, Cassop area (NZ3338) 14.05.2008 Coll. & Det. A. Wardhaugh.

Westmorland (69): *Balea heydeni*, Low Crag (SD49) Coll. B. Colville Conf. R.C. Preece RMNH; *Euconulus fulvus* ss, *Arion circumscriptus* ss, Ullswater (NY4320) 30.03.2009; *A. silvaticus*, nr Brotherswater (NY402129) 20.04.2007; *A. distinctus* ss, Grizeldale (SD3394) 27.07.1989, all Coll. & Det. A. Wardhaugh.

Isle of Man (71): *Succinea putris*, Colby (SC218698) 02.08.2009 Coll. R. Selman Conf. A. Norris.

Dumfriesshire (72): *Arion ater* ss, Carrifran Wildwood (NT159120) 22.08.2005, *A. circumscriptus* ss, *A. distinctus* ss, *Cepaea hortensis*, Sanquhar (NS781101) *Anisus vortex* Sanquhar Loch (NS778097) 10.05.2005 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Kirkcudbrightshire (73): *Balea heydeni*, Haugh Wood, Southwick Coast (NX9156) 05.04.1997 Coll. & Det. K. Alexander.

Ayrshire (75): *Balea heydeni*, Largs (NS25) Coll. F.C. Morgan Det R. Preece RMNH; *Limacus maculatus*, Auchinleck (NS548220) 10.05.2005 Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Renfrewshire (76): *Arion distinctus* ss, *Limacus maculatus*, both Pollock Country Park, Glasgow (NS5596) 02.04.2008 Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Peeblesshire (78): *Arion fasiatus*, *A. owenii*, *Tandonia budapestensis*, all Innerleithen (NT3336) 25.10.2005. Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Roxburghshire (80): *Arion circumscriptus* ss, Hawick (NT508154); *A. ater* ss, *A. distinctus* ss, *A. silvaticus*, Violet Woods, Hawick (NT4814) 20.04.2005 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Berwickshire (81): *Limacus maculatus*, Eyemouth (NT944642) 09.10.2005 Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

East Lothian (82): *Oxychilus draparnaudi*, Gullane-Luffness (NT475815) 24.08.2008; *Boettgerilla pallens*, *Cochlicopa lubricella*, Wallyford (NT368722) 18.09.2005; *A. ater* ss, nr Kilspindie Golf Club (NT457802) 08.09.2008, *A. flagellus*, (NT552850) 06.02.2008 and *A. circumscriptus* ss,

both North Berwick (NT557850) 31.03.2008; *Anisus leucostoma*, Luffness (NT478808) 24.08.2008 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Midlothian (83): *Cochlicopa lubricella* (NT267619), *Arion ater* ss (NT265625), Rosslyn Glen Country Park, 02.05.2009; *A. distinctus* ss, *A. silvaticus* (NT0969), *A. circumscriptus* ss, *Euconulus fulvus* ss (NT087687), Almondell Country Park (NT0869) 24.04.2005, *Physella acuta*, Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh (NT331712) 08.08/2009 all Coll. A.T. Sumner, Det A. Norris

West Lothian (84): *Bithynia leachii*, Union Canal, Linlithgow (NS972758) 19.08.2005; *Arion distinctus* ss, Dundas Castle Estate (NT116760) 21.08.2005; *A. ater* ss, W. of Linlithgow (NS969758) 27.06.2008; *A. circumscriptus* ss, Winchburgh (NT087753) 12.05.2008; *Limacus flavus* ss, Linlithgow Loch (NT006778) 20.07.2008; *Columella aspera*, *Euconulus fulvus* ss (NS998741), *E. alderi* (NT012741), *A. silvaticus* (NT006746) 16.05.2009, all Beecraigs Country Park all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Fifeshire (85): *Cochlicopa lubricella* (NO36813 5), *Arion flagellus* (NO370138) Cupar 30.06.2005, *Arion distinctus*, Crossgates Community Woodland (NT149893) 05.07.2009 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Stirlingshire (86): *Arion flagellus*, *A. distinctus* ss, Balmaha (NS419907) 03.09.2005; *Deroceras panomitanum*, Stirling (NS789939) 15.04.2008; *A. silvaticus*, Stirling (NS789943) 15.04.2008; *A. ater* ss E. of Polmont (NS948775) 27.06.2008; *Boettgerilla pallens*, Mugdock Country Park (NS554768), *Tandonia sowerbyi*, Mugdock Castle (NS549771) both 06.09.2008 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

West Perthshire (87): *Arion distinctus* ss, *Tandonia sowerbyi*, *T. budapestensis*, (NS890933), *Deroceras panomitanum*, (NS885928) all Alloa 15.05.2008; *A. ater* ss, *A. owenii*, (NN574005), *Euconulus fulvus* ss, (NN856005) all Lake of Menteith 29.05.2009; *Oxychilus draparnaudi*, Aberfoyle (NN586005) 28.05.2009 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Mid Perthshire (88): *Arion distinctus* ss, *A. circumscriptus* ss, Friarton Island (NO12230) 15.03.2008 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Moray (95): *Balea heydeni*, Elgin (NJ26) Coll. R. McAndrews Det. R.C. Preece RMNH; *Deroceras panomitanum*, (NJ030274), *Arion distinctus* ss, (NJ030268); *Euconulus fulvus* ss, (NJ030270), Grangetown-on-Spey 24.05.2008; *Boettgerilla pallens*, Carrbridge (NH899224) 24.05.2008 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Argyll Main (98): *Balea heydeni*, Dunollie Castle (NM83) Coll. D.T. Holyoak Det. R.C. Preece RMNH.

Dunbartonshire (99): *Arion distinctus* ss, Gartocharn (NS421865) 03.09.2005; *Bithynia leachii*, Dalmuir-Clydebank (NS496704); *Limacus maculatus*, Dalmuir (NS484711); *Lymnaea stagnalis* (NS457731), *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (NS462728), *Arion silvaticus* (NS458730) all from Old Kilpatrick 05.05.2008 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

North Ebeudes (104): *Arion owenii*, Armadale Castle (NG641047); *Arion ater* s.s., Kyleshea (NG787219); *Arion distinctus*, Broadford (NG644234); *Balea heydeni*, *Limax cinereoniger*, *Euconulus fulvus*, Tokavaig Wood (NG613120); *Arion silvaticus*, *Euconulus alderi*, Loch Cill Chrìosd (NG612202) all Conchological Society Trip to The Island of Sky 11-16.08.2009.

East Ross (106): *Arion flagellus*, Fairy Glen, Rosemarkie (NH734578) 22.06.2009 Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

East Sutherland (107): *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, *Helicella itala*, Farr Bay, Bettyhill (NC7162) 27.05.2008; *Arion ater* ss, *A. flagellus* (ND032151) 30.05.2008, *Ashfordia granulata*, (ND030151) 31.05.2008 Helmsdale; *A. distinctus* ss, *Tandonia budapestensis* (NC906039), *Limacus maculatus* (NC906041), Brora 31.05.2008; *Euconulus fulvus* ss, Pittencraig (NC 726019) 27.06.2009, *Columella edentula* ss, (NC840007), all Coll. and Det. A.T. Sumner; *Balea heydeni*, Golspie (NC839001) 01.06.2008 Coll. A.T. Sumner Det. A. Norris.

Caithness (109): *Balea heydeni*, Achvarasdal, Reay (NC982649) Coll. A.T. Sumner Det A. Norris; *Euconulus fulvus* ss, Achvarasdal, Reay (NC982649), *Boettgerilla pallens*, *Limacus maculatus*, Wick (ND357609) 28.05.2008; *A. silvaticus*, (ND124688) Thurso 29.05.2008; *A. circumscriptus* ss, Dunbeath (ND159298) 30.05.2008; *Monacha cantiana*, Berriedale (ND120225) 30.05.2008 all Coll. & Det. A.T. Sumner.

Orkney Islands (111): *Balea heydeni*, Finstown (HY31) Coll A.D.J. Meuse Det R.C. Preece; *Arion flagellus*, *A. distinctus*, Finstown (HY359138) 16.07.2008 Coll. & Det. A. Wardhaugh.

North Kerry (H2): *Balea heydeni*, Gortracuisane, Oakwood (V9484) 13.10.2001 Coll. & Det. K. Alexander.

Waterford (H6): *Omphiscola glabra*, Carrickavrantry (S546019) 28.07.2009 Coll. & Det. Roy Anderson.

Marine Recorder's Report 2009 *Jan Light*

Some interesting mollusc occurrences have been reported.

A white-shelled *Haliotis tuberculata* (80mm shell length) was found by a Guernsey local, Jamie le Tissier whilst ormer gathering off Cobo, on 11th February. Richard Lord photographed the animal (Figure 1)



Figs. 1, A white ormer measuring 80mm in length (photographed by Richard Lord of Jersey)

At that time a Guernsey commercial fisherman reported landing three *Eledone cirrhosa* between 7 and 12 February. These were fished off Sark, off St Martin's Point, Guernsey and on the Casquet banks to the west of Alderney. These successive catches were considered to be notable as this is a northern species fished commercially off Scotland. The southern species, *Octopus vulgaris* was a pest of Channel Island fisheries until it died out in the cold winter of 1962/3.

During 2009 I was copied into e-correspondence concerning a distinctive form of *Simnia patula*, flagged by Keith Hiscock. Conventionally the species is associated with the soft coral, *Alcyonium digitatum*, commonly known as Dead Man's Fingers, but individuals seen on *Eunicella* (sea fans) were noted to differ in being slender, and pinker in colour, similar to their host. In July 1977 Bernard Picton photographed the animal whilst diving off Lundy Island.



Fig. 2. The form of *Simnia*, believed to be a 2nd species, seen at The Manacles Reef, The Lizard. Photo by Jason Gregory www.britishmarinelifepictures.co.uk

This new form has been recognised by Felix Lorenz, an Ovulidae authority, as a new species, shortly to be named.

A photo of the form has kindly been supplied by Jason Gregory (Figure 2).

Seventeen members of this Society converged on Skye in September for a field meeting. The island has been well worked over recent years and it was pleasing to add a 'showy' dorid nudibranch to the island's marine mollusc checklist. Julia Nunn found a mature individual of *Geitodoris planata* at Ardmere, an extensive biodiverse shore at the north end of the island.

Terry Wimbleton advises that a living *Crassostrea gigas* was found on the shore on the west side of Hayling Bridge, Langstone Harbour. This record adds to the only other known locality in S15 which is along Southampton Water above the Hamble, found by Terry in 2008. This oyster is not being farmed in the area.

In recent years a productive conduit of records has resulted from reciprocity with individuals and organisations e.g. divers, CEFAS. Georgia Conolly was photographing marine life underwater off Eastbourne, East Sussex, in August. In a photo of sea squirts attached to a sandstone reef, which she was reviewing on her computer, she noticed a nudibranch in the corner of her field of view. This unfamiliar sea slug was identified as *Trapania maculata* by Bernard Picton. There are only two previous records for the species (S16, S22).

Another diver-photographed seaslug was identified by Bernard in September. Jan Davies took a photograph of a colourful sacoglossan attached to red algae on a kelp stipe in the shallow sublittoral at Hope Cove in Devon (Figure 3). The species, *Hermaea variopicta*, was first recorded in the 1970s and thought to be rare. The Conchological Society has had two other reports of the species although Bernard says that there have been a number of records recently.



Fig. 3. *Hermaea variopicta*, observed off Hope Cove, Devon. Photo by Jan Davies

Trinchesia concinna (Alder & Hancock, 1843) is a species for which there are very few records. Unlike many related cuthonid species this nudibranch is rather drab which

perhaps accounts for rare records. It was sighted and photographed at Eyemouth on the east coast by diver Jim Anderson, a regular contributor to my report, who kindly allows his photo to be reproduced here (Figure 4)



Fig. 4 *Trinchesia concinnata* off Eyemouth, Scotland. Photo by Jim Anderson

Shore-based recorders are likely to have more luck finding the small aeolid, *Aeolidiella alderi*. This is a southern species which feeds on sea-anemones. A key feature for identification is the ‘ruff’ of closely packed, shorter white cerata immediately behind the rhinophores. Apart from Mulroy Bay in Ireland, all sites were in southern England, often the shores being slightly muddy and animals being found relatively high on the shore. In September last year, Ian Smith found an animal at low water mark near Church Island in the Menai Straits, Anglesey. This has been verified by Bernard Picton and Julia Nunn and is the first record for Wales.

Aeolidiella alderi was also recorded from Jersey for the first time by Paul Chambers in 2009. It has been known from Guernsey and has almost certainly been overlooked, as several specimens came to light during the year. (Paul returned to Jersey permanently after twenty years living and working in the UK. He’d been an amateur conchologist since his teenage years but has only been compiling formal records of his Channel Island finds since 2006.) During 2009 the following were considered noteworthy finds. *Leptochiton scabridus* was found under a boulder fairly high on the shore at Grouville. The species had not been recorded from Jersey since 1898 (although recorded from Herm and Guernsey in 1975). *Littorina littorea*, is sometimes listed as rare or absent from the Channel Islands. This was found to be common on certain parts of the coast and abundant on Les Minquiers (an offshore reef). *Macra glauca*, a species with which few members are likely to be familiar, remains common on Jersey’s south-east coast, where it is restricted to a small area. In August a second live population of these shells was discovered on Les Écréhous (an offshore reef). During a visit I made to Jersey to carry out some joint fieldwork, I found *Tapes philippinarum* living on the foreshore at La Rocque. It transpired that, while not formally recorded before, the Fisheries Department were aware of its presence in Jersey waters. It was introduced in the 1990s as part of a now defunct aquaculture experiment but would presently appear to be restricted to the island’s east coast.

Paludinella littorina was first found living on Jersey in 1998. Until last year there had only been a handful of shell records for *Truncatella subcylindrica* in the Channel Islands. Both these tiny gastropods are found in interstitial habitats at the uppermost part of the intertidal zone and both receive

conservation status. In April 2009 Paul Chambers discovered a small colony of *T. subcylindrica* and *P. littorina* on Jersey’s east coast. The site is known as Archironde, and is close to Le Fliquet Bay, the site of the first *Paludinella* record for Jersey. In addition to these small rarities, the site supports established populations of other associated ‘crevice fauna’ molluscs: *Myosotella denticulata*, *Leucophytia bidentata*, *Cingula trifasciata*, *Lasaea adansoni*, *Littorina saxatilis*, *Littorina obtusata* and *Melarhaphé neritoides*. Building on this find Paul is currently searching elsewhere on the island, in potential upper shore crevice habitat for further sites. An image montage of molluscan crevice fauna species, Figure 5 compiled by Ben Rowson, is published with this report. *Paludinella littorina* is tiny (British specimens rarely exceed 2mm in height and 1.7mm in diameter) and care is needed not to confuse it with a juvenile littorinid. It receives protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and should not be collected without a licence. An up-to-date distribution map can be viewed on the NBN Gateway and I am convinced the species’ real distribution is wider than the maps suggest.

How members can contribute to marine recording?

During the year further records have been digitised and the database now contains some 115,000 records. Some 15,000 were added in the past year; at an average of 30 species per card this is equivalent to 500 recording cards. A minority of these were received in 2009 (<70 cards), most represent a backlog which is gradually being worked.

If you access the NBN Gateway to look at grid maps of distributions for the Society’s marine database you will see maps of patchy coverage. This represents gaps arising from various constraints: there are sea area archives in my possession which are yet to be digitised, there are sea area archives yet to be obtained for data input and there are sea area archives for which we do not yet have agreement regarding conditions for wider dissemination. All these matters need to be resolved. In the meantime my suggestion is that apparent gaps in distributional data can be addressed by focusing fieldwork **now** on the stretches of the coast, for which there are Society records, but which are not readily available for digitisation. Whilst it is rewarding and fun at one level to return to known honeypots such as Skye, the Isles of Scilly, the Channel Islands and other favoured haunts to search for shells and record long species lists, visiting deserving shores for which we have so few records should be equally rewarding. A glance at the NBN maps based on Society records immediately pinpoints places where recording can make a positive contribution and I would urge members to record in these areas. I will aim to publish an article and map in *Mollusc World* which will describe some stretches of coast to target. Whilst we can try to organise Society field trips to some of those sites, informal arrangements made between groups of members to supplement the official programme are potentially a fruitful and enjoyable way of building up the Society’s database. Anyone wishing to have more specific suggestions for areas to work should ask me for details.

I would like to thank those who have allowed use of photos to illustrate the report and all those regular contributors who submitted records with special mention this time for Paul Chambers, Richard Lord, Ian Smith, Steve Trehwella, Terry Wimbleton. I also thank Bernard Picton who promotes the Society’s marine recording scheme.



Marine Recorder's Report 2009, Figure 5:-
Crevice fauna molluscs of the upper shore

Compiled by Ben Rowson

- 1 *Myosotella denticulata* adult
- 2 *Myosotella denticulata* juvenile
- 3 *Leucophytia bidentata* adult
- 4 *Leucophytia bidentata* juvenile
- 5 *Myosotella myosotis* semi-adult
- 6 *Myosotella myosotis* adult
- 7 *Littorina saxatilis* juvenile
- 8 *Littorina saxatilis* juvenile
- 9 *Melarhappe neritoides* juvenile
- 10 *Melarhappe neritoides* juvenile
- 11 *Melarhappe neritoides* adult
- 12 *Otina ovata* exterior
- 13 *Otina ovata* interior
- 14 *Pahudinella littorina* juvenile
- 15 *Pahudinella littordin* adult
- 16 *Lasaea rubra* typical form
- 17 *Lasaea rubra* pale form
- 18 *Cingula cingillus* adult
- 19 *Cingula cingillus* adult
- 20 *Cingula cingillus* white form juvenile
- 21 *Cingula cingillus* white form adult
- 22 *Truncatella subcylindrica* adult
- 23 *Truncatella subcylindrica* semi-adult prior to truncation
- 24 *Truncatella subcylindrica* juvenile

Images not to scale.

National BioBlitz 2010

A "BioBlitz" is a large scale event that engages large numbers of people with biodiversity.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and Bristol Natural History Consortium has been promoting these events. During the day scientists and members of the public work together to survey a natural space; seeking, identifying and recording as many species as possible over 24 hours. Previous events have located between 300 and 700 species, depending on the site and number of people involved. Volunteers are needed for the following roles at each event: Naturalists, Guides, Stewards, Media Volunteers and Liason.

By the time of publication of this issue many of the events will have already taken place, but if you are interested in how you can become involved on any of the remaining days, please contact Harriet Martin, National BioBlitz Programme Manager, Bristol Natural History Consortium on 07917 453795 or Harriet@bnhc.org.uk (see also <http://www.bnhc.org.uk/home/bioblitz/national-bioblitz.html>).



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Poetical responses to “The Limpet”

Issue 21 of this magazine featured a poem by Peter Dance called “The Limpet”. I was delighted to receive the following poems in response and Peter has also replied himself in verse and with a drawing, so I hope you will excuse the indulgence of some space in this issue to include them here. *Editor*

Dear Peter,

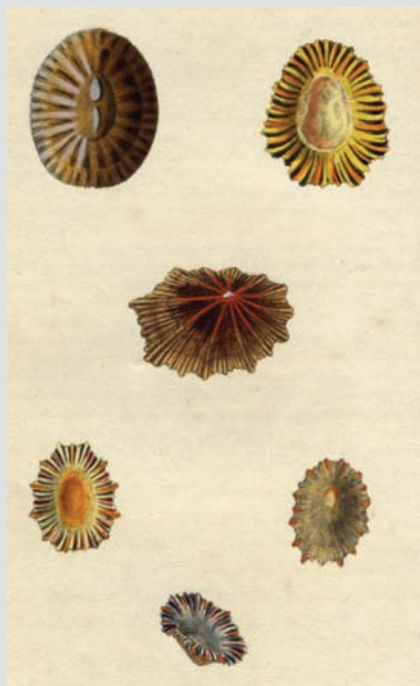
Well you asked for a reply to Peter Dance’s poem. I showed it to some of our local limpets on a Solway beach and found this reply scratched on a rock the next day:-

The Limpet’s Reply

I am a simple limpet, clinging firmly to my rock.
But looking into “Mollusc World” I got an awful shock.
P. Dance says I’m immobile, static, stationary, staid.
I had to read it twice. I could not believe what he had said.

He is wrong in what he stated
My mobility he’s underrated.
He must have watched when tide was out;
When it is in, I glide about
Fuelled by the algae I devour
I travel at an inch an hour!
At navigation I’m the best,
I know the east; I know the west
When tide is in I walk around
When it goes out then I am found
In the same spot from whence I started
Just as though I’d ne’er departed.
It’s done by skill, not just by chance.
Could you do as well, S. Peter Dance?

Transcribed from the rock by Jim Logan



(From Edward Donovan’s “British Shells”, 1804)



(E.M. Da Costa, 1778)

Dear Sir,

In response to Peter Dance’s rather cruel entry in Mollusc World, here is my response,

Yours etc

A. Patellidae

(P.S. Sorry about “Gunnerside”, a bit of poetic licence)

OK, I am a Limpet

OK I **am** a limpet, with not very much ambition
But it’s really so unfair to us to be accused of lack of mission
Of being dull and lazy, of being a sucker in a shell
When actually not all of us are content to say “Oh well”

My good friend Pete’s aboard a ship and travels far and wide
He’s sent us postcards from Hawaii (and even Gunnerside!)
He may not get an outside cabin or dine at the Captains table
But he says the hull’s quite cosy when he’s next to girlfriend Mabel

And then of course there’s my old friend Alf
Whose journeys are quite epic;
He’s attached to a humpback whale
And commutes twixt poles magnetic.

Finally I come to Sid
Who’s stuck on a piece of flotsam
So if boredom’s what you want my friend
He certainly has got some.

I hope Mr Dance will view us anew
After reading about my tribe
And not dismiss us (who knows he might kiss us)
Instead of a new diatribe.

John Robinson

The Limpet's response to S. Peter Dance

Who has the time to stand and stare?
If I were a limpet I would not dare
because S. Peter Dance
(if he had a chance)
would soon make sure that I was not there.

He'd take my life for nothing more
than standing and staring on the shore.
I suspect that Peter
would like me fleeter
of foot. Just wait till he's 94.

Then he will have to stay quite still,
as limpets do and always will.
Oh Peter, be careful. Do not mock;
For then YOU'll be sitting on a rock.

Sarah Longrigg



Dear Mr Topley,

...it would be interesting to know the reason why [Peter Dance] hates limpets, & when his hatred started. Perhaps some thoughtless collector gave him a large number of limpets unlabelled, from all parts of the world. That would be a cruel request for anyone. I find Australian limpets hard to identify! But they make quite an attractive display collection!

Being often subject to irresistible attacks of penning verses, I submit the following:-

Hidden Beauty

The Limpet is a mollusc shy
You'll see on rocks as you pass by.
It does not feel the need to roam,
Erodes a shallow patch for home.
Exposed to air it clings on tight
And shuns the heat of daily light,
But when immersed, when tide grows high
It lifts its shell to graze nearby.
The outer shell is dark & dull
Discouraging collectors cull.
In shape some shells are tall or flat,
Well suited to rough habitat.
To see the animal inside it
Quickly insert a knife beside it,
The humble creature once ejected
Shows nacreous beauty unexpected!
But if the Limpet still you hate
It makes a handy fishing bait!
But the Limpet is a mollusc wise,
It knows the danger of small size,
It knows the dangers very well
And never goes outside his shell!

Thora Whitehead, Queensland, Australia



A large *Patella vulgata* heavily encrusted with weed and barnacles, North Wales (Photo: Peter Topley)

The Limpet – A Rejoinder

Oh, I do like the limpet
A much maligned wee beast
Take a pot to the shore..... and fill it
To make a humble feast.

You don't want small or big ones
You need the medium size
You scrub the shells, then place them
On a buttered pan, that fries.

A dash of white wine vinegar
Will hone the fishy taste
You heat the pan, the limpets cook
Then eat them up with haste.

And when your meal is over
Cast the shells a second glance
The inner nacreous surface
Might appeal to S. P. Dance!

Jan Light, 10th December 2009

Jan writes:-

I first ate limpets a year ago when a Norman fisherman neighbour served them as a starter. The fun part is when the shells start leaping in the pan as they cook – this is the steam which gets trapped under the shell you understand! You simply bring the skillet to the table and guests serve themselves straight from the pan, armed with a pin, although the flesh comes away easily.

Limpets

The tide lifts, the tide lifts, the tide lifts.
A tiny squelch: a body's stretching forth.
Clinks: shell on shell; trickles: the gathering sea.
Reverberations from that other world
The underledge, where seaweed thickly trails.
A dogwhelk's stalking: a strong foot that curves,
Head quests, mouth gently feels, paired tentacles
Droop forward over seeing broken crab.
The smell and sound jar up my rock to me.
Free in our upper world, our own clear patch,
We limpets scarcely need at first to move.
Our food's our home – our seaweed as it's sprouting.
One sense of weed and rock and tongue and me.
Soothing the rhythmic rasp of boney tongue
And tongues around me working busily.
I mark with juice each tiny particle
Of rocky home – which forms me: my sheltering shell
Exactly fits my roost; I nestle where
A big old limpet held the patch that's mine,
And the next patch. An alongside fellow
Spawned with my birth, twin gametes flung to ocean,
Holds half the natural stronghold, half the slope.
We've fed. We've taken all that this tide offers.
He's settled back. He's had more weed than me.
Relaxed, he munches at his shallow bedplace.
I slowly edge, I creep behind, I wedge in silence
My shell, I rock, I rock, I rock, I heave.
Frightened he tightens. He'll do the same to me now
Another tide. We've grown to battle royally.

“Earth takes all. Water makes all new.”

So a Polish gardener once translated.
I learned the second young, away from home,
Amazed at the vast sea, its upshrugged bounty,
Heap upon heap, fresh and fresh again.
Then after delving as into autumn leaves
I set myself to pick a very best,
Biggest, tallest, prettiest, most distorted,
At every tide bewilderment of choice.
Some are lined up just as I arranged them
When first I knew their names: flat winkles, dog whelks,
Mussels, cockles. Limpets showing the underside
And some the top. The common limpets were
The most touched, so rough outside, so smooth within.
Their sandy cornets match the nibbled wafers
Of childhood holidays; inside, matching rainy days.
I turn the shells with thoughts of later childhood,
The lifelong puzzle why some shapes can please,
And even simple limpets show this too:
Humped shoulders clumsy, others seeming mad
Of linked fans flatly spread, some almost rectangle
With sides in golden section short to long.
I think of teaching-time: when asked to rank shells
Each child chose a different rationale,
And each was valid; also, they loved to draw them,
At first resisting white chalk on grey paper.
But seeing as I saw the plainest shells
Growing to strangest draws most like the model
And most like each child too, together thought of.
Time's marked by rearrangement: books then led me
On shore and in assembling of the trays.

The Halcyon, the Blue-Rayed, the Kingfisher,
That even now I can't resist to gather;
The Tortoiseshell, sometimes the northern prize
Of shell sand; the finely fretted Keyhole,
And like it, the dainty Slit-Margin limpet,
Cross-coffered like a neoclassic ceiling;
The smothering, chain-mating, alien Slipper -
Now there's one shell, one mollusc I don't care for –
Coarse, dirty-pink *Crepidula fornicata*;
Chinaman's Hat, as quirky as its name;
Records of primitive chitons, odd, unsea-like;
The limpet tray swelled in variety.
The commonest molluscs all must be displayed
The equal denizens of a collection,
And commoner limpets subtly can divide:
Vulgata, aspera, intermedia or *depressa*,
Dog Latin chanted and with careful hand
Set underneath them like a stalking whelk.
Within, colouring that's almost unattractive:
Pale greys, pale greens, pale yellows, bluish white,
Some shot through with orange, rusty red or rich slate blue.
A colour scheme that's off the edge of obvious
Sets up a salty tingle in the taste -
And Shifting occlusions show
Brightest depths of cloudy daytime skies
Or milkier skies without a hint of sun,
Echoing the British days when they were gathered.
From depths of layering springs clearest freshness
Still gleaming after many years in trays.

Rosalind Holt

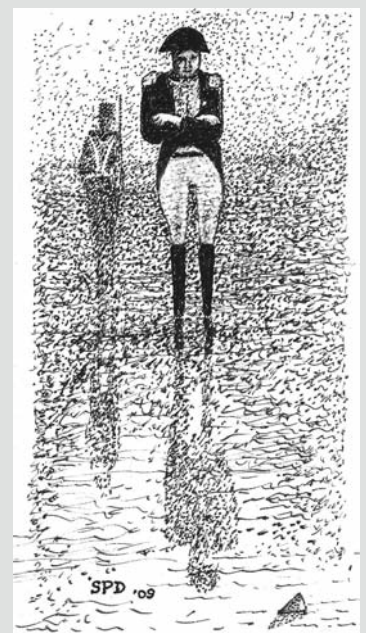


“A poem to appease some poetical critics of ‘The Limpet’
- with apologies to J.M.W. Turner and Napoleon
Bonaparte:-“

The Exile and the Rock Limpet

Exiled on a barren rock
Napoleon Bonaparte
would have had a
dreadful shock
had he seen a work of art
Turner dashed off in his
prime
showing the tyrant gazing
at a limpet spending time
alone and quietly grazing.

That tyrants may stand
and stare
is not a complete surprise
but I should have been
aware
that limpets take exercise
wandering this way and
that
when they are inundated
making me feel rather flat
and somewhat overrated.



S. Peter Dance, Carlisle,

Shells Revealed in Unusual Places

by Janet Sawyer

A Conchological event at Frascati, Italy? It was an invitation from Sonia Fuschi which I simply could not refuse. An expedition to the district of crisp white wines, elegant palazzo surrounded by beautiful gardens with tall cypress trees, and the added excitement of a treasure hunt among the dealers' wares. The Villa Tuscolana, the historic conference hotel which was out home for half a week, with its cool corridors, antique furniture and excellent restaurant, was historic because of its connections with the great Roman Orator Cicero, with the Sforzas, the Renaissance princes of Milan, those rich and famous patrons of Bramante and Leonardo da Vinci, and with the conqueror of Italy, Napoleon Bonaparte and his younger brother Lucien. Sonia and her team of helpers made detailed and smoothly successful arrangements for us, including convivial suppers at wonderful restaurants in Frascati and at elegant Castel Gandolfo with its beautiful views over the moonlit lake below.



Figure 1: The Villa Tuscolana

There were showcases of shells, each a first class specimen, on exhibition to the public and which invited them into the world of Conchology, with a special emphasis on gaining the interest of young children. The Mayor of Frascati attended, so did a minister responsible for conservation and the environment, as well as the president of the college of wine tasters, though unfortunately he did not bring any samples! The exhibition also included such unexpected delights as a demonstration of cameo carving, of beautiful shell jewellery and ornaments, as well as more humble items such as a DVD on the physical process of collecting sea shells which ought to tempt any young child onto the beach. Peter Dance, as Guest of Honour, continued this theme in his address, starting with several shell games suitable for young children, and Koen Fraussen gave a talk about his famous whelks.

Whilst there a walk down the lane from our high point on the Albani Hills above Frascati, overlooking the Tiber valley and the Italian capital revealed a modest Classical Renaissance style church attached to a monastery of the Capucin monks of St Francis. Outside is a notice stating that it also included a museum of Ethiopia. It seemed such an odd combination, but I had noticed in the church a large

marble statue and monument to a Bishop Guglielmo Massaja who had spent 35 years in the late 19th century ministering to the desert tribes of Ethiopia. I rang the doorbell, which was presently answered by a handsome young friar, who gave me a personal tour of the Museum with a commentary in rapid Italian, Fortunately I had become sufficiently conditioned to the language by this time to be able to follow him. Amongst other artefacts the museum contained sadly realistic locally made drawings of the brutal wars which raged among the tribes at the time. After such carnage, the Bishop would walk over the battlefield in search of any boy child left alive – the girls and women seem to have been killed or carried away. The rescued children were taken to a monastery and were later sent to a school which the Bishop had founded. During his ministry the Bishop made many journeys on foot along the shores of the Red Sea and as far as Aden (now S. Yemen but then a British colony), often suffering exile and imprisonment along the way. Among the items which he had brought back I was amused to note a collection of shells from the Red Sea. In pride of place stood a full-size specimen of *Strombus (Tricornis) oldi*, and beside it by way of a contrast was a strip of leather onto which had been sown a few *Cypraea moneta*, the very epitome of Franciscan poverty.

I was so impressed and absorbed by all I had learnt that I completely forgot to photograph the church. On joining some fellow conchologists at coffee beneath the hotel portico, Peter Dance offered to return with me. On the damp causeway beneath the apron of the church, which the monks must have used for centuries when walking downhill to Frascati, Peter found a large and colourful specimen of *Cornu aspersum*, with which he was highly satisfied. We conchologists are surely a curious bunch of "Odd Bods"!



Figure 2: Peter Dance beside the Capucin Monastery

This is an abridged version of Janet's article which first appeared in the British Shell Collector's Club magazine, *Pallidula*, Vol 40 no 1 April 2010 – Ed.

Honorary Treasurer's Report on the financial statements to 31st December 2009

The accounts for the Conchological Society for 2009 show a reduction in reserves of £6438, an improvement over 2008 when our reserves were depleted by £13337. With reserves now standing at £97,238 the loss in 2009 is serious but not critical.

Our income has fallen by £4435, with the main factors a drop in donations and legacies of £3707 and interest of £1177. By their nature, legacies and donations fluctuate from year to year with little we can do to influence them. On interest, rates will remain low in 2010 and we will try to keep a close control on cash flow to minimise cash in bank accounts at low or no interest rates.

Our expenditure has increased slightly from last year but this includes a £1500 drop in grants and a £3106 increase in publication costs. Within the total of £21769 is £14550 for two issues of the Journal and £7219 for three issues of Mollusc World. A change in the production arrangements has been agreed to reduce the cost of Mollusc World and this will come into effect in 2010. We need to maintain a firm control of the costs of the Journal if we are to achieve a better balance between our income and expenditure.



March 2010 AGM, Natural History Museum (Photo: P. Topley)

Our investments have seen a capital growth in the year of £812 compared with the loss of £11022 in 2008. It seems likely that we will see further growth in 2010 as the economy returns to growth. Our investments are based on share and bond prices except £10000 which is in National Savings. These are both cautious and diverse and the relatively small losses we have sustained are a tribute to the team who established and implemented the investment policy.

The finances of the Society remain sound with sufficient reserves to cover our activities for many years to come. Having said this it remains our objective to ensure that our income matches our expenditure so that we have the resources to at least maintain our current activities, and where appropriate expand them.

What can members do to help? UK members who pay tax can ensure they have given us a Gift Aid certificate to enable us to maximise the tax we recover each year – at no

cost to them. Foreign members and other users of Paypal can ensure they remit sufficient to cover payment costs, as the bank charge about £1 for each payment and Paypal slightly less. Remember the Society in your wills. Recommend us to your friends. As Tesco annoyingly reminds us – every little helps.

Nick Light
Honorary Treasurer 30th January 2010

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

Statement of Financial Activities

	2009	2008
Incoming resources		
Fees and subscriptions	£11,657	£11,897
Investment income	£4,215	£4,402
Interest Income	£192	£1,369
Income from fund generating activities	£845	£322
Other incoming resources	£452	£99
Donations and legacies	£174	£3,881
Total incoming resources	£17,535	£21,970
Expenditure		
Publications costs	£21,769	£18,663
Stationery, postage and advertising	£1,046	£1,590
Meetings costs	£462	£884
Sundry expenses and fees	£633	£648
Grants	£1,000	£2,500
Total expenditure	£24,910	£24,285
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(£7,375)	(£2,315)
Gains / (Loss) on revaluation	£812	(£11,022)
Realised gain on investments	£127	£0
Net movement in funds	(£6,436)	(£13,337)
Fund balances brought forward	£103,674	£117,011
Fund balances carried forward	£97,238	£103,674

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2009

	2009	2008
Fixed Assets		
Investments at market value	£77,275	£76,463
Total fixed assets	£77,275	£76,463
Current Assets		
Debtors	£452	£1,690
Cash at bank and in hand	£29,102	£36,608
Total current assets	£29,554	£38,298
Short term creditors	£9,591	£10,716
Net current assets/(liabilities)	£19,963	£27,582
Total assets less current liabilities	£97,238	£104,045
Provisions for liabilities	£0	£371
Net assets	£97,238	£103,674
Unrestricted income funds		
Total funds	£97,238	£103,674

Notes on the above financial statements are available from the Hon. Treasurer upon request.

Rangia cuneata in Belgian waters:-

a transatlantic visitor to Europe and here to stay? *Adrian Brokenshire*

The bivalve *Rangia cuneata* (Sowerby, 1831) (Mactridae) is a native of the Northwest United States and Canada, a species at home in slow moving, brackish water and marshes. It is also now present in waters around Baltimore, Maryland in the Eastern USA (so I am led to believe), no doubt introduced from ship ballast water.

In 2007 I was sent a bivalve specimen from a friend in Denmark that was collected in December 2006 near the recently excavated and now completed Doeldok at Doel, Belgium. Although the locality details were provided the specimen was not named. Comparison with two more unnamed specimens from the Verrebroekdok of Kallo collected in April 2005 proved it to be of the same species. Further specimens from an unknown dock near Antwerp were also the same (the dock systems at Doel, Kallo and around Antwerp are fed by the tidal waters of the river Scheldt with an extensive large estuary into the North Sea).

A bit of research and some illustrations led me to conclude that these shells were *Rangia cuneata*, an alien species to Belgian waters, probably arriving there through the extensive docks via the eastern seaboard of America in ship ballast waters.

On 5th October 2009 whilst visiting Belgium to collect fossil molluscs from old dock excavation workings, I visited a site at Hoevenen, Stabroek, off the A12 highway near Antwerp. This site contained material from a recently deepened older dock to those at Doel and Kallo. Among the fossil material were a number of modern shells including single valves of *R. Cuneata*. All were in good condition but not articulated as my other specimens (possibly due to the excavation, transport and dumping process?).

Figure 2

Rangia cuneata specimens from:-

- A) Verrebroekdok, April 2005
- B) un-named dock, Antwerp, June 2005
- C) from Doeldok, December 2006
- D) Hoevenen, Stabroek, Sept. 2009

Map and photo by the author

Editor's note:-

Identification was also confirmed by Anna Holmes (National Museum of Wales) using specimens of *R. cuneata* (from the Gulf of Mexico!) in the museum's collections.

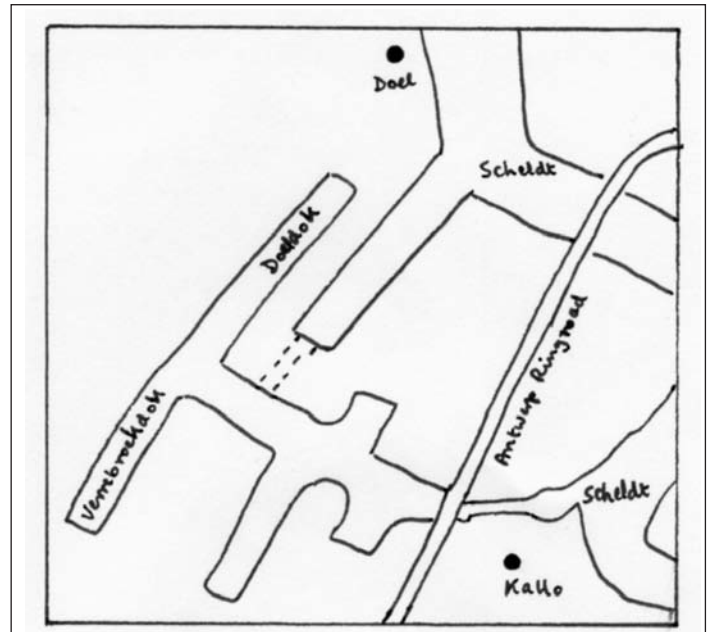
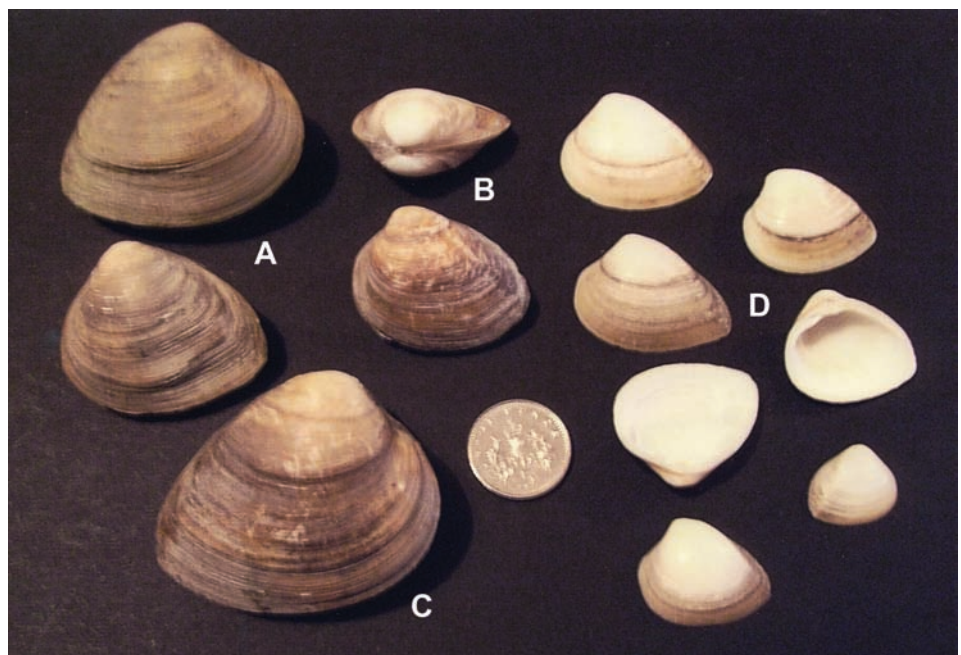


Figure 1: map of dock complex around Doel and Kallo near Antwerp, Belgium

It would seem that with the number and varying size of specimens being found over a wide area and over some time, that *R. Cuneata* has become well established in the dock areas and is thriving. It has probably got into the newer docks via the Scheldt tidal & current systems, so does this mean that it could survive in the tidal river and estuary to the North Sea. I have no specimens from those areas to prove that it can but I suspect that it could! What are the chances of it appearing in UK waters at some time, at somewhere like Southampton docks or the Thames, who knows !!?



While looking through some early issues of our magazine's predecessor, *The Conchologists' Newsletter*, I came across some autobiographical notes written by two very eminent conchologists of the first half of the 20th century, describing the moments when they first became 'hooked' on shells. Editor Peter Topley has recently (and probably unwittingly) continued this tradition by describing how the discovery of a Chinaman's Hat on an Isle of Wight beach inspired him to become a conchologist at the tender age of eleven (*Mollusc World*, No. 20 (July 2009): 4).

A.E. Ellis went on to write 'British snails: a guide to the non-marine Gastropoda of Great Britain and Ireland, Pleistocene to Recent' in 1926, which remained the 'bible' for British non-marine specialists for over 50 years until the publication of Mike Kerney and Bob Cameron's 'Field guide to the land snails of Britain and north-west Europe' in 1979. Arthur Ellis also had an abiding interest in freshwater bivalves (see his note below) and he wrote three of the acclaimed Linnean Society of London's 'Synopsis of the British fauna' on this subject: No. 4 (1946), 'Freshwater bivalves (Mollusca) (*Corbicula*, *Sphaerium*, *Dreissena*)' and No. 5 (1947), 'Freshwater bivalves (Mollusca) (Unionacea)', which were later amalgamated and revised to form No. 13 (1962), 'British freshwater bivalve molluscs with keys and notes for the identification of the species'.

From: *The Conchologists' Newsletter*, No. 4 (Jan. 1962): 16.

Biographical Note – A.E. Ellis

*Probably few conchologists can pin-point the exact time and place at which they first became interested in their hobby. On the afternoon of 20 May 1919, when a sixteen year old boy at Kingswood, I set out to cycle from Bath to Trowbridge, but never reached there. The reason was not an accident or breakdown (such as frequently happened), but the fact that the road ran close to the Kennet and Avon canal near Claverton. Water always exercising an irresistible attraction, I chained up my bicycle (a superfluous precaution) and inspected the canal. The water was shallow and perfectly clear and full of life: a letter I wrote to my sister records swarms of roach, also newts, tadpoles, water rats, water shrews, water beetles, caddis and dragonfly larvae, "and also a great variety of freshwater shellfish." The dry mud along the banks was also full of empty shells of all sorts; "what surprised me most, however, was the great number of large bivalves, like big mussels." I had never seen anything like these before, the only freshwater shells I had previously collected being two *Lymnaea glabra* casually picked out of an old tin in a pond at Sennen in Cornwall.*

I took away as many shells as I could accommodate and returned later for more. A copy of Rimmer [= Richard Rimmer (1880), 'The land and freshwater shells of the British Isles'] in the school reference library enabled the specimens to be identified. My life-long interest in non-marine Mollusca therefore began at about 3 p.m. on 20 May 1919, where the Bradford-on-Avon road runs by the canal just north of Claverton near Bath. No memorial yet marks the spot.



A.E. Ellis, 1931 (photograph now in the Conchological Society archive, Leeds*)

[* Editor's note: This photograph was included as part of an archive of correspondence between Arthur Ellis and Stella Turk, together with other memorabilia such as his short stories and wartime diary. The archive was kindly donated by Stella to the Society's archive in 2009 and may form the basis for occasional extracts to be published in future issues of this magazine]

A Little More Biography – Rev. H.E.J. Biggs

The pastoral work of the Rev. H.E.J. (Bert) Biggs took him further afield, to the Near and Middle East, and he became an expert on the marine Mollusca of the Persian Gulf, Red Sea and Eastern Mediterranean, and the land snails of their shores. He was also one of the pioneers of archaeomalacology, the study and interpretation of molluscan remains from archaeological sites. His Presidential address to the Conchological Society in February 1960 was entitled 'Mollusca from prehistoric Jericho', where he worked in association with the famous British archaeologist of that time, Dame Kathleen Kenyon. His interests were wide-ranging and his knowledge of shells phenomenal: his last two papers, published the year before he died (1972-1973), dealt with the Mollusca of Redgrave Fen in Suffolk – and the marine Mollusca of the Trucial Coast, Persian Gulf.

In most well organised homes each room has its own day for being cleaned. In my young days it was bedroom day on Wednesday. On a certain Wednesday my younger brother asked permission to dust mother's glove box. (They had those things in Edwardian days.) In it he found a shell we later came to know was called the Sunset Shell. After some minutes of admiration he announced his intention of making a collection of shells. Our mother soon acquainted her friends of his intention and I well remember one contribution to our collection, a box of very beautiful Australian shells. I had by this time joined him in partnership.

Then next came our introduction to British land snails when we discovered that they comprised more than the common garden snail. At the end of our road in Enfield (Middlesex) was an area of lanes, fields and orchards known as Cherry Orchard Lane. Alas! No trace remains today for the area is completely covered with houses and roadways. Here we got our first thrill over the varied beauty of *Cepaea hortensis* and its band forms and colour varieties. We turned to books for information and 'cut our teeth' on Rev. J. G. Wood's primer 'Field and Lane' (still in my library). We soon added to this and most of our birthday and Christmas present money was spent on natural history books. Then the 'Harmsworth Natural History' was published at 7d. per part fortnightly. This was a strain on our slender resources of 3d. per week pocket money.

Shortly after this my brother began to be interested in mechanical things and money was needed for trains. I bought him out, taking over responsibility for Harmsworth Natural History, and paying him his share of the books – I suppose one would call this a 'take-over bid'.

Hours and hours were spent cutting up cigar boxes to make tablets. Having seen this mode of exhibition in the collections at the British Museum I thought there was no other. All sorts of devices were used to house the collection. When I secured an old show-case from a jeweller's shop with a very scratched glass top I really felt I was on the way to doing things properly. If only I had met someone who could have taught me something about collecting and the care of collections! If only someone had introduced me to the Conchological Society how much time and energy would have been saved! I remember even now and am horrified at myself – I knocked off a spine of a large *Murex* with a hammer because it would not fit in that jeweller's show case.

I always consider that serious conchology began in 1914 when I took *Succinea putris* from reeds near the Base Camp at Le Havre and later collected *C. hortensis* in the front line trenches before Ypres [see also article in MW 12, p.6]. Later I made a considerable collection of the same species having a great variety of band formulae and colours from Flanders lanes. Then in 1917 the Battalion moved to Italy and a completely different fauna was studied in the mountains of the north, the Asiago Plateau and its foothills. But enough of this – my chief object in writing this short autobiographical notes is to say it all began with one sunset shell in 1907.



H. E. J. Biggs (*Journal of Conchology*, Vol. 28, pp.131–132)

Both of these famous men were still active members of the Conch. Soc. when I joined the Society in 1961. Arthur Ellis

was then Editor of the *Journal of Conchology*, and Bert Biggs was a regular attendee at the indoor meetings in the (then) British Museum (Natural History) where he cast an avuncular figure, always ready with help, advice and encouragement, especially for us younger members. In that way he fulfilled the role of the person that he wished he could have met himself when young to guide him on his way. He certainly helped to guide me towards archaeomalacology.

“On the spot” questionnaire: David Long

What are your areas of interest?: Non-marine molluscs and tertiary fossils

How did your interest in molluscs begin?: Finding fossil marine shells in a cliff at Easton Bavents, Suffolk in 1950 and the Conchological Society non-marine survey in 1966.

When did you become a member of the Society? 1967, triggered by Michael Kerney

In what ways have you been involved in the Society and its activities? Non-marine Survey, Council from 1970's on, President 1987-9.

Do you have a favourite “Conchological moment”?

The 1000th meeting at Leeds in 1987.

If you were marooned on a desert island and could take only one book with you what would it be and why?

Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis. Fauna of Australia, Vol 5. Part A and B. 1998. – a very good overview

If your house was burning down what shell (or shell related item) would you rescue first? Neogene Turrids from S.E. Australia because of their taxonomic value

Is there a mollusc that eludes you and why? *Vertigo* spp. e.g. *V. geyeri*. (the nearest site to Gloucestershire, where I live, is in Breconshire).

Where are your favourite locations for mollusc hunting?

SSSI or National nature reserves. Barton on Sea for fossils.

Mollusc humour: Greeting card with New Yorker (?) cartoon – 2 snails and an object. One says to the other “I know she is a tape dispenser – but I love her.”

Words of advice to beginners: Keep trying – and get a tetanus jab!

Mention the Channel Islands and most people will reply “ah yes, Guernsey or Jersey, or perhaps that other odd little one where they don’t allow cars, Sark.” Alderney is more likely to raise a blank expression. It is there; the smallest of the main three islands barely three and a half miles long by one and a half miles at its widest. Usually reached by air from Southampton after a forty to forty five minutes flight depending on which way the wind is blowing.

Alderney was totally evacuated during World War II following the German Occupation of the Channel Islands. On Sunday June 23rd 1940 the population, including the author of this article, left at two hours notice, being allowed one suitcase per person by way of possessions. All else was abandoned. The islanders were not to see their home again until December 1945.

I enjoy irregular visits from time to time, meeting old friends and new. Such was September 2009 when I was pleased to come upon an old friend in the form of the decorative low walling in the accompanying illustrations. They form part of the building, a single story wooden framed and shingled bungalow built in the early 1950’s by my friends Dan and Iris Godfray and known then as Quesnard Cabin (Figures 1&2). This takes its name from the nearby Victorian Fort Quesnard and Trinity House Quesnard Lighthouse.

would get their Ormer hooks fashioned by the local blacksmith (Mr Gaudion) and off we would go. I think that for us boys it was more of a seasonal ritual, like conkers, rather than being very useful, recalling that ormers needed a good bashing to tenderise them and a long simmering stew



Figure 2: Quesnard Cabin showing fish designs in shells on wall. Note also scallop shells around foundations of bungalow

to render them palatable. Nevertheless, they were an important part of the domestic economy in earlier island days. I think Iris probably obtained the scallops from the local fishermen at the quayside although they had their own little boat for setting pots and line fishing kept at Godfray’s Creek opposite the cabin.



Figure 1 Dan and Iris Godfray at Quesnard Cabin

It is most likely that the idea for the shell decoration and design came from Iris, She was the artistic one, writing her own poetry and creating her own version of a barometric weather glass.

The shells came naturally to hand, Ormers (*Haliotis tuberculata*) and Scallops (*Pecten maximus*) both edible, as by products of shell fishing. Ormers were sought at low water Spring tides when they were more easily obtainable. The necessary equipment being an Ormer hook and the cut off lower part of a hessian sack which drained better than a bucket. The author as a young boy together with others

Having got the shells I conjecture that Iris might have laid out the design shape on the ground to obtain an outline which could be transferred to the wall to which Dan would apply a rendering of mortar in which to inset the shells. It may be noticed that the background mortar only seems to embrace the design outline with the main wall construction being random brick and granite. Figure 3 shows a fish of Ormer shells and the wall top of same and Scallops in the wall top behind. The fish contains just over one hundred shells and readers may like to work out its size from calculating typical Ormer shells ranging from 7cms to 11cms. Figure 4 is a design using *Pecten maximus* and other smaller shells and Figure 5 of fish in Scallops and wall top of Ormers. It is interesting to compare this example with other shell art (e.g The Shell Cottage: *Mollusc World* 19, March 2009). Although the Alderney example might be primitive by comparison it is nevertheless charming.



Figure 3: Fish design in ormer shells (*Haliotis tuberculata*). Count them!

I fondly recall many a visit to Dan and Iris (a distant relative through marriage), for a chat over a cup of tea. They died a few years ago and sadly the dwelling was pulled down. It has been replaced by a modern bungalow on the same site. Happily the States of Alderney issued a planning condition to ensure that the wall and its shell designs be retained as a unique feature. Should you visit Alderney and come to a sharp dogleg in the narrow road on your way to the lighthouse you will find and I hope enjoy this treasure in memory of Dan and Iris.



Figure 4: Design using scallop shells (*Pecten maximus*) & other smaller shells.



Figure 5: Fish designs in scallop shells & ormer shells along top of wall.
(Photos: John Glasgow)

Errata, Mollusc World issue 22

Due to some type setting problems in the previous issue, the closing words of several articles were omitted. Please find for reference the missing ends of the articles below.

Page 7, bottom right

minute whelks (less than 2mm high) with purple-ringed apertures. These are segregates of the lovely *Rissoa lilacina*.

Page 9, bottom right

These are tiny molluscs, we are talking a pot the size of a plastic 35mm-film canister. That's just one sample and we have looked at 6 sites.

As we drive along I look out at the mountains on this misty morn and sigh. So many snails..... so little time.

Page 13, bottom right

or a bag of seaweed from a clean shore to eat for your supper?

Page 18, bottom left

this site would have much more to offer on a repeat visit.

Page 29, bottom left

it is also offered at a cut price by other booksellers.

(There were also one or two minor typing errors which were self explanatory and therefore not listed here)

Book Reviews

“Shells” by A.J. Dezallier d’Argenville.

Taschen 2009 ISBN978-3-8365-1111-7
216pp A4 Hardback. £24.99



The “Conchyliologie” of d’Argenville is one of the great ‘classics’ of Conchological literature. First published in 1742 with revised and expanded editions in 1757 and 1780, copies of the original works fetch thousands of pounds. This volume provides us with all 80 plates from the 1780 edition – originally printed in black and white but here reproduced superbly from one of the rare hand-coloured copies.

Accompanying the plates we are provided with biographical information about d’Argenville and a review of his publications, together with a short survey on “Books and Shell Collecting in the modern age” (up to c. 1810) and an introduction to “The Fascination of Shells in Art”. All these introductory sections are trilingual, being printed in English, German and French. The introductory sections, written by Veronica Carpiti, are interspersed with a selection of ‘art’ illustrations, some familiar, some not. I loved the 1440 illuminated manuscript depicting St. Ambrosius surrounded with a border of mussels – both shells and the cooked animals. These introductory sections are excellent, albeit brief, though it is surprising to find the Conchyliologie’s author referred to throughout as “Dezallier d’Argenville”, all Conchological references I have checked use d’Argenville/Argenville and I hope this does not cause confusion.

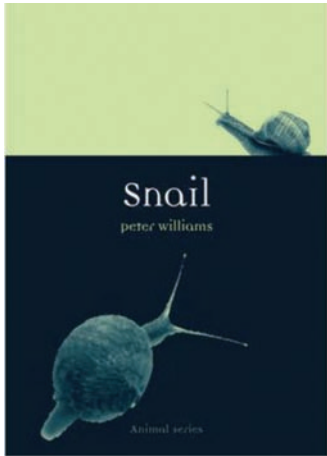
The plates cover marine, land, freshwater and fossil shells, together with sea urchins and barnacles – thought to be related to Molluscs at the time. Some plates include living or dissected animals, and d’Argenville was prescient in including a few slugs which Linnaeus and others linked to worms rather than molluscs. Captions for the plates give scientific names plus English, German and French common names for a limited number of the “best-known species” only, sometimes as few as two or three names for a plate with thirty figures. This is a pity, even though this is not going to be used as an identification guide, for it is easily possible to identify hundreds of additional species present.

Additional brief text sections by Ranier Willmann (again trilingual) discuss “The scientific importance of Dezallier d’Argenville’s Conchyliologie” and “Zoological Nomenclature in Dezallier d’Argenville and Linnaeus”. It is surprising to find reference in the former to “the Noble Pen Shell, which is common in the Mediterranean” for this is a “European Protected Species”. The latter section, though very usefully indicates those illustrations in d’Argenville cited by Linnaeus and which may be considered as type figures for Linnaean species. Finally there is a two page bibliography.

This is a fascinating volume. To have the plates from such an important Conchological work readily available, even without their original text, is very welcome. It is challenging to look at them and endeavour to provide modern names to the species figured. For anyone interested in the history of conchology, or shells in art this is a must-buy, and compared to modern photographically illustrated identification guides, well worth the modest price. It can be highly recommended.

“Snail” by Peter Williams.

Reaktion Books, 2009 ISBN 978-1-86189-528-8
167pp, paperback. £9.99



There are many books which provide an introduction to molluscs, and to the interaction between molluscs and man. Most concentrate on shells rather than the animals which produce them, many deal exclusively with marine molluscs, ignoring their land and freshwater relations. It is therefore a pleasure to find a book which redresses the balance with a greater coverage of

both non-marine snails and living molluscs.

The ‘Snail’ of the title is very broadly used to include various ‘sea-snails’, I suspect through the publisher’s remit and I can’t help wondering whether the book could have more usefully concentrated entirely on the non-marine as much of the marine material is well covered already. The only restriction seems to be to gastropods without reference to bivalves, cephalopods etc, again presumably to tie in to the title.

The book is well written, informative without being over technical, equally accessible to anyone without a background knowledge of molluscs and to those with an existing interest. It does however at times, to my mind, anthropomorphise the subject – though this is perhaps just a matter of style.

There are many intriguing facts in the book. I have not previously come across the 18th century Italian scientist Lazzaro Spallanzani studying repair and regeneration by removing part of a snail’s head, showing that it could regrow and later transplanting “the face of one snail on to the body of another”. Neither had I seen previous reference to the 1781 ‘Kelp Riots of Stronsay’ when local people protested after the removal of kelp reduced the population of limpets which they regularly ate. The book is fully referenced so it is easy to follow up on any of the information which catches one’s interest, or on any of the literary quotations scattered throughout the text. It is also pleasing to see that the Conchological Society features in the “list of websites and associations”.

The book is well illustrated throughout from both scientific and artistic sources – from 16th century woodcuts to 20th

century architecture. I particularly liked the 1887 American political cartoon showing Uncle Sam wearing spurs trying to urge on a reluctant Congress in the form of a snail.

Unfortunately there are a number of glaring errors. The legendary ‘Samartian Snail’ appears as the ‘Samaritan Snail’. Martin Lister’s engraving of the land snail *Megalobulimus oblongus* together with its egg and hatchling is labelled as “a whelk, Buccinium” – mislead undoubtedly by the original caption “Buccinium...” though this is pre-binomial and bears no relation to the shell’s scientific name. We also read of Hugh Cumming (sic) and Lieutenant Frambly (sic) instead of Cuming and Frembly; strangely the reference cited for this is a website reference to “Orchidologist, Hugh Cuming” rather than Peter Dance’s “A History of Shell Collecting” which is cited elsewhere so presumably was available to the author.

I enjoyed reading this book and can recommend it. With such a modest price it will surely sell well.

Kevin Brown

The Kerry Slug, *Geomalacus maculosus*: National Survey in Ireland. Rory McDonnell



The aim of this survey is to accrue modern records for this internationally important invertebrate with the overall objective of producing an up-to-date distribution map.

In Ireland, there are five 10km grid squares where the species has not been recorded since pre-1950 and other areas where the last records are pre-1980. The survey will help to address these

important shortcomings. This investigation also forms an integral part of a wider study to examine the population ecology of the Kerry Slug and to develop a suitable monitoring protocol for the species.

Where is the Kerry Slug found?

The global distribution of the Kerry Slug is Ireland, Spain and Portugal and although the species has been reported from France, its presence there has never been confirmed. In Ireland, the slug is restricted to west Cork and Co. Kerry. In these areas it is found in two habitat types, oak dominated woodland and unimproved open moor or blanket bog.

Is the Kerry Slug a pest species?

Unlike many other slug species, the Kerry Slug is not regarded as a pest and is associated with wild habitats away from humans. In Ireland this invertebrate is protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 and under the EU Habitats Directive (as an Annex II and Annex IV species). In addition, seven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated for the protection of the species.

Photo: the author © 2010

Contact: Dr. Rory McDonnell, e-mail:kerryslug@gmail.com

(See also Conch. Soc. Web site:-

<http://www.conchsoc.org/resources/news-list.php>)

People who record molluscs or have shell collections are sometimes worried about the risk that they may unintentionally break the law - and the laws are getting more complicated.

The first thing to remember is that the laws are there for a good purpose - to protect species that are at risk. If you are aware of and follow the Conchological Society Code of Conduct and act sensibly, you shouldn't have any problems, but ignorance isn't always a defence. Here are some simple suggestions about what to do to avoid problems when recording and collecting shells in Britain and Ireland.

Mollusc species currently protected in the UK

Scientific name	English name	Protected in UK under	First protected in UK	Terrestrial, Freshwater or Marine	Summary distribution*
<i>Catinella arenaria</i>	Sandbowl snail	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1981	Terrestrial	E, W
<i>Helix pomatia</i>	Roman snail	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	2008	Terrestrial	E, W, S
<i>Myxas glutinosa</i>	Glutinous snail	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1981	Terrestrial	E, W, S, NI,
<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>	Lesser/Little Whirlpool Ram's-horn	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	2008	Freshwater	E
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Pearl mussel	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1991	Freshwater	E, W, S, NI,
<i>Atrina fragilis</i>	Fan mussel	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1998	Marine	E, W, S, NI,
<i>Caecum armoricum</i>	De Folin's lagoon snail	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1992	Marine	E
<i>Paludinella littorina</i>	Lagoon snail	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1992	Marine	E, W, S(?)
<i>Tenellia adpersa</i>	Lagoon sea slug	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1992	Marine	E, W, S
<i>Thyasira gouldi</i>	Northern hatchet-shell	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1992	Marine	E, S

*England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland

A: RECORDING AND COLLECTING PROTECTED SPECIES IN ENGLAND SCOTLAND AND WALES.

Ten mollusc species are currently protected in the England, Scotland and Wales – nine under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the tenth (in red in the table above) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

1: As it's generally illegal and undesirable to disturb protected species without good reason, the first thing to do is to check, using NBN (<http://data.nbn.org.uk/>), whether any protected species are likely to occur where you are planning to collect. Also check at the same time that the law hasn't changed. There is at the moment, for instance, a proposal to take *Paludinella littorina* off the list. If in doubt, check with the CS's Conservation Officer or with the appropriate Recorder.

2: If any protected species are likely to occur where you plan to record and collect shells, find out enough about them to know what they look like, and what kinds of places they are likely to occur in; and if you decide to record there, be

very careful not to disturb or damage them or their habitat. If you have a good reason to collect any protected species, or think that there is a real risk that you may accidentally disturb or collect them (e.g. in the case of very small species), you should apply for a licence (in England, from NE using application form WML A29 available at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/licences/applicationforms.aspx>; in Wales apply to CCW and in Scotland to SNH. You will need to allow three weeks to get a reply; there is no charge

3: If no protected species is likely to occur where you are planning to record and collect, you don't need a licence.

4: If, when you record and collect, you find a protected species that you could not reasonably have expected would be there, don't worry, you haven't broken the law, and you may have helped us to know more about a rare species. If you are still on site and it's alive, put it back. Take a photo as long as this doesn't create further disturbance, carry on collecting, and report the find. If it's dead, please keep the specimen and report it to the relevant Conchological Society Recorder.

B: RECORDING AND COLLECTING PROTECTED SPECIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

It appears that the only protected mollusc in N. Ireland is *M. margaritifera* (see http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr1995/Nisr_19950380_en_1.htm#tcon, and http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity/wildlife_management_and_licensing.htm in relation to licensing).

C: HAVING SPECIMENS OF THESE PROTECTED SPECIES IN YOUR COLLECTION IN THE UK.

1: *Anisus vorticulus*: As this is protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, you need a license to possess specimens if they have been taken from the wild since October 2008, regardless of whether they were alive or dead when they were collected (or whether they come from outside the UK). You can apply for a licence (in England, from NE using application form WML A37 available at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildli>

[fe/licences/applicationforms.aspx](#); in Wales apply to CCW, in Scotland to SNH, and in Northern Ireland to DOE(NI)). You will need to explain why you have the shells, and why you want to retain them; but NE and its sister organisations are usually very reasonable when dealing with genuine cases. There is no charge.

2: For all the other species, a licence is not needed to keep dead shells provided they were collected legally (already dead when collected, collected prior to the species being protected, or collected in another country where they can be collected legally). However, the emphasis is on you to be able to show that the shells were legally acquired – to do this, it helps to keep notebooks and photos, record relevant details on data labels, keep original record labels or cards, and keep records of purchase or transferral of old collections containing species that are now protected.

C: REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

There are two species of protected mollusc in the Republic of Ireland, the Kerry Slug *Geomalacus maculatus* and the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, and it is illegal to kill or disturb them. Licences to allow research or similar activity on these species in the Republic of Ireland can be applied for from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Details of how to apply for licences and the necessary forms are available from <http://www.npws.ie/en/WildlifePlanningtheLaw/>. The National Biodiversity Data Centre site (<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>) provides good information for mollusc distributions in the whole of Ireland.

D: OTHER COUNTRIES.

Collecting in other countries: Things are often very different in other countries, and can be complicated – working recently in Australia, I found that I needed two different licenses to collect dead shells in a National Park. Many countries prohibit any collection without a licence, and many ban taking shells out of or into their countries without a licence. Import and export of some shells – e.g. *Tridacna* spp. – is also banned by CITES. The golden rule is take local advice before you start collecting, and also to take advice if possible from other conchologists who have been where you plan to go. Remember also that if you need a license, it may take a long time to apply and for your application to be processed.

Specimens from other countries in your collection: Just as for *Anisus vorticulus* in the UK, it is illegal to possess specimens of any other species or subspecies listed in Annex IV(a) to the EEC Habitats Directive (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF>), unless you have a licence, can show that they were not taken from the wild, were taken from the wild legally in the EU, or were taken outside the EU. Species currently listed on that annex are:
GASTROPODA: *Anisus vorticulus*, *Caseolus calculus*, *Caseolus commixta*, *Caseolus sphaerula*, *Chilostoma banaticum*, *Discula leacockiana*, *Discula tabellata*, *Discula*

testudinalis, *Discula turricula*, *Discus defloratus*, *Discus guerinius*, *Elona quimperiana*, *Geomalacus maculosus*, *Geomitra moniziana*, *Gibbula nivosa*, *Hygromia kovacsi*, *Idiomela (Helix) subplicata*, *Lampedusa imitatrix*, *Lampedusa melitensis*, *Leiostyla abbreviata*, *Leiostyla cassida*, *Leiostyla corneocostata*, *Leiostyla gibba*, *Leiostyla*

lamellosa, *Paladilhia hungarica*, *Patella ferruginea*, *Sadleriana pannonica*, *Theodoxus prevostianus*, *Theodoxus transversalis*
BIVALVIA: *Lithophaga lithophaga*, *Pinna nobilis*, *Margaritifera auricularia*, *Unio crassus*, *Congeria kusceri*

Thanks: I am very grateful to Jo Oldaker of Natural England and to Matt Shardlow of Buglife for finding the time to comment on drafts of this note; and to Brian Nelson of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, for kindly providing information about Ireland.

Conchological Society – Diary of Meetings

Programme Secretary: Ron Boyce, 447c Wokingham Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 7EL

IMPORTANT: Please remember to inform the leader if you are attending a field meeting. If you are held up in traffic or your public transport is delayed, it may be possible to ring the Programme Secretary on 0794 109 4395 on the day of the meeting for information on the location of the field site being surveyed. Indoor meetings at the Natural History Museum will take place in the Dorothea Bate Room [Palaeontology Demonstration Room] at the end of Gallery 30, unless otherwise stated. Please note the earlier start times, and also the long indoor meetings in October and January with an early start time of 11:00 h. Please bring plenty of exhibits and demonstration material.

The Programme Secretary will be happy to receive any offers to lead field meetings or suggestions for speakers for indoor meetings.

Key to meetings

NHM = Natural History Museum, London, indoor meeting

FIELD = Field Meeting at outdoor location

WKSHP = Workshop on Molluscan topic

YCS = Yorkshire Conch. Soc. event

FIELD - Saturday 3 July Brockadale, Southwest Yorkshire.

Joint meeting with Yorkshire Naturalists' Union.

Leader: Joyce Simmons (01977 620725) (home),

joyce@gentian.plus.com

Meet in the Brockadale YWT nature reserve car park at SE 513174

at 10:30 h. The car park is 400 yards down Leys Lane, which is half a mile north-west of Little Smeaton on the minor road towards Darrington. Leys Lane is marked with a 'no through road' sign.

One of the features of the reserve is its limestone crags. Those within the woodlands may be cool and shaded in part, but the top of the south-facing cliffs with its thin soils bakes in the summer sun and provides a home for the only Yorkshire site for *Truncatellina cylindrica*. The snail is at present only known from a very small site within the reserve, but it may also occur on several of the other south-facing crags which occur along the valley sides. Full details of this event can be found on the YNU website YNU.org.uk

YCS - Saturday 4 September

Settrington area, VC62.

Contact: David Lindley

(0113 2697047) (home), david.lindley3@btinternet.com

Meet at 10:30 h in the village centre, SE 834703, for 1 km recording.

(continued on next page)

Diary of Meetings – Conchological Society (continued)

FIELD - Wednesday - Saturday 8-11 September 2010

Isles of Scilly

Marine meeting. Joint meeting with the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society.

Co-ordination and contact for details: Angie Gall, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust <> (01872 240777 ext 243) (work).

This joint meeting in the Scillies is being hosted by Porcupine who are making arrangements for laboratory accommodation and boat transport to the various islands, for which there will be a charge of £35. Please contact Angie Gall to book the boats and lab space. The entire meeting is expected to run from Monday 6 September until Monday 13 September, but the Conch Soc component will run from 8-11 September when the best tides for shore work are. Ron Boyce will prepare health and safety documentation for the Wednesday/Saturday period.

Accommodation on the Scillies is in very short supply, so if you are planning to attend this meeting, early booking of your accommodation is vital.

YCS - Saturday 2 October

Upper Nidderdale, VC64.

Contact: David Lindley

(0113 2697047) (home), david.lindley3@btinternet.com

Meet at 10:30 h in the car park in Pateley Bridge on the south side of the river, grid ref. SE 157654.

NHM – Saturday 2 October

11:00 h in the Dorothea Bate Room

[Palaeontology Demonstration Room]

Please note the revised start time. No Council meeting.

Please bring plenty of exhibits and demonstration material. There will be a lunch break at about 13:00 h. Lecture to start at 14:00 h.

The programme is still at the planning stage but may include African molluscs and marine and non-marine material from Skye.

Members are encouraged to bring specimens of any Mollusca for identification, a X20 binocular microscope will be available if needed.

Guest speaker at 14:00 h

Robert Cameron (University of Sheffield)

Thoughts on an extraordinary snail: Helixena in the Azores and other molluscan oddities

NHM – Saturday 16 October

11:00 h in the Board Room of the Natural History Museum

Full day meeting of Council only

FIELD - Saturday and Sunday 23-24 October

South Devon

Malacolimax tenellus search.

Leader: Keith Alexander

(01392 413092) (home) (07972 373405) (mobile)

In South Devon *Malacolimax tenellus* is at the western edge of its GB range.

Meet on the Saturday at 10:30 h in the public car park at Blackbury Camp, Southleigh (grid ref. SY189923) on a minor road off the B3174 between Ottery St Mary and the Sidmouth to Seaton road (A3052). The nearest station is Honiton, on the London Waterloo to Exeter line. Bring packed lunch. This is the single historic site for the slug in the county. In the afternoon we will be making a return visit to Roncombe Goyle, the only Devon site with a recent record, and where the Society recently confirmed *Phenacolimax major*. On Sunday, meet at 10:30 h east of Buckland Bridge on the River Dart (SX720720) on the east side of Dartmoor between Buckland in the Moor and Holne. The woods here are part of Holne Chase and considered a potential area for the slug although it has never been found in the National Park.

FIELD - Saturday 30 October

Wyre Forest, Worcestershire

Malacolimax tenellus search. Joint meeting with the Wyre Forest Study Group.

Leader: Rosemary Winnall

(01299 266489) (home) (07732 203393) (mobile)

Meet at 10:30 h at the Wyre Forest Visitor Centre, Callow Hill near Bewdley (DY14 9XQ), grid ref. SO 750740. The aim of this meeting is to study the distribution of this species within the Forest, though records of other species are also sought.

INDOOR – Saturday 6 November

Regional meeting in Cambridge.

Meet at 11:00 h at the University Museum of Zoology,

Downing Street, Cambridge for a demonstration of the mollusc collection.

Further details will be posted on the Web Site.

WKSHP – Saturday 27 November

Annual Molluscan Workshop

This meeting is being held by kind invitation of Judith Nelson at Hilbre House, Pembroke Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7ED

(01483 761210) from 10:00 h prompt until approximately 17:00 h

Please note Hilbre is a non-smoking property

Those attending should please bring a microscope and lamps (a few microscopes are available if booked in advance), Petri dishes or other dishes for sorting purposes, a fine water colour paint brush (00), tweezers/forceps, dissecting tools, if possible an extension lead and/or double electric plug, books to help identification, and a packed lunch. Coffee, tea and biscuits are provided.

As numbers for the workshop are limited, please confirm any booking made by 1 November so that it can be checked whether there are any places vacant. Those NOT confirming by 1 November will be taken as not wishing to attend and their place will go to someone else. No reminders will be given.

A fee of £5 will be charged to cover expenses.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY.

The programme for November 2010 is as follows but subject to change: molluscs in Thames alluvium and possibly Mytilidae. Other items may be brought for identification. If you would like any other subjects dealt with, please contact Judith.

NHM – Saturday 11 December

14:00 h in the Dorothea Bate Room [Palaeontology Demonstration Room], preceded by Council meeting.

Guest speaker at 14:00 h

John Llewellyn-Jones (West Mersea)

Molluscs in China

NHM – Saturday 29 January 2011

11:00 h in the Dorothea Bate Room [Palaeontology Demonstration Room]

Please note the revised start time. No Council meeting.

Please bring plenty of exhibits and demonstration material. There will be a lunch break at about 13:00 h. Lecture to start at 14:00 h.

The programme is still at the planning stage but will concentrate mainly on how to identify Littorinids from shells.

Members are encouraged to bring specimens of any Mollusca for identification, a X20 binocular microscope will be available if needed.

Guest speaker at 14:00 h

David Reid (Natural History Museum, London)

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I buy, sell & exchange new, secondhand & antiquarian items (books, periodicals & reprints/offprints/separates) on recent & fossil Mollusca. Large stock, with new material coming in on a regular basis, representing a wide variety of subjects, periods, authors & prices. Regular e-mail-lists available, offering the most recent new publications.

Website: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~anvdbijl/welcome.html> Contact: A.N. van der Bijl, Burgemeester van Bruggenstraat 41, 1165 NV Halfweg, The Netherlands. e mail: anvdbijl@xs4all.nl



Photo: Just the thing for the weary conchologist! Seat in Priory Country Park, Bedford (Photo: Alan Outen)

About the Conchological Society

The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland is one of the oldest societies devoted to the study of Molluscs. It was founded in 1876 and has around 300 members worldwide. Members receive two publications *Journal of Conchology* which specialises in Molluscan Biogeography, Taxonomy and Conservation and *Mollusc World*, our magazine for members. New members are always welcome to attend field meetings and indoor meetings before joining.

How to become a member

Subscriptions are payable in January each year, and run for the period 1st January to 31st December.

Ordinary membership £33.00, Family/Joint membership £35.00, Institutional membership (UK & Ireland) £47.00

Institutional membership (Overseas) £50.00, Student membership £15.00

Payments in sterling only, to the membership secretary (contact details are on our web site). For UK residents we suggest payment by standing order, and if a UK tax payer, please sign a short statement indicating that you wish the subscription to be treated as Gift Aid. It is no longer necessary to sign a formal declaration. Another simple and secure way of paying for both UK and overseas members is by credit card online via PayPal from

<http://www.conchsoc.org/storefront/seesubs.php>. Overseas members may also pay using Western Union, but a named person has to be nominated, so please use the acting Hon Treasurer's name, Nick Light.

How to submit articles to *Mollusc World*:

Copy (handwritten, typed or electronic) should be sent to the Editor at the address below. If sending electronic copy using e-mail please include a subject line "*Mollusc World* submission". When emailing several large file attachments, such as photos, please divide your submission up into separate emails referencing the original article to ensure receipt. Electronic submission is preferred in Microsoft Word, but if other programmes (e.g. Works) are used, please indicate the programme used with the accompanying e-mail. Images and Artwork may be digitised, but we recommend that a digital image size no larger than 8" x 6" and 300 dpi be sent with your submission. For line art we recommend that you send hard copy, all originals will be treated with care and returned by "snail-mail".

Please send articles to:

Peter Topley, c/o The Hon. General Secretary, Miss R.E. Hill, 447b Wokingham Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7EL (or alternatively Peter's address may be found in the member's guide). email: molluscworld@ntlworld.com.

Advertisements in *Mollusc World*

We are pleased to invite advertisements, provided they are in line with the Conchological Society's charitable objectives and responsibilities. Typical examples might include books and other publications, equipment, services and collections of (or individual) shells. The latter will be vetted on a case by case basis and only accepted if there are no ethical problems. Advertisements of shells for sale from commercial shell dealers will generally not be accepted. A nominal charge will usually be made for advertisements and will be required from commercial advertisers. Charges per issue are currently £20 per 100cm² space for a boxed advertisement or £1.00 per line for a text only advertisement. Any requests for advertisements should be sent to the Editor by the normal route; information on preferred methods of payment will be given at the time.



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