

President's Message

It's ironic that the February program of the Pacific Conchological Club will have little to do with shells; Ángel Valdés has agreed to present *The Glorious Diversity of Nudibranchs* at the PCC meeting and for the LACM Weekend Programs series for the public.

Nudibranchs are essentially mollusks that have evolved to survive without the shell. Ángel is a respected authority on nudibranchs so the presentation should be a good one.

For this one time our meeting time has been moved-up one hour to 1 pm instead of 1:30 pm.

Parking has changed. As Lindsey Groves (NHM) reminds us: *"We have been notified that the Staff Lot (aka the East Lot) will close to ALL parking due to earthquake retrofitting of the 1913 portion of the museum ... it will obviously be closed to all parking. Therefore, [until further notice] all members will be required*

to park in the West Lot off of Menlo St., or on the lawn area east of the staff lot, or in the 5-Star lot across Menlo St. Tokens for the 5-Star lot will (hopefully) be issued to members upon arrival in the west lot by a staff attendant. ... we apologize for this inconvenience.

For obvious reasons, carpooling to meetings with other members will truly be appreciated."

Our web-site, www.pacific-conch-club.org, has been getting more hits lately which have resulted in some new members. I should point out that, as of the January meeting, our term of membership has been changed to January

1 through December 31. I'll be updating the web-site to reflect this. Also, if you haven't paid your club dues this year, please do so. Our membership dues are really quite reasonable (\$10 individual, \$12 family) and just covers expenses, so don't put it off. (see page 3 for details)

Happy Shelling,
Terry Rutkas



Aldisa albatrossae Elwood, Valdés, & Gosliner, 2000

A nudibranch co-described by Dr. Valdés

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Las Conchas is a publication of the Pacific Conchological Club

Officers:

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Secretary:	<i>Phil Liff-Grieff</i>	Las Conchas Editor:	<i>Phil Liff-Grieff</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Kathy Kalohi</i>		

The Pacific Conchological Club was organized in 2003 as a result of the merger between the Pacific Shell Club and the Conchological Club of Southern California. Its mission is to further the interest in shell collecting and malacology and to provide a forum for individuals who love shells and other marine life. The Club meets on the second Sunday of each month from October through June at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles).

Annual dues are \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family membership. Checks can be mailed to Treasurer, Kathy Kalohi (13901 Wilkie Avenue, Gardena, CA 90249).

In Memoriam: Twila Bratcher Critchlow

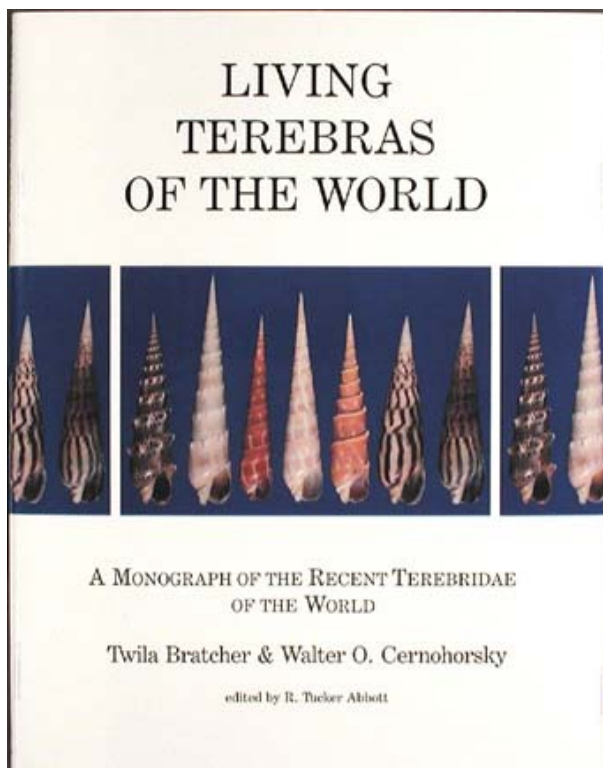
It is our sad duty to report the passing of well known malacologist Twila Bratcher-Critchlow on Christmas Day, 2006. She was 95 years old. Twila was a research associate of the Malacology Section of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and a longtime honorary member of the Conchological Club of Southern California (now the Pacific Conchological Club), the San Diego Shell Club, and

other organizations. Over the years, she had served in leadership positions in the Western Society of Malacologists and the American Malacological Union (now the American Malacological Society).

Twila's travels took her to the Galapagos Islands, Japan, the South Pacific, Cuba, West Africa, Australia, Central America and Europe. She collected worldwide shells and eventually became the worldwide specialist on the living members of the family Terebridae (Auger shells).

Twila authored or co-authored over 70 papers that ranged from travelogues of her collecting and diving trips to descriptions of new species in prominent malacological journals including *The Nautilus*, *The Veliger*, *The Festivus*, and popular publications, including the *Philippine Shell News* and *Skin Diver* magazine. Her crowning achievement was the publication of ***Living Terebras of the World*** with Walter O. Cernohorsky in 1987, which is still the major reference on the family.

She described 34 species of terebrids and a single epitoniid species with the late Helen DuShane. Her other co-authors included R.D. Burch, Henk Mienis, and her sister Billie.



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It's time for Membership Dues! The Pacific Conchological Club has the following annual dues structure:

Individual members— \$10 per year
Family membership— \$12 per year

**Please drop a check in the mail right away to
 PCC Treasurer, Kathy Kalohi
 13901 Wilkie Avenue
 Gardena, CA 90249**

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Mollusk species named for Twila include:

- Splendrillia bratcheranae McLean & Poorman, 1971 [Turridae],
- Cymbovula bratcheranae Cate, 1973 [Ovulidae], and
- Terebra twilae Bouchet, 1983 [Terebridae].

Twila donated numerous specimens to LACM Malacology, particularly her world class terebrid collection, which was donated in 1997. In 1990 she generously provided endowment funding for a future chaired curatorial position for malacology. She will always be remembered for her unparalleled generosity and wonderful smile. Twila is survived by husband Tom Critchlow and sister Billee Dillworth.

Minus low tides provide great conditions for observing mollusks and other marine life on Southern California shores. Listed below are some

Please be sure that you are familiar with the California Dept. of Fish and Game regulations regarding the collecting of live mollusks— for details see Las Conchas, vol 33, no. 3)

February, 2007		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ht.</u>
Tuesday, Feb. 13	1:15 pm	-0.5
Wednesday, Feb. 14	1:48 pm	-1.0
Thursday, Feb. 15	2:19 pm	-1.3
Friday, Feb. 16	2:51 pm	-1.4
Saturday, Feb. 17	3:22 pm	-1.4
Sunday, Feb. 18	3:53 pm	-1.1
Monday, Feb. 19	4:25 pm	-0.6
Sunday, Feb. 25	11:39 am	-0.2
Monday, Feb. 26	12:35 pm	-0.6
Tuesday, Feb. 27	1:18 pm	-0.8
Wednesday, Feb. 28	1:53 pm	-0.9

March, 2007		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ht.</u>
Thursday, March 1	2:23 pm	-0.8
Friday, March 2	2:48 pm	-0.7
Saturday, March 3	3:11 pm	-0.4
Sunday, March 4	3:31 pm	-0.1
Wednesday, March 14	1:38 pm	-0.5
Thursday, March 15	2:10 pm	-0.8
Friday, March 16	2:41 pm	-1.0
Saturday, March 17	3:12 pm	-1.0
Sunday, March 18	3:43 pm	-0.7
Monday, March 19	4:14 pm	-0.3
Thursday, March 22	6:36 am	-0.5
Friday, March 23	7:45 am	-0.3
Saturday, March 24	9:13 am	-0.1
Sunday, March 25	10:51 am	-0.1
Monday, March 26	12:09 pm	-0.2
Tuesday, March 27	1:04 pm	-0.4
Wednesday, March 28	1:45 pm	-0.4
Thursday, March 29	2:18 pm	-0.3
Friday, March 30	2:44 pm	-0.1

mi-
nus
low

So, what's that called? A look at shell name pronunciation.

by Phil Liff-Grieff

One of the more daunting aspects of our hobby is the use of Latin names to describe our shells. Much has been debated about the use of scientific names vs. popular ones but there is general agreement that, in today's international community of collectors and scientists, the latin name of a given shell is the only descriptor that will be universally understood by fellow enthusiasts.

So, if we are to use these names, how should they be pronounced? There are few different accepted pronunciations of Latin names and there are a few resources that can help the amateur collector figure out what their options are. Among the best is a book entitled **It's Easy to Say Crepidula (kreh PID' yu luh)**, by JeanM. Cate and Selma Raskin (Pretty Penny Press, 1986, Santa Monica, California). This book provides a phonetic pronunciation guide for a few thousand of the most popular species of marine mollusks. Obviously, this guide helps beyond the species it includes- if one can master the pronunciation of dupetitthouarsi, for example, for the Fusinus by that name, they've also mastered the landsnail, Helminthoglypta, with the same species name.



Fusinus dupetitthouarsi (Fyu SY nus du puh TEE thu ar see)

When all is said and done, one must fall back on the quote that I believe has been attributed both to R. Tucker Abbott and to Dr. Rudy Stohler,

“You can mispronounce the name your way and I'll mispronounce it my way”

But, to help people like myself who struggle with this issue all the time, the most basic rules of pronunciation are described below. These are drawn from an article from Hawaiian Shell News, **A Guide To The Pronunciation Of Latin Names In The Field Of Conchology**, compiled by Hilda and Paul Peters (New Series #80, August 1966,

Vol. XIV, No. 10 - available on line at cowryys.org/archive/NSN080CY.HTM#D) with additional information coming from **It's Easy to Say Crepidula (kreh PID' yu luh)**, by Jean M. Cate and Selma Raskin.

SOME BASIC RULES OF LATIN PRONUNCIATION

Adapted from

A Guide to the Pronunciation of Latin Names in the Field of Conchology

by Hilda and Paul Peters

ACCENT

Rule 1- Words of two syllables are always accented on the first syllable.

Examples are AR-ca, HE-re, CHI-ton, LI-ma, STROM-bus, TUR-bo

Rule 2- Words of more than two syllables are accented on the penult (next to the last) syllable if that syllable is long, that is, if the syllable contains a long vowel

(examples- Chi-O-ne, Di-o-DOR-a, fi-LO-sus)

a diphthong,

(examples- Ac-MAE-a, Mes-o-PLEUR-a,)

a vowel followed by two consonants

(example- O-li-VELL-a)



Olivella biplicata (O li VELL a by plih KAH tuh)

Rule 3- All other words are accented on the antepenult syllable (third from the end).

Examples- CAN-tha-rus, Ep-i-TO-ni-um

PRONUNCIATION

CONSONANTS have their usual English sounds, except:

Rule 1- ‘Ch’ always has the hard sound of “k”

Examples- Chama, Architectonica

Rule 2- ‘C’, ‘g’ and ‘gg’ are soft before ‘e’, ‘i’ ‘y’ and the diphthongs ‘ae’ and ‘oe’.

Examples- Cerithium, Lucina, Gemma, gigas, exaggeratum

Rule 3- ‘C’, ‘s’ and ‘t’ before ‘i’ and another vowel are often pronounced like ‘sh’ or ‘zh’.

Examples- Bifurcium, Barbatia, Cymatium

Rule 4- An initial ‘X’ is pronounced like ‘Z’

Examples- Xancus, Xenophora

Rule 5- There are no silent letters except for some consonants that would be difficult to enunciate, such as the initial letter of words beginning with ‘ct’, ‘gn’, ‘mn’, ‘ps’, ‘pt’, etc.

Examples- Ctenoides, Pteropurpura, Gnidiella, Pteropoda

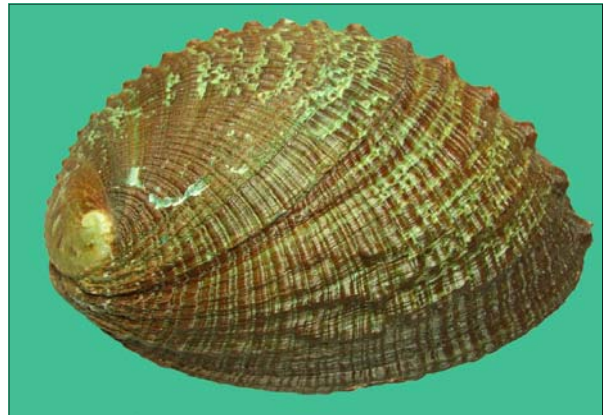


Pteropurpura festiva (Ter o PUR pur a FES tih vah)

VOWELS are given their customary long and short sounds

Rule 1- When ending accented syllables, vowels have their long English sounds.

Examples are Haliotis, Lacuna, obsoletus



Haliotis fulgens (Ha lee OH tis FUL jenz)

Rule 2- All vowels except ‘a’ are long at the end of a word

Examples are Semele, listeri, Gastropoda

Rule 3- Vowels have a short sound in final syllables ending in consonants, except ‘e’ in ‘es’ which is pronounced like “ease”.

Examples - Spondylus, Polinices

Rule 4- ‘Y’ is pronounced like ‘i’ would be in a similar position.

Examples - Amygdalum, Cyclopecten

Rule 5- Diphthongs:

‘ae’ and ‘oe’ are pronounced either like a short ‘e’ or a long ‘e’

Examples- short ‘e’- oerstedianum

long ‘e’- Arcidae, caelatum, phoebia

‘eu’ is pronounced like a long ‘u’

Example- Eulima

“ei” is pronounced like a long ‘i’

Examples- Seila, Leiomya

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Rule 6- Double vowels (the same vowel repeated twice) are both pronounced

Examples– Cardiidae, Cerithiidae



Laevicardium elatum– a West Mexico species from the family Cardiidae (KAR dee ih dee)

The Exceptions

Shell names that are derived from either locations or the name of an individual (patronymics) are pronounced as the person or location would be pronounced. So, for example, *Forreria belcheri* is pronounced “bel tsher ee” (or “bel tsher eye”- see below), in spite of the normative latin pronunciation of ‘ch’ as a hard ‘k’.



Forreria belcheri (For RER ee ah BEL tsher ee)

Rules apply to the endings on names that are derived from locations or people’s names.

Species named for places usually end in ‘ensis’ or ‘ana’.

Example– *Trivia californiana*

Species named for a man must end in ‘i’ or ‘ii’, pronounced ‘ee’ or ‘ee-ee’. (it is in popular usage to pronounce the ‘i’ or ‘ii’ ending as ‘eye’)

Example– *Knefastia dalli*



Knefastia dalli (nee FAS tee uh DAL ee or DAL eye)

Species named for a woman must end in ‘ae’, pronounced ‘ay’.

Example– *Pitar helenae*

Species named for more than one person end in ‘orum’ or, for more than one woman, ‘arum’

Example– *Oliva burchorum*



Oliva burchorum (OL ee vuh burtch OR um)

SCUM XI– The annual gathering of professional, amateur and student malacologists in Southern California January , 20, 2007
San Diego Museum of Natural History



Participants at this year's SCUM meeting pose for a quick photograph during a break in presentations

Front Row: Carol Stadum, Shawn Wiedrick, Pat LaFollette, Wendy Storms, Kelvin Barwick, Ángel Valdés, Rosa Campay-Bertsch

Second Row: Matt Doi, Phil Liff-Grieff, Lance Gilbertson, Constance Gramlich, Hans Bertsch, Barbara Myers, LouElla Saul

Third Row: Dan Yoshimoto, Kathy Kalohi, Christine Fernandez, Tom Deméré, Brian Cheng, Eliza Moore, Richard Squires, Chuck Powell

Forth Row: Maggie Hart, Yvonne Kugies, Greg Rouse, Mary Stecheson, Nancy Schneider, Bill Schneider

Fifth Row: Bill Hewson, Nerida Wilson, Daniel Geiger, Jim McLean

Top Row: Ian Browne, Mike Vendrasco, Lindsey Groves, Kent Trego, Paul DeFlorio, Gracie Jones, Jules Hertz, Carole Hertz, Scott Rugh, Rosangela Rugh, George Kennedy

Attendees not in photo: Jean Domnitz, Pat DonVito, Wes Farmer, Diane Jovee, Chris Plouffe, Melissa Soetaert.

HOLD THE DATE
Remaining meeting dates
for 2006-2007

February 11, 2007

"The Glorious Diversity of
Nudibranchs "

March 11, 2007

April 15, 2007

May 6, 2007

"John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts Jr.,
Molluscs, and the Sea of Cortez."

June 10, 2007

Auction and party

February Meeting: SUNDAY, February 11, 2007
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Ángel Valdés present *The Glorious Diversity of Nudibranchs*.

Though relatively few of these remarkable mollusks are shelled, they are truly the jewels of the molluscan world.

Ángel is currently Curator of Mollusks at the LA Natural History Museum and an expert on Opisthobranch Mollusks (nudibranchs and their relatives). He has published extensively on this subject and has described more than 70 new species.

Please make note of the change in starting time for this month's program. Dr. Valdés' presentation will begin promptly at 1:00 pm and will be followed by the Club's business meeting.

Parking is no longer available in the east lot. Please park in one of the lots on Menlo Street, directly west of the Natural History Museum.

Refreshments are potluck. Please bring a snack, drink or dessert item to the meeting.

Articles of interest to shell collectors are solicited for publication in this newsletter. Contents may be reprinted with credit being given to the Pacific Conchological Club, Inc.



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DATED MATERIAL