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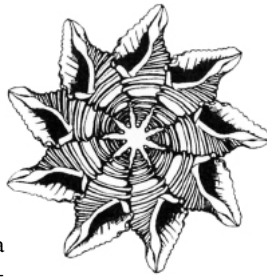
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American
CONCHOLOGIST



Quarterly Journal of the Conchologists of America, Inc.

CONCHOLOGISTS



OF AMERICA, INC.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors; to the beauty of shells, to their scientific aspects, and to the collecting and preservation of mollusks. This was the start of COA. Our membership includes novices, advanced collectors, scientists, and shell dealers from around the world. In 1995, COA adopted a conservation resolution: Whereas there are an estimated 100,000 species of living mollusks, many of great economic, ecological, and cultural importance to humans and whereas habitat destruction and commercial fisheries have had serious effects on mollusk populations worldwide, and whereas modern conchology continues the tradition of amateur naturalists exploring and documenting the natural world, be it resolved that the Conchologists of America endorses responsible scientific collecting as a means of monitoring the status of mollusk species and populations and promoting informed decision making in regulatory processes intended to safeguard mollusks and their habitats.

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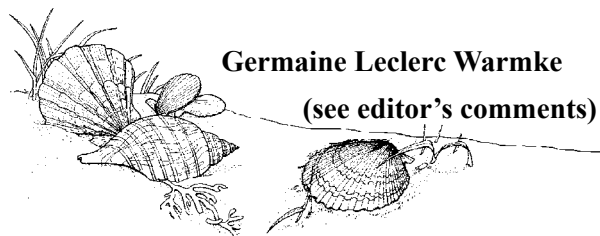
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In memoriam:



Front Cover: *Xenophora conchyliophora* (Born, 1780) as photographed by COA member Ellen Bulger just before hurricane Joaquin hit Eleuthera, Bahamas. This is perhaps her favorite shell and this image certainly gives some indication why.

Back Cover: *Hexaplex nigritus* (Philippi, 1845), a painting by Kenneth Wye. You can see more of Ken's paintings and read his story on page 22. If you check your shell library, odds are pretty good you also have one or more of his books.

Editor's comments: We end the year 2015 with what I hope are some unusual and entertaining articles, but first, the cover photos. The *Xenophora conchyliophora* on the front cover by Ellen Bulger is a superb representation of this unusual and varied family – a favorite group for many collectors. The back cover is a return to our depictions of shell art, this time an exquisite piece by Kenneth Wye (see his article and more art starting on p. 22). Next we travel Paris with Ed Nieberger and family in search of shells, fossils, and maybe a bit of French culture. Deborah Duval then offers up a couple of unusual findings from the Gulf of Mexico. She proves the value of the shell grit in the bottom of the bucket. David Campbell then aptly demonstrates why taxonomists often mumble to themselves, bringing to light why the conchological name-game is not for the faint-of-heart. I then offer up two reviews of books I think deserve a place on your bookshelf. The first is *The Secrets of Sand* by Gary Greenberg, Carol Kiely, & Kate Clover. A fun book with interesting facts and surprisingly beautiful photos. Next is *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia: Catalogue of Asia/Indo Pacific Sea Slugs* (2nd ed.) by Neville Coleman (revised by Gary Cobb & David Mullins). The best source for identification and general knowledge about this group of gastropods that can only really be collected with photographs. Next we have Kenneth Wye and a discussion of his shell art and a couple of now defunct London-based shell stores. This is followed by the first report of an invasive molluscan species, *Streptostele musaeola* in the USA, by Jochen Gerbert & Stephanie Clark. You can ask them about this in person if you go to the Chicago COA Convention. We then have a reminder by Harry Lee that it is time to nominate deserving shell-folks for the next award of The *Neptunea*. Next come the results of the 2015 Philadelphia and North Carolina Shell Shows. Finally, we have a few pages on the 2016 COA Chicago Convention. Whether you attend because of the camaraderie of friends, the excitement of shell auctions, the fascination of presentations, or the availability of common to rare shells at the bourse, Chicago looks to be an exciting venue.

Germaine Leclerc Warmke received a BS in biology from the University of Maine and an MS in genetics from the University of Rochester. She and her husband Harry, lived in Puerto Rico, for 19 years during which time she taught genetics and wrote *Caribbean Seashells: a guide to the marine mollusks of Puerto Rico and other West Indian islands, Bermuda and the lower Florida Keys* (1962). She moved to Gainesville, Florida, in 1964 and later to St. Augustine Beach, where she wrote *Exploring the Seashore*. Many of us have her Caribbean book in the shell bookcase. She was 94 when she passed away in August 2014.

A Shelling Trip to Paris

Edward Nieburger (photos by author)

Edited by Gayle and Braden Nieburger

April in Paris! Could it be true that this trip for my son's figure skating competition could also become an opportunity for shelling? "Mais oui, mais oui!" [But, yes, certainly!]

Bonjour, Paris! We began our week-long visit on April 21, 2015. Braden, Gayle, and I were part of a group of 59 Bostonians flying over-night via Air France Airways to Charles de Gaulle Airport, north of the city, to take part in the Nation's Cup, the biennial world competition for Theater on Ice. Our departure from Logan Airport in Boston was delayed for twenty-four hours due to a broken service-door-hinge. This meant that the first night of our trip was spent at the Marriott Hotel in Chelsea, Massachusetts, which was nice, but it was not Paris.

After the over-night flight the following night, we arrived in France and had what seemed like a two-mile hike with our carry-on luggage across the Charles de Gaulle Airport. We finally reached the baggage area to claim our checked bags. Eventually we were met by our bus to take us to our hotel in La Defense, a business area of Paris. We quickly checked-in and left our luggage before re-boarding the bus for a three-hour tour of the city. This was timed purposely to force us to stay awake and to get accustomed to Paris time, six hours earlier than Boston time.

Soon, our bus approached the Arc de Triomphe, which commemorates Napoleon's 179 victories in battle in the 1700s and where Nazi troops marched during World War II. Leading up to the Arche de Triomphe is the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, a wide street where the bicycle Tour de France concludes each August. The cafes with sidewalk tables are the stuff of legend.

The art and architecture of Paris is what first caught my attention. The buildings and statues were built largely in the 1600s and 1700s, during the reigns of Kings Louis XIV, XV, and XVI and are certainly one of the pinnacles of quality architecture of all time. These old buildings of Paris are quite a contrast to the new stainless steel, concrete, and glass high-rises in the La Defense area where our hotel was located. Kings Louis XIV, XV, and XVI spared nothing to create these lasting monuments, which put tremendous strain on the treasury and the taxpayers of their times. When



The Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile [Triumphal Arch of the Star], at the western end of the Champs-Élysées, is an unmistakable symbol of Paris.



The Eiffel Tower, the iconic landmark of Paris.



Note the two Caribbean shells *Cymatium femorale* (Linnaeus, 1758), on this bronze cast in the 1600s.

the citizens complained, “We have no bread,” they were told by “a great princess,” “Let them eat cake!” It was not Marie Antoinette who said this, although it is often attributed to her. Marie Antoinette, wife of King Louis XVI, did pay the ultimate price by guillotine in 1793.

On day two, Wednesday, we visited the Chateau de Versailles palace southwest of the city, which was built over the three kings’ reigns, 1682 to 1789. Although marble was used for most of the Versailles buildings, a great amount of limestone was also quarried during this time. As fossil collectors know, the “Paris Basin” is probably the richest concentration of marine shell fossils anywhere. Over 1,000 molluscan species were found in the limestone during that time! Versailles was successfully designed and built to be the most elaborate and extraordinary of all buildings in Europe. The most famous room, the “Hall of Mirrors,” is where the European powers signed the peace treaty to end World War II. In the back of Versailles is a large reflecting pool surrounded by 15th Century bronze statues, with bronze seashells sprinkled around the edges of those statues. I noticed the Caribbean shell, *Cymatium femorale* (Linnaeus, 1758), which is labeled as having been cast in bronze in the 1600s, a century before the shell was officially described by Linnaeus.

In the afternoon, Gayle and I went to the central city to see the shell stores and the 400 book stalls along the Seine River. First, the shell stores, or what remains as

remnants of shell stores in this day and age of Internet and bourse shell buying. Claude Nature, 32 Boulevard Saint-Germain, was receptive to us and willing to exchange their Paris fossils and world-wide marine shells for our Recent East Coast U.S. marine species (but not fossils). The manager told us about two other shell stores. The second store, Deyrolle, at 46 Rue de Bac, is the older of the two. We bought a fossil or two and a book on shell collecting in France. At both stores we were startled at the variety of nature objects, including a stuffed zebra and other stuffed tropical mammals and birds, butterflies, and other insects - all beautifully mounted. The third store was downtown and specialized in just fossils, but time did not permit us to get to that store, unfortunately.

Nearby, the Notre Dame Cathedral, on the “East Bank,” was right across the river from these stores on the “West Bank.” The old church with its extraordinary flying buttresses has fascinated me since the sixth grade. Along

the West Bank of the Seine River, the book stalls, each two meters wide, had used books, magazines, old shell and other natural history prints, both originals and reproductions. We had the time to visit but a few of the dealers, but had a delightful time acquiring some souvenirs, all within sight of Notre Dame Cathedral.

That evening we went on the boat ride, Bateaux Parisiens, for dinner and sightseeing on the Seine River, which twists back and forth through Paris. Champagne and wine flowed, and a several course dinner followed, all while we



Book stalls line the West Bank of the Seine River.

were cruising under dozens of bridges, many very old and architecturally just as beautiful as the buildings we passed along the way. The ride concluded at the site of a reduced-scale Statue of Liberty near the Eiffel Tower. Both this and the New York Statue of Liberty were built around a structure that was designed by the same Eiffel who designed and built the famous Tower.

The Louvre Museum was our destination on the third day. Our group had a guided tour of the museum, the home of the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo, among other magnificent works of art. The Mona Lisa, smaller than we had imagined, is safely ensconced behind very thick bullet-proof glass to protect it. Umbrellas are not allowed at the Louvre since an overeager visitor used his umbrella to point to the bottom of the painting and tore a hole in it.

Thursday was also the day I had an afternoon appointment to visit Patrice Bail in south Paris. Patrice is a retired medical doctor and author of several journals on *Volutidae*, published by ConchBooks, of Germany. I was overwhelmed by Dr. Bail's French hospitality and his beautiful collection. Europeans love their color forms and Patrice is no exception, documenting distinct color forms from different regions of each species' range. For example: the *Amoria* volute varieties of Australia, where it appears that a few hundred miles allows a species to develop distinct color forms and even distinct species.

That evening Gayle and I wandered out of our hotel and found a little restaurant. It was an interesting experience as they offered bread, cheese, and sausage. Many different types of cheese and sausage were served in a basket. The basket had been pre-weighed. You cut off what you wanted and the basket is again weighed to get your cost. They also did something similar with the bottle of wine. You get a full bottle, but the cost is what you actually drink. The restaurants in the business district are open only during the week; closed weekends. Gayle was surprised and disappointed that the only restaurant that had escargot on the menu was the sidewalk café where we had lunch on our first day in Paris. She assumed it would be on every menu, so she chose to wait for a dinner out to make me taste snail! Ah, I am delighted that I escaped that treat!

Patrice Bail and Didier Debailleux were the two local collectors that the Paris shell club, Association Francaise de Conchyliologie, referred me to when I inquired about local collectors who might be willing to talk and perhaps trade shells. Didier Debailleux is a cowrie and fossil collector and invited me to visit on day four, which was Friday. A bit of a language problem on my part led me to the wrong Metro Station, but thanks to the cell phone of a clerk in a little patisserie [bakery], we were able to reconnect. The Paris Metro is an amazing, fast, and inexpensive way to get around Paris, but you do miss experiencing the traffic jams and sights that you can see from the much more expensive taxis. The Metro



The Claude Nature, 32 Boulevard Saint-Germain, had shells, fossils, and lots of other natural history objects. A closer look at the left-hand window shows, among other items, an ostrich egg, stuffed rabbit, and great-ape skull.



Russian musicians on the Paris Metro – same two songs.



***Gisortia combii* (J. de C. Sowerby in Dixon, 1850), is often listed as *Ovula gisortiana* Passy, 1859, but ICZN opinion 2107 (case 3220) published in 2007, retains the Sowerby name (originally as *Cypraea combii*) and assignment to the Cypraeidae.**



Patrice Bail with a colorful assortment of scallops (*Pecten maximus* (Linnaeus, 1758) from offshore Normandy, France, and then from the Paris fish market.



Another unusual Eocene Paris Basin cypraeid fossil is *Gisortia (Vicetia) hantkeni* (Lefèvre, 1878). The smallest is 120 mm and the largest 150 mm.



Didier Debailleux with two large and oddly-shaped molds of Paris Basin fossil cowries (*Gisortia combii*).

runs on time with signs clearly stating when the next train will arrive. It is also fascinating to see the Parisians carrying their groceries, plants, and other purchases. Entertainment exists as bands play on the trains. They jump on, play a couple of songs, and jump off. It took me a day or two to realize that they were playing the same two American songs, over and over - for tips, of course.

Didier has a remarkable collection of recent and fossil cowries. The fossil cowries from the Paris Basin (an area that I interpret as the Seine River Valley around Paris) are like nothing seen in our hemisphere (see the fossil plates in the back of *A Guide to Worldwide Cowries* by Felix Lorenz Jr. and Alex Hubert). Didier also had what were surely hundreds of varieties of non-cowrie marine mollusk fossils he had dug up in dozens of localities throughout the Paris Basin and beyond. I brought some Florida Pleistocene fossils on the plane as a gift, or hopefully for exchange for a few Paris examples. Didier was extremely generous in sending me home with a heavy bag of dozens of wonderful fossils. We have been and anticipate doing more exchanges through the mail. Didier is looking for a fossil *Cypraea chilona* (Dall, 1900) or *Cypraea tapeina* Gardner, 1947 (synonym?) from the Chipola Formation in northwest Florida. If any reader

has a specimen to spare, please contact me. Didier's yard had a beautiful and fragrant purple lilac bush in full bloom, thirty days ahead of the Boston equivalent. It seemed like flowers were blooming everywhere in Paris.

The evening of day four, Friday, was devoted to cheering on Braden and the two Boston teams with which we had traveled. Braden's team, as well as the other Boston team, finished fifth in their respective categories, in a sport dominated by the French. We were satisfied with that result and enjoyed meeting with and exchanging skating pins with teams from Spain, Australia, Russia, Ukraine, and France, as well as USA teams from Cape Canaveral, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Houston.

On Saturday morning, Braden, Gayle, and I visited the Paris flea market, Paris Marché aux Puces [the Market of Fleas], in the north of the city. This is a huge market with over two thousand dealers, covering several city blocks, but organized by specialty. One area had gorgeous second-hand European furniture. This is the area where Bill Gates was spotted a while back, at which time the dealers quickly spread the word, "No discounts today!" We looked at the shops specializing in lesser antiques and found two shell-related items: a snuff-box and a rosary bead box, both made from shell and both quite old. A shop, with what could have been quite a find for antique paintings, was closed.

On day 6, Sunday, Braden and some of his friends visited the Catacombs. The Catacombs began as a mining operation in the 1600s and 1700s outside Paris, where property owners first dug a well, and upon finding limestone, would bring it up as building material. The building boom of the time demanded a lot of such material and these unauthorized mines expanded and connected underground in areas where Paris would eventually grow over the top of these caverns, which also had marine molluscan fossils, although most were just the internal casts of mollusks (a.k.a. steinkerns). In other limestone diggings around the Paris Basin, well over 1,000 species of marine molluscan fossils are known. In fact, 1,200 fossils are known from Grignon alone! But, back to the Catacombs. The Black Plague of the 1600s and 1700s over-filled the grave yards of Paris. It became necessary to exhume the remains of thousands of bodies and move them to the Catacombs. Six million people were eventually buried in the Catacombs, making this "The World's Largest Grave." The Catacombs have been open to the public on a regular basis since 1874 and it is today one of fourteen "official" Paris museums. One enters the Catacombs by a narrow spiral staircase and twisting hallway of mortared stone. You then find yourself at the entry facing the inscription, "Arrête! C'est ici l'empire de la Mort" [Stop! This is the Empire of the Dead].

There are almost two hundred miles of tunnels, but only a small portion are open to the public. The halls and caverns are made up of walls of carefully arranged leg



Shell snuff-box and rosary bead box we found in the Paris Marché aux Puces [the Market of Fleas].



A wall of bones in the Paris Catacombs – some of the six million entombed "The World's Largest Grave."



***Pecten maximus* (labeled as "San Jacques"), shrimp, and mussels in the Paris fish market.**



Buccinum (*B. undatum* Linnaeus, 1758?), *Solen* sp. (upper left), and *Mytilus edulis* Linnaeus, 1758, (moules in French) in the Paris fish market.

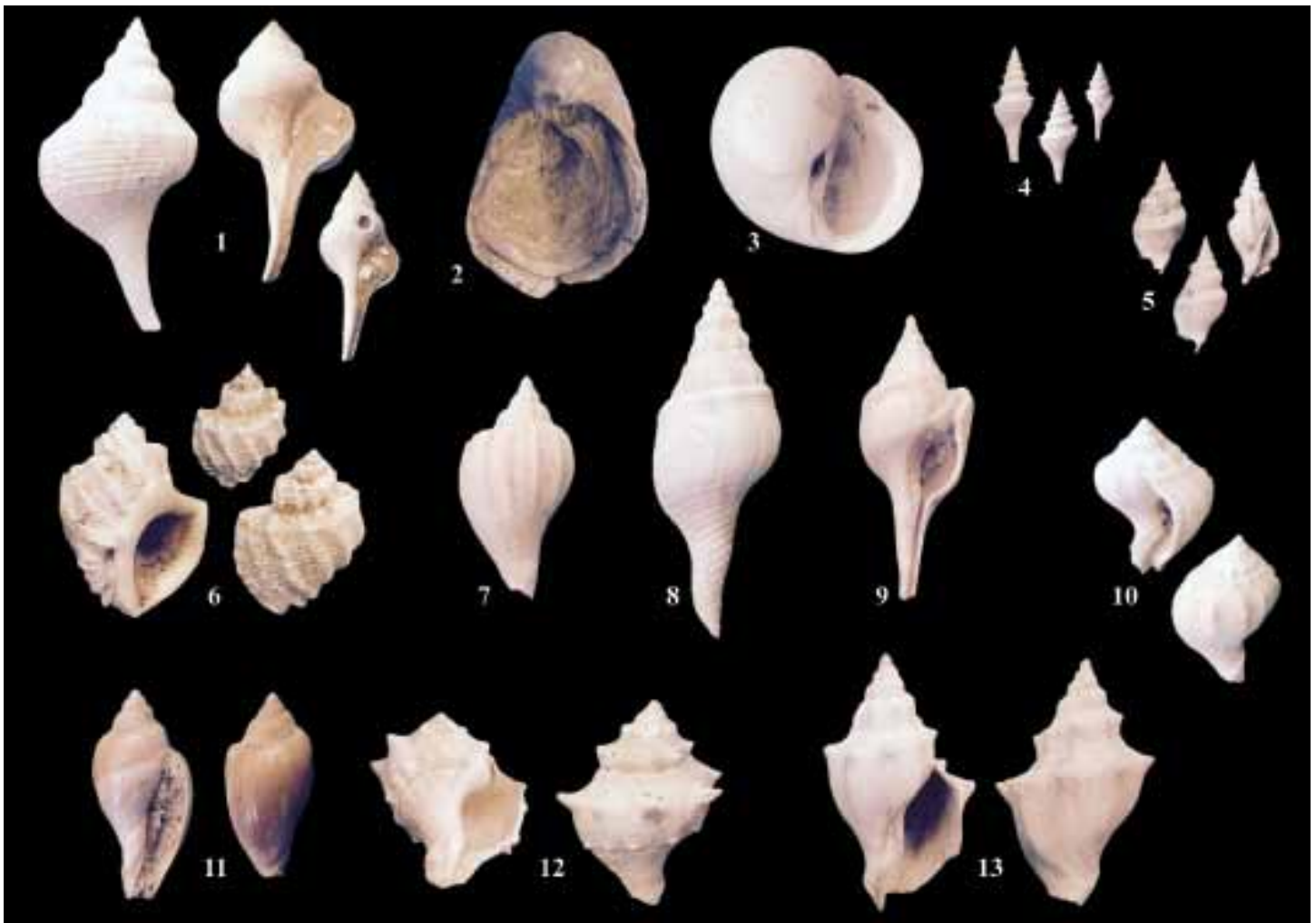


Author at the statue of Lamarck at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle. The inscription has eroded with time and is almost totally worn away.

bones decorated with skulls. As you can imagine, the “tour is unsuitable for people with heart or respiratory problems or young children.” With one-hundred-thirty steps to go down and eighty-three steps back up to the street level, the catacombs are not accessible for those with reduced mobility. During World War II, the Catacombs became the secret place where the French Resistance would work in opposition to the occupying Nazis, who actually established their own underground bunker. In 2004, the Paris police discovered a fully functioning cinema with tables and chairs, and a stocked bar and restaurant. They still have not identified the source of electricity for the bunker.

Braden said he saw some remnants of fossils in the walls of the Catacombs, what were surely the “casts” formed when the actual shell dissolved, leaving just the shape of the inner whorls of the shell. While Braden went to the Catacombs, Gayle and I had to choose between another trip downtown to see the fish market and natural history museum or a trip to the Moulin Rouge to see the feather dancers. Well, the dancers will have to wait until another time. The fish market at Bastille Square on Sunday morning had over a dozen dealers of marine mollusks and fish, intermingled with fruit and vegetable dealers, clothing and souvenir dealers, and vendors cooking all sorts of exotic French, Indian, and assorted national dishes, all in open-sided tents. This was certainly handy, as this was the only day of our Paris visit when it sprinkled lightly. The sights, sounds, and smells will remain with us for many years. Bands played, merchants yelled hawking their wares, and the very colorful, beautiful arrangements of stacked food and vegetables were absolutely gorgeous. I do not think we have ever seen so many colors of vegetables such as we saw in just the tomatoes and peppers. We bought a dozen species of edible mollusks and left a few behind, like razor clams, squid, and octopus. Still, we came home with a nice collection from the Paris fish market, actually from the shores of Brittany, France. At one of the stalls the vendor carefully cleaned the shells, threw the shells in the trash, and handed me the animals! I had to get her to retrieve the shells from the trash. It is so hard to train fish vendors. At other vendors, I just took the purchase with me rather than trying to explain that I just wanted the shells.

A short taxi ride away was the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, with a statue of Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Lamarck, Chevalier de Lamarck out in front. Lamarck expanded Linnaean binominal nomenclature by describing dozens of new molluscan genera and hundreds of new shell species. Lamarck worked at the museum and lived at the time of the French Revolution. He probably saved his own neck and the museum by renaming the park in which the museum stands from Jardin du Roi [King's Garden] to Jardin des Plantes [Garden of Plants]. That tiny nuance probably changed the course of natural history! Also Lamarck was



A sampling of fossils collected by Didier: 1. *Euthriofusus* sp., Léognan, Fr., 2. *Gryphaea arcuata* Lamarck, 1801, Corbigny, Fr. (a bivalve commonly known as the “Devil’s toe nail”), 3. *Crommium angustatum* Grateloup, 1827, Aquitaine, Fr., 4. *Surcula terebralis* (Lamarck, 1804), Villiers St.-Frederic, Fr., 5. *Rimella demissatus* St-Martin-d’Oney, Fr., 6. *Trigonostoma acutangulum* (Faujas, 1817), Pas de Barreau, Fr., 7. *Athleta ventricosa* (Defrance, 1835), Damery, Fr., 8. *Clavilithes noae* (Lamarck, 1803), Damery, Fr., 9. *Clavilithes maximus* (Deshayes, 1835), Damery, Fr., 10. *Stepsidura turgida* Le Guepelle, Fr., 11. *Cryptochorda stromboides* (Hermann, 1781), Damery, Fr., 12. *Melongena minax* (Solander in G. Brander, 1766), Le Guipelle, Fr., 13. *Volutilithes muricina* Lamarck, 1803, Damery, Fr.

certainly lucky to be living at a time when those Paris Basin fossils were most bountiful. That taxi ride was in a relatively new Mercedes. We tried to keep our bag of leaking shells from getting the immaculate carpet soiled.

Gayle and I returned to the hotel while Braden went to the Louis Vuitton store with a fellow skater. The designer stores are so popular that they limit those admitted. Braden and his friend had to wait outside for others to leave. As it was lightly sprinkling, they were given an umbrella. Had they been in the market for over \$5,000 of designer items, they would have been given complimentary champagne!

It was a scramble for Gayle and me to re-pack and prepare for the homeward journey on Monday. I cleaned the bivalves in hot water in the room sink, just as Bill Clench had shown me decades earlier, which gave us the “flavor” of

shelling trips past. Braden was not at all happy when he returned from his upper-class activities to be greeted by strong odors “of death” due to the animals that I had purchased at the fish market. It was unfortunate that the windows in the hotel could not be opened to let in some fresh air. It is amazing to me that after so many years of being involved in cleaning shells that I do not even notice the pungent odors, and I am usually sensitive to odors. The univalves I took down to lunch where we had Croque Monsieur, the French version of a grilled ham and cheese sandwich, but with the cheese on the outside. I had the dining room waiter microwave my *Buccinum undatum* snails for two minutes in a zip lock baggie with a bit of water, just as Peggy Williams told me at Sarasota COA 2013. (Thanks, Peggy!)



More fossils collected by Didier: 1. Eight-inch specimens of *Campanile cornucopiae benechi* (Bayan, 1870), Nehou (Normandy), Fr., 2. *Xenophora burdigalensis* (Grateloup, 1847), Leognan, Fr., 3. *Hipponyx cornucopiae* (Röding, 1798), Normandy, Fr., 4. unknown fossil bivalve, 5. *Chione ambigua* Deshayes, 1853, Saint-Mourbin d'Oney, Fr.



A cast of *Gisortia gigantea pterophora* Schilder, 1927, 264 mm in length! The holotype was lost in 1902, but recently rediscovered by Pacaud (2008).* He proposes this species is a subjective junior synonym of *Gisortia combii*.

*Pacaud, Jean-Michel. 2008. L'original de *Gisortia gigantea pterophora* Schilder, 1927 (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Cypraeoidea) retrouvé, *Cossmanniana* 12(1-4): 47-53.

This concluded our visit to wonderful Paris, with the exception of another 22-hour delay at the Ibis Hotel at the Charles de Gaulle Airport because our return flight on Air France's Boeing 747 was cancelled. It landed with only three of the four engines still working. We understand that the planes can land with only two engines, but four are required for take-off! Paris itself was a resounding "ten." The negative stories about the French are rubbish. We did try to be "good tourists" by saying Bonjour and Au revoir and Merci and by speaking quietly in public. Just remember that the French are quite formal in their dress and their speech. Au revoir, mon ami, nous nous reverrons [Good bye, my friend, until we meet again].

I sincerely thank Didier Debailleux, for shells, friendship, and for correcting my poor French and imperfect knowledge of Paris.

Edward Nieburger
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Two unexpected findings in the northern Gulf of Mexico

Deborah Duval

In August 1983, the Louisiana Malacological Society took a weekend field trip to Port St. Joe, Florida. There were quite a few of us and we stayed in some cabins at the State Park. We raised a real ruckus! What fun we had!

While collecting on the beach on the bay side of the peninsula, I ran across a sizable sponge and dropped it in my bucket. I pick up all kinds of interesting but useless things. After a while I sat to take a break and started examining my sponge and shaking it, and what do you think? A wonderful little black and red shell fell out. I met Emilio García coming from the opposite direction and showed him my little shell. After closely examining it, he told me it was *Vexillum histrio* (Reeve, 1844) (Figure 1) and that it did not come from Port St. Joe - maybe it was left in my bucket from a previous trip. I declared that it could not have been left in my bucket because my bucket was new. I knew the shell came from the sponge. Then back home I went with my mystery shell and there it stayed until now.

Although *Vexillum histrio* was reported by Cernohorsky (1978) as inhabiting northwest Florida, later comments by Gary Rosenberg (2009) on Cernohorsky's geographical extension considered the Florida species to be *Vexillum epiphaneum* (Rehder, 1943). The only record of *V. histrio* from the Gulf of Mexico is from the Florida Keys (Rosenberg, 2009). The specimen I found in the sponge in St. Joe Sound seems to be the first valid record of *V. histrio* in the northern Gulf of Mexico. A nice range extension.

And then there is *Busycon lyonsi* Petuch, 1987. Until fairly recently we had a camp on Isles Derniers ("Last Islands"), off the Louisiana coast. I spent literally hundreds of hours walking the beach or sitting amongst piles of little shells that would shoal up. There were always treasures to be found - wentletraps, jingle shells, false angel wings, etc. I kept jars and jars of these small beached shells. One day, in 1984, I picked up a small *Busycon* and dropped it in the collecting bag. I didn't look closely at it, just tossed it in the bag. All these years later I am trying to curate these little treasures and, lo-and-behold, I had a *Busycon* that appeared to me to be a dextral *Busycon sinistrum* Hollister, 1958. Not believing my eyes, I took that specimen and a small *B. sinistrum* to our shell club meeting for Emilio (our shell guru) to look at. He examined and compared them, and determined that it was not a dextral *Busycon sinistrum*. He suggested that I compare it with *Busycon candelabrum* (Lamarck, 1816). I did so, but I also found the description of *B. lyonsi* Petuch, 1987. So based on geographical distribution

and the length of the siphonal canal I have labeled the specimen *Busycon lyonsi* (Figure 2).

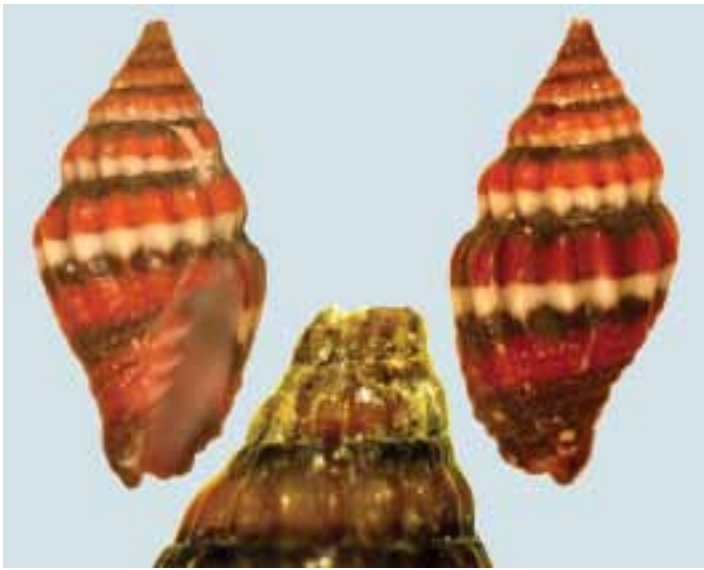
As they say, "better late than never."



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1. *Vexillum histrio* (Reeve, 1844), 15.1 mm, Port St. Joe, Florida.



2. *Busycon lyonsi* Petuch, 1987, 27 mm, Isles Derniers, Louisiana.



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*Fulgoraria ericarum, Lyria kurodai
Conus pergrandis, Babylonia feicheni*

A shell by any other name would be mislabeled – adventures in nomenclature

David Campbell

ABSTRACT

Finding the right name for a specimen involves two major issues. First, there is the question of nomenclature – what names are appropriate designations for species? Is the name legally proposed or not? Is it spelled correctly? Secondly, there is the question of systematics – are these two forms different enough to deserve recognition as separate species, genera, etc.?

Working through nomenclatural issues involves a lot of library work. Fortunately, much is now available online (notably in the *Biodiversity Heritage Library*: www.biodiversitylibrary.org and *AnimalBase*: www.animalbase.uni-goettingen.de/zooweb/servlet/AnimalBase/search), though there are still works that are unavailable online or only offered as a poor-quality scan. On the other hand, much online information is inaccurate, as data quantity has often been a much higher priority than data quality. Many sources copy each other, making it quite difficult to tell what are genuine independent opinions, as well as making it hard to get to the root of a problem and correct it.

In the course of my research, I have encountered a number of convoluted nomenclatural problems. Major catalogs are helpful, but can contain errors, either inadvertent or through biases of the compilers. It is critical to look up the original reference, but later citations may also be essential, such as for subsequent designations of types. The following give some examples of the complex issues that arise.

Melania reinwardtii: spelling and existence.

Köhler & Glaubrecht (2003) note that Reeve listed *Melania reirvardii* de Haan & Adams and *Melanoides reenivardii* de Haan & Adams. Brot (1870) respelled them *reirwardii* and *reinwardii* but couldn't find an original citation. Köhler & Glaubrecht (2003) were unable to locate types or a description matching either name. Specimen labels now in the collection at the Paleontological Research Institution add the spellings *Reenwardi* and *remivastii*. It seems de Haan named a couple of species *reinwardtii* (a cnidarian and an insect, 15 years apart), but no cerithioidean with that epithet has yet been traced, and it may be a manuscript name. Reinwardt was a botanist and a significant source of specimens and an inspiration to other authors, as several phyla have species named for him. Judging by the spelling problems, few malacologists had heard of him, however.

Limnaea adelinae: spelling, existence, age, and identity.

Cossmann (1921) cited *Limnaea adelinae* Forbes, 1847 as a Recent member of the genus *Adelina* (including both a misspelling error and incorrectly citing a fossil species as Recent). *Index Animalium* cites *Limneus adelina* Forbes,

1847. Examination of Forbes (1847) complicates the picture further. The text claims that they found *Adelina elegans* Cantraine, 1841, but didn't think that it deserved a separate genus from *Limnaea* (misspelled as *Limneus*.) Rather than calling the species *L. elegans*, however, they seem to have demoted the genus to species level and repeatedly called it *L. adelina* (Fig. 1). Whether to regard this as a new species name or not is debated. A name and illustration are enough to validate a species name from 1847, but the text strongly indicates that was not the intent. Two added complications arise. Forbes' material was collected from Turkey, whereas Cantraine wasn't certain where his specimen came from but thought it to be Italian, so one could argue that the locality makes a difference. Secondly, *Adelina* is a junior homonym. It was replaced by *Adelinella* Wenz, 1922, but Mienis (2013) argues that it is a subjective synonym of *Corymbina* Bukowski, 1892.

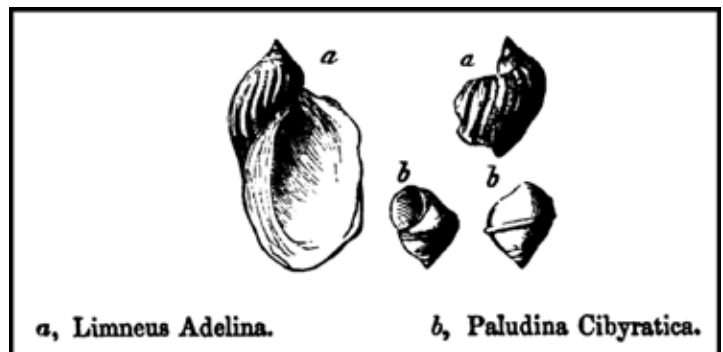


Fig. 1. From Forbes (1847).

Bocourtia: locality and taxonomy.

Hubendick (1951), in his haste to lump as much of the Lymnaeidae as possible, quoted Rochebrune (1882) "... il serait impossible de ne pas les considérer comme faisant partie du genre *Lymnaea* et dans le voisinage du *L. palustris*,..." [it would be impossible to not consider them as making a part of the genus *Lymnaea* and in the neighborhood of *L. palustris*] as proof that *Bocourtia* is just a synonym of *Lymnaea*. The use of "serait" [would be] suggests a further phrase along the lines of "if it weren't for...", and in fact Rochebrune asserted that the anatomy was highly divergent from lymnaeids. Hubendick had some excuse, however, as

Rochebrune failed to actually describe any of the anatomical differences. Ancey (1905) recognized that they were stylommatophoran land snails from Ecuador, not freshwater snails from Bangkok. The genus has been overlooked in most work on land snails.

***Anadontina* and *Crenodonta*: what are they?**

Schlüter (1838) named several new genera and species. No descriptions are given, only localities, so the new species are generally invalid. Many of his genera, however, are based on previously-described species and thus valid, notably *Babylonia*. Two of his unionid genera have caused confusion. *Anadontina* is based on *Unio anadontina* Lamarck, from North America, which Schlüter renamed *Anadontina turgida* to avoid tautonomy. Although modern zoological (but not botanical) rules allow the genus name and specific epithet to be identical (e.g., *Mercenaria mercenaria*), some earlier authors, including Schlüter, created new names for species if they created a new genus name identical to the existing specific epithet. Ironically, it wasn't actually a case of tautonomy, as he misspelled *Unio anadontina* (by modern rules, Lamarck had the gender wrong). Given the name and the listed locality, *Anadontina* has been cited as a junior synonym of edentulous [ed: toothless] North American genera; however, Lamarck's species had incorrect locality data and is a junior synonym of his correctly-located *Unio marginalis* (1819) from India (both names were published in the same publication and have the same date, but the first subsequent author (first reviser) to synonymize the names designated *U. marginalis* as the senior synonym). Today, Lamarck's species is widely cited as *Lamellidens marginalis*. Although *Lamellidens* Simpson (1900) is much later than *Anadontina*, it is used by hundreds of papers, whereas *Anadontina* has only appeared in synonymies and similar compilations, so it can be suppressed (Article 23.9). The case of the species name is more complex. Nomenclature of freshwater mollusks for much of the 1800's was dominated by Isaac Lea, and his legacy strongly influenced later workers as well. Lea often suppressed names published by other workers (particularly Rafinesque), although Lamarck was acceptable. Thus, *Unio testudinarius* and *U. truncatus* (both Spengler, 1793) have been synonymized with *U. marginalis*. Simpson (1900, p. 855; 1914, p. 1167), following Lea's example, states "I use Lamarck's name for this species because the *U. testudinarius* and *truncatus* were only briefly and imperfectly described, and never figured, their habitats being given as Greenland." Spengler, however, correctly reported them as from "near Tranquebar," in India, and the brief Latin description was supplemented by a discussion in Danish far longer than most other early mussel descriptions (including those of Lamarck). The species had been incorrectly reported from Greenland before Spengler's time. Type specimens were

available, though not figured until 1913. A few workers have recently used *testudinarius* as the name for this species, so it can only be suppressed by the ICZN.

Crenodonta, Schlüter's other usable unionid genus, has been used in the past for *Amblema*, as *plicata* Say is the first included species. The first selection of a type species was by Herrmannsen (1852), who selected *Unio securis* "Deshayes" (actually Lea, 1829), as the type of *Crenodonta*. *Unio securis* Lea is a subjective synonym of *Obliquaria (Ellipsaria) ellipsaria* Rafinesque, 1820, the type of *Ellipsaria*. Thus, *Crenodonta* is actually a subjective synonym of *Ellipsaria* Rafinesque, 1820, rather than of *Amblema* Rafinesque, 1820.

Herrmannsen: Types and spelling.

As alluded to above, Herrmannsen designated type species for many mollusk genera. His *Indicis Generum Malacozoorum* (1846-1852) (Fig. 2) sought to list all higher taxa in the Mollusca (as then understood), starting with Aristotle. Often he designates a type species, not necessarily by modern rules nor following any previous designation, but sometimes it is the first designation. He also sought to improve the Latin by changing the spelling of many genera, rarely drastically (*Stenelasma* for *Lastena*). Despite its importance, it has not been consistently used by subsequent authors. For example, Ortmann and Walker (1922) cited Herrmannsen's type designation for *Rotundaria* (unfortunately not the earliest) but ignored others, such as for *Obovaria*.

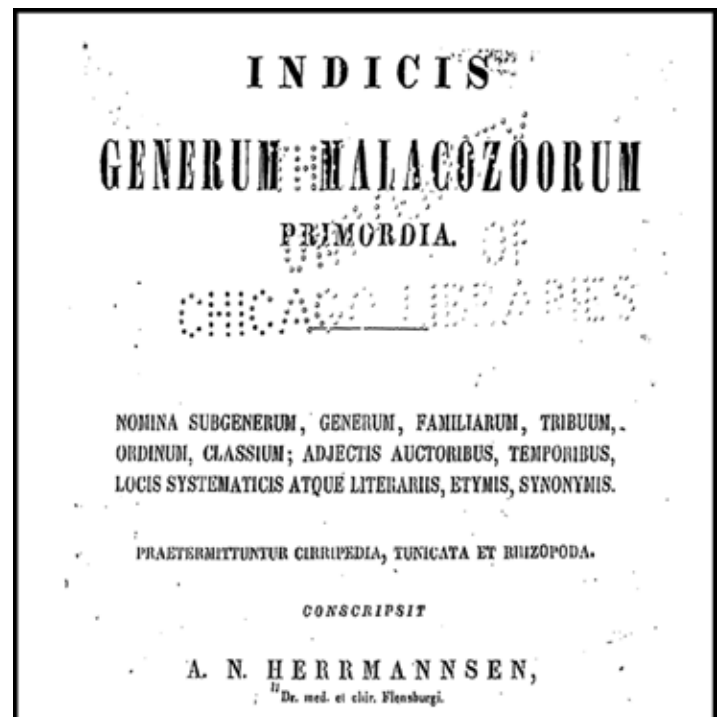


Fig. 2. Herrmannsen's *Indicis Generum Malacozoorum* (1846-1852).

Ens: automation has problems.

The genus *Ens* appeared in several online taxonomic compilations as a genus of Lymnaeidae. Information about the name was generally vague, with responsibility given to some other database. Eventually I tracked down an erroneous entry of *Pectinidens*, and that database was corrected, but the spurious name still appears in some places. Incorrect or insubstantial data (such as a name with no content) are widely copied between websites, highlighting the need for and lack of checking by taxonomists.

Smith, 1875a, b: Manual publishing can have problems, too.

Smith (1875a) described a new *Carinifex*, while in the immediately following article (1875b) he described a new species of *Alaba* (*Diala*) (now *Carinifex newberryi* and *Mainwaringia leithii*). The figures, but not the captions, were swapped (Fig. 3), with the curious result of a high-spired, operculate planorbis and a hyperstrophic sinistral littorinid. The second paper also illustrates the unhelpful practice of using a subgenus as if it were a genus. The text explicitly calls *Diala* a subgenus of *Alaba*, but uses *Diala* as if it were a full genus. It's important to read the whole article to check for such issues.

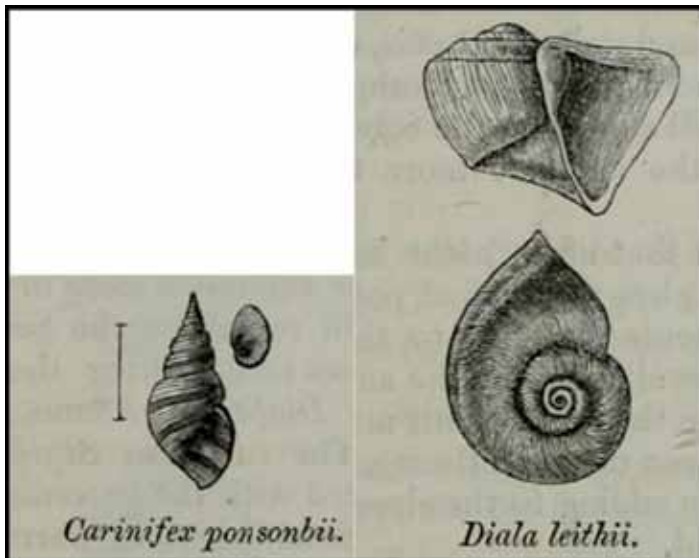


Fig. 3. Smith (1875a) swapped labels between his new *Carinifex ponsonbii* and *Alaba* (*Diala*) *leithii*.

Catascopia: why you should do all this.

Meier-Brook and Bargaes (2002) noted that the North American species assigned to *Stagnicola* (like the illustrated "*S.*" *exilis* in Fig. 4) were genetically different from most European species with similar shells, including the type of *Stagnicola*, and created *Catascopia*, distinguished only on molecular grounds. It is an objective synonym of



Fig. 4. *Stagnicola* (or *Catascopia*, or *Ladislavella*, or *Polyrhytis*, or...) *exilis* (I. Lea, 1834), 18 mm, the flat-whorled pond snail, has a wide distribution but an uncertain taxonomy. Photo by author

Walterlymnaea Starobogatov and Budnikova, 1976, and a subjective synonym of several other names. *Ladislavella* Dybowski, 1913, is the oldest name based on extant species, but *Polyrhytis* Meek, 1876, based on a fossil, is earlier.

Acknowledgements

Claudio Fanelli tracked down references on *Bocourtia*. Interlibrary loan provided many key sources.

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Editor's note: like many shell collectors I have been both fascinated and frustrated by taxonomy and systematics. Taxonomy is often confused with or incorrectly used interchangeably with systematics; they are very different, but could be thought of as two sides of a single coin. I am as far from expert as one can get, but with liberal use of Wikipedia.com and other sources (thanks Bruce), here is a simplified overview.

Taxonomy: the scientific description, identification, nomenclature, and classification of organisms.

Systematics: the study of the diversification of living forms, past and present, and relationships among living things through time. These are often represented as evolutionary trees (cladograms, phylogenetic trees, phylogenies).

Thus taxonomy concerns itself with the proper labeling of the specimen in the drawer while systematics concerns itself with the relationship of that specimen to others.

The oft-cited ICZN (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature) is, "Responsible for providing and regulating the system that ensures every animal has a unique and universally accepted scientific name." (www.iczn.org) This august body is there to ensure the nomenclatural rules are followed and to settle technical naming disputes, NOT to determine if a particular organism should be classified as a species, subspecies, or form; or placed in this or that genus or family. The myriad of new genera and subspecies for Conidae and Cypraeidae reflect different authors' views of the relationships (systematics) within these families, not ICZN determinations.

And now to **homonyms** and **synonyms**. There can be only one correct scientific name for an organism. Multiple names are either homonyms (if they are the identical name given by different authors or at different times to a 'single' organism) or synonyms (if they are different names given to a 'single' organism). A synonym is objective if the name is provided for a single organism with a specific type. Or it is subjective if the name is applied to organisms with different types (i.e., we thought they were two species, but then determined they are forms of a single species, so the junior name is a subjective synonym). Homonyms are either primary (same species name in the same genus) or secondary (the name is moved to a genus where another species already has that taxon). Usually the senior (oldest) name is deemed correct, but there are exceptions (here is where the ICZN comes in). This is a very simple explanation ignoring any number of exceptions and intricacies, but it is a start.

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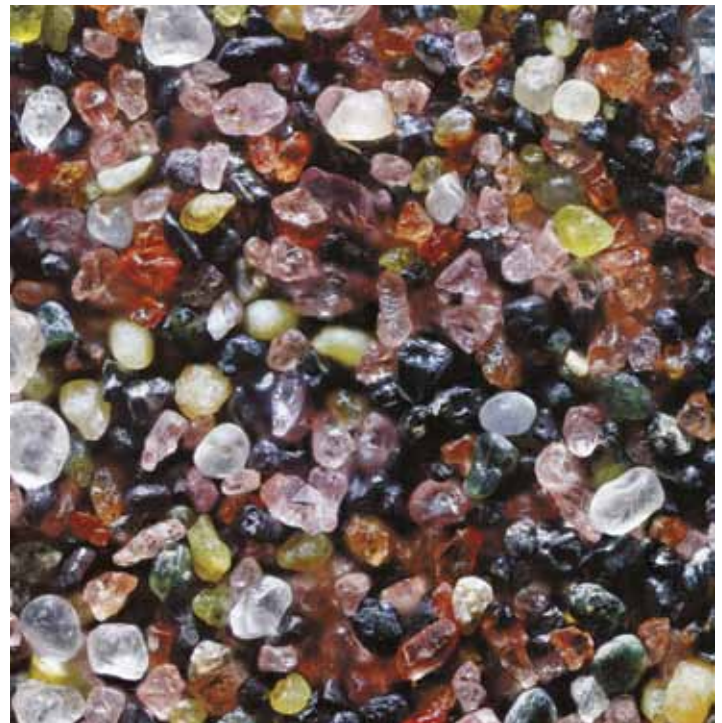
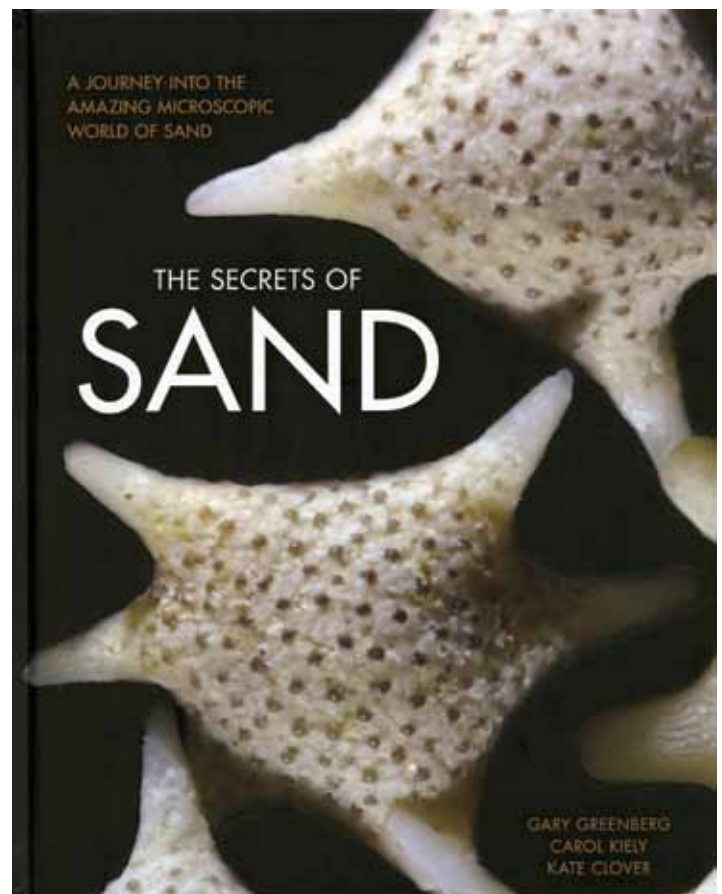
ISBN (hardback) 978-0-7603-4944-1

\$19.00 to \$27.00 at Amazon.com

No, this book is not about shells. There are a few shells pictured, but this is a book about sand, the ubiquitous grains that surround (and are often made up of) the shells we find on the beach. Most shell collectors end up with bags of “shell grit” that we will “get to eventually.” When we do examine these bags we use a magnifying glass to separate the shells from the sand. The authors of this wonderful little book have gone a step further and provide the reader with colorful high-definition microscopic images (“deep-focus, x-ray, and scanning electron microscope photography”) of grains of sand. The grains are shown three-dimensionally reconstructed, which means focusing the camera at a dozen different depths from the top of the grain to the bottom and then electronically recombining the images so that the entire grain is shown as sharply in focus. In some of the images these minute grains are fist-sized; in all of the images they are colorful, intricately-shaped, and quite often, stunning. Many are jewel-like, and in fact, many are miniature precious stones.

From Maine to Hawaii, and the Caribbean islands to Minnesota, what would appear when held in the hand to be ordinary sand is shown to be anything but, when greatly magnified. Brown beach sand is made up of a myriad of bright sparkling colors. While most of the images show sand from North American environs, there are also samples from around the world (e.g. India, the Mediterranean, England, Norway, Japan) and an entire chapter on the surprisingly colorful and wildly sculpted sands found on the moon. These are not moon rocks you have ever seen before.

Each image is well-captioned and there is plenty of text explaining the origins and intricacies of sand, whether on a beach, a desert sand dune, a mountain lake, or along a river. According to the authors, “...there are about five thousand billion *billion* grains of sand on all the beaches of the world – and that number is only the tip of the iceberg, it does not include all the grains of sand in the world’s deserts, lakes, and rivers and on the ocean bottom.” Sand is literally everywhere, but until you have looked at this book you have not really seen our world’s sands. For less than the cost of a restaurant meal you can own this treasure (5 out of 5 on Goggle “Good Reads”). And where else can you discover the three places on earth that ooid sand grains are created?



This is a reduced image of a portion of one of the color plates. What looks like brown sand is shown to be made of many colors: pink and red garnets, black magnetite and ilmenite, green epidote, white quartz, and blue-green diopside.

Nudibranchs Encyclopedia: Catalogue of Asia/Indo

Pacific Sea Slugs (2nd ed.)

by Neville Coleman (revised by
Gary Cobb and David Mullins)

Masalai Press, Oakland, CA, USA &
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Australia

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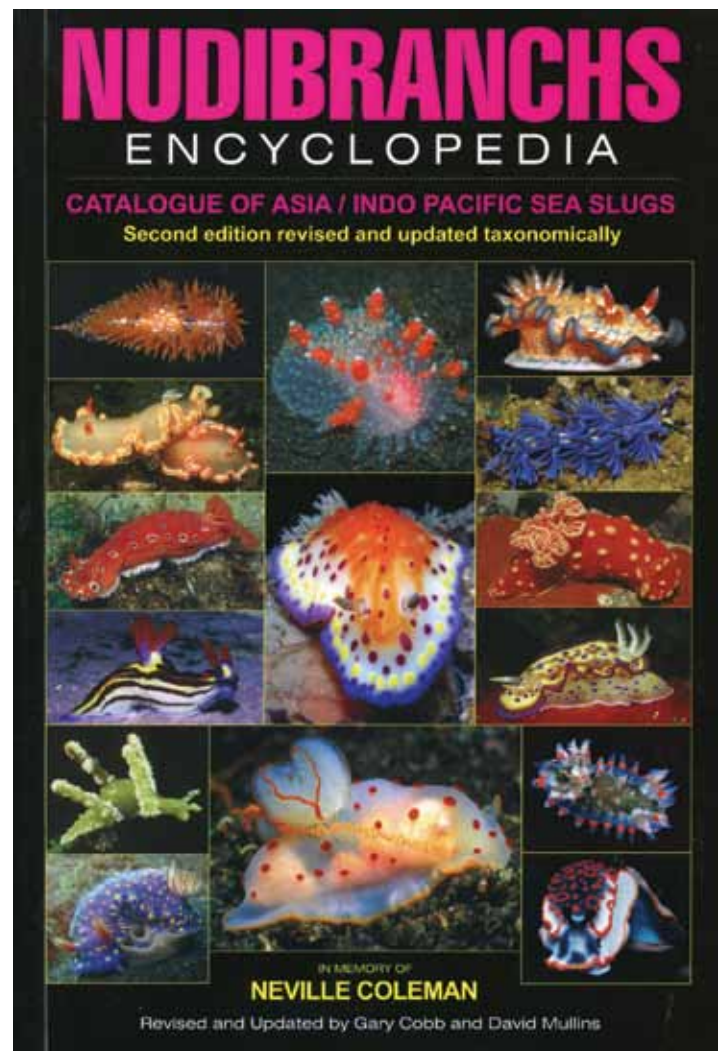
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This is an updated and revised edition of Neville Coleman's 2008 volume of the same title. Internet sites like Amazon.com list this first edition for sale, but I have only found the second edition for sale by the publisher at THSlone@yahoo.com or at nudibranch.com.au. It is worth the extra effort as this revision and update by Gary Cobb and David Mullins is THE reference for these amazing and colorful animals, reflecting the latest taxonomy and DNA research.

Before he passed away in 2012, Neville Coleman wrote numerous books on marine life, including three hazardous marine life books (*Poisonous Marine Life*, *Dangerous Marine Life*, and *Venomous Marine Life*), as well as: *Australian Marine Fish in Color* (1974), *Shell Collecting in Australia* (1976), *A Field Guide to Australian Marine Life* (1977), *Australian Fisherman's Guide* (1978), *Shells Alive!* (1981), *Australian sea fishes north of 30S* (1981), *A Field Guide to Marine Life of South-Eastern Australia* (1981), *Harmful Fishes of Australia* (1982), *Australian Sea Life South of Thirty Degrees South* (1987), *What Shell is That?* (1988), *2002 Sea Shells* (2003), *Sea Stars* (2007), *Great Barrier Reef* (2008), *1001 Nudibranchs* (2001), and the first edition of *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia* (2008). He developed a passion for nudibranchs (mollusks of the class Gastropoda, subclass Opisthobranchia, order Nudibranchia). The 57 families listed in this book are presented in alphabetical order, as are the various genera, and the almost 1200 species. The color plates are superb and include family, genus, species, author, date, size, locality, key identifying characters, and habitat. The general text covers the natural history of nudibranchs, discussing the five senses as they apply to these



critters and how they relate to their environment. In this second edition, common names have been dropped as being often confusing and of little real use. The index is a listing of the scientific names (genus and species) with corresponding page numbers. There is also a short glossary.

The best way to collect nudibranchs is with a camera. Actual specimens in museums lack the vivid colors of living specimens and are pretty much gray slugs in alcohol or formaldehyde. Useful for DNA and anatomy work, but not very collectable. On the other hand, every diver has seen a nudibranch and if you want to know what nudibranch you saw – this book is the answer. There is also the fact that most shell collectors have a wide interest in molluscan life, an interest that goes beyond the shelled mollusks. Nudibranchs are an important part of the marine environment and are some of the most colorful and graceful creatures in the sea. This rather inexpensive book is the way to learn more about them and appreciate the vast array of stunning colors, the multitude of color patterns, and the intriguing shapes of these shell-less gastropods. I cannot imagine anyone not being amazed as they leaf through this book.

Shell shops and art

Kenneth Wye

Just a few short steps from London's busy and noisy Charing Cross Road, tucked away in a small side street opposite Foyle's well-known bookshop, at one time you would have discovered one of London's most unusual shops and one that was to become a Mecca for shell collectors and lovers of natural objects. I say 'would have,' because it is now sadly no longer there, nor can you find it on Covent Garden's famous Neal Street where it moved in 1986 – only to close again in 1996. This, people have long told me, was also 'very sad.'

Back in the dark days of Nazi occupied Austria, Frederick Mayer (then 43 years old) owned and ran a prestigious fine leather goods and tapestry-making factory in Vienna. Because he was a Jew, he was forced to flee his homeland, leave his beloved business behind, and make his way, with his family and a few treasured possessions, to the shores of Holland. Crossing the English Channel, he eventually found refuge here in England. He needed to provide for his loved ones and, as official channels worked well for him, he was enabled to establish a new business in 1938, specializing in handmade goods of natural raffia, cane, and bamboo, which were made into hats, bags, mirror frames, beach shoes, table mats, lamp shades, etc. He called the firm Eaton Bag Company Ltd.

Seashells made their appearance at the shop in the mid-1950s when F.M. was persuaded by a gentleman from East Africa to 'try' to sell some of his shells. Eaton was never the same again, and before long the Eaton Shell Shop was established and became an almost household name!

'Eaton' was actually a miss-spelling! Because he and his family would be eternally grateful for British sanctuary, he wanted to name his new firm something typically English – so he decided on the famous Eton College name, you can see where he went wrong! The name remained and became quite familiar with many shell-enthusiasts over the years!

I arrived on the scene in 1966, having become, as a young 18-19 year-old, bored working in government offices which, it turned out, were fortunately nearby on the other side of Charing Cross Road. I purchased shells originally for my artwork, but I quickly learned their names, fell in love with them, and became a collector. One day I asked if F.M. had any vacancies and to cut the story short, he took me on as a sales assistant.

I often regret not having asked F.M. more about his background and also not having more than just mental notes of all the incredible happenings and goings on in this amazing little central London shop. It warrants a book on the subject! In its heyday and height of popularity, Eaton boasted



The Eaton shop from 1946 to 1986.



The Eaton shop from 1986 to 1996.



Inside the original shop. Looks like a shell collector's dream, lots of small bins with who knows what hidden treasures.

selling a range of such things as common and rare seashells, books and old cabinets, related marine curiosities, minerals, crystals fossils, cut & polished stones, insects in amber, meteorites, tectites, exclusive hand-made jewelry of amber, coral & opals, as well as the selection of natural woven raf-fias, rush, reed, grass, cane and bamboo. Eaton also sold straw hats from Italy and Indonesian 'Tapa Cloth' (woven from tree bark).

Eaton supplied shells (and a host of other items) to film, television, theatrical and stage companies for props and scenery, etc, and we were frequently mentioned, free of charge, in articles in most of the well-known magazines, from those given away free, to the likes of *Vogue*, *Tatler*, *Harper's Bazaar*, etc. All wanted our goods as they were mostly unique to us as we did our own importing.

Amongst our many thousands of clients, were serious collectors, scientists, biology lecturers, artists, designers, interior and advertising companies, and a host of everyday folk who wanted that special gift that you could not buy elsewhere. Being in the heart of theatre-land and in the West End, well known people often passed through our door. These included Vincent Price (a shell collector), Sir John Gielgud, Richard Briars, Michael Bentine, Rolf Harris, The Beatles, Felicity Kendall, and Elaine Page (who lived at that time just around the corner). Later, in Covent Garden, we had Lord Glenconner and Peter Palumbo call and, accompanied by her usual cigarette, Princess Margaret closely watched by her bodyguard. She bought some shells and later realized that she already had one of them so returned it. I issued her a credit note; I don't think it was ever redeemed with us!

During my shop days, I was approached by publishers to write three shell books, all of which, sadly, are now out of print. Although the shops have long closed (1996) due to excessive overheads, I am happy to say that I'm still going



Ken in the old shop in 1977, labeled by the Sunday Telegraph Newspaper as one of "London's Most Unusual Shops."

strong, working from home selling worldwide shells by mail order via my website (www.eatonsseashells.co.uk) and my Ebay 'shop.'

My artwork still commands a lot of my leisure time and I have recently re-kindled the urge to paint more shells. Back in the early 1980s I entered an exhibit of my work in the shell art section of the British Shell Collector's Club annual show and although wanting to give my exhibit 'best in show,' the eminent judges in their wisdom (including Mr Peter Dance) thought it unwise as 'it wasn't actually shells' and possibly some people may object.

Because of the publicity, I gained several commissions and I have sold shell art paintings on and off ever since. I have had no real art tuition; it was one of the things that 'I was born with' and my work over the years has comprised landscapes, buildings (the older the better), flowers, and my great love, shells.

In my shell art in particular, I was greatly influenced by the spectacular and rare books in the Linnean Society, London. I recall a wonderful visit to their library and where I saw such works as the original Martyn's *Universal Conchologist* (1784-1787), Reeve's *Conchologia Iconica* (1843-1878), Perry's *Conchology* (1811), and Swainson's *Exotic Conchology* (1821-1831), to name but a few. It was sheer joy to browse through these fine books admiring the superb quality of artwork, many shells looked so real you could almost pick them up from the page! It is my endeavour always to produce shell paintings that are good enough to make you feel you could 'pick them up' from the paper. I hope I am achieving that goal.

If any readers would like a painting of your favourite shell(s), which would be great to hang on your shell-room or study wall, or make an unusual gift, please contact me by e-mail for full details and offers: ken@eatonsseashells.co.uk, or write via my website (address above).

Some of Ken Wye's paintings



Epitonium scalare (Linnaeus, 1758)



Nerita peloronta Linnaeus, 1758



Gloripallium pallium (Linnaeus, 1758)



Liguus virgineus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Nautilus pompilius Linnaeus, 1758



Xenophora granulosa Ponder, 1983



Murex pecten Lightfoot, 1786

Additionally, Ken's *Hexaples nigrita* (Philippi, 1845) is featured on the back cover of this issue. Also, some of Ken's books (still available on Amazon.com) include: *The Mitchell Beazley pocket guide to shells of the world* (1989), *Simon and Schuster Pocket Guide to Shells of the World* (1990), *Encyclopedia of Shells* (1991), *Shell Handbook* (2010), *The Shell Collector's Handbook: The Essential Field Guide for Exploring the World of Shells* (2015).

First record of the predatory land snail *Streptostele (Tomostele) musaecola* (Pulmonata: Streptaxidae) in the continental United States

Jochen Gerber & Stephanie A. Clark

Hausdorf & Medina Bermúdez (2003) elucidated the taxonomic history of the streptaxid *Streptostele (Tomostele) musaecola* (Morelet, 1860) and summarized its distribution. *Streptostele musaecola* was described from West Africa where its presumed native range extends from Guinea to the Congo. As a “tramp species” it has been introduced into islands of the Pacific: Vanuatu (Solem 1989), the Fiji Islands (Brodie & Barker 2012a, b), American Samoa (Solem 1989, Cowie 1998), the Cook Islands (Brook 2010, Brook et al. 2010), the Society Islands (Solem 1989), Central and northern South America, and the Caribbean (Hausdorf & Medina Bermúdez 2003, Robinson et al. 2009); additional records not mentioned in these references: Puerto Rico (S.A. Clark, unpublished); and Bermuda (Bieler & Slapcinsky 2000).

Given its wide anthropogenic distribution, especially in the West Indies and Bermuda, it was probably only a matter of time until the species would make its way to the North American mainland. That time has now come as we report here on the first record of *S. musaecola* for the continental United States. The species was found by the authors along Old Cutler Road, near the entrances to the eastern and western parts of Matheson Hammock Park, Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County, Florida (25°40'53.06"N 80°16'23.42"W), on July 18, 2015. No live specimens were observed but several of the empty shells collected are fresh and transparent.

Old Cutler Road bisects Matheson Hammock Park. The park area on both sides of the road is a hardwood hammock growing on the Miami Rock Ridge. Several juvenile specimens of *Liguus fasciatus* were spotted on tree trunks. All other snails were found under leaf litter, coral-limestone rocks, and woody debris. A complete list of gastropods observed at the site is given in the Table. Voucher specimens are deposited in the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Chicago, IL.

In total, we were able to record 39 gastropod taxa along Old Cutler Road. Of the 37 taxa identified to species level, an impressive 13 (or 35%) are introduced, non-native species. Florida has long been known as fertile ground for exotic species from monkeys to pythons to fish to invertebrates and plants. Florida ranks second in the U.S. in the production of horticultural and floricultural products (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) and exotic plants are not only bred and exported from here but also imported to be cultivated in Florida. In general, the horticultural industry is an important vector for non-native plants and snails that travel together with them (Cowie et



Streptostele musaecola from Old Cutler Road, Miami, Florida (FMNH 344667).

al. 2008). In particular, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, with a decades-long history of importing tropical plants from all over the globe, abuts the southern end of Matheson Hammock Park east of Old Cutler Road. We don't know, of course, whether Old Cutler Road represents or is near the site of the earliest introduction of *S. musaecola*, but clearly possibilities for such an introduction abound in the area.

Streptaxid snails are carnivorous; they feed on invertebrates including other snails. Very little is known, though, about the effect of introduced streptaxids on native snail populations. It has been speculated (Miller 1993) that *S. musaecola* may have played a role in the extinction of the endemic Samoan partulid snail *Samoana abbreviata* (Mousson, 1869) but there is no hard evidence for this. Given the diversity and abundance of other, carnivorous and non-carnivorous, introduced gastropods in Florida, the carnivores may well prey to a large degree on other alien species and even on each other. Nevertheless, the discovery of another predatory snail in the continental U.S. is troublesome and negative effects on native snails and slugs can't be ruled out.

Table of specimens collected along Old Cutler Road, near the entrances to the eastern and western parts of Matheson Hammock Park, Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County, Florida (25°40'53.06"N 80°16'23.42"W), on July 18, 2015.

Species	Family	Native/Alien	Annotation #
<i>Bradybaena similaris</i> (Férussac, 1821)	Bradybaenidae	alien	
<i>Bulimulus guadalupensis</i> (Bruguière, 1789)	Bulimulidae	alien	
<i>Drymaeus multilineatus</i> (Say, 1825)	Bulimulidae	native	
<i>Euconulus chersinus</i> (Say, 1821)	Euconulidae	native	
<i>Guppya gundlachi</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1839)	Euconulidae	native	
<i>Cecilioides apertus</i> (Swainson, 1840)	Ferussaciidae	alien	
<i>Zonitoides arboreus</i> (Say, 1816)	Gastrodontidae	native	
<i>Ovachlamys fulgens</i> (Gude, 1900)	Helicarionidae	alien	
<i>Helicina clappi</i> Pilsbry, 1909	Helicinidae	native	
<i>Oligyra orbiculata</i> Say, 1818	Helicinidae	native	
<i>Melaniella gracillima</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1839)	Oleacinidae	native	
<i>Liguus fasciatus</i> (O.F. Müller, 1774)	Orthalicidae	native	
<i>Glyphyalinia umbilicata</i> (Cockerell, 1893)	Oxychilidae	native	
<i>Nesovitrea dalliana</i> (Pilsbry & Simpson, 1889)	Oxychilidae	native	
Philomycidae	Philomycidae	?	1
<i>Zachrysia provisorica</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1858)	Pleurodontidae	alien	
<i>Zachrysia trinitaria</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1858)	Pleurodontidae	alien	2
<i>Daedalochila uvulifera</i> (Shuttleworth, 1852)	Polygyridae	native	
<i>Polygyra septemvolva</i> Say, 1818	Polygyridae	native	
<i>Chondropoma dentatum</i> (Say, 1825)	Pomatiidae	native	
<i>Hawaiiia minuscula</i> (A. Binney, 1841)	Pristilomatidae	native	
<i>Lacteoluna selenina</i> (Gould, 1848)	Sagdidae	native	
cf. Scolodontidae	? Scolodontidae	? alien	3
<i>Euglandina rosea</i> (Férussac, 1818)	Spiraxidae	native	
<i>Huttonella bicolor</i> (Hutton, 1834)	Streptaxidae	alien	
<i>Streptostele musaecola</i> (Morelet, 1860)	Streptaxidae	alien	4
<i>Allopeas gracile</i> (Hutton, 1843)	Subulinidae	alien	
<i>Beckianum beckianum</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1846)	Subulinidae	alien	
<i>Lamellaxis micrus</i> (d'Orbigny, 1835)	Subulinidae	alien	
<i>Opeas hannense</i> (Rang, 1831)	Subulinidae	alien	5
<i>Subulina octona</i> (Bruguière, 1792)	Subulinidae	alien	
<i>Thysanophora plagiopycha</i> (Shuttleworth, 1854)	Thysanophoridae	native	
<i>Cochlodinella poeyana</i> (d'Orbigny, 1841)	Urocoptidae	native	
<i>Microceramus pontificus</i> (Gould, 1848)	Urocoptidae	native	
<i>Pupisoma dioscoricola</i> (C. B. Adams, 1845)	Valloniidae	native	
<i>Pupisoma macneilli</i> (G. H. Clapp, 1918)	Valloniidae	native	
<i>Gastrocopta contracta</i> (Say, 1822)	Vertiginidae	native	
<i>Gastrocopta pellucida</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1841)	Vertiginidae	native	
<i>Gastrocopta rupicola</i> (Say, 1821)	Vertiginidae	native	

Annotations to the species list:

1. The only two slug specimens are unfortunately both small, most probably juvenile. They clearly belong to the family Philomycidae which has American as well as Asian species. Investigations are underway to clarify the taxonomic status of these specimens.

2. The larger of the two *Zachrysia* species introduced into Florida from Cuba had previously been referred to as *Z. auricoma* (Férussac, 1821) (e.g., Turgeon et al. 1998, Robinson 1999). More recently (e.g., Auffenberg et al. 2011) it has been called *Zachrysia trinitaria* (L. Pfeiffer, 1858), based on anatomical data (D.G. Robinson *in litt.* 2015).

3. Two empty shells were first thought to represent a second species of the North American genus *Glyphyalinia* but didn't match any of its species. We now consider that this might be another introduction, possibly of a member of the Neotropical family Scolodontidae (= Systrophiiidae). The shells are rather featureless and only live-collected material will eventually reveal their identity.

4. *S. musaecola* had been reported from the Neotropics under the synonymous name *Luntia insignis* E.A. Smith, 1898 (Hausdorf & Medina Bermúdez 2003).

5. The name *Opeas hannense* (Rang, 1831) replaces the older, but in its original combination (*Helix goodalli*) preoccupied name *Opeas goodallii* (Miller, 1822) and the junior synonym *O. pumilum* (L. Pfeiffer, 1840) (Proschwitz 1994, Cowie 1998).

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COA *Neptunea* Award

Many of us are beginning plans for the 2016 COA Convention in Chicago, IL. One of the many events on the agenda is the annual COA *Neptunea* Award(s), and it is once again my privilege to call for nominations.

The consensus of the COA Board is to reopen nominations with a “clean slate” annually. **Nominees not selected in previous years are certainly welcome for consideration if renominated - in fact their renomination is encouraged.** For the present cycle, nominations will close on June 1, 2016 so as to allow ample time for deliberation before the convention.

By way of background, the *Neptunea* Award (Brunner, 2000; Lipe, 2000) was established at the midyear (1999-2000) meeting of the COA Board in order to recognize outstanding and distinguished service to conchologists and malacologists in recognition of:

1. Service to the Conchologists of America.

AND/OR

2. Service to the scientific interests of Conchologists of America.

AND/OR

3. Service to the science of Malacology as it applies to conchologists anywhere. Although notable exceptions have been made, the COA Board, which serves as the jury for the *Neptunea* Award, has traditionally weighed its consideration for award recipients toward (1) amateurs: those not currently pursuing a principal career involving collection, study, or commerce of mollusks, (2) individuals “working behind the scenes” and relatively unrecognized in the COA world, for their contributions, and (3) active members of the COA. Up to three awards have been made at our annual conventions beginning with the Houston event in 2000 (see below). Nomination(s) for the *Neptunea* Award may be made by any COA member, and the format is simple:

Name of nominee:

This person deserves this award because (Here a somewhat detailed paragraph will suffice.)

..... Signed

and either snailmail or email that nomination to the COA *Neptunea* Award Coordinator [currently me]:

Harry G. Lee

4132 Ortega Forest Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32210 / shells@hglee.com]

Previous *Neptunea* Award winners:

2000 (Houston, TX): Ross Gunderson, Ben & Josy
Wiener, Debbie Wills

2001 (Port Canaveral, FL): Emilio Garcia, Harry Lee,
Lynn Scheu

2002 (Sarasota, FL): Richard Petit, Bernard & Phyllis
Pipher

2003 (Tacoma, WA) Jim and Linda Brunner, Kevin
Lamprell, Doris Underwood

2004 (Tampa, FL): Bobbi Houchin

2005 (Punta Rassa, FL): Richard Forbush, Anne Joffe,
William Lyons

2006 (Mobile, AL): Jack Lightbourn, Betty Lipe

2007 (Portland, OR): none given

2008 (San Antonio, TX): Bill Frank, Archie Jones

2009 (Clearwater, FL) none given

2010 (Boston, MA): none given

2011 (Port Canaveral, FL): Alan Gettleman

2012 (Cherry Hill, NJ): Gary Rosenberg, Martin
Avery Snyder

2013 (Sarasota, FL): David & Lucille Green, Marlo
Krisberg, & Charles Rawlings

2014 (Wilmington, NC): Colin Redfern, Tom Rice

2015 (Weston, FL) John and Cheryl Jacobs; Kevan &
Linda Sunderland

Philadelphia Shell Show 2015

Al Schilling (Club President)



Al Schilling (L) presents the COA Award to winner Allen Bennett (R) for his superb entry, “Zoila.” He also took Best Shell of Show with his *Zoila mariellae*.

The 2015 Philadelphia Shell Show was actually the 33rd edition. It started in 1983 at Drexel University, took a hiatus in 1985 when we hosted the COA Convention, then moved to the Academy of Natural Sciences in 1986, where it remains today. The show seems to have gotten easier to put on over the years, partly from having it at the same location every year, but more importantly because of the tremendous support the club has from the Academy staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the key Academy staff that helped put the show on this year. Collections Manager Paul Callomon was again this year the main “go to” person at the Academy who saw that everything worked the way it should. Bruce Tepper again saw that our exhibits were properly lit. This necessitated many, many trips up and down his ladder. Keith, Jamal, and the Cleantech crew were very cooperative setting up both the exhibit and bourse tables. The contributions of the following Academy staff were also greatly appreciated: Hollie Barattolo, Ellen Wildner, Gary Rosenberg and Mike Beers. Lastly, I would like to welcome Nasreen “Nas” Phillips to her first Philadelphia Shell Show. She was everywhere from the parking lot to the bourse to the book sale cart. We hope to see much more of Nas in the future.

On the club side of things, I would like to thank J. B. Sessoms and Mary Jane Schilling for the long hours they put in setting things up. The following club members also contributed to the success of the show: Nick and Betty Ruggeri, Elaine McDonald, Mike Gage, Rich Kirk, Tommy Thomp-



Allen Bennett’s Best Shell of Show: *Zoila mariellae* Raybaudi, 1983. A classic rarity – seldom seen, much less part of any Cypraeidae collection.

son, Richard Kaplan, and Tom Grace. I want to welcome Brittany and Deven to their first show as club members. Deven was instrumental in getting Regis’s ship down to the Academy! Thank you Tom for bringing us some of your fine apples, and mega thanks to Sue for donating that fantastic table of shells for the raffle.

While the number of exhibits was fewer this year, the quality of the exhibits was just as high as it has been in the past few years. It took the judges three hours to make their final decisions, and even though I listened very closely during the show, I didn’t hear a single complaint about the judging. Our judges were Lauren Duguid and Wendy Marshall on the artistic side and Rich Goldberg and Art Bogan on the scientific side. Club exhibitors in the scientific category were Tommy Thompson, Tom Grace, Nick and Betty Ruggeri, Regis D’Angolini and Al Schilling.

Some of the 2015 Philadelphia Major Shell Show Awards:

DuPont Trophy: “Mr. Seashell and North Carolina’s marine mollusks”, **Ed Shuller & Jeanette Tysor**, NC.

Master’s Award: “Worldwide Calliostomatidae”, **Tom Grace**, Alburtis, PA.

Conchologists of America Award: “*Zoila*,” **Allen Bennett**, Kerrville, TX.

2015 Philadelphia Shell Show Special Award: “Patterns in Nature,” **Al Schilling**, Glenside, PA.

- Best Shell of Show: *Zoila mariellae*, **Allen Bennett**, Kerrville, TX.

- Regional, any source: “North Carolina’s marine mollusks”, **Ed Shuller & Jeanette Tysor**, NC

- Themed collection: “Seashells from shipwrecks”, **Regis D’Angolini**, Abington, PA.

40th NC Shell Show 2015 – Wilmington, NC



Vicky Wall, winner of the COA Award (and People's Choice Award) for her display: "You're Going Where? Worldwide Self-Collected Shells." Vicky also had the winning photograph, "*Nodipecten fragosus*" and the best self-collected shell, *Nerita peloronta*, a large 40.49 mm specimen.

The 40th NC Shell Show was held in Wilmington, at the Cape Fear Museum of Science and History. A large group of shell club members arrived early to prepare tables for exhibits, club sales, giveaway, and vendors. Those working to move, cover, skirt the tables, and lay out the exhibits were: Doug & Nancy Wolfe, Wanda Collins, Susan O'Connor, Susan & Alex Rotman, Vicky Wall, Karlynn Morgan, George Dick, Bill Bennight, Susan Ross, Jeannette Tysor, Ed Shuller, Ruth Drye, David Bunn, Betsy Bluethenthal, Ed's sister Carol Powers, Karlynn Morgan's nephew Rob Bertram and his friend Daniel Ezzo; all under the direction of Shell Show Chairman, John Timmerman and Vice President, Everett Long. Total attendance at the 2015 shell show was 580. Bill Lyons and Brian Hayes were the scientific judges, Nancy Timmerman was the arts & craft judge, There were over 200 feet of scientific exhibits, 30+ feet of artistic exhibits, and exhibitors from Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Massachusetts.

Some of the 2015 North Carolina Major Shell Show Awards:

DuPont Trophy: John Timmerman "Selected Components of Shell Show Exhibits."

Conchologists of America Trophy: Vicky Wall "You're Going Where? Worldwide Self-Collected Shells."

Dean & Dottie Weber Environmental Awareness Trophy: Sheila Nugent "Living the Mangrove Life."

Hugh Porter Trophy for Western Atlantic Mollusks: Ed Shuller and Jeannette Tysor "Mr. Seashell and NC Marine Mollusks."

Victoria "Vicky" Wall Educational Award Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the NC Shell Show: John Timmerman, "Selected Components of Shell Show Exhibits."

Best Shell in Show: Ronald Hill, *Peretrochus oishii*.

Best Self-Collected Shell in Show: Vicky Wall, *Nerita peloronta*.

Alta VanLandingham Award for Best Self-Collected Exhibit: Sheila Nugent, "Red Truck Adventures, Freshwater Mussels of Maine."

Best NC Exhibit: Ed Shuller and Jeannette Tysor, "Mr. Seashell and NC Marine Mollusks."

Best Novice Exhibit: Alex Rotman, "Self-Collected Shells from Portsmouth Island NC and Captiva Island Florida."

Best Junior Exhibit: Alex Rotman, "Self-Collected Shells from Portsmouth Island NC and Captive Island Florida."

People's Choice Award: Vicky Wall, "You're Going Where?"



Demonstrating that there are still young people interested in conchology, Alex Rotman won the Junior and Novice Awards.

2016 COA Convention Chicago, IL

July 27-31, 2016

(July 25 & 26 Field Trips)



The Chicago Shell Club cordially invites all shell enthusiasts to join us July 27-31, 2016, for “Shellebrate Chicago” COA 2016.

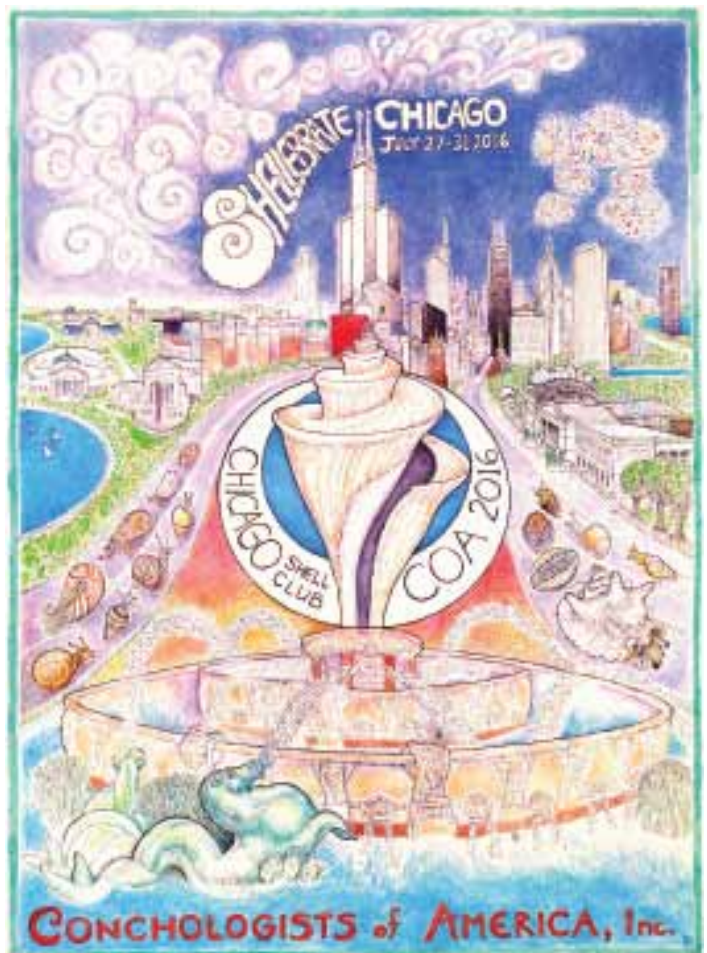
The Crowne Plaza in Rosemont, Illinois, will be home to the Conchologists of America annual convention just minutes from Chicago O’Hare International Airport. On Monday and Tuesday there are pre-conference field trips. The conference convenes Wednesday morning and concludes with the Bourse on Saturday and Sunday.

There is a free shuttle to the hotel, so no need to rent a car. There are many restaurants in the area and the Fashion Outlets of Chicago just out the back door. Room rates are \$148 (plus tax) for single occupancy, which includes free parking, WiFi, fitness center, and breakfast. Double occupancy is \$158 (plus tax) {\$10 for the 2nd breakfast} and \$248 (plus tax) for suites. These rates are available for 3 days before and 3 days after the convention.

For hotel reservations, call Toll Free: 888-233-9527, international callers call 847-671-6350 or go to: <https://goo.gl/nhuhJC>. Reservation code is Conchologists of America. Deadline for convention rate is July 6, 2016.

The 2016 COA Convention will be a family event. We encourage you to bring your spouse, children, and grandchildren – there is so much to do in Chicago. There is a shuttle that will take you to the “Blue Line,” which takes you right to downtown Chicago. The list of museums and things to do is more than anyone can do in a week. Some highlights include:

- *Chicago Art Institute
- *Blues Concerts and Dinner
- *Grant Park Symphony Orchestra
- *Millennium Park (see the famous “Bean”)
- *Adler Planetarium
- *John G. Shedd Aquarium (pre-convention field trip planned)
- *Field Museum of Natural History (pre-convention field trip planned)



*Field Museum of Science and Industry (pre-convention field trip planned)

*The Magnificent Mile (shop until you drop!)

*Fabulous restaurants to please all

*and much, much more!

There will also be some special activities for children under 14, as well as a special COA child’s rate.

The pre-Convention field trips will be something you won't want to miss.



FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Field Museum is among the great natural history museums in the world, with first rate exhibitions and a collection of more than 24 million specimens and artifacts. The most widely known specimen is Sue, the most complete and best-preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil yet discovered. The Field Museum's mollusk collection ranks among the largest in the world with ca. 350,000 cataloged lots.

Dr. Jochen Gerber will lead those interested in a behind the scenes tour with highlights of the mollusk collection as well as some of the mollusks and other invertebrates on exhibit. For more about the Field Museum of Natural History, go to <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/> and <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/invertebrates>



JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM

The aquarium contains 32,000 animals representing 1500 species, including: fish, coral, marine mammals, birds, snakes, amphibians, and insects. The tour offers access to the permanent exhibitions, including: the Wild Reef (the recreation of a Philippine coral reef), Amazon Rising (representing the Amazon River and the surrounding jungle), and

an aquatic show in the Oceanarium featuring belugas, dolphins, and sea lions. There will also be an opportunity to learn about the research and conservation work conducted by the Shedd staff. For more information about the Shedd Aquarium, visit <http://www.sheddaquarium.org/>



MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

It is the largest science museum in the western hemisphere, bringing science to life with award-winning exhibits and immersive experiences. On its 350,000 square feet (approximately 8 acres), it presents over 2,000 exhibits in many fields, including technology, agriculture, transportation, energy, and communications.

Spark your imagination and indulge your curiosity in the Museum's engaging exhibits. From the beloved Coal Mine to the latest temporary exhibit, you'll be exposed to bold science and interactive learning experiences in an eye-opening, awe-inspiring environment. Other featured attractions include the Henry Crown Space Center, Science Storms, Ships through the Ages and the German WWII submarine U-505. For information go to: <http://www.msichicago.org/>



LINCOLN PARK ZOO

The Lincoln Park Zoo, founded in 1868, is one of the oldest zoos in the U.S and is internationally recognized as one of the largest conservation centers in the world. The zoo's exhibits include big cats, gorillas, reptiles, monkeys, and other species totaling about 1,100 animals from some 200 species. Its Conservation & Science Department runs

one of the largest zoo-based research and conservation programs in the country.

See unique exhibitions, such as the African Journey and the Center for African Apes and get **behind-the-scenes access** to areas usually closed to the public. For more about the zoo, go to: <http://www.lpzoo.org/>



ARCHITECTURAL BOAT TOUR

The **Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) River Cruise** is consistently recognized as the best way to see Chicago. Learn about the architecture and design of over 50 buildings as described by CAF-Certified Volunteer docents and guides on this 90-minute tour. Open-air and air-conditioned seating is available. Full service bar onboard each vessel. Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH-ZDcGpZNs>



LAKE MICHIGAN DINNER CRUISE

Chicago's world-famous skyline is best enjoyed from the waters of Lake Michigan. The casual, yet lively, atmosphere of a *Mystic Blue* Dinner Cruise in Chicago is a terrific way to cap off the day with a group of friends. Watch the sun set on the horizon and the Chicago skyline light up as you enjoy panoramic views including iconic sights like Willis Tower, Navy Pier, and John Hancock Center.

Savor a delicious buffet dinner on board the *Mystic Blue* and have a drink from the cash bar while taking in the unparalleled view of downtown Chicago. See all the details at: <http://www.mysticbluecruises.com/chicago/cruises/specialty/lake-breeze>

POST-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP, AUGUST 1 & 2

We are planning a two day land and freshwater collecting trip to the Mississippi on Aug. 1-2, staying in a local hotel overnight. We will arrange for transportation and will make a hotel reservation. If you are interested in participating please send an email to jgerber@fieldmuseum.org. Please indicate whether you need transportation or plan to drive your own car. In the latter case, please also let us know whether you will drive back to Chicago and if so, how many passengers will you be able to accommodate.



WELCOME PARTY

The Welcome party will be held at the famous Field Museum of Natural History under the best preserved Tyrannosaurus ever found, Sue. The theme for the Welcome party is "Shellebration" and the attire is anything shell – so pull out those shirts, skirts, and jewelry that have a shell motif.

The Chicago Shell Club members are excited and enthusiastic to welcome you all to the city of Chicago!



COA Committee pictured (l to r): Lee Kremer, Ken Mattes, Jan Kremer, Dr. Stephanie Clark, Rebecca Gray Smith, Dr. Jochen Gerber, Theresa Jaffe, Lynn Funkhouser, Amanda Lawless, Kathy Frank, Linda Young, Zoe Frost, Katarina Frost and Evan Frost.




Chicago skyline from Northerly Island looking northwest. Wikipedia.com



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Quarterly Journal of the Conchologists of America, Inc.

Our Program Committee is working hard to bring some exciting and wonderful programs for your enjoyment. We are looking for input as to what types of programs you would like to see, i.e. travelogues, technical/research oriented, pretty pictures, etc. You can send your input to 2016coa@gmail.com.

Don't forget the fabulous Silent and Oral Auctions where you can get some great deals on shells you won't want to miss! Donations can be sent to Jan Kremer, 4511 Prime Parkway, McHenry IL 60050.

One of our Oral Auction items will be the framed original artwork for the 2016 COA Convention, by Rebecca Gray Smith of the Chicago Shell Club.

The 2016 COA will end with the Dealer's Bourse. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom and we are sure there will be shells to please all! So don't delay, reserve your hotel room and register for a COA you won't want to miss! For more details of the COA 2016 Convention, go to the website: www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions or email 2016COA@gmail.com



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