



OFFER: 201 TO 400

On 22 February 2018, Conchology Inc, send out the first email with a “SET”. It was the start of the now well-known daily “OFFER” emails the customers and members receive in their mailboxes.

Guido Poppe writes daily an often interesting description on a specific shell or family or special locality. In the beginning the texts were short and to the point. But as time progressed, the texts became more elaborate with many interesting tidbits of information.

Fast forward 2 years and on May 15. The 500th offer was send out. To celebrate, we decided to bundle the emails and produce free eBooks for you.

We wish you “happy conchological reading”.

Guido and Philippe Poppe



OFFER 201 HYGROMIIDS FROM CRETE

Here a second batch of this rich European family that counts some very nice Mediterranean species. Crete is particularly rich in Hygromiids and here a varied offer, including the wonderful *Xerocrassa amphiconus*. This is a seldom seen species with a great shape!





OFFER 202 THE *CODAKIA INTERRUPTA*

Is one out of three *Codakia* from the Philippines, but it is the least common one: seldom encountered. Here a splendid set with bright yellow interiors in most. Differs from the mainly Australian *paytenorum* which has a pink interior in general.





OFFER 203 WESTERN *KRYNICKII*

Some very “western” samples of the interesting *krynickii*. This snail is dispersed all around the Black Sea, but also in some of the Greek Islands and offshore southern Turkey. Welter-Schultz mentions the discovery of *krynickii* shells in a bronze age shipwreck 3300 years old.





OFFER 204 THE *CODAKIA PAYTENORUM*

Is a more southern *Codakia*, typical for Australian waters. The outside resembles the *Philippine interrupta*, but the overall tinge is pinkish. Studies make one suspect this is an essentially distinct species.





OFFER 205 *CALLONIA* OF CUBA

This *Callonia* is a spectacular classic with a great sculpture. The top whorls are virtually always missing. Described by the famous Poey, a naturalist figured on many Cuban stamps. “*Callonia*” are amazing snails and endemic to Cuba.





OFFER 206 THE *GRANULINA MARGARITULA*

This is a curious species: the *Granulina margaritula* looks like a tropical species, but in fact it lives in glacial waters: from the very cold Alaskan seas to the very fresh waters of Baja California and south to Panama. Here some specimens from the coldest area: Alaska, Japonski Island.





OFFER 207 THE *ORANIA GASKELLI*

The *Orania gaskelli* is a remarkable species which few will be able to find themselves. We repeatedly - at least half a dozen times - found some sparse examples either on sunken tree trunks or on shells of coconuts, usually between 10 and 25 meters deep. It possibly explains the “wood” coloration of the shells.





OFFER 208 *NASSARIUS IODES*

Is seldom seen in collections, and even rarer in the modern literature. Keen (1971) gives a drawing and Kaicher shows two photographs of a “drilled” dead collected piece. Here a fine set from Guaymas. According to Kaicher this is a Gulf of California species, but Keen also mentions Panama.





OFFER 209 RARE AND UNCOMMON EUROPEAN SPECIES 1

Here a first set of RARE and UNCOMMON European species, seldom seen in collections. Some are truly exceptional in quality. From affordable to expensive, but all are interesting: they bring your collection on a superior level.





OFFER 210 RARE AND UNCOMMON EUROPEAN SPECIES 2

Here a second set of RARE and UNCOMMON European species, seldom seen in collections. Some are truly exceptional in quality. From affordable to expensive, but all are interesting: they bring your collection on a superior level.





OFFER 211 RARE AND UNCOMMON EUROPEAN SPECIES 3

Here a third and last set of RARE and UNCOMMON European species, seldom seen in collections. Some are truly exceptional in quality. From affordable to expensive, but all are interesting: they bring your collection on a superior level.





OFFER 212 THE *AUSTRIELLA CORRUGATA*

Is a large LUCINID, sometimes seen with a striking periostracum. The shell is thin, yet solid, and the species lives in the shallows, often near mangroves, but still in the open sea. Popular food in the Philippines, but the species occurs from Japan in the north to Australia in the south. Also known from Indonesia and Vietnam.





OFFER 213 THE LEGUMEN

Is an uncommon and seldom seen *ISOGNOMON*. We now discovered it lives in dead corals, out of light, in total darkness, day and night. Be aware of confusion in the literature, we here follow Huber (2010) and also Poppe (2010) who both show the species as understood by the majority of authors.





OFFER 214 THE MEDITERRANEAN *CONOMUREX DECORUS*

Is an average sized *Strombus* originating from East Africa, who conquered the eastern Mediterranean, most likely via the Suez channel. The species is now common in Greece where it lives in shallow sea grass beds. We dived a fine set last year, despite the water which was still very cold in May. Unfortunately the majority of the specimen we viewed were young, but here a nice selection of adults, some are stunning.





OFFER 215 REAL OTOHIMEAE

A species already figured by Springsteen & Leobrera in 1986 but extremely rare at that time. Later discovered in quantity in Aliguay. We sold out until I now got this new batch of what is once more a very uncommon great and beautiful Turrid. We wrongly identified the species in PMM2 where we figured a *rostrata* as *otohimeae*. To rectify. For Connoisseurs and the lovers of Turrids.





OFFER 216 EUROPEAN HYDROBIIDAE

A fine set of rare and very rare species, most often “spring” species, which live on only one spot on the European continent. This is a unique occasion to fill in the usually big gap in collections, when it comes to such minute rarities, which appear on the market very seldom.





OFFER 217 *CERITHIUM MUSICUM*

Is a seldom seen species from the Cape Verde Islands. We here have a small series from Sal Island. In the literature we only traced drawings: Sowerby (1855), Tryon (1887) and Cecalupo (2004). Some authors placed it in synonymy of *C. atratum*, which is in our opinion different and in fact a complex of several different species





OFFER 218 *CERITHIUM PROTRACTUM*

This species was, for decades, looked at as a synonym or form of *C. vulgatum*. However, since Savelli & All., 1997, recognized by several other authors and now established. This species lives in the Mediterranean proper and does not venture in the Atlantic.





OFFER 219 SPANISH LAND AND FRESHWATER

Spain is extremely rich in land snails especially, although, most of them are not easy to detect, many are quite local and very specialized. Here a first set of great Spanish species.





OFFER 220 *ARGONAUTA HIANS*

This egg capsule of a cephalopod is one of the major searched after “shells” on the planet, although it is not a shell. The female *A. hians* makes this capsule to protect its eggs: she covers the eggs by sitting in the aperture. The *hians* are living in groups and caught at night by fishermen - they are a delicacy. Most often the shells are destroyed, but occasionally, when there are many, the fishermen keep them for selling to dealers on Mactan Island. Here the beautiful DARK variant of the *hians*.





OFFER 221 DIFFERENT *CALLIOSTOMA*

A fine set of newly arrived *Calliostoma* of which most are uncommon and even rare. The *scalenum* from Florida is not often seen and so is the eastern Mediterranean “*seriopunctatum*”, named already in 1830 by the great conchologist Blainville. For experts. *Calliostoma* are amongst the finest shells to collect.





OFFER 222 SPANISH LAND AND FRESHWATER

Spain is extremely rich in land snails especially, although, most of them are not easy to detect. Many are quite local and very specialized. Here a second set of great Spanish species.





OFFER 223 THE *CARDITA VARIEGATA*

Is one of the more common members of the family in the Philippines. While diving and exploring the dynamite field in Banacon Island where we discovered *Globivenus banaconensis* and quite some spectacular *Periglypta corbis*, we also found a good number of large and beautifully patterned *C. variegata*. Some large sizes also. These *Cardita* were attached to the dead branches of *Acropora*.





OFFER 224 THE *CARDITES ANTIQUATA*

Is a beautiful European bivalve which is only to be found, very occasionally, in the Mediterranean. I have never collected a quantity myself, despite many dives in France, Italy and Spain. Recorded also from the coasts of Portugal and Morocco but does not venture further in the Atlantic. In the present Greek set most have traces of periostracum: all are selected. When the shape is “high”, they can be called *f. elata* (B.D.C., 1889).





OFFER 225 SELDOM SEEN EUROPEAN LAND SNAILS

Here a first set of quite unusual land, sometimes freshwater, material from Europe. Europe is extremely rich in land snails, hundreds of them being endemic and virtually absent from collections. The major part of them unknown to the big mass of humans living in the same space...





OFFER 226 *CERITHIUM PUNCTATUM*

Lives mainly on the axis Japan south to Australia. Common in the tropical area around the Philippines especially, but also recorded from far away East Africa and Tonga. The latter records however may concern different species. This cute little *Cerithium* is not without charms because of the nice pattern set in blacks and whites.





OFFER 227 *LITHOCONUS CHARACTERISTICUS*

Lives from Sri Lanka east to Japan and south to north-eastern Australia, Indonesia being the center of the range. This species is uncommon, even rare in most places, and does not live in the Visayas as far as we know. Here a set from Bicol, collected three years ago, quite variable. There are none on the market at present, so we accepted from fine to gem. Check the images.





OFFER 228 SELDOM SEEN EUROPEAN LAND SNAILS

Here a second set of quite unusual land, sometimes freshwater, material from Europe. Europe is extremely rich in land snails, hundreds of them being endemic and virtually absent from collections. The major part of them unknown to the big mass of humans living in the same space...





OFFER 229 THE FORM *HARPIFERA* OF THE *VEXILLUM VIRGO*

Has more ribs, often a little pale in color and a thin white band. This form was first presented to the public by Kaicher who figured a piece from Truk Island. We now got many, but from relatively deep, as one net came up with many. So, despite its rarity you now can acquire this rare form for a more than reasonable price.





OFFER 230 *GRANULIFUSUS DONDANI*

Has been named by expert Snyder in honor of Donald Dan, well known conchologist at present living in Florida. This beautiful species lives deep and is hard to obtain, especially at present. Here a fresh batch from the depths of Siquijor.





OFFER 231 SELDOM SEEN EUROPEAN LAND SNAILS

Here a third set of quite unusual land, sometimes freshwater, material from Europe. Europe is extremely rich in land snails, hundreds of them being endemic and virtually absent from collections. The major part of them unknown to the big mass of humans living in the same space...





OFFER 232 *HEXAPLEX CICHOREUM* AT ITS BEST

I am a little bit desperate with this species, of which we got fabulous pieces in the past, which disappeared from the market. We were lucky that a supplier, after several years, arrived once more with some pieces of the greatest beauty and combined with big sizes. Unfortunately only 9 shells. We offer them here for the Connoisseurs and hope to get more in the future.





OFFER 233 *HEXAPLEX TRUNCULUS*

Is one out of two Mediterranean Muricids used for the production of “purple” for many centuries. We here have as set of 11 pieces of the greatest beauty, and darker than usual. As such, they are uncommon: most *trunculus* are a nightmare to clean. From Greece.





OFFER 234 *ORANIA FICULA*

Is a cute Muricid which you can collect scuba diving in the proper place. The specimens here shown we got diving in the Caubian deep: they sit mainly on sponge and dirt covered *Malleus*, *Spondylus* and the like, living on a rich sand bottom.





OFFER 235 THE *STAVELIA SUBDISTORTA*

Is a rather rare GIANT Mytilid - a real mussel - living from China south to the Philippines and Indonesia. The species lives squeezed between corals and other substrates in coral rich environments with good current and is a nightmare to get out of its substrate: if I see one I even do not hope or start to get it out of the biotope: most often I will break it. Despite that an impressive species much sought after by collectors.





OFFER 236 THE *CHAMELEA GALLINA*

Is one of the very common bivalves in some areas of the Mediterranean, such as the Adriatic Sea, where fishermen make daily catches of TONS of specimens. It is a delicacy mixed up in many Mediterranean dishes. Here the shells you will not often see in your dish: they are oversized, and therefore worth being treated as collectors items.





OFFER 237 THE *RUDITAPES PHILIPPINARUM*

Is a Venerid with a multitude of color possibilities. The species, originally from the Philippines, has been introduced - first accidentally we presume - in the Mediterranean, not so long ago. Here a set with a truly particular color pattern, hitherto unseen and virtually absent from collections.





OFFER 238 THE *CREPIDULA PORCELLANA*

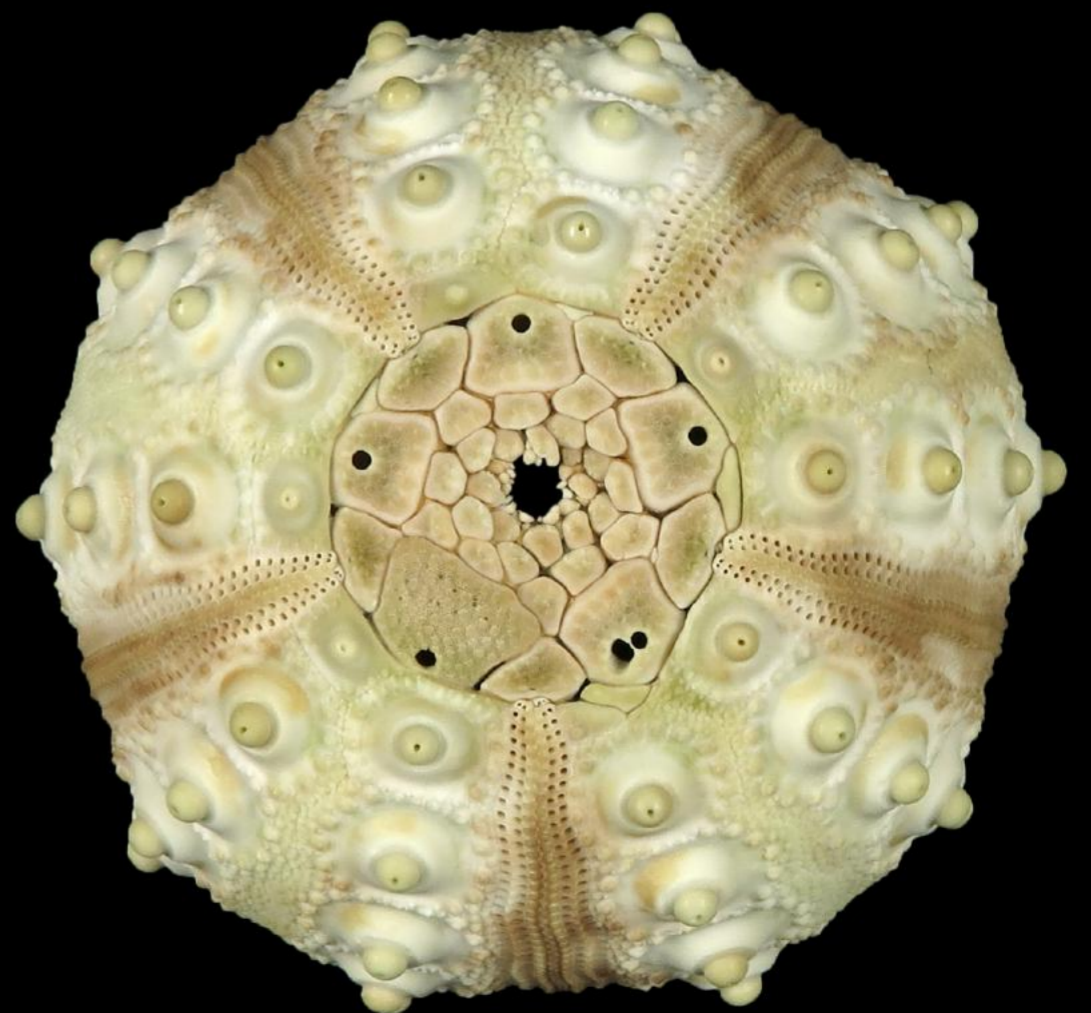
Is the largest of the West African species of *Crepidula*. It lives relatively shallow, but is not often seen alive: most material in collections comes beached. We here offer a fine set of well sized pieces, Japanese cleaning only. The beauty is on the inner side, as in most limpet-shaped gastropods.





OFFER 239 THE *CIDARIS NUDA*

Is a sea urchin from offshore the West African coast, not often seen in collections. In the literature recorded from the Cape Verde Islands, but these “*nuda*” are from the African mainland, collected only 18 m deep. Usually Cidariids live much deeper. The tests of the “*nuda*” are particularly pleasing and come in browns and greens or a mixture of these. Prices according to the condition of the cleaned tests.





OFFER 240 THE *ECHINOLAMPAS RANGII*

Is a seldom seen member of the equally seldom seen family ECHINOLAMPADIDAE. This irregular urchin is full of charms: well sized, solid test, superb sculpture and great in the touch. It has all to please as a natural history object. Taken offshore Senegal, and Senegal is also the only locality I found for the species in the literature. The *rangii* has very short hairs, but we cleaned these off for the sake of aesthetics. Rare in collections.





OFFER 241 THE *MOSAMBICARCA HIANS*

Is a seldom seen West African *Arca*, rather well sized. It is not only rare in nature, but also in the literature: we have only the figures of Reeve (1843) and Huber (2010). Both illustrate definitely the same species, and the shell from Huber has also the typical rust. There are only 3 species in the genus: *erythraeonensis*, *hians* and *mosambicana*. All are uncommon.





OFFER 242 THE INCREDIBLE *TRISIDOS TORTUOSA*

Is an Arcid that has been illustrated 25 times in the recent literature, especially because of its fantastic “twisted” shape. The species is occasionally eaten in the Philippines, but I have seen it only twice on markets, so it is definitely uncommon. We also never found it ourselves. Here a small set of specimen with periostracum. Lives all over the Indian ocean and to the central Indo-Pacific: from Africa to the Philippines, China and Australia. Does not venture in the Pacific. A must have bivalve.





OFFER 243 THE *ELEPHANTULUM LIRATOCINCTUM*

Is a Caecid snail from the west coast of North America. Caecids are known to inhabit the special “intergranule” cavities in sand. They are small, usually elephant-tooth in shape, closed on one end, the animal sticks out on the broad side. The present species comes from smooth to ringed to a form with longitudinal stripes. Brann in 1966 published on this species, and also Keen in Veliger (1968). Seldom seen.





OFFER 244 THE *MARGARITES HELICINUS* *ELEVATUS*

Is one out of 3 subspecies of this Arctic species. The species is common all over the Arctic, but hard to get. I saw thousands during dives in the Varangerfjord, Norway, at less than a thousand km from the north pole. But with gloves difficult to collect. They glisten like diamonds on the algae. The “*elevatus*” is from Pacific American coasts, “*pilsbryi*” is from Korea and Japan, while the nominate species is from northern Europe and northern Russia.





OFFER 245 *COLUBRARIA* FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Newly found *COLUBRARIA*. The *Colubraria* from the Philippines are found near cleaning stations of fishes where they patiently wait until the night falls and the numerous fishes go sleeping. They then approach the fish and introduce their “proboscis” - a long feeding tube in the skin or jaws of the fish and start transferring blood into their stomach. Like a tanking station. We here offer a few *cumingii* and *tortuosa*, recently found.





OFFER 246 THE *COLLONISTA GRANULOSA*

Is a wonderful COLLONIIDAE, living in the shallow to average deep waters in the central Indo-Pacific. Its color is variable, although most shells are patterned with browns. Looks like a Trochid, but the calcareous operculum gives away its true identity. In less common cases colored with reds. Glossy, solid and attractive, a beautiful representative of the family. The Philippines has a fine set of COLLONIIDAE, read more on these in Visaya Vol. 4, 2016.





OFFER 247 THE *CONUS TAKAHASHII*

Being well aware that this is a new species, our company gathered material for several years, but we got no time to describe. The job is well done by Petuch & Berschauer in Festivus. Most of the material we gathered has severe growth defects, mainly due to crabs at the depths these animals live on. We auctioned the best piece for 140 euro. The fine to gem we price between 75 and 100 euro, the other shells we handle as “seconds”. They have a scientific value, not an aesthetic one and are priced between 10 and 65 euro according to condition. Happy shelling.





OFFER 248 THE *UTRICICOLA VENTOUXIANA*

Is an incredible species living only on the summit of the Mount Ventoux, a fabulous mountain in the Province in France. Klaus Groh took me to the snowy top to show me the living snail, but turning over quite some stones with cold hands between the snow patches, we did not find even a dead one. This set was found more than 3 decades ago by our late friend Marcel Verhaeghe.





OFFER 249 THE *ARGONAUTA ARGO*

We now got 5 fresh well sized *Argonauta argo* from San Ricardo, on the southern tip of Leyte Island, taken with nets. They are bigger than most pieces brought to the surface, and they are also from much deeper than most Argo in collections. Fisherfolk eat the animals, and when it is argo, they usually keep the shells when intact, which is not often the case.





OFFER 250 PINK-RED *ANIXA CARBONARIA HEERMANNI*

The pink-red *Anixa carbonaria heermanni*. This is a case of ERYTHRISM, where a dark brown, almost black shell turns into a bright reddish coloration. In marine shells, we have this in the *mappa* cowries. Only one in more than a hundred *heermanni* has this fantastic phenomenon, so it takes time and days of patience to obtain a dozen of red ones. They are great collectors items and they will be the sun in your set of central Visayan “*Anixa*”.





OFFER 251 THE *CONUS VEZZAROII*

This taxon, known from the southern Zamboanga Peninsula and surrounding Islands has also been described as *P. quasimagus*. This is the *Conus carinatus* Swainson, as figured by Sowerby (1866) and Tryon (1884) and the right one of the *carinatus* from Kiener & Fischer, (1845). The *carinatus* Swainson sensu Reeve, is the more slender type, which we keep as “*carinatus*” indeed. The drawing of the type of Swainson is probably also this *quasimagus*, but one should see the type. A difficult affair, we wait for the reaction of the *Conus* world. No supply any longer of this species, which is known most from the Zamboanga area only.





OFFER 252 THE *BLAUNERIA QUADRASI*

Is the only species of the family which is always sinistral. We discovered the habitat of the *Blauneria* accidentally when penetrating first jungle, then nipa, to see the waters of the brackish water lake Punong in southern Cebu. The species lives inside rotten trunks of fallen nipa trees. Breaking open the trunks, one will see the whitish animals in contrast on the black rotten wood. This is the second locality - apart from the type locality on another Island - for the species, and it was on a trip while trying to show Punong lake to our publisher Carsten Renker. Here the end of our stocks.





OFFER 253 THE *GLAUCONOME VIRENS*

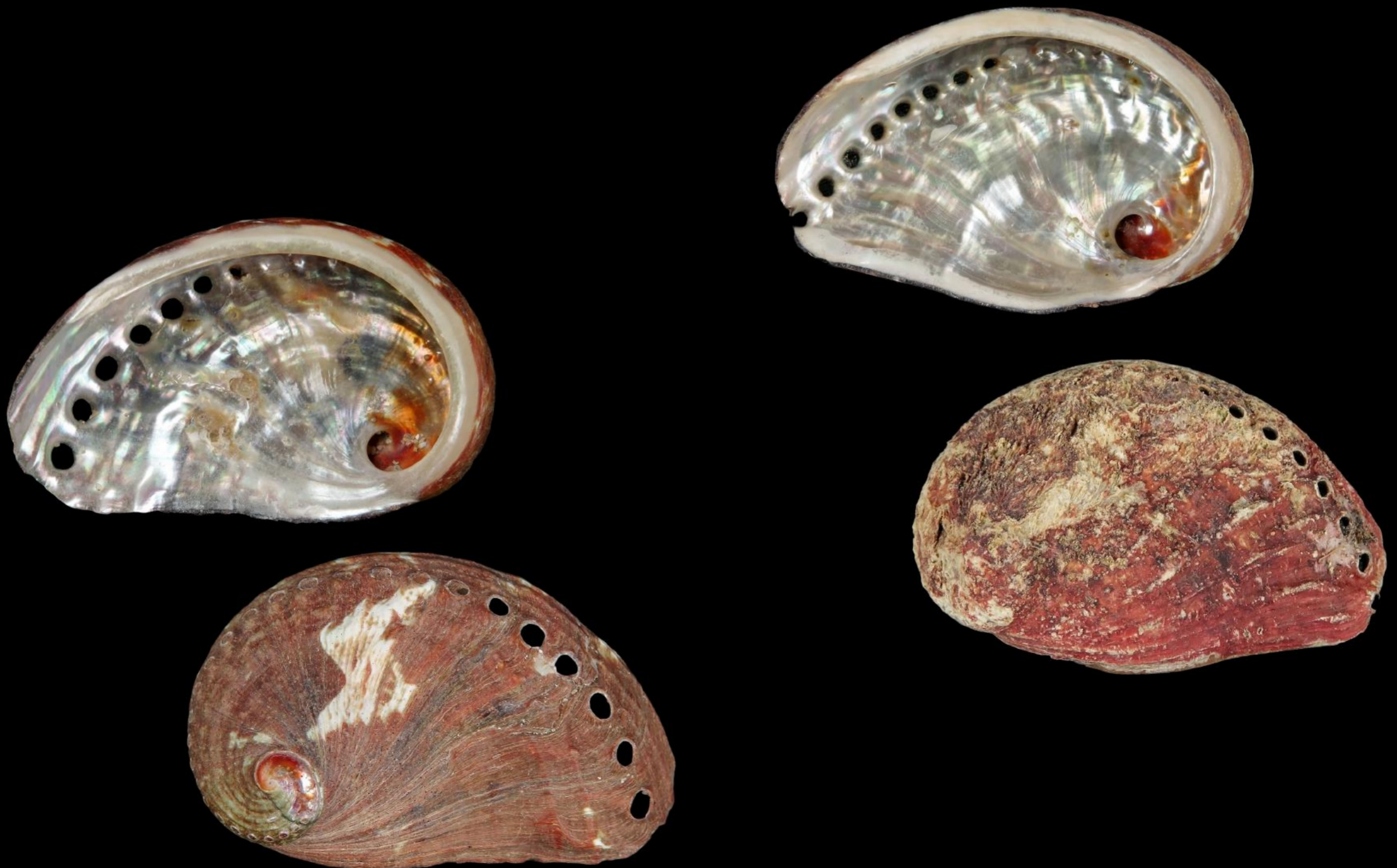
Is a nice bivalve which looks like a freshwater Unionid. It is however a marine species, specialized in the black muds of deep mangrove areas. Occasionally mangrove crab hunters will also dig up a number of these which are then sold in markets for food. Here a set out of a mangrove near Bais City, on the eastern south coast of big Negros Island.





OFFER 254 THE *HALIOTIS SPADICEA*

Is an attractive elegantly shaped average sized Abalone from the coasts of South Africa. The beautiful characteristic seen in not all but most shells is a blood red spot near the apex, inside the shell. This species is harder to get now, as it is forbidden by now to collect Abalone in South Africa. The shells here offered date back between 40 and 50 years and are from the famous D. & M. Meyer collections. We got many as the Meyers used to exchange this species in order to obtain their exotic material.





OFFER 255 THE *GEOPHORUS TROCHIFORMIS* *CONOIDALIS*

Is a subspecies from the Island of Marinduque, already well documented by Pfeiffer & Wagner (1907-1911), and later refigured by Eichhorst in 2016. We here have a set of particularly well colored specimens with bright orange first whorls. Hard to get and not that easy to find.





OFFER 256 THE *NERITA TEXTILIS*

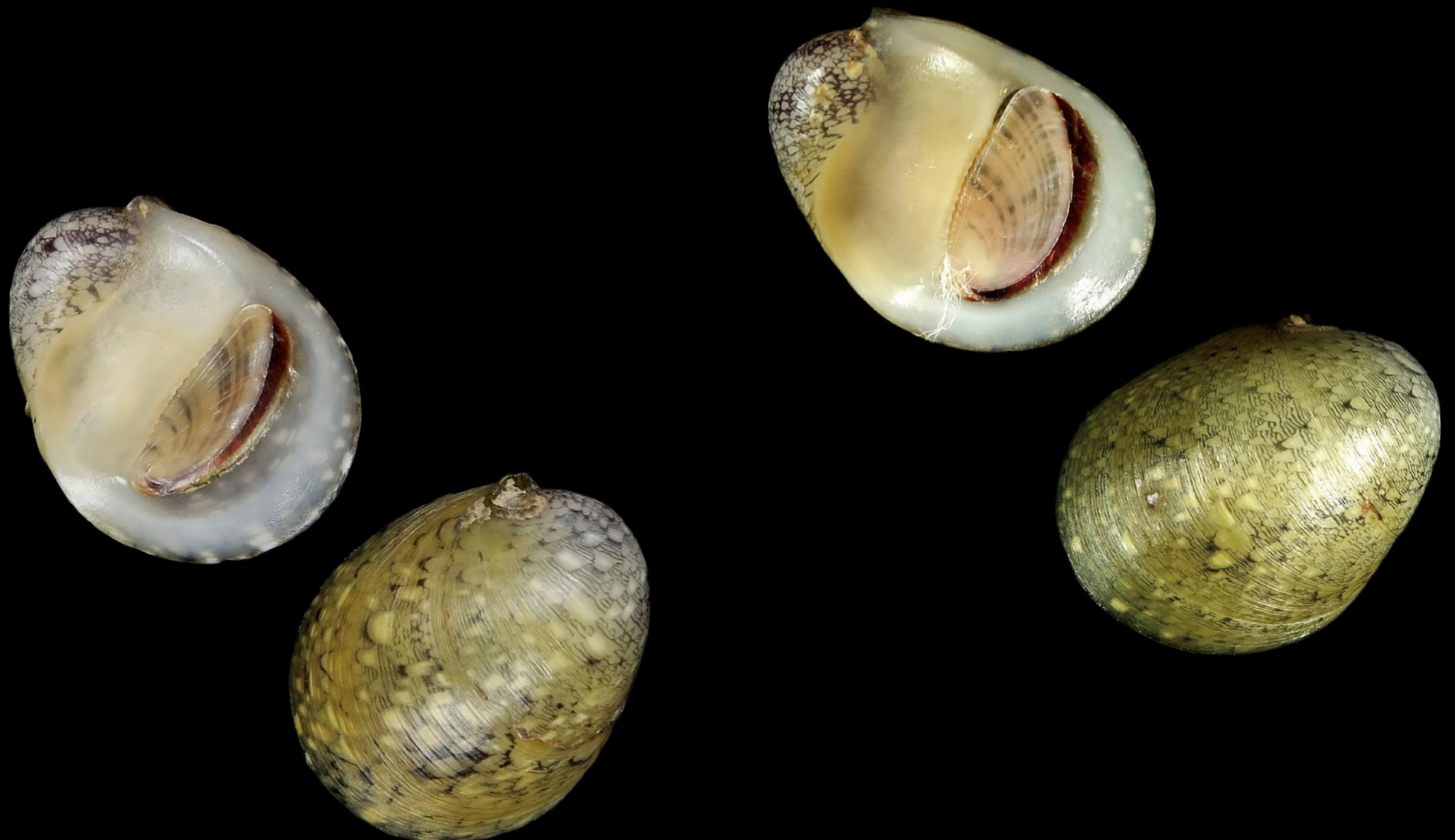
Is one of the most spectacular members of the family when it comes to the genus "*Nerita*" pure. This species is confined to the East African coasts. The problem is to find a colony which has non eroded shells, which is less than evident. Here a fine set from fascinating Madagascar.





OFFER 257 THE *NERITINA CANALIS*

Is a spectacular and beautiful species living in fresh water, but not far from the sea. Actually, the young veligers will go floating in the sea, so they can settle in other rivers when they start growing. That's how this species disperses. Here a fine set from the Matayupan Falls.





OFFER 258 THE COLORED *IMPERIAL SPONDYLUS*

Is a particular species, which lives on fine mud. The valves are not attached to heavy rocky substrates as most *Spondylus* do. They attach a little with the umbo, especially when young, but usually the shells just lay on the bottom, which allows them to develop two beautiful valves instead of one. The spines are long and thin and help this *Spondylus* to stay afloat on top of the mud. This species is a pure wonder of nature.





OFFER 259 THE PINK *CALPURNUS VERRUCOSUS*

The pink form has a very very slightly pinkish shell instead of pure white. The pink fades shortly after the shells are collected, in this case the color is stable already. This snail feeds on soft corals, so by collecting these, you save corals. They are photographers targets, as the animal is speckled with contrasting dark blotches all over. Usually all white.





OFFER 260 THE *PHENACOVOLVA BREVIROSTRIS*

The “*brevirostris*” has been figured in many books, but the species is in fact a rarity seldom seen. Half a century ago, some fishermen from Manila took thousands and we acquired these stocks which are fast disappearing in collections. This also explains the low price. Chances to collect one yourself are close to zero in the Philippines. I never did. A beautiful broad shaped Ovulid.





OFFER 261 THE *GEOPHORUS ACUTUS ACUTUS*

The beautiful DARK YELLOW variant of the typical *Geophorus acutus* which has several subspecies and closely related species on surrounding Islands. The “*acutus acutus*” is endemic from the Island of Cebu where it is to be found in rocky shadow-rich forested areas. Not that easy to find alive, not ultra rare also, which explains the very democratic pricing. Varies from yellow to orange with intermediates.





OFFER 262 THE *PROSOPEAS COCHLOIDES* *COCHLOIDES*

Are a few samples of the rare and seldom seen *Prosopeas cochloides cochloides*, endemic from Sibuyan Island. The sister subspecies is *P. c. planogyra* from Tablas Island. In most collections this species is to be under the wrong name of *Homorus cylindraceus* Connolly, re-introduced by Springsteen & Leobrera in 1986. Springsteen was most likely not aware of the publication of Zilch (1973) who documents this species and related Philippine *Prosopeas* in the *Archiv. Homorus* is merely an Abyssinian/Somalian genus of Subulinids.





OFFER 263 THE AMAZINGLY BEAUTIFUL *AMPHIDROMUS SEMICINEREUS*

About a year ago our friend Thach, very active in *Amphidromus* since a few years, described this wonderful new species, discovered recently in the forests of Phu Yen Province, which is not far away from where he lives, as Phu Yen is just north of Khan Hoa Province, his playing ground. The *semicinereus* comes with bright yellow tops, slightly more common than the “dark tops” to which this series belongs. The contrast between the yellow and browns, speckled often with blacks, and a great bordeaux aperture is just amazing.





OFFER 264 RARE LANDSNAILS FROM CAMBODIA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Small landsnails with the qualities of the best jewels: all grand beauties and of the kind of natural history curiosities. 3 species of rare Cambodian Vertiginids: these are local, extremely local often limited to one rock. The others a wide variety of beauties from the Dominican Republic, including the famous *rhecta*. As for some small shell, I suggest to join the label from Conchology, Inc. with color photo in the box containing the treasures.





OFFER 265 THE *TROPIDOPHORA OCCLUSA*

Is a fabulous land snail from Madagascar, and it lives only in a small area of that big Island, and nowhere else in the world. The *occlusa* is related to a larger species: *gualteriana*, of almost the same shape and coloration. Only details and proportions are a little different.

And it is close to the fabulous *deburghiae* from the same Island. While most Tropidophorids have one spiral ridge, the *occlusa* and *gualteriana* have two...





OFFER 266 THE *PATELLOIDA SACCHARINA*

This variable species is greatly successful from Korea and Japan in the north and south to New Ireland. It is common especially from Vietnam to the Philippines. Has been recorded also from the Andaman Islands, but does not penetrate further than the Indian Ocean, also not the Indo Pacific. Several forms are “regularly” seen, such as the more square shaped “*lanx*” and the star shaped “*stellaris*”. The latter is uncommon.





OFFER 267 THE *LUTRARIA PHILIPPINARUM*

Lutraria, also called “otter shells” are regularly seen at extreme low tides in Brittany, France. However, in the tropics, they are much deeper and not often encountered. We dive usually one or two when dwelling in sandy mud places below ten meters. There is big confusion in the nomenclature, the former *L. philippinarum* and *L. australis* are, according to WoRMS now synonyms of the *L. rhynchaena*. Not sure that this is correct, but time will help one day to point these things out in detail. Personally, I like the *Lutraria* - possibly because of my youth on the beaches of Brittany.





OFFER 268 THE *IMBRICARIA CONUS*

Is a mangrove shell, seldom encountered in nature. We found a few ourselves when struggling in the mud between the mangroves and the nipa plants. The species seems to be scarce: reported from the Philippines (most), Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Australia and central Indonesia only. The Fiji Islands records are all from Cernohorsky. We have only one record from Australia: Wilson (1994). The present set has been collected decades ago and are from our old stocks, we have only a limited number left.





OFFER 269 THE *TEREBELLATUS* S.S.

Is a magnificent *Strombus* found throughout the Indo-Pacific. Far west Indian pieces belong to the subspecies *T. terebellatus afrobellatus*, the Philippine material is the real "*terebellatus terebellatus*". This subspecies lives from Japan south to Australia, but the big majority of the material comes from the central Philippines where it was hooka dived in the area of Olango Island. Now becoming scarce very fast, and we rely most of the time on our older stocks by now, in order to provide you with this species. Most *terebellatus* live around 10-15 meter deep: not easy to find. They love to graze green algae.





OFFER 270 THE *VARIABILIS* SILVER LIP

This sympathetic *Strombus* is usually found in quantity on clear sand bottoms around 24 m deep, although at rare occasions you will find a few more shallow. They are very alive jumping animals. Occasionally eaten in the Visayas. We dive sometimes a form without the “black spot”: less common, and possibly an undescribed species. Seldom however, we find “silver lips”: this is a strange phenomenon which can be seen in a number of species: *turturella* and *epidromis* and even large species may have the end of the outer lip turned into a “silver” color. In the *variabilis* they are quite uncommon. Good collections of STROMBIDAE try to display the silver lips, which in some cases can be quite extreme and impressive.





OFFER 271 THE *FISSILABIA DECOLLATA*

Is the only species in the genus *Fissilabia*, of the great family PLANAXIDAE, which has a limited number of species worldwide. *Planaxis* are great to collect: usually in great numbers when found. They are glossy and nice and live usually in the shallow or even intertidal. A few are rare, such as the *leyteensis*, which we discovered only in 2015. The *decollata* has never the top whorls when adult. It is the largest member of the family and lives from the Philippines south to New Guinea and northern Australia. Occasionally you will find one yourself when collecting in not so clean places such as estuaries and mangroves.





OFFER 272 THE *CERITHIDEA QUOYII*

Is a magnificent Potamidid. I remember vividly collecting the present set in a mangrove area in February 2015: it was burning hot, over 35° C and on the black mud with 3 m high grasses. There was a small wind, and in the moving grass, almost 2 m above the black mud, these beautiful snails were clinging. It was a magnificent view and I took many photos. The sculpture of these *quoyii* is magnificent, the top whorls are never there and the aperture is impressive. As “*quadrata*” in our books, now the correct name is *quoyii*.





OFFER 273 THE *CERITHIDEA BALTEATA*

Is the sister species of the *C. quoyii* which we presented recently. However, its biotope is quite different. The present set was a challenge to collect in the mangroves of Punong Lake.

These mangroves are dense, black, no sunlight: you go in clean, you come out like a painted devil full of mud. In this hell, the *balteata* lives and thrives. A beautiful well sized Potamidid with a great axial sculpture and nice big mouth.





OFFER 274 THE *CRASSISPIRA PULCHREPUNCTATA*

Is today a rare species of the Turrid family PSEUDOMELATOMIDAE. It came up in quantity in the dredgings around Aliguay Island some years ago but has barely been found elsewhere. This cute *Crassispira* has big knobs all over, a white shell dotted all over with small brown streaks set in lines. Becoming fast a rarity, and it is unlikely that in the present climate other areas can be explored as the fisherfolk did with Aliguay Island.





OFFER 275 THE *CRASSISPIRA SCALA*

Is a late discovery, one of the members of the *Crassispira cerithina* complex. The latter name was used until recently as a “mega-species”, hiding a complex of several Turrids, but clearly and quite easy to distinguish in fact. Kantor & All, attacked the problem, based on material from Paris Museum mainly, and solved much of it in 2016. This is one of their discoveries. Uncommon, not truly rare. A beautiful shell, more slender with a more granulate sculpture and lighter brown color when compared to “*cerithina*”.





OFFER 276 THE *PLANAXIS AKUANA*

Lives only on the most remote Island in the southwest Pacific: Easter Island. Around 1990 I stayed there 17 days, most of the time snorkeling around this great place, watching the locals dancing in the evening, at the light of petrol lamps at that time. Eating their great food, baked one meter deep in the ground for a day and the like. I was driving around with a horse to get to remote places, there is a photo of that in some Conchiglia journals. The *akuana* ONLY lives on Easter Island, and I collected many of these, as they live there by the millions. I do not know if collecting is still allowed on the island today...





OFFER 277 THE *TROPIDOPHORA CITRINA*

Is definitely one of the finest and most beautiful land snails of Madagascar. Its lemon to orange body, all in delicate pastel shades, combined with a white lip puts this species on a superior aesthetic level. Very impossible to find the *citrina* yourself: it lives in dense, virtually impossible to penetrate forest.





OFFER 278 THE *ALPICOLA*

Is a local race of the common *Arianta arbustorum*, found throughout a big part of Europe.

In Belgium the *arbustorum* lives in isolated colonies here and there: it may take years before you know half a dozen places where it can be found. In the high alps, the species becomes smaller and more yellowish. The animals appear from their winter grounds late: only in May, and they disappear fast: before the snow freezes them in late September. Found up to about 2000 m high, I usually collected our materials in the Diablerets, at about 1400 m. The animals are “black”.





OFFER 279 THE *MOULINSIA NUNEZII*

Is a rather large and very rare Pupinid, which was found in Samar. The area today is out of range: too dangerous to go collecting. The animals are glossy and brightly yellowish in coloration. We found these in wet areas on limestone outcrops. The only literature we have is from Sowerby (1847). He likely got this quite variable species from Cuming.





OFFER 280 THE *ACMAEA MITRA*

Collected more than half a century ago, but good looking and with a fresh allure, these cold water limpets with a pleasing shape and thick shells. The outside virtually always encrusted with coraline algae, sometimes attacked by worms or not. Insides are beautiful and smooth. This species is not seen often, because difficult to collect without damaging the shell. It has a big range from Alaska to Baja California, but apparently the further north, the more common.





OFFER 281 THE *CALLIOSTOMA DEDONDERI*

Is a deep water *Calliostoma* from the central Philippines, that until not so long ago was regularly found. The most classic of its localities was Balicasag Island. This place, unfortunately one of the richest spots in the Philippines, does not produce any shell any longer - since 2010 ! The local fisherfolk turned to the entertainment of tourists and stopped shell collecting completely. Local dive clubs intervene to prevent any fishing of shells. As a consequence, this beautiful species, which we used to sell for a few euro, is now a rarity seldom seen. Here some pieces that we could find in the Rice collection and collected 24 years ago.





OFFER 282 THE *ARGONAUTA HIAN*S F. *GONDOLA*

Fishermen in Negros now caught a fine set of which we here offer a growth series of the “*gondola*” form. The “*gondola*” form is characterized by the expansion into “points” of the lower aperture corners. This is well demonstrated in these shells by the apertural view. Beautiful pieces.





OFFER 283 THE *CALLIOSTOMA LIGATUM*

From the northern Pacific coasts of the North American continent is a cold water *Calliostoma*, which was formerly common in collections but now much more rarely collected and offered to the public. Quality is a huge problem in this species, and out of several hundred in the Tom Rice collections, we could select about a hundred *ligatum* that are well sized and acceptable, yet seldom gem or fine+. This is a quality selection of one out of 5 at least. A species I always liked.





OFFER 284 THE *CERITHIUM CORALIUM*

Is a typical species of the deep mangroves and nipa fields to be found in the very black mud and hanging on pointed roots of the mangrove trees. It is one out of half a dozen Cerithiids and Potamidiids that live in this dark environment, and collecting these will take an hour in the shower afterwards to remove the last traces of mud below the nails and in the ears and nose. However, the sculptures on these shells are amazing, and some are so beautiful it is definitely worth the effort.





OFFER 285 THE *CHITON ALBOLINEATUS*

If you take all Chitons and there is a vote for the 10 most beautiful species, then the *Chiton albolineatus* makes a chance to be in there. The design of the white radiating lines, combined with a small line in each segment, is of great beauty. We here have a great set, collected more than two decades ago most of them, some with the animal removed, shells only. Figured in color in the Compendium of Abbott & Dance (1982), Slieker (2000) and Robin (2011).





OFFER 286 THE *CONUS INDOMARIS*

Is a species endemic to the southern point of India, deep water, which belongs to the rather classic "*Phasmoconus*" group. Shells of this group roam around in 150 m deep waters, which explains the very late discovery of the *indomaris*. A sister species of the much bigger and not so dark "*australis*" from further east. Here an offer of highly selected pieces, straight from the fisherfolk. Nice quality and variable.





OFFER 287 THE *MARGINELLA FESTIVA*

It is by now more than 30 years ago that I was so astonished to see this little *Marginella*, which I dived at 2 meters deep next to big rocks on the Almadies, Senegal. The color pattern is a marvel, and it is part of more than half a dozen very similar species living along West African coasts. After so much time, here again, the *FESTIVA*, but fresh dead, still nice, and found a little more to the south than where I dived half a dozen pieces decades ago.





OFFER 288 THE *ARACHNOIDES* IN THE *DRUPA RICINUS*

Here a few additional specimens of the truly beautiful *D. ricinus arachnoides*, the last name stands for shells with long spines. This species is not particularly rare, but usually escapes the attention of divers as shells are in the shallows and have the same coloration - a smurry of brown algae usually - as the rocks they are grazing on. Few populations have long spines. Cleaned, the aperture is a marvel as in most members of the genus.





OFFER 289 THE *HEXAPLEX ANGULARIS*

Is a common Muricid along the West African coasts, known from Mauritania in the north to Guinea Bissau in the south. But 99 % of the known material comes from Senegal. This species comes in white, banded, red and black. Black is the norm, all other colors are exceptions. This species lives on rocks in the shallows, and cleaning the shells is a nightmare. It takes hours to get one single shell nice, if possible. This brings the price of cleaned gems to unknown heights. We now got a fresh batch and prefer it to offer at a very reasonable price, half cleaned only, Japanese style. All belong to the black form.





OFFER 290 THE FAMOUS *ALABASTER*

Named as such for its beautiful white coloration, and described by the famous Reeve, this uppermost famous species has its most beautiful pieces from the Philippines, as most of these are free from the black tar seen on shells from the north. The fishing of this species has stopped and the shell is going to disappear from the international market in a not so distant time. We only have a few left, the more we were happy to get these 8 late pieces from old stocks. Beautiful, this species will cost hundreds of euros in the coming decades if things remain as they are.





OFFER 291 THE *CELLANA TESTUDINARIA*

Is the most impressive and most beautiful of the Philippine limpets. It is seldom seen in the Visayas but lives rather on the open ocean coasts in Palawan, Samar and Leyte on big rocks, where they graze and are occasionally exposed at low tide. At present many thousands were fished to make nipple protectors for lactating mothers. For this purpose the shells are polished, and are then glossy and pleasing at the touch. Variable: a series of *Cellana testudinaria* is occasionally very beautiful, and always interesting.





OFFER 292 THE *NASSARIUS ARCULARIA PLICATUS*

Is a common presence on east African beaches, from the Red Sea in the north south to Kenya and Zanzibar. Also on the offshore islands, Reunion, Maurice and the like. While the east African subspecies of some Nassariids became already valid species, not so in this case. The shells of the *plicatus* are more ribbed than the ones from the far eastern *N. arcularia* s.s.





OFFER 293 THE *PIRENELLA MICROPTERA*

It lives deep in mangroves and nipa fields where it rests and crawls on the black mud. It seldom goes up on plants and the like. The mouth is spectacular and so is the “finish” of this beautiful shell. It is difficult to understand how such beauties are living and thriving in the least of pleasing environments. Here a set from the Cambuhat river I collected myself. Difficult to resist when one comes upon this species. Selected out of thousands - literally, here the best.





OFFER 294 THE *HELIOPHORA ORBICULUS*

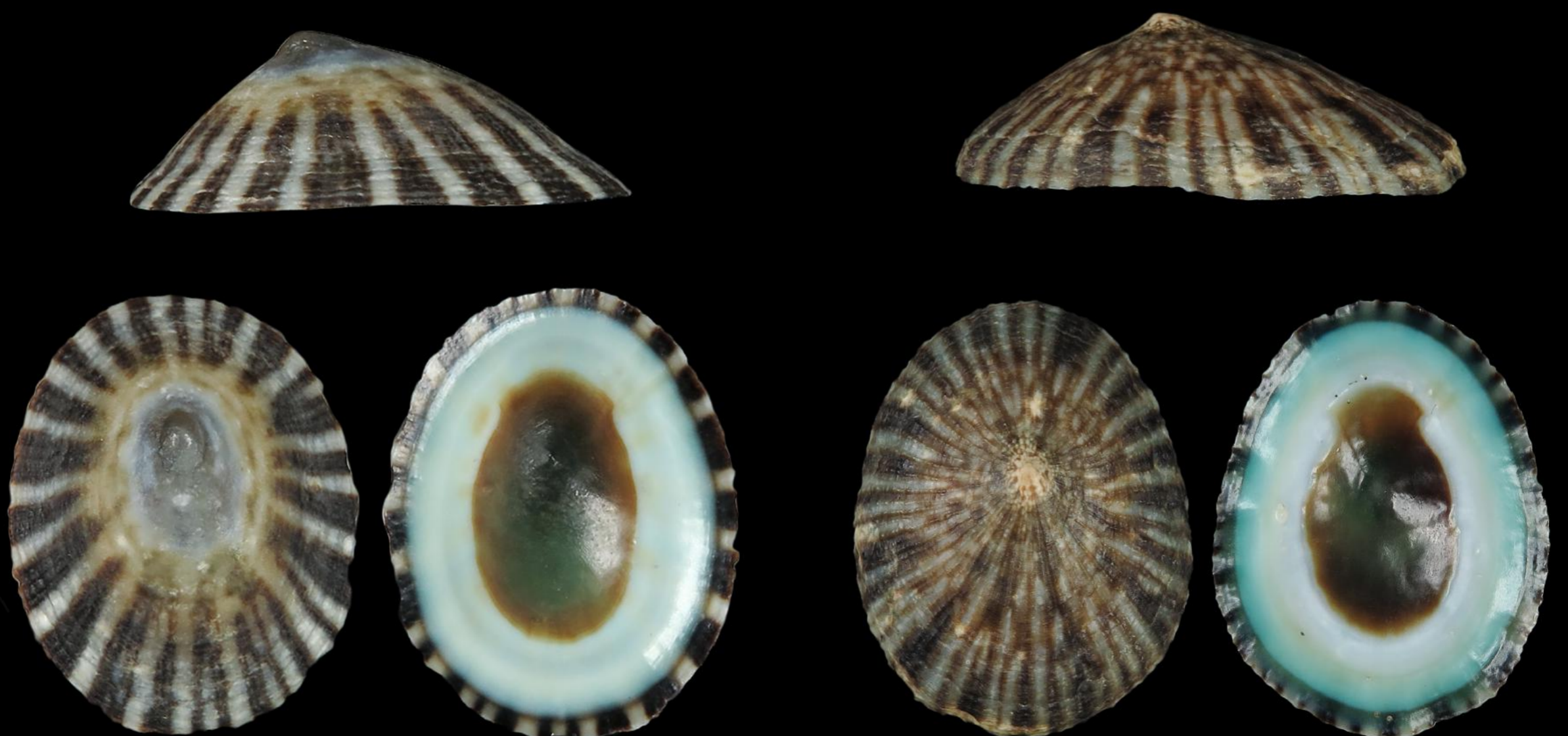
Is one out of two shallow water ROTULIDS from West Africa. They are amazing sea urchins which on one half of the test develop spiny appendices. Beautiful, a wonder of nature, and not often easy to obtain.





OFFER 295 THE *SCURRIA MESOLEUCA*

Is one of the very beloved limpets by shell collectors, as the interior is usually of a turquoise blueish coloration, bordered by a dark belt. The exterior is less important, as often dull. Sets of this species, in a box with the interiors turned upwards are spectacular. The *mesoleuca* lives from California all the way down to Ecuador and lives by the many millions in many places.





OFFER 296 THE *DONAX GRACILIS*

Is so seldom seen that it has been figured only 2 times in the Literature: Keen shows the species alive and dead. There is one in Olsson, but this is likely another species. This is sensu Coan and Valentich-Scott (2012).





OFFER 297 THE *LOTTIA MITELLA*

Is a seldom seen rather small species which is endemic to Mexico only. Here a new set, collected also half a century ago.





OFFER 298 THE *PURPURA BUFO*

Is found over the entire Indian Ocean, from East Africa, all the way to Japan and the Philippines. Also China and Taiwan, but apparently it does not penetrate the Pacific. The species is uncommon everywhere, and one has to be very lucky to find a colony. I highly suspect that this large shallow water Muricid was victim of its own delicious taste, and possibly it was also collected for coloring purposes - it is a *Purpura* after all. The big callus on top of the aperture makes the identification easy.





OFFER 299 THE *FRAGUM FRAGUM*

This beautiful *Cardium* which repeats the genus name as species name has a huge range in the Indo-Pacific where it lives from shallow to several dozen meters deep, mainly on sand bottoms. We see the species recorded not only from the Philippines but also from China, Tahiti, Fiji, Japan, the Seychelles, Indonesia, Reunion, Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam and Australia. So, from everywhere over one third of the subtropical and tropical seas of the globe. What we have here are shells from the Solomons and Australia from the Rice collection. This species, while beautiful and with a big range, is not easy to collect in quantity.





OFFER 300 THE *MUREX SAXATILIS*

Which now listens to the name of *Hexaplex duplex* f. *saxatilis*. In fact, what is understood as “*duplex*” has nothing to do with the “*saxatilis*”, and we urge Muricologists to work on this matter. For us, collectors and lovers of special shells, this is a valid species which is eaten in Senegal. The difficulty is to get the quality that suits in a collection. Here a set of young pieces much more beautiful than what is usually seen. Taken offshore. Common as I could judge from Dakar south to Saloum.





OFFER 301 THE *ANGARIA POPPEI*

Is by now a well recognized valid species in the families. We were all sceptic when the Monsecour brothers came up with the *Angaria poppei*, but their expertise proved more valid than expected. The *poppei* is now known to live quite deep, mainly on gravel bottoms. I dived quite some myself, far offshore the north coast of Cebu, in 25-30 meters on fine gravel. At that depth the red has disappeared and the shells look all black. Between the growth on the gravel stones, they are very difficult to spot, but once the hunter understands shade and shadows, one after another can be caught and it is not seldom you get half a dozen in a dive. Very variable in coloration: from black over reds and greens to whites and pinks.





OFFER 302 THE *HYDATINA PHYSIS*

Has a worldwide distribution. But is in fact rare everywhere. I have seen only a couple of shells alive despite many months full time in the sea. The animal is fantastic: brown or reddish with a lightning blue border. The species has spiral lines all over, is variable in coloration of the shell, and contrasts with the *Hydatina monteiroi* which has axial lines. Often found shallow.





OFFER 303 THE *ARCA BOUVIERI*

Is a not so often seen *Arca*, described first from Cape Verde Islands by Fischer, in the prestigious *Journal de Conchyliologie*. It is now known to live also from Senegal south to Guinea Bissau, Gabon and the Congo. A record from Europe by Nordsieck (1969) I consider doubtful. This is a southern sister species of the European *Arca noae* from the Mediterranean. Hard to clean, seldom seen as beautiful as the present lot.





OFFER 304 THE *CARDIOCARDITA AJAR*

Is important in the literature first: figured already in the historical book of Adanson in pre-Linnaen times and later it became the type species of the genus "*Cardiocardita*" and as such figured in Moore (1969). In the literature, all our records refer to either "West Africa" or "Senegal", with one photograph of shells from Gabon (Bernard, 1984, but he uses "cf." next to his piece which indeed looks a little different from the Senegal material). A pretty solid bivalve from a beloved group: the Carditids.





OFFER 305 THE *MARETIA PLANULATA*

Is a nice sea urchin which likes to ride even in daytime on the sea bottom. But when the night falls, usually hundreds gather together in groups. The spines on top are long, and the urchins are covered like with a very hairy skin. The coloration is always a symmetric design in black and white. You can check this out in www.poppe-images.com. We here have a set of relatively large samples from the Caubian Sandbar, which is a sandbar surfacing at low tide, not very far from the Caubian Islands.





OFFER 306 *ARGONAUTA ARGO*

Is one of the most beautiful conchological items on the planet. It is not a shell, but a protective case in which the female deposits the eggs and broods these for some days. The animal doing so is a kind of Octopus. While the female is BIG, the male is MINUSCULE.

To fertilize the giant female, he goes close to her, cuts one of its arms, loaded with sperm and the arm will swim into the female for fertilization of the eggs. When having their shells *Argonauta's* can swim from the surface to very deep. The beautiful shells we offer here, were caught very deep. Fisherfolk eat these Octopuses but occasionally keep the shells for trade. Well sized perfect samples are rare.





OFFER 307 THE *MARGARELLA ANTIPODA ROSEA*

Great small TROCHIDAE which WoRMS places in *Cantharidus*. The type species of *Cantharidus* being *opalus*, this is a very impossible situation. So we maintain the “*Margarella* genus”, which is now in CALLIOSTOMATIDAE, a little complicate. We will see what the future brings on this subject! The *antipoda rosea* is a magnificent species, and here we have a fine set from the Rice collection, found around 4 decades ago.





OFFER 308 THE *MITRELLA LALAGE*

Is a magnificent Columbellid with a pattern of pointille all over, a glossy shell, an impressive row of parietal tooth in the aperture and a pleasing warm orange-brown coloration. The species is notoriously seldom seen and has also a rare appearance in the literature: only Kaicher and Keen figure this *Columbella*. The Holotype is in the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel, Philadelphia. It is figured online and comes also from Mazatlan. Apparently, not known from any other place.





OFFER 309 THE *LOTTIA ACUTAPEX*

Is a seldom seen species in collections and equally rare in the literature. We found it only in Hertz (1984) in the Festivus Vol. 16 where you can see the Holotype. Described as "*Acmaea acutapex*". Keen (1971) figured the species also, but from Panama. We here have a nice set from the Rice collection. In the past we got only one shell from the Verhaeghe collection.





OFFER 310 THE *LOTTIA INSTABILIS*

Is a strange Limpet from the cold waters of the northwest American coasts. The shape is a little reminding us to the South African “*compressa*”, but the shells of *instabilis* are much smaller. I think the name comes from the rounded base: the shells are unstable when put on a flat support. This shell has been figured in the popular book of Abbott with the drawings of the Sandsrums, and became as such very well known, although few are seen in collections !





OFFER 311 THE *ATRINA INFLATA*

Is a highly unusual Pinna with extremely convex sides, so the shell is very “round” when seen from above. In nature however, one sees only the last half centimeter eventually sticking out of the fine mud in which this glossy species lives. We dived only a few, as this is a rather deep living *Pinna*. The shells are never perfect, but this is highly selected already. Not often found, not often offered, and with the price of the fish in the Philippines, few divers still concentrate on shells. So the chances we get fresh stocks are limited.





OFFER 312 THE *BUBO*

The *Tutufa bufo* is a rare species in the Philippines. We dived in thousands of dives less than 5 pieces and all deeper than 10 meters, some at 25 meters. But I remember having seen MANY at low tide on a reef in Kenya, near Mombasa, in the 1980's. The advantage of the Philippine ones is that they come usually quite well cleaned: each shell takes hours and hours to get the chalk out. For the huge range, in fact not seen so often. We here have a few pieces left: we do not stock these any longer because of the huge postage costs of today. A late fortuity.





OFFER 313 THE *CLANCULUS CONSOBRINUS*

With not far from a hundred species, *Clanculus* are definitely a much loved group of Trochids: their shells are solid, often beautifully patterned, with slightly glossy patinas and most often not “very” small. The apertures show different degrees of columellar plicae and teeth and are all mother of pearl inside. We here have a not so well documented species which we see in color in Robin (2008), Wilson (1993) and in Wells and Bryce of 1988. The *Clanculus consobrinus* with its beautiful brown or olive colored shells has a pattern of white and black dots and lives in the cold waters from Western Australia to New South Wales. We here have a set from South Australia, where shell collecting has become scarce for unknown reasons.



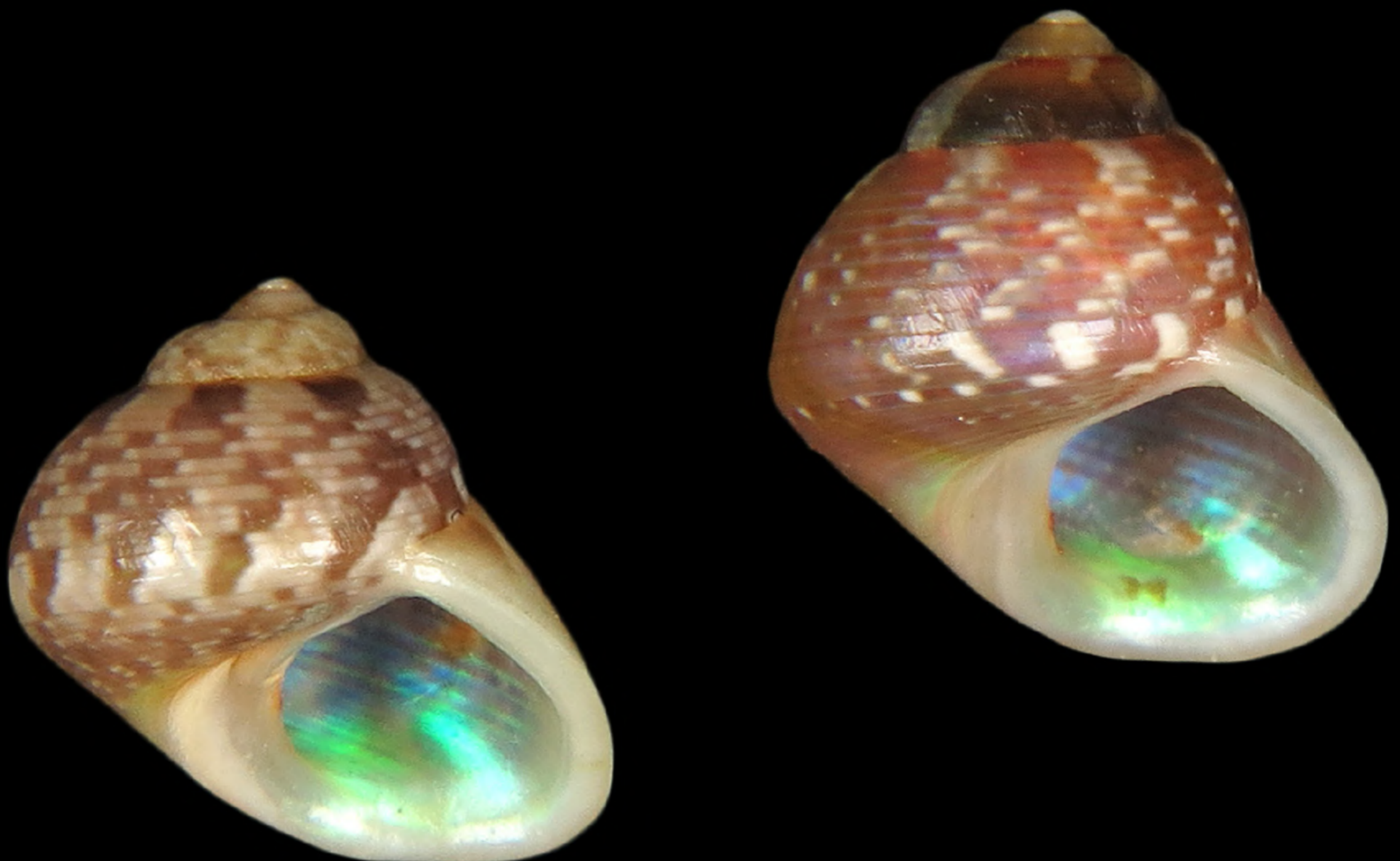


OFFER 314 THE *CANTHARIDUS DILATATUS* FROM NEW ZEALAND

Is a seldom encountered cute little Trochid which we know of two black and white figures and one color photograph only. The color photos are from Raven & Bracegirdle, 2010. The

black and white photo is from Kaicher, and Powell made a black and white drawing published in 1979. Living all over New Zealand, in North and South Islands, including the

Stewart and Chatham Islands, one wonders why this beautiful species is not more documented. Also found in the genus *Micrelenchus*, but in this case *Cantharidus* is more accurate as one can feel a very far conchological relationship with the much larger type species of the genus, which is *opalus*.





OFFER 315 THE *TAREBIA LATERITIA*

Is a sheer beautiful species living in small rivers in the mountains of Cebu, and possibly elsewhere. The shells here offered fit the drawings of Reeve in his *Iconica*, Vol. 12. Brot (1879) also extensively documented Lea's "*lateritia*", but his shells are a little broader. Lozouet & Plaziat (2008) documented the species from Bohol. Here some superb banded pieces from Tumalog.





OFFER 316 THE *NERITA EXUVIA*

Is a large sized beautiful *Nerita* with elevated ribs with a pattern on top. The coloration is variable from pale to dark. This major species of the Nerite collection is found from Indonesia, Bali, to the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. There is one record from the Yaeyama Islands, east of Taiwan. The majority of the shells known in collections comes definitely from the Philippines. Not easy to find.





OFFER 317 THE PURPLE *CAPUSTERPENTIS* OF SAN RICARDO

The San Ricardo population of cowries attacked by an acid environment also contained a number of “*caputserpentis*” with the purple dorsum, some with a very dirty cream dorsum. Most were not repolished when we got them, so here they are. Uppermost interesting compatriots of the *amethystea* of Linnaeus.





OFFER 318 THE *LOTTIA FENESTRATA*

Described by Reeve is a not so often seen species from the American northwest. It has been recorded from Alaska south to Baja California. Lindberg (1981) and Tryon (1891) both record the species from California, San Francisco Bay. WoRMS refers the species to *Lottia* in the LOTTIIDAE, but in the literature look in ACMAEIDAE or LOTTIIDAE, either in *Notoacmaea* or *Acmaea* genus. Tryon lists the species as a subspecies of “*Acmaea patina*”. A dark colored species inside, easy to recognize.





OFFER 319 THE *CONCATENATUS* OF THE *TEXTILE* COMPLEX

These are the former “*textile* f. *scriptus*”, as we know them for almost two decades, coming from Madagascar. This is one of the finest and most beautiful forms of the *textile* complex, but it has now been placed within “*archiepiscopus*”, as it is an east African coast textile-group species. The line pattern which leaves virtually nothing of the yellow axial lines visible, is often stunning. A series is a must in any collection of *Conus* or connoisseurs ensemble.





OFFER 320 THE *BABELOMUREX CARINIFERUS*

Is the most famous of the Mediterranean Coralliophilids. It was ultra rare for decades, but since about 10 years not very difficult to acquire any longer, although never very cheap.

While many have been found in Malta at one moment, most of the shells of today come from Greece. We even photographed the species while snorkeling in Greece last year. The name this exclusive species was known for among collectors in Belgium was "The *BABELIS*".





OFFER 321 THE *VIDENA METCALFEI*

Is living in the central Philippines, amongst others on the Islands of Cebu, Negros, Leyte and Siquijor. Also reported from the tiny Camotes Islands. Described based on material collected by Cuming in the first half of the 19th century. Figured already by Kaster & Kobelt in 1860 and well shown in the Manual, with var. *minor* and var. *unicolor*, the latter without the dark band. In Modern literature shown in Visaya (2012, vol. 3(6), Wenz (1959), Shikama (1964) and Springsteen & Leobrera (1986). So, this is a well known species which should be present in each collection respecting themselves.





OFFER 322 THE *AMETHYSTEA* OF LINNAEUS

This fabulous item is the first “fake”, described by a scientist: the great Linnaeus himself.

When one polishes the *arabica*, and many other species of cowries, one gets a purple dorsum. However, there is a population in San Ricardo, Leyte, that lives in an apparently very acidic environment: the divers tell me “shipwrecks”. Possible, as the Americans left

many dozens of boats sunken in this area in WWII. The shells of the San Ricardo population all have a dirty purplish back, and the fisherfolk polished most pieces a little extra to make them “beautiful”. So, it is not impossible to have “natural” *amethystea* and that the name of Linnaeus does not concern a fake. His shell is shown online with other items of the Linnaean collection. A must for each cowry collector! The Leyte population showed up with a few *moneta* and *caputserpentis* with the same “defect” or “quality”.

Depends how one looks on this.





OFFER 323 THE *MACTRA SILICULA*

From Gambia has most likely not been collected by conchologists since its description.

WoRMS follows here Huber who has wrongly placed this species is the synonymy of *M. compressa* (Spengler, 1802). However, this is a completely different species as you can see in Huber's compendium. The shells here offered fit perfectly the figure given by Reeve for this species, which Reeve documents as "from the mouth of the Gambia".

A malacological treasure rediscovered.





OFFER 324 THE *TIVELA TRIPLA*

Is a solid medium sized Venerid from West Africa, found mainly in Senegal and Gambia, but also recorded south to Gabon and the Congo. Variable, and some collectors love the species and make series of it. However, not always on the international market. Likely in Senegal and Gambia, the people eat this lovely bivalve.





OFFER 325 THE *TRICHEULOTA SPINOSISSIMA*

Is, when cleaned, a quite magnificent land snail, endemic to Mindanao, the Philippines. The offer of this species is quite occasional, and there are not many in collections worldwide. Uncleaned, the *spinosissima* has a rough looking shell, covered with a thick periostracum with small extensions, small hooks, to retain dirt on top of the shell, so that it can remain “invisible” in its biotope. This periostracum is easy to remove with bleach, and the result is a warm brown shell with a nice dark and white band mid-whorl. Described by famous Semper in his “Reisen im Archipel der Philippinen” at the end of the last century.





OFFER 326 THE *CONUS VIMINEUS*

The *CONUS VIMINEUS*, now placed in the genus *Fusiconus* is a remarkable species from the continental shelves with, if perfect, with a huge protoconch that translates a long veliger stage. This long veliger stage allowed the species to conquer territory: so it did. We know shells from the East African coast to Australia. They dispersed following the coasts and in collections there are quite some from southern India - they are the most “patterned ones”. In the Philippines the shells are warm brown, almost without a pattern, sometimes with bands. Australian shells are hard to find and deserve an extra premium. So do shells with part of the protoconch whorls well preserved. Most shells have growth lines, here a selection with good looking pieces from fine to almost gem.





OFFER 327 THE *DRYOCOCHLIAS JOHNSONI*

The *Dryocochlias johnsoni* from Mindoro is a quite difficult to get beautiful tree dweller.

We are not very sure of the name as Hidalgo's drawings are not very clear in this group. The *johnsoni* is quite close and has been described by Bartsch in a Smithsonian publication of 1938 as "*Cochlostyla fulgens johnsoni*". You may expect a possible name change in the coming decades... But all this does not diminish the rare coloration of this land snail: a deep blue-purple black with nuances of browns and white bands. Beautiful, well sized and solid.

We got about half a dozen now.





OFFER 328 THE *CAECUM PULCHELLUM*

The *Caecum pulchellum* is a common species that has been recorded from North Carolina over Florida, Texas, Yucatan, Colombia and south to Fernando de Noronha in Brazil. It is a typical “*Caecum*” with rings, and it resembles strongly some European species. The CAECIDAE are a fascinating family that live “between the sand grains” and in fine gravel. The shell breaks off on the thin side, as it grows, and the animal builds a “*septum*” there. On the broader part, the aperture, the animal sticks out. We now have a fresh stock of differently shaped CAECIDAE online, quite unique in the history of our company. Check the Encyclopedia.





OFFER 329 THE OLANGO *STOLIDA*

We here offer half a dozen of what we call “Olango” *stolida*, after the main Island where most of the fisherfolk catching this type of *stolida* live. In fact, this *stolida* is found on the north coast of Bohol, from almost Leyte westwards to Inabanga and Tubigon. They are, in my humble opinion, amongst the most beautiful *stolida* existing, with big shells, delicate and more slender than the Samar type, and usually with a very dark chocolate pattern, with a beautiful dorsal blotch. If these were koi, they should be amongst the most expensive ones. This type of *stolida* is rare. I dived less than 10 pieces myself and I spend many months full time 3 hours a day in their biotope. It is only the large number of hooka divers from the past that brought us several hundred pieces to the surface. These *stolida* like sponge bottoms, where they hide mainly in dead bivalves such as the *Malleus* - the hammer shells. A must have for the ones loving beautiful shells.





OFFER 330 THE *CRIBRARULA CRIBRARIA*

The *CRIBRARULA CRIBRARIA* has definitely one of the most beautiful shells in the world: it is well sized, solid, with great browns on a usually snowy white background. Divers in northern Bohol now found a place full of *cribraria* - this is unusual as sometimes the species disappears for a decade when currents are wrong during reproduction time! So, they explore the place now for several months without stopping. We now only select "the best" of their catches, and we here offer a last selection of 8 pieces: all special in one way or another: blotches in the callus, moon shadows in the white flecks, splashed out patterns and the like. For the ones loving the most beautiful shells in the world.





OFFER 331 THE *COCHLOSTYLA GRAELLSI*

Is a small member of the usually much larger *Cochlostyla*, a genus of tree snails living throughout the Philippines. One of the characteristics of the *Cochlostyla* is a hydrophaeous periostracum of which the color is pale when the shell is dry and dark when the shell is wet. So, they remain invisible in the rain forest as the shells take the color of the dry bark of the trees when dry and they get the dark wood color when it rains. In many places locals eat these snails. For the one not used to hunt the shells they are fairly difficult to detect in the trees: I've seen shell collectors standing at less than a meter from large *Cochlostyla* without them able to see the shell. The *graellsii* is most likely endemic to Balabac, although there are some records from southern Palawan also. Well documented by Hidalgo, Parkinson & Hemmen, and Tryon & Pilsbry. Even Möllendorff figured one but he thought this is a subspecies of the *satyrus*. Irregularly offered, cute.





OFFER 332 INABANGA *HARPA HARPA*

Inabanga is a small but historically important village in the northwest of Bohol Island. It is of difficult access, but there is the beautiful Inabanga river which allowed me to visit in my time with the boat Guphil I, now long gone. With Inabanga as a locality you have a territory of several square km including small islands with a dense population of fishermen. They occasionally dive some shells to ameliorate their daily income. We now got about half a dozen of the variable *Harpa harpa* from that area: from the grayish typical *Harpa harpa* to quite red, different shapes and all beautifully patterned with reds. The *Harpa harpa* is difficult to find: I never managed to collect even one specimen. I guess they emerge shortly in the deepest of the night or very early morning for minutes only, like most Harps are doing: the time to grab a sea urchin and to dive with it in the sands to eat and digest it. So, this is in fact a rare shell which is quite affordable... and they are all a thing of beauty.





OFFER 333 THE RARE *SCALALIOTINA* *SCALARIOIDES*

Is a seldom seen Liotid from rather deep water, which was first figured and described by Sowerby and later figured in the famous Thesaurus. Pilsbry and Tryon in 1888 copied the figure only one year later for their Manual and then we had to wait until 2005 when Dharma figured the shell from Indonesia: found in Western Kalimantan, the Natuna Islands. We were second in PMM 1 with a shell from the Cuyo Islands. Here a small set, an opportunity to possess a rare species with a strange shape.





OFFER 334 THE *MONETARIA MONETA* F. *TUBERCULOSA*

The *Monetaria moneta* is one of my very preferred shells, amongst the most beautiful of cowries, and with a fascinating history for mankind. In nature: shells go from small to quite large, in all kinds of shapes and in all colors between white and golden yellow. I therefore put it on the cover of the 1994 price catalogue by Poppe & Senders. What we have here is a fine series of heavily sculptured pieces, that have on the dorsum like two overdeveloped “shoulder knobs”: they are all in relief. Early well documented in 1936 by experts Schilder & Schilder and later by Lorenz in his 2018 opus on cowries. Not that often seen.





OFFER 335 THE NEW *LAUTOCONUS* FROM GAMBIA

In the Volume 50, issue 3 of *The Festivus*, Petuch & Berschauer described a small series of *Conus* from the flats of Gambia, living shallow. We here offer a fine selection of differently colored newly arrived material: it contains the *gambiensis*, *rikae* and *fernandi*. For *Conus* experts. Know that there is only one out of a dozen having the quality of the material here offered: most specimens living there are not worth being taken. This is from fine to fine+, gems are extremely rare.





OFFER 336 THE *TERESTROMBUS TEREPELLATUS* *TEREBELLATUS*

The typical *terebellatus*, the nominate subspecies, in contrast to the Indian Ocean *afrobellatus*. True *terebellatus* as found in the Philippines live a little deeper than the shore proper. They love to graze on green algae between 10 and 15 m deep, although they are also found deeper. In contrast with most *Strombus* from the Philippines, they are never found in big quantities. When the diver comes up with 3 pieces, it is a lucky day. We distinguish 3 color forms that deserve separate names: plain warm brown with little or no pattern - classic brown speckled with a few sparse darker blotches - and finally almost plain brown without speckles and with dark well shown blotches. Only the speckled form is common, both other forms are rare. A beautiful glossy thin shelled species, the aperture often bordered by a nice gold line.





OFFER 337 THE *PLACAMEN LAMELLATUM*

Checking Venerid literature one sees 3 different species named “*lamellata*”. The *Artemis lamellata* is now however a synonym of *Dosinia tumida*. The *Venus lamellata* is an impressive beautiful species from West Africa. And in the Indo Pacific we have the *Placamen lamellatum*, a solid average sized Venerid with either short or raised lamellae.

The species lives from Korea south to the Philippines, and west to Vietnam and the Andaman Islands. Apparently it does not venture out of this area and its scarce presence in the literature - 3 books only - reflects the scarcity in nature. Beautiful and uncommon.





OFFER 338 THE *TIMOCLEA SCANDULARIS*

Belongs to the *Timoclea*: a group of deliciously beautiful bivalves living merely between 50 and 200 m deep on sand and gravel bottoms. Occasionally the *Timoclea* have nice patterns and most have an attractive sculpture. The *T. scandularis* as shown here has been figured only by Lamprell & Whitehead who figure a shell from Queensland in 1992. We sold a few of these under a wrong name. The Philippine *Timoclea* need a revision definitely. The most common species in the Philippines is the often beautiful “*marica*”. The *scandularis* lives occasionally shallow, although most pieces come from around 200 m deep.





OFFER 339 THE *THYLACODES COLUBRINUS*

Is an amazing large snail which lives in a tube, attached to the substrate, most often in coral middens. In the literature this species is still called “*Serpulorbis colubrinus*”, but we here follow WoRMS, the name confirmed by Rosenberg & Bieler. We have only information about the Philippines and Vietnam as locality, but I suppose nowhere else people were courageous enough to do the tremendous job to collect even one. The shells are firmly attached to the corals and/or stones or sponges, and it takes tools to get them off the substrate. The snails sit in the tube, when not feeding covered by an operculum. When hungry they spread a net of mucus to attract floating plankton and algae and the like. They regularly pull in the “net”, exactly as a fisherman does, and eat the contents. Here a set of fantastic beautiful pieces, well cleaned, but some need some extra cleaning. Also sets of sometimes more than one animal glued to another one.





OFFER 340 THE *DENDROCONUS GLAUCUS*

Is an extremely rare species in the Philippines which is available to collectors in quantity. In nature however, it is virtually impossible to find one: we never did. Well documented material is scarce: we got dark pieces from “Masbate” in the past, a sure locality, but then again, Masbate has a lot of coasts and we explored these two weeks without finding even one *glaucus*. What we have here are a few pieces from the Tom Rice collection which I think Tom got from the Manila dealers of the early 1980’s: their material came from much earlier collected stocks like the ones from Quadras. An opportunity to get a rare shell for little financial effort. The literature is vague when it comes to locality data, but we are sure the species lives in the Philippines, the Solomons, Indonesia and New Caledonia.





OFFER 341 THE *RABDOTUS DEALBATUS*

Is a relatively common but local snail from the southern USA. In the literature it is to be seen in many families and with many generic names: ORTHALICIDAE, BULIMULIDAE, MEGALOBULIMIDAE and ACHATINELLIDAE. Genera are *Bulimus*, *Orthotomium*, *Bulimulus*, *Scutalus* and *Rabdotus*. The species has been reported from North Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas. Possibly also elsewhere. We here have a fine set collected almost half a century ago along the Rio Grande, a classic locality for *R. dealbatus*.





OFFER 342 THE *XIMENICONUS PERPLEXUS*

The *Ximeniconus perplexus* is considered a common species from the central western American coast. However, fine to gem pieces are not that easy to find. What we have here is a population of great beauty from the very northwestern part of the Gulf of California, deep inside. The shells resemble strongly the Mazatlan shell from Monnier & All., with a dark band around the shoulder, a superb pointillé pattern and two darker bands on the body whorl.





OFFER 343 THE *CHICOREUS BANKSII*

Is a rare Muricid found in the Philippines only in its extreme southern part, where only a few locals can gather shells, as the geopolitical situation is not advised to go shelling there.

In this area, the *banksii*, usually dark brown in color, displays an explosion in shapes and coloration: from white to orange to brown to black. With short or with long spines. As long as it last, we have since a few years good supply of this otherwise seldom seen species. The name "*crocatus*" stands for forms with long, well developed spines. Yellow and white are rarissime in the quantity taken. Here a fine newly arrived selection.





OFFER 344 THE *THAIS BREVIDENTATA*

Is an extremely charming cute Muricid dwelling in the shallows from Mexico, Colombia and south to Peru, Nicaragua: and it is even recorded from far offshore Galapagos Islands. Abbott & Dance (1982) show a specimen in the Compendium, but otherwise it is quite rare in the literature which suggests it is seldom seen in collections. Apart from the Compendium you can see this Muricid in Kaiser & Bryce (2001), Houart in Novapex (2018), Robin (2008) and Hickman & Finet (1999). Also placed in the genera *Acanthina* and *Thais*.





OFFER 345 THE *FLEXOPECTEN FLEXUOSUS*

Is a classic from the Mediterranean. The majority of the shells in collections comes from the southern Spanish coasts. It lives also elsewhere and penetrates the Atlantic: it is all over the Gulf of Cadiz to Cabo de Sao Vicente and south to below Rabat. At one occasion, for about 3 years I dived quite some with my old diving buddy Briano in Spotorno, Italy. By now decades ago. The *flexuosus* were attached on a steep slope on small stones at about 20 meters deep. They lived there in quantity with quite some beautiful *Calliostoma*: this was the same habitat as the purple *laugieri* and *zizyphinus*. The 4th year all *flexuosus* disappeared... but fortunately I could figure a superb series from that locality in the Iconography with Raines. Here a small set of classic colors from Malaga, where the species lives offshore. They are dredged by fishermen that work in close collaboration with a few collectors... Many variants have been named.





OFFER 346 THE *ARCHIVOLVA CLAVA*

Is a hard to find Ovulid originally described in Venus in 1991 from Japan. The holotype was visibly dead collected and measures 11.1 mm. Not so long ago discovered in Indonesia, Borneo, New Ireland and finally in the Philippines. We know also of 2 recent pieces from Japan: one shown in Robin (2008) and one in Okutani (2017). Comes in two groups always: large and small ones. I think it concerns sexual dimorphism, one of the forms being males, the other one females, but this is just a guess. Always most beautiful when one big and one small are together in a collection. Great shape, glassy appearance.





OFFER 347 THE *RHINOCLAVIS VERTAGUS*

Is one of my very beloved CERITHIIDAE. In the Philippines it is not very common, but once in a while you will find a spot, between 1 and 3 m deep, with heavy curly lines in the sandy mud bottom or in the pure white fine sand. These are the crawling active *vertagus* finding their way just below the surface of the bottom. Collecting them is one big pleasure. This species you will also find, usually heavily damaged, in packages of commercial tourist stuff along popular beaches. These are not suitable for collections: they have no locality data and their quality is to weep. Here a set from small Candaraman Island with an unusually beautiful soft cream brown coloration. Most populations are much paler in coloration.





OFFER 348 THE *RHINOCLAVIS FASCIATA*

Is the sister species of the beloved *Rhinoclavis vertagus*, but it does not live in big groups and most *fasciata* live a few meters deeper. This species loves the sand between 5 and 12 m deep in the Visayas, where each of them has a territory of several dozen square meters. As *vertagus*, they leave a clear trail and are easy to spot for the experienced shell collector. The *fasciata* comes in a wide range of colors: from white to all brown with all variants and designs between in: blotches, spots, lines and the like. Houbriek documented the species and the described forms well in Indo-Pacific Mollusca (1978). The *R. fasciata* is a successful Cerithiid with a territory covering a big part of the globe and without doubt millions of individuals: from the Red Sea and Madagascar all the way to Japan, the Philippines and into the Pacific to the Tuamotous.





OFFER 349 THE *CALIBANUS THALASSIARCHUS* *AZONA*

Was described by Wils in 1972 and some consider this not a valid description, I think because described as a form. But anyhow, the name is useful as it pinpoints exactly the form as shown here. The *azona* shown by Wils is from Siasi, quite away from Candaraman, but it is not impossible he got it from a fisherman that went there. We now got a fine set of 8 Candaraman pieces, all with the typical *azona* pattern, the typical *azona* size (the holotype is 51.6 mm) and all other features fitting. Not common.





OFFER 350 THE *BISTOLIDA KIENERI SCHNEIDERI*

In his recent masterpiece work, Lorenz divided the *kieneri* in three subspecies: Far western Indian Ocean pieces are the *kieneri kieneri*. From Malaysia south to Indonesia and east to the Philippines, we have the *kieneri depriesteri*. And from Sulawesi over Australia and Papua New Guinea far east to the Islands in the Pacific, we have all *kieneri schneideri*. The *schneideri* are usually more blueish, smaller and cuter than their western subspecies. They are also from an area where it is more hard to get material from and as such are strongly underpriced. Here a set from Rice collection, collected over half a century ago, from an area where there is little or no collecting at present: the rich Solomon Islands. An opportunity.





OFFER 351 DIFFERENT *NERITA*

Different *Nerita* from one locality, collected at low tide in mangroves, on the west coast of Cebu. As this was a member of Conchology, Inc. collecting, we could manage to clean the shells properly and to keep each operculum with the specimen it came from. This is exceptional in *Nerita*. An opportunity for the scientific collectors. And the ones that like perfection.





OFFER 352 THE RARE *THAUMASTUS THOMPSONOIDES*

Of which we here have only 5 pieces, is seldom seen: the species lives only in Ecuador, and we did not find it in our literature, but there is an image on the website of the Senckenberg, where they figure the holotype. This is a rather large species: between 56 and 68 mm in length in our specimens.





OFFER 353 THE *ANADARA PERLABIATA*

The *Anadara perlabiata* is sometimes classified in the subgenus *Cunearca*. This species lives from Mexico south to Peru. It has been reported also from Colombia and Panama. The shape is a little unusual. We now got a small series of this not often seen bivalve, which is said to live from the intertidal to 85 m deep. Shells are offered with and without periostracum. Never looks “very finished”, but is interesting.





OFFER 354 THE *STROMBINA PAENOBLITA*

Is a strangely shaped species, which has been described in 1989 only, based on shells from Galapagos Islands. In 2017 Avila figured on shell in color from Peru. We now obtained a small set of 11 pieces from Peru, trawled between 10 and 15 m deep. This is a grand rarity, not seen often, and a late discovery. The shape is spectacular.





OFFER 355 THE *MARGINELLA MACLEANI*

Is a very charming well sized Marginellid from Ecuador, quoted in the compendium of Abbott & Dance as “rare”. According to Kaicher, this species lives offshore in rocky areas. This is curious as all large *Marginella* I collected myself in South America were in sandy and sandy muds... the great particularity of the *macleani* is the pattern of diffuse white streaks and lines set in a very irregular way over the brown-grey back coloration. The ensemble looks like a modern carpet. A curiosity in shell patterns as such.





OFFER 356 THE *VASULA MELONES*

Is a classic from Panama. My first encounter with this shell was in my young years, when a famous wheeler dealer offered me two specimens which I paid a golden price. This is a species especially the French like, for some reason unknown... In the books you will find this species most often in "*Purpura*" or "*Thais*". The only reference with *Vasula*, now accepted by WoRMS, is from Houart (2018, Novapex, vol. 19(2)). We follow the modern trend. Recorded from Panama south to Ecuador and Peru, also from the Galapagos. There is one record from the Atlantic, which we look at as doubtful. This is a difficult shell for quality, here a set of highly selected pieces in fine+ to gem.





OFFER 357 THE *TURRITELLA NODULOSA*

Is a central American species, reported in the literature only from Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama. The first figures are from Reeve (1849), recopied by Tryon (1886) and we found only two photos of this handsome Turritellid: in Keen (1971) and Robin (2008). So, this is definitely a seldom seen species. We got a nice set, but most were very broken on the aperture, we selected the best, most are fine, check carefully the images, all are better than average. The rarity can be explained by the fact that the majority of our material was dredged: visible, as most species in the family, not intertidal.





OFFER 358 THE *TURRITELLA MARIANA*

Described by Dall in 1908 is a grand rarity, from offshore Mexico and Panama. We know of only 2 photos and one drawing. The drawing is from Keen (1971) and Abbott (1974) came up with a black and white photograph. Robin (2008) was the only one with a color photo.

Here highly selected shells: remember, virtually never perfect on the aperture as most *Turritella*.





OFFER 359 THE *CRASSISPIRA HARFORDIANA*

Is a taxonomic problem at present. Reeve in 1843 described a shell in the Iconica Vol. 1, which is probably the species we now call "*harfordiana*". He gives "Locality unknown". Afterwards, Weinkauff & Kobelt figure what I think is another Turrid as *harfordiana*: they give Panama, Mazatlan as locality. However, Kevan & Sunderland in 1993 show the species and put "Cuba, Veradero" as locality, and Vokes and Vokes in 1983 figure another one as from Yucatan, Mexico. Later workers figure the material we got from Venado Island, Panama as *Crassispira harfordiana*: Keen (1971) from Panama, and Robin (2008) gives the same name, same locality. In fact, they follow in this Tryon who in 1884 puts the range already from Panama to Mazatlan (he goes south to north). This is not an easy to get interesting nice large and solid *Crassispira*, always with some form of erosion, but we selected strongly the better ones out of the material we got.





OFFER 360 THE *PAPHIES AUSTRALIS*

Of the family MESODESMATIDAE, is a representative of that family in New Zealand. Also recorded from the Stewart and Chatham Islands. Well documented and illustrated by 5 photos we found in the literature and apparently this is the type species of the genus *Paphies*, as there is a drawing in Moore, 1969.





OFFER 361 THE *SACCELLA IMPAR*

The *Saccella impar* was mostly placed in the genus *Nuculana* until recently. Coan & Valentich-Scott in 2012 changed that to *Saccella*. We have four photographs and a drawing of this beautiful species with strong ribs and a pleasant subtle shape. Olsson (1961) was the one producing the drawing. Keen, Huber, Robin and Coan & Valentich-Schott all showed the species. In Keen, the black and white photo in the systematic part shows the correct “*impar*”, but his figure of the living animal with a color photograph depicts another species... This is offshore, found from Mexico south to Ecuador at depths between 3 and 80 meters.





OFFER 362 THE *RHINOCORYNE HUMBERTI*

Is well sized and has a fascinating shape. It lives shallow from Western Mexico south to Chile. This species is now placed in the BATELLARIIDAE, but in the literature you will find it also in the CERITHIIDAE, the POTAMIDIDAE and the PLANXIDAE (a mistake). There is also a misspelling in the literature as “*Rhynocoryne*”. This is a beautiful species, suitable in aesthetic collections. Variable in coloration, although uniform brown-grey is the most common.





OFFER 363 THE *CORBULA BICARINATA*

Is a thick shelled *Corbula* on which there is very little information. We have one figure of a slightly rusty valve from Reeve, published 10 years after the description by Sowerby. Collectors first learned about the species from Keen in 1971 who refigured the drawing of Reeve, and put photos of a high shaped shell with the clear sculpture of concentric ribs which are not present in all specimens. Huber in 2010 came up with a poor quality shell, but he figures the inside and so does the last publication showing the *bicarinata*: Coan & Valentich-Scott in 2012. This species has been recorded from Mexico over Panama and south to Peru. Not often seen in collections, despite its intertidal condition.





OFFER 364 THE *ECLOGAVENA COXENI*

Is an extremely attractive cowry which lives in waters with little collectors active: the Solomon Islands. It has been named after Charles Coxen, a 19th century politician and naturalist from Queensland, Australia. It is a quite variable species, and it is certainly not rare in the area where it lives, however, since twenty years almost nobody collects in the Solomons any longer, from where we only get supply out of existing collections. Its shape and coloration are quite unique and puts it aesthetically on a special place among cowries. The sister species are *hesperina* and *steineri*.





OFFER 365 THE *SURATENSIS* CONE

Is everywhere a grand rarity, very impossible to find for the individual, unless extremely lucky. Reported from the Philippines, definitely the center of its range, and virtually all material in collections comes from there. But also said to live in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Solomons. There seems to be a population in Sri Lanka and another one in Southern India. Both the latter and some strange localities seen are very doubtful. This is a highly underpriced shell regarding the extreme rarity. Part of the records in the literature are slightly unusual *betulinus*, watch carefully each image. This is a beautiful large *Conus*, the slender elegant sister species of the *betulinus*.





OFFER 366 THE *CYSTISCUS POLITUS*

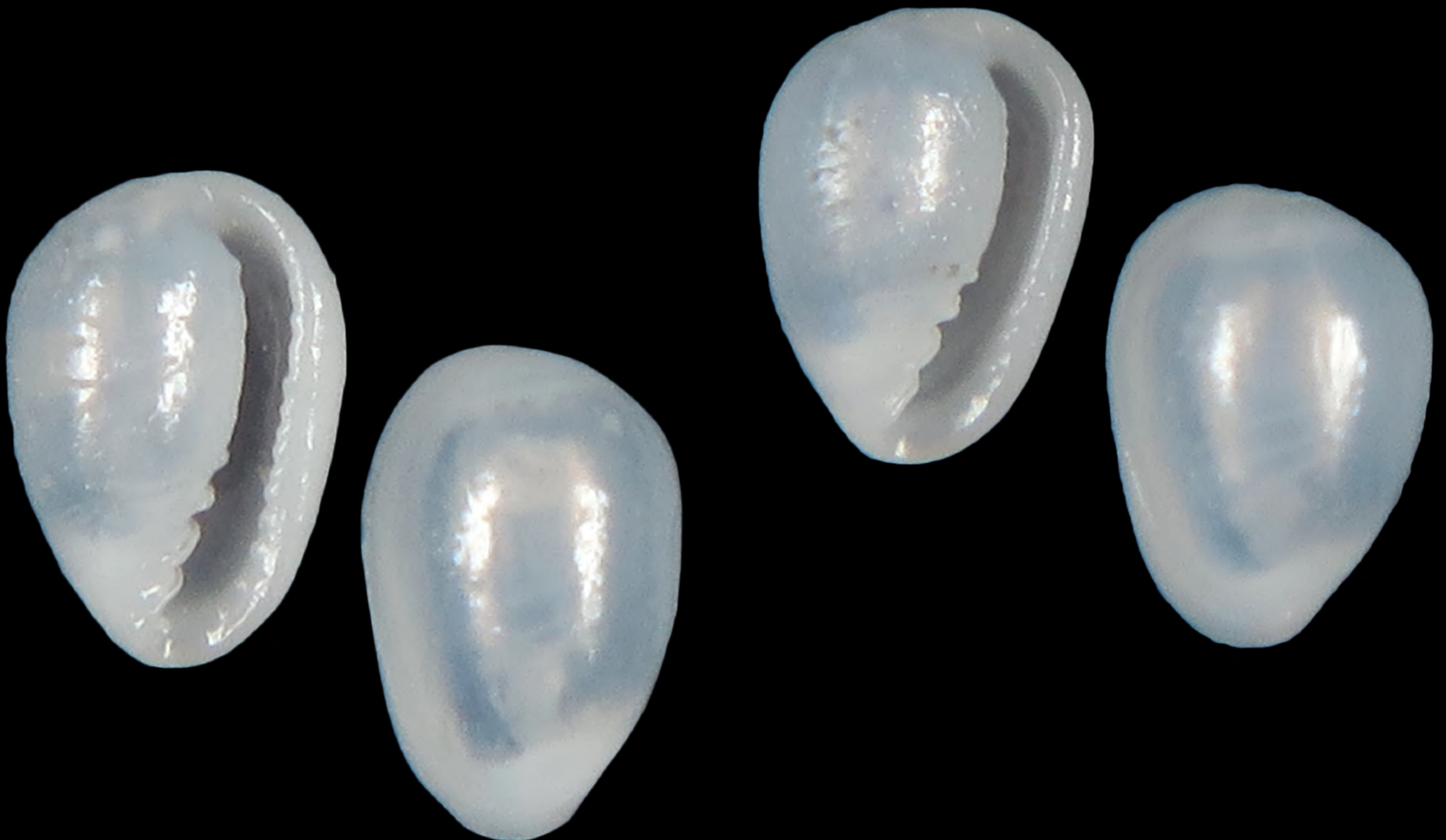
Is a marginellid species from the family CYSTISCIDAE, which is seldom seen. There is great confusion in the *Cystiscus* from the central American Pacific coast. We first thought that this is a “*jewettii*”, but that species is so difficult to define, Roth and Coan (1966-1968) figuring several species under this name... We think “*politus*” is the closest we could get with the literature at hand. Do not confuse with “*politulus* Dall, 1919”, a larger and more slender species. This species is also placed in *Kogomea* and in *Granula* in the literature, and as families you will find CYSTISCIDAE and MARGINELLIDAE. Figured by Cossignani (2006), Keen (1971) and Roth & Coan (1968 and 1966). Not often seen.





OFFER 367 THE *GRANULINA OCELLA*

Has been described recently in Novapex Vol. 11(2-3). McClery even came up with spectacular photos of the living animal. His shells were from Panama, but we can see no conchological differences with some of the specimens here offered. But in our set, the shells are quite variable as you can notice. Hard to get, collected over 50 years ago and virtually absent from collections.





OFFER 368 THE *PERICOSMUS CORDATUS*

Is a fantastic large irregular urchin that lives in the Malayan region, but mainly from Japan south to the Philippines. It is found on depths between 80 and 250 meters and covered with a dark skin with very short hairs. The coloration is uniform dark purple and the test has a pleasing heart-shape. It is high, almost round. Not easy to get, as material from that depth is caught at irregular intervals. For the growing number of sea urchin collectors... it is definitely time humanity gives some more attention to these beautiful creatures, apart from in the kitchen.





OFFER 369 THE *CREPIDULA NIVEA*

Is one of a few Crepidulids that go high along the American northwest coast. We are indeed as high as Washington state. We received this species from Tom's collection as *C. nummaria*, but that is a very small almost circular species. We also excluded the *C. perforans* as we follow the figure of McLean (1978). *Nivea* means "snow white".





OFFER 370 THE *MELANOPSIS BREVICULA*

The genus *Melanopsis* proper splits into many species in Spain and Morocco. They live in small ponds, rivers and the like where they are quite invisible in general. They are usually caught with traps by expert conchologists. To understand where the *Melanopsis brevicula* lives, look in Google earth where Agourai is. It is a village of the Middle Atlas mountains, far to the east of Rabat, Morocco. It takes days to get there. Unlike other *Melanopsis*, the *brevicula* has a smooth shell all over. Pallary described this species in the Journal de Conchyliologie, vol. 71 and it was refigured in the journal Malacologia of Cossignani in 1974. There you can see that often the top is very eroded, the shells here are highly selected.





OFFER 371 THE *MELANOPSIS DOUTTEI DECORATA*

Is a beautiful local variant, variable on itself as can be seen, from the *douttei* itself, a species massively figured in the literature. The present specimen come from Ain Chkeff, which is a suburb south of Fes, the famous Moroccan city, situated in a quite dry area... In Cossignani's Malacologia of 2014 you will find a few nice fotos of the "*decorata*" of which Pallary made already photos in the Journal de Conchyliologie vol. 65 in 1920. The type locality of the *decorata* is Dar Batha, on the northern side of Fes.





OFFER 372 THE *MELANOPSIS MAGNIFICA* *MAGNIFICA*

Is a large *Melanopsis* from Morocco. It was described early by famous and infamous Bourgnuignat, but is definitely a valid species in this particular case. Pallary in 1898 figured a specimen in the *Journal de Conchyliologie* Vol. 46. This was with an accurate drawing. He refigured the species in 1920 in the same journal and was followed in 1938 by Peres J.M., who showed photographs of an impressive series. One of the most desirable freshwater snails.





OFFER 373 THE *PUPINA HOSEI*

Pupina hosei is a rare species from southern Borneo you will not often encounter in collections, although most land snail collectors are very fond of the Pupinids which usually have glossy solid shells, occasionally very attractive indeed. This species comes from the very southeastern tip of Borneo: Kukup and was described in 1889 in the prestigious Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, Part 1. Godwin-Austen gives a perfect drawing with a special side view of the aperture.

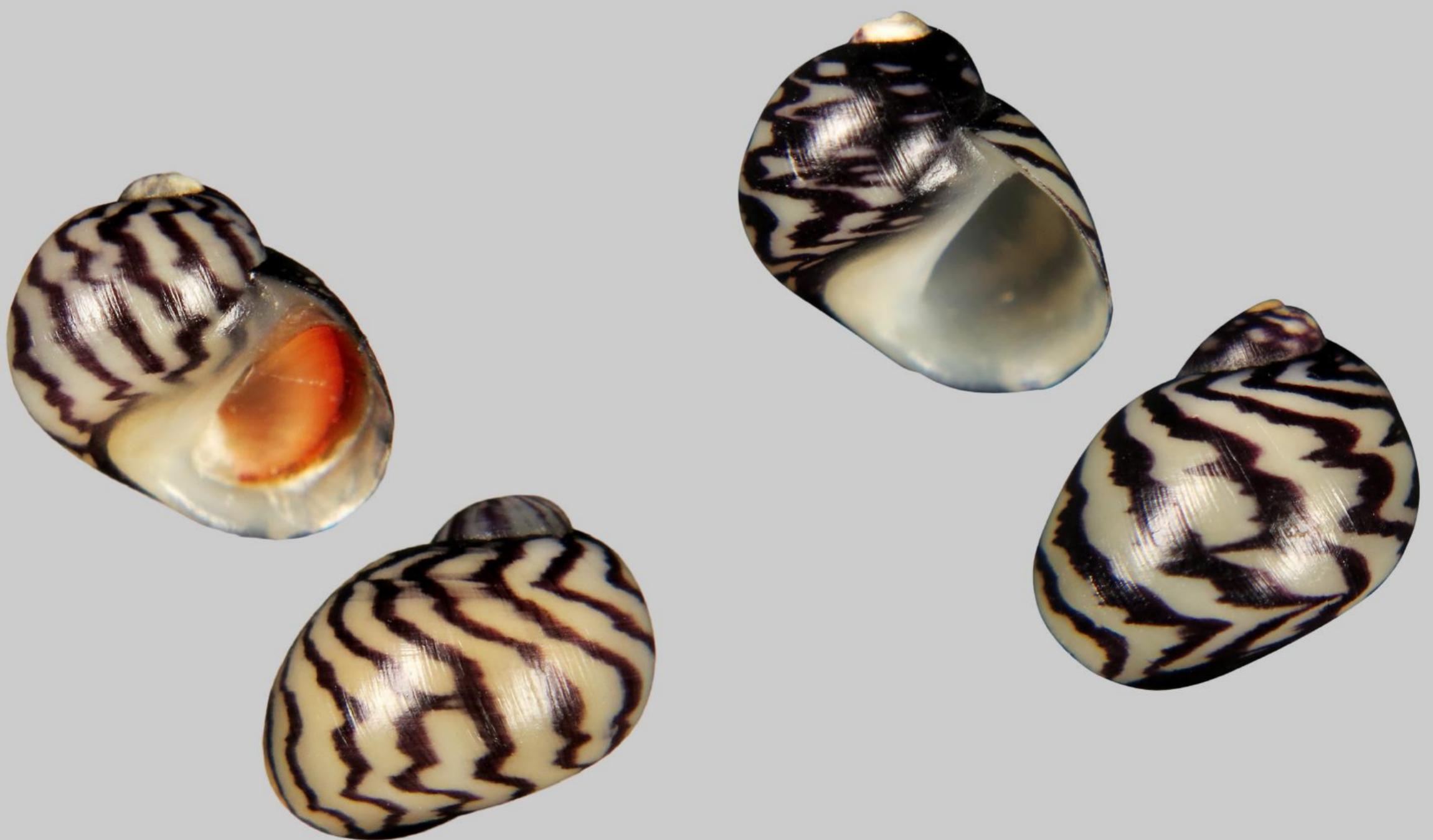




OFFER 374 THE *THEODOXUS ARCTILINEATUS*

The genus *Theodoxus* we all know from our common “*fluviatilis*” seen in about all healthy fast running waters of the north of Europe. But as one goes south and more east, the genus splits in many species, and reaches quite an impressive number of species all around the Mediterranean. Many are very local, and farming and pollution are a permanent danger for these species. Amazingly: all are charming and attractive, as most *Nerita* are. The old masters did not know where this species came from. Sowerby in 1855 curiously mentions Récluz as author and “Unknown locality”, same for Reeve, one year later in the Iconica.

Eichhorst goes strong with a nice series from Morocco. We have here a superb series, collected near Hassi Blal, which is in the far east of Morocco, near the Algerian border, south of Berkane indeed. It is a very dry area, there is an airport nearby for the ones who want to see the *arctilineatus* alive.





OFFER 375 THE *OLIVELLA SEMISTRIATA*

While we are unpacking the collection of Tom Rice, we encounter quite some material of *Olivella*. These animals are often living shallow, and Tom was a great self-collecting collector. Walking the beaches and mud flats he got good access to quite some species of *Olivella*. But one I like to unpack each time are the “*semistriata*”. This species has sometimes ribs below the suture (look in the homepage) and is sometimes smooth, as the ones offered here. One needs at least the two forms in a collection. In the literature the smooth form looks more common, but Tryon (1883) and Sowerby (1880) already figured the ribbed form. The *semistriata* has a gigantic range: from Mexico all the way south to Peru.





OFFER 376 THE *LITTORINA OBTUSATA*

Lives by the millions along the European Atlantic coasts. They graze on thick brown algae style *Laminaria*, and can be found by going through the algae at low tide. They like clean water, so, even open ocean coasts are suitable for them. In some areas they develop fantastic colors. Many of these got names by experts in European shells at the turn of last century: Dautzenberg loved the species and collected many. He also gave a good number of variant names, together with other big names such as H. Fischer (in the Journal in France in 1914) and with Bucquoy & Dollfus. Particularly striking are the banded *alternata*, the speckled *reticulata*, the orange *aurantia* and the yellow *citrina*, but there are many others. A great target for a holiday on the coasts, either you are in Norway, the Netherlands or France...





OFFER 377 THE *AMERICARDIA BIANGULATA*

The *Americardia biangulata* is an amazing *Cardium*, as it does not look like one. Flattened on one side, round on the other one, with thick ribs and an oblique shape. Thick and heavy. This bivalve has all to please more than most other bivalves do. The old masters knew the shell already, in Reeve we see a colored drawing as “*Cardium biangulatum*”. Later authors placed it in *Trigoniocardia* - Olsson (1961) and Keen (1971) did that. Bershauer & Clark (2018) opted for *Ctenocardia*. But most use “*Americardia*” and so does WoRMS. We follow them now. This curious species has a large range: from the South of California, all the way down to Ecuador. Yet, not that often encountered.





OFFER 378 THE *PEASIELLA ROEPSTORFFIANA*

Is a member of the amazing genus *Peasiella* which lives on rocky shore in the Indo-Pacific region, from Africa to Hawaii. The *Peasiella* are seldom seen and few collections have one. In 16 years we got only 3 species, out of 6 or 8 existing according to authors. Reid (1989), the world expert in Littorinids, published a nice revision of the *Peasiella* in the Nautilus (Vol. 103). What we have here is a series of the “*roepstorffiana*” described already in 1885 and this species is known from China west to the Andaman Sea, east to far in the Pacific and south to Queensland. Also recorded from the Philippines, but we never found that species in the Visayas... and we did not collect in the north or the south.





OFFER 379 THE *SUBCANCILLA FILARIS*

We were lucky to find a fairly good number of the most magnificent form of *Subcancilla filaris* in the Tom Rice collection. This species is usually slender and brownish in the Philippines, but there exists also an uppermost beautiful form which we now can offer here, and that first came into my attention when expert T. C. Lan from Taiwan figured a set of 4 in his uppermost fantastic book with the best shells from the best collections of that time.

His shells came from Tonga. Typical for this “magnifique” form is the broad white band below the shoulder, the very broad shape of the shells, the very pure white of the white - a perfect shiro koi lovers will say - the contrasting very dark pearled bands. Most *filaris* are brown and slender and look sometimes much as *praestantissima*. They are not the aesthetic killers as the present form. Apart from Lan, another expert in beautiful shells found this form worthwhile to be shown: Hill in 1995 also selected a set of 4! Few places produced this form: from Green Island, Queensland, which is just offshore Cairns. But also known from the Fiji Islands and Papua New Guinea in the Rabaul region.





OFFER 380 THE *AZONA* of the *OLIVA RETICULATA*

Is a form well documented in the literature by quite some experts in Olivids: Sterba, Zeigler & Porecca, Hunon, Hoarau & Robin, Tursch & Greifeneder and Thach & Berschauer. So, all recognize the form, but localities where it lives are apparently limited. We here have a nice set from New Caledonia, which we attribute to that form. Tursch & Greifeneder figured in black and white the same specimen from New Caledonia indeed. But most shells are either from the central Philippines or from Bali. Also known from the Solomons and Solor Island in Indonesia. Typical is the fine reticulate pattern evenly dispersed all over the shells.





OFFER 381 THE BEAUTIFUL *PLANAXIS* *PLANICOSTATUS*

Is a seldom seen species, for some reason I do not know. Apparently it is not easy to get. We got it only a few times but the *planicostatus* always sold out rapidly. The species is so scarce that in the literature I found only two photographs: from Keen (1971) and from Hickman & Finet (1999). The rest are 5 drawings, starting with Reeve in the Iconica Vol.

20 and with Sowerby in 1887, we then finish with Thiele and Wenz. Quite surprising. Scarcity in *Planaxis* is not unique: a few years ago we discovered on the open ocean coast of Leyte the very rare *Supplanaxis leyteensis*, which we described in 2015. It happened to be we were forced to use that coast to go north with Guphil, as the wind was in a highly unusual direction. The open ocean coast has usually waves of 3 meters arriving, even on calm days, but in these two days we could navigate there the sea was flat as a pancake. We snorkeled and found amazing species, among others the *leyteensis*, which imitated a local *Zierlania anthracina* and *Nassarius reeveanus*. We could never go back there unfortunately.

The present shells are highly selected already but go from fine+ to gem.





OFFER 382 THE *HELIACUS AREOLA*

Is an amazing Architectonid which is common throughout the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific area. we see no records from the Pacific. In the Philippines it is a not easy to find species, however, when you find a “field”, one can collect hundreds without even harming the slightest nature: they are around by the many thousands. How to find them: in one to two meters deep you can find occasionally a field - usually in a silent bay without much current - of millions of small sea anemones (or are they soft corals ?). They are dark green and look like small stars, the size actually of an areola. The areola are hidden between them and feed on them. They are hard to see, but once your eye is used to see the glimpse of the areola, you will all at once see hundreds. It then becomes the job to collect and clean. Shells over 15 mm are rare. Here a set from the Rice collection, from different localities, for the lover of the Architectonids.





OFFER 383 THE MISSING *CONUS*: *VIRGINICONUS* *PEASEI*

Conus peasei is a little known endemic from Hawaii. This is a “forgotten” species, which was first shown, as far as we know, as valid by Kaicher in the Cards. She gives “Queensland, Hawaii” as locality. She advises to compare with *flavidus* “which is larger and always yellows” she says. *Conus neglectus* Pease is the same, according to her, and in Monnier & All. (2018) they claim the whereabouts of *neglectus* holotype are unknown. The latter authors also limit the range to Hawaii. We got a fine set of Hawaiian *peasei* in the Rice collection, never got the species before, so it is extremely rare. Most shells from the Rice collection were ruined by growth lines and the like, but the ones offered here go from fine+ to gem. Virtually absent from collections.





OFFER 384 *THE CORBULA GIBBA*

Sometimes seen in *Corbula*, in *Aloides* or in *Varicorbula*. Now WoRMS changed once more back to “*Corbula*”. We do not stop changing in the database. This little species lives on sand and sandy mud bottoms, below a certain depth. We never dived it ourselves but found many in nets from fisherfolk all over Europe. The species lives from Norway south to Senegal. It is a cute and remarkably shaped Corbulid. We here have a small series with periostracum.





OFFER 385 THE *LITTORARIA INTERMEDIA*

A guest of the mangrove trees in the Indo Pacific, the *Littoraria intermedia* is one of the bigger species in the genus. The genus *Littoraria* was revised by Littorinid expert Reid in 1986. Here a superb series from Thailand. These animals live in mangrove forests where they usually cling on the underside of the leaves. The “*intermedia*” has been recorded from the entire Red Sea south to South Africa, and on about all tropical and part of the subtropical coasts all the way to Polynesia. The species is variable.





OFFER 386 THE *FAVARTIA EROSA*

Is a not often seen Muricid from the American west coasts. It lives from Mexico south to Panama and has been recorded from the Galapagos. We here have a small series of exceptional quality. The top whorls often break off as can be seen already in the literature (Robin, Radwin & d'Attilio) and this is exceptionally acceptable. With top whorls in the quality here offered is rare. Figured 7 times in the literature as we could find quickly, starting with Keen and Kaicher.





OFFER 387 THE *NATICA COLIMA*

There is not much to say about the *Natica colima*, except that it must be an extremely rare species. Hertlein described this curious Naticid in 1937 only! At that time all common western American species were already well known. Then, in the literature, only one author shows this species, as far as we could check: Keen in 1971. The operculum, shown in detail by Keen, is indeed curious with strong striae all over. So, this is a seldom seen Naticid, a precious addition to any collection.





OFFER 388 THE *OLIVELLA MORRISONI*

Is a very late discovery for the American West coast, as the species was described by Olsson only in 1956. We found a fantastic set in the collection of Tom Rice, wrongly identified as *anazora* and we sold like a dozen pieces under that name in the past. So, please change the name of these. We now verified carefully and discovered the well documented modern name of these magnificent shells with a superb color game and a superb design in zigzags. The species lives from Panama south to Peru and has been extensively figured by Sterba (2003).





OFFER 389 THE *CRASSISPIRA BIFURCA*

This is an average sized truly beautiful *Crassispira* from Panama. The pattern of dark brown on yellowish cream or cream, combined with a great sculpture is superb. This sculpture goes from smooth on the shoulder to very knobbed on the periphery, with spiral lines with small knobs below. The dark brown from between the knobs returns near the end of the columella. Only one single figure in modern literature: in Keen, 1971! So, this is definitely a very rare species which is seldom seen. From the Rice collection.





OFFER 390 THE *CAMAENA CHUONGI*

Is a superb Camaenid from Hoa Binh Province, described recently by Thach in the *Festivus*, where you can see also two photographs of the living animal. This animal looks much like the one in a *Cepaea* or *Helix pomatias*, but the eye stalks are black colored. Hoa Binh is to the west of Hanoi. I collected there a few years ago with my friend Franco.

Gabriella left us for a few days to go more south. There is plenty forest, but quite impossible to penetrate. We found quite some *Clausilia*, few *Pollicaria* and quite some Cyclophorids. This was mainly on freshly gained land on the jungle, by farmers. The *chuongi* must be extremely hard to find to have resisted discovery that long.





OFFER 391 THE *PISANIA IGNEA*

Was described by Gmelin already as a *Buccinum*, later placed in *Pisania*, a genus of the Italian conchologists Bivona and Bernardi. That was in 1832. Experimental genera in which you will find the species in books are *Ecmanis* and *Prodotia*, but the large majority of authors stick to *Pisania*. This shallow water Buccinid lives from the Red Sea and Kenya all the way to Tahiti and Hawaii. The top whorls are “deciduous”, they break off in most adult shells, but occasionally you can find a rare piece with intact protoconch and first whorls. This is not a variable species, and the ones from East Africa look exactly as the ones from Polynesia! Not that easy to find, throughout the range to be quoted as “uncommon”.





OFFER 392 THE *CALLIOSTOMA FUNICULATUM*

Is a newcomer in the pantheon of European members of the family CALLIOSTOMATIDAE. It was described by Ardovini in Malacologia of 2011, the number 71, from western Sicily. He compared the species with *laugieri* and *zizyphinum*, although I think it resembles more *conulus*, especially when looking at the coloration. A rare species in the western Mediterranean, and I think valid.





OFFER 393 THE *DISTORSIO CONSTRICTA* *CONSTRICTA*

This *Personid* has two or three subspecies, depending on the authors. The *constricta* living on the west coasts of the Americas are *D. constricta* s. s. The ones from the east coasts are called *D. constricta mcgintyi*. Other authors look also at “*habei*” as a third subspecies from the central Indo-Pacific, although most workers consider that a separate species. The *D. constricta* s.s. is one of the more difficult to get PERSONIDAE.





OFFER 394 THE *DISTORSIO DECUSSATA*

Is a not so often seen Personid that lives from California south to Peru. Early authors reviving this Valenciennes taxon are Keen (1971), Kaicher and Abbott (1974). Robin (2008) and Beu (2010) are amongst the latest authors showing specimens. Nordsieck & Talavera (1979) erroneously used the name for a Canary Islands shell. Here a beautiful selection of this species which has the tendency to appear and disappear from the shell markets.





OFFER 395 THE *CHICOREUS MICROPHYLLUS*

Is a nice Muricid living from the East African coast all the way to Australia, Japan, New Caledonia and Fiji. In the Philippines, this species is only to be found in southern areas, it does not live in the Visayas or, as far as we know, in the northern parts of the archipelago.

The color is variable, and very charming are whitish or yellowish shells. Usually all in the pastels.





OFFER 396 THE *MORULA RUMPHIUSI*

Has been named in 1996 by Roland Houart, with the beautiful name "*rumphiusi*", obviously after famous Rumphius, the German soldier who developed as one of the great conchologists of his time, even his works were published only a long time after he passed away. He is well known to be the first one to describe the fauna of one Island, Ambon, in Indonesia. His observations were so accurate that an expedition of Dutch admirers not so long ago, could find back many of his described species on the very exact places he indicated. The species was republished by Houart extensively In novapex of 2004 5(4). Known from Vietnam, Ambon, Amami-Oshima Island, Singapore, Mozambique etc...





OFFER 397 THE RED *CHICOREUS STRIGATUS*

This Muricid is only recorded from the Philippines and some Islands south of Japan and one strange record from Indonesia. A record from Bora Bora (Trondle, 1992) is highly doubtful. The RED form as seen in a population from southern Palawan is extremely attractive and only occasionally found by local divers. Here a fine selection of these.





OFFER 398 THE *CALLISTA IMPAR*

Is an endemic from Australian waters, although Abbott & Dance mention “Indian Ocean and southwestern Pacific”. Apart from these authors I see only a wrongly identified *impar* in Thach (2007). Real *impar* are now known to live in Australia, mainly in the northwest. There are records from Nicol Bay, and Wells & Bryce give Shark Bay to Port Hedland as a locality.





OFFER 399 THE *POLYMESODA NOTABILIS*

Described a long time ago can be called today a “forgotten” species, as it is so rarely seen that only two authors introduced the species in the current literature: Keen (1971) and Huber (2015) both document the *P. notabilis*. Keen mentions “Panama” as the area where it is to be found, but Huber extends the range from Mexico to Peru. Known to live in estuaries.





OFFER 400 THE *POLYMESODA MEXICANA*


Is one of the many *Polymesoda* living along the western coasts of the Americas. They are typical mangrove species, sometimes penetrating the fresh water canals quite far into the land. Virtually all species are covered by a thick olive colored periostracum that protects the rather fragile soft-chalky shells. In most countries the *Polymesoda* are eaten, and you will often find them alive on local markets, which saves you the digging out in the heavy black muds of the low tide mangroves, which are the territory of big crabs, snakes and the like. We found this small lot of *P. mexicana* in the Rice collection, collected about half a century ago, under the name *Polymesoda attilis* Gould, 1853, now a synonym of the *P. mexicana*. The *mexicana* is found from Baja California, south to Peru. A not so often seen species.





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