

President's Message

There are a couple of items of club business I'd like everyone to help with in the next couple of months. First, we are starting to plan our yearly shell auction and we need donations of shells and books and whatever. Every year we finish our season with an auction and pot-luck party. We'd like to make this year as good or better than previous years, so think about what you can contribute to the auction and/or the potluck. If this sounds premature, it's not, time will slip away fast; start planning early. Secondly, officer elections will be held at the auction/potluck meeting, which means nominations will be made next month. If you are interested in serving as a club officer or wish to nominate someone, start thinking about it now so we can be prepared by next month.

Finally, I'd like to remember our friend,

John Phillips, who passed away last month. Some of you may remember his presentation to the club last year. He told us about his life dealing sea shells and diving for abalone. He told his story in a straight-forward manner neither embellishing his life nor hiding the



John Phillips, who passed away this past month. He will be missed.

less savory aspects. He was a modest person but very knowledgeable about shells and liked to help shell collectors. I would run across him at various events and at his job at Tideline, working the specimen end of the business, Abbey Shells. We would talk on the phone and email each other. We spent the last few months trying to get together and never seemed to do it. I liked him and I wish we had more time. I don't think anyone

ever named a shell after him; if you ever have the opportunity, I'm sure he would have liked it.

Terry Rutkas

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Las Conchas is a publication of the Pacific Conchological Club

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

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

Range Extension for a Panamic Micro-Turrid

by Shawn Wiedrick

While in Costa Rica in November of 2004, I collected a number of micro-mollusks from beach drift in Tamarindo, including the shell pictured here. Using Myra Keen's, *Sea Shells of Tropical West America (second edition)*, 1971, I was able to clearly identify this little Turrid as *Agathotoma (Agathotoma) quadriseriata* (Dall, 1919).

The description of this species in Keen's book was written by Dr. James McLean of the LACM of Natural History and described some confusion about the range of this micro-Turrid. McLean writes,

"Originally said to range from the Gulf of California to Acapulco, Mexico; however the Acapulco specimens have not since been detected. The type specimen and all other known are from localities (mostly unspecified) in the Gulf of California; the only verified locality is Bahía Concepcion (LACM collection)." (pg. 755)

Carol Skoglund's *Panamic Province Molluscan Literature: Additions and Changes From 1971 through 2001 (Part III Gastropoda)*, Festivus Supplement, Vol 33, March 28, 2002 expands on the distribution of this species as follows-

"Distribution to Bahía Saladita, near Guaymas, Sonora and off La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Nayarit, México, confirmed (Shasky, 1997b)" (page 180)

Based on this brief survey of the literature, my specimen of *Agathotoma quadriseriata* was found considerably south of the published range of the species. I consulted further with Dr. McLean to confirm the species' identification and my findings regarding this possible range extension. Jim confirmed the species and indicated that he has actually found specimens as far south as Panama.

At this time, it is evident that the distribution range of *Agathotoma quadriseriata* must be extended southward to Panama.



Agathotoma quadriseriata (Dall, 1919) 5 mm
Tamarindo, Guanacaste, Costa Rica



COA Convention Returns to the West Coast!!

COA 2007 Convention
August 1-5 ,2007
Portland, Oregon
 “Chardonnay & Shells”
 in the
 “City of the Roses”

This year’s convention of the Conchologists of America will take place on August 1-5, 2007 at the Monarch Hotel in Portland, Oregon. It is rare for these annual gatherings to find their way to the West Coast (as opposed to the West Coast of Florida).

The program begins with pre-convention field trips on July 30 and 31. After its official opening the next day, the convention offers a diverse collection of presentations and programs supplemented with silent auctions, a “single shell” competitive show, a spectacular welcome reception, an oral auction and final banquet.

One of the highlights of any COA convention is the “bourse”- a maddening shell sale where dealers from all over the world present their latest and greatest stock for sale. Taking place on April 4 and 5, the bourse is an outstanding opportunity to purchase new shells or just see who’s selling what (at WHAT PRICE???)

For additional information and registration materials, log on to the COA website at www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions.

These conventions are remarkable experiences for all collectors – novices and veterans alike. Hotel rooms are filling up fast. Don’t miss out!

Minus low tides provide great conditions for observing mollusks and other marine life on Southern California shores. Listed below are some minus low tides that occur during daylight hours in the summer months:

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

April, 2007			May, 2007		
Date	Time	Ht.	Date	Time	Ht.
Wednesday, April 11	12:05 pm	0.0	Saturday, May 5	6:07 am	-0.3
Thursday, April 12	12:46 pm	-0.3	Sunday, May 6	6:57 am	-0.2
Friday, April 13	1:22 pm	-0.4	Friday, May 18	5:26 am	-1.6
Saturday April 14	1:55 pm	-0.3	Saturday, May 19	6:19 am	-1.3
Sunday, April 15	2:28 pm	-0.1	Sunday, May 20	7:16 am	-0.9
Monday, April 23	10:10 am	-0.1	Monday, May 21	8:16 am	-0.5
			Tuesday, May 22	9:17 am	-0.1

Mangeliinae and Daphnellinae: a small sampling

by Shawn Wiedrick

My interest in Conchology has grown quite obsessive over the last several years. With my discovery of the micro-molluscan world, I have learned to appreciate all species no matter their size, shape or color. I have grown quite fond of one family, in particular the Turridae. Described as the largest molluscan family, Turrids occupy all sorts of environments around the world ranging from shallow water reefs to the extreme abyssal depths of the ocean. Species in this family can range in size from 2 mm to 6 inches. Quite a few of these shells are beautifully ornamented with vibrant colors, strong ribs and spiral striae. Interestingly enough, the number of species in the family doesn't directly correlate with their rarity. In other words, they're not always the easiest shells to find, but there is an abundance of species in these genera.

Over the last several years, I have acquired quite a few shells. It started as a childhood hobby and was resurrected mid-college. I've tried a little of EBay, shell shops, collecting, traveling, trading, shell clubbing and I have really enjoyed every aspect of Conchology. As my collection grew, I decided to try photographing some of my favorite shells. To my amazement, my camera ended up providing me with some really great shots of many of the micro specimens, some of which I am sharing below.

I have grouped the following species according to their regional distribution as I present a brief glimpse at the mollusks within the subfamilies Mangeliinae and Daphnellinae.

Hawaii

Hawaii's rich reefs and rugged coastline are home to many Turrid species. The book, Hawaiian Marine Shells Reef and Shore Fauna of Hawaii Section 4: Mollusca by E. Alison Kay describes nine species of *Kermia* from Hawaiian waters. Pictured here are four of the nine.

Kermia cylindrica (Pease, 1860) (Fig. 1) is the smallest of the four species. The beaded texture is faintly connected through a grid-like structure of both spiral threads and axial ribs. Between each bead is a horizontally dashed line of brown which contrasts the overall tan colored background. Another similar turrid is *Kermia bifasciata* (Pease, 1860) (Fig.2). The shells sculpture is much finer than the previous specimen. In addition, the aperture of *K. bifasciata* is much wider and the shell is not as stocky. The thinly shelled *K. bifasciata* is a uniform cream white with an occasional small brown blotch. The third specimen is *Kermia melanoxytum* (Hervier, 1895) (Fig.3). This squat little cream colored shell has a wide base and the spire abruptly creeps into a pointed apex. The sculpture resembles *K. cylindrica* in that it has grid-like beads. Although in *K. melanoxytum* the beads are a bit larger and more densely packed. The most radiant and brightly colored Turrid photographed from Hawaii was *Kermia pumila* (Mighels, 1845) (Fig. 4). A fury of perfectly placed brown, white and violet beads revolve around each whorl creating horizontal streams of various colors. This is due to the fact that, out of the four species, this is the only one without axial ribs.



Hawaiian species. From left to right.

Figure 1 *Kermia cylindrica* (Pease, 1860) 4mm

Figure 2 *Kermia bifasciata* (Pease, 1860) 5mm

Figure 3 *Kermia melanoxytum* (Hervier, 1895) 5mm

Figure 4 *Kermia pumila* (Mighels, 1845) 6mm

mia pumila (Mighels, 1845) (Fig. 4). A fury of perfectly placed brown, white and violet beads revolve around each whorl creating horizontal streams of various colors. This is due to the fact that, out of the four species, this is the only one without axial ribs.

A rather common species found in the shallow waters of Hawaii is *Lienardia mighelsi* Iredale & Tomlin, 1917 (Fig. 5). Its robust ribs are crossed by thick spiral cords and the overall color is tan with several brown lines. Another similar species, *Lienardia (Hemilienardia) apiculata* (Montrouzier,

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(Continued from page 4)

1864) (Fig. 6) occupies the same habitat. *L. mighelsi* is a golden rust color with darker brown stripes near the suture and below the periphery. The profile comparison of the two species reveals that *L. mighelsi* has a more indented suture, sharper ribs and richer colors. *L. apiculata* has much rounder whorls and is a plain cream color. Kay features three species of *Daphnella*, one of which is *Daphnella interrupta* Pease, 1860 (Fig. 7). The sandpaper surface is contrasted by several streamline spiral cords of color. The random designs and different hues of brown and ochre ornament the outside of this mollusk. Another little stout species is *Macteola segesta* (Chenu, 1850) (Fig. 8). The ribs on this specimen are more prominent on the shoulder of the body whorl. In addition, the ribs are tight creating an even pattern. Its color is tan with a broad caramel overtone on the base of the shell.

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Hawaiian species. From left to right.

Figure 5 *Lienardia mighelsi* Iredale & Tomlin, 1917 6mm

Figure 6 *Lienardia (Hemilienardia) apiculata* (Montrouzier, 1864) 6mm

Figure 7 *Daphnella interrupta* Pease, 1860 7mm

Figure 8 *Macteola segesta* (Chenu, 1850) 5mm

It's still not too late to pay your 2007 Membership Dues! The Pacific Conchological Club has the following annual dues structure:

Individual members— \$10 per year

Family membership— \$12 per year

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

Mangellinae
(Continued from page 5)

Southern California

My primary reference material for this range is Jim McLean's book Marine Shells of Southern California, (October, 1969) or personal communication with Dr. McLean himself. Several species of micro turrids inhabit our local coastal waters, one of which is *Clathromangelia fuscoligata* (Dall, 1871) (Fig. 9). This shell's texture is somewhat cancellate. Numerous brown spiral lines



Southern Californian species. From left to right.

- Figure 9 *Clathromangelia fuscoligata* (Dall, 1871) 5mm
- Figure 10 *Perimangelia interfossa* (Carpenter, 1864) 7mm
- Figure 11 *Perimangelia nitens* (Carpenter, 1864) 7mm
- Figure 12 *Clathurella canfieldi* (Dall, 1871) 7mm
- Figure 13 *Mangelia hexagona* Gabb, 1865 9mm
- Figure 14 *Tenaturris merita* (Hinds, 1843) 9mm

and bands adorn this beautifully sculptured specimen.

Uncommonly found, *Perimangelia interfossa* (Carpenter, 1864) (Fig. 10) is generally a solid ochre color with rectangular designs creating a cancellate pattern. With a similar shape, *Perimangelia nitens* (Carpenter, 1864) (Fig. 11) has a smoother texture and brown banded coloration. These two species can readily be distinguished by their marked difference in surface texture.

Another species with muted colors and less prominent sculpture is *Clathurella canfieldi* (Dall, 1871) (Fig. 12). The sinus is much wider in size, when compared to other Turridae Genus from this region. The purely sublittoral *Mangelia hexagona* Gabb, 1865 (Fig. 13) is very elongated and elegant. Its axial ribs are pronounced and evenly line up with the previous whorl's ribs. Both *M. hexagona* and *Tenaturris merita* (Hinds, 1843) (Fig. 14) are creamy white in color. *T. merita* has a subtle brown line below the suture of the last several whorls and the shell's overall profile is more rounded.



Florida & Caribbean species. From left to right.

- Figure 15 *Pyrgocythara vicina* (C. B. Adams, 1850) 4mm
- Figure 16 *Pyrgocythara plicosa* (C.B. Adams, 1850) 5mm
- Figure 17 *Pyrgocythara hemphilli* Bartsch & Rehder, 1939 6mm
- Figure 18 *Stellatoma stellata* (Stearns, 1872) 5mm

Southeastern US & Caribbean

The next region to examine is the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. For shell identification I used Shallow-Water Turridae of Florida and the Caribbean (northern border of Florida to southern Brazil in depths of less than 250 meters) Third Edition, October, 2006 by Margaret ("Peggy") Williams. Microscopic spiral striations cover each whorl of *Pyrgocythara vicina* (C. B. Adams, 1850) (Fig. 15). This texture is broken by numerous modestly sharp twisted ribs. The first two whorls are a translucent orange and blend into a creamy white. Below the periphery on the last whorl is a flush of tangerine orange. The thicker-shelled *Pyrgocythara plicosa* (C. B. Adams, 1850) (Fig. 16) is much more distinct due to the cancellate sculpture and deep purplish brown color. The waxy texture of *Pyrgocythara hemphilli* Bartsch & Rehder, 1939 (Fig. 17) is contrasted by the shell's subtle transition from chestnut to cinnamon and back to chestnut again. The elongated profile helps to distinguish it from the previous two species. Easily confused as a *Pyrgocythara*, *Stellatoma stellata* (Stearns, 1872) (Fig. 18) can be detected by the deep sinus and denticle near

(Continued on page 7)



Florida & Caribbean species. From left to right.

Figure 19 *Brachyctybara biconica* (C. B. Adams, 1850) 5mm

Figure 20 *Kurtziella atrostyla* (Tryon, 1884) 5mm

Figure 21 *Kurtziella dorvilliae* (Reeve, 1845) 7mm

the sinus. The sculpture is similar to *P. hemphilli* but *S. stellata* is more brightly colored and has more prominent ribs.

The sturdy little *Brachyctybara biconica* (C. B. Adams, 1850) (Fig. 19) is beautifully decorated with tight ribs and fine spiral striations. Just below the suture is a faint brown band which encircles each whorl. The outline of this species is rhomboid with the whorls having steep angulations. The elongate shape of *Kurtziella atrostyla* (Tryon, 1884) (Fig. 20) is accented by its long sweeping ribs which stretch across the whorls in a dramatic fashion. *Kurtziella dorvilliae* (Reeve, 1845) (Fig. 21) is thinner-shelled and has more delicate sculpture.

Panamic

Seashells of Tropical West America 2nd Edition by Myra Keen is my current identification guide for this area. The Turridae section of the book was written by Dr. McLean. One of the most radiant species from the region is *Agathotoma (Agathotoma) quadriseriata* (Dall, 1919) (Fig. 22). The shell's citrus orange stripe and blood red peripheral band are contrasted by the warm tan colored background. The strong spiral cords are somewhat pointed and abrupt. The polished surface is microscopically ornamented with fine axial and spiral lines. The figured specimen is in excellent condition, with only minor beach wear.

(Ed. Note— please see the article on page 2 regarding a range extension for this species)



Panamic species. From left to right.

Figure 22 *Agathotoma (Agathotoma) quadriseriata* (Dall, 1919) 5mm

Figure 23 *Agathotoma (Agathotoma) stellata* (Morch, 1860) 5mm

Figure 24 *Agathotoma (Agathotoma) alcippe* (Dall, 1918) 7mm

Figure 25 *Pyrgocythara phaethusa* (Dall, 1919) 3mm

Figure 26 *Kurtziella (Rubellatoma) powelli* Shasky, 1971 4mm

Agathotoma (Agathotoma) stellata (Morch, 1860) (Fig. 23) is a very distinct mollusk. The ribs are evenly spaced and are accompanied by horizontal lines of color which form a layered pattern. The elongate shell is covered by a rich chocolate brown with tan streaks. In the same Genera, *Agathotoma (Agathotoma) alcippe* (Dall, 1918) (Fig. 24) can easily be distinguished from the previous species. *A. alcippe* has fine spiral striations and stout ribs. The rich but subtle straw coloration is a consistent overtone throughout the entire shells surface. The next turrid is *Pyrgocythara phaethusa* (Dall, 1919) (Fig. 25). It is much fatter than the other two species and has a bold brown spiral line just below the periphery. *P. phaethusa* has thick spiral striae and the profile is oval-rhomboid shaped. The thin shelled and fragile *Kurtziella (Rubellatoma) powelli* Shasky, 1971 (Fig. 26) has strange color markings that accent the growth marks of the shell. The caramel and chocolate colors combine to camouflage the broad spiral band along the last whorl on the periphery. The pointed ribs above that are firm and stand up parallel to the axis.

HOLD THE DATE
Remaining meeting dates
for 2006-2007

April 15, 2007
Philippine Mollusks

May 6, 2007
"John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts Jr.,
Molluscs, and the Sea of Cortez."

June 10, 2007
Auction and party

April Meeting: **SUNDAY, April 15, 2007**
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Shawn Wiedrick will present

**Philippine Mollusks: What the 'shell' is up with
so many shells?**

The presentation will explore the reasons why shells in this region are so plentiful, an overview of the molluscan fauna of the Philippine islands and a comparison of Philippine shells to other Pacific island chains, and how they relate.

May Meeting: **SUNDAY, May 6, 2007**
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Dr. Hans Bertsch will present

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

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

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

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



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DATED MATERIAL