

Society activities in 2005 – selections from some Officers' Reports presented at the Annual General Meeting

Six Council meetings were held in a very active year for the Society. Considerable discussion and activity centred around the website (www.conchsoc.org) and included an internet subscription facility to encourage recruitment of new members and plans for an online marine identification guide. If you have not yet visited the Society's website it is well worth taking a look at what is now on offer. Please send any ideas for content to Pryce Buckle. The implications to the Society of the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations, procedures relating to Officers' reports, and committee membership approval were discussed. No applications for research grants were received during 2005, but the grant awarded to Harriet Wood at the end of 2004 was paid at the beginning of 2005.

Programme

The programme for 2005 consisted of six indoor meetings held at the Natural History Museum in London, ten field meetings and three indoor workshops. Health and Safety Risk Assessment documentation was drawn up for all the field meetings and there are no incidents to report. The Society's nineteenth Molluscan Workshop was on the subjects of the preparation and examination of marine gastropod radulae and slug identification by dissection (tutors: Adrian Rundle and Brian Eversham). The other workshops were an informal session on recognition of New Zealand mollusc species, and on molluscs in microfossil samples (tutor: Adrian Rundle). Ron Boyce would welcome ideas for meetings of all kinds and for speakers for the indoor meetings.

Council Positions

Dr J M Light (Jan) began her third year as President of the Society. New Ordinary members of Council were Mrs C J Pain (Celia), Mr B Rowson (Ben) and Dr A T

Sumner (Adrian). Dr J D Nunn (Julia) was co-opted.

Membership

Membership of the Society at the end of 2005 was 332. There were 17 new members in the year, but 25 members resigned or lapsed through non-payment, giving a net loss of 8 members for the year.

During the year there were 79 subscribers to the *Journal of Conchology* which is one less than in 2004. Please take every opportunity to recruit new members. Either pass their details to Mike Weideli or encourage them to join via the website.

New Society Display Poster

Pryce Buckle and Terry Wimbleton contacted a graphic designer, to consider some ideas for the content of a membership recruitment poster as a more convenient advertising medium than the Display Boards. After consideration of several proofs, an eye-catching, colourful and informative design was agreed by Council and will be available to members organising exhibitions or events promoting the Society. These posters are also suitable for Visitor Centres such as those at Country Parks and Wildlife Trusts. If you need to be sent a copy of the poster please contact Terry Wimbleton specifying whether you need A3 or A2 size.

Publications

Two issues of the *Journal of Conchology* (Volume 38: 5-6) and three issues of *Mollusc World* (Numbers 7-9, March, July and November) were published.

Legacies

The Society is most grateful to the late Jennifer Crowley for her legacy of books and shells to the Society; these have raised £4700 to date. The Society would also like to thank Eleanor Fogan for her generous donation of £1200 from the sale of books that had belonged to her late mother Marjorie Fogan. Total donations and legacies for the year amounted to £4991.

Thanks are due to all members of Council and Society volunteers for their many and varied contributions to the Society during the year.

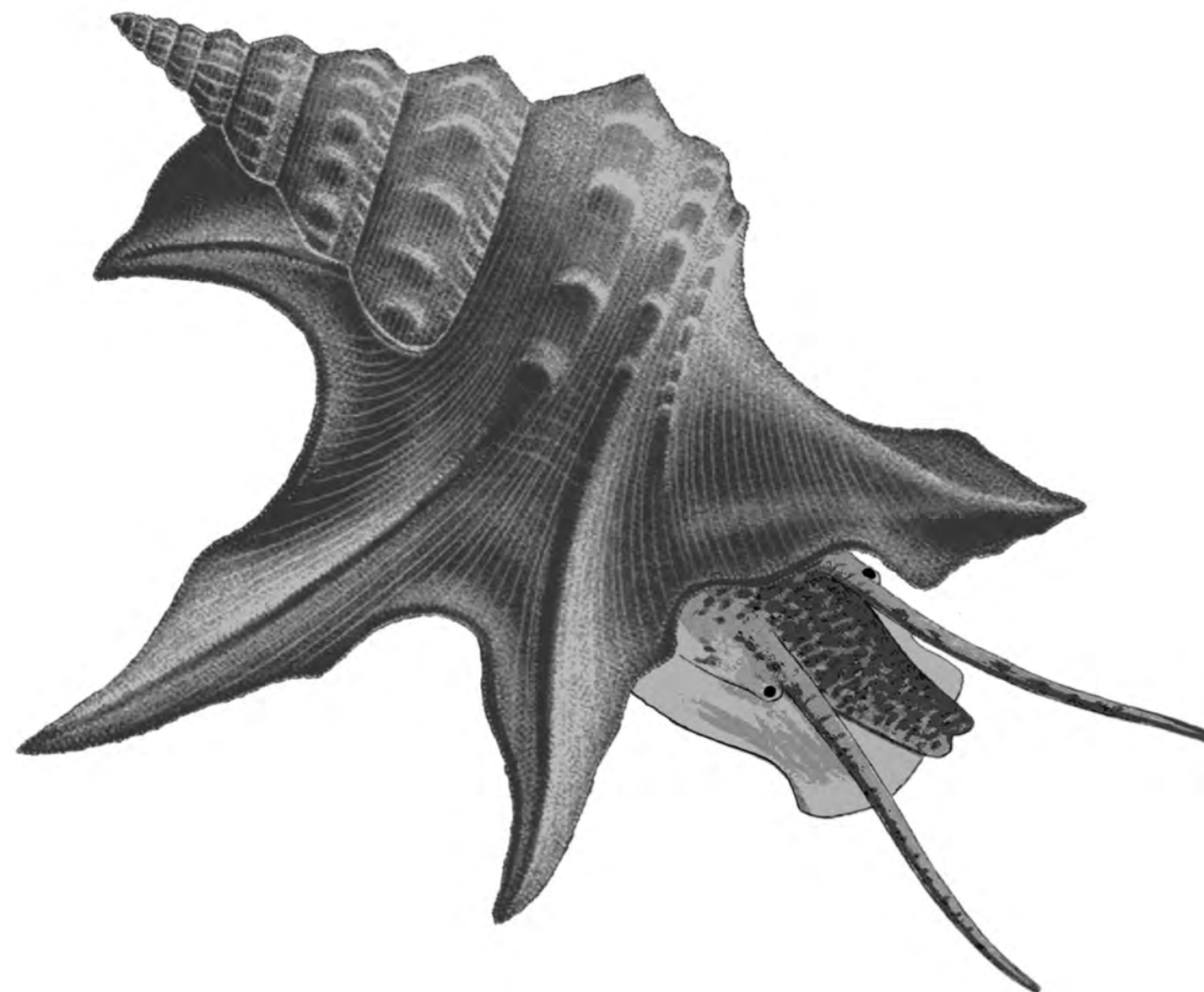
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Editorial

By the time Members (hopefully) read this editorial, the Society would have held a major review meeting to discuss the future of the Society. All of Council is meeting in London on 11th November. The President Julia Nunn has put together an ambitious document for discussion covering all aspects of the running of the Society and subjects relating to its Members. These topics are: Financial review; Society data policy for species records; Role

of Society recorders; Recording schemes; Publications; Membership; Meetings; Publicity; Conservation; Society projects; Research; Heritage Lottery Fund application. We hope to be able to summarise the outcome of these discussions in the next issue of *Mollusc World*.

This summer has also seen a major review of the invertebrate species listed as Priority on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The current information I have indicates that none of the

existing species have been dropped from the list, a few species have been added (e.g. *Omphiscola glabra*, *Truncatellina cylindrica*, *Sphaerium solidum*) and some proposed candidates have been rejected as not satisfying the qualifying criteria. Hopefully we will be able to publish the definitive new list in the next issue.

In the meantime, Happy Christmas to all.

Ian Killeen

Mollusc World

Mollusc World is published 3 times a year by the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland at the end of March, July and November, and is issued free of charge to members.

We invite all members to contribute to *Mollusc World*. In addition to the traditional articles, field meeting reports, diary of events and so on, we will be including features, profiles, news from recorders, and identification keys. Do not feel that you have to write long or full page articles. We would particularly welcome short pieces, snippets, pictures, observations, new records, book reviews, mollusc recipes, cartoons, requests for information - anything on molluscs! *Mollusc World* will become an important means of staying in touch with the membership and communicating information to the conservation agencies and promoting molluscs to the wider biological community. So, please contribute!

Copy is acceptable in any format - electronic, typed or legible hand-written. When sending copy by email, please ensure that you include *Mollusc World* in the email title and also include a few lines of text in your message as well as an attachment. Unidentified attachments may not be opened! Please do not include diagrams or pictures embedded in the text - send them as separate attachments. To enable the best reproduction and resolution, any original artwork, diagrams, colour prints or slides should also be sent by 'snail' mail. All will be treated with care and returned. At the present time, we are unable to give precise copy deadlines until we are up and running, but contributors should assume that copy date is a minimum of 8 weeks before publication date.

Neither the Hon. Editor nor the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors.

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Society Notes

Founded in 1876 the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland is one of the oldest existing societies devoted to the study of molluscs. The Society promotes the study of molluscs and their conservation through meetings, publications and distribution recording schemes. The Society publishes *Journal of Conchology* (twice a year) and *Mollusc World* (three times per year).

The Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland is Registered Charity No. 208205

The Society's Web Site is at:
<http://www.conchsoc.org>

Subscriptions

These cover 1 January to 31 December and are due on 1 January each year:

Ordinary Membership	£33.00
Family/joint membership (open to two people living at the same address)	£35.00
Institutional Membership (GB and Ireland)	£47.00
Institutional Membership (Overseas address)	£50.00
Student (in full-time education)	£15.00

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Sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank and made out to "The Conchological Society" to Honorary Membership Secretary: Mike Weideli, 35 Bartlemy Road, Newbury, Berks., RG14 6LD. Tel: 01635 42190, email: membership@conchsoc.org

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Appraisal of land molluscs at Sandy Warren RSPB reserve, Bedfordshire

Peter Topley

The RSPB headquarters at The Lodge, Sandy in Bedfordshire is situated on land that was originally lowland heathland dominated by dwarf shrub vegetation such as heather, a rare habitat in the UK. Small areas of heathland remain on the site and the RSPB over a number of years has sought to manage the area and restrict the growth of birch and pine. A few years ago the trust purchased further adjacent land, including an area of around 40 acres known as Sandy Warren, which consisted of dense pine plantations (a) together with smaller areas of mixed woodland (b) and including a small disused quarry and an iron age hill fort. In 2005 I was asked by Neil Renwick, the RSPB Sandy Heathlands Awareness Officer, if I would carry out an appraisal of mollusc species found in this newly acquired area. Since the area is fairly large and I had limited time at my disposal, I concentrated on sampling from a range of habitats over four visits during May and June of 2005. The soil is generally acidic, overlain in some areas with poorly draining clay providing damp areas of small pools or in ditches, but I recorded twenty four species in what was really a very brief sampling and in no way a structured survey. The species recorded are listed below and detailed records, together with habitat details, have been submitted to this Society and to the RSPB:-

Arion ater (Linn., 1758) agg.

Arion subfuscus (Draparnaud, 1805)

Arion fasciatus (Nilsson, 1823)

Cochlicopa cf. lubrica (Müller, 1774)

Cochlicopa cf. lubricella (Rossmässler, 1834)

Discus rotundatus (Müller, 1774)

Euconulus cf. fulvus (Müller, 1774)

Cepaea nemoralis (Linn., 1758)

Cornu aspersum (Müller, 1774)

Trochulus striolatus (C. Pfeiffer, 1828)

Lauria cylindracea (Da Costa, 1778)

Limax maximus Linn., 1758

Aegopinella pura (Alder, 1830)

Aegopinella nitidula (Draparnaud, 1805)

Nesovitrea hammonis (Ström, 1765)

Oxychilus alliarius (Müller, 1822)

Oxychilus navarricus s. helveticus (Blum, 1881)

Punctum pygmaeum (Draparnaud, 1801)

Acanthinula aculeata (Müller, 1774)

Columella aspera Waldén, 1966

Columella edentula (Draparnaud, 1805)

Vitrina pellucida (Müller, 1774)

The RSPB planned to fell the majority of the plantation area to begin a major restoration project with the aim of eventually restoring the lowland heath habitat. Following my visits, during the winter of 2005/2006 20 hectares of mature Scots Pine and Douglas Fir were felled and a bordering belt of sycamores was heavily thinned (c). Neil has provided the following description of current restoration work taking place:- "The timber from the felled trees was sold and the waste - known as lop-and-top, was mulched. This autumn, due to the proximity of a fuel depot the lop-and-top will not be burned but will be scraped off, together with a layer of pine needles and bracken that had built up since the trees were planted around 90 years ago. Heather seeds, harvested from the Lodge area in 2005 have been primed for germination and are to be spread across the bared areas. Some old oak and sweet chestnut trees have survived the forestry regime, and some oaks have self-seeded into gaps in the pines. These have been retained, along with some silver birches, to provide the woodland element to the heathland mosaic. Broadleaf saplings, grown from seeds collected on the Lower Greensand Ridge in Bedfordshire were planted in early 2006 - among the thinned sycamore areas, and under retained stands of pines. Some of the old pine stumps have been retained, to provide for fungi and invertebrates." It will be useful to see how this work will affect the molluscs of the area and I intend to pay return visits in the future to this interesting reserve.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Neil Renwick of the RSPB for suggesting this appraisal and for providing information and guidance.



Field Visit to Greetwell Hollow and Whisby Nature Park, Lincoln. June 24th 2006

Chris du Feu

Greetwell Hollow is a name which may conjure visions of an untouched, enchanted glen remote from all traces of human activity. In fact, it is a brownfield site adjacent to light industrial, retail and residential areas of the city of Lincoln. Its iron-ore extraction history was described in the notes about this meeting in Mollusc World 10. Brownfield sites are much under-rated hunting grounds for the naturalist. Often they have much higher biodiversity than nearby greenfield sites. Species often include colonists which are not known elsewhere in the area and which are able to cope with the unusual habitats created by industrial activity. Greetwell Hollow has been derelict for many years and, from the interior it is easy to forget the proximity of the city. The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is to be congratulated on the way they have managed to reduce the problems of litter, vandalism and motorcycle disturbance to manageable proportions.

In his report on the field visit to Bredon Hill, Harry Green noted that one quality required by the course leader was not any great ability to identify molluscs. Just as well. This is the third course I have been privileged to lead and on each occasion it has been the enthusiasm and experience of the other members of the group which has enabled such a thorough job to be done. I was particularly fortunate that Adrian Norris appeared. His ability to identify small species at a glance is matched only by his ability to recognise incompetence when he sees it. I was rapidly relieved of the task of recording species and I am grateful to Adrian for compilation of the lists for both the sites we visited. I am also grateful to David Lindley for his comments below on the significance of some of the shelled molluscs.

I believe there was a sweep on the number of species found (although having being brought up in a strict non-gambling

household I turned my deaf ear to this matter) and there was an optimistic suggestion of 30. After the 30 species mark had been passed speculation mounted about the magic 40. With a mathematical background I could see nothing particularly special about 40 (I know it is the smallest integer for which the quadratic expression $n^2 + n + 1$ has a non-prime value, but that seems to have little relevance to conchological pursuits). On enquiry I was told that 40 species entitle you to the next largest size of blob on the 10 km maps. (I have since checked on this and find it is true for the 1976 atlas, but it is 46 in the 1999 atlas. Adrian - how can you be so up-to-date with molluscan nomenclature but so out-of-date with dot size conventions?) We ended the morning with 39 species for the reserve. Fortunately for the quarantephiles, we now have three more records - one slug seen on my preliminary visit in the spring and two small snails found in samples taken for examination at home. This total included 42 species newly documented for the reserve and 16 new to the 10 km square TF07. We were fortunate that Brian Eke, the LWT voluntary warden who has done so much to make the reserve what it is, was able to be with us for the morning and show us where we might find molluscs.

David noted that it was interesting to find *Vertigo antivertigo* at Greetwell. A glance at the current atlas will show that it is not common in this area, there is a record from the 10km square to the east and some old records further west - but that is all. For it to have survived at such a site is interesting. It was found at one of the spring heads which, even in the dry weather, had remained very wet. The same can also be said for *Vertigo pygmaea* which was seen in good numbers and easily found, though there are more records in Lincolnshire for this species. It is also worth commenting upon *Pupilla muscorum* which, again, was easily and quickly found. Is this species a good coloniser or has it survived the iron extraction? I tend to favour the latter; there must have been areas within the site that remained fairly free of disturbance, which has allowed it to 'cling on' until such time as the site has become more favourable.

The afternoon was spent as Whisby. Again, this is an LWT reserve, on former gravel pits. Phil Porter, the warden, showed us round. Whisby is very popular with local people because of its proximity to the city and its abundance of wildlife. Habitats include lagoons, grassland, meadows, swamps and woodland. Phil conducted us from one potentially interesting site to another. I think he was surprised as he shepherded us from our pond dipping session to the next point of interest, when the whole group, as one, diverted to a not-apparently-interesting pile of logs and started rolling them over. Good tactics with several species lurking below, taking shelter from the heat and dryness. Whisby straddles the boundary of a 1 km square, and the species list separates these two. Whisby, with its resident warden and visitor centre also boasted a species list. We managed to add considerably to this and to find some new 10 km records. David commented that, whilst fewer species were found at Whisby, it is fair to say we spent less time there and did not have time to visit all the habitats available. Certainly further freshwater work could be carried out as there were some obvious species missing. The discovery of *Pisidium pulchellum* was interesting, once more it is not a common species in this area though it is recorded from some 10km squares not too far away.

A final thought - one slug was found in a dried, overgrown pond liberally strewn with debris from human activity. It reminded me of the description of the typical British pond given by Flanders and Swann in their song - the Bedstead Men. What a pity their last line ended with 'and a broken bedstead there'. For 'broken bedstead' substitute *Boettgerilla* and you will be close to the truth.

The team

Ron Boyce, Adrian Norris, David Lindley, Rosemary Hill, Chris du Feu, Jane Bonney, Brian Eke, Phil Porter.

Species list.

Nomenclature is according to the annotated list in the *Journal of Conchology* 38, Part 6, November 2005.

Greetwell Hollow TF07 Species recorded	New 10km record?	Whisby SK96	SK9066	SK9166	Old Whisby	10 km new List
<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>		<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i>	+			
<i>Deroceras laeve</i>		<i>Bithynia leachii</i>		*		
<i>Deroceras panormitanum</i>	N	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	+	*		
<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>		<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>		*		
<i>Arion ater</i>		<i>Deroceras laeve</i>	+	*		
<i>Arion circumscriptus</i>	N	<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>	+	*		
<i>Arion distinctus</i>	N	<i>Arion ater</i>	+	*		
<i>Arion intermedius</i>	N	<i>Arion intermedius</i>		*		
<i>Arion subfuscus</i>	N	<i>Carychium minimum</i>		*		
<i>Boettgerilla pallens</i>	N	<i>Cochlicopa cf lubrica</i>	+	*		
<i>Carychium minimum</i>		<i>Euconulus cf fulvus</i>			1	
<i>Cochlicopa cf lubrica</i>		<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>			1	
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>		<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>		*		
<i>Merdigera obscura</i>		<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>		*		N
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>		<i>Candidula intersecta</i>	+	*		
<i>Cornu aspersum</i>		<i>Cerneuella virgata</i>			1	
<i>Candidula intersecta</i>		<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	+	*		
<i>Cerneuella virgata</i>		<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	+	*		
<i>Monacha cantiana</i>		<i>Limax maximus</i>		*		N
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>		<i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i>	+			
<i>Trochulus striolatus</i>		<i>Radix balthica</i>		*		
<i>Limax maximus</i>	N	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	+	*		
<i>Galba truncatula</i>		<i>Aegopinella pura</i>			1	
<i>Radix balthica</i>		<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	+	*		
<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>	N	<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>		*		
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>		<i>Oxychilus navarricus s. helveticus</i>			1	
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>		<i>Physella acuta</i>		*		N
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	N	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	+	*		
<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>		<i>Anisus vortex</i>	+	*		
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>		<i>Gyraulus albus</i>	+			
<i>Oxychilus draparnaudi</i>	N	<i>Hippeutis complanatus</i>	+	*		
<i>Physella acuta</i>	N	<i>Vitrea contracta</i>	+	*		
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>		<i>Succinea putris</i>	+	*		
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	N	<i>Vallonia costata</i>		*		
<i>Oxyloma elegans</i>	N	<i>Vallonia cf excentrica</i>		*		
<i>Vallonia costata</i>		<i>Pisidium casertanum</i>			1	
<i>Vallonia cf excentrica</i>		<i>Pisidium milium</i>	+	*		N
<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i>	N	<i>Pisidium personatum</i>		*		N
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	N	<i>Pisidium pulchellum</i>	+			N
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>		<i>Pisidium subtruncatum</i>	+			
<i>Pisidium casertanum</i>		<i>Sphaerium corneum</i>	+	*		
<i>Pisidium personatum</i>	N					

Varieties and forms of *Cepea hortensis* L. collected by H.E.J. Biggs (1895-1973).

Peter Topley

The Revd. Bert Biggs was a former president of this Society who found time for a lifelong interest in shells despite a very active life. Born in Edmonton, Middlesex, he saw active service in the 1914-18 war, becoming a teacher for the Church Missionary Society at Kerman in what was then Persia. Following ordination in 1929 he returned to Kerman as pastor of the church there, followed by a period of work in Cairo before becoming rector of Mellis in Norfolk. His final home in a very active "retirement" was a four storey Victorian terraced house in Bromley, Kent. His interests ranged from Mollusca of the Near and Middle East to archaeology but he was interested in all aspects of conchology this was reflected in his large collection and library.

Several of us who were Junior members of this society in the late 1960's – early 1970's remember his encouragement of our fledgling interests. I was surprised and pleased that after his death at the beginning of 1973 (when I was 14) he left me some shells that, for one reason or the other, he had not included in his main collection. Among them are a series of varieties and forms of the banded snail *Cepea hortensis* L. Since they show a good range of the forms found in this very variable species and many of them have their original labels, I thought a photograph of some of them may be of interest to readers of *Mollusc World*.

Bert Biggs appears to have found the time to carry out a little of his own research into the determinants of variety in this species, later to be researched by A.J. Cain and others. Here are some of the notes included with the specimens (note that number series refer to the shell banding).

(a) "var. *lurida* - 5 young examples taken at Yaxley 20/10/1946 (wet year). Kept in captivity, fed cabbage, lettuce and submitted to very dry conditions. Killed 5/10/1947 when adult."

(b) "Upwood, Hunts., collected 19/10/1945 as 10345 young. Fed on cabbage. Killed 6/10/1946 as 1:3(45) adult."

(c) "Yaxley Cross Roads, Suffolk 2/6/1945. The only example amongst a number of normally banded *hortensis* to show *lurida* tendencies"

(d) "Taken as young shell Mellis, Suffolk 1946. Fed vegetables; found to be dead 19/10/1948. Last noted alive 11/10/1948".

(e) "Taken at Yaxley 19/10/1947. Note continuance of *lurida* banding in a dry year and in wild state."

The specimens represent collections made at different periods of his life from his time at school in Enfield aged 16 and even include snails collected during the third battle of Ypres, a few days prior to the first battle of Passchendaele, in October 1917 where he was serving as 2nd Lieutenant in the 10th West Riding Regiment! There are also snails collected near to his parish in Norfolk and in the 1960's on day trips from his home in Bromley including representatives of shells with different numbers or combinations of bands (not illustrated here).

References

Crowley, T.E., (1973). Obituary: Herbert Edwin James Biggs 1895-1973 *Journal of Conchology* 28:131-132
 Taylor, J.W., *Monograph of the Land & Freshwater Mollusca of the British Isles* vol. 3, Leeds, Taylor Brothers, 1914

Captions for image on page 7

Plate (from top left to bottom right) (Names refer to named "varieties", many of which are not recognized in recent literature).

- (a) 1:22345 Enfield, Middx. 1912; (b) *subalbida* Loc. Canal bank, Ypres, Belgium 1917; (c) *arenicola* Macgillivray. Harlestone, Hants 1952; (d) *baudona* Moq. Tan. Scarborough (coll. Parrett) 1931; (e) *citrinizonata* Taylor, Enfield Middx. 1916 *fuscolabris* Kreglinger, Sussex, 1930; (f) *hyalozona* Baud. France (= *arenicola*?) (old label, 19th c.); (g) *lurida* Moq. Tan.; (h) *incarnata* Picard, Hastings, Sussex, 1930; (i) *incarnata* Picard sub.var. *fagorum*; (j) cf. *hepatica* Esmark 1886, Topsham, Devon, 1956; (k) *lurida* Moq. Tan. Yaxley, Suffolk 1946; (l) *lutea* Picard, Pas-de-Calais, France, 1917; (m) *michaudia* Loc., Pas-de-Calais, France, 1917; (n) *minor* Moq. Tan. Leatherhead, Surrey, 1930; (o) *mouliinsiana* Moq. Tan., Pas-de-Calais, France, 1917; (p) *nigrolabiata* Taylor 1914. Harlestone, Northants, 1952; (q) *olivacea* Taylor ?; (r) *roseolabiata* Taylor. Sutton Mandeville, Wilts, 1916; (s) *roseozonata* Cockerill. Burgess Hill, Sussex, 1944; (t) *subalbida* Loc. Mellis & Yaxley, Suffolk, 1946; (u) *astieria* Moq. Tan., minehead, Somerset, 1922; (v) var. ? Sussex, 1930; (w) repaired shell. Yaxley, Suffolk, 1946

Bas was walking along the wave-washed strand
 Seeking new treasures in the golden sand
 When his serenity took a knock.
 He's collected shells year upon year
 From numerous places far and near,
 But he's never been put in the dock
 To answer the charge of spoiling pleasure for all
 As he triumphantly homes with his molluscan haul
 To add to his precious stock.
 But the urge to collect is so strong
 (The next tide will bring more along)
 Perhaps if he hid by this rock,
 Then, after dark he could creep
 To the beach when all are asleep
 And smuggle them home in his sock!

**Poem from Liz Biles
 Inspired by letters in MW11**

There once was a Person from Porlock
 Who objected to shells gathered *ad hoc*
 He preferred them to stay on the beach
 So as to stay within easy reach
 Of the rest of the holiday flock.

Or, with apologies to Bas, my 'epic'

It seems odd to leave this little island
 Go half round the world and get to Thailand
 And meet a Person from Porlock.



Ted Phorson: A personal recollection by Jan Light

Ted Phorson died peacefully in April this year, at the age of 81. Ted had become a good friend in conchology and over the years we had corresponded and sent shells shuttling back and forth courtesy of Royal Mail in an attempt to seek each other's opinion over problematic specimens. We had several things in common, both coming to conchology by a circuitous route having started out as linguists specialising in French. Ted read French at Durham University but his studies were interrupted for some years owing to wartime service as an Artillery Officer and it was not until 1947 that he was able to return to Durham to complete what he had started in 1942. He met his wife Joyce at University and after their marriage they settled on the outskirts of that city. Ted's professional life was spent initially as a school-teacher and subsequently as a lecturer at Durham University for twenty years.

In Ted's words, "It was the exploration of rock pools with my young daughter which aroused my interest in shells and the desire to know more about them." Ted acquired some of the standard texts to help identify his finds and Shelagh Smith offered encouragement in those early days.

Ted Phorson joined the Society in 1981, coincidentally the same year that I was elected to membership. (It would be 8 years before our paths crossed). In his first year as a member he published an article in which he recounted the excitement of experiencing a beaching of *Janthina* and *Verella* on the Quiberon Peninsula (Phorson, 1981), the first of a series of contributions to the Society's publications. In the following year he wrote an informative article on his observations of shell repair, but it was in 1984 that his article, *The Trouble with those Juvenile Delinquents*, appeared in the Newsletter and was to foreshadow the strand of conchology that would absorb Ted for the succeeding 22 years. The acquisition of a good binocular microscope triggered the new area of interest, and he entered a world of uncertainty when sorting a sample of shellsand with its resultant residue of unidentified specimens: a mélange of microspecies and juveniles and problems in distinguishing the two categories. Ted's approach was to sort a small sample of shellsand, perhaps a teaspoonful, grain by grain! Based on the molluscan composition Ted would often find that he could assemble a sufficiently large number of specimens of a particular species, to build up a continuous series of shells that would ultimately bridge the gap between the puzzling juveniles (Ted's delinquents) and the more familiar adult form. In that first article Ted shared some of his discoveries with the reader, drawing many with a camera lucida, and he published further articles over the years thus expanding the range of species figured as his collection grew. An example of Ted's drawings accompanies this

article: by sorting through shells and fragments gleaned from an interstitial sediment sample taken from a shingle beach at high water mark, he retrieved enough examples to trace the process of decollation that occurs during maturation of *Truncatella subcylindrica*. Ted was very willing to re-evaluate his own identifications. He was also prepared to challenge more authoritative determinations and could sometimes be quite stubborn! Others chimed in with their Newsletter contributions to this line of enquiry, notably Phil' Palmer who observed that "we should stop calling the puzzles 'juvenile delinquents' for they are just juveniles while we are the delinquents for remaining in ignorance about an important part of molluscan studies!"

Ted seldom travelled to meetings but he did attend a Molluscan Workshop in 1989 and brought examples of his growth series which impressed us all very much. Fortunately, this meeting was a foundation for conchological friendships that Ted maintained from his Durham outpost. Also at this meeting he met John Whittaker of the BM(NH) who helped him with some unidentified ostracods and forams, two additional groups that Ted was beginning to working with. In succeeding years he widened his circle of correspondents in molluscan studies and published in a number of periodicals.

Ted suffered a stroke in September 2000. In many respects he recovered well from this setback but it left his speech impaired. We continued to correspond and happily for Ted, Joyce was a willing participant in the 3-way conversations we had over the phone. His interest in his shells remained undiminished and he continued working on his growth series.

When Harriet Wood and I visited Ted in 2004 to discuss his wish that the National Museum of Wales should be the beneficiary of his collection he produced a copy of his catalogue. He had a good working collection of northeast Atlantic marine molluscs but the highlight for me was the collection of growth series for 160 marine mollusc species. I had seen certain species over the years when Ted loaned them to me to help with identification problems, but I had not seen the collection as a whole. It is beautifully curated and is testament to the hours of patient dedication Ted applied to his quest for greater understanding of microscopic shells.

The staff of the Mollusca Section at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff where the Phorson collection will be housed are keen to ensure that this exciting new bequest will be available to visitors. The collection is unusual in that the principal component consists of shells mounted on microscope slides, and

hence will be kept separately in slide cabinets rather than integrated into the systematic collections as most new acquisitions are. There is a new project starting at NMW in September, that will be able to make use of the Phorson collection. Graham Oliver and Anna Holmes will be working on a new guide to British Marine Bivalves for the next three years. This guide will provide illustrations of bivalves at different stages from juvenile to adult, and hence the Phorson collection will be invaluable as a source for this project providing material of many of the smaller British species. This will be a fitting tribute to Ted and the innumerable hours that he invested in his juvenile delinquents.

Contributions to *Conchologists' Newsletter*.

- 1981 *Janthina* on the Quiberon Peninsula. No. 78. p.323
 1982 House repairs and alterations. No. 82 p.19
 1984 The Trouble with those Juvenile Delinquents. No. 89 p.161
 1988 Caecidae in France and Guernsey. No. 104 p.72

- 1988 *Neolepton sykesi* and *Neolepton sulcatulum* in Guernsey. No. 106 p.117
 1989 Observations on juvenile shells of *Retusa truncatula*, *Philine catena* and *Philine punctata*. *Conchologists' Newsletter*. No. 111 p.223
 1990 *Philine angulata* in NW Scotland *Conchologists' Newsletter*. No. 112 p.257
 1990 Some observations on the development of juvenile shells of *Trivia*. *Conchologists' Newsletter*. No. 113 p.279
 1990 Some observations on juvenile shells: *Chauvetia brunnea* and *Epitonium clathratulum*. *Conchologists' Newsletter*. No.114 p.312
 1991 Some observations on juveniles and growth series of *Leucophytia bidentata* and *Ovatella myosotis*. *Conchologists' Newsletter*. No. 117 p.367
 1996 Observations on the development of dentition in small juveniles of certain species of Mytilidae. *Conchologists' Newsletter*. No. 136. p. 603

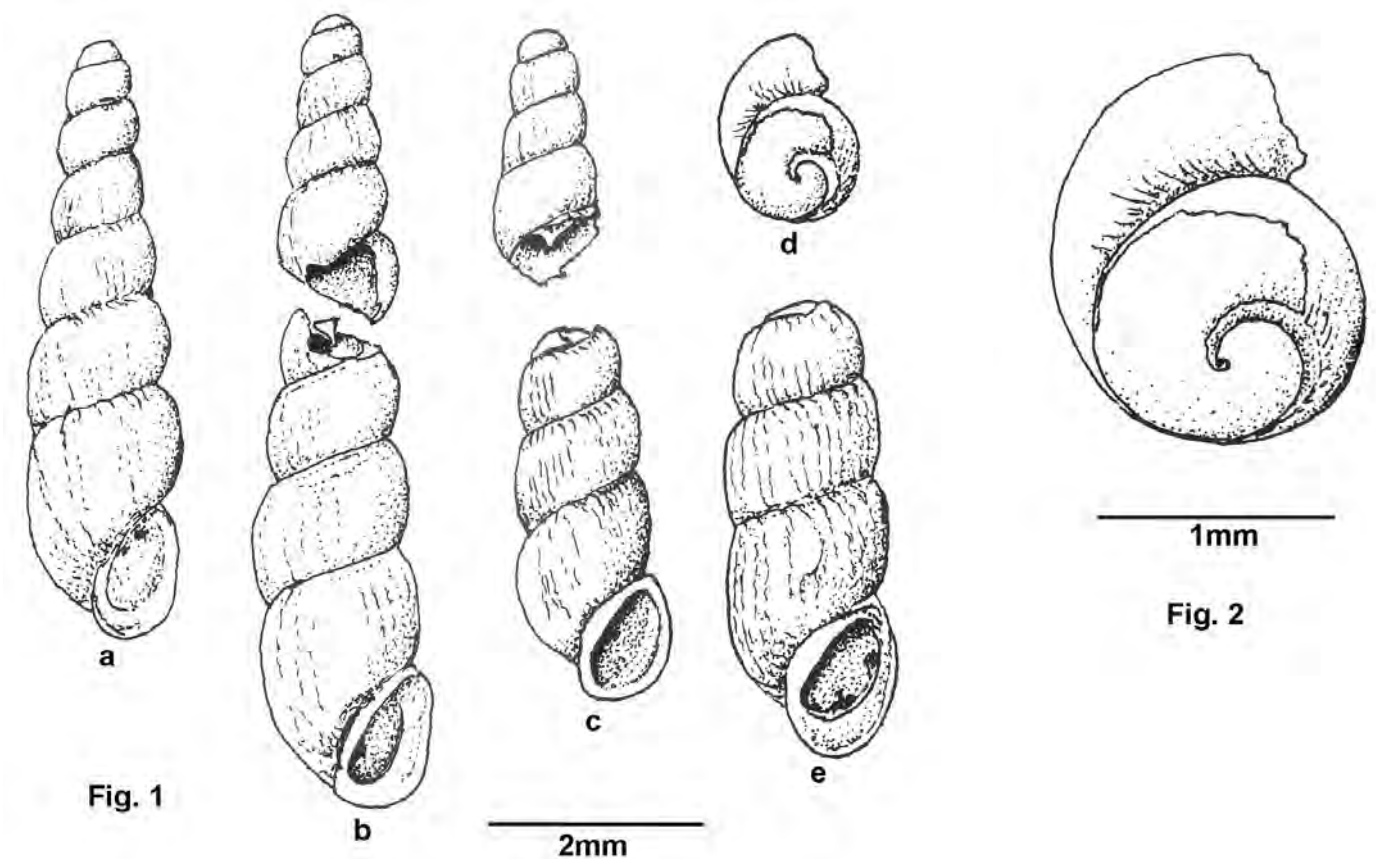


Figure 1
 a. Whole shell of *Truncatella subcylindrica* just before decollation
 b and c: After abscission: in each case, the two parts are not the same shell, but matched for whorl size.
 d. End view of the decollated shell showing sealed septum and geometry of the break.
 e. Decollated specimen in which the growth lines are exaggerated to become costae.

Figure 2
 Enlarged view of Figure 1d.

Note: Phorson noted that the geometry of the manner in which the septum seals the hole is complicated, as is the line of abscission. Specimens he examined showed that the greater part of the line of abscission is a neat cut (or break) immediately above the suture but this leads round to a more ragged break at the highest point of the cut. The septum is not a regular dome but conforms to the geometry of the cut spiral but what he found intriguing is that the animal forms not just a plain protective area of shell over the hole, but moulds it into a well-formed pseudo-protoconch.

Colour photo of Ted Phorson on page 14, Figure 3.



1



2



3

Another beachcomber's breakfast

J.E.Llewellyn-Jones

In the last edition of *Mollusc World* in the Marine Recorders report 2005 the shipworm *Lyrodus pedicellatus* Quatrefages was recorded for Sandwich, Kent living in the rotting wooden ribs of a wrecked sailing ship. It is a species closely related to *Teredo* and is known as the Siamese shipworm. This species is first mentioned as food by Redi, who in a letter to his friend Megalotti, describes species of *Teredo* as being not only eatable, but excelling all shellfish, the oyster not excepted in its exquisite flavour. Nardo also praises it, and wonders why the Venetians, who call it 'bisse del legno', do not eat it?. Jeffreys on the other hand says and I quote "I should, for my own part, be surprised that any person having a stomach could venture to try the experiment; for the smell of even a fresh shipworm is almost enough to make one sick". Even M.S. Lovell in his *Edible British Mollusks* mentions it briefly.

Anyway we know that today coastal people in Thailand have cultivated it in logs anchored in the sea for a very long time. Dr.Vagn Hanson, while Director of the Marine Station at Phuket, formed the opinion that this might have been one of the first examples of 'sea farming' in the world. The raw flesh has a good flavour but they say that it is important to collect shipworms which have been living in 'Sam' trees rather than in any old logs floating in the sea.

The recipe is very simple. Make a scrambled egg mixture and add your shipworms. Fry until set and eat on buttered bread or toast. In Thailand, we are told, the dish can be improved by adding the eggs of the red ant, which are pea sized, and are found in pommelo and longan trees.

Shipworms can also be pickled in vinegar or nam pla, Thai fish sauce. If you can't get hold of this sauce one can substitute Anchovy, Worcestershire, Soy or even at a pinch Oyster sauce.

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- Mollusc World* 11 July 2006
British Conchology by J. G. Jeffreys Volume 111 Marine 1865
Edible British Mollusks by M.S.Lovell 1867
Seafood of South-East Asia by Alan Davidson 1976
Seafood by Rick Stein 1998

Photo credits: John Llewellyn Jones

1. Sandwich beach with skeleton of wrecked sailing ship
2. Timber ribs with the burrowing shipworm *Lyrodiscus pedicellatus*
3. More timber ribs with the burrowing shipworm *Lyrodiscus pedicellatus*

The land snails and slugs of the northern Yorkshire Dales: an Australian's perspective

Michael J. Murphy (Coonabarabran, New South Wales, Australia)

In 2005 I made an extended visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland from my home in Australia, including several months living in the village of Barningham, in Teesdale in the northern Yorkshire Dales. Mary Seddon (Cardiff) put me in touch with Leeds conchologist Adrian Norris, who provided a friendly introduction to the land snails of the area. Adrian is currently working towards a one kilometre square coverage of Yorkshire land snails, and arrangement was made that I would contribute with some field survey work in the northern Yorkshire Dales, an area which had hitherto received little attention. The following short paper summarises the findings of this work and compares the Yorkshire land snail fauna with that found in Australia.

Northern Yorkshire Dales

Ten 1 km square sites in the northern Yorkshire Dales (9 sites in Teesdale and 1 in nearby Swaledale) were surveyed for land snails and slugs in March-May 2005. The study area was on limestone geology and sites sampled ranged from farmland (5 sites) to broadleaf woodland (3 sites), village garden (1 site) and heather moorland (1 site). Survey methods comprised hand searches along old drystone walls and hedgerows, lifting and replacing ground debris such as fallen timber and loose rocks, hand-raking leaf litter and examination of tree trunks and herbage. Sampling effort varied, with some sites sampled at only a single location while others were sampled at a number of locations across the square.

A total of 47 species from 17 families were recorded (see Table 1), representing about a third of the UK land snail fauna (Kerney 1999). The greatest contributors to this diversity were the Helicidae (8 species), Zonitidae (7 species) and

Arionidae (7 species). Average species richness per site was 19 species, with the highest recorded diversity (30 species) in woodland and the lowest (7 species) in moorland. The village site at Barningham was notable in that 20 species (all except *Cepaea hortensis*) were found in one small cottage garden (Dove Cottage NZ082103).

Several indicator species for ancient woodland were recorded in this study, such as *Azeca goodalli*, *Limax cinereoniger*, and to a lesser extent *Columella edentula*, *Cochlodina laminata* and *Perforatella subrufescens*. The woodland site in Hening Wood near Scargill, where the river Greta passes through a deep wooded gorge, was the most significant woodland site sampled, with the highest overall species diversity including four of the above five species.

This study also provided further demonstration of the importance of old drystone walls and hedgerows as secondary refugia for land snails in British farmland. Thirty four species (72% of the total recorded) were found in these microhabitats, with noteworthy records including *Pyramidula rupestris*, *Clausilia dubia*, *Balea perversa* and *Ashfordia granulata*. The farmland site at Greta Bridge (which included the outer wall of the old parkland of Rokeby Park), had the third highest recorded species diversity (24 species), including three of the above four species.

Comparison with Australia

Whereas the modern UK land snail fauna dates from only the end of the last glacial period (less than 15 000 years ago), that of Australia has an unbroken history of many millions of years (Bishop 1981). The Australian native land snail fauna comprises an estimated several thousand

species in 25 families (Stanisic 1994; Stanisic and Ponder 2004). The most speciose families are the Charopidae, Camaenidae and Helicarionidae (Stanisic 1994). Most Australian species occur in moister coastal and subcoastal areas, but some are found in semi-arid and arid habitats of the interior. About 90% of species occur in rainforest (Stanisic 1994), which today covers only about 1% of the continent. It is estimated that about two thirds of the Australian land snail species have not yet been formally described (Stanisic and Ponder 2004), with many areas poorly sampled or not sampled at all. Even in the well-settled Sydney area, about a third of the 80 or so native species known await formal description (Clark 2004). The majority of research in Australia to date has focused on resolving taxonomy, and field studies involving living animals (eg Murphy 2002) are extremely rare.

Land snail species richness in Australia ranges from 5 or less species per site (a site defined as 1 km² or less) in dry eucalypt forest to 20-30 species per site on limestone outcrops and up to 40 or more species per site in rainforest (Stanisic 1994; Clark 2004). Upland rainforest and limestone outcrops in particular have high numbers of narrow range endemics (Stanisic 1994). In contrast the UK land snail fauna has no endemic species and, apart from a few late glacial specialists with relictual distributions, most native species are generally broadly distributed (Kerney 1999).

Changes to the wooded landscape of the UK through human activity over the last 6000 years resulted in a mosaic of new habitats which have acquired their own characteristic land snail assemblages (Kerney 1999). Landscape changes in Australia as a result of 60 000 years or more of Aboriginal human presence are not clearly known (being confounded by major global climatic change over that period), but 200 years of European occupation and development have seen rapid and drastic changes to the landscape. In some regions of south-eastern Australia, for example, 80% or more of the pre-1770 vegetation has been

cleared. The Australian native land snail fauna has not had time to adjust to these sudden and severe changes. Most native species in urban and agricultural landscapes are now restricted to remnants of the original vegetation, and are thus comparable to woodland-dependent species in the UK. The different style of farming in Australia is another factor in the general paucity of native land snails in agricultural habitats. In contrast to the UK, where old hedgerows and stone walls in farmland provide important habitat for many species (Kerney 1999), fields in Australian agricultural areas are typically bordered by wire-strand fences, with minimal microhabitat value for land snails.

The distinction between native and introduced land snails in the UK is blurred, partly because some introductions date back to the Neolithic (Kerney 1999), and partly because so many species, both native and introduced, utilise human-modified landscapes. Most of the 60 or so land snail species introduced to Australia over the last 200 years are found in agricultural, urban and disturbed habitats (Ponder 1997). Many originate from the UK and Europe, generally widespread ecologically catholic species typical of gardens and waste ground such as *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Oxychilus alliarius*, *Limax maximus*, *Deroceras reticulatum*, *Cerņuella virgata*, *Theba pisana* and *Helix aspersa* (Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999). Populations of some native Australian land snail species can survive in quite small remnants of native vegetation in urban and agricultural landscapes (Clark 2004). Virtually nothing is known concerning the interactions between introduced and native land snail taxa in Australia (Ponder 1997), but it can be expected that these interactions will eventually result in characteristic land snail assemblages for Australian urban and agricultural landscapes.

Conclusion

“Travel broadens the mind” they say, and I certainly found that my time in Yorkshire broadened my appreciation of land snail ecology. Solem (1984) noted that there were few locations in the world

in which land snail diversity exceeds 30 species. The species richness found at some sites in the northern Yorkshire Dales was comparable to that occurring in Australian diversity hotspots such as rainforest and limestone areas. Considering the 10 surveyed sites as a whole, the northern Yorkshire Dales has a high land snail diversity within a relatively small area. The land snail fauna is also interesting in how it reflects the history of the area, with species ranging from those which are disturbance-sensitive and dependent on remnants of ancient woodland to others reliant on habitats created and sustained by human activity.

Acknowledgements

Adrian Norris (Leeds) and Winston Ponder (Sydney) provided helpful comments on earlier drafts of this paper. Adrian also provided me with a copy of Kerney and Cameron (1979), helped with identification of specimens collected and suggested the topic for this paper. My children Sam, Jess and Nicola enjoyed helping with field surveys. Thanks also to Sheila Caton and Jon Smith for their hospitality during our stay in Barningham.

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Figure 1. (Fig 5, page 14)

Limax cinereoniger (underside view showing diagnostic sole pattern). This large slug is considered a good indicator of ancient woodland, and was found in the wooded gorge of the Greta River near Scargill.

Figure 2. (Fig 6, page 14)

Arianta arbustorum (23 mm) *Cepaea hortensis* (20 mm), *Cepaea nemoralis* (25 mm) and *Helix aspersa* (40 mm) are the largest land snails in the northern Yorkshire Dales and among the largest species in the UK, but are dwarfed by the eastern Australian rainforest species *Hedleyella falconeri* (Caryodidae) (100 mm).

Table 1. Species recorded at 10 sites in northern Yorkshire Dales. Taxonomy follows Kerney (1999).

	Broadleaf wood sites			Farmland sites bordering woods or parkland			Farmland sites		Village site	Moorland site	Total
	Gill Beck NZ0610	Richmond NZ1600	Scargill NZ0511	Egglesstone Abbey NZ0615	Forcett NZ1711	Greta Bridge NZ0813	Ravensworth NZ1307	Dalton NZ1108	Barningham NZ0810	Newsham Moor NZ0507	
<i>Carychium minimum</i>	X		X								2
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i>	X		X								2
<i>Azeca goodalli</i>			X	X							2
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		8
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i>		X						X			2
<i>Pyramidula rupestris</i>										X	1
<i>Columella edentula</i>			X								1
<i>Lauria cylindracea</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			7
<i>Vallonia costata</i>						X					1
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>			X								1
<i>Ena obscura</i>					X	X		X			3
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9
<i>Arion ater</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
<i>Arion subfuscus</i>			X	X	X		X	X			5
<i>Arion circumscriptus</i>	X		X					X		X	5
<i>Arion fasciatus</i>					X	X			X		3
<i>Arion hortensis</i>	X							X			2
<i>Arion distinctus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X				6
<i>Arion intermedius</i>	X									X	2
<i>Vitrina pelucida</i>			X	X		X			X		4
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>	X										1
<i>Vitrea contracta</i>	X		X		X				X		4
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	X								X	X	3
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	X										1
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			7
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X			7
<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	8
<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>					X				X		2
<i>Limax maximus</i>	X		X		X	X	X				5
<i>Limax cinereoniger</i>			X								1
<i>Lehmanna marginata</i>	X		X			X					3
<i>Deroceras laeve</i>	X										1
<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
<i>Deroceras panormitanum</i>	X		X						X		3
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>	X		X								2
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	X	X	X			X					4
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			8
<i>Clausilia dubia</i>						X					1
<i>Balea perversa</i>					X	X	X		X		4
<i>Ashfordia granulata</i>		X	X			X					3
<i>Perforatella subrufescens</i>	X										1
<i>Trichia striolata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		7
<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	X		X	X	X		X				5
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>					X						1
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
<i>Helix aspersa</i>				X	X	X		X	X		5
Total	27	12	30	17	22	24	14	15	21	7	



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Dr. Peter Evennett

8



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12



13



Loss of periostracum in living snails

Adrian T. Sumner

Amanda Millar (*Mollusc World* 10, p. 17, March 2006) asks how long the periostracum lasts after the death of the snail. Her experiments, designed to test the assumption that dead shells that retain the periostracum must be fresh, showed that over 3 years after death, some shells retained most of their periostracum, although others had lost it completely. A few years ago, when I rediscovered *Candidula gigaxii* at its only Scottish site near North Berwick, I sent some apparently fresh shells to Michael Kerney, who confirmed that they were indeed *C. gigaxii*. However, he added, he had seen fossil shells with their markings still

clear, and it would be difficult to be certain whether these were in fact fresh shells, or could date from many years ago.

Knowing virtually nothing about fossil shells, I was surprised at this, especially as I was used to seeing live snails that had lost their periostracum. On the East Lothian coast, where I live, *Cornu aspersum* and *Cepaea nemoralis* are common, and a fair proportion of these have lost all or part of their periostracum (Figure 1), although still alive. It therefore seemed a reasonable assumption that the periostracum would be lost rapidly after death.

In fact, coastal sites are probably particularly good places for snails to lose their periostracum rapidly. I cannot recall seeing *Cornu aspersum* or *Cepaea* spp. at inland sites that have lost their periostracum, or not at such a high frequency (though I'm open to correction on this point). My guess is that, on the coast, blowing sand rapidly wears away the periostracum; in which case, why do some snails remain unaffected? Could it be some genetic or behavioural difference, or simply that some snails are older than others, and have had much longer to become abraded?

I have tried to think of other species that might lose their periostracum in life. A third species of snail that is common on the East Lothian coast is *Candidula intersecta*, but most of the shells one finds are empty (and weathered), so it is difficult to form a view on whether they lose the periostracum in life. Sometimes *Clausilia bidentata* (and presumably other clausiliids that do not occur in Scotland) can be found that have lost their periostracum, and appear pale grey instead of rich dark red. Of course, they do not live in habitats where there are likely to be abraded by sand, and other factors must be at work here. Otherwise, most species seem to keep their periostracum intact during their lives.

Incidentally, I returned to the site where I had found *C. gigaxii*, and easily found live specimens. As a result, I learnt the important point that one needs to find live snails, and not just shells (however fresh they may look) to establish the continued presence of a species in a particular area.

Figure 4 (opposite). Live specimens of *Cepaea nemoralis* from the Tyne Estuary at Tynninghame, East Lothian, some of which have completely lost the periostracum, while it is intact on other shells.

Images 1-12 relate to specific articles within the magazine.

1. Christening spoon images 1 & 2 relate to 'A history from a shell artifact. Page 22.
2. Peter Shepheard painting. Page 22.
3. James Edward (Ted) Phorson taken in April 1998, Scotland. Page 8.
4. *Cepaea nemoralis*. Fig. 1. Page 15.
5. *Limax cinereoniger* (Figure 1). Page 11.
6. *Arianta arbustorum* (23 mm) *Cepaea hortensis* (20 mm), *Cepaea nemoralis* (25 mm) and *Helix aspersa* (40 mm) and *Hedleyella falconeri* (Caryodidae) (100 mm). Page 11.
7. Cockleshell dress. (Full caption on Page 19.)
8. Sinistral *E. alderi*. Page 15.
9. Sinistral *E. alderi*. Page 15.
- 10 & 11. *Cornu aspersum* var. *exalbida*. Page 18.
12. *Arion rufus*. Fig.2. Page 16.
13. *Limax 'jedburgensis'*. Fig. 6. Page 16.

Sinistral specimen of *Euconulus alderi* (Gray, 1840) found at Malham, Yorkshire

As a result of surveying a calcareous flush in Great Close Mire Field, Malham Yorkshire (SD/90955 65676) on the 18th of June 2006 a single young specimen of a sinistral *Euconulus alderi* (Gray, 1840) was subsequently found amongst the 103 specimens of all ages found at the 23 sites investigated. The specimen, which had been alive when collected, had unfortunately died as a result of dehydration before it was extracted from the dried sample.

Adrian Norris
Recorder, Yorkshire Conchological Society

Field Meeting Report. Roxburghshire, Scottish Borders, 3rd–4th June 2006 Adrian T. Sumner

On Saturday 3rd June a small but enthusiastic group met at the Harestanes Visitor Centre to improve our knowledge of the slugs and snails of the surrounding parts of the Borders, particularly ancient woodlands. In spite of advertising this as a joint meeting with the Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre (SBBRC), we only managed to attract one SBBRC member, Jon Mercer, who runs the Centre and more than made up for the lack of numbers with his enthusiasm. The Visitor Centre was to be our base for the next two days, and as well as being able to use its award-winning café, Jon

Mercer had arranged for a room to be available with microscopes to help determine specimens that we couldn't identify in the field.

In spite of the weather being rather dry – in fact it was warm and sunny for the whole weekend – we had a very successful series of outings, finding well over 40 species, of which many were new records for their respective areas (Table 1). It was indicative of the poor coverage in this area that many of the new records were of relatively common species, although we did have some rarities as well.

Our first morning was spent around Harestanes, mostly in the woods (Fig. 1), where we found some 30 species, of which a third were new to that 10 km square. The woodlands were rather dry, but nevertheless productive, but a stream running along one edge provided a damper habitat. This stream was dammed to make a small pond, which yielded some freshwater species. Further upstream we found the tiny snail *Columella edentula*, which was quite

common on ferns in the deep damp ravine by the stream. We also found the spiny-shelled Prickly Snail *Acanthinula aculeata*. A large pale Arion was kindly identified by Roy Anderson as being most probably a young *A. rufus* (Fig. 2).

Back at the Visitor Centre we explored the wildlife pond and found various water snails, including some specimens of putative *Physella* sp. which had more pointed shells than the native Common Bladder Snail *Physa fontinalis*, and which might therefore have been an introduced species. However, expert dissection is needed to separate *Physella* spp., and at the time of writing this has not yet been done.

In the afternoon we moved to the south of Jedburgh and explored various steep ancient woodlands sloping down to the Jed Water. The first site we looked at, opposite the historic Capon Tree (Fig. 3), proved to be rather dry and not very rewarding, but another wood seemed more promising (Fig. 4). Access was a bit difficult in places, and although we found a good number of species, the typical

ancient woodland species that we were hoping for eluded us. However, we did find the hairy-shelled Silky Snail *Ashfordia granulata*, almost a British endemic.

On the Sunday morning we visited more ancient woodland, next to Ancrum old churchyard, and again got a good list of species – 27. With the ground covered with Dog's Mercury and Woodruff, both

ancient woodland indicators, we had high hopes and were not disappointed. We were excited to discover the Brown Snail *Zenobiella subrufescens*, a characteristic species of old broad-leaved woodland, which has a soft and rather flexible shell. Another species of interest here was the worm-like slug *Boettgerilla pallens*. This is an Eastern European species, first found in Britain in 1972, but which has now spread widely. There are still very few records of it from the Borders, however. Fortunately it seems to be quite a benign species. The churchyard and its surrounding walls also yielded several snails, and the adjacent Ale Water (Fig. 5) provided some freshwater species, while the dense growth of

butterbur on its banks was rich in *Cepaea*, *Arianta* and other snails.

Our final session was at the Newton St Boswell's Woods SSSI, where we again got nearly 30 species, including the highlight of the whole weekend. This was the minute Wry-necked Whorl Snail *Vertigo pusilla*, which was a new vice-county record – indeed, there are only a handful of records for the whole of Scotland. We are very grateful to Barry Colville for confirming our identification. We were also intrigued by the Succineids which were common here; were they *Oxyloma elegans*, or could they have been *Succinea putris*, which would be on the edge of its range here but might be spreading northwards? Again, we await a definitive determination of our specimens by an expert. Less welcome discoveries were the Budapest Slug *Tandonia budapestensis* and Caruana's Slug *Deroceras panormitanum*, a couple of introduced species that are often pests, and which are no doubt spreading through the Borders. As we had found by the Ale Water, there were freshwater species in the Tweed, which flows past the woods, and again we found plenty *Cepaea* and *Arianta* on the butterbur on its banks.

Although our main aim was to sample the woodland fauna, we were nevertheless pleased to find an urban species that is still present in Jedburgh. This is the Jethart snail, *Limax jedburgensis**, which is much esteemed as a delicacy by local people. It is so rare and local that it does not appear in any of the identification guides we are aware of. In spite of this, it still seems to be flourishing at several sites in the town (Fig. 6).

Altogether it was a most profitable weekend, and it seems likely that excursions to other similar areas in the Borders would prove equally successful. Finally, our warmest thanks are due to Jon Mercer, not only for making facilities available at Harestanes, but also for advising on good places to visit.

Footnote

* Note that in Scotland the term snail is often use to refer to a slug.

Fig. 1. Conchologists in the woods at Harestanes, Roxburghshire (Adrian T. Sumner).

Fig. 2 (see fig.12 on page 14) A large pale slug found at Harestanes, Roxburghshire, probably a young *Arion rufus* (Adrian T. Sumner).

Fig. 3. The Capon Tree, near Jedburgh, an historic oak estimated to be at least 500 years old (Adrian T. Sumner).

Fig. 4. Ancient woodland by the Jed Water, south of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire (Adrian T. Sumner).

Fig. 5. Enthusiastic conchologists prepare to sample the delights of the Ale Water at Ancrum, Roxburghshire (Adrian T. Sumner).

Fig. 6. (see fig.13 on page 14) The Jethart snail, *Limax jedburgensis* (Adrian T. Sumner).

CSGBI/SBBRC Joint meeting, 3–4/6/2006

Table 1

	Harestanes	Jed Water	Ancrum	Newton St Boswells
<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	+		+	+
<i>Physa fontinalis</i>	+			
? <i>Physella</i> sp.	+			
<i>Galba truncatula</i>	+			
<i>Radix balthica</i>	+		+	+
<i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i>			+	+
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i>	+	+		
? <i>Succinea/Oxyloma</i> sp.			+	+
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>			+	+
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i>			+	
<i>Columella edentula</i>	+			
<i>Vertigo pusilla</i>				+
<i>Lauria cylindracea</i>	+		+	+
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	+	+		
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	+	+	+	
<i>Arion ater</i> agg.			+	+
<i>Arion ater</i> seg.	+	+		
<i>Arion ?rufus</i>	+			
<i>Arion subfuscus</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Arion circumscriptus</i> seg.		+	+	+
<i>Arion silvaticus</i>		+		
<i>Arion fasciatus</i>				+
<i>Arion distinctus</i>	+		+	+
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	+	+		
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>	+	+	+	
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>		+		
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>		+	+	+
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>		+		
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>	+		+	+
<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>				+
<i>Boettgerilla pallens</i>			+	
<i>Limax maximus</i>	+	+	+	
<i>Lehmannia marginata</i>	+	+		
<i>Deroceras laeve</i>			+	+
<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>	+		+	+
<i>Deroceras panormitanum</i>	+			+
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i> seg.	+	+		
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Ashfordia granulata</i>		+	+	+
<i>Zenobiella subrufescens</i>			+	+
<i>Trochulus striolatus</i>		+	+	+
<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	+		+	+
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>			+	+
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>		+	+	+
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.	+			
Total = 46 species				



1



3



4



5

Fanny M. Hele and the var. *exalbida* S. Peter Dance

Perhaps nowhere in Britain are snails more abundant than they are in and around Bristol. This is especially true of the Common Garden Snail, *Cornu aspersum*. At least that is how it used to be during the second half of the nineteenth century, when Miss Fanny M. Hele was active there. Her name may have meant nothing to anyone today had she not become an avid collector and purveyor of snails, particularly the different varieties of the larger kinds. Those she could not find herself she obtained by placing adverts in *The Journal of Conchology* and elsewhere, offering duplicates from her own collection in exchange. John W. Taylor illustrated some of the shells she collected in his *Monograph of the Land & Freshwater Mollusca of the British Isles* (1894-1921). In this sumptuous publication, under the history of 'Hyalinia lucida', there is a modest tribute to one 'who has so long and so earnestly studied our native species' (*Monograph*, Vol. 3, p. 18). The accompanying photo shows Fanny as a demure but bright-eyed young woman. I have a letter she wrote to Taylor on 10 October 1876 in which she says she hopes to send him her 'likeness' in a few days. Almost certainly this was the photo he reproduced. Her sister Jessie, incidentally, was also a keen collector of British snails, her name appearing occasionally in the pages of Taylor's *Monograph*.

Fanny's principal claim to fame, however, may be her association with a particular variety of the Common Garden Snail. Known as var. *exalbida* (= white), it lacks the brown or dark brown coloration typical of the normal form and is uniformly whitish, usually with a yellowish tinge. 'Miss Hele, who has found so many of this variety', says Taylor, 'has only found it amongst nettles and ivy' (*Monograph*, Vol. 3, p. 259). He cites a Somerset North locality for it: 'Common, Leigh Woods, 1878, Miss F. M. Hele'. He also illustrates one of the shells she collected there (*Monograph*, Vol. 3, pl. 24). For many years I have owned two examples of it, collected by her. The original label, no longer present, indicated that they had been



F. M. Hele

collected at Bristol by 'F. M. Hele' on 30 May 1850. The amber-coloured epidermis is present on one, but virtually absent from the other, which is almost white in consequence. Similar examples, collected by Fanny, grace several public collections in Britain. Taylor noted that the var. *exalbida* 'is easily bred in captivity, but, especially if fed upon lettuce, speedily degenerates, losing its delicacy of colouring, and the epidermis acquiring a dirty brownish shade' (*Monograph*, Vol. 3, p. 259). The whiteness of the shell is not evidence of true albinism, the animal usually displaying the normal blackish-grey coloration. The shell is still an arresting object, however, the discovery of a single example sometimes making news even now (as Jonathan Welsh showed recently in *Mollusc World*, Issue 9, November 2005, pp. 8 and 9). This distinctive variety of the world's most cosmopolitan snail may have been commoner in Victorian times, but conchologists probably found it easier to obtain specimens then because of the activities of the demure but bright-eyed Miss Fanny M. Hele of Bristol.

Image captions

Fanny M. Hele, c.1876, and signature. From J. W. Taylor's *Monograph*, Vol. 3, p. 18 (1911). (see above)

Illustrations on page 14. Figures 10 and 11.

Cornu aspersum var. *exalbida*. Two shells from Bristol, collected by Fanny M. Hele in 1850.

Cornu aspersum var. *exalbida*, Leigh Woods, Bristol, collected by Fanny M. Hele. From an original watercolour drawing reproduced in J. W. Taylor's *Monograph*, Vol. 3, pl. 24 (1911).

Cockle Frock graces New Year Party

Jan Light

During the summer I visited an exhibition entitled 'The Ladies of Lanhydrock' which was running at Lanhydrock House, near Bodmin, Cornwall until October. I was first alerted to the exhibition by Stella Turk who sent me a newspaper cutting which illustrated a rather unusual dress. Made in silk, it features a design of stylised cockle shells and gastropods.

The exhibition and a numbered trail round the house delves into the lives of the important women of Lanhydrock from 1642 to 1969 and focuses on key figures from the children's nanny to the lady of the house. The histories of these ladies are often colourful and range from grandiose weddings to imprisonments. The exhibition focuses on their achievements as wives, mothers, patrons and entrepreneurs but also their roles as women in their own right. At Lanhydrock they have been vital in the continuity of ownership of the house and estate.

As the visitor sees the property today, it is essentially a Victorian home, both in its furnishings and the numerous ornaments, artefacts and household objects displayed in their everyday settings. The Jacobean house and its 400 acre estate were given to the National Trust by the 7th Viscount Clifden in 1953. The house has experienced several phases of building, the most recent being that which took place after a disastrous fire in 1881 which destroyed the south wing and damaged the central range. Fortunately the beautiful Long Gallery with its superb plasterwork ceiling survived. The rebuilding work resulted in an extensive kitchen complex with every Victorian convenience a large family home might require and which

consists of the main kitchen and seven associated rooms: the scullery, bakehouse, dry larder, fish larder, meat larder, dairy scullery and dairy. With all the associated equipment in situ, this gives a realistic and fascinating insight into the methods and materials used to keep fresh, process and cook the raw ingredients that fed the household.

To return to the dress, it was worn by Mary Vere Agar-Robartes (1879-1946) at the New Year's Party in 1899 to mark the arrival of the 20th century. Although the design on the dress looks as if it has been embroidered it is actually stamped on. The ink used is slatish grey, has a slightly metallic appearance and reminded me of the effect I used to achieve when doing potato printing in art classes at school. There are paint marks on the inside which suggest that the dress was home-made, possibly by the Governess. The dress is cotton lined but there is no label, as there is in most of the children's fancy dress costumes. The accompanying sash is dated 1900 to commemorate the new millenium. There is an accompanying novelty jingly necklace of simple metal shells. It may be that the party was fancy dress, with a theme, such as the sea. It does not appear to be documented whether Mary had a particular liking for shells, or indeed if she collected them. But I'd like to think she did.

Caption for photograph on page 14.

Cockleshell dress worn by Mary Vere Agar-Robartes at a New Year's Party in 1899. With kind permission of the National Trust.

The Names Game

compiled by Mary Seddon

Hidden in the frame there are at least 60 malacologists, who have written books or described molluscan species, ...how many can you find?

(Solution on page 22)

A	G	O	N	L	A	M	A	R	C	K	P	E	M	A	R	T	I	N	I	C
S	U	E	Z	T	E	L	L	I	M	E	N	O	Y	L	Y	E	L	N	A	H
P	D	D	I	P	B	A	I	N	O	R	E	M	A	C	R	E	D	L	A	E
R	E	L	L	I	S	N	I	A	V	N	R	E	L	L	U	M	A	D	A	M
E	J	I	C	L	E	G	A	G	H	E	R	B	E	R	T	D	A	H	H	I
S	E	N	H	S	O	W	E	R	B	Y	K	O	B	E	L	T	L	I	A	T
T	P	N	S	B	G	H	D	A	I	L	L	Y	E	C	L	I	O	V	N	Z
O	E	E	D	Y	L	A	M	Y	T	N	A	C	C	B	R	O	W	N	C	E
N	I	A	M	R	E	G	W	R	I	S	S	O	T	L	O	N	E	Y	O	V
F	L	E	M	I	N	G	N	S	L	L	E	T	N	A	D	O	O	W	C	A
A	E	S	G	O	D	W	I	N	A	U	S	T	I	N	A	C	F	L	K	N
B	O	F	I	L	L	S	S	N	B	A	L	L	A	D	D	V	O	L	A	N
E	I	N	S	I	J	K	S	O	B	S	D	N	I	F	A	L	N	I	T	O
T	R	E	E	V	E	O	E	S	O	L	E	M	U	O	M	O	D	D	O	S
W	O	I	T	E	J	L	L	K	T	A	M	E	G	R	S	W	E	M	G	T
E	S	T	O	R	B	L	C	H	T	N	O	L	A	D	A	C	O	S	T	A
S	S	V	O	G	B	S	C	H	U	T	R	V	T	S	A	C	C	H	I	W
T	M	O	L	L	E	N	D	O	R	F	C	I	N	C	Y	A	V	A	B	O
E	A	D	U	N	K	E	R	A	U	A	H	L	O	E	S	M	I	T	H	L
R	E	F	F	I	E	F	P	R	T	N	I	L	M	O	T	Q	S	E	E	L
L	S	G	M	E	L	I	N	T	T	D	C	T	O	Y	E	U	S	B	T	A
U	S	G	O	U	L	D	O	I	P	P	I	L	I	H	P	I	E	B	I	S
N	L	L	I	V	E	N	I	C	A	S	S	U	R	E	F	N	L	L	E	T
D	E	B	O	U	R	G	U	I	G	N	A	T	S	T	A	N	D	E	N	O
D	R	A	P	A	R	N	A	U	D	O	V	R	O	L	Y	A	T	R	O	N

Variation in *Sphenia binghami*

Anna Holmes, National Museum of Wales

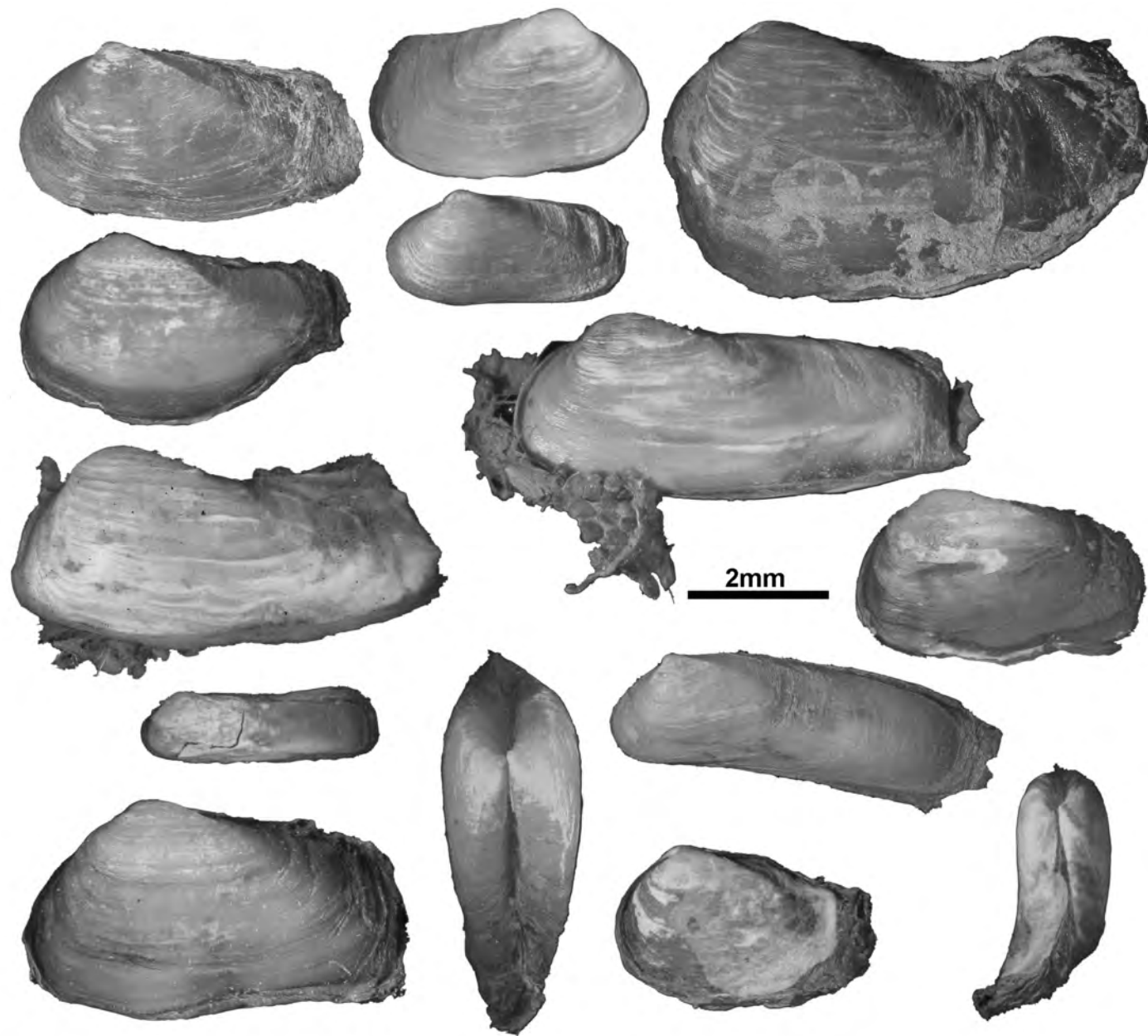


Plate 1

In July 2003 my colleagues in the National Museum of Wales carried out an extensive survey of the benthic communities of the Outer Bristol Channel¹. Their samples were taken by grabbing and all specimens retained by a 0.5mm sieve were kept. Many of the 70 species of bivalves recorded were small or juveniles, which can be difficult to identify. Amongst some samples, particularly those that included bits of honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reef², were many small mis-shapen bivalves. First thoughts led to *Hiatella*

which are very common on the South Wales coast but on closer examination all turned out to be *Sphenia binghami*. The array of forms found is figured in Plate 1. The bottom row of the plate shows two specimens along with their dorsal views to demonstrate how distorted they can become. The left hand side one is a relatively normal shaped *Sphenia*, whereas the right hand side specimen twisted. Narrow twisted shells are relatively small and come from inside the empty worm tubes whereas the others are attached to the outer surfaces of the reef.

Sphenia's incredible variation in shape can make it rather difficult recognise and it is likely that this species is under-recorded due to confusion with *Hiatella*. Externally *Sphenia* has a weak posterior angle whereas in *Hiatella* (especially of this size) there are two rows of spines on the posterior slope. Internally the small spoon shaped chondrophore betrays the myoid family position of *Sphenia*, *Hiatella* lacks this structure.

Sphenia uses a weak byssus to attach itself to a variety of substrates and is a

nestling³, rather than a burrowing bivalve. It has been recorded from crevices, kelp holdfasts, *Hiatella* burrows and oyster clumps, in relatively shallow waters up to around 64m, across the NE Atlantic and Atlantic⁴. *Sphenia* species are found in all oceans and appear remarkably similar wherever they occur, all having the nestling habit.

¹Mackie A.S.Y., James J.W.C., Rees E.I.S., Darbyshire T. Philpott S.L., Mortimer K., Jenkins G.O. & Morando A. 2006 The Outer Bristol Channel Marine Habitat Study. BIOMÖR Reports 4: 249pp. & Appendix 228pp.

²UKBAP <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=32#1> UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Habitat Action Plan for *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs. Accessed August 2006.

³YONGE C.M. 1951 Observations on *Sphenia binghami* Turton JMBA 30(2): 387-392.

⁴POPPE G.T. & GOTTO Y. 1993 *European Seashells*. Verlag Christa Hemmen. 221pp.

Ship-worm inspires Brunel *S. Peter Dance*

During the second half of the nineteenth century the Rev. J. G. Wood did more than anyone to popularise natural history in Britain. Among the scores of books he wrote about animals and their activities was *Nature's Teachings*. First published in 1876, it deals with one of his favourite subjects: how the works of nature have anticipated many of the inventions of man. He shows, for instance, how animals had long pre-empted the invention of the spear, the gun, the hook, the saw, the sail and the rudder. He points out that we borrowed from the lower animals our first idea of a dwelling, adding that 'not only primitive ideas of Architecture are to be found in Nature, but that many, if not all, modern refinements have been anticipated.'

Tunnels fascinated him and he gives several examples showing how some of those constructed by man have their counterparts in structures made by birds, insects - and molluscs. He even goes so far as to say that it was the Ship-worm (*Teredo navalis*) which helped Sir Marc Isambard Brunel (father of Isambard Kingdom Brunel) solve the problem of how to bore a tunnel through the loose, sandy soil under the River Thames, a statement based, apparently, upon fact.

'The plan adopted by the Ship-worm', he says, 'is at the same time simple and effective. It feeds upon wood, and gradually eats its way through almost any timber that may be submerged. It does not, however, merely bore its way through the timber, but lines its burrow with a coating of hard, shelly material. Taking this hint, Brunel proceeded in the same fashion to drive his tunnel through the very ungrateful soils which form the bed of the Thames. He built a "shield," as he called it, of iron, exactly fitting the tunnel, and divided into a number of compartments, each of which could be pushed forwards independently of the others. In each compartment was a single workman, and, as he excavated the earth in front of him, he pushed forward his portion of the shield, while the interior was cased with brickwork, just as a *Teredo* tunnel is cased with shell.'

We recognise the genius of a distinguished engineer who successfully bored a tunnel below the River Thames between 1825 and 1843, but we should also acknowledge his debt to the tunnelling activities of the humble Shipworm. Well might the Rev. J. G. Wood say, in the Preface to *Nature's Teachings*, 'There is scarcely an invention of man that has not its prototype in Nature.'

Hygromia cinctella

(Draparnaud, 1801) in Yorkshire

On Saturday the 23rd of September, on the occasion of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union introductory meeting for new members at Armley Mills Industrial Museum Jane Walton found an adult specimen climbing on Broom by the side of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal (SE27381 34255), the rest of the party then joined in the search and a further two specimens were located. A second search, at the same locality carried out on the 27th of September, produced a further three specimens all on Sycamore leaves one of which was over 10 feet above the ground.

This record extends the rage of this, "Alien" snail northwards by some 30 miles since R.M.Smith found this species New to Yorkshire in gardens on the west side of Sheffield in September 2000.

Adrian Norris

Recorder, Yorkshire Conchological Society

Eobania vermiculata

(Muller, 1774) in the UK

I was interested in the note by David Notton of the Natural History Museum and the comments of Tom Cadman, Species Policy Officer, Wildlife Species Conservation Division of Defra on the occurrence of *Eobania vermiculata* on Lewisham Railway Station. Mollusc World Number 11 page 6 July 2006.

A live adult specimen of this species was found attached to a tree purchased from Palmer Plants Nurseries, Calverley Lane, Pudsey near Leeds, Grid Ref. SE44/ 2136, in July 2003.

Subsequent enquires at the Garden Centre established the fact that deliveries of trees from the Mediterranean area took place twice a year, with lorry pickups from Italy, Southern France and Spain. As *Eobania vermiculata* occurs in all three of these countries, I was unable to establish which of these the specimen originated from. I had hoped to make subsequent visits to the nurseries to examine trees soon after they arrived at the garden centre but other factors put the issue out of my mind until I noted the article by David Notton.

Adrian Norris

Recorder, Yorkshire Conchological Society

A history from a shell artifact

J.E.Llewellyn-Jones

A few years ago I was given a beautiful christening spoon (Fig.1, page 14) made up of the curved part of a scallop shell (*Pecten maximus* L.) and a silver engraved cross for the handle; the inscription reading “St.Luke’s Liverpool, 1883”. It came in a royal blue satin lined case with the name of the company, Pratt and Sons, Church furnishers, 24 Tavistock St., Strand, printed on it in gold. I have since written to Pratt and sons but they are no longer trading. On the other hand St.Luke’s church situated at Bold Place, Berry Street is still standing as a reminder and symbol of the thousands who died on Merseyside during the Second World War.

St. Luke’s church was designed by Liverpool architect John Foster in 1802. It was built on land given to the town by Lord Derby in 1791 with one condition that there would be no burials in the churchyard. The foundation stone was laid on April 9th.1811 and it was officially opened on St.George’s day 1829 but consecrated on January 12th. 1831. It is the only work of John Foster to remain standing after the bombing of the city on the 4th May 1941.

The bells of St.Lukes were cast in Downham, Norfolk in 1818 and rung for the first time by the St.Nicholas bell-ringers at the church on Sunday June 26th 1927 and broadcast by the BBC from 8 p.m. being heard for 10 minutes by the millions of people listening. The church was known in its time as the ‘Doctor’s’ church because of the medical services held in it and at another



St. Luke’s, Liverpool

time ‘Madden’s’ church after the archdeacon Madden a witty Irish vicar from 1889 to 1913. But this all came to an end in 1941 when the Germans bombed the city and which was portrayed so well by artist Peter Shephard (1913-2002).(Fig.2, page 14)

The church, only a shell now, is owned and maintained by Liverpool City; and the gardens surrounding it, without grave stones, laid out and kept by the Corporation. It stands as a gaunt reminder of the blitz holocaust which destroyed so much of the city.

I would like to thank the Revd.Canon Neville Black, Team Rector of ‘The parish of St.Luke-in-the-City’ for all the time and information that he has given and passed onto me about the church and Jeff Walden, Archives Researcher for the BBC who let me know about the bells.

Answers to Names Game (page 19):

Abbott, Adams, Alder, Bavay, Blandford, Boycott, Bofill, Bourguignat, Brot, Brown, Cameron, Clessin, Dall, D’Ailly, Drapanaud, Dillwyn, Dunker, Ellis, Ferussac, Fleming, Germain, Gmelin, Godwin-Austin, Gould, Gray, Gude, Hanley, Herbert, Kerney, Kobelt, Lamy, Lamarck, Linne, Lowe, Martini & Chemitz, Millet, Montagu, Melvill, Mollendorf, Morch, Muller, Nelvill, Peile, Philippi, Pilsbry, Pfeiffer, Preston, Oliver, Reeve, Risso, Rossmassler, Sacchi, Solem, Sowerby, Smith, Standen, Step, Taylor, Tebble, Tomlin, Watson, Westerlund, Wollaston, Wood, Zilch

Diary of Meetings - Conchological Society

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

IMPORTANT: Please remember to inform the leader if you are attending a field meeting. If you are held up in traffic or your public transport is delayed, it may be possible to ring the Programme Secretary on 0794 109 4395 on the day of the meeting for information on the location of the field site being surveyed.

Indoor meetings at the Natural History Museum will take place in the Palaeontology Demonstration Room at the end of Gallery 30, except for the Annual General Meeting which is being held in the De La Beche Room.

Members attending the Annual General Meeting in the De La Beche Room, which is not in a public access area, will need to sign in at the visitors’ window in Museum Lane. Please remember to sign out again when leaving so that Security know that you have left the building.

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

Key to meetings:

- NHM** = Natural History Museum, London, indoor meeting
- FIELD** = Field Meeting at outdoor location
- YCS** = Yorkshire Conch. Soc. events

NHM – Saturday 9 December
14:30h in the Demonstration Room.

We welcome as Guest Speaker John Llewellyn-Jones from West Mersea on the subject of ‘Slugs and snails and -----?’.

NHM – Saturday 27 January 2007
14:30h in the Demonstration Room.

We welcome as Guest Speaker Elizabeth Somerville from Sussex University on the subject of ‘Marine molluscs in archaeology’.

Abstract
Marine shells, especially oyster shells, are often found on archaeological sites. What can the analysis of these tell us about how people harvested the coast?

NHM – Saturday 24 February 2007
14:30h in the Demonstration Room.

We welcome as Guest Speaker David Aldridge from Cambridge University on the subject of ‘Conservation and eradication of freshwater mussels’.

Abstract
Freshwater mussels include some of the most endangered taxa in the world, but they also include some of the biggest pests. In this talk I will give a general overview of some of the threats facing the world’s mussels and present some of the work we have been doing to conserve and propagate mussels both in the UK and China. I will then go on to talk about the ecological and economic impacts that invasive bivalves can have, drawing examples from my recent work in the UK and South America. The talk will conclude with a look at the potential options for controlling pests such as zebra mussels.

FIELD - Saturday 24 March
Ardingly, West Sussex.
Leader: Ron Boyce (0118 935 1413) (home)

The purpose of this meeting is to search for the semi-slug *Phenacolimax major*. It has been recorded from several sites in this area and the intention is to check whether it is still present.

Meet at the car park at the S. end of Ardingly Reservoir, grid ref. TQ 332287. Bring waterproof clothing, Wellingtons and a packed lunch.

NHM – Saturday 31 March
14:30h in the De La Beche Room.

Annual General Meeting
Presidential Address by Dr Julia Nunn on the subject of ‘Lough

Hyne Marine Nature Reserve – a biodiversity hotspot’.

Abstract
Lough Hyne is a sheltered, fully marine lough in west Cork on the south west coast of Ireland, declared a nature reserve in June 1981, and the first statutory Marine Nature Reserve in Europe. Within the reserve area, there is a wide variation of wave-exposure, current speed, depth, light penetration and siltation. Substrata range from vertical cliffs of bedrock, boulder slopes to fine sediments. Lough Hyne is generally accessible and small enough to sample. The wide range of habitats suggests that Lough Hyne may be expected to have a significant number of molluscan species present.

Marine life has been recorded there since the middle of the 19th century. The history of recording in the Lough will be illustrated. Mollusca have particularly been documented since the 1970s, but most recently by me over the last 16 years through diving and visits to the shore. The molluscan fauna of the Lough, and the biogeography of selected species, will be described.

FIELD - Saturday 28 April
Proposed field meeting.

FIELD - Saturday and Sunday 19-20 May:
Littondale and Upper Wharfedale, West Yorkshire.

Joint meeting with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union.

Leader: David Lindley (0113 269 7047) (home)
david.lindley3@btinternet.com

FIELD - Saturday 16 June
Proposed field meeting.

FIELD - Saturday 14 July
Earley, Reading
Freshwater meeting.
Leader: Rosemary Hill (0118 966 5160) (home)

FIELD - Saturday 15 September
Lincolnshire. Slug search.
Leader: Chris du Feu (01427 848400) (home)

Detail of shell carved from designs by Alfred Waterhouse on a pillar at the Natural History Museum, London.

