

**Agaronia murrha Berry:**

# AN ENIGMA IN BLACK AND WHITE

By AL LÓPEZ\* AND MICHEL MONTOYA\*\*

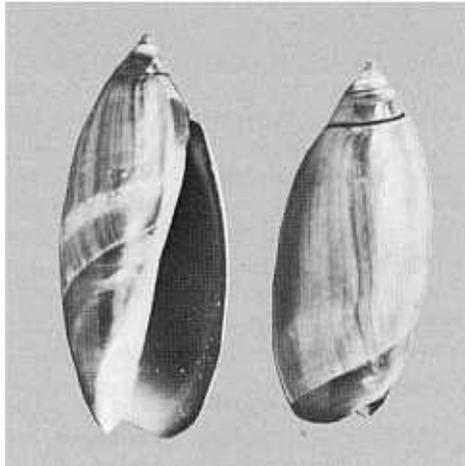
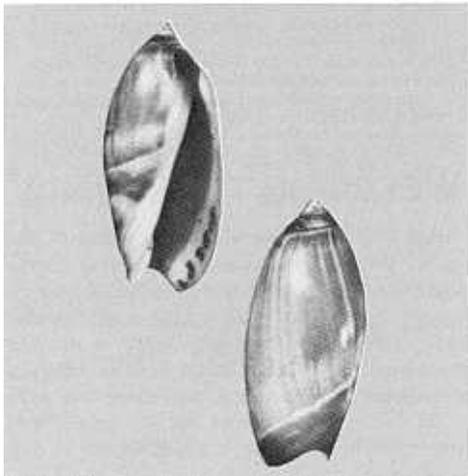
MANAGUA — In July 1984 the present authors made a trip to Costa Rica, where we sampled the Pacific beaches from Puntarenas south to Esterillos and made a puzzling discovery: a black *Agaronia* that we could not identify.

For several years we had been studying the genus *Agaronia* Gray, 1839 (Olividae) as represented on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. Based on the specimens gathered there, we felt pretty secure in our understanding of this genus. Just as Keen (1971) says, there are three species: *Agaronia testacea* (Lamarck, 1811) grey to reddish brown, with a high, sharp spire; *A. propatula* (Conrad, 1849), a greyish brown, inflated shell with a lower spire; and *A. murrha* Berry, 1953, white and porcelainlike. True, a fourth *Agaronia* we found everywhere in Nicaragua seemed different, had a lower spire and was consistently smaller, but it could well be an immature specimen or a dwarf form of either *A. murrha* or *A. propatula*.

What we were finding in Costa Rica were not only black *Agaronia* but also olive-brown ones with darker zigzags and a sprinkling of the classical, white *A. murrha*. This one we knew, but the others we could not identify. Our neat, simple classification of the genus *Agaronia*, had come apart.

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*A. propatula* Photo: Kaicher



The two forms of *Agaronia murrha*.

Photos: López



answer was that the shells we had found were supposedly *A. testacea* and *A. propatula*. But we could not accept this solution. In fact, we knew positively that it was wrong, for a very simple reason.

At the time Berry (1953) described *A. murrha*, all Panamic *Agaronia* were lumped under the taxon



*A. testacea*

Photo: Kaicher

*testacea*. From this complex, he separated *A. murrha*, a porcelainlike white shell (which is the meaning of the Latin name) with a mammillate protoconch as opposed to the real *A. testacea*, a dark shell with a high, sharp spire and an acuminate protoconch.

Later Keen (1958) placed *Oliva propatula* Conrad, 1849 into the genus *Agaronia*. It, too, has an acuminate protoconch. Consequently the infallible criterion for separating *A. murrha* from the other two species is its mammillate protoconch.

Now, all the *Agaronia* we found in Costa Rica had rounded, mammillate protoconchs, so they could not be either *A. testacea* or *A. propatula*. But they could be *A. murrha* in spite of the quantum colour jump from white to black. More evidence was needed, however, and this is where our previous research paid off.

In our study of Nicaragua's *Agaronia* we had used a ratio that we call the "spire factor." It is found by dividing the lateral height of spire, measured from the aperture, by the width of the spire base measured at the same point. In *Agaronia* the spire suture is neatly channeled, ensuring consistent and easy measuring. The spire factor for *A. testacea* was about 1.4, whereas for *A. murrha* and *A. propatula* it was only about 1.1.

We turned for help to mollusc collections in two institutions in San José, Costa Rica — the University of Costa Rica and the La Salle College. In these museum collections we found samples of shells just like the ones we had taken. The black or dark grey were labelled *A. testacea*. The olive-brown ones were given as *A. propatula*.

Some days later, back in Nicaragua, we consulted some books in our library. Hemmen (1981), and Villalobos (1982) gave us the same answer. They were recently confirmed by Bradner (1985). The

# REEFCOMBING

This is the End!

If you failed to renew your HMS membership for 1986, that is. No January issue of HSN. No reports from Aurora Richards on that situation in Rabaul harbor. No news on the Australian shell-export ban. No more reviews of new shell books. Will Chris Takahashi find a six-inch-plus tiger cowry? You may never know unless you renew your membership RIGHT AWAY.

HMS Members, Note Well: The January meeting of the Society will be on **Wednesday, 8 January**, at the First United Methodist Church in Honolulu, rather than on the customary first Wednesday of the month. The reason is obvious from a glance at the calendar for January. The first Wednesday falls on 1 January, when it is hard to believe anyone would want to come to a meeting.

We'll see you a week later, on the eighth.

\* \* \*

The Boston Malacological Club, which justly boasts of being the second oldest shell club in the United States (established in 1910), passed another important milestone recently. It was notified in October that it now is a corporation.

Call us Inc., is the watchword.

Cal Wright of North Falmouth, MA is the president for 1985-86.

## News From Out Yonder

Dr. Ed Dunlap of Rhinebeck, NY, was a one-day visitor to Hawaii early in October, passing through on his way to Wake Island, in the north Central Pacific. He will be relief medic for the maintenance crew on the islet during the absence of the regular doctor.

In a note to Honolulu friends, confirming his safe arrival on Wake, Dunlap wrote hopefully of the shelling.

"No one night dives here," he reported. "There are said to be lots of caves at 30 to 40 feet, so perhaps I can interest someone in hunting for *Cypraea aurantium*. Although Wake is north of Kwajalein and presumably [the water] is colder, the number [of golden cowries] they are finding on Kwaj makes me think there *could* be some here.

"Will also try to get some shells from a vast iron dump at one island point to see if there are any 'pigmented' ones."

On the outside of the envelope was this: "P.S. Just found a 2½-inch (67mm) *C. vitellus* and a 41.5mm *C. schilderoorum* — live, gem and lovely."

\* \* \*

Jean-Eric Lavenir's report in HSN Oct. 1985 on the Giens peninsula in France, included a tiny typographical error that changed the meaning of the message. Referring to *Pinna nobilis* found off the coast there, Lavenir warned that "divers must refrain from collecting lone specimens." Wouldn't you know that the word got changed to *long*?

We are sorry about the slip.

## Shelling Long Island

The Long Island (NY) Shell Club's new slide presentation, *Shelling on Long Island*, was shown at the Conchologists of America and American Mala-

cological Union conventions last summer, as well as at the season's first meeting of the New York Shell Club, says a report from Helen Madow.

The show is a non-technical overview of shell collecting on Long Island, featuring some of the many places to shell, and the species that may be found. Latin and popular names for the shells are used throughout. Club members are shown collecting at some of their favorite spots: looking for peccens at Dam Pond, near Orient, and *Nucella lapillus* at Montauk. Different molluscan habitats are shown, as well as pictures of common and not-so-common Long Island shells.

A narration tape advances the slides automatically, if desired. The presentation includes a script and instructions for setting up the show.

*Shelling on Long Island, New York* was written and produced by Helen Madow, with photography by Rich Goldberg, Jon Greenlaw, Stan Madow, George Ræihle, and Jordan Star. Rich Goldberg was the narrator and special consultant. It is available for showing at club meetings free of charge except for the shipping charges both ways.

If you are interested in having this presentation please contact the club % Helen Madow, 43-10 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355.

## Smithsonian Names Two

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. on 1 November announced the appointment of Dr. M.G. Harasewych (widely known as "Jerry") and Dr. Robert Herschler as Associate Curators in the Division of Malacology of the National Museum of Natural History. They will take over some of the work previously done by the late Dr. Joe Rosewater.

Dr. Harasewych is a marine zoologist, currently working on the DNA of *Busycon* species. Dr. Herschler works with land and freshwater molluscs and presently is concerned with the Hydrobiidae.

## Travel Note — Turkey Div.

"I had just returned from my holiday in Turkey when I received [my HMS membership renewal reminder]," says a note from Dr. Dieter Schmidt of Feldkirchen, Austria. "Thank you for the great punctuality with which I receive your really interesting and appreciated publication every month. At this point, I am having great trouble with other shell publications!

"It has been a marvelous journey along the Turkish Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts. For a beginner (I started collecting one year ago), I was rather successful in collecting shells — more than I was in cleaning them. There was an awful smell in our car the whole way back to Austria. Even now there are some persistent stinkers among my treasures, which include *Cypraea spurca*, *C. lurida*, *Conus mediterraneus*, *Strombus decorus persicus*, etc. There is still much work cleaning and identifying waiting for me."

## Hawaiian Shell News

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The Society meets the first Wednesday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, Beretania & Victoria Streets, in Honolulu.

## VISITORS WELCOME!

Hawaiian Shell News is issued free to members of the Society. Postage rates have been computed and added to membership dues. Individual copies of any issue may be obtained, free of charge, by qualified individuals for bona fide research projects.

Members outside the United States are asked to pay with a bank cheque (not a draft) payable to HMS on a U.S. bank. (Be sure your name and address appear on the cheque.)

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Typesetting, composition and printing of Hawaiian Shell News is done by **Fisher Printing Co.**, Honolulu.

## WELCOME TO HAWAII!!

HMS members visiting Hawaii are invited to contact the Society while in Honolulu. Please keep in mind, however, that the Society office is open irregularly, and that it does not have a telephone. Society officers are listed individually in the telephone book. If in doubt, ask the Waikiki Aquarium or the Bishop Museum for names. Better still, write to the Society in advance. The Museum's Karl Greene Shell Room has a good display of both Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific species.

# You Mean Shells Can Live in This Water?

By RICHARD SALISBURY

AT SEA, GULF OF MEXICO — My reluctant departure from Hawaii in March 1985 after a four-year tour was the beginning of a series of unusual shelling experiences in unfamiliar waters. The first was in the lower Chesapeake Bay, a chilly arm of the North Atlantic.

My plane left Honolulu at midnight when I took a final breath of comfortable 75°F trade wind. After flying across six time zones, I arrived in Norfolk, VA the following midnight in a bracing 49°.

Fortunately, Spring came early to the mid-Atlantic coast. The day after I arrived, the temperature peaked at 65° with a clear blue sky. I marveled at my good luck. The next night, temperatures were back in the 30s. I retreated to the corner of my room nearest the heater and hibernated.

Listening to the evening weather report soon became a regular ritual. (In Hawaii I paid little attention to the forecasts. I *knew* that tomorrow would bring more good weather.) The Norfolk broadcast always included a report of air and water temperatures on Chesapeake Bay. My mind is still a bit numb on the subject, but I believe that the water was in the neighborhood of 51° at the time of my arrival. I was accustomed to a 70° ocean.

In May, I managed to muster enough warmth to make short sorties from my quarters toward the shore. I found the water temperature had climbed to 71° — the warmest for that time of year in a decade, I was assured. Except for occasional north winds, however, life in Norfolk became bearable.

Within walking distance of my room, I found a rather nice little rocky beach.

Now, I don't want to give a wrong impression to those of you who don't live along the East Coast of the United States. I'm sure that shelling there can be rewarding, especially if you have the blood of a polar bear.

Back to that little beach outside Norfolk. I had passed it several times while on iceberg duty. Once I had even gone down to the water's edge and



Richard Salisbury on the beach.

rolled a few stones. The only life I observed was green moss clinging tenaciously to the rocks. Finally it occurred to me to check the beach gravel and drift above the high-tide line.

Guess what? Even the shells had sense enough to stay out of that water.

Dispersed thinly among the marble-size rocks festooned with purple seaweed were at least five species of shells. Only one specimen in my haul was alive. (The others presumably had frozen to death.) In the photo, my pencil points to where the live *Ilyanassa obsoleta* Say was hiding. Also present was a *Nassarius vibex* Say.

Specimens of four other gastropod species were found on the same beach. There is life after Hawaii, after all!

My Norfolk residence ended in June, when the U.S. Navy moved me to Jacksonville, FL in preparation for sea duty. At least it was warmer. But I am having to learn a whole new set of shells.

## *Latiaxis (Latiaxis) pisori* D'Attilio & Emerson and Its Generic Affinities

By ANTHONY D'ATTILIO\*

SAN DIEGO — The widespread use of *Latiaxis* by collectors and dealers for every spinose coralliophilid is to be deplored by all specialists in the family Coralliophilidae Chenu 1859.

The genus *Latiaxis* was proposed by Swainson in 1840, with *Pyrula mawae* Gray in Griffith & Pidgeon, 1834, as the type species. This well-known species has a shell which cannot be mistaken for any other Coralliophilidae. Very few species are congeneric in the strict sense (*sensu stricto*).

There have been proposed about 24 or 25 generic taxa to accommodate the various species groups of this family. One of the best known is *Babelomurex* Coen, 1922 (type by O.D. *Fusus babelis* Requier, 1848). *Babelomurex* is primarily distinguished from *Latiaxis* by the possession of a moderately broad fusiform shell, often with a single upward and laterally projecting row of spines at the shoulder. In many species additional rows of such spines above the shoulder or below the shoulder carina are found.

*Latiaxis* s.s. does not have a fusiform shell. The spire is flattened and/or somewhat tabulate. A single row of short triangulate spines is found at the shoulder in *L. mawae*. This occurs also in *L. pisori*, with the spines recurving inward rather than projecting outward. Illustrations of these morphological characters were shown in *The Festivus*, October 1985.

Any attempt, then, to relegate *L. (L.) pisori* to a synonym of *Babelomurex purpuratus* (Chenu, 1859) fails for this essential reason, if no other.

Due to its close similarity in shell form to *Babelomurex deburghiae* (Reeve, 1857), *B. purpuratus* (Chenu), known only from a single en-

graved black-and-white figure in the *Manuel de Conchyliologie*, has been a problem since its publication, as nothing precisely like it has been discovered. Nonetheless, *B. purpuratus* is so close in specific, as well as generic characters to *deburghiae* Reeve that it has often been synonymized with that species. *Babelomurex purpuratus* has nearly the same lateral and upward projecting shoulder spines as *deburghiae*. For the reference to the purple color implied in the name *purpuratus*, James Barnett has given a color range for *B. deburghiae* in *CARFEL Philippine Shell News*, Vol. 7, No. 1, page 4. Apparently *deburghiae* runs the gamut of color variability for this family.

*Latiaxis (Latiaxis) pisori* has been well figured in *Hawaiian Shell News* (April (P.6) and July (P.6) 1985) and in *The Festivus* (Oct. 1985). Its presence in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea extends its distribution from Japan and the Philippines into the Red Sea. It should be only a question of time until the species will be discovered in the intervening geographical area separating the Philippines from the Gulf of Aqaba as investigations of the oceans continue.

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\*Dept. of Marine Invertebrates, San Diego Natural History Museum. P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.

## OFFICERS FOR 1986

The Hawaiian Malacological Society at its annual meeting on 6 November elected Wesley Thorsson as its president for 1986. Stan Jazwinski was chosen as vice president and program chairman. Barbara Kuemper as treasurer, Dorothy Wendt as corresponding secretary, and Lyn Sweetapple as recording secretary.

Elected members of the Board of Directors are Chris Takahashi, Olive Schoenberg, Kirk Miller and Dr. Carl Christensen.

Following adjournment of the formal business session, a "Potpourri of Things Malacological" was presented by Beatrice Burch, Stan Jazwinski, Al Hrdlicka and Wes Thorsson. Tom Burch showed video tapes of dredging operations aboard this research vessel *Janthina VII* and at the University of Washington marine laboratory at Friday Harbor.

## POISONOUS CONE CLAIMS LIFE IN MAURITIUS

LONDON

A 24-year-old man died of a sting from a cone he had found on the beach at Mahebourg, a village in southeastern Mauritius, early in October. Trying to pull the live animal out of its shell, he was stung and died on the way to a hospital.

It is still not clear which species was responsible for this death. The shell was taken away to be examined by the local forensic science laboratory. From the description given by witnesses, it would appear to be a *Conus geographus*, which occurs in that part of the island.

As many readers may know, a *C. geographus* now at the British Museum (National History) in London is reputed to be the only actual shell known to have killed a man — sadly, another Mauritian.

So far there are 15 known cases of serious stings by this species, eight of which have proved fatal.

Jacques K. Lee\*

\*Jacques K. Lee, a Mauritian conchologist, now lives in England. He is the author of *The Nautilus and the Gang of Three*.

## UFO OR COWRIES?

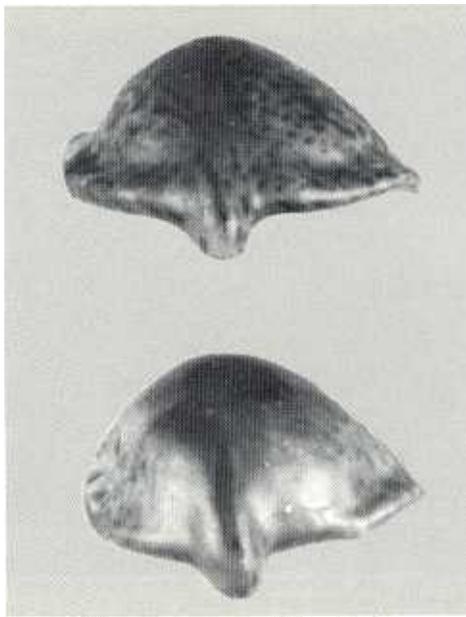


Photo: Ostini

These two misshapen *Cypraea stercoraria* piqued the curiosity of Maurizio Ostini of Ladispoli, Italy. They were collected under a single rock at Dakar, West Africa.

## IT'S TIME AGAIN TO APPLY FOR H.M.S. GRANTS

By WES THORSSON

Yes, it is time to remind HMS members that applications for HMS scholarship grants should be prepared soon. Ask for application forms now or make Xerox copies of last year's. Complete your application and mail it to Hawaiian Malacological Society, P.O. Box 10391, Honolulu, HI 96816, U.S.A. marked for the attention of the Scholarship Committee.

All documents must be in prior to 1 April, 1986. Awards will be announced in the June HSN.

Rules for the grants are simple. The application indicates the information that HMS must have to consider you. Use of a typewriter is mandatory. Include letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your performance and capabilities in malacology.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Persons engaged in a formal college or university program that will lead to career involvement in malacology are eligible. There are no restrictions on place of residence or location of college or university. Membership in HMS is not required. Persons who have received previous awards are eligible although only three awards are permitted.

**APPLICATION HINTS.** Remember that your application will be judged and compared with others only on the basis of the application and its attachments. Be clear and concise as to your goals, needs, and your present and future malacological efforts. Make your financial request factual and reasonable. HMS funds are limited and probably will not meet government-level expenses.

Normally, priority in grants is given to investigative projects that will increase basic knowledge of malacology. An ecological slant often gets priority.

Many past grants have aided projects that furthered mariculture or the ability to raise molluscs in laboratories to prevent possible extinction. Usually, funds are not available for tuition or other normal college expenses.

**FUNDING:** Scholarship grants are supported by funds received from shell auctions and from donations. The current HMS dues level does not allow use of any money derived from dues or interest on bank accounts other than the scholarship fund. This will limit the scholarship awards somewhat this year.

**HMS is especially desirous of receiving donations** for the next auction, the date of which will be set when enough shells are on hand to justify an auction. Auctionable shells are those that may be expected to sell for \$10 or more. Other shells desired by collectors are also needed and will be sold at fixed prices at the time of the auction. Normally these raise nearly as much money as the auctioned shells, but it is the auctionable shells that allow issuing auction lists to members outside Hawaii for mail bidding.

HMS will acknowledge receipt of your shells and include an estimated dealer's price range for the shells. You may base your valuation of your donation on these values and use the donation as a U.S. tax deduction.

Donations of shell books are most welcome, particularly the older basic references or newer books in good condition.

If you can't part with your shells now, consider willing your collection to the HMS. But please arrange to have the collection packed by some knowledgeable collector who will preserve the integrity of your data.

Cash donations are always acceptable. Please mark them for the scholarship fund.

## Some Revisions in Kay's Hawaiian Marine Shells

*Hawaiian Marine Shells* by E. Alison Kay (1979) is the standard study of molluscs of the islands. In the approximately eight years since editorial work was completed, taxonomic changes have been proposed by a number of authors. Among these are Dr. Winston Ponder of the Australian National Museum in Sydney and Dr. James McLean of the Los Angeles Country Museum of Natural History. Dr. Kay herself has continued the molluscan research and reports that she has in preparation a new volume extending and occasionally revising *Hawaiian Marine Shells*. In the meantime, HMS member Bertram Draper of Los Angeles has compiled the following revisions of species, genera and families proposed in recent research and publications.

### Class GASTROPODA

#### Subclass PROSOBRANCHIA

#### Order ARCHAEOGASTROPODA

#### Page

52 — Family Trochidae. The Genus *Thalotia* should be revised to Genus *Alcyna* for the species *Alcyna ocellata* A. Adams, 1861 and *Alcyna subangulata* (Pease, 1861b). This revision *vide* Dr. James McLean, L. A. Mus. Nat. Hist.

54 — Family Skeneidae. The genus *Nannoteretispira* (page 79) becomes genus *Polycideon* and moves to the order Archaeogastropoda, family Skeneidae. This revision is *vide* Dr. W. F. Ponder in "Genera of the Barleeidae" (1983).

54 to 56 — *Cyclostremiscus emeryi* and *C. striatus* move to the family Vitrinellidae (page 89) if they are properly placed in the genus *Cyclostremiscus*. *Lophocochlias minutissimus* moves to the family Vitrinellidae also. The latter revision *vide* Dr. Ponder in "A Review of the Genera of the Rissoide," (1985).

#### Order MESOGASTROPODA

79 & 87 — Family Rissoidae. Species *Vitricithna marmorata* changes to *Pusillina (Haurakia) marmorata*. *Fide* Ponder, 1985.

Subfamilies Anabathroninae (page 79) and Barleeinae (page 87) become subfamilies of the family Barleeidae in the superfamily Rissoacea.

80 — *Isselia hiloense* becomes *Stoscicia (Isseliella) hiloense*. *Fide* Ponder, 1985.

82 — *Merelina kenneyi* becomes *Sansonina kenneyi* and is tentatively moved to the family Vitrinellidae (page 89). *Fide* Ponder, 1985.

82 & 84 — *Pyramidelloides miranda* and *P. suta* move to the family Eulimidae. (*P. suta* was not specifically mentioned for this move, awaiting an opportunity to examine its animal). *P. miranda* move *vide* Ponder, 1985.

84 — *Rissoina ephamilla* moves to *Schwartziella ephamilla*; *Rissoina miltozona* is placed in the subgenus (*Apataxia*). Both *vide* Ponder, 1985.

86 — *Zebina imbricata* moves to *Rissoina (Rissoina) imbricata*. *Fide* Ponder, 1985.

118 — *Styliferina goniochila* is tentatively moved to the family Litiopidae due to anatomic similarity to the genus *Alaba*. *Fide* Kosuge, 1964 in Ponder, 1985.

Authors and dates of original description are unchanged.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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W. F. Ponder, 1985. "A Review of the Genera of the Family Rissoidae." *Records of the Australian Museum*, Supplement 4, 12 February, 1985.

## NEW GROUP TO AID WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

The Hawaiian Islands Aquarium Corporation, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, community-based organization formed in 1984, recently announced plans to negotiate with the University of Hawaii for the operation of selected programs at the famous Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu. It intends to take over from the University of Hawaii Foundation as the partner with the university in raising money for the Aquarium's education and exhibit programs.

The major purpose of the new group is to "help persons of all ages understand, appreciate and care for the life of the ocean," explained Corporation President Leighton Taylor.

The board of directors "represents the diversity of Hawaii," he said. Members include educators, fishermen, scientists, business people and community leaders, among whom are several members of HMS.

Successful models for such partnerships exist within Hawaii and throughout the United States, the new group noted. Stellar examples are said to be the National Aquarium in Baltimore and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

### SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL!

All HMS memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Send your renewal at once. Remember — No dues, no HSN.

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## Notes on Deep-Water Cones From Natal

By DR. ALLAN CONNELL\*

**BRIGHTON BEACH, South Africa** — Dredging along the Natal coast of the Republic of South Africa is an exciting activity that has turned up many unusual specimens.

The region is almost unknown, malacologically, particularly in the 80-to-150-meter range. At that depth our sea bottom is not suitable for trawling. Thus, while the shells from the deeper "langoustine" and deep-water (270 to 500 meters) crayfish beds are relatively well known, shallower-water forms are very rarely available to collectors.

Not many species of cones are encountered in the 80-150m depth range. Where there is mud and rubble, however, turrids often abound and the pretty, banded *Conus eucoronatus* is encountered.

Recently, in just such a situation I found a cone which, while sorting on the deck, I took for an *eucoronatus*. A closer look, however, showed it was not (fig. 1). Rather, it appeared to be *C. memiae* far from its normal home in the Western Pacific. Subsequently, several more specimens have turned up.

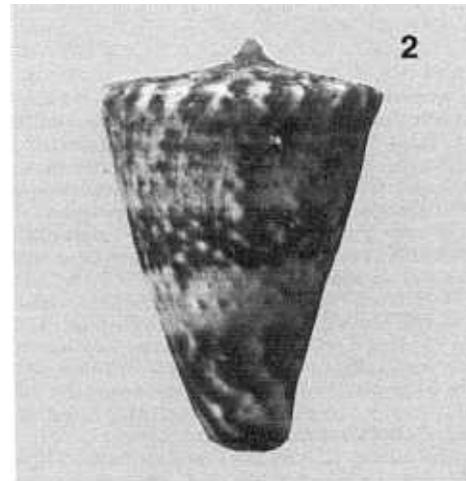
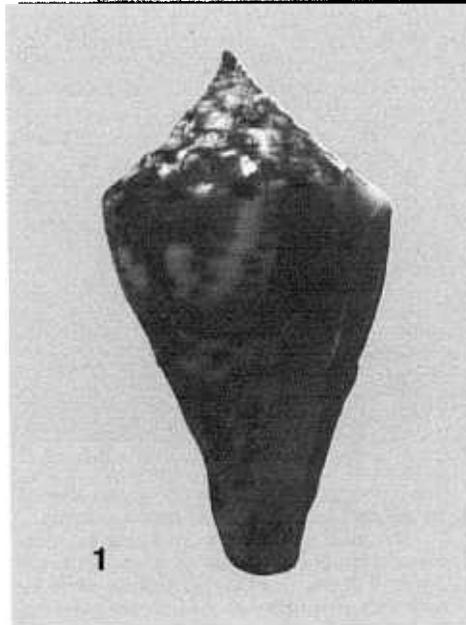
Coincidentally, several specimens have turned up of another cone that really puzzled me until in Abbott & Dance's *Compendium of Seashells* I came across material that suggested I was finding *C. coelinae*, also far from home (fig. 2). I have the animal from one of the three (if anyone is interested) and another live specimen in my aquarium.

I was surprised that Walls' *Cone Shells* tended to sink *C. visagenus*. Most specimens I have found have been very small (20 to 25mm), but one constant character of the larger shells is the strangely protruding shoulder (fig. 3).

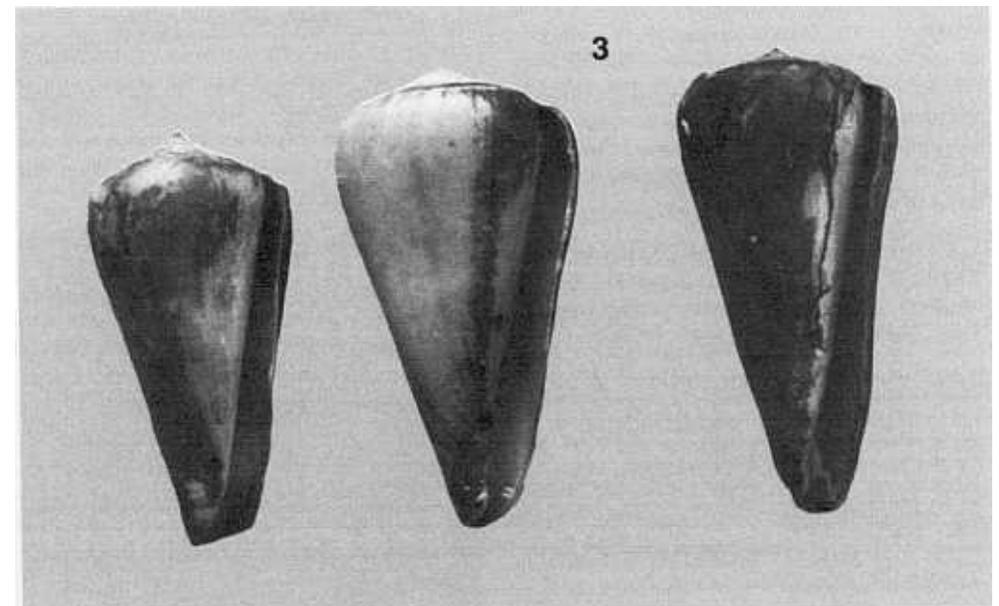
*Conus typhon* appears to have a remarkable depth range. While diving, I have come across the occasional specimen in 30 to 45 meters of water. A few years back I found a few in my dredgings, at about 100 meters depth, although I have not seen a decent specimen lately. Yet folks around Durban who meet the trawlers as they come in from the langoustine beds occasionally are rewarded with a fine specimen — from perhaps 350 to 400 meters!

Apart from the foregoing and some poor but mystifying unknowns, the only other cone found there has been an occasional *Conus milneedwardsi* — a rare but welcome passenger in my dredge basket.

\*36 Strand Road, Brighton Beach 4052, Republic of South Africa.



Photos: Connell



## Speaking of Books: LATIAXIS IN COLOR

**ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF LATIAXIS AND ITS RELATED GROUPS, FAMILY CORALLIOPHILIDAE.** By Sadao Kosuge and Masaji Suzuki. Institute of Malacology of Tokyo, Special Publication, No. 1, 1985. 83 pp., 24 color plates, 26 b/w plates. \$22.50

Reviewed by **WALTER SAGE**

Species of *Latiaxis* and related genera are among the most beautiful representatives of the family Coralliophilidae. Many new forms have been named in recent years, but until now no publication has illustrated adequately all the living species of this fascinating family. Now Drs. Sadao Kosuge and Masaji Suzuki have presented collectors with a photographic guide to these species.

Over 200 species recognized by the authors as valid are illustrated, placed in appropriate genera, and briefly discussed. Each species is listed with author, date of publication, and bibliographic reference. Geographic distribution, synonymy, and a few sentences describing shell characters accompany references to the appropriate plates.

These excellent illustrations are the heart of this volume. Many type specimens are figured. In many cases, several specimens of a species are figured to indicate its variability. It is good to see that the authors have included the lesser known genera, such as *Magilus*, *Emozamia*, and *Rhizochilus*.

Text is in both English and Japanese. The plate captions give Latin names, page numbers for English and Japanese texts, and the shell height for each specimen pictured. There is an index to species names, and lists of fossil species, species which have been transferred to other families, and *nomina nuda*. A number of name changes, covering both species names and generic placements, will make it necessary for collectors to compare their specimens very carefully with the text and plates.

The fine quality of this work makes it a fitting prodrome to the detailed monograph in preparation by the senior author. It is expected that the forthcoming monograph will present a full bibliography and synonymy for each species, and present a more complete description for each taxon. The present guide, with its wealth of fine illustrations, should be added to the collector's library without delay.

**CARD CATALOGUE OF WORLD-WIDE SHELLS.** Pack #42 — Columbellidae Part III. Sally D. Kaicher, ed. 1985. 100 cards. St. Petersburg, FL. \$10 plus postage.

Ms. Kaicher's seemingly bottomless supply of identification cards continues to produce new material. The current pack — No. 42 — brings to 300 the number of columbellids alone that have been figured and briefly described. Her total output exceeds 4,000 cards, each the product of personal research, travel, photography and hassles with printers.

The next pack is scheduled to deal with the Trochidae, if all goes well.

S.L.

## Tell the Society Before You Move

Thanks to last year's introduction of computerized mailing lists and stick-on labels, the Hawaiian Malacological Society was able to drop the former \$1 charge for an address change during the membership year.

A problem remains, however. That stems from the occasional failure of members to inform HMS that they are moving. When that happens, the U.S. Postal Service very often sends the mis-addressed HSN back to Hawaii with a demand for 39 cents. Then, when the Society finally receives word of your new address, the missing issue must be remailed with new postage.

The bad news is that the Society is going to ask members for \$1 to reimburse it for the expense of re mailing **Hawaiian Shell News**.

Don't be offended by the charge. It's one of a series of steps ordered by the Board to plug small drains in the treasury. It can be avoided by remembering to notify us *before* you move.

U.S. bulk mail cannot be forwarded even though you tell the mailman where your new home will be. Those who receive HSN by first-class post or by air mail usually can have it forwarded without charge, but if the post office doesn't have your new address, back the envelope comes to Honolulu. S.L.

### PUBLICATION NOTICE:

**Argonauta, Journal of Malacology**, published by the Associazione Malacologica Internazionale (A.M.I.) in Rome, has made its appearance. A handsome 30-page publication, using color judiciously, the first issue refers to an ambitious program of research and publication in the months ahead.

Roberto Ubaldi, president of A.M.I., is editor, backed by an impressive group of European collectors and scientists.

Text is in both Italian and English, in parallel columns. The editorial emphasis in the premier issue appears to be on the shells of Europe and adjacent waters, despite the appearance of a well-researched article on the genus *Nacella* in the Arctic and sub-Antarctic by Ubaldi. Page size is slightly larger than that of **Hawaiian Shell News**.

The address of A.M.I. is Via Case basse, 171 — 00126 Acilia (Roma) Italy. The subscription rate is US\$16 a year, with delivery by airmail extra.

### Newsletter Bows Out

After 44 issues in ten years, publication of **Chambered Nautilus Newsletter** ceased with the November 1985 issue. Editor H.K. Dugdale of Wilmington, DE expressed his gratitude for the contributions of readers, and "for the knowledge and friendships gained over these 10 years."

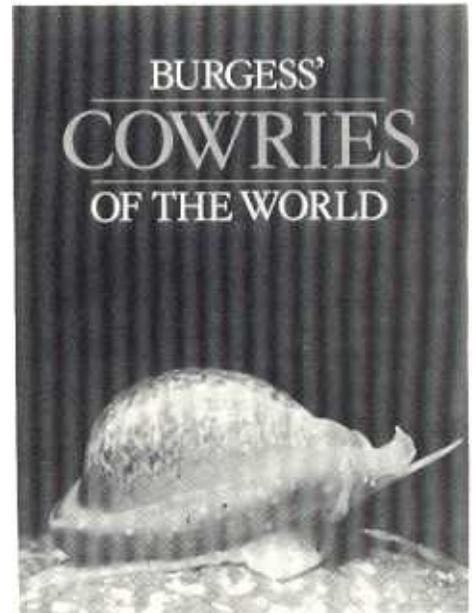
**Chambered Nautilus Newsletter** has been a labor of love for Dugdale, out of his personal interest in the fabled navigators. At the end, the sheet was going to 150 museums, libraries, laymen and scientists in 27 countries.

In his farewell, Dugdale pointed out that, whereas in 1975 only one aquarium in the world had a live *Nautilus* on display, today at least thirteen institutions on five continents have them.

A modest but always information-filled publication, **Chambered Nautilus Newsletter** and its editor deserve great credit for their contribution to the world's appreciation of the mysterious genus.

S.L.

A FIRST FROM  
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304 PAGES IN FULL COLOUR, HARDCOVER

The cowrie animal and its habits, as well as the shells, is the subject of this book by the author of *The Living Cowries*, C.M. Burgess. Over 200 are discussed — species, distribution and synonymy — all are illustrated in full colour of which over 150 the live animal is shown. In addition, there are 18 plates showing significant variations within a species, two plates showing species described since 1970, and schematic drawings of conchological and anatomical characters of the cowries.

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## Use Your Microwave To Clean Shells

Use of a microwave oven, rather than the traditional pot of boiling water, to clean shells, was suggested by Ms. Ryser last month. Further thoughts on this technique are presented here. The material is excerpted from the Broward Shell Club's **Busycon**.

By JEAN RYSER

I am going to list the procedures I use to clean live shells with a microwave oven. The length of time depends on the size of the shell, but also on the power of the unit you use. My inexpensive unit, bought solely for processing shells, does not have the [more elaborate] "punch-in" settings (which seem to require less time) but has a dial.

First, put the shells on a paper plate and place a paper towel loosely on top. Insert plate, shells and covering in the micro oven.

I use the following times:

Type of Shell	Punch-in Units	Dial Units
Small: Nerites, naticas, periwinkles, turbans, distorsios, etc.	50 sec.	1 min.
Medium: Hawkings, conchs, tulips, bonnets, cones, etc.	50 sec.	1 1/4 min.
Large to extra-large: Tulips, queen conchs, horse conchs, helmets, etc.	1 1/4 min. at a time, up to 3 1/2 min.	2 min. at a time, up to 6 min.

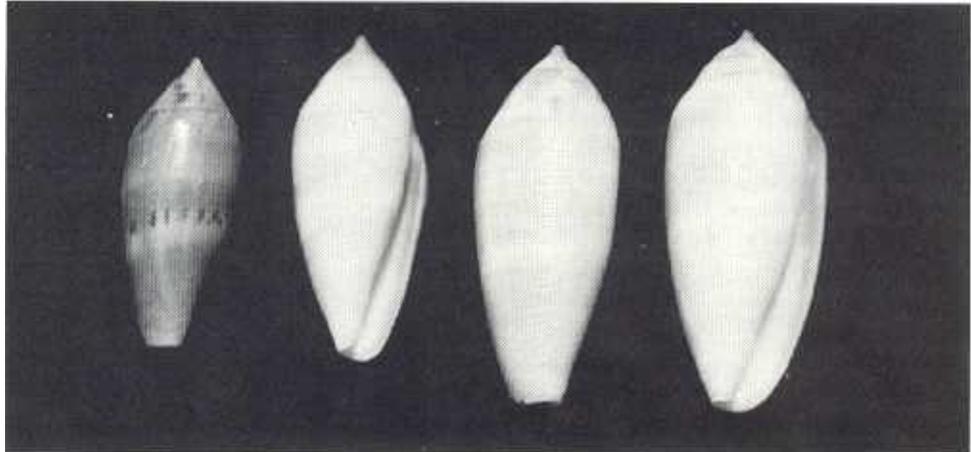
Extra-large shells may require additional time. On these, I start at the first levels given above. Then, if the animals do not come out with a good tug, I immediately re-do them. I have used six minutes on large queen conchs, two minutes at a time (dial unit).

Remember, this system is for *live* shells. When the animal has started to deteriorate, you can still use the microwave but will, in many cases, wind up having to soak or rot out some of the remains. The process probably will not take as long, nevertheless, as not having been microwaved.

Incidentally, I have found that live shells do better when I cover them with fresh sea water immediately on collection.

Ms. Ryser will discuss what happens after the microwave in another issue.

## A New Old Cone From New Britain



*C. granum* (left) and close friends

Photo: Richards

By AURORA RICHARDS

KIMBE, P.N.G. — The intense volcanic activity that has characterized the island of New Britain, in Papua New Guinea, constantly changing the marine habitat, may account for the amazing number of ecological variants in the shells found along the south and east coasts. Over the centuries, some of these variants have developed into separate new species. Many others are presently in limbo, candidates for species status but not yet widely accepted as valid.

The *Conus* species above were all found in the Rabaul Bay, in 30 meters of water on live coral or crawling on sand, at night. Their height varies from 22 to 30mm.

Other specimens of the beauty on the left have been reported from Cebu, Mindanao and Sulu in the Philippines, from Okinawa and from New Caledonia, as well as New Britain. Their identity long has been a subject of debate.

Specimens have been identified as *C. nucleus* (Kaicher's Card Catalog no. 1420, 1977), as *C. viola* (Eisenberg's Seashells of the World, pl. 101 fig. 89), and as *C. corallinus*. I have seen it labeled as a juvenile *C. glans* and *C. tenuistriatus* in private collections.

Dr. Dieter Röckel in Germany earlier this year



Jacques Colomb, 82, rue A. Daudet, 13013 Marseille, France, would like to exchange *Murex*, *Voluta*, *Cypraea*, *Conus* and *Pecten* specimens. He has shells from the Red Sea, Caribbean, the Mediterranean and West Africa to offer in return.

published a study *Spinxiana*, March 1985) in which he gave the shell the name *C. granum*. The specimen on the extreme left represents a typical shell.

Röckel has given the other three figured cones the status of *Conus* sp. for the moment.

"Shape and size are similar [to *C. granum*]," he says, "but the sculpture on the last whorl is much more rough than in typical *granum*, and the colour is different."

A.J. Bob da Motta in Hong Kong wrote that he is "inclined to call it *C. cf. granum*, but it could be at least a subspecies, which Dr. Röckel concedes."

### THE GREEK CONNECTION II

## Nymph and the Cyclops

By LYN SWEETAPPLE

The unrequited love of a mythological monster for a sea nymph seems an unlikely basis for giving a name to a shell, but that is the situation with the bivalve genus *Galatea* Bruguiere in the Donacidae.

The original Galatea was a daughter of Nereus (where have we seen his name before?), a descendant of Neptune, and a mortal named Doris. She loved Acis, a handsome youth who returned her love, as the saying goes. But Galatea also was loved by Polyphemus, a ferocious, cannibalistic one-eyed Cyclops.

Despite his normally brutish nature, Polyphemus went out of his way to attract Galatea. He washed and prettied up his hair, using a stripped pine tree as a comb, and he tried to lower his voice to a gentle roar. But it still wasn't good enough.

One day, after getting all spruced up, Polyphemus went out to court Galatea. He found her locked in a passionate embrace with Acis. Enraged, he rushed at the pair. In terror, Galatea fled into the sea for protection by her grandfather Neptune.

Acis wasn't so fortunate. Polyphemus crushed him under a huge boulder, and probably returned to his cave feeling the whole day had been spoiled.

When Galatea returned to shore and found Acis dead, she used her powers as a nymph to turn his still flowing blood into a river so that they always could be together.

The story of the Monoplacophora Galathea is happier. The Danish research vessel *Galatea* (named for the nymph) dredged up a specimen of the species while on a cruise. The scientist who described it gave it the ship's name.

Among almost a dozen other molluscan memorials to the irresistible nymph are *Fusinus galathea* and *Euciroa galathea*.

This is the second in this series of articles on shell names by Mrs. Sweetapple.



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## The Other Shell Clubs

Here's Show Schedule  
For Winter, Spring

For southbound winter visitors, Florida's 11 shell shows provide ample choices of dates and locations. The schedule includes many shows on consecutive weekends. In two instances, you must make a choice between two shows. What dilemmas!

In April, two shows are scheduled outside Florida. One is in Atlanta, and the other in St. Louis.

For further information, contact the persons listed below.

Don Dan

**January**

17 to 19  
Central Florida Shell Show  
Orlando, Florida

Les Easland  
5803 Fernhill Drive  
Orlando, FL 32808  
(305) 298-2813

17 to 19  
Southwest Florida Shell Show  
Ft. Myers, Florida

John Vaughan  
Box 05962  
Tice, FL 33905  
(813) 693-1913

23 to 26  
Greater Miami Shell Show  
Miami, Florida

Norris McElia  
905 N.W. 15th Ave.  
Miami, FL 33125  
(305) 642-1504

24 to 26  
Astronaut Trail Shell Show  
Melbourne, Florida

Jim & Bobbi Cordy  
385 Needle Blvd.  
Merritt Is., FL 32953  
(305) 452-5736

31 to Feb. 2  
Broward County Shell Show  
Pompano Beach, Florida

Jean Andrews  
451 S.E. 15th Ave.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060  
(305) 782-2837

**February**

14 to 16  
Naples Shell Show  
Naples, Florida

Terry Fitzgerald  
660 York Terrace  
Naples, FL 33942  
(813) 598-2579

15 and 16  
St. Petersburg Shell Show  
St. Petersburg, Florida

Bob & Betty Lipe  
440 75th Avenue  
St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706  
(813) 360-0586

**AUCTION DONATIONS**

HMS continued to need donations of auctionable shells (those that will sell for \$10 or more) to support its scholarship program. Look through your cabinets and select two or three shells for which you know some other collector is aching. Mail them to HMS, P.O. Box 10391, Honolulu, HI 96825 Attn: Auction Committee.

Tomorrow will suffice if it is now late in the day.

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DOOR PRIZES

*The St. Petersburg (FL) Shell Club says it all in the flyer publicizing its Fiftieth Anniversary Shell Show scheduled for mid-February. The St. Petersburg group is one of only two shell clubs in the world (the other is HMS) offering the Smithsonian Institution Award for a scientific exhibit.*

21 to 23  
Sarasota Shell Show  
Sarasota, Florida

Peggy Williams  
Rt. 8, Box 28A  
Sarasota, FL 34243  
(813) 355-2291

**March**

6 to 9  
Sanibel Shell Fair  
Sanibel, Florida

Dorothy Putnam  
Sanibel Community Center  
P.O. Box 72  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
(813) 472-2155

12 and 13  
Marco Island Shell Show  
Marco Island, Florida

Vera Wooley  
930 Montego Court  
Marco Island, FL 33937  
(813) 394-1098

**April**

3 to 6  
Palm Beach Shell Show  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Phyllis Diegel  
143 Alcazar Street  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
(305) 798-5351

11 to 13  
Georgia Shell Show  
Atlanta, Georgia

Carl & Rene Beeler  
1868 Gainsborough Drive  
Chamblee, GA 30341  
(404) 451-2221

18 to 20  
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A lumper who lived on the coast

Was often heard to boast

Whether pustule or dimple

The I.D. is simple

They're all the same species, almost.

Bruce Crystal

FAMOUS NAMES



Thaanum is a name that means a great deal in Hawaii. Ditlev Thaanum moved to the islands at the turn of the century and made them his home for 60 years until his death at 96 in 1963. An avid amateur conchologist, he traveled throughout the Pacific, collecting for the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C., the B.P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu and the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Boston. Although Thaanum described no new species himself, 18 Hawaiian molluscs (out of more than 30 species and genera worldwide) are named for him.

He was a charter member of the Hawaiian Conchological Club, forerunner of the Hawaiian Malacological Society, of which he later became an esteemed member.

All that is history, but HMS members were reminded of it recently when Thaanum's widow, in her 90s, appeared with her son at a Honolulu reception for Winifred Arnold of Pomona, CA., another old-time resident of Hawaii. Ms. Arnold was in Hawaii to visit her sister, Helen Daniels, and to mark her own birthday.

Escorting Mrs. Thaanum is her son, nonshelling namesake of his famous father.

S.L

Ashore and Afloat With H.M.S. Members

By ANDY BUTLER

Most Hawaii scuba divers regard Niihau Island as the best diving in the Hawaiian Chain. Their opinion is based largely on intuition. Few of us ever have a chance to visit the area.

Niihau is a 70-square-mile, privately owned island off the western tip of Kauai, totally inaccessible to uninvited visitors. Rather than a tourist destination, it is a living museum of Hawaiian culture, protected and sustained by the legendary Robinson family of Kauai.

Recently, 18 of us were passengers aboard Capt. Bill Austin's 76-foot all-steel schooner *Machias* (see HSN Jan. 1977) on a four-day visit to Niihau waters. We did not go ashore. To the contrary, we were warned by a gruff spokesman for the Robinsons to stay well away.

After an all-night run from Honolulu, *Machias* anchored between Niihau itself and tiny Lehua Island, the half-square-mile crescent remnant of a volcanic cone standing about 400 feet high. Early dives revealed a series of dramatic underwater drops into an abyss.

The sea bottom around Niihau is unique in that it

looks like dark brown swiss cheese whose myriad holes provide an excellent habitat for both molluscs and crustaceans. Among our divers were HMS members Jack and Debbie Taylor, both U.S. Army captains, who mixed shell collecting with lobster catching. They were joined in the hunt by Capt. Scott Hendricks and his wife Kim. Jointly, and assisted by others of us, they provided us with a stock of delicious shellfish.

Among the shells were a fine live-taken *Cypraea chinensis* (unusual in Hawaii), which they found on a hard substrate in 40 feet of water; *C. schiluderorum*, *C. tigris* (a deep-water shell here), *C. sulcidentata*, several *Conus* sp., and some large *Tonna perdx*. Others in the party reported *Cypraea tessellata* and a large crabbed *Charonia tritonis*.

Mike Taylor, long-time operator of the South Seas Dive Shop in Honolulu, found a five-inch-plus tiger cowry. He magnanimously returned it to the gene pool with the explanation that he "already had a five-inch tiger!"

Others aboard *Machias* — recently extensively modified and re-outfitted as a floating science lab and dive charter boat — included both local HMS members and visitors to the islands. The trip itself was a delight. The water was smooth and clear, with little current. The normal output of the galley was augmented by fresh-caught *ulua* (jack crevalle), *ono* (wahoo) and Niihau lobsters drenched in butter.

Seashell Photos Helping to Sell Printing Paper

Seashells are used as a motif for showing the qualities of fine printing papers in "The Legends of the Shells," an eye-catching portfolio of color photos distributed recently by the Beckett paper people. The commercial message is low key; the text is well-informed and literate.

Mathilde Duffy of Sarasota, FL is given major credit for the contents. Described as "a talented nature artist and writer, a scuba diver and a shell collector," she is a widely traveled member of Conchologists of America. The actual writing was done by Stewart Jones, member of a Cincinnati advertising agency, with Ms. Duffy as "research and copy consultant."

Pete Carmichael, well-known nature photographer, provided most of the stunningly beautiful photos.

Although obviously designed to promote the use of the firm's specialty papers, the portfolio would be of great interest to shell collectors — if they could get copies. An occasional set might be available from printers or paper dealers.

S.L.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER?

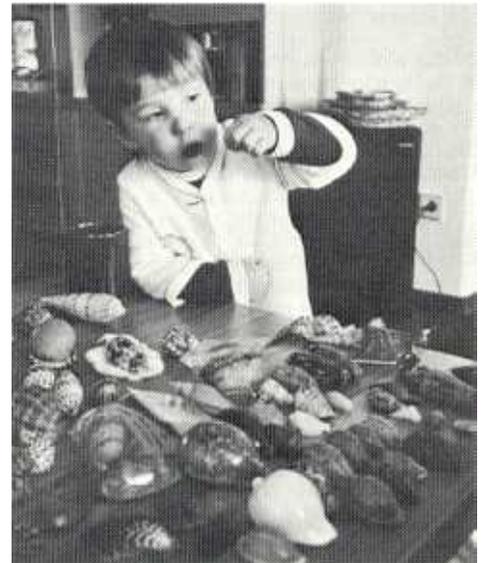


Photo: Roussy

HMS member Henry Roussy, long-time resident of Djibouti, off the Red Sea, and now in the process of moving to Phuket, Thailand, thinks his two-year-old grandson, Christopher, has the makings of a great shell collector.

"Christopher's personal collection, well ordered in his special drawer, includes 2 *Cypraea tigris*, a *C. mappa*, an *Ovula ovum*, 3 *Oliva oliva*, a *Cassia rufa*, a *Harpa major*, a *Mitra mitra* and a *Chicoreus ramosus*," writes Roussy.

"He is very proud of them and shows them to any visitor, saying 'Joli coquillage.' He even has a book with color pictures for reference!

"I have given my own collection to my son [living in Luxembourg]. With Christopher already showing his interest in shells, I have no doubt that it will be in good hands in the future. I am particularly happy."



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**OBSERVATIONS**



Egg cases, *C. textile* and target Photo: McNally

**HONOLULU**

I reported last month that my *Conus textile* had begun depositing egg cases on the glass of my 20-gallon home aquarium. This is a progress report.

The egg-laying process required several days to complete, after which the animal appeared to rest for several more. I was beginning to wonder if she had died in the tank corner, behind the broken *Cassis cornuta* shell that she had selected for her "nest," but after a week she became active again.

The first to discover that she was alive and well was a less-than-fortunate *Cerithium sinense*.

The egg cases began discharging tiny *C. textile* veligers a couple of weeks later. The veligers were so tiny, in fact, that the only way I knew they were there was because of their sheer numbers. They clouded the water.

I was optimistic that some would develop into miniatures of their mother. I put several types of marine algae into the tank, and removed the only resident fish.

As I prepare this report, I don't know how many, if any, of the babies survived. At the critical moment, our home suffered an eight-hour power outage. (At my work, I was unaware of it until it was over.) The lack of water and air circulation in the tank may have wiped out the next generation of *C. textile*.

Dan McNally

**AGARONIA (Cont'd from Page 1)**

Another useful number was the columellar lirae count — from 12 to more than 20 in *A. murrha* and from 7 to 12 in *A. testacea* and *A. propatula*. Our Costa Rica samples were showing a spire factor of 1.1 approximately, and lirae count of about 16. Also, the Costa Rican *Agaronia* were *murrha*-like in profile, not as inflated as *A. propatula*.

We now feel certain that all the samples we found in Costa Rica are really *A. murrha*. This extends its range considerably from Berry's type locality of Corinto, Chinandega, Nicaragua, to Dominical, Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

It is surprising that we did not find any other species of *Agaronia* on the Pacific coast, but they seem to be rare in Costa Rica. In the collections we visited we did see three or four samples of *A. testacea* labelled from Puntarenas, but none of *A. propatula*.

The data we give in this article are a very small part of the results of our research on Panamic *Agaronia*. The whole story, including a revision of the genus and the description of two new species, has been submitted for publication and we hope it will soon appear in print.

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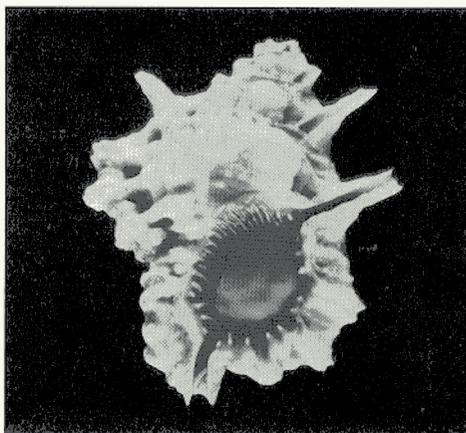
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**That 'Rare Bursa' From Hawaii**



The *Bursa* specimen figured with Jim McDowall's report (see HSN Sept. 1985, p.9) is *B. lamarckii* (Deshayes, 1853) according to Aurora Richard of Papua New Guinea (currently relaxing in Spain).

"It is a fairly common species in the New Guinea islands and probably throughout the West Pacific," she writes. "Its most recognizable feature is the purple-black of the aperture, which makes it unique among the Bursidae."

Betty Jean Piech of Wilmington, DE came to the same conclusion via a different route.

"In 1984 I found a live specimen of this shell under intertidal rocks off Korotoga village on the south coast of Viti Levu, Fiji," Mrs. Piech wrote. "I identified it as *B. lamarcki* (Deshayes, 1853) from the figure on page 129 of Abbott & Dance's *Compendium of Seashells*."

But it still is rare in Hawaii.

S.L.

SHELLETTERS

**Australian Shells**

SOUTH HEDLAND, W.A.

Referring to your note, "The Australian Scene" (HSN August 1985, p.6), a person such as myself (holder of export permit and collecting license) can legally buy (and sell) shells . . . from a professional fisherman or a person holding a shell-collector's license.

Although this is a little better than only being able to sell self-collected specimens, our major source of supply is cut off since obviously most shells come from collectors who sell their surplus.

Note the requirements, as stated in the enclosed letter from the W.A. Fisheries Department, for obtaining a shell collector's license. No license is needed for non-commercial collectors, with no limit on quantity.

The requirements that need to be met are:

1. The applicant is able to demonstrate he/she has specialized knowledge in the identification and collection of Australian specimen shells, and a working knowledge of the export regulations.
2. The applicant is the proprietor, part owner or full-time employee of a business dependent on the sale of specimen shells and operating a wholesale and/or retail outlet for shells in Western Australia.

Joe Rinkens

Getting a *Conus* to come out of its shell  
 Is tougher to do than to tell.

The clam is outside  
 When its hinge opens wide  
 While the *Conus* retracts there to smell.

Bruce Crystal

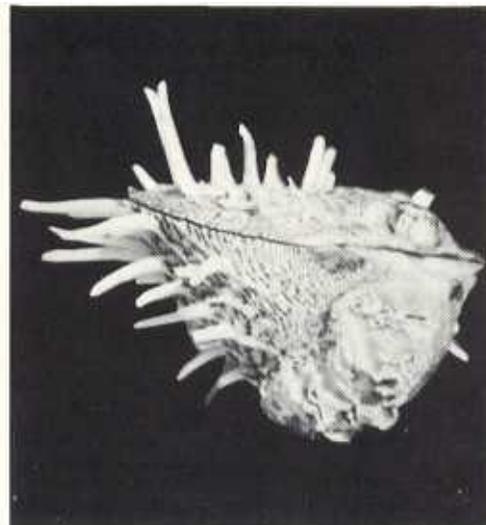
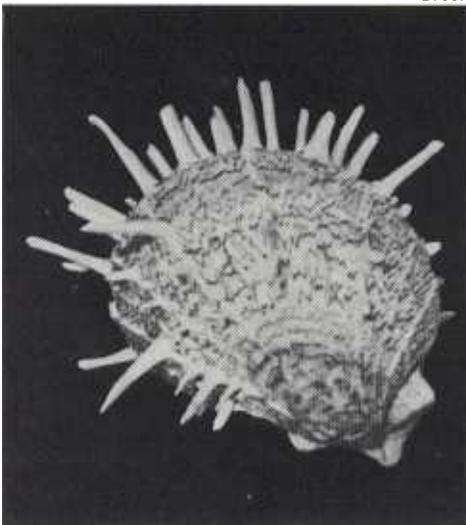
**Mystery Spondylus From The Pacific**

Barbara Green writes from Panama City, FL of an unidentified *Spondylus*, resembling the common Indo-Pacific *S. squamosus* Schreiber, found some time ago in 105 feet of water in Apra Harbor,

Guam. Has anyone a name for it? she asks.

The mystery shell has a left valve more concave than that of *squamosus*, and there are fewer ridges and spines.

Photos: Green



## The Club is Dying!

By ART WEIL\*

CINCINNATI — Shell clubs have passed their zenith and are on the wane, according to a number of observers. Memberships are down. Participation is off. The founding of new clubs is increasingly difficult. The old members are coming less often to meetings and new people aren't coming at all.

What a dismal outlook for a noble hobby.

There are several reasons for these phenomena. And a number of steps can be taken to reawaken enthusiasm. First, the problems:

1. We are bombarded with "new species," many of which look amazingly like old familiar species. Amateurs lack credentials to challenge the experts, even when we suspect they are all wet. It is discouraging. Additionally, the new shells always cost a bundle. The only alternative is to leave a gaping blank space in your cabinet.

(Of course, there ARE bonafide new species — occasionally. But the urge to see the new name in print seems to have overwhelmed common prudence. Isn't anyone satisfied anymore with a new variation or color form?)

As dealers' lists get longer, more esoteric and more expensive, collectors turn to stamps, coins or butterflies. And who can blame them?

2. Face it. Most club meetings are dull. We know each other. We like each other. We've seen each other's collections. We need some variety.

So we send away for an interesting program. In time it arrives — filmstrip, tape, maps and all. We run it at the next meeting.

But a little of that goes a long way. For how long can you concentrate on variations in one species of tree snail, or on the intricacies of *Conus radulae*? Next month, instead of coming for the program on the volutes of Howland Island, we'll stay at home and watch *Magnum, P.I.*

3. Shell prices are downright ridiculous. Many dealers profess to handle only "rare" specimens nowadays. How do you get a common shell — one that should go for a dime — to round out your collections? Easy! You pay \$2.50 for one.

It seems like every dealer in the country has several *Cypraea aurantium* in his inventory (range: \$250 to \$500) but has difficulty supplying you with a selection of tiger cowries at 25¢ each.

4. Club members are divided into "showers" and "watchers." The former do 95 percent of the work and provide most of the meeting programs. The watchers pay their dues and come occasionally to the meetings. After a while the showers get tired of entertaining the watchers, and they stay home, too.

So, how do we reverse the dying trend?

We can cut out the species naming for a while. Let us catch up with the recent flood of names and affiliations. Publications should (must?) regard new species descriptions with extreme reserve. Wait until the most cynical skeptic in the business accepts a name before you even think of buying a specimen. Let's return a lot of these cowries, cones and deep-water tritons from Chutzpah Atoll to the status of "an interesting little shell, with features much like those of *C. mediocre*."

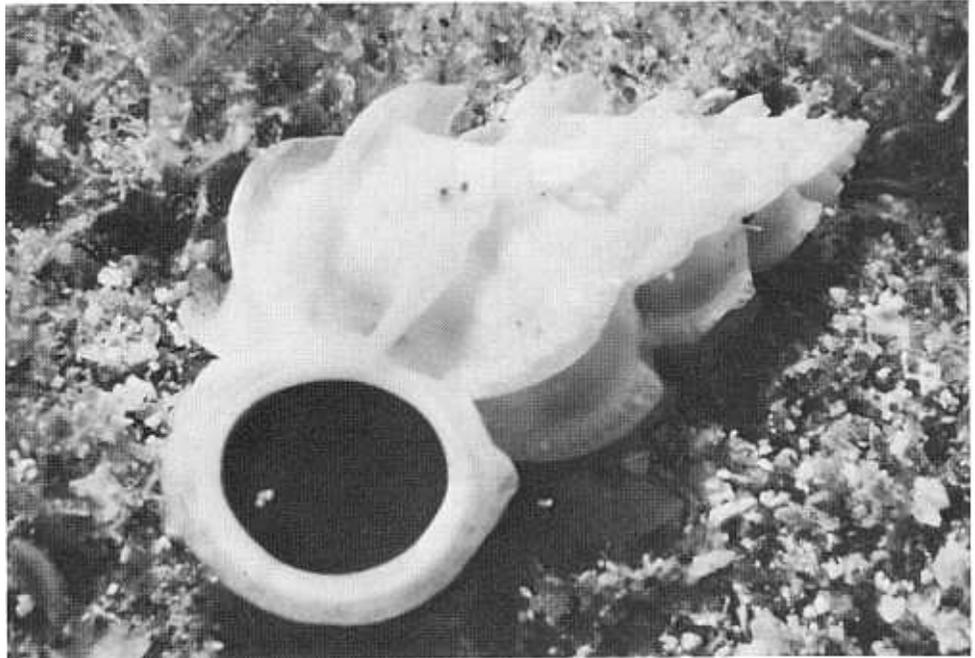
Club meetings? Plan them well in advance — for the entire year, if possible. Make it clear to each member that he will be responsible for keeping the membership awake on such-and-such a date, either personally or with the best darned visiting speaker of the year. Schedule field trips (have we explored any streambeds lately?) or sessions at the community college biology laboratory.

Perhaps an "exchange night" is in order. You will be surprised how the club membership responds.

What? You disagree with me? Well, O.K., Come up with some better ideas.

\*5662 Delhi Park, Cincinnati, OH 45238

## RARE FINDS IN HAWAIIAN WATERS



*E. alatum* — 25mm — Oahu North Shore

Photo: Takahashi

Originally described from the Philippines and subsequently reported from Fiji and Singapore, *Epitonium alatum* (Sowerby, 1844) is a rare find in Hawaiian waters. In a decade of intensive diving here, I have added only six live specimens to my collection.

Information on its habitat is sparse and often contradictory. I have seen live shells in two to 20 feet of water, exposed on sand. Others have dredged them from as deep as 500 feet. Dead shells are not uncommon in beach drift on Oahu, particularly along the north and west shores subject to winter storm surf.

A live *E. alatum* is a striking sight. The glossy white whorls are set off by a jet-black operculum. Almost invariably the whorls have brown spots or, occasionally, bands. Normal sizes range from one

half to three fourths of an inch, although I have seen one-inch giants. Robert Wagner does not list *E. alatum* among his size records.

At first glance, *E. alatum* resembles the more famous *E. scalare* Linne, the once elusive "precious winkletrap" or staircase shell. It also resembles *E. fucatum* (Pease) which, however, lacks *alatum's* slender form and cancellate sculpture between the costae. Cernohorsky compares *alatum* with *mar-moratum* (Sowerby).

Not much has been published on our Hawaiian *Epitonium* spp. and I suspect that relatively little is known. In her *Hawaiian Marine Shells*, Dr. E. Alison Kay lists 13 species. The only other papers of which I am aware were done by HMS member Jim McDowall of Kauai island, Hawaii (see HSN April 1981 and Feb. 1985).

Chris Takahashi

## Kirk Anders, 1945-1985

MELBOURNE, FL

The shelling world was saddened by the death of Kirk Anders of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on October 1, 1985, after a relatively short illness.

Kirk was known to many hundreds of conchologists, both private and professional, as the leading shelling-tour master in the Americas. Responsible for many important field discoveries among the marine molluscs, he gave many pleasurable hours of assistance to amateurs wanting to observe and collect shells.

Kirk was born in Seattle in 1945, and grew up in Florida. After obtaining his B.A. from the University of South Florida, he taught science in a local high school, and then founded Shells of the Seas, Inc., and later the Kirk Anders Travel Co. He combined his love of travel, people, shells and teaching into a thriving shell tour business which took him and his friends to most of the famous shelling areas of the world, from Central America to West Africa and from the West Indies to Australia and Egypt. The tours are being continued by his associate and protegee, Pete Bright.

Kirk was a good communicator, as his many

satisfied tour participants can testify. He was a co-founder and second president of the Conchologists of America (COA), and was president of the flourishing Broward Shell Club of Florida in 1971-72. For a brief period he issued an excellent popular magazine called *The Shell Collector*.

His private collection consisted of over 10,000 species of worldwide molluscs. Kirk shared his knowledge and his shell specimens with everyone who was fortunate to have known him. His gentle nature, his warming sense of humor and his helpful hand will be remembered by many.

At his own request, Kirk was cremated and his ashes were scattered in the Gulf Stream off Florida. Friends who wish to express their appreciation for Kirk's many kindnesses may contribute to the scholarship or educational funds of either the COA (% Treasurer, Walter Sage, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, N.Y.) or his Broward Shell Club (P.O. Box 10146, Pompano Beach, FL 33061). These tax-deductible remembrances would keep Kirk's traditions and goals alive for many years to come.

R. Tucker Abbott