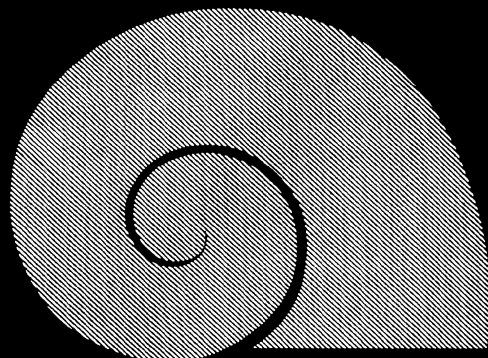


UNITAS MALACOLOGICA



FOUNDED 1962

Newsletter

Number 20 December 2003

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Asociación Malacológica Argentina
Comite para los Congresos Latinoamericanos
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Société Française de Malacologie
Society for Experimental and Descriptive
Malacology
The Malacological Society of Japan
The Malacological Society of London
The Western Society of Malacologists

**Our aim is to further the study of Mollusca by
individuals, societies and institutions world-
wide**

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Printing and distribution: E. Gittenberger

ISSN 1011-2375

keeping the world of malacology informed

Editorial

Dear UNITAS members,

First of all I send you my greetings for coming Christmas and the year 2004.

This will be the last newsletter, which I am editing. Due to some reasons, not connected with UNITAS activities, I asked for retirement from the post. The new editor is still not appointed, but I hope that Council will find an appropriate person. From my side I promise cooperation and any possible assistance to the future editor.

Unfortunately the current issues of the Newsletter are still not available on the net due to some technical problems (mostly from my side), but I hope we will resolve them with Tom Meijer soon.

With only few months before the coming Congress, it is not surprising that this newsletter is mainly dedicated to it.

The reports of the students who received the UNITAS research awards (Laurence Kiss and Purba Pal) are also in this issue.

Yuri Kantor

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Secretary's column

On September 21st I spent an enjoyable day in Brussels attending this year's UM Council Meeting, kindly hosted by Jackie Van Goethem. The discussion naturally centred on the forthcoming World Congress in Perth. Fred Wells has been extremely busy with the preparations, and the brochure for the meeting accompanies this newsletter. It promises to be every bit as good as previous Congresses!

There was also good news on the financial front. As our Treasurer explains in his report, the finances of UM are in a particularly healthy state at the moment. Consequently, Council took the decision to increase the amount of money available for Student Travel Grants for Perth, and also to offer two Research Awards in 2004, and annually thereafter – previously only a single award has been offered in each of the two years between Congresses. We will now award 25 Travel Grants of up to €800 (€400 for those resident in Australia) – the deadline for submissions is 29th February, 2004. The Research Awards are each of a value up to €1000, and the deadline for receipt of applications for these is 30th April 2004. Full details of the conditions relating to both the Travel Grants and Research Awards follow this report.