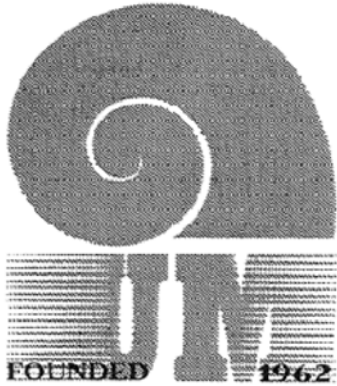


UNITAS MALACOLOGICA



Newsletter

Number 22
June 2005

Dear Members,

This is the new UMN, based on what you have told me you want (and some small refinements in the appearance). Although the present issue of UMN was ready for distribution in March, it was decided for financial reasons to delay distribution until six months after the previous issue. Frequency (and medium) of publication is still under consideration; I would be interested to hear your comments. Of the 326 current members of UNITAS, I received 31 responses to the general survey about the UMN contents. To be fair, this is not particularly impressive. However, it is guidance of a sort and I intend to follow it. These responses to various proposed newsletter contents give the total percentage of *positive* responses you gave me.

The majority of the you are happy with electronic distribution of the newsletter, so postal copies will be sent only to affiliated associations, members without e-mail facilities or those who request it. Several readers are vehemently opposed to the presence of shell-identification questions, so those of you who feel this way will be relieved that open queries will not be included. It was generally agreed that although personal

announcements are the least welcome, obituary notices are still of interest. Sadly, we have occasion to include two in this issue.

Book reviews	94 %
Professional announcements	87 %
Literature summaries	83 %
Interesting mollusc facts	80 %
Dissertation announcements	70 %
Natural history articles	63 %
Art	47 %
Anecdotal accounts	47 %
Open queries (e.g. identification of shells)	47 %
Personal notices	20 %

Our contents, as in this issue, will focus on current reporting, book reviews, and publication and professional announcements. But don't forget to try out the crossword and send me your solution! The winner will be announced in the next issue as well as receiving a book prize. Particularly welcome in this issue is an article by Council member **Somsak Panha**, with a surprisingly optimistic report on the post-tsunami recovery in Thailand.

Your submissions are *very* welcome as always, and I hope that the new format and contents guidelines may inspire you.

JDS

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

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Special Report

A SURVEY OF THE IMPACTS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN TSUNAMI ON SOME TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES INCLUDING MOLLUSCS

The tsunami that hit Southeast Asia and the islands near there on December 26, 2004 was devastating, killing tens of thousands of people, and wiping out whole communities. From the beginning, Chulalongkorn University has been involved in assisting the victims and coordinating environmental restoration with the Thai central government. I have become involved in assisting many marine national parks through assessing the impact of the tsunami on terrestrial beach flora and fauna, beach forests, freshwater swamps, streams and mangrove forests.

In our rapid assessments, we have found a lot of evidence of the impact of the giant waves. The sandy beach slopes of some places in Pangnga and Phuket have been reshaped to flat structures and the waves washed away some polluting agents. It is likely that the condition of some habitats is actually improved as a result of the waves. Mole crabs (*Emerita emertus*), mysis shrimps, olive shells (*Olivella* sp.), and some polychaete worms appeared in enormous numbers one month after the waves. Prior to the tsunami these animals were reported to be decreasing because of pollution, and some of them are rare species.

Most of the trees on affected beaches have died, except for coconuts and some other palm trees. The waves washed in about two kilometres from the beach to the forest fringes with the high velocity water about 3-4 meters per second and hydrodynamic pressure about 400-800 kilograms per square metre. This is more than enough to destroy all hard constructions and kill people and animals.

One interesting finding from these surveys is that many tree snail species died out because of a lack of shelter. *Amphidromus atricallosus* and *Dyakia salangana* are the two species which were most effected. On Kam Island, a small island of Ranong Province, I can see an initial vicariance phenomenon dividing two populations of *A. atricallosus* that have been separated by tsunami erosion. However, invertebrates living in the mangrove areas are almost all safe. For example, one week after the tsunami I observed fiddler crabs (*Uca* spp.) in mangrove areas. Ghost crabs (*Ocypode ceratophthalma*) appear to be increasing based on observations of both their numbers and their holes. Some Ellobiidae, such as *Cassidula* and *Pythia* were brought up to the forest fringe about 1-2 kilometers away from mangrove forest together with *Cerithidea* sp.

Some islands, such as Kam Island, were split into two or three portions which are now divided by saltwater. Some freshwater swamps now have become hypersaline with salinity rising from freshwater to 38-40 ppt (compared to the normal 25-30 ppt in marine water). The only three freshwater molluscs that were present have died (i.e., *Filopaludina* cf. *javanica*, *Indoplanorbis exustus* and *Melanoides tuberculata*), but some alien species like the snail *Pomacea canaliculata* survived. Other freshwater invertebrates are all gone (for example, a freshwater shrimp, *Macrobrachium* sp.). Some larger vertebrates such as frogs have now moved to other places or perished. These changes in salinity will have huge effects in this unique ecosystem.

These observations are based on a rapid assessment of only some invertebrates, especially molluscs. The survey will be continued for a year to observe changing conditions and note the longer-term effects of the tsunami. In addition, these findings will help guide us in restoration efforts.

Somsak Panha
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A Good Journal Made New

Historical Biology

www.tandf.co.uk/journals/onlinesamples.asp

Recently re-launched, *Historical Biology* (HBI) provides an international outlet for high quality papers that deal with systematics and evolutionary trends within animal and plant groups having both living and fossil representatives. Submissions from all fields of palaeontology, evolutionary biology and systematics will be welcomed. In the first place, peer-reviewed articles will be published immediately once they are accepted by the editorial team (via preview; www.tandf.co.uk/preview), full volume contents appearing in printed form annually. In addition to regular peer-reviewed scientific articles, **HBI will also publish longer monographic works** in the field of historical animal and plant systematics.

For malacological enquiries to HBI, please contact:

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Yet Another New Journal

International Journal of Biological Sciences

www.biolsci.org

International Journal of Biological Sciences is a new peer-reviewed journal publishing scientific papers of significance in all areas of biological sciences, including cell biology, developmental biology, structural biology, microbiology, molecular biology & genetics, biochemistry, biotechnology, ecology, and bioinformatics.

The Journal aims at rapid publication of high quality research results while

maintaining rigorous peer review process, with the goal to build a leading international journal in the next few years. The Journal is committed to open access its online version to maximise the distribution of articles. Full texts of all articles will be made available in PubMed Central, the US National Library of Medicine's biomedical journal information archive. A print version of the Journal is also scheduled to publish for subscription by worldwide research libraries.

Book Reviews

SCHULTZ, O., 2003. *Bivalvia neogenica (Lucinoidea-Mactroidea)*. *Catalogus Fossilium Austriae* 1(2), pp. i-x, 381-690, 1 fig., pls 57-95. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien (ISBN 3-7001-3180-X). Price € 146

The second part (of three) of this catalogue was published with an attractive blue cover similar to that of part 1. The first 10 pages are devoted to additions and corrections and 23 supplemental references to the first volume. Many of the corrections concern changes in the ending *-acea* to *-oidea* for superfamilies, as made mandatory in the 1999 issue of ICZN rulings.

From p. 381 onwards the systematic part is continued, following the *Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology*. In this part, the families Lucinidae, Thyasiridae, Ungulinidae, Chamidae, Erycinidae, Kelliidae, Leptonidae, Montacutidae, Galeommatidae, Sportellidae, Carditidae, Astartidae, Crassatellidae, Cardiidae, Mactridae, Cardiliidae and Mesodesmatidae are treated in the same detail as far as synonymy, and geographical/ stratigraphical distribution are concerned.

Especially the extensive listing and illustration of all those interesting

occurrences of largely endemic Central Paratethyan cardiids is very useful. The plates, black & white photographs, are of the same excellent quality as in the first part. For some groups of smaller species (Erycinidae, Leptonidae, Montacutidae etc.) one could have wished a higher magnification to clarify details, especially so for the hinges.

Considering the enormous number of names and synonyms it may be hoped and expected that the concluding volume 3 will contain a very extensive index, facilitating the tracing of any name in this voluminous catalogue.

Again, I feel the need to express my admiration to Dr Schultz for his valuable contribution to European palaeontology. If we could ever have such a catalogue for the gastropods as well ...!

Arie W. Janssen
ariewjanssen@waldonet.net.mt

The book is organised into two main parts: on American organisations that were the predecessors to the NSA (1638-1930), and then a detailed history of the NSA itself (1930 – present) including accounts of the development of publications (Proc. NSA) and spin-off organisations. This is an impressive work, and affectionately done. Carricker's work would serve as an excellent model for others who are interested in chronicling the history of any organisation. Perhaps someone will honour Unitas with a similar homage in another 50 years' time.

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JDS



CARRIKER, Melbourne, 2004.
Taming Of The Oyster: a history of evolving shellfisheries and the National Shellfisheries Association
264 pp. ISBN 0-9752881-0-5
Sheridan Press.

This is a short and informative work on the history of the National Shellfisheries Association (NSA), and in a way it is also a history of the shellfish industry in the U.S. The emphasis is malacological, particularly oysters, but the work of the NSA extends to crustaceans as well. The book includes many excellent archival black and white photographs of people important to the early and contemporary development of the NSA. Beyond the "who's who" in the history of twentieth century shellfisheries biology (neatly summarised in table form in the appendix) the text contains a detailed legislative history of shellfisheries regulation. This is primarily dealt with in terms of the Association's internal debates on industry regulation.

Student Research Awards

The deadline for submissions was **31st May 2005!** Two awards, each of up to €1000, are offered every year to students engaged in research projects of a malacological nature. Winners for 2004, announced at the Unitas General Assembly in Perth were:

Christine Parent
Simon Fraser University, Canada
Speciation on islands – the bulimulid land snails of the Galapagos.

Rebecca Rundell
Chicago
Determinants of Diversity in the Palau diplommatinid land snails.

For more information, contact:

Dai Herbert
dherbert@nmsa.org.za

*Check the website for updates
on winners for 2005!*

Obituaries

Richard Van Belle

Norman Newell

Norman D. Newell, a leading evolutionary palaeontologist and Curator Emeritus in the Division of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, died at home in Leonia, New Jersey, on Monday, April 18, ending a long and rich academic career. He was 96.

In 1989, Stephen Jay Gould wrote, "I was Norman Newell's student, and everything that I ever do, as long as I live, will be read as his legacy."

During the 1930s, Dr. Newell became an internationally recognized authority on fossil bivalve molluscs, his core specialty. His research style and publications served as models for young invertebrate palaeontologists engaged in changing the scope and image of their discipline.

Funeral services were held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1576 Palisades Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey, 07024 USA on Thursday, April 21.

Condolences may be sent through Niles Eldredge; gifts in memorium may be made to the Church of the Good Shepherd (above) or to the Norman D. Newell Endowment Fund, American Museum of Natural History.

eldredge@amnh.org
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West & 79th Street
New York, NY 10023

After a long period of various illnesses and hospital visits and stays, brought on by diabetes, our common friend and mentor, Richard A. Van Belle has deceased in the comfort of his home in *March 2005*.

He has been cremated and an intimate service was held in the presence of his closest relatives and friends. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Marguerite who supported him in everything.

Richard has been a great support to many of us, in our studies and research of our common interest, the Polyplacophora. He has left an immense oeuvre to all of us and his collection resides since little less than a year now in the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences where it is currently being curated for final storage. Since a couple of years, he felt he was unable to actively continue his research and decided to transfer his collection, library and correspondence to the RBINS where it is now under the care of Dr J. L. Van Goethem and Miss Rose Sablon.

If any of you wish to express their condolences, please do so by mail or e-mail to either Bruno Anseeuw or Yves Terryn and we'll see to it personally that Richard's wife Marguerite receives your wishes and condolences.

Bruno Anseeuw & Yves Terryn

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Museum Announcements

IRELAND

The National Museum of Ireland (Natural History Division; NMINH) is pleased to announce a new online catalogue of part of its Mollusca collections, covering more than 3,300 dry (shell) lots of British and Irish origins. Collections include material from, e.g. J.G. Jeffreys. The collection database to date includes less than one-third of the total holdings.

Catalogued holdings are available in PDF format from:

www.ucd.ie/zoology/cobid/collections.html

SWITZERLAND

A new print catalogue of type collections of the Natural History Museum, Bern has been published, a second volume of nominal taxa described by R.J. Shuttleworth, covering Polyplacophora, Caenogastropoda, and Bivalvia (79 pp). The book includes 20 colour plates of specimens. Contact:

margret.gosteli@nmbe.unibe.ch

Addresses??

Can anyone help in giving the present address of the following members? If you have information about current contact details for any of the people below, please pass them on to the **Treasurer**

jackie.vangoethem@naturalsciences.be

Thank you!

- Prof. Fikret H. BILGIN
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Diyarbakir, Turkey
- Mr Nenad C. BOJAT
University of Basle
- Dr. Massimo CRETELLA
Pozzuoli, Napoli
- Dr Beatrice MOOR, Basle

- Mr K.S. PETERSEN
Geological Survey of Denmark
- Dr Gitta Solange SCHMITT
Tallahassee



As you now know (see page 1) UMN will be delivered electronically to all members for whom we have an e-mail address. If you would like to receive UMN by mail, or you anticipate a change in address (electronic or postal) please inform the **editor** (see p. 1 for contact details)!

Membership

Current annual subscription to *Unitas Malacologica* is €16. However, members are encouraged to subscribe for three years (€48).

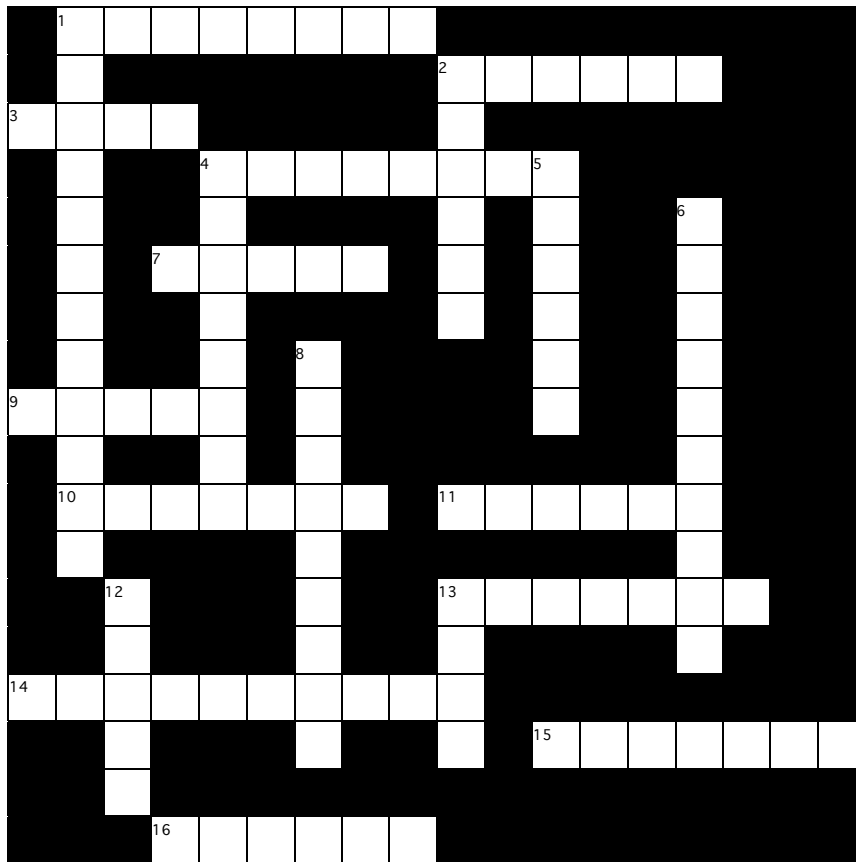
Please pay your membership dues in EURO (€) at: *Belgian Postcheque*, B - 1100 Brussels, on the account number 000-1539068-66 of *Unitas Malacologica*, c/o RBINS, Vautier Street 29, B-1000 BRUSSELS.

For international transactions you can use IBAN code: BE07 0001 5390 6866 (account number) BIC or SWIFT code: BPOTBEB 1 (to characterise the Belgian Postcheque Bank)

Visa, Eurocard and Mastercard are accepted as are international *postal* money orders (available from your post office), payment by bank draft in EURO currency, drawn on a *Belgian bank*. Receipts are not sent unless requested, except for cash transactions (which also are accepted).

A membership application form can be obtained from the **Treasurer**.

Quick Crossword: "Naturalists and Expeditions"



Crossword set by: **Jussi Evertsen**

ACROSS

1. German naturalist connected to the current running between Antarctica and South America
2. Co-author of "The Depths of the Ocean"
3. Used by Nansen *et al* in 1893-96 in the Northern Ice Sea
4. Surname of Albert I, Prince of Monaco
7. British food merchant and co-author of the "Nudibranch Bible" 1845-55
9. Danish physician and malacologist known for his notorious details of anatomy
10. French naturalist also known for ideas about inheritance of adaptations by outer stimuli
11. British expedition vessel whose voyages in 1831-36 included Charles Darwin
13. German zoologist and arctic explorer connected with the now extinct *Hydrodamalis gigas*
14. British expedition vessel who covered all the oceans 1872-1876

15. Latinised first name of the founder of modern taxonomy

16. French Huguenot and marine zoologist considered founder of modern comparative anatomy

DOWN

1. Prince Albert I expeditions from 1885
2. "Zoologica Danica Prodromus"
4. Danish expedition vessel who covered all the oceans 1845-1847
5. Danish expedition in the North Atlantic 1895-96
6. *Eureka!*
8. British expedition 1869-70 from north of Britain and Ireland to the Mediterranean
12. American expedition 1877-80 covering the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and east coast of North America
13. Norwegian zoologist renowned for his work on crustaceans and molluscs