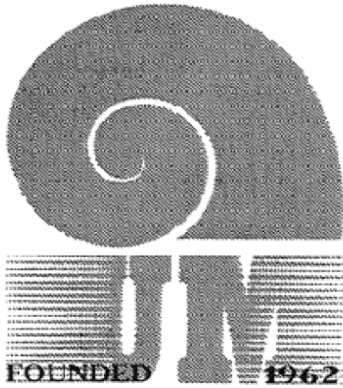


UNITAS MALACOLOGICA



Newsletter

Number 30
February 2011

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Dear members,

This issue of your newsletter contains the belated reports of the World Congress of Malacology held in Phuket, Thailand, July 2010. The congress was universally considered to be a great success despite the summer news of political turmoil in Thailand. Now those events are completely forgotten by most of us, since we saw no signs of them in beautiful Phuket. The congress local organising team was impressive both in their numbers and their unfailing friendliness (see p. 19).

The Congress scientific presentations consisted of thirteen focussed symposia and multiple sessions of contributed general papers. The findings from Several of the symposia are summarised herein by the organisers, on freshwater bivalves (p. 6), landsnails (p. 7), the history of malacology (p. 8), opisthobranchs (p. 9), evolutionary ecology (p. 9), freshwater mollusc redlist (p. 10) and the hermaphrodites (p. 11).

The newsletter also includes the proceedings of the UM General Assembly held at the WCM 2010, with details of the UM accounts (past and future) presented to the assembly in absentia by the Treasurer, Jackie Van Goethem (p. 12). The accounts

have been audited and certified by an external appraisal. The General Assembly meeting contained the usual business but also some lively discussion, and much of this can be gleaned from the official record presented in the minutes published herein (p. 14).

Now we all look ahead to the next World Congress of Malacology, which will be held in the Azores, in summer 2013. There was agreement at the General Assembly to abandon the tradition of alternating WCM locations between "Europe" and "elsewhere", a rule that no one claims to support but we have all followed (e.g. Bouchet 1995; UMN 8, p. 5). The Azores is politically connected to an unambiguously European country. Our new president, Prof. António de Frias Martins makes the case that the Azores islands themselves are not truly within "Europe" and in moving the Congress from Thailand to these islands we will finally abandon this pattern (p. 3).

There is also much work to be done by the new council, which I look forward to participating in, and reporting to you.

Please do send me your items for the next newsletter - August 2011.

JDS

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

Affiliated Organisations

American Malacological Society | Belgische Vereniging voor Conchyliologie | Conchology, Inc. | Deutsche Malakozoologische Gesellschaft | Friedrich Held Gesellschaft | Hungarian Malacological Society | Instituto Português de Malacologia | King Leopold III Foundation | Latvian Malacological Society | Malacological Society of Australasia Ltd | The Malacological Society of Japan | The Malacological Society of London | Malacological Society of the Philippines | Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging | Naturmuseum Senckenberg | Sociedade Brasileira de Malacologia | Sociedad Española de Malacología | Sociedad Malacológica de Chile | Società Italiana di Malacologia | Société belge de Malacologie | Société française de Malacologie | Society for the Study of Molluscan Diversity, Japan | The Western Society of Malacologists

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Towards a global Malacology

In today's world, even the smallest realities are appreciated in global terms, either due to the interactions that provide added meaning to them or to the circumstances that defy their very existence. In their intersection with the global world, they are kept coherent by mainly exogenous, globalizing forces, which dictate the laws of their survival. Science, however, besides being global is also globalizing by virtue of the endogenous power of its own nature: the small scientific realities make sense only when integrated into the global framework of the processes originating them and of the mechanisms that made those processes possible. They nest into coherent units, hierarchically integrated into wider sets, in a concentric succession united by the force of the theory underlying them. Yet, it is in the apparent frailty and insignificance of small realities that resides the robustness of the scientific structure, for they are not product of any theory but instead they are the very makers of the theory.

On the 23rd of July of last year, during the World Congress of Malacology in beautiful Thailand, the General Assembly of *Unitas Malacologica* unanimously approved that it should officially assume a worldwide statute, thus relinquishing the tradition of alternative meetings in European territory. Funded in 1962 as *Unitas Malacologica Europaea*, its main intent was to provide an opportunity to reunite, every three years, the malacologists of the many research centres and scientific societies of Europe. However, since its 12th congress, in Vigo, the need was felt to widen its representativeness beyond European boundaries, and the following congress – the first World Congress of Malacology – was held in Washington, USA, in 1998.

Yet, when first free to elect any place on the globe for its 2013 congress, *Unitas* apparently chose ... Europe, the tiny Azores! Searching for meaning where there is only coincidence, we plead our case that such choice was not a “small reality”. In fact, the Azores, politically relegated to the ultra-periphery of Europe, are genuinely inter-continental for they are at the very hinge of the tectonic plates where Europe, Africa and the Americas rest: they even have their own

micro-plate; really global, for they are at the centre of the whirling winds: their anti-cyclone spreads its influence throughout Europe; truly cosmopolitan, for they are at the cross-roads of marine currents: there the temperate and subtropical realms meet; indeed special, for they sit at the top of the longest mountain-chain of the world: the mid-Atlantic Ridge.



Although deceptively still a long way from 2013, we are already preparing to honour this most welcome tradition: to make the congress a delightful, memorable event scientifically and otherwise. In the meantime – and here enter the important “small realities” commented above –, we shall strive to strengthen the universality of *Unitas Malacologica*. However, there is only one way to achieve this goal: scientifically, together..., for it is each of us who makes *Unitas Malacologica*. Count on us.

António de Frias Martins
UM President

Dear Members,

Firstly I would like to say thanks to all members of UNITAS for trusting me to be the new Secretary of UNITAS Malacologica. For me it is a pleasure and an honour begin this new assignment. It will be a difficult task due to the excellent job realized by the former secretary Dai Herbert. Thank you very much Dai for your disinterested work over the last six years.

An interesting point about the secretary is that the three former secretaries are members of Museums: Natal Museum in South Africa, The Natural History Museum in London and the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum in Leiden. Now the Unitas secretary comes from South Africa to Spain, and from a Museum to the Vigo University.

At the WCM meeting celebrated in Phuket, Thailand (congratulations Somsak for your magnificent organization) new members of the council were elected, they are the new President Antonio Frias Martins, the councillors Julia Sigwart and Mark Davies, myself as Secretary and our Treasurer Jackie Van Goethem repeats his position once again, thank you Jackie for your necessary and distinguished work. Welcome everyone.

Also, on behalf of UNITAS, I would like to thank the two outgoing members of the council Guido Pastorino and Thierry Backeljau for all their effort and support.

My first task as secretary is to prepare the next UM Student Research Awards for 2011. Please read the Student Awards section on this page, and get your application form on the UNITAS website. And from this column I encourage all student members of UNITAS to participate.

Jesús Troncoso
UM Secretary

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Instructions for applying for awards

Deadline: 31 May 2011

Two awards, each of up to €1 000, are offered every year to students engaged in research projects of a malacological nature. These will generally be projects undertaken in pursuit of higher academic degrees (e.g. M.Sc. and Ph.D.). Normal budget items include supplies, expendable equipment and research-related travel. The awards cannot be used to cover salaries, institutional overheads, permanent equipment or conferences. Only students who are members of UM in good standing are eligible to apply for these awards.

The next deadline for submissions is 31 May 2011. Applications must be completed on an application form which is available on the **UM website** <http://tinyurl.com/2pl4fc> and should be sent **as an e-mail attachment** to the UM secretary, Prof. Jesús Troncoso (troncoso@uvigo.es).

Reminder:

Students must be paid up members of UM in order to be eligible for these awards!

WCM 2010

Concluding Summary

Malacologists from all over the world dedicated to improving the high quality of the World Congress of Malacology, the principal academic conference of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA that is held every three years, congregated at Phuket, Thailand, for the 2010 conference. Thai and Asian people were honored to be the host for the first time for this conference, allowing researchers and students to come to Phuket and learn from each other, including experts and newcomers, on how to understand and answer the challenges of the current and likely near future research questions.

The internal political situation in Thailand before the congress was perceived as a threat by some people who had registered or expected to do so at the time, and some people even asked me to cancel the congress. However, with a lot of support from



oversea friends and our Thai team, the conference went ahead avoiding making this a dark image in malacological history. So our team and the UNITAS council members made the great effort, aided by the true 'land of smiles' Thai bonhomie of the locals regardless of political "color" to welcome guests, so that a successful congress was achieved. Here, in Thailand, we are really proud of this conference, the first UNITAS MALACOLOGICA conference in Asia, and this history will be always a golden moment of discovery and memory forever.

The number of participants that attended the congress was comprised of 372 people from 5 continents and 46 nations, with just under 90% (334) being delegates from the following continents, Europe (40%), Asia (28%), North and South America (20%), Australia (8%) and Africa (4%). In terms of categories 70% of participants were researchers with 30% as students, a healthy mix of newcomers to experienced to keep the research fresh and alive. In addition, although only 45% of participants were UNITAS members, highlighting the clear potential for increased membership of UNITAS, the congress was far from an "in house" UNITAS club but rather clearly very healthily reached out further into other fields of interest and research methods.

In total, 356 papers were presented as 236 oral and 120 poster presentations. In terms of the field of study, the oral presentations were mainly derived from ecology (59 papers; 24.6%) and systematics (54 papers; 22.9%), with the other fields being evolution (30; 12.7%), general biology (28; 11.9%), applied biology (27; 11.4%), molecular genetics (24; 10.1%) and morphology (15; 6.4%). In terms of the organisms, gastropods were still the most popular, as represented by 142 oral papers (60.2%) comprised of 67, 53 and 22 (47%, 37% and 15%) presentations of terrestrial, marine and freshwater gastropods, respectively. The second most popular group was bivalves, with 53 oral presentations, split as 40 and 13 presentations (75% and 25%) on marine and freshwater bivalves, respectively. The remaining 41 oral presentations were split amongst other diverse taxa.

The poster presentations show broadly the same trend as the oral presentations. Interestingly, amongst the many experts attending were most of

the past UNITAS presidents, which may be a first record for a UNITAS conference. In terms of the expected improvement in academic quality as a result of this congress, it is of course too soon and difficult to judge and comment, but observing the development of ideas and new approaches discussed and presented, and the many diverse student papers, was certainly both very interesting and encouraging for the near future. There are also some definite collaborations that were developed during the congress, although of course the potential for others either unknown to use or yet to be formulated, exists. Although we feel all benefited, it is likely that especially Asian malacologists potentially got the most benefit from this congress with more than 30 new UNITAS members gained from Asia.

It seems that people were happy with the congress and with the venue, Phuket city. A large part of this is due to the support of all the participants who firstly decided to join and not cancel their participation, and then once arrived actively participated to make the congress successful. As the chair of the organizing committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you and to the UNITAS council members, especially the magnificent support from Dai Herbert, Thierry Backeljau, Jackie Van Goethem and Aileen Tan, that made the congress the great success that it was. And thanks to Marry Seddon, Ellen Strong, Guido Pastorino and Julia Sigwart, and also to Chairs and teams of each academic session for all their kind effort and help in organizing so many things until the congress were completely done. By no means least, thanks also to the sponsorships from the Hitachi Scholarship Foundation, The BRT Program, the PTTEP Company Limited, Chula Global Network, and The Commission on Higher Education (CHE), Thailand.

Many of you may still remember our 'pink army', as nominated by Paula Mikkelsen, who

worked everyday to ensure the smooth operation of each symposium, trips and the conference in general. Most of them faced this first experience only by their will power to help and succeed.

So we will meet again in 2013 at Azores, which Frias Martins has already announced as the attractive venue for the next UNITAS MALACOLOGICA World Congress of Malacology.

Somsak Panha

UM Past President (2007-2010)

**Congratulations to the
UM student prize winners!**

Best oral presentations:

1st – **Katharina Jörger**, Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, Germany.

The end of the guessing game? Origin and evolution of Acochlidia (Gastropoda: Heterobranchia)

joint 2nd – **Roland Schultheiß**, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany.

Gastropod evolution in Lake Malawi (Africa): lessons from endemic *Bellamyia* and *Lanistes* species.

joint 2nd – **Chiew Peng Teh**, University Sains, Malaysia.

Effects of L-DOPA and epinephrine on larvae settlement off the tropical oyster, *Crassostrea iredalei* (Faustino, 1932).

Best poster presentations:

1st – **Takuma Haga**, University of Tokyo, Japan.

Progenetic dwarf males of deep-sea wood-boring bivalve *Xylophaga* (Myoida: Xylophagiidae).

2nd – **Hiroaki Fukumori**, University of Miyazaki, Japan.

Predation on hardest molluscan eggs by confamilial snails (Neritidae) and its potential significance in egg-laying site selection.

3rd – **Ana Glavinic**, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.

Doubly uniparental inheritance of mitochondrial DNA in *Neotrigonia margaritacea* (Bivalvia: Palaeoheterodonta).

And The Malacological Society of London awarded two prizes to student presentations at the WCM: **Torsten Hauffe** won the best poster and **Nicole Webster** the best oral presentation.

**Reports from the WCM 2010
Scientific Symposia**

**ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND BIOLOGY
OF FRESHWATER BIVALVES**

Organisers - Arthur E. Bogan, Walter R. Hoeh

Arthur E. Bogan and Walter R. Hoeh organized a symposium for the 17th World Congress of Malacology, 18-24 July 2010 held in Phuket, Thailand, entitled "Ecology, evolution and biology of freshwater bivalves." The intent of this session was to bring together people working on various aspects of the ecology, biology, phylogeny and evolution in freshwater bivalves in the same room, to facilitate and foster discussion, interaction and cooperation. The presentation section of the symposium was composed of 13 papers delivered by 29 authors from 10 countries. The complementary section of posters for this symposium included 10 posters with 27 authors from nine countries.

Presentations included a variety of topics: fossil freshwater mollusks in Thailand; phylogeny and evolution of the Unionoida; community structure and environmental gradients determine ecosystem services of unionid communities; salinity tolerances in western Australian Hyriidae; female-dependent sex determination with doubly uniparental inheritance of mitochondrial DNA; the freshwater bivalve fauna of the Amur River basin; population genetics of *Margaritifera hembeli*; problems of competition between two non-native dreissenid bivalve species; the genetics of sex determination in *Mytilus*; variation, function and phylogeny of unionid

shell characters; the evolutionary history of *Potomida littoralis*. Also, a student paper was inserted in the session addressing behavior and evolution of R-Opsin in scallop eyes. The originally scheduled paper on *Mytilopsis*, by six Chinese colleagues, was not presented.

Topics of the posters were as diverse as those of the oral presentations. The third best student poster for the Congress, presented by Ana Glavinic, was included in this section and was entitled “Doubly uniparental inheritance of mitochondrial DNA in *Neotrigonia margaritacea* (Bivalvia: Palaeoheterodonta).” The various authors will be publishing their work independently and no symposium volume was scheduled.

THE BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION OF LIMPETS

Organiser - Alan Hodgson

This symposium was organised by Alan Hodgson (Rhodes University, South Africa). It was a worthy successor to previous UK-based limpet symposia in London and in Millport.

In Phuket the limpet symposium presented 18 talks from authors representing 14 countries. David Lindberg presented work with colleagues on the complete *Lottia gigantea* genome which has recently become the first completely sequenced molluscan genome. Other talks covered limpet behaviour, including classical questions such as aggregation, and the impacts of a changing world on limpet life, behaviour, and physiology. New findings on the phylogeography and phylogenetics of various complexes of worldwide limpets focussed primarily on Pacific species. There were also a smattering of freshwater limpet-like snails, and marine pulmonate limpets. The day-long symposium and associated posters managed admirably to cover the breadth of this persistently fascinating group of gastropods.

EVOLUTION OF THE BIVALVIA

Organisers - Rüdiger Bieler, Gonzalo Giribet and Paula Mikkelsen

This symposium included 21 talks from authors representing 8 countries.

COMMUNITY ECOLOGY OF TROPICAL FOREST LANDSNAILS

Organisers - Dinarzarde Raheem and Peter Tattersfield

The symposium on the community ecology of tropical forest land snails (organized by Dinarzarde Raheem and Peter Tattersfield) sought to bring together, for the first time, researchers from across the tropics. The symposium was very successful in achieving this goal, including as it did researchers from the forested tropics in Africa, South America and from several parts of Asia.

Gleisse Kelly Meneses Nunes spoke on her research on the land-snail diversity along an altitudinal gradient on Ilha Grande, an area of Atlantic forest in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Southeastern Brazil. Charles Lange presented his findings on the conservation of land snails in the fragmented forests of the endemic-rich Eastern Arc Taita Hills range in Kenya, and Chris Oke described his work on rainforest snail communities from Southern Nigeria. N.A. Aravind's talk reviewed ecological research on the land snails of the Western Ghats of India, and S.R. Magare, also from India, gave an account of his preliminary surveys of the land-snail fauna of Northern Maharashtra; these talks were complemented by Dinarzarde Raheem's overview on community ecological research in South Asia. Liew Thor Seng's presentation (given on his behalf by Menno Schilthuizen) focussed on the elevational variation in the diversity and structure of land-snail assemblages on Mount Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, and Emmanuel Ryan C. de Chavez outlined the initial results of a study on the land-snail fauna along a habitat-degradation gradient on Mount Makiling in the Philippines.

Perhaps the highlights of the symposium were the keynote talks by Menno Schilthuizen and Robert Cameron. Menno gave a fascinating and insightful overview of the field to date, highlighting outstanding methodological and conceptual problems, and outlining some of the exciting directions that future work could take; this overview has recently been published in *Contributions to Zoology* (2011). Robert's talk on the problems and pitfalls associated with the sampling of tropical forest snail faunas was also extremely stimulating: his broad conclusion was

that despite the problems posed by inadequate sampling in many tropical forests, robust patterns could, nevertheless, be detected.

As was clear from many of the talks, this field of molluscan research is at a very early stage of development, with much of the focus being on the survey and description of species-rich faunas and on an understanding of basic diversity patterns across various geographical scales. These tasks are often enormously difficult because of the lack of taxonomic knowledge about most tropical faunas, and the sampling problems encountered in low abundance communities. However, as illustrated by the broad geographical spread of participants, there is now a wide and growing interest in these relatively unexplored land snail faunas. The symposium provided a valuable opportunity for tropical forest malacologists and ecologists to discuss their experience and research findings.

THE LAST 50 YEARS OF MALACOLOGY: SPECIALIZATION, METHODOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION, AND GLOBALIZATION

Organisers - Robert Hershler and David Lindberg

Thirty-eight speakers and co-authors from more than 13 countries reviewed the advances and discoveries of the last 50 years in malacology during this one and half day symposium. The purpose of the symposium was to highlight methodological innovations and celebrate our colleagues who advanced our field during this incredible period of change. Toward this end the symposium was divided into three complementary components. In the first section, speakers highlighted methods, techniques, and data sources. Carole Hickman examined advances in visualizing molluscan structure, while Jerry Harasewych covered the advent and rapid growth of molecular malacology; two areas that have forever changed malacology. Rüdiger Bieler reviewed the impact of cladistics methodology on molluscan phylogenetic research while Jonathon Stone discussed the changing role of morphometric studies in molluscan research. Matthias Glaubrecht provided a review of recently discovered habitats and faunas which provided additional

insight into molluscan evolution, while Julia Sigwart examined the growing use of metadata sources in molluscan research.

Robert Hershler provided the transition to the second section by reviewing the rise of molluscan conservation biology during the last 50 years. Paul Valentich-Scott presented a brief history of our organizations and their meetings, workshops, and symposia, while Edmund Gittenberger discussed *Unitas Malacologica* and its singular role in advancing global malacology. Paula Mikkelsen reviewed the changes and growth of our journals and other publications, and offered a glimpse into the future of this rapidly changing medium, and Philippe Bouchet evaluated the notorious “taxonomic impediment” of molluscan systematics – a common lament of the last 50 years.

The last section examined malacology along political and geographical boundaries. Gerhard Haszprunar closed out the day with an overview of his personal journey through European malacology. On the following day, the symposium resumed with Guido Pastorino recounting people, events, and changes in South American malacology. Dai Herbert provided an overview of African malacology, and Takenori Sasaki took on the formidable task of synthesizing the last 50 years of Japanese and Asian malacology. Winston Ponder provided a comprehensive overview of Australasian malacology, and George Davis completed the formal program with an in depth analysis of changes in North American malacology.

The excellence and diversity of malacological science highlighted in the symposium was impressive, but sadly, many of our colleagues who built these early foundations have since passed away. This observation led to hallway discussions fermenting the idea that malacology is one of the very few scientific enterprises that does not recognize its most outstanding practitioners. Consequently the symposium organizers proposed to the *Unitas* Council and membership that the society consider establishing an award to honor an outstanding colleague of international stature every three years at the World Congress. Such recognition is important in furthering and sharing the field of malacology beyond its traditional constituents. Moreover, if we as a community do not

recognize extraordinary service to science by our own, who will?

The proceedings of the symposium are being prepared for publication in *Malacologica*.

STUDIES ON OPISTHOBRANCH MOLLUSCS

Organisers - Manuel Malaquias, Juan Lucas and Terrence Gosliner

The opisthobranch symposium aimed primarily to (1) bring together all those interested in the various aspects of opisthobranch biology and evolution, from development to behaviour, systematics, phylogenetics, and biogeography, genomics and ecology, and (2) to be a forum to establish strategies and collaborations that could lead to the resolution of old questions and trigger new ones.

Twenty oral communications and 17 posters were presented. Works were of very high standard and because of their novelty some contributions have certainly left a mark on the community. Monica Medina and co-workers presented the first thoroughly phylogenomic approach of opisthobranchs. The results supported for the monophyly of Opisthobranchia including the genus *Siphonaria* (traditionally in the Pulmonata). This was very welcome among a community that have been recently struggling with the use of the name "Opisthobranchia"; Michael Schrödl and co-workers presented several works with fine data on the microanatomy of various opisthobranchs bringing anatomical research standards a step further; Rei Nakano and co-workers showed that nudibranchs can also feed upon echinoderms (ophiuroids), an extraordinary finding; Vishal Bhave and Deepak Apte overwhelmed the audience with a terrific talk on the diversity and outstanding beauty of the opisthobranch fauna of India, a region where the group is largely understudied. Last but not least, we were all very proud to witness the prize for the best student talk being offered to Katharina Jörgler for her exceptional talk on the origin and evolution of acochlidian snails.

The last decade have witnessed a remarkable flourishing on opisthobranch research. The amount of scientific literature produced, nearly equalled that of the previous ninety years.

Interestingly the same pattern is found on dedicated meetings. Three meetings (including the Phuket' symposium) were organised during the last ten years; exactly the same number that were organised ever before. Opisthobranch research is going through a healthy period with a growing productive and collaborative community spread all over the world that certainly will continue delivering! A collection of contribution to the Phuket Symposium on Opisthobranchs will be published during 2011/12 in the *Journal of Molluscan Studies*.

EMERGING MOLLUSCAN MODELS: BIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS IN THE 21st CENTURY

Organisers - Mónica Medina, Sam Loker and Sandie Degnan

This symposium consisted of 16 talks from authors representing eight countries.

EVOLUTIONARY ECOLOGY AND GENETICS OF MOLLUSCAN POPULATIONS

or '*Gold mining with molluscs*'

Organiser - Takahiro Asami

This symposium aimed to examine the evolutionary processes and mechanisms that generate diversity within and between molluscan populations. It is my great honour to report how successful this symposium has been. It is beyond my ability to summarize bountiful harvests of academy we made through this multidisciplinary symposium. No matter how conservatively we view, it is fair to state that the ultimate goal of this symposium has been currently being achieved, because several international collaborations have newly emerged in practice and been in progress afterwards, not only in research but also in education for young malacologists. There is no doubt that our thrilling discussion and friendly open interactions following presentations in the last two consecutive days of the congress triggered these ongoing global activities. In total, 91 authors from 19 countries contributed through a total of 36 studies (25 orals and 11 posters) to this symposium.

Taxonomically, we covered the science and nature of cephalopods, bivalves, caenogastropods, vetigastropods, heterobranchia and even symbiont bacteria, which live in marine, brackish, freshwater and/or terrestrial habitats. The most remarkable feature was doubtlessly the magnitude of interdisciplinary “in situ” networking in the symposium, as we necessarily desired and aimed. Knowing this, it might be unnecessary to attempt to list diverse disciplines involved in the studies presented. We were privileged to network for truly both empirical and theoretical approaches to classical and currently controversial issues of morphology, systematics, phylogeography, biochemistry, genetics, ecology, physiology, behaviour, developmental biology and evolution, at the molecule, cell, individual, population, community to ecosystem levels.

I wish to point a take-home message from the symposium: we learned the power of molluscs and malacologists with gold mines. For these reasons, I am honoured to thank all the participants and, especially the President, Somsak Panha and his young colleagues, perhaps the largest group of malacology in the world, for having made it possible for us to generate the most gorgeous symposium ever.

THE SYSTEMATICS OF ASIAN LANDSNAILS

Organisers - Fred Naggs, Min Wu and Somsak Panha

This short symposium consisted of seven talks from authors representing eight countries.

MOLLUSC AQUACULTURE

Organisers - Zulfigar Yasin, Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai and Somchai Bussarawit

This symposium consisted of 13 talks from authors representing nine countries.

COUNTDOWN 2010: TOWARDS A GLOBAL FRESHWATER ASSESSMENT OF THREATENED SPECIES

Organisers - Mary Seddon and Will Darwall

The symposium was held on the final afternoon of the conference with speakers from South America, Russia and Europe. General discussions on the issues relating to taxonomic changes and impact on the threatened species assessments, problems of data deficiency for less studied areas and communication between scientists working on conservation were discussed. A e-mail discussion group is being set-up to disseminate information and link scientists working on Mollusc Conservation. In addition we discussed the level of error that assessments should be content with in the conservation assessment phase, and it was considered that an error threshold of less than 10% would be reasonable given the number of species and the percentage of species where there was little, if any, data.

The IUCN mollusc specialist group are now over 40% towards our goal of assessing the threatened status of all Freshwater Molluscs. We are already seeing different trends in different parts of the world. The final report for the Pan-Africa project is due out in the next month (March 2011) and shows that 28% of all freshwater molluscs in Africa are threatened, with the major threatening factors coming from increased sedimentation (agricultural sources and mining), pollution (domestic and agricultural sources) and introduced species of fish and mollusc. This project ran for 5 years, and mapped the distribution and documented the status of all the African species, as well as contributing to more practical projects on catchment management and resource utilisation.

By contrast the European project which is close to completion is showing higher rates of threatened species reflecting the fact that there are proportionately more range-restricted species in this region. Here the principal threats are over abstraction of water resources, changing the character of the water bodies with construction of water tanks, tapping the springs and canalisation and water pollution, due to high levels of sewage and nitrates in the water. A third more distant threat lies in the increase of frequency of drought events in Europe.

The IUCN Freshwater Mollusc workshop in Laos, was originally intended to be held after the Phuket meeting, but due to operational issues was postponed until January 2011. It was the third of 5 projects running in the Asia region assessing the conservation status of freshwater molluscs. This project, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership was focussed in the Indo-Burma region. The project brought together 8 scientists, who reviewed the conservation status of over 300 species of freshwater mollusc. In this region the major threats lie in the level of river flow management as a result of hydroelectric power generation. Frank Kohler will be leading the efforts to finalise the report of the region. The Eastern Himalayas report is due out soon, followed by the Western Ghats. The next part of Asia to be covered will be China with a project starting in 2012.

Speakers from the South American region focussed on the need for both taxonomic studies and conservation assessments in the region. IUCN are currently undertaking a fund-raising campaign raising funds for work on freshwater molluscs in Brazil. Further efforts will be ongoing over the next year.

REPRODUCTION AND MATING SYSTEMS IN HERMAPHRODITIC MOLLUSCS

Organisers - Kurt Jordaens and Joris Koene

Hermaphroditic molluscs show a remarkable variation in fitness-related life history characteristics. Yet, pinpointing the factors that explain this variation proves very difficult. For example, variation in mating systems range from obligate outcrossing to predominant selfing, with various levels of in- and outbreeding depression. Moreover, hermaphroditic molluscs are notorious for their promiscuous sexual behaviours, which often include the use of bewildering and enigmatic reproductive organs that appear to be under strong sexual selection. Our symposium 'Reproduction and mating systems in hermaphroditic molluscs' clearly highlighted the complicated and sometimes flabbergasting nature of hermaphroditic reproduction.

The total of 10 oral and 5 poster presentations ranged in topic from sexual behaviours, sexual selection, mating system evolution and life

history strategies of a diversity of species. The invited lecture by Dr. Takahiro Asami (Matsumoto, Japan) presented an interesting study looking at mating success of hybrid snails and their attraction to sex pheromones of both parental species. This was followed by four presentations that also focussed on the interactions between mating partners. These focussed on penial glands in *Deroceras* (Reise from Görlitz, Germany), seminal fluids in *Lymnaea* (Koene from Amsterdam, The Netherlands), light and chemical pollution in two freshwater snails (McCarthy from Utica, USA) and penis replacement in a sea slug (Sekizawa from Osaka, Japan). The latter study illustrated nicely how *Chromodoris tinctoria* disposes of its penis at the end of copulation and manages to have a new one ready within 24 hours.

The second set of talks focused more on mating strategies. These illustrated that Haldane's rule may also apply to hermaphrodites (Schilthuisen from Leiden, The Netherlands) and how mating systems, inbreeding depression, and the timing of reproduction are interlinked (David from Montpellier, France). In addition they showed how different factors influence male and female investment in *Succinea* (Dillen from Antwerp, Belgium) and sex change in a scallop (*Silina* from Vladivostok, Russia). The symposium was closed by Dr. Kurt Jordaens (Antwerp, Belgium) with a summary that integrated all the different effects that mating systems can have on life history traits and clearly encouraged, and provided guidance for, future research in this area.

SPECIATION: INSIGHTS FROM INSULAR ISOLATION TO GLOBAL PATTERNS

Organisers - Matthias Glaubrecht and Thomas von Rintelen

This symposium consisted of 19 talks from authors representing nine countries.

Treasurer's Report to the General Assembly

Period : 1 January 2007 - 31 December 2009

Dear Mr President, dear Colleagues,

I feel very sorry not to be present in Phuket. Please accept my apologies.

Thierry has accepted to present you my detailed report on the financial situation of the UNITAS MALACOLOGICA and its TRUST FUND.

Once again, our financial situation evolved positively, mainly thanks to an important profit received from Thierry BACKELJAU, our former President and organiser of the World Malacological Congress in Antwerp. I'll come back to this when presenting the accounts in detail.

Before I do so I would like to present you an overview of our membership.

Membership has recently evolved in a quite spectacular way. In particular during the last two congress years there was a significant raise of members to over 400. Among them are many PhD students. On the other hand many members, after three or six years, refrain to renew their membership. I should feel very sorry for them if this is due to the difficulty of developing a career in malacology...

UNITAS MALACOLOGICA CURRENT ACCOUNTS

Income from membership dues was much lower than expected from a 400 members total. In fact the amount represents only 320 of our members having paid for a three years period. Almost 25 % of our members not reacting on one, two and even three reminders for membership payment is really a problem.

Is the membership fee perhaps too high? At the start of Unitas in 1962 the yearly fee was 10 CHF = 6.25 euros. In 1974 it doubled to 20 CHF = 12.50 euros while in 1990 the UM Council endorsed my proposal to raise the fee up to 25 CHF = 16 euros which, twenty years later, is still the case !! I'll come back to this topic.

The interest rates offered by all Belgian banks are historically low. Very frustrating!!! Therefore I have opened a new saving account by Record Bank with nearly all our Trust Fund capital money. This relatively small bank still offers a better interest rate than the vast majority of Belgian banks.

Small donations for the Trust Fund were received from many members. Some members pay regularly 50, sometimes 100 euros, in addition to their membership fees. I love that.

The benefit from the Antwerp Congress was received in two steps totalling 15,838 euros, which is an absolute record.

EXPENDITURES

Five Newsletters were issued by our indefatigable editor: Julia SIGWART. Julia started to distribute the e-mail versions of our Newsletter as off number 26 (March 2008) limiting the costs of printing and shipping to around 12-15 paper versions (a small task which is handled by the Malacology Section of the RBINS).

Julia also moved from the 'National Museum of Ireland & the University College Dublin' to 'Queen's University at Belfast'. Therefore we had to look for a new server hosting our website. Julia arranged for all necessary changes with no interruption in the access to the UM website. The yearly cost for hosting is moderate.

Council meetings are not at all expensive. In fact over the last three years only one Council member received financial support to cover travel or accommodation to attend a meeting in Phuket in 2008. Other Council meetings were held in Antwerp and Brussels, the costs of which were covered by Thierry BACKELJAU.

The partly benefit received from Antwerp, together with important savings over the past three years (23,000 euros), were transferred to the Trust Fund.

Regarding credit card payments, costs were raising in the past. At present the system involves a minimum monthly cost of 11 euros, on top of a 2.25 % charge on every amount. Since many members prefer to pay through their credit card, the total cost for Unitas for this way of payment is estimated at 700.00 euros over a three years period.

I thus strongly suggest European members to use for their payments the international giro system with IBAN account numbers and BIC or SWIFT bank codes and all those who pay with credit card to add the 3.00 euros extra mentioned on the form (it is sometimes 'forgotten').

The available assets of Unitas Malacologica as at 31 december 2009 are + 1,258.44 EUR.

THE TRUST FUND

Over the period 2007-2009, income came from interests, from transfer from the Unitas current accounts and from donations. In particular I like to mention the net benefit from the Antwerp Congress that is no less than 15,838.13 EUR.

Expenditure over that same period:

- travel grants for 31 participants to the Antwerp Congress in 2007 (most received a grant of 800 euros, for Europeans the grant was limited to max. 400 euros),
- student prizes for best oral and poster communication (2 x 300 and 2 x 200 euros),
- six research awards of 1,000 euros,
- taxes due to a governmental law installing a 15 % tax on the interests gained on the saving accounts from non profit organisations, a bright innovative decision (!) by the Belgian government that at its start solemn promised not to raise taxes.

The excess of income is + 16,237.24 EUR and the balance gives a total of 62,216.22 EUR.

Over the past 21 years the total assets of Unitas Malacologica were in the order of:

- the pre Trust Fund period (< 1989)
→ max. 10,300 EUR
- 31.12.1994 → 29,000 EUR
- 31.12.1997 → 35,500 EUR
- 31.12.2000 → 42,000 EUR
- 31.12.2003 → 55,800 EUR
- 31.12.2006 → 56,500 EUR
- 31.12.2009 → 63,400 EUR

finances is due to a number of UM Presidents who managed to save considerable amounts from their congress and generously donated this to the UM Trust Fund. The objectives of the UM Council are to spend the available money in a sustainable and strategic way to further malacology.

Council decided:

- to give priority to travel grants to enable UM members and members of affiliated societies to join the World Malacological Congresses,
- to offer prizes for students best oral and poster communications at these congresses
- and to regularly offer 1,000 EUR research awards. So far a total of 19 awards!

These goals can only be achieved if the yearly income of Unitas is sustainable. The UM membership fee remained unchanged at 16 euros/year for as many as 20 years. This amount is probably affordable for most of us, but certainly not for all.

Since membership fees are the most significant income for our Society, I again take this opportunity to ask those of you from OECD countries to pay an extra. A yearly fee of 16 euros is really not much for membership of a scientific society in comparison with the fee asked by national malacological and zoological associations.

The capital build up every three years in our Trust Fund allows increasing expenditures for congress travel grants and research awards. This is crucial for the Unitas Malacologica strategy to promote and advance malacology worldwide.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2012

My final point is the proposed use of the UNITAS money for the period 2010-2012.

Membership: I am in your hands!

And I do hope that some 50 members having not paid membership since 2006 and before will react positively on a last reminder that I am planning to send after the congress.

Expenditures are budgetised based on previous experiences. But they are to be cut if the income is not guaranteed.

This quite healthy situation of the Unitas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I most sincerely thank all these who have been so helpful in influencing our present financial situation so favourably: members paying always spontaneously and of course members paying a lot in advance.

My favourite in this is the one who paid last year for 20 years of membership which is the longest period ever for advance payment, i.e. up to 2028 !!!.

I do hope he will continue for a long time to do so and why not celebrate his centenary in paying UM membership for another 20 years.

I thank many members who paid over the last three years an additional amount for the Trust Fund in particular those who paid 50 or even 100 euros ("off the record", I am now thinking at David LINDBERG, Ruud BANK, Henk DIJKSTRA, Georges CRAWFORD and Günter SCHMID).

A very special thank to Thierry BACKELJAU for the exceptional high benefit resulting from the Antwerp Congress delivered to the Unitas Malacologica Trust Fund.

Your dedication and generosity dear colleagues are very much appreciated.

Many thanks also to Julia SIGWART for her careful planning of five Newsletters.

I thank all Council members for constructive discussions on financial matters, and in particular Dai HERBERT, our Secretary, with whom it was a real pleasure to work.

And finally, for the first time since I joined Unitas in 1974, I am missing the Congress. Therefore allow me from a distance to address my most sincere appreciation to Somsak PANHA for the excellent preparation and careful consideration of financial issues for this magnificent World Congress of Malacology in Phuket. It was a real pleasure dear Somsak working with you and with your invaluable assistant Piyoros TONGKERD.

I thank all of you for your confidence and your attention.

Drafted in Brussels, 16 July 2010
Read at the UM Assembly 23 July 2010

Jackie VAN GOETHEM
Treasurer

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Royal Phuket City Hotel, Phuket, Thailand

15.00–16.30, Friday, 23rd July, 2010.

1. The President opened the meeting and welcomed members. He then handed over the running of the meeting to the Secretary.

2. Minutes of previous General Assembly. The Secretary asked the meeting if any members wished to comment on the draft minutes which had been posted on the congress notice board for the duration of the congress. No comments were forthcoming. Gerhard Haszprunar proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, a motion seconded by Kurt Jordaens. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

3. President's report

The President, Somsak Panha, summarised the attendance statistics for the WCM and expressed his thanks to the malacological community for supporting the congress, particularly in the light of the earlier political unrest in Bangkok. He also thanked his organising team for their support in making the congress a success.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Jackie Van Goethem, apologised for his absence, but had prepared a report on UM finances which was delivered on his behalf by Thierry Backeljau. A full financial reconciliation for both the UM current account and for the UM Trust Fund was given and will be published in the UM Newsletter. The society's financial position remains healthy and particular note was made of the increase in membership.

5. Auditors' report

The society's accounts were audited by Vincent Pinton, accountant at RBINS, who provided a letter certifying that accounts were in order and that the financial statement was an accurate record of the society's financial position.

6. Secretary's report

Dai Herbert reported on Council meetings

held since 2007 as well as on the society's grants. He recapped the winners of the UM Student Research Awards for 2008 and 2009 and noted a drop in the number of applications in both years relative to 2006. This he suggested might be attributed to the newsletter and website not being effective channels for advertising the awards, or perhaps more likely, to the fact that the size of the awards (€1000) was no longer sufficient to attract many applicants. He asked the meeting to task the incoming council with investigating an increase in the value of the award to €1500 or even €2000, in order to make them more attractive. The meeting supported this suggestion.

The Secretary also reported on the UM Travel Awards for WCM 2010, for which 44 applications were received. He presented an analysis of the applications and the awards made. In total 34 awards were made, with a combined value of €25,305 (compared to 31 awards with a combined value of €20,550 in 2007).

7. Any other business

7.1. David Lindberg observed that three malacologists had been awarded MacArthur Fellowships (genius awards), and yet the malacological community itself had no mechanism by which to recognise malacologists who had made exceptional contributions to our discipline. He proposed that UM was the most appropriate organisation to confer such an award, and suggested that the incoming Council be tasked with investigating the matter further. The meeting supported this proposal.

7.2. Gerhard Haszprunar raised the issue of alternating European vs. non-European venues for UM/WCM meetings. He indicated that given the global role that UM now endeavours to play, this was an unnecessary limitation. He proposed that the restriction be removed and that congresses be held wherever suitable hosts and venues could be identified. The motion was seconded by Philippe Bouchet and put to the vote. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

[Note – this 'rule' appears to have been an unwritten convention dating presumably from around the time of the Vigo congress (1995) and the decision to hold the subsequent congress outside Europe for the first time (the first WCM, in Washington 1998). It is not in fact specified in the latest UM constitution and bylaws as adopted at the General Assembly in Vienna 2001. The constitution and bylaws

therefore do not need to be amended. However, the clause stating 'No two consecutive UM International Congresses shall take place in the same country' remains stipulated in the constitution.]

8. Election of new council members

Seventy-nine voting slips were returned; votes cast for the new Council members were as follows:

António de Frias Martins (President)
78 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Jesús Troncoso (Secretary)
77 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Jackie Van Goethem (Treasurer)
79 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Mark Davies (Councilor)
78 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Julia Sigwart (Councilor)
78 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

All nominees were thus duly elected. The Secretary welcomed the new Council members and thanked retiring members, Thierry Backeljau (Past President) and Guido Pastorino (Council member) for their contribution to UM over the last six years, and himself also bade farewell to Council. David Lindberg interjected to thank the Secretary also for his contribution.

9. Presidential handover

The Secretary invited Somsak Panha to hand over the reins of UM to the incoming President, António de Frias Martins, who then gave a short presentation about the Açores and what delegates can expect when they visit the islands for WCM 2013.

The meeting closed at circa 16:35.

Prepared by Dai Herbert 3 July 2010

Dai Herbert
UM Secretary (2004-2010)

Upcoming Conferences

6TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETIES (CEMS)

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

18-22 July 2011

The Congress will be held on the Campus of Álava of the University of the Basque Country.

Updated information is available at the Congress website

www.euromalacol2011.eu

Institutional Organizers:

- Sociedad Española de Malacología
- Systematics, Biogeography and Population Dynamics working group of the University of the Basque Country
- Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

Supporting European Malacological Societies

- Société Française de Malacologie
- Società Italiana di Malacologia
- Instituto Português de Malacologia
- Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging
- Malacological Society of London
- Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

The Congress will be opened for all contributions in the field of Malacology. There will be several symposia, including:

- Endangered species and hot-spots of Biodiversity
- Biogeography and Phylogeography of the Mediterranean region and Macaronesia
- Systematics and Taxonomy of Western-Palaeartic Mollusca
- Biology, Reproduction and culture of Molluscs
- Ecology
- Invasive Alien Species
- Miscellaneous

Congress registration fees in € (before / after 30 April 2011):

- Full registration: € 160 / 190
- Student: € 110 / 140
- Accompanying person: € 90 / 120

Congress dinner is not included.

Travel grant applications (students): 31 March

End reduced registration fees: 30 April

End of abstract submission: 31 May

CLAMA VIII - LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF MALACOLOGY

Puerto Madryn, Argentina

12-16 June 2011

This is the 8th edition of the meeting and the 20th anniversary of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Malacología (ALM).

For more information:

clama2011@cenpat.edu.ar

www.clama2011.com.ar

Registration fees: (before/ after 15 March)

- Full registration: US\$ 90 / 130
- Student: US\$ 70 / 90

Marine Bivalve Shells of the British Isles

The National Museum of Wales has recently released a new open access, web-based identification guide to all species of marine bivalves recorded from waters around the British Isles from the intertidal to abyssal depths. With financial support from the Department of Energy and Climate Change it is the first comprehensive identification aid to include all species currently recorded from the UK EEZ and likely to be found in adjacent waters.

This guide considers all taxa included in current British checklists and provides a full description and multiple images for each species. There are currently 363 species covered, although this number will increase with new species described and new records for species that have previously been found outside our study area. Additional content covers: illustrations of growth series and varieties, distribution maps, habitat information and a bibliography.

The chief advantage over a printed guide is the capacity to update information and to include new taxa as they are discovered and to promote this, feedback and additions from users are strongly encouraged. This process has already begun with new additions coming from samples collected from Rockall and Hutton Banks.

The guide will expand with the planned inclusion of keys and pages on the discrimination of difficult groups.

Plans are already being developed for expansion of coverage and a new website devoted to the bivalves of the Western Indian Ocean is being planned – funds and partners required!

The Marine Bivalve Shells of the British Isles identification guide can be found at:

naturalhistory.museumwales.ac.uk/britishbivalves/

Anna Holmes & Graham Oliver

Mollusca Section
National Museum Wales
Cardiff

Obituary

JØRGEN KNUDSEN
(6 March 1918 – 7 October 2009)

When Jørgen Knudsen quietly passed away on October 7, 2009, the international malacological community lost one of its “grand old men”. Jørgen’s career in malacology spanned almost 70 years, and for most of this time he was associated with the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen. From 1941 when he was first employed as a student assistant till 2005, when health problems prevented him from using public transport, he came to the museum almost every day. And for the next couple of years he would still try to come to his office once a week.

Jørgen Knudsen was born the eldest son of physician Ludvig Knudsen and nurse Gerda Knudsen (née Thulin Sørensen) on 6 March 1918. Young Jørgen often daydreamed of being on an expedition across the inland ice with Roald Amundsen. Jørgen enjoyed field studies, and it was during a field trip in 1941 that he first met the famous deep sea marine biologist, Dr. Anton Bruun (1901-1962), who had grown up in the same part of Denmark as Jørgen and now became his mentor. Bruun offered Jørgen a student job at the Zoological Museum. Jørgen was to sort and identify the molluscs collected by the echinoderm specialist, Dr. Theodor Mortensen (1868-1952) during his many one-man expeditions all around the world. In these collections Jørgen found what was to be the topic of his first scientific publication, the description of a new species of commensal bivalve published in 1944. Jørgen graduated with a M.Sc. degree in January 1945 and shortly after married his childhood girlfriend, Johanne (Hanne) Lomholdt, who had at this time completed her education as a physiotherapist.

In 1957 Dr. Gunnar Thorson (1906-1971) obtained funding to build a marine biological laboratory in Helsingør, and his position at the Zoological Museum became vacant. Jørgen applied, and got the position, and from June 1957 till May 1986 Jørgen could devote all his time to molluscs. In 1958 a separate department of Mollusca was established at the Zoological Museum, and Dr. Henning M. Lemche (1904-1977) became department head until his retirement in 1974. After this Jørgen took over until 1980. Although Jørgen did not participate in the Galathea Expedition he still set out to work on the deep sea molluscs collected by the expedition, and in 1970 he defended his D.Sc. based on his “Magnum opus” on abyssal and

hadal Bivalvia (Knudsen, 1970).

Jørgen participated in several research cruises, e.g., the USNS Bartlett in 1975, The RRS Discovery in 1979, and the RRS Challenger in 1981. He was secretary of the scientific committee for the Danish Society for Nature Conservation, and in this connection often had to negotiate with angry farmers who wanted exorbitant compensations for any land that was proposed for conservation. Jørgen was a council member of the Danish Natural History Society from 1955 to 1973, president from 1969 to 1973, and editor of the society publications *Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra dansk naturhistorisk Forening* and *Danmarks Fauna* from 1960 to 1969. Jørgen was also a council member for the modest scholarship fund established in memory of Dr. Johannes Schmidt, from 1964 till its merger with another small private museum fund.

In 1986 Jørgen had his second major disappointment. In connection with university budget cuts, he was asked to take early retirement. He protested to the Dean of Science and his wife wrote to the Minister of Education, but it did not help. Jørgen felt he was forced to retire to prevent that a young colleague was laid off. The Faculty of Science offered him an “external lectureship”, but he was still very disappointed. To cheer him up I talked him into participating in an international marine biology workshop in Albany, Western Australia in January 1988. He realized that now he could take up his old interest in gastropod egg capsules, and he ended up publishing about half of his scientific papers after his official retirement!

Jørgen was an active participant in the UNITAS Malacologica congresses, and although he was not among the founding fathers, he joined a few months later, and he was treasurer for the first two congresses in London (1962) and in Copenhagen (1965). For the Copenhagen congress he succeeded in getting a few Soviet scientists to participate, though they were subtly prevented from visiting his home for dinner with other foreign malacologists. In 1990 Jørgen and a few long-standing UNITAS members (the “spiritual fathers” in Jackie van Goethem’s words) took the initiative to set up a trust fund to support student research and congress participation, and they also made the initial contributions to this fund. Between 1962 and 2001 Jørgen only missed one or two UNITAS congresses, but in 2004, when the congress was in Fremantle, Western Australia,

he reluctantly had to admit that travelling this far would be too strenuous for him. In February 2003 he had participated in the CIAC (Cephalopod International Advisory Council) symposium and workshop in Phuket, Thailand, and in September 2003 he participated in the Open Meeting on Bivalves in Cambridge, U.K.

During this it had been difficult for him to walk from our accommodation to the lecture halls – and to the pub! We had hoped that he could have joined the congress in Antwerp in 2007, but when the time came he was just recovering from an infection. While in Antwerp a group of Jørgen’s friends decided to organize a symposium in Copenhagen in connection with Jørgen’s 90th birthday in March 2008, and this attracted 27 participants from 7 countries, including 5 invited keynote speakers. Fortunately Jørgen was able to attend all presentations, and he really enjoyed socializing with old friends as well as talking to the young malacologists. The results have been published as a special issue of the Zoological Museum journal *Steenstrupia* (volume 30, issue 2). This contains 6 papers, two of which are co-authored by Jørgen(!), and an appreciation based on the speech given by Brian Morton and including a list of Jørgen’s publications. The special issue was published in the spring of 2009, and Jørgen was very proud and happy when I brought it to him.

In total Jørgen published 124 papers over 65 years (between 1944 and 2009), he described 127 taxa (124 species, 2 genera and 1 family), and so far 22 taxa (21 species, 1 genus) have been named in his honour. His publications comprised almost all extant mollusc classes (except Monoplacophora) and are written in four different languages: Danish, English, French and German. Jørgen Knudsen was a true “Renaissance Man”, knowledgeable about history, art, gardening and many other subjects in addition to science. He will be sorely missed.

Kathe R. Jensen
Zoological Museum, Copenhagen
krjensen@snm.ku.dk



Somsak Panha (centre, pink shirt) and the WCM 2010 local organising team, Kata Beach Hotel, Phuket, Thailand, 23 July 2010.



Current and past presidents and secretaries of UM attending the WCM conference banquet, 23 July 2010:
(left to right)
Thierry Backaljau, António de Frias Martins, Rüdiger Bieler, Somsak Panha, Dai Herbert, Edi Gittenberger, Fred Wells, Jesús Troncoso