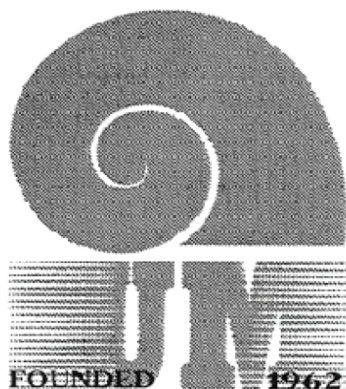


# UNITAS MALACOLOGICA



## Newsletter

**Number 31**  
**January 2012**

### What's Inside

Message from the President	3
Secretary's column	4
Student research awards 2012	4
Conference report	5
Upcoming meetings	6
Publication announcement	7
Treasurer's report	7
Special report: History of UM	8
Obituary	11

Dear members,

*This year, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of Unitas Malacologica! Happy birthday! This dates from the first European Malacological Congress held in London in June 1962.*

*I will start with an apology, as this issue of your newsletter arrives a bit later than expected, or rather we skipped an issue last summer.*

*We are anticipating a meeting of the UM Council in the Azores in a short time, at the end of March this year. I expect the next UMN will report on some more final plans for the venue and details for the next World Congress of Malacology 2013.*

*In particular, now is the time to consider symposia and other special themes for the next Congress. Our President (p. 3) eagerly awaits news of your contributions. Everyone is welcome to suggest topics for themed sessions or other contributions.*

*The two winners of the 2011 UM student research awards are congratulated here (p. 4); in fact they are nearly finished with their projects and we will soon have research reports to present in the summer Newsletter. The next annual deadline for research awards is 30 April 2012.*

*In 2011 we lost a colleague and founding member of UM, George Crawford attended the inaugural European congress in 1962, and passed away age 109 last year.*

*We also lost another face from that meeting, former council member of UM, Oliver E. Paget (p. 11), served both as president of UM (1965-1968), and our secretary (1971-1986).*

*In fact, some of Dr Paget's contributions to the society are outlined in an excellent history recently written by Edi Gittenberger (p. 8), also a former UM secretary (1986-1998). This report was presented at the Phuket WCM in the symposium 'The last 50 years of malacology: specialization, methodological transformation, and globalization'. It presents a fascinating chronology of our journey from that first meeting in London, 1962, expansion to a truly international organisation (while becoming monolingual), the ongoing history of worldwide congresses world-wide, and the origins of our continuing work in promoting student participation.*

*Best wishes for 2012!*

**JDS**

*Next issue - August 2012.*

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

### ***Affiliated Organisations***

American Malacological Society | Belgische Vereniging voor Conchylologie | 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 | Society for the Study of Molluscan Diversity, Japan

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## *Towards a global Malacology*

The clock is ticking and the WCM2013 is agitating our minds more than usual. Preliminary sites for the venue have been selected and a meeting of the Council should take place this coming Spring for in situ evaluation.

Taking advantage of my stay at RBINS-Brussels, some issues concerning Unitas Malacologica, specifically those related with the Congress, were topic for enjoyable and fruitful conversation with our Treasurer Jackie Van Goethem and our past-President Thierry Backeljau. Keeping with tradition, and backed by my indigenous knowledge of the Azorean climate, the second half of July is established as a broad window for the 2013 Congress. Our private anti-cyclone should be stationary over the islands, blessing us with mild weather, hydrangeas will be at full bloom, there will be green everywhere. Please, reserve it now in your 2013 agenda.

The “classical” structure of the Congress, with various symposia on key topics in Malacologia along with contributed papers and posters, appears to best congregate specialized interests and to satisfy a multitude of broader aspects of malacological research. I think the first choice for organizing the symposia should be left to your enthusiastic, innovative initiative and I am taking advantage of this Newsletter to remind you of it. I will regularly check my e-mail, with a bit of anxiety, in the hope of finding there **volunteers and titles for the symposia.**

Quiet, underground initiatives have been taken to probe for sponsors for the Congress and we are positive about our chances for success. The example of previous Congresses has been guiding us, so we may not have to innovate much in that area.

In the meantime, our group in the Azores is searching for the best logo we can find so as to bring a positive pre-disposition smile to those who have not yet thought about participating.

Ponta Delgada is a small, cosy town where everything is within arm's reach, and the beauty of nature, from mountain to sea, is but a short trip away. The 2013 WCM will be a most rewarding, memorable experience, and we count on you to be our most valuable guests.

**António de Frias Martins**  
UM President

frias@uac.pt





## Secretary's Column

It is a pleasure for me to write my second column, this time with my first task as secretary of UNITAS done.

The principal task for the Secretary in 2011 was the assessment of the Student Research Awards. A total of 16 applications were received from nine countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Holland, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, and United States.

Diverse topics in different malacological fields were presented. The final decision was difficult because the quality of most of the projects presented was high, but unfortunately we have resources to give only two awards this year. For the same reason, in the way to save money to give the current awards and cover some travel awards to the Congress held last year in Phuket, during 2011, the Council of UNITAS did not organize a formal meeting in person, being all tasks and discussions shared by e-mail. Many thanks to all evaluators for their hard and excellent work.

So, you can see the winners and read a little more about the awards below. From this column, I would like to encourage the students to present their results next year. The deadline for the next submissions will be April 30, 2012. For me it was a pleasure to receive the projects from students all around the world, it is a good signal, it is an indicator that the malacological science has good health. And for sure, I am looking forward to receive the projects for 2012.

**Jesús Troncoso**  
UM Secretary

## UM Student Research Awards

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

#### **Instructions for applying for awards**

Deadline: 30 April 2012

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 30 April 2012. 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](mailto:troncoso@uvigo.es)).

#### **Reminder:**

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

## Congratulations to the 2011 UM research award winners!

Nattawadee NANTARAT  
Animal Systematics Research Unit  
Department of Biology - Faculty of Science  
Chulalongkorn University  
Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Project: *Systematics of the operculate land snail genus Cyclophorus Montfort, 1810.*

Nicholas CAREY  
Queen's University Marine Laboratory  
Queens University, Belfast  
Northern Ireland

Project: *Metabolic scaling in chitons (Polyplacophora).*

## *Report from the 6th Congress of the European Malacological Societies*

*Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)*

*July 2011*

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As has happened every three years since 1999, malacologists from all around Europe and other parts of the world met this year to share their knowledge about different aspects on mollusc biology. This time the meeting took place in the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz, in the north of Spain, and was organized by Benjamín Gómez-Moliner.

The congress was sponsored by the Spanish Malacological Society (SEM) and different social and political institutions, including the Malacological Society of London, which awarded a total of thirteen students with an economic contribution for the attendance to the congress. Furthermore, this edition had the support of malacological societies from all around Europe.

Around 110 participants from more than 15 different countries attended the congress activities, presenting and enjoying a total of 4 invited conferences, 43 oral communications and 76 posters. All of these communications were distributed in six different symposia: 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; and Invasive alien species.

Generally, it is noteworthy both the high quality of the works presented in the congress, and also the great variety of topics discussed. The communications presented dealt with nearly all the aspects of mollusc biology, being included works on all the groups which are part of this phylum, from all kind of habitats and developed using a wide variety of technics, both the most simple or classic ones and the most modern technologies.

Social activities included, in the first day of the congress, an opening ceremony followed by the opening conference by David C. Aldridge (University of Cambridge), an icebreak snack and a guided visit to the most representative places of Vitoria-Gasteiz historic centre. On Friday, the last day of the congress, we could enjoy a nice trip which included a guided visit to Añana Salt Valley, followed by another guided visit to the “Marqués de Riscal” winery, where the delicious congress closing luncheon took place. After the luncheon, some of the best pictures taken during the congress were projected, and there was an award presentation for the best posters and oral communications.

We would like to congratulate Benjamín Gómez-Moliner and all the Organazing Committee for their wonderful work, and also acknowledge the excellent treatment received from them during the whole congress. Currently, there are two alternatives for holding the next edition of the CEMS: Bari (Italy) and London (United Kingdom).

**Fernando Aneiros**



## Upcoming Conferences

### **200 Years of American Malacology American Malacological Society 78th meeting - Philadelphia**

16-21 June, 2012  
Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Registration deadline: 1 May 2012

[www.malacological.org/meetings/2012](http://www.malacological.org/meetings/2012)

contact: [lawless@ansp.org](mailto:lawless@ansp.org)

**This is coordinated with the:**

### **Conchologists of America Annual Meeting 2012**

19-24 June, 2012  
Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Registration deadline: 1 May 2012

[www.conchologistsofamerica.org](http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org)

### **12th International Congress on the Zoogeography and Ecology of Greece and Adjacent Regions**

18-22 June 2012  
Hellenic Zoological Society

Subjects include: Mapping the European invertebrate diversity: new challenges and opportunities

Contact:  
Anastasios Legakis <[alegakis@biol.uoa.gr](mailto:alegakis@biol.uoa.gr)>

### **International Meeting on the Biology and Conservation of Freshwater Bivalves Bragança, Portugal, 4-7 September 2012**

Abstract deadline: 30 April 2012

Updated information, including registration, the composition of the scientific and organizing committees is available at

<http://esa.ipb.pt/bivalves>  
Email: [bivalves@ipb.pt](mailto:bivalves@ipb.pt)

This event that will bring together international experts in biology and conservation of freshwater bivalves that through a cycle of

conferences and debates, will be able to create a network of knowledge with the final goal of develop collaborative projects and eventually global directives for the protection and conservation of this important faunistic group.

There will be several thematic symposia and poster sessions, covering the following subjects:

- Biology and ecology
- Conservation and threats to species and ecosystems
- Invasive species
- Phylogeny and phylogeography
- Systematics and taxonomy
- Physiology and reproduction
- Freshwater bivalves and ecosystem functioning

This meeting will be followed immediately by the

### **Portuguese National Congress of Malacology 7-9 September 2012**

Major theme: Invertebrate Red Book of Portugal

### **International Congress on Medical and Applied Malacology**

25-29 September, 2012  
Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Early registration: 10 March

The meeting theme is 'Crossing boundaries: Integrative Approaches to Malacology'.

[www.icmam2012.com.br](http://www.icmam2012.com.br)

## Publication Announcement

The results of **Third International Workshop on Opisthobranchs** (3rd IWO) celebrate in Vigo 2010 was published in a special volume of *Thalassas* 27(2) (2011).

This volume of the electronic journal contains 13 selected papers and the issue can be downloaded free from:

[http://webs.uvigo.es/thalassas\\_marco%20principal.htm](http://webs.uvigo.es/thalassas_marco%20principal.htm)

## Treasurer's Column

Dear members,

Unitas Malacologica has contributed to the very successful World Congress in Phuket, 2010, in offering not less than 25,000.00 euros to a total of 32 young researchers and PhD students enabling them to join this event. An additional amount of 1,000.00 euros was spent to award the best oral and poster communications by students.

In order to continue these widely appreciated activities in the forthcoming congresses at least a large part of this money spent has to be recovered.

Hence my stringent demand to all members to promptly pay their membership dues. Many members pay regularly and smoothly. I love that! BUT it is very frustrating when I receive no answer on my reminders and calls.

Please pay your fees OR, what I do not hope let me know if you want to stop UM membership. In the latter case please consider paying the years you still owe to Unitas. You may use the form 'payment of membership' which is available at the UM website

Donations to the Trust Fund are very much appreciated and in fact are now badly needed. They are key to set up activities to the benefit of PhD students and young researchers, in particular for the 1,000 euros research awards, the congress travel grants and the congress presentation prizes.

Last month **Mary Seddon** made me very happy! As the result of a recent IUCN project, some small monies were donated to Unitas Malacologica, on behalf of IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group, with a request that the funds are used to support either a travel grant for a student to the next congress or a research grant associated with the conservation of freshwater molluscs.

Finally I again have the pleasure to mention several individual donations to the Trust Fund received in the period May 2010 - October 2011: four generous donations by **Philippe Bouchet, Winston Ponder, Ellen Strong and Anders Warén**, smaller ones by **Ayolani V. de Lara, Peter Norton and David Reid**, and round-ups by **Henk H. Dijkstra, Sven Nielsen and Victoriano Urgorri**.

Thank you all very much.

Best wishes.

**Jackie Van Goethem**  
UM Treasurer



## *Special Report*

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### THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF THE UNITAS MALACOLOGICA

As early as July 5th, 1935, at an international malacological meeting in Paris, organized by the board of the *Journal de Conchyliologie*, periodical meetings of malacologists were planned for a series of European countries, viz. Belgium, U.K. and Germany. The second world war sabotaged these plans.

After 1945, health problems prevented E. Dartevelle from taking up the preparations of a congress planned in 1935 for Brussels (Fischer, 1962) and nobody else took his place. The idea did not vanish completely however, as became obvious in 1959, when the Dutch Malacological Society celebrated its 25th anniversary with a malacological symposium. Several prominent malacologists of those days, from various European countries, attended the birthday party. All participants concluded that more regular personal contacts would be very stimulating. Obviously, international malacological congresses should be organized. There was a general feeling of a need for a European Malacological Union to do so (Crawford, 1987: 3). As an important step towards that goal, a meeting took place in the university city of Leiden on June 29, 1959. A group of five, viz. S.P. Dance (U.K.), P.-H. Fischer (F), L. Forcart (CH), C.O. van Regteren Altena (NL) and A. Zilch (D), referred to as 'the Amsterdam group' by Biggs (1962: 1), discussed how to proceed.

Back in London, Mr. Dance reported about the meeting in Amsterdam to the councils of both The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and The Malacological Society of London. This resulted in the formation of the so-called 'committee of six' (Biggs, 1962: 1), with H.E.J. Biggs, C.P. Castell, L.R. Cox, G.I. Crawford, S.P. Dance, and J. Rigby. These influential malacologists came together for the first time over a year later, on 8 November 1960. The members of this committee, which was enlarged with J.F. Peake and N. Tebble later on, became the organizers of the First European Malacological Congress. Eventually, that memorable congress took place September 17-21, 1962, in London. Thus, strictly spoken, this allegedly first U.M.E. congress was not organized by that institution, which came into being at only the final day of the congress, i.e. on September 21, 1962. At that occasion, preceded by a rather dramatic plenary session in Queen Elizabeth College, the first

U.M.E. council was elected, with H. Lemche (DK) President, M. de Larambergue (F) Vice-President, A. Zilch (D) Secretary, L. Forcart (CH) Treasurer, and V. Fretter (U.K.).

The birth of the U.M.E. in 1962, with its legal domicile in Switzerland, was not an easy affair after all. As Biggs (1965: 3) put it: This discussions 'went on all the morning with only a short break for coffee .. 21 members took part in the discussion, some speaking three or four times. .. one could not help feeling that although malacological considerations were rightly uppermost, just here and there a wind of politics seemed to be blowing at times.' A member of the congress apparently suggested that 'this union could be a help towards a United Europe.' As may be concluded from the reports of Biggs (1965) and Fischer (1962), G.I. Crawford did an excellent job as chairman of several important meetings. The Sherry Party given by the two organizing societies may also have contributed to the final positive outcome.

Initially, the organization of international malacological congresses at three years' intervals was seen as the main, if not the only, task of the council. The president should be in function for three years, in between two congresses. This was because of the nature of his (or 'her'!) double function, being both president of the U.M.E. council and leader of the local team that has to organize the next congress, to be held in the president's home-country. After that, another three-years' period as vice-president followed, so that the next president could take optimal advantage of his predecessor's expertise. The secretary and the treasurer had to stay in function for longer periods, factually unlimited. As a consequence of all this, the U.M.[E.] had only six secretaries till the present day, viz. A. Zilch (1962-1971), O.E. Paget (1971-1986), E. Gittenberger (1986-1998), P.B. Mordan (1998-2004) and D.G. Herbert (2004-2010), and now J. Troncoso. The number of treasurers is even lower, viz. L. Forcart (1962-1971), P. Jung (1971-1986) and J. Van Goethem (1986-ongoing).

After the First European Malacological Congress in 1962, organized by the European Malacological Union in London, international malacological congresses followed in: (2) 1965, Copenhagen, Denmark ; (3) 1968, Vienna, Austria; (4) 1971, Geneva, Switzerland; (5) 1974, Milano, Italy; (6) 1977, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; (7) 1980, Perpignan, France; (8) 1983, Budapest, Hungary; (9) 1986, Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.; (10) 1989, Tübingen, West Germany; (11) 1992, Siena, Italy; (12) 1995, Vigo, Spain; (13) 1998, Washington D.C., U.S.A.; (14) 2001, Vienna, Austria; (15) 2004, Perth, Western Australia; (16) 2007, Antwerp,



Belgium; (17) 2010, Phuket, Thailand. The 1992 congress in Siena, was not planned to be held in that city initially, but the original plans could not be carried out by political circumstances. Prof. Giusti and his team got the council out of difficulty by offering 'Siena'. This became one more memorable congress in a wonderful setting, where Settembre 4th, 1992, the twinning of Unitas Malacologica and the Contrada della Chiocciola ['contrada of the snail'] was celebrated. For more details on symposia, proceedings, etc., of all the U.M.E. and U.M. congresses till the 12th congress in 1995, see Coan & Kabat (1996).

According to the published accounts of the eye-witnesses, there was general agreement in 1962 regarding the principle that the meetings and congresses should be in English, French and German. This was emphasized for example by Fischer (1962: 116) in his report on the congress and the constitution of the U.M.E.: '... elle groupe pour la première fois des nations différentes, ce qui l'oblige à admettre le plurilinguisme...' [.. it combines for the first time different countries, so that multilinguality is an obligation..]. Sometimes, when decisions had to be discussed to be formulated during a General Assembly, tensions did arise when participants in the discussion demanded a translation in their own language before voting. E. Binder (CH) was responsible for translations in French and A. Zilch (D) did the same for German. The three languages were also allowed for presentations during the congresses. This resulted sometimes in embarrassing situations, when a lecture hall emptied nearly completely as soon as a non-English talk started. For that reason, two young but already prominent French malacologists with several supporters, proposed during the 11th (strictly spoken the 10th) U.M.E. Congress in 1992 to make English the one and only congress language. During the General Assembly this proposal was put to the vote by the secretary, who asked the native English members to refrain from voting. The outcome was unmistakable, as the secretary concluded in his best possible French. That was the last time that this language was used in a formal U.M. meeting.

Despite the elements of nationalism, especially in its early days, the U.M.E. has never been strictly European. This may be concluded from the composition of the 125 malacologists attending the 1962 congress. Twenty countries were represented there, viz. from Europe, U.K. (57 participants), Germany (11), France (10), The Netherlands (8), Denmark (5), Italy (5), Sweden (3), Austria (2), Switzerland (2), Rumania (2), and Belgium, Hungary, Norway, Portugal (all 1), and from elsewhere, USA (11), and Australia, Canada, Egypt, New Zealand, and Rhodesia (all 1). Initially, the

European start of the organization was reflected mainly in the composition of the U.M.E. council, with members from different European countries only. Very soon the U.M.E. became increasingly more global still, with participants of the congresses coming from even more places all over the world. The name was adapted to reality only in 1977 however. At the General Assembly during the sixth Congress in Amsterdam, under the presidency of A.C. van Bruggen, Europaea was skipped, resulting in the formal name Unitas Malacologica. According to some, this made the U.M. still not really international since the congresses took place in Europe only, never somewhere else. Again and again this was made a controversial issue. The consequences of an 'out of Europe' for participants and participation were hotly debated. The place should offer affordable facilities and a competent organizing team.

Eventually the U.S.A. became the first candidate for a financially and scientifically feasible congress 'elsewhere'. With that principled decision of the U.M. council in his baggage, the U.M. secretary discussed the matter with the council of the American Malacological Union, July 1995, in Hilo, Hawaii. There he experienced a constructive atmosphere though with a hint of nationalism. Everything could be arranged, but the question of priority, A.M.U. or U.M., could not immediately be settled. Later on both organizations announced the congress in the mailings as their own meeting, occasionally joined with a partner. After all this became a matter of secondary importance. The combined 64th A.M.U. and 13th U.M. congress, in Washington D.C., 1998, organized by R. Hershler and his team, was a great success. It ended in great style on a pleasure boat floating on Potomac river, where we celebrated not only the end of one more inspiring meeting but also a 'key innovation' in the evolution of the society. Now the U.M. could be considered by even the most critical members a truly international umbrella organization. The die was cast and six years later on the 15th U.M. congress, 2004, took place with F. Wells as president, at the other side of the globe, in Perth, Western Australia. It was another great success.

Initially, the congresses had their own proceedings with all the presentations in print. After the first, separately published Proceedings of the First European Malacological Congress (London, 1962), the journal *Malacologia* greatly contributed to the success of the U.M. by publishing six times the congress proceedings. For the three following congresses, in Budapest, Edinburgh and Tübingen, respectively, proceedings were published separately. This was a time-consuming job for the 'retired' president, since producing proceedings

was considered his final duty. The Edinburgh proceedings got even temporarily lost, and were printed six years after the congress. Over the years, the number of presentations increased considerably, leading to unmanageable voluminous proceedings that were no longer published as single or double volumes but in various parts as symposium reports, or not at all.

Many new initiatives were developed while the U.M. evolved further. A Trust-Fund was started in 1983. Modest travel grants became available for students. A.U.M. Newsletter was issued from 1987 on, to ensure better contacts in the malacological world in between the meetings. C. Meier-Brook became its first editor. From no. 7 on its initially modest format was changed into a more representative size and at present the newsletter is of course available on the www. Unfortunately, the number of so-called 'amateurs', i.e. malacologists that are not paid for their efforts, visiting the congresses decreased, but the number of students increased, so that the future can be faced optimistically. During the congresses, malacology was represented as a modern discipline, making use of SEM microscopy, molecular analyses, modern phylogeny reconstructions, various aspects of evolutionary biology, etc.

Complementary to the indispensable, regional malacological societies, many of which are affiliated now, the U.M. has a central position in promoting and facilitating world-wide connections between malacologists. By doing so, malacology is furthered in a broad and modern sense, most prominently still by organizing every three years an international malacological congress. In this short historical overview, with most emphasis on the past, some names of colleagues are mentioned, but many more, equally or maybe even more important names of persons who furthered the development of the U.M., are not. The many council members, local congress organizers, initiators of symposia and workshops, editors of proceedings and the newsletter, many active members, they all together made the U.M. to what it is today, a flourishing organization based on inspiring togetherness and constructive competition.

**Edmund Gittenberger**  
UM Secretary 1986-1998

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## Obituary

OLIVER E. PAGET

(24 April 1922 - 23 March 2011)

Born on April 24th 1922 in Vienna, the son of a British patent agent, Oliver Paget had dual British / Austrian citizenship throughout his lifetime.

He studied Zoology, Anthropology & Paleontology at the University of Vienna and started to work at the Natural History Museum Vienna in 1955. An excellent curator, after wartimes he reorganized and substantially increased the mollusc collection. His career culminated in the nomination for the directory of the Museum in 1979.

In 1968 he organised the 3rd International Malacological Congress, was elected president of **Unitas Malacologica** (1965-1968), later secretary (1971-1986) and in 1986 was named the 1st honorary member of UM.

Since 1962 he was an original member of the Deutsche Malakozoologische Gesellschaft (DMG) and member of several other malacological societies of different countries.

In 1987 he retired at the age of 65, after 32 years of intensive work, which he had completely devoted to the Natural History Museum and molluscs.

Oliver Paget's great interest in Eastern European landsnails led to numerous excursions, mainly to Rhodos and Kreta, where he collected several new species.

Paget's interest in history and his awareness of the importance of historical collections helped to document and preserve valuable data on the history of malacology in Vienna and Austria.

After his retirement, he concentrated on genealogical research of his very old family, but he also continued being present and helpful in the mollusc collection in the Natural History Museum Vienna.

Oliver Paget passed away on March 23, 2011, aged close to 89.

We have lost a mentor, a charming, enthusiastic personality and a good friend!

*Anita Eschner & Helmut Sattmann*  
*Natural History Museum Vienna*



*Oliver Paget (left), being awarded the Golden Medal for services to the city of Vienna by Governor Dr. Michael Häupl.*