

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF MALACOLOGY, ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMS 2003

The annual meeting of the Society will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from June 25 to 29. For details of the sessions, instructions to contributors and further information, see the final pages of this newsletter.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF MALACOLOGY 2004

The WCM will be held in Perth, Australia from July 11 to 16, 2004. For details, go to <http://www.amonline.net.au/malsoc/>

SLUGS AND SNAILS: AGRICULTURAL, VETERINARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES.

A joint symposium of the Malacological Society of London & the British Crop Protection Council.

8-9 September 2003 at Canterbury Christ Church University College, Canterbury, Kent, UK

The experience of both farmers and researchers will provide a basis for the discussion of the issues of pest control relating to slugs and snails on land and in water. More general aspects of conservation and biodiversity will be relevant to the discussion, as will newer approaches of molecular biology

Sessions will include:-

Economic impacts

Physiology and function

Behaviour and ecology

Prospects for improved control

Integrated pest management

Population regulation and economic and environmental considerations

Snail farming

Conservation, evolution and biodiversity

Molluscs, molecules and man

If you are interested in attending, and/or making an oral or poster presentation, contact

The Symposium Organisers, British Crop Protection Council, 49 Downing Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7PH, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1252 733072

Fax: +44 (0)1252 727194

Email: md@BCPC.org.uk

REA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

AT THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Applications are invited for a one-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for specimen-based research in anthropology, botany, entomology, malacology, mammalogy, ornithology, or vertebrate paleontology. Applicants are encouraged to contact the individual curator(s) with whom they intend to work prior to submitting an application. For more details, visit www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmnh

Send curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and plan of research by March 31, 2002 to:

Dr. Hans Sues, Associate Director for Science and Collections, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080.

Applicants to Malacology can contact Dr. Tim Pearce, Assistant Curator of Mollusks, CMNH; phone 412-622-1916; e-mail

PearceT@CarnegieMuseums.org

AMS BUSINESS

BYLAWS REVISION PENDING

Rob Dillon

Chair, Constitution/Bylaws Committee

As announced at the general meeting last August, the AMS is in the process of bylaws amendment. The effort was born out of a sense of frustration I felt upon assuming the presidency in the fall of 2001. I was aware that ten committees existed and that, under bylaws Article III.2a, the President is charged with appointing chairmen for them. But (unlike most such documents with which I am familiar) our bylaws currently contain no list of standing committees. Two committees are authorized in Bylaws Article IV, four committees are mentioned elsewhere in the bylaws, three committees are mentioned in motions of Council but are absent from the Bylaws (Conservation, Student Awards, and Systematics), and one traditional committee of the AMS (Membership) seems to have no formal authorization of any sort.

So in January of 2002 I proposed and circulated to

Council a draft revision of the bylaws that included a much-revised and extended Article IV on Standing Committees. I suggested brief charges for these committees, where none had previously existed, and proposed one addition, a new Resolutions Committee patterned after a similar body of the National Shellfisheries Association. The primary intent of my 1/02 draft was, however, simply to formalize a committee structure already in place and functioning well.

Once the Bylaws were open for revision, the process gained considerable momentum. The 2001-02 Constitution and Bylaws Committee (Harold Murray & Bob Prezant) offered many helpful suggestions, as did other members of the Council. The version that passed first reading at the Council meeting in August featured new language intended to clarify the management of AMS publications, including a new Article IX on the *American Malacological Bulletin*. The nominating, budget, and amendment processes were tightened up as well, and several additional changes were incorporated into the draft revision as a result of the August meetings themselves, including the general dues increase approved by the membership.

The present draft of the amended bylaws is the result of something better than 14 months of effort. Adoption of these changes will require majority approval by the membership at the general meeting in Ann Arbor. Please try to find some time between now and June to download a copy (available as a PDF file on the Society web site), review it carefully, and send any comments or suggestions you may have directly to me (dillonr@cofc.edu). Thanks, and see you in Ann Arbor!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has begun the work of identifying candidates for five leadership positions in the 2003-04 AMS: a Vice President (to assume the presidency in 2005), two Past Presidents (4-10 yrs and 11+ years) and two Councilors-at-Large. One of the Councilors-at-Large must be a student at the time of his or her election. We welcome input from the membership. Please send suggestions and self-nominations to Rob Dillon (dillonr@cofc.edu) as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEA

■ *From Dr. Elizabeth G. Boulding, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology University of Guelph*

NEW MOLECULAR SITE

The new Mollusc Molecular News site caters to researchers who work on Molluscan DNA and RNA. It is at:

www.webapps.ccs.uoguelph.ca/mmnw/index.html

■ *Spotted by Roland Anderson in a recent issue of Nature :*

MUSSEL MODEL CALLS FOR CASH TO COMBAT INVADING SPECIES

TONY REICHHARDT [WASHINGTON] Spend now to save later - that's the message from biologists Brian Leung and David Lodge, who have made what they say is the first attempt to merge ecology and economics into a mathematical model for analysing the risks from invasive species.

Leung and Lodge, who are based at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, used zebra mussels as a test case. These mollusks cost US industry about \$100 million a year, primarily by clogging pipes and reducing water flow to lake-side power plants. The researchers modelled the rate at which the invaders spread and weighed up the economic factors involved, such as the costs of preventing the mussels from invading new lakes. They calculate that it is worth spending up to \$324,000 a year to stop zebra mussels from contaminating a lake with a large power plant (B. Leung et al. Proc.R. Soc. Lond. B; in press). As the US Fish and Wildlife Service spends just \$825,000 a year controlling all non-indigenous aquatic species in the country's lakes, Leung and Lodge conclude that "a much higher value should be placed on prevention".

Environmental economics is still a relatively new field, but quantitative tools such as this may help policy-makers to decide when it pays to prevent the spread of invasive species, says Lodge. "These sorts of analyses just haven't been done," he says, even though damage caused by invasive species costs the United States about \$137 billion a year.

With no similar studies available, it is unclear how widely Leung and Lodge's results can be applied. But their model suggests that, for zebra mussels at least, the problem should not be ignored. Over five years, it showed that it was cheaper to do nothing. But for 25 years, the economic benefits of prevention were clear.

■ *An excerpt from an Associated Press release recently printed in the Reading, Pa. Eagle and sent in by Jordan Star*

U.S. STEPS IN TO SAVE RARE CAVE SNAIL IN MISSOURI

The government has placed a rare Missouri cave snail on the federal list of endangered species. Tumbling Creek Cave snails have died off in such great numbers that scientists are worried about the health of the cave stream and its water source, an aquifer that serves both animals and the surrounding community.

Snails are a barometer of water quality, said Tom Aley, a water scientist leading the effort to save the snail. "I think the snail is an indication of the health of the whole aquatic ecosystem we have in the cave," Aley said. "It's the place where we can see the results of ground water contamination more readily than we can with other species." Aley and his wife, a biologist, own Tumbling Creek Cave and operate Ozarks Underground Laboratory in southwest Missouri, not far from the country music town of Branson. With its 110 different and diverse species, including endangered grey bats, the cave has been declared a national natural landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. The snail, *Antrobia calveri*, may be the cave's most unique animal, because it is the only species within its genus. The snail is white with a pale yellow shell that has two or three whorls. It looks similar to other snails, but its tiny size – about one tenth of an inch – makes it nearly invisible to the untrained eye, says Paul McKenzie, and endangered species biologist for the Mid-West region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Researchers have not agreed on what has caused the snail's sharp decline over the past six years. Peggy Homer, endangered species coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation, said there are a number of possible culprits, particularly runoff and erosion that add silt to the cave stream gravel where the snails make their homes. Other possibilities include temperature changes, fluctuations in water flow, or a new predator or competitor. The federal "endangered" designation will help get federal funds to help the snail, and it puts together a team of government and university researchers and other experts to develop a plan for the animal's recovery.

■ *From the editor*

The AMS archives

The archives of the AMS are located in the Department of Malacology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers Marty Bortner and Catherine Westervelt, most of the material is now in fine order. The bulk of the archives consists of membership records and correspondence, filed by member name. Financial accounts are present for most years, as well as files and correspondence relating to annual meetings.

The most interesting items for most people, however, are the scrapbooks and photographs. These contain a wealth of images and ephemera from the 1930s onwards, including group photos from many early annual meetings, tickets, flyers, programs and other material from decades ago. As time permits, it would be nice to feature some of this material on the AMS web site. If anyone would like to help with the digitization they should contact Paul Callomon at

callomon@acnatsci.org

In the meantime, the archives can be viewed by appointment. Apply to Paul Callomon at the above e-mail address.

■ *From the editor*

The newsletter

This is the first newsletter of 2003, and it represents a further step in the evolution of AMS publications. Nowadays, the newsletters of many scientific societies are being supplanted by web sites that can be constantly updated and cost less to produce than a printed publication. The AMS continues at present to produce the newsletter and make it available in printed form by mail to members who specifically request this service. If you would like your name to be added to (or removed from) the mailing list, please contact the secretary at the address on the title page.

American Malacological Society

69th Annual Meeting

Ann Arbor, Michigan

June 25-29, 2003



The 2003 American Malacological Society meeting will be held at the University of Michigan's Central Campus, Ann Arbor during the last week of June. We hope you can join us for what promises to be an informative and fun conference. In addition to diverse contributed paper and poster sessions, we anticipate the following events:

Symposium I *Diversification In The Sea - What Can Comparative Molecular Data Tell Us?*
Molecular datasets are providing exciting new insights into the genesis of marine molluscan biodiversity. Invited speakers include Rachel Collin (*Crepidula*), Tom Duda (*Conus*) Michael Hellberg (*Tegula*), Taelwan Lee (*Brachidontes*), Chris Meyer (Cowries), John Wares (North Atlantic Phylogeography) and Suzanne Williams (Tropical Littorinids). Plenary speaker: Baldomero Olivera (Conotoxin Evolution). Organizer: Diarmaid Ó Foighil (diarmaid@umich.edu).

Symposium II *Non-Marine Molluscan Exotics - The Future Is A Foreign Ecosystem.*
Until recently, oceanic barriers to dispersal biotically insulated non-marine malacofaunas. The symposium will consider salient case histories illustrating the spread and impact of molluscan exotics in recipient ecosystems. Prospective speakers include Rob Cowie (Pacific Island exotics), Gustavo Darrigran (*Linnoperna fortunei*), Diarmaid Ó Foighil (New World *Corbicula*) and Geerat Vermeij (Perspective on Biological Invasions). Organizer: Rob Cowie (cowie@hawaii.edu).

Special Session I *PEET Meets Molluscan Taxonomy.*
NSF's PEET program has sponsored a number of significant molluscan taxonomic projects. This special session will highlight the diverse new research emerging from these projects and will facilitate an exchange of information between PEET and the malacological community. Organizer: Terrence Gosliner (Tgosliner@calacademy.org).

Special Session II *J.B. Burch - His Students Speak.*
Jack Burch has had a long and influential career in malacology. This special session is in his honor and will feature research presentations, focusing on freshwater and terrestrial molluscs, by his former students. Organizer: Tim Pearce (pearcet@carnegiemuseums.org).

Other projected activities include workshops on Bayesian Phylogenetics and on the use of ROV's in riverine studies, a conchological show and tell session, book auction, a tour of the UMMZ Mollusc Collection and aquatic and terrestrial field trips.

Conference events, accommodation (choice of hotel or college dorm) and social amenities will be within walking distance. Ann Arbor is a culturally lively college town and in late June holds its annual Summer Festival with free nightly outdoor entertainment. See you there!

Diarmaid Ó Foighil, AMS President
UMMZ, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079

For details, check out our website at: <http://www.umzmz.lsa.umich.edu/mollusks/ams2003.html>
(Registration and Abstracts Deadline: May 1st 2003).

AMS 2003 *Call for Papers & Posters*

<http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/mollusks/ams/>

Guidelines

Non-Plenary oral presentations may not exceed 15 minutes, with 5 additional minutes for questions. Posters may not exceed 46" x 46" (120 cm x 120 cm). Submission of abstracts for all sessions of AMS 2003 will be received **by e-mail only** as attached MS Word files.

Instructions

- 1) The abstract may not exceed 250 words or contain figures or literature citations.
- 2) Compose your abstract in MS Word using the Times New Roman 10pt. font. Employ a 1 inch (2.5 cm) margin on the left and a 3 inch (7.5 cm) margin on the right. The title should be in **bold**, and scientific names should be *italicized*. The title, authors and affiliations should be centered, and the body of the abstract fully-justified. Do not indent anywhere. In cases of multiple authorship, include an e-mail address for the corresponding author only. **The file name should be the surname of the submitting author.** A hypothetical example is given below.
- 3) Compose an e-mail to diarmaid@umich.edu and cc it to taehwanl@umich.edu. If you wish to be considered for the student competition (see below for details), you should also cc the message to Roland.Anderson@ci.seattle.wa.us. If your paper is intended for one of the symposia or special sessions, please cc the message to the appropriate organizer (see meeting webpage <http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/mollusks/ams/> for details). In the text of the e-mail message, please answer these following questions: Which type of presentation (oral or poster)? Would you be willing to chair a session? Do you wish to be considered for a student award (see restrictions below)? If so, are you an undergraduate, M.Sc. student or Ph.D. student? (Oral presentations only) Is this a contributed (general session) paper or a symposium/special session paper? What audio-visual resources will you require? Do you have a preference for a particular day/time? If so, please justify.
- 4) Attach the MS Word file of your abstract to the e-mail message
- 5) Send the e-mail **prior to the May 1st deadline**. You should receive a confirmatory response within 1-2 days.

Special Note to Students

To be eligible for a student award, you must be the **sole author** of your paper or poster. If this issue is problematic, contact me (diarmaid@umich.edu) and I will be glad to discuss this prerequisite at length with your academic advisor. You must be a **student AMS member** in good standing, and either currently enrolled in a degree-granting academic program, or a 2003 graduate.

EXAMPLE ABSTRACT (HYPOTHETICAL)

Gender Self-Actualization and Apophally in Slugs

Clarence B. Wilder¹, Roger R. Rasper² & Justine H. Tourquinet¹

¹Department of Nature or Nurture, Institute of Intermittent Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48197, USA, btbwild@umich.edu; ²Radula Institute, University of California Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

Recent technical advances in integrated plasma resonance nano-patchclamping allow us to manipulate cellular-level neurophysiological phenomena underlying gastropod behavioral repertoires. In this study, we experimentally reprogrammed conditioned virgin slugs that...[text deleted]...and these surprising results lead us to hypothesize the existence of a latent cultural dimension to extreme sexual behaviors in these pulmonates.

AMS 2003 *Endowment Auction*

Fun and Profit for a Good Cause

One of the highlights of AMS meetings is the traditional Endowment Auction, featuring our legendary MC/auctioneer, Richard (Dick) Petit. It is hard to describe the unique atmosphere of this event, however the basic principle is straightforward. AMS members donate items of malacological interest (no specimens please) to the auction and the resulting monies are added to the AMS student and symposium endowment funds. The proceedings therefore represent excellent investments in our collective future.

This year's event will be held on the evening of Thursday June 26th in the Pendleton Room (across from the billiard hall) at the historic Michigan Union complex (<http://www.umich.edu/~munion/>).

Donations Needed

The success of the AMS Endowment Auction is dependent on the quality and quantity of the items donated. The record amount raised for this event is just under \$3000. Our challenge is to exceed this significantly for AMS 2003. As a giant step in this direction, we are pleased to advertise 3 **exceptionally generous** donations to our auction:

A Complete Series of *Malacologia* has been donated by George Davis (44 volumes, beginning in 1962, commercial value: \$2400)

A Complete Series of *Malacological Review* has been donated by John (Jack) Burch (34 volumes + 8 supplements, beginning in 1969, commercial value: \$704).

A Complete Series of *Walkerana* has been donated by Jack Burch (13 volumes (30 nos.), beginning in 1980, commercial value: \$295).

If applicable, check ahead with your home institution to see if the appropriate library would be interested in purchasing this valuable material. Then come prepared to bid.....

Please check your possessions for items with a malacological resonance that **YOU** can donate to the cause. These include books, reprints, artwork, bric-a-brac etc., but no shells please. Be bold and remember that it is more gracious to give than to receive.

If you have items to contribute, we would like the option of being able to advertise them ahead of time.

YES, I plan to contribute auction items* _____
I will transport the items to Ann Arbor _____
I will mail them beforehand to: _____
Diarmaid Ó Foighil, Museum of Zoology
1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, USA

*Indicate if you consider the items to have special value, and feel free to suggest an appropriate price, if applicable.

Please mail, email or fax this form to:

Diarmaid Ó Foighil
UMMZ Mollusk Division
1109 Geddes Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079

email: diarmaid@umich.edu
fax: 734.763.4080

AMS 2003 *Show Shell & Tell*

American Malacological Society 69th Annual Meeting Ann Arbor, Michigan June 25-29, 2003



<http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/mollusks/ams/>

Show Shell & Tell *Restoring the Tangible to Malacology*

Malacologists prize shells primarily for their scientific utility: taxonomic, systematic and ecological. However, mollusk shells have also long held an innate aesthetic appeal for humans, and an appreciation of the beauty and variety of molluscan exoskeletons has traditionally been a prerequisite to developing a scientific interest in the phylum.

As the AMS has developed in recent decades, the increasingly rigorous scientific focus of its annual meetings, though very welcome, has tended to displace some of the sheer conchological fun of discussing and comparing shells. We will attempt to readdress the balance to a small extent by holding a Show Shell & Tell event concurrent with the Poster Session on Friday afternoon (June 27th). Three focal groups of mollusks will be featured, each represented by a subsample of constituent taxa and overseen by an AMS volunteer.

Cowries Coordinator: [Chris Meyer](#)

Cowries are among the best known and most aesthetically pleasing marine snails, and Chris Meyer has become a leading authority on their evolution and systematics. If you are into cowries, here's your chance.....



[Image Source](#)

Epioblasma Coordinator: [Kevin Cummings](#)

The North American unionid genus *Epioblasma*, ravaged by recent extinctions, is characterized by sexually dimorphic shells, some sufficiently dramatic to have originally prompted separate specific designations for males and females. As a bonus, Kevin (past President of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society) will also show behavioral videos of the diverse strategies utilized by unionids to infect fish hosts with glochidia in the wild.



[Image Source](#)

Oysters Coordinator: [Diarmaid Ó Foighil](#)

There's much more to the Ostreoidae than the handful of familiar, commercially important, species. Check out some cool gryphaeids and lophinids, and impressive examples of xenomorphism. Many of these shells will be contributed by Gustav Paulay at the Florida Museum of Natural History.



If YOU have specimens (of whatever group) that you wish to have identified, bring them along! Perhaps one of your fellow AMS members can help. There is one restriction: commercial activity is strictly forbidden.