



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF MALACOLOGY, ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



AMS/WCM 2013 – AZORES, PORTUGAL JULY 21-28, 2013

Submitted by Peter Marko, President AMS

Early registration for the 2013 AMS/WCM meeting has passed but you can still register now or on site at the meeting. The next important date is the deadline for abstract submission (May 31st). There are 14 symposia and some organizers are looking to add a few speakers, so please note that when submitting an abstract you may select one of the symposia themes to have your contribution considered. See <http://www.wcm2013.com> for more information.

Although the meeting officially ends on the 28th, note that the last talks will be scheduled for the afternoon of the 26th with the banquet to follow that evening. The 27th and 28th have been set aside for Unitas and other society business. Please also note that Wednesday the 24th is an open day for tourist activities, some of which can be arranged through the sponsoring travel agency, Top-Atlântico (<http://www.wcm2013.com/index.php/social-activities>).

AMS plans to host an auction of molluscan books and paraphernalia (no shells or specimens) for all Congress participants. This annual event raises funds for our student programs but it also provides a fun-filled evening for all involved. Because we are meeting overseas, transporting books and other items for the auction presents a real challenge. For this reason, I am asking each attending member to bring one item for the auction in his/her luggage, and to notify me (pmarko@clermson.edu) about that item beforehand so we can do the cataloging in advance. Single items are the best sellers: older books, obscure publications, and unusual shell-themed doodads, knick-knacks, and trinkets. If you are not attending and would like to contribute please also contact me directly. Please dig deeply and generously! Surely everyone has an unneeded book or something malacologically odd to contribute! Your participation in this entertaining and worthwhile event will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing many of you there!



OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

Malacology 2014: The Meeting of the Americas 23-27 June 2014

Submitted by Paul Valentich-Scott

Who?

Joint meeting of the American Malacological Society, the Asociación Latinoamericana de Malacología, the Sociedad Mexicana de Malacología y Conquiliología, and the Western

Society of Malacologists. Coordinated by Roberto Cipriani (ALM), Edna Naranjo Garcia (SMMAC), and Paul Valentich-Scott (AMS & WSM).

What?

80th Annual Meeting of the AMS, IX CLAMA, XII Reunion Nacional de Malacología y Conquiliología, and the 47th Annual Meeting of the WSM.

When?

23-27 June 2014

Where?

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City (<http://www.unam.mx/index/en>). Hosted by the Facultad de Ciencias.

Rising from the ruins of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, Mexico City offers a unique collision of contemporary city life and historic preservation. World-class museums, restaurants and parks rub shoulders with the remains of several cultures. The nightlife, the shopping and the history make it a must-see regardless of your travel style. Without a doubt Mexico City is one of the most important financial and cultural centers in North America.

Special rates are being negotiated for accommodations at hotels adjacent to campus.

Why?

We share oceans and our continents adjoin, we frequently collaborate, but we have never met in a single all Americas conference. This is an opportunity to meet colleagues from adjacent continents, exchange ideas and forge new research directions.

How much?

Roundtrip airfare to Mexico City – MEX, Benito Juarez Airport (Prices as of November 2012)
 From New York – JFK: \$600
 From Miami – MIA: \$560
 From Chicago – ORD: \$600
 From Seattle – SEA: \$560
 From Los Angeles – LAX: \$435



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Position Announcement

Dreissenid Mussel Biologist

Research Assistant Professor (annually renewable)

University of Minnesota- St. Paul Campus

Submitted by Becca Nash

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota invites applications for a full-time and annually renewable dreissenid mussel biologist research faculty position. We seek a molecular physiologist, pathologist, biochemist, or invertebrate ecologist with expertise on some aspect of mollusk biology that might eventually be exploited to control invasive dreissenid mussels in northern lakes and streams.

The dreissenid mussel biologist position comes with equipped research laboratory, shared space in an aquatic invasive species holding facility, and an approximate 5-year operating budget with graduate student support.

The full announcement is posted at employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=110847.

Review of applications will begin July 1, 2013.



AMS Website Additions

Submitted by Peter Marko

I am very pleased to announce that we have a re-designed AMS website (www.malacological.org). I am grateful to those that donated images: Paul Callomon, Dan Geiger, Gary Rosenberg, and Rory McDonnell, as well as to Marla Coppolino, for her assistance throughout the process. Marla will be phasing out her webmaster contributions, so please contact me directly about the website (pmarko@clemsun.edu).

I also encourage you to follow AMS on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/malacology>) and Twitter (@AMS1931). Because so many of you are already on Facebook, all significant AMS announcements will go there - but we will continue to send email messages for essential AMS information and news. All Facebook postings will also be automatically logged in the AMS Twitter timeline in the same way that the website corkboard functioned in the past. This approach to society communication allows the council to simultaneously reach you through routinely viewed social media, maintain a log of announcements on the AMS webpage, and foster exchange and communication among members and non-members alike. This way we can do a better job of keeping members up-to-date on job openings, malacological research, and meeting announcements.

In another new way to promote discussions about mollusks, Chuck Lydeard (C-Lydeard@wiu.edu), the Chair of the AMS Systematics Committee, has started a blog called Molluscan Musings, which will be focused on systematics and biodiversity of mollusks. The first three monthly entries are posted at <http://molluscanmusings.blogspot.com/> and can be reached via links on the AMS webpage. Chuck will coordinate activity on this blog, including inviting guest contributions. The chair of the Conservation Committee, Jay Cordeiro, has also started to distribute a newsletter on imperiled mollusks, a link to which which can be found on the AMS Conservation Policy page (<http://www.malacological.org/conservation.html>). The goal of this newsletter is to keep AMS members up to date on current and proposed U.S. and Canadian federal legislation and regulations regarding mollusks.



An Update on PRI Publications

Submitted by Paula Mikkelsen

Paleontological Research Institution's publications are alive and well and living in upstate New York! Some of you might remember Peter Hoover, at his table in the meeting registration area in the 1980s, hawking issues of *Bulletins of American Paleontology*, *Palaeontographica Americana*, and other books produced by PRI. Well, we're still doing that, and much, much more! Furthermore, our offerings are as much Recent as fossil (we are in part, Museum of the Earth, after all), so you need not be a paleontologist to find something of interest.

Serials and books

Bulletins of American Paleontology is still going strong, producing 2-3 new issues each year. Happily for me, many of the recent issues have been malacological. For example:

- Studies on the Molluscan Paleomacrofauna of the Texas Paleogene, by Chris Garvie (BAP 384-386, 2013)
- Paleobiology, paleoecology, and systematics of Solemyidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Protobranchia) from the Mazon Creek Lagerstätte, Pennsylvanian of Illinois, by Jack Bailey (BAP 382, 2011)
- Neogene paleontology of the northern Dominican Republic, 24, Propeamussiidae and Pectinidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Pectinoidea) of the Cibao Valley, by Tom Waller (BAP 381, 2011)

Palaeontographica Americana, which had become largely redundant with BAP in format and scope in recent years, but which had been nearly inactive for a decade, was finally discontinued as an active serial early this year. Back issues are still available.

Besides these academic journals, PRI also produces stand-alone books in our Special Publications series. In recent years, we've done a coloring book, a history of PRI, a book on climate change, a local field guide, and teacher resources to geology and evolution. Upcoming titles include:

- *The Marcellus Shale – A Very Short Guide*, Summer 2013
- *A Paleontological Life: The Personal Memoirs of Curt Teichert*, Fall 2013
- *A Field Guide to the Devonian Paleontology of New York*, late 2013

For more information on back issues, books for sale, and submitting your manuscript for publication in either of our active series, contact me or see the PRI Publications website (<http://www.museumoftheearth.org/publications/bookstore.php>). We have monthly 50%-off sales, so check often!

Online news magazine

Another exciting addition to the PRI Publications office is *Evolution-This View of Life: Paleontology* (<http://www.thisviewoflife.com/index.php/paleontology/index.php/>). This is an online magazine sponsored by Binghamton University's Evolution Institute, headed by David Sloan Wilson. PRI edits the Paleontology section, and regularly posts news, book reviews, and original commentary on all things paleontological. In part, this replaces similar content that we once printed in our quarterly magazine *American Paleontologist* (discontinued for financial reasons in 2011). We welcome readers and new writers, if the "outreach bug" bites you!

New Ecphora membership level

At the Geological Society of America meeting last fall, PRI launched a new membership level called Ecphora, named after PRI's original logo snail. This level is designed especially for scientists, students, and serious amateurs that often do not live near Ithaca, and so do not regularly benefit from the free Museum passes and other perks targeting local families. Ecphora members receive (among other benefits) 15% off all purchases (publications and at the Museum store), an annual Research Report,

email notices about science happenings at PRI and weekly postings on ETVoL: Paleo, and one free publication (of any size and value) per year of membership. The last benefit alone is worth the price of membership, plus you'll have the warm fuzzy feeling associated with supporting our research programs (see <http://www.museumoftheearth.org/research.php>). For more information about Ecphora membership, see <http://www.museumoftheearth.org/getinvolved.php?page=membership/ecphoramembership>.



AMS Website Additions

Submitted by Gene Coan, Alan Kabat, and Richard Petit.

We are pleased to report that the 2013 editions of "2,400 Years of Malacology" and the "Annotated Catalog of Malacological Meetings, Including Symposia and Workshops in Malacology" are now on the AMS website, at <http://www.malacological.org/epubs.html>. The "2,400 Years of Malacology," now over 1,000 pages, has numerous biographical and bibliographical references to malacologists, expeditions, malacological serials, and research museum collections, along with extensive appendices containing collations of the publication dates of important malacological works that were published over a period of years. The "Annotated Catalog of Malacological Meetings" includes not only those that were convened by malacological societies but also those convened by other organizations, as well as free-standing meetings. As before, we welcome additions and corrections.



In Search of Photographs and Family History

Submitted by Richard Petit

Photographs and family history information is needed for Tom L. McGinty and Paul L. McGinty, their father Paul D. McGinty, and their cousins the Dunbars. In addition to photographs especially needed are the names (and nicknames in order to connect certain people) of members of the small group that spent so much time and effort collecting mollusks in south Florida in the 1930-1970 decades. Material is being accumulated for a paper on the McGintys, their collecting expeditions and their unsurpassed collection of Florida mollusks. Any information will be appreciated. Please contact r.e.petit@att.net. Thank you!



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Heart of *Biomphalaria glabrata* as a Site for the Localization of *Echinostoma caproni* Sporocysts.

Contributed by Bernard Fried and Amanda Balaban

Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042

Relatively little information is available on the heart of *Biomphalaria glabrata* as a site of sporocyst localization of *Echinostoma caproni* in the snail. Most studies on larval *E. caproni* in *B. glabrata* have examined the snails infected with rediae at 4 to 8 weeks post infection (PI). At this time the rediae are localized in the snail digestive gland-gonad complex (DGG) (see Fried and Huffman, 1996 for review). To show localization of the sporocyst stage in the snail heart, we exposed 25 snails (5mm in diameter) to about 250 *E. caproni* miracidia. This was an en masse exposure over 24 hours in a large petri dish (200mm in diameter) containing about 200mL of artificial spring water (ASW). Following exposure, the water was changed about every other day and the snails were fed ad libitum on a lettuce diet until 10 snails were necropsied at 7 days PI. The 10 snails were examined to observe the sporocysts in the heart. At necropsy, 7 of the snails were infected with about 5 to 20 sporocysts per snail. For the examination, each snail heart was dissected from the body of the snail, placed on a glass slide and lightly compressed with a cover slip in a drop of saline. A typical low power micrograph showing sporocysts protruding from the ventricle of the heart is shown in Fig. 1.



Figure 1. Low power (100x) view of sporocysts protruding from the heart.



Figure 2. Higher power view (200x) of sporocysts protruding from the heart.

A higher magnification picture is shown in Fig. 2 and developing germinal balls (presumably the future generation of rediae) can be seen in some of these sporocysts. The size of the sporocysts at 7 days PI ranged from about 200-400 μ m in length. In regard to sporocyst migration, it is known that this stage migrates to and localizes in the snail DGG prior to its transformation to rediae. Details of this migration and transformation are poorly understood. Likewise, information on the initial attack and penetration by miracidia, which typically infect the snail in the anterior body region prior to transformation to sporocysts and migration to the heart are not well known. Furthermore, information on the histopathology and pathobiochemistry of the *E. caproni* sporocyst in the snail heart is for the most part lacking. More studies are needed to get a better understanding of the host parasite relationships of the sporocyst of *E. caproni* and the heart of *B. glabrata*.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Dr. Fred A. Lewis, head of the Schistosomiasis Laboratory, Biomedical Research Institute, Rockville, Maryland, for supplying *B. glabrata* snails used in this work through NIH-NIAID contract NO1-AI-55270.

Literature Cited

Fried, B. and J. E. Huffman (1996) The biology of the intestinal trematode *Echinostoma caproni*. *Advances in Parasitology* 38: 311-368.



MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Contributions to the biannual AMS newsletter are always welcomed. Send articles, short notes or news items to **Christine Parent**, the newsletter editor, at the following address:

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