

The Malacological Society of London

[www.malacsoc.org.uk](http://www.malacsoc.org.uk)

***Molluscan Forum***

Wednesday 5th November 2025
9.00 – 6.30

Flett Lecture Theatre

Natural History Museum, London

# CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS AND PAPERS

This informal, annual, and successful meeting is designed to bring together people starting their research on molluscs, to give them the opportunity to present and discuss their work and to compare notes on methods and problems.

Attendance at the Molluscan Forum is open to all, but presenters should be **research students, post-doctoral researchers, undergraduate students** starting molluscan projects, and **amateurs** engaged in substantial projects that have not yet been published. Any topic related to molluscs is acceptable: palaeontological, physiological, behavioural, ecological, systematic, morphological, cellular, or molecular.

Talks (~12 minutes), quick fire talks (~3 minutes) or posters may be offered. They need not be polished accounts of completed work; descriptions of new methods, work in progress, and appeals for assistance with unsolved problems are equally acceptable.

This year we will be returning to our historical format of in-person only talks, which will be broadcast virtually for those not able to attend.

There is **NO** registration fee.

**Enquiries and registrations to:**

events@malacsoc.org.uk

**Non-presenters:**

Virtual attendance of talk sessions for non-presenters will be possible (poster sessions will be in person), so please indicate whether you will be attending in person or virtually.

Please let us know you will be coming so that we can estimate numbers.

The Malacological Society of London

**Molluscan Forum, Wednesday 5th November 2025**

**9.00 – 6.30**

**Flett Lecture Theatre, Natural History Museum, London**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Return before 19th September 2025, by email to:**

events@malacsoc.org.uk

Name................................................................................................................……………

Institute..........................................................................................................…………..…

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Email.................................................................................................……………...............

**Status:** PhD student / Masters student / Undergraduate / Post-doctoral researcher / amateur (delete as appropriate)

 ‘Other’ (please state) ………………………..

I wish to give a talk (12 min)/ quick fire talk (3 Min)/ poster (delete as appropriate) entitled:

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Please attach, as a Microsoft Word attachment, an abstract of not more than 300 words, TOGETHER WITH TWO .JPG IMAGES IN SUPPORT OF THE ABSTRACT.   Abstracts and images of accepted contributions will be published in the Society’s on-line bulletin which is called *The Malacologist. The Malacologist* has an ISSN number and is published and archived on the website of the MSL.

Posters should be roll-ups or mounted on stiff cards and should require no more than a 1 metre x 1 metre display area. They will be mounted on boards (velcro supplied).

If you are unable to get financial support from elsewhere (students and amateurs only) and need assistance with travel costs, please enter here the cost of the cheapest possible public transport return fare to London (maximum £250).

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Funding is not guaranteed but we endeavour to support as many presenters as possible. Late registrations may miss the opportunity for financial support. The support will be limited, so funding from elsewhere should be sought first. A provisional programme will be sent out late October.

Abstract submission

Abstracts submitted for the Molluscan Forum should be sent as Microsoft Word files.

Abstract submission

Please use the following format:

Title (12pt, centred)
<blank line>
Authors (10 pt, centred, presenting author underlined; use superscript numbers to indicate institutional affiliation)
<blank line>
Institutions (10pt, centred; in this order: Number (superscript), Department, Institution, City, Country)
Presenting Author email
<blank line>
Abstract (11pt, no indentation, justified, 350 words maximum)

**EXAMPLE ABSTRACT**

**The Geographic Scale of Speciation in *Stramonita* (Neogastropoda: Muricidae)**

**Martine Claremont1,2, Suzanne T. Williams1, Timothy G. Barraclough2, and David G. Reid1**

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2Department of Biology, Imperial College London, Berkshire, UK

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*Stramonita* is a relatively small, well-defined genus of muricid marine gastropods limited to the tropical Eastern Pacific and the Atlantic. The type species, *S. haemastoma*, is known to have teleplanic larvae and is estimated to remain in the water column for several weeks. *Stramonita haemastoma* shows regional variation, and this has led to the recognition of five geographical subspecies: *S. h. haemastoma*, from the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic to Brazil, *S. h. floridiana*, on the east coast of Florida and in the Eastern Caribbean, *S. h. caniculata* on the west coast of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, *S. h. rustica* in the Western Caribbean and *S. h. biserialis* in the Eastern Pacific. The protoconch has been shown to be similar across the *S. haemastoma* complex, implying that all subspecies have equally long lived larvae. Within these subspecies, cryptic variation is suspected. For example, *S. h. biserialis* is suggested to be differentiated North/South on a small scale. In the presence of teleplanic larvae, speciation on such a small scale seems paradoxical. Various explanations for this paradox are possible. Actual (or realized) dispersal of *Stramonita* species may be more limited than presently believed, leading to allopatric differentiation. Alternatively, morphological differentiation may not be a reliable indicator of genetic differentiation, and *S. haemastoma* (*sensu lato*) might indeed prove to be a single taxa. It is also possible that ecological speciation could result in geographical speciation on a small scale in the presence of wide dispersal. My results suggest that five species of *Stramonita* are present in the Caribbean, at least three of which occur sympatrically. Gene flow is maintained between Caribbean and Mediterranean populations in at least one species, while no genetic differentiation was found along the Eastern Pacific coast. The implications of these results are discussed.