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# The Malacologist

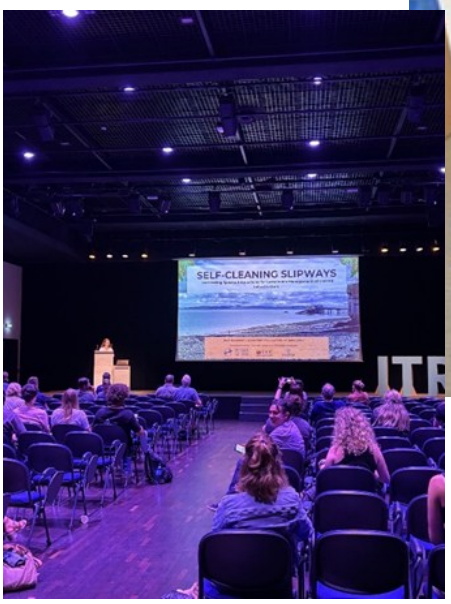
## The Bulletin of The Malacological Society of London

NUMBER 85 AUGUST 2025

**Contents**



**This issue includes a report of Council from the 132nd AGM of the Malacological Society of London.**




**These images are from the travel grant report by Sally Henderson who attended the 14th International Temperate Reefs Symposium 2025, in Brest, France (page 14)**

The Malacological Society of London was founded in 1893 and registered as a charity in 1978
(Charity Number 275980)

## EDITORIAL

Late summer is sometimes called (particularly by journalists) the 'silly season. This is because August is often a quiet time for the news, and consequently, the more silly stories can end up on the front pages. In similar vein, this issue of *The Malacologist* is somewhat lighter than usual (twenty pages compared with fifty three pages in the last issue), partly because we did not have a conference associated with the AGM, so there are no abstracts to report. Nevertheless, Angus Davison, Associate Professor and Reader at the University of Nottingham, gave a fascinating talk at the AGM on *Left right asymmetry in mirror image snails.*

In the current issue (85), the Annual Report of Council is presented on page 6, together with a report from our new President, Dr Fiona Allen; we wish her well in her new role. This Annual Report reveals a small but very active Society doing its best to fulfil its objectives to support research in malacology, particularly by supporting education (through the Global Participation Postgraduate Student Scheme—see page 19). travel to conferences (see the report on page 14 from Sally Henderson on her trip to the 14th International Temperate Reefs Symposium 2025, Brest, France) and research (through the Senior Research Grants and Early Career Grants). For example, on page 12, Piero Amodio reports on *Seeking the social octopus in the wild.* He didn't find one, but his account reveals where and how they might be found in the future.

The Society also promotes malacology by organising conferences such as the Malacologist's Forum, which is a truly international event. The next Forum takes place in London in November 2025 and further information can be found in this issue on pages 15-17. As is clear from the Notes section in this issue, molluscs frequently make it into the press, often as the butt of feeble jokes. It could be interesting to compare major taxonomic groups as they appear in the press headlines. Are insects represented as often as molluscs I wonder, and how positively?

**TAXONOMIC/NOMENCLATURAL DISCLAIMER**
This publication is not deemed to be valid for taxonomic/nomenclatural purposes [see Article 8b in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature 3rd Edition (1985), edited by W.D. Ride *et al.*].

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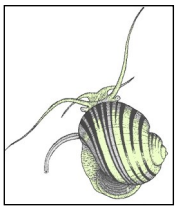
Emeritus Prof. Georges Dussart
Canterbury Christ Church University
Canterbury,
Kent CT1 3JZ

## News and notes

### Malacological Society of London Molluscan Forum



**Wednesday the 5th of November 2025**
The forum will be held in the Flett lecture theatre (Natural History Museum, London). Talks will be broadcast virtually; however, the forum has now returned to the traditional in-person format for speakers. We would encourage all delegates to attend in-person, where possible, to engage with speakers and other attendees.
For those wishing to present, please fill out a registration form (Page 16 of this issue).
For those just wanting to attend, please let us know whether you will be attending in person or virtually so that we can keep track of attendees.
For presenters, there is the option of a full talk (~12 minutes), a quick-fire talk (~3 minutes) or a poster,
Travel funding is available for speakers unable to find funding from their institutes or other sources, please see the application form for further details.

The deadline for registrations and talk applications is **Friday the 19th of September**, presenters will be informed of successful applications soon after. **Registration is free**!

James Witts, Fiona Allan, and the Council of the Malacological Society of London

### Disposal of a collection of *Peringia ulvae* serial sections

From Graham Walters

In the early 1970's I worked for my PhD on *Peringia ulvae* in the Medway estuary, Kent, investigating potential ecological effects of the thermal discharge from a new power station. Part of the work involved serial sectioning of snails collected monthly over a 2 year period (1970-72), looking for effects of enhanced temperatures on the reproductive system. I noted what was later to be recognised as imposex, but at the time saw the phenomenon as an interesting aspect but without much significance.

I still have the microscope slides (around 3000, one snail per slide). I have no facilities to further any work with them and they have lain in my attic for many years. So I am wondering if any members of the Malacological Society might be interested in having them. I imagine its possible that slides of females with male attributes could have higher levels of tributyl tin that these days could be measured, maybe worthy of study?

I'd be happy for the slides to go to a good home, especially if they can be used further in some way. The snails were collected monthly from mudflats in two locations, one upstream of the power station and one in the discharge channel.

If you are interested in the collection or have any questions contact graham.walters07@gmail.com

**Octopus goes for a ride on the back of a shark – Guardian article**
https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/21/octopus-shark-ride?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

**Milking snails**

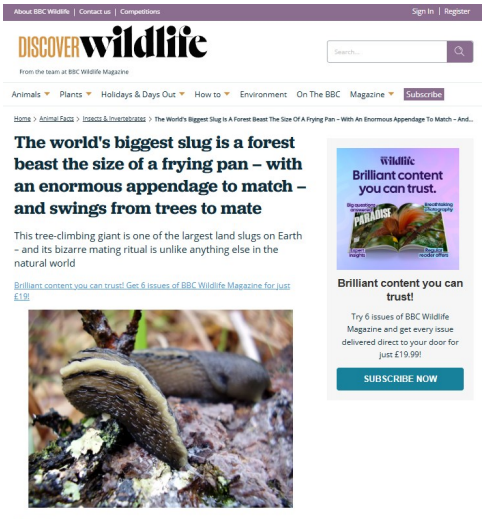
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/may/16/mexico-snail-milkers-mixtec-dye-purpura-aoe?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

On the Pacific coast, dye is extracted from a rare species of snail, *Plicopurpura columnelaris*,. "It is one of the oldest methods still practised today for dyeing yarn for clothing," says Mexican ethnologist Marta Turok. "The coastal Mixtecs in Oaxaca have been using it for at least 1,500 years." The Mixtecs call the colour *tixinda*.

**Silence of the clams: health status of *Mya arenaria* clams in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park**
François Gagné, André, C., Lacroix,E., Turgeon, S. & Ménard N
*Academia Biology*, **3** (2) doi.org/10.20935/AcadBiol7705
francois.gagne@ec.gc.ca

The cumulative effects of pollution of intertidal clam populations should be investigated to ensure the sustainable perennity of our resources. The purpose of this study was to examine the health status of intertidal clams and tissue levels of essential and non-essential elements at sites under anthropogenic stress. Clams were collected at two anthropized sites, a St. Lawrence Estuary (SLE) beluga high-residency area and reference site in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park (Québec, Canada). Clam health status was determined by the condition factor (CF: wet weight/shell length ratio), growth index (GI: shell length/age), air survival time and weight loss index (WLI). Elemental analysis was also performed in soft tissues. The data revealed that clams from at least one of the harbor/marina sites had reduced CF, GI and WLI. Air survival time was not affected at the anthropized sites but was significantly higher at the St. Lawrence Estuary beluga high-residency area. The clams were contaminated by Ag, Al, Cd, Cu, Hg and V, with a decrease in essential cations (K, Ca, Mg) suggesting altered osmoregulation. Although the individual metals in tissues were not found at harmful concentrations based on reported data, the combined effects of non-essential elements could not be excluded. More research will be needed to better understand the cumulative effects of various stressors, such as low salinity, algal toxins and elemental composition, on clam health status.

**From the BBC**




https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/insects-invertebrates/biggest-slug

**Molluscan place name quiz**

Many UK villages and towns have unusual names, but not many have a molluscan-based name. Here are two - Snailbeach and Musselburgh. In which counties in the UK are they located? The answer is on the last page of this issue.


If you know of any other settlements that have molluscan names please inform the Editor. They will be included in a future issue.

## Malacology in the New Scientist

Marine biology

### Cuttlefish disguise themselves as coral when hunting prey

Sofia Quaglia

This cuttlefish mimics coral by splaying its arms and changing its colour

DAZZLING camouflage helps cuttlefish transform themselves into non-threatening objects while stalking their prey.

"These are masters, the hypnotists of the underwater world," says Matteo Santon at the University of Bristol, UK.

Cuttlefish can change their colour and texture in less than a second thanks to millions of pigment sacs in their skin called chromatophores. They can also create and control precise patterns on their bodies, such as moving stripes. When Santon travelled to Indonesia to study these kinds of abilities in broadclub cuttlefish (*Sepia latimonus*), he realised each individual could pull off different forms of camouflage, something he says is "very unusual".

He and his colleagues filmed 98 cuttlefish pursuing prey 234 times. On some hunts, the animals turned pale grey, extended an arm on each side and flashed a dark stripe repeatedly down their body. Some also splayed all eight arms out in front of their body and turned a mottled yellow and orange to resemble a branched coral. Others mimicked a leaf by turning shades of olive green, sticking out their arms in three directions and slowly floating up and down (*Ecology*, doi.org/n7ns).

Each technique probably has a different purpose, says Santon. His preliminary research suggests sliding stripes mask the cuttlefish's approach or create enough visual noise to bamboozle prey. The leaf and coral camouflages may be attempts to look like non-threatening objects.

These displays could allow cuttlefish to approach prey faster and avoid being spotted by their own predators, says Trevor Wardill at the University of Minnesota.

But it is unclear how cuttlefish decide which display to use and when. Their choices may depend on the environment or the type of prey they are hunting, or they might just use a random rotation of camouflage types.

Wardill's octopus research shows that their strategy for hunting varies according to prey. He says it is "quite possible" that cuttlefish are also choosing their camouflage technique based on the meal they are pursuing. ▮

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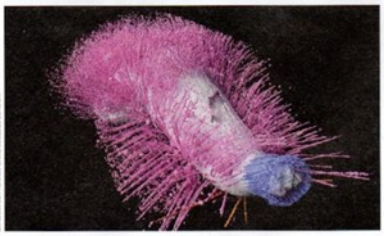
Palaeontology

### Punk and Emo rock our ideas of ancient molluscs



Spikes on the Emo mollusc, shown here as a model, may have been for protection

FOSSILS of two prehistoric marine molluscs with distinctive spiky "hairstyles" have been discovered and named Punk and Emo.

Their strange appearance highlights the ancient diversity of molluscs – which nowadays include organisms like snails, slugs, clams and octopuses.

"Some people may be a bit down on molluscs. My partner called them loser animals. But they're one of the really major branches of life," says Mark Sutton at Imperial College London.

He and his team unearthed the finds, which date back 430 million years, at a UK site known as the Herefordshire Lagerstätte.

The fossils, from a group of molluscs known as Aculifera, were so delicate that the researchers couldn't just crack open the stone that contained them because that would destroy their fragile forms.

Instead, they used X-ray scans to discern the structures inside the rock and then took thin slices of the material, photographing each layer and then putting the images together to create a 3D picture of what the organisms looked like.

Both species were worm-like, about 2 centimetres long and with lengthy spines (*Nature*, doi.org/n2fc).

The music-related monikers were originally pet names, says Sutton, because the spike-laden fossils were reminiscent of hairstyles from the punk rock movement, but the names stuck, leading to the official suggestions of *Punk ferox* and *Emo vorticaudum*.

"The spikes are probably mostly protective," says Sutton, although it is possible that they were formed because the organisms needed to get rid of calcium that accumulated in their bodies as they went about life in the sea. ▮

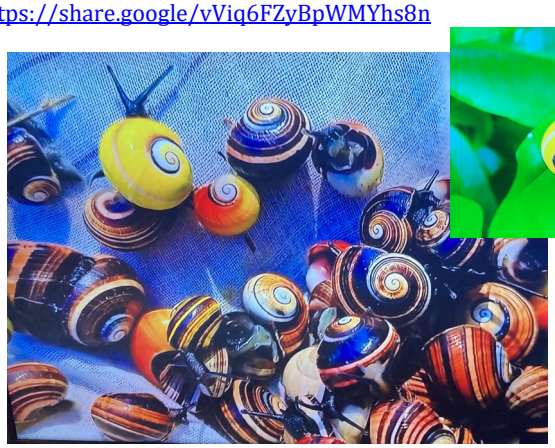
Chris Simms

18 January 2025 | New Scientist | 11

## Malacology on the BBC....

**BBC News - Mission begins to save snails threatened by own beauty**

Mission under way to save 'world's most beautiful' snails
https://share.google/vViq6FZyBpWMYhs8n



## ...and in rural France

**Snail made of rubbish at a festival of recycling in France**

## ...and on the internet

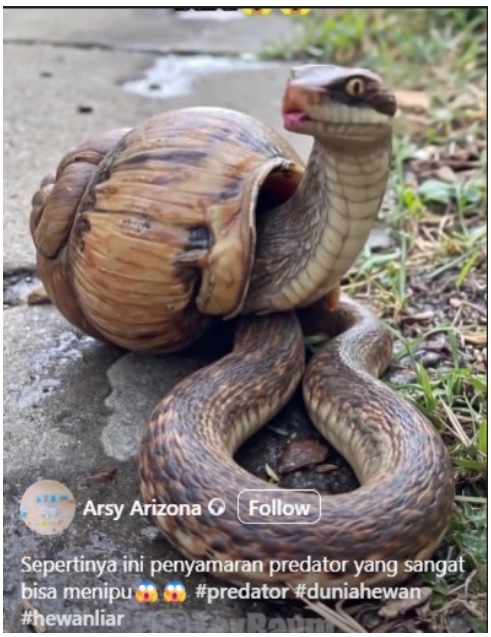

## ...and in the New Statesman

**Malacology when news was in short supply .....**



**From the internet ...**
**snake inside a snail shell**

Is this real or is it an AI fake?




# Octopuses also fall for the rubber hand illusion

James Woodford


JUST like humans, octopuses can be fooled into thinking a fake arm is actually theirs.

First demonstrated in the late 1990s, the rubber hand illusion involves hiding a person's real hand and placing a fake one on a table in front of them, then stroking both simultaneously. Later, it was found that other mammals, such as mice, can also be fooled by the same trick.

Now, Sumire Kawashima and Yuzuru Ikeda at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan, have discovered that octopuses are also vulnerable to the illusion.

For the study, captive plain-body octopuses (*Callistoctopus aspilosomatis*) were placed in an experimental tank. A fake octopus arm made of soft gel attached to an opaque partition was placed over one of the octopus's arms, blocking its view of the real arm. Then one of the researchers used plastic callipers to stroke both the fake arm and the real arm at the same time.

After about 8 seconds, the researcher pinched the fake arm with tweezers. All six of the octopuses that participated in 24 trials of this test exhibited defence responses, such as changing colour, retracting their arm or fleeing.

**This plain-body octopus had a fake arm placed over one of its real ones**

When the test was carried out with no stroking or with non-simultaneous stroking, or when the posture of the fake arm didn't match that of the real arm, the effect of the illusion disappeared (*Current Biology*, doi.org/g9twp7).

The experiment demonstrates both a benefit and a flaw in the wiring of human and octopus brains, says Ikeda. "The illusion would suggest the ability for octopuses to anticipate and predict, which is advantageous for survival," he says. "On the other hand, this ability arises as a side effect of a mistake or conflict of processing in the brain and is also a flaw."

Peter Godfrey-Smith at the University of Sydney, Australia, says the results were unexpected for him. "It suggests that octopuses have quite a rich body image," he says. "I am struck by the fact that the 'posture incongruence' condition worked as it did: the octopuses did not see the rubber arm as their own in that case, despite the stroking."

# Annual report of Council of the Malacological Society of London 2024/2025



**The 132nd Annual General Meeting of the Malacological Society of London took place on the 30th April 2025 13:00 to 14:00 on-line.**

## Annual report of Council, delivered by the President, Fiona Allan

### Membership Report - (report from Harriet Wood)

At the end of 2024, the Malacological Society of London (MSL) had 91 members. The membership was made up of 56 ordinary members, 32 students and 3 honorary members (including the journal Editor). This was down by 8 members from the previous year, with 38% from non-UK countries and 34 new members.

For the first time in many years, the membership fee increased at the start of 2025, changing from £25 to £29 for Student members and £45 to £50 for Ordinary members. With the completion of the new 'membership level referral access system', between the Oxford University Press (OUP) and MSL websites, all members renewing or joining for the first time through the MSL website were able to get immediate access to the online journal. The new membership year was a real test for this system, and it has run very smoothly whilst greatly streamlining the processing of members for both MSL and OUP. We thank OUP for their support with this implementation.

So far in 2025, we have 65 members, which is unfortunately a lot lower than the previous two years. In particular, there has been a drop in the number of Student members, with less than half the number compared to this time in 2024; the number of Ordinary members is roughly the same. The reduction in Student members crosses both those paying and those applying for free membership through the Broadening Access Membership Scheme (BAMS), of which we have had only one applicant so far this year. We do encourage the membership to advertise this scheme to anyone who might be interested: Broadening Access Membership Scheme - The Malacological Society of London (malacsoc.org.uk). We would also like to welcome our new Honorary member, Prof. Robert Cameron, who has supported the Society and Council for many years.

### Financial report for 2024 (report from the Honorary Treasurer, Dr Tom S. White)

Finance for the financial year ending 31st December 2024

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my predecessor, Dr Katrin Linse, for her careful stewardship of the Society's finances, which have continued to remain stable during 2024; the Society is in excellent financial health, with plenty of reserves should income become an issue.

The Society again enjoyed an overall gain of £53,303, largely due to gains in the Fixed Interest and Investment funds. Higher expenditure on awards and meetings was made in 2023 (compared with previous years), and this trend continued in 2024, drawing mainly on income from Oxford University Press.

As of 31st December 2024, the total funds of the Malacological Society of London are £581,559.53, of which £118,362.81 are in cash deposits, and £463,196.72 in its COIF investment funds. During 2024, no funds were transferred from the current account to savings accounts.

In 2024 the main charitable activities were the funding of ECR and SCR research projects (total cost of £7578), supporting students to attend conferences (£2077) and the Molluscan Forum (£1500). The Annual Award was also made (£500). These figures are lower than in 2023 due to several recipients claiming their awards in January 2025, due to the timing of the awards round.

Separately, the profit-share from the publication of the *Journal of Molluscan Studies* (*JMS*) in 2024 provided the Society with most of its income to its cash account, contributing £42,399, a slight reduction on the £44,092 received in 2023. The Editor of the Journal, Dr Dinarzarde Raheem, and the Assistant Editors are to be commended for their hard work contributing to the publication of our scientific journal.

In 2024, travel and meeting related spending was £2,147 / £7,212, a reduction on the much higher spending in 2023 (£9,815 / £8,577) and in line with expenditure in 2022 (£2840 / £6423). Overall expenditure was lower than in 2023, but given the gains being made in the investment funds it will be worth discussing how to balance the need to maintain a financial cushion for the Society with an uplift in spending for future awards rounds.

### Meetings

### (1) The AGM (report from the President Fiona Allan)

The 132 AGM was held as a virtual meeting on the 30th April 2025.
There was an invited talk by :
**Angus Davison**: *Left right asymmetry in mirror image snails*
Angus delivered a fascinating talk from field to genomics, highlighting the breadth of exciting research in malacology.

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**(2) The Molluscan Forum (report by organiser Phil Hollyman)**

The 26th annual molluscan forum was held on the 20th of November 2024, as a hybrid meeting on teams, and in person at the Flett Lecture theatre, Natural History Museum. Over 90 people registered in advance for the event with well over half attending in person. Similar to previous years, the addition of quick-fire virtual sessions and online broadcasting via teams had a clear impact on accessibility for international delegates, improving the ability of many people to attend and present.

Overall, there were 60 applications for full talks, quick-fire talks and posters, of which we were able to accommodate 41 presentations throughout the day. The Oxford prize, awarded annually for the best early career talk, was given to Lisette Mekkes (Naturalis Biodiversity Center & University of Amsterdam) for her talk titled: '*Contrasting calcification patterns between juvenile and adult pteropods along a latitudinal gradient across the Atlantic '.*

**Publications**

**(1) *The Malacologist* (report from Georges Dussart)**

The August issues of *The Malacologist* routinely include the minutes of the AGM which takes place several months earlier in that year. The 2024 AGM was paired with a conference entitled *Biology of Limpets: evolution, adaptation, ecology and environmental impacts* which took place on the 5th & 6th March 2024 at the Natural History Museum, London. This meeting was the brainchild of Professor Alan Hodgson who gave an opening presentation on the biography of malacologist J.H.Orton. The abstracts from the conference presentations formed a major part of the August issue. This issue (83) also included two Senior Research Grant (SRG) reports. Firstly, Chiara Papetti described research on the estimation of mutation rates in the Venus clam *Chamelea gallina* and secondly, Halyna Morhun described research on species evolution in *Union crassus.* Issue 83 also included an invited article on J. Orton by Professor Alan Hodgson

The February issue of *The Malacologist* customarily includes abstracts from presentations at the Molluscan Forum, which takes place in the preceding November. In 2024, the Molluscan Forum was well-supported, leading to a more extensive list of abstracts than usual. Consequently, at 53 pages, the February 2025 issue of *The Malacologist* (Issue 84) was longer than usual. A wide range of subjects were covered in the abstracts, ranging from the embryonic development of the peripatetic Paintpot cuttlefish to the biology of 'swimmers itch in Poland, caused by the larvae of schistosomatid flatworms.

Three recipients of Early Career Research grants reported on their research in Issue 84. Elisa Nocella of the Sapienza University of Rome described research into the evolution of mollucan corallivory in the Coralliophilinae . Giacomo Chiappae described his research into poecilogony in *Raphitoma bellardi* and Andrew Torres of the NHM described the construction of a reference sequence library for a new gastropod eDNA metabarcoding marker. Recipients of travel awards also submitted reports for publication. Lauren Eggleton described her experiences at EUROMAL 2024 and Molly Rivers described her participation in a collaborative workshop for knowledge exchange and proposal, development at

**(2) *The Journal of Molluscan Studies* (report from Dinarzarde Raheem)**

The ISI impact factor for the *Journalod Molluscan Studies (JMS)* in 2023 increased to 1.9 (compared with 1.2 in 2022, 1.631 in 2021, 1.348 in 2020 and 1.461 in 2019). *JMS* stands at number 31 in the ISI list of 180 zoological journals (it was 92 out of 176 in the previous year). It continues to be truly international in terms of the geographical distribution of its authors; for volume 89 (2023) the corresponding authors represented 12 countries (of which the leaders were 42% USA and 33% Brazil).

Circulation for the *JMS* in 2024 was 25 institutional and 90 membership subscriptions (compared with 28 and 100 respectively for 2023). In addition, a further 2,624 institutions have electronic access to *JMS* through publishers' collections (includes migrated figures; compared with 2,368 in 2023) and around 35 institutions have access through OUP's Developing Countries Offer, which constitutes 107 eligible countries with either free or reduced rate access (for details see https://academic.oup.com/pages/purchasing/low-and-middle-income-countries-initiative).

The new pricing structure has been fixed for 2025. The cost for an online-only subscription is £652 /$1214/€980 for institutional subscriptions. Please see https://academic.oup.com/mollus/subscribe for more information.

Volume 90 (2024) contained 59 papers, research notes and review articles. In total, 110 manuscripts were submitted in 2023 (an increase of 18% on the 94 in 2022) and the acceptance rate was 53%. The image of a galeommatoidean bivalve on the cover of Volume 91 was kindly donated by Laurent Charles.

Our board of Associate Editors is now: Coenraad Adema (immunology, genomics, parasitology), Thierry Backeljau (molecular phylogenetics and genetics), Liz Boulding (population and reproductive biology), Richard Cook (agricultural malacology, physiology, feeding behaviour), Simon Cragg (life histories, sense organs), John Grahame (population genetics, morphometrics), Liz Harper (marine bivalves), Gerhard Haszprunar (microanatomy, 3D reconstruction, minor molluscan classes), Bernhard Hausdorf (terrestrial gastropods), Michal Horsák (ecology and biogeography of terrestrial gastropods), Yasunori Kano (systematics of vetigastropods, tropical ecology), Joris Koene (reproductive behaviour of gastropods), Kara Layton (heterobranch systematics and biology), Nicole Limondin-Lozouet (palaeoecology), Manuel Malaquias (opisthobranchs), Peter Marko (marine biogeography and phylogenetics), Pablo Martín (freshwater ecology, life history), Ellinor Michel (ecology, freshwater gastropods), Jeff Nekola (community ecology of terrestrial gastropods), .

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Nicolas Puillandre (neogastropods), Ellen Strong (freshwater and marine caenogastropods), Janet Voight (cephalopods), Janice Voltzow (microscopic anatomy), Tony Walker (biochemistry, immunology, cytology), Suzanne Williams (molecular phylogenetics and genetics) and Yoichi Yusa (general ecology and behaviour). Mark Davies and Dan Graf have stepped down from the editorial board and my grateful thanks to them for their many years of dedicated service to the journal.

I would like to thank all the members of the editorial board and those members of the international malacological community who have contributed to the review process. At Oxford University Press, I would like to thank Sadie Griffiths (Publisher); Ashley Petrylak (Interim Editorial Director, Science Journals); Chloe Francis (Senior Journal Manager – Production); James Fellows (System Manager); Cindy Hyde (JMS editorial office); and Hannah Chippendale and Amy Young (OUP Production Specialist Team). My thanks also to Gulshan Kumar and the production team at Aptara Incorporated for their work on behalf of the *JMS*.

**Website (report from John Grahame)**

Sporadic and sometimes rather tardy maintenance of the Society's web pages has continued. The page for Council Members is up-to-date (until the AGM), The Radley Library entry has been tidied up with the loss of a little information, but this reflects the fact that the context of the Library has slightly changed.

**Facebook & Twitter (report from Vicky Sleight)**

Twitter/X followers = 842
Facebook followers = 3,300

We now have two new social accounts:
Instagram, followers = 72 (@malacsoc)
Bluesky, followers = 55 (@https://uk01.l.antigena.com/l/dS41y4P6yHtbyuodaES-DfkcMB54PCmOvKcEOcmELQu_fw_586a1A1Y6r7wHT-kgJ8QVPs3cQDlPnz1B2PjPmiDSe9D7PEjAj5bVGMnuIK2e6U9VttGF--HPUN1zRKzs7msYnkL )

VS will use content from *The Malacologist* to populate social sites, as well as continue to use for advertising events/news.

**Awards (report from Alan Hodgson)**

In June 2024 there were three applications for Senior Research Awards and all three were successful. In December 2024 there were 17 applications for Early Career Research awards of which it was possible to fund seven. Finally seven applications met the deadline date of March 1st for Travel awards in 2025 and four awards were made.

**Change to Membership Costs of the Society**

Due to an increase in costs from our journal publisher OUP, our membership costs increased, so for 2025 student membership fees are now £29. Full membership fees are now £50.

**President's Report**

In my first year as President, I would like to start by thanking the supportive and understanding people that make up the Council. It has been a massive honour to be President this year and I do hope to continue. It is only possible to carry out this role with my fellow Council members who have helped me with so many questions and issues throughout the year. I'd particularly like to thank Jon Ablett for the amazing support and wonderful handover (which is still ongoing), and additionally, Katrin Linse for answering all queries about rules and regulations of the Society.

With the Molluscan Forum and the awards, we showcase what we can do as a society, supporting knowledge exchange and projects that are of interest to the malacological community. The meetings provide an inclusive space not only for students and early career researchers to share their work but to network, and have discussions with more senior researchers. I thoroughly enjoyed the diverse and excellent new research coming from the forum this year. I sincerely hope the society continues to put the time and money into these, supporting early research and researchers in malacology is great cause and we do it well.

There has been some change in roles this year on Council and I would like to thank those who have played a massive part in helping the society move forward. I would particularly like to thank Debbie Wall-Palmer for her excellent work as Secretary and for keeping the Council informed and on track, for longer than she anticipated and we welcome Phil Hollyman into the role. As Katrin Linse steps back from her role as Treasurer I would like to thank her on behalf of the Council as a whole for her outstanding work as Treasurer, and again thank Tom White for stepping up to the Treasurer role.

It has been an interesting year President and I look forward to the coming year. Thanks again to the membership and the whole Council for all you contribute to the society.

Fiona Allan

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**Officers and Council**

Council at April 2025, and nominations going forward to 2026:

| Year of existence | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 |
|---|---|---|
| | 131 | 132 |
| President | Fiona Allan (1) | Fiona Allan (2) |
| Vice Presidents | Phillip Hollyman (3) | Victoria Sleight (1) |
| | Aidan Emery (1) | Aidan Emery (2) |
| *Ex officio* | Jon Ablett (1) | |
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| | Katie Collins (1) | Katie Collins (2) |
| | James Witts (1) | James Witts (2) |
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*Numbers indicate years in post; posts are for 3 years.*

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# WORKSHOP GRANT REPORT

## A Workshop on the Identification of the Land Snails of the Western Ghats at the Central University of Kerala, India

**Dinarzarde C. Raheem[1], Ramachandran Kotharambath[2], David J. Gower[3], Amrut Bhosale[4] & Kumudu Wijesooriya[5]**

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[2] Department of Zoology, Central University of Kerala, Tejaswini Hills, Periya, Kasaragod District, Kerala State, India.
[3] Herpetology, Natural History Museum, London, UK.
[4] Thackeray Wildlife Foundation, Mumbai, India.



A two-day workshop on the identification of Western Ghats' land snails was held on 19 and 20 February 2025 at the Central University of Kerala (CUK), Kasaragod, India. The workshop formed part of a three-day seminar (18–20 February 2025), the *VAJRA 2.0 Seminar 2025: 21st Century Collection-based Natural History*, organized by R.K. and D.J.G. The objective of the workshop was to introduce participants to the Western Ghats' land-snail fauna and the field identification of characteristic forest-living genera and species. The land-snail fauna of the Western Ghats is rich in endemic species (70% of the *c.* 300 species described are endemic to the region) and is globally important, forming part of the Western Ghats–Sri Lanka Biological Hotspot. Our understanding of the taxonomic diversity of this fauna is still limited and many species are threatened by the loss of their natural forest habitat.

The workshop was targeted at postgraduate students from CUK with no prior experience of land-snail identification and was attended by 39 full-time MSc and PhD students (**Fig. 1**). The participants were: Hitesh Gowda G.R., Amina Rifa M., M.P. Sariga, Navya Mohan Palakkad, Vadhanya Gopal Krishna, Peddoni Srivani, Dhinila Dheeraj, Snigdha P., Panchami V., Das Satyaajit Baro, Sameeksha R., Daniya Gafoor, Akshay C. Amble, Gangothri N., Kedasi Sindhuja, Hemachandrika S., Chaithanya Unnikrishnan, Nandhana Dileep, Anuja A.L., Anand S., Vaishnav K., Kabilan M., Mahesh K.M., Fathimasherin V.M., Vufila Umar T.P., Sadhana S., Amna M. Fathima, Rohit Rajeev, Bhavya Lakshmi, Misbah, Gayathri Sunil, Adhithya K.V., Diya T., Padmashree N., Ramit Mitra, Ranjith V., Akhila K., Mariette Ann Paul and Aleena Elizabeth Cyril. The workshop began with a three-hour shell study session on day 1 (**Fig. 2**), which gave participants the opportunity to handle and examine the shells of nearly all the genera recorded from across the Western Ghats. Day 2 involved an excursion to Ranipuram Forest Reserve (**Fig. 3**), an area of rainforest in the central Western Ghats, Kerala (Kasaragod District). For most of the participants, this was their first experience of fieldwork in natural forest. Despite the extremely dry weather, the site proved very rich in land-snail species richness and abundance, with both shells and live individuals being found. A total of 15 species from at least 12 genera was recorded (**Fig. 4**): *Glessula*/*Rishetia* (2 spp.), *Beddomea* (1 sp.), *Euplecta* (1 sp.), *Philalanka* (2 spp.), *Allopeas* (?) (1 sp.), *Eutomopeas* (?) (1 sp.), *Eurychlamys* (2 spp.), *Thysanota*/*Ruthvenia* sp. (1 species), *Lagocheilus* (2 spp.), *Perrottetia* sp. (1 sp.), *Nicida* (1 sp.) and *Cyathopoma* sp. (1 sp.). Interestingly, we encountered no species with an adult maximum shell dimension of >1 cm. It is unclear if this is because larger species are altogether absent from the site (**Fig. 4**). The feedback received from the workshop participants was extremely positive. A few excerpts follow.


Figure 1.Workshop participants at the entrance to Ranipuram Forest Reserve.

Figure 2 Shell study session in the Zoology lab., CUK.

**Kabilan M., MSc student**: "The workshop was very informative and made us think about the importance of taxonomy and systematics. …"

**Mariette Ann Paul, PhD student**: "This workshop has been one of the best I have attended so far. I had no previous knowledge about snails, but the way Dr Dinarzarde, Kumudu and Dr Amrut managed to take us from the very basics helped a lot in the field identification of snails. Each and every participant were completely involved in the same. It was a great workshop session."

**Ningthoeipm Padmashree Devi, MSc student**: "First of all I would like to thank the Malacological Society of London for organising such an amazing hands-on workshop. I really enjoyed the whole experience. From this workshop I got to learn the different species and genera of land snails and got to know more indepth about them which I had not learned before. I got to know how to look for land snails, where to look, how to identify them based on their shell shape, how to count the no. of shell swirls and, also, about their microhabitat etc. …"

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Figure 3. Searching for land snails in Ranipuram


Figure 4. Some of the land-snail genera observed at Ranipuram Forest Reserve.

**Ranjth, V., PhD student:** "The land-snail identification workshop was the first experience in my life on the systematic collection of land snails. It was a wonderful and informative session, which gave me basic but significant understanding on collection, sorting and identification of land snails in the Ranipuram forest … The workshop session in the lab was very interesting and informative, which gave me some basic but interesting ideas on snail identification."
**Mitesh Gowda G.R., MSc student:** "First of all thank you for introducing the biodiversity of snails of the Western Ghats. I thought snails were agricultural pests. By this workshop got to know the value of the endemic species of land snails. I thank you for teaching how to identify the land snails by their shapes only. … it was a great day with you guys – enjoyed the way we found the land snails and that satisfaction made me happy. …"
**Navya Mohan Palakkad, MSc student:** "I had least idea about snails before and I was not able to find what I was interested in, but this workshop was a way that I could find that I am interested in fieldwork. Differentiating different species and genera of snails was very fascinating. I could find the habitat of snails even in this dry season. Thank you for this wonderful workshop, which gave us a lot of knowledge regarding snails."
**Dhinila Dheeraj, MSc student:** "I had one of the best experiences at the land-snail identification workshop. The hands-on training provided was truly helpful and inspiring to learn more about land snails. The workshop provided an opportunity to observe and study land snails in detail and it truly bud an interest in me to observe and study snails. … the classes provided by the experts helped me to identify some of the snails on my own. The expertise of the instructors inspired me a lot. In short, the workshop helped me to know about land snails and to develop an interest towards land snails."
**Panchami V., MSc student:** "This is the first workshop I had attended in a natural habitat. During the start, I thought that I would not be able to find any small species, but as I explored the area I found five genera of snails. This is a huge achievement for me as a beginner. Overall, the workshop boosted my confidence and observation skills. …"
**Amna M. Fathima, MSc student**: "I was completely unaware about the land snail diversity till yesterday. After the workshop, got to know about the different varieties of snails around me. Within 2–2.5 hours, we all were able to count the whorls, differentiate the sculptures, measurements, etc. And also, we have been thought how to find (i.e. where to find the snails, shells or operculum). After completing the field visit, the theory taught is imprinted in our minds. Very much grateful for the three experts who came over here. Thank you!"
**Ramit Mitra, MSc student**: "The workshop on malacology was greatly beneficial in every aspect, from the point of view of a MSc student. The lab session conducted by the world class on the topic of malacology provided us with a great scope of interaction and hands-on experience …The live field session on actual identification was meticulously planned and conducted. … Overall it was a very informative, insightful experience that enriched me personally at various levels."
**Aleena Elizabeth Cyril, PhD student**: "The workshop on terrestrial gastropods conducted by Dr Dinarzarde, Dr Amrut and Mr Kumudu was very informative and helpful to identify and distinguish the various land snails around us. The theory session gave us an idea about the various characters used for identification. It was well structured and presented in simple language. Specimens of various genera were made available during the session and it helped us to identify the differences better. The field visit also gave us insights on land snail microhabitats, searching techniques and local fauna."

**Acknowledgements**

The *VAJRA 2.0 Seminar 2025: 21st Century Collection-based Natural History* was made possible by VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) funding awarded to R.K. and D.J.G. by the Indian Government's Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF; under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India). Additional support was provided by CUK (funding and logistics) and the Natural History Museum, London, UK. There was generous funding, specifically for the workshop, from the Malacological Society of London, UK. At CUK, we would like to thank the then Vice Chancellor (In charge), Professor Vincent Mathews; the Dean of the School of Biological Sciences, Professor Sudha Kappalli; and the staff of the Department of Zoology (School of Biological Sciences), particularly Dr Palatty Allesh Sinu and Dr. H.P. Gurushankara, for supporting and facilitating the seminar. A number of volunteers from CUK, including MSc and PhD students, assisted with the workshop; a special thank you to PhD students Ranjith Vengot, Avanthika Prakash, Akhila Kummanatt and Mariette M. Paul. Our thanks also to the staff of the Nilagiri Guest House and Bus Shuttle Service, CUK for their support. We are especially grateful to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kasaragod, Range Forest Officer, Kanhangad Range, Mr. Gireesh C. and other office and field staff from the Kerala Forest Department for arranging access to Ranipuram Forest Reserve and for providing logistical help with the field trip— without their wholehearted support, this very vital part of the workshop would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Aleena Cyril for very generously sharing with us material from her PhD land-snail collections (i.e. from the southern Western Ghats) for use in the shell study session. Thanks to her and the material provided by A.B. from the northern Western Ghats, the shell study session provided near total coverage of the native and endemic land-snail genera of the Western Ghats.

# Early career research grant reports

Research financially supported by the Malacological Society of London

# Seeking the social octopus in the wild

**Piero Amodio**

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## Background and Aims

Octopuses are solitary creatures with marked cannibalistic tendencies (Ibanez & Keyl 2010; Hanlon & Messenger 2018). By contrast, the Larger Pacific Striped Octopus (LPSO) has been observed living in large colonies, as well as sharing dens and even food with conspecifics (Caldwell *et al*., 2015). Furthermore, while for most species of octopuses, egg deposition occurs in a single and terminal event, the LPSO lays eggs multiple times over months (Rocha *et al*., 2001; Caldwell *et al*., 2025). Due to its unique social attitude and life history, LPSO is thus a key target species, whose study may provide crucial insights into the evolution of cephalopods. However, our current understanding of the socio-ecology of this rare species is limited because the LPSO has never been investigated in the wild.

The primary goal of the project was to locate a colony of LPSO in the wild and to collect data about their social, feeding, and anti-predatory behaviour. In addition, the project also aimed at exploring whether underwater drones can be used as tools to conduct behavioural observations of octopuses from remote (i.e., from a support boat).

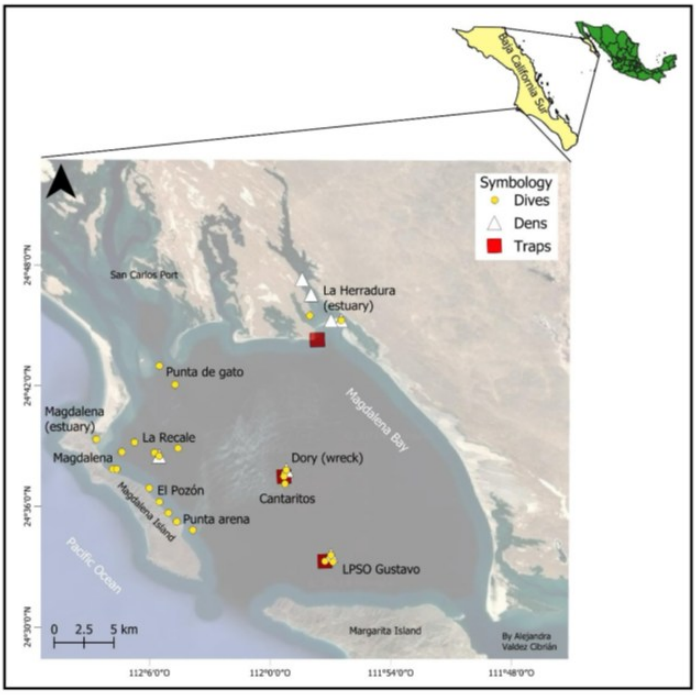


**Figure 1: Map of the study site showing the locations of search activities during Fieldwork 2.**

## Summary of research activities

*Study area*

We conducted two fieldwork expeditions in Bahía Magdalena, BCS, Mexico. The first expedition (Fieldwork 1) started on 5/02/2023 and ended on 25/02/2023. The second expedition (Fieldwork 2) took place from 21/10/2024 to 18/11/2024. Bahía Magdalena is a biodiversity hotspot and one of the most important fishing grounds in the region. The bay hosts a variety of marine habitats, including extensive mangrove forest on the shores, seagrass meadows, rhodolith beds, rocky reefs in the subtidal section and large stretch of muddy/sandy substrate (Rioja-Nieto *et al*., 2013). The area selected was based on reliable information of sporadic sightings of the LSPO in recent years.

*Selection of sites within Bahia Magdalena*

Prior to the start of fieldwork, we had acquired the GPS coordinates of a spot where LSPO had been caught, accidentally, by shrimp fishermen some years ago (i.e., "LSPO Gustavo", Fig. 1). During fieldwork, we conducted opportunistic interviews with local fishermen in order to acquire additional information about the presence of the LSPO in the bay and to identify additional spots for our searching activities. We interviewed fishermen who relied on different fishing methods (e.g., trawling nets, baited traps) and worked in various areas of the bay. Several fishermen stated that they had sporadically caught one specimen of LSPO as by-catch. In line with the information reported in the literature, the LSPO was retrieved by trawling at depths ranging from approximately 10-30 m, in areas characterized by sandy/muddy substrates (Caldwell *et al*. 2015; León-Guzmán *et al*., 2020). However, we also learned of one recent capture via a baited trap in an estuarine area of the bay (i.e., "La Herradura", Fig. 1) at very shallow depth (1.5m). Building on this information, we focused our attention on multiple spots in the bay.

*Search approaches*

Our main research approach involved visual censuses via SCUBA diving. A team of three divers would move together in a parallel formation inspecting the seabed looking for octopus' shelters (e.g., empty shells). Notably, it was not always feasible to maintain a structured formation during the search due to strong underwater currents and limited visibility. We recorded the GPS coordinates of each diving spot, as well as the key features of the habitat (e.g., type of substrates and species present; Fig. 2). A total of 48 dives (including two night-dives) were conducted across the two expeditions. We surveyed distinct types of habitats, from shallow estuarine areas close to mangrove swamp to deeper muddy areas in the middle of

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the bay, at depths ranging from 3-30m. Most often, the diving sites were characterized by muddy/sandy substrates with sporadic empty shells spread around. *Octopus bimaculoides* and more rarely, *Octopus rubescens*, were sighted during dives. Unfortunately, we did not spot the LSPO during SCUBA diving surveys.

To maximize the chances of success and to explore areas that could not be reached safely by SCUBA diving, we also implemented two additional research strategies. First, we placed artificial dens (terracotta pots and plastic pipes) in specific spots to induce LPSOs to occupy shelters of known locations. Dens were tied to a weight and positioned in small groups approximately 10m apart. The presence of octopuses was then monitored during the following days. Second, we employed baited traps: boxes (approx. 40x40x20cm) made out of mesh wire containing pieces of dead fish or shrimp. These tools are regularly used by local fishermen to catch octopuses of commercial values (i.e., *O. bimaculoides*, *O. rubescens*). Across the two fieldwork expeditions, we set and monitored a total of 40 artificial dens and 6 traps at different sites within the bay. During the second expeditions we found two *O. bimaculoides* occupying two nearby artificial dens that were placed during the first fieldwork. However, no LSPO was found in the artificial dens, nor retrieved through the baited traps.

## Conclusions and future steps

Despite the efforts of our team, we were not able to locate a colony of LSPO in Bahia Magdalena. Thus, the project could not collect novel data on the socio-ecology of this unique species, nor explore whether underwater drones are effective tools to conduct live observations of octopuses from remote (i.e., from a support boat). However, by interviewing local fishermen we could acquire new indications that the LSPO is indeed present in the bay, and also precious information about the specific areas where it can be found. Building on this, we are planning to apply for additional funding to continue the search of the LSPO in Bahia Magdalena. To this end, it would be interesting to survey the area during the Summer (e.g., July, August) given that this period is characterized by higher underwater visibility and by the seasonal closure of shrimp fishing, whose fishing grounds overlap largely with the putative spots inhabited by the LSPO.

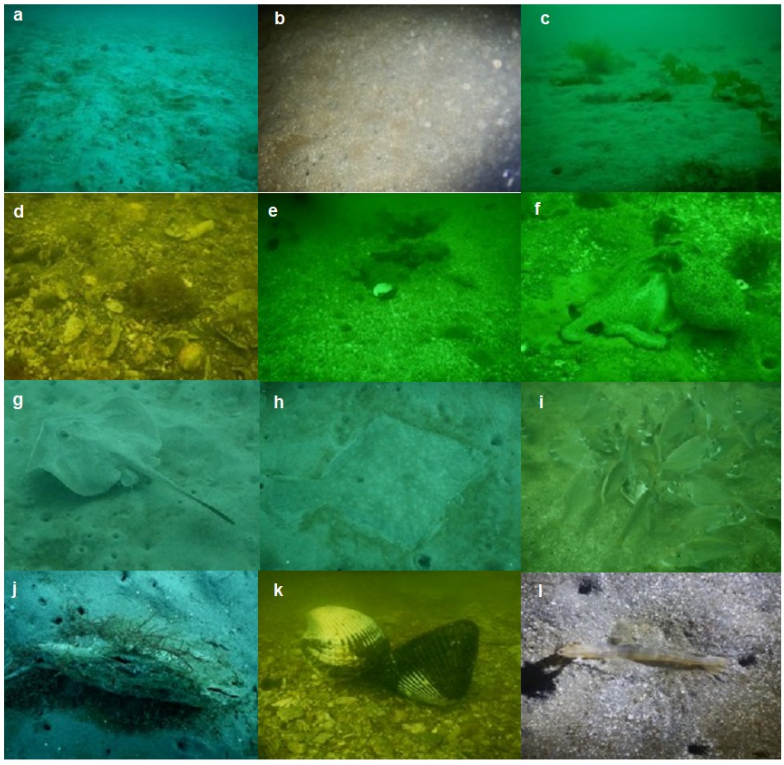


**Figure 2: Example of substrates (a-e) and animals (f-l) observed during the dives. a-c) Sandy-muddy substrates in "Gustavo LPSO" (a), "Magdalena" (b) and "La Recale" (c); d) shell-mound substrate in "La Herradura"; e) coarse sand with abundant shell fragments "Punta de gato"; f) California two-spot octopus (*O. bimaculoides*; g) diamond stingray (*Hypanus dipterurus*); h) Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*), i) *Sparidae* sp.; j) bivalve (*Atrina maura*); k) mule foot clams (*Anadara tuberculosa*); l) shrimp (unknown sp.).**

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr Roy Caldwell for providing me with valuable inputs during the planning stage of the research and to Dr Gustavo Hinojosa-Arango for his help with the logistics. I extend my gratitude to the Sociedad Cooperativa Magdalena, Israel Moreno and Alejandra Cibrian-Valdez for their key contributions during fieldwork expeditions. The project was supported by the Malacological Society of London, National Geographic Society, Linnean Society of London, Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) and the Explorers Club.

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# TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

## 14th International Temperate Reefs Symposium 2025, Brest , France.

Sally Henderson
Email: 2272796@swansea.ac.uk

Supervisory Team: Louise Firth[2], Matthew Perkins[3] , John Griffin[1]
Swansea University[1], University College Cork[2], University of Plymouth[3]
PhD Funding Bodies: Swansea University, Pembrokeshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales

At the beginning of July, I had the opportunity to present my PhD work at the 14th International Temperate Reefs Symposium (ITRS) in Brest, France. My attendance at this conference was possible thanks to the support of the travel grant from the Malacological Society of London. This year was the biggest ITRS yet, with over 300 attendees, around 280 talks, and 40 posters, giving me an exciting opportunity to present my research to an international audience.

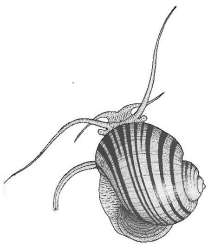
As part of the ecosystem services session, I gave a presentation entitled 'Self-cleaning Slipways: Harnessing Species Interactions for Sustainable Management of Coastal Infrastructure'. I discussed the first chapter of my PhD researching the potential to ecologically engineering slipway surfaces to facilitate limpet (*Patella vulgata*) grazing and provide a sustainable, nature-based solution to the management of hazardous algae. Current slipway maintenance is expensive, time consuming and environmentally damaging using short-term, non-selective methods such a chemicals and power washing. Field experiments have shown that limpets are highly efficient, robust grazers capable of preventing algal growth on a range of substrates and at scale for long periods of time. This highlights the importance of considering the impact specific functional groups (such as molluscan grazers) can have when designing ecological engineering to achieve targeted nature-based solutions. ITRS was an invaluable opportunity to present my work to world-leading academics in ecological engineering and malacology (particularly limpets).


Overall, I had a fantastic and memorable time at ITRS, meeting old friends and making many new connections. The whole event was summed up with a gala dinner at Océanopolis, an extensive aquarium featuring many common and local temperate reef species that we all study. Looking forward to the ITRS2027 in Tauranga, New Zealand!

**The Malacological Society of London**
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.

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## 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 13th September 2024, by email to:**

events@malacsoc.org.uk

Name.....……

Institute.....……..…

.....……

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:

.....……

.....……...

Please attach, as a Microsoft Word attachment, an abstract of not more than 300 words, TOGETHER WITH TWO .JPG IMAGES IN SUPPORT OF THE ASTRACT. 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).

£.....

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.

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## Abstract submission

Abstracts submitted for the Molluscan Forum should be sent as Microsoft Word files.
Please use the following format:

Title (12pt, centred)
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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 Claremont[1,2], Suzanne T. Williams[1], Timothy G. Barraclough[2], and David G. Reid[1]**

[1]Department of Zoology, Natural History Museum, London, UK
[2]Department of Biology, Imperial College London, Berkshire, UK
Email: m.claremont@nhm.ac.uk

*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.

**NOTE THAT ABSTRACTS ARE PUBLISHED IN *THE MALACOLOGIST* WHICH IS THE BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY. *THE MALACOLOGIST* HAS AN ISSN NUMBER.**

**BEFORE THE FORUM, PLEASE EMAIL TO THE EDITOR TWO IMAGES TO ACCOMPANY YOUR ABSTRACT. TRY TO MAKE THESE IMAGES ONES THAT YOU WOULD NOT USE IN AN EVENTUAL FULL PAPER.**
**EDITOR georges.dussart@canterbury.ac.uk**

# Grants and Awards

The Research Awards Scheme was established to commemorate the Society's Centenary in 1993. Under this scheme, the Society gives awards to support research on molluscs that is probably to lead to publication. The closing date for applications each year is 15th December. Grants are preferentially conferred on students and researchers without regard to nationality or membership of the Society. Preference is also given to discrete research projects that fall within the subject areas covered by the Society's *Journal of Molluscan Studies*. Applications will be assessed by scientific merit, value of the project and for student applicants, the extent to which the research will benefit the applicant's scientific aspirations. The successful applicants will be notified by 31st March and announced at the Annual General Meeting. Awardees are encouraged to publish their work in the ***Journal of Molluscan Studies*** (full papers) or ***The Malacologist*** (travel award reports, research award reports, news of ongoing research etc) as appropriate.

***Early Career Research grants***

Eligibility is restricted to those investigators at the outset of their independent scientific career. Applications must therefore be 1) postgraduate students, 2) within five years of being awarded their PhD (adjustable for career breaks), or 3) independent researchers not having a PhD. Early Career Research Grants will only be awarded to individuals twice, but not within 3 years of receiving a first award. From December 2021, the Society also offers additional awards, under its Global Participation Postgraduate Student Scheme, to a) applicants from developing and transition countries (as according to the UN), and b) UK/EU applicants from Black, Asian, or any other underrepresented ethnic background (see next page for application procedures)

***Sir Charles Maurice Yonge Award***

There is no application process for Sir Charles Maurice Yonge Awards. These awards are given for the best Travel Award application on bivalves. The award is to support attendance at an international meeting (not including the Molluscan Forum). Authors of exceptional studies on bivalves in *the Journal of Molluscan Studies* may on occasion also be given this award. The Editor will nominate such papers as he/she sees fit. The award covers the costs requested in a Travel Award, or for open access publication of the paper. Members of the Society will also receive a personal cash prize of £300. Non-members will receive a personal cash prize of £250 plus one year's membership to the Society. If a paper is multi-authored, the award will be made to the corresponding author.

***Senior Research Awards***

These are aimed at established researchers in professional positions, but without regard to nationality. Applicants for Senior Research Awards must be members of the Malacological Society of London. The Society currently awards up to five Senior Research Grants per year, each with a value of up to £1,800, to support research on molluscs that is probably to lead to publication. The maximum amount available should not be considered as a 'target'; rather requests should reflect the research that is proposed. The grants are reviewed by a Reviewers Panel including both Council and non-Council members invited for that purpose.

***Travel Grants***

Travel Awards are available as bursaries to support attendance at a conference or workshop relevant to malacology. Grants are preferentially conferred on students but researchers without professional positions may also apply. The maximum amount for one of these awards is £500 for Society members and £300 for non-members. Preference will be given to members of the Society. There are two closing dates each year, The deadlines are 1st March, for travel scheduled between 1st June and 30th November, and 1st September for travel scheduled between 1st December and 31st May.

For further information, guidance notes and to access the application form see here - http://malacsoc.org.uk/awards-and-grants/travel-grants

***Annual Award***

This Award is made each year for an exceptionally promising initial contribution to the study of molluscs. This is often a thesis or collection of publications. The value of the Award is £500. Candidates need not be a member of the Society but must be nominated by a member. There is no application form: the nominating member should send the material for evaluation with a covering letter or letter of support to the Honorary Awards Secretary. The closing date each year is 15th December. The winner(s) will be notified by 31st March, and announced at the Annual General Meeting.

***Applications***

Applications for Research Awards and Travel Grants should be sent to the
**Honorary Awards Secretary,**
Prof. Alan Hodgson, MSL_awards@nhm.ac.uk

For further information, guidance notes and to access the grant application form see http://malacsoc.org.uk/awards-and-grants/research-grants

## Global Participation Postgraduate Student Scheme

This is an initiative of the Malacological Society of London to help support more students from across the world in their malacological studies.
The scheme will run every year, so each year ten new students will be given free membership for a 3 year period. So, in 2023 there will be 10 students, in 2024 there will be 20 and in 2025 and thereafter there will be 30.

We are offering 10 students each year free membership to *The Malacological Society of London* for a period of 3 years. Students who are studying a postgraduate malacology-related course in countries designated 'developing economies' are invited to apply for this award with the support of their supervisor. Applications are open immediately and will close when all 10 memberships have been allocated. Membership of the first round starting on 1st January 2023 and ending on 31st December 2025.

The scheme will run on a yearly basis and applications will open again next autumn.
Successful candidates will benefit from:

- online access to entire archive of *Journal of Molluscan Studies* (back to 1893)
- electronic delivery of Society's bulletin, *The Malacologist*
- access to a higher rate of travel grant
- regular communication from MSL about the Society's themed meetings and the annual Molluscan Forum

**Application procedure**

Please send applications and proof of course registration to the Membership Secretary: membership@malacsoc.org.uk

**Selection criteria**

Applicants must fulfil the conditions stated below and will be selected on a first-come basis.

**Conditions**

- Students must be registered for their postgraduate course in a country designated as a 'developing economy'.
- The course must have a strong malacological focus.
- Students must have the support of their supervisor and must send proof of course registration with their application and for each membership year.
- Membership will last for a maximum of 3 years, not the duration of a course, and an individual can only receive the award once.
- If there is a gap in a student's study their membership will stop, but if a course is upgraded (e.g., from MSc to PhD) and the student's study is continuous, then the membership can continue for the full duration of the scheme.
- Students on part-time courses and those undertaking coursework-only courses can also apply.

# Malacological Society of London – Subscription and Membership

### Objects

The objects of the Society are to advance education and research for the public benefit by the study of molluscs from both pure and applied aspects. We welcome as members all who are interested in the scientific study of molluscs. There are Ordinary Members, Student Members and Honorary Members. Members are entitled to receive a digital copy of the *Journal of Molluscan Studies* and such circulars as may be issued during their membership. The Society's website is at: http://www.malacsoc.org.uk

### Publications

The Society has a continuous record of publishing important scientific papers on molluscs in the *Proceedings*, which evolved with Volume 42 into the *Journal of Molluscan Studies*. The *Journal* is published in annual volumes consisting of four parts which are available on -line by members and student members. The Society no longer produces paper copies of the Journal. Members also receive access to *The Malacologist*, which is the bulletin of the Society, issued twice a year, in February and August. *The Malacologist* is published online on the website of the Society

### Meetings and articles

In addition to traditional research on molluscan biology, physiological, chemical, molecular techniques are amongst the topics considered for discussion meetings and papers for publication in future volumes of the *Journal*.

### Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are valid from **1st January** for a single calendar year.

### Membership fee structure

Ordinary Members: Journal on-line only £50
Student Members: Journal on-line only £29

### Methods of Payment

***New Members:***

To join the Society for the first time please fill in the Membership Form on the MSL website and make your payment using a Credit or Debit Card (Mastercard, Visa, American Express):
https://malacsoc.org.uk/membership-form/

***Existing Members*:**

If you already have an account on the MSL website please **login** to renew your membership and make your payment using a Credit or Debit Card (Mastercard, Visa, American Express)

OR

If you have already set up a standing order you may continue to pay in this way. We do not encourage members who have a MSL account on the website, or any new members, to set up a standing order.

### Institutional Subscriptions to the Journal

Enquiries should be addressed directly to Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, U.K.

**For any membership queries please contact the Membership Secretary: membership@malacsoc.org.uk**

## Broadening Access Membership Scheme

The Malacological Society of London helps to support postgraduate students from countries listed as developing economies in their malacological studies.

We offer **10 postgraduate students, each year , free membership** to *The Malacological Society of London* for a period of 3 years under the new Broadening Access Membership Scheme (BAMS). Students who are studying a postgraduate malacology-related course in countries designated 'developing economies' are invited to apply for this award with the support of their supervisor. Applications open each autumn and will close when all 10 memberships have been allocated.

Successful candidates will benefit from:

- online access to entire archive of *Journal of Molluscan Studies* (back to 1893)
- electronic delivery of Society's bulletin, *The Malacologist*
- access to a higher rate of travel grant
- regular communication from MSL about the Society's themed meetings and the annual Molluscan Forum

**Application procedure:**

To find out more about the scheme, who is eligible and how to apply, please go to the following page on our website: https://malacsoc.org.uk/developing-economies-membership-scheme/

**Answer to the puzzle** - Snailbeach is a village in Shropshire, England. Being miles from the sea, there are no beaches in the village. Beach is derived from old English Baece = stream valley. Snailbeach is noted for its history of lead mining that dates back to Roman Times. Mining was at its peak in the 17th and 18th Century when the village of Snailbeach seems to have developed. Musselburgh is in East Lothian, Scotland. "Mussel Town" is the oldest town in Scotland and is also known as 'Honest Toun'. Puzzle devised by Prof Alan Hodgson