



SHELL-O-GRAM

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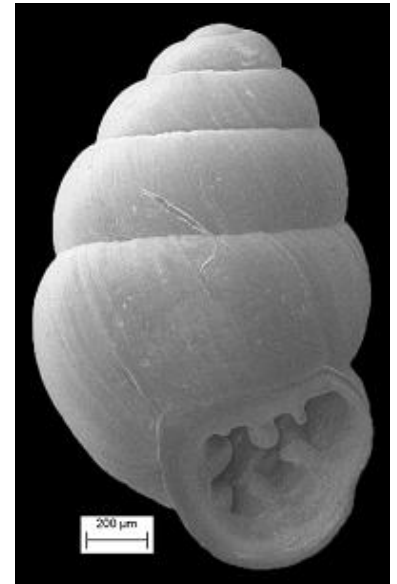
Upcoming meetings

The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc. (JSC) customarily meets on the **fourth** Thursday of each month except for November (a week earlier due to Thanksgiving) and December (traditional Xmas get-together/TBA) in Function Room D of the Southeast Branch, Jax Public Library <<https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/locations/southeast-regional>>. At the time of this *Shell-O-Gram* issue, the library remains open to us

despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, everyone in attendance is expected to have been fully vaccinated, be feeling well, and to comply with CDC recommendations for masking and social distancing. Our **May** meeting will convene on the **26th** at 7:00 PM. Paul Jones will present the genus *Panopea*, the geoducks. Inspired by his finding a *P. bitruncata* (see pp. 3-5 of the Nov.-Dec., 2020 *Shell-O-Gram*, which is also posted at <<http://jaxshells.org/pdfs/novdec20.pdf>>) and abetted by fellow JSC expeditioner, Dr. David Davies, he will tell us a bit about these giant clams, nine species of which survive to present.

The main program will deal with a recently excavated fossil bed near Orlando rich in nonmarine remains. Harry Lee will demonstrate this unusual fauna composed mainly of a handful of freshwater

mollusk species but also containing a more diverse, if less common and of generally lesser size, land shell component. Over three dozen species, e.g., *Vertigo milium* (1.32mm, L) and *V. sp. cf. V. ovata* (1.61mm R) have been culled and imaged. A few species appear to be extinct, and one is a "lost species" with an intriguing backstory (for **June** meeting see next page).



Membership Dues are payable in **September** each year.

Many of you have complied, but if you're in arrears, please send in your dues:

Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to

Harry G. Lee, Treasurer, JSC

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The club customarily meets monthly at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/locations/southeast-regional>>.

Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Lifetime membership is available. Please remit payment for dues to the address below and make checks payable to the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club's newsletter and scientific journal, the *Shell-O-Gram* (ISSN 2472-2774) is issued bimonthly and mailed to an average of 15 regular members and friends by specific request and no less than ten scientific institutions with permanent libraries. An electronic (pdf) version, identical except for "live" URL's and color (vs. B&W) images, is issued the next day and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research and/or Florida mollusks. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <<http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm>> since November, 1998. We encourage members and other friends to submit articles for publication. Closing date for manuscript submission is two weeks before each month of publication. Articles appearing in the *Shell-O-Gram* may be republished provided credit is given the author and *Shell-O-Gram* Editor-in-Chief. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the republication. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record. The club is a chartered corporation in the State of Florida and a non-profit educational organization under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the US IRS Code.

Upcoming meetings, cont'd.

The JSC expects to meet on June 23 at the usual time and place with COVID restrictions. The Shell of the month will be presented by Rick Edwards and Harry Lee will report on the 50th Anniversary COA Convention (Galveston, TX) for the main program. A hint to the mystery image below can be found on p. 6 hereof.



Diving at a Cozumel Dive Resort

By Richard and William Edwards

During the week of March 12-March 19, both William and I were fortunate to join three other diver friends, two from Tampa and one from Oregon, to spend a week of diving in Cozumel. Having dived there several times as an excursion from a cruise ship when visiting the port, I thought a week of diving in this place would be great. It is known for its “drift” diving. That is, when you jump into the water, the current carries you along at a good clip, three to five knots. The boat follows your group by the bubbles or a marker float. Hopefully, you get located and picked-up when you surface from the dive. It is an adventure.

Starting out, flights were delayed. This appears to be a “fact of life” whenever you fly. Due to weather, our first day of diving did not occur. On our second day, we had better luck as we did make our afternoon dives. In all, there were 18 opportunities for diving, including two-night dives. Diving depth was limited to less than 100 feet with most 1st and 3rd dives of the day being the deep dives (80 feet average) and the 2nd and 4th dives limited to less than 50 feet. Visibility was typically 80 to 100 feet.

As a dive resort, there were nightly programs or performances. Activities such as tennis, archery, shooting, and pool fun were offered. In addition, there was a full-service beach with food and drinks. Sailing, snorkeling, and diving instruction was available. We were too tired to do anything other than dive and eat. The food was great, ranging from local foods to Asian sushi. However, we did find time, after diving, to drink alcoholic beverages (free). The day before our departure was spent shopping “in-town”. This allowed our equipment to dry enough to put it in a suitcase that wasn’t “leaking.” The resort was in an isolated location and required a taxi to take you to town at a cost of 20\$ each way, whether there was one or six passengers.

Each day we would be ready to leave the dive shop for the trek (70 yards) to the dive boat with our dive gear. We got underway about 9:00 AM for the first dive. Cozumel waters are now managed as a national park, much like other areas in the Caribbean. There is a fee which buys you a dive band for your wrist that promotes the management of the reefs and indicates your fee is paid. Each day we would dive various places, usually following a divemaster. No group was larger than eight divers with most days being less than six.



I did not dive with a wetsuit **L**, but all the other divers either used a full suit or a “shorty.” I was fine, except the night dives. Sitting in the sun after a day dive is much different than at night. At night, the wind cut thru you, and by the time I got back to the pier at the dive shop, I was shivering and downright cold. I did not do our second scheduled night dive. William did both night dives and was able



to see several octopus and moray eels **R** foraging. The night dives were just after dusk. A better time to see other “critters” would have been after several hours of darkness.

During the dives, we saw a varied environment from a wall that drops deeper than divers may go, tunnels in the reef, coral mounds, and sand flats. We also got to dive a wreck with a “swim through.” Marine life included a wide variety of fish [see end of article], some I had not seen before, a 7-foot nurse shark, eagle rays, turtles, hard and soft corals, sponges, pink conchs [L below], and other gastropods. There was always something to see. We had hoped to see a few sharks, but that was not to be.



On Friday while our equipment dried, we took a cab and went shopping. In Cozumel, you bargain most prices in the stores. A few have “fixed” prices, but most bargain. Local goods were cheap, and imported goods were very reasonable. I had purchased some hot sauces and vanilla, but I forgot about size restrictions when departing. These were confiscated by Mexican customs.

Flying had not gotten better. William and I had been rerouted through Dallas/Ft Worth instead of Charlotte. It took longer. Our departure from Cozumel was delayed by 45 minutes due to a lack of baggage handlers able to handle the several arriving and departing aircraft. Arriving in Dallas,

we had to make a “beeline” through customs and immigration making our connection with two minutes to spare before gate closure. Our departure gate was in the most distant terminal from our arrival terminal. On boarding the plane an announcement was made, that there would be a delayed departure due to a mechanical issue (low oil in an engine indicated by a cockpit light. It was another 30+ minute delay at the gate while it was checked-out and oil added. Finally, we were on to Jacksonville. Approaching Jacksonville, we were placed in a holding pattern due to weather. We arrived back in Jacksonville over two hours later than scheduled. We were the lucky ones as two of our dive friends who were scheduled for Orlando missed connections and were flown to Sarasota and had to drive to Tampa and pick up their car in Orlando the next day.

We had a great time diving and enjoying the resort when we were not too tired (or cold). We have already started talking about our next dive adventure.



Addendum/corrigendum to “Letter to the editor; a response” (March issue)

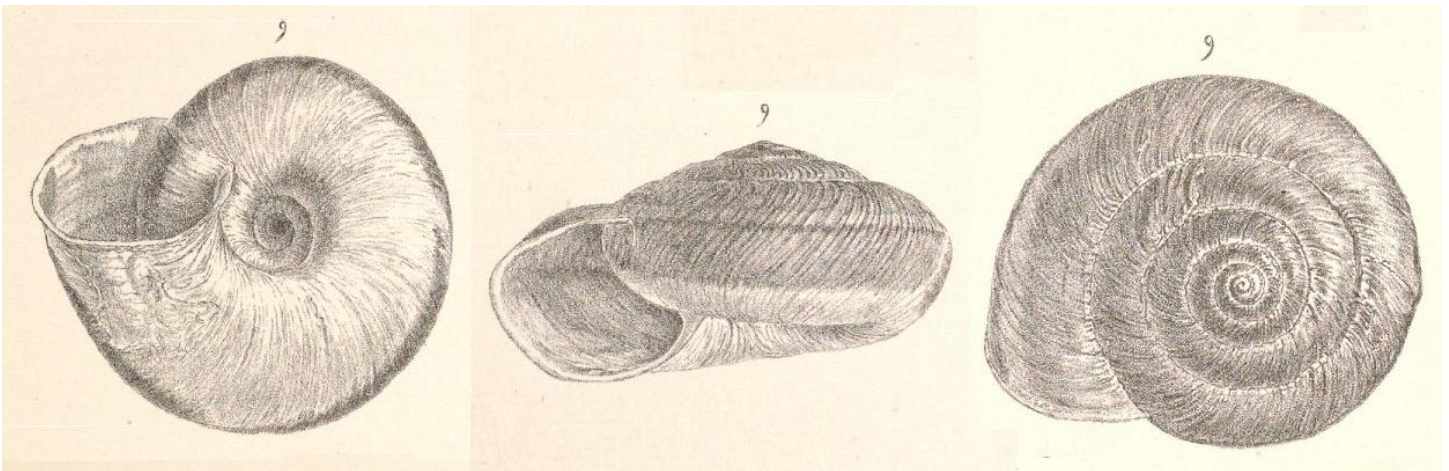
Kurt Auffenberg caught some errata in the above-captioned piece, and I added an example, thus:

"..... Wilhem Kobelt (1902: 278 L) proposed the name [*Schistoloma*] to replace ~~Coptochilus~~ *Coptocheilus* Gould, 1862: 282 on the grounds that it was a junior homonym of the insect genus *Coptochilus* Amyot & Serville, 1848 and thus permanently invalid. However, under the current provisions of Article 53.2 of The Code [<https://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-code-online/>](https://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-code-online/), Kobelt's action was unnecessary since the Gould name differed, albeit by only one letter, from that of the bug. These two epithets, however, **are** **would be** considered homonymous if they were used **as** a species name, e.g. the hypothetical *Cyclotus coptochilus* and *Cyclotus coptocheilus*, (Article 58.2)! Short version: ~~Comptocheilus~~ *Coptocheilus* Gould, 1862 [+ *Schistoloma* Kobelt, 1902].... a bit confusing for most of us, but apparently not for Kurt!"

Prelude to a paper destined for the next issue - *Shell-O-Gram* 63(4) or Aenigmatic *Aegistohadra* Part 1.

Only last month a provocative paper on a newly constituted group of Asian land snails made its appearance (Jirapatrasilp *et al.*, 2022). The provocation, at least to me, is tersely recapped in its title (see below), which mentions convergent evolution and colourful [sic] tree snails. Using soft anatomic and molecular genetic character analyses, the authors added four species to the only known member of the genus *Aegistohadra* Wu, 2004, which was distinguished from other members of the Camaenidae: Bradybaenidae by certain unique genital characters - one in particular.

The erstwhile waif, the original monotype of the genus, is *Nanina delavaya* Heude, 1885, and here is its iconotype (Heude, 1885: pl. 26, figs. 9):



It is certainly a distinctive shell, the best of four the author had before him, measured some 55mm in width, sinistral in coil, and possessed of a wide, perspective umbilicus (ibid: 103, species 209). Notwithstanding those attributes, and without reference to Heude (1885) or Wu (2004) *Nesiohelix meiqiui* Ge & He, 2017 was proposed and must fall into junior synonymy (Zhang, 2019). So much for “reading the directions.”

Pierre Marie Heude (1836-1902), a French Jesuit priest serving as a missionary in China (*idem*), made sentinel

and extensive contributions to our knowledge of the malacofauna of that country including the establishment of a zoological museum,¹ was quite taken with the shell as witnessed in his description:

*Habit : In altis montibus regionis incolarum Lo-lo dictorum : detexit Cl. D. Delavay, juxta Ta-li fou.*²

J'ai de cette magnifique coquille quatre sujets, dont un seul à peu près en bon état. C'est celui de la fig. 9. Mais je dois faire remarquer que le dernier tour ayant subi des avaries, le pourtour de l'ouverture a quelque chose d'anguleux qui n'est pas normal. Le dessin d'ailleurs donne exactement l'idée de cette espèce.

The red-underlined passage translates to: "Yet I must remark that the last whorl has suffered damage, the circumference of the aperture is somewhat angulate, which isn't normal."

Interestingly Wu (2004: 117, Fig. 32 A-F) showed two paratypes¹ one of which is very likely the teratologic specimen mentioned by Heude. This particular shell character will become relevant in part two of this report, slated for the September issue. At this point the reader must settle for an acquaintance with yet another of Lee's left-handed land snails – and yes, I do have one in my collection, obtained on July 30, 2016 from the late Yang Hao, a keen collector, friend of many collectors around the world, generous supporter of the Conchologists of America, and producer of the captionless figure on p. 2 of this issue. It is intended as a portent of **Aenigmatic Aegistohadra Part 2**.

¹ Zoology Museum, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences; IZCAS-type-2902-1, 2.

² Ta-li fou is now called Dali Baizu Zizhizhou, Yunnan Province, China.

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