



SHELL•O•GRAM

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Upcoming programs

Our January meeting will be on the (usual) fourth Thursday, the 28th, at the usual time (7:00 PM) and place (Southeast Branch, Jacksonville Public Library <<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>>). After a shell-of-the-month presentation by Rick Edwards on an Okinawan surprise species, Harry Lee will give an illustrated update on the work he and Rick are doing at the Florida Museum of



Natural History, Gainesville, where the two have logged almost 2000 volunteer hours since September, 2013. The topic of this study is the micromollusks uncovered at the sand and shell pit mine, SMR 10, in northeast Sarasota County, FL. At this point about 260 species, each less than 5.50 mm in maximum dimension, have been identified from this exposure of the Upper Tamiami Formation, which fauna, the lower Pinecrest, dates to the upper Pliocene Epoch, about 3,000,000 years ago.

Because of the library hosting early voting, the February meeting will be unusually early, the 11th, which is the second Thursday of the month. Time and place are as above. Harry Lee will present the Shell-of-the-month, *Zachrysia (Megachrysia) petitiana* (d'Orbigny, 1841), a giant landsnail from central Cuba, which, despite its early description and Promethean dimensions (over three inches in diameter), is almost unknown to collectors. Rick Edwards will present an illustrated narrative of a cruise he and Roz took to the ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao), located at the southeast corner of the Caribbean Sea. We'll see indisputable evidence that the diving was great, and that the shells included a few species not encountered in more familiar West Indian ports of call.

***Terebra guttata* (Röding, 1798): suppression of a senior synonym**

by Harry G. Lee and Ed Dunham

One of the most beautiful of the large Indo-West Pacific augers is *Terebra guttata*, a species with an unusual pattern of light spots on a darker background – the reverse of the often-seen dark-on-light motif displayed by many of its congeners. One of us (HGL) discovered that the species was more than just a pretty face after I was asked to identify a Hawaiian specimen (**Fig. 1**) for Jo O'Keefe of Sunset Beach, NC. [**continued on p. 3**]

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This club meets each month at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<http://jpl.coj.net/lib/branches/se.html>>. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. The *Shell-O-Gram* is issued bimonthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Life membership is available. Please send checks for dues, made out to the Jacksonville Shell Club, to the Membership Chair at 1010 24th St. N. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 and. We encourage members and friends to submit articles for this publication. Closing date for article submission is two weeks prior to the first of each month of publication. Articles may be republished provided full credit is given the author and the *Shell-O-Gram*. The provision of free copies of the republished version to author and editor of the original is expected as well.

President's Message

Dear JSC Members,

Happy New Year! The Jacksonville Shell Club will be holding its annual Cedar Key trip on Sunday, February 7th and Monday, the 8th. For the morning of the 7th we have chartered a boat, and we may still have a couple additional seats available. If you are interested, please contact me for availability. On the morning of February the 8th, we will be inshore at our usual location. Low tide is at 8:15 AM, so be assured, we will be there as soon as the sun begins rising.

When the tide is back in, one can enjoy the generally good landsnailing inland of town, and Harry Lee may need able bodied seapersons to help try out his new dredge in the offshore channels and seagrass beds. Bring plenty of buckets, vials, plastic bags, or whatever containers suit your fancy.

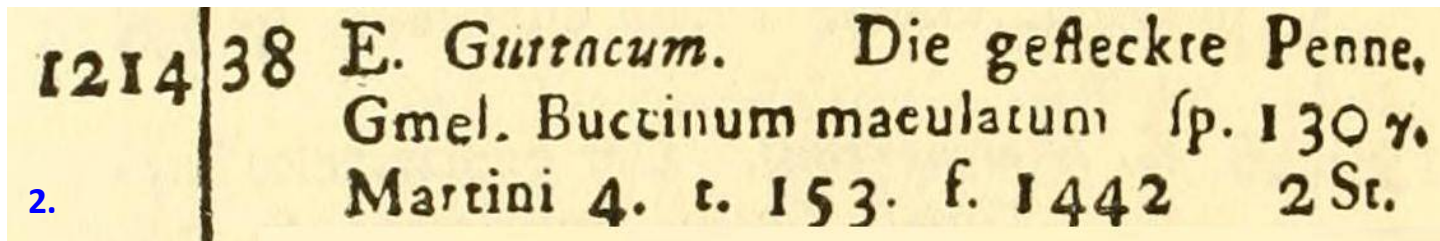
Brian

**Membership Dues are payable in September each year.
Please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 to
Charlotte Thorpe
1010 24th St. N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Short version: Time is running out!**

Terebra guttata (Röding, 1798): suppression of a senior synonym (cont'd.)

Jo, whose locally-collected shells form the basis for our checklist at <http://jaxshells.org/sunset.htm>. I found the taxonomic and nomenclatorial history of the species proved to be so distracting that I didn't get around to providing a response to her apparently simple inquiry until the next day. The following account attempts to explain why.

The original description of this auger, Röding (1798: 94; species lot 1214, *Epitonium* species 38), is reproduced



as **Fig. 2**. Note the printer's error ("*Guttacum*" for "*Guttatum*"). Röding gave only one indication for the species: "Martini," an error for the latter's collaborator Chemnitz [1780] pl. 153, fig. 1442; **our Fig. 3**. As you can see from Röding's description, the same figure was incorrectly considered to represent a mere form of the Linnaean *Buccinum* [now *Terebra*] *maculatum* by Gmelin (1793: 3499, species 130 form γ [gamma]).

According to Richardson *et al.* (1979: 173), other authors, *e.g.*, Born, and Bosc, also misidentified this figure. Shortly afterward, Dillwyn (1817: 642-643

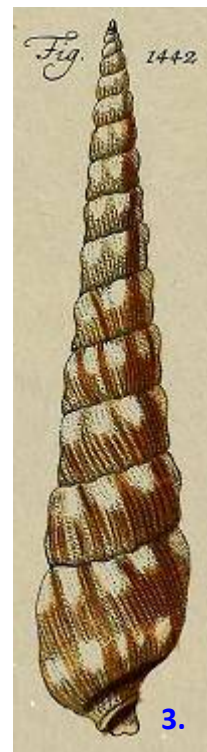
<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/10979622>) overlooking Röding's work (as was the

practice of the day), applied the name *Buccinum oculatum* to the taxon citing the same Chemnitz figure. Five years later, Lamarck (1822: 286 <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/13177890>) correctly transferred the Dillwyn taxon to the genus *Terebra* but, in so doing, incorrectly claimed authorship of the binomen.



Actually, such taxonomic and nomenclatorial missteps as these were fairly customary in that day and age, but there's an even more insidious historical twist to this story! Terebrid experts realize that an uncommon color form of this species, lacking most or all of the brown pigment in the shell, is found throughout its extensive Indo-West Pacific range. In fact such a specimen in the collection of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria formed the basis for the name *Buccinum candidum* (Born, 1778: 257 <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/12009916>), which shell was figured shortly afterward (Born, 1780: pl. 10, fig. 8 **Fig. 4**). **This is the first available name for the topical species**, and the holotype persists to this day in the Natural History Museum of Vienna. Bratcher and Cernohorsky (1979: 38, 40), after examining the Maria Theresa shell and

determining it synonymous with *Buccinum guttatum* Röding, declared the Born name a *nomen oblitum* in need of suppression, reporting that it had "not been applied once as the name of a valid species during the last 50 years." This action was designed to allow *Terebra guttata* to supersede the earlier *T. candida* as the valid name of this auger. However, according to the provisions of the then current (**third**) edition of *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, (ICZN, 1985) these authors' action was not by itself



sufficient to achieve that end. The Commission (ICZN) mandated that it must receive a **petition** to apply its plenary powers in suppression such an earlier name (ICZN, 1985: Article 79 c). The current (**fourth**) edition of the Code (ICZN: 1999: Article 23.12) acknowledges that ruling by explicitly excluding relevant actions between 1973 and 2000:

"23.12. Names rejected under former Article 23b. A name that was rejected between 6 November 1961 and 1 January 1973 by an author who explicitly applied Article 23b in force between those dates under the then current editions of the Code [**second** edition HGL] on grounds that it was a *nomen oblitum* (see [Glossary](#)) is not to be given precedence over a junior synonym in prevailing usage, unless the Commission rules that the older but rejected name is to take precedence.

"23.12.1. The term "rejected" in this Article must be construed rigidly; mere disregarding of a name is not to be construed as rejection (even if the Article 23b, then in force, was mentioned). The rejected name must have been cited and a junior synonym used instead of it as the valid name."

Brathcher and Cernohorsky were not the only taxonomists to run afoul of this anachronistic vagary; Petit (2003: 18-19 <<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2003f/zt00377.pdf>>) linked other invalid "unilateral" *nomina oblita* declarations to this 1973-2000 interval.

After 1999, according to the **fourth** edition of the Code (ICZN, 1999), suppression of a *nomen oblitum* may be effected **without** petition to the ICZN provided:

"23.9.1.1. the senior synonym or homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899, and

"23.9.1.2. the junior synonym or homonym has been used for a particular taxon, as its presumed valid name, in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years.

"23.9.2. An author who discovers that both the conditions of [23.9.1](#) are met should cite the two names together and state explicitly that the younger name is valid, and that the action is taken in accordance with this Article; at the same time the author must give evidence that the conditions of [Article 23.9.1.2](#) are met, and also state that, to his or her knowledge, the condition in [Article 23.9.1.1](#) applies. From the date of publication of that act the younger name has precedence over the older name. When cited, the younger but valid name may be qualified by the term *nomen protectum* and the invalid, but older, name by the term *nomen oblitum* (see [Glossary](#)). In the case of subjective synonymy, whenever the names are not regarded as synonyms the older name may be used as valid."

To stabilize the nomenclature, we provide a bibliography [see APPENDIX] in compliance with the above ICZN provisions, we establish ***Buccinum candidum* Born, 1778** as a *nomen oblitum* and suppress it under the provisions of the fourth edition of the Code. (ICZN, 1999) and declare ***Epitonium guttatum* Röding, 1798** the **valid name (*nomen protectum*)** for this species.

Acknowledgments: Fig. 1 was photographed by Angel Yanagihara and brought to my attention by Jo O'Keefe, Sunset Beach, NC.

Literature cited:

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- [Röding, P.F.], 1798. *Museum Boltenianum sive catalogus cimeliorum e tribus [sic] regnis naturae quae olim collegerat Joa. Fried Bolten, M. D. p. d. per XL. annos proto physicus Hamburgensis. Pars secunda continens conchyliia sive testacea univalvia bivalvia & multivalvia*. viii + pp. 1-199. [Reprinted in facsimile by Sherborn and Sykes, 1906, which version was republished by American Malacological Union in 1986]. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/11067364>>

APPENDIX [25 works in the past 50 years, more than 10 authors, and encompassing a span of over 10 years] in which *Terebra guttata* (Röding, 1798) was used as a valid taxon:

1. Abbott, R.T. and S.P. Dance, 1982. *Compendium of seashells*. E.P. Dutton, New York. I-x + 1-411 + [1] (incl. numerous text figs.) [p. 273]
2. Aubry, U., 1984. *Terebridae*. Umberto Aubry, Sorrento, Italy. Pp. 1-44 (incl. 15 plates). [pl. 5, fig. 15]
3. Bratcher, T. and W.O. Cernohorsky, 1987. *Living Terebras of the world A monograph of the living Terebridae of the world*. American Malacologists, Melbourne, FL. Pp. 1-240. [pp. 38-40; pl. 3, figs. 8a, 8b]
4. Cernohorsky, W.O., 1967. *Marine Shells of the Pacific*. Pacific Publications, Sydney. Pp. 1-248 [p. 202]
5. Dance, S.P., 1974. *Collector's Encyclopedia of Shells*. McGraw-Hill, New York. Pp. 1- 288 [p. 218]
6. Eisenberg, J.M., 1981. *A Collector's Guide to Seashells of the World*. McGraw-Hill, New York. Pp. 1-239. [p. 148; pl. 30, fig. 23]
7. Habe, T. and S. Kosuge, 1966. *Shells of the world in colour, Volume 2: The Tropical Pacific*. Hoikusha, Osaka. [I]-[viii] + [1]-193 + plates 1-68. [p. 100; pl. 39. fig. 20]
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11. Hinton, A.G., 1978. *Guide to Australian Shells*. Robert Brown and Associates, Port Moresby. Pp 1-82 [p. 55, fig. 10]
12. Kay, E.A., 1979. *Hawaiian marine shells Reef and shore fauna of Hawaii Section 4: Mollusca*. [Bernice P. Bishop Museum Special Publication 64(4)]. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu. xviii + 1-653 (incl. 195 pls.). [p. 399, fig. 127B]
13. Kay, E.A. and O. Schoenberg-Dole, 1991. *Shells Of Hawai'i*. University Of Hawaii Press: Honolulu. i-v + 1-89. [p. 60]
14. Melvin, A. G., 1977. *Sea shells of the world with values. (15th edition)*. Charles Tuttle, Rutland Vermont and Tokyo. Pp. 1-167 [p. 62; pl. 21, fig. 20]
15. Mills, P.M., 1977. Radular tooth structure in three species of Terebridae. *The Veliger* 19(3): 259-260 + 1 plate (figs. 2-8). 1 Jan. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/42409398>>. [p. 260]
16. Okutani, T. (editor), 2000. *Marine Shells in Japan*. Tokai Univ. Press, Tokyo. i-xlvi + 1-1173 + ii, incl color 542 pls., + several color vignettes in forepp. [p. 681; pl. 339, fig. 63]
17. Oliver, A.P.H., 1975. *The Henry Holt Guide to Shells of the World*. Henry Holt, London. Pp. 1-320 [p. 290]

18. Robin, A., 2008. *Encyclopedia of Marine Gastropods*. ConchBooks. Hackenheim, Germany. Pp. 1-480. [p. 443, fig. 14]
 19. Severns, M., 2011. *Shells of the Hawaiian Islands The Sea Shells*. ConchBooks, Hackenheim, Germany. Pp. (1)-564 (incl. 224 pls.). May. [p. 378; pl. 172, fig. 1]
 20. Springsteen, F.J. and F.M. Leobrera. 1986. *Shells of the Philippines*. Carfel Shell Museum, Manila. Pp. 1-377. [p. 256; pl. 72, fig. 2]
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 23. Terry, Y., and M. Holford, 2008. The Terebridae of Vanuatu with a revision of the genus *Granuliterebra* Oyama 1961. *Visaya Supplement 3*: 1-96. [p. 108, pl. 12, figs 6-8]
 24. Thach, N.N., 2012. *New Records of Mollusks from Vietnam*. 48HrBooks, Akron, Ohio. Pp. [1]-276 + pls. 1-151. [pl. 108, fig. 1275]
 25. Wilson, B., 1994. *Australian Marine Shells Prosobranch Gastropods Part Two (Neogastropods)*. Odyssey Press, Kallaroo, W. Australia. Pp. [1]-370. [p. 226; pl. 51, fig. 19]
- ... and for good measure, from **our own newsletter**: Lloyd, C., 2000. Notes on Diving at Nuku Hiva Island, Marquesas, and Moorea Island, French Polynesia. *Shell-O-Gram 41(2)*: 1, 4-7. <<http://www.jaxshells.org/pdfs/marapr00.pdf>> [p. 7]

Shelling while Caribbean Cruising

by Rick Edwards

What does one do when local shelling places are not as productive as they once were or access to once unrestrictive sites become restrictive? You start looking for other sources or locations. My answer has been to check out beaches and dive sites while on cruises. For those that have the time, are in good health, and like exploring, cruising and shelling may be for you.

My wife and I started cruising in the Caribbean after we retired. When we retired, we selected a location that had both beaches and warm weather. Initially, I would make weekly trips to walk the local beaches where I accumulated a collection of local shells, some live collected, but most were beach specimens. Over time, I rarely found anything new, but I still enjoyed the walks on the beach and occasional new discoveries.

Later, I dove a couple of times a year for fossilized shark teeth and shells as I looked for the teeth. Most of the time, I brought back more shells than teeth while my son always had more teeth than shells. Again, most of the shells were empty of animals, but in better condition than beach shells. It was a lot of effort to swim out ½ mile offshore with complete dive gear, and then back after 90 minutes on the bottom. When visibility cooperated, the diving was fun and rewarding. When visibility was poor, your efforts could be totally unrewarded.

At some point a few years after we retired, we decided to take a cruise. We found that we loved the travel where you unpacked once and never worried about preparing meals. While on the first cruise, some of the excursions gave us opportunity to walk on beaches, and at various locations, pick-up beach shells. Snorkeling and diving allowed for picture taking of sea life, and occasionally, live shells. As a result, we try to visit at least one beach for shells whenever we cruise. On the average, we find between 20 and 25 different species in a visit.

When shelling on a cruise, there are some issues that you should be aware of if you are going to bring shells back. Usually, purchased shells and shell craft are not a problem. Some Caribbean islands are marine preserves and restrict collecting or have sites that are restricted. So check before you collect. I do not recommend live collecting as they can cause Customs issues or problems with local authorities. In some areas, beaches are

private, and, therefore, restricted. Again, check before you go to a secluded beach or out of the way area. On many islands, the public beaches are well marked. On some ships, the captain restricts shells from being brought onboard due to past guests leaving animal inhabited shells in staterooms, which I assumed, created undesired odors. So far, I have had my shells confiscated only one time. I was unaware that the captain had a no shell policy on his ship.

As a collector of shells, use good judgment when collecting in unfamiliar areas. Dive shops and beach gear renters can provide advice concerning local governances and safety. The ship's crew or guest relations can provide information on board the ship.

Some of the public beaches can be a five to fifteen minute walk from the docking pier. Others may require you to sign up for an excursion since the beaches may be private, requiring a prepaid fee. Still others may be too far for walking, therefore require transportation to reach them. A little research before you go will be helpful.

Last, enjoy the cruise. Collecting shells while on a cruise is just an added benefit to enjoy.



A sampler of Rick Edwards' photographs while on Caribbean Cruises [ed.]