

The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Mollusc Specialist Group
Species Survival Commission • International Union for Conservation of Nature

TENTACLE



UNITAS MALACOLOGICA



EDITORIAL

A year ago in *Tentacle* issue 22, I once again expressed my desire to step down as Editor. Well, I am still here, now after 20 years and this my 19th issue of *Tentacle*. However, I am now ably assisted by two Associate Editors, both long-time members of the Mollusc Specialist Group: Dr. Justin Gerlach and Dr. Kathryn Perez.

Justin, now based in Cambridge, UK, has for a long time been interested in the endemic land snails of oceanic islands, having completed his Ph.D. in 1994 on the ecology of the predatory snail *Euglandina rosea*, the well-known scourge of these endangered faunas. Much of his research has focused on the fauna and flora of the Seychelles, but he recently returned to Pacific island tree snails and last year published [Snailing round the South Seas – the Partula story](#) (see page 35 of this issue of *Tentacle*). Additional details of his research and other conservation activities can be found at [his website](#).

Kathryn obtained her Ph.D. in 2005 and recently moved from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse to the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) in Edinburg, Texas, USA. She has been involved primarily with North American land and freshwater snails and their conservation, but has also made a brief foray into threatened hydrobiids of the Great Artesian Basin of Australia. Kathryn has been an active and enthusiastic member of the American Malacological Society's conservation committee for a number of years. She is especially involved in public outreach and innovative education. More details can be found via [her UTPA website](#) and [her personal website](#).

With Justin and Kathryn now helping me with much of the detailed editing and formatting of your submissions, my life has become much easier and so I will continue to act as Editor for the time being, until someone else wants to take over and modernise this perhaps rather aging newsletter. But as I have done many times before, I stress that it is especially important for the editorial team that you make every effort to format your submissions in the precise style of *Tentacle*, as explained on the following page.

Robert H. Cowie, Editor

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blainianus has ten subspecies and their distribution is more extensive: Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Mayabeque and La Habana Provinces; the length is 35-45 mm, and the distinctive character is the black tip of the shell.

Liguus fasciatus was described by Müller in 1774 as a marine mollusc in the genus *Buccinum* Linnaeus, 1758. This is the species of *Liguus* with the broadest distribution, it is the most abundant and has the greatest variability in colour and pattern. At present there are around 80 Cuban subspecies and 60 in the Florida Peninsula and adjacent keys.

The Island of Youth (IY) (in Spanish, Isla de la Juventud), formerly known as the Isle of Pines, is the biggest island of the Canarreos Archipelago (2,202 km²). It is located to the southwest of Cuba, and is divided into two large zones by the Ciénaga de Lanier. In the last century, five subspecies of *Liguus fasciatus* were reported from IY. In 1934, William J. Clench described two from Punta del Este (Clench, 1934). Later, in 1954, Miguel L. Jaume described the other three (Jaume, 1954), two from Faro de Carapachibey and one from Sierra de Caballos (Table 1). The taxonomic status of these subspecies must be revised because they seem to contradict the concept of subspecies.

NEW LOCALITY FOR *LIGUUS FASCIATUS* (MÜLLER, 1774) FROM THE ISLAND OF YOUTH, CUBA

By Jane Herrera Uria

The Cuban terrestrial malacofauna is characterized by its high number of species and percentage of endemism. According to Espinosa & Ortea (2009), the genus *Liguus* Montfort, 1810 (Gastropoda: Orthalicidae) is represented by three endemic species: *L. blainianus* (Poey, 1851), *L. flammellus* Clench, 1934 and *L. vittatus* (Swainson, 1822). *Liguus fasciatus* (Müller, 1774) is found in Cuba and the Florida Peninsula. This genus also includes *L. virgineus* (Linnaeus, 1767) from La Española.

The most restricted of all is *L. flammellus*, with seven subspecies, restricted to Viñales Park in Pinar del Río Province. Shells are slender, covered with many flammations, and the length is 40-50 mm. There are four subspecies of *L. vittatus*. These are common from Cabo Cruz to Ensenada de Mora in Granma Province; shells are 40-45 mm long and differ in having white, yellow and brown wide bands. *Liguus*

Table 1. Subspecies of *Liguus fasciatus* from IY, Cuba.

Species	Holotype	Type locality
<i>Liguus fasciatus torrei</i> Clench, 1934	Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), Harvard, USA, no. 58805 (Fig. 1A).	Punta del Este, IY, Cuba.
<i>Liguus fasciatus pinarensis</i> Clench, 1934	MCZ, Harvard, USA, no. 58806 (Fig. 1B).	Punta del Este, IY, Cuba.
<i>Liguus fasciatus evangelistaense</i> Jaume, 1954	Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática (IES), La Habana, Cuba, no. 25306 (Fig. 1C).	Faro de Carapachibey, IY, Cuba.
<i>Liguus fasciatus pharius</i> Jaume, 1954	IES, La Habana, Cuba, no. 25309 (Fig. 1D).	Faro de Carapachibey, IY, Cuba.
<i>Liguus fasciatus caballoense</i> Jaume, 1954	IES, La Habana, Cuba, no. 25296 (Fig. 1E).	Sierra de Caballos, IY, Cuba.

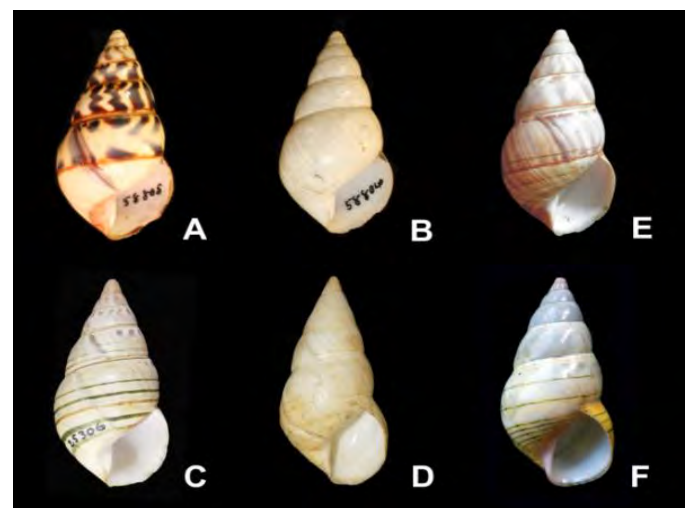


Fig. 1. Subspecies of *Liguus* from IY, Cuba. Labels as in Table 1.



Fig. 2. Map of Sierra de las Casas in IY.

Sierra de las Casas is located in the north of IY (Fig. 2). These mountains are a protected area (Protected Natural Landscape) and have the highest percentage of endemic terrestrial snails of the Island of Youth. During June to October 2014, we made three field expeditions to this locality. We found a new population of *L. fasciatus* (Fig. 1F), with specimens corresponding to the morph known as *L. fasciatus crenatus* (Swainson, 1821). This pattern of colours is present in many localities of Cuba: shell completely white with periostracal green lines; after death of the snail these lines disappear. A phylogenetic revision is necessary to clarify the taxonomic status of all subspecies of *Liguus fasciatus*, particularly those of the Island of Youth.

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Clench, W.J. 1934. New mollusks in the genus *Liguus* from Cuba and the Isle of Pines. West Indian Mollusks No. 8. *Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History* 8: 101-124, pls. 5-7.

Espinosa, J. & Ortea, J. 2009. *Moluscos terrestres de Cuba*. Vaasa, Finland. 191 p.

Jaume, M.L. 1954. Novedades en *Liguus* de Cuba e Isla de Pinos. *Circulares del Museo y Biblioteca de Zoología de La Habana*. September/October 1954: 1375-1388.

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