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 Edinburgh, 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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CONSERVATION STATUS OF *PINERIA TEREBRA* POEY, 1851 (GASTROPODA: UROCOPTIDAE) FROM ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD, CUBA

By Jane Herrera Uria

Cuba has a rich terrestrial malacofauna with > 1300 species, of which about 95% are endemic (Espinosa & Ortea, 1999). Urocoptidae covers 41% of Cuban land snails, with 47 genera and 572 species (Torre & Bartsch, 2008).

Pineria (Fig. 1) is an endemic genus of terrestrial mollusc from Isla de la Juventud. It contains two species: *Pineria beathiana* Poey, 1851, and *Pineria terebra* Poey, 1851, with two subspecies (Figs. 2-3): *Pineria t. terebra* and *P. t. colombiana*, from north of Sierra de las Casas and south of Sierra Colombo, respectively. At present, these are the only known localities for these invertebrates.

Information on the natural history of *Pineria terebra* is very scarce. The last record of its occurrence dates from 1995 in a PhD thesis.

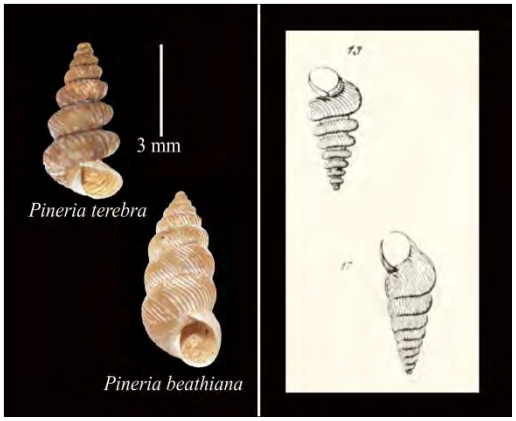

Fig. 1. Shells of *Pineria beathiana* and *Pineria terebra*: endemic genus from Isla de la Juventud (left). Illustrations of Felipe Poey y Aloy in 1851 (right).

Fig. 2. *Pineria terebra terebra* from the eastern hillside to the north of Sierra de las Casas, Isla de la Juventud, Cuba.

Fig. 3. Juvenil of *Pineria terebra colombiana* at south of Sierra Colombo, Isla de la Juventud, Cuba.

Within the Cuban Archipelago, Isla de la Juventud (Fig. 4) is considered one of the most important habitats of endemism, because about 30% of terrestrial molluscs are local endemics (Espinosa & Ortea, 1999). Isla de la Juventud, formerly known as Isle of Pines, is a Caribbean island that is separated from Cuba by a distance approximately of 94 Km and has an extension of 2200 Km².

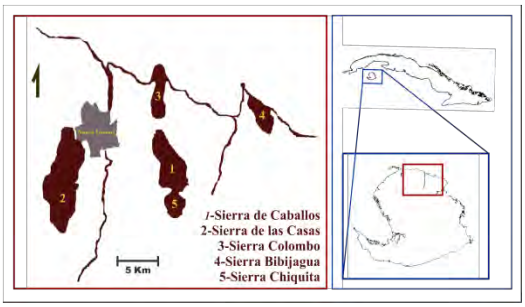

Fig. 4. Elevations at north of Isla de la Juventud, Cuba.

Sierra de las Casas (261 m/s l, Fig. 5) is the second elevation (after Sierra de Caballos: 295 m/s l), its eastern foothill facing the largest human settlement on the island, from which Sierra de las Casas mountain range receiver a direct environmental impact caused by frequent fires in dumps and forest.

Likewise, Sierra Colombo (130 m/ s l, Fig. 6) receiver similar impacts plus mining for marble exploitation. Those are the major threats to *Pineria terebra*.

Fig. 5. (A): Pueblo Nuevo town. (B): Eastern hillside at north of Sierra de las Casas, Isla de la Juventud, Cuba. (C-D): Type locality and habitat of *Pineria terebra terebra.*

Fig. 6. (A): View of Sierra Colombo. (B): Type locality of *Pineria terebra colombiana.* (C): Southeastern of Sierra Colombo. (D): Specific habitat of *Pineria t. colombiana*. (E): *Pineria t. colombiana* on rocks.

During my fieldwork at the northeastern area of Isla de la Juventud (2014-2015), I was able to confirm the continued existence of *Pineria terebra*. I found both subspecies and took photographs of their shells. These land snails are dependent on limestone and that is why microlocation is so high in them. I measured habitat area as 20 m² for *Pineria terebra terebra* and 6 m² for *Pineria terebra colombiana*; but habitat loss occurs due to frequent forest fires (Fig. 7).

Vales *et al*. (1998) claimed that the majority of Cuban land snails are threatened; but so far *Pineria terebra* has not been evaluated by the IUCN. Perhaps the information available is still insufficient for an accurate evaluation of its conservation status. The present paper is the first alert call on the issue.

Fig. 7. Dead land snails caused by forest fire.

Espinosa, J. & Ortea, J. 1999. Moluscos terrestres del archipiélago cubano. *Avicennia* 2: 1 -137.

Poey, F. 1851. Memorias sobre la Historia Natural de la Isla de Cuba. Vol. 1: 428-431.

Torre, C. de la & Bartsch, P. 2008. Los moluscos terrestres cubanos de la familia Urocoptidae. Editorial Científico-Técnica. 800 p.

Vales, M., Álvarez, A., Montes, L. & Ávila, A. 1998. Estudio Nacional sobre la Diversidad Biológica en la República de Cuba. CESYTA, Madrid. 480 p.

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