

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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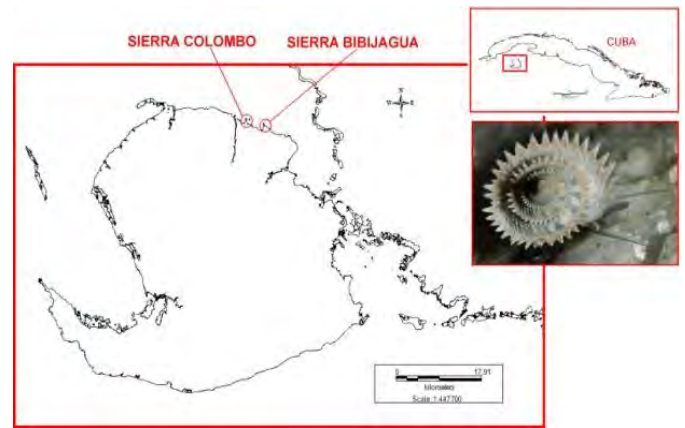


Fig. 1. Map of the Island of Youth, Cuba.



Fig. 2. Sierra Colombo from Sierra de Caballos, IY, Cuba.

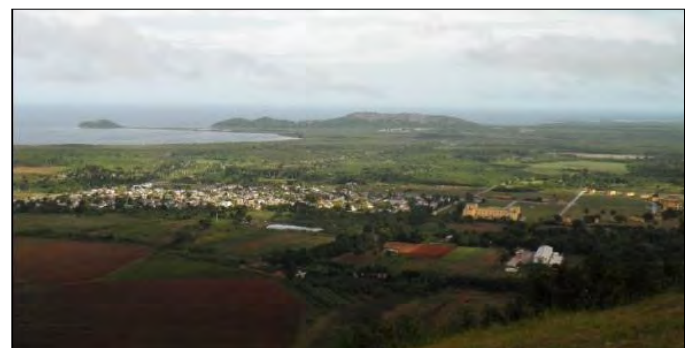


Fig. 3. Sierra Bibijagua from Sierra de Caballos, IY, Cuba.

NEW LOCALITY FOR *PRIOTROCHATELLA STELLATA* (GASTROPODA: HELICINIDAE) FROM THE ISLAND OF YOUTH, CUBA

By Jane Herrera Uria

The Island of Youth (IY) (Fig. 1) has an area of 2,202 km² and is the largest island of the Canarreos archipelago, the second largest island in the Cuban archipelago, and the sixth largest of all of the Antilles. In the northern part of the IY there are four important sierras that are the habitats of the largest number of terrestrial molluscs in the IY: Sierra de las Casas, Sierra de Caballos, Sierra Colombo (Fig. 2) and Sierra Bibijagua (Fig. 3).

The genus *Priotrochatella* Fischer, 1893 belongs to the Helicinidae and contains four species: *Priotrochatella constellata* (Morelet, 1847), *P. stellata* (Velazquez in Poey, 1852), and *P. torrei* Clapp, 1918 from Cuba, and *P. josephinae* (Adams, 1849) from Jamaica.

The most important paper on this genus is by Clench & Jacobson (1970), based on collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard. According to Clench & Jacobson (1970), the Cuban species of *Priotrochatella* are well separated geographically on the IY: *P. constellata* in the

northern part of Sierra de las Casas, *P. torrei* on the southern part of Sierra de las Casas, and *P. stellata* only in Sierra de Caballos. Over six days in November 2014 we visited Sierra Colombo and Sierra Bibijagua. Only 12 and 6 species of land snails have been reported, respectively, from these localities (Milera & Correoso, 2003).

Unexpectedly, we found ten specimens of *Priotrochatella stellata* on the marmoreal rocks in Sierra Bibijagua (Figs. 4, 5), which Clench & Jacobson (1970) had only reported from Sierra de Caballos. The high point of Sierra Bibijagua is 75 m above sea level, and is located at 21.89271°N, 82.73631°W. We also found *Priotrochatella stellata* in the northern part of Sierra Colombo (130 m above sea level). In both cases it was not abundant, which may be because of forest fires.

Priotrochatella stellata is not well represented in Cuban collections. For that reason, the material collected is housed in



Fig. 4. Member of the field team: Josué Francisco González.



Fig. 5. *Priotrochatella stellata* on marmoreal rocks of Sierra Bibijagua, IY, Cuba.

the National Museum of Natural History of Cuba, and will be used for a transitory exhibit on the land snails of the IY.

We thank the Rufford Foundation for the Rufford Small Grant that has been very important in support of field work.

Clench, W.J. & Jacobson, M.K. 1970. The Genus *Priotrochatella* of the Isle of Pines and Jamaica, West Indies. [*Occasional Papers on Mollusks* 3\(39\): 61-80.](#)

Milera, J.F. & Correoso, M. 2003. Los moluscos terrestres y fluviales de la Isla de la Juventud. *Cocuyo* 13: 15-18.

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