



FIRST MEETING OF THE MOLLUSC RESEARCH AUSTRIA (MoFA) SOCIETY IN SALZBURG

CONFERENCE REPORT

On 26th and 27th June 2019 the first conference of the society Mollusc Research Austria (MoFA) was held in the city of Salzburg, Austria at the “Haus der Natur” (House of Nature). The MoFA society was founded in 2016 and first activities comprised several meetings, excursions and presentations of the society at meetings in Krakow, Poland (European Congress of Malacological Societies 2017) and Johnsbach, Austria (Workshop Alpine Land Snails 2018). The aim of MoFA is to foster malacological research and to strengthen the scientific malacological network in Austria as well as to support co-operations with related societies, working groups and researchers internationally.

At the MoFA conference in Salzburg we were kindly welcomed by the director of the Haus der Natur, NORBERT WINDING. The conference was a striking success as the atmosphere was fantastic from the very beginning until the farewell. The group of almost 50 participants was multinational, with repre-

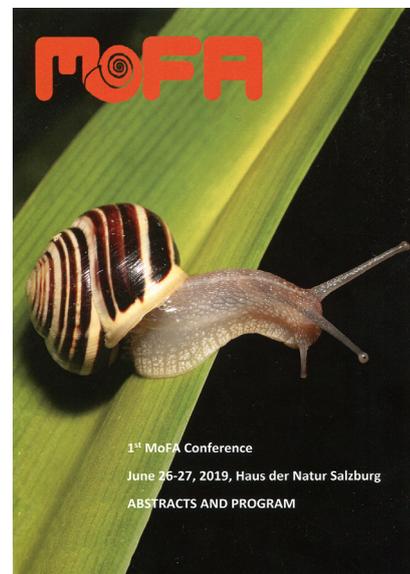


Fig. 1. Participants of 1st Meeting of the society Mollusc Research Austria (MoFA) in front of the Haus der Natur in Salzburg, Austria. Photo: Haus der Natur ©

representatives from Slovenia, Poland, Germany, Georgia and Austria (Fig. 1). It was a great honour for us to host prominent members of the Association of Polish Malacologists, namely the former president ANDRZEJ LESICKI and the board member JOANNA PIENKOWSKA from the University of Poznań. From Germany the presence of GERHARD HASZPRUNAR, director of the Bavarian Natural History Collections (SBNS) and keen malacologist enriched our meeting as well as the participation of MARCO NEIBER, based at the University and Museum in Hamburg and MARTIN HAASE from the University of Greifswald, who both are well known and rather active malacologists. We were also proud to welcome guests from neighbouring Slovenia, namely our friends RAIKO SLAPNIK and JANA VALENTINČIČ, as well from distant Georgia, namely our valued colleagues NANA BAKHTADZE and NINO CHAKVETADZE. The majority of participants were from Austria and represented a diverse mixture of students and senior scientists, people from museums, universities and research facilities as well as private researchers. Concerning the presentations, a big diversity of different fields was covered in 18 oral presentations (Figs 2–4) and 8 posters (Fig. 5), which stretched from marine to terrestrial, from molecular to morphological, from ecological and parasitological

to systematic and practical questions as well as book and data base presentations (see Appendix with the programme).

The organizing committee consisted of ROBERT PATZNER (Universität Salzburg), STEFAN KWITT (Haus der Natur Salzburg), MICHAEL DUDA, ELISABETH HARING, LUISE KRUCKENHAUSER, KATHARINA MASON, HELMUT SATTMANN (NHM Vienna). The book of abstracts was edited by ELISABETH HARING, KATHARINA MASON, and HELMUT SATTMANN.

In the evening, the winners of the MoFA Junior Awards, which were selected by an independent four-person jury (MARTIN HAASE, GERHARD HASZPRUNAR, MARCO NEIBER, SILVANA SCHMIDT-UKAJ), were honoured. MARTINA STOCKINGER from the University of Vienna won the MoFA award for the best talk for her contribution on the mollusc fauna of a seagrass meadow in southern Crete (“Presence and prevalence of non-indigenous molluscs in a *Posidonia oceanica* meadow in southern Crete”) (Fig. 6). The poster award went to SARAH ZAUNER for the question of how a moon’s clam comes to its symbiotic sulfur bacteria (“Molecular characterization of gelatinous egg masses in the lucinid *Loripes orbiculatus* argues for an acquisition of bacterial symbionts from the environment”) (Fig. 7). We enjoyed a comfortable



Figs 2–4. Oral presentations were given, among others, by GERHARD HASZPRUNAR from Zoological State Collection Munich (2), MARTIN HAASE from University of Greifswald (3) and MARCO NEIBER from University of Hamburg (4). Photos: ROBERT PATZNER

ble and communicative evening together in the traditional Restaurant Sternbräu.

On the second day, our colleagues from Salzburg, ROBERT PATZNER, STEFAN KWITT und RITA SCHRATTNER-TRAVENITZKY took us to the beautiful headwaters around Fürstenbrunn at Untersberg and to the floodplains of Glanbach near Grödig, where we documented the mollusc species found there (Figs

8–9). Despite of the high temperatures we observed a good number of species (> 40), and the species list together with the abstracts of the meeting will be published in the upcoming issue of *Arianta*.

Overall, we had two inspiring, interesting and atmospheric days in the beautiful country of Salzburg. We would like to thank all participants and especially the speakers and discussants, who gave the confer-



Figs 5–7. Poster session (5). MARTINA STOCKINGER (6) and SARAH ZAUNER (7) and from University of Vienna won MoFA awards for the best talk and poster, respectively. Photos: ROBERT PATZNER (5) and HUBERT BLATTERER (6–7)



Figs 8–9. Conference participants on a wonderful field trip. Photos: ROBERT PATZNER



ence substance, the chairpersons of the sessions, the members of the jury and finally, yet importantly, all those who helped organize this nice and successful conference. Particularly of course, we are grateful to the Haus der Natur in Salzburg, which hosted us perfectly.

For those who are interested in the activities of our society, please visit our webpage and/or subscribe to our newsletter. New members are welcome! <https://www.molluskenforschung.at/>

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APPENDIX 1. PROGRAMME 1. MOFA CONFERENCE – 26.–27.06.2019

09:30–09:45 Welcome – NORBERT WINDING (Haus der Natur, Salzburg), Introduction – ELISABETH HARING (NHM Vienna):

TALKS (MOFA JUNIOR-AWARD CANDIDATES MARKED WITH *)

Chair: GERHARD HASZPRUNAR (Zoological State Collection Munich; LMU Munich)

09:45–10:00 ATTILA SACHSLEHNER* (Univ. Vienna): Expression of mesodermal marker genes in the polyplacophoran mollusk *Acanthochitona crinita*

10:00–10:15 STEPHAN-MATHIAS SCHULREICH* (Univ. Vienna): Mesoderm and muscle formation in the quagga mussel *Dreissena rostriformis*

10:15–10:30 TOBIAS TERNUS* (Univ. Salzburg): Phylogeography and morphological variation of freshwater spring snails (*Bythinella*), along a west – east transect in Austria

10:30–10:45 BENEDICT YUEN (Univ. Vienna): How does the lucinid clam maintain its symbiosis with chemosynthetic bacteria?

10:45–11:00 NIKOLAUS HELMER* (Univ. Vienna): More leaves on the phylogenetic tree of Scaphopoda (Bronn, 1862): Work in progress

11:00–11:45 Coffee break with Poster session – Moderation MARCO NEIBER (Univ. Hamburg)

Chair: LUISE KRUCKENHAUSER (NHM Vienna)

11:45–12:00 MARTINA STOCKINGER* (Univ. Vienna): Presence and prevalence of non-indigenous molluscs in a *Posidonia oceanica* meadow in southern Crete

12:00–12:15 LISA-MARIA SCHMIDT* (Univ. Vienna): Linking the ecological species concept with systematics of trochid gastropods in the Northern Adriatic Sea

12:15–12:30 ELISABETH ZIEGER (Univ. Vienna): A multilevel approach to understanding nervous system development in the chiton *Acanthochitona crinita*

12:30–12:45 GERHARD STEINER (Univ. Vienna): Confocal views of the nervous system of Scaphopoda

12:45–14:00 Lunch break

Chair: GERHARD STEINER (University Vienna)

14:00–14:15 GERHARD HASZPRUNAR (Zoological State Collection Munich; LMU Munich): The operculum of Gastropoda: origin and losses

14:15–14:30 MARCO NEIBER (Univ. Hamburg): A fresh look at Melanopsidae (Caenogastropoda: Cerithioidea): evolutionary systematics, biogeography and conservation genetics

14:30–14:45 MARTIN HAASE (Univ. Greifswald): Can the morphological variation of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* be explained as adaptation to flow? A complex answer integrating morphometrics, computational fluid dynamics and a flow tank experiment

14:45–15:00 MICHAEL DUDA (NHM Vienna): Old facts and new insights into intraspecific diversity of *Petasina monodon* (A. Férrusac, 1807) [= *Petasina unidendata* (Draparnaud, 1805)] in the Eastern Alps (Gastropoda: Helicoidea)

15:00–15:45 Coffee break

Chair: STEFAN KWITT (Haus der Natur, Salzburg)

15:45–16:00 HELMUT SATTMANN (NHM Vienna):
Looking on the snails' side of life – Molluscs as
intermediate hosts of digenean trematodes

16:00–16:15 SILVANA SCHMIDT-UKAJ (Vetmeduni
Vienna): Achatschnecken in der tierärztlichen
Praxis

16:15–16:30 HUBERT BLATTERER (Linz): Mollusca of
the Dahab region (Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea)

16:30–16:45 RUDOLF KAPPELLER (Linz): Projekt Euro-
päische Mollusken: Systematik/Beschreibung/Ver-
breitung/Bestimmungsschlüssel/Abbildungen/
Literatur

16:45–17:00 LUISE KRUCKENHAUSER (NHM Vienna):
DNA Barcoding of Austrian molluscs – a short up-
date

17:00 Closing remarks

19:00 Come together at Gasthaus Sternbräu with
presentation of MoFA Junior-Awards

POSTERS (MOFA JUNIOR-AWARD CANDIDATES
MARKED WITH *)

Chair: MARCO NEIBER (University Hamburg)

NANA BAKHTADZE (Ilia State University, Tbilisi):
Chromosome numbers of terrestrial mollusks
(Mollusca: Gastropoda) of Georgia

DANIEL DAILL* (blattfisch, Wels): Conservation
of Freshwater Pearl Mussels (*Margaritifera
margaritifera*) in Austria – the project “Vision
Flussperlmuschel”

MIRJAM EDLER* (Vetmeduni Vienna): Lungworms of
dogs and cats in snail intermediate hosts in east-
ern Austria – a pilot study

ANDRZEJ LESICKI (University Poznan): *Monacha
cantiana* s.l. (Montagu, 1803) (Gastropoda:
Hygromiidae) – mitochondrial lineage occurring
in Austria

SUSANNE REIER* (NHM Vienna, Univ. Vienna):
Integrative taxonomy of the genus *Siciliaria* Vest,
1867 from northwestern Sicily with insights into
related genera

HANNAH SCHUBERT* (NHM Vienna): Survey on
spring snails (Hydrobiidae) in the Kalkalpen
National Park

JOHANNES VOLKMER* (Ökoteam, Graz): The land
snail fauna of the Gesäuse National Park. Ecology
of Alpine land snails, with a special focus on en-
demic species

SARAH ZAUNER* (Univ. Vienna): Molecular charac-
terization of gelatinous egg masses in the lucinid
Loripes orbiculatus argues for an acquisition of bac-
terial symbionts from the environment