



WORLD CONGRESS OF MALACOLOGY
ANTWERP, BELGIUM, 15-20 JULY 2007

SECOND CIRCULAR: December 21st, 2006

The congress will be held on campus «Groenenborger» of the University of Antwerp. It is the 16th International Congress of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA (UM). The congress will also host the 73rd annual meeting of the AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY (AMS).

Updated information will be available at the UM website (<http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/>) and at the WCM website (<http://www.naturalsciences.be/wcm2007>)

DEADLINES

Travel grant applications: 15 March 2007
End reduced registration fees: 30 April 2007
End of abstract submission: 31 Mai 2007

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Congress Schedule

The WCM will start with an icebreaker on Sunday, July 15th (17:30 – 19:30) in the reception hall of the Zoo of Antwerp (Astridplein, near «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station). Conference sessions will be organised in four parallel sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. All sessions will be held in the T-Building of campus «Groenenborger» of the University of Antwerp. Lunches will be served in the cafeteria of the same building. The poster session will be held on Tuesday late afternoon/evening and will include a reception with wine, typical Belgian degustations, cheese and of course... a selection of Belgian beers. Wednesday is a free day during which participants can discover the many historical and beautiful places in Antwerp. They can also join one of the optional congress trips or do whatever they want, of course! On Thursday evening AMS will host its annual auction of molluscan books and paraphernalia (no specimens) to benefit its student programs. The conference dinner will be on Friday evening.

The Science

The WCM is an opportunity for malacologists from throughout the world to get together to discuss their research. To do so, there will be thematic symposia, open contributed sessions and a poster session with posters on display for the duration of the congress. Note: max 1 oral and 1 poster per presenting author.

Several thematic symposia are planned:

SEXUAL SELECTION IN MOLLUSCS

Traits that evolve through selection during the process of mating are said to be sexually selected. Famously, Darwin claimed that sexual selection could not occur in molluscs, because of their hermaphroditism and imperfect senses, but in this he was clearly wrong. In fact, sexual selection is particularly strong in molluscs owing to the prevalence of sperm competition. Some sexually selected molluscan traits that have been documented by recent studies include extreme variations in reproductive anatomies, complex mating systems, variable mating strategies, mate choices, sexual signaling, bizarre courtship behaviours, and post-copulatory manipulations. Because such traits are closely linked to reproductive success, they tend to evolve rapidly, with sometimes unexpected results such as the love-dart. Also, given that the specific reproductive interests of the two sexes are usually different, and may even be in conflict, male and female traits do not necessarily evolve symmetrically. Some recent evidence points to the occurrence of antagonistic co-evolution between male and female traits within hermaphroditic molluscs. In this symposium we aim at an overview of research on sexual selection in molluscs, with the purpose of stimulating and guiding further research on this topic.

Contact: Dr. Ronald Chase, Dept. Biology, McGill University, 1205 Ave. Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1B1, Canada; Email: ronald.chase@mcgill.ca; Dr. Joris Koene, Dept. Animal Ecology, Free University of Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1085, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Email: joris.koene@falw.vu.nl;

INVENTORYING THE MOLLUSCAN FAUNA OF THE WORLD: FRONTIERS AND PERSPECTIVES

Species-level taxonomy is making a come-back. The global discovery, description and naming of new mollusc species continues at a steady pace. Undersampled regions or habitats, understudied families, as well as old faunas being revisited with new characters, all contribute new species to the global inventory, as they have in the past. However, the global context of molluscan exploration is changing with, e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Barcoding of Life or the Global Biodiversity Information Facility directly or indirectly affecting the way we collect, analyze and archive specimens and information related to them. How are new explorations changing our perception of the magnitude of regional or global faunas? Where are the frontiers? How is the molecular revolution impacting day-to-day on alpha taxonomy? What

are the bottlenecks to describing and naming new mollusc species? What problems and solutions do we share with other taxonomists, and what makes malacologists different? What is / what should be the place of malacological journals in this endeavour? These will be the core questions dealt with by this symposium.

Contact: Dr. Philippe Bouchet, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55, rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France; Email: pbouchet@mnhn.fr; Dr. Somsak Panha, Dept. Biology, Chulalongkorn University, 254 Phayathai Road, Patumwan, Bangkok, 10330 Thailand; Email: somsak_panha@yahoo.com;

MICROMOLLUSCS: METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES, EXCITING RESULTS

The majority of molluscan biodiversity is composed of animals in a size range of <5 mm, yet these micromolluscs are often considered difficult to work with. This symposium brings together various workers on micromolluscs to foster information exchange and to stimulate further investigations. Presentations should be composed of equal parts of detailed methods, including failed attempts and currently unresolved problems, and results. Presentations discussing methods only are also encouraged. All aspects of working with micromolluscs (including: collecting, sorting, preservation, curation, tools, morphology, histology, imaging, life history, fossil, recent, marine, freshwater, terrestrial) may be addressed as long as the maximum diameter of the animals is \leq 5 mm. An open discussion on the various issues will conclude the symposium. Possibilities about symposium proceedings in the form of a special journal issue are considered.

Contact: Dr. Daniel L. Geiger, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Invertebrate Zoology, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, USA; Email: geiger@vetigastropoda.com;

MOLLUSCS AS MODELS IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY: FROM LOCAL SPECIATION TO GLOBAL RADIATION

Evolutionary biology is not only a biological subdiscipline but provides us with the foundation stone for biology in general. However, to date two of the least understood phenomena in evolutionary biology are the diversity of biological organisms, or biodiversity, which is far from being discovered, and its causation (i.e. the evolutionary processes leading to it). Surprisingly, decades after the “Modern Synthesis” as most comprehensive scientific achievement in this field and centuries after the commencement of research in biological systematics, we are still unable to satisfyingly answer apparently simple questions such as (i) how many species inhabit the earth today, (2) how did this diversity originate, and (3) how is this diversity distributed. While many contributions in malacology center around morphology, anatomy, and in particular phylogenetic relationships within and among its constituent taxa, rarely molluscs have been utilized explicitly as models for the study of general aspects in evolutionary biology. However, we feel that also this particular group with its many features and facets is highly suitable for providing some fundamental insights into the mechanisms of the genesis of biodiversity, its pattern in historical biogeography and the underlying processes of speciation and radiation. Thus, it is the aim of this symposium to bring together experts and their expertise based on molluscs to provide some of those fundamental studies and data that are of relevance for evolutionary biology with aspects as outlined above, in order to facilitate the influence of malacology within evolutionary biology.

Contact: Dr. Matthias Glaubrecht, Museum of Natural History, Humboldt University Berlin, Invalidenstrasse 43, D-10115 Berlin, Germany; Email: matthias.glaubrecht@museum.hu-berlin; Dr. Thomas von Rintelen, same address; Email: thomas.rintelen@rz.hu-berlin.de;

MOLLUSCS IN ECOTOXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Ecotoxicology integrates studies related to ecological and toxicological effects of chemical pollutants and/or natural stressors on individuals, populations, communities and ecosystems with those dealing with the fate (transport, transformation and breakdown) of such pollutants in the environment. Molluscs are increasingly used as model organisms in ecotoxicology. The symposium will cover all fields of ecotoxicology in its broadest sense (descriptive studies of pollutant distribution and effects in individuals, development and evaluation of biomarkers, measurement techniques, biomonitoring, exposure and risk assessment, environmental protection and management etc.). Attention will be given to all different levels of biological organisation: cells, tissues, individuals, populations, communities and ecosystems.

Contact: Dr. Kurt Jordaens, Evolutionary Biology Group, Dept. Biology, University of Antwerp, Groenenborgerlaan 171, B-2020, Antwerp, Belgium; Email: kurt.jordaens@ua.ac.be; Dr. Rita Triebkorn, Steinbeis-Transferzentrum für Ökotoxikologie und Ökophysiologie, Blumenstrasse 13, D-72108 Rottenburg, Germany; Email: stz.oekotox@gmx.de;

MOLLUSCS AND PEST CONTROL

The worldwide demand for strategies to control molluscs as pests in horticulture, agriculture and aquaculture necessitates an integrated approach amalgamating knowledge from the ecology and biology of molluscs, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, and also from economy. The symposium "Molluscs and pest control" shall, therefore, cover a wide field of research activities including those related to refinements of existing methods to control molluscs, studies on new regulation methods and strategies, work on techniques to detect effects and side-effects of molluscicide agents, and studies on distinct responses of molluscs to (potential) molluscicides at different biological levels (e.g. behaviour, physiological, cellular or molecular reactions) by which distinct modes of action can be elucidated. Also contributions on fundamental research in biology of molluscs aimed at finding new, and possibly more specific instruments for pest control are welcome.

Contact: Dr. Rita Triebkorn, Steinbeis-Transferzentrum für Ökotoxikologie und Ökophysiologie, Blumenstrasse 13, D-72108 Rottenburg, Germany; Email: stz.oekotox@gmx.de; Dr. Bill Bailey, Faculty of Life Sciences, 3.614 Stopford Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT, UK; Email: member@m336wy.freemove.co.uk;

MOLLUSCAN MODELS: ADVANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EYE

Several invertebrate systems have been developed to study the eye and eye disease (*Drosophila*, *Planaria*, *Platynereis*, and most recently, the cubozoan jellyfish *Tripedalia*), but a molluscan model is conspicuously absent. This is surprising as mollusc systems offer many advantages and opportunities to study basic visual processes that may be altered in the disease state, physiology of vision, development of the visual system, and evolution. As an example, recent work shows that cytoskeletal organization is regulated by the state of light and dark adaptation in cephalopods. We also know that some disease states in the retina affect the cytoskeleton. Studies on cephalopod photoreceptors could lead to a better understanding of the role of the cytoskeleton in photoreceptors and provide clues that link its organization to retinal disease. To take advantage and increase the use of molluscan eye models, there is a need to increase interactions between eye researchers and malacologists, who study the organism as a whole. Malacologists provide a detailed knowledge of the organism's ecology/habitat/niche that, when combined with expertise on the development and physiology of the eye, have the potential to re-direct research to more fruitful questions and model systems. At present, these two groups of researchers are largely unaware of the other's body of work as they do not attend the same meetings or publish in the same journals. This symposium will open a dialog between these fields, to invigorate and advance eye research into new frontiers by using molluscan eyes as a model system to study eye development and disease.

Contact: Dr. Jeanne Serb, Dept. Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, 245 Bessey, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, USA; Email: serb@iastate.edu; Dr. Laura Robles, California State University, Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria Street, Carson, CA 90747, USA; Email: lrobles@csudh.edu;

ZOOGEOGRAPHY OF THE NON-MARINE MOLLUSKS OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

This symposium aims to provide an overview of the distributions of land and freshwater mollusks throughout the eastern Mediterranean countries. We hope to achieve a better understanding of the past events, paleogeography and speciation, from the present patterns and vice versa. The area of coverage includes Greece, Turkey, the lower Balkan countries, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, the Middle Eastern countries and Egypt. Contributions from adjacent countries not listed will be considered.

Contact: Dr. Aydin Örsan, Section of Mollusks, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; Email: zoogeography@earthlink.net;

BIODIVERSITY AT CROSSROADS: FRESHWATER BIVALVES FROM MASS EXTINCTION TO GLOBAL INVASION

Freshwater habitats represent just a tiny fraction of the Biosphere, yet their role is central in the global ecosystem. They contribute disproportionately to global biodiversity, with about a third of fish species and possibly near a fourth of molluscs. Today this richness is under serious threat from a variety of human-induced factors, among which radical habitat destruction, rampant pollution and expanding invasive species (bivalves included) are paramount. Bivalves have experienced several evolutionary radiations in freshwaters, often becoming keystone ecological elements. The purpose of this symposium is to bring

together what we know (and don't) about any and all freshwater bivalves: their diversity, adaptations, evolution, ecology, and management. We would like to cover all major areas of research, as well as all biogeographic regions and taxonomic groups involved. Synthetic, general approaches are thus just as welcome as in-depth, local reports from anywhere. The goal is to provide a coherent, strong case for action in research and conservation of these unique faunas worldwide.

Contact: Dr. Cristian R. Altaba, Laboratory of Human Systematics, Ed. Ramon Llull, University of the Balearic Islands, 07071 Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands (Spain); Email: cristianr.altaba@uib.es;

NEOGASTROPOD ORIGINS, PHYLOGENY, EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAYS AND MECHANISMS

Neogastropods constitute a diverse and extremely successful radiation of predatory marine gastropods that appeared abruptly in the fossil record during the Albian (100 mya) with nearly all families represented in essentially modern form by the end of the Cretaceous. While neogastropods are united by and easily recognized on the basis of distinctive shell, radular, and anatomical features, these characters have failed to demonstrate an unambiguous affinity to other gastropods, or to resolve into nested subsets that clearly define evolutionary patterns within the group. Relationships among the many lineages within the Neogastropoda have also been difficult to discern because of high rates of homoplasy and high incidence of derived, autapomorphic features in both morphological and molecular data sets. This symposium will address questions of neogastropod origins, monophyly, age, patterns of diversification and cladogenesis and their evolutionary pathways and mechanisms from a variety of perspectives, including paleontology, morphology, anatomy, DNA sequence evolution, reproduction and developmental biology. Detailed studies of taxonomic subsets within Neogastropoda are also welcome. The proceedings of this symposium will be published as a supplement to *The Nautilus*. Contributors are encouraged to contact either of the organizers with a tentative title for their presentation. Oral presentations as well as posters are welcome.

Contact: Dr. M.G. Harasewych, Dept. Invertebrate Zoology, MRC-163, National Museum of Natural History – Smithsonian Institution, P.O.Box 37012, Washington D.C., 20013-7012, USA; Email: Harasewych@si.edu; Dr. Ellen E. Strong, same address; Email: stronge@si.edu;

DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL ADAPTATIONS IN INTERTIDAL MOLLUSCS

Intertidal zone, the interface between the ocean and land is a region where an abundance of marine life thrives. The extreme ranges of physical and chemical forces structure biological communities in the intertidal zone. Among the benthos, molluscs form a major group of organisms in this zone and most of them survive here with various adaptations. Unfortunately, it's a place where changes to the climate and human influence make their greatest impact. At present intertidal zones all over the world are reeling under anthropogenic pressure and molluscs in such deteriorated environment are surviving with the help of physiological and biochemical mechanisms. The aim of this symposium is to bring together contemporary research approaches that address issues such as the assessment of intertidal diversity of molluscs and their life history traits including biochemical and physiological adaptations. The interest is towards the mechanisms and consequences of the alteration in intertidal habitats on molluscs. Advance methodologies are emerging which are strongly influencing research development in biodiversity. Contributions including advance technologies in intertidal molluscan diversity measurements are also expected for the symposium.

Contact: Dr. B.G.Kulkarni, Dept. Zoology, The Institute of Science, 15 Madam Cama Road, Mumbai 400 032, India; balasaheb@yaho.com;

HEART AND CIRCULATION IN MOLLUSCS

This Congress provides an opportunity to examine the roles, in the evolution of the anatomy of heart and circulation of present day molluscs, of behavior and physiological function at several levels: subcellular, tissue, organ, organ systems and interaction with the environment. Local and central control systems may be taken into account. The initiative in organising the symposium is being taken by physiologists convinced that the life of the molluscan animal must be described through relating anatomy and behavior to analysis of physiological functions.

Contact: Dr. Robert B. Hill, Dept. Biological Sciences, Biological Science Center, University of Rhode Island, 100 Flagg Road, Kingston, RI 02881, USA; Email: bob@uri.edu;

QUATERNARY MALACOLOGY

The aim is to include contributions from both the marine and non-marine realms and to cover a broad geographical area encompassing the North Atlantic and the whole of the Palaearctic region. We welcome contributions from the Plio-Pleistocene to the Holocene. Likely themes could involve historical biogeography, environmental archaeology, palaeoecology and stratigraphy. The symposium is organised by EQMal (European Quaternary Malacologists) and Naturalis (National Museum of Natural History) in Leiden (The Netherlands).

Contact: Dr. Tom Meijer, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum – Naturalis, Darwinweg 2, NL-2333 CR Leiden, The Netherlands ; Email: meijert@naturalis.nl;

A curators meeting can be organised if there is sufficient interest. Please contact the Congress Organiser (Thierry Backeljau at wcm@naturalsciences.be) if you are willing to convene such a meeting and/or if you are interested in participating to such meeting.

Travel Grants

UM will provide Travel Grants. Applicants must be a member of UM or of an affiliated organisation. If not, a three-year UM membership will be deduced from the grant. The maximum amount of any Travel Grant will be 800 € for applicants from outside Europe and 400 € for residents in Europe. Application forms are available from the WCM 2007 website and the UM website (<http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/>). They can also be requested at wcm@naturalsciences.be; Please note that successful applicants will receive the grant in cash at the congress, not before.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATIONS: MARCH 15th, 2007

AMS will also be offering travel grants to its student members - please check the AMS website (see under "Useful websites") for information and application.

Accommodation

Convenient, though modest accommodation will be available at the university campus (198 single and 22 double rooms with lavabo, but toilets and showers are shared [even though cabins are individual of course]; prices: 20 € or 27 € **per person per night**; breakfast included) (photographs of the campus accommodation will be posted on the WCM website). Hotel accommodation will be provided in the city centre of Antwerp, near «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station, the main bus terminals and the shuttle bus from/to Brussels international airport. Prices range from 59 € (singles) to 94 € (doubles) **per room per night**; breakfast included. Special arrangements for >2 persons and/or children are possible.

Please note that the campus accommodation is only available from Saturday 14 July till Sunday 22 July. Attendants using the campus accommodation are advised to provide their estimated arrival time to the Congress Organiser, particularly if they arrive late in the evening or during the night.

ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON A FIRST BOOKED FIRST SERVED BASIS

Hotel accommodation cancellations may be subject to charges levied by the hotels. The same applies to failures to occupy the booked room at the requested check in date. Such charges will be processed directly by the hotels using your credit card guarantee. Cancellations of campus accommodation will only be refunded if the booking is taken over by another delegate. Changes to accommodation requirements must be advised in writing to the Congress Organiser at wcm@naturalsciences.be;

Registration

Congress registration will be open on Saturday July 14th in the Student Campus accommodation facility (Middelheimcampus = MHC) «Building D, Middelheimlaan 1, 2020 Antwerp» from 14:00 to 18:00. On Sunday July 15th, 2007 registration will be open again at the same site from 12:00 to 16:00. Registration will also be possible during the icebreaker on the same day from 17:30 to 19:30. During the week a registration and congress secretariat desk will be open in Building T at campus «Groenenborger».

At registration check-in, delegates will receive their personalised satchel, containing the abstract book and other relevant materials. Please wear your WCM badge to all WCM events! Separate tickets will be provided for the optional Wednesday activities and the congress dinner.

Registration fees are in € (until 30 April 2007 / after 30 April 2007):

Full registration, UM-members	220 / 270
Full registration, non-UM-members	280 / 330
Student, UM-member	110 / 150
Student, non-UM-member	160 / 200

Day registrations for non-students cost 90€ and for students 50€. Fees include registration, abstractbook, icebreaker, lunches + drinks on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and the wine/beer/degustation poster reception. **The congress dinner is not included.**

Social activities included in the congress fee

Icebreaker:

Will be organised on Sunday evening, July 15th (17:30 – 19:30) in the reception halls («Marmeren Zaal», «Verlatzaal» and «Winter garden») of the Zoo of Antwerp at the «Koningin Astridplein» (a large renovated square), near «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station: look for an old building with a camel on top of it, where you will find the entrance of the Zoo. Just enter the Zoo and go to the buildings on your left hand side. Residents of the campus accommodation can easily reach «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station by taking bus lines 21, 27, 32, 501 or 502. See point (5) under the heading «Travel information» for more information on public transport. Further details will be provided later.

Poster reception:

Will be organised at the congress site on Tuesday evening. Details will follow later.

AMS auction:

Will be organised at the TPC, adjacent to the congress site. Details will follow later.

Extra social activities

These include the optional Wednesday leisure activities and the congress dinner. Neither of these activities are included in the registration fee.

The congress dinner will be at the «Grand Cafe Horta», Hopland 2, 2000 Antwerp, in the city centre of Antwerp, close to the house of the famous painter Pieter Paul Rubens. It will include an apéritif reception, dinner and dancing (DJ). By its location, «Grand Cafe Horta», allows you to explore the Antwerp nightlife after the dinner as well... it is close to the hotels and with the public transport (night busses) it is easy to return to the campus accommodation. The apéritif reception will start at 20:00, the dinner at 21:00 and then it is up to you...!

Price: 50 €/person (delegates and non-delegates)

The optional leisure activities on Wednesday include (**price: 25 €/person, delegates or non-delegates; meals and consumptions NOT included, unless indicated otherwise**):

Option 1: «Saeftinghe»

The nature reserve “Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe” is one of the largest (3484 km²) tidal marshes of Europe and harbours a unique fauna and flora. The reserve is of international interest as breeding and wintering site for dozens of bird species. A guide will take you on a 3-hour adventurous and spectacular trip over the mud-flats! Further, you will visit several other beautiful places in “Zeeuws-Vlaanderen” (The Netherlands) with a nice walk in the dunes and on the beach. Collecting molluscs will be possible.

Recommended to those who love physical exercise and nature!

Price includes bus trip, guide and entrance to the nature reserve. Participants are advised to bring spare clothes and waterproof shoes or boots (see photographs on the WCM website later on). Because of the length (3 hours) and the difficulty of the trip, children under the age of ten are not allowed. **Please note that with this trip you will cross the Belgian-Dutch border, which means that participants requiring a visa should make sure that they have a “SCHENGEN VISA” (see further under “Travel documents”)**

Option 2: «Bicycle tour»

The harbour of Antwerp, one of the largest in the world, is a vast area of docks and (petrochemical) industry. Nevertheless, in and around the harbour there are many scenic, rural and traditional landscapes, including several nature reserves, that have been (more or less) preserved. You will explore the harbour and some of these landscapes by bike and learn more about the conflicts that result when trying to integrate industry, nature and living areas, which often results in weird, spectacular and nostalgic sceneries. Of course, regular stops will be made to “taste” Flander's way of living (beer, ice-cream, waffles, chocolates)! This trip is a must for those who are sportive, but who nevertheless like to enjoy the good things of life! Approximate biking distance: 40-50 km. Price includes bus trip and rent of a bike.

Option 3: «Castle of Bouillon»

The castle of Bouillon was founded in the 8th century and is one of the largest and best preserved West European castles of the medieval “dark ages”. The castle is famous because Godfried of Bouillon sold it to the diocese of Liège to fund the first crusade (1096). During the guided visit of the castle you will attend a spectacular falconry with a variety of birds of prey. Afterwards, you will visit the abbey “Notre-Dame de Orval” which was founded in 1132 and which is one of the most famous Cistercian abbeys. It produces one of the world's five “Trappist” beers of which, of course, you will have a taste! Although visiting the abbey itself is not allowed, you will visit the ruins of the oldest parts of the abbey and the botanical garden with its large collection of medicinal herbs. Recommended to those who like to combine nature and history! Price includes bus trip, guide, visits to the castle, the falconry, the ruins of the abbey and the botanical garden.

Option 4: «Bruges»

Bruges is perhaps the most famous Belgian city and is often called the “Venice of the North”. The city has a beautifully preserved historical centre and houses a wide diversity of museums, with famous collections of paintings of Flemish Primitives, contemporary art, classical “fine-arts”, archeological items, historical furniture, silverware, folklore and so on. In short, there is something for everybody! You will start with a guided tour of two hours to get an idea about the historical wealth that Bruges has to offer. Afterwards you will get the opportunity to explore Bruges yourself. You will receive a museum ticket that allows entrance to Bruges' most popular museums (Groeninge museum, Arentshuis and Forum museum). At the end, you will visit the brewery “De Halve Maan” with, of course, a degustation! Finally, you will have dinner at the brewery. Recommended to those who love art, folklore and architecture! Price includes bus trip, guide, museum tickets and visit to the brewery.

Practical details on the trips will follow later. **KEEP AN EYE ON THE WCM WEBSITE**, where we will also post some photographs to give you some idea of what the trips will offer.

Cancellation policy

- (1) All cancellations of attendance and bookings must be made in writing to the Congress Organiser.
- (2) A full refund, minus a cancellation fee of € 40 will be made on registration cancellations received before 30 April 2007.
- (3) A refund of 50% of the registration fee will be made on registration cancellations received between 1 May and 30 June 2007.
- (4) No refund of registration fees will be made for registration cancellations made after 1 July 2007.
- (5) Campus accommodation will only be refunded if the booking is taken over by another delegate.
- (6) A charge of 20% is levied on refunds of cancellations of (extra) social activities, unless the activity is cancelled by the congress organisation itself.
- (7) All refunds will be paid after the conclusion of the WCM.

Student prizes

There will be several student awards for oral and poster presentations, including six awards presented by UM and the Constance Boone Award presented by AMS. All delegates with a student registration will be considered for these prizes.

Travel information (all fares indicated may be subject to change)

Reaching Antwerp is easy. The main point for orientation is «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station in the city centre. All trains and busses from the airports converge there and at the same time it is the main point of departure to the campus. So when you get lost... ask for «Antwerpen Centraal»!!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONGRESS ORGANISATION WILL NEITHER PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION, NOR WILL PICK UP PEOPLE AT AIRPORTS OR RAILWAY STATIONS. WE COUNT ON YOUR SCOUTING TALENTS!

(1) Reaching Antwerp by airplane:

Airports with good connections to Antwerp:

Antwerp airport: <http://www.antwerpairport.be/en/index.html>

Brussels airport: <http://www.brusselsairport.be/index.cfm?lang=en>

Charleroi airport: <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/BSCA/siteEN.nsf/.Accueil?Readform>

Amsterdam airport (Schiphol): <http://www.schiphol.nl/>

Antwerp airport is a very small (and cosy) one and is served by only very few companies. Yet, people coming from (or via) the UK might find it a convenient solution as there are daily flights to Antwerp from London, Liverpool and Manchester. In Antwerp airport you can take a bus (line 14) to «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station, i.e. where the congress hotels are located. Attendants with campus accommodation should take the same bus (line 14) to either «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station, where they have to change to busses 32, 27, 21, 501 or 502 to reach the campus (see further «How to reach the campus») OR to «Berchem» railway station, where they have to switch to busses 32, 21, 501 or 502.

Brussels (Zaventem) is the main international airport in Belgium, with a shuttle bus to the city centre of Antwerp, i.e. «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station (1 bus/hour; trip takes 45min; 8 €). You can also take the train in Brussels Airport and switch trains in «Brussel Noord» railway station (5 trains/hour; 60-80min; 6.70 €). Evidently trains will bring you to «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station. In some cases you may have to switch trains in «Berchem» railway station. This is normally indicated and/or announced. Do not

hesitate to ask the train staff, they speak Dutch, French and English. You can check the train connections, itineraries and prices at the website of the Belgian railways (see below).

Charleroi (Brussels South) is a major hub for a number of low cost airlines. From Charleroi you can reach «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station by direct train (2 trains/hour; 90-100min; 12.40 €) (see further at the website of the Belgian railways here below).

Another convenient possibility is to fly to Amsterdam (Schiphol) and take the train from Schiphol Airport to Antwerp. You can take either the fast trains (Thalys; you have to book in advance and it is more expensive) or the «normal» direct trains (one train/hour; 120min; 26 €) (see further at the website of the Belgian railways here below). **PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS POSSIBILITY MAY REQUIRE A «SCHENGEN VISA» (see under «Travel documents»)!**

(2) Reaching Antwerp by train:

Antwerp is well-served by railways, with international connections to Amsterdam (each hour), Paris, London and many other major cities in Europe. More information can be found at the website of the Belgian railways, where you can also purchase your tickets online (by credit and bank cards). **PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE NO TICKET WHEN YOU TAKE A TRAIN, YOU SHOULD WARN THE TRAIN STAFF BEFORE YOU ENTER THE TRAIN**, otherwise you may be fined. Note also that purchasing tickets on the train itself is more expensive than purchasing tickets online or in the railway stations. The prices indicated here or on the website of the Belgian railways are for tickets bought online or in the railway stations.

Belgian railways: <http://www.b-rail.be/main/E/index.php>

(3) Reaching Antwerp by bus:

There are convenient and cheap bus connections between many major European cities and Antwerp via «Eurolines» (see website here below). The Eurolines bus terminus in Antwerp is in the city centre near the «Rooseveltplaats», close to «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station (few min walking) and the congress hotels.

International bus connections to Antwerp («Eurolines»): <http://www.eurolines.com/>

(4) Reaching Antwerp by car:

Please help Belgium to fulfil its Kyoto norm.... and do not come by car. However, if you still prefer to come by car, then these are the places to reach (all in Antwerpen):

Congress site: University of Antwerp, Campus Groenenborger, Groenenborgerlaan 171

Campus accommodation MHC: University of Antwerp, Campus Middelheim, Middelheimlaan 1

Campus accommodation TPC («Theologisch Pastoraal Centrum»): Groenenborgerlaan 149

A route planner: <http://www.viamichelin.com/viamichelin/gbr/tpl/hme/MaHomePage.htm>

A personalised route description will be provided by the Congress Organiser if asked for.

(5) How to reach the congress site at Campus Groenenborger:

Attendants with Campus accommodation can simply walk to the congress venue.

Attendants using hotel accommodation in the city centre will have to use the public transport. Locations of bus stops and time tables will be provided at the WCM website later on. Currently the area around «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station is a big construction yard and all bus stops have been temporarily moved. So we will provide exact information as soon as the situation has returned to normal. Anyway the

bus lines to the congress site are: 21, 27, 32, 501 and 502. These lines are of course also useful for the attendants with campus accommodation when they are in the city centre. Lines 21, 32, 501 and 502 also pass via «Berchem» railway station, where there are shuttle trains to «Antwerpen Centraal» (takes 4 min). Attendants coming by train from Brussels might prefer to leave the train in «Berchem» railway station instead of going further to «Antwerpen Centraal».

Bus tickets or multiticket cards (the so-called «lijnkaart») can be purchased at the ticketing desks in the railway stations. Tickets can also be purchased on the bus/tram, but are more expensive then. Currently fares for single tickets are:

Bought as individual ticket:	1.5 € on bus/tram	1.2 € in railway stations
Bought on a «Lijnkaart» (= multi-ticket card):	1.0 € on bus/tram	0.8 € in railway stations

A ticket is valid over the whole bus/tram/pre-metro network in Antwerpen during ONE hour; in that time you can change from busses and trams as much as you want. Each time you enter the bus or tram you have to push the ticket or «Lijnkaart» in the yellow validation machines. The machine will whistle when your ticket is no longer valid (i.e. when your out of time).

TAXIS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE, SO UNLESS YOU CAN SHARE A TAXI WITH OTHER DELEGATES, WE THINK YOU MAY NOT WANT TO TAKE A TAXI... UNLESS YOU FEEL REALLY DESPERATE OF COURSE!

What else to know and/or to remember...

Travel documents:

Please check that you have a valid PASSPORT and that you obtain a VISA if necessary. In case of doubt check with the Belgian embassy, consulate or representation in your area. You can also find all information about VISA for Belgium at: <http://www.diplomatie.be/en/travel/visa/default.asp>; According to Belgian law you must always have your passport or identity card with you; other documents are NOT VALID to legitimate yourself. If you plan to come via Amsterdam and/or if you intend to join the «Saeftinghe» trip you should apply for a «SCHENGEN VISA»; more info at: <http://www.eurovisa.info/SchengenVisa.htm>;

Bank services:

There are no bank facilities at the campus, yet there are several banks close to the campus. Note that these banks do not provide exchange services. You can, however, withdraw money (€) from bank automates using credit cards and bank cards at all times (24/24). Banks are open on week days from 9:00 to 16:00. Although paying by credit cards is very common in Belgium, it is not customary to do so for small amounts (e.g. for a beer in a pub or a ticket on a bus). Hence it would be good to have some cash € in the pocket (small bills and/or coins!). Money exchange facilities are available at the airports and in «Antwerpen Centraal» railway station (also in the major railway stations in Brussels of course). Yet, these facilities are not 24/24 open. So it may be a good idea to change some money in your country of departure. Please note that in Belgium only € is accepted for cash payments.

Useful websites:

Website of the WCM 2007: <http://www.naturalsciences.be/wcm2007>

Website of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA (UM): <http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/>

Website of the AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY (AMS): <http://www.malacological.org>

Website of the UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP: <http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=.ENGLISH&n=25878>

Useful phone numbers and contacts:

Police (emergency): 101
Ambulance (emergency): 100
Fire Department (emergency): 100
General Emergency (Europe): 112

For practical problems during the congress you can contact:

Thierry Backeljau at: + 32.496.40.50.34 (mobile)
Kurt Jordaens at: + 32.478.33.88.21 (mobile)
Claudine Claes at: + 32.499.20.73.12 (mobile)
Karin Breugelmans at: + 32.494.24.92.52 (mobile)

Climate:

Belgium has a temperate climate, but last years the weather in July has been dry and hot (to our standards), with temperatures often in the range of 25-35°C, yet for the same price temperatures can drop to 15°C. Rain and showers are not excluded. So, weather may be quite unpredictable and variable, but on average July is a very nice month... with usually excellent weather for enjoying a drink (and malacological discussions of course...) on one of the many terrasses in the city centre...

Dress standards:

Yes, be dressed.... Casual clothing will be perfect for all congress activities.

Smoking:

According to Belgian law, it is forbidden to smoke in public places. Hence ALL congress facilities are non smoking areas. From January 1st 2007, smoking will also be forbidden in restaurants and restricted in pubs.

Tourism in Antwerp:

Touristic information can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.antwerpen.be/eCache/BEN/52.html>

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/antwerp.html>

<http://www.trabel.com/antwerp.htm>

Insurance and disclaimer:

Registration fees do not include insurance of any kind. All delegates must make their own individual arrangements with respect to travel, medical and other insurances.

THE CONGRESS ORGANISATION WILL NOT TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY PARTICIPANT FAILING TO INSURE. SIMILARLY, THE CONGRESS ORGANISATION WILL NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES OF ANY NATURE SUSTAINED BY PARTICIPANTS OR THEIR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF THE WORLD CONGRESS OF MALACOLOGY 2007 OR RELATED EVENTS.

SEE YOU IN ANTWERP !

Thierry Backeljau
President of Unitas Malacologica
wcm@naturalsciences.be

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE USE PRINTED CAPITALS

THINK ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE TO READ YOUR FORMS

THANK YOU !

This form includes:

- Personal information form
- Registration form
- Accommodation form
- Payment instructions form
- Abstract submission form
- Student enrollment certification form

Please return your registration form either by POST, FAX or as a scanned,
attached file by EMAIL to:

Prof. Dr. Th. Backeljau
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Vautierstraat 29
B-1000 BRUSSELS Belgium
FAX: +32 2 627 41 41
wcm@naturalsciences.be

PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

Title: Prof Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other -----

*Surname----- *First Name -----
(* These names will appear on your Congress Badge)

Telephone (-----)-----

Fax (-----)-----

Email -----

Your e-mail address is the primary method of correspondence. All congress updates and notifications will be sent to this address. **Please keep your e-mail address up to date and inform us about any eventual changes by mailing to wcm@naturalsciences.be !**

Name of Accompanying Person(s) (non-delegate)-----

I have the following special requirements (diet/allergies or medical/wheelchair)

Provide either your professional address or private address. This address will be used for any document you require from us or that we have to send to you.

Professional address

Institution -----
Mailing Address (street + number or postbag) -----
Town----- Post Code -----
Country-----

Private address (not required if you provide your professional address)

Mailing Address (street + number or postbag) -----
Town----- Post Code -----
Country-----

If you **DO NOT** wish to have your name, address and details to be included in the list of delegates, please tick here

REGISTRATION FORM

Fees include registration, abstract book, lunches + drinks on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, the icebreaker, and the wine/beer/food degustation poster reception. The congress dinner is **NOT** included.

Congress registration fees	until 30 April 2007	after 30 April 2007		
Full registration, UM-member	€ 220	€ 270		
Full registration, non-UM-members	€ 280	€ 330		
Student, UM-member	€ 110	€ 150		
Student, non-UM-member	€ 160	€ 200		
Day Registration		€ 90		
Day registration - students		€ 50		
Please nominate day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mon	Tue	Thu	Fri
	16/7	17/7	19/7	20/7

Social program included in the registration fee

For catering purposes, please indicate if you will attend the icebreaker and wine/beer/food degustation poster reception. Non-delegate accompanying persons must pay 20€/person for either activity.

	Delegate Please tick if attending	Non-delegates put numbers if attending	Total €
Icebreaker (Sunday July 15 th)	<input type="checkbox"/> included	<input type="checkbox"/> € 20	
Wine/beer/food poster reception (Tuesday July 17 th)	<input type="checkbox"/> included	<input type="checkbox"/> € 20	

[] I will join the AMS annual auction of molluscan books and paraphernalia (no specimens) with non-delegate accompanying persons (free)

Social program NOT included in the registration fee:

Congress Dinner (Friday, July 20th): ----- [no persons] x 50€/person =----- €

Activities on Wednesday, July 18th (same prices for delegates and non-delegates)	Prices in Euro €	Number of persons	Total €
Option 1: «Saeftinghe»	25		
Option 2: «Bicycle tour»	25		
Option 3: «Castle of Bouillon»	25		
Option 4: «Bruges»	25		

SUB TOTAL REGISTRATION €-----

ACCOMMODATION FORM

All prices include breakfast. There is no accommodation for children on the campus. Hotels give special arrangements for children on request. Please contact the congress organiser.

CHECK IN DATE/...../2007

CHECK OUT DATE/...../2007

Campus reservation (rate per person / per night, irrespective of room type)

Student room (MHC) € 20 single
Student room (TPC) € 27 single double

CAMPUS RESERVATIONS MUST BE PREPAID IN FULL TOGETHER WITH THE REGISTRATION

SUB TOTAL – Campus accommodation € -----

Hotel reservation, please indicate in **order of preference (1 to 3)** which hotel you prefer; tick your room type (Rate per room per night)

Your preference (1 to 3)	Rate per room / per night
<input type="checkbox"/> Tourist Hotel	€ 59 single <input type="checkbox"/> € 70 double <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Keyserlei	€ 65 single <input type="checkbox"/> € 75 double <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agora Hotel	€ 72 single <input type="checkbox"/> € 92 double <input type="checkbox"/>

In case of a double room, I share my room with -----

GUARANTEE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION BY PROVIDING YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER AS STATED ON THE PAYMENT FORM .

- Your hotel will debit your credit card once you check in or on check out. If you fail to arrive on the check-in-date your credit card will be charged automatically for one night.
- hotel prices may be subject to change
- Invoices will be provided by:
 - the congress organiser for campus accommodation (MHC and TPC)
 - the hotel receptions for hotel accommodation

ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON A FIRST BOOKED FIRST SERVED BASIS

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS FORM

All payments are due in EURO (€).

Considering the high bank charges, we do not accept cheques. In case of payment difficulties, please contact the congress organiser

I agree that my credit card details are forwarded to my hotel to guarantee my reservation

SUB TOTAL REGISTRATION EURO €-----

SUB TOTAL – Campus accommodation EURO € -----

TOTAL EURO € -----

Methods of payment (for European delegates bank remittance is the preferred way of payment).

- Bank remittance (Bank transfer)
- Credit card
- International Postal Money Order in EURO (contact your post office)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please make sure that you include the following reference :
“your name – WCM2007” on your remittance or Postal Money Order.**

To secure your hotel room please provide your Credit card number and Card Security Number (last three digits on the signature line on the back of the card) in section B of this form and return the form to the Congress Organiser by mail, post or fax. Your hotel will debit your credit card once you check in or check out, or if you fail to arrive on the check-in-date.

(A) PAYMENT BY BANK REMITTANCE IN €

Please remit the total amount of **EURO** to account nr. **979-2205992-23**

at **ARGENTA BANK**, Jozef Wautersstraat 28, B-2600 Antwerpen (Berchem), Belgium

Name of account: Thierry Backeljau, Troyentenhoflaan 82, B-2600 Antwerpen, Belgium

Use the following bank codes:

IBAN: **BE92 9792 2059 9223**

BIC: **ARSPBE22**

Don't forget to include “**your name (=delegate) + WCM2007**” on the transaction!

(B) PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD (Visa, MasterCard, EuroCard ONLY)

Please charge my credit card with the total amount of **EURO**

Name -----

Address -----

VISA **MASTERCARD** **EUROCARD** (Please tick the appropriate card)

Card number

Card Security Number (last three digits on the signature line on the back of the card):-----

Cardholder's name: ----- Expiry date:/..../.....

Cardholder's Signature -----

Please send this payment form, together with your registration data to the Congress Organiser:

Prof. Dr. Th. Backeljau
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Vautierstraat 29
B-1000 BRUSSELS (Belgium)

FAX: +32 2 627 41 41
email: wcm@naturalsciences.be

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

ABSTRACTS

THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTIONS PER PRESENTING AUTHOR IS LIMITED TO 1 POSTER AND 1 ORAL COMMUNICATION

Abstracts will not be included in the conference volume unless they are submitted (preferably electronically) in the format indicated below by 31 Mai 2007

No abstracts will be accepted after 31 Mai 2007

Abstracts will not be included in the abstract volume unless they are accompanied by a completed and paid registration form

Abstracts should be emailed to: wcm@naturalsciences.be

Authors must indicate in their submission the mode of presentation: either oral or poster and indicate if they need special audio/visual equipment. All presentations must be in English.

I am submitting an abstract: Yes No

I prefer my presentation to be: Oral Session:-----

Poster Session:-----

I need special audio/visual equipment – specify (only necessary if not standard):

Format instructions:

ABSTRACTS SHOULD BE SENT AS WORD DOCUMENTS

Page setup: A4 portrait with 2.5cm margins on all sides

Font: Times New Roman and 11pt, single spaced.

Title of paper: centred and bold.

Authors' names and full mailing addresses: centred

Authors in bold (include full list): **First author**¹; second author²; third author² (Presenting author underlined)

¹First author affiliation, including full mailing address + email address

²Second (and in this case third also) Author affiliation etc. For each author full mailing address(es) + email address(es)

Abstract text: 11 pt Times New Roman with right justification and a maximum of 300 words. A single blank line should separate paragraphs. New paragraphs with NO indent.

NO references should be cited in the abstract.

An example:

Centres of Biodiversity and Endemism of Shallow Water Marine Molluscs in the Tropical Indo-West Pacific

Wells, Fred E¹; Backeljau, Thierry²

1. Western Australian Museum, Perth 6000, Western Australia, Email: wells@-museum.wa.gov.au
2. Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgian, Email: Thierry.Backeljau@naturalsciences.be

The distribution of 1268 species of shallow water marine molluscs in the tropical Indo-West Pacific is examined using published distributional data. Each species is categorised as occurring in one or more of 10 broad geographic regions in the Indo-West Pacific, extending from the Red Sea to Hawaii and the South Pacific Ocean. The greatest diversity (745 species) occurs in the “coral triangle”, the region between the Ryukyu Islands, the east coast of Malaysia and Irian Jaya. Diversity in the Coral Sea, including Papua New Guinea, Queensland and the Loyalty Islands is nearly as great (708 species). Intermediate diversity occurs in the western (532 species) and eastern (524 species) Indian Ocean and the western Pacific Ocean (503 species). The lowest diversity occurs in the region between Lord Howe Island and the Kermadec Islands (66 species), Hawaiian Islands (245 species), South Pacific Ocean (293 species), and the Red Sea-Persian Gulf area (336 species). A total of 321 species, or one-fourth of the total, are endemic to one of the 10 regions. Similar numbers of endemic species occur in the Red Sea-Persian Gulf (51 species), “coral triangle” (49 species), and eastern Indian Ocean (44 species). The fewest endemic species were found between Lord Howe Island and the Kermadec Islands (4 species), and the central Pacific Ocean (14 species). Conservation implications of the patterns of molluscan biodiversity and endemism are discussed.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND POSTERS

Oral presentations will be 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion. Plenary papers will be 35 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion. **ONLY COMPUTERS WE SUPPLY WILL BE USED IN THE SESSIONS; THERE ARE NO MAC FACILITIES OR PROVISIONS.** Bring your presentation on CD-rom or memory stick. All conference rooms will have standard PowerPoint, photographic slide, and overhead facilities. Please indicate on the abstract submission form if you require any other special audio-visual equipment.

Instructions for the posters will follow! Keep an eye on the WCM website!

STUDENT ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION FORM

Department and Institution enrolled:

Degree enrolled in:

Supervisor's certification: I, being the supervisor of

certify that the above student is currently enrolled as a student at: (institution, city, country):

Signature : -----

Date:-----

Name and title (please print):

Contact (please provide supervisor's Email address and phone):

Email: -----

Phone:

Please add a copy of your student legitimation or enrollment card and return this page by post, fax or as PDF by email to the following address:

Prof. Dr. Th. Backeljau
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Vautierstraat 29
B-1000 BRUSSELS (Belgium)

FAX: +32 2 627 41 41
email: wcm@naturalsciences.be