

## Titles and abstracts (EN)

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**Title:** *Land Snails of the Indigenous Forests of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: from Beach to Berg*

**Speaker:** Dr. Peter Tattersfield

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK CF10 3NP and Bar Cottage, Bar Road, Baslow, Bakewell, Derbyshire, UK DE45 1SF, United Kingdom; [peter@petertat.demon.co.uk](mailto:peter@petertat.demon.co.uk)

**Authors:** Peter Tattersfield<sup>1</sup>, David G. Herbert<sup>2</sup> and Mary B. Seddon<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK CF10 3NP and Bar Cottage, Bar Road, Baslow, Bakewell, Derbyshire, UK DE45 1SF, United Kingdom; [peter@petertat.demon.co.uk](mailto:peter@petertat.demon.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, P. Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209, South Africa and 65 Y Llanerch, Pontlliw, Swansea, Glamorgan, UK SA4 9DR, United Kingdom; [phasianella@gmail.com](mailto:phasianella@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup> Glebe House Cottage, Exbourne Okehampton, Devon, UK EX20 3RD, United Kingdom; mary@[molluscsg@gmail.com](mailto:molluscsg@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *The now much fragmented and reduced indigenous forests of KwaZulu Natal support much of the province's biodiversity. They span an elevational range of over 2000m, from the Indian Ocean to the Drakensberg Mountains. In this paper we report on the land-snail fauna of these forests, examining its composition and variation along two elevational transects to the north and south of the Thukela River. We consider levels of species richness and endemism, and also the fauna's wider biogeographical affinities in the continental context.*

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**Title:** *Arthur Morelet (1809-1892) and his Contributions to African Malacology*

**Speaker:** Jonathan Ablett

Natural History Museum, Division of Higher Invertebrates, London, SW7 5BD, UK, United Kingdom; [j.ablett@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:j.ablett@nhm.ac.uk)

**Authors:** Jonathan D. Ablett<sup>1</sup>, Abraham S.H. Breure<sup>2,3</sup> and Cédric Audibert<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Natural History Museum, Division of Higher Invertebrates, London, SW7 5BD, UK, United Kingdom, [j.ablett@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:j.ablett@nhm.ac.uk);

<sup>2</sup> Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium;

<sup>3</sup> Naturalis Biodiversity Center, P.O.Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands, [bram.breure@naturalis.nl](mailto:bram.breure@naturalis.nl);

<sup>4</sup> Musée des Confluences, Centre de conservation et d'étude des collections, 13A rue Bancel, 69007 Lyon, France; [cedric.audibert@museedesconfluences.fr](mailto:cedric.audibert@museedesconfluences.fr).

**Abstract:** *The Frenchman Arthur Morelet was one of the 19th century European amateurs who was actively involved in malacology. He made collecting trips to Portugal and the Azores, and to Cuba and Central America. But not to Africa; yet he was very much interested in its malacofauna of mainly non-marine species. Of his 89 malacological papers and books, 64 were devoted to African molluscs, and of the more than 700 new taxa about half were described from Africa. A short biographical sketch reveals how he got interested in this continent and whom were the sources of his African material. An overview*

*will be presented of the main taxa introduced by Morelet from Africa, their current systematic position and the problems encountered in locating type material from the Morelet collection.*

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**Title:** *Snails of “Sky Islands” above an Equatorial Desert: Terrestrial Molluscs on Four Isolated Mountain Ranges in Northern Kenya.*

**Speaker:** Dr. Ben Rowson

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK CF10 3NP; [ben.rowson@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:ben.rowson@museumwales.ac.uk)

**Authors:** Ben Rowson<sup>1</sup>, Mary B. Seddon<sup>2</sup>, Peter Tattersfield<sup>1,3</sup>, Sarah Foster<sup>1,4</sup>, & Charles N. Lange<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK CF10 3NP, United Kingdom; [ben.rowson@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:ben.rowson@museumwales.ac.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Glebe House Cottage, Exbourne, Okehampton, Devon, UK EX20 3RD, United Kingdom;

[mary@molluscsg@gmail.com](mailto:mary@molluscsg@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup> Bar Cottage, Bar Road, Baslow, Bakewell, Derbyshire, UK DE45 1SF, United Kingdom; [peter@petertat.demon.co.uk](mailto:peter@petertat.demon.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> School of Biosciences, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, UK CF10 3AX, United Kingdom;

[sarahfoster94@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahfoster94@hotmail.com)

<sup>5</sup> National Environment Management Authority, Nairobi, Kenya PO Box 67839-00200; [clange@nema.go.ke](mailto:clange@nema.go.ke)

**Abstract:** *The biodiversity of the remote northern Kenyan mountains remains little-explored. Tiny “sky islands” of shady forest persist on ancient peaks and recent volcanoes, separated by miles of hot, dry plains. Here we reveal the results of our studies of the terrestrial molluscs, relating each mountain’s history to its endemic snails. We present a snail-specific synthesis of fieldwork, curation, taxonomy, and faunistic analysis – a modus operandi favoured by the late Dr. A. C. van Bruggen.*

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**Title:** *African Malacology: 1960 – present.*

**Speaker and author:** Dr. David G. Herbert

School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, P. Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209, South Africa and 65 Y Llanerch, Pontlliw, Swansea, Glamorgan, UK SA4 9DR, United Kingdom; [phasianella@gmail.com](mailto:phasianella@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *African malacology is still very much in the discovery and documentation phase. In this presentation I summarise the progress made since 1960 in respect of marine, terrestrial and freshwater malacology, and highlight the major initiatives and role-players that have contributed to the subject. I also look at the extent to which modern approaches to malacology have been applied to the African fauna.*

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**Title:** *Punctum and Punctum-like minute land snails in and out of Africa*

**Speaker and author:** Dr. ir. Ton de Winter

Vondellaan 55, 2332 AA Leiden, The Netherlands; [ton.dewinter@naturalis.nl](mailto:ton.dewinter@naturalis.nl)

**Abstract:** *The recent discovery of members of the land snail genus Punctum in western Africa prompts a re-evaluation of the African Punctum-like punctoids hitherto described. Some results of this will be presented. The presence of the invasive species Paralaoma servilis in Africa will be discussed. Dolf van*

Bruggen's papers and important collection efforts substantially contributed to the knowledge of these 1 to 2 mm-sized species.

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**Title:** *Assessing the Conservation Status of Non Marine Molluscs in Africa: Current Progress and Future Challenges*

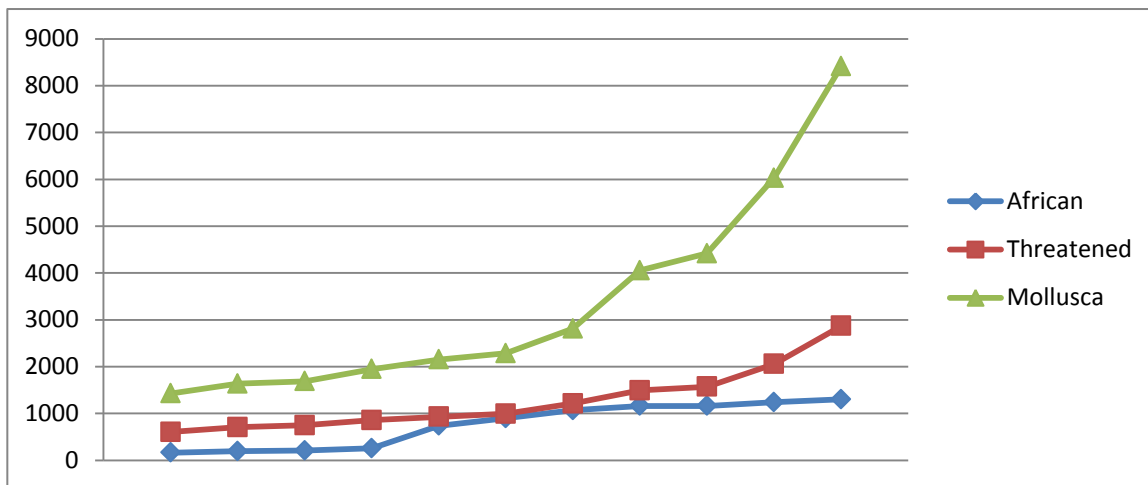
**Speaker and author:** Dr. Mary Seddon

IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group, Dartmoor Museum Association, Exeter, United Kingdom, [mary.molluscsg@gmail.com](mailto:mary.molluscsg@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *In the period prior to 1994 only threatened species were listed by IUCN and these lists were very subjective without any published documentation to support the category of listing. In 1994 IUCN (1994) introduced the new IUCN categories and criteria, based on Mace & Lande (1991) and Mace et al (1992) providing quantitative thresholds to measure decline of the species listed, and the new Categories and Criteria (version 2.3) was used to transfer the previous listings to the new system with the first IUCN Red List using these categories published in 1996.*

*In this first period there were few assessments from Africa: David Brown assessed the Freshwater Species from the African Rift Valley Lakes, Peter Tatterfield reviewed some species from the East Usamabara Mountains and Dolf van Bruggen submitted Gulella planti in the very early stages of listing in the 1980s.*

*Between 1996 and 2000 there was a review of the application of the new categories and criteria, resulting in a revised IUCN categories and criteria (version 3.1) which has been used for Red List assessments from 2001 to 2017. To accompany this system there are now comprehensive guidelines to aid with understanding on how to apply the categories and criteria. Since 1996 we have increased from 671 molluscs listed as threatened with 157 extinctions to a comprehensively documented system containing over 8413 molluscs which contains images, maps and downloadable PDF documents with conservation and research actions. The latest version recognised 297 Extinctions, 1984 Threatened species, 533 Near Threatened and 1953 Data Deficient species.*



*Now species accounts are edited directly into an online database (SIS), instead of requiring compilers to enter data into the old access database. This means that at any point in time some 30-40 users may be*

*working on Molluscan species accounts in the system.*

*In this talk I will review results from the datasets from different regional assessments for covering freshwater molluscs, from Africa and review the different threats operating within the different regions.*

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**Title:** *Molluscs and Evolutionary Biology*

**Speaker and author:** Prof. dr. Edi Gittenberger

Vondellaan 55, 2332 AA Leiden, The Netherlands; [edi.gittenberger@naturalis.nl](mailto:edi.gittenberger@naturalis.nl)

**Abstract:** *Taxonomy, including phylogeny reconstruction these days, has contributed more to evolutionary theory than any other subdiscipline in biology. Darwin was a taxonomist after all. The molluscs however, are largely neglected in the main monographs on evolution. Their extreme diversity in morphology, ecology, behaviour, etc. should be used more frequently to illustrate evolutionary concepts like speciation, radiation, convergence, parallelism, etc. Some examples supporting this view will be presented.*

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