

Records of the Auckland Museum

Volume 50 | 2015



TAMAKI PAENGA HIRA

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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The *Records* contain the results of original research dealing with material in the collections of Auckland Museum, and research carried out by Museum staff members in their particular subjects. All papers are refereed. Instructions for authors are given at the end of this, or recent volumes. The *Records* are distributed, largely by exchange, to libraries at about 250 academic institutions-throughout the world. Proposals for exchange agreements should be addressed to the Auckland Museum Library Manager.

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Cover image: Detail from sampler sewn by Martha Gibbons showing New Zealand and the use of Te Reo placenames. 1784. Image courtesy of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Tamaki Paenga Hira. 2014.1.1.

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Walter Oliver Cernohorsky F.L.S.

Surveyor, malacologist – 1927–2014

I.G. Thwaites Auckland

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W. Blom Auckland War Memorial Museum

INTRODUCTION

Walter Cernohorsky was born in Brno, in what is currently the Czech Republic, on 30 June 1927 (Macaulay 2015). He lost both parents when he was seven years old and was looked after by his brother (who was 16 years older) and sister-in-law. During the Second World War he had to endure the horrors of the German occupation which included the murder of an uncle, who was an officer in the Czech Army, the requisitioning of the family's hotel and the need to hide female cousins from marauding soldiers. He studied architecture at university, though he would have preferred to run the family's business. As a university student Walter agitated against the Russian-imposed post-war communist regime and this eventually made it unsafe for him to remain in the country. In 1948 he hid on a train and escaped to the West without having time to collect belongings or farewell relatives and friends. He never returned or saw his brother again. Walter spoke Czech, German and English, with an understanding of Russian, and he was employed for a time by the U.S. Army as a translator.

In 1949 Walter went from Italy to Australia as a refugee. There he worked in factories and brick-works, and as a cane-cutter and surveyor. Later he recalled finding a *Nautilus pompilius* on the Great Barrier Reef in 1949 that first stimulated his interest in the beauty of mollusc shells (Greene 1962). Walter met his wife Irene in Australia. They married in 1953 and the same year moved to Fiji where Walter was Chief Surveyor at the Emperor Gold Mines, Vatukoula, Viti Levu. In Fiji, Walter found the perfect circumstances to develop a passion for tropical molluscs, and he became Honorary Malacologist at the Fiji Museum. He came under the influence of a scientific mentor (Prof. Dr. Schilder), who “patiently started me off on the scientific road to conchology” and stressed “the valuable service a conchologist residing in the small islands can render malacological science” (Greene 1962). The results of his shell-collecting field-work, and growing involvement in molluscan taxonomy, were published in the *Fiji Shell News* and *Hawaiian Shell News*. In 1968 he travelled to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., for a six-month research associateship in the Department of Mollusks, U.S. National Museum.

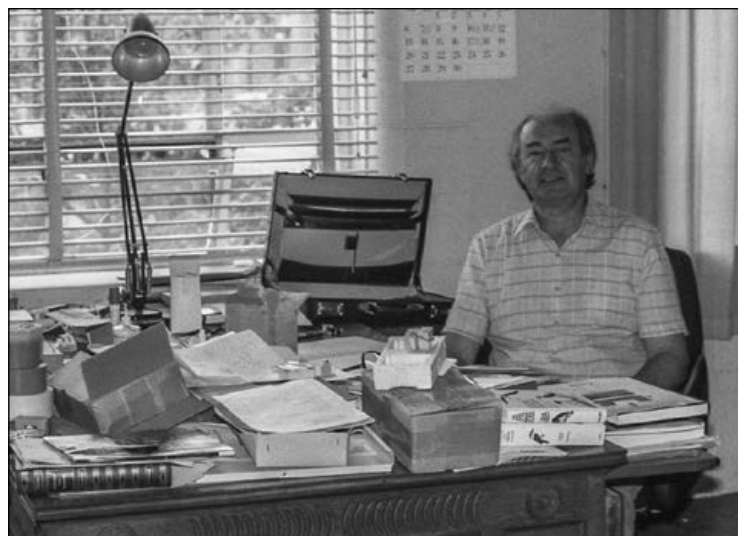


Figure 1. Walter Cernohorsky in the office of the Malacology Department at Auckland Museum, April 1986. The office (now a corridor leading to the Marine Department) is on Level 1 of the 1960 extension and the window looks down on the Courtyard (now the covered-over Atrium). Photo: B. Gill.

In February 1969 Walter took up the position of Malacologist at Auckland Museum (Figs 1, 2; Thwaites 2015), succeeding Dr A.W.B. Powell who had retired after 39 years' service. By this time Walter was a world authority on several families of tropical Pacific molluscs, particularly the Mitridae and Costellariidae. One of the attractions of Auckland Museum for Walter was the extensive malacological holdings of the museum's library. From Auckland he undertook numerous field trips to Pacific islands, often funded by private benefactors. Walter took part in the 1977 Royal Society of New Zealand South Pacific Expedition to the Lau Group, Fiji, in company with Auckland Museum's Entomologist Keith Wise. In 1981 he made a research trip to Australia funded by the Lottery Grants Board. In 1983 he spent two weeks in Los Angeles pursuing further research on the gastropod family Terebridae with Mrs Twila Bratcher of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. In 1983 Walter also went to Portugal to advise on the setting up of a specialised malacology museum south of Lisbon.

During his time at the museum, Walter continued his distinguished record of taxonomic publishing in malacology (Appendix 1). His published work on Indo-Pacific molluscs, combined with his predecessor's publications on New Zealand molluscs, established Auckland Museum as a notable centre of malacological research for nearly 60 years. Walter's specialised subjects necessitated that he maintain a large circle of contacts at museums and research organisations around the world, giving international connections to his work at Auckland Museum. Walter's publications include popular books on tropical seashells, as well as technical papers, including numerous articles published in the Auckland Museum *Records*. He also twice wrote an Auckland Museum *Bulletin* (numbers 8 and 14), the second of which (on the family Nassariidae, 1984) runs to 356 pages, is much-quoted and continues to sell. Walter played an important role in helping to sustain the output of Auckland Museum's own scholarly publications, which in turn helped to boost the museum's profile in scientific circles at home and abroad.

The following species of molluscs are those described by Walter during his malacological career and for which the primary type specimens are held in the Auckland Museum collection:

Bernaya chathamensis Cernohorsky, 1971
Boreotrophon shirleyi Cernohorsky, 1980
Cancilla (Ziba) cloveri Cernohorsky, 1971
Cantharus (Pollia) wrightae Cernohorsky, 1974
Engina mactanensis Cernohorsky, 1985
Latirus martinorum Cernohorsky, 1987
Mitra deynzeri Cernohorsky, 1980
Mitra dondani Cernohorsky, 1985
Mitra hilli Cernohorsky, 1976
Mitra (Nebularia) earlei Cernohorsky, 1976
Mitrolumna salisburyi Cernohorsky, 1978
Morula parvissima Cernohorsky, 1987
Muricopsis orri Cernohorsky, 1976



Figure 2. Walter Cernohorsky with auger shells (*Terebra*) in the Malacology Department at Auckland Museum, January 1987. New Zealand Herald photo (Auckland Museum AM93-A891-13a).

Nassarius rehderi Cernohorsky, 1980
Nassarius troendleorum Cernohorsky, 1980
Nassarius (Plicarcularia) maccauslandi Cernohorsky, 1984
Neocancilla kayae Cernohorsky, 1978
Notoluponia (Notadusta) clifdenensis Cernohorsky, 1971
Peculator bacatus Cernohorsky 1980
Primovula eilatensis Cernohorsky, 1972
Scabricola vicdani Cernohorsky, 1980
Strombus (Dolomena) kleckhamae Cernohorsky, 1971
Terebra parkinsoni Cernohorsky, 1976
Thala maxmarrowi Cernohorsky, 1980
Vexillum (Costellaria) adamsianum Cernohorsky, 1978
Vexillum (Costellaria) choslenae Cernohorsky, 1982
Vexillum (Costellaria) martinorum Cernohorsky, 1986
Vexillum (Costellaria) takakuwai Cernohorsky & Azuma, 1974
Vexillum (Costellaria) wolfei Cernohorsky, 1978
Vexillum (Pusia) salisburyi Cernohorsky, 1976
Viriola samoana Cernohorsky, 1976

The following molluscs were named by researchers in honour of W.O. Cernohorsky in recognition of his contribution to the discipline:

Austromitra cernohorskyi Turner, 2008 (south coast of New Caledonia);
Conus cernohorskyi da Motta, 1983 (Borogon, Philippines);
Cyllene cernohorskyi Fernandes & Rolan, 1992 (Palmeirinhas Point, Angola);

Hastula (Punctoterebra) cernohorskyi Burch, 1965 (Natadola, Fiji);
Morula cernohorskyi Houart & Troendle, 1997 (Mururoa Atoll, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia);
Nassarius cernohorskyi Kool, 2005 (Hiva Oa, Marquesas Group, French Polynesia);
Vexillum (Costellaria) cernohorskyi Ladd, 1966 (Eniwetok Atoll; Late Miocene);
Ziba cernohorskyi Rehder & Wilson, 1975 (Pitcairn Island).

During his time as curator, Walter continued in Powell's role as facilitator of the activities of the Auckland Shell Club (the museum's Conchology Section), which kept its library and held its meetings in a dedicated area at one end of the Malacology Department. Walter was also interested in numismatics, philately (he curated Auckland Museum's postage stamp collection during his natural history curatorship) and heraldry (see Macaulay 2015). In 1968 he designed three values in an issue of Fijian stamps depicting marine shells.

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APPENDIX 1.

Bibliography of malacological publications by W.O. Cernohorsky. He was the sole author of the publications unless other authors are given.

1964

The Cypraeidae of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 6(4): 177–201.
 The Conidae of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 7(2): 61–94.

1965

The Mitridae of Fiji. *The Veliger* 8(2): 70–160.
 A note on *Conus sowerbyi* Reeve, 1849. *Journal of Conchology* 25: 334–335.
Voluta pertusa Linnaeus, 1758; *Voluta morio* Linnaeus, 1767; *Voluta ruffina* Linnaeus, 1767; *Bulla conoidea* Linnaeus, 1767 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed suppression under the plenary powers. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 22: 198–203.

1966

(Cernohorsky, W.O. and A. Jennings) The Terebridae of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 9(1): 37–67.
 Comments on the proposed validity of *Voluta episcopalis* Linnaeus, 1795. Z.N. (S.) 1728. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 23: 80–81.
Mitra perlata (Roding) 1798 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed rejection as a *nomen oblitum*. Z.N. (S.) 1726. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 22: 334.
 The radula, egg capsules and young of *Murex (Chicoreus) torrefactus* Sowerby (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 8: 231–233.
 A study of mitrid radulae and a tentative generic arrangement of the family Mitridae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The*

Walter left the museum on 13 May 1988, but did not retire officially from the post until mid-1989 after using up accumulated leave. Besides his knowledge of malacology, Walter was also respected by staff at Auckland Museum for his courtesy, his impeccable manners, his warm personality and his skills as a raconteur. He is survived by his son Roy and daughter Diana.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Diana Cernohorsky for help with details of Walter's family background.

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 Macaulay, G.A. 2015. Walter Oliver Cernohorsky 1927–2014. *The New Zealand Armorer* 133: 2–3.
 Thwaites, I. 2015. *A Good Place to Be. Auckland Museum People 1929–89*. Auckland, Privately published.

Veliger 9: 106–126.

1967

Marine Shells of the Pacific. An Authoritative Handbook for all Collectors. Pacific Publications, Sydney. 248 pp.
Voluta citrina Gmelin, 1791; *V. strigose* Gmelin, 1791; *V. leucostoma* Gmelin, 1791 (Gastropoda): proposed designation of type-species under the plenary powers. Z.N. (S.) 1977. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 24(1): 53–54.
Strombus aratum (Roeding) from North Borneo. *Hawaiian Shell News* 15(10): 5.
 The Muricidae of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). Part I. Subfamilies Muricinae and Tritonaliinae. *The Veliger* 10(2): 111–132.
 A note on three species of Mitridae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 9: 441–442.
 The Bursidae, Cymatiidae and Colubrariidae of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 9: 310–329.

1968

Observations on *Hipponix cnicus* (Schumacher, 1817). *The Veliger* 10(3): 275–280.
 The Ovulidae, Pedunculariidae and Triviidae of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger* 10(4): 353–374.
Conus capitaneus Linnaeus and *C. mustelinus* Hwass in Bruguiere. *Hawaiian Shell News* 16(2): 4.
 The date of publication of Kiener's *Mitra* monograph in the 'Species general et iconographie des coquilles vivantes'. *The Veliger* 10: 349.

1969

- List of type specimens of Terebridae in the British Museum (Natural History). *The Veliger* 11(3): 210–222.
- The Muricidae of Fiji. Part II. Subfamily Thaidinae. *The Veliger* 11(4): 293–315.
- The type of the Lamarck collection of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Geneva. Recent Mollusca of the genera *Mitra*, *Columbella* (part) and *Cancellaria* (part). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* 76(4): 953–994.
- Type specimens of Mitridae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) described by Linnaeus in the genera *Voluta*, *Buccinum* and *Bulla* between 1758 and 1771. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 48(3): 351–362.

1970

- The littoral marine molluscs of Niue Island. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 7: 175–186.
- The taxonomy of some austral-neozelanic Cymatiidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 7: 187–191.
- Systematics of the families Mitridae and Volutomitridae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Bulletin of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 8: 1–190.
- Drupella* Thiele, 1925 (Gastropoda): proposed designation of type-species under the plenary powers. Z.N. (S.) 1891. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 26(5/6): 233.
- New Mitridae and Volutomitridae. *Nautilus* 83(3): 95–108.

1971

- Fossil and recent Cypraeaacea (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of New Zealand with descriptions of new species. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 8: 103–129.
- New molluscan species of *Strombus* (Strombidae) and *Cancilla* (Mitridae) from New Britain and Taiwan. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 8: 131–135.
- Indo-Pacific Pisaniinae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) and related buccinid genera. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 8: 137–167.
- The family Naticidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) in the Fiji Islands. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 8: 169–208.
- Contribution to the taxonomy of the Muricidae (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia). *The Veliger* 14(2): 187–191.
- Comment on the suppression of *Ametistina* Schinz, 1825. Z.N. (S.) 1894. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 27: 212.
- Comments on the proposed designation of a type species *Littorina* Ferussac, 1822. Z.N. (S.) 1901. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 27: 210.
- Contribution to the taxonomy of the Muricidae Gastropoda Prosobranchia. *The Veliger* 14: 187–191.
- Cymatiidae Iredale, 1913 (Gastropoda): proposed conservation under the plenary powers. Z.N. (S.) 1939. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 28: 59–61.

1972

- Indo-Pacific Nassariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 9: 125–194.
- The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca with descriptions of new species. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 9: 195–204.

A taxonomic evaluation of recent and fossil non-mitrid species proposed in the family Mitridae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 9: 205–229.

Type specimens of recent and fossil Mollusca described by H.J. Finlay. Part 1. (Scissurellidae-Turbinidae). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 9: 231–247.

Nassariidae Iredale, 1916 (Gastropoda): proposed conservation under the plenary powers. Z.N.(S). 1987. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 29(1): 62–63.

Marine Shells of the Pacific. Volume II. Pacific Publications, Sydney. 411pp.

Comments on the authorship of some subfamilial names in the Turridae Mollusca Gastropoda. *The Veliger* 15: 127–128.

Oniscidia H. & A. Adams, 1853 (Mollusca): proposed addition to the official list of generic names in zoology. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 29: 41–43.

1973

- The taxonomy of *Benthovoluta hilgendorfi* (von Martens) and allied turbinellid genera (Mollusca: Volutacea). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 10: 123–131.
- Description of new West Australian Mitridae and Vexillidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 10: 133–142.
- (Emerson, W.K. and W.O. Cernohorsky) The genus *Drupa* in the Pacific. *Indo-Pacific Mollusca* 3(13): 1–40.

1974

- The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca with description of a new species. Part 2. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 11: 121–142.
- Type specimens of Mollusca in the University Zoological Museum, Copenhagen. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 11: 143–192.
- Amendments to an application on Nassariidae Iredale, 1916 (Gastropoda): proposed conservation under the plenary powers. Z.N.(S). 1987. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 31(4): 212–214.
- (Cernohorsky, W.O. and M. Azuma) Description of a new species of Vexillidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from Japan. *Venus, Japanese Journal of Malacology* 33(1): 7–10.
- Remarks on the taxonomy of Japanese Nassariidae. *Venus, Japanese Journal of Malacology* 33(2): 51–64.
- Request for a ruling on the authorship of *Conus moluccensis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda) Z.N. (S). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 31(6): 156.

1975

- The taxonomy of some West American and Atlantic Nassariidae based on their type-specimens. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 12: 121–173.
- Supplementary notes on the taxonomy of buccinid species of the subfamily Pisaniinae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 12: 175–211.
- The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 3. With descriptions of new taxa and remarks on an Ecuadorian fossil species of Turridae. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 12: 213–234.

1976

- The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 4. With descriptions of new taxa and remarks on *Nassarius coppingeri* (Smith). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 13: 111–129.
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1977

- The taxonomy of some molluscan species reported from New Zealand. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 14: 87–104.
- The taxonomy of some Southern Ocean Mollusca (Gastropoda) mainly Antarctic and subantarctic. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 14: 105–119.
- The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 5. With descriptions of new taxa and remarks on *Nassarius albus* (Say). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 14: 121–132.
- Corrections of nomenclature for European and East Atlantic Nassariidae. *La Conchiglia* 9(99/100): 3–4.
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- Correction to the nomenclature of *Bullia* (Gastropoda: Nassariidae). *Auckland Museum Conchology Bulletin* 2 (New Series): 25–27.
- Note on two Pacific gastropods. *Auckland Museum Conchology Bulletin* 2 (New Series): 28–31.

1978

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- The taxonomy of Caribbean-Atlantic Costellariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 15: 87–109.
- New species of Mitridae, Costellariidae and Turridae from the Hawaiian Islands with notes on *Mitra sphoni* in the Galapagos Islands. *The Nautilus* 92(2): 61–67.
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1979

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1980

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- The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 7. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 16: 171–187.
- Taxonomic notes on Polynesian Mollusca with descriptions of new species of Nassariidae. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 17: 113–125.
- Systematics of some West Pacific *Lyria* (Mollusca: Volutidae) with description of a new species. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 17: 127–134.
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1981

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- On a collection of buccinacean and mitracean gastropods (Mollusca, Neogastropoda) from the Mozambique Channel and New Caledonia. *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, 4e ser.* 3: 985–1009.
- The family Buccinidae. Part 1: the genera *Nassaria*, *Trojana* and *Neoterion*. *Monographs of Marine Mollusca* 2(1): 1–52.
- Revision of J. Hervier's type-specimens of Mitracea (Mollusca, Gastropoda) from the Loyalty Islands. *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, 4e ser.* 3: 93–109.

1982

- Description of a new species of *Vexillum* (Costellaria) (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the West Pacific Ocean. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 19: 109–111.

The taxonomic status of *Cronia fiscella* (Gmelin, 1791) and *C. margariticola* (Broderip, 1833) (Gastropoda: Muricidae). *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 19: 113–124.

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(Bratcher, T. and W.O. Cernohorsky) Six new species of Indo-Pacific Terebridae (Gastropoda). *The Nautilus* 96(2): 61–66.

1983

The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 11. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 20: 185–202.

1984

Systematics of the family Nassariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Bulletin of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 14: 1–356.

1985

The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 12. With remarks on two American gastropod species. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 22: 47–67.

Three new deep-water Indo-Pacific and one intertidal Brazilian species of *Terebra* (Gastropoda). *The Nautilus* 99: 91–94.

1986

The taxonomy of some Indo-Pacific Mollusca. Part 13. With description of a new species. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 23: 45–57.

A taxonomic study on two Indo-Pacific species of *Cantharus* (*Prodotia*) [Mollusca: Buccinidae]. *Records of the Auckland Institute & Museum* 23: 59–65.

Retention of *Nassarius corpulentus* (Adams, 1852) in West American nassariid nomenclature. *The Veliger* 28: 460.

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