
Report on the 3rd European workshop on scaphopod molluscs (Cismar, April 26th – April 30th 2015)

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Verslag van de 3e Europese Scaphopoda Workshop (Cismar, 26 april - 30 april 2015)

Samenvatting. Eind april vond in “Haus der Natur”, Cismar, Duitsland de derde Europese workshop over stoottanden plaats. De focus lag dit jaar vooral op Noord-Atlantisch materiaal uit diepwater, *Compressidentalium hungerfordi* (Pilsbry & Sharp, 1897) en stoottanden uit Nieuw Zeeland.

After almost a year it was again time for the annual event on scaphopod molluscs in “Haus der Natur” in Cismar, Germany. Despite the effort of the scaphopod research team - Dr. Bernd Sahlmann, Frans de Jong, Dr. Vollrath Wiese and Jordy van

der Beek - to expand with some more tuskshell-enthusiasts, the number of participants remained unchanged (fig. 2). Bernd, Vollrath and myself started on Sunday afternoon with some brief discussions on several mollusc related problems and



Fig. 1. Poster of the Workshop

we prepared a schedule for the coming days. There was a lot to do and time was limited, because of the start of my final exams in two weeks time.

The Monday morning start was quite hard. Jordy and Bernd first discussed some extraordinary bathypelagic samples from the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, borrowed from Bart van Heugten. Only 10 samples of Gadilidae had been discussed when Frans arrived at 'Oldenburg railway station' by the end of the afternoon.

Tuesday was a continuation of the research project on the *C. hungerfordi*-complex of Bernd and Vollrath. Bernd published on *Compressidentalium sibogae* (Boissevain, 1906) (fig. 3) earlier this year (Sahlmann, 2015). The possibility of sibling species in the *C. hungerfordi* material, prompted us discuss this subject in the workshop. The whole day was spent on counting ribs, measuring and analyzing the structure of more than 80 shells from the collection of "Haus der Natur – Cismar" (HNC) and my private collection. At the end of the day we were convinced that there are more than two species of "hungerfordi-alikes" represented in the Indo-Pacific, but further research is required.

The last day of the workshop was primarily devoted to New Zealand scaphopods. A large collection has been purchased from Peter Poortman just in time. Despite the presence of a rare *Antalis gardineri* (Melvill, 1909) shell, our interest was mainly focused on the 25 shells of *Fissidentalium zelandicum* (Sowerby, 1860). We believed that the "*F. zelandicum*" samples encompass probably more than one species, because of a great variety in the shapes of the shells. So we started again with counting ribs. It looks as if we have two species, a variable one with 16-21 ribs intercalating to more than 30 with a great variety in shape and rib height and a second species, extremely big, heavy and straight, which is probably new to science.



Fig. 3. *Compressidentalium sibogae* (Boissevain, 1906), 81.6 mm, from Balut Island, Philippines (HNC 75324). Caught with tangle nets from 100-250 m depth in 2011, showing its curious triangular aperture (Sahlmann, 2015). Photo: Vollrath Wiese.

The last part of wednesday was a little bit chaotic. The whole afternoon Vollrath was busy taking pictures of several tuskshells while Bernd, Frans and I continued with our Red Sea studies (Sahlmann *et al.*, 2013) (van der Beek, 2014). We identified some mesopelagic Red Sea Gadilidae in the Bart van Heugten collection. At the moment we can only conclude that these are probably new records for the area. In the time left some Western-American scaphopods from the Elsie Marshall collection, a strange *Paradentalium* from Thailand and an *Antalis/Fissidentalium* from Rockall Trough were discussed, but a final determination was not yet possible. The workshop ended with a delicious dinner. The plans for a next workshop already exist. The current participants hope to welcome some new Scaphopod-enthusiasts next time.

Thanks to all participants of the workshop. Thanks to Vollrath Wiese and Gyde Wiese for allowing us to sleep in the Museum's apartment and the "Haus der Natur – Cismar" and the VFNC Society (Verein zur Förderung der Naturkunde in Cismar) for supporting this meeting. Special thanks to Bart van Heugten for sharing his famous collection with us. Of course thanks to my parents for driving me to Cismar and supporting me during the time in Cismar, they enjoyed their stay too. I thank Bernd for carefully reading my manuscript and for giving valuable comments and David Friedman for correcting the English.



Fig. 2. (from left) Frans de Jong, Jordy van der Beek and Bernd Sahlmann counting ribs on several specimens of *Compressidentalium hungerfordi* (Pilsbry & Sharp, 1897) and relatives. Photo: Vollrath Wiese.

References

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