

# Ecological zonation of gastropods in the Matutinao River (Cebu, Philippines), with focus on their life cycles

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Keywords: tropical river, fluvial gastropods, ecology, distribution, ontogeny, protoconchs

The tropical Matutinao River was investigated to study factors determining the distribution of the extant gastropods. Since ecological zonation and life-cycles are somewhat correlated, we followed both research avenues and in particular focused on early ontogenetic strategies, discriminated by detailed studies of corresponding shell features. Twenty-six gastropod species, almost all of which are distributed over whole Cebu Island, occurred in the small Matutinao River. The specific associations of river sections, and ecological demands and life-cycles of gastropods are characterized. Of special interest are planktotrophic neritoidan larvae, which are usually carried to the sea and develop in the marine environment, but in rare cases remain and successfully metamorphose in freshwater. The biogeographic background and evolutionary consequences of the results are discussed.

## Zonation écologique et cycles biologiques des gastéropodes de la rivière Matutinao (Cebu, Philippines)

Mots clés : rivière tropicale, gastéropodes fluviatiles, écologie, distribution, ontogénèse, protoconques

La rivière tropicale Matutinao a été étudiée quant à la question : qu'est-ce qui détermine la distribution des gastéropodes ? Comme la zonation écologique et les cycles sont parfois corrélés, nous avons suivi deux voies de recherches et, en particulier, concentrées sur les stratégies ontogéniques primitives qui peuvent être mises à jour à l'aide de l'étude détaillée des caractères des coquilles. Avec 26 espèces de gastéropodes, presque toutes les espèces qui sont distribuées sur toute l'île Cebu cohabitent dans la petite rivière Matutinao. Les associations de gastéropodes des sections de rivière, leurs besoins écologiques et les cycles biologiques des espèces sont précisés. D'un intérêt particulier sont les larves planctoniques de Neritidae qui sont normalement entraînées à la mer où elles se développent ; mais dans des cas rares elles peuvent rester et se métamorphoser avec succès en eau douce. L'analyse biogéographique et évolutive des résultats est discutée.

## 1. Introduction

The theoretical background on which this paper is based involves a number of research avenues such as systematics and biogeography, historical geology, evolutionary ecology, developmental biology, limnology and also biological oceanography.

The focal points, however, which are dealt here with, can be derived from a single question : *what determines the distribution of gastropods in a river ?* We regard to study the way in which ontogenies are developed to represent the best source of information to understand the potential of a species to colonize a river. In subsequence, the zonation of the corresponding organisms is controlled by their aut- and synecology. Consequently, with regard to the crucial question, we focused on life-cycles and ecological zonation and investigated the gastropod fauna of a tropical river in which biodiversity is adequately high.

The Matutinao River is such a case. It flows in the southwest of Cebu Island and empties into the Tanon

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Strait, which separates Cebu from the neighbouring Negros, both islands belonging to the Visayas, which constitute the central Philippines (Fig.1). The river is named after a small village located near its estuary. The Matutinao River with its Kawasan Falls and framing tropical vegetation represents a natural reserve of Cebu Island. Pollution is here quite low, which is in contrast to most other rivers of the island. Judging from the geological setting (compare Wolcke 1991), the river may have begun to form about 120.000 to 130.000 years ago and since then developed its present morphology. Almost thirty different gastropod species have colonized the Matutinao River and constitute specific associations that are characteristic of the different sections, which will be introduced below.

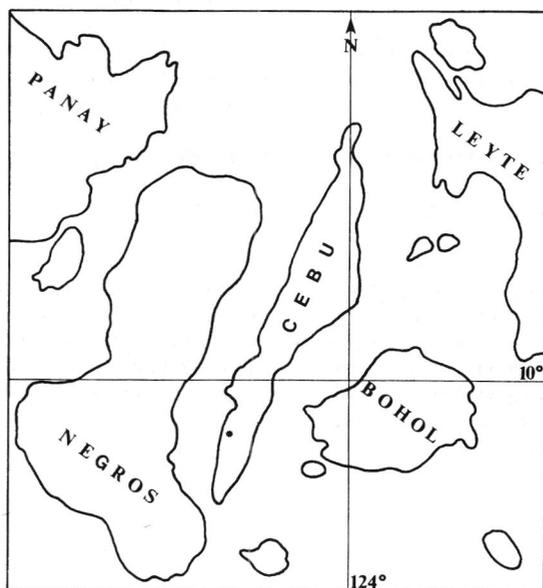


Fig.1. Central Philippines with Cebu Island and location of the Matutinao River (\*). Not to scale.

Fig. 1. Philippines centrales : emplacement de l'île Cebu et de la rivière Matutinao (\*).

The taxonomy of corresponding species suffers from a certain lack of documentation in the relevant literature i.e. there exist no modern systematic papers which treat the freshwater (and brackish water) gastropod fauna of the Philippines at species level. Classical descriptions such as published by Quadras & Moellendorff (1894, 1895) have been succeeded by a number of publications (among others Abbott 1948, 1951, 1958). Burch (1980) provided a classification of most genera, and in fact, when considering the Indo-Pacific scale for comparison (Indo-Australian archipelago :

Ancey 1898, Rensch 1934, Riech 1937, Benthén Jutting 1956, 1959 ; Thailand : Brandt 1974 ; Taiwan : Pance 1973 ; Fiji and other Pacific islands : Haynes 1985, 1990 ; Starmühlner 1976, 1993), it appears that taxonomy at generic level is fairly well established. The question of distribution, however, can be only resolved at the species level. Here we were faced with the problem mentioned above that many data from the literature are difficult to reproduce. In particular, taxonomy was usually based upon teleoconch (postmetamorphic shell) characters of the gastropods, and only now and then supported by some, often quite insufficient anatomical data (but see Haynes 1991, 1996, for *Sep-taria*). In consequence, species diversity of each area that has been investigated by the various authors can be sketched, however, on the larger biogeographic scale it is momentary quite impossible to decide if certain individuals of a genus from one place represent the same species occurring in a second or third place. Since we are not dealing with species of the other areas here, we attach the main importance to the fact that we are able to distinguish the gastropod species of the Matutinao River. The biogeography of involved species must therefore remain of secondary importance. We do not intend to increase the corresponding chaos and therefore add in our taxonomy in several cases the supplements cf., aff. or even indet. to the species and genus respectively. We thus do not pretend to have a clear picture about the status of such species, which usually does not exist.

The potential of dispersal of fluvial gastropods is particularly controlled by the feeding strategy during early ontogeny, which may be roughly discriminated in planktotrophy and lecithotrophy. These strategies are clearly documented in certain shell features which are formed during early ontogeny. Vice versa the detailed investigation of protoconchs (premetamorphic shell) provides the important information whether a species dispersed via a free-swimming marine larva or whether it crawled off its spawn or mother. Due to the fact that poecilogony (different early ontogenies within a single species) has not been documented without doubt in any known shelled gastropod (see Bandel 1975, Hoagland & Robertson 1988, Bouchet 1989, Bandel et al. 1997a), different protoconch-types are currently used for taxonomy at the species level. The distribution of some of the gastropods in the Matutinao River, however, forces us to conclude that intraspecific ontogenetic differences actually occur (see below), and this is of major importance for evolutionary and ecological concepts.

## 2. Material and methods

The Matutinao River was investigated by us in February 1994. We walked up and down within the river four times, mapping the distribution of gastropods and collecting specimens. Living species were not only observed in the field but also taken to the University of San Carlos (Cebu City) and here studied in detail using a binocular microscope. This accounts especially for the embryos which were extracted from spawn, brood pouches of thiarids and the uterus of *Bellamya*. A representative number of all species was fixed in 70 % ethanol with regard to some anatomical recheck which was conducted in Hamburg and Berlin. The radulae of most species, and shells of hatchlings and juveniles were mounted on stubs, sputtered with gold and examined using a scanning electron microscope (Cam-Scan and Cambridge).

Voucher material is deposited at the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut und Museum of the University of Hamburg.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Environmental setting

The Matutinao River has cut its bed into the soft Carcar Limestone, which had been deposited in Plio-Pleistocene times (Büchsel 1991), and is only partly filled with gravel and sand. Upstream, the wooded flanks increase in steepness and finally there is a narrow gorge (Fig. 2). A strong spring (Fig. 2 : 2) that issues from an extended subsurface cave system in the limestone supplies the river with water throughout the year. Close to the spring two intermittent streamlets join, which canalize water only in the rainy season and otherwise dry out or form a chain of more or less isolated pools (Fig. 2 : 1). This pool-creek-section lies in the narrow gorge that ends in a cave, which represents the uppermost point of our investigations. Right below the spring a small artificial lake has been created in order to supply a power station (Fig. 2 : 4) continuously with a portion

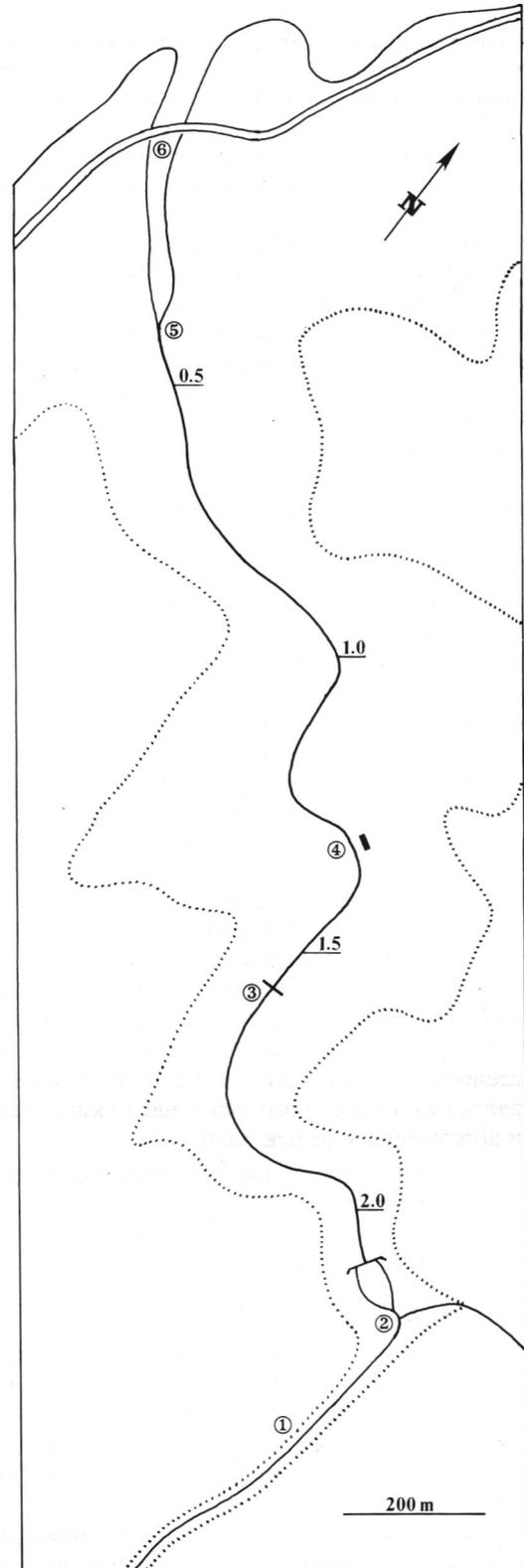


Fig. 2. Sketch of the Matutinao River (Cebu Island, Philippines). Numbers indicate ecologically characteristic sections which are referred to in the text. The dotted lines indicate the 100 meter contour line. Scale as indicated. Additionally distances in km are directly marked by the numbers 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0.

1 = intermittent creek with pools ; 2 = spring and artificial lake ; 3 = Kawasan Falls ; 4 = power station ; 5 = estuarine transition ; 6 = river mouth.

Fig. 2. Carte de la rivière Matutinao. Les nombres 1 à 6 indiquent les différentes caractéristiques écologiques des 6 sections étudiées.

En pointillé : courbes de niveau de + 100 m.

Les distances à l'embouchure notées par les chiffres 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 et 2.0 sont en km.

of the river water via a pipeline. The dam of this lake provides an artificial fall from which the remaining water makes its way to the natural Kawasan Falls (Fig. 2 : 3). There are actually two main waterfalls, with the lower one creating a comparatively large pool, which is used i.e. by tourists for swimming. Downstream there are no more falls but several rapids. At the power station, the water which originates from the artificial lake, flows down a steep ramp and joins the river. Further downstream, large boulders dominate the river bed for about 400 meters. The lowermost freshwater section is characterized by a long narrow island, which terminates right in front of the estuary (Fig. 2 : 5). In this portion of the river sandy areas of significant size appear. The uppermost occurrence of Nipa palms at the transition to the island reflects the daily highstand of tides. In this upper part of the estuary salinity has a very limited influence, while the actual river mouth (Fig. 2 : 6) is almost fully marine at high tide, and at least brackish if not fresh when the tide is low.

The water of the Matutinao River is rich in calcium carbonate, and very clear, except for the actual river mouth, and thus usually well permeable to light. Vegetation is mostly shading the river quite well, however, there exist a fair amount of places and sections where solar radiation has full impact. Pollution was limited (in 1994!) and almost exclusively originated from some local people washing clothes. The water temperature varies in a narrow range around 26°C throughout the year. Most portions of the Matutinao river are quite shallow and can be explored by walking within the water. The artificial lake and the pools of the Kawasan Falls are several meters deep, which accounts also for the estuary, i.e. at high tide. The current pattern of the river may be complex and places with counter-currents or slack water are not rare. In general, the water flows with a speed between 5 and 15 km/h. Seasonal differences can be neglected.

Aside from gastropods the macrofauna was dominated by large shrimps, which occurred most frequently within the artificial lake, and to some smaller fish entering the estuarine section.

### 3.2. Ecological zonation and ontogeny

**Notes :** The listing of associated gastropods refers to populations. Freshly metamorphosed juveniles e.g., which settle in the estuary and then all migrate upstream are not listed for the estuary. It is referred to the descriptions of specific life-cycles to get the complete picture.

The taxonomic status of species and authorship of taxa is only indicated when first mentioned. We prefer

to describe ecological characteristics in the past tense because pollution may have increased during the last four years and specific associations correspondingly changed.

#### 1. POOL-CREEK SECTION

##### *Associated gastropods :*

Superfamily Ampullarioidea GRAY, 1824

Family Viviparidae GRAY, 1847

Subfamily Bellamyinae RÖHRBACH, 1937

**Genus *Bellamyia*** JOUSSEAUME 1886 with a species indet.

Superfamily Cerithioidea FÉRUSAC, 1819

Family Thiaridae TROSCHER, 1857

Subfamily Thiarinae TROSCHER, 1857

**Genus *Tarebia*** H. & A. ADAMS, 1854 - with *T. cf. granifera* (LAMARCK, 1816)

?Subfamily Pachychilinae TROSCHER, 1857

**Genus *Brotia*** H. ADAMS, 1866 - with *B. aff. costula* (RAFINESQUE, 1833).

Superfamily Lymnaeoidea RAFINESQUE, 1815

Family Lymnaeidae RAFINESQUE, 1815

Subfamily Lymnaeinae RAFINESQUE, 1815

**Genus *Radix*** MONTFORT, 1810 - with *R. cf. quadra-si* (MOELLENDORF, 1898)

Superfamily Planorboidea RAFINESQUE, 1815

Family Planorbidae RAFINESQUE, 1815

Subfamily Planorbinae RAFINESQUE, 1815

**Genus *Gyraulus*** AGASSIZ, 1837 - with *G. cf. chinensis* (DUNKER, 1848)

**Ecological characteristics :** *Bellamyia* (Fig. 3 A-D) formed the densest population in this portion of the river. Individuals grazed on algal growth within the pools and filtered phytoplankton from the slowly flowing to stagnant water. They thus behaved like their close relative *Viviparus* MONTFORT 1810. *Tarebia* (Fig. 3 L-N, Fig. 4 A-B) and *Brotia* (Fig. 3 I-K) occurred in significant lower numbers of specimens and browsed on rocks i.e. in places where some water current was present.

*Gyraulus* (Fig. 3 E-G) and *Radix* (Fig. 3 H) were found exclusively in this section, the former particularly in the shallower pools with stagnant water. *Radix* moved also along the transitions between pools where moderate currents occurred. Both basommatophoran pulmonates were found to be attached to rocky substrate or plants, or drifted on the water surface respectively. *Gyraulus* apparently collected detrital material, while *Radix* fed on algae and other water plants. The

pool-creek section represented the only portion of the river where the water temperature with up to 30°C was significantly higher than the usual 26°C. The narrow gorge prevented direct sunlight to penetrate the water.

**Life-cycles :** The female of *Bellamya* is viviparous and dissection of the oviduct exhibited about twenty egg capsules, each containing a single embryo. The capsules represent thin-walled, whitish-transparent sacs of different sizes correlated with the sizes of the corresponding embryogenetic stages. Fresh eggs and little developed embryos have small egg capsules, later stages larger ones, due to the uptake of water into the capsule liquid. The embryos within the uterine tract may be lined up to form an ontogenetic sequence of significant length, from the cleaving zygote to miniature adults which bear shells of up to four and a half whorls. Regarding the soft body, the embryogenetic development of *Bellamya* very closely resembles that of *Viviparus* and it can be referred to the corresponding literature (e.g. Bandel 1982, Riedel 1993, and references therein). The early ontogenetic shell of *Bellamya*, however, can easily be distinguished from that of *Viviparus*. The initial whorl of *Bellamya* measures about 0.4 mm across, and reflects a retarded calcification that is documented by ornament of shrunken and wrinkled organic shell preserved by the aragonite layer formed below it (Fig. 3 D). The transition to the second whorl is characterized by the onset of a spiral keel, forming at short distance to the suture, and several delicate spiral striae composed of minute periostracal bristles (Fig. 3 C). This keel later develops into a prominent sutural carina (Fig. 3 B). After hatching the prominence of the spiral ornamentation is quite variable and the carina usually becomes less prominent. The hatchlings of *Bellamya* sp. have a maximum shell height of about 6 mm (Fig. 3 B) and regarding their organization and behaviour closely resemble that of the adults with which they were found to be associated.

*Brotia* aff. *costula* revealed to have a brood pouch in the head-foot, which contained numerous small eggs but no shelled embryos. Even though the early ontogeny could not be observed directly, the protoconch displays its course. It can be assumed to be similar to those of lecithotrophic thiarids (see below ; Riedel 1993, Bandel & Kowalke 1997). The initial shell is shrunken and wrinkled, reflecting the typical characters due to retarded calcification. Hatching into the brood pouch presumably took place with a shell size of 2/3 whorls (Fig. 3 K arrow), measuring about 0.17 mm across. The maximum diameter of the first whorl is 0.24 mm. The transition from a retarded to a simultaneous calcification is demarcated after completion of one and a

half shell whorls and succeeded by the onset of spiral and axial ornamentation that is quite variable. Spiral and axial sculpture form a reticulated pattern on the upper flanks of whorls 3 to 5 (Fig. 3 J). Afterwards the axial ribs predominate the ornament, which is also the case in the adult shell (Fig. 3 I). It remains unknown at what stage of growth the juvenile leaves the maternal brood pouch but in comparison with thiarids of similar developmental type it may have happen with a shell size of 4 to 5 whorls (see remarks).

Specimens of *Tarebia* cf. *granifera* were dissected and embryos of different developmental stages could be extracted from the brood pouch in the head-foot. Stages included as well embryos forming an initial shell cap as such bearing a shell of more than six whorls and ready to leave the brood pouch (and all intermediate stages). Each egg is surrounded by a spherical capsule. When the embryo hatches from the anterior oviduct into the posterior compartments of the brood pouch it has formed only three quarters of a loosely calcified whorl measuring about 0.19 to 0.23 mm across (Fig. 4 B). Subsequently the embryo develops through a short larval phase, showing two small velar lobes, one on each side of the head respectively. Metamorphosis occurs already when the first whorl of the shell is completed, which has a diameter of 0.25 to 0.29 mm. The early juveniles feed on foamy particles of tissue delaminating from the brood pouch walls.

A two-whorled juvenile already resembles a minute adult, but, while migrating to the anterior portion of the brood pouch, develops a five- to six-whorled shell before it finally leaves the maternal shelter (Fig. 3 N). A six-whorled shell is almost 5 mm high, which represents a fifth of the final height of the adult shell (Fig. 3 L). The sculptural development of *Tarebia* is characterized by the more or less irregularly shaped and wrinkled initial whorl and the subsequent onset of distinct growth increments and spiral lirae. From growth increments axial ribs develop, which become more or less nodular in the adult, and the lirae correspondingly increase in strength. The ornamentation of adult *Tarebia* varied comparatively little in the Matutinao population. The juveniles of *T. cf. granifera* were found in association with the adults.

Species of *Gyraulus* and *Radix* spawn jelly egg masses and attach them to hard substrate. The development of embryos of *G. cf. chinensis* and *R. cf. quadrasi* was not observed but from comparison with congeneric species reared in aquarium tanks it can be assumed that the embryos develop 8 to 9 days until they hatch (compare Bandel 1982, Riedel 1993). The protoconchs of the two Matutinao species could be exami-

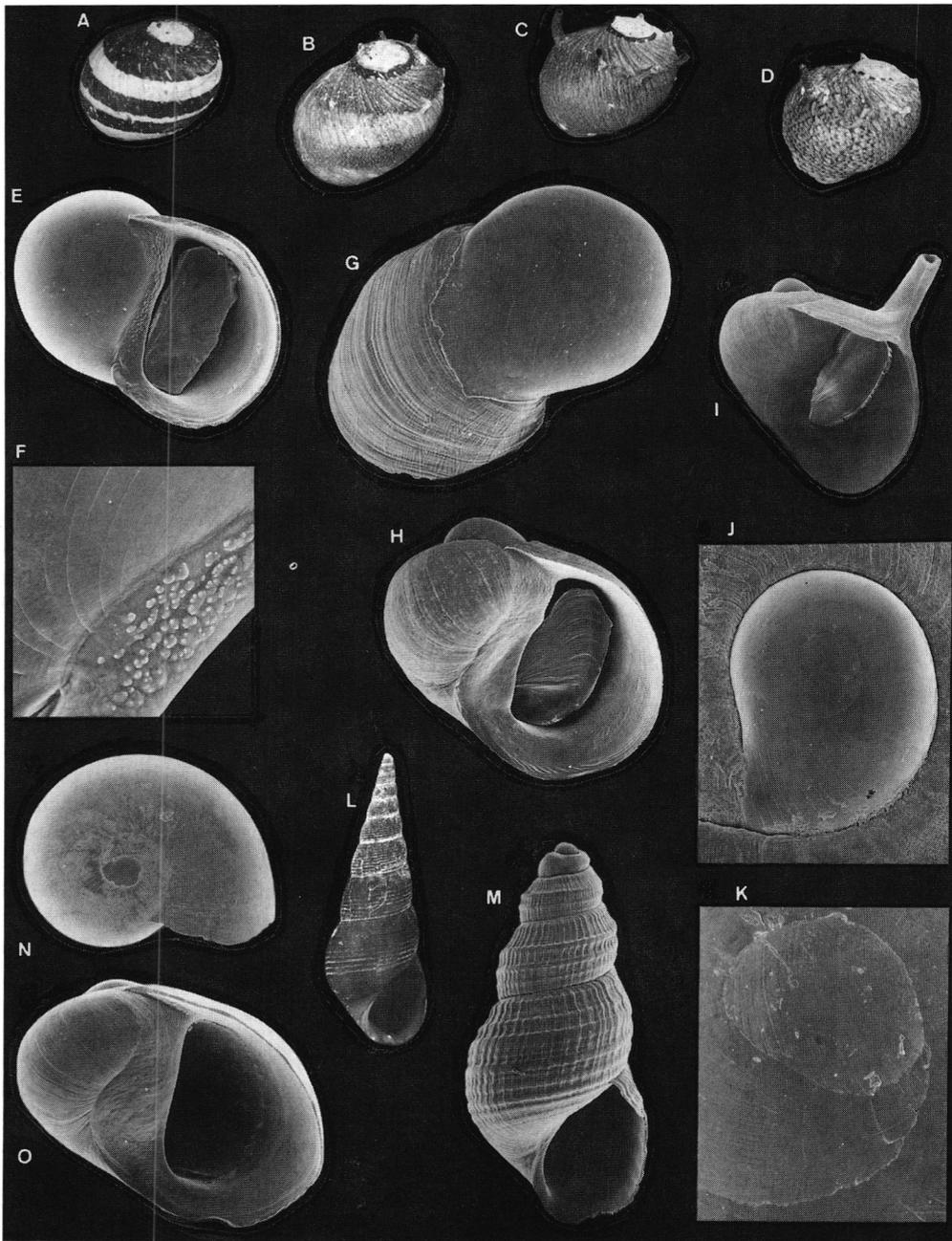


Fig. 5. Gastropods from river section 4 and 5. — A-D: The adult shells of *Clithon* aff. *corona* show significant intraspecific variation of the colour pattern. Max. diameter of specimen A = 1.3 cm. E: Early juvenile shell of *C. aff. corona* in apertural view. Max. diameter = 0.55 mm. F: Detail of E showing characteristic axial ridges of the larval shell and granules on the columellar lip. Width of photograph = 0.1 mm. G: In *C. aff. corona* the transition from larval to juvenile shell is clearly demarcated. Max. diameter = 0.58 mm. H: Juvenile shell of *C. aff. corona* in apertural view. Max. diameter = 1.25 mm. I: Juvenile shell of *C. aff. corona* with formation of the first spine. Max. diameter = 2.0 mm. J: Protoconch of *C. aff. corona* in apical view. Width of photograph = 0.37 mm. K: Detail of J showing embryonic shell which is mostly hidden by subsequent convoluted larval whorls. Width of photograph = 0.11 mm. L: Shell of adult *Melanoides* cf. *tuberculata*. Max. height = 3.1 mm. M: Shell of embryonic *M. cf. tuberculata* removed from brood pouch. Max. height = 2.6 mm. N: Shell of juvenile *Neritilia* cf. *rubida* in apical view. Max. diameter = 1.8 mm. O: Shell of juvenile *N. cf. rubida* in apertural view. Max. diameter = 1.35 mm.

ly takes place within a 0.7-whorled embryo measuring 0.18 mm across. The complete first whorl has a maximum diameter of 0.21 mm (see remarks).

**Remarks :** The assignment of *Septaria cumingiana* and *S. cf. porcellana* has been suggested by the unknown referee who presented himself as taxonomic authority. In the original manuscript we called the former species *S. cf. porcellana* and the latter *S. cf. borbonica*.

The shell colour pattern of *Clithon* aff. *corona* is here less variable than in the estuarine section, where spines are commonly formed, while they are mostly absent in the specimens of this section. This appears to indicate that two different species occur in the Matutinao River, however, the shell characters of the more upstream individuals are fully within the morphological range of corresponding features of the estuarine specimens. In respect of spines it may be true that fish represents the selective pressure. In contrast to the estuary there are no fish species in section 4, which may prey on *Clithon*.

*Neritina* sp. like the other neritoideans described here could be detected in the estuarine transition (see below), which appears logical in the context of the early ontogeny. However, in contrast to these, populations of *N. sp.* seemed to be separated by a distributional gap of almost 500 meters in which not a single specimen could be found (see discussion).

The apex of *Neritina* sp. was conspicuously crusted over with calcium carbonate even in early juveniles (Fig. 4 G). This crust has been formed by the activity of cyanobacteria, which probably preferred or were most successful on the species exposed to the relatively lowest water energy.

The life-span of our fluvial neritoideans is very difficult to be calculated. A *Neritina* from Bali (Indonesia), which was already adult when collected, has been kept alive in an aquarium tank (at the University of Hamburg) for more than seven years. This may provide a rough idea and indicate that *Neritina* and relation can reach a rather great age and thus migrate far up a river, even with very little daily progress (compare Schneider & Frost 1986 and see discussion).

The shell of *Melanoides cf. tuberculata* cannot be differentiated from *M. tuberculata* collected in Jordan (see Riedel 1993), perhaps except for the larger initial whorl found in the Matutinao River species. This feature, however, has not yet been checked with regard to its ecological context. A very similar juvenile shell can

also be found in *Stenomelania plicaria* (see Bandel et al. 1997a, and below), where it is, however, significantly slenderer (Fig. 6 I).

## 5. ESTUARINE TRANSITION

### **Associated gastropods :**

Superfamily Neritoidea

Family Neritidae

Subfamily Neritiliinae BAKER, 1923

**Genus** *Neritilia* MARTENS, 1879 - with *N. cf. rubida* (PEASE, 1865)

Superfamily Cerithioidea

Family Thiaridae

Subfamily Thiarinae

**Genus** *Thiara* RÖDING, 1798 - with *T. cf. scabra* (MÜLLER, 1774), *T. cf. cancellata* (ROEDING, 1798)

**Genus** *Stenomelania* FISCHER, 1885 - with *S. punctata* (LAMARCK, 1822), *S. plicaria* (BORN, 1780)

**and** *Clithon* aff. *corona*, *Neritina pulligera*, *N. sp.*, *Septaria cf. porcellana*, *S. cumingiana*, *Melanoides cf. tuberculata*

**Ecological characteristics :** *Neritilia* (Fig. 5 N-O, Fig. 6 A-B) was found attached to available hard substrates, most commonly to the undersides of rocks and to shells of syntopic larger gastropod species such as *Stenomelania* spp. *Neritilia* occurred also on sunken branches of terrestrial plants and only rarely on pebbles and larger stones, usually in places with low water energy. *Stenomelania* moved on sandy and muddy substrates, in particular in quiet places right below the river banks. The two species *S. plicaria* (Fig. 6 I-K) and *S. punctata* (Fig. 6 L-N) revealed the same habitat preference (compare Bandel et al. 1997a). The low number of quiet, soft substrate habitats corresponded with the comparatively small populations.

A single adult and several juvenile specimens of *Thiara cf. cancellata* (Fig. 6 F-H) were found buried in sand deposited at the northeasterly flank of the narrow island, which terminates at the actual estuary. *Thiara cf. scabra* (Fig. 6 C-E) occurred in fair numbers in sandy places along the island and the opposite bank. Most specimens were buried in sand, only very few crawled on the substrate. The alimentary tract of dissected animals exhibited fine sand and thus *Thiara* obviously fed on organic particles.

The other species met in this section have already been characterized in connection with preceding river sections.

**Life-cycles :** Aside from *Stenomelania plicaria*, *Melanoides cf. tuberculata* and *Thiara cf. cancellata*, all

those of other neritoidean taxa. The characters appear to be consistent within the genus as exactly the same protoconch was found in a species from Columbia (Caribbean coast).

In respect of *Thiara scabra*, Glaubrecht (1996) figured specimens from Bali with a protoconch type reflecting lecithotrophic development. We do not have to discuss here a possible case of poecilogony because Glaubrecht (1996) misidentified the shells and actually figured juveniles of the thiarid *Sermyla* (compare below).

The two species of *Stenomelania* described here were recently investigated in more detail by Bandel et al. (1997a) from a different locality on the opposite side of Cebu Island, with regard to ontogeny, anatomy and ecology.

## 6. ESTUARY

### *Associated gastropods :*

Superfamily Neritoidea

Family Neritidae

Subfamily Neritinae

**Genus** *Clithon* MONTFORT, 1810 - with *C. oualaniensis* (LESSON, 1831)

**Genus** *Neritina* LAMARCK, 1816 - with *Neritina* aff. *auriculata* (LAMARCK, 1816)

**Genus** *Septaria* FÉRUSAC, 1807 - with *Septaria* cf. *tesselata* (LAMARCK, 1816)

Superfamily Littorinoidea GRAY, 1840

Family Littorinidae GRAY, 1840

Subfamily Littorininae GRAY, 1840

**Genus** *Littorina* FÉRUSAC, 1822 - with *L. scabra* (LINNAEUS, 1758)

Superfamily Cerithioidea

Family Thiaridae

Subfamily Thiarinae

**Genus** *Sermyla* H. & A. ADAMS, 1854 - with *S.* cf. *riqueti* (GRATELOUP, 1840)

Superfamily Ellobioidea H. & A. ADAMS, 1855

Family Ellobiidae H. & A. ADAMS, 1855

Subfamily Ellobiinae H. & A. ADAMS, 1855

**Genus** *Auriculastra* MARTENS, 1880 - with *A. subula* (QUOY & GAIMARD, 1832)

Subfamily Pythiinae OHDNER, 1925

**Genus** *Pythia* RÖDING, 1798 - with *P. reeveana* PFEIFFER, 1853

**Genus** *Cassidula* FÉRUSAC, 1821 - with *C. vesperilionis* (LESSON, 1831)

Subfamily Melampinae STIMPSON 1851

**Genus** *Melampus* MONTFORT, 1810 - with *M.* cf. *fasciatus* (DESHAYES, 1830)

**Genus** *Micromelampus* MÖLLENDORFF, 1898 - with *M.* aff. *nucleolus* (MARTENS, 1865)

**and** *Clithon* aff. *corona*, *Neritilia* cf. *rubida*

**Ecological characteristics :** Ten of the extant species occurred exclusively in this section, which means they were not found further upstream. *Septaria* cf. *tesselata* (Fig. 7 I-J, see remarks) was fairly commonly found attached to the water-covered parts of tree roots along the easterly banks of the river where the water energy was comparatively low, but also on pebbles, which were exposed to stronger water currents. *Clithon oualaniensis* (Fig. 7 L-M) was the dominant gastropod species of the actual river mouth whereas in the upper estuary *C.* aff. *corona* was most abundant (which continued up to section 4). *C. oualaniensis* occurred on pebbles, coarse gravel and sand, individuals browsing available organic matter. The single specimen of *Neritina* aff. *auriculata* (Fig. 7 K) encountered was attached to the underside of a larger pebble, right below the westerly bank.

*Littorina scabra* (Fig. 7 E-H) was frequently found living on *Nipa* palms or sonneratiacean mangroves (Fig. 7 E), often exposed to sunlight. Individuals used their radula to scrape food from the leaves.

*Sermyla* cf. *riqueti* (Fig. 6 O, Fig. 7 A-D) preferred the muddy calm places in the uppermost estuary and here consumed diatoms and other microorganisms.

The extant archaeopulmonate species exhibited an amphibious habit, which is characteristic of ellobiids. *Auriculastra subula* (Fig. 8 A-C) was the most common archaeopulmonate and inhabited muddy ground, which was more or less covered by plant remains, and beyond the reach of the high tide. *Pythia reeveana* (Fig. 8 I-K) preferred to hide under rotting plant material in the uppermost tidal reaches i.e. at the transition from *Nipa* to *Cocos* palms. *Cassidula vesperilionis* (Fig. 8 L) lived on soft substrate within the reach of the high tide but stopped activities when being flooded. *Micromelampus* aff. *nucleolus* (Fig. 8 D-H) was almost as common as *A. subula* and occurred on the substrate among the petioles of the *Nipa* palms and the roots of the sonneratiacean mangrove trees, i.e. mud flats within the reach of the tide. *Melampus* aff. *fasciatus* (Fig. 8 M), the largest of the extant ellobiids, was usually found sympatric with *P. reeveana*, but also hidden in crustacean burrows.

**Life-cycles :** Egg capsule and protoconch (Fig. 7 J) of *Septaria* cf. *tesselata* appear to be identical with those of *S.* cf. *porcellana* and *S. cumingiana* (for des-

cription see section 4). The embryos hatch out as bilobed veligers, are carried by the main river current or by the receding tide to the sea and feed on the marine nanoplankton for at least several weeks before metamorphosing and settling within a convenient estuary. The early ontogenetic shell of *Neritina* aff. *auriculata* was corroded in the single available specimen and thus information about the premetamorphic feeding strategy could not be attained. It is assumed, however, that there is a planktotrophic larval phase (see remarks). *Clithon oualaniensis* shows the same protoconch type as was described here for all neritids except for *Neritilia* cf. *rubida*, but can be distinguished in detail by its larger maximum diameter of 0.53 mm. Thus there is no doubt that *C. oualaniensis* has a planktotrophic phase in its early ontogeny (see remarks).

*Littorina scabra* exhibits a life cycle, which is typical for many members of the family. Although individuals may usually live several meters above the water surface, the egg capsules have to be deposited within the tidal reach. Thus females have to come down to the water to be able to spawn. The planktic egg capsules are carried by the tide to the open sea. The embryos hatch out as bilobed, one-whorled veligers. It is assumed that the larvae remain in and feed on plankton for several weeks during which almost three whorls are added to form a four-whorled protoconch (Fig. 7 H). The larval whorls are sculptured by 4-6 spiral ridges. The protoconch has a height of 0.42-0.44 mm and a maximum width of about 0.27 mm.

*Sermyla* cf. *riqueti* shows the reproductive biology, which is characteristic of all thiarids. Dissection of animals revealed a brood pouch in the head-foot of females, which contained different stages of about twenty shelled juveniles (Fig. 7 A-B), sometimes having a pathologic sinistral shell (Fig. 7 D). The embryos hatch into the brood pouch with a shell of three quarters of a whorl, measuring 0.16 mm across. Up to 1.5 whorls the shell shows more or less prominent wrinkles, which reflect a retarded calcification (Fig. 7 C, see above). After that growth lines become distinct and 2-3 spiral keels are introduced (Fig. 7 B). On the third whorl axial ribs develop, which become increasingly opisthocline on later whorls and represent a characteristic feature of the teleoconch (Fig. 6 O). The largest juveniles found within brood pouches had formed 4.5 whorls with a height of 1.4 mm and a maximum width of about 0.82 mm (Fig. 7 B). These were probably ready to leave the maternal pouch and join the population.

The shells of the six archaeopulmonates, as could be expected, exhibit a change of the coiling direction from sinistral (protoconch) to dextral (teleoconch).

The spawn of *Auriculastra subula* consists of oval capsules, each containing a single egg, and which are embedded in mucus to form a gelatinous flattened egg-mass. The embryos develop to planktotrophic veligers within seven days (see remarks). Hatching appears to be controlled by the lunar cycle and takes place particularly during spring tides. The newly hatched veliger has no tentacles, no eyes and no mantle cavity. The shell is fully mineralized and can be sealed by an operculum. The more or less smooth protoconch is distinctly sinistral (Fig. 8 B-C), measures about 0.2 mm across, and indicates that the larva remains in the plankton up to several weeks before it metamorphoses and the juvenile commences its amphibious life-style.

It is assumed that *Pythia reeveana* spawns similar egg masses and has a comparable ontogeny as the larger species *P. scarabaeus* (LINNÉ, 1758) from Bali, which could be examined in more detail (see remarks). The one-whorled protoconch of *P. reeveana* measures 0.3 mm across and is indistinctly sinistral (Fig. 8 K). It can be considered to reflect the ontogenetic phase of a short-lived veliger, which probably metamorphoses right after to several days after hatching.

The protoconch of *Cassidula vespertilionis* cannot be documented and the potential to distribute remains unclear (compare Harbeck 1997). *Micromelampus* aff. *nucleolus* reveals the same protoconch type (Fig. 8 G-H) as can be found in *Melampus* aff. *fasciatus* (see Harbeck 1997). In apical view the protoconch is egg-shaped (Fig. 8 H), revealing the final half whorl of a sinistral, involute shell, which is largely hidden within the initial teleoconch whorl. The visible portion of the protoconch measures 0.22 mm at its maximum diameter. The embryos hatch out as bilobed, planktotrophic veligers (see remarks), which have the potential to remain in the plankton for several weeks. As in the other extant archaeopulmonates, life after metamorphosis proceeds only if a suitable environment is reached and amphibious life-style can be established.

**Remarks :** In respect of *Clithon oualaniensis* we put emphasis on the fact that the species has a planktotrophic larval phase because in the literature authors discussed lecithotrophy. Gardner et al. (1995) wrote that «... it is unlikely that *Clithon* has a free-swimming pelagic larva (Gruneberg 1976), ...», which is obviously wrong.

*Auriculastra subula*, *Pythia scarabaeus*, *Melampus fasciatus* and *Micromelampus pulchellus* (PETIT, 1842) were collected by Klaus Bandel and Klaus Harbeck in Bali and taken alive to their institute in Hamburg. The ellobiids were kept in aquarium tanks and spawned egg masses. The data for *A. subula* and *M.*

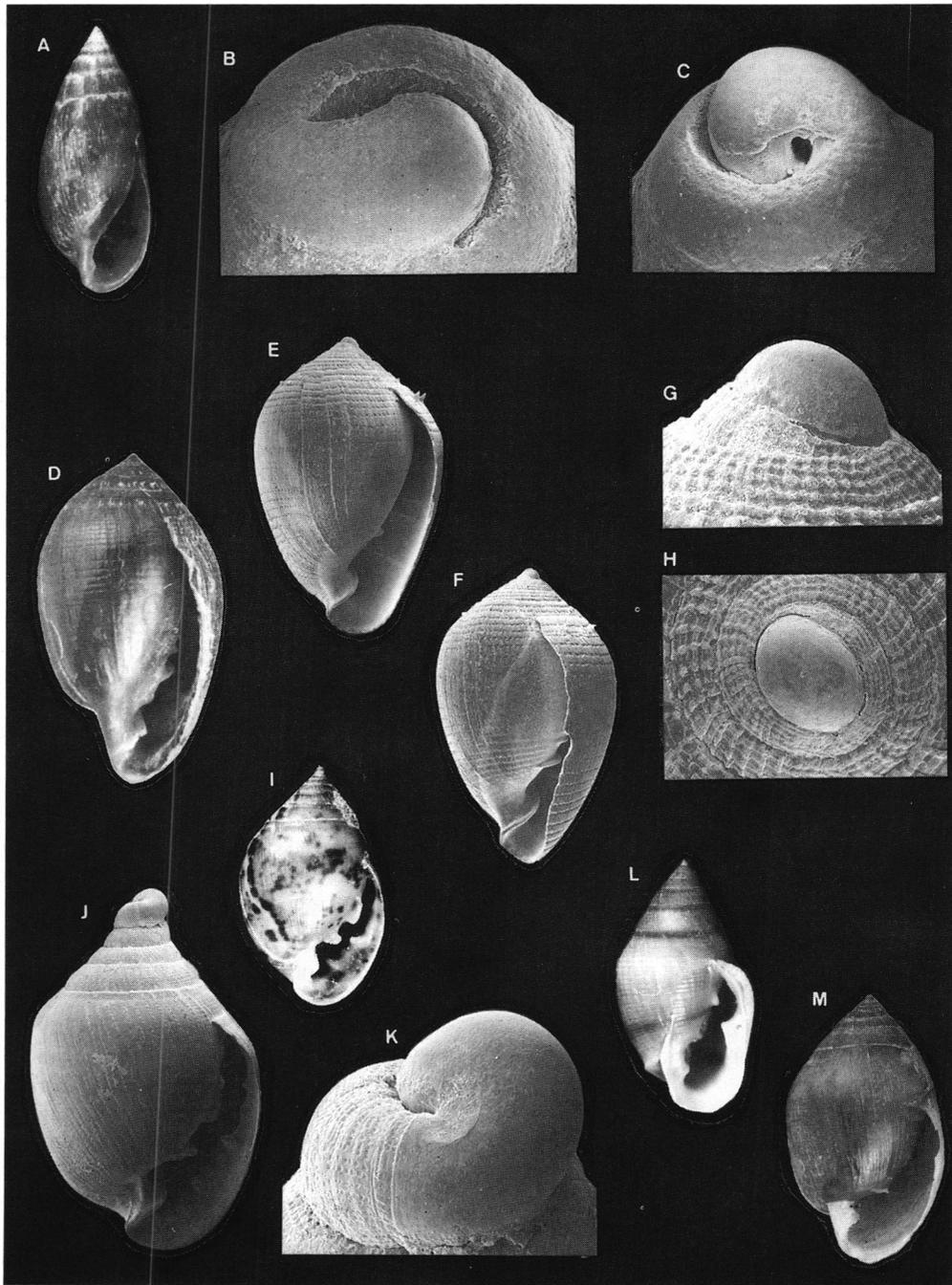


Fig. 8. Gastropods from river section 6. — A : Shell of adult *Auriculastra subula*. Max. height = 1.4 cm. B : Apex of juvenile shell of *A. subula*. Width of photograph = 0.28 mm. C : Dito, but from the opposite side to show the heterostrophic character of the shell. Width of photograph = 0.31 mm. D : Adult shell of *Micromelampus* aff. *nucleolus*. Max. height = 1.0 cm. E : Juvenile shell of *M. aff. nucleolus*. Max. height = 2.9 mm. F : Lateral view of E to show the characteristic columellar folds. Max. height = 2.9 mm. G : Protoconch of juvenile *M. aff. nucleolus*. Width of photograph = 0.3 mm. H : Apical view of G. Width of photograph = 0.5 mm. I : Shell of adult *Pythia reeveana*. Max. height = 1.0 cm. J : Shell of juvenile *P. reeveana*. Max. height = 2.7 mm. K : Protoconch of *P. reeveana*. Width of photograph = 0.44 mm. L : Shell of adult *Casidula vespertilionis*. Max. height = 1.4 cm. M : Shell of adult *Melampus* cf. *fasciatus*. Max. height = 2.4 cm.

The populations of *Tarebia* and *Brotia* are very large i.e. in section 3, and these gastropods browse on algal growth as do the neritoideans. Thus the corresponding gastropods compete with regard to their diet. This competition, however, does not exclude *Tarebia* and *Brotia* from section 4 where they coexist with the prevailing neritoideans.

In this context we come to the crucial point. The occurrence of neritoidean juveniles in the uppermost section 4 (see above) has to be explained. It could be speculated that accidental alteration from planktrophic development to nurse egg feeding proceeded (compare Bandel 1982). This process would lead to the loss of a free-swimming larva. That this possibility actually exists has recently been checked by one of the authors (Riedel, unpublished data for the neogastropod *Nassarius reticulatus* (LINNÉ, 1758)). Here the impact of UV-radiation actually triggered nurse egg feeding in a species that normally hatches as planktic veliger. The neritoidean juveniles of the uppermost section 4, however, revealed a protoconch, which was obviously formed by a planktotrophic veliger. In all known cases the loss of a planktotrophic larval phase is correlated with the absence of a larval shell.

Thus, we are forced to conclude that the corresponding neritoideans actually passed through a planktotrophic larval phase, however, not in the marine environment but in freshwater! This would also be one explanation for the findings of Haynes (1985) that *Septaria porcellana*, which as was documented here is a species with a planktotrophic larval phase, may occur almost 80 km upstream, a distance much too long to be crept during a single gastropod life. Even if individuals of *S. porcellana* would reach a great age of ten years, they would have to migrate more than twenty meters every day of their life-span to get so far upstream. Such a daily distance is far beyond the organismic potential.

Beside other limiting factors, we propose that the availability of suitable microhabitats within a river system, i.e. zones where the larvae are uncoupled from the main current regime and have a chance to feed on plankton for at least several days, determines the upstream distribution of the corresponding neritoideans.

Consequently, it has to be emphasized that there exist two possibilities within a single species, either to feed on plankton in the marine environment or in freshwater. The occurrence of two different modes of development in one species is termed poecilogony, which sensu strictu cannot be applied here. It is, however, important to visualize that the ecological consequences of the two discussed options of distribution

within a single species are comparable to the consequences resulting from poecilogony.

There is an increase in species number in the river section preceding the estuary. Aside from six neritoidean species, five species of thiarids occurred here. The section was free of *Tarebia* and *Brotia* but *Melanoides* coexisted with *Thiara* and *Stenomelania*. We attached some attention to the latter two genera because we found in each genus one species with planktrophic early ontogeny and a counterpart without a free-swimming larva. The two species of *Stenomelania* lived sympatric and syntopic, which means that the different modes of development have no effect on ecological zonation of adults (compare Bandel et al. 1997a). This appears to be true also for *Thiara*.

In respect of phylogeny it is remarkable that the loss of planktrotrophy occurred independently at least two times within the Thiaridae. That is particularly of some interest with regard to parthenogenesis, which is assumed by authors - and supported by our investigations - to be characteristic of these and other thiarid genera (e.g. Morrison 1954, Brown 1980). The biological species concept cannot be applied to parthenogenetic species where actually every individual represents its own population. If individuals do not interbreed to reproduce, evolution can proceed by transformation only. In conclusion, the evolutionary change from a planktrotrophic mode of development to a lecithotrophic early ontogeny can be attributed to transformation unequivocally. It must be considered, however, that sometimes males develop and sexual reproduction may be intercalated.

It has been shown that the special reproductive biology which is characteristic of thiarids correlates with features of the early ontogenetic shell. Bandel & Kowalke (1997) described a new genus from the Hungarian Eocene, which resembles *Tarebia* as well as *Melanoides*. The early ontogenetic shell of this fossil clearly indicates that the embryos developed in a brood pouch. Thus the brood pouch strategy had been established at least 40 million years ago.

Twelve gastropod species were associated in the estuary. This represents the highest number of all sections, which, however, has to be qualified. The five archaepulmonate species as well as *Littorina* exhibit amphibious life-style and their ecology is somewhat more related to the river banks and terrestrial environment than to the actual river. From this point of view section 5 reveals the greatest diversity.

The distribution of gastropods in a river is greatly controlled by its environmental setting. The small Matutinao River is colonized by more species than the

much larger Argao River, which originates almost from the same catchment area, but opens to the Bohol Strait east of Cebu Island. Actually, twenty kilometers of the Argao River revealed less (micro-) habitats than two kilometers of the Matutinao River. We examined more than a dozen river systems on Cebu and found only three more freshwater species, which did not occur in the Matutinao River. Even if we missed one or the other species, it is evident that the overwhelming majority of freshwater gastropod species inhabiting an island, which is about 5000 square kilometers large, is present in a two kilometer long river section.

Even more on the larger biogeographic scale, the different modes of early ontogenetic development - planktotrophy and lecithotrophy - play an important role for distributional patterns. These, however, can only be understood at the species level and we are far from resolving the corresponding taxonomic problems.

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