

## Report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> European workshop on scaphopod molluscs (Cismar, April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014)

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### Verslag van de 2e Europese workshop over Scaphopoda (Cismar, 28 april - 2 mei 2014)

**Samenvatting:** Eind april vond in “Haus der Natur” in Cismar, Duitsland, de 2e Europese workshop over Stoottanden plaats. Er werd door de deelnemers 4 dagen lang gediscussieerd over de meest uiteenlopende onderwerpen op het gebied van Stoottanden. De geografische gebieden die hoofdzakelijk besproken werden, waren de Rode Zee, Indonesië en de centrale Indo-Pacific.

After the great success of our meeting last year (Sahlmann et al., 2013), a second workshop didn't come as a total surprise. For four days the participants - Dr. Bernd Sahlmann, Frans de Jong, Dr. Vollrath Wiese and Jordy van der Beek (fig. 1) - discussed several matters on the anatomy, biology, distribution, morphology and nomenclature of tusk shells in “Haus der Natur” in Cismar, Germany.



**Fig. 1.** (from left) Jordy van der Beek, Dr. Bernd Sahlmann, Frans de Jong and Dr. Vollrath Wiese. Photo: Christoph Gutknecht.

Just recovered after the long journey, the first day of the workshop started at 9 a.m. The ambiance was great! Working in a fantastic, intimate museum and with the continuous odour of flowering rapeseed all over the country, this day the participants focused on the large Dentaliida from the Central Indo-Pacific. The differential diagnosis of species is often vague and everyone was grabbing boxes, bags and books to prove his ideas. Some interesting species, like *Dentalium lessoni* Deshayes, 1825, *D. pluricostatum* Boissvain, 1906 and *Fissidentalium serrulatum* (Smith, 1906) were displayed under the newly acquired video stereomicroscope and discussed in detail.

On the following two days, the Red Sea scaphopods were discussed (fig. 2). With two collections on loan from the Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), the participants were able to add some more scaphopod species to their Red Sea inventory. We can distinguish now 14 species of Red Sea tusk shells, but we still have to study other species groups, e.g. the littoral and deeper water Gadilidae. A nice surprise was the confirmation of the occurrence of *Dentalium elephantinum* Linnaeus, 1758 in the Red Sea (fig. 3). This had already been discussed during the first workshop in 2013 and at that time we thought we had good arguments to disbelieve the existence of this green species in the Red Sea. Now, after having seen sample HJ 32468, there is no more doubt on its identity.

The subject of the last day was the impressive Indonesian scaphopod collection of Frans de Jong. Over the years, he has

collected large samples of uncommon tusk shells from several remote islands. This material on its own would be enough to fill a workshop. We were able to determine at least some species of these impressive samples. A closer look at samples from Arabia and West Africa finished the sessions. We also adjusted our schedule for the description of at least two new scaphopod species.



**Fig. 2.** Discussion about a *Fustiaria* spec. from the Red Sea. Photo: Vollrath Wiese.

These four wonderful days were completed by a cosy dinner in the museum, after which I got a private scaphopod photography class from Vollrath for some hours. The results are gorgeous.

Thanks to all participants and visitors of the workshop. Thanks to Dr. Vollrath Wiese and Gyde Wiese for their great hospitality and the “Haus der Natur – Cismar” and the VFNC Society (Verein zur Förderung der Naturkunde in Cismar) for supporting this meeting. Thanks to Henk Mienis, of the Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for sending the Red Sea samples which we studied during the workshop. Of course thanks to my parents for driving me to Cismar and supporting me during the time in Cismar. I thank Dr. Bernd Sahlmann for carefully reading my manuscript and for giving valuable comments and David Friedman for correcting the English.

SAHLMANN, B., F. DE JONG, J. VAN DER BEEK & V. WIESE (2013): Report on the 1st European Workshop on Scaphopod Molluscs Cismar, 29.04.2013 - 01.05.2013. – Club Conchylia Mitteilungen, 20: 18



**Fig. 3:** *Dentalium elephantinum* (52 mm) from Elat, Israel. Photo: Vollrath Wiese.

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