

## Book Review

Arie W. JANSSEN, 1995. Systematic revision of holoplanktonic Mollusca in the collections of the "Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra" at Torino, Italy. Monografie XVII, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino, Italy, 233 pp., 3 figs., 14 plates. ISBN 88-86041-07-1. Lir. 80.000 + postage. (Hfl. 96.00 via importeur W. Backhuys).

Holoplanktonic Mollusca include Pteropoda and Heteropoda that live their entire life as plankton in the water column of the sea. They have been studied already for a considerable time by well known Dutch malacologists. Between 1903 and 1950, J.J. Tesch (1877-1954) published on pteropods from the Siboga, Snellius and Dana expeditions. For his PhD thesis (1967), S. van der Spoel worked on shell-bearing pteropods (Euthecosomata). He published a supplementary magnum opus on the Pseudothecosomata, Gymnosomata and Heteropoda in 1976, apart from a long series of smaller publications on these molluscs. Arie W. Janssen, author of this book, became well known for his work on Dutch Neogene molluscs as co-author in the series on fossil shells from Dutch beaches and inlets published in Basteria, and as the author of the 'bible' for many (amateur) collectors of Miocene shells in the Netherlands: "Mollusken uit het Mioceen van Winterswijk-Miste", published in 1984.

Since about 1980, Arie Janssen has specialised in Neogene holoplanktonic gastropods. As planktonic organisms these were often widely distributed and many species lived for only a relatively short timespan. This makes them extraordinary important for stratigraphy to correlate sediments deposited in different parts of the world. A correct identification of the species is, of course, of utmost importance for correlations to be valid. One of the problems in identification of species is that one often has to go back to the first descriptions, dating from the 19th century. These are usually too short, lacking important information, pictures are often insufficient, no type material was indicated and the original material is sometimes even lost.

Fortunately, in the collections of the Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra at Turin Arie Janssen found material used by early and now famous authors that described the rich Neogene holoplanktonic gastropod fauna of northern Italy (Bellardi, 1873; Audenino, 1897; Sacco, 1904). Janssen restudied this material and gives painstaking descriptions of 46 taxa; he selected lectotypes for 15 species and neotypes for four others. All these taxa are presented in some 300 new drawings made very carefully by the author himself. Comparing Janssen's drawings with those from early publications, reveals the differences; whereas early authors tried to give idealised pictures, Janssen draws the specimens as they are, including every defect such as incompleteness or cracks in the shell is indicated. This makes later identification of the specimens drawn very easy and is, of course, the best way to illustrate. In their zeal to give pictures of nice and entire specimens, even when only fragments were available, Janssen found that his predecessors sometimes reconstructed species using fragments of different taxa! Audenino e.g. reconstructed *Vaginella acutissima* probably using fragments of *V. acutissima* and *V. lapuyensis*.

An extensive list of all the 315 revised samples from the Turin collections, with sampling locality, registration number, and old and revised names, makes this collection now optimally accessible for comparison and future research. This publication is a must for everyone dealing with Neogene holoplanktonic gastropods: taxonomists, stratigraphers and collectors. The author, however, tells us (p. 13) that the Turin collection does not represent a complete picture of the northern Italian Neogene holoplanktonic gastropods: *Clio pulcherrima* and some other species found here are not represented. Janssen promises to give a more complete picture of the Mediterranean holoplanktonic gastropods in the near future. Keeping in mind the quality of this book, one can only look forward to this complementary work with great expectations.

Three new genera are introduced: *Diacrolinia*, *Edithinella* and *Ireneia*. A taxonomist can give names immortality and this is the best way to thank his wife Edith and his long-term collaborator from Vienna, Irene Zorn. Five new species are described, one *Cuvierina jagti* from the Turin collections. The other four are not from the Turin collections. *Clio giulioi* and ?*Diacrolinia elioi* are dealt with in Appendix 1, which contains some notes on the Messinian fauna from Tetti Borelli (Moncucco Torinese). *Ireneia marqueti* and *I. nieulandi* are described in Appendix 2; they belong to a new genus described in this book from the Turin collections, but the material is kept elsewhere. *I. nieulandi* material stems from France and Patagonia illustrating the wide distribution of pteropods.

This book is well produced, I failed to find misprints. It has a long list of over 250 references and will retain its value for the taxonomy of these gastropods for years.

Gerhard C. CADÉE