

BIJLAGE BIJ HET VERSLAG 2e Europese Malacologen Congres Kopenhagen 1965

Comment on the proposal of collecting molluscs in the Balkan region
as a U.M.E.-project

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Upon receiving the presidential letter of the former president to members U.M.E. I did not immediately realize the difficulties connected with his proposal re one or two selected regions. It is of course highly attractive just to start with such a rather advanced project, which at any case will give results.

I think, however, that it is the Union's task not only to deal with some special topics but to organize and coordinate malacological research in general.

It will be necessary to discriminate between marine malacological research and the research of terrestrial and fluviatile molluscs. Not only are other taxa involved but also transport and laboratories are very different. Many problems to be solved are in the economic sector. International contacts between fisheries

institutions and laboratories for marine research are, I suppose, very close already. Not so with regards to research of land- and freshwater molluscs.

Although Jaeckel's and Zilch's *Ergänzungen* in combination with the 1933 Ehrmann's *Weichtierwelt Mitteleuropa's* give many information, we still lack reliable lists of the malacofauna of most of the countries, and data must be gathered from everywhere not only, but these data have in some way to be checked. Besides too many papers are ignored because of language difficulties or difficult accessibility from other causes.

It will first be necessary to catalogue for every country literature which has appeared and to have these catalogues published in the country concerned or elsewhere. This is one project and the Zoological Record is a good starting point. From this every country's specialist can draw and publish his own check list and annotations which will then be available to everybody. I refer in this respect to "*Excerpta Botanica*".

During this project problems will certainly rise and must be solved. In particular problems concerning species concept and nomenclature.

Specialists must be found to check identifications both conchologically and anatomically. Besides ecological data must be taken into consideration and it will be wise to try and find cyto-genetical support for discrimination among taxa. By this research more data will be discovered as to the time and periods of propagation. This study might also lead to the discovery of a real genetic isolation in time of sexual activity in sibling species and other critical species.

Detail problems which rise could be passed to universities to be worked out by students provided that a qualified biologist can supervise.

Will it be possible for the U.M.E. to produce a list of say 100 problems and have members to select one problem to work on and present the results of their study to next congress ? Then you can coordinate and get results which bring you further.

At the same time there will be probably some interest for team work on a smaller scale and then we come to the proposal made in the former president's circular. Acceptance of proposals of this kind will open the way to a more close personal contact and then possibility of visiting the other colleague doing the work for a week or so together and that on a mutual basis. This opens perspectives not only for professional malacologists but also for amateurs. Professional workers can raise the amateur's level and profits will certainly come out.

I think this will be something to think over.

(L.J.M. Butot.)