



Guido T. Poppe & Philippe Poppe - Since 1994

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NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, 14 MARCH 2026 MACTAN ISLAND, CEBU

For the headings of this newsletter, I went digging in old photos from 2010 - already 15 years ago. The Philippines at that time have nothing to do with the Philippines of the present day. In our memories these were smooth days, and we could spend two to three months roaming around on the Guphil 1, here shown on the yearly event of its blessings during the sea parade.... Followed by a great sunset in one of the offshore Philippine Islands.

In the same search and nostalgic visit in my photos from that year, I found the amazing photo here shown below: on the left Franco Caci and on the right Gabriella Raybaudi.



Franco was my "best friend" for decades, and together we were occupied quite some time with building and renovations. When we were not busy, we traveled. It's decades ago, but we got a good time. He regularly visited the Philippines. He was Sicilian born and the lady on the photo, Gabriella Raybaudi, was from Rome. So, they could speak together their Italian language when both were in the Philippines. They

both disappeared from my life: Gabriella passed away few years ago and Franco got a terrible disease and cannot communicate properly any longer... Each in their own way left a considerable "empty" since their multiple trips to Cebu stopped.

Gabriella was the daughter of the late and famous Gino Raybaudi and a great conchologist. In Conchology, Inc. she got here own desk... and she shared for many months our daily lives: we miss that at present. Occasionally, she helped with her great expertise on CONIDAE.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

We are now halfway March and the work goes as usual. This week we could purchase some nice shells from the fisherfolk and we also got a few visitors.



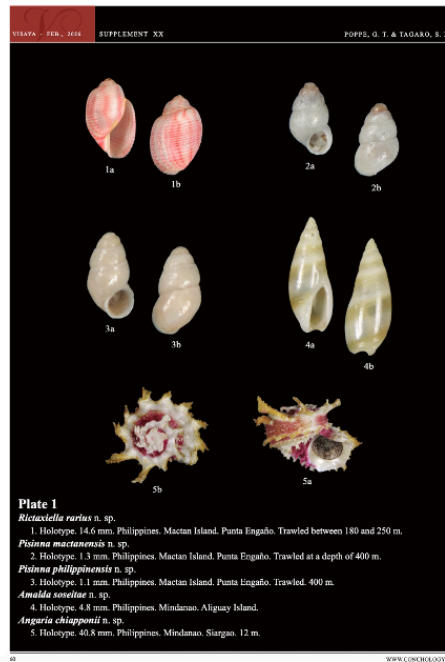
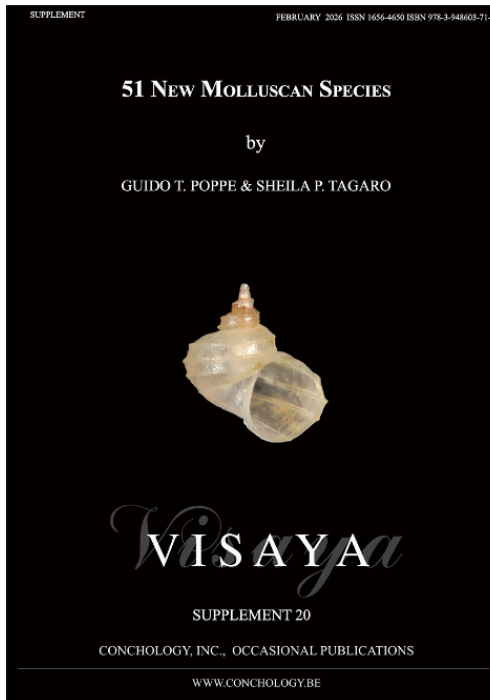
On 5 March we got the visit from Sevrine and William-Alain Mialhe de Burgh. They are a French family living in Manila, with an interest in a wide variety of cultural affairs, amongst others "shells".



On 12 March we got the visit of Florian Gothein, Ida Brixler and Jillian Sitchon. They represent the European Chamber of Commerce in Cebu, with which we are, of course, in excellent terms.

A NEW PUBLICATION AND A FEW DELIGHTFULL NUMBERS

I am truly happy we can now announce the new VISAYA SUPPLEMENT 20.



This Supplement number feels, with 71 pages on thick glossy quality paper, as a thin book. It's in A4 format and it contains the description of 51 new marine molluscan species. The vast majority are from the Philippines, but there are also 2 Mexican species and there is one species each from the following countries: Argentina, Chile and New Zealand.

Some numbers and what to expect:

As I'm writing this, our company clocked the documentation and photography of 1 200 566 different specimens of mollusks, most of these from the Philippines, and all chosen out of many much more, while acquiring them. This number augments every day.

The numbers sound astonishing, but it's not much more than one truck of mussels leaving from Zeeland in the south of the Netherlands to Paris, basically almost each morning, or the number of scallops eaten in one day in France...

Out of these 1.2 million shells+, we still have 2680 pieces that we could not identify and which are "probably" new to science. It most likely concerns a few hundred species all in all. We now started describing these shells, and after the Donggang shells and the "51 New Molluscan species", we are now busy with the next article titled "52 New Molluscan species".

You can purchase the above numbers of Visaya from Conchbooks:

conchbooks@conchbooks.de - the man involved with malacology there and a close friend of myself and our company is Dr. Carsten Renker.

THE LATEST AUCTIONS

Our auctions are doing very well, as you all can witness by the success and good prices achieved by most species we handled. Our auction public is wildly enthusiast, and the values paid reflects their general good knowledge on the subject.

Slowly on, **I'm building down parts of my private collection**, and most shells from there appear in the auctions: they are very successful there and achieve nice prices.



***Spondylus imperialis* ORANGE**

A spectacular highlight from the last auctions was the ORANGE *Spondylus imperialis*. Usually, this species comes to us in good numbers as it is dredged in quite deep waters where it lives in aggregations. But this shell, we had to pay quite a golden price for, as it was offered as an individual, and the seller got big knowledge on Philippines shells... so, it was not a gift.

We expected a high value for that UNIQUE jewel, and we were not deceived: as the auction went, by the end, it fetched a successful 17 bids and reached the considerable price of 1515 euro. It went to a collector from the USA, which we congratulate with this conchological treasure...



***Monetaria moneta* GOLD GIANT**

From the same auction, this very beautiful super large "Money Cowry". It is the 3rd biggest *moneta* we handled in 23 years, and the size is a stunning 38.9 mm. Only one in millions of *moneta* reaches ever such a size. This cowry went through 24 bids and fetched 450 euro. Indeed, a well-deserved price. It went to a German collection...



Provocator palliatus

This shell was not the delight of our auction, but rather what we call a grand deception. I've put the starting prices at 500 euro, which is half the value for which I exchanged this beauty... This species lives in a small area offshore the south American Atlantic coasts only and is very seldom seen in collections... So, I congratulate the smart buyer who got this conchological treasure for 500 euro! This beauty went to an Italian collector.

THE RUNNING AUCTION

We here highlight three pieces of the running auction from this weekend.



Perotrochus anseeuwi

A highlight in this auction, is this magnificent 71.3 mm *anseeuwi* of great beauty. Look at this brilliant pattern below the selenizone: alternating bright orange-red with pale orange and even white spots. With operculum.

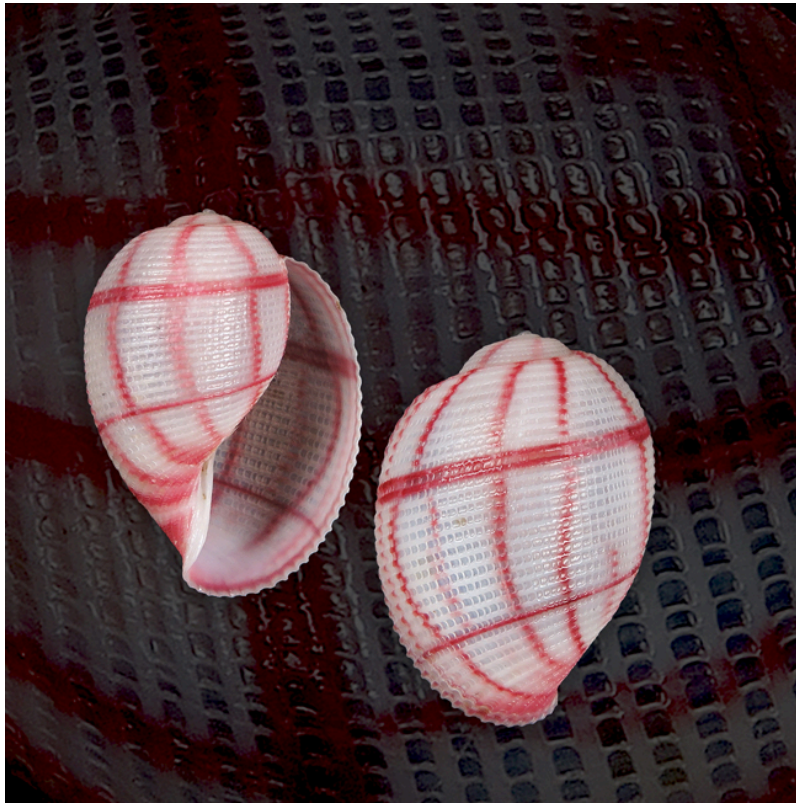
This species was discovered and described as late as 1991 by Kanazawa and Goto, the latter a close friend of your author. Yoshihiro Goto promoted for years the search for PLEUROTOMARIIDAE over the planet, and this augmented considerably the number of known species. His efforts culminated in the book "The Living PLEUROTOMARIIDAE", by P. Anseeuw and Y. Goto, published in 1996. That book is lavishly executed in the best materials with gold letter printing and the spine is leather bound. A pleasure to take in the hands. The only locality where *anseeuwi* is known from in the Philippines is Balut Island, where it lives at great depth. This specimen is a little treasure in any collection.



Rubroconus coccineus

What we have here is a spectacular and UNIQUE color form of the *Rubroconus coccineus* (Gmelin, 1791). While known for 234 years by humanity, there are so few specimens in collections that only a minority of collectors have one. For this special *Conus* with a solid shell that has an elegant outline, and which shows a great diversity in color possibilities, the genus *Rubroconus* has been created and up till now no other species fitting in this genus has been found. The base color goes from dark brown over red and orange to yellow. But 90% or more of the shells has a brown background. There is at least one albino specimen known. Usually, the central band in white with dark brown or black spots is thin, but in the present shell it developed very broad, displaying superb patterns of dark brown chocolate flecks on pure white. But even more spectacular is that the dark color spills over especially on the upper half of dorsal side, and also on the ventral side... None of the 62 specimens I could check in the literature is to compare with this piece, except one: a *coccineus* figured by J.C. Estival in 1981. The Estival piece is very similar but the pattern of dark brown flecks is less dense, but the colors are basically the same, and also the width of the white band. So, this is an extremely rare color form of great beauty....

This specimen comes from the far southern range of the species: New Caledonia.



Bullina nobilis

The *Bullina nobilis* is part of an elitarian group of "very beautiful" shells. It's not a grand rarity, but as in most species, very beautiful pieces as the present one, are scarce. It's so beautiful that we have chosen a specimen to be shown on the cover of our Philippine Marine Mollusks book, Volume 3.

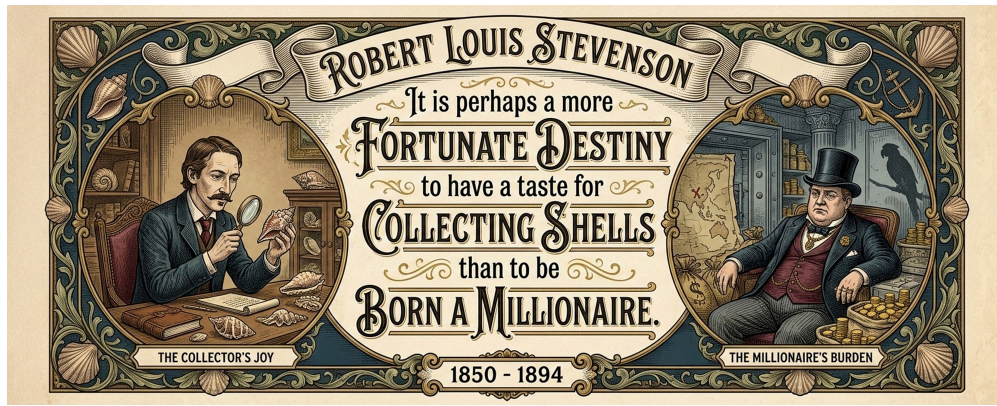
The range where this pretty mollusk lives, mainly in the shallows, is huge. Recorded from: Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, China and Taiwan. But difficult to find everywhere. This specimen measures 15.6 mm, which is better than average for the species. Our photographing lady got inspired by the beautiful sculpture and the background of the photo is made out of an enlargement of the sculpture of the present piece. For the lovers of great shells....

THE NUMBERS OF VISITORS AND SHIPPING

The number of visits to www.conchology.be stabilized in the last year again to about 15 000 000 visits a year. Our auctions surely contribute well to that, as there are big peaks of visitors at the end of the auctions.

After the troubled months of changes in shipping worldwide, we are about back to normal with our shipping worldwide. Our methods of shipping continue to function very well and we have nowhere considerable delays at present.

For the end we chose the following closing banner... to be reminded always.



We wish you a splendid second half of this busy month of March, with great conchological pleasures and new acquisitions.

Sincerely yours,

Guido T. Poppe
For Conchology, Inc.

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