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Editorial

The world is in the midst of a threatening biodiversity crisis, largely caused by human activities. Most of the contributions in **Arianta** touch upon this issue in one way or another — ranging from the digitization of collection holdings and the study of regional faunas to the monitoring of restoration projects. They cover a variety of habitats and taxonomic groups, from Mediterranean terrestrial and freshwater snails to native mussels and snails, and even to marine gastropods from the Adriatic Sea.

It should be emphasised that many people contribute to these works without appearing as authors. While the origins of the articles lie primarily with the authors themselves, the constructive criticism of the various peers who review the manuscripts is an essential element of quality control. Our warmest thanks therefore go to the reviewers. We would also like to express our gratitude to everyone else who has advised and supported us — whether by helping to identify suitable reviewers or by contributing illustrations, such as the image on the back cover, which depicts a plate from the famous work of Ignaz Born, a “cornerstone” of both the mollusc collection at the Natural History Museum Vienna and Austrian malacological research.

We also owe heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who sift and sort molluscs from soil samples and washings, from Albania to the Vienna Woods, thus bringing the results of collecting efforts one step closer to publication.

Finally, we extend our thanks to our readers and hope that the contributions in this volume will inspire interest and foster new insights.

Elisabeth Haring, Helmut Sattmann & Robert A. Patzner
Editors of **Arianta**

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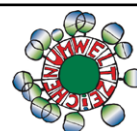
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Cover photo: *Montenegrina subcristata* at a rock site near Virpazar, Montenegro, photo by Helmut Sattmann

Back-cover: Table 14 from the illustrated catalogue of Ignaz Born from 1780, © NMH Vienna



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