

Editorial

Since 26 years the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz combines exhibitions on specific topics, such as singular groups of organisms – from lichens, protists to grass hoppers – and/or life strategies (e.g. parasitism) as well as interesting ecosystems (e.g. soil, hot vents), with a monography in our publication series *Stapfia* (now restricted to botany) and *Denisia* (zoology and all-embracing themes).

Molluscs are highlighted this year, so active and retired colleagues of Austrian universities and museum have been invited two and half years ago to contribute to this fascinating theme. The language choosen was at the disposal of the authors. In any case an English abstract and a translation of the title of the article is included. This invitation resulted in two volumes – 42 and 43, respectively – of *Denisia*, one bi-lingual with the focal point in German speaking countries, in some way contrasted by the other, internationally focused volume “Mollusca of the Dahab Region (Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea)” increasing the species number from 470 (macroscopic) to 1066 including microscopic taxa. The latter has a family background in as much as Hubert Blatterer over 15 years dived and collected as well as later took and prepared the fotos including the layout with the help of his daughters, Ines and Jasmin.

Denisia 42 with the title “Molluscs – Contributions to cultural history, research and collections from Austria” has been written by 21 authors working in Vienna (Anita Eschner, Christa Fellner, Elisabeth Haring, Christoph Hörweg, Luise Kruckenhauser, Oliver Macek, Katharina Mason, Susanne Reier, Helmut Sattmann, Julia Schindelar), Waidhofen an der Ybbs (Sabine Fischer), Salzburg (Robert Patzner), Linz (Erna Aescht & Agnes Bisenberger, Rudolf Kapeller), Kremsmünster (P. Amand Kraml) and Wels (Clemens Gumpinger, Daniel Daill, Stefan Guttmann, Christian Pichler-Scheder). Four main sections are distinguished:

(1) Cultural history with an outstanding depiction, both in words and figures, on “Weichtiere in der Weltgeschichte“ [Soft animals (Mollusca) and men: a fascinating story] by Christa Frank (married Fellner). It summarises many years of research and giving lectures at the University of Vienna and hopefully will be translated into English and/or further languages.

(2) Initiatives founded in Vienna and Upper Austria, respectively (five contributions).

(3) Biology and distribution (three contributions).

(4) Collections (four contributions).

Erna Aescht