

Research & Collections News

The Occasional Newsletter of the Research and Collections Staff
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

re•search (rī-sûrch', rē'sûrch) *n.* **1.** Scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry. See synonyms at **inquiry**. **2.** Close, careful study. **3.** When performed on collections, the *raison d'être* of all great natural history museums.

May, 2007

(covering the months of March and April, 2007)

Collection News

Echinoderms

In May, the museum's echinoderm collection received a donation of over 100 samples of marine invertebrates from a diving expedition to the remote Clipperton and Roca Partida islands of the Eastern Pacific. They were collected by our research associate, Dr. Jeffrey Bozanic, from as deep as 290 feet, by using a mixed gas closed-circuit rebreather, instead of conventional compressed air tanks. Since the islands have not been explored previously at that



depth by divers, the specimens collected are of considerable scientific importance. The material is currently being processed by Cathy Groves of the echinoderms laboratory and by Kathy Omura and Darolyn Striley of the museum's processing center. One of the divers involved in the expedition is shown above in a photo taken at Clipperton Island by another associate of the collection, Chris Grossman, who also participated in the trip.

Ichthyology/Herpetology

Valentina Lurzel, a student from Heinrich-Heine University in Dusseldorf, Germany, has been working in the Ichthyology collections since February 15. She is performing part of her thesis research here on parasites of sardines. Her work involves examination of collection specimens as well as collections of fresh fishes and dissection and quantification of their parasites.

Malacology

In late April the Malacology collection surpassed a databasing milestone as they eclipsed the 100,000 lot (800,000+ specimens) plateau. This number probably represents 20% of the malacology collection.

Vertebrate Paleontology

Mr. Shep Koss of Frasier Park donated to the Museum an important new specimen from the Sharktooth Hill Bonebed in the Bakersfield area. The fossil, a skull and mandible of the bizarre Middle Miocene (approx 15.5 million year old) sea lion-like animal, *Allodesmus*, promises to be one of the better specimens of this animal. Kern County field work to document the site with Mr. Koss was supervised by Vertebrate Paleontology Senior Paleontological Preparator Howell Thomas.

Field Work

Echinoderms

In April, Dr. Gordon Hendler, Curator of Echinoderms, who is studying the brittle stars of Hawaii in conjunction with The B. P. Bishop Museum, traveled to Maui. For the past several years he has observed and collected these starfish-like animals around that island with the assistance of naturalist Cory Pittman. During five days at the end of April, Cory (at left) and Gordon (at right) made a dozen scuba dives, swimming from shore to deep beds of algae that grow in profusion beyond the coral reef zone. On this dive they succeeded in finding the second adult specimen of a new species of brittle star that was initially noted in 2005.

Dinosaur Institute

In April, Aisling Farrell, Luis Chiappe, Stephanie Abramowicz and Doyle Trankina conducted a 4-day pilot exploration of the Jurassic dinosaur-bearing rocks of southeastern Utah (San Juan County). A more extensive expedition is planned for June 2007 with the hope of collecting specimens, which will greatly enhance the Museum's Jurassic fossil collection.

At right: The badlands of San Juan County, Utah.





In March, Dr. Luis Chiappe and Graduate-student-in-residence Jingmai O'Connor traveled to Dalian (China) to conduct research on early Mesozoic birds as part of the ongoing collaboration between the Dinosaur Institute and the Dalian Natural History Museum.

At left: A new species of an early Mesozoic bird that will be described by Jingmai and Luis.

Meetings, Workshops, and Presentations

Rancho La Brea

Chris Shaw led a two hour tour of 44 members the American Association of Petroleum Geologists on April 1 around Hancock Park and into the George C. Page Museum. Lively discussions of oil formation, regional geology, entrapment and preservation of fossil plants and animals, and continuing excavation of Pit 91 and research at the George C. Page Museum, ensued. All participants were delighted with the “behind-the-scenes” tour along with the review of Rancho La Brea published by the AAPG.

Chris Shaw and Aisling Farrell attended the Desert Research Symposium in April held at the Desert Research Center, Zzyzx, near Baker, California. Chris co-presented (with Fred Croxen and Dave Sussman of Arizona Western College, Yuma) results of field work undertaken in the past quarter century in northwestern Sonora, Mexico, in badlands to the north, east, and south of El Golfo de Santa Clara (at right). The area has been known to produce early Pleistocene wood and vertebrate fossils since 1939. Beginning in 1990, we have been working with Mexican colleagues at the Biosphere Reserve in Sonora and others in Mexico City to map geologic features and fossil localities, and to recover fossil resources in this 99-square mile region of dissected canyon lands. Only about 20 percent of the region has been prospected, but this has yielded over 5,000 fossil specimens. Chris will head back to the area over Memorial Day weekend to continue field work.



Above left: Fred Croxen in the badlands north of El Golfo de Santa Clara looking northeast.

Above right: The terminal carpal phalanx (toe) of a specimen of *Nothrotheriops texanum* (ground sloth).

At left: The badlands south of El Golfo de Santa Clara, Sea of Cortez, with mountains of Baja California in the background.

Conservator

Conservator and Project Director Tania Collas presented the results of the Conservation Assessment of the 1924 Douglas World Cruiser, the *New Orleans*, at the annual Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums seminar. This conference, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, was hosted by the San Diego Air and Space Museum on April 3, 2007. The *New Orleans* is one of two surviving airplanes



that were the first to successfully complete the Around-the-World Flight in 1924. The Conservation Assessment of this historic airplane took place from May 1, 2005, through April 30, 2007. The enthusiastic audience of air and space museum professionals attending the presentation expressed many different opinions about the type of conservation treatment that the *New Orleans* should receive, but all agreed that they would like to see it back on public display as soon as possible.

Ornithology

Ornithology Collection Manager Kimball Garrett attended the annual Parrots International Symposium at UCLA on 28 April and co-presented two posters with colleague Karen T. Mabb. The posters were entitled “Introduced Yellow-Chevroned Parakeets (*Brotogeris chiriri*) in Southern California: A Case Study” and “Southern California Parrot Hotspots and Field Identification.” The audience included a diverse mixture of parrot researchers, conservation biologists, and aviculturalists.

Malacology

Ángel Valdés gave the keynote lecture for the *Reunión de Malacología y Conquiliología de México*, held at the Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico, in March.

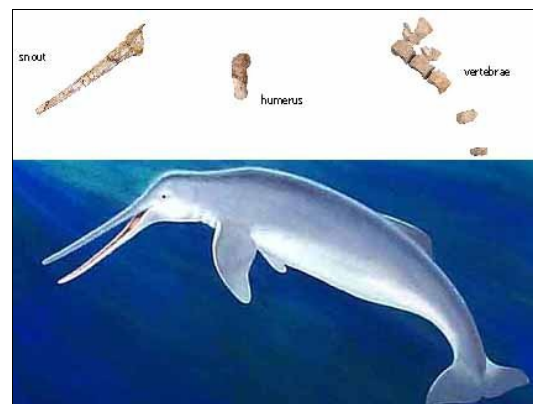
Crustacea

In April, Curator of Crustacea Dr. Jody Martin presented an invited talk on “Biodiversity and the future of natural history museums” at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia.

Vertebrate Paleontology

In April, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology Dr. Lawrence Barnes attended the Desert Research Symposium held at Zzyzx in the Mojave National Preserve. His presentation, co-authored with Robert Reynolds of LSA Associates, Inc., announced the discovery of an Early Miocene (about 22 million year old) long-snouted platanistoid dolphin in Cajon Pass. This “desert dolphin” was found in a section of marine rocks that was displaced into the Cajon Pass area by fault action. The bones are shown below along with a reconstruction, based partly on more complete fossils of related dolphins, of how the animal may have looked in life.

This talk continues what may seem a paradoxical theme of marine mammal fossils from desert areas. Previous presentations by Barnes and Howell Thomas at Desert Research symposia, about “desert walrus” and a “desert whale,” were based on fossils in our collection from the Imperial and Colorado deserts that were found in sediments that were laid down in an earlier northern extension of the Gulf of California.



External Funding

Ichthyology/Herpetology

Ichthyology received a donation from Judy Perlstein to support the preparation and exhibition of the Oarfish specimen, obtained last year from a stranding on Catalina Island.

We are currently awaiting the arrival of our new 13-foot long stainless steel tank and accompanying large quantities of preparation chemicals. We will then shift storage of our tank specimens, prepare the oarfish, and ready it for exhibit, hopefully in the newly refurbished marine hall.

Dinosaur Institute

In April, Dr. Luis Chiappe received an NSF grant (track 1 proposal - “Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences) called “Proyecto Dinosaurios.” The program is designed to encourage research experiences in a natural history museum and as a vehicle to expose students to the different activities that are developed by professionals in the geosciences, in particular paleontology. It is a comprehensive program of scientific research and training for American Hispanic undergraduates in collaboration with Professor of Anthropology, Elias Kary, from Los Angeles Community College (LACC). Students will spend, one year researching and analyzing data at the museum, join the Dinosaur Institute’s annual expedition to Montana, and present the results of their research in public.

Vertebrate Paleontology

In March, Jack Tseng, Graduate Student in Residence (Vertebrate Paleontology) who is pursuing his doctoral research under the guidance of Associate Curator Dr. Xiaoming Wang, received a two-month National Science Foundation summer fellowship to conduct field and museum work in China (East Asian Pacific Summer Institute Program) and a three-year NSF Graduate Research Fellowship for his graduate work at the University of Southern California. Additionally, in May he received a grant from the American Society of Mammalogists to purchase the finite element analysis software for his dissertation project. Congratulations, Jack!

Public Outreach

Curator’s Cupboard and other R&C Weekend Programming for “Evolution Month”

On March 31, curators, collections managers, volunteers, and other R&C staff worked together to put on a “Curator’s Cupboard” for March’s Evolution theme. With participation from Crustacea, Entomology, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Rancho La Brea, and Vertebrate Paleontology, visitors were treated to a wide range of extraordinary specimens brought out by the staff for this one day event. Even the curators were impressed by the amazing specimens brought out by their colleagues, and future Curator’s Cupboard events are likely to be equally engrossing for both staff and visitors. As you can see from the photos, our visitors were thrilled to have the chance to see such rare objects and to talk with the

experts. Some of the young visitors were amazingly knowledgeable themselves, and it is possible a few future curators were in the crowd.

Scenes from the March 31 Curator's Cupboard:

At right: Curator of Entomology Dr. Brian Brown and visitors at the March 31 Curator's Cupboard.



Below left: Darolyn Striley of the Marine Biodiversity Processing Center and visitors.

Below right: Vertebrate Paleontology Collections Manager Sam McLeod and a young visitor.



Below left: Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology Dr. Larry Barnes talking with visitors.
Below right: Regina Wetzter demonstrating the mechanics of a large crustacean (*Birgus*, the coconut crab).



Polychaete Worms

During March/April, Dr. Kirk Fitzhugh, Curator of Polychaetes, posted two downloadable ‘white paper’ articles on the museum’s web site addressing the contention that ‘Intelligent Design’ can be regarded in the context of Science. The two articles are “Evolutionary Biology versus Intelligent Design: Resolving the Issue,” available at http://www.nhm.org/research/annidida/eb_vs_id.html, and “The Mechanics of Testing a Theory: Implications for Intelligent Design,” available at http://www.nhm.org/research/annidida/Mechanics_of_Testing.htm.

Kirk also was the invited speaker at the 18 March Museum Fellows Dinner, where he presented the talk “The Theory of Evolution versus Intelligent Design: Resolving the Issue.” Additionally, Kirk presented a talk at the 12 April R&C Seminar Series titled “Evolutionary Biology versus Intelligent Design: Resolving the Issue” and was an invited speaker at ‘Career Day’ at Granada Elementary School in Alhambra on 26 April, where he gave presentations on marine biology and polychaete worms to several first and second grade classes.

Great Tennessee Monkey Trial (Polychaetes and Crustacea)

On March 31, as our Curator’s Cupboard was taking place in the Museum’s main foyer (see above), the production company L. A. Theater Works was presenting a dress rehearsal of the nationally-acclaimed radio play “The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial,” a transcript-based account of the original 1925 “Scopes” trial over the teaching of evolution in Dayton, Tennessee. Taking part in the well-attended performance were well known thespians Ed Asner, John de Lancie, and others. In collaboration with staff in the Museum’s Education Division (special thanks to Karen Ewald, Erica Vasquez, and Christy Evans), Drs. Kirk Fitzhugh and Jody Martin followed the play by hosting a question and answer session on the general topic of “intelligent design” and evolution for interested members of the audience, including other Museum staff. Kirk has also posted on the Museum web site a white paper exploring the question of what is, and is not, science, and how that question relates to the issue of intelligent design. A related second article on how (and why) theories are tested is also posted on the Museum’s web site (see links noted above).

Ornithology

Ornithology Collections Manager **Kimball Garrett** gave two lectures on the actual and potential impacts of global climate change on bird populations in conjunction with the 6 April “First Fridays” event; specimens from the research collections and those on exhibit in the Hall of Birds were used to illustrate the lecture.

Ichthyology/Herpetology

Ichthyology/Herpetology collection manager Jeff Seigel presented a career day talk at Loyola High School. Jeff told the students about the tremendous benefits of a career in collection management. Ichthyology and Herpetology also gave six collection tours to local high schools and the education section, as well as students of Glendale College and the Art Center College of Design. As our specimens are often appreciated for their aesthetic as well as their scientific value, we frequently have requests to draw or

photograph our specimens. We are also preparing loans to the Getty Museum of specimens to be featured on their exhibit of biological illustrations done by Maria Sybilla Merian.

Vertebrate Paleontology

In April, Associate Curator Dr. Xiaoming Wang presented a lecture titled “A long-term perspective of climate change during the Cenozoic: Paleoenvironmental changes in the last 65 million years” for the weekend public programming series.

As part of the Museum’s Saturday Programming, on March 10 Dr. Lawrence Barnes, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, gave an afternoon lecture entitled “From Feet to Fins in Fifty Million Years,” summarizing recent advances in our understanding of the evolution of whales, dolphins, and porpoises. Members of the public are always impressed to learn that we now have fossil evidence of many different groups of amphibious early whales.

Rancho La Brea

The crew for the annual excavation of Pit 91 has been assembled. Kristen Brown (formerly Vowels) will again head this year’s excavation crew with the assistance of Andrea Thomer, together with a dozen or more volunteers. The excavation activities will begin on June 20 and continue through September 9. The public will be able to view the digging Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Viewing Station located on the south side of Pit 91 in Hancock Park.

Malacology

March was Evolution Month (see above), and as part of the Weekend Programs series at LACM, Lindsey Groves presented *Abalone and the fossil record: No baloney* on Sunday, March 11th, which coincided with the monthly meeting of the Pacific Conchological Club. The talk focused on the long (Late Cretaceous through Recent) but sparse geologic history of the abalone. In fact a specimen from the Late Cretaceous (middle middle to late middle Campanian) [ca. 81 mybp] Tuna Canyon Formation, Sylvania Park, area of Topanga Canyon in the LACMIP collection represents the earliest record of the genus *Haliotis* known.

On Saturday, March 17th Ángel Valdés (right) led the *Spectacular Sea Slugs* family trip to Abalone Cove, Palos Verdes Peninsula. The outing began with a brief orientation on the natural history of sea slugs (specifically nudibranchs) by Ángel, followed by a dissection demonstration by Robin Savoian (Education), a demonstration of imaging techniques on the SEM by Ángel, and a Malacology collection tour conducted by Lindsey Groves with lots of



assistance from Cathy Groves (Echinoderms) and Christy Evans (Education). The twenty participants then met at Abalone Cove State Preserve for observations of local intertidal marine invertebrates including *Aplysia californica* (California Sea Hare), *Megathura crenulata* (Giant Key-hole Limpet), *Strongylocentrotus purpurata* (Purple Urchin), and *Doriopsilla albopunctata* (White-spotted dorid).



At left: LACM staff for *Spectacular Sea Slugs* (left to right): Christy Evans (Education), Ángel Valdés (Malacology), Lindsey Groves (Malacology), Robin Savoian (Education), Cathy Groves (Echinoderms).

Dinosaur Institute

Several earlier Public Programming and Outreach activities by staff from the Dinosaur Institute did not reach the Newsletter in time for inclusion in the last (March) issue. In January, Doug Goodreau delivered a public lecture, as part of the Museum's weekend programming, on the challenges of collecting and preparing the large *Tyrannosaurus rex* specimen known as "Thomas." Also in January, Aisling Farrell and Luis Chiappe conducted a public presentation and displayed fossil specimens collected by the museum from eastern Montana that illustrate the diversity of vertebrates that lived 66 million years ago, during the time when dinosaurs such as *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Triceratops* were alive.

In February, Luis Chiappe led a group of Fellows on a tour to Argentina. In addition to visiting several tourist sites, the group visited natural history museums and the dinosaur-nesting site of Auca Mahuevo.

Right: The badlands of Argentina



In March, Luis Chiappe delivered a lecture on the early evolution of birds at Montana State University (Bozeman); he also delivered a lecture on the origin and early evolution of birds (in conjunction with a book signing of his recent book "Glorified Dinosaurs") as part of the Museum's weekend programming.

Luis Chiappe also taught a graduate class called "Dinosaur Evolution" during the spring semester 2007, for the Earth Science Department at USC. The class was held at the Natural History Museum.

First Fridays Filming/Museum Membership

All of R & C, including the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, has been extensively involved with the Museum's First Fridays Filming project. As part of this activity, 8-year-old Miss Matilda Berke, whose family are Museum Members, was involved in filming for the episode about the return to the sea. Here (at right) Matilda notes anatomical details on one of our Museum's Cretaceous mosasaurs, while Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology Dr. Lawrence Barnes looks on. Matilda states that she wishes in the future to study fossil marine vertebrates, and she is strongly supported in this goal by her parents.



Dinosaur Ball

This year's event on April 21 was by all accounts a huge success due to active participation from the entire Museum staff. From R & C, participants included Larry Barnes, Brian Brown, Vicky Brown, Luis Chiappe, Jim Dines, Bill Estrada, Kirk Fitzhugh, Kimball Garrett, Margaret Hardin, John Harris, Tony Kampf, Cathy McNassor, Angel Valdes, Scott Van Keuren, Xiaoming Wang, Beth Werling, Regina Wetzer, Karen Wise, Stephanie Abramowicz, Sara Bertelli, Aisling Farrell and Doug Goodreau.

Student Mentoring and Research

Vertebrate Paleontology

Congratulations to Jack Tseng, Graduate Student in Residence in Vertebrate Paleontology, for his *three* recent funding awards (two from the National Science Foundation and one from the American Society of Mammalogists) to pursue his field work in China and his doctoral work at the University of Southern California. See details of his awards under External Funding, above.



Also in Vertebrate Paleontology, Los Angeles City College Professor of Anthropology Elias Kary collaborated with the Museum in forming a Cooperative Education program that provides training in paleontological techniques for LACC students. Here LACC students Erica Canola (left) and Cara Thomas are working under the supervision of Senior Paleontological Preparator Howell W. Thomas. The students benefit from the training, and the Museum benefits from the preparation of fossils in the Vertebrate Paleontology collection.

Crustacea and Marine Biodiversity Processing Center

In early March, Regina Wetzter hosted 25 high school oceanography seniors from Junipero Serra High in Gardena and their teacher, Jelena Stankovic, for a behind the scenes hands-on learning activity in the Crustacea/Echinoderm Collection Room. These culturally and ethnically diverse students from Carson, Compton, to South Central

Los Angeles came well prepared for an exciting learning opportunity. They not only reviewed the theoretical aspects of a crab's armored body and a sea star's water vascular system, they also observed actual specimens. Students documented their observations and experience with digital photographs and departed in awe of the tremendous biodiversity held in our collections.

The Crustacea lab also hosted U.C. Davis doctoral student Kristin Hultgren, who visited our collections as part of her research on spider crab phylogeny, a study that forms the basis for her doctoral dissertation.

Museum Volunteer Supervision and Research Associates

Vertebrate Paleontology



Debora Lee, a long-time Museum Volunteer, first at Rancho La Brea and subsequently in the Vertebrate Paleontology Department, is a former Volunteer of the Year award recipient. Here Debora is helping with the preparation of a fossil whale in the Vertebrate Paleontology Preparation Laboratory

Donna Dameron, a Museum Volunteer in Vertebrate Paleontology, is a former Volunteer of the Year award recipient. Here Donna is re-assembling bones of a strange amphibious marine herbivore called a paleoparadoxiid. This specimen, from Mission Viejo and of middle Miocene age (approx. 15 million years old), was demonstrated by VP Senior Paleontological Preparator Howell Thomas at an international symposium that was held in 2006 in Tokyo at the National Science Museum of Japan.





Vertebrate Paleontology Research Associate Sarah Siren, an employee of Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, is a frequent user of our Museum's collections. Here (at left) she studies some Pleistocene land mammal fossils from excavations that were made in west Los Angeles during storm drain construction. Such projects are a common source of specimens for our Museum, and these fossils were collected during program that was put in place by the Los Angeles County Engineering Department, this Museum, and the Keith Companies, Inc. (now Stantec).

Dinosaur Institute

As always, the Dinosaur Institute accepts new volunteers on an ongoing basis, as do all Research Centers in the Museum. Under the supervision of Doug Goodreau, recent volunteers in the Dinosaur Institute include Susan Russak, Herb Schiff, Linda Sanchez, Pat Barker, Camille Ortiz-Marroquin, Adam Hall and Sigrid Wagner. Welcome aboard!

Distinguished Visitors

Rancho La Brea

Professor Alan Cooper, Director of the Australian Center for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide, visited the Rancho La Brea collections on April 26. He is hoping to demonstrate the presence of ancient DNA in the vertebrate fossils from the La Brea tar pits. Dr. H. Gregory McDonald, an internationally known expert on extinct ground sloths, visited to continue research on the sloths from Rancho La Brea on April 28.

Malacology

Renowned UC Davis marine ecologist and paleoecologist Geerat Vermeij and wife Edith Zipser visited the Malacology collection in early March for ongoing research on various neogastropod families. Geerat also participated in the *Opportunity Knocks* segment of First Fridays *Diversity of Life* series (part 3) discussion group. Post-doc mollusk specialist Marcello Rivadeneira (UC San Diego) visited the Malacology collection for a week of research in early March. Susan Kidwell (Univ. Chicago) and her post-doc Adam Tomasovych visited Malacology in early March to examine the extensive LACM holdings of *ex-AHF* southern California Bight samples from the 1970's and borrowed several hundred lots for research purposes. Terry Gosliner (California Academy of Sciences) visited Malacology in mid-March to research an upcoming guide to nudibranchs of the Indo-Pacific with co-author Ángel Valdés. Alan Kabat (Washington, DC) visited the Malacology collection whilst preparing an obituary on reclusive malacologist Dwight Taylor who deposited numerous type specimens at LACM. California State University, Fullerton grad student Bill Hewson visited Malacology in late April to examine the holdings of *Lottia strigatella* (limpets) from southern California as part of his thesis research.

Recent Publications

- Croxen III, F. W, **C. A. Shaw**, and D. R. Sussman. 2007. Pleistocene geology and paleontology of the Colorado Rive Delta at Golfo de Santa Clara, Sonora, Mexico. In: Wild, Scenic and Rapid: a trip down the Colorado River trough. Abstracts, Proceedings, and Field Guide of the 2007 Desert Symposium, California State University, Desert Studies Consortium and LSA Associates, Inc., pp. 84-89.
- Feeney, R. F.**, R. N. Lea, S. Dyer, and S. Gietler. 2007. First record of the wolf-eel, *Anarrhichthys ocellatus* (Pisces: Anarrhichadidae), from Baja California, Mexico. California Fish and Game 93(1):52-55.
- Feeney, R. F.** 2006. Two records of *Acanthochaenus luetkenii* (Gill, 1884) off southern Chile (Pisces: Stephanoberyciformes: Stephanoberycidae). Investigaciones Marinas, Valparaíso, 34(2): 227-230.
- Groves, L.T.** 2007. SCUM XI: Southern California Unified Malacologists. American Conchologist 35(1):10-12. (*A summary of the recent SCUM meeting in San Diego, CA.*)
- Hermosillo, A. & **Valdés, A.** 2007. Five new species of aeolid nudibranchs (Mollusca, Opisthobranchia) from the tropical eastern Pacific. American Malacological Bulletin 22: 119-137.
- Huddleston, R. W., and **G. T. Takeuchi.** 2007. First fossil record of *Totoaba villamar* 1980 (Teleostei: Sciaenidae) based on Early Miocene otoliths from California with comments on the ontogeny of the saccular otolith. Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences 106(1): 1-15.
- Krug, P. J., Ellingson, R. A., Burton, R., & **Valdés, A.** 2007. A new poecilognous species of sea slug (Opisthobranchia: Sacoglossa) from California: Comparison with the planktotrophic congener *Alderia modesta* (Lovén, 1844). Journal of Molluscan Studies 73: 29-38.
- Shaw, C. A.** 2007. The history, geology and paleontology of the La Brea tar pits. In: Oil On Their Shoes: Famous and Little Known Oil Seeps of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Guidebook for Field Trip #2, p. 1-7, 2007 National AAPG Convention, Long Beach.
- Trautwein, S. E.** 2007. Four new species of coral crabs belonging to the genus *Tetralia* Dana, 1851 (Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Tetraliidae). Zootaxa 1450: 1-20. *A description by doctoral candidate Sandra Trautwein (Crustacea and UCLA) of several new species of Indo-Pacific crabs that are obligate commensal associates (symbionts) of coral reefs in the Pacific.*

Staff Departures and New Staff

The Dinosaur Institute would like to welcome two new part time preparators, Doyle Trankina and David Arn.

Miscellaneous

Polychaete Worms

A new species of fan worm polychaete in the genus *Terebrasabella* Fitzhugh & Rouse, 1999, from Tasmania and Australia has been named in honor of Dr. Kirk Fitzhugh, Curator of Polychaetes, and in recognition of his significant contributions to the field of polychaete systematics: *Terebrasabella fitzhugi*. The citation is: Murray, A. & G. Rouse. 2007. Two new species of *Terebrasabella* (Annelida: Sabellidae: Sabellinae) from Australia. *Zootaxa* 1434: 51-68.

Research Library and Museum Archives

The Research Library and Museum Archives are very fortunate to have the services of a library intern from UCLA, Nina Meechoonuk, with us until June. She will be assisting us in both units with diverse projects, including reclassification of books and creating archival finding aids. She will graduate with an MLIS degree in June, and is particularly interested in archival studies.

Crustacea

Congratulations to Todd Haney, Graduate Student in Residence in the Crustacea lab, on the birth of his second child, Ryan, born May 7, 2007, weighing 7.5 pounds. Both mother and son are doing well.

March of Dimes

Many thanks to all staff members who generously contributed to the 2007 March of Dimes campaign. The annual *Walk America* took place on Saturday (April 28th) in Griffith Park. LACM staff (and former staff) participants this year included Christy Evans (Education), Terri Togiaï (R&C), Dorothy Ettensohn (formerly Mineralogy), and Cathy & Lindsey Groves (Echinoderms and Malacology respectively).

Right: LACM staff and associates for March of Dimes Walk America 2007 (left to right) Lindsey Groves (Malacology), Cathy Groves (Echinoderms), Terri Togiaï (R&C Office), Christy Evans (Education), Dorothy Ettensohn (Mineralogy Associate), Richard Ettensohn (Dorothy's spouse); in front, Mia and Tera Togiaï (Terri's lovely granddaughters).



Malacology

Emeritus Curator Dr. Jim McLean reports that nearly all of the photographic plates with embedded captions (an example of which can be seen below) for the first of his two volumes on the *Shelled Benthic Gastropoda of the Northeastern Pacific* have been completed with the help of imaging assistant Brian Koehler. The first volume treats the gastropods occurring from British Columbia to central Baja California. So far there are 407 finished plates that illustrate approximately 1400 species, of which 420 species are new and are to be described in the book. Plate preparation for the second volume treating the Alaskan, the far northwestern Pacific, and Arctic fauna is underway under way.

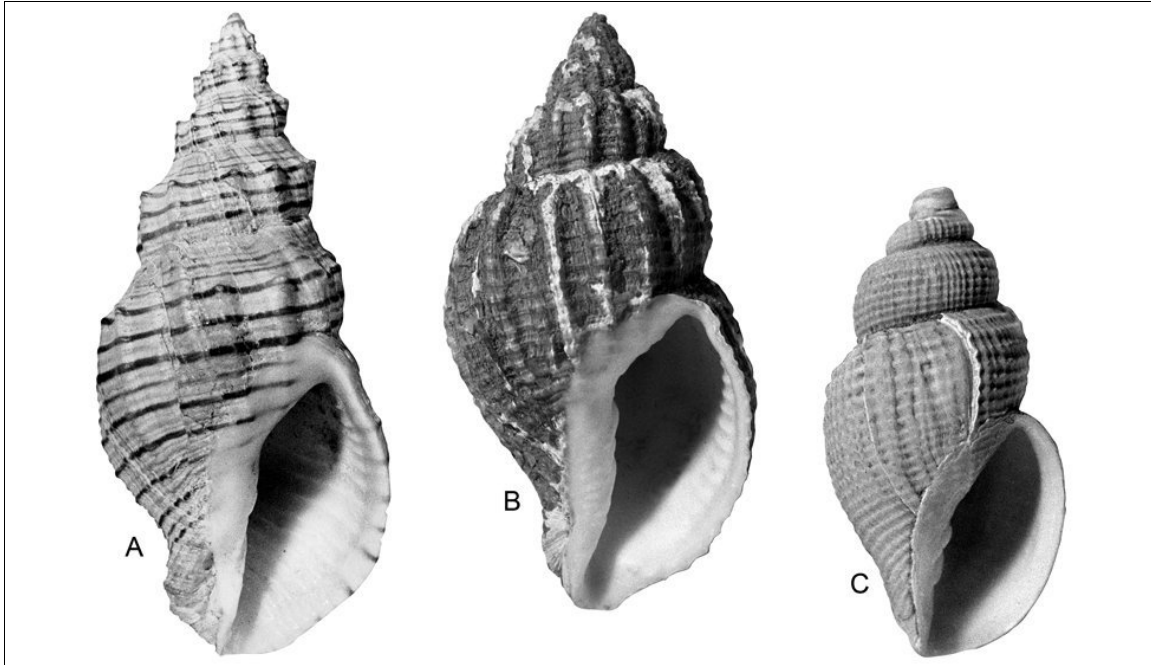


Figure 129. CANCELLARIINAE, of CANCELLARIIDAE. A. *Progabbia cooperi* (Gabb, 1865), 124 m, off Santa Barbara, California (USNM 106860, holotype), height 56 mm. B. *Crawfordina crawfordiana* (Dall, 1891), 44 m, Drake's Bay, Marin County, California (USNM 122400, holotype), height 48 mm. C. *Mericella corbicula* (Dall, 1908), 657 m, off San Diego, California (USNM 106878, holotype), height 21 mm.

As in previous years, because of our more intense schedules of field work and other activities during the summer months, the R & C Newsletter will take a hiatus until the September 2007 issue, at which time we will cover activities during May, June, July, and August.

