



STRANGE AND UNUSUAL SMALL MOLLUSCS FROM MADANG REVEALED BY THE PAPUA NIUGINI EXPEDITION



Molluscs are well known to villagers and fisherfolks because they are used as food (oysters, mussels, clams, octopuses, etc.). They are also well known to visitors because they include the collectable seashells (cowries, cones, strombs, miters, etc.). However, molluscs are much more than just shellfish and seashells. Many molluscs reach only small adult sizes and their true diversity is unsuspected by fishers, divers and collectors. Some molluscs are grazers, some are filter feeders, some are predators, and still others are parasites: molluscs occupy all kinds of niches in the coastal ecosystems of Papua New Guinea. Some 4,000 species of molluscs have been encountered in the Madang area by the Papua Niugini expedition, and this poster presents a small selection from among the most bizarre and colourful. Nearly all have adult sizes between one and ten millimeters.

