

Neogastropods from the southern North Sea: preliminary faunistic results

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Neogastropods from the southern North Sea, from several collections in the RBINS were revised. The bulk of the material belongs to the Gustave Gilson collection, which was sampled between 1898 and 1939. Special attention was given to the samples from the Belgian littoral and offshore zone.

A computer database was developed, documenting the taxonomic, geographic and ecological information. Distribution maps for several species of neogastropods were prepared, using the software program Carto Fauna-Flora.

Results show that seven neogastropod species were recorded alive in the surveyed area between 1899 and 1971: *Nucella lapillus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Ocenebra erinacea* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Neptunea antiqua* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Buccinum undatum* Linnaeus, 1758, *Nassarius incrassatus* (Ström, 1768), *Nassarius reticulatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Oenopota turricula* (Montagu, 1803). *B. undatum* seems to be the most widely distributed neogastropod. The other neogastropod species in the RBINS collections like *Colus gracilis* (Da Costa, 1778), *Bellaspira rufa* (Montagu, 1803), *Bellaspira septangularis* (Montagu, 1803), *Boreotrophon clathratus* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Boreotrophon truncatus* (Ström, 1768), *Trophonopsis muricatus* (Montagu, 1803) and *Nassarius pygmaeus* (Lamarck, 1822) are represented only by empty shells. Although some have a 'fresh look', most of the shells are subfossil or fossil.

Today, there is no certainty on the conservational status of the neogastropods in Belgium. Literature data indicate that *N. lapillus*, *B. undatum* and *N. reticulatus* have been alive for the past 20 years and that *N. lapillus* is rapidly declining.