

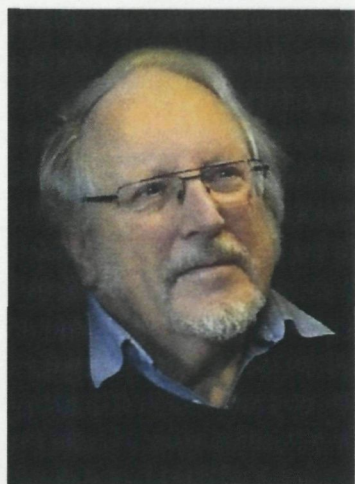


LIFE OF THE SOCIETY

KONINKLIJKE BELGISCHE VERENIGING VOOR CONCHYLOGIE

IN MEMORIAM: ANDRÉ DELSAERDT (25.03.1944 – 03.03.2019)

André VERHECKEN, former-president 1980-1986



André Delsaerd was born and raised in the Brabant town of Aarschot. He was very interested in religion; he started the education for holy orders, but changed his mind before becoming a friar. He continued studying religion, and worked his whole active life as a religion teacher. He kept the best relationships with missionary fathers worldwide.

His interest in shells arose when he was still a young boy; but it got a serious boost when his wife Rian offered him the membership of the (then) BVC, where he soon got involved in the study group “Xenophora”. He became a member of the board in 1981 as the vice-president and he was president from 1986 till 2000.

He started some major changes in the life of our society. He replaced the type-written and hectographed journal *GloriaMaris* by a printed version, starting with volume 25 (1986). In 1991, he started the Shell Show in Aarschot, with the active help and counselling of Guido Poppe. This soon grew out to one of the major Shell Shows worldwide, which had to move to Antwerp by lack of appropriate space in Aarschot.

His own interest in shells was rather varied. He started with Conidae; later he concentrated on smaller families like Turbinellidae, Chamidae, Cassidae, and he was one of the driving forces of the study group Neritidae.

He liked to travel. First, a touristic trip with his wife to Sri Lanka. In 1983 he organised the BVC Andaman expedition, enabling us to visit these difficult accessible islands thanks to his relationships with the local missionary fathers. He made two voyages to Thailand (1994, 1997). He went to the Solomon Islands on his own, where he stayed with shell dealers Ann and Johnson Kengalu a couple of times. Later he wanted to expand his view of those islands, and his contacts with the local missionary fathers allowed him to reach some out-of-the-way islands. He travelled to the Solomon Islands seven times, the last two times together with Wim Backhuys. This allowed him to make an unusually detailed collection of Solomon land snails, that he later studied and published in three volumes (*Land snails on the Solomon Islands*, L’Informatore Piceno, 2009, 2012, 2016). This collection is now in the *Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle* in Paris.

Together with Wim Backhuys, he was active in the *International scientific Maldives Expedition 2003*, the Conidae of which he published.

In 2006 he was honoured with the title “*Una vita per la Malacologia*” at the 30th *Mostra Malacologica Internazionale* at the *Museo Malacologico* of Cupra Marittima, Italy.

His last international activity was in 2016, at the *Fourth international Cone meeting* in the Royal Belgian Institute of natural Sciences in Brussels.

During all that time he published many studies. He authored or co-authored at least 73 papers in *GloriaMaris* vols. 25-57; not counting papers in other journals. His last paper, part II of the Indo-Pacific Chamidae, came out one month before he passed away.

His decease is a great loss to our Society. He will be remembered as a long-time personal friend, and a hard worker for the goals he set for himself.

New taxa introduced by André Delsaerdt:

Pseudochama rianae Delsaerdt, 1986
Chama yaroni Delsaerdt, 1986
Diodora yaroni isaaci Delsaerdt, 1986
Chama brassica elatensis Delsaerdt, 1986
Turbinella laevigata rianae Delsaerdt, 1986
Conus pennaceus ganensis Delsaerdt, 1988
Conus pseudocoelinae Delsaerdt, 1989
Conus lemuriensis Wils & Delsaerdt, 1989
Conus visseri Delsaerdt, 1990
Conus solomonensis Delsaerdt, 1992
Afer lansbergisi Delsaerdt, 1993
Granulifusus poppei Delsaerdt, 1995
Simplicifusus guidonis Delsaerdt, 1995
Hydatina montillai Delsaerdt, 1996
Conus eduardi Delsaerdt, 1997
Conus patamakanthini Delsaerdt, 1997
Conus wilsii Delsaerdt, 1998
Conus moylani Delsaerdt, 2000
Eumecostylus gardneri Delsaerdt, 2010
E. vicinus backhuysi Delsaerdt, 2010
Placocharis palmarum galvini new name Delsaerdt, 2010
Papuina rianae Delsaerdt, 2012
Trochomorpha backhuysi Delsaerdt, 2016
Trochomorpha patamakantini Delsaerdt, 2016
Trochomorpha lofti Delsaerdt, 2016
Omphalotropis nubulosa gardneri Delsaerdt, 2016
Megalacron tizianoii Delsaerdt, 2016
Omphalotropis nubulosa gardneri Delsaerdt, 2016

New species named after him:

Amphidromus delsaerdti Thach, 2016
Camaena delsaerdti Thach & Huber, 2018