

The 'Demange drawings': known and unknown malacological contributions of Victor Demange (1870-1940)

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Abstract

In the Bavay archives a collection of drawings of Vietnamese land and freshwater snails is present, which have never been published. They originate from Victor Demange who had them made by a local draftsman. The drawings are here reproduced and some biographical data on Demange, and his contributions to malacology, are presented.

Key words: early 20th century, Vietnam, land snails, freshwater snails

Introduction

During recent research in the Dautzenberg archives (BREURE, 2015, 2016) in the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels, one of us found part of the archives of Arthur Bavay (1840-1923). He was befriended by Philippe Dautzenberg (1849-1935) who co-authored several papers on land, freshwater and marine shells from south-east Asia (BAVAY & DAUTZENBERG, 1899, 1900a, 1900b, 1900c, 1901, 1904, 1909a, 1909b, 1909c, 1909d, 1910, 1912, 1915). In total they described 722 new taxa (including varieties and colour forms) from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, for which the material of 27 taxa were supplied by Victor Demange (1870-1940), who was a trader of French origin located in Hanoi (then French Indo-China). Other collectors in that area who supplied material to Bavay and Dautzenberg were M. Baillet, R. Bavay, E. Dorr, L. Dupont, H. Fruhstorfer, colonel Messenger, and abbé Vathelet. Additional contributions in the same period to the fauna of this area were in the same period made by DAUTZENBERG & FISCHER (1905, 1906, 1907) and FISCHER & DAUTZENBERG (1904), based on material collected by captain Blaise and H. Mansuy.

One of the documents found in the Bavay archive was a folder 'Notes sur l'Indo-Chine', containing manuscript notes on new species descriptions, some correspondence and an envelop with drawings. The envelop appeared to be sent in 1908 by Demange. We will present information about V. Demange and his known and hitherto unknown malacological contributions.

Victor Demange: his life

Jean-Baptiste Victor Adolphe Demange was born on 24 June 1870 in Épinal, Dept. Vosges, France, as the second child of Adolphe Demange and Marie Humbert. From 1890–1893 he served in the 2nd genie regiment of the French Army. Afterwards he settled as an accountant in Épinal and in 1895 was married with Clémentine Jeanne Bouillon. In 1898



Fig. 1 – Victor Demange and his family (1919). Archive B. Demange-Demay (Archives des Vosges, 48 002 001 C 02).



Fig. 2 – Victor Demange with part of his family and local militaries (ca. 1921). Archive B. Demange-Demay (Archives des Vosges, 48 002 028 C 02).



Fig. 3 – Victor Demange and his wife during a sea trip (1913). Archive B. Demange-Demay (Archives des Vosges, 48 001 42C).

he left France for the French colony Indochina, which comprised present-day Vietnam, as well as parts of Cambodia and Laos. After a short while as employee in other trading firms, he soon started his own, specializing in the wholesale of textiles. Together with members of his family, who joined him in Hanoi, he soon started to expand to beddings, but also published post cards and sheets about local history (SOUVAY, 2009; Figs 1-3). BAVAY (1914: 346) noted “Son commerce embrassait depuis les mines, minerais et charbons, jusqu’aux peaux et cornes de Buffles, peaux de Tigres et autres plantes textiles ou à sparterie, les plantes tinctoriales, les écorces à tannin, les fruits oléagineux, les graines à saponine, les résines, les gommes (gomme-laque), les baumes [his trade embraced products from the mines, ore and coal, to skins and horns of buffaloes, tiger skins, textile plants or wickerwork, dye plants, bark tannin, oilseed, seeds of *Sapindus*, resins, gums (shellac), balms]”. He was active in the local Chamber of Commerce. Throughout his life he was interested in natural history, first in mycology, later also in botany, entomology and malacology. He gifted collections of shells not only to Bavay, but also to the Muséum d’histoire naturelle in Lyon, and was a correspondent

of the Muséum national d’histoire naturelle in Paris. In 1929 he returned to France and settled in Épinal where he died 20 January 1940 (SOUVAY, 2009).

Correspondence with Arthur Bavay and the ‘Demange drawings’

Only a few letters received by Bavay are present in the archives, among them some from Demange. According to a letter to Bavay (dated 9 March 1909) Demange was selling “umbrellas, eyewear, socks, etc. to the local people. I buy from them rubber, skins, etc. duck feathers, textiles, stained wood”. From this letter and a second one from 12 July 1908, it is clear that Demange was interested in natural history but had no formal education in it. BAVAY (1914) remarked “Depuis dix ans il récoltait pour moi des Mollusques dont je devais lui donner les déterminations [since the last ten years he has collected molluscs for me, for which I owed him the identifications]”, hence he was one of Bavay’s principal suppliers of shells from Indochina since Bavay devoted himself entirely to malacology in 1904 (ADLER, 2012: 133). Demange arranged some drawings via “M. Boutan qui a des dessinateurs” [Mr. Boutan who has draftsmen]. With

his 1908 letter he included 17 drawings made by an anonymous local draftsman ('le dessinateur annamite') [Annam was the French name for present-day Vietnam during 1883-1945]. They show species of land and freshwater molluscs and, except one, all depict living snails 'on the move'. Most of the drawings feature a snail seen from above and below side by side, but some show a single picture of the snail from a different angle. All species are supposedly from northern Vietnam. Most of the sketches are numbered at the lower left side and some bear a suggested identification by Demange.

BAVAY (1914: 346-347) noted about these drawings: "Lui-même [V.D.] avait à sa solde un dessinateur annamite qui exécutait *scrupuleusement* [original italics] les dessins des objets d'Histoire naturelle qu'il ne pouvait ou ne voulait pas expédier [he himself had on his payroll an Annamite artist who scrupulously executed drawings of objects of natural history that he could not or would not ship]". This quote suggests the drawings may represent species that never reached Bavay. However, some of the drawings refer to specimens which appeared to have been sent to Paris. The drawings have been identified using [sources] and the collection of the Natural History Museum, London; for some of the drawings identifications were not possible beyond the family or genus level. They refer to the following species (D – Demange number of the drawing; figure(s) herein), arranged following the classification in BOUCHET & ROCROI (2005):

Family Cyclophoridae Gray, 1847

***Cyclophorus cf. fulguratus* (Pfeiffer, 1852)** (D-2049; Figs 4-5)

Remarks. Occurs in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, but recent research has shown cryptic speciation does occur and a further taxonomic revision might be necessary (NANTARAT *et al.*, 2014).

Unidentified species (D-2056; Figs 27-28).

Family Viviparidae Gray, 1847

***Angulyagra polyzonata* (Frauenfeld, 1862)** (D-2051; Figs 6-7).

Family Thiaridae Gill, 1871

Unidentified species (D-2050; Figs 8-9).

Family Planorbidae Rafinesque, 1815

Unidentified species (D-2054; Figs 10-11).

Family Rathouisiidae Heude, 1885

Rathousia species (D-2053; Figs 12-13).

Family Clausiliidae Gray, 1855

***Megalauchenia proctostoma* (Mabille, 1889)** (D-s.n. 1; Fig. 14).

Remarks. Occurs in northern Vietnam (SCHILEYKO, 2011).

***Phaedusa paviei* (Morlet, 1892)** (D-2048; figs 15-16)

Remarks. Distributed in northern Vietnam (SCHILEYKO, 2011).

Family Subulinidae P. Fischer & Crosse, 1877

Unidentified species (D-2047; Fig. 17).

Unidentified species (D-2052; Figs 18-19).

Family Streptaxidae Gray, 1860

***Haploptychius cf. diespiter* (Mabille, 1887)** (D-s.n. 2; Fig. 20)

Family Helicarionidae Bourguignat, 1877

Unidentified species (D-2057; Figs 21-22).

Family Camaenidae/Bradybaenidae

Unidentified species (D-2009; Fig. 23).

Unidentified species (D-2055; Figs 25-26).

Family Camaenidae Pilsbry, 1895

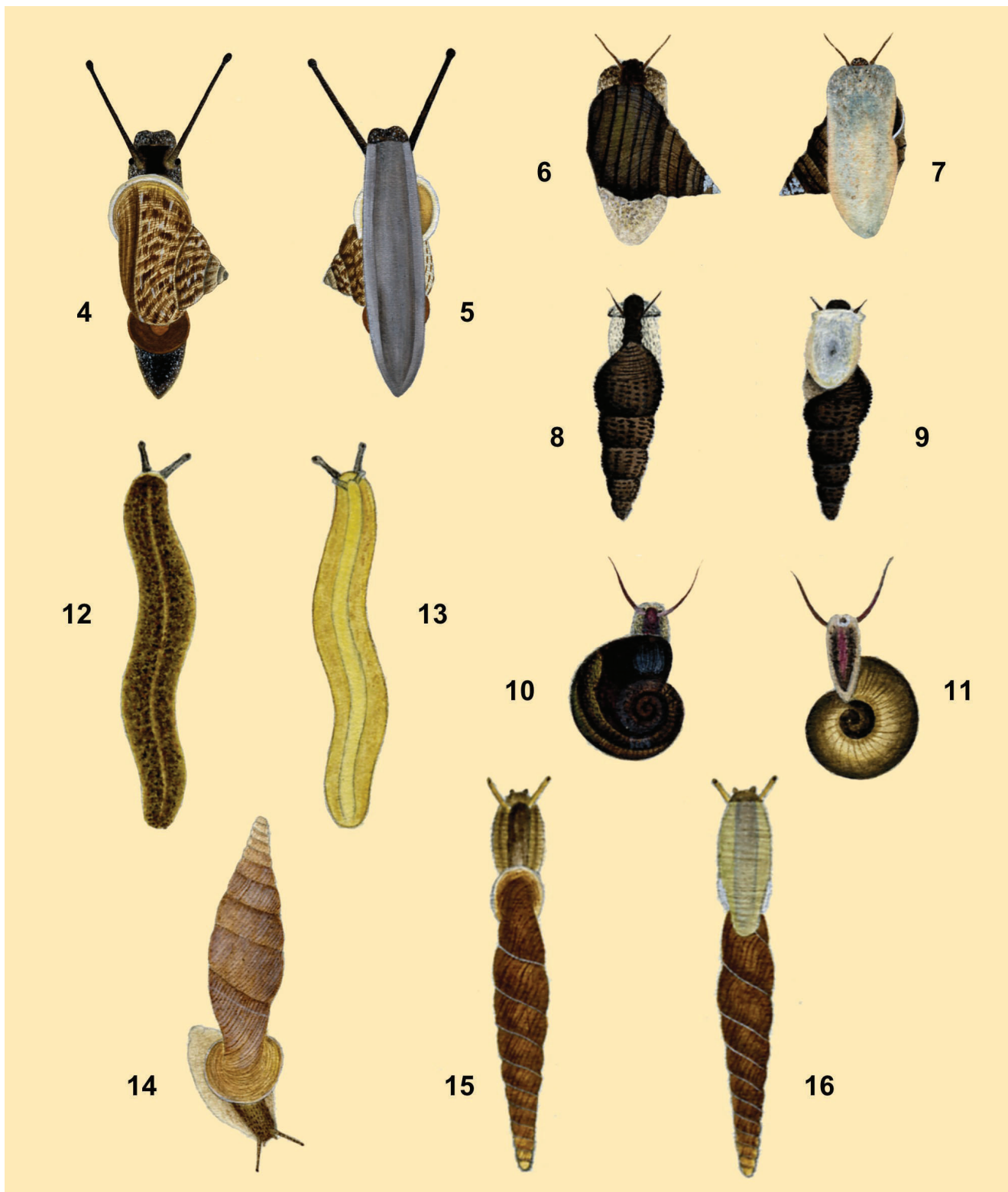
***Ganesella acris acris* (Benson, 1859)** (D-s.n. 3; Fig. 24).

Remarks. Occurs in northern Vietnam, Thailand and India (SCHILEYKO, 2011). Mentioned as *Helix (Trochomorphoides) acris* in BAVAY & DAUTZENBERG (1909b).

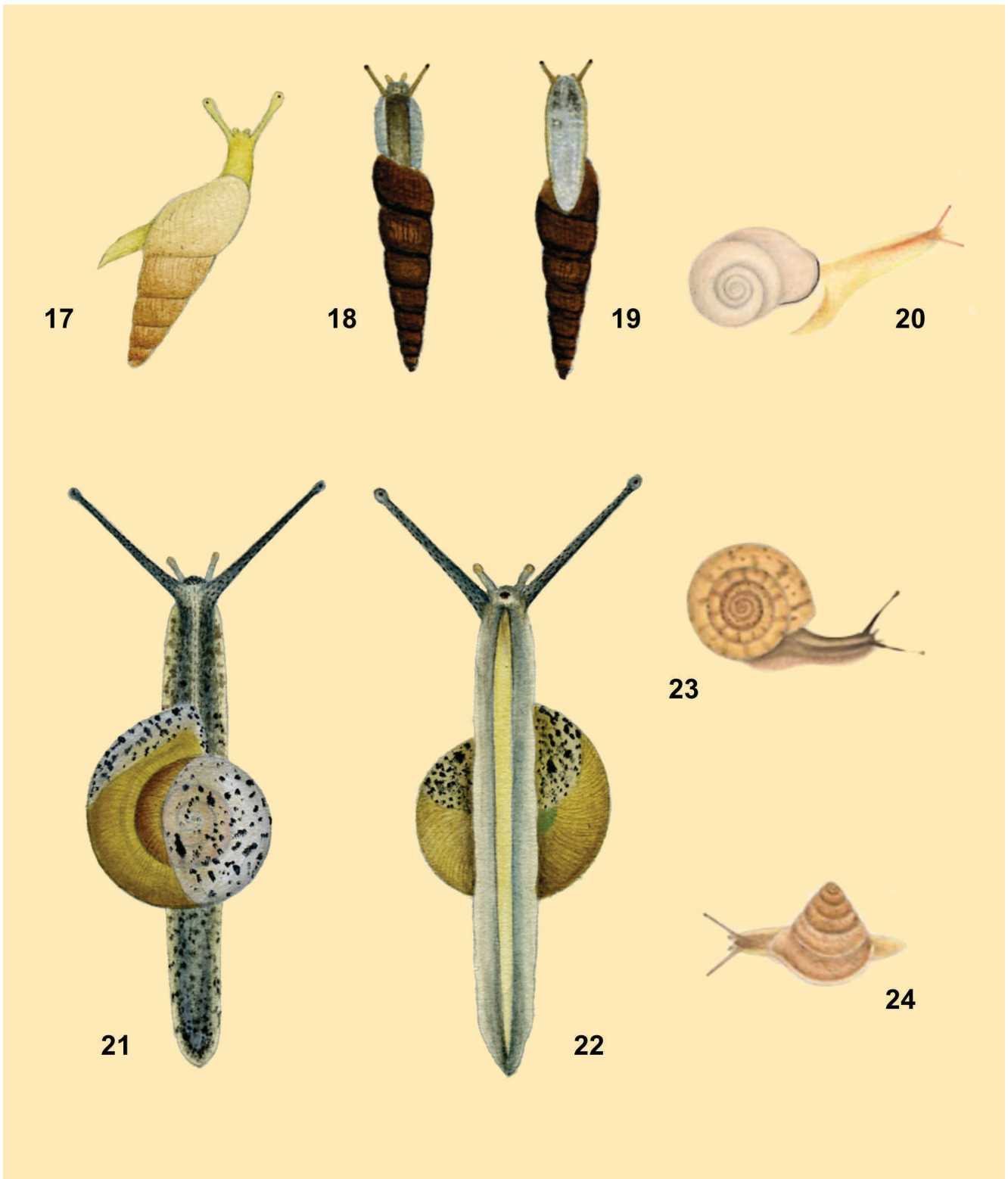
Family Ariophantidae Godwin-Austen, 1888

***Megaustenia imperator imperator* (Gould, 1858)** (D-2103; Fig. 29)

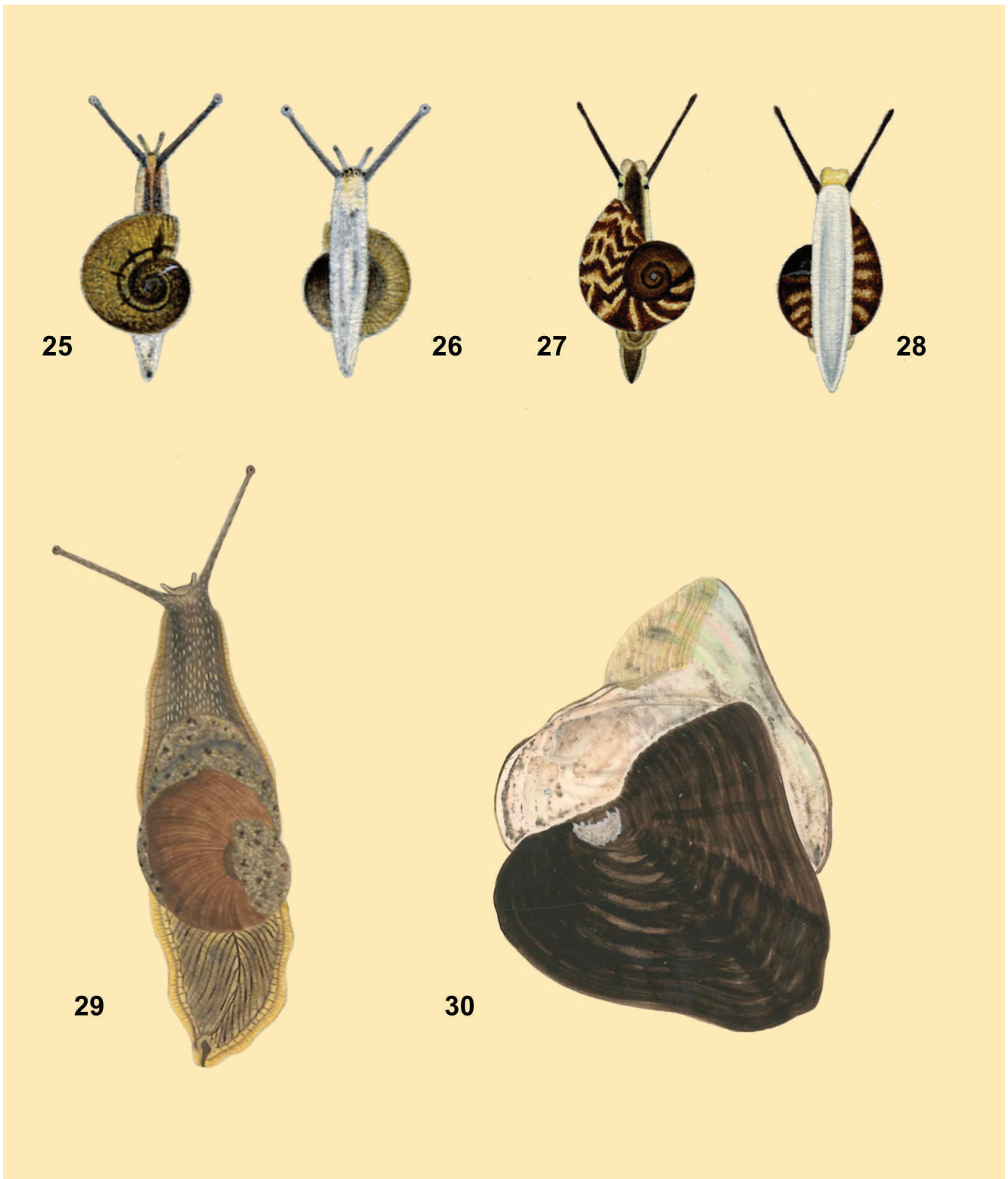
Remarks. Occurs in northern Vietnam and Hong Kong. Mentioned as *Helicarion (Cryptosoma) imperator* in FISCHER & DAUTZENBERG (1904).



Figs 4-16 – Drawings by an anonymous Annamite artist. 4-5. *Cyclophorus* cf. *fulguratus* (Pfeiffer, 1852) (D-2049; original size). 6-7. *Angulyagra polyzonata* (Frauenfeld, 1862) (D-2051; x 1.25). 8-9. Unidentified species (D-2050; x 1.5). 10-11. Unidentified species (D-2054; x 1.5). 12-13. *Rathousia* spec. (D-2053; x 1.5). 14. *Megalauchenia proctostoma* (Mabille, 1889) (D-s.n. 1; x 1.25). 15-16. *Phaedusa paviei* (Morlet, 1892) (D-2048; x 2).



Figs 17-24 – Drawings by an anonymous Annamite artist. 17. Unidentified species (D-2047; x 1.5). 18-19. Unidentified species (D-2052; x 2). 20. *Haploptychius* cf. *diespiter* (Mabille, 1887) (D-s.n. 2; x 2). 21-22. Unidentified species (D-2057; x 1.5). 23. Unidentified species (D-2009; x 3). 24. *Ganesella acris acris* (Benson, 1859) (D-s.n. 3; x 3).



Figs 25-30 – Drawings by an anonymous Annamite artist. 25-26. Unidentified species (D-2055; x 2). 27-28. Unidentified species (D-2056; x 1.5). 29. *imperator* (Gould, 1858) (D-2103; x 2). 30. *Hyriopsis cumingii* (Lea, 1852) (D-2002; x 1.5).

Family Unionidae

Hyriopsis cumingii (Lea, 1852) (D-2002; Fig. 30)

Publications and eponyms

As far as we have been able to trace, Demange only published two papers on natural history in the strict sense, as well as some papers on applied agronomics and miscellaneous subjects (SOUVAY, 2009: 90, 94). The first one was in 1910 on a small bamboo forest found in the ancient city of Hanoi (DEMANGE, 1910). He described the plants, trees, mushrooms, and insects from the different habitats found in the little forest. In his second paper (DEMANGE, 1912) described his malacological excursions in Vietnam during 1899-1911. From Hanoi and immediate vicinities only four terrestrial species are listed, and nine freshwater species. Other specific localities with species lists are Su Yut (23 species), Phong Y (17 species), Lang Son and Ky Lua (34 species), Thai Nguyen and Cho Chu (six species), Dong Trieu and Moncay (eight species).

Collectors of material are sometimes honoured by dedicating a new species to them. Demange was given the following eponyms in zoology:

Alluropus demangei SILVESTRI, 1912: 43, fig. Type locality: Phu-Ly (Tonkino) (Myriapoda, Scolopendridae).

Caccobius demangei BOUCOMONT, 1920: 320. Type locality: Tonkin, Hanoi (Insecta, Scarabaeidae). — Remarks. This taxon was erroneously mentioned as *Onthophagini demangei* Boucomont, 1919 in SOUVAY, 2009: 93.

Clausilia demangei BAVAY & DAUTZENBERG, 1909: 83, pl. 2 figs 3-4. Type locality: Than-Hoa, Tonkin (Mollusca, Clausiliidae).

Cuneopsis demangei HAAS, 1929: 211, figs 1-2. Type locality: Song Dalj bei Viétri, Tonkin (Mollusca, Unionidae).

Diplommatina demangei BAVAY & DAUTZENBERG, 1912: 40, pl. 5 figs 1-2. Type locality: Alluvions du fleuve Rouge; Bin-Son; Nui-Gang-Gioi (Thuyen-Quang); Nui-Genh; Nui-Chua-Ba à Ngia-Trang; Nui-Cho-Gia à Doleu; Nui-Genh à Ngia-Trang; Than-Moï; Phu-Ly à Chiné; Ba-Den à Doleu (Mollusca, Diplommatinidae).

Ennea demangei BAVAY & DAUTZENBERG, 1912: 2, pl. 1 figs 2-3. Type locality: Ilot de la Table (baie d'Along) (Mollusca, Streptaxidae).

Helix (Papuina) demangei DAUTZENBERG & H. FISCHER, 1907: 147, pl. 5 fig. 1-3. Type locality: Tonkin, Su-Yut, Rivière Noire (Mollusca, Camaenidae).

Lema demangei PIC, 1924: 14. Type locality: Tonkin (Insecta, Chrysomelidae).

Peplomeris demangei SILVESTRI, 1917: 145, fig. 31. Type locality: Tonkin, Hanoi (Myriapoda, Glomeridae)

Planorbis (Segmentina) demangei BAVAY & DAUTZENBERG, 1910: 20, pl. 1 fig. 15--17. Type locality: Hanoi (Mollusca, Planorbidae).

Plapiolepis [sic, *Plagiolepis*] (*Anacantholepis*) *demangei* SANTSCHI, 1920: 172. Type locality: Tonkin [sic], Hanoi (Insecta, Formicidae).

Polyrachis rastellata demangesi SANTSCHI, 1910: 284. Type locality: Hanoi (Tonkin) (Insecta, Formicidae). — Remarks. Erroneously mentioned as *Polyrachis demangei* Santschi, 1920 by SOUVAY (2009: 93).

Simpsonia demangei ROCHEBRUNE, 1905: 466. Type locality: Rivière Claire entre Vietri et Tuyen-Quas (Tonkin) (Mollusca, Unionidae).

We have found one eponym in botany:

Sarcanthus demangei Guillaumin, 1930: 329. Type locality: Tonkin, Nui-Cham (Orchidaceae). — Remarks. Guillaumin refers to “Demange 1146”, which hints possibly also to a considerable collection of plants sent by Demange to Paris.

Discussion

Although the malacological contribution of Demange seems but small, it is noteworthy that he supplied his material with good localities. The non-marine malacofauna of Vietnam is still inadequately known, despite the contributions of mainly French authors during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Recently SCHILEYKO (2011) has published a checklist of land pulmonate molluscs for Vietnam, but a similar list for non-pulmonates and freshwater molluscs is still missing. In the majority of the

literature for this area attention is only given to the shells, and the sketches ‘scrupuleusement’ drawn by a local artist here shown provide additional information on the animals of some species. Moreover this finding is relevant from a viewpoint of malacohistory (AUDIBERT & BREURE, 2015), besides striking the eye.

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