remaining only on Anijima and stresses the importance of special protection of Anijima. Further, the report listed nine possible alternative locations for the airport construction, decisively excluding Anijima. TMG is supposed to develop a new airport plan for Okinawa in several months, based on this report. Thus, it is unlikely that Anijima will again be chosen to be destroyed.

Wherever an airport is going to be built, it would be threatening for the fragile ecosystems of oceanic islands such as Okinawa, as small as 10% of the Galapagos in area. Thus, we should not yet be fully satisfied with this news of success, but rather need to keep very much aware of what happens next. However, this success in persuading TMG not to construct the airport on Anijima, and thereby to preserve what is left of the original Okinawan environment and land snails was not possible without international protests, and the support of readers of Tentacle.

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New Zealand Paryphanta deleted from CITES list


Paryphanta spp. were removed from Appendix II at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, 9-20 June 1997. The amendment entered into force on 18 September 1997.

Partulids declared "protected" in French Polynesia

by Jean-Yves Meyer

In December 1997, all species of the family Partulidae in French Polynesia (about 66 Partula spp. and 14 Samoaana spp.), locally called "areho", were legally declared "protected species" by the French Polynesian Assembly. This implies a total and permanent prohibition of their destruction, capture, transportation, utilization, possession, as well as the degradation of their native habitats (arrête N°1333 CM).

However, some exceptions for scientific purposes might be allowed by the French Polynesian government for in-situ conservation. The family Partulidae, with its 100% endemicity, forms one of the most original groups of the terrestrial biota of French Polynesia. Moreover, about 57 Partula species are already extinct and many other species are close to disappearing, mainly because of predation by the carnivorous snail Englandina rosea. Many species have been saved from extinction in the wild thanks to ex-situ conservation experiments in European and American zoos and universities. A trial of reintroduction of Partula species extinct in the wild has been recently conducted with some success on the island of Moorea (see previous issues of Tentacle).

Furthermore, Englandina rosea is also legally recognized to be a threat to biodiversity, especially the endemic Partulids. This predator is now considered to be a noxious species: introduc-

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Partulid and other land snails of the National Park of American Samoa

by Robert H. Cowie & Robert P. Cook

In March and May 1998 we conducted surveys in the National Park of American Samoa, on the islands of Tutuila, Ta’u and Ofu. The purpose of the surveys was to document the land snail fauna of this newly established Park.

On Tutuila we made 80 collections of snails from 11 of the ridges that run from the main backbone ridge of the island to the ocean. These transects broadly covered the entire area of the Park on Tutuila. Samples were taken at evenly spaced elevations on each ridge and for a standard length of time at each site, to permit estimates of relative abundances. We collected both from vegetation and in the litter.

On Ta’u and Ofu we made a total of 71 collections from various accessible areas, including the summits of both islands. Our sampling protocol was similar to that used on Tutuila, covering a broad range of elevations and distinguishing arboreal from ground-dwelling snails.

The collected material still remains to be fully analysed, but preliminary observations indicate that a number of native species, especially Helicinidae, are widespread and abundant, especially on Tutuila and the upper slopes of Ta’u. Species of Helicarionidae also seem fairly widespread, although occurring in relatively low numbers. On Tutuila, however, the introduced carnivorous snails Englandina rosea and Gonaxis kibweziensi are widely distributed and often common. E. rosea has been recorded previously from Ta’u but we did not see any. Ofu still appears free of both Achatina fulica (the introduced giant African snail) and these carnivorous snails. Non-native Helicidae, on the other hand, were also found, but the most common species of all were introduced Subulinidae.

We did not collect Partulidae (with one exception), considering them potentially too threatened. However, we did record all individuals seen. We found three species on Tutuila: Eua zebrina, Samoaana conica, and Samoaana abbreviata, in decreasing order of abundance. These species were by no means widely distributed in the Park, being found only in certain areas. We could see no obvious reason for this patchiness, with populations being found high on the main ridge top as well as only 10 m inland from the high tide line at one locality. An explanation may yet emerge as the data is mapped and analysed.

No partulids have been recorded previously from Ta’u and we did not see any on that island. However, on Ofu we made perhaps our most significant discoveries: twelve individuals of the Ofu endemic Samoaana thurstoni, expanding its known distribution; and, most surprising, an apparently thriving population of a species of Eua, this genus having not been previously recorded from Ofu. (We collected a small number of these Eua sp., feeling justified in doing this because of the apparent robust status of the population and as vouchers supporting this new
EDITORIAL

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has shelved its plan to build an airport on the Ogasawara island of Anijima (see the article by Koyomi Tomiyama and Takahiro Asami later in this issue of Tentacle). This is a major conservation success story, and is especially important for the endemic land snail fauna of the island. The international pressure that has been brought to bear on the Tokyo Government came about as a result of the publicising of the issue through the internet and in newsletters and other vehicles, like Tentacle (see issues 6 and 7). The committed people who instigated this publicity campaign should be proud of their success. But as Drs. Tomiyama and Asami note, vigilance remains necessary, as the final decision on the location of the new airport has not been decided.

In the USA the Endangered Species Act remains under threat. The case brought against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) by Dr. Muniappan regarding comments made about him in its TV program on the demise of Partula on Moorea continues (see Tentacle 7). Dr. Muniappan was criticised for his support of the introduction of Englishana rosea as a putative biological control agent for the Giant African Snail, Achatina fulica. The BBC served its defence on 24 March 1997 and Muniappan served his reply on 12 September. The two sides are now in the process of disclosing to the other all relevant documents. That process should be complete before the end of April 1998. However, it is unlikely that the trial will begin before very late in 1998 and it is far more likely to be next year (from Roy Baker at the BBC).

I reiterate that the content of Tentacle depends largely on what is submitted to me - not very much this time. There continue to be many conservation problems for molluscs and I consider Tentacle as a means to publicise these problems. To this end I make every effort to distribute Tentacle as widely as possible, given our limited resources. I would therefore encourage anyone with a concern about molluscs to send me an article, however short. It doesn’t take long to pen a paragraph or two. Don’t wait until I put out a request for new material, I really don’t wish to have to beg and plead! Send me something now, and it will be included in the next issue. Again, to reiterate (see editorial in Tentacle 7), I would like to see articles from all over the world, and in particular I would like to see more on “Marine Matters”. Don’t be shy! I make only very minor editorial changes to articles submitted to me and I accept almost everything submitted to me. Statements made in Tentacle therefore remain the authors’ responsibilities and the balance of each issue reflects whatever I receive.

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IUCN & MOLLUSC SPECIALIST GROUP NEWS

Red List criteria review
The SSC were mandated at the last Congress to review the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria following publication.