

## INFAUNAL SAND-DWELLING MOLLUSCS AT HILA, AMBON, INDONESIA

Alan J. Kohn

Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195-1800, USA

### ABSTRACT

This study analyses a rich and diverse assemblage of benthic molluscs occupying an extensive sand patch on a fringing reef platform on Ambon Island, Maluku, Indonesia, with emphasis on species composition, abundance and trophic roles. The quantitative sample included 188 living molluscs, an average density of 42 m<sup>-2</sup>. More than 70% were gastropods; neogastropods dominated the assemblage with respect to diversity, abundance and, except for one large scaphopod, body size. The 30 gastropod species included 4 neotaenioglossans, 20 neogastropods, and 6 heterogastropods. Fourteen additional gastropod species were present but did not occur in the quantitative sample. Bivalves comprised 21% and scaphopods 8% numerically. Among the gastropods, *Oliva* was the dominant genus numerically; its four species comprised nearly one-third of the entire sample. *O. carneola* (56 individuals) was the commonest species in the quantitative sample. *Terebra* ranked second in abundance but first in diversity with 12 species, four of which were present in the quantitative sample. Predators dominated the assemblage, but knowledge of the specific trophic roles of most awaits further study.