

**ARCHITECTURE OF PROSOBRANCH (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA) SHELLS
AND AN OVERVIEW OF RELATION BETWEEN
SHELL SHAPE AND HABITAT**

Lasut, Markus T. & Veronica A. Kumurur

*Faculty of Fisheries & Marine Sciences, Sam
Ratulangi University, Manado, Indonesia
Division of Biodiversity,
Center for Environmental & Natural Resources Studies,
Cinta Cipta Nusantara Foundation, Indonesia*

This study tries to show similarities and variations in shell form of the three orders of prosobranchs Archaeogastropoda, Mesogastropoda, and Neogastropoda using form and shape, axis/balance, proportion, and texture/ornament as elements in architecture. Relationships between shell shape and habitat are also reviewed. The elements of architecture provide useful features for important morphological characters. The form of the prosobranch shells show similarities (circular, triangle, and combination of both) in general, but it varies in shape for each order, and the variations are always combined with different axis/balance, proportion, and texture/ornament. Therefore, each order shows a specific shell architecture. Illustrations of species representing each order of the prosobranch shells, in accordance with the architecture elements, are shown.