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Contributions to Molluscan Paleontology – Festschrift for Klaus Bandel on occasion of his 65th birthday

Preface

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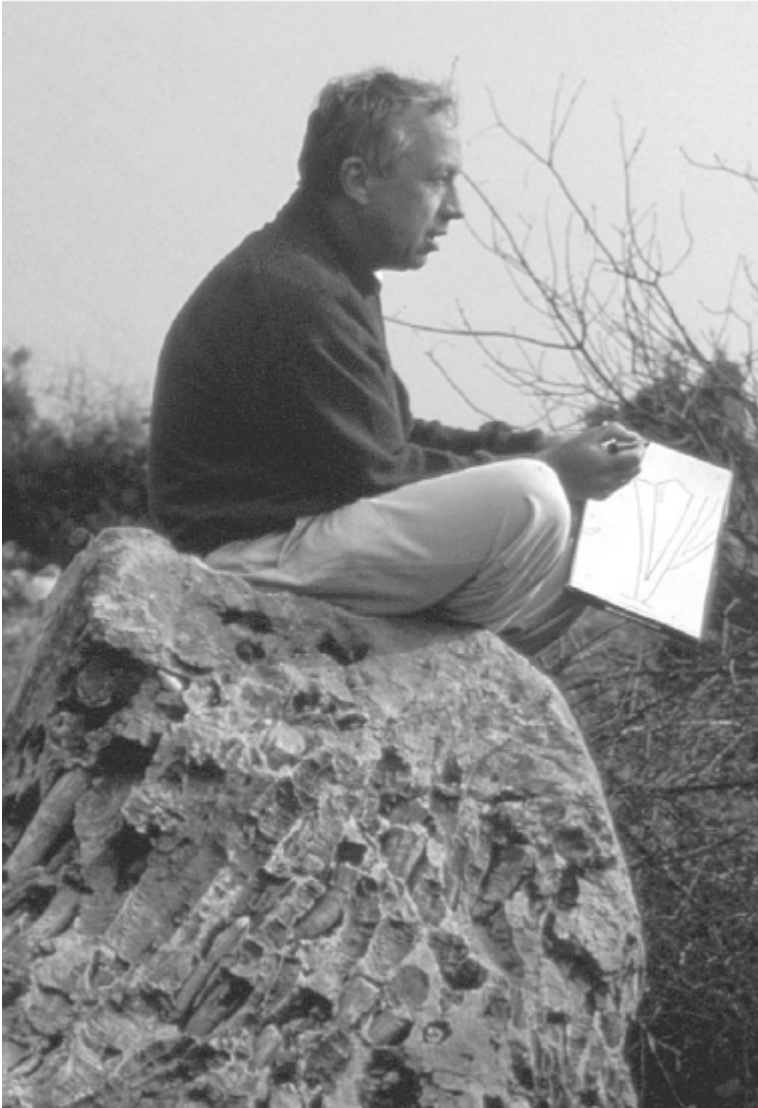
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The increasing importance of malacology for biodiversity studies and conservation demands abandoning traditional boundaries and integrating different scales of investigation. One important field of malacology is that dealing with past organisms and ecosystems. It is a well-known fact that only by understanding the past can we understand the present and make predictions about the future.

This volume, assembled on the occasion of Klaus Bandel's 65th birthday on December 21st, 2006, intends to honor the malacological impulses that he has generated for more than 30 years and focuses on this aspect of understanding the past. The broad variety of topics covered in these collected papers reflects the broad interest, knowledge and influence of Klaus Bandel's work. The strong focus on gastropod systematics (NÜTZEL, FRÝDA, YANCEY & ANDERSON; HEIDELBERGER; GRÜNDEL; MCLEAN & KIEL; BEU; BIELER & DOCKERY; NIELSEN & FRASSINETTI; BANDEL, SIVAN & HELLER) reflects both his main interest and the path on which he set most of his students. However, Klaus Bandel's research always included other molluscan groups and the papers on cephalopods (BOLETZKY; KRÖGER & MAPES), as well as contributions on predation patterns (FORTUNATO) and bivalve shell erosion (ROGALLA & AMLER) show the breadth of the working field of Klaus Bandel, which almost mirrors the breadth of malacology itself. One should not forget to mention also Klaus Bandel's other interests, such as trace fossils and the geology of Jordan, on which he published many papers. However, to include papers on those topics would have gone beyond the scope of this issue.

The aim of this Festschrift was to assemble the school of students that Klaus Bandel formed over the years, rounded up by a number of friends and colleagues with whom he had and still has close contact. Due to the limited space that such a volume offers, many potential contributors had to be left out, especially those working on living mollusks or not working on mollusks at all. The contribution of colleagues from Germany, Czech Republic, France, Israel, Chile, Panama, USA and New Zealand reflect his standing in the international community.

I want to conclude by expressing my deep gratitude to Klaus Bandel for his unconventional way of leading his students. This way has not always been easy but it helped us to develop our own opinions and directions rather than just to consume information. My special thanks go to editor-in-chief Michael Amler, to the authors who were quick to volunteer a contribution and timely with their submissions, and to the reviewers who are listed in the respective acknowledgments, since none chose to remain anonymous. Steffen Kiel (University of Leeds, United Kingdom) and Tom DeVries (Burton, USA) improved the language. All of you made the process of assembling this volume fast and straightforward and it was a pleasure to work with you.



Klaus Bandel sitting on Late Cretaceous rudists during a student excursion in March 1994, Ajlun, Jordan. Photo courtesy of Steffen Kiel.

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