

Report of the Conchological Society field meeting to Rhosilli, Gower, Glamorgan
Friday 15, Saturday 16, Sunday 17th June, 2007
Celia Pain

Thirteen members and friends met at Rhosilli at 10.00am on Friday 15th June. Present were Ron Boyce, Rosemary Hill, Rupert Honnor, Jan and Nick Light, John Llewellyn-Jones, Celia Pain, Bill and Carol Pocock, James and Caitlin Potter, Janet Sawyer, and Raymond Walker. After introductions and the Health and Safety briefing we walked down to Rhosilli Bay by the cliff path. The party split into two and the more vigorous walked the three miles along the beach to Burry Holms. The rest of us investigated the molluscs to be found under the cliffs towards Worms Head. As promised there were live *Acteon tornatilis* and their egg strings buried in the sand. About 4pm we made our way up to the National Trust Gower HQ and shop to the schoolroom where Rupert set up his microscope. We looked at what people had found and listed them. Many people have samples to process at home. We had a very welcome tea on the terrace of the Worms Head Hotel, it has a stupendous view down Rhosilli Bay and Worms Head. We had an early meal in the Worms Head Hotel dining room and sampled such delights as lava bread and cockle starters, fresh fish etc. Ben and Rhian Rowson from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales who were holidaying in the area joined us for the meal.

On Saturday 16th June we met at 10.00 again. Present were Ron Boyce, Tom Clifton, Rosemary Hill, Rupert Honnor, Jan and Nick Light, John Llewellyn-Jones, Celia Pain, Bill and Carol Pocock, James and Caitlin Potter and Janet Sawyer. Sadly Mr Raymond Walker from Swansea was not able to join us. After the Health and Safety briefing we walked down the path towards the causeway. As the terrain was very rough we tended to work in small groups. Jan Light led a cave party of Tom Clifton and Bill Pocock to the base of the promontory. This yielded cave species: *Melarhaphe neritoides*, *Leucophytia bidentata*, *Myosotella denticulata* and *Otina ovata*, much to the delight of the finders! Bill took some shell sand from the cave and looked through it at home, he was very pleased to find *Paludinella littorina*. In future we shall have to find where this species is living at Rhosilli. Nick Light made it to the end of The Worm and back. Probably the prize find was several showy yellow *Berthella plumula* found by Caitlin and John Potter and John Llewellyn Jones. Ron and Rosemary found *Polycera quadrilineata*. The NT schoolroom was full of excited people at 16.00 showing off their finds, and Tom Clifton demonstrating how he prepares shipworms. Celia had trouble compiling a list!

Sunday was not an official part of the field meeting, but several of us gathered at Oxwich Bay to see what we could find. Ron Boyce, Rosemary Hill, John Llewellyn-Jones, Celia Pain, Bill and Carol Pocock and Janet Sawyer braved the driving rain. By the time we had walked to the Three Cliffs end of Oxwich Bay the sun had come out and we were too hot! Some of us looked in the caves, hoping to find *Otina ovata*, but could not find any. I did find one in the shell sand from there. There were lots of sea potatoes *Echinocardium cordatum* on the lower shore, we looked for *Tellimya ferruginosa* on them but did not find any, however there were lots in the shell sand. We noticed that thick-lipped dog whelks *Hinia incrassata* were occurring in pairs, we found that they were inhabited by hermit crabs. There was always a large and a small one together, we surmise that they were mating!

A man on the Rhosilli beach told us that there had been commercial dredging of razor shells, and certainly there did not seem to be so many razors as there used to be, see also Mullard, J., 2006. *Gower*. London, Collins. New Naturalist Library, 13-978-0-00-716066-2. Exactly what effect this will have on populations of molluscs and other marine animals living in Carmarthen Bay remains to be seen. It does not look good. Another threat to Gower biodiversity is the dredging of aggregate on the Helwick Bank that runs parallel to the south coast of Gower. There is removal of the gravel to a depth of two metres, and the remaining sediments are smothered in the silt that has been removed from the gravel. A complete change of the bottom habitat may result.

Complete List starts on following page

Complete List

L = Live, S = Shell; Abundance: C = Common (100 – 1000), F = Frequent (10 – 100). O = Occasional (2-10), R = Rare (1 only)

Location	Rhossili Bay	Rhossili Cliffs & Worms Head	Oxwich Bay
Date	15.6.07	15-16.6.07	17.6.07
CHITONS			
<i>Lepidochitona cinerea</i>		SO	LR
<i>Acanthochitona fascicularis</i>		LR	
GASTROPODS			
<i>Diodora graeca</i>		SO	LR
<i>Patella depressa</i>		SR	
<i>Patella ulyssiponensis</i>		SO	
<i>Patella vulgata</i>	SO	SR	
<i>Helcion pellucidum</i>			LC
<i>Osilinus lineatus</i>	SO		
<i>Gibbula cineraria</i>	SF		LC
<i>Gibbula magus</i>	SR		LF
<i>Gibbula umbilicalis</i>	SO	LO	
<i>Calliostoma zizyphinum</i>	SR		LC
<i>Tricolia pullus</i>		SO	
<i>Bittium reticulatum</i>			SO
<i>Lacuna vincta</i>		SR	
<i>Lacuna pallidula</i>		LO	SO
<i>Littorina littorea</i>	SR		
<i>Littorina obtusata agg</i>			LC
<i>Littorina saxatilis</i>	SO		LF
<i>Melarhappe neritoides</i>		LO	LC
<i>Rissoa parva</i>	SR	LC	LO
<i>Rissoa interrupta</i>	SR	LC	SF
<i>Onoba aculeus</i>			SR
<i>Onoba semistriata</i>	SR	LO	SO
<i>Littorina obtusata agg</i>		SO	
<i>Littorina saxatilis</i>		SO	SO
<i>Melarhappe neritoides</i>	SR	SO	
<i>Rissoa parva</i>		LO	SO
<i>Rissoa interrupta</i>		SR	
<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	LR	SR	SO
<i>Trivia arctica</i>	SO	SO	SR
<i>Trivia monacha</i>	SO	LO	
<i>Polinices catena</i>	SO	SR	
<i>Polinices pulchellus</i>	LO	SR	SO
<i>Epitonium clathrus</i>	SR	SR	SF
<i>Ocenebra erinacea</i>	SR	SO	
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	SO	LC	SO
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	LO		LC
<i>Colus jeffreysianus</i>	SR	SR	LC
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	SR		
<i>Hinia incrassata</i>	SO	LO	

<i>Hinia reticulata</i>	SO	SR	LO
<i>Comarmondia gracilis</i>		SR	
<i>Ammonicerina rota</i>		SR	
<i>Brachystomia carrozzai</i>	SR	SR	
<i>Brachystomia scalaris</i>	LO	LR	
<i>Jordaniella truncatula</i>	SR		
<i>Odostomia acuta</i>	SR		
<i>Odostomia plicata</i>		SR	
<i>Odostomia turrita</i>	SR	SR	
<i>Odostomia unidentata</i>	SR	SR	
<i>Noemiamea dolioliformis</i>		SR	
<i>Chrysallida indistincta</i>	SR		
<i>Chrysallida obtusa</i>	SR		
<i>Partulida spiralis</i>	SR	SO	
<i>Turbonilla lactea</i>		SR	SR
<i>Turbonilla acuta</i>			SO
Cephalaspids			
<i>Acteon tornatilis</i>	LC		
<i>Berthella plumula</i>			SO
<i>Philine aperta</i>	SO		SF
<i>Retrusa obtusa</i>	SR		
Nudibranchs			
<i>Polycera quadrilineata</i>		LR	
Pulmonates		SO	
<i>Leucophytia bidentata</i>		SR	
<i>Myosotella denticulata</i>		SR	
<i>Otina ovata</i>			SR
BIVALVES			
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	SO	LA	LA
<i>Modiolarca tumida</i>	SR	LR	
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	SR	LR	LR
<i>Chlamys distorta</i>			SO
<i>Chlamys varia</i>	SR		SO
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>			SR
<i>Anomia ehippium</i>	SR		SR
<i>Pododesmus patelliformis</i>		LO	SR
<i>Thyasira flexuosa</i>			SR
<i>Mysella bidentata</i>	SO		SO
<i>Epilepton clarkei</i>			SR
<i>Kellia suborbicularis</i>		SR	
<i>Lasaea adansoni</i>	SO	LO	SF
<i>Tellimya ferruginosa</i>	SR		SO
<i>Acanthocardia echinata</i>	SC		SF
<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	SF		SF
<i>Mactra stultorum</i>	SC		SF
<i>Spisula solida</i>	LC	SC	SO
<i>Spisula subtruncata</i>	LC		SF
<i>Lutraria lutraria</i>	SC		SO
<i>Solen marginatus</i>			SR
<i>Ensis arcuatus</i>	SR		SO
<i>Ensis ensis</i>	SC		SF

<i>Ensis siliqua</i>	SC		SC
<i>Phaxus pellucidus</i>	SR		SR
<i>Angulus squalidus</i>			SR
<i>Angulus tenuis</i>	LF		LF
<i>Fabulina fabula</i>	SF		LF
<i>Macoma balthica</i>	SO		SR
<i>Donax vittatus</i>	LF		SO
<i>Pharus legumen</i>	LF		SF
<i>Gari fervensis</i>			SO
<i>Abra alba</i>	SO		SO
<i>Scrobicularia plana</i>	SR		SR
<i>Arctica islandica</i>			SO
<i>Circomphalus casina</i>	SR		SR
<i>Chamelea gallina</i>	LF		LF
<i>Tapes decussatus</i>			LF
<i>Venerupis senegalensis</i>	SO	LR	SR
<i>Dosinia exoleta</i>	SO		
<i>Mysia undata</i>			SO
<i>Mya truncata</i>			SO
<i>Corbula gibba</i>	SO		SF
<i>Hiatella arctica</i>		LO	SF
<i>Barnea candida</i>	SR	SR	SR
<i>Barnea parva</i>			SR
<i>Thracea phaseolina</i>	SR		SO
<i>Thracea villosiuscula</i>			SO
CEPHALOPODS			
<i>Sepia officinalis</i>	SC	SO	SO