

REPRINTS FROM AMU NEWS BULLETIN AND ANNUAL REPORT

VARIATION IN MESODON FERRISSI PILSBRY. -- BY ALAN SOLEM. (Reprinted from American Malacological Union News Bulletin and Annual Report, 1954, p. 2).

As part of a long range study of ecological variation in land mollusca, the author has made a preliminary survey of conchometric variation in *Mesodon ferrisi* (Pilsbry) and summarized the historical records and known ecology of the species.

Preliminary conclusions are that the limiting factor of distribution is moisture and that differences in spire height between specimens found on Clingman's Dome (6600') and at the base of the Chimneys (2800') are statistically significant (means were more than 3 standard deviations apart) and probably are associated with the greater chances of desiccation at the lower level, necessitating retreat deep into rock piles. Under such conditions, low spire would have selection value. Whether the adaptation is genotypic or phenotypic is unknown.

Mr. Solem's paper was accompanied by kodachrome slides showing charts of collecting stations, the general topography of the area and the snails being collected in their natural habitat. Morrison: "I wonder if they range from beneath the stones at night. Did you collect at night?" Solem: "No." Bequaert: "It would be interesting to try collecting by sugaring the trees in the area; snails often are so taken when trees are sugared for moths." Jacobson: "Do they look like any other species?" Solem: "Not really; once you start collecting them you couldn't mistake them." Bequaert: "It is dangerous to take statistics from a number of collections; how many did you use?" Solem: "I studied our collection at Ann Arbor, then at the Academy of Natural Sciences and MCZ - only three or four." Bequaert: "Do you know what proportion of the specimens were taken alive?" Pilsbry: "We got all of ours alive." Solem: "In that area it is much easier to find live than dead shells."

PILSBRY AND BRUNSON ON MAGNIPELTA MYCOPHAGA. -- HENRY A. PILSBRY. (Reprinted from American Malacological Union News Bulletin and Annual Report, 1954, p. 4).

In 1948 Dr. Pilsbry received a young specimen of a remarkable slug from near Lolo Pass in the Bitter Root mountains of Idaho. Shortly after publication as a new genus and species (*Nautilus* 67: 37-8, 1953), Prof. R. B. Brunson of the University of Montana collected a large number of these slugs on Deer Creek near Missoula, Montana. Complete details will soon be published.

Dr. Pilsbry showed slides of the anatomy of the slug and explained its taxonomic position. Photographs of the active animal and a contracted one were passed around while detailed information on its habitat was read from Dr. Brunson's notes.

Teare: "Was there color to the mucus? Did the collector take a smear?" Pilsbry: "He didn't say; I didn't see the live specimen myself."