



The Shell-bourse of the Club Conchylia and regulations on the trade of protected species

The last annual seashell shows of the Club Conchylia have been a great success. It very well deserves its status as an International Shell Convention: by the number of participants, the different nationalities, and the quality and variety of shells exhibited.

While most dealers restricted their offerings to shells, there were some that had various objects foreign to conchology for sale: reptile skulls, turtle shells, dried fish, shark jaws, stone-corals and sea fans! Most of these items are illegal to trade, for others there may be certificates allowing the sale, but a question came to mind: what impression would an unbiased person get from seeing such items on sale at our shell-bourse? Having skeletons and bodies, or other products, of species protected by law at our shell shows draws a bad light on the Club Conchylia and the attitude of its members and the shell dealers admitted to the bourses.

The board of our Club wishes to express a request to dealers who wish to participate at our bourses, which is not to display any of the following at their tables:

- 1) no living vertebrates or products made from them**
- 2) no carvings from bones, horns, teeth, or antlers, no matter if taken from living or fossil animals.**
- 3) no species that are protected by any law that applies in Germany should be offered openly, even if a CITES certificate is available, to avoid misunderstandings (see list below).**

The Club Conchylia hopes that all dealers attending the German show will respect these guidelines.

The wildlife trade is indeed highly regulated, and subject to increasing restrictions. Some 35.000 animal and plant species are already listed including some seashells. Penalties and fines can be heavy.

Germany, like 181 other countries, signed the Washington Convention, officially named "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora", and better known by its acronym "CITES". Animals and plants it protects are enrolled in three appendices submitted to different regime, they are called appendices A, B and C. Moreover, in line with CITES, the EU has developed its own legal arsenal. The following laws apply to all dealing with shells in Germany:

WA 1 = Washington Act (Appendix A)
WA 2 = Washington Act (Appendix B)
WA 3 = Washington Act (Appendix C)
FFH 2-5 = Fauna and Flora Habitats Directive (Appendices 2-5), p = priority species
BE 2 = Convention of Bern (Appendix 2)
BE 3 = Convention of Bern (Appendix 3)
BAV = Bundesartenschutzverordnung (BAV! = strictly protected)
* = in BAV, applies to German Populations
*med.= in BE or BAV, applies to populations from the Mediterranean Sea

At first sight, it seems that there is little cause for concern to the vast majority of collectors. They are not responsible for the depletion of the species mentioned above. Giant clams and conch are displayed in touristic shops and served in the tropical gastronomy (even cooking recipes can be found on the internet). Land and freshwater snails are victims of the degradation of their environment. As for freshwater mussels in North America, it is pollutions and the pearl button industry that sealed fate of these.

CITES regulations are not strictly enforced in the case of molluscs. Tolerance (3 kg of giant clams per person) is granted even by EU customs. In various sub-governed countries, no limit is imposed, and permits and certificates will sometimes be delivered with complacency. We find giant clams on "Le Bon Coin" and *Papustyla pulcherrima* appears on eBay from time to time. Customs officers have much more to do with the bird, reptiles, mammals and butterflies traffickers than with shell-lovers. Therefore, our community should refrain from adding these items to the selection offered on our bourses. The environmental groups and the governments reduce their acceptance of the taking of wildlife for recreational purposes. We need to recognize this and to adapt to it.

Our Club Conchylia is a non-profit organization recognized as of benefit to the public. We cannot afford to create an atmosphere of doubt on our bourses, which is exactly what the unbiased visitor gets when seeing reptiles, corals, and similar things potentially protected offered for sale.

Our task should be to inform the public and collectors, and to do educational work favouring the use of internet, and address young amateurs tempted to join our ranks. So that they will be given the opportunity to join us in peace, knowing that the shell collectors have much latitude to indulge their passion without any fear of being called "bioterrorists", and have clean hands in the misfortunes of biodiversity as long as they know and respect the law.

The following list of species protected by law effective in Germany was adopted from the website of the Haus der Natur, Cismar (<http://www.hausdernatur.de>), where a comprehensive list with additional explanations can be found. All of the following is meant as a guideline, not as a legally binding expertise.

Bivalves

Family Mytilidae *Lithophaga lithopaga* FFH 4, BE 2*med.

Family Pinnidae *Pinna nobilis* FFH 4; *Pinna pernula* (= *rudis*) BE 2*med., BAV*med.

Family Dreissenidae *Congeria kusceri* FFH 2, FFH 4

Family Tridacnidae Tridacnidae (all species), including the genus *Hippopus* WA 2

Family Unionidae from the USA

Conradilla caelata WA 1; *Cyprogenia aberti* WA 2; *Dromus dromas* WA 1; *Epioblasma curtisi* WA 1; *E. florentina* WA 1; *E. sampsoni* WA 1; *E. sulcata perobliqua* WA 1; *E. torulosa gubernaculum* WA 1; *E. torulosa rangiana* WA 2; *E. torulosa torulosa* WA 1; *E. turgidula* WA 1; *E. walkeri* WA 1; *Fusconaia cuneolus* WA 1; *F. edgariana* WA 1; *F. subrotunda* WA 2; *Lampsilis brevicula* WA 2; *L. higginsi* WA 1; *L. orbiculata orbiculata* WA 1; *L. satura* WA 1; *L. virescens* WA 1; *Lexingtonia dolabelloides* WA 2; *Plethobasus cicatricosus* WA 1; *P. cooperianus* WA 1; *P. clava* WA 2 BAV; *P. plenum* WA 1; *Potamilus capax* WA 1; *Quadrula intermedia* WA 1; *Q. sparsa* WA 1; *Toxolasma cylindrella* WA 1; *Unio nickliniana* WA 1; *U. tampicoensis tecomatensis* WA 1; *Villosa trabalis* WA 1.

Some of the genus-assignments of the WA are questionable.

Family Unionidae Europe

Anodonta anatina BAV*; *Anodonta cygnea* BAV*; *Microcondylaea compressa* FFH 5, BE 3; *Pseudanodonta complanata* BAV!* (including *Ps. elongata* BAV* and *Ps. middendorffi* BAV*); *Unio crassus* FFH 2, FFH 4, BAV!; *U. elongatulus* (= species complex of *U. mancus*) FFH 5, BE 3; *U. pictorum* BAV*; *U. tumidus* BAV*

Family Margaritiferidae Europe

Margaritifera auricularia (*Pseudunio auricularius*) FFH 4, BE 2; *M. durrovensis* (formerly as a form of *M. margaritifera* from England) FFH 2, FFH 5, *M. margaritifera* BE 3, FFH 2, FFH 5, BAV!*. The species of this group of mussels are difficult to identify.

Family Pholadidae *Pholas dactylus* BE 2*med., BAV*med.

Gastropods

Family Patellidae *Patella feruginea* FFH 4, BE 2*med.; *P. nigra* BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Family Haliotidae *Haliotis midae* WA 3

Family Neritidae *Theodoxus prevostianus* FFH 4; *T. transversalis* FFH 2, FFH 4

Family Trochidae *Gibbula nivosa* FFH 2, FFH 4, BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Fountain Snails *Paladilhia hungarica* FFH 2p, FFH 4p; *Sadleriana pannonica* FFH 2, FFH 4

Family Vermetidae *Dendropoma petraeum* BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Family Strombidae *Strombus gigas* WA 2

Family Cypraeidae from the Mediterranean

Naria spurca spurca BAV*med., BE 2*med.; *Luria lurida lurida* BAV*med., BE 2*med. ;
Schilderia achatidea BAV*med., BE 2*med. ; *Zonaria pyrum pyrum* BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Family Ranellidae from the Mediterranean

Charonia rubicunda (= *C. lampas*, = *C. nodiferum*) BAV*med., BE 2*med.
Charonia "tritonis" (= *C. sequenziae*) *variegata* BAV*med., BE 2*med.
Ranella olearia BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Family Tonnidae *Tonna galea* BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Family Thaididae *Thais lapillus* (= *Nucella lapillus*) BAV* (population from Helgoland)

Family Mitridae *Mitra zonata* BAV*med., BE 2*med.

Family Planorbidae *Anisus vorticulus* FFH 2, FFH 4, BAV!

Family Achatinellidae (Hawaii) genus *Achatinella* (all species) WA 1

Family Vertiginidae *Vertigo angustior*, *V. genesii*, *V. geyeri*, *V. moulinsiana* all FFH 2, BAV!

Family Paryphantidae All species of *Paryphanta* from New Zealand were protected by WA 2, but because of nomenclatorial issues none are listed at the moment.

Family Clausiliidae from Malta

Lampedusa imitatrix (= *Imitatrix imitatrix*) FFH 2; *L. melitensis* FFH 2p, FFH 4p

Family Arionidae *Geomalacus maculosus* FFH 2 ,FFH 4, BE 2

Family Camaenidae *Papustyla* (= *Papuina*) *pulcherrima* (Green Manus Treesnail) WA 2

Family Elonidae *Elona quimperiana* BE 2, FFH 2, FFH 4

Family Hygromiidae *Helicopsis striata austriaca* FFH 2p; *Hygromia kovacsi* FFH 2, FFH 4

Landsnails from Madeira

Caseolus calculus FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *C. commixta* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *C. sphaerula* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *Discula leacockiana* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *D. tabellata* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *D. testudinalis* FFH 4, BE 2; *D. turricula* FFH 4 BE 2; *Discus guerinianus* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *D. defloratus* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *Geomitra moniziana* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *Leiostyla abbreviata* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *L. cassida* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *L. corneocostata* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *L. gibba* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2; *L. lamellosa* FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2

Family Helicidae

Chilostoma banaticum (= *Drobatia banatica*) FFH 2, FFH 4; *Idiomela subplicata* (syn. *Helix subplicata*, only from Madeira) FFH 2, FFH 4, BE 2

German species

Helix aspersa (= *Cornu aspersum*) and *Helix pomatia* FFH 5, BAV* (no restrictions for import and export permits)

Useful links:

Haus der Natur, Cismar: <http://hausdernatur.de/de/home/artenschutz/154-geschuetzte-mollusken>

Washington convention: <https://www.cites.org>

Appendices I, II, III of the Washington convention (CITES list of the protected species): <https://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

European regulation implementation of the Washington convention:
<http://eur-lex.europa/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R1320>

Bern convention : https://www.bfn.de/0302_berner+M52087573ab0.html

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