

TA Pearce and CF Sturm
Section of Mollusks

Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Av, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080

ABSTRACT

Carnegie Institute was founded in 1895; malacology formed a core discipline of Carnegie Museum of Natural History since the start. The mollusk collection has 150 000 catalogued and 24 000 uncatalogued lots. The Section of Mollusks has a full time curator, half-time collection assistant, budget around \$4000, and 25 volunteers.

Collection strengths include terrestrial Gastropoda, Unionoida, Sphaeriidae, and freshwater Gastropoda, particularly of eastern North America. Collection activities focus on cataloging backlog and new acquisitions. All digitized records are on-line through InvertEBase, representing more than 85% of the collection.

The immense Sterki collection of Sphaeriidae is being reviewed to recover unidentified type lots. After these are segregated to the type cabinet, work will resume on the first ever comprehensive catalog of primary and secondary types in the collection.



Collection storage 1906-2012.

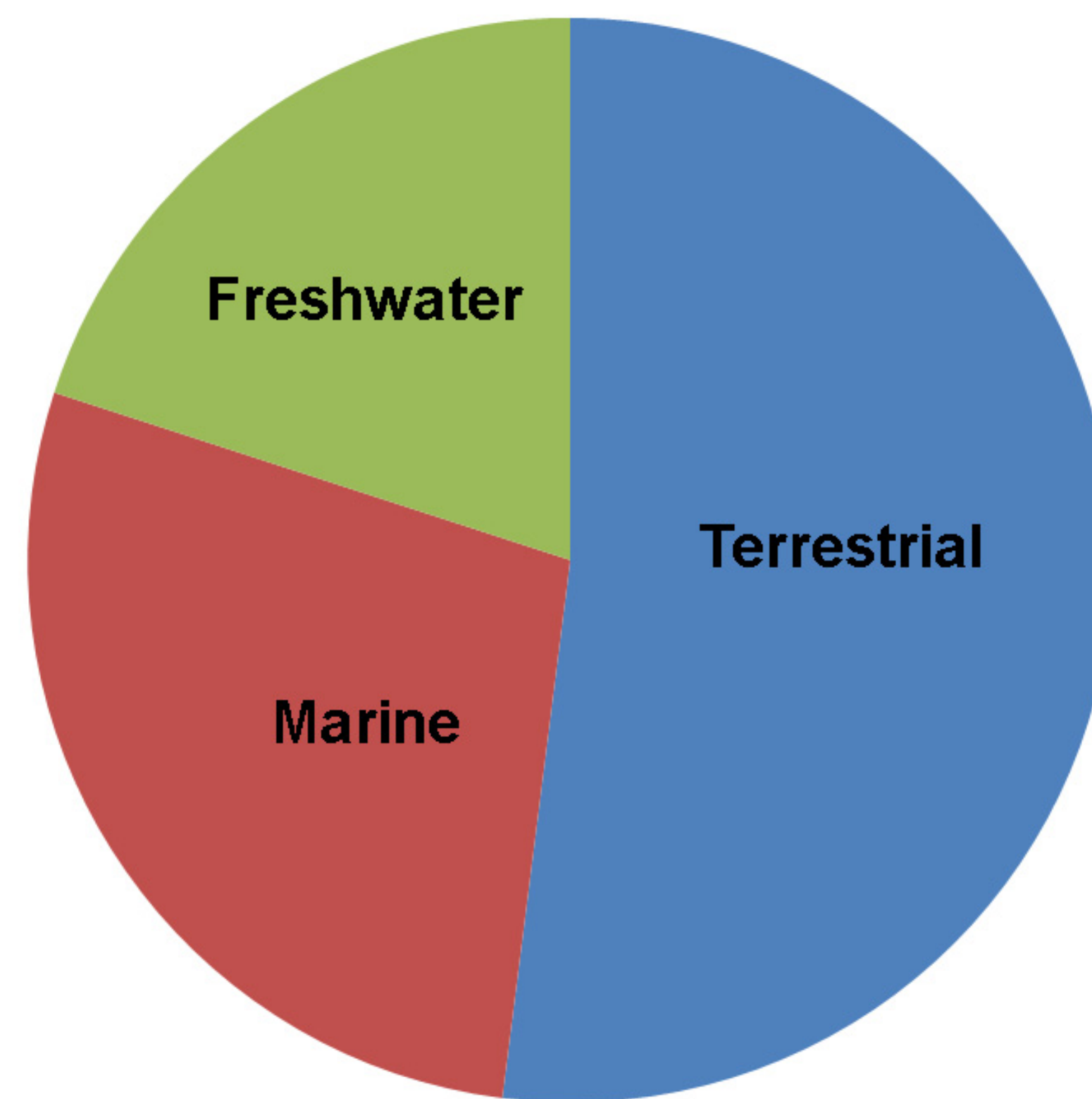


Figure 1 – Proportion by Habitat

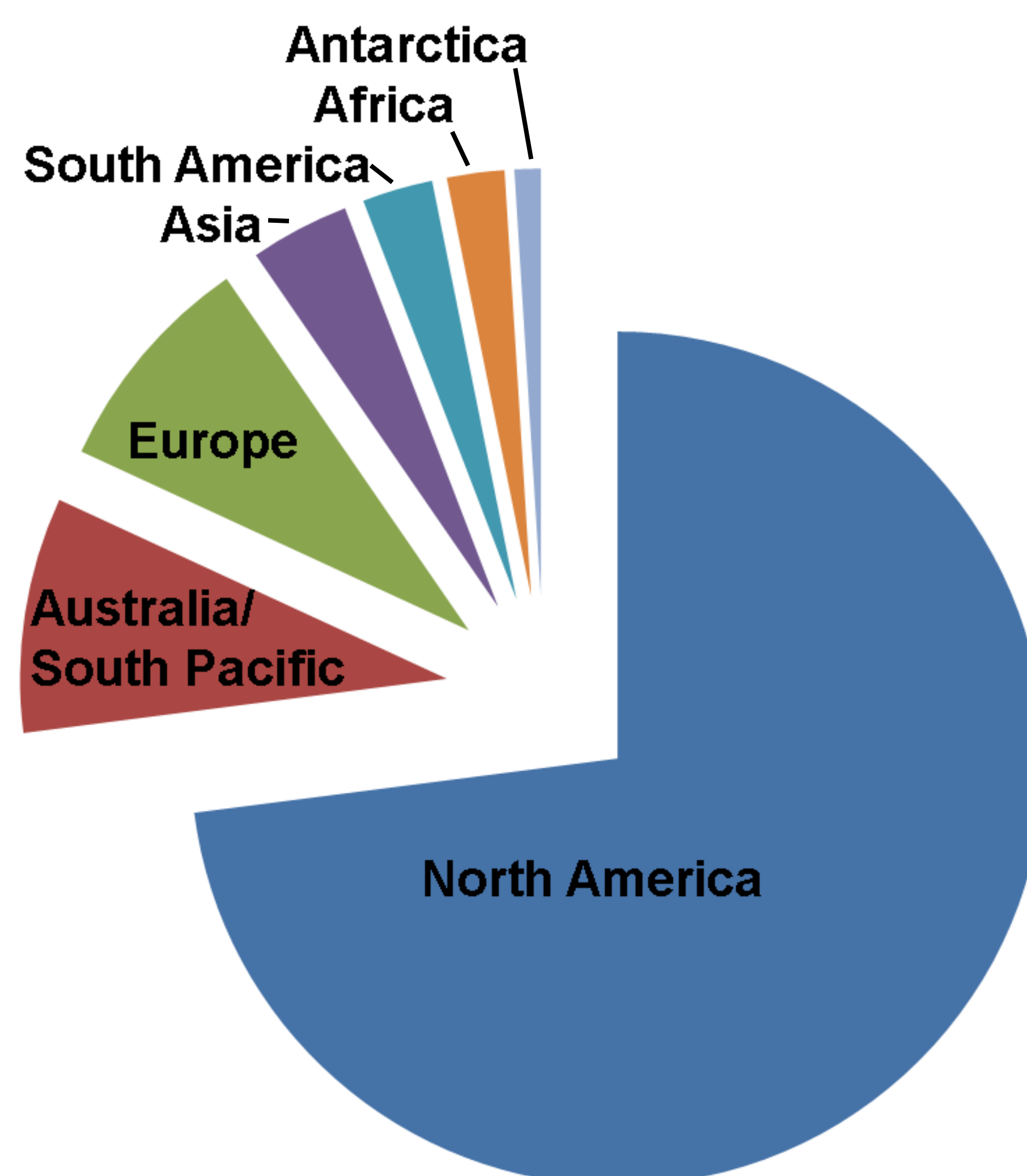


Figure 2 – Proportion by Geographical Region

CURRENT GOALS

- Finish processing backlog
- Digitize uncatalogued lots
- Enhance collection order and taxonomy
- Produce comprehensive type catalog
- Complete Pennsylvania Land Snail survey
- Incorporate Sterki Sphaeriidae (pill clams)
 - Catalog ca 12 000 lots
 - Resolve type specimens



Backlog – Wright collection from 1926-1931



Collection storage since 2012.

THE CURATORS OF THE SECTION OF MOLLUSKS

Herbert H. Smith

Tenure: 1895-1903

South American fauna and southeast United States

Arnold E. Ortmann

Tenure: 1903-1927

Appalachian and South American Unionoida

Stanley T. Brooks

Tenure; (1927) 1929 – 1946

Terrestrial gastropods of Pennsylvania, Kansas, non-marine fauna of Newfoundland

Gordon Kutchka MacMillan

Tenure: 1946-1951

Gastropods of West Virginia, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, and Nebraska

Juan Jose Parodiz

Tenure: 1952-1982 (1982-2007 emeritus)

Unionoida of North and South America, terrestrial gastropods of South America, Tertiary fauna of SA

Timothy A. Pearce

Tenure: 2002-

Terrestrial gastropods of North America, Kurile Islands, Madagascar, Turkey, and Colombia

THE COLLECTION

The mollusk collection of Carnegie Museum is composed of specimens from all habitats and is worldwide in scope. It contains 174 000 lots.

Terrestrial mollusks have the greatest representation in the collection (Figure 1), followed by marine and freshwater mollusks. The freshwater fauna is particularly strong in freshwater gastropods and unionids of eastern North America and the Sphaeriidae of North America (16 000 lots).

The majority of the Carnegie Collection is from North America (Figure 2). Australia/South Pacific and Europe are also well represented.

The type collection numbers some 2000 lots, of which 1400 are primary and 600 are secondary types.

Our alcohol collection includes 5800 lots, the majority is from North America.

Of the cataloged lots, 30 000 are georeferenced.

The library contains 995 books and runs of 42 journals. Books include monographs by Martini and Chemnitz, Sowerby, Reeve, and Kiener. The reprint collection numbers over 7600 reprints.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

In 2012 the section of Mollusks moved from a space where it had been for 106 years, to a new collection space. Although the new space had less floor space, we increased specimen storage by narrowing the aisles. Nevertheless, with continued collection acquisition, we anticipate that we will need additional space in the near future.

For most of the history of the Section of Mollusks, the curator has been the sole full time employee. The lack of a collection manager has limited the curator's ability to carry on a full-time research agenda. Adding a Collection Manager to the section personnel would be highly advantageous.

Future activities include photographing the type specimens.

Come and visit our collection!