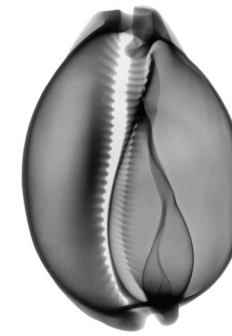




Map Cowrie
Leporicypraea mappa



Acknowledgment

I am deeply grateful to Ricci Racela for her beautiful photography and artistic layout skills. She has spent countless hours and late nights. I owe the entire look and feel of this book to her. Without her energy and support the book would not have been possible. I want to thank Dr. David Quemada for sharing my passion of shells and for creating the poems that help give an emotional context that otherwise would have been missing.

My collection of Philippine Shells was initiated with the guidance of Mr. Fernando Dayrit, foremost conchologist in the Philippines. My interest in creating the radiologic prints was bolstered by the encouragement of Doug Freed of the State Fair Community College who first exhibited the collection, and Hugh Merrill of the Print Department of the Kansas City Art Institute. To my colleagues and the many radiologic technologists who assisted me in taking the X-ray films, I thank you. And to Gary Sutton and the late Richard Loftis who helped me transform the X-ray films to digital images, my respect and gratitude. The assistance of biologist and renowned conchologist of Conchology Inc., Cebu, Philippines, Sheila P. Tagaro, is also appreciated. Dr. Tagaro, who updated this collection to modern nomenclatural standards, was instrumental in the publication of four volumes of Philippine Marine Mollusks Shells of the Philippines under the guidance of Guido T. Poppe. These historical bibliographic tools are in all important taxonomic libraries worldwide.

And I owe profound gratitude to Marichi, Jerry, Taylor and Amelia Smith for the loving care of this collection and their support of me and my pursuits. The ammonite is part of Taylor Smith's collection. My thanks go to Michael Bonahan who helped edit the content of this book.

And most of all, my eternal gratitude goes to my wife, Luz Salonga Racela, M.D., for loving and supporting me these past 50 years and encouraging me to pursue my passion for Philippine Shells.

The Racela Educational and Charitable Foundation funded the publication of this book. Hopefully it will generate support for its Exhibit Programs and for the Medical Missions and Medical Clinic for the Homeless in Kansas City that the Foundation supports.

Antonio Sambrano Racela Jr., M.D.



Turitella terebra

FOREWORD

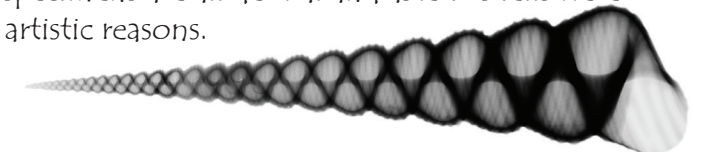
I became fascinated with shells as a child living near the ocean in the Philippines. Growing up poor, shell collecting was an accessible hobby for a young boy. My interest in shells grew with my means and an extensive collection exclusively of Philippine shells followed throughout my life.

Because of my professional background, I pondered the internal spiral structure of shells found only in glimpses of shell fragments. A one-of-a-kind collection of X-ray images of shells evolved.

My collaborators are shell enthusiasts as well. Photographer and artist Ricci Racela grew up with the collection. Her intimate knowledge of the shells informed her dramatic capture of their inherent beauty. Dave Quemada, a fellow shell collector, noted poet, writer, and critic expresses his passion for shells with the enfolded poems. This is a natural collaboration of scientific, artistic and literary talents brought together in honor of the beauty of seashells and land snails.

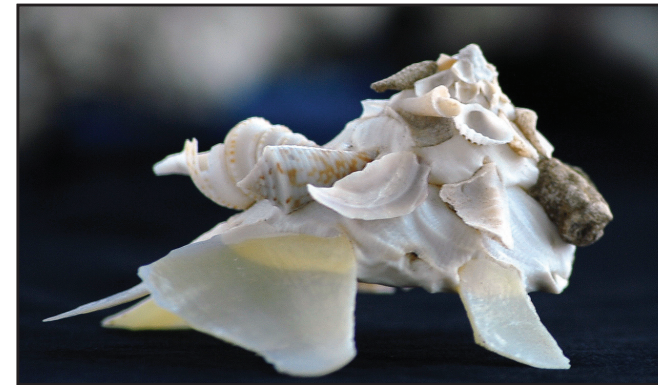
I am sure you will find that seashells and land snails from the Philippines are some of the most beautiful in the world. I am proud to share these natural treasures from my native country.

Note: The specimens are all dextral and asterix shells were flipped for artistic reasons.





Shell Collector
Xenophora pallidula
West Leyte



Shell Collectors