

A shallow dive into molluscan behavior

- John Lugthart

- I. Introduction to Molluscs
 - a. Defining structural characteristics
 - b. Brief peek at mollusc taxonomy

- II. Reproductive behavior of freshwater mussels
 - it takes a village (or at least a fish) to raise a mussel!

- III. Predator avoidance in marine & freshwater gastropods – multiple strategies
 - a. Marine nudibranchs – making due without a shell with help from nasty chemicals, stolen weaponry, and by strutting their stuff ... “*Go ahead, make my day.*”
 - b. Freshwater snails – making due with a wimpy shell but a love of climbing – *When the going gets tough, get out of the water!*
 - Predator Avoidance by the Freshwater Snail *Physella virgata* in Response to the Crayfish *Procambarus simulans* (Alexander & Covich 1991)

- IV. The wonders of cephalopod behaviors!
 - a. Brief introduction to the cephalopods
 - b. Nautilus – a much diminished ancient group still hanging on to their external shell
 - c. Predator avoidance without an external shell – squid, octopuses, and cuttlefish --- “*Well, something’s lost and something’s gained in living everyday...*” – Joni Mitchell
 - d. Those brilliant octopuses – learning by watching!
 - Observational Learning in *Octopus vulgaris* (Fiorito & Scotto 1992)
 - e. Camouflaged cuttlefish: Don’t mind me, I’m not here.

Articles:

Alexander JE Jr, Covich, AP (1991) Predator Avoidance by the Freshwater Snail *Physella virgata* in Response to the Crayfish *Procambarus simulans*. *Oecologia* 87:435-442

Fiorito G, Scotto, P (1992) Observational Learning in *Octopus vulgaris*. *Science* 256: 545-546.