

# La Conchiglia

The Shell

Happy 2000



## *Tropidophora cuvieriana*: Rediscovered alive!

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These may be the first photographs of a living specimen of the elusive *Tropidophora cuvieriana* Petit, taken at our home in Buseck, Germany. This interesting prosobranch land snail was for a long time thought to be extinct. It was rediscovered in an area near Ankarana, northern Madagascar and given to us for study by Bruno Briano. Note the bilobate proboscis, and the foot being split into two parts. The snail searches for a tight hold with the one lobe while moving the other one forward. This behavior gives the impression that the snail is “walking”. As in most proso-





branch snails, there is a horny operculum and the eyes are situated at the base of the tentacles, and not at the end of them, as in the Pulmonata.

The animal is not very shy but rather hard to keep, as it feeds exclusively on lichens.

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