Preface

Any comprehensive research has at least two main goals: to generalize the main results of investigations conducted since last analogous work (in this case — the admirable monograph by Dr. Adolf Zilch, 1959-1960), and to give some fresh impetus for next researches. Besides, in the course of preparation of this book I have got some new ideas on the phylogeny of various groups; these ideas will be discussed in the concluding part.

I tried to examine personally as many type species of genera (subgenera) as possible; otherwise I used illustrations and/or descriptions from original or later publications. In total, type species (or, at least, similar to type species) of about 2600 taxa of genus group are described and illustrated in the book; the figures of more than 2000 shells are original. As concerns anatomical drawings, there are altogether over 800 figures; about 450 of them are based on my own dissections.

In systematic and phylogenetic parts I have used traditional both conchological and anatomical characters, except radular ones: on the one hand, because of numerous cases of convergence in radular teeth shape in many unrelated taxa, and, on the other hand, because of no less numerous cases when species of the same families have quite different shape of radular teeth (in particular, in Chondrinidae, Clausiliidae, endodontoid, helicoid and helicarionoid taxa, carnivorous pulmonates, etc.) (see Gittenberger, 1973; Likharev, 1962; Schileyko, 1972d; Solem, 1973c, 1974, 1976, 1982; Solem & Van Goethem, 1974, and many others).

Indeed, a book of this kind could not be written without cooperation with numerous colleagues and institutions who helped me in countless ways — starting from invitations to come and assistance in my work with collections, and ending by financial support. Some problems of taxonomy and phylogeny were discussed with many colleagues, particularly with Dr. George Davis, Dr. Edmund Gittenberger, Dr. Folco Giusti, Dr. Walter Miller, Dr. Igor Muratov, Dr. Barry Roth, Dr. Alan Solem, Dr. Yaroslav Starobogatov, Dr. Andrzej Wiktor. In addition, I managed to collect some very interesting material in and Southwest of the United States due to efforts of my friends Dr. Eric Hochberg, Dr. Walter Miller and Dr. James Hoffman, and in Alps owing to friendly assistance of colleagues from Austria and Switzerland (Drs. Anette, Bruno, and Martin Bairs, Dr. Trudi Meier, Dr. Helmut Sattmann, Margarete and Ludwig Sattmanns, Drs. Hans, Maedi, and Renate Kothbauer, Dr. Olivier Paget, Dr. Karl Edlinger, Dr. Helmut Baminger, Dr. Ilse Wenger, Dr. Anita Eschner, Dr. Gabrielle Baumgartner and many others). Dr. George Davis supported my visiting the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Dr. Edmund Gittenberger helped me to come and to examine the very rich collection of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum in Leiden. Dr. Mary Seddon kindly invited me to work with collection of the National Museum of Wales and to collect some material in Wales. Dr. Philippe Bouchet helped me to visit the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, to study the collection of this Museum and to collect mollusks in environs of Paris; in this work the assistance of Dr. Theodor Ripken was priceless. Dr. Trudi Meier, Prof. Dr. Bruno Baur, and Dr. Ives Finet gave me a lucky possibility to work in museums of Switzerland. Dr. Andrey Kuznetsov has gathered a vast collection and kindly permitted me to use it. Dr. Hiroshi Minato kindly sent me a number of Japanese Clausiliidae. Dr. Dmitri Ivanov, Dr. Yuri Kantor and Dr. Alexander Sysoev did their utmost to improve the text and prepared the book for publication. The stuff of my laboratory (Laboratory of soil zoology and experimental entomology of A.N. Severtsov Institute of Problems of Evolution), and its head — Dr. Bella Striganova — kindly gave me a possibility to spend most of my time for writing of this book. I am deeply obliged to all of them.