



**Winner of the 2005 American Microscopical Society
Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Prize
for Excellence in Photomicrography
Grayscale division**

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Love darts of land snails. Scanning electron photomicrographs of cross-sections and side views of love darts are shown for *Xerarionta kellettii* (top left), *Leptaxis erubescens* (top right), *Cepaea hortensis* (bottom left), and *Monachoides vicinus* (bottom right). Many species of land snails possess one or more so-called love darts, which are usually forcefully stabbed through the skin of the mating partner before sperm transfer. In *Helix aspersa*, an allohormone delivered by the dart inhibits digestion of sperm, and therefore enhances storage of sperm and hence paternity; that this manipulation causes a sexual conflict is supported by the antagonistic co-evolution between love darts and spermatophore-receiving organs across different land snail species. (Photos were taken during collaborations with H. Schulenburg, N.K. Michiels and J. Lange, and I.V. Muratov.)

**Details of 2006 competition, for AMS/SICB meeting in Orlando, at
www.amicros.org. Bring your favorite images to enter!**