ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Omry Barzilai, Israel Hershkovitz, Ofer Marder, and the entire Manot excavations team, as well as Ofer Bar-Yosef, Anna Belfer-Cohen, and Liliane Meignen along with the Kebara excavations team for allowing me to study shells from these excavations. I also wish to thank Henk K. Mienis (The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University) for assistance with shell identification. Aaron Stutz (Oxford College of Emory University) and Liv Nils-son Stutz provided information on Mughr el-Hamamh. J.L. Phillips allowed me to study the shells from Abu Noshra I. Thanks to Marco Peresani (Univeristy of Ferrara) and Fabio Negrino (University of Genoa) for consultations regarding shells in sites in Italy. Yehuda Enzel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) consulted on geological matters. Tsila Sagiv (Israel Antiquities Authority) photographed shells from Manot Cave. Oz Rittner (The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University) is thanked for photography and layout of Figures 1 and 2. Finally, I am grateful to Don Henry and to two anonymous reviewers for their useful comments on an earlier draft.