TABLE III.—Whole/Equivalent Ratio per species for various excavations.

Species	Excavation YW9A/6 W/E	Excavation YW11/1 W/E	Test Pits YW9A/3 & YW9A/5 W/E
Polynices sordidus	0.97		
Notocypraea augustata	0.95	0.67	0.33
Austrosuccinea australis	0.84	0.93	0.81
Operculum	0.79	0.78	0.77
Poneroplax costata	0.76	0.46	0.83
Austrocochlea adelaidae	0.73		
Velacumantis australis	0.59		
Ostrea angasi	0.48		1.00
Cellana tramoserica	0.41	0.36	0.54
Scutus antipodes	0.40		0
Dicathais textilosa	0.29	0.10	0.13
Austrocochlea constricta	0.23	0.05	0.16
Notohaliotis ruber	0.23		0.50
Plebidonax deltoides	0.16		
Subninella undulata	0.13	0.15	0.06
Cabestana spengleri	0.12		
Brachidontes rostratus	0.02	0.43	
Mytilus planulatus	neg.		0
Overall Ratio	0.54	0.49	0.59

Conclusions

It has been demonstrated that wind action moves and fragments shells contained in prehistoric middens. Destruction, however, may also result from human and animal activity, and from chemical decomposition.

Speed (1967: 87) showed quantitatively that there were differences in the degree of fragmentation of mollusca in different layers of an excavation in the Bonteberg Shelter in South Africa. She suggested that the actual composition of the deposit and intensity of occupation are major factors in determining the degree of fragmentation.

It is argued that future quantitative analysis of shell material will need to take into account the probability that differential shell fragmentation has occurred since the midden in question was formed.

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