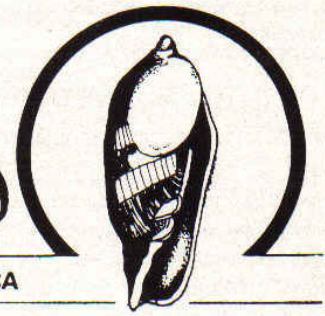


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 180

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

1976

A NOTE ON ONITHOCHITON LITERATUS KRAUSS

By E. K. GILES

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Animal elongate, sides parallel, shell arched; strong broken growth grooves around outer margins of all valves; sculpture of dorsal-pleural area covered with numerous deep longitudinal and diagonal grooves. These grooves in the lateral areas are broken and irregular. The sculpture of the head valve consists of a series of large irregular and very angular, flattened grains, which in the main follow the concentric growth grooves. These, almost blocks of flattened sculpture, are, in places, joined across the concentric growth grooves; those furthest from the girdle are still more irregular and vermiform.

GIRDLE: Under a pocket lens, brown and felty, under high magnification seen to be densely covered with short, stout, rather blunt spicules.

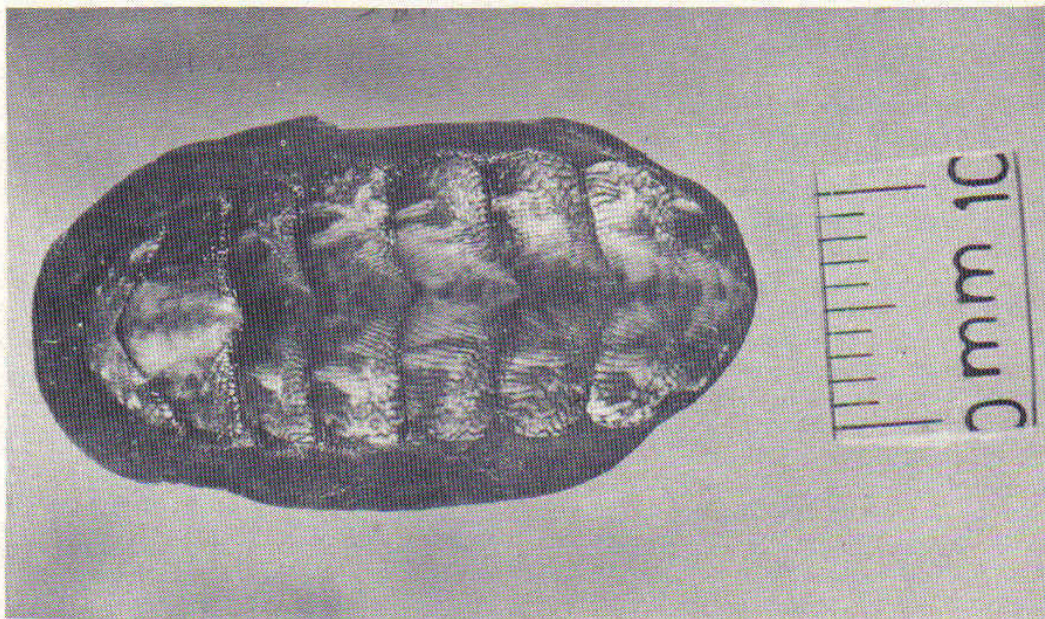
COLOURING: Ashby described specimen – “ground colour is dark and the sculpture several shades of lighter brown”. The University of Cape Town specimens are rusty red with white areas laterally. Barnard mentions a Xora (Transkei Coast) specimen as being mottled crimson. My two

specimens, although not identical in colouring, are mainly olive-green with square spots, almost running together on some valves, down the centre, and lateral white splashes or streaks irregularly placed. Ashby adds this note – “One almost perfect example, measuring 35 x 20 mm is broadly banded down the centre with bright chestnut and beautifully mottled on either side with cream markings arranged in a sort of scalloped pattern”. Though the colouring varies it is bright and clear, and the irregularly grooved and ribbed sculpture is distinctive.

The above description is condensed from Ashby's monograph.

REFERENCE: Ashby, E. 1931. Monograph of the South African Polyplacophora (Chitons). Ann. S. Afr. Mus. 30: 1-59.

(Editor's Note: The two specimens found by Mrs Giles were collected at Reunion Rocks, Natal. The South African range is from Xora (Transkei Coast) northwards through Natal (Barnard 1963).



Onithochiton literatus

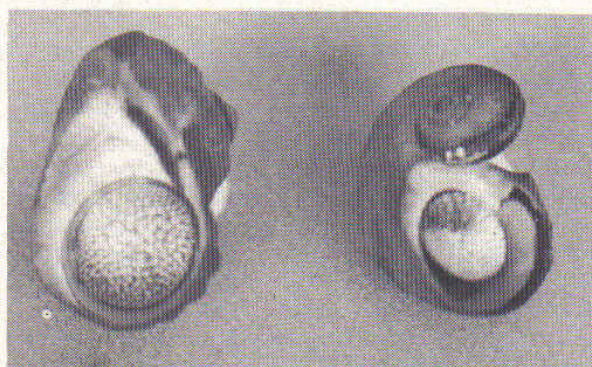
A FREAK TURBO FROM HAGA HAGA

By H. SLINGERLAND

My wife and I travelled for ten days along the coast during March in order to collect shells. After visiting Jeffrey's Bay, Port Alfred, Gonubie and Yellow Sands, our last day was spent at Haga Haga and it was here that we found a specimen of *Turbo sarmaticus* which we at first thought to be sinistral.

The tide was very low and the water clear. We saw the shell in about 10 cm of water, behind a rock ledge about 40 metres from the beach along with two normal specimens.

It has since been ascertained that the shell is not sinistral but subscalariform, that is, the whorls are partially uncoiled. All in all the last morning of our trip was well spent.



Turbo sarmaticus

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1976

Founded in May 1958 by Leila Kerr, with Prof. J.H. Day as President and twenty-four members, the object of the Society was established as:—

—“The object of the Society shall be to promote the study of mollusca in general and those of South Africa in particular”.

In its early days the Society was supported and encouraged by Prof. Day and members of the University of Cape Town staff, and by Dr K.H. Barnard and members of the South African Museum staff. They gave advice and instructive talks, identified shells and wrote articles for the Circulars. Prof. Day also compiled Special Publications — on the S.A. Chitons and the False Bay Check List.

This support and encouragement continued as the Society grew and is still available and appreciated today.

At the Annual General Meeting some years ago Prof. Day pointed out that ‘there is a real need for people to help the professionals in the field of conchology and biology of mollusca. The Museums and Universities are doing as much as their limited resources and man-power allow, but they are really only scratching the surface; there is so much still to be discovered about the mollusca of South Africa’.

At the 1971 Annual General Meeting Mr Freeman referred to this and asked all members ‘to look intelligently at our living mollusca, to record honestly and accurately what they saw and to pass on the information to those qualified to use it, since if enough people accumulate even

small quantities of facts, the sum total can add up to a substantial amount of information’.

If you were to read through the Circulars published from the beginning of the Society, you would see that members in all parts of the country have been doing just this — reporting on shells found, making lists (some of which have been published, and others put in the library), noting extensions of range and giving shells to Universities and Museums. Apart from doing field work for Dr Barnard, Mrs Connolly early began to build up a Reference Collection which we are trying, slowly, to mount suitably. Today some members, notably in the Transvaal, are engaged on more advanced work — making comprehensive studies of various families, extracting and describing radulae and even keeping tanks in order to study the habits of some species. At least one Group is busy on a project to list all the molluscs living on their part of the coast. Divers, especially in Natal, have found rare and even new species, while fairly rare and new species have been found among the rocks and on the beaches by diligent searchers. In recent years too, articles and line drawings of a very high standard have been in the Circulars and Strandlopers, and in the latter, more recently, good photographs have been included.

In all these ways members have been carrying out the object of the Society — furthering the knowledge of S.A. mollusca.

Next year the Royal Society of South Africa will celebrate its centenary, and a book is to be published on its history. There is to be a chapter on the work and value of the amateur societies, and it gives me much pleasure to tell you that our Society is included in this chapter; this recognition proves that the Society is endeavouring with some success to carry out its declared objective — ‘to promote the study of mollusca . . . of Southern Africa in particular’. It is also an encouragement to us all to continue our work in all the ways open to us.

*We would welcome any article of interest to
Shell Collectors for future publication.*

A NOTE ON *CYMBIUM SOULIEI* MARCHE-MARCHAD, 1974

By PHILLIP W. CLOVER

For a hundred and fifty years this shell has been known as a form of *Cymbium cymbium* and is illustrated in Sowerby (Broderip, W.S. in G.B. Sowerby, 1826 — Genera of recent and fossil shells. 28: 220–222, fig 8). It was not until the 1970's, however, that it was recognised as a new species.

I had specimens as early as 1972 collected whilst on a trip to the Ivory Coast but did not learn till late 1975 that it had been named in an obscure French publication (Bulletin del'L F,AN.T. XXXVI Ser A, No. 1. 1974). It is named in honour of Professor Soulie, a past director of an institute in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Cymbium souliei is trawled in deep water and ranges in size from 60 – 90 mm.

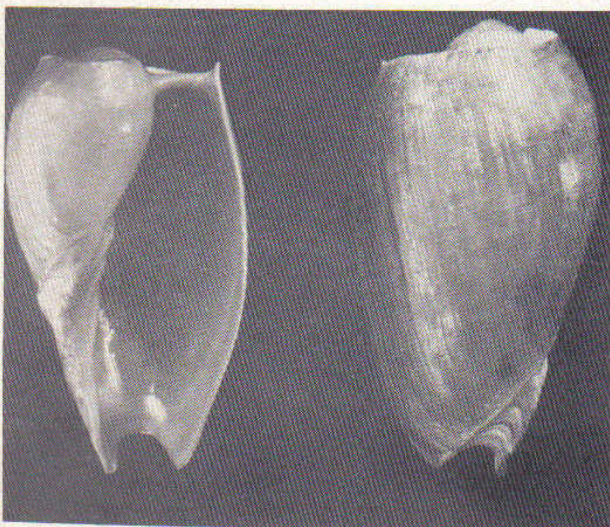
AROUND THE GROUPS

PIETERMARITZBURG: At our August meeting our Chairman, Mr Kilburn, gave us a very interesting talk on the Pectens, and a number of different types of this family were passed around for members to examine. It is really surprising what one can learn about what so many call the common shells.

EAST LONDON: With apologies from two members we had a good turnout at our August meeting, there being ten members and four visitors present. Mrs Lentz gave an interesting talk on the Strombus she had found at Mauritius, explaining in detail how the animals were extracted and the shells cleaned. Michael Els read notes written by Mrs Palmer on Strombus while she displayed the shells. Michael also displayed some good *Cypraea edentula*, *C. capensis*, *C. amphithales*, a very fresh dead *C. alfredensis*, live taken *Marginella piperata* and three very good *Phenocovolva labroguttata*. Peter Berndt displayed shells found at Cape St. Francis, two *Cypraea fuscudentata* (one live taken and the other very fresh dead with the animal still inside) and some cones.

DURBAN: Our July meeting was perhaps one of the most rewarding as far as study is concerned. The talk Bernie Young had prepared made us realise that there is a lot of homework necessary before one can really say that the names of parts of a shell are really understood. At a future meeting we hope to have a much more detailed discussion on the anatomy of the shell. As you are all probably aware, we are now officially into spring – the time of the year when everything takes on a new lease of life and starts to grow and flourish. This year our Group has been keeping pace with Mother Nature and has also sprung into a new phase of activity. We have at long last made a start on our repeatedly discussed ambition – the staging of a Shell Show. Much activity has been taking place behind the scenes and we have high hopes for a successful exhibition in January in Durban.

PORT ELIZABETH: At our August meeting Fred Graeve reported briefly on the Hobbies Fair held from 5th to 10th July at the Feathermarket Hall. A small band of faithful members had put a lot of effort into our exhibition which seemed to have made a good impression on the public. Twenty people signed forms showing interest in the Society but, judging from previous experience, it cannot be expected that this will yield many new members. Mr Wooldridge then gave a very interesting lecture and slide show on his trip on the French Marine exploration vessel



Cymbium souliei

“M. Dufresne”. The trip had started at Reunion where investigations had been carried out at the Madagascar Reef, Marion Island, the Croezet Island and Kerguelen. After tea the family Conidae was discussed. With apologies from four, only five members and one visitor attended our September meeting. The field day held on 29th July was briefly discussed and although only five members had attended they had been lucky in finding a number of different species living under the rocks. The families Eratoidae and Ovulidae were then discussed. The new names of the Volva's were noted and the differences between the six local species of Trivia explained.

PRETORIA: At our August meeting the passing away of Jack Polack, a senior member of the Johannesburg Group, was noted with sincere sympathy. It was noted that the Didacta building was available for the Shell Show on 5th and 6th November. Laurie Smith handed in his entry form of ten exhibits – the first entry, we hope many more will follow. The Chairman informed the meeting that a motion was put forward at a recent symposium for a ban to be placed on the live collecting of all *Charonia lampas pustulata*, *Conidae* and *Cypraeidae* along our coasts and that more sea reserves should be established. The family Fasciolaridae was then fully discussed.

Daar was sestien lede en besoekers by ons September vergadering. Adv Mullan neem waar as Voorsitter in die afwesigheid van Mnr Smith. Die Skilpskou is verder bespreek. Die lessing wat deur Laurie Smith voorberei is, word deur Adv Mullan voorgeleer, naamlik ‘The role of Zoological Gardens in the saving of rare animals’.

CAPE TOWN: Our August meeting took the form of the Annual General Meeting of the Society. After the business had been disposed of Dr Branch, of the University of Cape Town, gave a very interesting talk on “The Beginnings of Shells”. He spoke about the spawning, the development and hatching of the eggs, and the shell at the free swimming veliger stage.

INTERTIDAL TALK

It was with deep regret and shock that we learnt of the sudden death of Jack Polack of Johannesburg, and we would like to take this chance of extending to Mrs Marie Polack our deepest sympathy. Jack joined the Society in 1967 and has been an avid collector since. We first met him in 1972 and will always remember him for his contributions to our Circulars. Every year without fail he wrote a report on his shell collecting holidays for the benefit of all members. He was in fact in the process of writing another report on his last trip at the time of his death and Mrs Polack has very kindly finished this off and forwarded it to us for publication. We hope to have it ready for printing in the next issue.

We read with interest the report in the Pretoria August meeting minutes that a motion had been put forward at a recent symposium for a ban to be placed on the live collecting of *Charonia lampas pustulata*, all cones and all cowries, and that more sea reserves should be established. In a local morning newspaper of Tuesday, 28th September appeared a report to the effect that the False Bay Conservation Society has recommended that the whole of False Bay, the 1100 sq. km. area from Cape Point to Cape Hanglip, be proclaimed a national marine park and that four areas in False Bay, Muizenberg, Roman Rock (off Simons-town), Smitswinkel Bay and Steenbras River Mouth, be declared marine sanctuaries where all fish and sea life will

(Continued on page 4)

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

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Vice-President	Mrs M.C. Giles
Secretary/Librarian	Mrs R.O. Carlsson
Treasurer/Editor	Mr R.O. Carlsson
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Natal	Mr J. Scheepers
Border	Mrs L. Lentz
Eastern Cape	Dr A. McLachlan

All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary:
The Conchological Society of Southern Africa,
P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450, Cape, South Africa.

Entrance Fee is R1,00, with a yearly subscription of R4,00. The Financial year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the 30th June of that financial year.

Members who are full-time students at an Educational Institution in South Africa may join as Student Members on payment of an annual subscription of R2,00. No Entrance Fee is payable in respect of Student Membership.

The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper, is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:—

Cape Town	Secretary: Mrs R.O. Carlsson, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450. Telephone: 53-1536
Port Elizabeth:	Secretary: Mr F. Graeve, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6056. Telephone 4-5744.
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Pretoria:	Secretary: Mrs. A. Wilson, 283 Silver Street, Muckleneuk 0002. Telephone: 44-4495

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Display adverts from dealers — R5,00 per column inch.

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The Society accepts no responsibility for any transaction arising from advertisements published in good faith.

INTERTIDAL TALK — (Continued from page 3)

be protected. The Society has always urged its members to practice conservation and these recommendations are welcomed, however, it is hoped that we will shortly be able to publish an article telling us the necessity for and what is hoped to be achieved by the establishment of such reserves and ban on the live collecting of certain species.

CHANGES TO JANUARY 1976 MEMBERSHIP LISTS

NEW MEMBERS:

- S Master D.I. Taylor, 19 Primula Road, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg 3201.
S Mr P.L. van der Walt, P.O. Box 70195, Bryanston 2021
Mrs S. Watson, P.O. Bettys Bay 7141
Mrs K. Wildemann, 2 Olsson Road, Vikingvale, Port Elizabeth 6001.
Prof. A.C. Brown, Zoology Dept., University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700.
Prof. J.J. Rippey, P.O. Box 1038, Johannesburg 2000
Mrs J.J. Rippey, P.O. Box 1038, Johannesburg 2000.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 1975 Mrs F. Stäger, c/o family Le Clair, 33 Avenue Cogels, OSY-2600, Berchem, Antwerp, Belgium (formerly Eastern Cape).
1969 Mrs L. Lentz, 34 Main Road, Gonubie 5256.
1971 Mrs P. Beuster, P.O. Box 17197, Congella 4013.
1968 Mrs V. Armstrong, c/o Mr A. Horrmann, P.O. Box 297, East London 5200.
1974 Mr P.J.J. Young, 42 Paige Place, Portsmouth Road, Pinetown 3600.
1974 Mrs P.J.J. Young, 42 Paige Place, Portsmouth Road, Pinetown 3600
1974 Mrs C.M. Watters, 1006 Cape Marina, Bude Street, Summerstrand 6001.

RESIGNATIONS:

- Dr P.H. Boshoff, Port Alfred.
Mr O. Griffiths, Australia.

DECEASED:

- Mr J.A. Polack, Johannesburg.

EXCHANGE WANTED:

- Mr M. Fascio, 6 Spin Street, Rosebank, Cape 7700. Would like to contact collectors with the view to exchanging cowries.
Mr J.H. Boyle, Jr., 10010, 108 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta, Canada T8L 2J6. Would like to exchange shells.
Mrs E.A. Petrikin, 6301, 31st Terrace North, St. Petersburg,, Florida 33710, U.S.A. Would like to exchange live taken shells in good condition.
Mr D. Boust, B.P. 882, Port Vila, New Hebrides. Would like to exchange good condition shells with serious collectors.
Mrs R. Blevins, 1119 E, Coronado Road, Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. 85006. Would like to exchange shells with members.
Mr D.L. Pelton, 926 C. Street, San Diego, Ca. 92101, U.S.A. Would like to exchange shells.

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