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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 22.

JUNE, 1961.

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MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 20th June at 8.15 p.m. Bring along a selection of your favourite world-wide shells for display. Mrs. Mary Kuttel will give a short talk on her recent trip to Port Nolloth, and Dr. Talbot will give a short tape-recording of underwater animal noises. We hope to show a film too.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:-

MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM 16.5.1961.

Apologies were received from Dr. Talbot and Mr. & Mrs. J. Ackermann. Mr. C. Swaneveld was in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The following members were elected:-

Mrs. R.C. Moore, P.O. Box 1574, Cape Town.
Mrs. Y.M. Petrie, P.O. Box 1574, Cape Town.
Mr. F. Hulme, P.O. Box 1574, Cape Town.

<u>Proposed Members:</u>	<u>Proposed by:</u>	<u>Seconded by:</u>
Mrs. J.A. Sterling	D. Ackermann	L. Kerr
Miss E. Ackermann	D. Ackermann	L. Kerr
Miss P. Ward	L. Kerr	J. Walker

It was agreed that there would be a field day at Sunnycove on 31st May, and local members would be notified.

Mr. Dirk Ackermann then gave a short address, particularly for the benefit of Junior members and beginners, on how to keep and display a collection. He emphasised that a collection should be well preserved and well displayed. Films on Dirk Ackermann's shell collection and Fossils were then shown.

Christopher Walker and Penny Ismay, the two Junior prize-winners had their exhibits on display and were interviewed and photographed by the Press. The bivalves on display by members were much admired, especially the beautiful Pectens and Spondylus brought by Miss Peggy Kempthorne.

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The Treasurer respectfully reminds Members that our financial year ends on 30th June, and that the subscriptions for the period ending 30th June, 1962 are now due.

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Your Secretary will be away on leave from June 9th so the July issue may be delayed.

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With this circular is a list of Library books available to Members together with the Library Rules.

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Mr. E. T. Haywood of Umkomaas advises us in a letter that the Zanzibar Conchological Society is no longer in existence.

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GENERAL NOTES:

LAMELLARIA by K. H. Barnard.

In a note on this genus D. H. Kennelly (1961. Conch. Soc. S. Afr. Circ. 21. Suppl. 6. p. 20) based on literature available to him, stated that with the exception of Tropical America (Panama) "no examples have been reported from tropical regions elsewhere". The wide distribution of the genus, however, includes the west coast of South America, Philippines, East Indies, Seychelles, Mauritius and neighbouring islands. In fact the type locality for L. berghi Deshayes, which the author claims as the correct name for the South African shells, is the island of Re-Union (Bourbon).

Further, Smith reported a shell of L. mauritiana Bergh from Port Elizabeth. This record is unacceptable because the several species of Lamellaria cannot be differentiated on the shell alone. For the same reason berghi is also not acceptable as the name of the South African species.

The radula is the decisive character. On this basis three species occur in South African waters: perspicua Linn., capensis Bergh, (tenera Thiele is probably a synonym) and leptoconcha Bergh. The first two are not uncommon, but the last is, as far as is known, a deep-water species living off Cape Point.

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NOTES ON SOME SOUTH AFRICAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS
"CALLIOSTOMA" by D. H. KENNELLY.

In Circular No. 10 of November, 1959, readers will find the notes I contributed on species of this genus, and the following remarks are an extension thereto.

At the present time any collector making a study of this genus, will discover - as I have - that apparently no recent revision of the specific nomenclature has been attempted. Opinions vary as to the correct name or names to be accepted for South African representatives of "Calliostoma".

During the past twenty years, I have collected dozens and dozens of examples of this genus, mainly for exchange purposes. All these specimens were obtained from three localities:- Port Alfred, Port Elizabeth and Jeffreys Bay.

Correct identification presents some difficulty, because of the difference of opinion among Collectors as to the correct name or names. Further it seems that names given to South African shells, have been based mainly on "Dead" shell characteristics only. I have not been able to find any reference to an examination of the animal.

Our South African shells vary considerably in colour, ranging from plain purple, plain brown from light to dark chestnut, to examples mottled in brown tints varied with slight tinges of white.

In an endeavour to illustrate some of the questions and problems which confront a student of the genus, I append a list of seven species of "Calliostoma", all listed in various publications as South African, with a short note on each.

Calliostoma ornata, Lam. This name, with illustration and description, may be found in the Conchologia Iconica, L. Reeves. Unfortunately I have not access to a copy of this Monograph.

The name "ornata" has been applied to one of our shells for the past fifty to sixty years. In recent years the name seems to have been abandoned, and I have not seen any article published giving the reason. In describing "Calliostoma hedleyi", Fritchard & Gatliffe, 1901, in a recent book, B.C. Cotton states that "C. hedleyi" is not "Trochus ornatus", Lam., (C. ornata) from Port Elizabeth, South Africa. From the description published by Cotton, the Australian shell appears to be very close to our shell. It is evident that, at all events in Australia, the species "C. ornata" is still recognised.

Calliostoma bicingulata, Lam., 1822. Type locality ?

Among the numerous examples I have handled of both "ornata" and "bicingulata", were many intermediate shells. From what I have been able to gather from my own experience, the two species appear to intergrade to a certain extent.

B.C. Cotton states that "C. bicingulata" occurs in Queensland.

Calliostoma farquhari, Sowerby, 1892. 12 m.m. Type locality Port Elizabeth.

In the description Sowerby states that this species is distinguished from "C. fultoni" chiefly by the strong spiral sculpture and the brown maculations. Both species are quoted as 12 m.m. in size.

Calliostoma fultoni, Sowerby, 1889. 12 m.m. Type locality P.E.

Recently in a discussion with a fellow collector, the latter said he considered that "C. fultoni" would prove to be a valid species.

It is not known if Sowerby's type of "fultoni" is an adult, so it would be interesting to have a number of shells of all sizes for comparison. This procedure might reveal that "fultoni" is a juvenile of what has been known as "ornata", provided of course that "ornata" is retained as one of the South African species.

Calliostoma africana, Bartsch, 1915. 12 m.m. Type locality Port Alfred.

Bartsch states in his description, that the ground colour of the type is light brown, with dark brown maculations at the angle of the whorls. In my notes on this species in Circular No. 10 I pointed out that I had collected examples with a purple ground colour, and the dark brown maculations at the angle.

Further both Sowerby's "farquhari" and Bartsch's "africana" are identical in size - 12 m.m. - and as the descriptions are rather similar it would not be surprising if "africana" proves to be a synonym of "farquhari".

Calliostoma eucosmia, Bartsch, 1915, 20 m.m. Type locality Port Alfred.

The identification of this shell has been a stumbling block to most collectors, ever since the publication of the description. According to Turton, the main feature distinguishing this species from others listed as South African, is the greater number of ridges on the base.

The only other remark I have seen in print, is from Dr. Barnard.

Dr. Barnard remarks that "eucosmia" is a species variable in colour, which occurs all round our coast, being common from the Cape to East London.

Calliostoma albolineata, Turton, 1932, 11 m.m. Type locality Port Alfred.

This species has given rise to much discussion among collectors.

Turton states having seen other examples at the British Museum, one of which measured 15 m.m. Examples are scarce, for I have so far found one only at Jeffreys Bay - size 15 m.m. The opinion has been expressed that "albolineata" specimens are merely beach worn shells. My specimen appears to be a fresh "dead" example, and I hope to discover more in due time for comparison.

In compiling these notes, it is possible that I have unwittingly trespassed upon investigations already made - or in progress - by some other member. Should this be the case, I tender my regret, and in extenuation of my action, will add that to date I have not seen any article published which deals in detail with South African species of "Calliostoma".

I hope that such a paper will be published in the near future, which would clear up the obvious tangle of specific names.

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 B.C.Cotton, 1959.

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