

The Strandloper

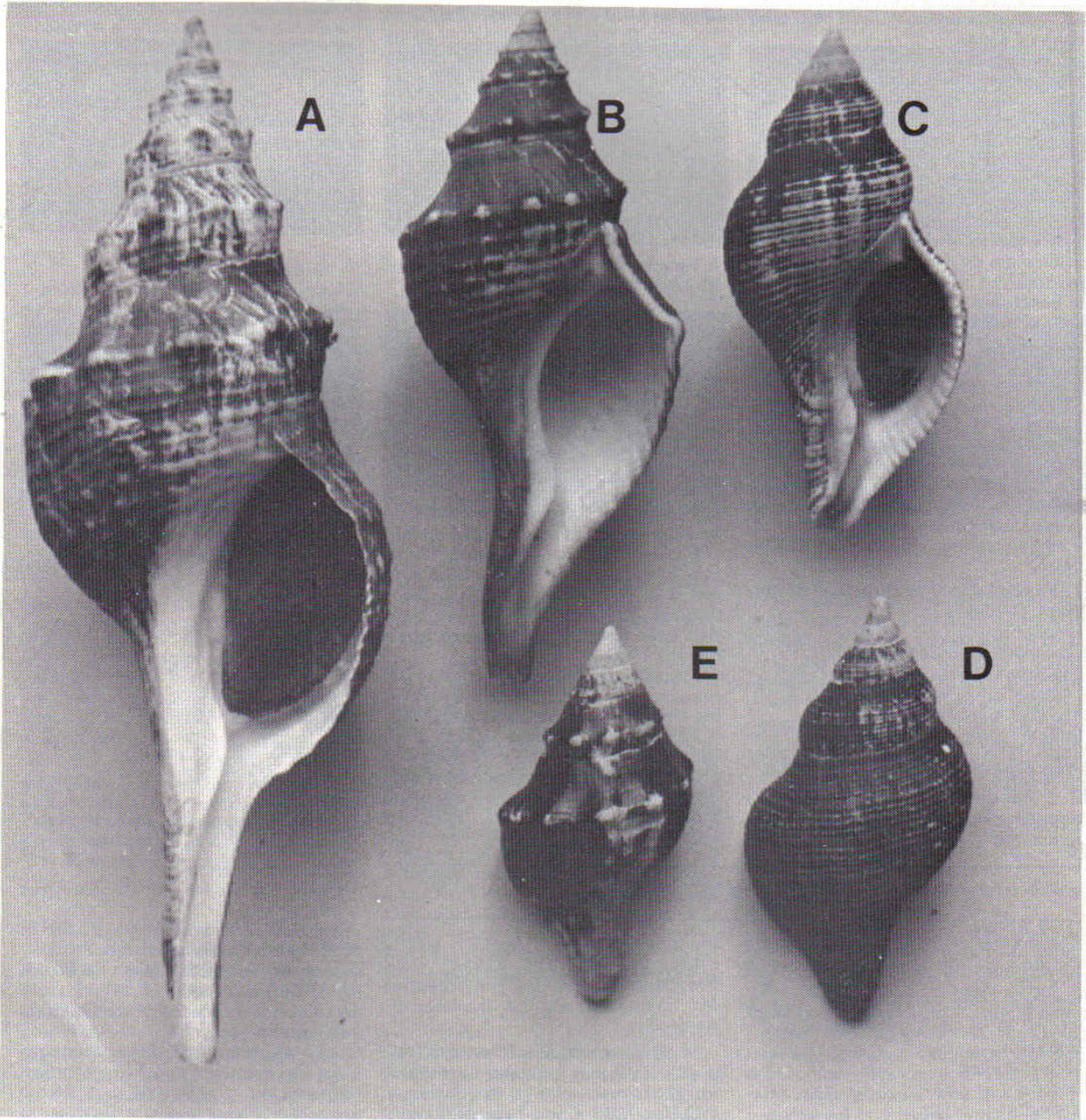
BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 210

OCTOBER 1982

Page 1



A. *Fasciolaria scholvi* Streb, 1912
B. *Fasciolaria lugubris heyne*manni var. *strebeli* Fulton, 1930
C & D. *Fasciolaria lugubris heyne*manni Dunker, 1871
(Specimens shown life size)

TULIPS AND SPINDLES

Nothing could look less like a tulip than a shell of the genus **Fasciolaria**, and yet that is the sort of English vernacular name with which some misguided "shell collectors" as opposed to conchologists clutter up the literature. For some reason, the more appropriate name, spindle, is applied to the similar and closely related genera **Fusus** and **Fusinus**, which have tall spires counterbalanced by long siphonal canals.

The two genera, **Fasciolaria** and **Fusinus** are represented in South Africa by several species which tend to be easily confused at first sight. In researching the literature for this article we found that the references in the Annals of the Natal Museum by Kilburn, and the Annals of the S.A. Museum by Barnard were contradictory and confusing. It was therefore with some relief that we have found a much more simplified explanation of the relationships between the forms/species of **Fasciolaria lugubris**, **heyneimanni** and **scholvieni** in Dr Kilburn's new book, *Sea Shells of Southern Africa* (1982), and we are using this new analysis in support of the photograph.

In a later article we will be illustrating some examples of **Fusinus**.

In discussing the relationship of the three species in 1974, Kilburn pointed out that Barnard (1959) had erred in treating both **lugubris** and **heyneimanni** as synonyms of **scholvieni**. Up to that time the classification was as follows:

1. **Fasciolaria (Pleuroploca) scholvieni** Strebels, 1912

synonyms:

Fasciolaria scholvieni Strebels, 1912
Fasciolaria alfredensis Bartch, 1915
Fasciolaria agulhasensis Tomlin, 1915
Fasciolaria lugubris Reeve
 (misinterpretations by Barnard, 1959)
Fasciolaria heyneimanni Dunker
 (misinterpretation by Barnard, 1959)

2. **Fasciolaria (Pleuroploca) heyneimanni** Dunker, 1871

synonyms:

Fasciolaria purpurea (variety) Jonas; Dunker, 1867

Fasciolaria heyneimanni Dunker, 1871
Fasciolaria dunkeri Strebels, 1912
Fasciolaria strebeli Fulton, 1930

Subsequent examination has shown that the range of **Fasciolaria lugubris** Reeve, 1847 overlaps with that of **heyneimanni** and that they hybridise in that area so that the latter cannot strictly be considered as more than a subspecies of the former.

We therefore have the revised status whereby **scholvieni** remain as set out in 1. above (except for Barnard's erroneous inclusion of **lugubris** and **heyneimanni**) and the substitution of the following for item 2:

3. **Fasciolaria lugubris lugubris** (Reeve, 1847)

4. **Fasciolaria lugubris heyneimanni** (Dunker, 1871) (New Status)

The characters to look at when comparing the species are the comparative length of the aperture, spire and siphonal canal. As can be seen from the photograph, **Fasciolaria lugubris heyneimanni** occurs in two forms, and the longer deep water form has probably been confused with **F. scholvieni**.

F. lugubris lugubris is found from St Helena Bay to False Bay where it lives among fairly exposed rocks at the bottom of the shore and down to about 6 metres.

F. lugubris heyneimanni occurs from False Bay to the Transkei and does not live intertidally except at Cape Agulhas. Its deep water form (see photo) has been given the name **strebeli** Fulton, 1930.

In sorting out the confusion for us, Dr Kilburn has, however, sounded a warning and to quote from his book (1982): "Unfortunately the type figure of **F. lugubris lugubris** shows a shell with probably hybrid characters and it may prove necessary to introduce the name **Fasciolaria badia** Krauss, 1848 in its stead".

NOTICE OF A.G.M.

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held this year on the second Monday of November 1982, i.e. November 8th. Office bearers must be elected to fill the following posts:

President
 Vice-President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Five ordinary members

Our President, Professor Branch, is willing to hold office for a further term,

but nominations are required for the other positions. The existing Vice-President, Mr Freeman, and Treasurer, Mr Seha, will not be available for re-election.

Members are therefore requested as a matter of urgency to submit nominations for all the vacancies to the Secretary, P O Box 1200, Cape Town 8000. First obtain confirmation from your nominee that he or she will be prepared to accept nomination.

Subscriptions for year ending 1983

Fees for the new financial year are now due, and accounts are enclosed with this issue. For your information we are quoting the full schedule of fees at present in force for the various levels of membership. The equivalent in U.S. Dollars which we have listed allows for the exchange rate currently in operation and could well change in due course. It also takes bank charges into account.

1. Entrance Fee

An entrance fee of R2.00 (USA \$3.00) is payable by all applicants except Student members.

Where a husband and wife join, only one entrance fee is payable.

2. Subscriptions

(Note: The financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June)

- Ordinary members receiving the Strandloper: R8.00 per annum.
- Ordinary members NOT receiving the Strandloper. (This will apply to husbands and wives of Ordinary members receiving the Strandloper): R2.00 per annum.
- Corresponding Members, i.e. those members not resident within the Republic of South Africa or in the Rand monetary area: R8.00 per annum or USA \$9.00 per annum.
- Student members: R5.00 per annum.

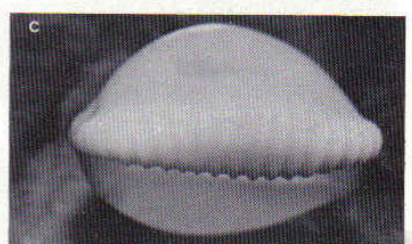
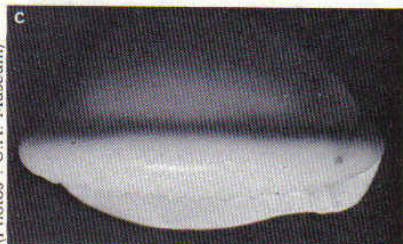
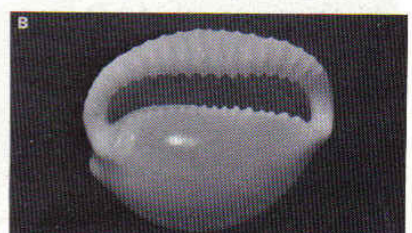
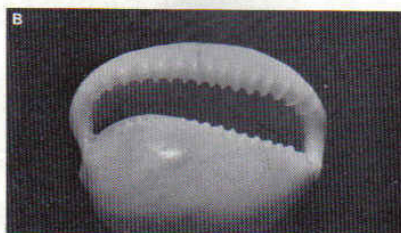
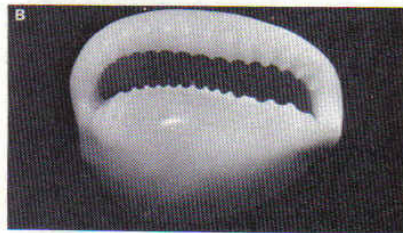
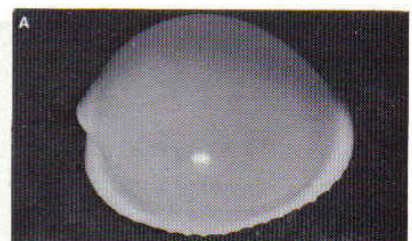
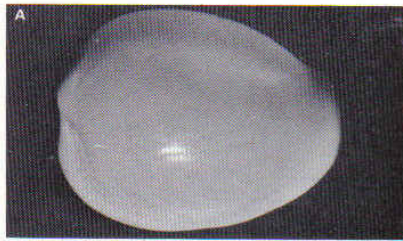
Note: one-half the above subscriptions are payable if the applicant is accepted between January and March inclusive.

Applications received after March are treated as being effective from July, and a full fee is payable, to carry membership through to June of the following year.

Optional airmail rates are available for corresponding members, **in addition to** the fees mentioned above:

North & South America R5.50 or US\$6.00 per annum.
 Britain & Europe R4.50 or US\$5.00 per annum.
 Australia & New Zealand R5.50 or US\$6.00 per annum.
 Far East & Pacific Isles R6.50 or US\$7.00 per annum.
 Countries in Africa R4.50 or US\$5.00 per annum.

We expect to hold the present fees at the existing levels at least until the end of 1982. Any increase in overseas airmail rates may force us to review the overseas tariffs in which case members will be notified through the medium of the Strandloper.



Photos: S.A. Museum

Trivia ovulata

Trivia millardi

Trivia verhoefi

THREE TRIVIA SPECIES

Notes by Victor Millard on three similar species of the genus **Trivia** from South Africa:

The Linnean Society of London published a paper by Gosliner and Liltved of the S.A. Museum, Cape Town, in which they describe a new species, **Trivia verhoefi** and explain the differences separating the three species:

- Trivia ovulata** (Lamarck, 1811)
- Trivia millardi** (Cate, 1979)
- Trivia verhoefi** Gosliner & Liltved, 1981

I find it almost impossible to differentiate between **millardi** and **verhoefi** on the basis of the shell features alone, but according to the paper the species are very different. There is in fact only one consistent conchological feature that separates **verhoefi** from **millardi** and **ovulata** and that is that **verhoefi** has a weakly developed fossula, i.e. a shallow but distinct groove on the columellar side of the aperture. It is also a lot rarer than the other two. The descriptions are as follows:

- 1. Trivia olulata** (Lamarck, 1811)
- Galeatrivia ovulata** (Lamarck, 1811) Cate, 1979 : 15

Size: up to 22mm length
Colour: white to rose pink
Description: The denticulate labrum has 12 to 15 teeth. The labral teeth taper or disappear near the middle of the width of the labrum. There is a strong columella with 14 to 15 broad teeth. On the posterior 1 to 3 of the columella teeth possess lateral extensions along the body whorl of the shell. The fossula is strongly formed and undulate, with or without denticles. The spire is barely extended or moderately elevated. The aperture is broad, widest at the anterior. There are both male and female animals.
Distribution: False Bay to Cape Morgan

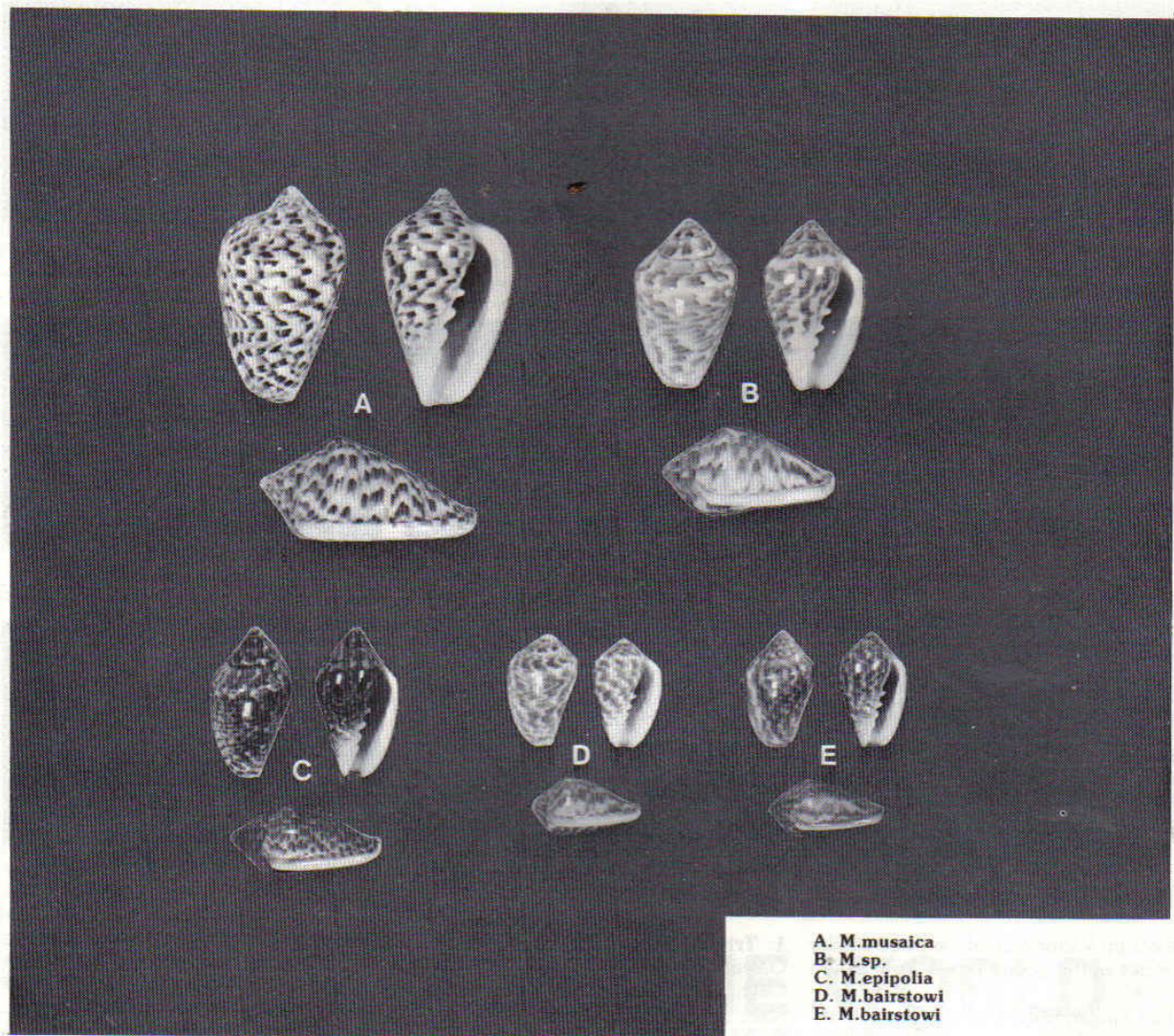
- 2. Trivia millardi** (Cate, 1979)
- Galeatrivia millardi** Cate, 1979 : 15-16

Size: 19,1 to 20,2mm
Colour: white with a smooth glossy surface
Description: An inflated, globose shell. The labrum contains 12 to 16 teeth,

these usually taper near the middle of the width and rarely remain prominent throughout. The columella has 13 to 18 teeth rarely extended to the body whorl. The fossula is strong and undulating and is with or without denticles. The spire can be barely visible or moderately elevated. The aperture is broad, and widest at the anterior. The animal is hermaphrodite.
Distribution: Saldanha Bay to Cape Point

- 3. Trivia verhoefi** Gosliner and Liltved, 1981

Size: 14,9 to 17,8mm
Colour: white, the shell is smooth and globose
Description: The labrum has 15 to 16 prominent teeth which remain strong across the entire width, the columella has 17 to 19 teeth. The anterior and two or three posterior teeth may extend along the body whorl for a few mm. The fossula is weakly developed with or without denticles. The spire may be slightly or moderately elevated with the aperture being broad and widest anteriorly. The animals are male or female.
Distribution: West coast of the Cape Peninsula.



A. *M. musaica*
 B. *M. sp.*
 C. *M. epipolia*
 D. *M. bairstowi*
 E. *M. bairstowi*

Marginella Complexities

by W.R. Liltved
 Cape Town

This article reviews the relationships between *Marginella mozaica*, *bairstowi*, *epipolia* and an as yet undescribed form which might prove to be a distinct species. An examination of these three, or possibly four Marginellid species of similar shell shape and colour is overdue, because the existing literature is not very helpful and this easily confused group has for a long time caused much pain to conchologists. *Marginella bairstowi* has been thought to be a dwarf form of *M. mozaica*; *Marginella "species"* has been identified as a dwarf form of *M. nebulosa* and has also been confused with *M. epipolia* and *M. bairstowi*.

The accompanying map indicates that the species under discussion are all found between False Bay and East London. The one referred to as *Marginella "species"* is not necessarily restricted to False Bay, but the specimens discussed have been found in the areas shown.

Marginella mozaica Sowerby, 1846
 size 21mm - 34mm
 Jeffrey's Bay to East London, down to 106m depth.

This is the largest of the four species discussed. The shell is broadly biconical, shoulder strong and labrum very thick, tapering anteriorly. The aperture is large and the columella has four pleats. Protoconch large and rounded. Ground colour creamy white with evenly spaced horizontal bands of dark green rec-

tangular dashes crossing the shell's surface longitudinally, staggered in pattern as bricks are laid in a wall, forming a chevron-like pattern. Paler flames zig-zag behind this pattern across the white background.

Not having seen the live animal, I have not been able to illustrate the external anatomical characters.

Marginella bairstowi Sowerby, 1886
 size 14mm - 17mm
 Knysna to East London, down to 46m depth.

Shell biconical, shoulder strong, labrum not as thick as that of *M. mozaica*. The labrum is also notched at the posterior end and compressed laterally against the body whorl, as in *M. epipolia* and *M. "species"*. Aperture

narrower than in *M. mozaica*. There are four columella pleats. The ground colour is creamy white, and is covered in a pattern similar to, but much denser than that of *M. mozaica*. It is again chevron-like and dark olive green in colour.

Two living specimens observed from Knysna and Plettenberg Bay showed the animals to be comparatively inactive and shy, as apposed to the hyperkinetic movement of the living *Marginella epipolia* and *M. species*. The foot, when fully extended, hardly protrudes from under the shell (see illustration). The ground colour of the animal is translucent white, covered with opaque white patches. The entire foot is then stippled with small red dots. The siphon and tentacles are transparent, and covered in red dots, lines and white dots. The tip of the siphon is white. The siphon is thick, short, and recurved. The tentacles are quite long, but more blunt than those of *M. epipolia* or *M. species*. Eyes black. Mantle characteristics not observed.

Marginella species

size 18mm - 25mm

As yet recorded from False Bay only.

There remains a large distribution gap between *Marginella species*, and *M. bairstowi* to which it is most similar. Please refer to the map.

Marginella species was first seen during dredging operations in the Simonstown harbour area some years ago, when a living specimen was well as a number of deteriorated shells were pumped onto a nearby beach. These shells have been variously referred to as *Marginella epipolia*, *M. bairstowi*, a dwarf form of *M. nebulosa*, as well as other weird and wonderful things.

The record of *M. bairstowi* from False Bay (vide Strandloper No 206) is therefore doubtful due to the above confusion.

The shell is basically very similar in shape to *Marginella bairstowi* but slightly less angular and with more rotund whorls. Spire stepped and longer than *M. bairstowi*. In keeping with the rotundity of the whorls, the labrum is also more bowed than that of *M. bairstowi* but both have the posterior notch and laterally compressed section, and there are also four pleats on the columella.

The edge of the anterior siphonal canal is recurved as in *M. epipolia* and *M. bairstowi* whereas this does not occur with *M. mozaica*.

The ground colour is creamy white, covered in a design of rhomboid and cylindrical streaks of greenish-blue colour, arranged at oblique angles across the whorls, in a pattern similar to, but less closely-knit than that of *M. bairstowi*.

The foot is extremely expansive, fleshy, translucent white, covered with

white streaks and blotches. Less commonly, an individual may show also red stippling on the dorsal side of the foot and on the tentacles and siphon but in either case the semi-transparent mantle bears only opaque white blotches. The specimen figured in our drawing is the more common white coloured variety. When fully extended, the siphon is extremely long and straight, but recurved at the tip. The tentacles are long and slender, pointed at the tip. Siphon and tentacles are both normally white but less commonly have the additional red stippling as well as the normal white spots.

As *Marginella bairstowi* and *M. species* do not appear to have radulae, more live material of *M. bairstowi* is needed for examination to establish whether they are two distinct species. In this case, as a simple comparison of the radulae is not possible, a more detailed examination of the internal morphology must be made when more material is available. Only then will we be able to establish the status of *M. species*.

Marginella epipolia Tomlin, 1921

size 16mm - 25mm

Cape St Blaize to Jeffrey's Bay, down to 54 metres

Marginella epipolia, most rarely seen species of those being discussed, is known from fewer than ten specimens as far as I know. The holotype is in the National Museum of Wales and a topotype in the S.A. Museum in Cape Town. The lack of material available for study until recently has prevented any definite conclusions as to its true status. It has been suggested to be a Western Cape form or subspecies of *M. bairstowi* (ref. Kilburn 1977 and 1982).

The following is Tomlin's original description of *M. epipolia* and some of the characteristics described are not totally consistent:

"... (whilst) *Marginella bairstowi* has exactly the shouldered body-whorl and general build of *M. mozaica* in miniature, *M. epipolia* has a much longer spire, and the shouldering is almost obsolete. The shell is highly polished, whitish; whorls 5 1/2, body-whorl with twelve interrupted grey lines, traces of other subsidiary lines, and a good deal of irregular greyish shading; there are on the grey lines much darker spots at regular intervals. The periphery and suture is covered with grey flame-shaped axial markings. The penultimate and antepenultimate whorls have the white band immediately above the suture and the same arrangement of flame-shaped markings above. Protoconch yellowish; columella with four plaits."

The following characters have been observed from a specimen recovered at 35m depth at Mossel Bay.

Foot expansive, translucent grey dorsally and cream coloured ventrally, covered in an array of shades and pattern of large opaque white patches sparsely scattered over its surface. The anterior half of the foot is speckled with small red dots while the posterior half has fewer red dots but these are surrounded in white. The edge of the foot is bordered with triangular white patches. The siphon is long and sharply recurved, and its ground colour is white, heavily stippled from its base with red dots which mingle with white dots half-way along its length. Tip white. The tentacles are white, very straight, tapered and pointed. Eyes black. Mantle characteristics not recorded.

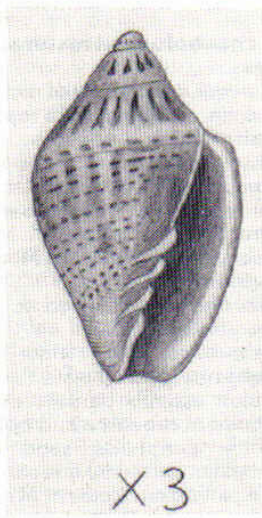
Some conchological features of the species:

1. Anterior siphonal canal recurved at the tip in *Marginella epipolia*, *bairstowi* and *species*.
2. Posterior labial notch and laterally compressed posterior end of labrum in *epipolia*, *bairstowi* and *species*.
3. Labrum more bowed in *M. sp* than in *bairstowi*.
4. Whorls more rounded in *M. sp* than in *bairstowi*.
5. Labrum remains white in *M. bairstowi* and *sp* while the patterning extends partially onto the labrum of *mozaica* and *epipolia*.
6. White peripheral band at the shoulder caused by a separation in the patterning occurs in *M. sp* and occasionally in *bairstowi* and *epipolia* but not in *mozaica*.
7. Size ranges of the four species do not overlap much.
8. Spires of the four species may or may not be stepped.
9. *M. epipolia* is the least angular and the narrowest of the four, with the darkest colouration and most closely-knit pattern.
10. *M. sp.* has also been confused with *M. nebulosa* but, apart from the immediate differences in size and pattern, *nebulosa* lacks the posterior labial notch. Also, the labrum of *M. sp.* is white while that of *nebulosa* has vertical streaks of pigment.

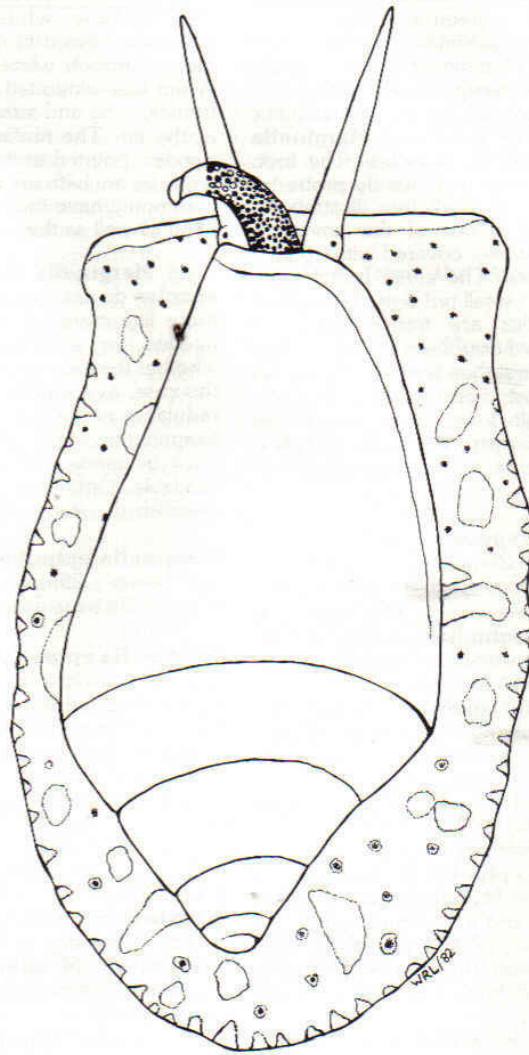
P.S. Marginella youngi Kilburn, 1977 from central Mocambique is conchologically similar to species of this group.

References:

- Kilburn R.N. Annals of Natal Museum, Vol 23(1), 1977
 Millard V.G. Strandloper Nos 206 & 207, 1981
 Liltved W.R. African Wildlife, Vol 36 No 1, 1982
 Tomlin J.R. Journal of Conchology, Vol 16 pp 216+, Pl. 8 fig 1.



Holotype of
M. epipolia showing
white peripheral
band which is not
always present



Marginella epipolia Tomlin, 1921

Key to the colours
of the animals as
represented in the
drawings



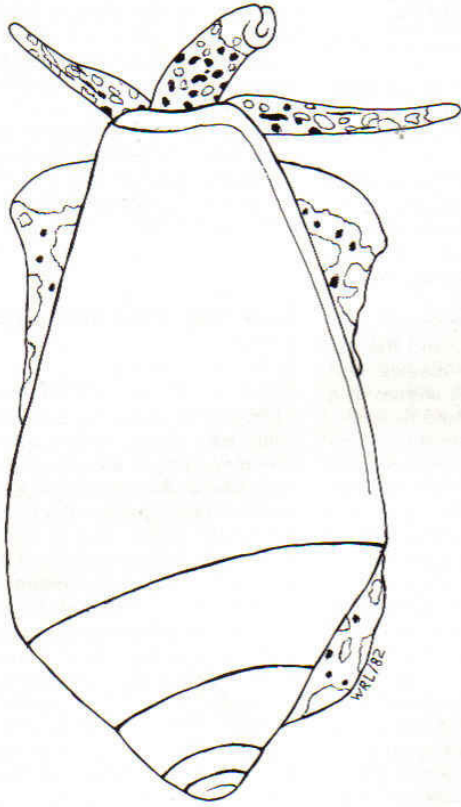
WHITE



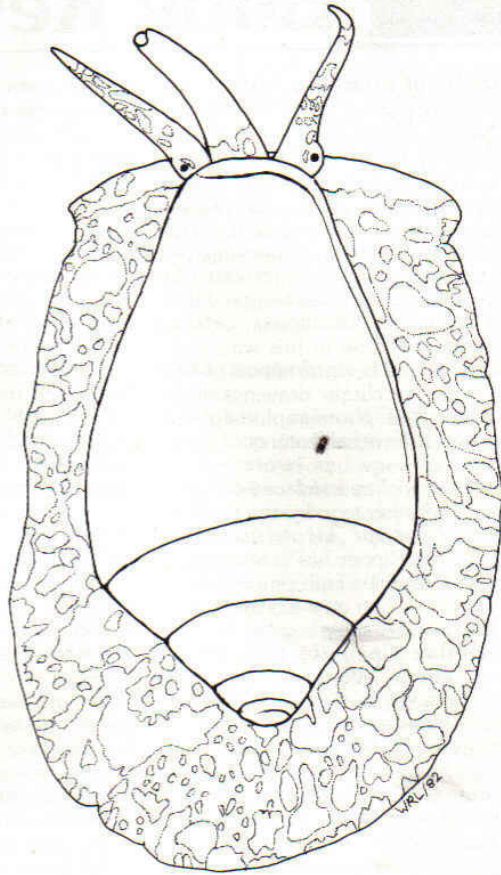
RED

Photographed by
C. Booth

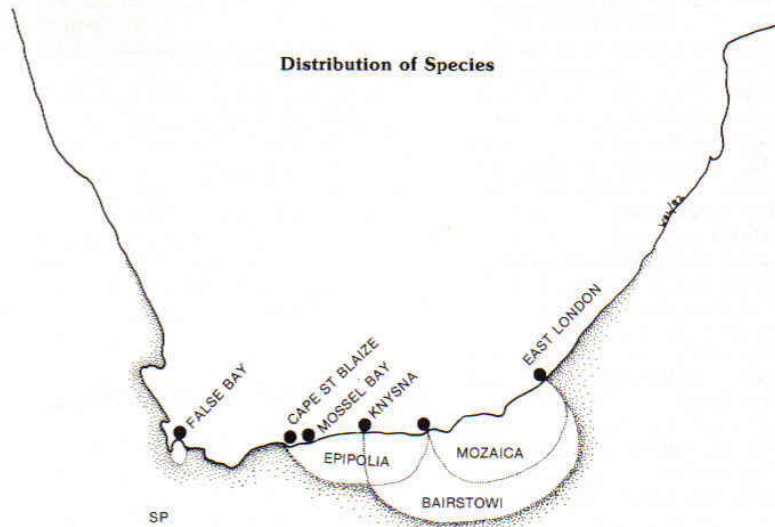
Drawings by
W.R. Liltved



Marginella bairstowi Sowerby, 1886



Marginella species



Book Reviews

Sea Shells of Southern Africa

by Richard Kilburn & Elizabeth Rippey
published by Macmillan South Africa,
Johannesburg. Price R39.95 without tax.

This long-awaited book is in some respects much more, and in others rather less than we might have hoped for. The decision to use watercolour drawings for the illustrations might be questioned in some quarters but it should be noted that many fine modern handbooks on birds and botany are done in this way and, apart from the sheer visual appeal of Mrs Rippey's very accurate drawings, one must admit that photographs do not always show the critical features of some species.

A reviewer is of course faced with the problem of whether to judge the book as a work of art or for its scientific usefulness. Mrs Rippey has in most cases been able to combine both aspects, most notably in the section on the bivalves and especially in one superb plate on the **Fissurellidae** (No 6). But there are instances where the attempt at decorating the page with shells at various angles is not always pleasing to the eye or helpful in distinguishing between some very similar species. Another lesser difficulty is that some shells that differ greatly in size are depicted together on a plate in almost equal size. The fact that actual dimensions are given in the captions does not really solve the problem, especially for the less experienced reader.

It is a great pity that more species are not represented, and one gets the impression that there was sufficient space on the plates for more illustrations, particularly with such difficult families as the **Turridae** and the **Cymatiidae**. An opportunity has been missed in this book to represent some of those uncommon shells that are undoubtedly being found but which are not readily identifiable from the available handbooks, e.g. **Cypraea algoensis**, **Clavatulalalistrepta**, **Cymatium clandestinum**, **Cymatium caudatum**, etc. The two "new" **Patella** illustrated on plate 7, i.e. **Patella pica** and **Patelloida profunda**, could not readily be identified from the pictures. Possibly the worst example of wasted space in the whole book is Plate 34. Why no **Argonauta nodosus**? Furthermore, the **Argonauta argo** is incorrectly drawn, one of the artist's rare lapses.

While on the subject of illustrations, one can but wonder at the unfortunate design of the dust jacket. The crude lettering of the title and the garish colouring and unbalanced arrangement of the

shells scattered across the front and back of the jacket are quite out of keeping with the high quality of the book's contents, and with its high price.

The full and detailed text demands to be read, as it contains the fruits of many years of study of the South African molluscan fauna. Introductory chapters on collecting shells, looking after a collection, photographing shells, a fascinating section on the early conchologists in South Africa, and the explanation of the various classes and families of molluscs, are all written in a most readable style, enlivened by entertaining and pithy comments. The descriptions of the shells are given very fully, and there are abundant accompanying comments to help the reader understand the subject. The taxonomy is as up-to-date as it could possibly be, which means that older readers will be baffled by some unfamiliar "new" names. A useful appendix, one of four at the end of the book, explains many of the recent reclassifications. The author's conclusions about the status of certain species will cause one or two conchologists of my acquaintance to rend their garments. Others, less emotional, will quietly gnash their teeth and rewrite the labels in their collections, for the umpteenth time.

The arrangement of the text in relation to the plates is not altogether successful. The format of printing and binding has dictated a fixed spacing of sixteen pages of text followed by four pages of plates, with the result that pictures and descriptions are out of phase throughout the book. The text and plates do not always follow the same sequence and the last plate, No 46, is tucked away in the middle of the bibliography at the back of the book.

With its coverage of only some 600 species, the book is not, and was not meant to be, a comprehensive field guide but it covers a good cross-section of shells in satisfying detail. No serious conchologist will fail to be enlightened and entertained by the mine of information condensed within the covers of this welcome addition to our conchological literature. Get yourself a copy.

V.G.M.

Revision of the Genus *Ancilla*

by R.N. Kilburn

Annals of the Natal Museum, 1981

While the shells of the genus *Oliva* have in recent years been fairly well studied, the related genera are not all that well covered in the available literature. We are

therefore happy to spread the good news that Dr Kilburn's Revision of the Genus *Ancilla* Damarck, 1799 which was published in the Annals of the Natal Museum of 1981, is available as a separate publication at the very reasonable price of R5.00 (postage included).

There are over 100 pages, with many photographs, drawings, maps and a coloured frontispiece. We are enclosing a leaflet incorporating an order form for your convenience.

Muricidae from the African East Coast

by Emily H. Vokes

Annals of the Natal Museum, 1978

Although this paper was published four years ago, many *Murex* specialists are probably not aware of it. It contains descriptions of some 57 species with eight plates of photographs. It is a short (about 40 pages) paper and is not available separately, but the section of the Annals in which it appears contains also two other papers on mollusca, viz an account of four new *Bullia* species, and descriptions of some members of the *Fissurellidae*, both by Dr Kilburn.

It may be ordered from the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, at a price of R26.00. The reference is Annals of the Natal Museum, Vol 23 Part 2 of 1978.

Latiaxis Catalog & Illustrated Check List of the Coralliophilidae Family

by P.W. Clover

published by the author, price U.S.\$10.00, postage extra

This catalog lists some 310 species, virtually all of which are illustrated either with photographs or else reproductions of drawings. As the author remarks, it is likely that only about 100 of the names used are in fact valid, but it is very useful to have this list as a reference.

Mr Clover is a member of the Society and is a shell dealer. The catalog, as well as his price list of shells and shell books, can be ordered from him at: P.O. Box 83, Glen Ellen, California 95442, U.S.A.

Compendium of Seashells

by R. Tucker Abbott & S. Peter Dance

published by E.P. Dutton, New York
price U.S. \$50.00 plus \$2.50 for postage

This is an important new book to be published in October 1982. It follows the format of the well-known Encyclopedia of Shells by Dance but will include some 4 000 species compared to the approximately 2 000 of the Encyclopedia.

The great popular families will be

covered very fully, with 181 cowry species, 334 cones, 132 volutes, 140 scallops, 73 cancellariids, and all the Strombidae, Cassidae, Neritidae, Pleurotomariidae and more besides.

The scientific names will be given with authors and dates, geographical occurrence, relative rarity, habitat, some synonyms and, unfortunately, with great determination, Dr Tucker Abbott has manufactured English names to ensure that all specimens have vernacular English tags. If you are terrified of the Latin *Bursa elegans* and *Bursa pacamoni*, you can take refuge in the Elegant Frog Shell and the Pacamon Frog Shell. Latin scholars will cringe at the choice of "Specious Scallop" for *Cryptopecten speciosum*. The connotation of the adjective is rather, splendid, handsome, showy, imposing, whereas the modern English "specious", meaning "plausible" hardly fits the case.

Such solecisms aside, this book is going to make a number of handbooks obsolete, by its comprehensiveness. Copies can be ordered from the producers of Wagner & Abbott's Standard Catalog of Shells, i.e. American Malacologists, Inc., P O Box 2255 Melbourne, Florida 32901, U.S.A. Cash with order and no discounts.

D.F.

SHELL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE

with a ten percent discount to members of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa from the Magazine Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Southern Life Buildings, corner of Harrison and Main Streets, Johannesburg. They have a book list of 47 titles at present available. You can telephone them (011) 834-5500 or 834-5936.

CLEANING OF LIVE SHELLS

remains a talking point. Here is a method borrowed from a bulletin of one of the shell clubs with which we are exchanging publications. Over-enthusiastic tidying up means that I cannot find the paper in which the information appeared, but the suggestion is so useful and so effective according to Victor Millard, that it is being passed on to our members with the promise that the source will be mentioned as soon as possible.

Put your shells in a container with their apertures upwards and cover them with liquid soap. Please note, do not try to manufacture liquid soap by dissolving cakes of soap in hot water. This merely creates a jelly-like substance that will ruin the surface of almost any shell. Liquid soap can usually be bought from a pharmacy. An effective and readily available substitute is liquid Lux dishwashing fluid, used at full strength. Leave to soak for about a week, after which the animal can be flushed out, leaving the shell clean. Save the operculum.

INTERTIDAL TALK

Some name changes to be noted:

Certain species that we have been accustomed to classify in the genus *Thais* are now considered to belong more properly under *Nucella*. In correspondence with Dr Kilburn we have learned that *Nucella* differs from *Thais* mainly in its operculum and in the absence of an anal notch on the aperture. While these minor differences would seem to justify our keeping the status of *Nucella* at the level of a subgenus, the rest of the world appears to be treating it as a full genus, so we are more or less forced to follow the fashion. *Nucella* was, like *Thais*, a creation of Röding, 1798. The relationship of various genera in the family *Muricidae* is discussed in Dr Kilburn's new book, *Sea Shells of Southern Africa*, which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. Four of our species now placed in the genus *Nucella* are *dubia*, *wahlbergi*, *squamosa*, and *cingulata*.

African Wildlife Magazine, the official journal of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, produced a special treat for conchologists in its issue (Vol 36 No 1) for January/February of this year. The cover has a magnificent picture of two live *Marginella nebulosa* and inside there is an excellent and well illustrated article on this genus by Bill Liltved of Cape Town. Congratulations, Billy!

Durban Beaches, damaged in winter storms, are being restored by having sand dredged from offshore pumped onto them. The Addington and South Beaches will be much extended in the process but an immediate benefit for shell collectors has been the sudden availability of a quantity of fresh dead specimens of *Natica*, *Mitres*, *Volema pyrum*, *Murex*, *Cypraea*, etc. We hope the summer visitors enjoy building their sand castles and, meanwhile, Durban shellers make the most of their opportunities.

Competitive Shell Shows can stimulate interest among club members and visitors alike. Some suggestions for categories under which the entrants can compete are here taken from a report of the Jacksonville (Florida, U.S.A.) shell show of 1982, as reported in *The Shell-O-Gram*, the newsletter of the Jacksonville Shell Club of August 1982.

Beginner; Student (in two age groups, over and under 12 years); World-Wide; One Area; Self-collected, World-wide; One Family, Bivalves; One Large Family; One Small Family; One Genus; One Species; Educational; Rare; Oddities; Miniatures; Non-Marine Mollusca; Fossils.

There was also a Shell Crafts (Amateur) division, also divided into categories: Pictures, Glass-covered; Pictures, Open; Flower Arrangements

(divided into two size groups, under and over 6 inches diameter); Christmas-related items; Mirrors, All sizes; Jewellery & Personal Accessories; Pictures, not the work of the exhibitor.

Commercial/Designer exhibits were judged separately.

The Club found that the Arts and Crafts section was a brilliantly successful addition to their show. The high standard of the entries was notable.

Local conchologists who tend to sneer at the "bottel plakkers" might revise their opinions on seeing some of the beautiful work produced. Even your conservative editor is prepared to admit that some shell craft is not altogether nauseating!

The East Africa Natural History Society

with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, have made unofficial contact with us and have sent a catalogue of reprints of their bulletin covering many disciplines. Geology, Botany, Insects, Invertebrates including Mollusca, Reptiles and Amphibians, Birds, Mammals, Anthropology, and Palaeontology. Anyone wishing to contact them may write to us or direct to them at P.O. Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya.

EXCHANGES WANTED

Mr Ismet Tümtürk, Meydancik Hani, Hekim Cıkmazi, Sirkeci, Istanbul, Turkey, specialises in Pectinidae and would like to exchange with South African collectors of a similar interest but only live taken specimens (gem) will be acceptable.

Mr Ulrich Hofmann, L-Thoma strasse 10b, 8580 Bayreuth, W. Germany, would like to obtain S.A. Marginellidae. He can offer shells from many families and regions in exchange and would also be prepared to buy specimens.

Mr K.S. Erskine, 266 Unthank Road, Norwich NR2 2AJ, Norfolk, England, requests land and freshwater shells from South Africa, especially the operculates and family Achatinidae. He has British, European and Japanese shells for exchange and asks particularly for full locality details but the shells would not need to be identified.

Mr Roberto Ubaldi, Via delle Case Basse 119, 00125 Acilia, Roma, Italy, needs South African Volutes and can offer in exchange shells from West Africa, the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific areas.

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ROUND THE GROUPS

Cape Town: We have had the pleasure of listening to Mr U van Dyk who drew a parallel between his hobbies of rock and stamp collecting and shell collecting. At the April meeting Mr Simon of Sea Fisheries spoke with obvious delight about his work on the kelp beds around Cape Town and how it is farmed according to various scientific methods devised by his department.

An illustrated talk on squids by Mr J Augustein of Sea Fisheries was extremely interesting and was highlighted as we watched him dissect a male and female squid.

At the June meeting slides on Wenteltraps were shown and Dr I Gosliner showed us beautiful nudibranch slides — some examples of species found during a recent field trip to Sodwana Bay.

Bobby Botes

Port Elizabeth: The Eastern Cape Group is abuzz with activity at the moment preparing for the Hobbies Fair, an event held every 2 years in Port Elizabeth. The June meeting was somewhat unusual with 13 members and 8 prospective present. This can be attributed to an article in the "What's Happening" column of the *Evening Post*, in which the group and its activities were mentioned.

The family discussed at the meeting was the popular *Cypraeidae*, and members and visitors were impressed by Mr Fouché's beautiful, well presented collection.

Two successful field days have been held, one at Kiri Bay and one at Jeffreys Bay. The weather was kind on both occasions and the shelling was reasonably good.

Janet Hope

Border and Transkei: Two new projects for Border and Transkei Group:

- 1) To generate public interest in Conchology as a worthy hobby for young and old, the B & T Group is having talks with the local Aquarium management with the view to setting up an exhibit of these shells which local citizens and visitors can expect to find in the coastal range from the Fish to the Great Kei Rivers.

- 2) In addition to "Sales by Sealed Tender" and "Door Prizes" a further regular feature will be introduced at future group meetings when "Swap Shop" makes its appearance. "We're hoping that this will in particular, be helpful to our new members," says Jill Lindsell, recently re-elected for a further term of office as Group chairman.

Noggs Newman

Pretoria: First of all a few notes from the chairman's report of the AGM. The group held 10 meetings and 3 social functions at which the average attendance was 82%. The monthly competitions were well supported and the members enjoyed the judging competitions. The committee was unanimously re-elected en bloc. The great things that we had planned were not finalised when there was an offer of assistance from an unexpected source. An exhibition on a non-competitive basis was planned at a well known shopping centre and the final plans were being made when assistance was offered with the publicity and entertainment as well as financing. Thus we will have all the profits for our funds. The competition will be on a family and superfamily basis and will be held on the 16 - 22 August 1982. The guest speaker at our first meeting was a popular choice. Commandant Lutz of the SA Army's Art Division gave an informative talk on the art of cameo sculpturing. He learned the art in Cape Town from an Italian artist who also gave him the tools that he needed. His work is prized by Italian artists and members were fascinated by specimens of his work which he brought along to show us. At a special meeting it was decided to invite Johannesburg members to the Pretoria meetings. For those interested, the meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. For further details please phone our secretary Tom Duncan at 812-62-1548, he will give you the particulars of the next meeting.

Laurie Smith

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Gordon's Bay 7150

Port Shepstone: Due to the temporary removal of the shell cabinet from the Port Shepstone library complex, work on our collection has been curtailed for the present. We have continued though, to have our meetings in the Margate Library activities room, concentrating on one or two shell families at a time. Members bring examples of these families as well as interesting recent finds.

Our monthly outings too have proved of great value. These include visits to Pumula, Hibberdene, Banana Beach, Leisure Bay, and Oslo Beach. On May 9th a few members joined forces with the Durban group at Mtwalume for a highly successful day.

Many interesting, sometimes rare, shells have been found recently. These include: A growth series of *Tonna variegata* up to 4cm. all unbroken, at the Port Shepstone Sandpit, by M. Wallace. He has also found several live cories, notably *Cypraea histrio*, *C. cribraria* and *C. caput-serpentis*, as well as other shells — live *Otopleura mitralis*, *Pyramidella teres* and *Mitra pacificum* all uncommon. Mrs Spurgeon found in the stomach of a fish, a well preserved *Voluta ponsonbyi*, a beautiful deep water shell. At Shelly Beach Mrs Borland found the rare *Mitra sanguinolentis*, normally found in Kenya. Mrs Thomas found a live *Cypraea felina* and Mrs Harris a *Cypraea cribraria*, and a live *Bursa rosa* at Oslo Beach. Mrs Eastwood has collected 2 live *Conus chaldeus*, a *Cypraea arabica*, *Haliotis queketti* and *Mitra aurantium aurantium* (live). Some small pink *Bullina sp.* found live by K. and N. Borland last summer, were shown to Dr Kilburn of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. He considers they might well be a new species! Thus we do have our exciting finds even on these increasingly popular and denuded beaches. Despite the unfriendly relations with Mocambique, the ocean currents from there still "export" the juvenile stages of many tropical shells, to our shores.

M. Borland

Pietermaritzburg: At our meeting held at the Museum on Saturday 12 June our chairman, Dick Kilburn, brought a selection of shells recently acquired by the museum. He gave a very interesting talk on the habitat etc. of the different species which included *Murex*, *Cones*, *Bursa* etc. and members had the pleasure of examining the specimens.

At this meeting there were 11 present which included 4 members from the Durban Group.

Our next meeting is due for Saturday the 14th August and we are hoping to have a visit from the well-known personality, Mrs Helen Boswell, at the

meeting.

Muriel Armstrong

Durban: Although not well attended, many apologies were received for the meeting held on 13.03.82. Our guest speaker was Victor Millard who gave us an insight into shelling in the western Cape and showed us some fascinating rarities; *inter alia*; a live taken *Cypraea gondwanalandensis*, a selection of *C. algoensis*, *Trivia millardi* and *Trivia costata*. His information on the production of the Strandloper and the attached problems left us very appreciative of the efforts of our production team. The concept of computerised data storage and retrieval both for personal collections and for the compilation of articles is really challenging and we wish him all the success in pioneering this field for us in South Africa.

On the "Home Front" the scientific department has been very busy with the following projects:

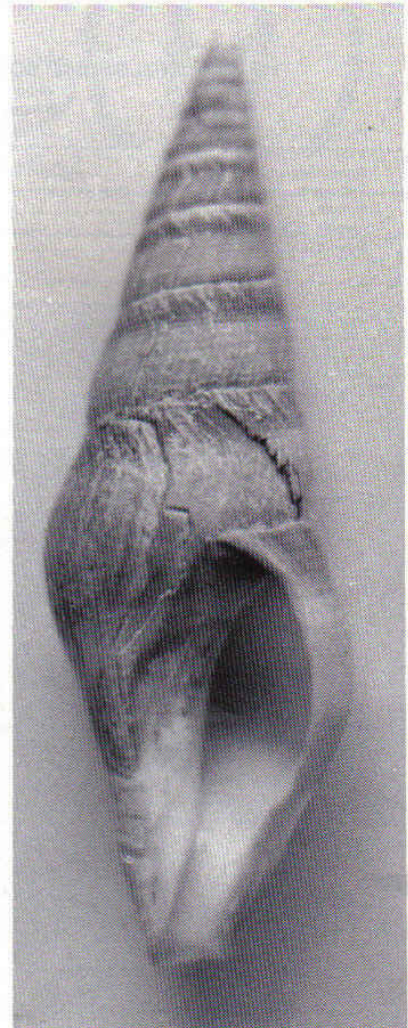
- 1) An errata listing for Diedre Richards book, available from the Durban group at R1,50 per copy.
- 2) Checking on the draft of Noggs Newman's list, which still needs a fair amount of research but looks most promising. A check list of SA Mollusca is the single most important pre-requisite to our shelling knowledge and Noggs' list is the first stage. We strongly urge this to be updated as an on-going process. The amount of work is enormous but well worth the results. It is a project in which we are all involved and the necessary liaison between all concerned has kept the interest of our members high. Thanks Noggs for the tremendous effort.
- 3) The updating by V. Millard and Dick Kilburn of the checklist of the Cymatiidae was seen and comments added where pertinent. Our chairman, Terry Murray, has done a lot of homework at getting books at discount rates for bulk orders. (If interested contact Durban Group. VM.)

Full use of convenient tides was made with the February and May meetings held as a field trip. There was no April meeting. Our committee have a lot of very interesting activities planned, which of course will only be as successful as the support we get at meetings.

Maureen Quickelberge

SHELL EXHIBITION IN

ZIMBABWE: Our member in Kadoma, Mrs V. Heath, exhibited her shells at the library in the town in March this year, an event which rated a front page mention in the local newspaper. Subsequently the curator of the Gwelo Museum arranged to borrow the collection for display during the month of July. Cash donations collected during the show at Kadoma went to the local S.P.C.A. Congratulations, Mrs Heath.



Benthoclionella jeneri Kilburn, 1974

This is a shell that has in recent years been trawled very commonly off the Natal coast, and deserves a paragraph with a photograph in our bulletin. Particulars as follows:

Family: *Turridae*

Locality: At 150 fthms between Durban and Tongaat

Size: 56,6 x 21,9mm

Description: Resembles other genera of the sub-family *Clavatulinae* but, instead of having a distinct posterior labial notch, it has only a very shallow sinus, i.e. a shallow curve. Sculpture consists of fine spiral lirae on the upper half of the earlier whorls. The colour is usually chestnut brown with one or two paler spiral bands in some cases. Periostracum is very thin and pale brown. The operculum is narrow and elliptical.

Derivation: Named after Mr Allan Jenner of Alberton.

Bibliography: Annals of the Natal Museum, Vol 22 (1) Page 214, September 1974.

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Mr Roy Aiken, 16 Ranleigh Park, Harfield Road 7700. Kenilworth.

Mrs E.K. Giles, 9 Lapworth Grange, Gill Street, Lambton, 1401. Germiston.

Resignation

Miss G.L. Robson of 45 Orchard St., Newlands, Cape Town, is now studying at University.

NEW MEMBERS

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Deaths

We regret to announce the death of Mrs M.A. de Jongh of Somerset West and of Mr Bernie Young of Durban.

Mrs de Jongh joined the Society in 1969 and Mr Young in 1967. Our condolences are extended to the bereaved families.