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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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CIRCULAR NO. 20

APRIL, 1961  
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MEETING:

As the Museum Lecture Room is not available on the third Tuesday, the meeting will take place on the following night, Wednesday 19th April at 8.15 p.m. The shell families for display and discussion will be the Cassididae and Tonnidae (Barnard p.87). When displaying the shells, will members please separate South African shells and Foreign shells, as new members are apt to be confused if they are all shown together. Slides of shells and fish will be shown.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:-

At the meeting held at Mouille Point on 19th March, the following were elected:-

Mr B.E. Brown, P.O. Box 558, Cape Town.  
Mrs E. Nuttal-smith, Sans Souci, P.O. Haga Haga, via East London.  
Mr Hilel Portnoi, 19 Chapel Street, Kimberley.  
Miss Hilary Simpson, Littlewood, Oak Ave., Kenilworth.  
Mrs J.B. Watters, 104 Alexander Rd., Turfontein, Johannesburg.

Proposed Members:-

Proposed by:-

Seconded by:-

Mr John Q. Burch	D.H. Kennelly	L. Kerr
Mr S.J. Dix	L. Kerr	J. Walker
Dr C.S. Grobbelaar	L. Kerr	C. Swaneveld
Mr G.E. Jacobs	D.H. Kennelly	L. Kerr
Mr R.L. Lahousse	L. Kerr	J. Walker
Master M. Levy	J.N. Ackermann	L. Kerr
Mr M. Liversidge	D.H. Kennelly	L. Kerr
The Museum, P.E.	A.C. van Bruggen	L. Kerr
Mrs C. Romoff	D. Ackermann	L. Kerr
Miss S. Skaife	L. Kerr	C.M. Ackermann
Master N. Stone	L. Kerr	J. Walker
Mr F. Theall	L. Kerr	J. Walker
Miss S. Troughton	L. Kerr	C. Swaneveld
Mrs J. Ward	L. Kerr	J. Walker

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FIELD DAY AT MOUILLE POINT 19.3.61.

This was better attended than last time as 19 members and friends turned out, including some new members. After shelling in perfect weather, a short meeting was held to elect and propose new members. Amongst the shells found were several Conus elongatus, Fasciolaria lugubris, some fine Patella argenville, Haliotis midae, Thais cingulata, Thais squamosa - one with prominent axial ridges, resembling a Harpa-anomia ephippium, Afrocominella capensis and Chaetopleura papilio

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MEETING AT THE S. A. MUSEUM 21.3.61.

Apologies were received from Mr C. Swaneveld and Dr Talbot. Our Treasurer, Mr J. Ackermann took the Chair. Two minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The following members were elected:-

Mr John Q. Burch, 4206 Halldale Ave., Los Angeles 62, California, U.S.A.  
Mr S.J. Dix, Grand Hotel, Main Street, Somerset West.  
Dr C.S. Grobbelaar, van Riebeeck Straat 32, Stellenbosch.  
Mr G.E. Jacobs, 853 Riverside Drive, New York 32, N.Y., U.S.A.  
Mr R.L. Lahousse, P.O. Box 2329, Cape Town  
Master M. Levy, Penzance, Victoria Rd., Bantry Bay.  
Mr M. Liversidge, P.O. Box 30047, Nairobi, Kenya.  
The Museum, Humewood, Port Elizabeth.

Mrs C. Romoff, Prince Alfred Arms, Durban Rd., Wynberg.  
 Master N. Stone, 89 Pluto Rd., Plumstead.  
 Mr F. Theall, c/o First National Bank, Abbeville, Louisiana, U.S.A.  
 Miss S. Troughton, Fuller Hall, U.C.T., Rondebosch.  
 Miss J. Ward, Tettenhall Green, Indian Rd., Kenilworth.  
 Miss S. Skaife, Marais Rd., Hout Bay.

There was some interesting general discussion, during which several points were mentioned. Mr Dirk Ackermann said that more shells were found in misty or rainy weather than on a bright sunny day. Mrs Pinkham suggested that members should show their "catch" at the end of outings and shells of special interest be brought to the following evening meeting. Mrs Quinn suggested that members should arrive punctually at the meeting place on Field Days, so that new members could meet the "old hands" and be instructed on what to do.

Films on laying Undersea Cables and on the Island of Mauritius were then shown.

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RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs H. Duffett. Mr G. Cole.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mrs F. Olsen, 235 Fourth Street, Providence, R.I., U.S.A.  
 Mrs N. Robinson, 216 Interlaken, Ninth Street, Killarney, Johannesburg.

JUNIOR MEMBERS COMPETITION.

This will be held on Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. on 22nd April at the S.A. Museum. The competition is for the best General Collection of South African Marine Shells. Points will be awarded for the number of species, correct localities and names, condition and display. This is your opportunity, Juniors, so turn up, even if you have no shells.

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SHELL EXCHANGES:

Mr F. Lovejoy, 195 Ocean Street, Narrabeen, Sydney, Australia, wishes to exchange Voluta, Conus, Cypraea and Murex for S.A. Shells of the same families.

The following of the family Conidae are for exchange by P. Elston, 105 Well Freer Rd., Flynnland, Durban, for specimens of the same family, taken alive south of the Natal border. As quantity is limited letters of exchange offers will be treated as in order of receipt. All specimens offered by me were collected alive unless otherwise stated.

Natal

<u>Hebraeus</u> - L., 30-35 mm.	<u>Vexillum</u> - Gmelin., 35-55 mm.
<u>lividus</u> - Hwass 30-50mm	<u>Musicus</u> - Hwass 30-50 mm.
<u>rattus</u> - Brug. 25-30 mm.	

Mauritius

<u>Striatus</u> - Linn 60-75 mm.	<u>hebraeus</u> - Linn 35-45 mm.
<u>heb. vermiculatus</u> - Sow. 30-35 mm.	<u>imperialus</u> - Linn 40-50 mm.
<u>arenatus</u> - Hwass 40 mm.	<u>cydonensis</u> (var.) 30 mm.
<u>catus negropunctatus</u> - Sow 30-35 mm.	<u>tesselatus</u> - Hwass 30 mm.
<u>flavidus</u> - Lam 30-35 mm.	<u>lividus</u> - Hwass 30-35 mm.

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GENERAL NOTES.

OUR 1960 SHELL COLLECTING TRIP  
 by CHRIS WALKER.

As many members already know, my father and I went shell collecting up the East Coast.



After leaving Cape Town we explored the area this side of Mossel Bay near the Fisheries. There was not so very much in the way of variety but what was found was not scarce and in excellent condition. The night we arrived a few live Conus aurora were found.

The following morning Turbo sarmaticus, Lasaea rubra, Thais capensis and Chitons of many different types and colours were found but very few Patellas. The most interesting find was when we found a Conus aurora eating a Thais capensis.

During the afternoon we visited Mrs Richards and Mrs Boswell who was there for a couple of days.

The next day, Sunday, found us combing the beaches of Jeffereys Bay, a big disappointment. There were very few shells on the beach and only a few Cancellaria foveolata were found.

We were extremely unlucky and disappointed when we reached Uitenhage to find Mr Kennelly had gone to Port Elizabeth for the day to arrange specimens at the new Museum there. Seeing that it would be fruitless waiting, as we did not know when he would return, we carried on to Port Alfred, a beautiful quiet town with its own newspaper run by the late Mr Hutt. We were made very welcome when we arrived and Mr Hutt showed us his wonderful works on shells. The exquisite shell paintings were so life-like, that it took me all my time to refrain from trying to pick them up.

It was dull and drizzling the next morning, yet we were unlucky in finding only a few shells alive. Namely Chiton tulipa, Thais castanear, Amblychilepas scutella, Afrocominella elongata, Burnupena lagenaria, Peristernia fuscontincta and only one specimen of Eugyrina gemmifera.

When we had finished shell collecting we bade Mr Hutt farewell and were on our way again. This time to East London. We spent a week there exploring the coast within reasonable distance up and down.

Many places were visited such as Gonubie, Kwelega, Haga Haga, Morgan Bay, Bulugha and Goda. Out of all these places I would say Gonubie is the best place for variety. Even this stretch of rocks is becoming denuded of shells because of the large number of natives turning over rocks for worms and the increasing amount of sand and shale.

Even after visiting all these places nothing of interest was found. Our next objective after leaving East London was the Pondoland coast via Trennerys and Mazeppa Bay.

The first things we had to do when we arrived at Trennerys was to abandon all hope of obtaining any shells because the Kei River's muddy water had polluted the sea to such an extent we could not see our fingers when they were dipped in the brine. Note from this, when crossing any river on the national road observe its colour if you intend to try its mouth or nearby.

Mazeppa Bay is a very nice holiday resort and we spent two days there fishing and shell collecting, the latter being very poor. To our great surprise crayfish can be found in the rocky pools.

The Pondoland coast where we went after Mazeppa Bay is a most attractive stretch of coast with many a good shelling locality. The first few days there we had fine weather and excellent shell collecting. Some of our finds I will list below for the reader's interest, many are common.

The first shell I will mention is Arca gibber a small round bivalve and its brother Arca kraussi. Argobuccinum pusillum was also found on a rocky bottom covered in a thin layer of silt.

Burnupena lagenaria seems to have a fairly wide range as it was found there. Bursa granularis was found, a pretty shell with a flattened lip. Barbatia obligata another bivalve which sticks to the underside of rocks. Two bubble shells were found, Aplysia and Bullina ziozac, the former being a round grey shell with very dark stripes with two to three spiral bands.

A fair variety of Cypraea were found, C. erosa, C. carneola, C. annulus, C. isabella, C. caput-serpentis, C. felina, C. helvola and C. fimbriata. None of these Cypraea were common and only one or two were found in each case. Cymatium vespaceum was also found. This little shell is extremely hard to see when it is against its natural back ground.

Our next family of interest is the Cone family. Only three varieties of this group were found. Conus liridus, ebraeus and minimus. The last two being small and C. liridus being the biggest with a length of 1 3/4". Charonia gemmifera, Cameolur, Clanculus mixtus, Cartharus carnifera, Chaetopleura portusus, Chiton textilis, Cardita variegata. These were collected in the first few days. The two most important shells we found were Columbraria (sp. subjudice) and Cheilea equestris. Only one of each was found.

The following family is Drupa. Three varieties were found, D. elata, squamosa and granulata. D. granulata being the most common was nearly everywhere.

Diodora spreta, Eugyrina gemmifera, Ischochiton tigrinus, Latirus polygonus, Mitra limbefera, Metula crenilabrum, Murex mitraeformis, Nassa glans suturalis, Onithochiton literatus, Nerita plicata, Nerita polita, Patella variabilis, Peristernia leucothea, Pyrene filmerae, Pinctada anomicoides, Pusia patula, Pisania ? (not in S. African Museum), Stomatella articulata, Scintella queketti, Septifer bilocularis, Strombus floridus, Scutim inguis, Spondylus hystrix, Trochus nigropunctatus, Turbinella umbraculum, Vertagus abeliscus, Tonna perdix, Turbo coronatus, Calliostoma africanum, Columbella mercatoria and Nassa glaus.

All these shells were found on the Pondoland coast.

We found that the most successful way to store shells when on a holiday was to obtain a few dozen bottles and add a mixture of Formaldehyde a 10 ; 1 solution with water being the majority. All we had to do was to pop the live shells into the bottles and they would immediately be killed and preserved for cleaning later.

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SECRETARY: Mrs L. Kerr, Ryde Villa, Kenilworth Road, Kenilworth, C.P.