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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 28.

JANUARY, 1962
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MEETING:

A happy and peaceful New Year to all members, with good shelling in 1962 !

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 23rd January at 8.15 p.m. Will members please bring along their shell books so that we can have a display of Conchological literature which will be of interest to beginners. We hope to show some suitable films, and shells in good condition may be brought for exchange

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OUR ANNUAL PARTY. 7.12.1961.

This year we had a very successful and enjoyable braaivleis at the Round House, Camps Bay. Most of the members who turn up regularly at the meetings, attended. After a delicious and satisfying meal, members drew numbers from a hat then fetched the corresponding number from a "Lucky Dip" containing exciting shell parcels handed out by Leila Kerr. Dancing followed for those who felt energetic enough. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Dirk Ackermann for the excellent braai, and to those members who donated and parcelled up the Lucky Dips.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:

We welcome back our President, Prof. J.H. Day, who has returned from Overseas, and hope he will be able to be present at our next meeting.

Congratulations to Dr A.C. van Bruggen on his appointment to the staff of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, as malacologist. This will afford him ample scope for research, more especially in the field of land and fresh-water molluscs. We wish him every success in his new post. His address is now:- A.C. van Bruggen, biol.drs., Natal Museum, Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

On December 5th, 1961, the Mayor of Mossel Bay, opened a shell museum containing the collection of our enterprising member, Mrs Bobbie Richards. The shells are attractively arranged and displayed, and members are assured of a warm welcome. Congratulations, Bobbie!

The Walkers, Pere et fils, have again gone a-(shell)hunting on the Wild Coast, so we are looking forward to an account of their finds.

Your Secretary thanks all Members who so kindly sent her and the Society Christmas Cards.

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GENERAL NOTES:

ARTICLE NO 4.

NAMING by J. & C. Walker.

It is important to know the real names of shells. In order that names may be known by people all over the world, Latin names are given to each species or kind.

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When one first starts looking at the Latin names, one may be rather overwhelmed, but eventually you will master them and they will become quite familiar. It is easy to talk of the "Venus ear" and the "Perlemoen" but if you write overseas and say that you have some Venus ears for exchange, you will in all probability get a reply asking what kind of shell it is. Had you called it Haliotis sanguinea your exchange friend would have known to what you were referring.

Many of the names early collectors gave shells such as Purpura oingulata and Clionella sinuata have had to be changed in order to try to standardise names throughout the world. The former has now been changed to Thais oingulata and the latter to Clavatula sinuata. Names may also need to be changed if more than one name has been given to the same shell. The oldest good name is then accepted.

If we take the name, Haliotis sanguinea, the first word, Haliotis, tells us to what group or genus the shell belongs. This is known as the generic name and always starts with a capital letter. The second word, sanguinea, refers to one particular kind of Haliotis. This is called the specific or trivial name and always begins with a small letter. Thus we write Haliotis sanguinea. This may be followed by the author's name, i.e. the one who first described and named the shell. Thus we have Clavatula kraussi Smith.

Many Latin names actually describe the shell, e.g. gigantea = gigantic, corona = crown, globosa = globe shaped, and so on.

Thus we have Janthina globosa, indicating firstly its group and secondly the fact that it is globe shaped.

If you want to build a good collection and are seriously interested in shells, get to know their Latin names and concentrate on our own S.A. shells before exchanging overseas.

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HOW RARE IS CYPRAEA AMPHITALES ?

by A.C. van Bruggen.

My dear friend Helen Boswell seems to have all the luck in the world! Such was my reaction when I read in Circular No. 27 of November, 1961, that she had found a specimen of Cypraea amphitales Melvill, 1888, north of East London. I only fully realise how lucky indeed she was, when I started checking up on this species in literature. The cowry specialists, F.A. & M. Schilder state in a paper on Dautzenberg's famous collection (Mem. Inst. R. Sci. Nat. Belg. (2) 45, 1952) that they only have records of five specimens of C. amphitales in collections; viz., three in the British Museum (Natural History) in London (this includes the type specimen), one in the collection of Tomlin and one in their own collection. Tomlin's specimen is the one figured in Sowerby's book on South African shells; after his death the collection was presented to the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

If Cypraea amphitales is really as rare as the Schilders found it to be (and they know their cowries and the world's great collections quite well), then Helen Boswell's specimen must be the sixth reported so far. Are there any more specimens among our members or Southern African museums?

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EASTERN PROVINCE NOTES AND NEWS. by D.H. Kennelly

The "winds of change" so often referred to in these turbulent times, are now affecting members resident in this part of the country.

Dr A.C. van Bruggen has joined the Natal Museum staff at Pietermaritzburg, and we wish him every success in his new post.

The writer has joined the ranks of the Border members at East London, while our enthusiastic young member - R.N. Kilburn of Port Elizabeth - will sooner or later be leaving for Pietermaritzburg, to enter the Natal

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University. "Dick" carries with him our sincere wishes for his success in the future.

Owing to these changes, the Eastern Province Notes will disappear, with an occasional paragraph of interest.

To fill the gap, the writer proposes to commence "Border Notes" as soon as possible, for this section has hitherto seldom been mentioned.

Natal members are assured of the continuation of "Natal Notes".

More information of interest, and worthy of record, is now accumulating, and will be published in the Circulars in the near future.

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NATAL NOTES: by D.H. Kennelly.

Advice has recently been received regarding a Japanese species found on the South Coast, Natal, and we are indebted to Mrs A.G. Richards of Mossel Bay, for the information, together with a specimen for identification.

This shell is Ficus subintermedius d'Orbigny, and is as far as may be ascertained the first notification, in our Circulars, of the occurrence of this species on the South African coast.

Mr Percy Elston, of Durban, has confirmed the presence of Ficus subintermedius in Natal, and further advises that other Japanese species are also present, of which no mention has been made hitherto in our Circulars.

Steps are now being taken to remedy the omission.

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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF MARINE SHELLS RECORDED FROM
PORT NATAL, AND THE NATAL COAST.

by D.H. Kennelly.

During the past few months, articles have appeared in various issues of the Circulars, listing species occurring in Natal, which were taken alive.

The time seems opportune to bring all this information together, in order to facilitate easy reference for members interested in the Mollusca of Natal.

Acknowledgement has already been made of the assistance of those of our members, who have readily co-operated in providing data. This information has made possible publication of the lists in previous issues of our Circulars, and the thanks of all members are due to the individuals concerned.

CYPRAEIDAE.

C.talpa, Linn.
C.chinensis, Gmel.
C.caurica, Linn.
C.fimbriata durbanensis S.&S.
C.felina, Gmel.
C.mauritiana, Linn.
C.arabica, Linn.
C.arabica histric, Gmel.
C.arabica eglantina, Ducl.
C.erosa, Linn.
C.lamarcki, Gray
C.citrina, Gray
C.helvola, Linn.
C.moneta, Linn.
C.annulus, Linn.
C.tigris, Linn.
C.lynx, Linn.
C.vitellus, Linn
C.clandestina passerina, Linn

CONIDAE

C.lividus, Hwass.
C.flavidus, Lam
C.vexillum, Gmel.
C.miles, Linn.
C.musious, Hwass
C.aurora, Lam.
C.arenatus, Hwass
C.coronatus, Gmel.
C.ebraeus, Linn.
C.ebraeus vermiculatus, Lam.
C.natalis, Sow.
C.rattus, Brug.
C.tesselatus, Hwass
C.geographus, Linn.
C.piperatus, Reeve
C.nemocanus, Hwass
C.capitaneus, Lam
C.abbas, Brug.

CYPRAEIDAE (Continued)

C.poraria, Linn.
C.globulus, Linn.
C.staphlea, Linn.
C.limacina, Lam
C.caputserpentis, Linn.
C.nebrites, Melvill.
C.mozambicana, Schilder
C.marginalis, Dill.
C.Turdus, Lam
C.isabella, Linn.
C.onyx, Linn.
C.ziczac diluculum, Reeve
C.punctata, Var
C.atemaria, Gmel.
C.kieneri, Hild.
C.teres, Gmel.
C.cribraria, Linn.
C.carneola, Linn.
C.testudinaria ingens, S. & S.

MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES:-

Tonna perdix, Linn.
Tonna luteostoma, Kuster (fresh dead)
Calpurnus verrucosus, Linn. (fresh dead)
Cymatium partheonopeum,
Bursa rubeta, Smith (formerly "lampas")
Harpa amouretta, Röding.
Cassis glauca, Lam.
Ranella crumena, Lam.
Cymatium tuberosum, Lam.
Murex maurus, Brod.

In compiling the foregoing, the writer may have inadvertently omitted some item - or items - and would welcome corrections.

Also if any member has information relating to species not recorded above, the writer would be pleased to receive such data for purposes of record. Suitable acknowledgement will be made.

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NOTES ON CARDIUM NATALENSE KRAUSS, 1848

by D.H. Kennelly.

According to literature available to the writer, this species was described and named by Krauss in 1848, type locality, Natal.

Sowerby, 1892, lists it as occurring at Port Elizabeth, probably from the Bairstow collection, and in 1960 Mr R.N. Kilburn collected live specimens in the McArthur Swimming Pool at Humewood, Port Elizabeth, which confirms Sowerby's mention.

Turton listed Cardium natalense from Port Alfred, stating he found single valves only in the lagoon on the west bank of the Kowie River.

In October, Mr E.C. Wicks brought a single valve of a Cardium from Jeffreys Bay, which proved to be "natalense" - an extension of known range.

Dick Kilburn kindly presented the writer with two specimens from Port Elizabeth, the larger of which measures 40 m.m. in length, and this applies to the height from the umbones to the ventral side as well, for the shell is almost circular. Species of the Cardium genus are usually sturdily built, but natalense is a light shell and has deep blood red interior.

It will be interesting to know if any member has collected this species from any other locality, as no mention has been made in regard to the gap between Port Alfred and Natal.

Cardium natalense is not listed in the "Check List of the Mollusca of False Bay",

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