

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO 46

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Edited by Leila Kerr

( Re-printed 1978 )

MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th September at 8.15 pm. in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum.

Mr G. Newman of the Division of Sea Fisheries has kindly consented to give us a talk on the ecology of Haliotis midae and its application in a commercial fishery. He will tell us about the "tagging" of perlemoen growth etc. and he should prove extremely interesting.

The shells for display will be fossil shells and any recent finds. We hope the Museum will put on a display of fossil shells too.

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MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM 22.8.1963

Apologies were received from Dr Talbot, Mrs Pinkham, Mr Freeman and Mr Ivy. The minutes were taken as read. The election and proposal of members at the Council meeting was confirmed.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

Mr N. Douglas R.D.3 Wailiku, Auckland New Zealand  
Mr A. Hadar 41 Lilienblum Street Tel Aviv Israel  
Mr J. Kernan 11 Jasmay Place Nahoon Valley East London

The following were proposed as new members:-

Mr C. Brown	proposed by H. Jefferies	seconded by L. Kerr
Mrs J. Hall	" " "	" " "
Mrs J.F. Mason	" " "	" " "

Mr Grindley, who was in the Chair, spoke about the late Mr Dirk Ackermann and what he had meant to us. The members stood in silence as a tribute.

As there was no further business, Mr Grindley gave a very enlightening talk on mid-water trawling, illustrated with slides. Judging by the number of questions asked afterwards, members were very interested. After tea a film on the sea was shown.

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IN MEMORIAM

In the early hours of August 21st, our friend and fellow conchologist, Dirk Ackermann, passed to his rest. He was a foundation member of our Society and served on the first Council. Ever willing with advice and practical help for beginners, Dirk had started many conchologists on their hobby. No friend ever went away empty handed. His shell museum had become widely known throughout Southern Africa and beyond and it is comforting to know that his young daughter, Emerentia, will keep the collection intact and carry on where he left off.

Dirk will be sadly missed by his many friends and correspondents, but especially by us, his fellow members. To his widow and family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

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NATAL MEMBERS ATTENTION!

The next meeting of the Natal group will be held at the Natal Museum on Saturday October 12th commencing at 2 pm.

Will members please note the date, bring their favourite shells along for all to see and admire and any friends interested in our hobby. No further notification will be sent.

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LIBRARY

Dr K.H. Barnard has very kindly presented the following list of his papers to our library. As most of them are loose, we are binding them in a folder to preserve them. We thank Dr. Barnard very much.

MOLLUSCA. K.H. BARNARD.

1. 1913 Feeding track of *Oxystele impervia*.  
J. Conch. 14.
2. 1927 S. African Nudibranch Mollusca. (Re-print not available)  
Ann. S. Afr. Mus. 25.
3. 1932 *Doris kalkensis*  
J. Conch. 19.
4. 1933 *Thecacera lamellata*. (Re-print not available)  
J. Conch. 19.
5. 1934 A new *Goniodoris*.  
J. Conch. 20.
6. 1934 Cephalopods from the Cape.  
J. Conch. 20.
7. 1947 Rare Squid at the Cape.  
J. Conch. 22.
8. 1949 Radula of *Fusitriton*.  
J. Conch. 23.
9. 1952 A remarkable form of *Fauxulus*.  
J. Conch. 23.
10. 1957 Radula of *Latlaxis fritschi*, and a new Fossarid.  
See also No. 13.  
J. Conch. 24.
11. 1957 *Glypteuthria capensis*: a generic correction.  
J. Conch. 24.
12. 1958 Radula of *Cancellaria*.  
J. Conch. 24.
13. 1959 *Latlaxis fritschi*: correction; and *Fusus speratus*. ( Re-print not available)  
J. Conch. 24.
14. 1960 Rediscovery of *Guivillea*.  
J. Conch. 24.
15. 1960 The genus *Charitodoron*.  
J. Conch. 24.
16. 1960 New South African gastropods.  
J. Conch. 24.
17. 1962 A new genus of Marginellidae.  
Proc. Mal. Soc. 35.
18. 1962 New Mollusca from Natal, etc  
Ann. Natal Mus. 15.
19. 1962 Tertiary & Pleistocene Marine Mollusca.  
Trans. Roy.Soc.S.Afr. 36.
20. 1963 *Fulgoraria blaizei*.  
J. Conch. 25.
21. 1963 *Gyrina gigantea* & *Fleurotomaria africana*.  
Proc.Mal.Soc. 35.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held in November, so according to our Constitution, nominations for new Council Members are now called for. These must be sent in before 30th September to the Secretary. The consent of the nominee should be obtained.

The present Council is as follows:

President	-	Dr K.H. Barnard	
Vice President	-	Dr F.H. Talbot	
Secretary	-	Mrs L. Kerr	
Treasurer	-	Miss M. Kempthorne	
Member	-	Mr J. Grindley	(S.A. Museum)
"	-	Mrs C. Connolly	
"	-	Mr D. Freeman	
Country Member	-	Mrs H. Boswell	- Transvaal
"	"	Mr P. Elston	- Natal
"	"	Mr D.H. Kennelly	- Border

Nominations are called for, for the President, Secretary and the six Ordinary Members of the Council, three of whom must be Country Members. Members are advised to re-read the Constitution in Circular No. 27.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr K. Sprighton P.O. Box 22 Jacobs Durban

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NATAL MEETING

The second meeting of the Natal group was held in the Board Room of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg on Saturday 10th August at 2 p.m. A total of twelve members and guests were present.

Mr P. Elston, Council member for Natal, was requested to take the Chair and on doing so thanked all present for the honour and privilege and conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Council to those present and the hope that this group would grow from strength to strength.

Dr A.C. van Bruggen gave an interesting and informative talk on terrestrial mollusca and how to look for same. He asked those present to send any discovered to the Museum for study. Thereafter he exhibited specimens of Pteutomaria and explained their relationship to allied Genus. Through his keenness and knowledge we benefitted greatly.

The Chairman explained the working of the Society, the great work being done by the Honorary Secretary and the difficulties, especially financial, being encountered this year.

After a general discussion the Chairman was asked to convey certain suggestions to the Council for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.

Messrs. Benson and Kilburn then showed the meeting certain rather rare Cypraea and other mollusca and a general discussion on our hobby ensued with an invitation to all present who could do so, to visit a member's collection on Sunday morning.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Director for the use of the Board Room.

P. Elston.

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GENERAL NOTES.

AN ABNORMAL CHITON

by K.H. Barnard

A rather peculiar example of Chaetopleura pertusa (Rve.) was found by Mrs Connolly during a recent visit to Queensberry Bay, East London. The specimen is nicely preserved, stretched out flat, measuring overall 30 x 16 mm.; the visible shell measures 26 x 9 mm.

The head and tail valves, and the 3rd, 4th and 7th valves are grey; the 2nd valve is brick-red; the left half of the 5th, and the right half of the 6th valve are grey, the opposite halves red. There is also a small triangular red patch in the middle of the right-hand anterior margin of the 4th valve. On the tail valve is a small white gusset from umbo to hind margin.

The sculpture on the grey valves and the grey portions of the "two-tone" valves is normal, typical pertusa, the ridges on the dorsal area being close together, with numerous granules which produce a beaded appearance, with a series of pits between each pair of ridges. But the sculpture on the red portions is simplified. The lateral areas have 4 or 5 feeble radiating ridges, each with 3-6 tiny granules; the dorsal areas have about 14 fine radiating ridges on the all-red 2nd valve, 7-8 on the half-red valves, each with a few (6 at most) tiny granules. Much more of the smooth surface of the valve is visible on the red portions than on the valves with normal sculpture; and the smooth pleural area (i.e. the outer part of the dorsal area in front of the lateral area) is particularly noticeable.

The South African Museum has some beach-worn valves from Port Alfred which were presumably red in life, but are now faded to an orange-red; they show the normal sculpture.../

sculpture. It has also a specimen from False Bay, the valves of which are now dull pinkish but which appear to have been unicolorous; parts of some of the valves show a tendency to reduce the number of ridges and the number of granules on them; the pits also tend to be suppressed, so that the spaces between the ridges are smooth. But these areas are not sharply demarcated from the areas with normal sculpture.

In the East London specimen some physiological upset in some of the shell-secreting cells, operating from the first formation of the shell, has affected simultaneously and in certain circumscribed areas both the sculpture and the pigmentation.

If an isolated valve covered wholly with the simplified sculpture as on the 2nd valve of the present specimen were found, it would probably be regarded as belonging to a different, perhaps undescribed, species.

It is therefore a warning that no description of a supposedly new Chiton should be based on only a single valve.

Perhaps members of the Society will look-out for similar abnormalities. Specimens with patches of a different colour, especially asymmetrical patches, should be closely examined.

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GYRINA GIGANTEA.

by D.H. Kennelly

A great deal of interest was evinced by collectors, when this Mediterranean species was discovered in 1958 to be living in deep water off the South Zululand Coast.

Since then the nomenclature has been investigated by R.K. Dell, Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand and S.P. Dance, British Museum (Natural History). Their full report has been published in Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London, Vol. 35. Part 4, April 1963 and the correct name for this shell is now Ranella olearium, Linnaeus.

As many of our members will not have access to this publication, the alteration of the name is given for their benefit.

The writer is greatly indebted to his very good friend Mrs Helen Boswell of Pretoria for directing attention to the reports, quoted above and the thanks of all members are due to this enthusiastic collector, for being instrumental in making known the discovery of Ranella olearium in South African waters.

( See new Library List Editor )

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Below is given the Wild Coast version of the well known poem "Excelsior", with apologies to the author of the latter.

CONCHOMANIA.

The morning sun was rising fast,  
When thro' Kei Mouth Village passed  
Collectors, who bore in each right hand  
Bags for the shells lying on the strand.  
Conchomania!

When the dusk of eve was drawing in,  
The collectors made an awful din.  
From far away was heard a yell,  
Do help me clean this tough old shell.  
Conchomania!

The night wore on, out came the moon,  
The din had ceased, and none too soon,  
And in the cabinets, painted white,  
Reposed the shells all clean and bright.  
Conchomania!

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D.H.K.

FIELD NOTES

by C.M. Connolly

On the 22nd February I found the first living Mangilia amplexa at Muizenberg. As there were plenty of dead shells in shingle from Strandfontein, I had worked there for months trying to get six specimens alive for Dr. Barnard as he wanted to extract their radulae. Now at last right here at Fish Hoek, I sifted them out of the sand a foot below low tide. A few are in the tank to see if they are scavengers, and some have been sent to Dr. Barnard.

New record for checklist?

An exciting find at Glencairn was a small shell something like a Nassa. The animal is dusted with cinnamon, has eyes and the foot has two long tails at the back like a Bullia. Will send this in to Dr. Barnard as I think it may be an Adinopsis.

Taking Life Unnecessarily.

To add to our knowledge of Molluscs it is necessary to have the animal, but the scientists are to blame for the death of so many molluscs. They began the "thing" about beach shells being of no importance. Now all collectors are wanting shells collected alive and with the operculum. This is unnecessary for display shells. A lot of shells are found on the beaches that are still fresh and colourful. The killing, cleaning, bleaching and burning with acid till the shell is no better than a very beachy one is regrettable.

Sit on the sand at Millers Point and peacefully bag a few lovely little gems. Some of our loveliest shells are washed nice and clean and arrive at the tide mark just waiting for the early collector to spot them. Just four perfect shells can make life so exciting - a fresh Cythara alfredi, a Scala kraussi so very clean and white, a complete Cardium turtoni, and a Tritonalia puncturata with purple bands, all found in a few inches of midtide shells.

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