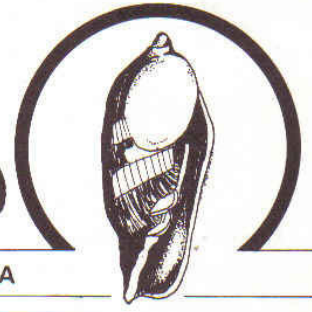


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

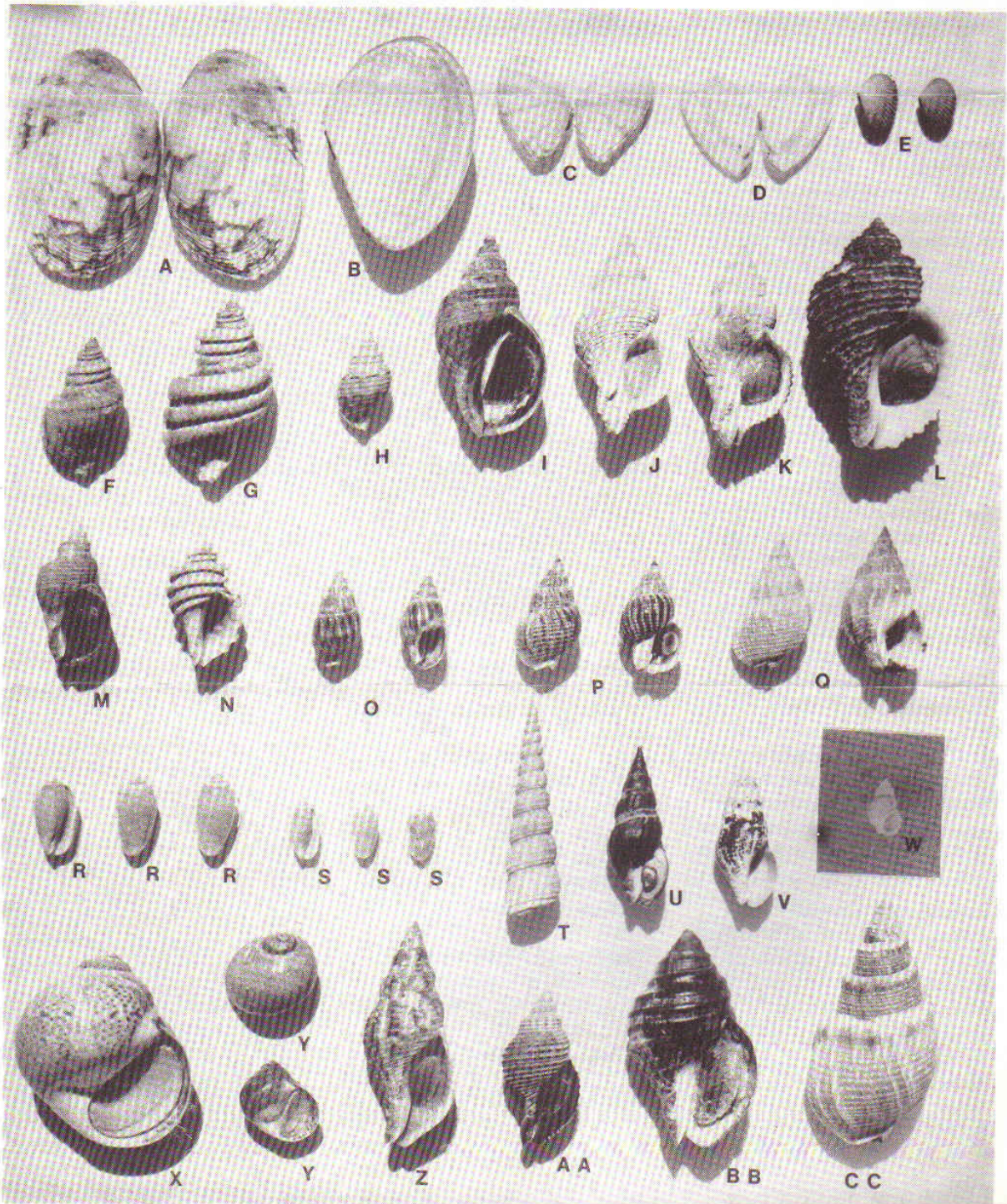


No. 200

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1980

Page 1

"SHELLS FROM LANGEBAAN LAGOON"



LANGEBAAN LAGOON

by

Victor Millard

Last Month we introduced you to the Langebaan Lagoon and we now want to show you some of the shells from that area. Several of them are different from those found on the shores of the open ocean elsewhere along the Cape coast, possibly because of the sheltered conditions in the lagoon and the fact that they have been able to develop without much outside influence over many generations.

The photograph illustrates some species recently collected at Langebaan, with shells from other localities for comparison. The commentary is followed by a list of other molluscs catalogued by the University of Cape Town during a survey of the area in 1955. It can be accepted that a number of other species occurring in the area have been omitted from the lists.

Commentary on the illustration

A. *Tapes corrugata* (Gmelin) 1790

Shell somewhat variable in shape. The pretty patterns, which can be pink or plum coloured or even black, fade to a reddish brown when dried. The interior is usually stained with deep purple. They live in mud banks where they are preyed on by *Natica tecta*. Length up to about 50 mm.

B. *Tellina (Homalina) trilatera* Gmelin 1791

Frequently washed up on the shore all round the bay. Shell thin, white, translucent, sometimes with a pale yellow flush near the hinge. Length about 50 mm.

C./D. *Tellina (Moerella) gilchristi* Sowerby 1904

White, or pale pink, or sometimes white with pink rays. Lives in shallow water in mud. Length about 23 mm.

E. *Carditella rugosa* Sowerby 1892

This small shell is found in shallow water in mud and appears to be covered with a dirty brown periostracum which does not obscure the sharply curved riblets. Length about 10 mm.

F. *Thais cingulata* (Linne) 1771

Occurs in sheltered places close inshore. The characteristic spiral

ribs are frequently absent or less numerous, and tend to fade out as the shells grow older. Length about 25 mm. See also M. and N.

G. *Thais cingulata* (Linne) 1771

Normal heavily ribbed specimen from Sea Point, Cape Town. Length about 35 mm.

H. *Thais dubia* (Krauss) 1848

Shells appear immature compared to those from the Cape Peninsula and no large adult specimens have so far been found at Langebaan either in summer or winter. Size 22 x 10 mm.

I. *Thais dubia* (Krauss) 1848

Normal adult specimen from the Cape Peninsula. Size 35 x 20 mm.

J. *Thais wahlbergi* (Krauss) 1848

Normal specimen from Cape Peninsula. Shell white, aperture sometimes tinged with violet, operculum yellow. Size 35 x 17 mm.

K. *Thais wahlbergi* (Krauss) 1848

The specimens from Langebaan tend to have a plumper outline with a larger body whorl and proportionally larger aperture than the Cape shells. Size 35 x 21 mm.

L. *Thais squamosa* (Lamarck) 1816.

In contrast to the other *Thais* species, this one shows no local peculiarities at Langebaan. Size 40

M. *Thais cingulata* (Linne) 1771

Similar to specimen F but with the spiral ribs replaced by spiral lirae.

N. *Thais cingulata* (Linne) 1771

A small but mature specimen dredged in Saldanha Bay, showing the "normal" ribbing as in shells from the Cape and thus differing from the intertidal form shown in F and M. Size 22 x 14 mm.

O. *Nassarius analogicus* (Sowerby) 1903

Shells can be either smooth or slightly ribbed, with brown bands on a paler background, and a purple aperture which fades when dried. Dredged from the deeper parts of Saldanha Bay. Size 17 x 8 mm.

P. *Nassarius plicatellus* (A. Adams) 1851

Shell purplish brown with growth lines causing slightly raised ribs. Common in shallow water in mud. Size 20 x 12 mm.

Q. *Nassarius speciosus* (A. Adams) 1851

Probably one of the commonest

(Continued on page 3)

BOOK REVIEW

SNAIL MORNING: Poems by Gus Ferguson

Published by Ad Donker, Johannesburg, 1979; Price R4,95.

Something different, and my only regret is that I did not have an opportunity to review this book in time for Christmas. However, it will be something you can exchange that book token for, and if you have already squandered it on something else, well, the price of this one is so reasonable that you don't need to mortgage the house to buy it.

It is a small volume of verses about snails, and the flavour is wry, clever, good natured and charming, and something a little deeper than the first impression of frivolity might lead you to conclude. I imagine every reader will pick out a few favourites and I intend indulging the editorial prerogative by publishing one or two with the author's kind permission.

At least one malacologist of my acquaintance would probably want to suggest that if Gus Ferguson had been introduced to nudibranchs, the last line in the book might have been different. Get hold of a copy to find out for yourself why. In any event it has found a place in my conchological library alongside Dr R. Tucker Abbott and the rest of them. A book to make you smile.

JODY SCHNECKE by Gus Ferguson

On sunny days I really like
To scramble on my motorbike.
I take my little friend the snail
And pitter over hill and dale.

He suction on the petrol-cap
His grip so firm he needs no strap,
Gosh! Nature has equipped him well,
His safety helmet is his shell.

We slide in sand and up the hill,
He gasps and quivers at the thrill.
But most of all he likes the burns
Along the straight and lean-through
turns,
Antennae streaming in the breeze
He pleading: 'Faster FASTER Please!'

A pretty paradox indeed:
A snail who is a freak for speed,

(From *Snail Morning*, published by Ad Donker. With the author's permission)

(Continued from page 2)

- species dredged from Saldanha Bay and also Table Bay. Shoulder nodules sometimes extended into curving vertical ribs. Size 25 x 15 mm.
- R. *Marginella capensis* Krauss 1848
The specimens found at Langebaan are much bigger than those from False Bay where they are also fairly common. Size 15 x 8 mm.
- S. *Marginella capensis* Krauss 1848
Three specimens from False Bay for comparison with Fig R. Size 10 x 4 mm.
- T. *Turritella capensis* Krauss 1848
Shell grey or purplish brown or, occasionally, white. The names *T. knysnaensis* and *T. stimpsoni* have been applied to different forms of this species based on variations in the spiral lirations. The Langebaan specimens tend to be larger than those from Knysna. Size 40 x 10 mm.
- U. *Clavatulina sinuata* Born
Langebaan must be one of the few places where one can find specimens of this species with an uncorroded apex, although it must be admitted that these are not common. Size 30 x 10 mm.
- V. *Clavatulina sinuata* Born
A "normal" specimen from the Cape Peninsula showing the usual corrosion which makes these shells unattractive to most collectors.
- W. *Nassarius* species
This small shell was dredged from the deeper part of Saldanha Bay and resembles *N. muiri* with its vertical ribbing rather than *N. kochianus*. Size 10 x 5 mm.
- X. *Natica tecta* Anton 1839
Fairly large specimens (35 x 30 mm) occur in deeper water in the middle of Saldanha Bay as well as closer inshore. They prey on bivalves as well as on other molluscs such as *Oxysteles tigrina*.
- Y. *Natica tecta* Anton 1839
Specimens from Knysna and Muizenberg for comparison with Fig. X.
- Z. *Afrocominella capensis* (Dunker in Phillipi) 1844
This is the form known from the Cape Peninsula. Shell is grey with purplish brown mottling. Yellow, orange and banded specimens are also occasionally found in False Bay. Size 40 x 15 mm.
- AA. *Afrocominella capensis* (Dunker in Phillipi) 1844
These shells are a dark chocolate brown in colour and not as solid as the Cape specimens. The shell illustrated has well defined spiral lirae which are more prominent than usual. Size 30 x 14 mm.
- BB. *Burnupena papyracea cincta* (Röding)
Shells are similar to those from the Cape Peninsula but they tend to be less corroded. Size 50 x 30 mm.
- CC. *Bullia annulata* (Lamarck) 1816
Found on the shore and on sandbanks, and while dredging in the deeper water of the bay where fairly large specimens occur. Size 45 x 20 mm.
- The following shells were found by the author, either near the shore or while dredging in the bay:
- Nassarius scopularcus* (Barnard) 1959 – shore and dredged
Nassarius kraussianus (Dunker) – dredged
Philine aperta (Linne) – dredged
Bullia laevis (Gmelin) – shore and dredged
Bullia digitalis Meuschen – shore
Bullia rhodostoma Reeve – shore
Argobuccinum argus (Gmelin) – shore and dredged
Oxysteles tigrina (Anton) – shore
Patella miniata Born – shore
Patella oculus Born – shore
Haliotis midae Linne – shore
Conus mozambicus mozambicus Hwass – shore
Mactra glabrata Linne – offshore
- The *Patella* species were large and stained with green algae. *Conus mozambicus* occurs on the islands in the bay. *Mactra glabrata* are abundant in the channels between the sandbanks, particularly to the north of Langebaan village, where they wash up in large numbers in rough weather.
- A survey done by the University of Cape Town's Zoology Dept included the following additional list of shells from Langebaan published in April 1955 under the title "Keys to the Common Shore Animals of Langebaan". Please note that these names have not been revised and it is possible that some of them are now obsolete,
- CHITONS
Acanthochiton garnoti
Chaetopleura papilio
Ischnochiton hewitti
Ischnochiton tigrinus (textilis)
Chiton nigrovirescens
- BIVALVES
Ostraea atherstoni
Anomia species
Lutraria capensis (lutraria)
Lima rotundata
(*Chloro*) *mytilus meridionalis*
Mytilus (Orleiomya) crenata
Donax serra
Macoma ordinaria
Thecalia concamerata
Venus verrucosa
Nucula nucleus
- GASTROPODS
Amblychilepas scutellum
Fissurella mutabilis
Diodora parviforata
Vermetus corallinaceus
Vermetus natalensis
Tricolia species
Assimineia (Synclera) globulus
Littorina knysnaensis
Littorina punctata
Cynisca granulosa
Gibbula species
Oxysteles variegata
Oxysteles zonata
Marginella bairstowi? (probably *rosea*)
Mitra species
Fasciolaria lugubris
Fusinus ocelliferus
Burnupena papyracea
Burnupena limbosa
Burnupena delalandii
Crepidula hepatica
Crepidula rugulosa
Helcion pectunculus
Helcion dunkeri
Calyptraea capensis
Patella granatina
Patella cochlear
Patella compressa
Patella granularis
Patella barbara
Patella argenvillei
Siphonaria capensis
Siphonaria aspera
Arminia species
Aglais species
Berthella species
- NUDIBRANCHS
Janolus capensis
Doris species
Polycera nigrocrocea
- CEPHALOPODS
Sepia officinalis *Octopus vulgaris*
Hemisepius typicus

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

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ROUND THE GROUPS

PRETORIA: A competition at the November meeting "A Shell With A Story" was won by Tom Duncan who discovered a Viking ruin while out shell collecting in Scotland. Lorene Du Preeze spoke of her recent visit to Turkey and Israel. The January meeting would feature a talk on pearls by Han Vandenberg, and there had been an invitation to exhibit at the flower show in the city hall in February.

PORT ELIZABETH: At the November meeting members unpacked the show case in the museum and recovered their shells that had been on loan for the past two-and-a-half months.

PORT SHEPSTONE: Members discussed and identified their Olive shells at the November meeting, and also had a look at shell books. The new Cone Book by Walls has been ordered for the group's library. Articles are also being contributed to the local newspaper, The Herald.

DURBAN: Three bulletins from the Durban and Districts Branch report on their field day in October, to Reunion Rocks; the first of a series of talks on shelling in S. Africa; plans for a study project on Marginellidae to form the basis of an article in The Strandloper; a request to report all material collected at field days for identification; fundraising through the sale of shell collecting bags; hints on housing and displaying a collection; likely shelling areas in Natal; and the types of shells found in the various zones between high and low water.

CAPE TOWN: The last meeting of the old year, in December, featured a fascinating talk on coral by Mr Pienaar, a guest speaker from Stellenbosch. This followed the previous month's equally fascinating talk by Mr Rob Koch on the wreck of the Paquita at Knysna. Dr Gosliner who has been newly appointed to the staff of the S.A. Museum mentioned the improvements planned for the next few years and the need for us to assist with certain aspects of the shell display.

EXCHANGES WANTED

Mr J. Trondle, B.P. 1753, Papeete, TAHITI, offers Polynesian shells in exchange for ours. Interested in Mitridae.

Dr Dieter Röckel, Am Steinern Kreuz 40, 6100 Darmstadt, WEST GERMANY, specialises in Cones and would especially like to get really good bairstowi and infrenatus, as well as one or two others.

Mr Enzo Villoresi, Via Calalzo 11, 00135 ROMA, ITALY would like to exchange or buy Patellidae, Ovulidae, Eratoidea, Cypraea and some other families.

Mr Norman Lerman, 611 Olive Street — Rm 2073, St LOUIS, Missouri 63101, U.S.A. is a new collector who has insufficient trading material to offer and would prefer to buy shells at this stage. Simon J.A. Barbour, 46 Burlington Street, Walkerville 5081, South Australia, has a catalogue of over 70 species for sale or exchange.

AEC Bill Jones AIMD, W/C 620 NAS, BARBERS POINT, HAWAII 96862, has been collecting in Guam, Marianas Islands and wants to contact shellers. He offers a number of Cowrie species and various Cones, Tritons, Harps, etc.

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