



The Cleaning and Caring of Shells

- From a talk given by *Danny Spengler at a Pretoria Group Meeting

The cleaning methods I am going to talk about are not the only methods, nor perhaps the best, but it works for me!

We here in the Pretoria area collect shells once, perhaps twice a year. After collecting the first couple of shells, cleaning has to start. Invariably I found that some cleaning utensil or other was not packed or was packed in some unlikely place. Get a nice plastic toolbox and keep everything needed in it – and some things not really needed for just in case...

Your toolbox:

Some items to go into the toolbox: Tweezers, various dentist picks, measuring tool i.e. ruler or vernier, scissors, sharp cutting implement or your Leatherman tool, pencil and eraser, permanent marker, squares of paper, labels, Pritt, cotton wool, masking tape, stretch cotton (type used for tying bait to hooks), toothbrush, nailbrush, eye dropper, small steel brush, magnifying glass (if possible the binocular type used by stamp collectors), Prestik, roll of toilet paper,

roll of paper towel, dish cloths, Goddard metal cleaner, container of mineral oil, small paint brush (water colour type), plenty of plastic bags (zipper bags of various sizes), empty pill and film containers, small plastic containers/dishes, electrical double adapter, plasters, various adapters for taps (to fit different size taps to use your squirt, plastic spoons, plastic shopping bags, a couple of fishing weights (which you have picked up over the years while beach combing), floppy hat, bag with your permit in, and whatever more you want to use.

There are a couple of items that won't fit into the toolbox: Your squirt, Jik (bleach solution), a couple of empty egg trays, polystyrene trays (black ones works fine), various sizes of strainers (with different mesh sizes) and various sizes of empty butter or ice cream tubs.

Invariably you will discover at your shelling scene that you need something that stayed behind. Put it on a list and remember to pack it next time!

Now, to cleaning:



In this Issue:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Cleaning and Caring of Shells | 1 |
| 2. Contact details of CSSA | 3 |
| 3. AGM 2003 | 7 |
| 1. President's Report | |
| 2. Treasurers's Report | |
| 3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting | |
| 4. News from the Groups | |
| 4. <i>Chlamys tincta</i> | 11 |
| 5. Rare shells in a bottle | 12 |

Basically you get three types of shells:

1. Unoccupied – mainly beach shells
2. Shells with squatter rights – crabbed
3. Shells with squatter rights – crabbed

A. Unoccupied – mainly beach shells

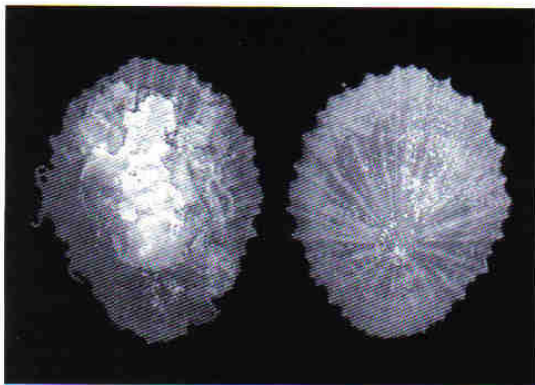
They are normally fairly clean but the following conditions can be found:

1. Clean

- i. Rinse in fresh water to remove sand and salt.
- ii. Shake the excess water off.
- iii. Put out to dry in egg tray with aperture down.
- iv. Put a piece of paper with the details of the shell in the container.

2. Limed

- i. Remove as much as possible of the lime with your various tools.
- ii. Put in bleach solution to soften remaining lime – three to four hours should do. This is where small containers start to coming into use.
- iii. Remove from bleach solution, rinse with fresh water and brush off remaining lime with nailbrush or, if necessary, the steel brush. Important – NEVER use the steel brush on shiny shells like cowries.
- iv. Repeat until all the lime is removed
- v. Rinse thoroughly and dry.



Not perfect, but it looks much better!

Scutellastra tabularis (Krauss, 1848)

3. With periostracum

- i. If you want to remove the periostracum, place it into your bleach solution.
- ii. Rinse with fresh water.
- iii. Remove lime or barnacles by repeating the Jik process.
- iv. Rinse thoroughly and dry.



Note the very thick periostracum on the shell on the left.

Cymatium parthenopeum (von Salis, 1793)

Continue on page 4 ...

f u l t o n i . c o m

www.fultoni.com

Specialists in South African Marine Shells
Fast and Efficient Service
No minimum Order. Buy or Exchange
Wants lists accepted

E-mail: info@fultoni.com
Phone: +27-21-790-0333
Fax: +27-21-790-1689

P.O. Box 26157
Hout Bay 7672
South Africa

Conchological Society of Southern Africa

Founded 1958

Patron : Dr R.N. Kilburn

MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2003/04 (incl. Strandloper)

👤	- ordinary	R120-00
👤	- overseas (2 years)	US \$ 60-00
👤	- life before 1999	R95-00

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary CSSA, P.O. Box 51694, Wierdapark, 0149, South Africa
secretary@conch-sa.org.za

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT:

Dr. Johan Marais
president@conch-sa.org.za Tel:

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Rina Mathee
vice@conch-sa.org.za Tel. (H) (031)-2661795

TREASURER:

Mrs. Christelle Deysel
treasurer@conch-sa.org.za Tel: H (012)-6550428

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Kobie du Preez
secretary@conch-sa.org.za Tel: H (082)-3726790

EDITOR STRANDLOPER:

Mrs. Kobie du Preez
editor@conch-sa.org.za Tel: H (082)-3726790

REGIONAL CONTACT PERSONS:

BLOEMFONTEIN (Vrystaat Groep)

Ds. H. van der Walt, P.O. Box 25913, Langenhoven Park, 9300
vrystaat@conch-sa.org.za (051)-4464244

CAPE TOWN

Mr V. Millard, P.O. Box 27208, Rhine Rd., Cape Town 8050.
ctown@conch-sa.org.za

DURBAN (Group)

Mrs. Rina Mathee, 30 Headingley Rd., Westville 3630, South Africa
dbn@conch-sa.org.za (031)-2661795

EAST LONDON (Border Group)

Miss R.M. Tietz, 408 Kennaway Court, Inverleith Terrace, East London, 5201, South Africa
border@conch-sa.org.za (043)-7437818

PIETERMARITZBURG (Group)

Mrs. Dawn Brink, 2 Highfield Drive, Westville, 3630, South Africa
pmburg@conch-sa.org.za (031)-2661404

PORT ELIZABETH (Group)

Mr. Louw Fouche, Nathanweg 30, Broadwood, Port Elizabeth, 6070, South Africa
pe@conch-sa.org.za (041)-3675497

PRETORIA (Group)

Mr. Alwyn Marais, P.O. Box 870, Florida Hills, 1716, South Africa
pta@conch-sa.org.za (082)-5547578

SOUTHERN NATAL (Group)

Mr. Geoff Wallace, P.O. Box 513, Port Shepstone 4240, South Africa
snatal@conch-sa.org.za (039)-6951100

<http://www.conch-sa.org.za>

Advertising Costs in Strandloper:

Per placement:

Fit in column:	R75-00
Half a page:	R150-00
Full page:	R300-00

Overseas: Devide the above-mentioned prices with 10 for the US \$ price.

Please send your digital image to the editor. **Scans and manipulation of advertisements will be charged for!**

Back-issues

R10-00 for black and white issues
R15-00 for colour issues
R1-00 = + US \$ 10-00, overseas members to add US \$2-50 for postage.

I have now available a limited amount of *Strandloper* 225 and it is for sale for R30-00, or US \$ 5-00 (including postage).

Please contact me for more details.

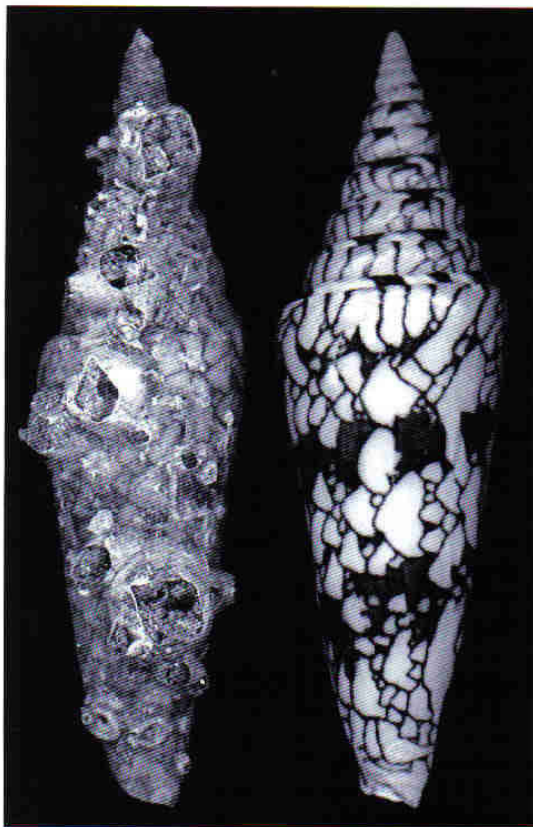
Ed.

... From page 2

The Cleaning and Caring of Shells

4. With barnacles

- i. Remove barnacles with knife or other tools. A pointed tool with a centre punch point is useful. Point loading on barnacle cement quite often causes the cement to chip off completely.
- ii. Put in bleach solution, rinse and brush.
- iii. Rinse thoroughly and dry.



Can you believe this??

Conus milneedwardsi Jousseaume, 1894

5. With grass of other plant life

- i. Leave in sun until very dry.
- ii. Brush off with steel brush.
- iii. Put in bleach solution if necessary.
- iv. Rinse thoroughly and dry.

6. Discoloured

- i. Put in bleach solution.
- ii. Rinse, brush with applicable brush.
- iii. Rinse thoroughly and dry.

7. Micro-shells

- i. Once micro-shells have been sorted from grit, rinse the shells by using a fine strainer.
- ii. Cover a polystyrene tray with a couple of layers of toilet paper or paper towel.
- iii. Put the rinsed shells on the covered tray, put two to three fishing weights on to hold the paper down and put out to dry (Not in a windy place!). The paper will draw out most of the water in the shells.

B. Shells with squatter rights – crabbed

Remove crabs, and then treat as unoccupied shells.

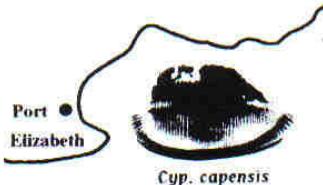
To remove crabs:

1. Put in container until crabs are dead. Remove by prying out with a long slender tool. This is not very satisfactory as most parts of the crabs remain in the shells and the hooks on the end of the tail stick inside and the tail breaks off.
2. Put crabbed shells in a metal or glass dish and put this in the warming oven of the stove until the crabs are dead. A large percentage of the crabs will leave the shells. Remove the remaining crabs.
3. Stoves are not always available on a shelling trip, especially when camping. In this case use 2 metal containers such as pots, one to fit into the other. Put boiling water in the larger and the crabs in the smaller. Let the water cool down a bit, then place the smaller pot into the larger, put a lid on and let stand for a while. After + 30 minutes check if crabs are still moving, repeat process until all crabs are dead. Again, most crabs would have left the shells. Remove remaining crabs.
4. Use the squirt to flush out any pieces of crab that remained behind.

C. Live snails

1. Ordinary shells

- i. Rinse and place into plastic bag.
- ii. Put in deep freeze.
- iii. At leisure, when back at home, take from deep freezer – still in plastic bag – and leave to rot for three to four days for smaller shells and six days plus for bigger shells.
- iv. Once well rotten remove and rinse in clean water. Tip: The use of a nose clip is recommended!
- v. Remove operculum and put it on side of egg tray division.
- vi. Remove animal with appropriate tool
- vii. Place shell in same division as operculum.
- viii. When all shells have been cleared of the animals, squirt out each shell, and replace it with aperture down in same division as operculum. Be careful when picking up each shell not to lose the operculum.
- ix. Clean as discussed.
2. Cowries (Remember you are not allowed to take live cowries in Kwazulu Natal)
- i. Rinse live cowries in fresh water, dry it and place in a zip seal plastic bag.
- ii. Place in fridge to kill – NOT in deep freezer because it may crack – for two to three hours.
- iii. When dead, remove from fridge and leave outside in egg tray for a couple of days with aperture up.
- iv. Check for juices running out – this may damage the shell.
- v. After two to three days (depending on size) squirt out animal.
- vi. If no squirt is available and to avoid damage to shell from acid juices caused by the rotting process, place shell, aperture up, in egg tray. With a eye dropper put a couple of drops of water in aperture, four to five times a day for three to five days, then remove with long sharp tool, squirt out under tap.
- vii. Rinse thoroughly and dry.
3. Cones
- i. To remove animal use long, needle-like tool. Insert needle into aperture at narrow or anterior end and rotate anti-clockwise towards the aperture to remove the animal.
- ii. All cones must be put in bleach to remove periostracum should you wish to remove it.
4. Fragile shells – Example *Hydatina sp.*
- i. Once cleaned and rinsed, wipe dry with toilet paper, oil and then put out to dry. It will prevent cracking.
5. Terebras and similar shells
- i. These are very difficult to clean. When cleaning out the animal, leave the shells outside for a while. This gives the flies a time to visit. Once you have noticed flies around, put shells in plastic bag and leave for a couple of days. The larvae will hatch and do the job for you!
- ii. Peroxide can also be used. A couple of drops in the shell will cause frothing and this will loosen
- Tips:**
- o Bleach - When live shells have to be bleached, use small, numbered containers (this is where your permanent marker comes in play). On a small piece of paper write the corresponding number. Put paper and container in the same egg tray division, take shell from this division and put operculum in same division. This way you opercula won't get mixed up.
 - o Opercula – When a live shell has been cleaned



Port
Elizabeth

Cyp. capensis

**ALGOA BAY
SPECIMEN
SHELLS**

BRIAN HAYES

- Largest variety of southern African shells offered at the best prices.
- Large world-wide stock — many rarities offered. Please send us your want lists!
- We buy – sell – trade top-quality shells!
- Write for free retail or wholesale price list. We offer quality and reliability
- Try us – you won't be disappointed!

P.O. Box 804, Port Elizabeth
6000 South Africa

- Tel/Fax: 041 - 581-8561
- E-mail: algoabay@yebo.co.za
- Web: <http://home.yebo.co.za/~algoabay/>

and dried, oil the inside and put a wad of cotton wool in the aperture. Examine operculum to determine it's inside (usually the shiny side), put a bit of Pritt on this side and stick to cotton wool. Remember to oil the operculum as well, this will prevent cracking.

- o Lips – Always clean away from the lip, not towards the lip
- o Oil – Always use a mineral oil after cleaning and drying of your shells. Technical oil is good, but I found it to be too sticky. I use Johnson's Baby Oil – it is thin and penetrates well into the shell. It also helps to counter smells.
- o The use of Acid – This is a controversial method of cleaning. If, however it is used carefully, it can be applied. IMPORTANT – use safety goggles and protective clothing when working with acid! Use ordinary pool acid. Dilute this at least ten times by ALWAYS adding the acid to the water. Use a broken shell to experiment with. When dipping this shell into the acid, bubbles must be released steadily. If it is bubbling too much, dilute the solution further. A good shell can very easily be ruined by a too strong solution.
- o Acid is only used to remove a thin layer of lime that dulls a shell that couldn't be removed by other methods. Do not try to remove thick or stubborn patches of lime.

- o Apply the acid solution to the outside of the shell with a toothbrush and rinse immediately. Try not to get any acid on the inside – it will ruin the shiny parts.
- o NEVER use acid on a glossy shell.
- o For cleaning micro-shells that are too small for normal cleaning, clamp shell with tweezers, aperture down, put into acid, move the tweezers around once or twice, remove and rinse thoroughly.
- o Apply oil to any shell that was acid-treated as soon as shell is dry.
- o Squirt – Get a 1.5 to 2 m length of soft pliable hose. Buy a snap on fitting and fit. For the nozzle use the front end of a ballpoint pen for bigger shells or a disposable syringe for smaller ones. Fit this into the other end using a hose clamp to tighten it – ready for use. Place a spare adaptor of different size in your toolbox – when away from home you might find that the tap size is different.
- o Remember when squirting shells, always do it in a bucket of water. If not, the backwash will be all over you and you might end up with a juicy piece of rotten animal up your nostril – just where you don't want it!

HAPPY CLEANING!

* Danny Spengler
P.O. Box 2067
Boksburg
1460
South Africa
Tel. (011) 8962049 or 084 5820007



South African Shells

Specimen shells of Southern Africa

Rare and common
Satisfaction guaranteed
Free Price List

For more information, contact us on
sales@sashells.co.za

Visit our site: www.sashells.co.za

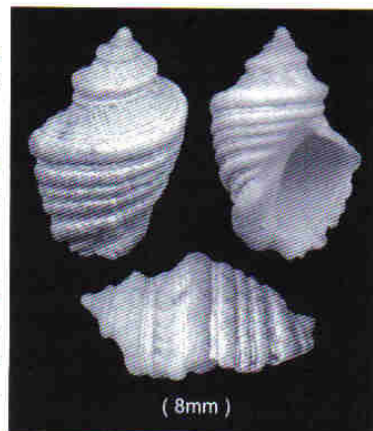
P.O. Box 870, Florida Hills 1716
South Africa

Help!!

Can you help with the identification of this species?

It was found crabbed in a rock pool - Treasure beach, Durban.

Please contact Mrs. Rina Matthee, 30 Headingly Rd., Westville 3630, South Africa (031)-2661795 or the editor.

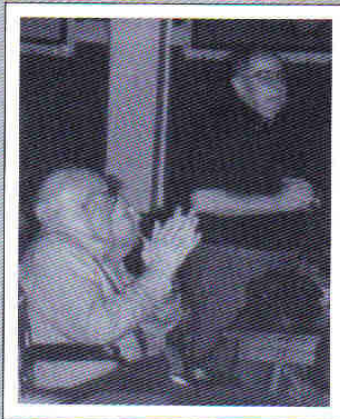


Annual General Meeting – 10 May 2003

The New Committee (Left to Right)

Back: Dr. Johan Marais, Alwyn Marais
Front: Christelle Deysel, Kobie du Preez, Rina Matthee

Not present: Damian Kislig, Maurice Evans

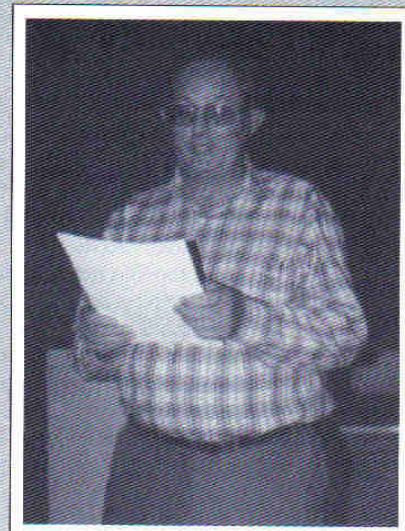
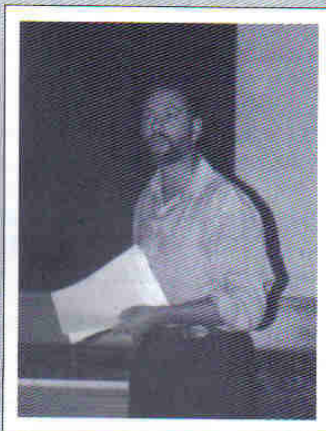


Left

Sitting - Iorry & Medea Evans
Standing - Bill Kruger

Below (Left to Right):

Roy Aiken, Rina Matthee, Vellies Veldsman



President's Report 2003

Before I continue I want to pay tribute to the members who passed away since the last AGM. We remember the following members: Mr. R G Caballero of Spain and Mr. A J Dogterom of the Netherlands

Welcome to all the new members in Southern Africa and aboard who have joined the past year. The Society has place for all types of collectors of all ages

- o The person who collects for the beauty of the shells
- o The scientific collectors who describes newly found shells
- o The member who collects from one single beach, to
- o Those with lots of space who collect worldwide everything they can lay their hand on.
- o Large-shell collectors to the microscopic small shells

Welcome to you all. We look forward to your contributions to the Society.

For the new member, the Strandloper is the Society's official publication. The publication does not belong to me, the Committee or the Editor, it belongs to the members, so please help us by supplying news, articles etc.

We have come to the end of another term. It is over 10 years since the head office of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa moved to Pretoria. The Treasurer will comment on the states of the Society in her report and the Secretary will give feedback on the activities of the active groups. At this stage I thank both Kobie and Christelle for the hours they spend sending out reminders, following up non-paying members and marketing the Society.

During the past year, the Society has lost the service of Mike Cortie, who for many years was Director, Editor of the Strandloper and a Committee Member. Mike has already settled in Australia - we wish him good luck in his new career.

At the moment it is very difficult to report on newly described shell species from Southern Africa. The major publications where the information is found are more then six months behind and we are not told who is working on what. As information become available we will published it in the Strandloper. I can however mention Dr Felix Lorenz. He has done a lot of research on the South African cowries, specifically the *Cypraeovula* Genus. New names that occur are:

Cypraeovula fuscudentata grohorum,
Cypraeovula fuscudentata sphaerica,
Cypraeovula coronata debruini,
Cypraeovula alfredensis transkeiana,
Cypraeovula connelli peelaie,
Cypraeovula colligata, *Nesiocypraea aenigma*, *Leporicypraea mappa aliwalensis*.

To promote the Society amongst the youth and young scientist the Management Committee yearly donates a prize to the best marine project at the National Expo for young scientists. We do not know what happens on school and regional level as we only see the best 800 projects on all subjects, countrywide. I can report that there is an improvement in quality and numbers of marine science projects or project on marine aspects in other categories.

During the past year the Secretary established a website for the Society to advertise, promote the Society and to make communication easier. Alwyn Marais Company has sponsored the cost for the web - site. Thanks to both.

Thanks to all the Committee Members for their contributions during the year. To the members present, members all over the country and the world, thanks for your support. You are the Society, please help us to grow and extend.

Last but not the least thanks to Susan for all her support during the past year.

Vellies Veldsman (Pr. Sci. Nat.)

A word from the outgoing President

May 2003

At the adoption of the new Constitution in the late 1990's and the change in Management Structure I become the first active President of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa.

Now as outgoing President I thank you for your support during my term of office. I especially mention those members not in Pretoria who welcome me to their Groups, into their homes and who share their interest in and love for shells with Susan, Stephan and myself. I wish you all continued pleasure in shelling, in seeking new shell, working through your collections and even in just looking at your shells.

Susan and I remain members of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa in spite of having resign from the Pretoria Group in 2002; and since January convened regular shell workshops at our home on the third Saturday of every month. We select a family, work through our shells, confirming identification and trying to update our data. About a dozen shell collectors join us for very lively meetings. Every one interested is welcome at the workshops - or just visits us to talk shells.

Over and above South African shells (freshwater, land and marine) we also collect the following families worldwide: Susan specialises in the Cypraeidae, Marginellidae, Triviidae, Ovulidae and Pectinidae; Stephan Conidae and Strombidae and myself in the Volutidae, Muricidae, Ranellidae, Trochidae, Coralliophiliidae Casidae, Bivalvia etc. etc.

Vellies Veldsman (Pr. Sci. Nat.)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003

Mr President and Fellow Members,

The books of account have been scrutinised by Magda Odendaal C.A. (S.A) and have been found to be in order. The Financial Statements are tabled.

We end the year with a surplus of R 9 193.44. Income for the year amounted to R21 307.67, while expenditure totalled R12 114.23. Only 3 issues of The Strandloper were produced. The 4 th issue is currently at the printers. The cost of the latest issue will be reflected in the 2003/2004 financial year, although the necessary funds was available from the income for the 2002/2003 financial year.

The Editor has been able to contain the printing costs for The Strandloper at R7 207.72 Postage remained about the same for this year at R 3 276.90 .

Distribution of The Strandloper has been limited to paid up members only. We are indebted to Kobie du Preez, who has updated the membership database to an electronic one. This simplified matters when it came to the printing of the accounts and address labels. We also have a much clearer picture of the paying members. The CSSA has 135 paying members to date and a total of 201 active members. The committee increased the membership fees to R120.00 per annum for members and R95.00 per annum for Life members. This is to keep up with increases in printing costs and postage. The CSSA is on the path to financial recovery and to keep it that way it is necessary to increase the subscriptions. The projected cost for producing and mailing 4 issues of The Strandloper for next year is R19 000.00.

Subscriptions were the main source of income for the past financial year. Thanks to every member that contributed. The Secretary played a mayor role in getting the subscriptions in. She spent a lot of time and effort in informing members of outstanding fees.

Donations of R210.00 were received as to R550.00 from the previous year.

There were a few sales of books, back-issues of The Strandloper and shells for this financial year. An amount of R 492.00 was earned through these various sales.

A bid of R500.00 was received and accepted for the display cabinet, donated by Damian Kislig. The Strandloper 266. featured a photograph of the cabinet.

Due to the strengthening of the value of the Rand, an increase in postage and banking fees, the subscriptions for our overseas members will increase to \$ 60.00 for 2 years. The overseas members remain a very valuable part of the CSSA.

Our membership figures are as follows:

Honorary Life members	7 (3 not receiving The Strandloper)
Life members	16
Full members	135
Payment outstanding	14
Non-Paying	15
Exchange	14
Total	201

11 Members resigned and 2 members passed away.

24 Members joined the CSSA. The one membership is an exchange membership and two is non-paying. Non-contributing members numbers have decrease from 102 to 62.

The CSSA finances have improved dramatically over the past year. This is due to the positive attitude of our members. Lets keep it that way.

C. M. Deysel
Treasurer

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 10th May 2003 at the Pretoria Zoo

1. **Welcome:** The president welcomed all members of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa and visitors present at the AGM. A quorum was present and the meeting was pronounced open. A moment of silence was held in memory of members that have passed away during the year.
2. **Approval of minutes of the AGM held on 08th May 2002:** The minutes was read by the secretary, proposed for approval by Laurie Smith and seconded by lorry Evans. The minutes were approved by the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising from previous minutes:**
 - 3.1. **25 Year membership certificates** – The secretary requested that the heading of point 3.1 should change to "25 Year Membership Certificates" and that the following should be: "The certificates are issued to those members that have more than 25 years of membership, and who is not Life Members. According to the new constitution we don't grant Life Membership anymore, and the certificate is in recognition for the years of membership." Her request was granted.
 - 3.2. **Transvaal Museum** – Mrs. Dombrowsky of the museum contacted the secretary about the shells mentioned in the previous minutes. All the shells have been sent to the Natal Museum and only those on display remains.
4. **25 Year membership certificates** – Only two members qualified: Magni, S and Sinclair, A.C. Certificates to go out with the next Strandloper.
5. **Presidents Report: (Attachment 1)** - Vellies Veldsman read his Presidents Report. Geoff Wallace, seconded by Rob May, proposed it for approval.
6. **Financial Report: (Attachment 2)** - Christelle Deysel read her Financial Report. Geoff Wallace, seconded by Alwyn Marais, proposed it for approval. The financial report was accepted by the meeting.
7. **News from the Groups: (Attachment 3)** - The secretary read a summarized version of the information received from the different shell groups.
8. **Prize for best article in *The Strandloper*** – Tom Rice from the *Of Sea and Shore* magazine is the sponsor for this year's prize. The judges were Prof. Douw Steyn and Dr. Mike Cortie and they unanimously chose Alwyn and Johan Marais' article on Columbarids (*Strandloper* 270) as the winner, with Sian Tiley and Elizabeth Burger's article on Cowries in Archaeology (*Strandloper* 267) as runner up. First prize is a year's subscription to the *Of Sea and Shore* magazine and second prize is a copy of *Rices Prices*, a catalogue of shell prices.
9. **Election of a new Committee:**

The election of committee members was done in accordance with the Societies constitution, and the following members were selected to serve on the committee:

President	– Dr. Johan Marais
Vice-President	– Rina Matthee
Secretary	– Kobie du Preez
Treasurer	– Christelle Deyzel
Editor <i>Strandloper</i>	– Kobie du Preez
Members	– Maurice Evans, Alwyn Marais and Damian Kislig

10. **Exhibition** - The theme of the exhibition was 'These are a few of my favourite shells. (Maximum six shells)' and was enthusiastically portrayed by several members. It was very hard to determine a winner, with the margin on points very small, but the exhibit by one of our guests from Durban made the biggest impression on the judges – congratulations to Rina Matthee.

Trophy	CSSA AGM	Winner
Silver <i>Afrivoluta pringlei</i>	Best exhibit	Rina Matthee
Silver cowry	Best Scholar exhibit	Not contested

11. General

- 11.1. **Groups** – Rina Matthee made a request that the secretary should send the names of members that belong to a group, but not to the Society, to the groups. They can then in turn act on the information and ask their members

to join the Society.

- 11.2. **Thank You's** – Bill Kruger gave tribute to Vellies for running the Society for so many years. Geoff Wallace thanked the Pretoria Group for organizing the AGM. Dr. Johan Marais thanked Vellies and the old committee for the work they did in the past, and thanked all the members for their support. He looks forward to the challenge of his position.

Summary of Group Information Received:

Group	Members Belonging to the CSSA	Members Not Belonging to the CSSA	Activities
Border	13	8	Very active Group. Talks about families, have internal exhibits and guest speakers. Assist East London Museum with projects.
Durban	12	*11	Very active Group. Talks about families, have internal exhibits and guest speakers.
Pietermaritzburg			Dormant. Members attend Southern Natal or Durban Group meetings. Dawn Brink still willing to act as contact person.
Port Elizabeth			No information received. Has been dormant since last AGM
Pretoria	22	22	Very active Group. Talks about families, have internal exhibits and guest speakers. Maintain shell exhibit at Pretoria Zoo
Southern Natal	9	*8	Informal meetings. Very active Group. Talks about families. Guest speakers
Vrystaat	5	4	Talks about shells and have identification evenings.

* Spouses not members of Society but are members of groups. In the Pretoria Group the spouses are excluded as members, they just attend.

Letters



From a letter received from Mrs. Medea Evans from Pretoria

"Please clarify is *Chlamys tincta* ('s new name) *Talochlamys multistriata* or *Laevichlamys tincta* like *Laevichlamys weberi*?"

From *Strandloper* 270 - 1. Page 12 – "Although the intensity of colour is not as great as *Talochlamys multistriata* (Poli, 1795) (previously known to us as *Chlamys tincta* E.A Smith, 1906; synonymized by Dijkstra and Kilburn in 2001), the species shows a much wider pattern range than *T. multistriata*."

Mike Els gave the publication which he referred to as reference in the last paragraph of the article, namely "Dijkstra HH and Kilburn RN. *The family Pectinidae in South Africa and Mozambique*. African Invertebrates December 2001.

2. Page 4 – The list is an extract of the changes and synonyms in the above-mentioned publication. *Ostrea multistriata* was the first name given to *Talochlamys multistriata* and unfortunately the name *Chlamys tincta* wasn't included as one of the names.

The name that should be used for the shell known to us as *Chlamys tincta* is *Talochlamys multistriata*.

Editor.

HELP!!

I have the following identified Eulimidae: *Melanella algoensis*, *M. capensis*, *M. cumingi*, *M. cylindrica*, *M. dilecta*, *M. elata*, *M. pelucidula* and *Pyramidelloides miranda*. According to Kilburn & Rippey (*Sea Shells of Southern Africa*, 1982) page 56, there are about 40 species described from South Africa.

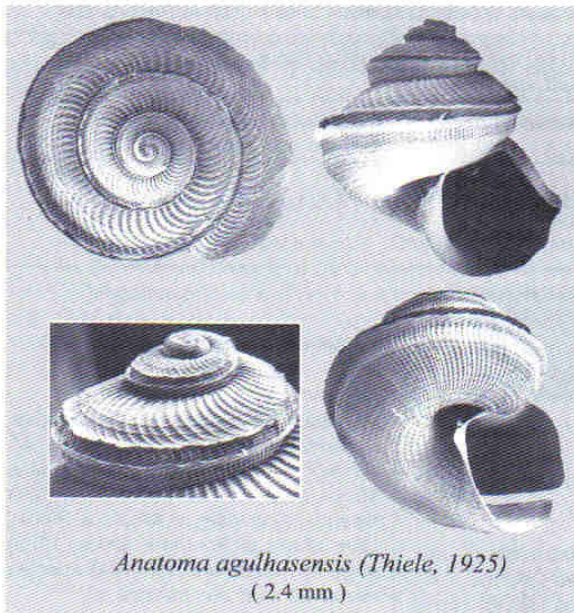
Could anybody perhaps assist me in identifying my unidentified species or perhaps send me samples of any species other than the above-named? In doing that you will improve my health – Less of a headache!

Danny Spengler
P.O. Box 2067
Boksburg
1460
South Africa
Tel. (011) 8962049 or 084 5820007

Rare shells in a bottle

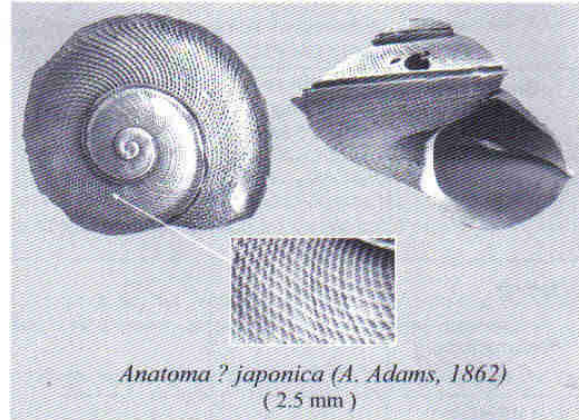
- By Johan and * Alwyn Marais

As part of our dredging project along the KwaZulu-Natal coast, we recently spent some time dredging off Park Rynie at a depth of 100-150 m. Our dredging spot was at least 15 km off-shore and probably on the route of commercial shipping moving up and down the coast. We were amazed at the large number of bottles of all description picked up by our small dredge. Among them was an old screw-cap type beer bottle of the South African Breweries that must date back to well before the Second World War! All bottles were half-filled with muddy sand and stones. Since we made use of every opportunity to find interesting shells, we shook the sand and stones out of the bottle into our fractionating sieves before drying and sorting for micro-shells. On inspection under the microscope we found, to our horror, that the only shells present were freshly-broken bits of the rare *Anatoma agulhasensis* (Thiele, 1925) and *Anatoma ? japonica* (A. Adams, 1862) belonging to the family Scissurellidae.



Anatoma agulhasensis (Thiele, 1925)
(2.4 mm)

Although the family Scissurellidae is related to the large and beautiful slit shells (Pleurotomariidae), its members are usually less than 2 mm in diameter. Nine species occur in South African waters belonging to the genera *Anatoma*, *Scissurella*, *Sinezona* and *Sukashitrochus*, several of which appear to live intertidally. Due to their small size little is known regarding their biology. Shallow-water species appear to be associated with seaweeds and the eel grass, *Zostera*. Deep-water species occur in muddy substrata, coral gravel or shell grit, but little is known about their feeding habits. These delicate little shells show primitive characters. They



Anatoma ? japonica (A. Adams, 1862)
(2.5 mm)

all possess either a hole or slit in the outer lip and the shells are adorned with exquisite fine sculpture.

A. agulhasensis and *A. japonica* both are deepwater species unlikely ever to wash ashore and can therefore only be found in the guts of bottom-feeding fish caught in deep water or by dredging. *A. agulhasensis* occurs from the Tsitsikamma coast to northern KwaZulu-Natal, while *A. japonica* is only known from KwaZulu-Natal and the north-eastern Cape. These two species are particularly fragile because the length of the slit in the outer lip is almost a third of the circumference of the shells. Needless to say, the sand in the remaining bottles was treated with much more respect. By removing the sand very gently we were able to recover several intact specimens of these delicate and rare little shells.

Acknowledgements:

The authors would like to thank Dr D.G. Herbert of the Natal Museum for supplying the SEM photo's used in this article.

* Mr. Alwyn Marais

P.O. Box 870, Florida Hills, 1716, South Africa

0825547578

amarais@purple.co.za

EDITOR STRANDLOPER:

Mrs. Kobie du Preez

P.O. Box 51694

Wierdapark

0149

South Africa

editor@conch-sa.org.za

Tel: H +27 12-6602394

Mobile +27 82-3726790