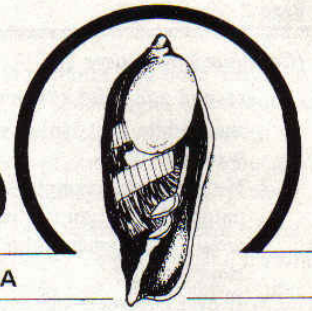


# The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 186

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1977

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## EFFECTS OF POLLUTION?

by R.J. RATTRAY

(Photograph M.J. v.d. LINDE)

In my possession, I have four different examples of *Cypraea annulus*. One from Mauritius, on the right of the photograph, which is the normal example of *C. annulus*, a cream to white dorsum with the distinctive golden ring prominent. The second is from Malindi Beach, Kenya (not illustrated), in this case the dorsum colour has a bluish tinge, the golden ring is again prominent. The third example (Also not illustrated), is from Durban North Coast, the dorsum in this case is of a much darker colour and the golden ring tends to merge with the dorsum colour. The fourth example is the one I am most concerned with. This was collected from a bed of *C. annulus* within Durban Harbour, and is illustrated on the left of the photograph and is nearly black in colour with a prominent red ring. This was one of several all of the same pigmentation, black/dark grey dorsum with red ring, others in the same bed were of the same dorsum colour but in these cases the ring had nearly disappeared completely. The bed itself is close to where the tankers berth and I believe this is the cause of the pigmentation change. As there is not much of a tidal flow there is normally an oil residue left on the surface of the water which is deposited on the rocks at low tide. In most cases the oil can be clearly seen on the surface of the shells and amongst mature specimens, impregnated within the shell itself.



*Cypraea annulus*

The above facts bring to light several questions.

1. Is the pigmentation due to pollution in the fourth example and also to a degree in the cases of the

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## ONS REISE NA DIE SEYCHELLS

deur A. en J. HAVENAAR

Het u al gehoor van die Paradys? Ek het nooit gedink so iets is daar op aarde nie. Maar na twee weke besoek aan die Seychelles weet ek nou daar is.

Verwag van my nie dat ek oor skulpe se name skryf nie, want tot wanhoop van ons voorsitter en verder bestuur leer ek dit nooit nie. Entog kan ek vir ure na ons skulpe versameling kyk, elke dag weer opnuut. Vir my is dit soo'n wonder van die skepping, ek kan net stil sit en bewonder.

Seychelles, in ons hotel op ons kamerstoep, wuivende palmbome, waarin as dit skemer word al die voëls kom sit vir die nag.

Seychelles, waar ons stil sit en kyk na die ontsaglik hoë berge agter ons hotel.

Seychelles, waar ons links en regs die wit wit strande vanuit ons kamer sien, waar 'n mens kan sit onder die palmbome en vir ure kyk oor die blou oseaan.

Seychelles, waar die heele bevolking vriendelik is en waar 'n mens kennis maak met mense en wat jy nooit van kon droom nie, dat daar soo'n skulpe versameling bestaan nie.

In die tyd dat my man name genoem het en gevra het oor skulpe, daar het ek hande en voete rondgekruip en was ek regtig in die Paradys. (Naam en adres beskikbaar).

As u Seychelles toe wil gaan, maak dan die it met die glasbottem boot en kyk oor die koraal riuwe. Alle kleure koraal en visse, groot en klein, seeslakke, skulpe, ag ek kan dit nie beskryf nie.

Gaan na die voël eiland of na twee ander eilande die as natuur reservate afgekondig syn, maar as u na Seychelles gan wees dan stil in eerbied vir dit ontsaglik mooi stuk aarde, en help die bevolking om dit te hou soos dit is 'n "PARADYS".

Ek laat die res oor aan my man om te skrywe oor skulpe, maar dit is net 'n stukkie skryfwerk van 'n mens wat die Paradys gesien het. Dis daar waar die Orgidee wild in die bome groei en waar in die aande die dromerige kitaar musiek klink met die sang van die bevolking terwyl ons die maaltyd geniet.

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second and third examples? bearing in mind that the Middle East tanker routes pass close to these waters.

2. If the fourth example were taken from its present natural habitat and introduced into clean water, would the pigmentation change over a period of time? and,
3. If over the years the animal becomes used to its environment and the pollution increases, would a new genus evolve?

All were taken live, and the fourth example together with others around it seem to be well at home in these waters and are on the increase. The area from when they were collected is inaccessible to the public which is a great help in their conservation.

The above is more of an enquiry than a statement as my knowledge is limited. If any collector has any further information or could possibly correct any mistakes that I may have made, drop a line to the "Strandloper", I am sure the editor would be most willing to air your views.

### INTERTIDAL TALK

We must apologise to members for the lateness in issuing the August/September as well as this number of The Strandloper. We can blame neither our printers nor the Post Office but must admit our own responsibility. The cause was a series of illnesses in the home of our Secretary and Editor coupled with a very busy period in our Editors business. We did give thought to cutting out one issue completely and publishing an enlarged issue to cover a period of some four to six months. However, after careful thought, it was decided to maintain our practice of bi-monthly issues. This will result in members receiving three issues in just on a month. Fortunately, during our period of inactivity articles and material for publication has continued to come in. What there will be left over after three issues is anyone's guess so please carry on with the good work and send in your articles.

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Once again the time of the year has come around when all subscriptions should of been paid. However, we have a number of defaulters all of whom have been sent 'final' reminder letters. If no response is forthcoming to these 'final' requests we will have no choice but to terminate their membership. In the meantime the membership of these non-payers has been suspended. Should you perhaps know of any members who have not as yet renewed their subscriptions please do the Society a favour and ask them to pay up.

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#### MONTILLA ENTERPRISE

59 MARIA CLARA, QUEZON CITY 3008, PHILIPPINES

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WRITE FOR FREE LIST

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### ONS REIS NA DIE SEYCHELLES

Eerste Reis:

Op 10 Januarie 1976 het ons as passasiers op die Italiaanse skip die "Europa" die laaste reis van die skip gemaak.

Die rondreis het gegaan vanaf Durban na Mauritius, Seychelles, Commores en terug na Durban. Die reis was baie suksesvol vir die uitbreiding van ons skulpe versameling.

Mauritius was mooi maar oorbevolk met die gevolg dat groot gedeeltes van die oorspronklike plante groei uit-gegroei is om plek te maak vir suikerriet. Om dit nog te vererg het die laatste cykloon die toppe van die palm-bome afgedraai sodat nog net die stamme regop staan. Op Mauritius het ons al heelwat skulpe ryker geword maar geldelik armer.

Ons was net 24 uur daar en ons volgende bestemming was die Seychelles. Na 3 dae vaar het die eerste van baie eilande in sig gekom, dit was werklik een verrassing. Dit het vir ons geluk na die paradys. Hier en daar het een strooi dak bokant die groen uitgesteek. Die blomme en bome was pragtig en aangesien ons weer maar 24 uur daar sou wees het dit direk tot ons deurgedring dat ons daar sou terugkom, maar dan in een van die droëre maande. Ons was verplig om weer gebruik te maak van een bus soos ons dit op Mauritius gedoen het. Die dryver het herhaaldelik op versoek gestop.

Ons het hom gesê dat ons geïnteresseer is in skulpe.

Na een rukkje stop hy by een klein winkeltjie half weg-gesteek tussie het groen en daar het ons weer heelwat skulpe gekry maar hulle het nie een enkel stukkie papier gehad om hulle in te pak nie. Gelukkig het my vrou een nogal groot handsak gehad sodat alle skulpe tog onbeskadig op die skip het aangekom. Oor die Commores eilande wil ek nie baie sê nie. Daar is nie een hawe nie sodat die skip se reddingsbootjies ons aan die kade van Moroni het afgelaai om ons in die middag weer te kom oplaai. Die mense is stug en onvriendelik. Die jeug loop met hempies aan met die slagspreuk "Lewe die Revolusie". Dit is die laaste plek waar ons wil terugkom. Maar aan alle goeie dinge kom end. Terug in S.A. ryk met skulpe bedeel maar baie armer aan geld.

Wanneer 'n mens dan weer tot rus kom na al die wederverings dan kan jy weer opnuut geniet van alles wat jy gesien en beleef het. Ons was dit dan ook eens dat die Seychelles ons weer sou terug sien, en dit het dan ook gebeur op 10 Julie 1977.

\*\*\*\*\* (word vervolg)

### SEASHELLS FROM CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

by LUIS P. BURNAY and ANTONIO A. MONTEIRO

The first recent book about Cape Verde Islands (West Africa) shells that we know about. More than 50 species, fully described and illustrated in black and white photographs, plus reproductions of original illustrations from Kiener's "Iconographie des Coquilles Vivantes".

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The price is U.S. \$5,00 (plus U.S. \$0,50 postage)



## AROUND THE GROUPS:

**JOHANNESBURG:** On 26th August the Group was given a talk and film show by a Mr and Mrs Hobbs, entitled "Scuba Diving off our Coasts from Beira Southwards", and this proved very interesting and raised nostalgia about the Moçambique of old. Our Annual General Meeting was held in September, and the committee was re-elected in toto, with Mr M. Cortie as additional committee member. In October Mr A Jenner gave us an appraisal of the disensions involved in the nomenclature of the Cypraeidae family. Our final meeting of the year is to be in November when Dr Barnetson of the Wild Life Society will provide an excellently photographed slide show on marine life in general.

**PRETORIA:** Met 'n paar verskonings was daar agtien lede by ons vergadering van 9 Augustus. Skulpe deur Aad en Jean Havenaar gekoop en gevind op die Seychelles met hul onlangse besoek aldaar word tentoongestel. Die lede hierna skulpe uitgeruil en Laurie Smith se praatjie oor die Terebridae was besonder interessant. In the absence of Laurie Smith who is recovering from a coronary thrombosis Advocate Mullan welcomed all present at our September meeting, with a special welcome for our guests from the Johannesburg Group – Kenneth Brown, Michael Cortie and Luanne Langlands – who gave an interesting slide show on South West Africa.

**DURBAN:** Two lucky members, Stan Nevill and Sarie Lubbe, have just returned from a few weeks down in the Cape. On a beach near Cape St. Francis they were fortunate enough to find the proverbial beach of ankle deep in shells. Their finds sound like a fairy tale and we now know that somewhere the illusive shells are gathered in vast numbers. Is it too much to hope that they could return to our Natal beaches one day?

**EAST LONDON:** Jill Linsdell opened our August meeting with a word of welcome to the sixteen members present. We stood for a pause in honour and memory of Hazel Jefferies who recently passed on. She was an honorary member and a foundation member of our Group. She donated her first collection to the municipality of Kei Mouth and her second collection was recently sold. It was noted that the Kei Mouth Municipality have requested for someone to check and re-arrange their Shell Museum. The family Nassidae was discussed with a good display on view. At our September meeting all members were enthusiastic about relating their latest finds and experiences on the local beaches. Eva Roscoe then spoke on the *Drupa* and showed many specimens. Two of our student members, Stephen and Gary, gave each member some live taken *Haminea alfredensis* found at Yellow Sands. Pat Palmer, who was given a box of Kei Mouth shells from Hazel Jefferies' daughter, put them out for members to help themselves. If only Hazel could have seen the excitement and pleasure it gave to all!

**PORT ELIZABETH:** A very poor turnout at our August meeting discussed the family Trochidae. There was a better attendance at our September meeting when the family Patellidae was discussed. The only find of some note had been a *Marginella electrina* from Algoa Bay, a

new locality for this shell. Mr Kilburn had been kind enough to identify some of the shells found at the harbour dredgings. The small *Nassa* turned out to be *Nassarius plebejus* (Thiele), while a strange *Scala* has been identified as *Epitonium vallatum* (Jousseume), a Red Sea species!

**CAPE TOWN:** Our August meeting took the form of the Annual General Meeting of the whole Society, the minutes of which will be circulated to all members in due course. After the business had been dealt with our President, Prof. Alex Brown, gave a very interesting talk on 'Mollusca and Pollution'. At our September meeting we elected a local committee consisting of Mr Millard as Chairman, Mrs Whitehead as Secretary with Mrs Botes and Miss Everitt as committee members. This has the effect of forming the Cape Town members into a separate Group and will relieve the pressure on the Society's secretary. Mr Freeman showed a very fine miniature microscope (30 X magnification) which should assist all who collect small shells. This was obtainable from a local shop for about R13,00.

## 'INTERTIDAL TALK:

At the suggestion of Mr Fred Graeve of Port Elizabeth we have acquired for ourselves a booklet entitled "Sea and Shore Dangers, Their Recognition, Avoidance and Treatment", by Margaret M. Smith with the help of the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology. The booklet is dedicated to all who love the sea and we feel that as so many accidents occur at the seaside it is a book which every member should invest in. The book costs R1,50 and is available at most bookshops. There is no mention of who the publishers are but we are sure that if you have any difficulty in obtaining a copy the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown will be only too willing to assist.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA**

*(Founded 1958)*

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Entrance Fee is R1,00, with a yearly subscription of R4,00. The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the 30th June of that year.

Members who are full-time students at an Educational Institution in South Africa may join as Student Members on payment of an annual subscription of R2,00. No Entrance Fee is payable in respect of Student Membership.

The Society's Bulletin, *The Strandloper*, is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:—

<b>Cape Town</b>	Secretary: Mrs G. Whitehead, 44 Monte Vino, Rosmead Ave., Kenilworth 7700. Tel.: 61-1580
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**EXCHANGES WANTED:**

Mr A. Gaspard, 463 Grande Bastide, 06250 Mougins, France. Has *Voluta cymbiola*, *Voluta hargreevesi* and *Voluta bednalli* for sale or exchange for uncommon South African *Cypraea* or *Conus*.

Jean F. Vietor, 4900 Winston Drive, Indianapolis, Ind. 46226, U.S.A. Wants to contact collectors willing to exchange miniature and micro material, possibly even 'shell grit' which will contain such small shells.

Aldon I.B. Spencer, 20 West Virginia Ave., West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380, U.S.A. Would like to obtain live collected and good beach marginella in exchange for Caribbean species. Please send list of what can be offered complete with quality of specimens.

Paul Mikkelsen, 326 Circle Ave., Tril. H. Melbourne, Florida 32935, U.S.A. Is preparing a monograph on the family Donacidae and required quality specimens of *Donax rogosus* and *Donax serra*, or any other species of Donacidae. All pertinent collection data must be included.

James L. Barnett, University of Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. Would like to contact South African collectors with the view to exchanging.

De Wayne A. Williams, Box 747, Fort Gulick, Canal Zone 00000, Panama. Would like to contact collectors with the view to exchange. Offers specimen shells of Panama in exchange. Is particularly interested in *Conus* and *Murex* but will accept all types.

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**CHANGES OF ADDRESS:**

1976 Mrs C.M. Vaughan, 36 Wag-n-Bietjie St., Roodepoort 1725  
1976 Mrs E.E.F. Sadler, D4 Buffelsfontein Centre, 17th Ave., Walmer 6065

1975 Mrs M. Levy, 17 Park Road, Port Alfred 6170

1974 Capt. W.E. Owen, c/o Merchant Navy Officers Guild, P.O. Box 516, Hong Kong

1975 Master P. Wynne, c/o Dr J.M. Wynne, Dept of Surgery, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane 4029, Queensland, Australia (formerly Eastern Cape)

**CHANGE OF NAME:**

Mrs M. Latigan, 78 Harris Crescent, Sherwood, Durban is now Mrs M. Quickelberge of the same address.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr W.E.J. Walles, Pretoria

**THE FOLLOWING HAVE MOVED AND PRESENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN:**

Mrs Y.A. Snelling, Umtata  
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*We would welcome any article of interest to  
Shell Collectors for future publication.*