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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 19th March, at 8.00 p.m. By special request we are showing the film "Australia's Coral Wonderland, the Great Barrier Reef" This is well worth seeing. The shell family for display will be Conidae, S.A. and foreign. Bring along your spare cones for exchange.

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MEETING AT THE MUSEUM. 19.2.63.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Bodinnar, Mrs. N. Prior and Mrs. Searle. The following were proposed as new members:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by:</u>	<u>Seconded by:</u>
Mrs. M. Bereth	H. Jefferies	L. Kerr.
Jeffrey Byrne	L. Kerr	K. Leers.
Mr. & Mrs. B.L. Cock	M. Pinkham	L. Kerr.
Mrs. S. du Preez	B. Richards	L. Kerr.

The 'where and when' of the next Field Day was discussed and it was decided to have one on March 10th at Mouille Point. Local members would be circularised.

Mrs. M. Kuttel expressed her appreciation of the articles in the last circular and members desired this to be recorded in the minutes.

Mr. John Grindley then gave an interesting and informative talk on plankton which was illustrated by colour slides.

After tea, a film on the formation of oil was shown.

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COMMUNITY CARNIVAL SHELLS.

By request of our acting Vice-President, members will have the privilege of a pre-view and opportunity to purchase Zanzibar shells, on Saturday 23rd March from 2.30 to 5.00 p.m. at 3 Alvanley, Main Road, Kenilworth. (Bus stop 45). At 3.30p.m. there will be an auction of a limited number of specimen Philippine Islands shells. (These are lovely!) In order that the Community Chest should not be deprived of entrance fees, we are making a small charge of 20 cents each, which will include tea and home-made biscuits. It would help if you would please let Miss Kempthorne know by Friday, 22nd whether you will be there.

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mrs. J. Wyatt, 220 Richmond Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland W2, New Zealand, writes as follows:-

"You might be able to put me in contact with someone who would be interested in an exchange of shells from New Zealand. I am a member of the Conchology section of the Auckland Museum, and have been collecting and exchanging for 15 years. I am particularly interested in the Voluta, Murex, Conus, Cypraea, Strombus, Spondylus and Pecten families. These do not occur

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in New Zealand, but I have a few spares of these families from Australia."

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GENERAL NOTES.

CYPRAEA HELVOVA MERIDIONALIS. Schilder & Schilder 1939. by D.H. Kennelly.

Prior to the publication of Schilder's work in 1939, collectors identified these shells as C. helvola Linn. The type locality for the variety is Natal.

On the Natal, Pondoland and Transkei Coasts, good specimens are frequently found and it may be rated as fairly common at these localities.

At East London and vicinity, Port Alfred, Port Elizabeth and Jeffreys Bay C.h. meridionalis is far more scarce, but good fresh dead specimens are to be found occasionally.

Another variety, C. helvola argella Melvill, 1888, is reported from Natal, which is a smaller shell than meridionalis and shows some other slight differences. It does not appear to have been found elsewhere.

Members are referred to Joyce Allan's book on the Cypraeidae, for details of the foregoing.

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EXCITING NEWS. 20.2.63. by C.M. Connolly.

Epitonium coronatum has been found with all her eggs. They were found under sand between black anemones and black sea cucumbers. The eggs were enclosed in sand cases the size of sago and all joined with very tough sticky thread and this thread was still attached to the parent. These eggs are in a special tank and there is some chance that they will develop. The popular name of Wentletrap is a Dutch word meaning winding stair. A Teredo and juvenile were found in a small piece of wood also buried with the Epitonium.

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ARCHAEOGASTROPODA. by P. Elston.

For many years the writer has corresponded with Robert R. Talmage, (Field Associate, Dept. Invt. Zool. California Academy of Sciences). His address is, P.O. Box 71, Willow Creek, Calif: U.S.A. and Mr. Talmage would be very pleased to exchange views with any of our members interested in the "primitives". He also requires the animal and shell of the Order Decapoda from South Africa.

Recently the writer found some Patella barbara-Linnaeus and Patella miniata-Born in Strandloper middens at Park Rynnie forty odd miles south of Durban. These were of a much larger size than usual, and knowing Mr. Talmage was interested, sent them to him with the suggestion that the size might be due to the change of water temperature, between the date collected by these ancient inhabitants and now. His replying letter may be of interest to members:

"The size of the Patella barbara-Linnaeus was 80mm. and P. miniata-Born was 70mm. If Koch is correct, they do not now range as far North as the vicinity of Durban, and they are usually regarded as a cold water species.

There are two possibilities based on these specimens. Firstly, there could easily have been some submerged geological activity, possibly at a considerable distance, which could have altered the conditions, perhaps for a relatively (geologically speaking) short time. The cold water fauna could have moved North into this ecological condition - or perhaps the reverse - and the alteration could have brought the warm water inshore since these people lived along the coast.

I know that several years ago there was considerable activity in the Aleutian Islands, sea bottom movement, etc. and we had a warm current inshore, which/....

which brought the Albacore (Tuna) to within a few miles of our Northern coast - a greater amount were landed at San Diego, but then the waters suddenly shifted and the fish left, and boats now have to go far out to sea to find the warmer water. Secondly, cold water up-wellings.

On the coast of Baja, California, there are several areas that have a deep cold water up-well which comes ashore, with the resulting cold water marine fauna. This is not consistent, but varies from time to time, as indicated in elevated marine terraces and Indian Middens. This, perhaps is the answer to the cold water *Patella* being found in your warm water area, as the maps that I have show relatively deep water not too far offshore along the Natal coast. The specimens are very interesting and an addition to my specialised collection of Archacogastropoda."

Note:- *Thais cingulata*-Linnaeus, *Thais capensis*-Pettit, *Turbo coronatus*-Gmelin were also found in these middens but Mr. Talmadge did not comment on them.

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EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
Vol. XXIII, No. 3. January, 1959:

A KEY TO KENYA SCORPION SHELLS. by B. Verdcourt, Nairobi.

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|----|---|--|
| 1. | { Mouth of shell smooth within | 2. |
| | { Mouth of shell ridged within | 4. |
| | { Shell large, up to 15 inches,
interior of mouth pale flesh colour | 3. |
| 2. | { Shell small, up to 6 inches long,
interior of mouth bright orange | <i>Lambis crocata</i> , Link.
= <i>aurantia</i> , Lam. |
| | { Shell very large, up to 15 inches
long. Apex of main body of
shell rather blunt. | <i>Lambis truncata</i> , Humphrey
= <i>bryonia</i> , Lam. |
| 3. | { Shell smaller, up to 8 inches
long. Apex of main body of
shell acute. | <i>Lambis lambis</i> , Linn. |
| | { Six arms present, only one short
bent one in middle, rest long,
interior of mouth reddish-brown
or orange with strong white ribs. | <i>Lambis arthritica</i> , Roding.
= <i>rugosa</i> , Sowerby. |
| 4. | { More than six arms present | 5. |
| | { Seven arms present, three short bent
ones in middle, interior of mouth
violet, margined with pink, violet
part with strong white ribs. | <i>Lambis pseudoscorpio</i> , Lam. |
| 5. | { Ten arms present, all rather short,
mouth with weak folds within. | <i>Lambis violacea</i> , Swainson. |

As the publication containing this key is not easily accessible to our members, it is thought this re-publication may be of use and provide further information.

D.H.K.

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CONUS/.....

CONUS NATALIS.

Mr. Elston of Durban sent a specimen of Conus natalis Sowerby (collected by Mr. J. Walker of St James at Xosa, Transkei) to Dr Kohn of the University of Washington. Kohn, who is working on a monograph on Conus, studied the specimen. He found that the tooth characters of the specimen resembled those shown by Barnard for C. gilchristi, while the shell characters were clearly those of C. natalis. In the absence of additional information on variation in C. natalis radula teeth, Kohn agreed that this supported Barnard's conclusion that C. gilchristi is probably synonymous with C. natalis.

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BORDER NOTES.A Visit to Kei Mouth.

By D.H. Kennelly.

"Nothing on the beach here, and I do not think you will get many shells". This was my son's remark when we arrived at Kei Mouth in January, but his forecast proved to be incorrect.

The periodic floods of the Great Kei River, play havoc with molluscan life on this part of the coast. Some five years ago an extra heavy flood brought down so much silt that all the molluscs and seaweed were destroyed.

Today Nature is restoring the situation, and shells are again obtainable. It was noted that many species are represented by juvenile and immature examples, which give the collector some indication of how long it takes for a given stretch of coast to become re-populated.

It was a pleasant reunion when the writer met our member, Mrs Hazel Jefferies, once again. This enthusiastic collector now has a really good collection of some hundreds of species, and her attention is being directed to the Kei Mouth mollusca. It is hoped in time visitors will be able to see a proper representative collection of shells from this locality.

Although she is a busy individual, "Auntie Hazel" has found time to infect two or three friends with the "Shell collecting bug", and by enlisting the help of children, has further increased interest in the hobby.

Several of the Kei Mouth Primary School children are taking a real interest in shells. Headed by Pam Holland - the proud possessor of a nice collection - these juniors are doing good work obtaining living specimens of shells from the rocks at low tide.

A noteworthy find at Kei Mouth of specimens of a species of Haliotis, which appears to be fairly rare, may be of interest to our members. It is hoped to secure further examples of this shell, which will enable the tentative identification to be confirmed.

This is an interesting collecting locality, with good possibilities for finding shells, and we are glad the Society is represented there by Mrs Hazel Jefferies, to whom we look for further interesting discoveries.

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CAPE NOTES.

By L. Kerr.

Mrs C.M. Connolly removed millions of minute baby shells from Janthina janthina, taken on Fish Hoek beach 18.2.65. This is the only Janthina that gives birth to living young with shells. The other species all lay their eggs in cases which they attach to their raft of bubbles. Janthina are hermaphrodites, changing from males to females. Last November one brown shell Recluzia jehennei 25mm. was taken alive on Fish Hoek beach. The animal with raft of bubbles was presented to the S.A. Museum.

Mrs Connolly would like a Janthina pallida with locality, and any interesting information possible.

On 25th February, during a howling South Easter gale, the writer also found a live Recluzia jehennei with raft and eggs on Luizenberg beach. It was amazing that such a fragile shell should still be intact. This morning, 6th March, an old log was washed up. Noticing some holes in the sodden wood, the writer chipped away with a pair of scissors - the only tool available - and extracted several small Pholas. Tomorrow a hammer and chisel will be carried, and, provided the log is still there, better results should be obtained. When the bivalves have been identified, the name will be put in the next Circular.

We were pleased to see one of our new members from Great Brak River, Mrs Searle, and wish her good shelling while at the Cape.

Our good friend, Mrs Pinkham, is home again from hospital, but has to take things very quietly. We hope she will soon be well enough to attend meetings again.

SECRETARY. Mrs L. Kerr, "Ryde Villa", Kenilworth Rd, Kenilworth. Phone: 77-5369.

TREASURER. Miss M. Kempthorne, 5 Alvanley Rd, Main Rd, Kenilworth. Phone: 77-7138