

### C.S.S.A. MEMBER'S HANDBOOK

The Border and Transkei Branch of the Society has undertaken to collate a handbook for members that will cover a wide range of information about the Society, and about shells and shell collecting in South Africa.

They have in mind to produce a handy size loose-leaf book that can be easily amended and added to, and set out in various sections as follows:

1. An introduction.
2. Administrative and legal matters.
  - Our constitution and bye-laws.
  - Marine reserves and permits.
  - Moon phases and tides.
2. Useful information for collectors.
4. Information about shell collecting in various zones around the coast, including maps of the various localities and lists of the shells that are most likely to be found in the areas named.

The last part will require the fullest co-operation from all Branches and individuals. Regional Secretaries have already been contacted and the response has been enthusiastic. We would also ask individual members around the country, including those not closely connected with any specific Branch, to send whatever information they might have to the nearest Branch Secretary, or to the Editor of the Strandloper, and not to wait until they are approached for a contribution.

If there are any overseas members who know of a similar project in their countries, we would be glad to know about it and would welcome any suggestions and advice. One thing that makes the Handbook a practical possibility is the fact that the Society is a national body and not just a local club, but it is very much to the credit of the Border and Transkei Branch that the project has been launched.

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THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, GROUP CHAIRMEN  
 AND  
 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL  
 WISH ALL MEMBERS  
 THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON



Galeatrivia millardi Cate 1979.

### GALEATRIVIA MILLARDI

For the benefit of members outside of Cape Town we publish for the first time a photo of the newly described *Galeatrivia millardi* Cate 1979. Occasional specimens of this cold water species have been found on Sea Point beach during rough winter weather but it was not until August 1977 that Victor Millard found a shell containing the animal and sent the specimen to Crawford N. Cate in San Diego in time for inclusion in his monograph on the Triviidae.

Subsequent discovery of more live material of this species and of other Triviids from Cape Peninsula waters by divers, has vindicated the creation of

this as a separate species. The animals are very different in appearance and we await publication of the information. This species differs from *Galeatrivia ovulata* (Lamarck 1811) chiefly in the labial dentition and the prominent protruding spire of *ovulata* which is also white.

The dimensions of the shells in the photo are (left), 20x15mm (right 19x 15mm. The specimen second from right has a faint pink blush which is an occasional feature but they are mostly pure white and translucent.

We are planning an article on the South African Triviids and hope to have the illustrations in colour. This should be ready by mid-1981.

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## THE SNAIL THAT CHANGED THE LAW

by  
KENNETH BROWN, RANDBURG

Alice in Wonderland might hardly have raised an eyebrow had she heard that an ordinary English land snail could drastically alter the legal history of the world. One would suppose that this snail would be enshrined in the annals of history but, alas, now it remains an anonymous unsung hero, commemorated only in mouldy legal manuals.

In 1932 the British House of Lords for the first time gave legal weight to the concept of Products Liability, that is, that the manufacturer of an article which he sells to a distributor in circumstances which prevent the distributor or ultimate purchaser or consumer from discovering any defect, is under a legal duty to that ultimate purchaser or consumer to take reasonable care that the article is free from any defect. Prior to this a long line of English authority opposed the allowing of liability for manufacture of a product that was defective. This entire validation of products liability was due entirely to the efforts of our anonymous snail.

On May 26th 1932 an appeal was heard from the Court of Session of Scotland (so it was a Scottish snail? — Ed.) in the case of *Donoghue vs Stevenson* (citation 1932 AC 562 HL) which led the House of Lords to consider the following facts: the appellant, who was a shopkeeper, sought to recover damages from the respondent, who was a manufacturer of bottled soft drinks, for injuries she suffered as a result of consuming part of the contents of a bottle of ginger-beer which had been manufactured by the respondent, and which contained the decomposed remains of a snail. The appellant averred that the bottle was made of dark opaque glass and that she had no reason to suspect that it contained anything but pure ginger-beer. Appellant's friend had poured some of the ginger-beer into a tumbler and appellant drank some of the contents of the tumbler. Her friend then proceeded to pour the rest of the contents of the bottle into the tumbler when a snail, which was in a state of decomposition, floated out of the bottle. As a

result of the sight of the snail in such circumstances, and in consequence of the impurities in the ginger-beer already consumed, the appellant suffered from shock and severe gastro-enteritis. The appellant accused the respondent of negligence.

Upon the existing law the appellant had no claim but the majority of the court decided that a remedy should be granted and the respondent was held liable on these counts. The case has formed the basis for modern conceptions for Products Liability with its sometimes shattering repercussions and far-reaching consequences, all thanks to our forgotten, unknown, unclassified hero, the land snail.

The words of Thomas Gray's *Elegy In A Country Churchyard* seem an apt epilogue: "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air." . . . although in this case it was the "dark unfathomed caves" of a bottle of ginger-beer.

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### PHILIP PEARSALL CARPENTER

1819 - 1877

The youngest son of Fort Carpenter, he was born at Bristol in 1819. His education began in his father's school, was continued at a proprietary institution called the Bristol College and concluded at a Presbyterian training college at York. He graduated with a BA at the University of London in 1841 and soon after became minister of a Presbyterian congregation at Stand, whence he removed in 1846 to a congregation at Warrington and remained there for 15 years.

He did not confine his activities to preaching but was concerned in endless philanthropic schemes, some wise and useful, others ill-considered and unfruitful.

He had been instructed in natural science as a boy, had made a collection of shells and had always had a taste for natural history. One day in 1855, while walking down a street in Liverpool, Carpenter caught sight of some strange shells in a dealer's window. He went in and found that the specimens were part of a vast collection made by a Belgian naturalist named Reigen at Mazatlan in California.

The collector had died leaving his shells unsorted and unnamed. Carpenter bought the lot. There were fourteen tons of shells, each ton occupying forty cubic feet. The examination, description and classification of these shells was the chief work for the rest of Carpenter's life.

By the comparison of hundreds of examples, 104 previous species were shown to be mere varieties, while 222 new species were added to the catalogue of the mollusca. Thenceforward though he sometimes preached, made speeches and wrote pamphlets, most of Carpenter's time was given to shells and even when he received calls or paid visits, he would wash and pack up shells during conversation. Their pecuniary value when named and arranged in series was great, but he never tried to grow rich by them, his whole endeavour was to spread the knowledge of them and to supply as many public institutions as possible with complete collections of Mazatlan mollusca. A full report on them occupies 209 pages of the "British Association Reports" for 1856 and further details are to be found in the same reports for 1863 and in the "Smithsonian Reports" for 1860.

He visited America in 1858 and on his return to England in 1860 he married Miss Minnie Meyer at Manchester.

He sailed for America in 1865 and settled in Montreal where he lived to the end of his days. Shells occupied most of his time and he was working on the CHITONIDAE of which he had formed a great collection when he was seized with an acute illness and died on 24th May 1877.

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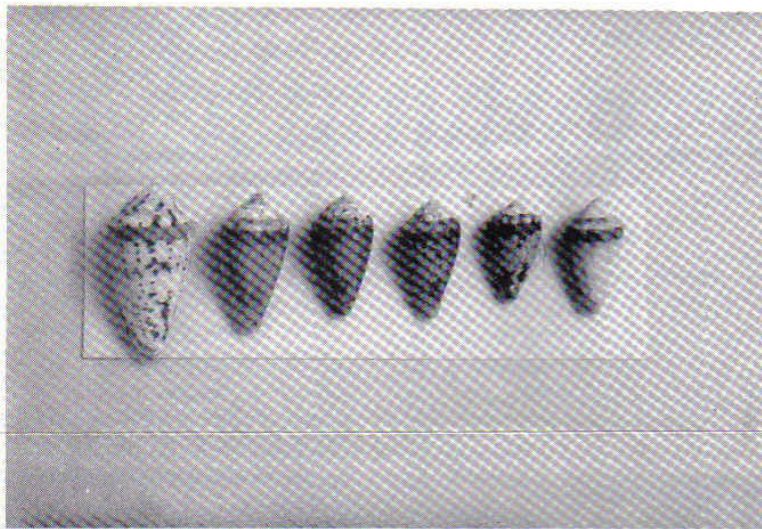
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Conus algoensis scitululus Sowerby 1834

**CONUS ALGOENSIS SCITULUS**

In Strandloper No 202 we reported the creation of a new subspecies, *Conus algoensis agulhasi* Coomans. We are now illustrating several variations of *Conus algoensis scitululus* with the plain grey colour form on the extreme right. This is the form referred to as *agulhasi*. The specimens shown on the extreme right and left are without periostracum while the others have their colour and pattern somewhat obscured by it. The dimensions of the specimens are (extreme left) 28x15mm and (extreme right) 19x9mm. All were collected at Cape Agulhas and show the variability of the pattern of this species. We doubt whether the creation of a new subspecies is justified, but it must be admitted that this is a recognisable colour form which splitters will be delighted to separate.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

**Conchs, Tibias and Harps** by Jerry G. Walls. Published by T.F.H. Publications Inc.

Collectors of these popular shell families will be delighted with this handy reference book. There are clear colour photos giving both dorsal and ventral views of the shells. The plates alternate with pages of text. The full names are given, including the subgenera, authors and dates, and the text is straight forward, mentioning the distinguishing features and referring to comparable species where necessary. Localities are given and the distribution details are supplemented by a series of maps showing the range of the species in very small scale.

There are several unexpected features, such as references to the allied genera *Xenophora*, *Aporrhais*, *Struthiolaria*, and *Perissodonta*; the behaviour of *Strombidae* in an aquarium; and pictures of the live animals.

As with the author's books on *Cones* and *Cowries*, there is a guide to prices introduced by some very sensible cautionary comments. Splitters will gnash their teeth over the list of synonyms. There is a good bibliography for readers wanting to go more deeply into the details.

The book is distributed in South Africa by Valid Agencies, P.O. Box 51901, Randburg 2125. My copy came from the C.N.A. in Cape Town and cost R11,50.

**BACK NUMBERS OF THE STRANDLOPER**

Most of the issues are still available and may be ordered from the Editor, but we do not intend to reprint any that go out of stock in the future. Our bulletin started from the inception of the Society in 1958. To begin with it took the form of a monthly circular, duplicated on wax stencils (Roneo). Circular No 121 in August 1970 saw the adoption of the motif of *Afrivoluta pringlei* for the first time, but the title *STRANDLOPER* did not make its debut until issue No 141 in June 1972. At that stage the bulletin was still being duplicated on stencils, although illustrations had been introduced some time before.

The first properly printed issue, on glossy paper, was number 171 for April/May 1975, and the first colour plates appeared in number 195 for April/May 1979 which was our 21st birthday issue and featured the South African *Conidae*.

While stocks last we are selling back issues at the following prices:

- Nos 1 to 170 . . . . . 15c each
- Nos 171 onwards . . . . . 50c each
- No. 195 with additional notes on the *Conidae* . . . . . R1,00 each
- Separate colour plates from No 195 (per pair) . . . . . 50c each

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*We would welcome any article of interest to Shell Collectors for future publication.*

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(Founded 1958)

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All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary:  
P.O. Box 1200, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa

Subscriptions:	Per Year
Ordinary Members receiving The Strandloper	R5,00
Ordinary Members not receiving The Strandloper (Applies to husbands or wives of members receiving The Strandloper)	R2,00
Corresponding Members (Members not resident in South Africa or adjoining territories)	R6,00 or U.S.A. \$9,00

Student Members (Members attending full time educational institution in South Africa) R2,00  
The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half the subscription to ensure membership to 30th June. Members joining after March are expected to pay a full subscription which will be carried forward to the following year.  
An Entrance Fee of R1,00 (U.S.A. \$1,50) is payable by all applicants except Student members.

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. C. Bootsma, P.O. Box 211 Durbanville 7550	Tel.: 96-4882
<b>Port Elizabeth:</b>	Secretary Mr. F. Graeve, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6056	Tel.: 54-3374
<b>East London:</b>	Secretary: Mr. N.E.M. Newman, 6 Sheerness Road, Bonnie Doon, East London 5241	Tel.: 5-6274
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<b>Port Shepstone:</b>	Mrs. M. Borland, P.O. Sea Park 4241	Tel.: 5-0543

Advertisements are accepted for publication in The Strandloper. Advertising rates supplied on application. The Society accepts no responsibility for any transaction arising from advertisements published in good faith.

### EXCHANGES WANTED

Paul Miguel Fernández Bisson, Santiago Cuadrado 18, La Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands, writes in Spanish as he is not fluent in English. He offers shells from the Canaries in exchange for ours. Manuel Bermejo, Domingo de Navarro 10, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, offers shells from the Canaries, Spain, and East Africa. He has an extensive exchange list covering many families. Details available from the editor.

Eduardo H. Vasena, Avenue Pueyrredon 1655, Pso 2<sup>o</sup> Dto "B", Capital Federal 1118, Buenos Aires, Republica Argentina, would like to exchange shells.

Gilbert Van Der Schueren, Molenstraat 19, 9310 Lede, Belgium, has shells for exchange. Please contact him for details.

Chris Daras, 226 Jan Smuts Avenue, Dunderkeld-West, 2196 Johannesburg, is a new member asking for help in starting a collection.

Mrs Margaret Studeman of 3 Rose Street, Pialba, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia 4655, is physically handicapped and writes to ask whether South African collectors would be interested in exchanging shells.

Mr J. Trondle, B.P. 1853 Papeete, Tahiti, requests contact with members to obtain world-wide shells in exchange for Polynesian shells. Is interested in Mitridae.

Clarice Connolly of 45 Monton Road, Kenwyn 7764, wants Land Snails.

Mr D.E. Steinke, c/o Cat Far East Ltd., G.P.O. Box 3069, Hong Kong is chairman of the Hong Kong Shell Society and has an extensive exchange list of South East Asian material to offer. He does not insist on Gem quality shells and is interested in all the marine families. Details can be obtained from the editor.

Jorge Otero Schmitt, Avenida de la Ciencias S/N, Santiago de Compostella, Spain, has Spanish shells for exchange.

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Mrs V. Heath, c/o P.O. Box 460, Gatooma, Zimbabwe.  
Mrs T.H. Eddy, 17 Scribante Street, Libradene, Boksburg 1460.  
Mr Billy Liltved, 6 Chas Booth Avenue, Rontree Extension No. 2, Camps Bay 8001.  
M.J. Halperin, 78 Main Street, 7700 Newlands (from 15 December 1980).  
Mr N.L. Webb, 5 Hope Street, Grahamstown 6140 (from 1 December 1980).

### NEW MEMBERS

- Mr Chris Daras, 226 Jan Smuts Ave., Dunderkeld-West, 2196 Johannesburg.  
Mr D. Singh, P.O. Box 121, Umzinto 4200.  
Mrs T.T. Breytenbach, 17 Olympic Court, Main Road, 8001. Green Point.  
Donald J. Young, 11975 Third Street East, Treasure Island, Florida 33706, U.S.A.  
Mrs C. Hynard, 7 Fitzpatrick Road, Farrar Park, Boksburg 1460.  
Mr Francis G. Cabral Jr, P.O. Box 313, Westport Point, Mass 02791, U.S.A.  
(New Life Member) Mr Gilbert Ernst, P.O. Box 2681, CH-1002 Lausanne, Switzerland.

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### AROUND THE GROUPS

**CAPE TOWN** — Dr Terry Golsiner of the S.A. Museum spoke at the October meeting and showed more of his beautiful slides of nudibranchs. Shells for display were the Cephalopoda, and Billy Liltved brought a Cypraea in tsui (refer issue No 202). In November, Mr Peter Zoutendyk of the C.S.I.R. showed slides and spoke of his work with the Oceanography Dept at U.C.T. on the kelp beds at Oudekraal along the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula. Shells on show were the bivalves.

**PORT ELIZABETH** — The shell families Muricidae, Turridae and Triviidae were discussed; members' bivalves have been classified and work has been planned to help with the Handbook for members. The Branch celebrates its tenth anniversary in November and plans a picnic at Jeffreys Bay at the end of the month.

**BORDER AND TRANSKEI** — Expanding membership is forcing this group to find a venue for meetings other than private homes. Members are busy with the projected Handbook.

**PORT SHEPSTONE** — A reference collection of local shells is being built up by this Branch and arrangements are being made to meet alternately at Margate and Port Shepstone in the town libraries.

**DURBAN AND DISTRICTS** — The new committee's names are received too late for inclusion in the previous Strandloper; Chairman, Jack Scheepers; Vice-Chairman, Terry Murray; Secretary, Val Neill; Treasurer, Pat Dalgarno; Scientific Officer, Maureen Quickelberge; Committee Member, Denise Murray. A very successful exhibition was held in conjunction with Durban's Exotica Flower Show.

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