

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 10

NOVEMBER, 1959  
(Re-printed, 1977)

PAGE L.

MEETING:

On November 15th., it will be springtide and low water at 9.10 a.m. We will meet at Kommetjie, and we suggest that members try and get there as early as possible so as to make maximum use of the low tide. At about 11 am we will hold a short meeting for the election of members, etc. near the parking area at the basin. We hope that this time the weather will be kinder to us than last time. As usual, visitors are welcome and those who require transport should get in touch with Mrs L. Kerr for a lift.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Our first Annual General Meeting will be held on November 24th at 8 p.m. in the lecture room of the South African Museum in Cape Town.

Agenda:-

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Matters arising out of the minutes.
3. Election of members.
4. Proposal of members
5. Secretary's report
6. Financial statement
7. Any other business
8. Election of Council Members. In accordance with our Constitution, the following Council members will retire and are eligible for immediate re-election for the respective periods indicated.

President	(1 year)	Prof J.H. Day
Vice-President	(3 years)	Mrs L. Kerr
Council Member	(1 year)	Mrs C.M. Ackermann
	(1 year)	Miss M.G. Kempthorne
	(1 year)	Mr F.H. Talbot

9. Lecture by Mr A. Brown on his experimental work on the genus Bullia. Since Mr Brown will speak about Bullia, we feel that a suitable family for our usual display will be the NASSIDAE, including the families of Nassa and Bullia. Since these two families do not have many representatives in S. Africa and also since they are not very attractive, we will furthermore display the OLIVIDAE which include, amongst others, the genus ancilla, oliva and olivella. We hope that as usual there will be a comprehensive display of the above groups.

As this is our first Annual General meeting, we hope that all members will make a special effort to attend. Visitors are welcome.

ABOUT MEMBERS:

At the meeting held on October 4th, the following were elected:

Dr H. Ackert, Gordons Bay, C.P.  
Mrs H. Ackert, Gordons Bay, C.P.  
Mrs I. Fynn, Mitford Hotel, Morgan Bay, Priv. Bag X95, East London.  
Miss Jill Gould, 73 Cook Road, Newlands, C.P.  
Mrs Hazel Jefferies, Hotel Florence, Kei Mouth.  
The Kei Mouth Primary School, P.O. Kei Mouth, C.P.  
Mrs E.H. le Roux, 3 Pinewood Street, Somerset West, C.P.  
Mrs J. Tuer, P.O. Box 8118, Belmont, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia,  
Mrs E. Visagè, 16 Hoban Street, CE-11, Vanderbijlpark, Tvl.  
Mrs M.H. Wallers, Clareport, P.O. Betty's Bay, C.P.

Apart from those listed in Circular No. 9, the following were proposed on October 4th:-

Mrs S.D. Clouts	proposed by D. Greeff,	seconded by L. Kerr	
Mr J. Dichmont	"	C. Swaneveld	" M. Kempthorne
Mrs J. Dichmont	"	C. Swaneveld	" M. Kempthorne
Mrs F. Olson	"	C. Swaneveld	" J. Ackermann
Mr E.C. Wicks	"	D.H. Kennelly	" C. Swaneveld

GENERAL NOTES:

Members please note the following new address:  
Mrs C. Dunningham, "The Grays", Montrose Avenue, Clovelly, C.P.

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We regret to advise that Mrs R. Richardson has resigned from the Society

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LIBRARY:

After receiving many requests, it has been decided to form a library for the benefit of members. We have drawn up a small list of books which seem to be mostly needed, and these books will be procured as soon as possible. Members should let us know of any books which they feel are suitable for this library. Books on shells are usually highly priced and we will, therefore, only be able to acquire a few at a time. In view of this and to get this library off to a good start, all gifts in kind or money will be most welcome. Just as soon as the first books have arrived, we will publish a list of titles and also advise about the conditions.

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PORT ELIZABETH - A PLEASANT UNOFFICIAL MEETING

by D. H. Kennelly

In the middle of October, we had the pleasure of a two day visit by Mrs H. Boswell. Needless to say, the writer arranged to have this enthusiastic lady and Mr E.C. Wicks spend one evening with him.

The time passed all too quickly with discussions on shells, collecting and collecting grounds, and all the details that come to light when shell collectors meet.

Here in this part of the country, our members are few and far apart, for in addition to two in Uitenhage, one is in Jeffreys Bay and another at Port Alfred.

It is hoped that with the erection of the new Museum at Port Elizabeth, the ensuing interest may bring some more collectors to light and make it possible to hold further "unofficial" meetings.

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NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF "CREPIDULA ACULEATA", GMELIN.

by D.H. Kennelly

The small drab "Prickly Slipper Limpet" is probably well known to collectors, but the range is not so well-known, and makes an interesting study.

The shell occurs all round the South African Coast. It is also found in Japan, Australia, but not New Zealand.

In addition, this species occurs on the East Coast of the U.S.A. from North Carolina to Texas, and in the West Indies.

In the Pacific, it is found from Santa Barbara, California to Valparaiso in Chile, and also in the Hawaiian Islands.

Owing to lack of literature covering the Indian Ocean, the writer has not been able to ascertain if *Crepidula aculeata* occurs widely in the area, but it appears very probable that it does.

From the foregoing remarks, it will be noted that this small shell appears to be even more wide in range than the well known *Nerita albicilla*.

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NOTES ON PRESERVING AND STORING SMALL SHELLS:

By John S. Hutt

A sequel to my article in Circular No. 5.

When "Beach Babies" have been sorted out from the broken fragments of their bigger relatives, they need a further washing in fresh water to ensure the removal of the last traces of salt. I have had salt crystalize out on the small shells two and even three years after they have been boxed. When the wash water has been drained off it is not an easy matter to dry these infants,



but by washing them once again in what I call my "Benzine-Wax" mixture, they are not only dried but also coated with a minute film of wax.

To make this mixture, take a candle and scrape off lightly thin shavings enough to fill a teaspoon. Put these in an 8-ounce bottle of benzine and shake up until dissolved.

For storing, I use oblong pieces of thin cellophane paper folded diagonally across the middle so as to form a transparent triangle after the ends have been folded back over the side of the triangle. The shell is placed in its envelope, and for security purposes I give each angle at the base a twist. Envelopes go into match boxes with a cottonwool filling and are labelled on the face with the necessary description and size of the shell, and on the end with the name of the family and species if known, or a personal distinguishing number or letter if unknown.

Collecting only Port Alfred shells, as I do, I follow Col. Turton's book and use sequential letters of the alphabet with his numbers for varieties I consider different.

It's surprising what thrills can be had in this game of hunting "Beach Babies".

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NOTES ON THE GENUS "CALLIOSTOMA" OR "TOP SHELLS": by D.H. Kennelly

During the past six or seven years, the writer accumulated some information which may be of interest to collectors.

The species occurring in South Africa are all on the small side, but are beautiful in colour and structure.

As far as can be ascertained, the total number of species and varieties is 18, which are distributed from Natal round to False Bay.

Turton records six species and one variety from Port Alfred, of which the writer has collected four, and the following remarks are offered.

"*Calliostoma ornata*" and "*C. bicingulata*" are easy to identify with the aid of a lens, and purple as well as brown species of both are found.

"*C. albolineata*" is scarce, and so far the writer has found only three of four, all from Jeffreys Bay. The white lines make the identification easy. Type locality, Port Alfred.

"*C. ornata similis*" and "*C. convexa*" appear to be abnormal shells found by Turton, and possibly may be disregarded in the future after further investigation.

"*C. eucosmia*" is difficult to identify, and so far I have not found it. The difference from the other species seems to be mainly in the number of ridges on the base. Type locality, Port Alfred.

"*C. africana*" is distinguished by the squarish dark brown maculations on a light brown ground. At Jeffreys Bay, I have collected a fair number of specimens which have a purple ground colour with the dark brown maculations. Apart from the maculations, there does not appear to be much difference - if any - between this and "*C. ornata*". Turton's remark that "*C. africana*" may prove to be a colour variety of "*C. ornata*" seems to have some foundation. Type locality, Port Alfred.

In addition, there are two species mentioned by Sowerby (Marine Shells of South Africa, 1892), which are of special interest, but details will follow in my next notes.

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