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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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CIRCULAR NO. 31

APRIL, 1962.

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING:

As the third Tuesday falls in Holy Week, the next meeting will be held on the following Tuesday, 24th April, in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum at 8.15 p.m. Bring along your Scrap Books and shells for exchange. There will be films of interest too. As the Scrap Books will take some time to look at, no lecture has been arranged. We hope that members will have a really fine display.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:

MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM, 20.3.1962.

Apologies were received from Miss P. Kempthorne, Mrs. J. Weakley, Prof. J.H. Day and Dr. F. Talbot. The minutes, printed in the previous circular were taken as read.  
The following were proposed as new members:-

Mr. A. Bannah	proposed by	L. Kerr,	seconded by	J. Walker.
Mrs. E. Burnes	"	" L. Kerr,	"	" J. Grindley.
Mrs. M. van Wyk	"	" L. Kerr,	"	" M. Kuttel.

Mr. Jack Walker then told us about his recent shelling trip to the East Coast. This was illustrated by a map and a selection of the shells collected. Mr. Walker spoke about the best shelling spots and told us which places to avoid. The next best thing to going on a trip is hearing about one and the members thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Walker's experiences while undergoing none of the discomforts!

After tea, a film on the Arctic was shown.

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JUNIOR PAGE:

To date, there have been no articles sent in for the Junior Page. Perhaps the time has been too short, so there will be no closing date for entries. Just send them along and when we have enough, a prize will be awarded.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mr. P. Elston, 302 Tenbury, South Beach Avenue, Durban.  
Mr. D. Freeman, 5c Nottingham Court, Fir Ave, Bantry Bay, C.P.

LIBRARY:

We are indebted to Mrs. Bloom for presenting "Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef" by T.C. Roughley to the C.S.S.A, Library. This is No. 37.

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SHELLS WANTED:

The following appeal has been received from Mrs. F. Goldman, King David School, Victory Park, Johannesburg:

"We intend establishing a special shell exhibit in our new school museum. To date, we have quite a number of shells (the common types, washed up on our S.A. shores) donated by the children themselves. However, as many are slightly damaged and bleached by the sun, we would appreciate having the names of enthusiasts who would be prepared to give us redundant shells from their own collections."

Can any members help this school please?

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The Article by J. and C. Walker will be published in the next circular as Chris is away at Camp for the school holidays.

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GENERAL NOTES:

NATAL NOTES. by D.H. Kennelly.

Our enthusiastic member - "Dick" Kilburn - is now installed at the Natal University. On the way there he put in a week at Durban, and of course, collected.

Appended is a list of species collected alive - and "Dick" is certainly living up to his reputation as a "live" collector.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Columbella turturina,</u> | <u>Conus coronatus,</u> |                         |
| <u>Cypraea helvola,</u>      | <u>Erato sulcifera,</u> | <u>Venus clathrata,</u> |
| <u>Bullina undata,</u>       | <u>Drupa biconica.</u>  |                         |

It will be interesting to learn if any of these species are reported as collected "alive" for the first time.

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CAPE NOTES. by L. Kerr.

The writer has two Volutacorbis lutosa Koch, ex pisce. These are large specimens found in the stomach of a stockfish trawled west of Lamberts Bay in 65 fathoms. Muddy and spongy bottom. The shells still

have/...

have the animal inside. One shell is quite smooth.

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My Knysna correspondent writes that the fossil site (raised beach) at Paradise which has been excavated for a garage is now bull-dozed to a gentle slope. The clay, with fossil shells, has been dumped at the Hotel in the Lagoon and is providing Hermit Crabs with a field day! Conchologists finding shells there are warned that it is not a new fossil site.

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The writer recently walked from Gordon's Bay to the Strand along the beach to see the effect of the "Red Death" (Plankton, Gonyaulax polygramma) on molluscs. The fish mortality was fantastic. Apart from this, the beach was strewn with thousands of dead sea-urchins, Parechinus angulosus. There were several species of Cephalopods, from a large Octopus to a small Cuttlefish. Patella were very numerous, especially near the Strand. P. longicosta, miniata, barbara, oculus, tabularis and compressa were found, all with fronds of sea-weed attached to the shell, thus making them buoyant. Megatebennus scutellum were also found. No doubt other species of molluscs have died from the infestation and sunk to the sea-bed. We are now waiting for a really good storm to wash them up!

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A GOOD ADHESIVE by D. Freeman.

At some time or another every collector experiments with various materials for mounting such specimens as Chitons and small shells securely on cards, yet in such a way that the specimens are not damaged and can be removed if necessary.

An adhesive that I have found to be almost ideal for this purpose is a kind of Rubber Cement, "Carter's" brand, which can be bought in Cape Town at the Cape Times stationery shop (and nowhere else as far as I know).

It comes in a small jar with a brush in the stopper, is practically colourless and can be rubbed off the specimen or mount if no longer required.

It is also useful for reinforcing the hinges of small bivalves that tend to dry out and crack apart. It stays flexible without being sticky and the biggest advantage is that if you are not satisfied with the way you have arranged your specimen on the card you can rub the stuff off with your finger and start again.

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THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The writer has just received a letter from Mr. T.E. Crowley, Secretary of the above Society, from which an extract is appended for the benefit of those of our members who are interested:-

" This is mainly to let you know, and to spread the news among our South African friends, about the delay in publishing the Conchological Journal. In mid-December most of the copy for the issue was sent to the

printers/.....

printers and never arrived. This was not found out for some time, and it now appears that several mailbags were stolen en route, and have never been recovered. This affair has caused no end of trouble to pull things together again, and it is hoped to issue three numbers this year to compensate for the delay.

D.H. Kennelly.

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OCEAN CURRENTS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF MOLLUSCA. by D.H. Kennelly,  
East London.

The article by Mr. Grindley in Circular No. 30 is most interesting, and has also cleared up several queries arising over the distribution of our shells, and the agency involved in such distribution.

However, one of the main questions regarding the presence of certain species at a locality - as evidenced by the finding of "fresh dead" specimens - still stands, i.e. the need to produce proof by securing "living" examples.

As far back as Circular No. 7, May 1959, the writer drew attention to the presence of several species of tropical Cypraeaidae at Jeffreys Bay, proved by the taking of "fresh dead" shells - both adult and juvenile in one or two instances.

The desire to produce absolute proof by producing specimens taken alive, can only be brought about through the assistance of "skin divers", with their masks and frog feet. Within the last two or three years, Mr. E. Dee - a Durban member of our Society - succeeded in interesting one or two members of the Durban Undersea Club in the taking of living mollusca as a sideline to shooting fish.

This venture has proved exceedingly successful, and Mr. Dee has captured a number of Mollusca alive, thereby proving without doubt that these species are actually living on the coasts of Natal and Zululand.

In like manner Mr. R.N. Kilburn - now in Natal - investigated the Estuary of the Zwartkops River, (Circular No. 16, Dec. 1960), and obtained "Living" specimens of shells listed by G.B. Sowerby on 1892 and not seen since.

I fully agree with "Dick's" remarks to the effect that these species had been living all the time at Zwartkops, but no one had taken the trouble to investigate during the intervening years.

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FURTHER NOTES ON CYPRAEA FUSCORUBRA, SHAW. by D.H. Kennelly.

Since the publication of the previous notes on this rather scarce species, in Circular No. 26, some further information regarding the range has now come to light.

In working over a large collection of shells from the Transkeian and Pondoland coasts, the writer found a goof specimen of C. fusciorubra taken at a point on the coast of Pondoland. The specimen is in the collection of the East London Museum, and furthers our knowledge of the range.

The writer is also indebted to Mrs. Max Ackermann of Rondebosch for information regarding another specimen taken by a trawler off the Western Province coast. Unfortunately the exact locality has not been recorded, but it is hoped that some further records may come to light through the efforts of our members.

SOUTH AFRICA'S RAREST COWRY - CYPRAEA AMPHITALES, MELVILLE.

by D.H. Kennelly.

The same large collection mentioned in the preceding paragraph has also yielded two more specimens of this rare species - one of which is in excellent condition - from Mbontyi, Pondoland.

The writer is not quite sure of the actual number of specimens known, but probably these two shells bring the total up to ten, of which the East London Museum possesses three.

All members will be interested to learn that the valuable collection above referred to, was made by the late Mrs. Latimer of East London, mother of Miss M. Courtenay Latimer, Museum Director, and constitutes one of the finest collections of Mollusca received by the East London Museum.

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ANOTHER NOTE ON MELONGENA PUGILINA by A.C. van Bruggen.

Mr. Kennelly's interesting note on Melongena pugilina Born found at the Sunday's River mouth (Circular No. 30, p.7), prompted me to check on some literature. I found some interesting details in Bayer's "Catalogue of the genera Melongena and Semifusus" (Zool. Mededel. Vol. XXXI, No. 25, pp. 265-299, 1952). The proper name for the species is Semifusus pugilinus (Born, 1780) and among numerous Indo-Pacific localities, Bayer records "Cape of Good Hope" and Lourenço Marques from specimens in the Leiden Museum. It is interesting that Miss Latimer's specimens confirm these records of a tropical species which is certainly not very common on our coast. A short search through the malacological collections of the Natal Museum revealed no other South African examples of Semifusus pugilinus.

Bayer does not mention a synonymy with Volema wardiana.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE SLUG LIMAX VALENTIANUS by A.C. van Bruggen.

Last year I reported the finding of the slug Limax valentianus new to the South African list in Circular No. 21 (Suppl. No. 6, p. 21, 1961). A paper on this species written by Dr. H.W. Waldén of the Göteborg Museum has now appeared in Sweden (see Ark. Zool. Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 71-95 1961) and I think it worth while to extract some notes of probable interest to our members.

The species shows a lot of variation in colour pattern (the plate shows ten different variations!) and radula, which has been the reason for some synonymy. Only the fact that the author had abundant material from all over the world has saved him the embarrassment of seemingly recognizing many species where there is only one.

The map is the most interesting piece of evidence. Waldén concludes that the species is indigenous in Portugal, Spain and S.W. France. From there it has spread over Europe (Britain, central and northern Europe), Canary Islands and Azores, Africa (Port Elizabeth only), S. Australia, N. America (widely distributed in the U.S.A.), S. America (along western coastline) and in the Pacific (Juan Fernandez and Easter Island); there are also unconfirmed records of other localities such as Cuba and New Zealand. Apparently the species has been spread by the action of man, so that we call this a case of "anthropochorous dispersal"; especially in the U.S.A. it has been reported as a greenhouse alien. Waldén makes an interesting remark that long ago Limax valentianus has probably accompanied Spanish colonists on their trips to various parts of the world; this might

account/....

account for the occurrence in countries like the Canary Islands, Columbia, Chile and Cuba (?)

I find it surprising that my specimen from Port Elizabeth is the only known record in the whole continent of Africa. Why has it not been found in Cape Town, Durban, Lourenço Marques, Beira and why not in North Africa? Probably nobody has ever looked seriously for slugs in these places; on the other hand the many other introduced slugs are well known, especially in Southern Africa (see for instance Connolly's monograph, Ann. S. Afr. Mus. Vol. 33, 1939).

Incidentally, there has not been a single reaction to my request in the above-mentioned note for more slug specimens. Remember: specimens travel post free, if addressed to The Director, Natal Museum, Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg and if marked Natural History Specimens, Official Free.

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STOP PRESS !

EXCHANGE SHELLS WANTED.

Dr. Hans Schlesch, Sortse Strand, Stubbekebing, Denmark, would like to obtain non marine shells and freshwater bivalves from all parts of Africa in exchange for European specimens.

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