

*Afrivoluta pringlei* Tomlin 1947

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Notes on *Conus caillaudii* Kiener 1849.

by E. K. Giles

After reading in Circular 127 (March 1971) that Mr. D. Smith had found a live specimen of *Conus caillaudii* Kiener, 1849, off the Natal coast, I determined to try to obtain some information about this species. In May 1969 I found a beach specimen of 33.5 mm. in fairly good condition at Pennington. This specimen was later identified by Mr. Kilburn as *Conus caillaudii* and like Mr. Smith we were unable to find any mention of this cone, except for the mention of the name only in Van Nostrand's Standard Catalogue.

The South African Museum library had no copy of Kiener's work, but the Librarian most kindly traced the volume in which this shell was described by Kiener, and provided me with all the necessary data to enable me to apply to the British Museum of Natural History. I was very grateful indeed to receive, from the Zoology Department of this Museum, a photocopy of the relevant pages from Kiener's work as well as permission to quote from the description.

Kiener described the shell as elongate, subcylindrical, narrowing slightly towards the middle. The spire is sunken, with a prominent and sharply pointed apex. On it can be counted six flattened whorls; the first being provided, near their suture, with a row of barley visible tubercles; the spiral angle of the last whorl is slightly blunted. It bears, for its whole length, parallel and slightly undulating transverse grooves. The whole shell is of a fairly vivid orange yellow, the transverse grooves standing out because of their brown colour. There are irregular reddish blotches on the spire. Length 50 mm. Habitat not given.

Kiener adds the following comment - 'This shell is remarkable for its beautiful orange colour and the grooves which cover it. It has been conveyed to us by M. Caillaud, the distinguished amateur, to whom it is our pleasure to dedicate it'.

There seems to be some doubt as to the correct spelling of the name '*caillaudii*'; Van Nostrand spells it '*cailliaudii*', and Barnard in his 'Personal Names in South African Conchology' gives *cailliaudi* from Cailliaud, F. 1789 - 1869. I am told, however, that Kiener's

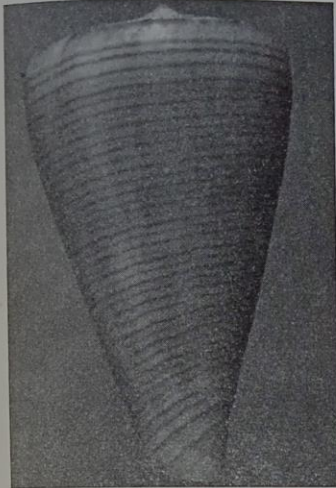


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

Figures 1 and 2: *Conus caillaudii* Kiener 1849.

Photos: P. ZOUTENDYK

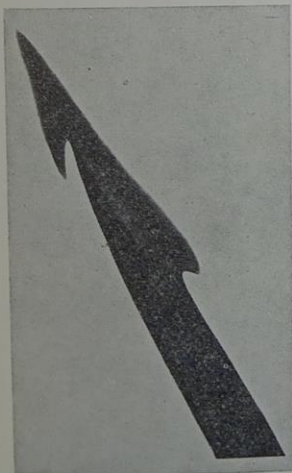


FIGURE 3

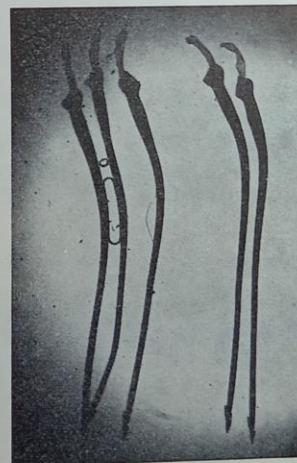


FIGURE 4

Figures 3 and 4: Radula Barbs of *Conus gloriamaris* Chemnitz 1777.

Photos: R. RAYMOND

spelling 'caillaudii' has to be accepted for this shell.

Acknowledgement is made to the British Museum of Natural History for the information given, and to the South African Museum Librarian for tracing the references.

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Editor's Note. The photographs of Conus caillaudii Kiener 1849 on page 2 are photographs of the specimen in the Giles collection. This specimen measures 33.5 x 18.5 mm and we are grateful to Mr & Mrs Giles for the loan of this shell and to Mr. P. Zoutendyk, a member of the University of Cape Town staff, who took the photographs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Notes on Conus gloriamaris Chemnitz 1777.

by A. B. Jenner.

I am again privileged to record an event of more than usual interest. Earlier this year (1970) Mrs Helen Boswell acquired a fine specimen of the famous and much sought-after Conus gloriamaris Chemnitz, from a fellow collector in the Solomon Islands.

The shell, measuring 98 x 39 mm., was one of four taken alive by a diver in swift flowing current in the base of a rotting log on a steep black sand bottom at about the 60 foot mark, the bottom sloping away to about 2000 feet, one mile south of Honiara on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons.

Accompanying the shell was a bottle containing the four preserved animals removed from the four specimens which the sender thought would also be of interest to Mrs Boswell. How right he was! and how fortunate we are for his thoughtfulness.

Mrs Boswell kindly allowed Mr Don Aiken to remove the radulae from the carcasses and I am indebted to Mr. Ron Raymond for the photographs reproduced on page 2. One portrays five of the barbs and the other is an enlargement of the tip of one of the barbs showing the outline of the poison duct. The length of the radula barbs is approximately 6 mm.

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Editor's Note. This article was submitted early in July 1970, but owing to the costs attached to publishing photographs it was not possible to publish this article till now.

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The Genus Nerita in South Africa.

by R. O. Carlsson.

Reading in recent Circulars of the Eastern Cape Groups' recordings of Nerita albicilla Linné inspired investigation into the distribution of this species along our coast line, which in turn led to the investigation of all the species in the genus.

According to available records there are six species living along the South African coast. These are enumerated below, together with descriptions and recorded localities.

Classification/.....

<u>Classification:</u>	Phylum	Mollusca
	Class	Gastropoda
	Sub-class	Prosobranchia
	Order	Rhipidoglossa
	Superfamily	Neritacea
	Family	Neritidae
	Genus	Nerita, Neritina, Septaria, Smaragdia.

General description: Most of the Neritidae are thick, solidly built shells, oval or globular with a short spire, sometimes flattened or depressed, and a broad columellar area. The aperture is semi-circular. The operculum is also semi-circular, calcareous and has a flange or peg in the inner edge which fits under the columella. The shells are to be found in sea, brackish or fresh water and are herbivorous.

Genus Nerita, Linné: This is a marine genus, with numerous species approximately 200, distributed throughout the tropical and sub-tropical waters. The sculpture of the operculum varies, and is an important character of each species.

Notes on the species: The sizes given are those of the largest shell dimension.

Nerita albicilla Linné. 21 mm.

This is the commonest species on South African beaches, dead shells having been found as far west as Still Bay (S.A.Mus.Coll.Muir). The general colour is black and white, in various patterns, the black usually predominate; some varieties have two or three broad black spiral bands on the white ground colour, others are entirely black. The columella area is white and has some indistinct pustules; the operculum is granulate; the periostracum is greenish.

Recorded localities: Living - Mocambique Island, Delagoa Bay (S.A. Mus.Coll.Barnard), Inhambane (U.C.T.), Natal (Krauss), Durban (U.C.T. Knysna (S.A.Mus.P.F.Coll), Natal to Algoa Bay and Cape Recife (Kennelly). Dead - Still Bay (S.A.Mus.Coll.Muir), Jefferies Bay (Kennelly).

Remarks: The Pieter Faure specimen referred to above was a large specimen (33 x 24 mm.) found at low tide  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above the jetty at Knysna on 1st August 1898.

Nerita umlaasiana Krauss. 20 mm.

The colour varies from black to olivaceous grey, variously marbled and speckled, often with axial zigzags, and with three more or less conspicuous darker spiral bands. The operculum is granulate.

Recorded localities: Durban and Scottburgh (S.A.Mus.Coll.Burnup); Umhlali (U.C.T.).

Remarks: Cock (1965) reports this species as being mostly found in brackish water.

Nerita plicata Linné. 26 mm.

A pinkish cream coloured globular shell, with strong spiral ridges and prominent ridges or 'teeth' on the columella and outer lip. The aperture is white. The operculum is slightly concave, smooth and polished, honey coloured.

Recorded localities. Natal Coast, Xora (Transkei), Kei Mouth, and Port Elizabeth (Kilburn 1960).

Nerita polita Linné. 28 mm.

This is a smooth polished shell, though the growth lines may be fairly/.....

fairly strong. The colouring varies considerably and may be blackish, greyish or whitish with a zigzag or herringbone pattern. The aperture is pale yellow. The operculum has a raised outer margin, crossed with fine ribs.

Recorded localities. Natal Coast, Port Edward, Xora and Nthlonyane (Transkei), Kei Mouth and Gonubie (Connolly 1969).

Nerita plexa Chemnitz. (Syn. N. textilis Gmelin). 31 mm.

This shell has a very rough surface and is strongly ridged. The colour is off-white with irregular black markings. The aperture is bluish white with yellow on the columella. The operculum is horny, bluish black in colour.

Recorded localities. Natal Coast, Port St. Johns, Xora and Coffee Bay (Transkei), Haga Haga and Port Elizabeth (Kilburn 1960).

Nerita undata Linné. 30 mm.

Ground colour buff with irregular black markings. The aperture is pale yellow with a bluish-white lip. The shell has numerous spiral ridges and there are weak denticles on the outer lip. Operculum not seen.

Recorded localities. Recorded as very common in the Dar-es-Salaam area (Spry), Delagoa Bay and Natal Coast (Cock 1967).

References:-

- |                     |                                                                                   |
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| Kennelly, D.H. 1964 | Marine Shells of Southern Africa.                                                 |
| Spry, J. F. 1961.   | The Sea Shells of Dar-es-Salaam. Part I Gastropods.                               |

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Nomenclature

Mr. C.C. Appelton has drawn our attention to an error in the printed name of a shell and we can do no better than to quote from his letter

"Finally may I point out a small error in Circular No. 126 of February, 1971 which I meant to point out earlier. This is that on page 4 in the article headed 'Notes on Thais cingulata' a mussel named Chloromytilus crenatus Lamarck is referred to; this is presumably Mytilus crenatus Lmk. which is now known as Aulacomys magellanica (Chemnitz) owing to its synonymy with the South American species described by Chemnitz in 1785".

\* \* \* \* \*

Voluta africana, Reeve 1856.

Editor's Note.

This note should have been published in Circular No. 127, page 3 at the end of an article on this species by the late D.H. Kennelly but owing to lack of space, was inadvertently omitted.

In/.....

In connection with the foregoing article I would refer members to Circular No. 104. Interleaved between pages 2 & 3 of this issue was an excellent article accompanied by line drawings on this species. This article dealt with the extraction and the mounting of the radula of this species by Mr. D. W. Aiken.

Mrs. T. Trow informs us that:-

There were two live Voluta africana found in the stomach of one steenbras, both had operculums, and the colour of the animals were dark mauve with blotches of brown black all over.

They were found in 60 fathoms of water off Hole-in-the-wall.

A third shell was found in a black steenbras but the animal was partly decomposed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Border Notes.

Eighteen members and friends attended our May meeting. Apologies were received from Mrs. Gillmer. Mrs. Faulkner welcomed our visitors, Mrs. Connolly from Cape Town and Mrs. Kemper from Durban. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong for the week end in April - the shelling was fair and a happy time was spent by all at Bulugha.

The subject for the meeting was "Conidae". Several boxes of cones, complete with data were on display for members to use for identification purposes, and a number of members made use of these.

Mrs. Connolly was asked to speak on Conus aurora, and soon had us almost tearing our hair out over the identification of this the commonest of our cones. The talk on the history of the naming of various species was most informative and helpful, and most of us returned home to re-classify some of our shells. It was agreed that we continue discussing this family at our next meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Change of Address

Mr. D. Freeman, 41 Duncan Road, Sea Point, Cape Town.

\* \* \* \* \*

New Members.

Mrs. J.G. Boliter, 18 Penford Avenue, Uitenhage, Cape.

Mr. W. J. Dyer, 'Pebbleways', 8th Street, Voelklip, Hermanus, Cape.

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