

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

CIRCULAR NO. 120.

PAGE 1.

JULY, 1970.

MEETINGS:

The next meeting of the SOCIETY will be held on Tuesday, 28th July, 1970 in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum, at 8.15 p.m. We will look at some variable species and discuss the information in available literature. Members with sets of interesting variable shells are asked to bring them for display.

The next meeting of the BORDER GROUP will be held on Sunday, 26th July, 1970 in the Lecture Room of the East London Museum, at 3 p.m.

For details of the next meeting of the NATAL GROUP members are asked to contact Mr. E. Dee, 312 Florida Road, Durban.

For details of the next meeting of the TRANSVAAL GROUP members are asked to contact Mr. A. Jenner, 63 Clinton Road, New Redruth, Alberton

+ + + + +

Conus milne-edwardsii Jousseume 1894 by A.F.P. Hawkins

Referring to Circular 109 Page 3 and Circular 111 Page 6:

I have to advise that I obtained three C. milne-edwardsii from a contact in the Port Amelia area. My firm chartered an aircraft which one of our employees flew to collect these and other shells. Upon his return he had to land at Pongola to clear immigration after having cleared customs, according to regulations, at Matsapa in Swaziland. At Pongola, these shells were confiscated by the South African Police and incinerated. Enquiries into this incident are in hand. These shells were live taken and, as all collectors will agree, did not present the most favourable odour...! A further C. milne-edwardsii in fair condition has just been found on the Zululand Coast, in the same area as the previous ones. This now makes six from Zululand.

+ + + + +

Conus janus Hwass 1792 by A.F.P. Hawkins

In August 1969, I took the first known live C. janus, measuring 77 mm x 37 mm, on the Zululand Coast. This shell is supposed to be endemic to Mauritius. Mr. Fred Kidwell took a live specimen in Portuguese East Africa the following month.

+ + + + +

The Cowrie Luponia alfredensis is of Specific Rank.

BY F.A. Schilder & Mr. Schilder

Forty years ago, in Ann. Mus. Wien, 43:231 (1929), we established Luponia alfredensis as an ecological subspecies of L. edentula Gray, differing by the more solid shell with the right margin more thickened; the shells were slightly larger than those of L. edentula from the same locality (Port Alfred, South Africa), the dorsum was more worn than L. edentula so that it looked pale brown without any traces of spots.

Recently/.....

Recently Mrs. Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, South Africa, presented us with forty specimens of Luponia which she had collected personally on the ten miles-long beach between Haga Haga and Kei Mouth: all shells are surprisingly well preserved so that they show accessory differences in colour and markings. The slightly smaller (mostly 24 - 26 mm) and less solid L. edentula is dorsally pale brownish orange with the rusty brown specks rather large, irregularly confluent, but never showing the tendency to form a central blotch; while the larger (mostly 26 - 29 mm) and very solid L. alfredensis is dorsally grey, with the fulvous specks tiny and scattered, and with a large, well defined central blotch, which is often interrupted by paler lacunae, but rarely absent at all. There are no intermediates between the twenty shells of each species so that Mrs. Jefferies could separate them without mistake.

The differences in dorsal markings recall those between the East Australian Erronea subviridis and its West Australian representant E. dorsalis, the grey colour and the well defined dorsal blotch of L. alfredensis also recall Bistolida stolidia brevidentata. The combination of characters in size, colour, and markings prove L. alfredensis to be a distinct species, as it is sympatric with L. edentula in many localities in South Africa.

The splintering of the South African Luponia and Cypraeovula into many sympatric species agrees with that of Triviella in the same area and of Notocypraea along the south coast of Australia: both regions constitute the limit of distribution of cowries on account of the lower temperature of the sea.

Editor's Note

This article was originally published on page 7 of the Hawaiian Shell News Vol XVII No. 7 of July, 1969.

+ + + + +

Further Notes on South African Marginellidae

by D.H. Kennelly

With reference to Mrs. Connolly's list of species in Circular No. 118 page 2, it appears opportune to make some comments, which may be of assistance.

Marginella keenii M'arrat, and M. electrina Sowerby

These species closely resemble each other - the colour of the shell is the same, i.e. light brown. In Circular No. 113, page 2, will be found details of these shells. M. electrina, however, has only three pleats on the columella. Sowerby (1892) finishes his description with the words "columella basi contorta, triplicata".

Marginella floccata Sowerby

There appears to be differences of opinion regarding this species. Many members - including the writer - have never seen an undoubted specimen, and Sowerby (1892) gives a figure which is, unfortunately, not very clear.

Mrs. Connolly describes the species as having "black axial streaks over red flames on the body whorl" - locality Transkei.

The writer has seen a large number of these Transkeian shells, which on the average are larger and seem more solid than their nearest counterpart M. ornata Redfield. The latter also occurs in the Transkei.

Some twelve months ago the writer discussed this question with Mr. R.N. Kilburn of the Natal Museum. Mr. Kilburn was of the opinion that these shells are not floccata, and regarded them as being a colour mutation of ornata occurring on the Transkei coast.

The writer/.....

The writer (1969) attempted to illustrate one of these Transkei shells, and the plate with the figure is decidedly bad - the Transkei shell is not recognisable.

At the moment opinions differ, and no one appears to be sure of the description of M. floccata.

The original description of the species appears in the Journal of Conchology, Vol. 6, page 8, 1889, plate 1, figure 4, and it would be a great assistance to members if an extract from this publication, giving a detailed description, was included in one of our Circulars.

Sowerby (1892) gives the type locality of M. floccata as Port Elizabeth, but over all the years of collecting by the writer at Port Alfred, Port Elizabeth and Jeffreys Bay, this species was never found nor seen in any collection.

It is hoped that an effort will be made to locate a copy of the Journal of Conchology quoted above, either at the South African Museum, The Zoology Department of the University of Cape Town, or the Natal Museum, and an extract obtained.

- References:- Kennelly D.H. (1969) Marine Shells of Southern Africa (2nd Edition)
Sowerby G.B. (1892) Marine Shells of South Africa.

Editor's Note

With the assistance of Mrs. Bruins, Librarian of the S.A. Museum, a copy of the Journal of Conchology Vol. 6 of 1889 was located and the original description of M. floccata is detailed below:

"Marginella floccata n. sp. - Testa sub-ovata, grisea, maculis albidis floccatis aspersa, maculis minutis sparsis nigro-fuscis notata; spira conica, albida, maculis grandibus fusco-griseis picta, mediocriter elata, apice obtuso;; anfractus 5, planato declives, sutura leviter impressa, ultimus obtuse angulatus, infra angulum levissime convexus, lateribus rectiusculis; apertura mediocriter lata, columella rectiuscula, quadriplicata, labrum incrassatum, reflexum, album, margine externo nigro-fusco notato".

"Long. 29, maj. lat. 15 mill."

"A beautiful specimen of this species in perfect condition has been submitted to me by Mr. Bairstow. It is the only one I have seen excepting a couple of much worn and almost colourless shells, which I take to belong to the same species. The shell may be regarded as intermediate between M. piperata and M. mosaica".

For the benefit of those members whose Latin is a little bit rusty, a literal translation of the above description is:-

"Shell sub-ovate, mottled grey and white spots, interspersed with tiny brownish-black specks. Spire conical, white with large dark grey markings, moderately elevated. Apex obtuse, 5 whorls, sloping evenly downward. Sutures slightly sunken, last whorl obtusely angular, slightly convex below the shoulder with straight sides. Aperture moderately wide. Columella straight with four pleats. Lip thickened and reflexed, white with the outer edge spotted with dark brown.

+ + + + +

Natal Notes/.....

Natal Notes.

The Natal Group held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 23rd May, 1970. The following were elected to the local committee: Mr. E. Dee (Chairman), Mr. A. Hawkins, Mr. E. Clayton, and Mrs. D. Cruickshank (Secretary/Treasurer). It was recorded that the tea fund stood at the healthy amount of R17.

An outing to Reunion Rocks on 21st March had been very disappointing as there was very little shell life, fortunately, however, the weather was good.

It has been suggested that each member study a particular family of shells during the coming year.

Mr. D. Smith has agreed to arrange a nature study film to be screened to members at a later date.

+ + + + +

Border Notes.

Our meeting on the 24th May, 1970 was a real bumper one. We had 24 present, which included welcome and interested visitors.

Apologies were received from three members - their reasons for absence-overseas trips ! Two of our visitors got forms from Mr. Kennelly to apply for membership - Miss Latigan and Mrs. Leslie. Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Burrows, Mr. and Mrs. Cosser and Mrs. Smailes, the latter having made the long trip from Kentani in the Transkei with our member Miss Smailes. After being unable to attend two meetings Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong came in from Bullagha. They are both in very good health again, but still very perturbed at the carting away of the beaches at Bullagha, which is continuing.

The highlight of the afternoon was the judging of the displays of South African shells. Miss Courtney-Latimer helped Mr. Kennelly with the judging - which they both agreed was very difficult, because of the extremely good displays brought in by everyone. Mrs. Lentz of Gonubie won first prize, Miss Jackson second and Master Vowles was third - we were all very proud of our young member. Miss Courtney-Latimer congratulated all members on their delightful displays and was so impressed, that she has suggested that the Group put on such display in the G.G. Smith Gallery at the Museum, such a display, she feels, would surprise the East London public in showing what can be done locally by interested and keen people.

Mr. Kennelly showed the Group members what a card index is and encouraged them to keep one so that finding shells in their collection would be easy and quick.

As Mr. Kenelly sometimes finds it difficult to attend meetings, the group decided to elect Mrs. Adeline Gilmer as Chairman. She will work closely with Mr. Kennelly at all times and relieve him of a good deal of organisation duties.

After a very good spread of "goodies" and the usual "cuppa", the meeting closed on a happy note.

+ + + + +

Obituary

Our friend and member Jack Ackermann passed away on 6th June after a short illness. Jack was a foundation member of the society and was appointed Treasurer at the Inaugural Meeting which was held on 6th May, 1958 and held this position until the expiry of his term of office at the Annual General Meeting on 24th October, 1961. Since that date he remained an active member of the Society. He was known, and will be missed, by us all.

We extend our condolences to Mrs. Ackermann and family on their loss.

Exchange Wanted.

Grady Shults, P.O. Box 1152, Arlington, Texas, U.S.A. 76010.

Is involved in a study of marine shellfish and wishes to obtain specimen shells common to our area.

Teresa Pena, Casilla 2974, Santiago, Chile. Is interested in showy specimens, not bivalves, and can offer Chilean shells in exchange.

+ + + + +

Change of Address:

Mr. G. Ruben, P.O. Box 61685, Marshalltown, Transvaal.

Mrs. G.E. Hulley, 18 Salt Vlei Road, Port Alfred. C.P.

Mrs. R.L. Weeks, 41 East Way, Pinelands. C.P.

+ + + + +

Minutes of the Meeting of the Society held on 16.6.1970:

Our Chairman, David Freeman, welcomed all present with a special word of welcome to Mr. Graham Ivy who had had flu but had nevertheless come to deliver his travel talk.

Apologies were recorded from, Mrs. Prior and Mrs. Pugsley.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as published in Circular No. 119 were taken as read and adopted.

The following member was elected:

Mr. D. Borsook, 124, 4th Road, Hyde Park, Sandton, Transvaal.

The following were proposed as new members:

Mrs. R. Leslie	Proposed by D.H. Kennelly	Seconded by M. Rix.
Mrs. E.H.R. Dale	" " R.O. Carlsson	" " T. Carlsson
S Mr. E. Peinke	" " C.M. Watters	" " D.H. Kennelly
Mr. D.C. Harding	" " V. Neill	" " J. Scheepers
Miss P.D. Neill	" " J. Scheepers	" " V. Neill
Miss P.F. Neill	" " J. Scheepers	" " V. Neill
Mrs. I.F. Lambert	" " J. Scheepers	" " D. Smith
Miss G. Lambert	" " J. Scheepers	" " D. Smith
Mr. A.G. Going	" " J. Scheepers	" " V. Neill

Mr. Freeman reminded members that nominations for Council Members were to be in the hands of the Secretary by 25th June, he also reminded the meeting that it was essential that the consent to stand be received from the nominees before such nominations were made in writing.

The Editor mentioned the proposed new format of the Circulars which he hoped to introduce with the next issue. The changes would include :- the new metric size A4 paper, a motif depicting *Afrivoluta pringlei* and a title. As the Council had been unable to decide upon a suitable name members were asked to come forward with suggestions. It was to be remembered that the title page would have to be prepared in advance so any suggestions were to be in the hands of the Editor before the middle of July.

The Secretary reported that she had received a copy of the monthly magazine 'La Conchiglia' which was now being published in English. Members wishing to subscribe to this publication are asked to send their remittance of £8-50 (Annual Subscription for twelve issues) by Bank Draft to 'La Conchiglia', Piazza S. Lorenzo, Lucina 3500186, Rome, Italy.

After the usual very welcome tea and biscuits Mr. Graham Ivy took us on a tour of Kenya and Zanzibar. The tour was conducted with the help of some very beautiful colour slides. It was a most fascinating journey and we were all sorry when the time came for us to return home. Thank you Graham for a very enjoyable "holiday".

+ + + + + + + + + + + + +

SECRETARY/LIBRARIAN:

Mrs. Thelma Carlsson
18 Tecoma Way,
PINELANDS. Cape

Phone: 53-1536

EDITOR/TREASURER:

Mr. Richard Carlsson
18 Tecoma Way,
PINELANDS. Cape.

Phone: 53-1536