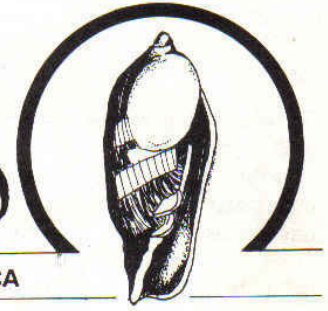


# The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 191

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1978

Page 1

## A NOTE ON CONUS PICTUS REEVE

In August 1976 Mrs Ruth Hoogenhout of Jeffreys Bay found a beach cone in very good condition. She had a fair amount of difficulty in identifying the shell and in the end it was decided that it was *Conus scitulus simplex*. As Jeffreys Bay is well outside the accepted distribution of *C. scitulus simplex* (east coast of Cape Peninsula, between Muizenberg and Buffels Bay (Kilburn, 1971), she was not satisfied with this identification.

During 1977 Mr Bill Dyer of Hermanus went overseas and took pictures of the shell to Dr Pieter Röckel in West Germany. Dr Röckel finally identified the shell as *Conus pictus* Reeve.

The accepted distribution of *Conus pictus* is from Jeffreys Bay northwards to just beyond East London. Kilburn (1971) states that this species has frequently been confused with *C. scitulus* but that it differs in the more broadly and regularly conical body whorl, in the more markedly stepped spire and distinctly concave shoulder slope, and in the absence of any sign of spiral striae on the shoulder slope. The colouration appears to be brighter and more variable, the markings range in colour from salmon-pink to fawn or chestnut. *C. pictus* is both rare and an infratidal dweller.

Mrs Hoogenhout's shell measures 45 by 25 mm and is brown and cream in colour and is shown in the photograph.



## KNYSNA – PART FOUR

by KENNETH BROWN and MICHAEL CORTIE

### SHELLING AND DIVING AT EAST CAPE

While on a shelling and diving holiday at Knysna we heard about a place called East Cape. Inspection of the map showed it to be not too far off, about 3–4 km upcoast from the Heads. We set a day aside for the trip, and that morning we loaded our haversacks to the limit with wet-suits, weightbelts, goggles and flippers, not to mention water, gas cooker, food and a pot. We parked at the Heads and set off from there. At first there was a sand track to follow, this became a footpath which meandered over the treeless hills. Soon we could even see the East Cape – a spectacular mass of rock, with some high, almost cathedral-like jagged spires. The problem was to find a way down to the sea. Eventually a suitable footpath was found and we wound our way down through the bush. We arrived at sea level near the base of a vast and impressive sea-cave.

All around us was evidence that primitive man had been here many years before. Piles of old *Turbo sarmaticus* abounded everywhere. Here surely had lived some tribe akin to the aptly named "Strandloper" of Cape Peninsula fame. We took a few of these shells and many months later found that it was not too hard to chip off the outer layer of the shell to expose the beautiful inner nacreous layer. When we reached the Cape proper we noted with dismay that a very fierce wind was blowing, and this whipped the sea into a frenzy of foam and made diving in the sea impossible. We climbed the highest mass of rock, and gazed out over a wind-churned sea, while gulls wheeled and sped by noisily in the wind. As diving was out of the question we turned our attention to several large and deep rock pools in the complex of rock. Indeed these were so large that rock swimming-pool would be a more appropriate name! Some of these pools abounded in urchins and we viewed them with deep suspicion. Mike remembered well the last time he had met an urchin forcibly – and had been obliged to "operate" with a safety pin. One particular pool – a cliff-walled cleft in the rocks with slapping waves particularly caught our fancy. The water ran clear green. We climbed down at the end of the cleft and swam towards its centre. Above our heads were dank cliffs on both sides. Above the

(Continued on page 2)

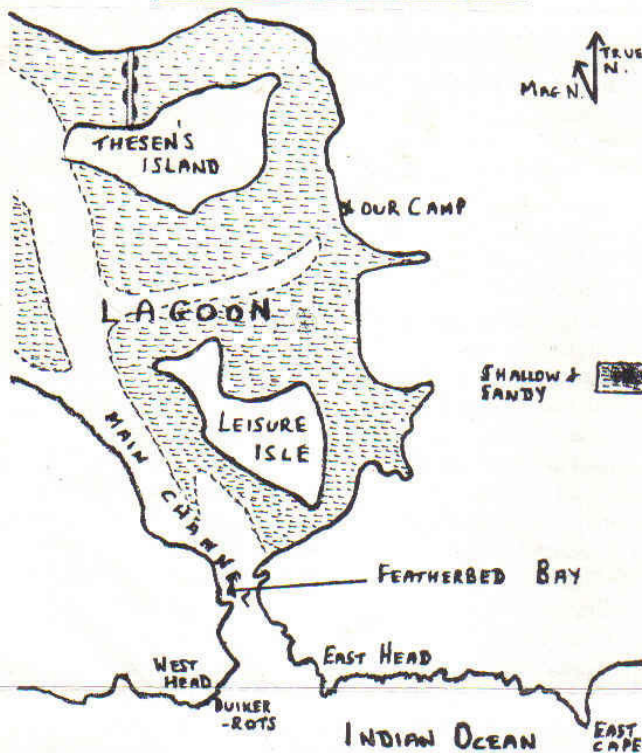
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cliff the clouds raced across the narrow gap of the sky. The walls of the cleft stretched down to a gut some 3 m below.

Gathering breath and diving down on slide past mysterious grottos and wave-pushed seaweeds undulating in the liquid breeze. Deeper down bright orange sponges covered in the dark overhangs. Crouching on the rippled shellgrit at the bottom one gazed upwards through streaming, misty water to a distant glittering surface.

Another steep-walled deep cleft intersected the first one at right angles. Swimming through this one came to an active foamy area. Hanging upside down in the water we peered into inverted grottos. Through one hole could be seen distant, waving weed, fish, sea-urchins and gentle sea light. In a surging trough liberally spiked with urchins were several *Turbo sarmaticus*. The rushing of waves through this

KNYSNA : 1 : 50 000



region made it fairly lively, and we soon left it to return to the calmer, deeper parts of the pool. Further shelling produced a very fine, freshly dead *Haliotis parva*, which was found among several shells stuck onto the spines of a large sea-urchin.

From here hunger called us and we climbed out of the water and up the cliffs, and found a wind-protected nook, and took our clinging wetsuits off. The contents of the haversack were unpacked, and the spaghetti and canned fish which was to constitute our repast was hungrily eyed. However the first problem we discovered was that we did not have enough fresh water in which to cook the spaghetti (it has been a thirsty walk!). This proved no problem as we could use half fresh and half sea water. In fact, as the cook proudly pointed out, since we had forgotten salt this was just as well. The spaghetti was duly set to boil, and to

keep hunger at bay we munched twigs of dried spaghetti. By the time we had tired of tasting this, we found that our gas had run out, and so now all the spaghetti would taste raw. The fish was mixed in and we were set for stage two, the eating . . . however, the cook announced that the plates too had been forgotten. Consternation reigned, but common sense won the day and we ate out of (a) the pot, (b) a pair of goggles, and (c) a flipper.

After a hearty repast we did nothing at all for an hour or two, then set off on the hike up the hill and home. All agreed it had been worth coming, even though we had been unable to dive in the sea.

\*\*\*\*\*

### INTERTIDAL TALK

Mr Bill Dyer of "Pebbleways", 43, 8th Street, Voelklip writes that he misses being able to attend meetings and invites any member who may be in the Hermanus area to contact him. He would like to talk shop any afternoon, except Saturdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have received the following notice, which we publish for the information of members: "It is with great regret that I write to notify that Frank Abbotsmith has passed away. He died in his sleep at 1-30 a.m. on Sunday, 18th June. Due to the number of people that he knew would you be so kind as to notify your members in case I have missed writing to anyone".

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Jack Nelson, editor of the National Capital Shell Club, invites members to write to:— N.C.S.C. Editor, c/o Division of Mollusks, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 20560, to receive a complimentary issue of their newsletter. This newsletter has a wide interest for a growing world-wide membership.

\*\*\*\*\*

### EXCHANGES WANTED

Galen Chi-Tsair Lyn, P.O. Box 29-42, Kaoshiung, Taiwan. Would like to contact members with the view to trading or buying rare volutes and cowries.

Mr J. Guillou, 33 Lotissement du Seminaire, Noumea, New Caledonia. Wishes to contact South African collectors with the view to exchange.

Mr R.H. Faniel, 92 Ave. A. Lancaster, B-1180, Bruxelles. Would like to contact members with view to exchange.

Mrs A.J. Waine, 159 Redwood Street, Belnheim, New Zealand. Is a novice collector and would like to contact members with view to exchange.

Mr J. Trondle, B.P. 1753, Papeete, Tahiti. Requests world wide Mitridae and Costellaridae in exchange for Polynesian shells.

Dr G.S. Reyne, Cardinal Reig 4-6, 4<sup>o</sup> 6<sup>a</sup>, Barcelona- 28, Spain. Would like to contact members with view to exchange.

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REGION OF UMDONI PARK,  
NATAL SOUTH COAST

(Continued)

Compiled by

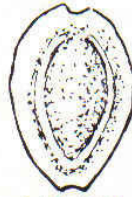
Mrs I.F. Lambert and Miss A. Lambert

FAMILY CYPRAEIDAE

GENUS CYPRAEA

SPECIES *Cypraea annulus* Linn.

Polished shell, white ground colour, with a yellow or blue dorsum ringed with an orange band. Found in swimming pool and in deep pools on the lower shore.



1 cm. long

*Cypraea arabica immanis* Schilder

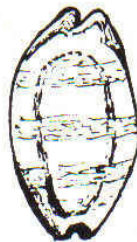
Heavy, polished shell with dark-brown ground cover. Dorsal surface ornamented with brown and white markings which resemble arabic writing. One specimen found deep under an overhang.



5 cm. long

*Cypraea carneola* Linn.

Polished shell with uniform orange ground colour and purple teeth on ventral side. One dead specimen found in sand filled pool.



1,5 cm. long

*Cypraea felina* Gmelin

Polished shell with pale orange base. Margin with few dark spots. Dorsum blue-grey ground colour covered in small brown spots. One live specimen found in gulley with in coralline turf.



1 cm. long

FAMILY LITTORINIDAE

GENERA *Littorina* and *Nodilittorina*

SPECIES *Littorina africana* Philippi

By far the most common species on this shore. It can be recognised as small grey-blue shells covering almost every square centimetre of the middle to upper shore.



8 mm. long

*Littorina kraussi* Rosewater

External colouration on shell is pale brown to pink ornamented with brown zig-zag markings. Aperture buff with horny operculum.

Found on the upper shore on ridges and in gulleys, often clustered in groups on the shadier side of a rock face.



1,5 cm. long

*Littorina pintado* Wood

Exterior colouration buff, covered with fine black spots. Aperture dark-brown with fine radiating brown lines. Uncommon, habitat as for *Littorina kraussi*.



1,5 cm. long

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

*Nodilittorina natalensis* (Philippi)

Shell dark-grey, with white nodes particularly on the body whorl. Aperture dark-brown. Habitat as for *Littorina kraussi*.



5 mm. long

FAMILY VERMETIDAE

GENERA *Dendropoma* and *Vermetis*

SPECIES *Dendropoma corallinaceus* Tomlin

Dark-grey, worm-like tubes. Usually clustered in colonies encrusting the edges of pools in the middle shore.



1, 5 cm. long

*Vermetis natalensis* (Mörch)

Smooth, dirty-white, worm-like tubes on rock surfaces. Often covered by encrusting algae and coralline turf. Common in the lower shore.



4 cm. long

ORDER NEOGASTROPODA

FAMILY BUCCINIDAE

GENUS *Burnupena*

SPECIES *Burnupena lagenaria* Lam.

Shell smooth to irregularly ridged, covered with a dark-brown periostracum. Juvenile specimens identical except spire bears white spots. Aperture dark-brown with white finely serrate outer lip. Very common on middle to lower shore.



0,5 - 4 cm. long

SUBCLASS PULMONATA

ORDER BASOMMATOPHORA

FAMILY SIPONARIDAE

GENUS *Siphonaria*

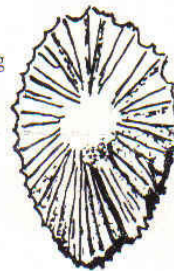
SPECIES

GENUS *Siphonaria*

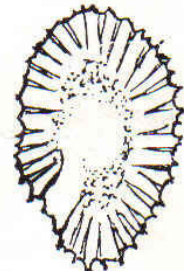
SPECIES *Siphonaria aspera* Krauss

Dorsal side high-spined, with radiating ridges constituting a serrate margin. Ventral side smooth, polished, with grey-buff centre and dark margin which reciprocates the ridges on the dorsal side. Common in shallow pools in the upper shore.

1,5 cm. long



Dorsal side



Ventral side

*Siphonaria capensis* Q. & G.

Dorsal side is high spired, with radiating ridges. Margin weakly serrate. Ventral side is smooth, polished, with broad dark-brown to purple centre. Margin comprises alternating white and black lines. Similar habitat as *Siphonaria aspera*.



2 cm. long



*Siphonaria deflexa* Helbl.

These shells are iridescent blue in bright sunlight. Profile is characteristic with irregularly positioned radiating ridges on the dorsal side which constitute an irregularly serrate margin. Ventral side has a buff centre, dark-brown margin with radiating white lines. Habitat as for *Siphonaria aspera*.



1 cm. long

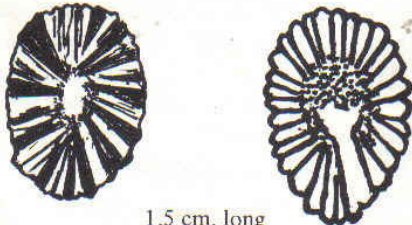


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(Continued from page 4)

*Siphonaria oculus* Krauss

Dorsal side has a low spire and flattened margin formed of alternating white hollows and brown ridges. Ventral side is smooth, polished, and has a deep centre of dark brown. Margin of shell is ornamented with alternating brown and white lines. Habitat as for *Siphonaria aspera*.



1,5 cm. long

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CHANGES TO JANUARY, 1978, MEMBERSHIP LIST

NEW MEMBERS:

- S Miss M. Whitfield, 2 Parkin Rd., Bunkers Hill Ext., East London 5241.  
 S Miss G. Oosthuizen, 2a Sheerness Rd., Bonnie Doon, East London 5201.  
 Dr D. Röckel, Am Steinern Kreuz 40, 6100 Darmstadt, Germany.  
 Mr J. Guillou, 33 Lotissement du Seminaire, Noumea, New Caledonia.  
 Mrs S.M. Cucknow, P.O. Kidds Beach 5264.  
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 Mr A.R.J. Jooste, 30 Cloverfield Rd., Dersley Park, Springs 1560.  
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 Mr S.B.D. Neville, 1205 Far Horizon, Doonside 4125.  
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 Mrs D.M. Kock, 8 Harelquin Rd., Rondebosch 7700.  
 Mr W. van Putten, P.O. Box 705, Secunda 2302.  
 Dr A.C. van Bruggen, c/o Ryksmuseum van Natuurlyke Historie, Posbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, Holland.

CHANGE OF NAME:

- Mrs F. Lennon, Bedford Farm, Private Bag, Harding 4680 is now Mrs F. Boik.

RESIGNATIONS:

- Miss M. Bustin, Cape Town.  
 Mrs A. Felgate, Jeffreys Bay.  
 Mrs E. Danks, East London.  
 Mrs P. Dwyer, Amanzimtoti.  
 Mrs P. Going, Amanzimtoti.  
 Mrs S. Neill, Amanzimtoti.  
 Mrs V. Wynne, Somerset West.  
 Dr B. Wingreen, East London.

AROUND THE GROUPS

**JOHANNESBURG:** At our May meeting a talk was given on deep-sea environments, with reference to shells found on the continental shelf and slope, and like in general at greater depths. At our June meeting we had a talk on fossil shells, with special reference to the evolution of shells, and the relationship between stratigraphic units and such shells. The talk related mainly to South African lithology. Our shell show scheduled for September is well under way and awhile ago we went as a Group to RAU to scan the hall and to chat over spacing etc.

**DURBAN:** Les Whatmore brought his magnificent collection of Cypraea, obtained off the South African coast, by diving, ex pisces and from trawlers, to our May meeting. We saw beautiful specimens of rare cypraea as well as live-taken *C. edentula*, as well as the usual Indo-Pacific varieties found off our coast. Bernie Young gave a most interesting talk on conditions of shell collecting in Durban when he first started in 1912. Truly a case of the "good old days". Both our June and July meetings were devoted to final arrangements for our show.

**PRETORIA:** By ons Junie vergadering het Laurie Smith 'n baie interessante en leersame praatjie oor die Patellidae asook oor gedrag in die diereyk. Hy het rapporteer aan die name verandering van drie van die Patellidae. With apologies from seven, twenty-five members and friends attended our July meeting. A special welcome was extended to Victor Millard, Chairman of the Cape Town Group, who gave a very interesting slide show and we were all amazed to see the effects of ultra-violet rays on shells. Ann Wilson reported that she had been informed that a diver had found a colony of *Charonia lampas pustulata* at Rooikranz at a depth of 60 foot. It was noted that an Australian collector had stated that Taiwan fishing boats brought him any amount of South African shells and he was, therefore, not very keen on trading for our shells.

**PORT ELIZABETH:** At our June meeting we discussed and classified the Buccinidae. There were some good specimens on display, especially a very fresh *Babylonia papillaris* taken from the harbour dredgings by Mrs Ball. Members thoroughly enjoyed their field day at Jeffreys Bay with near perfect weather. Even though there were no particularly good shells, Mr Fred Graeve found a very nice *Phenacovolva zaidafrikaana*. A number of Naticidae were on display at our July meeting and a lively discussion took place. It was decided that we would all make as many notes as possible on the habits, locality etc., of the shells for discussion at future meetings so that we would all benefit from the research.

**EAST LONDON:** We held our Annual General Meeting in June and the committee was re-elected. We decided to continue with our monthly field outings as well as the competition at our meetings. A very successful field day was held at Gonubie on 4th June. Our competition this month was the Patellidae. All entrants did very well with most members bringing specimens to show or to be named. At our July meeting the shells for the competition, display and discussion were the *Cymatium*. The competition was the naming of 20 South African species.

**CAPE TOWN:** Pat Coles displayed finds from the field day at Langebaan at our June meeting - there were *Natica tecta*, *Marginella capensis*, *Thais wahlbergi*, *T. formosa*, *Nassarius speciosus* and *N. plicatellus*. A few varieties of nudibranchs were also found and Lynn Everitt captured these on photographs. The shells for discussion were Trochidae and Turbinidae of which there was a good variety on display. Also on display were some shells from Tahiti obtained in an exchange parcel by Victor Millard. Dr Grindley, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Cape Town, gave a very interesting talk on the proposed coastal reserves, emphasising the need for conservation and protection of the still unspoilt stretches of our coastline. Altogether some forty reserves had been proposed.

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Once again the time of the year has come around when all subscriptions should of been paid. However, we have a number of defaulters all of whom have been sent 'final' reminder letters. If no response is forthcoming to these 'final' requests we will have no choice but to terminate their membership. In the meantime the membership of these non-payers has been suspended. Should you perhaps know of any members who have not as yet renewed their subscriptions please do the Society a favour and ask them to pay up.

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*We would welcome any article of interest to  
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