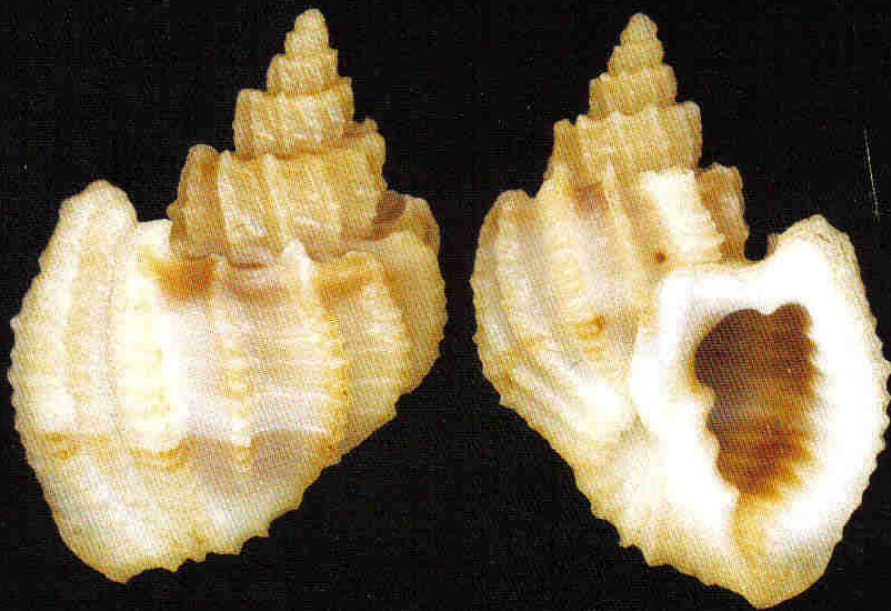




# Cancellariidae



**A revision of known Cancellariidae species occurring off South Africa and Mozambique - including undescribed species.**

By Markus Lussi, Dawn Brink & Alwyn Marais

See Page 4



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**In this Issue:**

1. Contact details of CSSA .... 2
2. From the Editor .... 3
3. *Morum praeclarum* .... 4
4. Southern African Cancellariidae .... 5
5. Fiji and the Cook Islands ....13
6. In Memoriam.... 15
7. Letters & E-mail .... 15

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Dear CSSA Members,

Thank you for all the contributions towards this issue and those already received for the next one. I don't have a main article for the next issue yet, so please send in your contributions as soon as possible.

If you can't take pictures yourself, please contact me and I'll put you in contact with someone who can help you. We are living in the digital age and if you had read the article about scanning in the previous issue, then you'll know that you can produce good enough pictures with an ordinary flat bed scanner for the bigger shells.

If you can just get your pictures on a cd to me, then it is fine. You don't have to do any manipulation, that is part of my job! I have to work on even the pro's pictures - it is never in the right format for printing and if they add text to the pictures then I have to take it out, etc.

The bottomline for getting your *Strandloper* in the month it should be published, is to send me articles. If the magazine is late, then I try my best to stay historical correct - meaning that I will not publish something in this March issue that happened in May. If it is something important like the death of a member then I will write an accompanying letter and do a follow up.

Remember - if I don't have articles, then I can't produce a magazine. An article doesn't have to cover several pages - it can be a few interesting sentences! The power of words doesn't lie in the quantity, but in the quality...

Letters are only published if it is of interest to most of the members, if it is not published then it will be answered and both copies filed.

Happy shelling,  
Kobie d. Preez

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## *Morum praeclarum* (Melvill, 1919) – rare or common ?

By Johan and Alwyn Marais

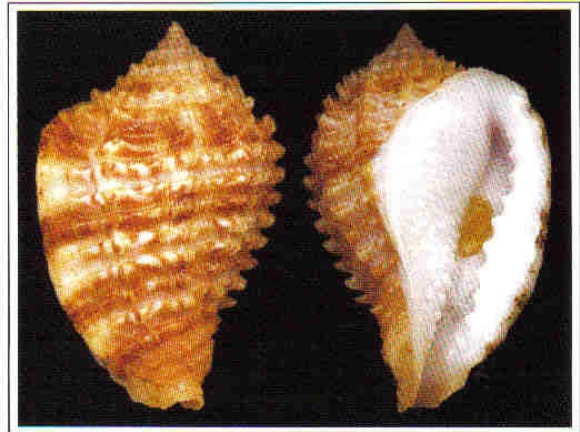
*Morum praeclarum* (Melvill, 1919) was based on a single specimen bought from the collection of the late James MacAndrew, a well-known shell collector from Devon, U.K. No locality data was available. Since it was well known that MacAndrew built up his collection mainly by purchasing shells from dealers, the shell could have come from any of a large number of localities. For a period of more than fifty years no further specimens of this striking shell came to light and *M. praeclarum*, housed in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, U.K., became famous as one of the world's most rare and sought after shells (Dance, 1971).

However, during the early 70's, several specimens representing the long lost *M. praeclarum* turned up in the stomach contents of fish caught off the present KwaZulu-Natal. By clever detective work Dr R.N. Kilburn of the Natal Museum succeeded in elucidating, with a high degree of probability, the mystery of the origin of the holotype of *M. praeclarum* (see Kilburn, 1975). It appears that the shell came from material dredged in 1901 from a location 11 miles off Port Shepstone, bearing N.W. by W., at a depth of 250 fathoms by the Cape Government trawler *ss. Pieter Faure*. Many of the dredged shells obtained by the *Pieter Faure* were sent to G.B. Sowerby (III) for identification, several of which were retained by him and apparently sold to MacAndrew.

One of these shells, erroneously identified by Sowerby as *Oniscia macandrewi* (a shell from Sino-Japanese origin described by him several years previously), was in all probability the same shell that Melvill bought from the MacAndrew collection. Melvill, who was also in possession of the original type of *O. macandrewi* soon realised that the two shells differ in shape, colour pattern and in other details, and described the unknown specimen as *M. praeclarum*.

Based on shell characteristics *Morum* was regarded as a genus within the family, Cassidae. However, recent anatomical studies revealed that *Morum* resembles *Harpa* so closely that it has now been included in the family, Harpidae. Both genera have similar internal and external anatomies. Both have exceptionally small radulae and probably feed on decapod crustaceans. Saliva probably predigests the prey, whose flesh is ingested in liquid form. Both genera predominantly inhabit deep water, but a few species do occur in shallow water. *Morum* has a horny operculum while an operculum is absent in *Harpa*. The genus *Morum* is relatively small, consisting of about 30 species, only two of which occur in southern African waters, i.e. a recently described species only known from the Maputo region of Mozambique, *M. fatimae* Poppe and Brulet, 1999 and *M. praeclarum*.

*M. praeclarum* is now known to occur from off Somalia on the horn of Africa to South Africa. The Natal Museum Dredging Programme (1981-1993) brought to light several specimens of *M. praeclarum* from off Boteler Point, northern KwaZulu-Natal to off Mzamba in the Eastern Cape. The mollusc appears



to occur mainly on sandstone or coral rubble bottoms or sometimes on slightly muddy sand at a depth of 75-100 m. *M. praeclarum* is occasionally found attached to the carrier shell *Xenophora pallidula* (Reeve, 1842), suggesting that it also occurs in much deeper water.

As part of our present dredging programme along the KwaZulu-Natal coast, the authors of this paper recently dredged off Park Rynie on a coral/sponge rubble bottom at a depth of 100 m. *M. praeclarum* was found in large numbers – more than a hundred specimens were dredged, most of which were returned to the sea. It was, in fact, the most common species found in that particular habitat. These findings suggest that there are probably very few truly rare marine shells in nature. When we classify a marine shell as "rare" we really mean that it is poorly represented in our collections, probably because its habitat is yet unknown to us, or it is simply difficult to reach.

### Acknowledgements

The authors express their sincere thanks to Dr R.N. Kilburn for providing the literature on which this paper is based.

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## SOUTHERN AFRICAN CANCELLARIIDAE

### A revision of known *Cancellaria* species occurring off South Africa and Mozambique and including undescribed species.

By Markus Lussi, Dawn Brink and Alwyn Marais \*

#### Introduction

The family name Cancellariidae is derived from the cancellate sculpture of the early whorls of these shells. They have been given common names such as nutmeg, lattice and step shells.

Members of the family live in most of the world's seas, but the majority of species originate from the tropics. Most live offshore, on muddy sand or rubble substrates. Off South Africa, some species occurring off the southern Cape live at abyssal depths of 3000 meters or more. A few reef-dwellers may beach such as *Scalptia foveolata*, *S. crosseii* and *Trigonostoma semidisjuncta*. *Scalptia foveolata* is the only species found living intertidally but even this is a rare occurrence. The family is represented in southern Africa by 14 genera and 31 species which include two undescribed species.

Members of the family Cancellariidae are quite diverse conchologically, but are generally globose to fusiform in general shape with a low spire, a short shallow siphonal canal and a large body whorl. Tropical shallow water species tend to be thick-walled, those from deeper temperate waters are more fragile. The columella often has a parietal callus and possesses two or three oblique folds; the anterior fold is generally known as the siphonal fold. The base often has an umbilicus which varies in depth. The aperture is relatively large and often triangular in outline. Adult shells lack an operculum, but in some species it is present in the late larval stage. They very rarely possess a periostracum, *Trigonostoma semidisjuncta* being one of a few exceptions. Most species are less than 25mm in size, through some Panamic species exceed a length of 100mm.

The Cancellariidae comprises a family of highly specialized, suctorial neogastropods. In South Africa, *Nipponaphera wallacei* has been found to live exclusively on the turbinid *Bolma andersoni* and is

assumed to be an ectoparasite of large gastropods. *Cancellaria* species have either planktotrophic or direct development. Species of the subfamily Cancellariinae often produce compressed egg capsules containing numerous eggs and attached to very long thin stalks anchored to a flattened basal disc. They often lack a radula, although some species do possess a unique system of a row of long thread-like central plates that diverge on either side of the middle; each plate consists of an aggregate of microscopic tubes. Above the radula lies a chitinous shield with jaw-like anterior projection which holds the anterior series of plates like a paintbrush. Barnard (1959) recorded that the radula of "*Cancellaria*" *africana* consists of a large number (>100) of very long slender teeth attached in single file to a basal membrane. The teeth are oriented in two groups: those attached to the shorter anterior portion of the membrane project forwards; the more numerous teeth on the posterior portion project backwards, and appear to be replacers. The radula is enclosed in a double sheath. The apex of each tooth is truncate, the length of the basal membrane is 1mm and that of each tooth is approximately 2mm. The alimentary system is adapted to feed on body fluids of prey/host organisms.



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**Main features of some southern African genera**

- Scalptia*** 3 columellar plications, umbilicus shallow, radula present.
- Trigonostoma*** Whorls loosely coiled, 2 columellar folds, umbilicus deep extending to protoconch.
- Nipponaphera*** No umbilicus or at the most a shallow umbilicus, siphonal canal short but wide. Radula present.
- Merica*** Prominent suture, narrow pseudo-umbilicus, 2 sharply keeled columellar folds and strong siphonal fold. Replaces genus *Cancellaria* in Indo-Pacific Ocean.
- Africotriton*** Relatively tall spire, well developed columellar collar and 1-2 columellar folds. Radula present. South African in origin except for one species living off eastern Australia.
- Tritonoharpa*** No columellar folds or at the most a weak low narrow fold. There is no radula.
- Iphinopsis*** Radula absent.

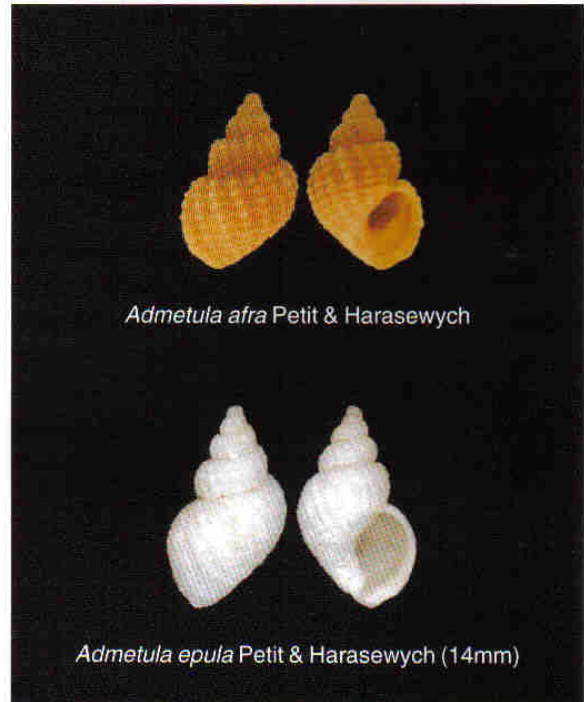
**Account of southern African Cancellariidae****FAMILY: CANCELLARIIDAE*****Iphinopsis* Dall, 1924**

*euthymei* (Barnard, 1960) Off Cape Peninsula, 2700-3200m.

**Subfamily: Admetinae*****Admetula* Cossmann, 1889**

*afra* Petit & Harasewych, 2000 Off KZN, 150-320m.

*epula* Petit & Harasewych, 1991 Off E. Cape, 55-450m.

***Zeadmete* Finlay, 1926**

*verheckeni* Petit & Harasewych, 2000 Off Stony Point (Wild Coast), 400m.





**Subfamily: Cancellariinae**

***Brocchinia* Jousseaume, 1887**

*plebeja* (Thiele, 1925) Agulhas Bank, 155m



*Brocchinia plebeja* (Thiele, 1925)



'*Cancellaria*' *okutanii* Petit, 1974

***Fusiaphera* Habe, 1961**

*eva* Petit, 1980 Bazaruto Is. S. Moz, intertidal.  
*producta* (Sowerby, 1903) Off KZN & Moz, 20-150m.



*Fusiaphera eva* Petit, 1980

*Fusiaphera producta* (Sowerby, 1903)

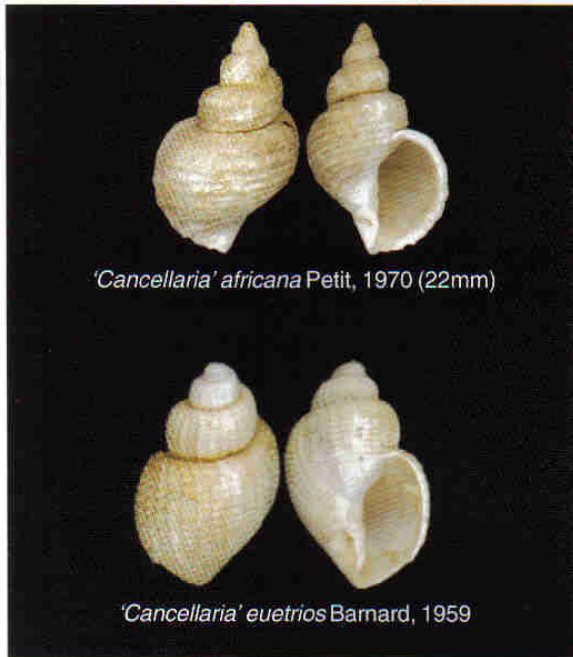
**"*Cancellaria*" Lamarck, 1799**

There are no established genera at present which are suitable for the placement of the following two species. Therefore "*Cancellaria*" is in inverted commas.

*africana* Petit, 1970 Southern Agulhas Bank, 240-350m.

*euetrios* Barnard, 1959 Agulhas Bank, 150-230m.

*okutanii* Petit, 1974



'*Cancellaria*' *africana* Petit, 1970 (22mm)

'*Cancellaria*' *euetrios* Barnard, 1959

***Merica* H & A Adams, 1854**

*lussii* Petit & Harasewych, 2000. Off S KZN, 85-150m.



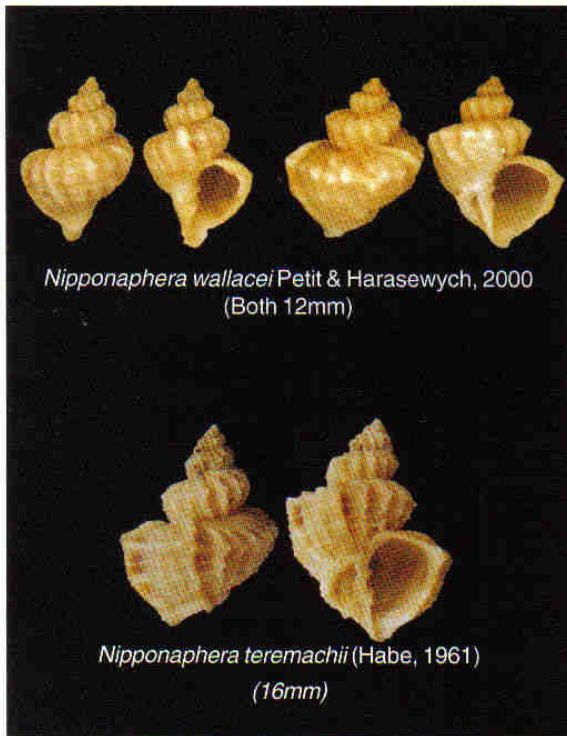
*Merica lussii* Petit & Harasewych, 2000. (35mm)

***Nipponaphera* Habe, 1961**

*wallacei* Petit & Harasewych, 2000 S. KZN living on *Bolma andersoni*, 30-60m and *ex-pisce* Richards Bay, 50-90m & beached Gonubie (D. Brink coll.)

(The differences in size and number of axial ribs and the denticles on the inner lip may be due to the fact that they live at different depths and maybe live off different food sources, according to Dr. Petit)

*teremachii* (Habe, 1961), ex pisce 65-90m off Quissico, Mozambique.

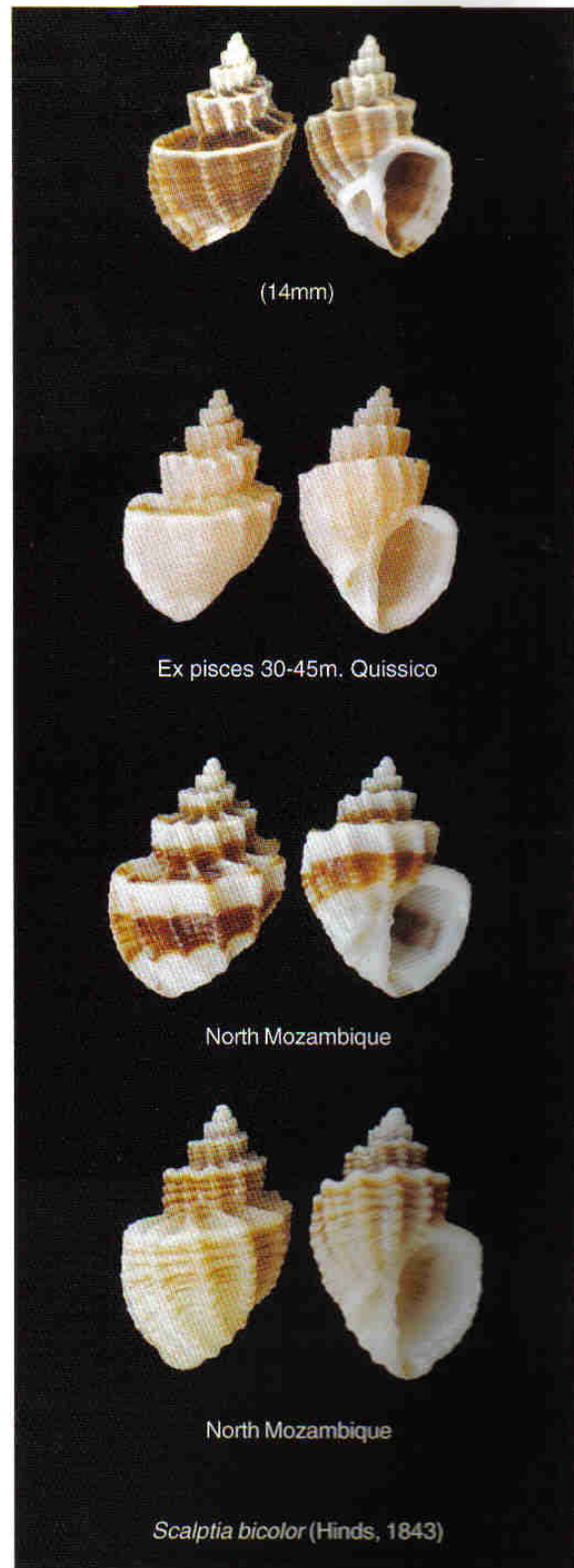
***Scalptia* Jousseume, 1887**

*bicolor* (Hinds, 1843) N. Mozambique, intertidal.  
*contabulata* (Sowerby, 1832) N. Mozambique.  
*croesei* (Semper, 1861) N. Wild Coast to Moz, intertidal to 25m.

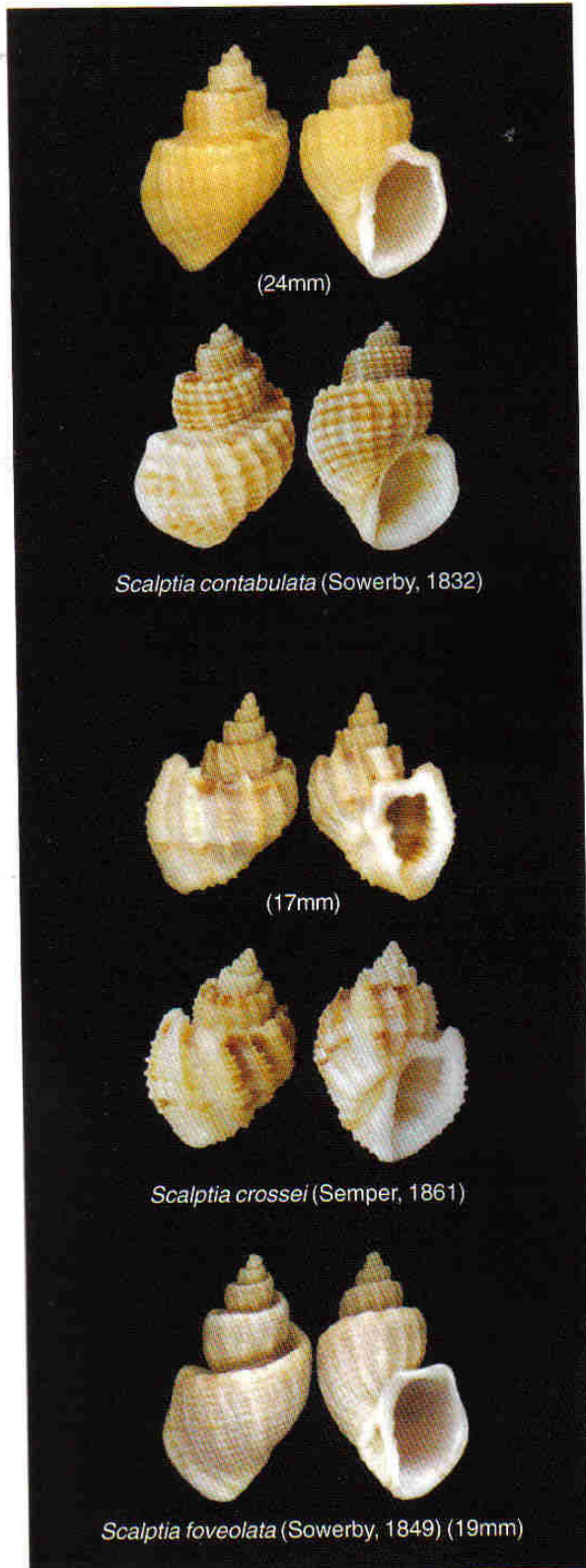
*foveolata* (Sowerby, 1849) beached S. KZN to Jeffrey's Bay; Glenmuir (E. Cape), 0-10m.

*obliquata* (Lamarck, 1822) Mozambique, intertidal to 25m.

*sp. ex pisces* 75-90 from Quissico, Mozambique.







**Trigonostoma Blainville, 1825**

*kilburni* Petit & Harasewych, 2000 Off East London, 90m.

*mozambicense* Petit & Harasewych, 2002 Trawled off Quissico/Zavora, (Moz).

*semidisjuncta* (Sowerby, 1849) Jeffreys Bay to East London, 10-90m; off East London, living 22m.



*Trigonostoma kilburni* Petit & Harasewych



#### Subfamily: Plesiotritoninae

#### *Africotriton* Beu & Maxwell, 1987

*crebriliratus* (Sowerby 111, 1903) Off E. Cape, 250-420m.

*fictilis* (Hinds, 1844) Off E. Cape, 90-238m.

*kilburni* Beu & Maxwell, 1987 Off S. KZN & Wild Coast, 75-250m.

*multinodulatus* Beu & Maxwell, 1987 Off S. KZN & Wild Coast, 45-550m.

*petiti* Beu & Maxwell, 1987 Off Wild Coast, 370-450m.



#### *Loxotaphrus* Harris, 1897

*rosadoi* Beu & Verhecken, 2000 Off S. Moz, 150m.





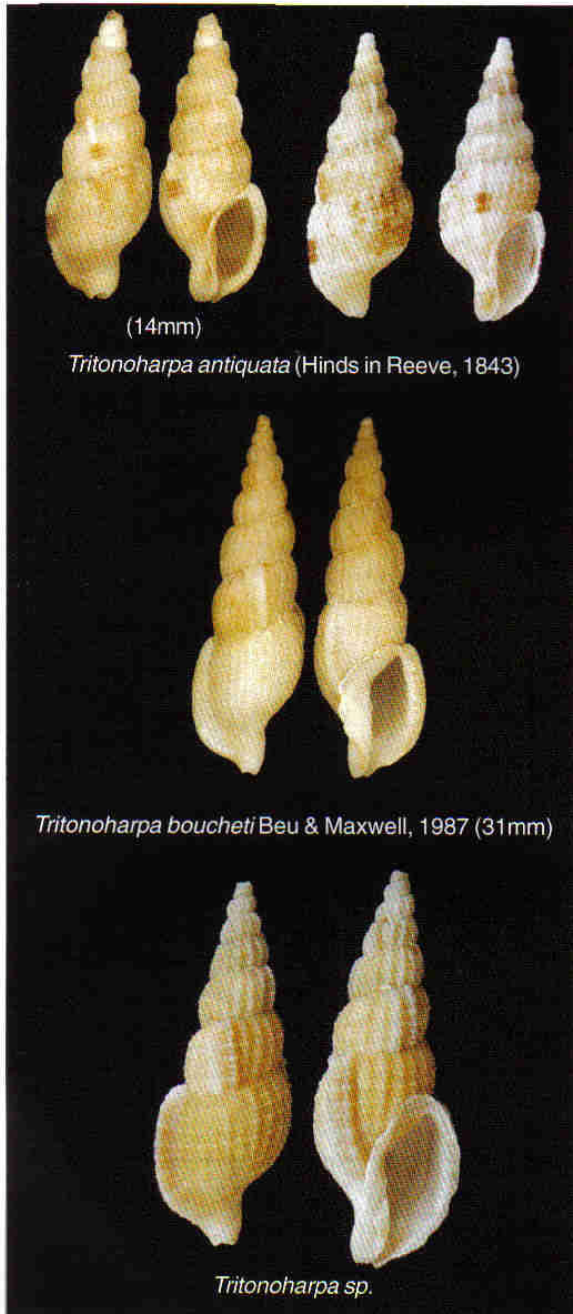
***Tritonoharpa* Dall, 1908**

*antiquata* (Hinds in Reeve, 1843) Off S. KZN, 20-40m.

*boucheti* Beu & Maxwell, 1987 Off Durban & Moz, 40-440m .

*indoceana* Beu & Maxwell, 1987 Off Quissico (Moz), 110m.

*sp.* South Inhaca 320-380m.



(14mm)

*Tritonoharpa antiquata* (Hinds in Reeve, 1843)

*Tritonoharpa boucheti* Beu & Maxwell, 1987 (31mm)

*Tritonoharpa sp.*

**Notes of interest**

*Cancellaria imbricata* Watson, 1882 is a preoccupied name and South African specimens were renamed *Cancellaria africana* Petit, 1970

*Cancellaria dalli* Bartsh, 1915 is not a South African species. It is a synonym of *Trigonostoma bullatum* (Sowerby, 1832), a tropical West American species. Bartsh (1915) incorrectly stated that the type of *C. dalli* was collected at the "Cape of Good Hope"

*Cancellaria bifasciata* Deshayes, 1830, a junior synonym of *Merica oblonga* (Sowerby, 1825) occurs in the northern and north-eastern parts of the Indian Ocean. In the past, *Merica lussii* was misidentified as *C. bifasciata* due to their similarities.

*Sveltia lyrata* (Brocchi, 1814) is a common Italian Pliocene fossil that has also been found living off West Africa. It does not form part of the South African fauna. Barnard (1959) mentions that this species has been dredged off Namibia at a depth of 174 meters.

*Fusiaphera eva* Petit, 1980 is considered by some to be a synonym of *F. producta*, but the type specimens were compared by Harasewych some years ago and it was determined that they were separable species (findings unpublished). Comments from anyone with these two species would be appreciated.

Specimens of *Scalptia crossei* from southern Africa were mistakenly recorded by Barnard as *Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds, 1843.

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#### Acknowledgments

1. Dai Herbert of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, RSA

2. Frank Koehler of the Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
3. Jerry Harasewych of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, USA
4. Jose Rosado of Maputo, Mozambique
5. Richard Petit of Myrtle Beach, Carolina, USA

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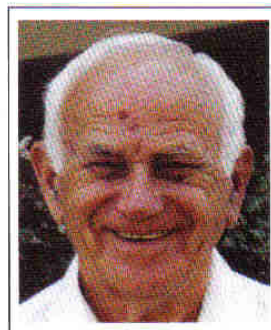
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## Searching Fiji and the Cook Islands

By Zvi Orlin \*



I had been planning for many years to visit the S.W. Pacific, hoping to sail there, but when this proved impractical, I decided to fly there and asked my sailing mate Mike to join me. He came via U.S.A. and we arranged to meet at Nandi, the air terminal of Fiji. I went via Singapore & Auckland, but in truth this was not only a shell collecting excursion, but also to sail to some remoter small islands, and familiarize myself mainly with the physical background, fauna and flora of the region. I hope I will be pardoned, if I don't only confine myself to shell collecting.

I stayed in Singapore for 2 days. It is an impressive modern city, but my visit was confined to the Jurong Bird Park, with its 1500 species of birds, the local Zoological Garden, with many rare fauna, and on the Island of Santosa the famous Sea World. I arrived in Nandi and met Mike, who had arranged accommodation in a small friendly hotel, out of town, that turned out to be a good base for our excursions. We were now in the Melanesian region of the S.W. Pacific.

Our first daily trip was together with a group of other backpackers, on the cruise boat Tui Tai (King of Tai), to a small cay called Beachcomber Island, just offshore the main island of Viti Levu. This flat island, crowned by coconut palms, was surrounded by a fringe reef, ideal for snorkeling, with a display of hard and soft corals, and a wealth of multicolored fish and marine invertebrates, typical of the Tropical Indo-Pacific. We immediately took to the water, enjoying snorkeller's views of this magical habitat. Afterwards I started collecting shells from the shallows and beaches, and found quite a few: 3 turbanes – *Turbo argyrostoma*, *T. chrystostoma* and *Liotina peronii*; 2 interesting Nerites – *Nerita planospira* and *N. textiles*, *Strombus gibberulus gibberulus*, more than half a dozen Cowries especially *Cypraea erosa*, *C. lynx* and *C. stolidus*, some of the other species were worn but still recognizable; also a small specimen of *Casmaria ponderosa*, a darkish *Conus ebraeus*, *Terebra subulata*, 2 fine specimens of *Architectonica modesta*, and 2 interesting Venuses: *Lioconcha castrensis* and *Tapes literatus* with its fine pattern. Lunch was buffet style with local dishes, fish and a wealth of tropical fruits – decidedly to our taste.

After lunch and a short rest, I explored the rest of the island, and encircled its beaches in less than half an hour. A few more shells were found, but nothing special. Then we were back snorkeling and enjoying the underwater scene, till our afternoon departure, concluding a wonderful day, with clear blue skies and excellent sailing weather.

The next day we set out for Suva, the capital of Fiji, along Queen's Way, the main road that encircles the island, with exhilarating views of the fringe reefs and the mountains. As soon as we arrived, we arranged our trip to the island of Leleuvia, N.E. of Suva, and left on a two-hour sail to spend 2 days there. Once again we were among a group of backpackers, and even one young couple with a baby, smiling from their backpack. Accommodation was small thatched roof huts, in among the coconut palms, with running water only from a small tap in water cans, but smiles all around. On the island we alternated between snorkeling and shelling, finding the island much richer in species and shoals of fish than Beachcomber Island, and remained in the water till sundown. In the evening we all sat on easy chairs on the waterline, with little fish jumping clear of the water, seemingly sharing our pleasures, as interesting tales were exchanged of our travels. A fisherman that befriended me gave me a fine specimen of *Cypraea tigris* and a large *Conus quercinus*, with a slightly damaged outer lip. Next morning, at the crack of dawn, we hiked around the island in less than an hour, meeting up with a few sea snakes that appeared to spend the night ashore. All day we alternated between snorkeling and shell collecting. That last evening our Fijian hosts gave us a concert of music and song, and we drank toasts of Kava, their famous Polynesian liquor. On our last morning, after a few additional hours of viewing the fascinating reefs and their fauna, we sailed back to Viti Levu, fortunately in fine weather, as the gunwales of our heavily laden boat were not too far above the waterline. During the course of our sojourn on Leleuvia I collected quite a haul: *Modulus tectum*, *Engina zonalis*, *Nassarius comptus* and *N. echinatus*, 2 interesting specimens of *Oliva carneola*, colorful *Mitra chrysalis*, a fine *Cancilla peasei*, the uncommon *Vexillum obtusispinosum* and also 2 *Siphonaria atra*. Some bivalves as well: *Barbatia decussata*, *Lucinisca venusta*, many *Mactra cuneata*, *Tellina timorensis*, a violet *Psammotaea elongata* and *Meretrix casta*.

From Suva we joined a cruise, in a narrow cigar shaped boat, with a shallow draft, up the Navua River to the hill village of Nukusere, where we were entertained by a song



and dance performance, and toured their village and homes. Before leaving Suva, we also visited the National Museum, the Thurston Gardens with fine examples of the beautiful tropical flora, and a Handicraft Center.

Returning to Nadi, I went to a secluded coast north of the town, where I found more shells: some *Planaxis sulcatus* and *Nerita squamulata* on a rocky outcrop, but mainly bivalves along the sandy beach – *Anadara jurata*, a large *Codakia punctata*, *Fimbria fimbriata* with undulating concentric ribs crossed by radial ribs, (my first of this family), *Chama imbricata*, *Tellina staurella*, *Timoclea marica* and *Barnea manilensis* – the famous Oriental Angel Wing. Before leaving Nadi we spent a day hiking the Nausari Mountains, through Navala with its thatched roof cottages and beautiful rugged scenery, and fresh air. We also visited the Garden of the Sleeping Giants, set up by Raymond Burr (of Television fame as Ironside), who accumulated a fabulous collection of orchids from all over the world, and left the Garden to the Government of Fiji, in appreciation of the many happy years he had spent there.

We flew to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, transferring to the Polynesian region of the Pacific, and settled in at Avarua where we spent a few days, snorkeling, shelling and cycling round the island in a bare 3 hours. The highlight of this ride was visiting Avana, the departure point of the 18 Polynesian twin-hulled canoes that set out about 600 years ago, to settle in New Zealand (called by them Aotearoa – the land of the big white cloud), but only 7 of the canoes reached their destination. We must admire these famous ancient mariners, who without navigation instruments or maps, set out across the vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean, exploring and settling many of its islands. In one of the lagoons south of Avarua, we also found some shells: a big *Turbo sparvarius*, a smaller one of *Turbo setosus*, *Rhinoclavis aspera*, *Pollia rubens*, impressive *Cantharus undosus* and bivalves: *Insognomon perna*, *Tridacna maxima*, a fine *Meretrix meretrix*, and a large *Periglypta reticulata*. At Avarua in the National Museum, they had a section devoted to shells, exhibiting some rare finds and beautiful specimens. One morning we made a trek into the tropical forest in the mountains above, familiarizing ourselves with the local flora and birds.

As we were keen on seeing an atoll, we flew out to the island of Aitutaki, and spent 3 days there. Atolls are usually round, but this one formed a large triangle, owing to a reef shaped like a wedge, spreading on one side and enclosing the lagoon. Aside from the Main Island Aitutaki consists of more than a dozen smaller islands along the rim of the former crater of the volcano. We started off at Paradise Cove on Main Island, where many shells were found, among the more interesting ones were: *Trochus maculatus*, *Cerithium trillii*, *Engina alveolata*, *Arca navicularis*, *Chama asperella*, *Tellina pinguis*, and *Cypraea moneta* dozens of which were found on the sandy beaches. We also climbed

up flat-topped Mt. Maungapu, most unusual for volcanic islands; the locals have a strange legend about how it was formed, claiming that the top was cut off by the warriors of a neighboring island and stolen by them. The next day we cruised around the lagoon on a small boat "Viking", operated by Kerry and Kim, who played us Polynesian music, and sang songs during the voyage. We visited most of the reefs in the far corners of the lagoon, and 2 of the larger islands, One Foot Isle and Maina, where we had lunch under the coconut palms. We stopped at all the reefs most suitable for snorkeling, and I collected shells wherever possible, including: *Pyrasus ebeninus*, *Peristernia nassatula* with its rosy aperture, *Arca avellana*, *Modiolus auriculatus*, *Pinctada vulgaris*, a few Tellins – a large *Tellina scobinata*, *T. sulcata*, *T. palatum*, and also a fine *Circe cf. scripta* (the latter 3 also found in the Red Sea). We hired bicycles and toured around the island, visiting Akitau Island which was accessible by a bridge, and riding down to the south of the Main Island to the Marae, which is a monument of about 15 large standing rocks, dedicated to the God of Sharks. On our last evening, there was a song and hula dance performance by a few youth groups, attended by most of the inhabitants of the nearby villages. This was Polynesia at its best, greatly enjoyed by all, with the audience joining in the songs and swaying with the dancers, to maintain local traditions.

We departed for Hilo, Hawaii (the Big Island as it is called), but there our trip was mainly devoted to one of my special interests – Volcanism. We visited the live calderas of Kilauea and watched its red hot lava flowing into the ocean; on Mauna Kea we hiked through a lava tube, climbed a cinder cone, and visited the Observatory, with its giant telescopes at the summit, where the elevation of 4205 meters makes hiking most strenuous, but the views are breathtaking. In addition we managed to see the Lyman Museum, with its most outstanding collection of shells, even Mike (who is not a collector), was overwhelmed by the beauty and aesthetic wealth of the exhibits.

In conclusion, as I had only started shell collecting a few years before, it was my first excursion in which shelling was part of my itinerary. Before that I had only collected shells from the Mediterranean and Red Sea shores of Israel, so it was a real eye-opener, exposing new venues of interest and study. Although many species that I found are also known from the Red Sea, I returned with 120 species for my collection, and enriched with the beauty of the regions and cultures we had found, and the fine people we had met.

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## Letters & Email



71 Da Gama Road  
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6330  
South Africa

Dear Mrs. du Preez

I thank you for the last Strandloper - I found it very interesting. In regard to sinistral shells - I have some in my collection - collected by myself. Sorry I do not have any photos to send with the following sinistral shells:

*Marginella lutea* Sowerby 1889  
*Cyprea edentula* Gray, 1825  
*Trivia aperta* (Swainson, 1822)  
*Trivia phalacra* (Schilder, 1930)  
*Trivia magnidentata* Liltved, 1986  
*Trivia ovulata* Lamarck, 1910

Hoping the information will be of interest.

Yours sincerely  
Flo Ball

Dear Mrs. Ball,

I'm sure that the readers of this magazine will find it of interest. I have included your postal address should any one want to contact you privately.

May be one of the members will think of doing a comprehensive article on sinistral shells in South African waters...

Ed.

Geagte Redakteur

Hartlik geluk met die voorkoms en inhoud van die nuwe *Strandloper!* Dis mos wêreldklas!

Die volkleur deurgaans, ook vir die Skulpkondevereniging se skulp-embleem in die mashoof, die keurige bladuitleg en die gebruik van goeie papier dra by tot 'n eiesoortige gehalte. Voeg daarby die uitstekende artikels - leersaam, nuttig en genoeglik - en inderdaad, die joernaal het in die afgelope twee jaar 'n volkome gedaantewisseling ondergaan.

Ek ken die worsteling van 'n spesialis-redakteur. Meer as 30 jaar was ek maand vir maand gemoeid met die seëlydskrif, *The South African Philatelist*, as adjunkredakteur, redakteur en voorsitter.

Dus kan ek met gesag en oortuiging aan Kobie du Preez sê: Bravo! Geluk ook aan die lewenskragtige nuwe bestuur wat haar ondersteun en wat in hierdie sukses deel.

Joh Groenewald, Pretoria  
johgroen@mweb.co.za

Baie dankie vir die komplimente! Die volkeur uitgawes is afhanklik van lede wat betyds ledegeld betaal ... en die artikels is in die hande van vrywillige bydraes van die lede se kant.

Red.

## In Memoriam



1. **Dr David Brown** died peacefully at home in Haywards Heath, West Sussex, on March 25th. Dr Brown was a freshwater malacologist, employed by the Medical Research Council as an External Staff Member based at The Natural History Museum, London, with over 100 publications in peer reviewed scientific journals. He will be especially remembered for his excellent book on Freshwater Snails of Africa and their Medical Importance published in 1980, with a second edition in 1994. Furthermore, he helped many budding malacologists with his editorial skills as an Associate Editor with the Journal of Molluscan Studies.

2. **Dr. Brian F. Kensley**, research zoologist in the Invertebrate Zoology section, died on January 19 after a long illness, at his home in the company of friends and his priest.

During his career he authored or co-authored three major field guides on invertebrates and more than 150 scientific papers dealing with systematics and ecology of Crustacea and fossil molluscs. He was an avid collector, and his career fieldwork took him to the Indian Ocean, Australia, South America and the Caribbean. A scientific leader, Brian cared deeply for the Museum's mission and work, spending long hours not only on research endeavors but explaining to a broader public in clear inspiring language the natural history he loved.

## Seeester Strandhuis

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### July 2004

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### November 2004

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