



Afrivoluta pringlei Tomlin 1947

THE
CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 122.

SEPTEMBER, 1970.

Another month has passed and the second of our 'new look' Circulars goes to 'print'. This month we have no photographs, not because we have none, but because of the cost. It is nice to be able to publish photographs, but the coffers will not permit that it be done regularly. We have some very interesting prints on hand so do not be surprised if you find more pictures in due course.

For the benefit of those members who do not know of the plans regarding the format of future Circulars we hope, as far as possible, to publish articles on conchology etc. at the front followed by the Society and Group meeting notices, Changes of address, Exchanges wanted, Group notes and Minutes of meetings. This month the announcements of the various meetings will be found on page 6.

Please, if at all possible, support our advertisers. They support your Society and the back page of this Circular does help to cover the cost of 'printing'!

One last word, the Circular is what you, the members, make it. It is through your contributions that we are able to produce a regular monthly publication. You send in the articles and we will produce a Circular. No articles, no circular.

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Some "Don'ts" for Shell Collectors.

Don't ever collect the whole population of a species in one area.

Don't collect damaged living shells. They will not be used in your collection nor can you exchange them, but they can continue to reproduce.

Don't collect juvenile shells - this seriously depletes the population.

Don't poach - if permits are or become necessary, get them.

Don't contribute in any way to the extinction of any species.

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A Forgotten/.....

A Forgotten South African Cowrie

by The Late F.A. Schilder.

Forty years ago, I established a new cowrie species from the "Cape", Luponia coronata Schilder 1930 (Zool. Anzeiger 87:113); the unique holotype was returned to the museum of Hamburg, Germany where it was unfortunately destroyed during World War II.

According to the description and the exact drawing of this shell it is evidently closely allied to L.fuscudentata Gray, but it differs mainly by both margins being covered by coarse rounded tubercles of approximately equal size, about twenty on the thickened outer lip and sixteen on the columellar. The central columellar ribs are short, the columella is constricted, and the fossula is absent, like in L.algoensis Gray; the dorsal markings are coarser than in fuscudentata, recalling those of L.fuscorubra Shaw.

One could suppose this unique shell to be a monstrosity of fuscudentata, but, the features are, however, too regular and the combination of characters is too striking. The discovery of L.cohenae Burgess five years ago suggests that the genus Cypraeovula (including the subgenus Luponia) may have split into still more species in the cold waters around the Cape, so that coronata could be regarded as a real species.

Has any collector ever seen such a fuscudentata surrounded by regular marginal tubercles ?

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Change in Nomenclature.

by D.H. Kennelly

In the latest issue of the "VELIGER", Vol.12, No. 4, April 1970, will be found a decision by the I.C.Z.N. relating to a change in a generic name.

The name Tritonalia Fleming 1828 is now abandoned, and shells hitherto under this title should be placed under Ocinebra Gray 1847.

Members may now amend the names of South African shells accordingly.

A forecast relative to this decision will be found in Circular No. 111, pages 5 & 6.

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More Changes in Nomenclature.

by C.C. Appleton

In a recent publication, Dr. K. Boss of Harvard University, has revised the South African sub-family Tellininae (family Tellinidae) and has instituted the following changes:

- i) Tellina madagascariensis Gmelin 1790 (see Barnard 1964, p. 537) is changed to Tellina alfredensis Bartsch 1915.
- ii) Tellina madagascariensis Gmelin 1790 is a West African species and does not extend further south than the mouth of the Cunene River.
- iii) Tellina triangularis Roding is changed to Tellina trilatera Gmelin.
- iv) Tellina dispar Conrad 1837 is changed to Macoma dispar Conrad.

v)/.. ..

v) Tellina ludwigii (Krauss 1848) is taken out of the family Tellinidae and placed into the family Psammobiidae as Heterodonax ludwigii (Krauss)

Reference: Boss, K.J. 1969, The subfamily Tellininae in South African Waters (Bivalvia, Mollusca). Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. 138, No. 4, Oct. 31, 1969.

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Modulus tectum Gmelin

by E.H. Ralph

I would like to record that I found a specimen of Modulus tectum Gmelin in a rock pool just north of Port Shepstone in April of this year. The animals were live taken and the radulae have been mounted by Don Aiken. The operculum is clearly transparent and the animal through the operculum is yellow with greenish splotches.

As far as I am aware this shell has not been found on the South African coast previously.

Editors Note: No trace can be found of this shell having been recorded previously. For the benefit of members the following information may be of assistance. Modulus tectum belongs to the family Modulidae and is considered as one of the largest and rarest of the twenty species that comprise this genus. A description of the species is: Aperture white, fine yellow-brown lines inside; one horizontal purple-brown line at top of columella, one vertical, ending in distinguishing tusk. The size is given as 19 mm. (Refer The Sea Shells of Dar-es-Salaam Part 1 - Gastropods, page 9.).

* * * * *

Fresh Water Molluscs - An Additional Note on Gastropoda
by C.C. Appleton

Family Hydrobiidae

A fresh-water snail which is quite common in the Cape Province, especially the coastal regions, is the genus Tomichia Bs.

Tomichia is a genus of very small fresh and brack water gastropoda. Several species are known from South Africa: one group (notably T. ventricosa Reeve) occurs commonly in the coastal regions of the Cape Province; while the other group (notably T. natalensis Conn.) from the same area but extending into Natal as far north as the Empangeni district. Other species are known from Central Africa.

They are distinguished by their small size (up to 5 mm.), their turritiform shape, dextral aperture and the presence of an operculum. This operculum distinguishes them from small Lymnaeidae.

Editors Note: This article is an additional note to the series of articles on Fresh water Gastropoda which appeared in Circulars numbered 115, 116 and 117.

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v) Tellina ludwigi (Krauss 1846) is taken out of the family Tellinidae and placed into the family Famarchiidae as Heterodonax ludwigi (Krauss)

Reference: Boss, R.J. 1969, The subfamily Tellininae in South African Waters (Bivalvia, Mollusca). Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. 138, No. 4, Oct. 31, 1969.

Modulus tectum Smelin

by E.H. Reipa

I would like to record that I found a specimen of Modulus tectum Smelin in a rock pool just north of Port Shepstone in April of this year. The animals were live taken and the radulae have been mounted by Don Aiken. The operculum is clearly transparent and the animal through the operculum is yellow with greenish splotches.

As far as I am aware this shell has not been found on the South African coast previously.

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A detail that might appeal to shell collectors is that in most cases "shell" stamps are easier and cheaper to obtain than the shells. Certainly I can afford the Fiji issue of Cypraea aurantium, but would think twice if offered a good specimen of the shell at current prices.

* * * * *

A word from the Vice-President.

With the end of Mr. Edward Dee's term of office as a Country Member of the Society's Council, it is fitting that the Council should express its appreciation of the amount of hard work done by this dedicated conchologist on behalf of the Society's members in Natal.

Apart from giving generously of his time, Mr. Dee has regularly offered the use of not only his shell collection and conchological books as a source of reference for members, but also his house as a meeting place. It is through such willingness on the part of individual members to put themselves out for the sake of others that the vitality of the Society is maintained.

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Prof. Dr. F.A. Schilder.

The Society was grieved to receive the news, announced at the Annual General Meeting, of the death of Prof. Schilder, in Germany on 11th August, 1970.

In the world of conchology, his name is among the immortals. In his lifetime he built his own monument with his work on the Cypraeidae. He has enriched the world with his contributions to the sum of human knowledge and we are the poorer for his passing.

To his wife who shared his life and work, the Society respectfully offers its heartfelt sympathy.

* * * * *

Mr. Michael Cantor

It is with deep regret that we have to record the tragic passing of Transvaal member Michael Cantor. Mr. Cantor, a paraplegic, a very popular, enthusiastic and highly intelligent individual, was tragically killed in a motor accident on the 16th. August.

He had a wonderful outlook on life - he was always cheerful and contented. He managed to live a fuller life than many people blessed with perfect health. If ever there was a person who triumphed over disability it was Michael, and his passing is a great loss to the Transvaal Group and the Society.

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Border Notes.

Our July meeting was well attended and we were delighted to have Mr. and Mrs. Giles, from Cape Town, and Mrs. Palmer of East London with us. Mr. Kennelly/....

Mr. Kennelly spoke to us about the proposed re-drafting of the constitution and the voting for the Council members. He asked members to report any finds of Casis rufus as he thinks this shell has an extended range south of Zululand and Natal.

Most members brought shells for identification and after a nice tea we closed on a happy note.

* * * * *

Transvaal Notes.

With apologies for late reporting we wish to report that Don Aiken resigned some months ago as Vice-Chairman of the Group. He has started out in business on his own and felt that he would not be in a position, for some time, to attend as many meetings as he would like and felt he could not do justice to the office.

Eddie Ralph has taken on the position of Vice-Chairman of the Group.

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Exchange Wanted.

Mr. J.R. Penniket, 1 R.D., Warkworth, New Zealand. Wishes to obtain examples of South African Cymatiidae and kindred genera. He is a member of the Auckland Museum Shell Club and offers New Zealand shells in exchange.

Mrs. C. Jordan, Neptune Island, Private Bag 39, Port Lincoln, Australia. Interested mainly in Volutes, Cowries and Cones. Willing to exchange or purchase.

Mr. J.E. Maass, Radioman Second Class USN, DepComFairWestPac, Box 33, Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California 96654. Interested in purchase or exchange of shells. Requires Cowries and offers Philippine shells in exchange.

Mr. P. Driskill, 3018 Sopris Ave., Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601 U.S.A. Wishes to trade shells.

* * * * *

Change of Address:

Mrs. V. Pugsley, 9 Bella Donna Ave., Devils Peak, Cape Town.

Mrs. N. Prior, 4 Vine Street, The Gardens, Cape Town.

Dr. R.T. Pollard, Dept. of Oceanography, The University, Southampton SO95NH, England.

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Meetings:

The next meeting of the SOCIETY will be held on Tuesday, 29th September, 1970 in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum, Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, at 8.15 p.m. Mr. Simons of the Seaweeds Research Dept. of the University of Cape Town has agreed to address the meeting.

The next meeting of the TRANSVAAL GROUP will be held on Friday 25th September, 1970 in the Theatre Hall of Shell House at 8 p.m.

The next/.....

The next meeting of the NATAL MIDLANDS GROUP will be held in the Board Room of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, on Saturday 3rd October, 1970 at 2.30 p.m.

The next meeting of the BORDER GROUP will be held in the Lecture Room of the East London Museum on Sunday 27th September, 1970 at 3 p.m.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Society held on 25.8.1970.

Members and visitors were welcomed by Mr. Freeman. Apologies were recorded from Mrs. Prior, Mr. G. Ivy, Mr. B. Campbell, Mr. L. Kapp, Mrs. Gaynam, Mr. C. Swaneveld and Mr. and Mrs. A. Wright.

The minutes of the meeting of 28th July, having been published in Circular No. 121 were taken as read and adopted.

The following were elected as Members:

- Mrs. I.F. Lambert, 64 Fairway, Durban North, Natal.
- Miss G. Lambert, 64 Fairway, Durban North, Natal.
- Mrs. E.D. Wakely-Smith, P.O. Box 42, Park Rynie, Natal
- S Master G. Lewis, 63 Salisbury Street, Bellville, C.P.
- S Master V. Lewis, 63 Salisbury Street, Bellville, C.P.
- Mrs. E.J. Kilburn, 122 Silent Heights, Burton Ave., Pietermaritzburg.
- Mr. I.H.M. Balfour, 24 Moreland Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
- S Master R. Balfour, 24 Moreland Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
- S Mr. D.W. Balfour, 24 Moreland Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
- Mrs. M.J. Latigan, 29 Kennington Road, Nahoon, East London. C.P.
- Mr. J.D. Orr, P.O. Box 10101, Johannesburg, Tvl.
- C Mr. R. Céré, C.I.P./U.T.A./E.T.A.T., B.P. 1604, Papeete, Tahiti.

The following were proposed as new Members:

Mrs. P.V. Palmer	Proposed by	D.Kennelly	Seconded by	M.Rix.
Mrs.G.M.Carter-Brown	"	R.Kilburn	"	R.Cruickshank
Mr.W.E.J. Walles	"	H.Boswell	"	T.Carlsson
Mrs. C. Cook	"	R.Kilburn	"	K.Eastwood
Mrs.M.G.Y. Norris	"	R.Kilburn	"	K.Eastwood
Mr. F.J. Nelson	"	T.Carlsson	"	R.Carlsson
Mr.B. Wooldridge	"	J.Scheepers	"	V. Neill
Mrs.E. Wooldridge	"	J.Scheepers	"	V. Neill

The Chairman told the meeting of the formation of the Natal Midlands Group and stated that if members felt that it was too far to come to the monthly meetings, or if they found the attendance at those meetings was too large for general discussion they were at liberty to form another Group in the Peninsular.

The Secretary informed the members present that she had had notification of the passing of Prof. Schilder and of Transvaal member Michael Cantor.

Mr. Freeman briefly told the meeting of the 'Sea Festival' to be staged in the Drill Hall during October. The Society had been asked to put on a display of shells. Details would be known later.

It was agreed that a Field Day would be arranged for Saturday 17th October. Time and place to be finally decided at the

September/....

September meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Freeman formally closed the meeting.

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Minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting - 25.8.1970:

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting. Mrs. Kerr proposed the adoption of those minutes, this was seconded by Mrs. Giles. There were no matters arising. The reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian were considered, there being no comments these reports were formally adopted. The Vice-President, Mr. Freeman, then gave his address. This is published below.

The Chairman announced, that owing to the resignation of Mr. E. Dee as Council Member, it had become unnecessary to hold a vote on the election of Country Council Members. Mrs. Rix, Mr. Jenner and Mr. Young were accordingly elected to serve on the Council for the ensuing year.

Mr. Freeman reported that Mrs. Maxie Ackermann had donated a copy of "The Living Cowries" by C.M. Burgess to the Society in memory of her late husband, Jack. The members present expressed their appreciation of this gesture.

Mrs. Kerr proposed a vote of thanks to the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer for all their hard work during the past year. This was seconded by Miss Leers and accepted by long and loud applause.

After a break for tea and cake Mr. Le Maître operated the projector and the film 'The Great Barrier Reef' was screened. There was some excitement when members recognised Dr. F. Talbot at work on the Reef.

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Vice-Presidents Address - 25th August, 1970:

Thanks to you all, our Society is still a very lively body. You may not realise and I am sure your Council members would like you to know, how very satisfying it has been to manage the Society's affairs during the past year.

This is not to say that we haven't had many worries, but there have been many pleasant things as well. You have all read the interesting articles in the Circular and have been watching its transition to its new format with drawings and now even photographs. Of course this has given the Editor a lot of work, but he can tell you how gratifying it has been for him, first of all to find so many members willing to contribute articles and secondly, to feel that he could ask for help and advice from many of you, like Miss Leers who does the duplicating and Mrs. Wright who drew the beautiful Afrivoluta for the new title page.

Other members too have come forward on various occasions to help with all sorts of things. We have Bruce Campbell looking after the library regularly and others who have given us talks - Mr. le Maitre, Mr. Graham Ivy, Prof. Mallory, Prof. Day. It is encouraging for your Council to know that they have only to ask for help and it is always freely and cheerfully given.

I would/.....

I would like to say here as Vice-President and as Chairman in Cape Town, that it is also encouraging for me to have a Council such as we have, to work with. In fact, they do the work and I sit in the chair.

At the same time, while we do have advice and help and articles for the Circular from many people, we are sure there are others who have ideas for changes and improvements. I would even go so far as to say that you ought to consider it an obligation to share your ideas with the other members of the Society. It is all part of what the Society is here for, to promote conchology, and this depends on YOUR good will and YOUR interest and YOUR active participation.

Perhaps you feel shy about talking to Council Members. By all means first discuss your ideas with some other member but, particularly if there is something that you are not happy about, please don't brood over it and don't grumble. If you do that you will only stay frustrated and spread your discontent, and you might just as well make a wax image of the Vice-President and stick pins in it for all the good that will do.

If I may make a further suggestion, you should also bear in mind that the acceptability of a suggestion very often depends on how and when it is put forward. Many a brilliant idea has failed to get off the ground because it was pushed too hard or too soon - or too late. That much we will have to leave to your judgement.

One very important matter that you will shortly have an opportunity of helping with will be the revision of the Constitution. The draft will be published for your consideration and after revision will be put forward formally for adoption. It is going to affect not only the present but also the future members of the Society and so obviously it needs careful thought and an understanding of the implications of what each clause says.

We look forward to your help with this.

Let us see what we can make of the Society in the next twelve months.

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SECRETARY/LIBRARIAN

Mrs. R.O. Carlsson,
18, Tecoma Way,
Pinelands. Cape.
Phone: 53-1536

TREASURER/EDITOR

Mr. R.O. Carlsson,
18, Tecoma Way,
Pinelands. Cape.
Phone: 53-1536

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