

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 117

PAGE 1.

APRIL, 1970

MEETINGS.

The next meeting of the SOCIETY will be held on Tuesday, 28th April, 1970 in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum, at 8.15 p.m. The shells for display and discussion will be the family Neritidae and a film will be shown.

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

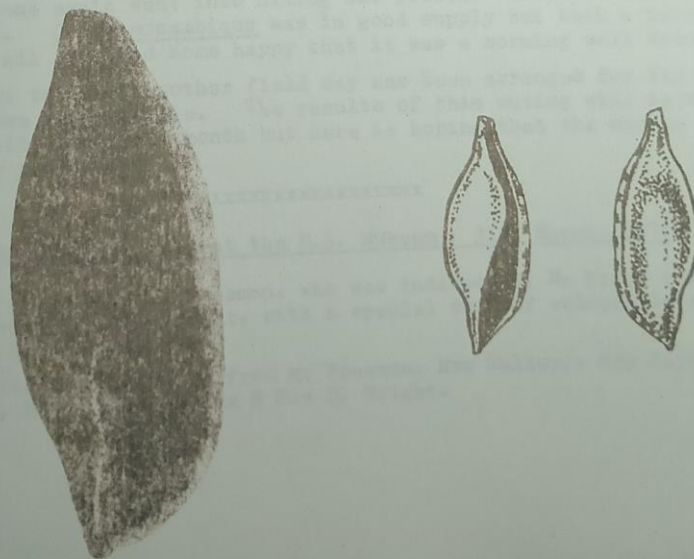
The next meeting of the TRANSVAAL GROUP will be held on Friday, 1st May, 1970 in the Theatre Hall of Shell House at 8 p.m. The evening will be devoted to the family Strombidae. Will members bring their "Puzzle Shells" and reference books. The long awaited film "The Sea" will be shown.

Phenacovolva labroguttata Schilder 1969.

On page 2 of Circular No. 115 we published a report and a description by Prof. Dr. F. A. Schilder on this new South African semi-cowrie. Since the publication of this article many members have asked whether it would be possible for them to see either the shell concerned or a photograph or sketch. The Border Group members have seen this shell in that the holotype was presented to the East London Museum and two paratypes are in Peggy Faulkner's collection at Gonubie. An identical specimen is in Cape Town and has been seen by most of the headquarters members but for the benefit of those members in other centres we are now publishing a photograph and a sketch of Phenacovolva labroguttata.

The photograph was kindly loaned by Mrs. Faulkner and was one sent to her by Prof. Dr. Schilder. The photograph has been enlarged in that the shell measures between 20 to 28 mm in length.

The sketch was drawn by Mrs. Z. Wright from the specimen in Cape Town. This specimen measures 28 x 10 mm.



Early Conchologists (Part 3)

by L. Kerr

Michel Adanson (1727 - 1806), a Frenchman, gradually replaced the chaotic and unscientific notions of molluscan classification by new and fundamental ideas based on science and logic. Adanson's careful examination of the soft parts of many molluscs led him to propose a classification founded principally upon anatomical characters. He was the first to utilise the characters of the operculum and the first to classify bivalves according to the number of muscle impressions.

The Natural History Museum of Paris was presented with Adanson's shells by one of his descendants two centuries after his death and they now comprise one of the Museums most treasured collections.

The Swede, Carl Linnaeus (1707 - 1778), published the first volume of the tenth edition of his *Systema Naturae* a year after Adanson placed conchology on the scientific map. In this he enumerated and described every known animal known to him. This accomplishment, in itself, carries the stamp of genius; for several thousand minerals, plants and animals were known in 1758 and information on them was scattered through a great many books and journals, few of which were readily accessible. The tenth edition, however, provided for the first time a uniform system of zoological nomenclature, now known as the binominal system. Each item was denoted therein by a name consisting of two words (a binomen), the first word indicating the genus to which it belonged and the second the species. The merits of this apparently simple and now familiar method of naming natural objects are easily demonstrated. It is for these binominal names that Linnaeus is chiefly remembered and honoured today.

With acknowledgement to the author of "Shell Collecting - An Illustrated History" S.P. Dance Esq. and the publishers Messrs Faber and Faber Limited, London :

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Exchange Wanted.

Mr W. Willems, Rue Dourlet 243, 6000- Charleroi, Belgium.
Offers North Sea Sea Shells in exchange for South African Shells.

Mr D.S. Cross, Broadway Cottage, Dursley, Gloucester, England.
Interested in obtaining all species of South African Shells.

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Field Day at Cape Hangklip.

About twenty-three members, with families and friends attended a field day at Cape Hangklip on 8th March. The weather was kind to us and although the shells once again went into hiding all present succeeded in hunting down a fair catch. *Conus mocambicus* was in good supply but took a fair amount of locating. All returned home happy that it was a morning well spent.

As we go to print another field day has been arranged for 6th April at the lighthouse at Kommetjie. The results of this outing will be known too late for publication this month but here is hoping that the shells have not heard of our plans.

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Minutes of the meeting held at the S.A. Museum : 31st March, 1970

In the absence of Mr Freeman, who was indisposed, Mr Giles took the chair and welcomed all present, with a special word of welcome to our guest speaker and Mrs Branch.

Apologies were received from Mr Freeman, Mrs Mallory, Mrs Gaynham, Mrs Pugsley, Miss Leers and Mr & Mrs D. Wright.

The minutes of the meeting of 24th February, as published in Circular No. 116 were taken as read and adopted.

The following member was elected:

Miss I.M.A. Gledhill, 18 Hare Street, Grahamstown, Cape.

The following were proposed as new members:

Mrs N.H. Teare	Proposed by A. Jenner	Seconded by J. Polack
Mr F. Casas	" T. Carlsson	" R. Carlsson
Mr K. Nomoto	" R. Carlsson	" T. Carlsson
Mrs Y.M. Clement	" T. Carlsson	" R. Carlsson

Other business:

It was decided, if at all possible, to hold the June meeting before the school holidays.

The Secretary reported that Mr Frank Abbottsmith had sent a sample of his papers on Australian Volutes. This is a compendium of 110 foolscap pages containing 440 distinct forms of the Australian Volutidae which are all illustrated. The cost is \$5,00 Australian or \$5,63 U.S. Please contact the Secretary for further details.

A copy of the Italian publication "La Conchiglia" and the new book "Olive Shells of the world" were on display.

The Librarian reported that the library books had all been checked and were now housed in the new cupboard at the rear of the hall.

Mr R. Titterton, who had just returned from a holiday at Morgan Bay, brought greetings to the members from Mrs Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth.

The film "The Islanders" about the Torres Strait Islanders will be screened at the April meeting.

We wish Mr Freeman and Mrs Pinkham, who is in hospital, a speedy recovery.

After tea Mr Giles introduced Mr Branch who gave a most informative talk illustrated with slides on the family Patellidae.

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Council Nominations.

Time is again approaching when we will soon be calling for nominations to fill vacancies on the Council. Please give some thought to this question bearing in mind that this year we have to elect a President, a Treasurer, and eight Ordinary Members, three of whom must reside outside Cape Town.

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Editors Notes.

At long last we have found a way which enables us to print photographs in our Circulars. This is all very well but this method of reproduction is considerably more costly than that used up to now and at the moment our finances will not allow regular printing of photographs. To enable us to plan ahead, it would be appreciated if members could send in suitable black and white prints (we have not advanced to colour yet) for future publication. It would of course be a great help if any photographs submitted could be accompanied by an article for simultaneous publication. All photographs will be returned to the senders after they have been processed.

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Fresh-water Molluscs.

Attached in Addendum is the third and final part of this article by Mr C.C. Appleton. The illustrations omitted from last months Circular are now included.

FRESH-WATER MOLLUSCS

by C.C. Appleton

PART 3:

Notes on the Species (concluded)

16. Bellamya capillatus (Frauenfeld)

This operculate snail is a buff colour, often with a black lip. Typically it has an angular shoulder, noticeable on the basal whorl, and a deep umbilicus. It is found in North Zululand and northwards in the tropical and sub-tropical areas of Africa.

17. Melanoides tuberculata (Müller)

This turritiform snail is also operculate and varies in colour from almost black to whitish with red, radial markings. There are many axial ridges on each whorl, and these are crossed by fine spiral striae. Melanoides is common on soft mud and seems to be a burrower.

18. Pila (Röding)

A tropical, operculate genus (apple snails) found over tropical Africa from Mocambique northwards, including Malagasy. Because it is a large well coloured and interesting snail - though not strictly South African (although it may occur in the lowveld) there may be specimens in some members collections. It has a deep umbilicus and dark, well defined spiral lines of varying thickness on a green or brown ground.

19. Lanistes ovum (Troschel)

A dark, uniformly coloured operculate snail known from Central Africa and also the South East Transvaal and parts of Northern Natal. There is a conspicuous umbilicus.

20. Cleopatra ferruginea (Lea)

Distinguishable by the dark brown spiral bands - this operculate is found in the Eastern Transvaal, Northern Swaziland, Northern Zululand and further northwards to Central Africa through Mocambique.

21. Thiara vouamica (Bourguignat)

Unmistakeable by its crown of tubercles on each whorl. This snail seems to be distributed along the coast from Ifafa (near Scottburgh, Natal) to the horn of Africa.

These then, are the Gastropoda most likely to be found in South African fresh water bodies; the genus Neritina has both marine and fresh water species - the two South African fresh water ones are known from the Natal region. There are, of course, additional species, notably in the families Bulinidae and Planorbidae but these are similar in appearance to the illustrations and difficult to identify without specialised knowledge and techniques.

It is readily noticed that there are a good few exotic species which have established themselves in South Africa. This has occurred mainly through the agency of imported aquatic plants destined for aquaria. Some of these, i.e. Lymnaea truncatula, have become economically important pests.

I hope that these notes will be of interest to members. Though by no means an authority on fresh water molluscs, I will try to help with any problems regarding them.



BURNUPIA 6.5 mm.



FERRISSIA 3 mm.



BELLAMYRA CAPILLATA
22 mm.



MELANOIDES TUBERCULATA
17.5 mm.

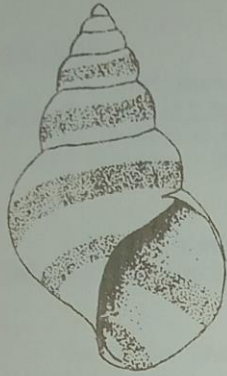


PILA 70 mm

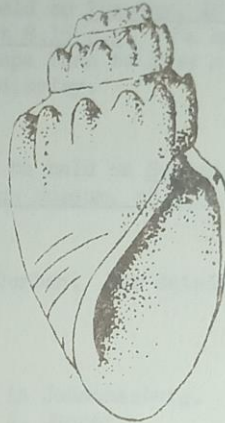


LANISTES OVUM
29 mm





CLEOPATRA 18.5 mm



THIARA 20 mm.

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