

The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Strandloper 254

June 1998

Page 1

'Kilburnalia'

by Laurie Smith

Dr R.N. (Dick) Kilburn, the Society's President is a professional malacologist at the Natal Museum. Over the years he, and his colleague Dr Dai Herbert, have described a number of new species of mollusc. They have also, as a result of their contributions in the field of malacology, had several new species and at least one genus named after them. I have managed to collect a few of these shells together, and would like to share the information with fellow collectors. So here are some photographs of these interesting and hard-to-get shells (page 6), each with a connection to Dr Kilburn. However, there are many more of these species than this short article can do justice to.

From the KwaZulu-Natal north coast comes *Spondylus groschi* Lamprell & Kilburn 1995, a magnificent and scarce bivalve with a colour varying from yellow-orange to wine-red (K1, width 68 mm).

Volva kilburni was described by Cate in 1975. Dr Kilburn advises that *V. kilburni* is normally more 'swollen' than *V. volva* (Linnaeus) but that some specimens can be difficult to distinguish from *V. volva* (Linnaeus). The specimen figured was trawled by fishermen at Cabo das Correntes in Mozambique and has been tentatively

identified by the author as *V. kilburni* (K2, length 105 mm).

One of the older shells described by Kilburn is *Bullia aikeni* Kilburn, 1978, named after the late Don Aiken. Older collectors may know this shell but it is relatively unknown to new members. The specimens shown were collected *ex pisce* in Mozambique (K3, length 12 mm.)

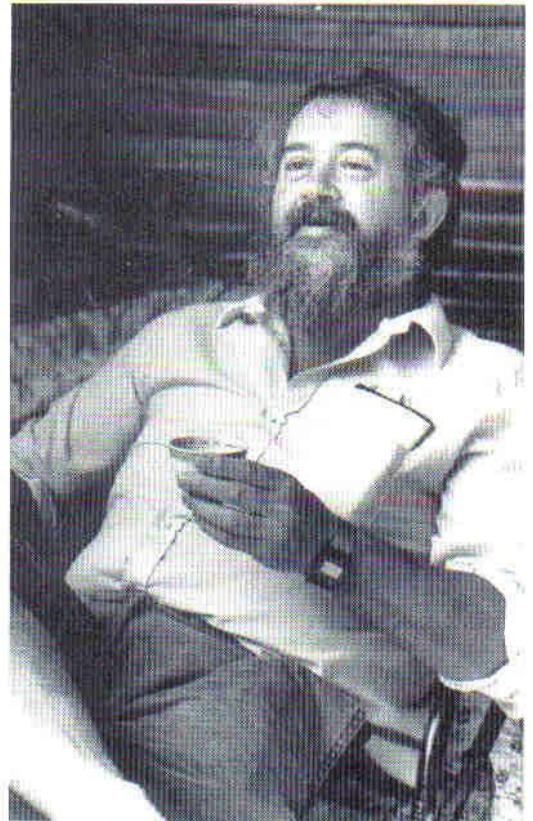
Phalium fernandesi Kilburn, 1975 is a hard-to-get member of the Cassidae. This specimen comes from Cabo das Correntes, north of Maputo, Mozambique (K4, length 48 mm).

Marginella rosadoi Kilburn, 1995, is a very beautiful little marginellid. The shell figured measures less than 6 mm in length. This specimen was dredged off Inhaca Island in Mozambique (K5, length 8 mm).

From Cape St Francis in the Eastern Cape is a dived specimen of *Trivia calvariola* Kilburn 1980. Although this shell has been figured before in the *Strandloper*, these photographs, which are backlit, show the delicate and translucent nature of

this shell most beautifully (K6, length 21 mm).

Tucetona kilburni Matsukuma 1985 comes from off Park Rynie on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast. This specimen was found at 40 m in 1992 (K7, width of valve 42 mm).



Dr 'Dick' Kilburn, seen here relaxing on Reunion Island in 1988.

Society AGM

The Society's biennial colloquium and AGM was held on Saturday 23rd May 1998. The morning was given over to the colloquium, with talks being presented by Brian Hayes (of Port Elizabeth) on deep-water shells, myself on land and fresh-water shells, and Laurie Smith on shells in the South African archaeological record. As usual, a sumptuous tea was prepared by the ladies of the Pretoria Group. Lunch took the format of a braai, held in the grounds of the Zoo, and within earshot of a trio of very lively and noisy Madagascan lemurs.

The AGM was held after lunch. The meeting started with a consideration of both finances and membership. While finances are satisfactory, the Society's cash flow being in almost complete balance over the course of the 97/98 financial year, membership has continued its current slight slide. The new members who join do not quite compensate for members lost due to change of interests, emigration etc. We currently have about 260 addresses to which we mail the *Strandloper*. I have gained some publicity for the Society through articles in the science magazine *Archimedes* and in the University of the Witwatersrand's magazine *Arena*. However, the most significant stimulus has surely come from Douw and Markus' book *Marine Shells of South Africa*. We expect a large number of new members from this factor! Next, the 'mission' of the Society came up for discussion. Actually, this is defined in our Constitution, and I have reprinted the relevant bit elsewhere on this page for your information.

Finally, it was time to elect new office bearers. The existing team indicated that we were prepared to continue, although we would not be averse to a few more faces on the Executive. However, somewhat unexpectedly a member produced a copy of the Society's constitution and it was noted that the President should be an 'active' member of the Executive Committee. A proposal was made that Douw Steyn should take a more

proactive role in the Society's affairs, and he was proposed as President. He declined initially. However, some of the meeting did not let it stay at that and there was animated discussion on the topic. Finally Douw agreed to stand for President. The choice of President (Drs Kilburn vs Steyn) was then put to secret ballot and Steyn was carried by 12 votes to 6.

Subsequent to the AGM, a question arose concerning the validity of the election. Two of the regional groups wrote to us indicating that the constitution had been infringed on at least three points, and that the Executive should do something about it. As a result we have had no alternative but to annul the results of the vote. The situation regarding office bearers is therefore currently unchanged from the previous year. This sequence of events has caused some agitation among members. I wish to personally apologize to Drs Kilburn and Steyn for the discomfort these machinations have caused - the problem would not have arisen if I had been familiar with the Constitution.

In any event, on later careful reading of the Constitution it was found that it might not be fully appropriate for the Society's current rather dispersed mode of operation. One lesson I have learned from all this is that a good Constitution is a useful thing. Therefore, we have taken the liberty of including a copy the 1993 constitution with the *Strandloper*, together with some proposed amendments. We believe that these changes will help keep the Society on an even course. Please communicate your views to us by the end of the year on the form provided or in a letter. You have three choices: accept the proposed changes, reject any change to the 1993 Constitution or indicate that in your view both Constitutions are flawed, giving reasons. The majority vote will carry the day. If you reject the changes then the 1993 Constitution remains in force. If a majority of people choose the third option then we will have to redraft the Constitution taking into account your

comments, and resubmit it for approval.

However, note that irrespective of how we run the Society, it is most important that we keep up the inflow of new members. The more members we have, the more synergy there will be in the Society, the more folk will attend local meetings, and the more we can print in the *Strandloper*. The holding of local shell shows, visits to schools, newspaper or radio coverage, and talks to other clubs will all help recruit some of the many hundreds of unaffiliated shell-collectors that are out there. I urge the Groups and individual members to exercise their imaginations in this regard.

Best regards
Mike Cortie



The objectives of the Society shall be to promote conchology, and the study of Mollusca in general and those of Southern Africa in particular. In order to achieve this end the objectives and policy of the Society shall be, inter alia:-

- to encourage, promote and assist in the collecting of shells;
- to encourage and assist in the forming of Clubs or Local Groups of people interested in conchology so that individual members can benefit from Group activities;
- to publish a journal or circulate newsletters on current topics concerned with conchology;
- to avail members of the Society of the collective knowledge of the Society for the identification of shells;
- to encourage and assist with the establishment of exhibitions, museums etc. to promote conchology;
- to assist and supply a service, where possible in the science of malacology;
- to co-operate with other bodies or societies in the fostering of conservation of the coastal ecological system;
- to foster friendship and fellowship among shell collectors in Southern Africa and abroad.

PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR 1997/8

by Dr R.N. Kilburn



The Biodiversity Crisis - the realization that most of the world's fauna and flora would disappear before it had even been discovered - first hit world headlines in 1992, at the U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio. As an attempt to salvage the situation an International Convention on Biological Diversity was drawn up. Many governments, including ours, have now signed the treaty and passed biodiversity legislation. All proposals acknowledge the need to "inventory" (catalogue) faunas, to support museum collections and to somehow train new taxonomists (in the face of widespread disdain for taxonomy in universities). Taxonomists - those who classify, name and identify animals - were for a while greatly encouraged by official recognition that they were crucial to all proposals.

So, in theory the study of molluscs and other animal groups should be receiving a major stimulus around the globe. Is this happening? Or are governments merely paying lip service to the international community? Judge for yourself.

Of Southern Hemisphere countries,

New Zealand was once one of the leaders in malacology. Now, study of molluscs in that country is barely kept alive, mainly by a few palaeontologists and collection managers. The Auckland Institute and Museum, synonymous with the names of A.W.B. Powell and Walter Cernohorsky, retains its mollusc collection, but has no malacological research staff. Although research is currently being conducted on the other major shell collection, housed in the National Museum of New Zealand (Wellington), this is through the initiative of its collection manager.

In Australia, the Victoria Museum recently retrenched its scientists, the South Australian Museum no longer conducts molluscan research, and the Western Australian Museum recently lost its malacologist, who reportedly will not be replaced. Only the Australian Museum in Sydney retains a fully functional department of molluscs.

Malacology in the United States and Europe still survives, although it is scarcely expanding - recently one of the most promising young American malacologists gave up trying to find a

position and is now studying law. And the only institute doing taxonomic research in the tropical central Pacific, the Bishop Museum in Hawaii, is now under threat, with the planned loss of all its collection staff. There are also reports of long established malacological posts in certain of the major museums in the Netherlands and Denmark being frozen.

Here in South Africa, the future for museum research is very uncertain. Although there is some official appreciation of museum collections as objects of value, the necessity for research to be conducted on them is continually questioned. Museum funding has been frozen - in effect cut and even the FRD grant system, on which most museum scientists depend for research funding, favours university scientists over their museum colleagues. Taken together with the abysmal salaries now paid in museums, it is difficult to remain optimistic about research on our molluscs. This state of affairs can be partially addressed by enthusiastic, careful and hard-working conchologists. However, remember that it all starts with scrupulously keeping records of where you found what and how!

Strandloper

The editor welcomes original articles, news, shelling reports, feedback, advertisements (rates on application) and any other material likely to be of interest to members of the Society. Illustrations are especially welcome. Please send to

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or e-mail me at
mikec@mintek.ac.za



Sketchbook drawing 1991
Modern shells from Port Macquarie, N.S.W.

C. Pye

Flotsam

New species

South Africa's coastline continues to delight and surprise conchologists with new or different shells. For example, a new species of fasciolarid, *Fusinus hayesi* Snyder, 1996, has turned up in material dredged from a depth of about 100 m on the Agulhas Bank. The shell has prominent white or pale buff axial ribs and a pale brown background colour, and, at a length of 50 mm, is considerably smaller than *Fusinus bonaespei* (Barnard, 1959), with which it is sometimes found.



Reference

Snyder, M.A. A new species from South Africa: *Fusinus hayesi* n.sp. *La Conchiglia*, no. 280, 1996, pp.24-28.

Port Elizabeth

Cyp. capensis

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STOP PRESS !

Some members may know that about a year ago Drs Kilburn and Herbert of the Natal Museum sent out a plea for help on the Internet to protest the proposed downgrading of the Natal Museum from national to provincial status. This change would have had dire consequences for the staff of the museum and to the molluscan studies there. So what has happened since then?

According to a letter sent on the 14th July there was an overwhelming response to the plea and numerous protests were received from overseas by the Department of Art, Culture, Science and Technology. The large number of these messages appeared to persuade the officials to contemplate alternatives. The response was the appointment of an independent four-person commission, which spent a week investigating the past and potential future role of the Natal Museum. The commission proved to be impartial and open to the arguments of the museum staff (and to the mountains of reports and statistics with which they presented them). Their report is supportive of the staff, and in full agreement that provincialisation was not a practical option.

A final agreement has now been signed whereby the Natal Museum will remain nationally funded. This will provide a greater level of security for the collections and staff. However they will have to liaise more closely with the province, and the institution will have to be transformed in various ways (which will include changing its name). Research funding remains an uncertain issue - it appears that for this the staff will have to make project-based applications to various state funds in competition with other national museums and similar organisations. Several other potentially problematic issues such as publication of the *Annals of the Natal Museum*, remain to be clarified.

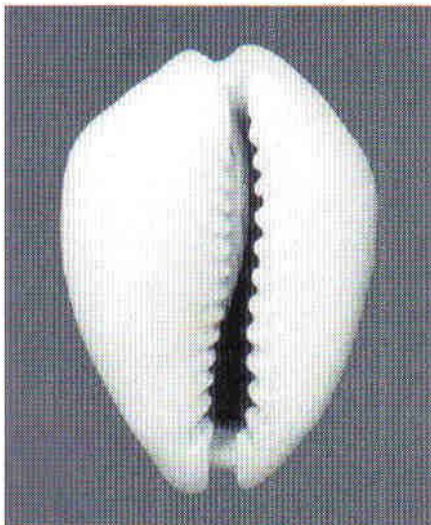
The email letter ends by thanking all those who have shown concern for the Museum.

The other side of the coin

by Ken Brown

We all know that *Cypraea moneta* is the 'money cowrie', and that this pretty little shell was used in Africa as a unit of currency, but the story is more interesting than that.

The generic name *Cypraea* has its roots in the name of the island of Cyprus, home of the goddess of fertility, and throughout history the adornment of cowries has been used as a charm to score procreative points. *Cypraea moneta* occurs widely throughout the Indo-Pacific, and is commonly found in association with *Cypraea annulus*. The exception is in the Maldives, where *Cypraea annulus* is



uncommon. For this reason the Maldives became the world's major supplier of money cowries, as the tedium of sorting *moneta* from *annulus* was not an issue. The 'moneta' of the Maldives is also smaller in size than average, and therefore more Maldivian monetas could be carried and traded. Early on the Maldivians had perfected the mass production of the moneta. By breaking off palm fronds and laying them in the warm waters of shallow lagoons, the animal was attracted to the decaying vegetable matter, and with time, the entire bough would become covered with the cowrie. It was then an easy matter to harvest the wealth. It is estimated that at the height of the moneta trade that each Maldivian inhabitant could harvest one kilogram of the cowrie a day

The shell was introduced into West Africa in 1515, and soon became an integral part of the slave trade.

Bibliography

1. J. Reader, *Africa: A biography of the continent*, 1997.
2. R.C. Anderson, *Living Reefs of the Maldives*.

Exchange wanted

Mr Jose Eduardo Moreira of **SQS 104 Bl.D apt.504, 70343-040, Brasilia DF, BRAZIL** collects marine gastropods. He would like to exchange mostly self-collected Brazilian shells for South African ones. Please write to him or contact him by email at edumoreira@telebras.com.br.

Mr Richard Silverstein, of **1140 98th Street #4, Bay Harbor, Florida 33154, U.S.A.** is interested in trading self-collected shells from the Eastern coastline of the USA for South African shells.

A good shelling spot

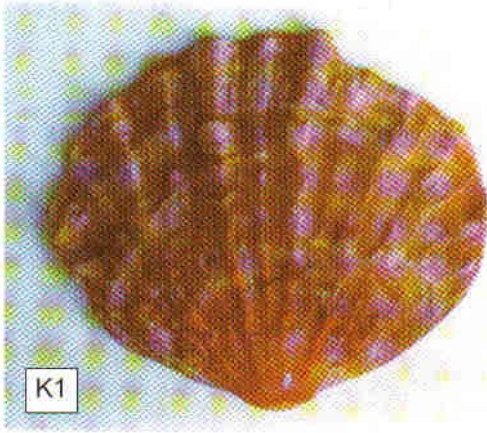
by Medea Evans

Some years ago when a group of us were returning to Kwelela, near East London, after a morning of shelling at Marsh Strand, our driver, the late Pernell Mizen took a quick detour through her friend's farm to introduce us to shelling at 'Dead Man's Gully'. The gully acquired its name when a corpse from a nearby ship wreck washed up onto the beach. The shells were outstanding but it was very hot and I decided to return to our vehicle in the shade. As I left the beach on the access path I came face to face with an *umsegwabo* or *abakhwetha*, (a Xhosa male initiation candidate) in a loin cloth, completely covered with white clay. I got the fright of my life! As the young man disappeared quickly into the bush I realised that I had met the ghost of the man from Dead Man's Gully.

In March 1998 my husband lorry and stayed at Glen Muir for a week of shelling. We found lots of shells to keep us busy but the local residents kept urging us to go further along the beach 'to where the big shells were'. To help lorry to get further along the beach I asked a farmer if we could drive through his farm. He agreed but as his access to the beach was very steep he suggested we contact his neighbour who had an easier way down. We drove to the neighbours who welcomed us warmly and gave permission for us to use their access to the beach. From their boundary lawn there are only 25 stepping stones on to the rocks. And what shells! Yes, we were back at Dead Man's Gully, through Broomstick Farm, the home of Andries and Nikky Steytler.

It is impossible to say how many species of shells were on the beach that day as we were selective in what we took. But two people shelling for two hours and then sorting through two packets of grit found more than 150 species. We will be going back, especially now that the Steytler's have opened a small cottage on the farm for dinner, bed & breakfast.

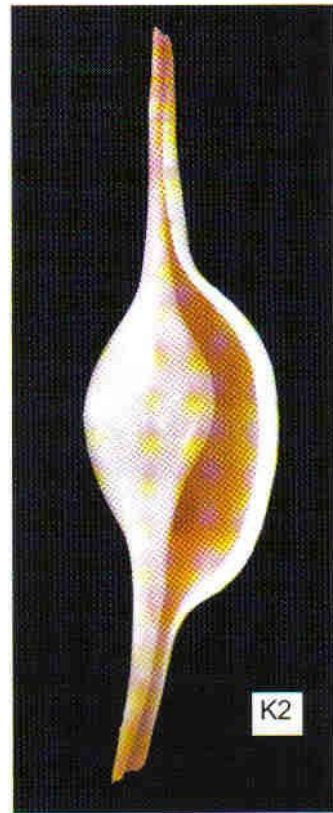




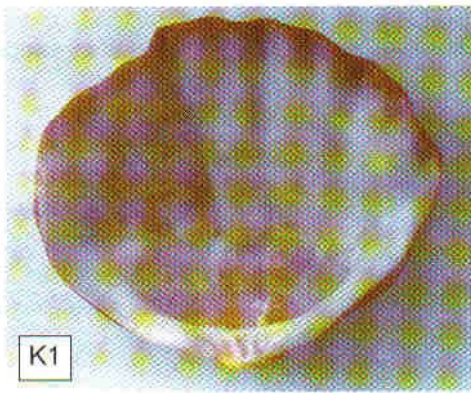
K1



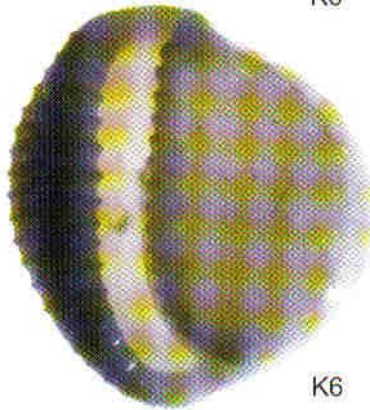
K6



K2

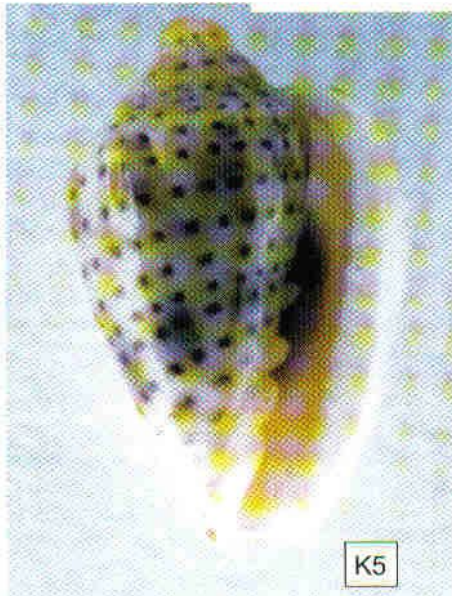


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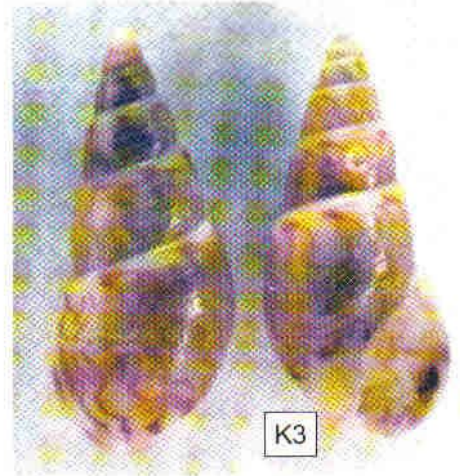


K6

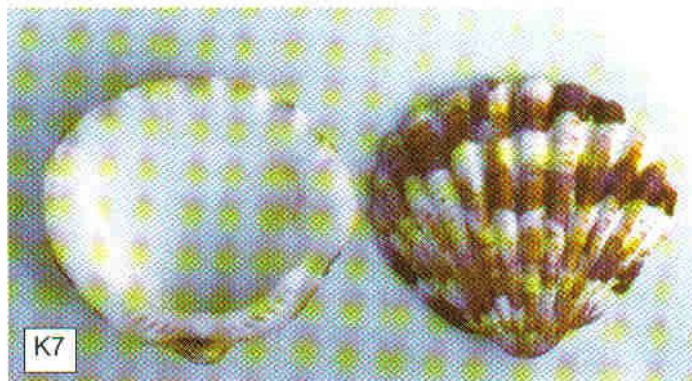
Kilburnalia



K5



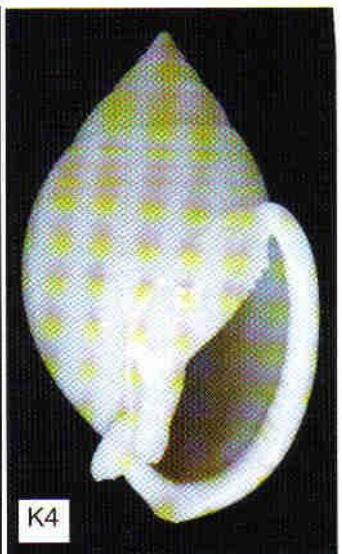
K3



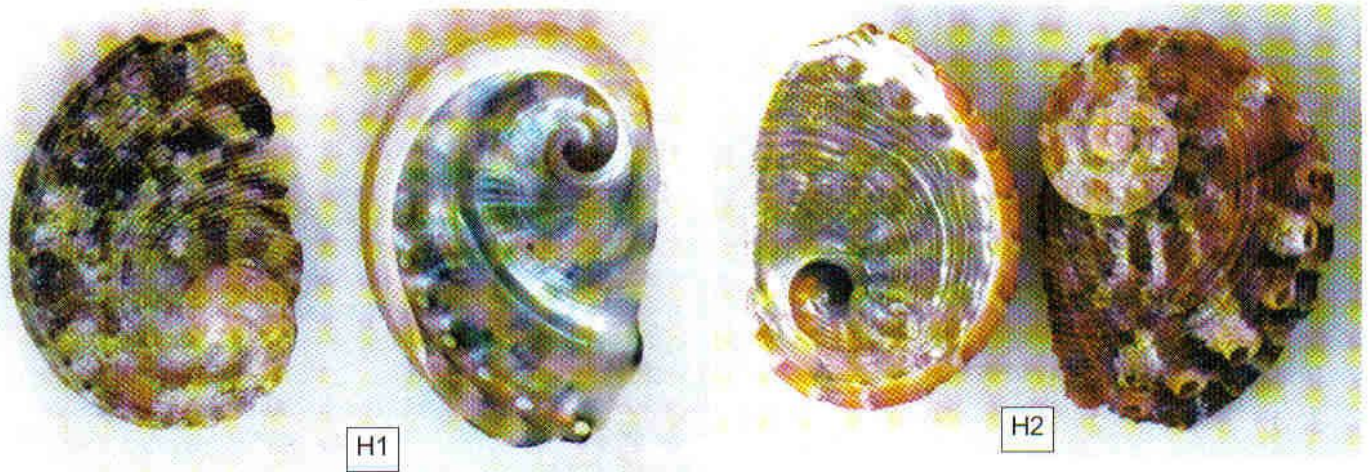
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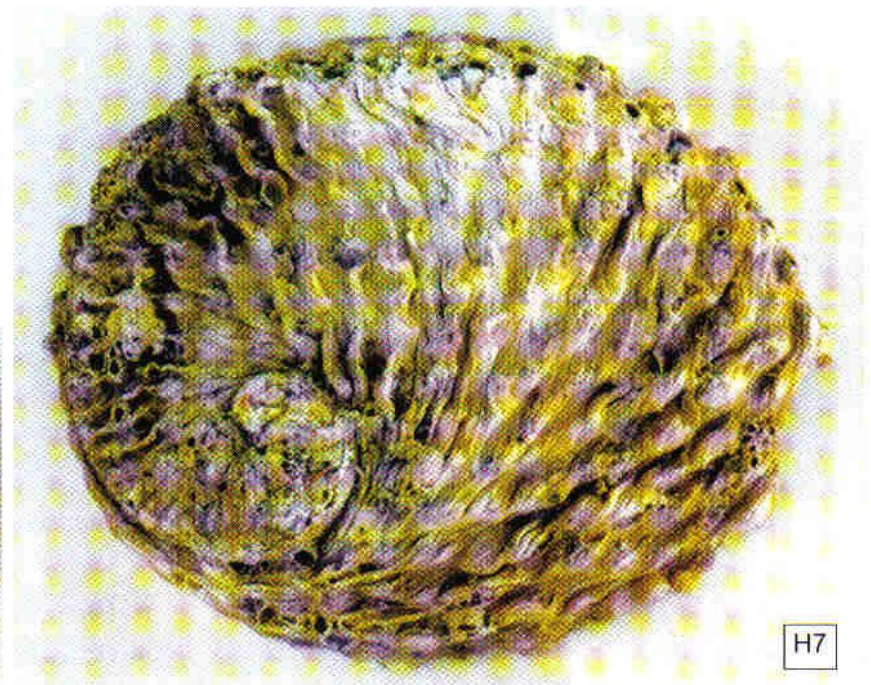
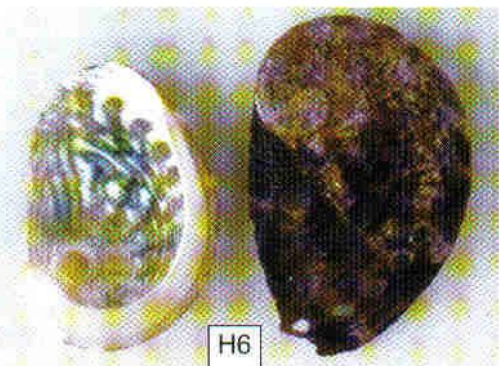
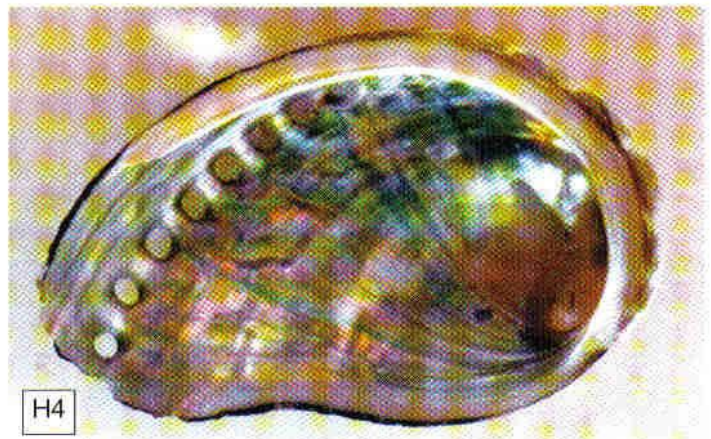
K4



K4



South African Haliotidae



South African Haliotidae

by Mike Cortie

Shells of the Haliotidae are well-known to holidaymakers and fishermen, who have given them a variety of common names such as 'Venus ears', 'siffies' and 'perlemoen'. The members of this herbivorous family inhabit the shallow water of rocky shores, and have bowl-shaped shells with large apertures. This is an ideal shape for an inhabitant of wave-swept rocks, since the shell shape combines a low profile (to minimize wave drag) with a large aperture (to ensure space for a large foot to provide powerful attachment to the rock).

Although present in many tropical waters, the family is more famous for its cool-water species, some of which achieve a large size. However, the mollusc's large foot has proved recently to be somewhat of a mixed blessing, for as the result of having it, it is energetically 'fished' off several coastlines, including our own. Consequently, these seem to be the molluscs most likely to feature in local TV newscasts, with periodic reports of one or other Oriental syndicate of illegal exporters being 'bust'. It is very occasionally served in local sea food restaurants, and I have also had a go at preparing the odd *Haliotis midae* for the pan (with mixed results). However, the big market is in China, where it is prized as a delicacy with aphrodisiac properties. The flesh is carefully cleaned and freeze-dried at source, and then reconstituted at the other end of the supply chain, a bit like pasta. Recently, I had the pleasure of being at a formal banquet at the enormous Great Hall of the Peoples in Beijing, and sure, enough, *Haliotis* was on the menu, bacon-thin and slightly chewy, basted in a creamy sauce. The local *Haliotis midae* is now been 'farmed' in South Africa by four companies¹ and this is expected to become a significant business.

The Haliotidae were featured in the *Strandloper* in an excellent article by Jessica Jacks², and the common species have also been well-documented in several books on South African shells³⁻¹⁰. All six South African species are also systematically featured on a well-illustrated site put up on the Internet by the Zoology Department of the University of Cape Town¹¹. In the present article we review the family for the sake of newer members, or those who might not have access to all the sources mentioned. The colour illustrations are on page 7.

H1. *Haliotis parva* Linnaeus, 1758.

A beautiful and comparatively scarce little shell, characterized by a strong spiral ridge along its mid-line. It is usually quite brightly coloured, with blotches of purple, brown, white and orange. This endemic species may sometimes be found alive under intertidal rocks. However, fresh dead specimens may be found somewhat more readily in the author's opinion by observant snorkelling. Good specimens may also be found by beach combing. The shells do not exceed about 45 mm in length, and are found along the coastline from False Bay to about East London. The shells illustrated have a length of 21 mm and were collected 'fresh dead' by the author at the Knysna Heads.

H2. *Haliotis queketti* E.A. Smith, 1910

This shell is of similar size to *H. parva*, and seems to 'take over' from it along the coastline from East London to KwaZulu-Natal. It is also endemic to South Africa. The mid-line rib is much weaker than in *H. parva*, and the colours are noticeably more orange and red. A fresh beach specimen of *H. queketti* is a good 'find'. Mine came from Palm Beach, on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast. The specimens

illustrated are from the collection of Lizieke van den Berg, and were live-taken in the 'Transkei'.

H3 & H4. *Haliotis spadicea* Donovan, 1808

(synonym *H. sanguinea* Hanley, 1840)
The shell of this species has a rather elongated shape. It has low spiral ridges and some radial corrugations, but is otherwise rather less sculptured than the other common South African species. The exterior is a very characteristic dark purple-brown, and there is usually a pronounced orange or red apical stain within the aperture. It may be found live by careful searching of the lowest regions of the intertidal zone. However, excellent fresh-dead specimens may be commonly found by beach combing. The shell is well-loved by children, who often call it 'a Venus ear' or 'siffie'. Although a similar-looking species is recorded from Australia, *H. spadicea* is usually listed in books as endemic to South Africa. The species is not commercially fished, but is sufficiently common that it is collected to some extent for eating. The specimens illustrated were both collected 'fresh-dead' by the author, during the course of snorkelling at the Knysna Heads. They have lengths of 85 and 55 mm respectively.

H5. *Haliotis speciosa* Reeve, 1846. (synonym *H. alfredensis* Bartsch, 1915)

This is quite a rare endemic species, with a range from about Port Alfred through to about Port St. Johns. It has a larger and smoother overall appearance than *H. parva* or *H. queketti*, with a fine regular reticulate sculpture. The dorsal surface of the shell is brick red, with broad well-developed cream or beige radial blotches. The specimen illustrated is from the collection of Lizieke van den Berg, and was live-taken at Coffee Bay in the former

Transkei. It has a length of 59 mm.

H6. *Haliotis pustulata* Reeve, 1846.

This species is common on the shorelines of the tropical Indian Ocean, but is only reliably reported in South Africa from the extreme north of KwaZulu-Natal. However, very occasionally similar-looking shells have been found from as far south as Pondoland². The particular shells shown are probably not from South Africa and come from the collection of Lizieke van den Berg. The one on the right hand side has a length of 41 mm.

H7. *Haliotis midae* Linnaeus, 1758

These are the biggest of the South African Haliotidae, reaching up to 190 mm in length. Consequently, the species is extensively 'fished' for human consumption. Piles of discarded shells may be found at sites along the Cape coastline. According to Kilburn³ the species ranges from Saldanha Bay to

the central Eastern Province, and the animal lives on rock from extreme low tide down to about 22 m. Fisheries regulations prohibit the taking of any specimen that can pass through a ring of 115 mm internal diameter. The specimen illustrated on page 7 is a particularly large, mature one, and measures 156 mm in length. The specimen illustrated on the present page is from Knysna Heads, and was collected live by the author while snorkelling. It has a length of 150 mm.

Jessica Jacks reported that shells of *H. midae* may be found in the Late Stone Age middens along the Cape coast. Evidently, they were collected for food, although not as extensively as bivalves, limpets and trochids. However, in many cases the people of that time also seem to have made use of the shells as containers and for jewellery².

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Below. *Haliotis midae*, collected live by author while snorkelling at Knysna Heads. Not quite actual size.



Interessante fonds van suid Natal

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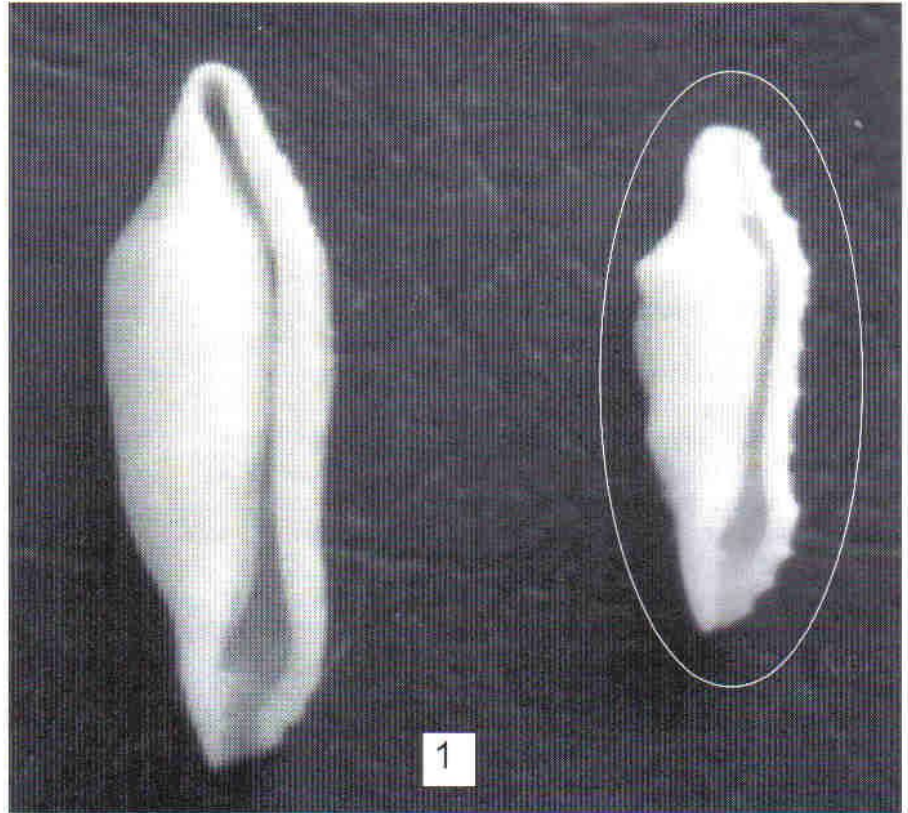
Gedurende Julie 1997 is die klein skulpie op die regtekant van Foto 1 en die middel van Foto 2 gevind op die strand by Zotsha, Uvongo, ongeveer 300m suid van die Izotshariviermond. Aan almal wat ek om hulp gevra het vir identifikasie, kon niemand my help nie. Miskien is daar 'n leser wat kan help. Die skulpie, wat 9.4 mm in lengte is, vergelyk met die Ovulidae *Promsimnia semperi* (Weinkauff, 1881), voorbeelde links en weerskante van die skulp onder bespreking is afkomstig van Bohol, Filippyne. Die skulpie is perfek en is wit van kleur. Op dieselfde plek is die Ovulidae end Triviidae spesies in die tabel in die verlede versamel.

Ons wil graag ook twee ander spesies wat ons langs die Natalse Suidkus tussen Port Shepstone en Mzamba versamel het met ander deel. Daar is aan ons gekommunikeer dat beide skaars is. Wel hoe skaars weet ons nie. Die spesies is as volg:

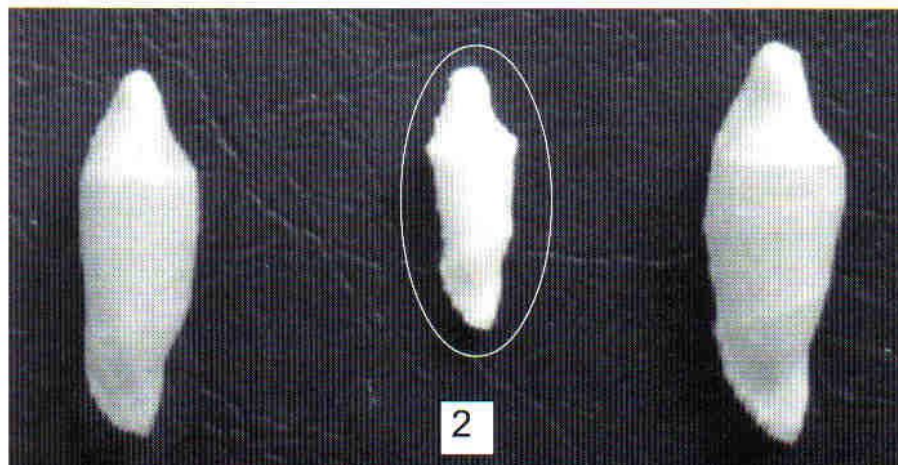
Fissurellidae *Emarginula koon*, Kilburn, 1978.

Die skulp links op Foto 3 (bladsy 11) van die drie is onderskeidelik versamel by Palm Beach deur Stephan en die ander twee by Zotsha deur Susan. By laasgenoemde lokaliteit is daar verder *Emarginula agulhasensis* Theile, 1925 en *Emarginella sibogae* (Shepman, 1908) in die verlede gevind.

-->bladsy 11



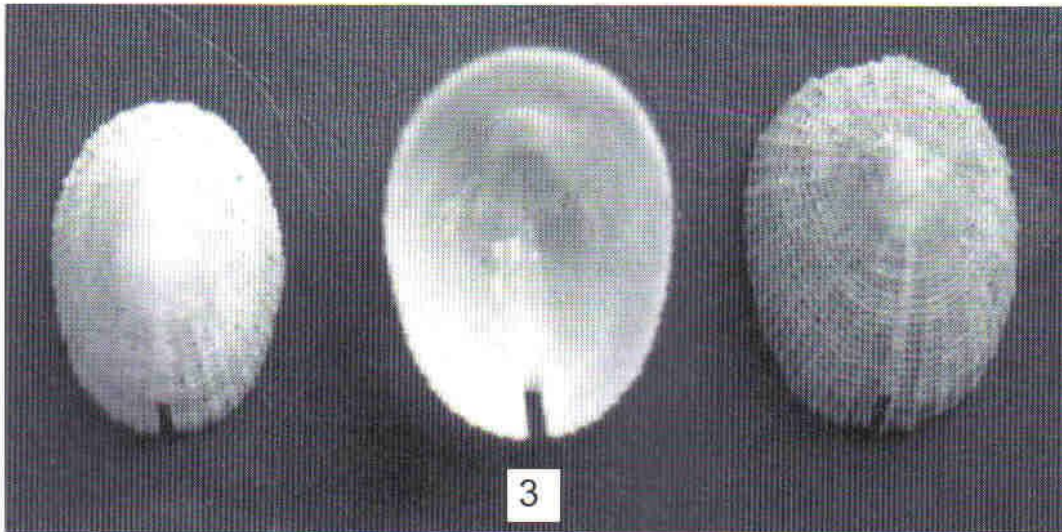
1



2

Other Ovulidae and Triviidae found at Zotsha beach

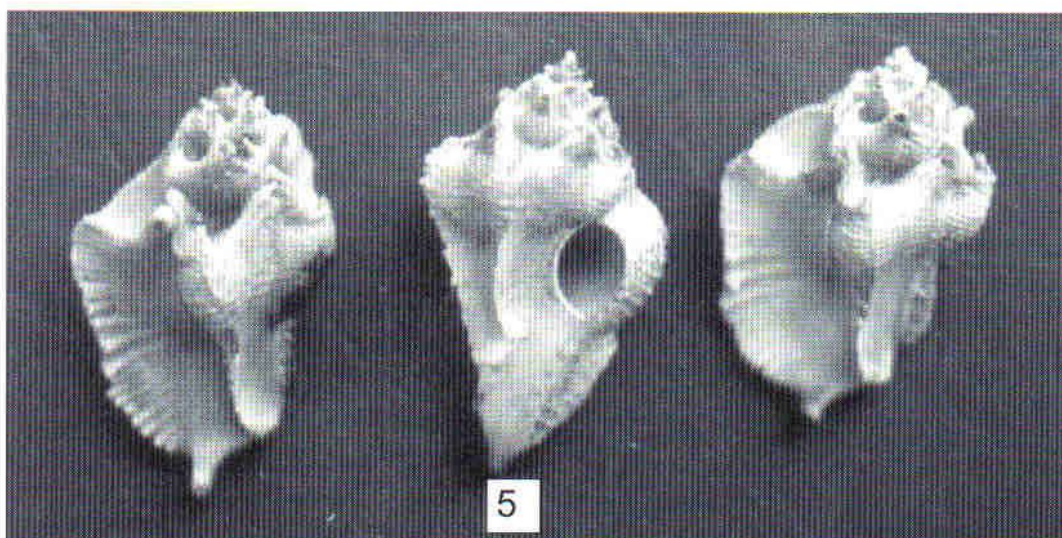
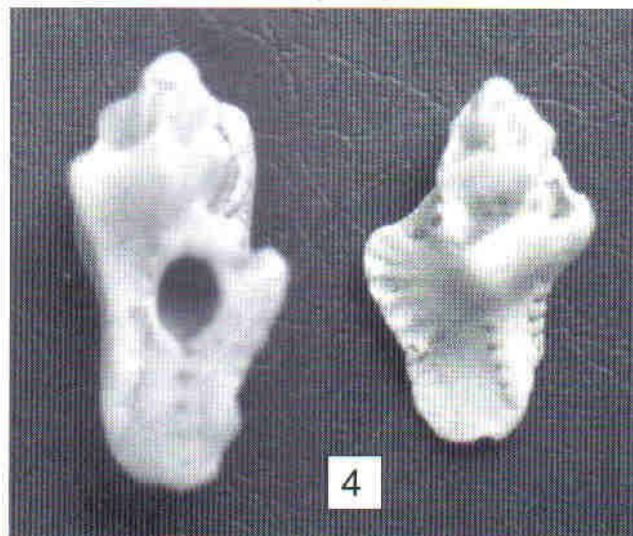
- Primovula santacarinensis* Cate, 1978
- Primovula beckeri* (Sowerby III, 1900)
- Primovula singularis* Cate, 1973
- Phenacovolva rosea* (A. Adams, 1854)
- Phenacovolva brevirostris* (Schumacher, 1817)
- Trivia globosa* (Sowerby II, 1832)
- Trivia hordacea* (Kiener, 1843)
- Trivia pellucidula* (Gaskoin, 1846)
- Trivia oryza* (Lamarck, 1810)
- Erato sulcifera* Sowerby II, 1832
- Erato recondita* Melvill en Standen, 1903
- Erato gallinacea* (Hinds, 1844)



Muricidae *Typhis amoensis* Hourt, 1994 en *Typhis grandis* Adams, 1855.

Die spesies op Foto 4 is voorheen deur verskeie persone identifiseer as *Typhis grandis* Adams, 1855. Volgens die nuutste gegewens is dit bleikbaar *Typhis amoensis* Houart, 1994. Die een aan die linkerkant is afkomstig van Palm Beach, gevind deur Stephan, en die regterkant deur Susan by Mzamba. 'n Derde een is by Zotsha gevind. Is dit werklik skaars of nie?

Op Foto 5 word drie voorbeelde van *Typhis grandis* Adams, 1855 afkomstig van Gobernadora-eiland, Panama, vertoon.



Summary

Mr 'Vellies' Veldsman would be very interested to hear from anybody who might have a name for the little ovulid circled on the photographs on page 10. The shell is 9.4 mm long, and bears a resemblance to the ovulid *Promsimnia semperi* (Weinkauff, 1881) from Bohol in the Philippines, which is also shown on the accompanying photographs. The beach at the mouth of the Izotsha river seems to be an excellent place to collect ovulids and Triviidae, and Mr Veldsman has provided a list of other Ovulidae and Triviidae that the Veldsman family has found there in beachdrift.

The article also describes the finding of the fissurellid *Emarginula koon*, Kilburn, 1978 (Figure 3) and the muricid *Typhis amoensis* Houart, 1994 (Figure 4) by the Veldsman family. These scarce shells were recently beach-collected at sites between Port Shepstone and Mzamba on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast. The specimens of *Typhis* were originally identified as *Typhis grandis* Adams, 1855. Specimens of the real *Typhis grandis*, from Panama, are shown in Figure 5 for comparison.

Something different !

by Mike Cortie

Earlier this year I went to look for land snails in the Eshowe (KwaZulu-Natal) area together with fellow-collector Ken Brown. One morning, while the dew was still wet on the grass, we found a fine bright yellow slug crawling over the vegetation and I couldn't resist taking a photo.

Later I found out that it was an example of *Elisolimax flavescens* (Keferstein 1866). This is a relatively common slug and may be found in the eastern regions of Zimbabwe, the Kruger National Park, southern Mozambique, and those regions of KwaZulu-Natal lying below 1400 m altitude. It is apparently not particularly fussy about where it lives and apparently dwells in forests, thornveld, bushveld, grass lands and under logs and stones. These slugs have a fragile internal shell, and are members of the Pulmonata. They are only distantly related to sea slugs, which are members of the Opisthobranchia.

Members interested in these animals may find more information in a monograph by Dai Herbert of the Natal Museum¹. Herbert records 10 indigenous and 8 introduced species of slug in KwaZulu-Natal. I was quite surprised to find out, on reading this booklet, just how diverse-looking our local slugs are. While I cannot work up any personal enthusiasm for these creatures from the collecting point of view, they certainly provide another interesting thing to look out for when taking an early morning walk.

Acknowledgements

Lizeke van den Berg for providing me with a copy of Dai Herbert's booklet on slugs, and Dawn and Gavin Lawrie for putting up with us on their farm!.

Reference

Herbert, D.G. The terrestrial slugs of KwaZulu-Natal: diversity, biogeography and conservation (Mollusca: Pulmonata), *Annals of the Natal Museum*, vol.38, 1997, 197-239.



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