

XX
X
X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
X
XX

CIRCULAR NO. 90.

OCTOBER, 1967.

PAGE 1.

Edited by E.K. Giles.

MEETING: The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 31st October. The shells for display will be those on Plate XI of Marsh's "Cone Shells of the World", viz Conus vexillum, trigonus, capitaneus, advertex, classarius, laevigatus, taitensis, viridis, rattus, ceciliae, sulphuratus, capitaneus, mustelinus, sumatrensis, namocanus, miles. Shells will be displayed and slides shown by one of our members, who also has a most unusual item in store for us.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Minutes of Meeting held in S.A. Museum 26.9.1967:

Mr. Freeman, Chairman, welcomed members and friends. Apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. Carlsson, Miss Bolza and Master Bolza, Mrs. Kinloch, Mrs. Prior and Mrs. Lowry. The minutes of the July meeting were taken as read and confirmed. The minutes of the A.G.M. were confirmed subject to the insertion of the following item which had been omitted:- "A query was put regarding the non-return of publications taken out from our Library by one of our members. The Chairman replied that efforts were being made to secure the return of these".

The following were elected as members of the Society:

Mrs. W. Beuster, 10 Hilderic, 72, 1st Avenue, Linden Extension, Johannesburg.
Mr. I. Bendersky, 111-45 76th Ave., Forest Hills, New York 11375, U.S.A.
Mr. F. Kidwell, 9 Avon Court, 15 Smith Street, Durban.
Mr. R. Gerber, 68 Brand Road, Glenwood, Durban.
Miss L.D. Chamness, 4 Springbok Court, 31 Bornick Road, Durban.
Mr. P.A. v.d. Westhuizen, P.O. Box 167, Walvis Bay, South West Africa.
Mr. S.R. Wakely-Smith, P.O. Box 1901, Johannesburg.
Master Sean M. Farrell, 180 Main Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth.
Mrs. S.W. Ainslie, P.O. Coffee Bay, via Umtata, Transkei.

The following were proposed as new members:

Master Barry L. Clarke, proposed by E. Dee, seconded by A. Lambert.
Mr. W.R. Low Choy, proposed by E. Giles, seconded by M. Giles.
Mr. M.J. Taylor, proposed by E. Dee, seconded by F. Kidwell.
Mrs. E.W. Holmberg, proposed by E. Giles, seconded by L. Kerr.
Mr. B.J. Young, proposed by E. Dee, seconded by A. Lambert.
Mr. R. Lucas, proposed by H. Jefferies, seconded by R.O. Carlson.

Mr. Freeman said that in a letter recently received from Mr. Kennelly, the latter had suggested that members may not realize what they can do with the facilities open to them. In particular, there are the publications "Families and Genera", the "False Bay Check List" and the Check Lists published by Mr. Kennelly and Mr. Cock. The shells listed therein have been found where recorded: when members collect at these places and find something not recorded in the Lists, it is an indication that it has not previously been found there alive. So - check with the lists, and then inform Mr. Kennelly, Mrs. Connolly or the Secretary, so that the lists can be built up.

Mr. Freeman informed the meeting that the publications referred to at the last meeting had now been returned.

Mr. Elston/....

Mr. Elston then spoke about the *Conus* exhibited by Mrs. Kerr and himself. He was very happy that between them they were able to show the whole of Plate 10 with the single exception of *Conus keati*, which is not known to anyone with whom he is in contact; and to see displayed, for the first time, in Mrs. Kerr's collection, *Conus mercator*, which is very difficult to obtain. Mr. Elston had brought specimens of *Conus scitulus* to compare with *Conus simplex* and demonstrate the differences. He mentioned that the range of *Conus simplex* is now known to extend to the Kowie River (Port Alfred), a fair number having been found alive in that area.

N.B.

With regard to the preservation of shells, especially those to be sent to an authority for scientific examination, Mr. Elston quoted Dr. A.J. Kohn as advising that frail shells should be placed in sea-water and brought to boiling point only; heavier shells should be allowed to boil for 3 minutes. Having been allowed to cool, they may then be placed in a 10% solution of formalin for 3 days, and then in 75% alcohol for a week. (They can be kept indefinitely in alcohol). When being sent away for examination, shells should be placed in a plastic bag with a little alcohol on cotton wool, and the bag sealed to prevent the evaporation and escape of the alcohol. Mrs. Connolly added that a very small quantity of borax added to the formalin solution will safe-guard the appearance of the shell; and that to simplify the extraction of the animal by members who are not sending the shell away but keeping it for their own use, it is also possible to put the shells, in a bottle of sea-water, into the coldest part of a refrigerator for a few days, when the animal will partly emerge. Then put it into the formalin solution - it will not retract because of its chilled state.

Mr. Elston was warmly applauded for his interesting talk, and the cones were all very much admired during the interval.

The film Life on the Western Marshes was shown.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Apology: We regret that in Circular No. 89 in the list of members elected, Mrs. V. Clapham's name was inadvertently put as Mrs. V. Chapman.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Change of Address:

Mrs. H. Jefferies, Amrig Cottages, Kei Mouth, via East London, C.P.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Publication: The Supplementary List No. 1 to D.H. Kennely's "Marine Mollusca taken alive on the 'Wild Coast'" has now been published. Copies will be available, at 20 cents, to Cape Town members at the October meeting. Will other members please order direct from the East London Museum.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

NATAL GROUP NEWS:

E. Dee.

At the meeting on 6th September at Mrs. M. Smith's residence, 6 Carrington Heights, Durban, Mr. Dee welcomed members and friends, especially Mr. B.J. Young, a prospective member (who has now joined). Mr. Dee announced that the Group had been offered the use of the Durban Undersea Club's Club House for meetings on Saturday afternoons provided that it was not required by the Club. It was suggested that one method of payment for this would be a donation towards their new Club House.

A Field/.....

A Field Day was held at Park Rynie on Sunday 24th September, but although some live shells were found, generally the beaches were disappointing.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 28th October, at 2.30 p.m. at the Durban Undersea Club (opposite Addington Sports Field, Erskine Terrace, South Beach, Durban). The shells for discussion will be some of the Cypraea family from South Africa. Guests are always very welcome.

Mr. Dee put it to the meeting that there should be a small collection for tea to cover the growing expenses of this expanding group. 10c. each was suggested in the meantime. Mr. Dee extended warm thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Smith for their hospitality.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

BORDER NOTES:

by Maimie Rix.

Our monthly meeting was held at Connie Hulley's new home on 24th September. Apologies were received from Miss Courtney-Latimer, Daphne Vice (who has serious back trouble and has gone to Port Elizabeth for treatment), Hazel Jefferies and Miss Benson (also ill). Mr. Kennelly welcomed Mr. G. le Roux, a visiting Cape Town member.

The subject chosen for discussion was aspects of the growth and locality of Pecten, Chama and Spondylus. Adeline Gillmer brought lovely specimens of these to show us. Miss Jackson brought her finds of Cypraea fusciorubra and Sylvanocochlis ancilla taken at Jeffrey's Bay recently. Adeline Gillmer had a very good specimen of Cypraea carneola from Cintza, while a good Cymatium retusum (juvenile) and a Euthria queketti were my recent finds at Bonza Bay. Rita Scott had spent the long week-end at Coffee Bay, on the Transkei Coast, and had a good selection of Cypraea to show us - one particularly good Cypraea carneola. She also had a Xenogalea (Cassis) labiata, var. iredalei from Gouubie.

Mr. le Roux had an interesting story of the finding, by his wife and himself, of a live Pecten tinctus (small) in False Bay, and how they kept it alive for three weeks in sea water, feeding it on one of the local sea-weeds.

The meeting closed with a warm vote of thanks to Connie for her hospitality, and 'get-well-soon' messages to Daphne and 'Bennie'.

Our next meeting will be held at the Museum on Sunday 29th October at 3 p.m.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Exchange Wanted:

- Mr. E.S. Gourlay, F.R.S.M.Z., 124 Nile Street, Nelson, New Zealand.
 Mr. Omar E. Sicardi, Ejido 1497, Montevideo, Uruguay, South America.
 Mr. Sho Yasuda, P.O. Box 30, Fujisawa (Kanagawa), Japan.
 Vera Paccagnella, Malachia - Acquario di Bologna, C.P. 745, 40100 Bologna
 Italy.
 G. Scheller, 3381 Immenrode 133, Über Goslar, West Germany.
 B. Bates, Miriam Vale 4677, Queensland, Australia.
 C. Williams, Klappelstraat 87, Antwerpen 1, Belgium.
 Mrs. G.E. Robbins, 44, Vancouver Street, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A Correction/.....

The beaches were liberally strewn with lumps of crude oil which made the shelling difficult. We had fun getting ourselves, our shoes and clothes free of it each evening by washing first in petrol! Joys of shelling!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Getting There

by E. Dee.

Our trip down to Umtata was marred by thick fog on the road from Kokstad on, and after meeting Hazel Jefferies at the Shell Garage we had a nightmare drive of 64 miles of thick fog, 24 miles of which were on tarmac, and then, oh dear, on a gravel road - no lines or cats'-eyes to guide one. The mist at times was like pea soup and to crown it all, cattle wandered about on the road and natives had left their car in the middle of the road with no lights on - in braking I nearly shot Hazel through the windscreen.

We arrived, the Claphams and my party, at the Haven at 10.30 p.m. to find all in darkness, but soon found the owner and were shown to our very comfortable accommodation, waking in the morning to bright sunshine. In spite of it all, our trip was well worth while - made so for me by Vic Clapham's remark on the far beach - "Well, this is the first beach I've ever visited where the shells really are ankle deep", and Lynn, our student member, - "Ed, there are so many shells here, what does one collect?" and even in spite of a shark's dorsal fin collected and parked in the boot by Lynn, which reminded us on our homeward journey that it was all the way with us!

A Visit

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A Visit to Inhaca Island

by C.R. Relph

In June and July a Johannesburg member, Mr. C.R. Relph spent two weeks at Inhaca with a group of St. John's boys on a Natural History visit to the Island. The party was led by the well known naturalist Dr. Guy Berry, a master from St. Johns and Mr. Relph, and stayed at the Marine Biological Institute.

Mr. Relph writes - "Many interesting finds were made including the capture of several of the very poisonous scorpion fish. From the conchological point of view the trip was a tremendous success. Among the more interesting finds were Cypraea mauritiana, onvx, ziczac and nucleus. The C. mauritiana was apparently the first recorded - a perfect specimen 3" long. This was presented to the Island Museum as the first recorded. Other interesting specimens included several 3" Conus textile, Conus eburneus, Harpa conoidalis and several large Tonna galea".

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

RANELLA OLEARIUM, LINN. (Former name:- Gyrina gigantea, Lam.)

By D.H. Kennelly.

In 1958 much interest was taken in the discovery of this shell living in deep water off the mouth of the Tugela River, Natal.

Mr. S.P. Dance, at that time in the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), contributed a paper on this subject in 1959 which concludes with the remark that it will be most interesting therefore to see if Gyrina gigantea turns up in other deep water stations further East or West.

In September 1967, Mr. E.T. Cooke of East London, brought in a dead specimen of R. olearium, trawled from a depth of 60 fathoms in the Port Alfred area. This shell, which is in good condition, has been generously donated to the East London Museum by Mr. Cooke.

Further/....

Further trawling in the Port Alfred area will very probably bring to light a living example of this species. This would prove conclusively an extension of the known range of this deep water mollusc.

References:- Dance, S.P., 1959. *Gyrina gigantea*, Lam. Journal of Conchology, Vol. 24, No. 10 Pages 351/2.
 Dell R.K. and Dance S.P., 1963. *Ranella olearium* Linn., Pro. Mal. Soc. of London, Vol. 33, Part 4, pages 159/166.
 C.S.S.A. Circular No. 46, page 5.
 Circular No. 75, page 6.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

NOTES ON CYMATIUM KLENEI (SOWERBY).

D.H. Kennelly.

Although this shell was described over eighty years ago, it is only during the past decade that additional data has been recorded from various sources, and this now gives a better idea of the range.

Barnard (1963) records *C. klenei* as a Pleistocene fossil from Sedgefield, near Knysna, and gives the range as being Mossel Bay to Port St. Johns. The species has also been recorded from localities within the range, i.e. Jeffreys Bay, Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred and East London (Barnard (1963)).

In addition Barnard states this shell as taken at Delagoa Bay (U.W.). The precise locality is probably Inhaca Island, visited by students of the Zoology Dept. Witwatersrand University.

The foregoing reveals a very big gap between Port St. Johns and Delagoa Bay.

Although in recent years there has been considerable activity by members of our Society on the Natal and Zululand coast, no examples of *C. klenei* appear to have been found. Cock (1965) does not list it.

This requires further investigation for the Delagoa Bay shell may be a stray, or a mis-identification. There are other species of *Cymatium* occurring in the Portuguese territory, which in size and appearance might be confused with *C. klenei*.

The writer is grateful to several of our members, who have kindly communicated the result of their collecting at various places.

The following localities are now recorded for *C. klenei*, i.e. Bonza Bay and Haga Haga (Giskei coast), Coffee Bay, Nthlonyana and Xora (Transkei coast).

With regard to the size attained, the average has hitherto been recorded as 40 m.m. Recently a specimen from Haga Haga measures 45 m.m. (Plus ?), nuclear whorl or whorls lost, and another from Xora measures 59 m.m. (Plus ?). Both these shells have been seen by the writer.

Information received so far, points to the maximum size being attained at localities between East London and Port St. Johns, but no doubt further careful collecting at other localities will bring forward more interesting information.

References:- Barnard Dr. K.H. (1963). Annals S. Af. Museum, Vol. XLVII, Part 1, Cont. S.A. Mollusca.
 Cock B.L. (1965). List of Marine Shells from the Natal and Zululand Coast.
 Kennelly D.H. (1964). Marine Shells of Southern Africa.
 Sowerby G.B. (Date ?). Journal of Conchology Vol. VI, page 150.
 Sowerby G.B. (1892). Marine Shells of Southern Africa.
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SECRETARY:
 Mrs. M.C. Giles,
 2, Flora Park,
 Flower Street,
 Gardens, Cape Town.
 Phone: 45-3070

TREASURER:
 Mr. M.C. Giles,
 2, Flora Park,
 Flower Street,
 Gardens, Cape Town.
 Phone: 45-3070

LIBRARIAN:
 Mr. S. Kruger,
 26, Kloof Nek Road,
 Tamboers Kloof,
 Cape Town.
 Phone: 2-0436