

# The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

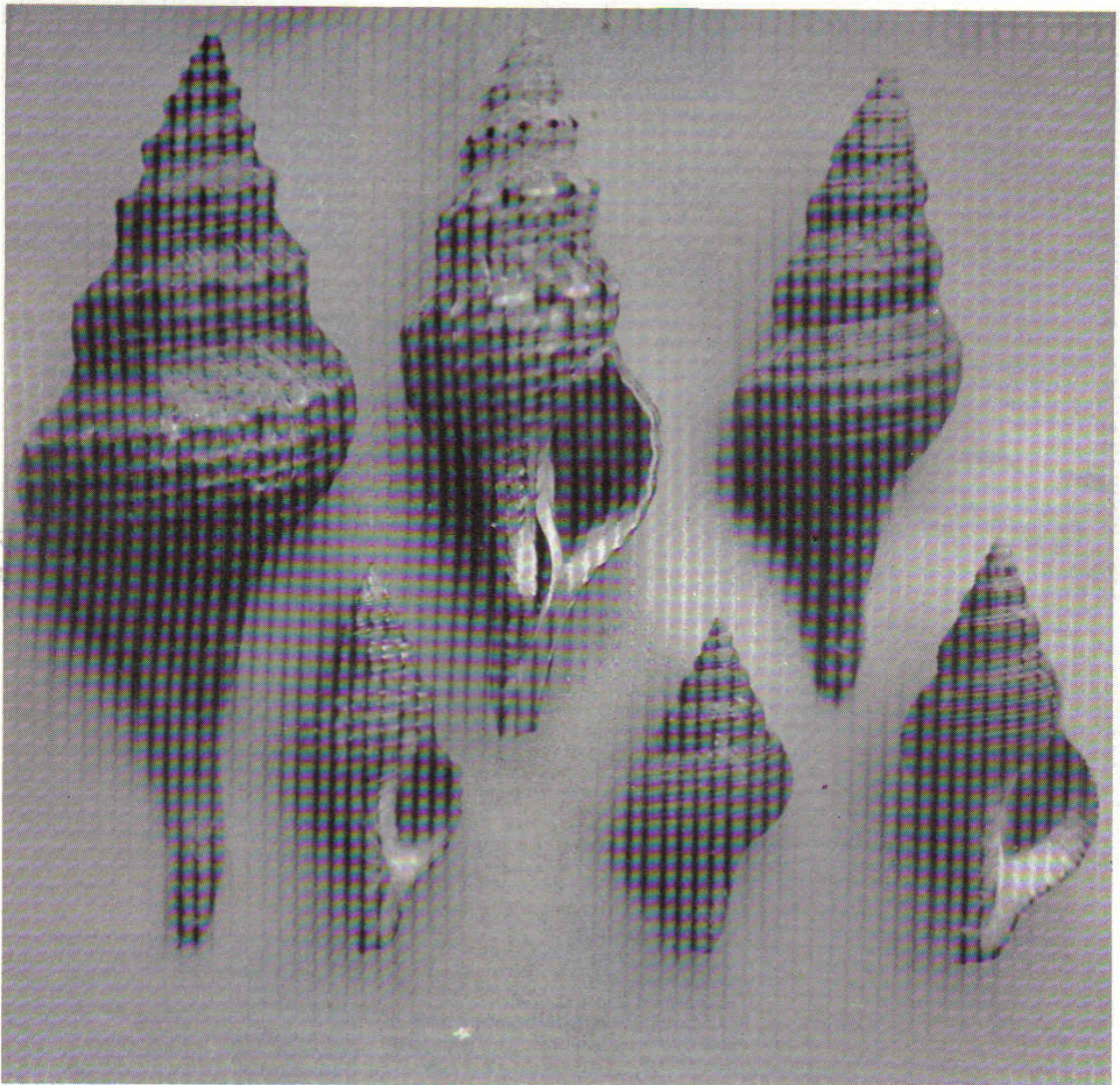
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## **a spp. Fragments**

In September 1983 a small fragment of *p.* was found by the author on Sandi, East London but was too worn to be identified as to species. During the week of September 1984 a second fragment of *Harpa* spp. (tentatively as *Harpa major*) was found on the same beach, which incidentally -



### ***Fusinus ocelliferus* (Lamarck, 1816)**

Upper: Form "*adamsii*" (trawled) - Typical form, False Bay, ventral and dorsal views

Lower: Jeffrey's Bay, False Bay, Cape Peninsula West Coast (Form "*robustior*" not illustrated)



# T THE CONCHOLOGICAL AND SPINDLES

**Fusinus** resident ..... (16)  
 Vice-President .....  
 In Secretary .....  
**Fasciolaria** Treasurer .....  
**Fasciolaria** Editor ..... 2.

A related genus *Fusinus ocelliferus* (Lamarck, 1816) which resembles *Fasciolaria lugubris* superficially, but which can be quite easily separated by certain distinctive features.

One such feature is the operculum, and this seems to be a good point to introduce a reminder of the general usefulness of the operculum in distinguishing genera and species. There is no point in adopting a fanatical attitude to collecting only live-taken material, and then not preserving the operculum along with the shell. (Yes, auntie, I know that Cowries and Marginellas don't have operculums.)

The two species of *Fasciolaria* that we dealt with earlier have a dark brown, almost black, operculum whereas in *Fusinus ocelliferus* it is a paler translucent honey colour.

Then, if you will examine the aperture of both genera, you will see that the inner lip, i.e. the side against the columella, in the case of *Fasciolaria lugubris* adheres to the columella right down to the end of the siphonal canal, whereas in *Fusinus ocelliferus* the glaze adheres to the columellar wall only at the upper, posterior end of the aperture but then separates from the columella where the siphonal canal starts. This is most obvious in the case of the large False Bay shells in which the gap forms an open "false umbilicus", but this feature can also be noted to a reduced extent on the smaller West coast specimens, especially if compared to *Fasciolaria lugubris* of equal size.

A further point to note is that the nuclear whorl and protoconch of *Fasciolaria lugubris* is large, white and prominent, forming a comparatively blunt tip to the spire, whereas the protoconch and nuclear whorl of *Fusinus* is much smaller and darker, creating a comparatively sharper spire tip.

Having separated *Fusinus* from *Fasciolaria*, however, we are then faced with the further confusion of three or four different forms of *Fusinus ocelliferus*. (As a certain Australian Prime Minister once said, "Life wasn't meant to be easy!").

In False Bay, the typical form lives generally at or well below the lowest tide level and is long, upwards of 120mm, with a longish spire and siphonal canal, coarsely sculptured spiral cords and generally a row of brown nodules (the **ocelli**, or eyes) on the peripheral cord. The aperture is white.

A synonym is *Fusus verruculatus* Lamarck, 1822.

On the West coast of the Cape Peninsula, there is a very different looking shell of only 60 to 80mm length, having rounded whorls covered with closely set spiral threads which are repeated inside the aperture. The aperture can be either white or purplish brown.

These shells occur around the level of low Spring tides and can be found preying on other smaller molluscs.

The animal is characteristically bright red in all forms.

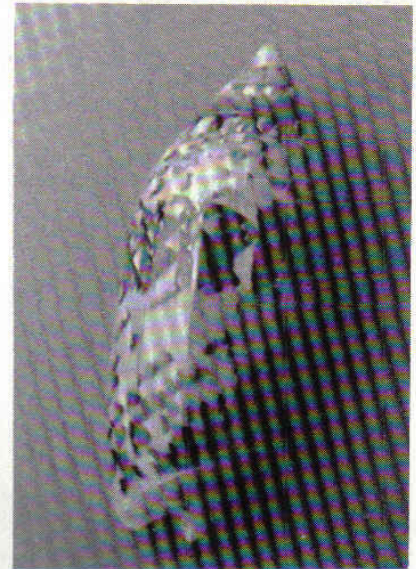
Along the South coast, at Cape Agulhas, there is a smallish form (70 to 80mm long) identified as **robustior** (Sowerby, 1880) and at Jeffreys Bay a dwarf form occurs (also 70 to 80mm) that is in all other respects similar to the typical form. These occur intertidally.

Offshore, on the Agulhas Bank, lives a large (150mm long) inflated, pale form with a sculpture of more widely spaced flattish spiral cords, either with or without a nodulose shoulder cord. This form was identified as **adamsii** (Kobelt, 1876).

## References

- K.H. Barnard: Annals S.A. Museum Vol XLV Part I, pp. 90-92, 1969.  
 R. Kilburn and E. Rippey: Sea Shells of Southern Africa. pp. 102, 214, 1982.

## A NEW OLIVE



by David Freeman, Cape Town

Older members of the Conchological Society might remember Al and Eva Fox who visited South Africa in 1972 and 1978 during two circumnavigations on their yacht Foxtrot.

They returned to Florida and sold the boat and built a house, but the wanderlust claimed them again and, in 1982, they started another cruise off the coast of Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica, on both the Caribbean and Pacific sides, which was to last until the end of 1983.

Cocos Island lies in the Pacific, about 500 miles (800 kilometres) from Panama. It belongs to Costa Rica and has been made a national park. It is one of two islands that have at one time or another been associated with the Robinson Crusoe story.

While diving there, Al Fox discovered a new species of **Olive** in about 20 metres (60-70 ft) of water. This has been named **Oliva foxi** Stingley, 1984.

It is fairly slender, with a high spire. The larger of two specimens in my possession measures 35 x 13mm (see photo). It has chocolate brown markings over a pink base colour. The inner edge of the lip is white, and the aperture is yellow within.

## ERRATA TO STRANDLOPER 212 - CYMATIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA (Text missing from top of page 3)

### 12. CYMATIINAE

**Cymatium** Röding, 1798

**Septa** Perry, 1810

**pileare** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Transkei

Size: 97mm

The aperture is characteristically deep red in colour. It lives chiefly infratidally under rocks or in crevices, especially where there is a layer of muddy silt.

### 13. CYMATIINAE

**Cymatium** Röding, 1798

**Septa** Perry, 1810

**vespaceum** (Lamarck, 1822)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific, as far South as Kelso, Natal.

Size: 35mm

This is a small species, resembling **mundum** in shape, but varying from fawn to blackish-brown in colour.

It has a similar habitat.

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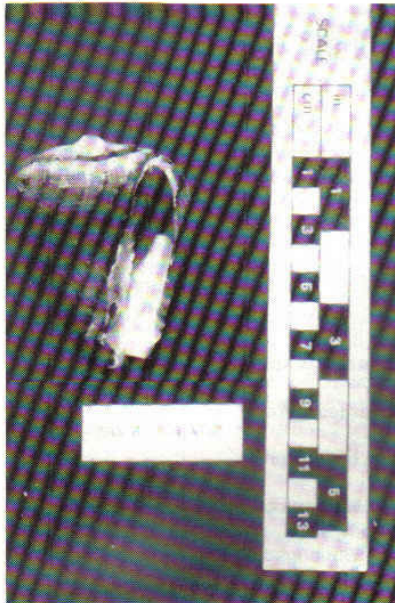


Fig. 1 An exceptional size *Vasum truncatum*. Sowerby, 1892

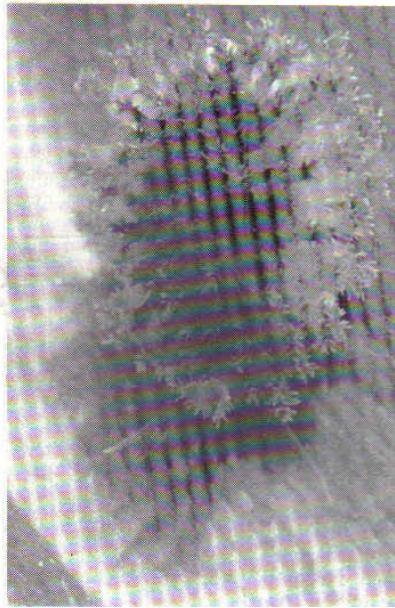


Fig. 2 Live specimen of *Cypraea citrina*. Gray, 1825



Fig. 3 Sinistral *Turbo sarmaticus*. Linné, 1758

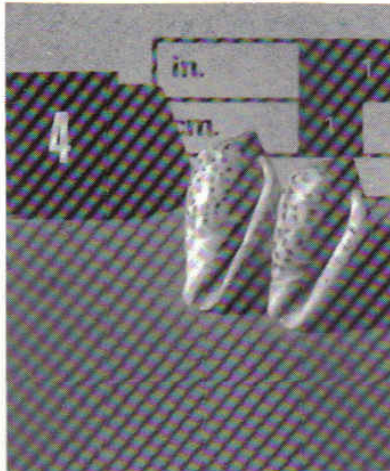


Fig. 4 *Marginella mosaica*. Sowerby, 1846

#### UNUSUAL FINDS ON THE EAST LONDON COAST

by S. Muller, East London Museum

##### *Vasum truncatum*

During September 1983 the Border and Transkei group arranged a field trip to Xora on the Transkei coast. We were fortunate to be blessed with lovely weather and many interesting shells were found. A checklist is to be published shortly. Amongst the interesting specimens found was a *Vasum truncatum* of exceptional size and in excellent condition Fig. (1). Kilburn and Rippey (1982) note that although these shells can hardly be called attractive, they are amongst the most prized of the South African shells. They furthermore record that their weight ensures that they very soon show the effects of wave action. The maximum size recorded by them is 70mm whereas the specimen figured above has a length of 83mm. The shell was swapped for some exotic Muricidae and now resides in a collection in Port Elizabeth.

##### *Cypraea citrina*

During May 1984 a specimen of *Cypraea citrina* was found alive at the intertidal level in the Kei Mouth area Fig. (2). This cowrie was of particular interest as it is the first record of a live specimen found this far south. The shell is in excellent condition and there are no spurious markings on the shell. This is now housed in a private collection in Macleantown.

##### Sinistral *Turbo sarmaticus*

Within the last year at least two sinistral *Turbo sarmaticus* specimens have been found on the West Bank beach of East London. The latest was found in mid-August, almost a year since the previous one was picked up on an adjacent beach. The latest specimen is in mint condition and is illustrated in Fig. (3). It measures 24.55mm at its widest point.

##### *Harpa* spp. Fragments

In December 1983 a small fragment of *Harpa* spp. was found by the author on Shelly Beach, East London but was too worn to be positively identified as to species. During the first week of September 1984 a second and larger fragment of *Harpa* spp. (tentatively identified as *Harpa major*) was found on the same beach, which incidentally continues to yield many interesting finds and always has something of interest for those who look carefully. It is hoped that, in the near future, someone will find a bigger, or even a whole specimen.

##### *Marginella* species

During this winter unusually large numbers of *Marginella mosaica* and *Marginella bairstowi* Fig. (4) have been found on some of the East coast beaches, and what is more interesting is the fact that these shells are in near perfect condition. In a morning's outing up to 16 *M. mosaica* and up to 4 *M. bairstowi* have been found. This unexpected abundance and the seasonal fluctuation experienced in the various shell species present on the beaches remain a mystery. However, it is hoped that physico-chemical data now being collected at one of the beaches along this coast will, within the coming year, allow some tentative suggestions to be made.

In the meantime any suggestions from readers will be most welcome.

##### *Conus natalis*

Unusually large specimens of *Conus natalis* are being found at an undisclosed locality close to East London. Of special interest were the "albino" specimens found at this site. These shells are a very pale violet colour and had they not been live taken, could easily be mistaken for beachworn specimens.

##### *Coriocella nigra*

During July and August 1984 the weather in East London area was particularly unfavourable for shelling. However, the stormy seas threw out large masses of urchins and red bait. The East London Museum was fortunate enough to acquire four live taken specimens of *C. nigra*. Two of these shells were still busy feeding on the red bait upon which they had been found.

##### *Clanculus atricatena*

On 10th October this year a specimen of the above was found half-way between Glen Muir and Cintsu. Although the specimen showed signs of being slightly beach worn it was still in a good condition. These shells normally are reported from the western Transkei, which is quite a distance away.

##### References

- Kilburn, R.N. & Rippey, E. 1982  
Sea Shells of Southern Africa. Macmillan South Africa.

##### Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the members of the Border & Transkei Conchological Society who kindly allowed me access to their collections and who readily supplied detailed information.



# Let in the light on Latin

by David Freeman, Cape Town

One can get into long philosophical discussions about the cultural loss suffered over the past 50 years through the progressive abandonment of Latin as a subject in schools in South Africa. It was very useful at several levels:

- Through its construction, to illustrate how the rules of grammar actually work. Modern languages tend to simplify their word forms to such an extent that their basic structure doesn't show in normal use and this can lead to an inability to learn to express yourself properly because you do not understand how to put words together.
- To make you aware of the continuity of our Western culture and civilization from the earliest times.
- To reinforce an understanding and love of English which uses so many Latin-based words.

Partly because it used to be the international language of higher learning throughout Europe, and partly because the meanings of Latin words were tending to become fixed and crystallised when it ceased to be the living language of the common people, Latin was found to be the least controversial and most dependable means of recording and conveying scientific information among scholars of different nations. This was further encouraged by the rise of nationalism which made it unwise to try to impose the international use of one modern language even for scientific use.

In any event, we have the unfortunate situation in South Africa today, where Latin is not taught in schools, while it remains as useful as ever in the international scientific field. To make matters worse, deficiencies in the teaching of English are making it unnecessarily difficult for many people to learn even elementary Latin which really ought to be enjoyable, and not a mystery.

Having disposed of the lamentations, let us see how the Latin names of shells actually work, and maybe find ways of making them easy to understand and remember. We will show some examples and make a list of the more usual ones.

I am assuming that you understand the basis of classification in the Linnaean system, into Families, Genera and Species, which applies to the plant and animal kingdoms, and which you should have learned at school. Also, that you understand that the giving of names must follow internationally recognised procedure, which requires the "author" of the name and the date of publication to be recorded. So much so, in fact, that the full scientific name of the plant or animal really has to include the name of the author and the date (year).

In this article, however, we will be concentrating mainly on the names of Species. The

names of Genera probably need a chapter to themselves.

The name of a Species can be chosen in several different ways:

- To honour a person, very often the one who first drew the author's attention to the "new" species.
- To connect the species with a place, a country, or even a whole continent, (sometimes inappropriately, which can be misleading).
- To describe some predominant aspect of the species such as its shape, colour, texture, size, etc. In this case, the words would be adjectives (big, small, red, glossy) but occasionally a noun is used so you must be able to distinguish between these parts of speech.
- Other names can be "manufactured" by the author, e.g. by combining parts of words, making an anagram of an existing word, etc., as long as the new name is given a Latin case-ending.

At this point it is necessary to mention that all Latin nouns are either in the Masculine, or Feminine, or Neuter gender. (Gender and sex are not the same thing.) Generally speaking, any thing or person of the female sex would take a noun in the feminine gender, and the male sex in the masculine gender. But even inanimate objects can be masculine or feminine, and not necessarily in the neuter gender. Exceptions tend to be so unusual that you cannot help remembering them. For example, a farmer is "agricola" which is a feminine noun, although one should suppose that most, if not all, farmers would have been men in Roman times.

In most cases it is possible immediately to recognise the gender of a noun from the word-ending.

An adjective always takes the gender of the noun it describes, so that its word-ending must change to agree with the appropriate gender of its noun.

Consequently, when the species name of a shell is an adjective, it changes its word-ending to match the gender of the name of the Genus. This could be masculine (as in **Conus**) or feminine (as in **Cypraea**) or neuter (as in **Vexillum**). These endings, **-us, -a, um**, are typical and easy to recognise.

There are other groups of nouns ending in **-is** and **-o** (**Haliotis, Hirundo**) which contain both masculine and feminine words, so you just have to learn which is which. **Haliotis** happens to be feminine.

If we use an Adjective for a species name, (e.g. let us decide to call a shell the Yellow Cone, or Cowrie, or Mitre, or Haliotis, and the word for Yellow is "luteus") we would have:

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Conus luteus</b>    | (masculine) |
| <b>Cypraea lutea</b>   | (feminine)  |
| <b>Vexillum luteum</b> | (neuter)    |
| <b>Haliotis lutea</b>  | (feminine)  |

If, on the other hand, we use a Noun for the species name, the noun does not change its gender to agree with the other noun because they are of the same status. For example, if we decide that the species we want to describe reminds us of a pear (the fruit) for which the Latin word is "**pyrum**", so that we want to call them the Pear Cone, the Pear Cowrie, or the Pear Mitre, we would have the names:

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Conus pyrum</b>    | (masculine genus;<br>neuter species) |
| <b>Cypraea pyrum</b>  | (feminine genus;<br>neuter species)  |
| <b>Vexillum pyrum</b> | (neuter genus and<br>species)        |
| <b>Haliotis pyrum</b> | (feminine genus;<br>neuter species)  |

This brings us to the silly error that has crept into common usage where so many people will insist on speaking of the "Golden Cowrie". It is nothing of the sort.

The name is **Cypraea aurantium**. The genders of the genus and species are different, which shows us that "**aurantium**" is a noun, not an adjective, so we must understand that the author was referring to the citrus fruit that we call the Orange. It is the "**Orange Cowrie**" in the same way that **Cypraea pyrum** is the "**Pear Cowrie**".

A moment's reflection should convince you that this is also a more accurate interpretation of the appearance of the shell. It really isn't gold at all, but looks very much like an orange (Yes, auntie, maybe even like a naartjie, but don't try throwing them around at a rugby match in Bloemfontein or Pretoria, the spectators wouldn't appreciate them).

\* If the author Gmelin had intended to say "Golden" he would have used the adjective "**aurata**", and if he had wanted to say "Orange-coloured" he would have used the adjective "**aurantia**" with the feminine noun "**Cypraea**".

When a species is named in honour of a person or persons, either the surname or the first name can be used, but occasionally both are combined, e.g. **Cypraea vicdani** is named after Mr Victor Dan. The name must be merged into one word, e.g. Mr Milne-Edwards is honoured in **Conus milneedwardsi**.

The name is treated as a Latin word and given the appropriate masculine or feminine noun-ending of **-us** or **-a**.

The word-endings change in the possessive case. (The Cowrie **OF** Victor Dan makes **danus** change to **dani** and a feminine **-a** changes to **-ae**) so we know that it is **Mr** and not **Mrs** Victor Dan who is referred to.

When two or more people are honoured together, usually a man and wife, the plural possessive case is used: **-orum**.

**Cypraea schilderorum** honours Dr and Mrs Schilder.

In one interesting instance, a whole community was honoured:



In the Pacific, Christian missionaries of different denominations became established on the different islands and in one case a Catholic priest referred a particular Cowrie to Professor Schilder, who recognised it as a separate species and named it "The Cowrie of the Catholics", or *Cypraea catholicorum*.

If two or more women are involved, the possessive ending becomes **-arum**.

One thing that is just "not done" is for an author to name a species or genus after himself, but it appears to be acceptable for an author to bestow the first name of his wife or child to a new species.

Note also in the sphere of zoology that the name of a species is NEVER written with a capital letter even when the name of a person is used. Botanists seem to have a different rule for this.

When a species is named after a place, or country, or continent, the word-ending **-ensis** is tacked onto the place name. We are all familiar with "**capensis**" (of the Cape), "**algoensis**" (of Algoa Bay), "**natalensis**" (of Natal) and that monstrosity, "**gondwanalandensis**" which was supposed to suggest that the unfortunate Cowrie originated in the area of the primeval land mass called Gondwanaland.

Another way of handling this is to make an adjective of the place-name, e.g. "Africa" becomes "African" and instead of the sharp sound of "**Africensis**" we can use "**africanus**". Similarly, "of Asia" becomes "Asiatic" which gives us the Latin "**asiaticus**"; and it is easier to say "**mozambicus**" than "**mozambicensis**".

As mentioned before, place names can cause problems through being vague and inaccurate, and sometimes quite meaningless. An example is **Chione gnidia**. You would search for a long time before finding that "**gnidia**" means "a dweller in Gnidios", which is not where the shell comes from anyway. Likewise, one wonders where Linnaeus got the information away back in 1758 that our common Cape Alikreukel, **Turbo sarmaticus**, came from Sarmatia which is on the shores of the Black Sea. Likewise also, **Conus algoensis** and **Cypraea algoensis** do not come from Algoa Bay and **Cypraea chinensis** is not Chinese, nor is **Conus tinianus** from Tinian Island.

The authors probably got their shells from dealers whose locality labels were long in imagination and short in truth. Unfortunately, collectors are no more accurate today than they were in earlier times.

We have discussed the three main sources of the names of species and the way in which Latin words are constructed. It is now time for some lists, which we have arranged into more or less logical groups for easy reference.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the magazine **ROSSINIANA** of the Conchological Society of New Caledonia, which published a similar article two or three years ago, and whose lists of names I have used with some alterations.

First of all, a summary of some common word-endings, prefixes and combinations, and how to recognise what they mean:

- Ending in **-i**:  
The shell has been named after a man  
e.g. *Cypraea cruickshanki* = the Cowrie of Mr Ray Cruickshank
- Ending in **-ae**:  
The shell has been named after a woman  
e.g. *Volutoecorbis boswellae* = the Volute of Mrs H Boswell
- Ending in **-orum** or **-arum**:  
The shell has been named after more than one person  
e.g. *Linga roscoeorum* = the *Lucina* of Mr and Mrs Roscoe
- Ending in **-ensis**:  
The shell is named after the place where it was found  
e.g. *Cypraea capensis* = Cowrie of the Cape of Good Hope.  
Note: these localities are often incorrect.
- Ending in **-ascens** or **-escens**:  
This combines with the root or first part of the word to form a verbal adjective indicating a "movement towards" (think of *crescendo*). Generally combined with a colour  
e.g. *Chiton nigrovirescens* = Chiton that grows black  
*Murex rubescens* = Murex that grows red
- Ending in **-oides**:  
Indicates that the shell has the shape or colour of the object referred to in the first part of the word  
e.g. *Cypraea rhomboides* = diamond-shaped Cowrie
- Ending in **-arius, -aria, -arium**:  
Same as 6  
e.g. *Dolabella auricularia* = like a little ear  
*Cypraea cribraria* = Cowrie like a sieve  
Note that "ordinaria" just means "ordinary"!
- Ending in **-icus, -ica, -icum**:  
Indicates country of origin  
e.g. *Fusitriton magellanicus* = Triton from the Straits of Magellan  
*Cymatium nicobaricum* = Triton from the Nicobar Islands
- Ending in **-atus, -ata, -atum**:  
Indicates that the shell is "decorated with" the feature or pattern or colour named in the first part of the word  
e.g. *Conus arenatus* = Cone covered with sand grains (arena = sand)  
*Cypraea fuscudentata* = Cowrie with dark teeth (fuscus = dark, and dentes = teeth)
- Ending in **-ferus, -fera, -ferum**:  
Same as 9  
e.g. *Atrina squamifera* = Scaly Pinna

#### Some Colours and Shades

Now a list of colours, to which we have added also the equivalent Greek roots, and which are often used alone or in combination with words such as "mouth" (**stoma**) or "teeth" (**dens** or **don**).

As these words are adjectives, they can have different gender-endings but to save space I am giving only the masculine **-us**.

| Latin     | English | Greek                |
|-----------|---------|----------------------|
| albus     | white   | leucos               |
| coeruleus | blue    | kuanos (cyano)       |
| luteus    | yellow  | xanthos              |
| fuscus    | tan     | -                    |
| niger     | black   | melanos              |
| aureus    | golden  | krusos (chryso)      |
| aurantius | orange  | -                    |
| purpureus | purple  | porphyros            |
| roseus    | pink    | rhodos               |
| ruber     | red     | eruthraois (erythro) |
| viridis   | green   | kloros (chloro)      |
| violaceus | violet  | iodes (iodo)         |

Some variations frequently used are:

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| badius      | brown, bay-brown     |
| brunneus    | brown                |
| candidus    | sparkling white      |
| carneolus   | flesh-pink           |
| castaneus   | chestnut brown       |
| cinereus    | ash-grey             |
| coccineus   | scarlet              |
| isabellus   | dirty yellow-grey    |
| luridus     | livid dirty yellow   |
| niveus      | snow-white, fleecy   |
| ocraceus    | yellow ochre         |
| plumbeus    | bluish grey          |
| rubiginosus | rust-red, orange-red |
| rutilus     | vivid, shining red   |
| sanguineus  | dark, blood red      |
| ustulatus   | scorched brown-black |

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### Some Textures and Patterns

The many descriptive adjectives ending in **-oides**, **-atus**, and **-ferus** refer to shape, sculpture, texture, patterns. Here are some:

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| aculeatus     | sharp points            |
| angulatus     | angles, edges           |
| annulatus     | rings                   |
| arcuatus      | arches, curves          |
| bullatus      | bubbles                 |
| canaliculatus | small channels          |
| cancellatus   | cross-hatching          |
| catenatus     | chain links             |
| cingulatus    | girdles, bands, ridges  |
| clathratus    | lattices                |
| clavatus      | spikes, nails           |
| coccinatus    | scarlet designs         |
| comatus       | strands, threads, hairs |
| coronatus     | turreted                |
| corrugatus    | parallel ridges         |
| costatus      | ribs                    |
| crenulatus    | notches                 |
| crispatus     | ringlets                |
| cruentatus    | drops of blood          |
| cuspidatus    | hinges                  |
| decussatus    | criss-crossed           |
| dentatus      | with teeth              |
| denticulatus  | small teeth             |
| digitatus     | fingers                 |
| dilaceratus   | tears, breaks, cuts     |
| eugrammatus   | beautiful markings      |
| falcatus      | scythe or sabre shapes  |
| fasciatus     | bands, straps           |
| fenestratus   | gaps, openings, windows |
| fimbriatus    | fringes                 |
| fissuratus    | slits, cracks           |
| flammulatus   | flames                  |
| floccatus     | flakes                  |
| granulatus    | grains                  |
| guttatus      | droplets, blobs         |
| hastatus      | spearheads              |
| imbricatus    | curved roof tiles       |
| labiatus      | lips                    |
| laceratus     | lacerations             |
| laciniatus    | notches, indentations   |
| laterculatus  | little bricks           |
| ligatus       | cords, bindings         |
| ligulatus     | thongs                  |
| lineatus      | lines                   |
| litteratus    | letters, symbols        |
| maculatus     | stains, spots           |
| margaritatus  | pearls                  |
| marginatus    | borders, edges          |
| ocellatus     | eyes                    |
| pennatus      | feathers                |
| pinnatus      | fins                    |
| piperatus     | pepper grains           |
| plicatus      | pleats                  |
| punctatus     | dots, points            |
| pustulatus    | pimples, buds           |
| quadratus     | square motifs           |
| radiatus      | rays, spokes            |
| reticulatus   | threads, streaks        |
| sagittatus    | arrows                  |
| scriptus      | handwriting, letters    |
| serratus      | serrations              |
| sinuatus      | folds                   |
| spicatus      | thorns, prickles        |
| spiratus      | spirals                 |
| squamatus     | scales                  |
| stellatus     | stars                   |
| striatus      | grooves, scratches      |
| subulatus     | eyelets                 |

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| sulcatus     | furrows                   |
| suturatus    | seams, folds              |
| taeniatus    | bands, strips             |
| tegulatus    | flat tiles                |
| terebellatus | curled tendrils, ringlets |
| tesselatus   | mosaics                   |
| tuberculatus | lumps                     |
| tubulatus    | small tubes, pipes        |
| turbinatus   | spirals, swirls           |
| undulatus    | waves                     |
| ustulatus    | burn or scorch marks      |
| varicatus    | vertical ridges           |
| variegatus   | variations                |
| venulatus    | small veins               |
| vittatus     | ribbons                   |
| zonatus      | zones, bands.             |

### A NOTE ON THE DIET AND HABITAT OF CONUS MOZAMBICUS MOZAMBICUS HWASS IN BRUGUIERE, 1792

by David Strong, Cape Town

a. Diet: According to Dr R.N. Kilburn of the Natal Museum, this species feeds on small polychaete worms (refer to 1982, "Sea Shells of Southern Africa" p.122). The recent collection of two *C. mozambicus* specimens from the intertidal zone on the West Coast of the Cape Peninsula produced annelids (segmented worms), that constitute in part the diet of this Cape Conus.

One shell collected at Bakoven regurgitated a *Pseudonereis variegata*. This polychaete worm is errant (free swimming), and belongs to the family Nereidae. The habitat of *P. variegata* is described in the late J.H. Day's "A Guide to Marine Life on South African Shores" as "Abundant on exposed rocky shores in algal tufts and amongst barnacles and mussels". It is interesting that the shell of the predator measured only 48mm from apex to base, compared to its 112mm long prey. An incomplete dissection of the predator's soft parts revealed a convoluted poison duct almost 100mm in length being terminated in a bulbous poison sac. Another cone collected in the mid-intertidal zone at Kommetjie yielded a worm belonging to the family Eunicidae. Specific identification of the worm was difficult as it had been decapitated! Prof. Branch of U.C.T. concluded it might be *Marphysa depressa*.

Some members of the family Eunicidae grow up to 60cm in length, suggesting the probability of *C. mozambicus* being capable of tackling much larger prey. Jaws located on the head of Eunicid and Nereid worms seem not to deter the fearless little predator either.

b. Habitat: The intertidal domain of *C. mozambicus* as observed by the author is under rocks or in crevices amongst rocks, shallowly buried and on fine shale/sand. It is almost always collected in areas populated by seaweed, viz from the lower mid-intertidal zone to the cochlear zone. *C. mozambicus* is primarily nocturnal. This elusive shell lives infratidally as well.

### NOTES ON PEDICULARIA ELEGANTISSIMA DESHAYES, 1863

by Bill Liltved, Cape Town

*Pedicularia elegantissima* a close relative to the Ovulidae, rarely reaching a maximum of 12mm in length, is restricted to the western Indian ocean. This species has been recorded from the Seychelles, the Mascarene Archipelago to the Eastern Cape coast of southern Africa. *P. elegantissima*, a deep water species, lives in intimate association with stylasterine corals such as *Errina* spp. As a juvenile, the cowrie-like subadult moves freely on its host coral. As it nears maturity the gastropod becomes sedentary and the shell develops into a limpet-like form. The *Pedicularia* now being virtually immobile must in some way be able to browse for food. If *Pedicularia* supposedly derived its nutrition by feeding on the actual coral polyps (as some ovulids do), it would soon obliterate all the live polyps situated in its immediate vicinity, thus ruining its food source. I speculate rather that it feeds on the mucoid secretions exuded by the stylasterine, to which micro-organisms and detritus may adhere.

*Pedicularia elegantissima* has a long protrusible neck and a well developed snout for reaching from its fixed position where it makes a depression in the coral (Fig. B). Its two tentacles are long, slender and seem to be ciliated. These cilia probably aid in the detection of food particles which the animal rakes in and scoops into its mouth with the comb-like outer lateral teeth of its radula.

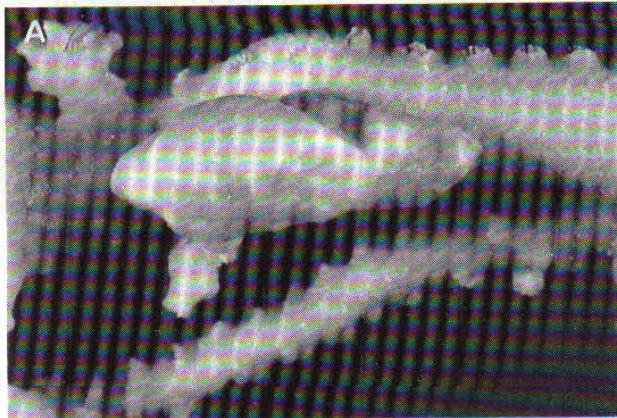
An interesting aspect in the development of this species is that it is viviparous: the larvae appear to be incubated inside the female till they are ready to be expelled into the water as fully developed veligers. The larvae are not contained in any type of thecae (egg cases) but were observed to be randomly deposited in the reproductive tract of the mother. Each almost spherical larval shell measures 1,2mm in length.

Viviparity is not a very widespread phenomenon in Marine prosobranch molluscs. It has been documented in species such as *Littorina saxatilis* Olivi, of the British Isles and in *Cymbium* spp. of West Africa.

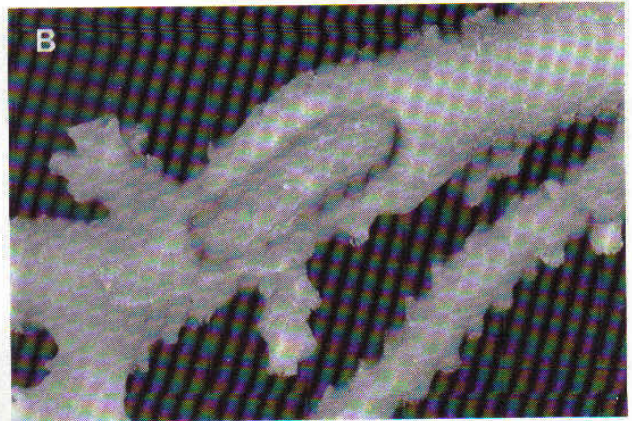
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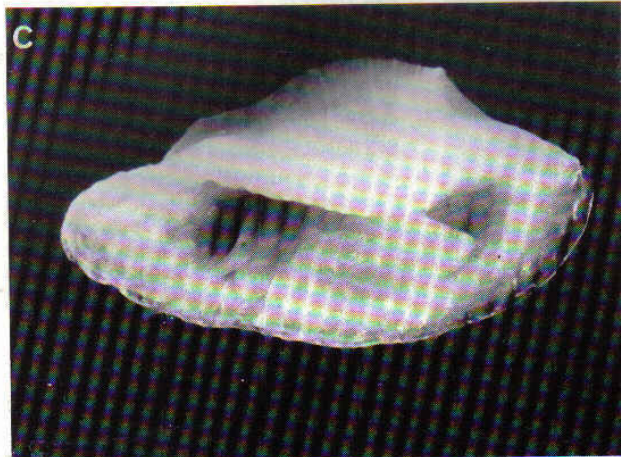




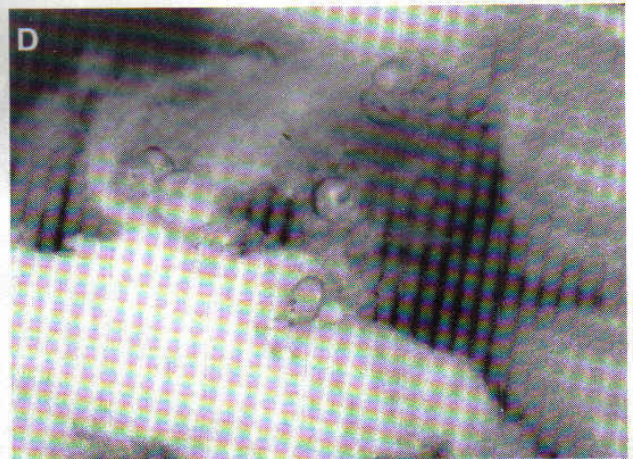
A. *Pedicularia elegantissima* in situ on stylasterine coral.



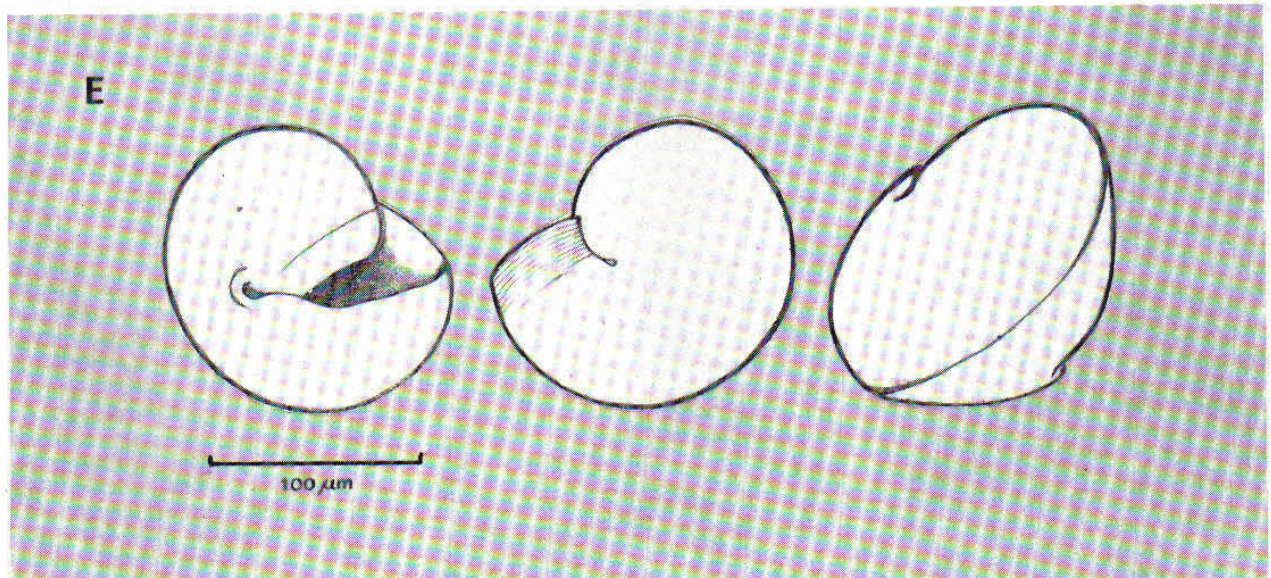
B. Depression made in coral by *Pedicularia*.



C. Living *Pedicularia elegantissima* dredged at 250m off western Transkei.

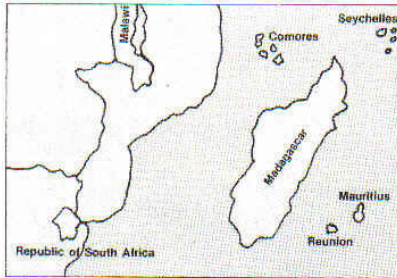


D. *Pedicularia* larvae inside mother.



E. *Pedicularia Elegantissima* larval shell. Dorsal and side views.





## SHELLING IN THE COMORES

by Brian Hayes

On Monday the 8th October 1984, our group of 8 divers left for a two week trip to the Comores. Five hours later we landed in the sweltering heat of the Grand Comores island, having stopped over at Livingstone in Malawi.

We stayed in cute little cottages at the Coelacanth Hotel, just outside the capital, Moroni. The hotel, being on the water's edge, made it ideal for scuba diving. One just put one's gear on, walked to the edge of the rocks and jumped in. Once in the water a whole new world of colour was opened up to us. The tropical fish abounded in all sorts of wonderful shapes, sizes and colours—it was truly an underwater paradise.

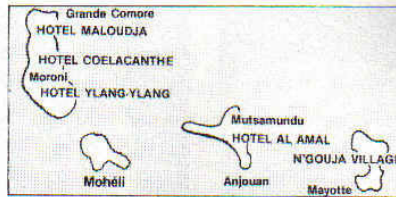
At most diving spots around the island, the volcanic rock runs right into the sea, so one can do plenty "rock" shelling, but only a limited amount of "sand" shelling. There is also very little flat reef in which to look as once you enter the water, the reef drops off quite steeply into the depths. We dived every day and I had a great time searching under dead coral plates and in the usual places a diver looks. However I found very little in the way of shells while diving, the notable being the following:

A 11.5cm Tiger Cowrie under a piece of coral at 12 metres; a huge 30cm Triton (*Charonia tritonis*) clinging to a wall of coral; a lovely egg-Cowrie (*Ovula ovum*) with a pitch black mantle, eating a big piece of soft coral and a *Conus barthlemyi* while digging in the sand at 15 metres.

Rock collecting was far more profitable than collecting at 10 or 15 metres, where the shells tend to hide deep in the coral. I found 11 species of common Indo-Pacific cowries by scratching around on the rocks at the water's edge, and a number of cones amongst others. Night collecting also proved to be interesting and rewarding.

For the last four days of the two week holiday, we went to the north of the island, where we stayed in the Aloudja Hotel. Here we found one of the few sandy beaches. It also has a shallow, flat coral reef which stretches out far, about a half kilometre. However, locals have denuded it of most of the shell-life, and very little besides common *Cypraea annulus* can be found.

On the whole it was a lovely holiday from a diver's point of view, but the shelling was rather disappointing. I believe Mayotte, which is another of the 4 islands in the Comores, is far better.



Maps by courtesy of Uniworld Summertime Tours.

## CYMATIUM KLENEI (Sowerby, 1889)

By David Strong (Cape Town)

This mollusc is rarely collected alive. The figured specimens were collected at Spring low tide at Nxaxa River Mouth in Western Transkei. Both were discovered crawling on large fronds of a brown seaweed, which floated just below the surface of a shallow intertidal pool, while wading in 3 to 4 feet of water. That the animals were foraging during daytime can be attributed to the overcast weather.



The animal of *C. klenei*.

Observations: An active mollusc. It has sharp reflexes and will retreat into its protective shell instantly if threatened in a vulnerable, extended position. In locomotion the animal changes direction by elevating its shell and swivelling towards the new course. A large and elastic proboscis was projected from time to time.

## SHELLS FROM AUSTRALIA OR MAYBE NOT

Copy of an article from the AUSTRALIAN SHELL NEWS No. 48 October 1984.

In 1982 the Australian Government passed Wildlife protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act, which controls the export of specimens of all Australian native species (EXCEPT THOSE LISTED ON SCHEDULE 4—SEE MOLLUSC SECTION BELOW) as well as the import and export of specimens derived from species listed on schedules 1, 2 and 3 (see below). The list of species on these schedules was updated in 1984.

Specimens of Australian native species, including molluscs, may not be exported for private or commercial purposes without a permit. The export or import for commercial or private purposes of specimens of species listed on schedule 1 or 2 also requires a permit.

Permits to undertake transactions involving specimens from species listed on

Schedule 2 or Australian native species not listed on Schedules 1, 2 or 3 may also be issued if a management programme for these species has been approved under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Currently, there are no approved management programmes on recognised captive breeding operations for molluscs and therefore no permits can be issued for private or commercial use.

A PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED TO IMPORT NON-LIVING MOLLUSC SPECIMENS OF SPECIES NOT LISTED ON SCHEDULES 1, 2 OR 3 OF THE ACT. SIMILARLY A PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED TO EXPORT SPECIMENS OF SPECIES NOT LISTED ON THESE SCHEDULES AND NOT NATIVE TO AUSTRALIA.

IMPORT OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES WHICH ARE NOT LISTED ON SCHEDULES 1, 2 OR 3 DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT.

## SCHEDULE 1 MOLLUSCS

Species of freshwater mussels (*Unionidae*) not native to Australia.

## SCHEDULE 2 MOLLUSCS

*Mytilus chorus* and species of freshwater mussels (*Unionidae*) freshwater snails (*Hydrobiidae*), *Papustyla* (*Papuina*) *pulcherrima* (Manus Island green tree or emerald green snail), New Zealand land snail species of the genus *Paryphanta*, and the giant clams *Tridacna derasa* and *Tridacna gigas*.

## SCHEDULE 3 NO MOLLUSCS INCLUDED

## SCHEDULE 4 MOLLUSCS (NOT RESTRICTED)

Species of abalone (*Notholithotis ruber*, *Schismotis laevigata*, *Narinauris roei*), top shells (*Trochus maximus*, *Trochus niloticus*), turban shells (*Turbo* (*Subniella*) *undulata*), periwinkles (*Littorinidae*), mussels (*Mytilus edulis planulatus*), scallops (*Amusium balloti*, *Mimachlamys asperimus*, *Equichlamys bifrons*, *Pecten alba*, *Pecten fumata*, *Pecten meridionalis*, *Pecten modestus*) oysters (*Crassostrea commercialis*, *Crassostrea tuberculata*, *Ostrea angasi*), Mother of pearl (*Pinctada margaritifera*, *Pinctada maxima*, *Pinctada sugillata*), pipos, cockles (*Plebidonax deltoides*, all species of *Katlesia*) octopus (*Octopus tetricus*), Cuttlefish, squid (all species of *Sepia*, *Sepioteuthis australis*, *Notodarus gouldi*, *Todarodes filippovae*, *Ommastrephes bartramii*, *Symplectoteuthis luminosa*, *Symplectoteuthis qualaniensis*, *Ornithoteuthis volatilis*, *Loligo etheridgei*).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Museum loan and exchange programmes and export of research material collected by foreign workers are also subject to these regulations. These comments are taken almost directly from letters and staff of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service which administers this Act and which issues the permits. I thought it better not to tinker with the wording, except to abbreviate the molluscan sections of the schedules.

Shirley Slack-Smith



### UNUSUAL FINDS AT BIGHA RIVER MOUTH

by Bill Liltved, Cape Town

Mr John Welsh of Kidd's Beach brought to my attention a number of interesting finds he had made on the beach near Bigha river mouth in the eastern Cape. Among the shells Mr Welsh collected were species such as *Afrivoluta pringlei* Tomlin, *Neptuneopsis gilchristi* Sowerby, and two un-named species of *Sylvanocochlis*.

The eight fully mature *Afrivoluta pringlei* (normally living at depths between 140-500m) are dwarfed to approximately half the size of adults we normally see collected by commercial trawlers (Fig. A). Normally mature specimens double the size of these individuals. Some of the "Bigha" shells are encrusted with *Hydrocorella africana*, a hydactiniid hydroid only seen on shells inhabited by certain hermit crabs. As indicated by the small punctures on their posterior basal callosities and spires, these individuals have also all been killed by octopii.

Two juvenile *Neptuneopsis gilchristi* (a volute normally living at depths between 60-500m) were collected separately over a long period. The largest specimen measured 6.5cm in length. (Fig. B)

Two unknown *Sylvanocochlis* (Olividae) species distinct from one another, found at Bigha are compared with a specimen of *Sylvanocochlis ancilla* Hanley, (Fig C). This fresh specimen exhibits the horny operculum and thick periostracum typical to members of the genus.

### SPECIMENS REPRESENTING DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES

by David Strong (Cape Town)

(i) **Holotype:** The specimen (ideally exemplary of the species) upon which the published description is based.

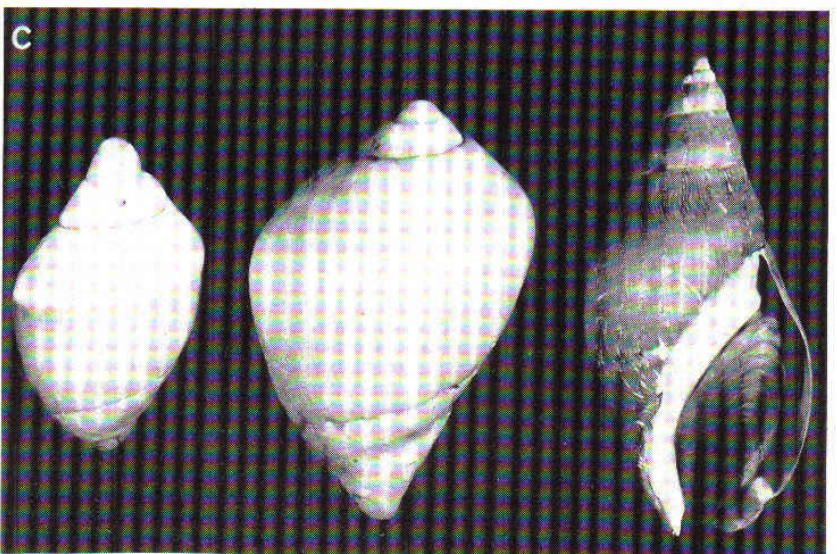
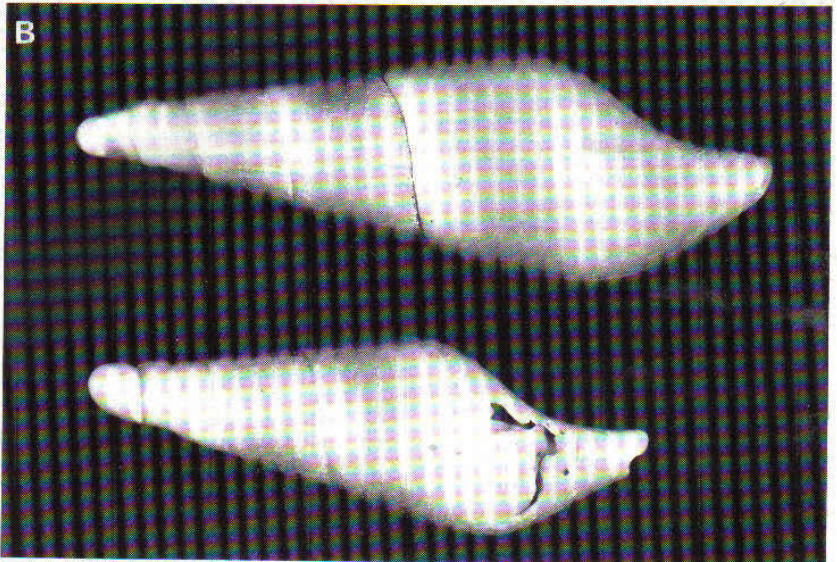
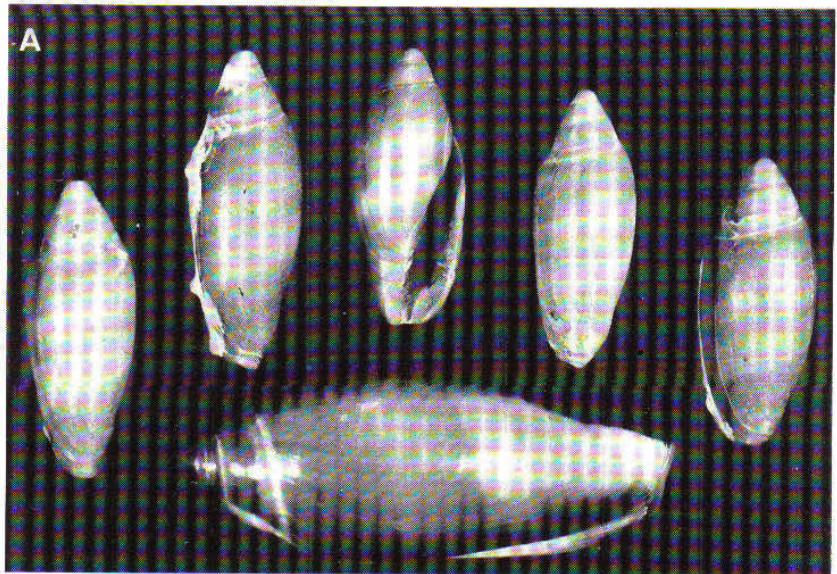
(ii) **Paratypes:** Other specimens mentioned in the description to illustrate variation etc.

(iii) **Syntypes:** Where more than one example is cited in describing a species and no holotype is named, specimens used in the description are called syntypes.

(iv) **Lectotype:** If the holotype is lost or destroyed and a set of paratypes exists then a shell may be selected from amongst the paratypes to serve as the holotype. This specimen is termed the lectotype. Also, a worker studying a species without an holotype may choose a lectotype from amongst the syntypes.

(v) **Paralectotype:** Once a lectotype is named, those paratypes or syntypes remaining become paralectotypes.

(vi) **Neotype:** If the holotype is lost and there are no paratypes then a neotype could be chosen from available material in its stead. A neotype could also be named if a set of syntypes were lost. Unless, in consideration of the published description, a neotype can be chosen without doubt, the name proposed in that description may be rejected as a **nomen dubium**, (doubtful name); a **nomen dubium** is not used when referring to a species.





If any South African members of the Society are interested in reading any of these magazines you can apply to the Librarian. He will then post these to you. Your only requirement is to return them to him by **Registered mail**.

## Book Reviews

by David Freeman, Cape Town

### "COWRIES OF THE WORLD"

by C.M. Burgess, M.D.

Published by Seacomber Publications, Cape Town, 1985

In the sphere of conchological literature, the appearance of this book must be the event of the decade, and your reviewer thought he heard the sound of trumpets playing Verdi's triumphal march from Aida when the first copy was placed before him.

This is not just a new edition of the "old Burgess" which was published in 1970. The book has been re-written, rearranged, and enhanced with really remarkable photographs, in colour of course, showing not only the usual pair of dorsal and ventral views of each species, but an additional picture of the live animal in nearly every case. Some useful plates have been retained from the old book, where they illustrate groups of very similar shells. There is a full page of text on each species, and a map showing the range of recorded localities.

This brings one to a consideration of the format of the book. The species are arranged in groups which have some affinity, such as the 'Arabica group' or the 'Cribraria group' or, in several cases, a regional relationship like the endemic South Africa cowries, or those from Southern Australia.

A full alphabetical index at the back of the book is further supplemented by two most useful lists at the front, showing on one page the names of certain endemic species with restricted ranges in which they occur and, on the other facing page, an alphabetical list of species names with their relevant page numbers.

Consequently, whether you know the name of the species, or where it comes from, or merely that it resembles other similar species, you should be able to find it quickly. Not that one flips through this fascinating and beautiful book quickly. It is too much like a gourmet meal.

Enthusiastic splitters will grumble at some of Dr Burgess's conclusions, but he has not hesitated to change his mind in the light of hard facts that have come to light since the publication of the previous book, confirming the validity of new or separate species. This commonsense attitude which pervades the book is very reassuring.

The author takes pains to give explanations whenever he places species or subspecies in synonymy. In addition, nine species or subspecies are classed as 'doubtful' and these are illustrated and discussed separately. A further 30-40 are rejected altogether and reasons given. The final result is a list of 202 recognised species, illustrated, described and commented on, including 12 'new' species that have been described since 1970.

A few errors were noticed, almost inevitable in such a comprehensive work, and these will probably be covered in an errata list, but I should like to mention three oddities:

- In the list of cowries with restricted ranges, under the region of Atlantic, North and South, there appears *Cypraea lurida*. But this species extends well into the Mediterranean Sea also, and has a similar range to *Cypraea pyrum* which does not appear on the list.

- There are a number of references to shells taken from fish stomachs and quoted as 'ex pisces'. The correct Latin is 'ex pisce'. If it was intended to refer to 'fishes' in the plural, the Latin would be 'ex piscibus'.

- The author of *Cypraea pantherina* is given as 'Lightfoot in Solander, 1786'. What happened was that the Duchess of Portland employed Daniel Carl Solander in 1778 to catalogue her shell collection. He worked on this immense task until early in 1781 but died in the following year without having actually published anything. (His descriptions of her shells survive to this day in the British Museum, written on slips of paper.) The Duchess herself died shortly thereafter and the collection was sold. The sale catalogue was drawn up by her Librarian, the Rev John Lightfoot, in 1786. Because the catalogue fills the requirements for recognition of species and because Lightfoot used some of Solander's manuscript names, the latter can be regarded as validly proposed by Solander in Lightfoot's catalogue. Hence, the author should be given as 'Solander in Lightfoot, 1786'.

Pardon the reviewer's self-indulgence as I return to the purpose of this review, and answer the essential questions. Yes, it is a super book, filled from cover to cover with rich fare, beautifully presented. The design, layout, typefaces, colour printing, all contribute to make this one of the best shell books you are likely to see.

The book has been a long time coming. With the author in Hawaii and the publisher in Cape Town, the logistics of the whole operation must have caused intense frustration at times. We can but be grateful, and the parties concerned can really be satisfied, that their labours have borne such rich fruit.

The high quality of the end product must have been costly and the book is frankly expensive but, by today's standards, the price of over R100 for the standard edition is not excessive. I can recommend that you mortgage the house, or sell the car, or give up cigarettes, and get yourself a copy while you can.

## MEALS FOR MOLLUSCS OR HOW TO CULTIVATE THE FATTED SNAIL

by S. Muller, East London Museum



After reading Brian Hayes' article (Strandloper No. 212, June 1984), it was felt that the following information may be of assistance to others interested in maintaining live molluscs in home aquariums.

### 1. Food for filterfeeders and detritivores

#### a) Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon of yeast
  - Some trace element about 5 drops (e.g. iron, magnesium etc.)
  - 2 eggs - shells and all
  - 1 sheep or ox heart - (ask the butcher to mince it for you)
  - 2 tablespoons of bone meal (check that no chemicals have been added)
  - 2 tablespoons of blood meal (check that no chemicals have been added)
  - about 500g seaweed e.g. sea lettuce or algal turf (algae growing in thick mats at the low spring tide times)
  - 1 small fresh lettuce (or a few bits of cabbage heart)
  - 4 small carrots
  - 2 tomatoes
  - 10 urchins (live, street or otherwise)
  - 4 large pieces of red bait (removed from test)
  - 25 mussels (black or white) removed from shells
  - Net some *Daphnia* sp. (fresh water shrimp-like organisms) or rock pool shrimps and add these to the above mixture.
- This makes a large quantity which can be frozen and used when needed.
- Suggestion:** Ask some colleagues to join you when collecting the ingredients as well as while making the food and then share it. This makes the whole operation more fun and much more bearable.

#### b) Method

Select a clean, **non metallic** container and place all the ingredients into this. Mince and then liquidise (preferably in someone else's liquidiser) until everything is so finely minced that it can be strained through a kitchen sieve. Set out a couple of ice cube trays (the very small ones making cubes about 1cm square) and pour the liquid into the trays. Place in a deep freeze until frozen then remove, and place the cubes either in a plastic packet or a sealed container and return to



freezer. Repeat until all the liquid has been frozen.

When the food is required take out a cube and drop it into the aquarium whilst the airstone is operational. The cube will float on the surface of the tank, slowly melting and dispensing the food throughout the tank.

It must be stressed that the food should be very fine and liquid before freezing, so extra water (preferably a 50/50 mix of salt and fresh) may be required if the original minced ingredients appear too thick.

## 2. Food for Herbivores

If you are considering keeping herbivores like top shells, cowries and haliotids, you will find this is by far the easiest way of successfully feeding them.

Visit the local beach or harbour area and select a quiet spot. Tie the small concrete bricks, old bathroom tiles, bits of perspex, small slips of glass, or anything else that you may have which is non metallic and which has a fairly smooth surface to some rocks in the area. If you have access to a bouy, e.g. in one of the estuaries, tie the articles to this. Leave them submerged for about ten days, then remove and place in your tank. If the immersion times are staggered by a few days, herbivore food will always be available. This technique also allows you to collect diatoms for juvenile snails, but then the glass slide etc., must only be left in the water for about 2-3 days. Once the herbivore has cleaned off the surface growth on the slide or tile return it to the sea. The second time around the retrieval period should be reduced to 5-8 days.

## 3. Food for Carnivores

This food source is not always acceptable to the fickle palates of carnivores, so do not expect to satisfy the appetites of all the inhabitants of your tank.

All towns have a sewage works and it is here, believe it or not, that a very rich and useful source of food can be obtained practically throughout the year and best of all usually free of charge. Permission must be obtained from the local municipal department who will probably be a bit incredulous, but once satisfied that you really are mad and hence harmless will generally grant access. The person in charge of the sewage ponds will easily be able to show you the *Daphnia* blooms and then all that is necessary is, with the aid of a fine meshed net, to collect sufficient to introduce into the tank. Remember that *Daphnia* are fresh water organisms and will not survive for long in a marine tank. So do not be greedy and overstock your tank.

If there are salt works near to where you stay, then you may be able to obtain brine shrimps. However, be sure to obtain the necessary permission.

In and around all the major coastal cities there are either man made or natural pools and in these pools gammarid shrimps may usually be found amongst the green algae covering the edges of the pool. Furthermore, in areas where there are fresh water drains running into the sea, e.g. in harbour areas, one can also collect large quantities of gammarid shrimps.

Fresh live redbait thrives in tanks if fed on the filter food described previously. Redbait is the favourite food of *Cymatium doliarum* and *C. africanum*. An added bonus from keeping redbait in the tank is that its tests (thick leathery coverings) are normally overgrown with a variety of food items for many of the other aquarium inmates. Be warned however, the moment the redbait develops a slight grey furry coat (this normally starts at one end of the test). The animal must then be removed immediately and replaced with a fresh one. The best redbait tests to collect are those which have attached themselves to a flat vertical surface and can thus be removed without too much damage being caused to the animal.

*Cymatium parthenopeum* has a marked preference for mussels and these also are easily maintained on the filter feeders diet already mentioned. If your specimens are as greedy as mine have been, the mussels will not be allowed to rot.

The Trochids *Calliostoma ornatum* and *C. africanum* are fond of nibbling on sponges as well as grazing the epiphytic layers on the ubiquitous pink coralline algae.

The common orange and grey/mauve sponges found in the intertidal zone form excellent foods for these snails as are the microorganisms found on redbait tests.

*Phalium labiatum* relishes small sea urchins (about the size of a 20 cent piece in diameter); it is interesting to watch the way in which the snail pins the urchin down and then inserts its proboscis into the oral opening of the urchin.

*Ranella australasia gemmifera* is very partial to the small red sea anemones found in all the rock pools high up in the intertidal zone. These are easily removed and fare well if fed on the invertebrate food bought at local pet shops. *Ranella* also enjoy limpets, earth worms, lean steak, mussel worms and crushed urchins, as well as bits of fish.

*Conus tinianus* thrives on mussel worms, but will also eat earthworms.

*Conus ebraeus* snacks on mussel worms while it is reported that *Conus natalis* enjoys *Oxystele sinensis* and *Patella oculus*.

*Venus verrucosa* has lived happily in my tank for 11 months feeding on the detritus filtered out from amongst the shell grit.

*Eumarcia paupercula* prefers a sandy substrate but will live happily in a tank provided the hermit crabs leave it alone!

You may feel that after reading this article, that its all simply too much trouble to set up and maintain a tank. Molluscs are fussy feeders, but the advice given in this article should enable you to satisfy even the most fastidious palates. Remember that however beautiful the shell, the animal and its habits are of even greater beauty and interest. They often display exciting and vivid colours and unusual antics seen by very few.

Finally, remember not to overstock or overfeed the tank and to keep predator and prey well separated, preferably in separate tanks. Monitor the water colour regularly and keep the water level constant. Leave the tank and its inhabitants as undisturbed as

possible and you'll have great enjoyment and success with your tank.

## Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Messrs N.E.M. Newman and D.V. Muller for constructive criticisms and helpful discussions. Janet Lambie kindly typed the manuscript and D.V. Muller did the illustration.

## A FEW INTERESTING SHELL-FINDS FROM PORT ELIZABETH

by Brian Hayes

(Ranges given are from Kilburn and Rippey's Sea Shells of Southern Africa)

### *Strombus decorus*

Range: Northern Indian Ocean to East London

I have found this shell on a number of occasions. It was living in a sandy/rocky area, well protected from heavy wave action. This is something which is obviously necessary for it to flourish so far out of its normal range.

### *Bursa granularis*

Range: Indo-Pacific to the Western Transkei

Three live specimens of this species were recently found by Mr Louw Fouche of the P.E. Conchological Society in the rocky pools at low tide. This must be a new record of range extension.

### *Cymatium caudatum* (see Strandloper 212)

Range: Indo-Pacific to Durban

A dead specimen has previously been found in the lagoon at Knysna. They are presently in my aquarium and have been feeding on live *Perna perna*.

### *Cymatium klenei*

Range: Mossel Bay to Durban

Although not a new range extension, I thought it was worthy of mention as it is apparently rarely found alive. I found it at 20 metres under a small rock. The animal is exactly the same as that of *Cymatium africanum*, being orangy-white finely speckled with pink. It is also in my aquarium.

### *Pitar madecassinus*

Range: Mozambique to Eastern Transkei

I have found 3 live specimens in the sand at 10 metres in Algoa Bay.

### *Crassatina sowerbyi*

Range: Jeffrey's Bay to Western Transkei

Apparently no complete specimens (dead or alive) have been found before. I found a live juvenile (1cm) in sand at 10 metres and 2 complete adults on a reef at 15 metres.

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### THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1985)

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The Society has active groups in the following areas:-

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| <b>Pretoria:</b>         | Mr T.R. Duncan, 131 Burger Ave., Verwoerdburg 0140                  | 012-62-1548 |
| <b>Port Shepstone:</b>   | Mrs M. Borland, P.O. Sea Park 4241                                  | 0391-5-0543 |

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### EDITORIAL

At last we have sufficient information and articles to have a Strandloper again. Please do not be afraid to contribute. The more contributions we get the more Strandloper there will be. It is impossible for me to write all the material.

### Resignations from the Council

Phillip and Tess Breytenbach have resigned. Tess was the Treasurer. Professor George Branch will be on a sabbatical for a year so there is no president either. Noggs Newman (Vice President) will be discussing these and other matters at the end of April when he will be in Cape Town. There was no AGM at the end of last year as no notices were sent. David Freeman is assisting for a while only to get the correspondence up to date and answer all queries.

### Postal Address

The address of the Society is **P.O. Box 1200, Cape Town, 8000**. Please DO NOT USE the Howard Place address or the Bryanston address as we do not always get the mail.

We have decided to ask the groups to get together their members and to give me sufficient information to have an entire Strandloper printed. Johannesburg have so far taken up the challenge and are in the process of compiling what sounds like a very exciting Strandloper. I will then have it printed in Cape Town as usual. If your group can't do so much you could give smaller contributions which could be added with others and hence give more Strandloper.

As soon as we have the Noggs Newman Field Guide typed this will be printed and distributed. Unfortunately the typist is very busy at this time of year.

Reading through Kilburn and Rippey's Sea Shells of Southern Africa I noticed that the classification of the Neogastropoda was not as I knew it. Such superfamilies as Volutacea were not shown. I phoned Dr Kilburn and he told me that he followed Ponder. If you are working at this level and want to make sense of it all you can read about it in Malacolgia, 1973, 12(2): 295-338, by W.F. Ponder of the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia.

### Exchanges wanted

Strombus specialist John Vaughan is looking for Strombus (Canarium) terebellatus afrobellatus Abbott, 1960. If anyone can help, please contact him at P.O. Box 05 962, TICE, Fla 33905, U.S.A.

Roberto T. Francioni, 6 Florence Street, Merville Park subd., Paranaque, Metro-Manilla, Philippines wishes to sell shells. For price list you can write to him. He has such shells as: Cyp. aurantrium, guttata, valentia and conus gloriamaris etc.

*We would welcome any article of interest to Shell Collectors for future publication.*

## COMORES SHELLING TRIP

We are trying to organise a trip in July/August 1985. The price of the trip has not yet been established. We wish to divide time between a yacht and the island. The yacht will then be able to take members to areas of the coral reef which are normally inaccessible.

The agents have not as yet been able to give me prices. If you, however, wish to be kept up to date, please write to:

COMORES TRIP  
P.O. BOX 1108  
RHINE ROAD  
8050 SOUTH AFRICA