



(Continued from page 1)

in handling live cones as the probiscus can actually curve right along the side or back of the shell and some species have been known to kill man.

The cone finds its prey by feeling around with its probiscus and shoots the harpoon into the body, the blunt end remains in the probiscus so that its prey can be drawn in and devoured. Some cones can swallow a fish as much as half the size of itself, the mouth and body of the cone can expand to amazing proportions.

Possibly the most dangerous cone is *Conus geographus* Linnaeus with *Conus textile* Linnaeus a good second.

I picked up what I thought was a dead *Conus textile*, it was lying on sand on its back and there was no sign of the animal, I carried it in my hand and continued diving. I had no bag with me as I had not intended to collect shells. I then felt a sting such as a bee would give. I surfaced and looked to see a fine transparent hair about half an inch long protruding from the palm of my hand, I pulled it out, rushed back to the cottage and soaked my hand in very hot water and took a dose of anti-histomane and lay on my bed wondering if I was going to die! My hand became very swollen, but the only after effect I had was from the dose of anti-histomane and a hard lump on the palm of my hand which disappeared three months later. I was very lucky!

Always pick up a cone from the thick end and put it in a bag, if, before you get it into the bag you should see the probiscus emerging give the shell a sharp tap and it will retract into the shell. When you come to sort your collection bag do not put your hand inside, rather gently pour your shells out in case you should get stung.

With regards to treatment this is an extract from "Australian Shells", by B.R. Wilson and K. Gillett.

"The proper treatment for cone stings is still uncertain, although the following statement may be helpful: 'Lancing of the wound and removal of as much venom as possible by suction and haemorrhage, and application of a tourniquet where feasible, are recommended immediate procedures. Subcutaneous injection of adrenalin may be useful for vasoconstriction or augmentation of heart beat in severe cases.' (Kohn, 1963).

If stung by a cone, a person should consult a doctor as quickly as possible (no matter what species of cone is involved). Artificial respiration may also be necessary. Pain may or may not be associated with the wound, but an early symptom is tingling in the fingers which quickly spreads to other parts of the body, particularly the lips. Eyesight may also be affected, and numbness and swelling in the area of the wound are also common symptoms! "

All cones have a skin to protect their shell, it is called the periostracum. Sometimes it is very thin and the colour pattern of the shell can be seen through it, sometimes it is very thick such as on *Conus virgo* Linnaeus, and no sign of the pattern or colouration can be seen. If the periostracum is damaged the shell can be damaged, so have a look if you find a live cone, if there should be a green look about the shell when the periostracum has been damaged leave it as it will not be a good specimen for your collection but it reproduce more of its kind. Sometimes you will find cones

with a calcareous deposit, don't scorn this one as it very seldom damages the shell and can easily be removed with a blunt knife and Jik. Most barnacles are easy to remove in the same way and only sometimes damage the shell.

There are several popular ways to kill and remove the animal. I have tried most of them and this is the way I find most convenient and successful: wrap each shell individually in newspaper and place in a plastic bag, you can fill the bag with shells like this taking care not to make a hole in the bag. Tie the top tightly and label the bag, giving as much data as you can, such as the date and time the shells were found, the place where they were found, e.g. Nahoon Reef, near East London, Cape, South Africa. Under rocks, low spring tide. 1st June, '77. Now you can put your bag in a box raised off the ground in a shady place outside, and you can leave it there for two or three months. The open up, unwrap each shell and wash clean one by one under a tap, there will be hardly any smell and the animal will wash out easily, and if you look carefully you will find the operculum in the water in the basin. When the shell is clean put it nose down in a container such as an egg box with its operculum and leave for a day or two until dry. Then place a piece of cottonwool into the aperture and stick the operculum in place. Please, only use this method for cones and other shells are not shiney. Do NOT do shells such as cowries or olives this way.

To clean the outside of the shell and to remove the periostracum I have found the easiest way is to scrape it off with a blunt knife, any tiny cracks on the spire can be cleaned with a dental probe. If the periostracum is really stubborn soak in neat Jillets Javel or Jik, but do watch as if left too long the shell may become spoilt, then wash well in clean water. Be very careful of the lip of the shell as in most cases it is very fragile and can be chipped easily. I usually try not to scrape right to the edge and leave a little of the periostracum for protection.

If you have two of the same shell it is a good idea to leave one in its natural state, in which case oil the periostracum with mineral oil such as 'Three-in-one' oil, or the periostracum will crack and peel off when it dries out.

I hope these notes will help those who wish to collect this beautiful and interesting species.

## ONS REISE NA DIE SEYCHELLES

(Geëindig)

deur A. en J. HAVENAAR

Tweede Reis.

Na 4½ uur vlieg het ons op die lughawe van Mahe geland waar ons in groot moeilikheid was. Ons het gedink dat ons Goleira inspuiting goed was vir twee jaar maar nu het dit geblyk dat dit net vir 6 maande goed was. Gelukkig was hulle baie behulpsaam en het ons op die lughawe een inspuiting gekry. Dit het toen geblyk dat ons nie die enigste was nie. Die eerste paar dae het ons glad nie te lekker gevole nie. Een bus het ons na die hotel geneem waar ons bespreek het maar dit het gelyk of ons nooit daar sou aankom nie.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Daar was ander passasiers vir ander hotelle en ons was ongelukkig die laaste. Dit sou nie saak gemaak het nie maar dit was al donker en op die Seychelles is daar geen tien meter reguit pad nie. Dis net draaie en op en af. Ons hotel was net mooi anderkant die eiland geleë sodat ons oor die berg van bykans 3000 vt. moes gaan, maar dit was regtig die moeite werd want die hotel was pragtig geleë onder die palmbome. Verder is hulle skoon en van alle greiewe viirsueb, Die eilande het geen muskiete of ander ongedierte nie.

Die pragtig wit strande met die koel sand is lekker om te loop en as dit te warm word stap jy net een paar meter land se kant en dan loop jy in die skaduw van die palmbome. Die palmbome staan tot aan die hoogwater lyn. Ons was die eerste mōre gelukkig om een heele party lewendende Bivalvias te kry. Hulle het algar strepe as sonstrale maar die naam moet ons nog uitving. Ons het later uitgevind dat om skulpe te vind moet jy aan die anderkant van die eiland wees waar die koraal riwwe lê. Die meeste hotelle lê aan die Beau Vallon Bay vanweë die mooi strande terwyl aan die anderkant van Mahe die rotse en riwwe nie geleendheid gee om van watersport te geniet nie. Vir ons as skulpversamelaars is daardie kant juist die regte plek. Ons was daar een dag met laag water en ek het al direk een paar mooie Pectens gekry en ook nog twee Strombus Luhuanus. Ons het ook heel wat Bivalvias gekry maar die water het opgekom en my voete was al baie seer van die skerp koraal. Enige dae later was ons beter voorbereid maar ongelukkig het ek nie die regte hoogwater tyd geweet nie sodat ons nu maar langs die water het gesoek. By laagwater kan 'n mens maklik een km ver op die riwwe loop. Ons het ons later maar bepaal by die aankoop van skulpe. Deur navraag het ons in kennis gekom met een diepsee-duiker. Hy is self een versamelaar van skulpe maar hy verkoop ook baie. (Naam en adres bekend). Ons het heel wat interessant materiaal by hom gekry selfs volgens syn bewering skulpe wat nog nie een naam het nie. Sover het ek net die families gekry n.l. Cypraeidae, Olividae, Cassidae en Strombidae. Dit wil glad nie sê dat ons alle ander skulpe het geëien nie. Ons wil nog meld dat in Victoria twee interessante boekies verkrybaar is n.l. (The Cowries of Seychelles) en (The Cones of Seychelles).

Die eerste boekie het 42 cowries in kleur afgebeeld met uitgebreide bespreking van elke skulp. Die tweede boekie het 51 cones in kleur ook voorsien van beskrywing. Die prys van die boekies is ongeveer R3,00. Hulle is opgestel deur A.G. Jarrett en D. Slimming. Die kleur foto's is geneem deur P. Jarvis. (Adres en naam van handelaar verkrybaar).

### SEASHELLS FROM CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

by LUIS P. BURNAY and ANTONIO A. MONTEIRO

The first recent book about Cape Verde Islands (West Africa) shells that we know about. More than 50 species, fully described and illustrated in black and white photographs, plus reproductions of original illustrations from Kiener's "Iconographie des Coquilles Vivantes".

Copies can be obtained directly from the authors at the following address: Rua Maestro Antonio Taborda 41-1, Lisboa 3, Portugal

The price is U.S. \$5,00 (plus U.S. \$0,50 postage)

### WEST AFRICAN CORNER (Continued from page 1)

this synonymy is not so clear, because of the re-discovery of the true *C. ateralbus* by Portuguese divers in the Cape Verde Islands, demonstrating the accurateness of the original illustrations by Kiener. As a matter of fact, the specimens we are referring to perfectly match the original description and illustration by Kiener, while being very far from the original description and illustration of *C. venulatus* by Hwass, which among many other details has a light background with darker stains, and not the other way around.

Of course we feel sure that *C. ateralbus* belongs to the same "group" as the specimens usually identified as *C. venulatus* and also as some other light violet specimens, also from an Island in the Cape Verde Archipelago, about which we shall talk later, and which are often referred to as *C. trochulus* Reeve, 1844.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Hwass in Bruguière, J. (1792), "Histoire Naturelle des Vers" (encyclopédie Méthodique, vol. VII, part 2).  
 Kiener, L.C. (1849), "Spécies général et iconographie des coquilles vivantes".  
 Kohn, A.J. (1968), "Tyoe specimens and identity of the described species of *Conus*. IV, the species described by Hwass, Bruguière and Civi in 1792".  
 Burnay, L. & Monteiro, A.A. (1977), "Seashells from Cape Verde Islands".

### AROUND THE GROUPS

**CAPE TOWN:** At our October meeting Mrs Giles introduced the new local committee to those present. Mr Millard, Chairman, welcomed all present. There were five apologies. It was mentioned that the latest edition of "Standard Catalogue of Shells" by Wagner and Tucker Abbott was now available at a price of \$30. The meeting ended with the screening of two films, one on red tide and one on oceanographic research. There was a good display of new additions to members' collections at our November meeting. It was mentioned that *Solen capensis* had been introduced to the Millars Point tidal swimming pool and can now be found there in large numbers. The Society's President, Prof. A.C. Brown, introduced our guest speaker, Dr Thompson, a distinguished malacologist from England. Dr Thompson gave a vivid talk, supported with slides, on Nudibranchs. This talk was very informative and interesting and was appreciated by all. About twenty members attended our field outing at Kommetjie on Saturday 26th November. The weather was perfect and although the shells were not plentiful all were satisfied with their catch, *Marginella rosea*, *Conus algoensis* and *Conus mozambicus* being found by many. The most interesting activity was the search for, and finding of, Nudibranchs — such was the interest aroused by Dr Thomson at the last meeting.

**PORT ELIZABETH:** At our October meeting the family Janthinidae was discussed. All six known South African species were on display. Members had also been asked to bring any five favourite shells; the stories told about each were indeed very interesting. Even common shells had their own tale because they evoked a memorable event or were found in peculiar circumstances. Mrs Mears showed a live taken *Cypraea annulus* found at Bushy Park near

(Continued on page 4)

## THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

### OFFICE BEARERS 1977/78

President	Prof A.C. Brown
Vice-President	Mrs M.C. Giles
Secretary/Librarian	Mrs R.O. Carlsson
Treasurer/Editor	Mr R.O. Carlsson
Council Members	Mr J. Davidson Mrs J. Davidson Miss L. Everitt Mr M.C. Giles Mr V. Millard

#### Regional Council Members:

Eastern Cape	Mrs M.W. Mears
Border	Mrs J.E. Linsdell
Natal	Mr J. Scheepers
Johannesburg	Dr H.E. van Hoepen
Pretoria	Mr L.J. Smith

#### All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary:

The Conchological Society of Southern Africa,  
P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450, Cape, South Africa.

Entrance Fee is R1,00, with a yearly subscription of R4,00. The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the 30th June of that year.

Members who are full-time students at an Educational Institution in South Africa may join as Student Members on payment of an annual subscription of R2,00. No Entrance Fee is payable in respect of Student Membership.

The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper, is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:-

<b>Cape Town</b>	Secretary: Mrs G. Whitehead, 44 Monte Vino, Rosmead Ave., Kenilworth 7700. Tel.: 61-1580
<b>Port Elizabeth:</b>	Secretary: Mr F. Graeve, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6056. Telephone 4-5744.
<b>East London:</b>	Secretary: Mrs P. Palmer, 5 John Baillie Road, Bunkers Hill 5241, Telephone: 8-4306.
<b>Durban:</b>	Secretary: Mrs V. Neill, P.O. Box 31, Amanzimtoti 4125. Telephone: 93-3910
<b>Pietermaritzburg:</b>	Secretary: Mrs M.I. Armstrong, 195 Boom Street 3201 Telephone: 2-5553
<b>Johannesburg:</b>	Secretary: Mr K. Brown 1 Arend Av., Windsor Glen, Randburg 2194. Telephone: 678-5060
<b>Pretoria:</b>	Secretary: Mrs. A. Wilson, 283 Silver Street, Muckleneuk 0002 Telephone: 44-4495

Advertisements are accepted for publication in The Strandloper at the following rates:

Display adverts from dealers - R5,00 per column inch.

Smalls from members - R1,00 per column inch.

The Society accepts no responsibility for any transaction arising from advertisements published in good faith.

### EXCHANGES WANTED:

Mr B. Alexander, Allas Garden, Sampalathivu, Trincomalee, Srilanka. Would like to contact collectors with the view to exchange.

Mr E. Brooke, "Sandalwood", 12 Blackmore Road, Stralbridge, Dorset DT10 2NT, England. Wishes to get in touch with collectors in South Africa.

### MONTILLA ENTERPRISE

59 MARIA CLARA, QUEZON CITY 3008, PHILIPPINES

Specimen Shells, Black Coral Earrings, Necklaces and Bangles, Sea Urchin necklaces of assorted designs. Abaca fibre placemats, Heishei necklaces, Shell pictures

WRITE FOR FREE LIST

### AROUND THE GROUPS:

(Continued from page 3)

Port Elizabeth - certainly a record as the southern-most locality for this shell. From the same locality she had a fairly fresh *Strombus mutabilis*. Six members attended our field outing at the Port Elizabeth harbour on 15th October. A number of interesting shells were found, including a very good *Conus bairstowi* and a very fresh *Marginella bairstowi*. At our November meeting members got stuck into the families Triviidae and Lucinidae. Mrs Mears had a *Trivia globosa* from Kini Bay and Mr Graeve showed that curious bi-valve *Clistoconcha insignis* from Algoa Bay.

**EAST LONDON:** At our October meeting Joan Tasker, who had just returned from the Seychelles, told us of her holiday and experiences. She came home with some lovely shells. Derry Sinclair then spoke about the Muricidae, a very informative talk bringing out details and points we had not previously heard. He had a variety of specimens on display. It was noted that our field outing at Gonubie was successful but that nothing unusual had been found. Derry Sinclair told our November meeting of his visit to the Pretoria Group's Shell Show. He was most impressed and said that that Group deserved praise and had put on a wonderful exhibition. Good show Pretoria - Congratulations. Eva Roscoe then read notes she had made on how, where and when to collect shells. She also spoke on how to clean shells and prepare them for the collection, as well as cataloguing, arrangement and display.

**PRETORIA:** Due byeenkoms by ons Oktober vergadering is deur Laurie Smith geopen. Almal was bly om hom weer op die been te sien. Die finale reëlings vir die skou was baie bespreek. Daarna, Robert se praatjie oor Kenya, geïllustreer met besondere skyfies, was hoogs interessant.

### CHANGES TO JANUARY, 1977 MEMBERSHIP LIST

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

1977 Mr G. McEwan, 12 Eyton Road, Claremont 7700

#### RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs C.P.S. Allen, Simonstown  
Miss E. Els, Paarl.  
Master D. Levitt, Rondebosch  
Miss D. Levitt, Rondebosch  
Mrs A.A. Wright, Gordons Bay

#### DECEASED:

Mr C.P.S. Allen, Simonstown

#### NEW MEMBERS:

S Master J.R. Blaine, 10 Tarragona, Ringwood Drive, Pinelands 7405  
Mrs R. Weeks, 17 Bladon Court, Nightingale Way, Pinelands 7405  
S Master B. van Ginkel, P.O. Box 590, Heilbron 9650  
Dr M. Coleman, P.O. Box 9072, Johannesburg 2000  
Mr I. Yeroslavsky, 1 Trianon Flats, Avenue Marseilles, Sea Point 8001

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