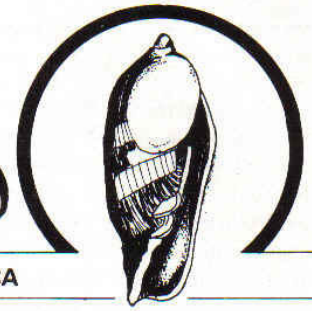


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 188

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1978

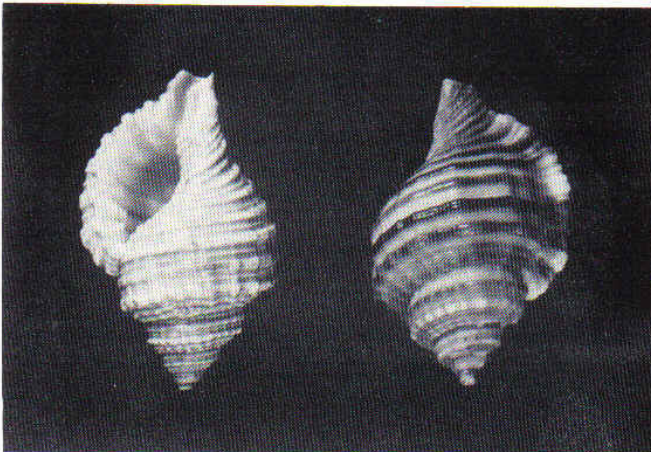
Page 1

WEST AFRICAN CORNER

by LUIS P. BURNAY and ANTÓNIO A. MONTEIRO

Following our purpose of presenting some poorly known species from the western coast of Africa, we presently concern ourselves with a member of family Cymatiidae which, until recently, was not usually referred to in currently available modern literature.

We are speaking of *Cumatium tranquebaricum* Lamarck, 1823.



Cumatium tranquebaricum Lamarck, 1823
(Luanda, Angola)

This is a medium-sized shell, generally brownish, sculptured with several dark brown longitudinal cords, with numerous longitudinal striae in between and with several transverse undulating folds. Varices are often present in the whorls, accounting for past growth stages.

The aperture presents a thick lip which forms a strong fold and has a number of coarse teeth on its inner margin. The lip is white, except in the ends of the longitudinal dark cords.

The columella is curved and has numerous folds in the anterior zone, as well as a very strong fold together with a second smaller one near the anal canal.

The Periostracum is thick, brown in colour and shows countless filaments which mainly accompany the transverse folds of the whorls.

(Continued on page 5)

KNYSNA – PART ONE

by KENNETH BROWN and MICHAEL CORTIE

DIVING AT THE HEADS

Knysna, with its picturesque lagoon and narrow portal of rocks known as the Heads, has an atmosphere all of its own, and was to become for us the location for the greatest variety of shelling experiences we had yet encountered . . .

The afternoon was hot and oppressive, and the seas were inviting, and so, clambering over the rocks on the lee of the eastern head we reached the water and donned our wetsuits, flippers and goggles, and entered this new, exciting world. The tide had just turned, and visibility was about 5 metres. It was proved by subsequent experience that the best time to dive was just before high tide during a neap tide period; for then the waters were at their clearest and were relatively calm. We were diving in a smallish bay indenting the coast, which had a rocky bottom and precipitous and cliff-like sides at the shore. Shell life abounded here, and large *Turbo sarmaticus* were to be found. By turning over boulders about 3–4 metres below the surface, we were astounded at the rich variety of life – sponges, urchins, worm tubes, bristle stars, anemones, sea-slugs and shells all abounded. The area yielded a brightly coloured *Calliostoma eucosmia*, which was immediately placed amongst other treasures in a canvas bag at my side; *Haliotis parvum* and *Haliotis spadicea* too were found, while *Argobuccinum argus* and *Charonia pustulata* were relatively common. Eventually not even antics in the cold water, such as lying spreadeagled upside down watching the mirror-surface rippling endlessly above you, could hold us any longer, and we clambered out onto the rocks to re-examine our shelling finds for the day.

In the subsequent days we dived in this area frequently, and each excursion into this blue-water world led us further out into the gulf, where the rocky bottom gradually gives way to endlessly rippled sand plains. When the lagoon drains into the sea on the turning of the tide, an 8 to 10 km/hr tide rushes through the narrow constriction between the Heads; and it was one of our firm rules to consult a tide-chart before either paddling out between the Heads in our canoe or skin diving in the area: we would only venture into mainstream when the tide was forcing itself into the lagoon, pushing inland, and this was a law which we always obeyed.

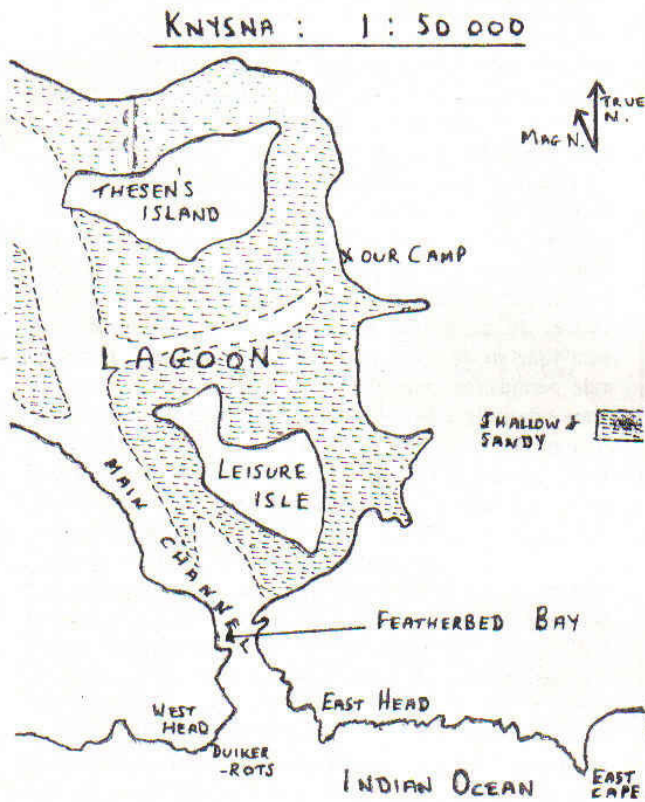
Once beyond the perimeters of the close shore, we

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

entered a sandy, almost vegetationless desert world beneath the sea, which sloped off into the deep blue of the main channel where the current was strong. It was upon one such occasion that quite by accident we swam over a strange, dark shape far below us in the haze. Down, down we dived into the mist and the vague outline of a hull with its solid contours of steel plates and girders became apparent, all thickly covered by growths.

This we found to be the wreck of the schooner the "Bakita", its beams and plates overgrown in a profusion of brightly arrayed sponges and feathery growths and seaweed. The swaying world was almost beyond our limits, since its depth left us little breath for extensive exploration; but constant diving gave us a general outline and layout of the wreck.



We often packed all our equipment for the day into the Indian canoe, and forging against the tide, we pointed the prow towards the open sea. The deep, rolling swells kept our wits ever sharp and heightened our vigilance for white water, which it was imperative for us to meet prow-first. The manoeuvre we were now to execute was to be exceedingly finely timed, for we now wished to approach the west head, and reach a large bay beyond Featherbed Bay, exposed to large, breaking waves. This entailed turning the canoe from the open sea quickly through about 120 degrees, with the entire side of the canoe against the swell for a short period, which was to be hazardous, for a tipover at this crucial stage would be disastrous.

Suddenly we had done it, and with an enormous swell behind us already forming a crested wave, we adopted 'standard procedure' and jumped from the canoe into the

water, and steadied it for the onslaught. Shaken and wet we arrived on shore in a flurry of foam, and a warm fire revived us there.

We explored the rough, broken shore, and discovered such features as a blowhole cave and deep chasms and rock bridges and arches through which the sea rushed and pounded. On calm days the nooks in this area would probably be the best for shelling, with its fine grottos and rocky floor and sides.

The return from this bay was equally inspiring, and thoroughly deserving of a hearty meal afterwards.

In this general vicinity of the Heads we found specimens of *Haliotidae* – *Haliotis parvum* and *H. spadicea*; *Patellidae* – several species; *Fissurellidae* – *Fissurella mutabilis*; *Trochidae* – *Calliostoma eucosmia*, *Oxysteles sinensis*, *Oxysteles tigrina*, *Oxysteles variegata*; *Turbinidae* – *Turbo sarmaticus* and *T. cidaris*; *Calyptraeidae* – *Crepidula porcellana*; *Turritellidae* – *Turritella carinifera*; *Cymatiidae* – *Argobuccinum argus*, *Charonia pustulata*, *Cymatium parthenopium* . . . all these and many more shells were specimens found close off shore; the only parameter linking them all being that they were all found in rocky areas, generally entirely sand-free. In fact many of our specimens were found in sandy spits and similar areas, and will be dealt with in detail in "Knysna – Part Two 'Shelling on the sandbanks'".

SUBSCRIPTIONS

In terms of the powers vested in the Council in terms of Clause 5(a) of the Constitution, we have to announce that your Council have found it necessary to increase the Annual Subscription with effect from 1 July 1978. The new fees will be as follows:

- (a) Ordinary member receiving the Strandloper R5,00 per annum
- (b) Ordinary member not receiving the Strandloper R2,00 per annum
(This will apply to husbands and/or wives of Ordinary members who receive the Strandloper)
- (c) Corresponding members i.e. those not resident within the Republic of South Africa or adjoining territories R6,00 or U.S.\$9,00 per annum
- (d) Student members R2,00 per annum

Entrance Fee, which is not payable by Student members remains unchanged at R1,00 except that where a husband and wife join together only one Entrance Fee is payable.

EXCHANGES WANTED

- Mr F. Cabral, P.O. Box 313, Westport Point, Westport, Mass. 02791 U.S.A. Would like to contact members with view to exchanging cypraea.
- Mr C.M. Miller, 2945 Noonan Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Is primarily a cypraea and marginella collector and would like to contact members with a view to exchanging.
- Mr Innocenti Luigi, Viale Guidoni 191, 50127 Firenze, Italy. Would like to contact members with a view to exchange.

AN ILLUSTRATED LIST OF THE MARINE ANIMALS WHICH INHABIT THE INTER-TIDAL REGION OF UMDONI PARK, NATAL SOUTH COAST

Compiled by
Mrs I.F. Lambert and Miss A. Lambert

Umdoni Park is situated 82 km South of Durban (latitude 30° 42' E; longitude 30° 23' S).

In 1920 Sir Frank Reynolds converted his personal ownership of Umdoni Park into a Trust which preserved the Estate for the pleasure of visitors and an opportunity was made available for studies of the flora and fauna.

The research which has been carried out so far includes a study on birds (McLean 1972), the vegetation (Guy and Jarman 1969) and the geology (Cain and Connell 1971).

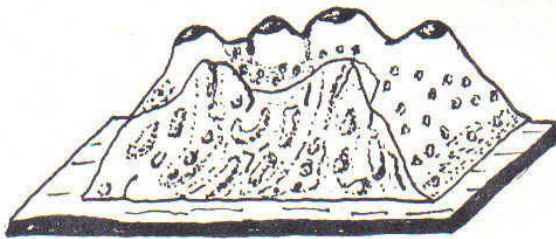
The illustrated check list given in this paper is part of an ecological survey on the intertidal marine life carried out in 1975/76 (Lambert 1977).

The rocky shore is formed of Table Mountain Sandstone which extends from the grass verge into the sea. It is comprised of numerous pools, gulleys, ridges, verticles and overhangs. Tidal range is estimated to be about two to three metres.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE INVERTEBRATES AT UMDONI PARK

PHYLUM PROFERA (Simple multicellular animals with loose aggregations of cells forming tissues not organs. Sessile and porous).

Common Name: Sponge.



½ – 5 cm wide

Flat, amorphous spongy material covering rocks. Colour: red, blue, grey, white or yellow. Many species. Found under overhangs, at base of seaweeds, in water.

PHYLUM BRYOZOA (Small, colonial filter feeding animals that live in chitinous or calcareous homes).

Common Name: Sea-mat or False-coral.



½ – variable (see Day, 1975)

Delicate branching stems with regularly arranged side branches. They represent a colony of animals. Found attached to plants, animals, often on protected sides of pools. Common.

PHYLUM COELENTERATA (Colonial or solitary animals that are sessile. Body is cylindrical with an upper crown of tentacles. It may be fleshy and brightly coloured or hard and leathery, lacking in bright colour).

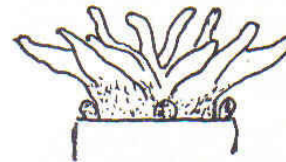
CLASS ANTHOZOA

ORDER ACTINIARIA (Common Name: Solitary Sea Anemone).

GENERA *Actina*, *Anemonia*, *Anthopleura*, *Bunodactis* and *Pseudactinia*.

SPECIES

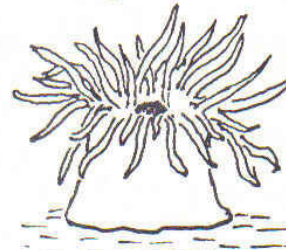
Actinia equina Linn.



3 cm long

Bright red animal which closes up when exposed at low tide. This is to conserve water. Found on verticals, usually shaded, high up shore.

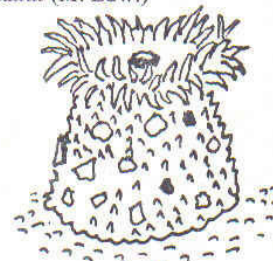
Anemonia natalensis Carlgr.



1 cm long

Very small, green and colonial animals. Usually found under overhangs below the verticals.

Bunodactis reynadui (M. Edw.)



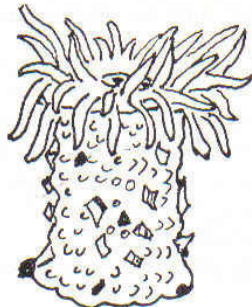
½ – 3 cm long

Many coloured animals, often covered in sand grains, which affords some protection. Found in rock pools, and abundant amongst mussel colonies. The latter anemones are generally white.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Anthopleura michaelsoni Pax



3 cm long

Many coloured animals buried deep into crevices. When touched animals withdraw so that it is impossible to remove them. Bodies are protected by sand grains. Found throughout the shore, particularly the middle shore.

Pseudactinia flagellifera (Hertw.)



2 cm long

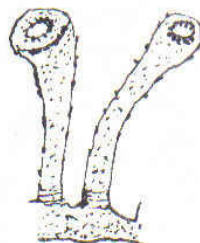
Very flabby, bright red animals which do not withdraw quickly when touched. Often in colonies in rock pools in the lower shore.

ORDER ZOANTHIDEA (Common Name: Colonial Sea Anemone).

GENUS *Palythoa*

SPECIES

Palythoa nelliae Pax.



3 - 4 mm long

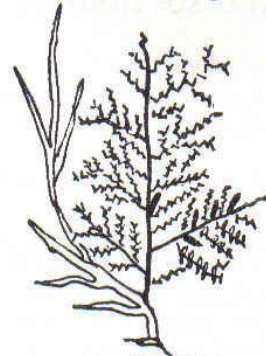
Very small, brown, cylindrical animals with swollen apices. Very short tentacles. Stiff and sandy to the touch. Found in colonies in pools, on rock ledges and particularly in small groups at the bases of the seaweeds. Common in the lower shore.

ORDER HYDROZOA (Common Name: Hydroid).

GENUS

SPECIES

Unidentified, possibly *Sertularella* sp.



1 - 2 cm high

A colony of microscopic animals in a branched skeleton which is impregnated with sand. Attached to plants which are always submerged or exposed momentarily. Particularly abundant in the lower shore.

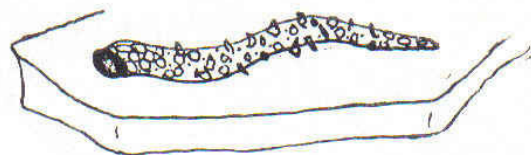
PHYLUM ANNELIDA (Segmented worms with a soft skin and bilaterally symmetrical bodies. Locomotion aided by rows of bristles (setae) or leg-like projections (parapodia) arising directly from the body wall).

CLASS POLYCHAETA (Common Name: Bristle Worm).

GENERA *Idanthyrsus*, *Platynereis* and *Pomatoleis*.

SPECIES

Idanthyrsus pennatus (Peters)



3 cm long

Animal makes hard, sandy tubes on rock at the middle level of the shore.

Pomatoleis kraussii (Baird)



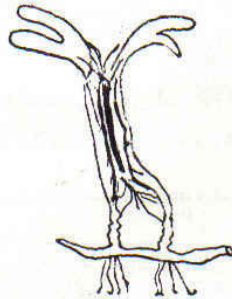
1 cm long

Mass of blue-white coiled, coralline tubes. On the lower edges of verticals and ridges which are constantly moist.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Platynereis dumerilii (Aud. & M. Edw.)



4 cm long

Animal is solitary, glues seaweed fronds together to form a tube. Common in the lower shore.

PHYLUM ARTHROPODA (Animals with segmented bodies covered with a calcareous/chitinous exo-skeleton. Growth takes place by a series of moults).

CLASS

ORDER CIRRIPIEDIA (Common Name: Barnacle).

GENERA *Chthalamus*, *Octomeris* and *Tetraclita*

SPECIES

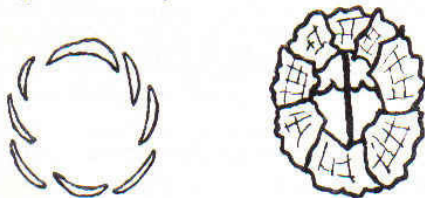
Chthalamus dentatus Krauss



½ - 1 cm diameter

Low domed skeletons formed of 6 shell-plates. Colour dirty white. Common in colonies in the upper shore. There appear to be two forms of this species. One typifies *Chthalamus dentatus*. The second is much smaller and flatter. It may be *Balanus trignois* Darwin.

Octomeris angulosa Sowerby



½ - 1½ cm diameter

High, dirty-white skeletons formed of eight overlapping shell-plates. Shell-plates are deeply ridged. Common in colonies in the wetter area of the shore, at the base of verticals and on ridges.

TO BE CONTINUED

WEST AFRICAN CORNER (Continued from page 1)

Specimens of this species have been collected in the past few years at several points of Angola, around Luanda. Moreover, one of the authors has personally collected a few specimens in the islands of Cape Verde. It should be noticed that many of the specimens found were dead beached shells, only a few living animals have been recorded. This leaves us at a loss as to its precise habitat conditions, although some specimens did occur on rocky bottoms, in the same places where *Cymatium trigonum* Gmelin, 1790 (a well known species) was found.

The species seems to be moderately rare, and can well be considered a "collector's item" for the family Cymatiidae, along the West coast of Africa.

That it is rather widely distributed is demonstrated not only by what we have said above, but also by the fact that Augusto Nobre also indicates the species as occurring in the island of S. Tomé.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Reeve, L.A. (1843-1878), "Conchologia Iconica"
- Nobre, Augusto (1909), "Matériaux pour l'étude de la faune malacologique des possessions portugaises de l'Afrique occidentale".

AROUND THE GROUPS

Johannesburg: At our February meeting we discussed methods of finding sand dwelling shells, localities and why certain species are so localised. During our meetings to come we hope to have a microscope evening, identifying minute shells. We also hope to be shown how to remove, preserve and identify radula. We are also hoping to have a talk on fossil shells.

East London: Our December meeting was informal. Each member brought a shell wrapped in Christmas paper for our Lucky Dip. We had a braaivleis and exchanged yarns and shelling experiences. Not having had a meeting during January, there was great interest and excitement at our February meeting. Projects for the year were discussed after which the shells collected during December and January were admired and discussed.

Pretoria: Several members who had spent their holidays at the coast brought their finds to our January meeting. A programme of shells for display, discussion and talks for the coming year was then discussed. Don Aiken word aan ons Februarie vergadering voorgestel. Sy praatjie het drie onderwerpe gedek: Hoe en waar om skulpe te identifiseer, gepaard met 'n paar uitstekende wenke; Die familie Littorinidae waarvan die nege Suid-Afrikaanse spesies was bekend is, deeglik bespreek word; en die Radula van Skulpe.

Port Elizabeth: It was reported at our February meeting that a non-member, a Mrs Matlock had found a live *Cypraca annulus* at Seaview, the second shell of this species recently found live along this part of the coast. The family Turridae was then discussed. From the Eastern Cape 35 different species of this family were on display.

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(Founded 1958)

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CHANGES TO THE JANUARY 1978 MEMBERSHIP LIST

A complete list of members as at January 1978 was recently sent
to all members. All known changes of address and all new members
since the last issue of the Strandloper were incorporated in the new
list. The following changes have come about since January:-

Change of Address:

Mr and Mrs A.G. Enslin, 503 Avignon, 147 Vlok St. Sunnyside
Pretoria 0002.

Mrs H. Bebbington, 7 High Street, Knysna 6570.

Change of Name:

Miss J.M. Pinkham, 4 Armon Court, Merriman Rd. Goodwood 7460
is now Mrs J.M. van Huysteen.

New Members:

Mrs P. Rose, 16 Viewmount Way, Links, Somerset West 7130
Mr T.R. Duncan, 131 Burger Ave., Lyttelton, Verwouldberg 0140.

Additions/Omissions:

1975 - Mr A.D. Da Silva Ramalho, Avenida de Portugal 18-A,
Estoril, Portugal.

1965 - Mr C.C. Appleton, P.O. Box 634, Nelspruit.

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