



## Notes on the South African endemic Cypraeadea : *Cypraeovula* Gray, 1824, *Luponia* Broderip, 1837; and *Crossia* Shikama, 1974

by Vellies Veldsman

The objective is to give an overview of the endemic genera *Cypraeovula* Gray, 1824; *Luponia* Broderip, 1837 and *Crossia* Shikama, 1974, Family Cypraeidae, Subfamily Erroneinae, Schilder, 1927, Tribe Cypraeovulini Schilder, 1927. All the members of these genera occur in South African waters from Port Nolloth

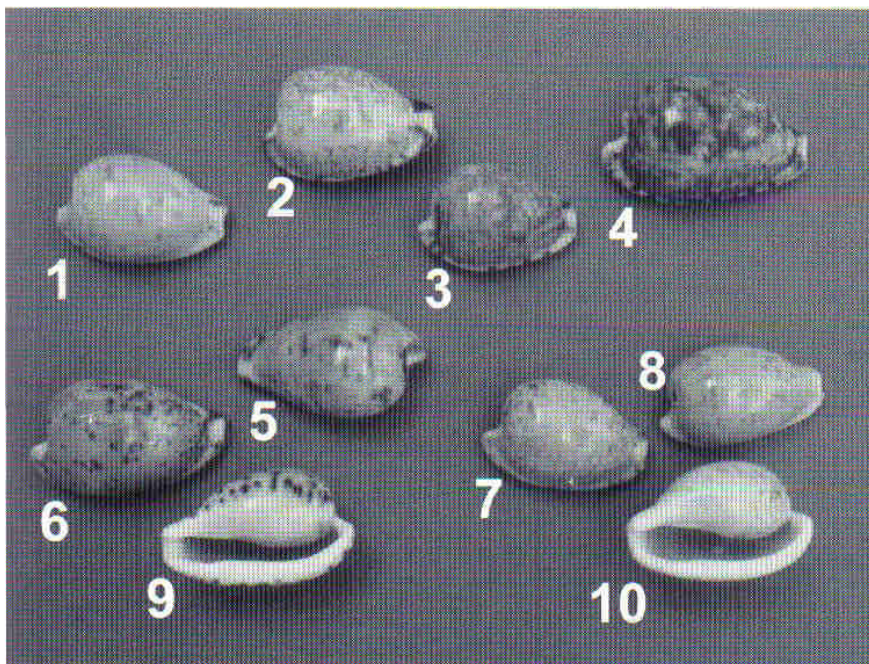
on the West Coast to just north of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). Lorenz and Hubert, 1993 mention that these genera seem most closely related to the Australian *Notocypraea* genus. Lorenz and Hubert, 1993 distinguish two groups namely *Algoensis* and *Crossia*. Raybaudi, 1994 and 1995 made a distinction between

*Cypraeovula* (relief ribbed cowries), *Luponia* (smooth cowries) and *Crossia*.

### Algoensis-Group

Elongate to pyriform and solid shell with distinct fossula.

1. *Cypraeovula capensis* (Gray, 1828)  
Synonyms. *galactina* Sull, 1924 and *albolineata* Turton, 1924  
Size. 19 26 32 38 mm  
Distribution. Jeffrey's Bay to central KZN.  
Habitat. Lives under stone and sponges on sandy areas at 8-25m between Jeffrey's Bay and southern Transkei. From northern Transkei to KZN at depths exceeding 100m.



- 1 : *Luponia edentula edentula* (Gray, 1825)
- 2,3 : *Luponia edentula astonensis* Lorenz & Hubert, 1993 [Cape St Francis]
- 4, 6, 9 : *Luponia edentula nagoonensis* Lorenz, 1989 [East London]
- 7, 8, 10 : *Luponia edentula edentula* (Gray, 1825) [Port Elizabeth]



Remarks. Trawled at depths of between 150-450m. Sometimes live in intertidal zone (Eastern Cape). Moderately common. Shell has ribs on dorsum and margins unspotted.

1.1 *C. c.* fm. *elizabethensis* Rous, 1905

Remarks. Ribs attenuated dorsally; brownish; faint marginal spotting.

1.2 *C. c.* fm. *gonubiensis* Massier, 1993

Distribution. East London area.

Remarks. Inflated; purple when fresh; dorsal blotch small and distinct.

### 1.3 Geographical forms

On the bases of geographical separation Hayes, 1993 recognised four different forms of *C. capensis* namely Gonubie, Schoenmakerskop, Fish River and Algoa Bay.

#### Gonubie form

Pinky-grey colour. In some species deep mauve almost purple. The almost purple colouring is more pronounced along the labrum. The shape is of a squatter native, with the labrum being quite round. Live at 15-30m along open coast.

#### Fish River form

Striking bluish-white ground colour, becoming almost white ventrally. Dark dorsal blotch. Same size as Algoa Bay form but heavier than the Gonubie form. Live at 15-30m along open coast.

#### Algoa Bay form

Beige-yellow or tan colour with a dark dorsal blotch. The margins are usually a darker beige brown colour. This form is more elongate. Live at 10-25m in sheltered bays.

#### Schoenmakerskop form

Colour close to Algoa Bay form. The ribs are a beige-brown colour but between the ribs it is a pale lavender giving an overall greyish appearance. The ribs tend to be stronger and more widely spaced. The dorsal blotch is absent while the shell is larger and more bulbous. Live at 20-25m along open coast.

Two other forms are *C. c. sphaerica* and *C. c. immaculata*.

2. *Cypraeovula-Luponia amphithalis* (Melville, 1888)

Size. 20 25 30 33 mm

Distribution. Port Elizabeth to East London.

Habitat. Under stones amongst sponges between 8 - 15m.

Remarks. Intergraded between *C. capensis* and *L. edentula*. Moderately common as beach shell. Rarely *ex pisces* from deeper water. Live taken shells rare. Shell with ribs restricted to margins and aperture. Margins white and spotted. The degree of ribbing varies greatly; also shape and coloration may vary so that it is difficult to figure out which is a true *C.-L. amphithalis* (Melville, 1888).

2.1 *C.-L. amphithalis perdentata* Raybaudi, 1995

Remarks. Shell stout and globose. Possibly an interbreed between deep-water *C. capensis* and deep water *L. fuscodentata*.

2.2 *C.-L. amphithalis iutsuina* Raybaudi, 1995

Remarks. Interbreed between deep-water forms of *C. capensis* and *C. iutsui*. Occur at depths of 60-200m. Very rare.

2.3. *C.-L. amphithalis alfrediana* Raybaudi, 1994

Remarks. Hybrid between *L. alfredensis* and *C. capensis*.

3. *Luponia edentula edentula* (Gray, 1825)

Size. 11 18 24 34 mm

Distribution. Cape St. Francis to northern Transkei.

Habitat. Very common under stones amongst sponges between 5 - 40m. Rarely found in intertidal zone amongst rocks.

Remarks. Rarely *ex pisces*. More sinistral shells than any other cowry species.

Shell has no distinct teeth with orange to reddish colour. Dorsum mottled and no blotched. Common.

3.1 *Luponia edentula astonensis* Lorenz & Hubert, 1993

Distribution. Jeffrey's Bay to Cape St. Francis.

Remarks. Deep water; very callous; marginal spotting less dense.

3.2 *Luponia edentula nahoensis* Lorenz, 1989

Size. 15 22 26 34 mm

Distribution. Ciskei to northern Transkei.

Habitat. At low tide level under large boulders in turbid water normally after strong hurricanes.

Remarks. Solid large shell. Dorsum densely molted. Marginal spotting dense and confluent. Moderately common.

4. *Luponia alfredensis* (Schilder & Schilder, 1929)

Size. 18 21 27 32mm

Distribution. Cape St. Francis/Jeffrey's Bay area to southern Transkei coast.

Habitat. Under rocks at depths of 5-25m.

Remarks. There are two variations namely Port Elizabeth and Transkei types. The largest, often denticulate specimens come from Transkei. Dorsum often with one blotch, labrum produced and no distinct teeth. Moderately rare.

5. *Luponia algoensis algoensis* (Gray, 1825)

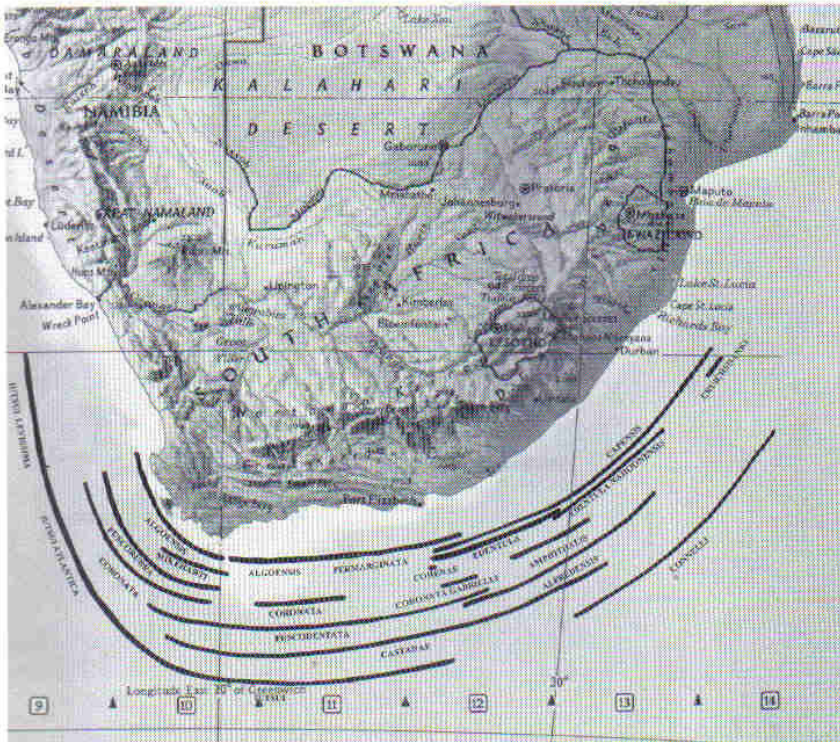
Size. 17 21 27 33mm

Distribution. Shallow from Cape Columbine to Cape Agulhas and deeper water to Algoa Bay.

Habitat. On rock walls, exposed during daytime between 12 - 50m.

Remarks. This very variable species occurs in all shades of colour, from all white to purple, mainly orange to white, rarely pink. The West Coast specimens are largest in size and usually chestnut or apricot coloured dorsally. Shell distinct and strong teeth and marginal spots. Labrum callous. True albino or albinistic are infrequently seen. Some shells are milky white overall. Moderately common.





**Remarks.** Some authors consider *L. mikharti* an ecological variety of *L. algoensis*, namely *L. algoensis* form *batsatensis* (Bodoni, 1985) (Steyn and Lussi, 1998). Uncommon.

8. *Luponia coronata* (Schilder, 1930).

**Size.** 25 29 34 38 mm

**Distribution.** West Cape (Dassen Island) to Cape Agulhas between 30 - 50m; Hermanus (Deepwater) and Jeffrey's Bay- Port Elizabeth area up to the Great Kei River mouth.

**Habitat.** On and under rocks amongst soft coral 30 - 50m. Occasionally in crayfish traps from 80 - 250m.

**Remarks.** *L. coronata* occasionally interbreeds with *L. algoensis* and more rarely with *L. fusciorubra*.

8.1 *Luponia coronata immaculata* Raybaudi, 1986

**Distribution.** Atlantic Ocean.

**Remarks.** Greyish to pink without spots.

8.2. *Luponia coronata gabrielli* Lorenz & Hubert, 1993

**Size.** 24,7-27,1 mm

**Distribution.** Cape St. Francis to Jeffrey's Bay.

**Habitat.** Inside yellow and red sponges on high profile reef-pinnacles at 42 - 45m depth.

**Remarks.** Narrow and elongate. Margins irregular and tuberculate with nodules. Columellar teeth coarser, mostly reaching across base.

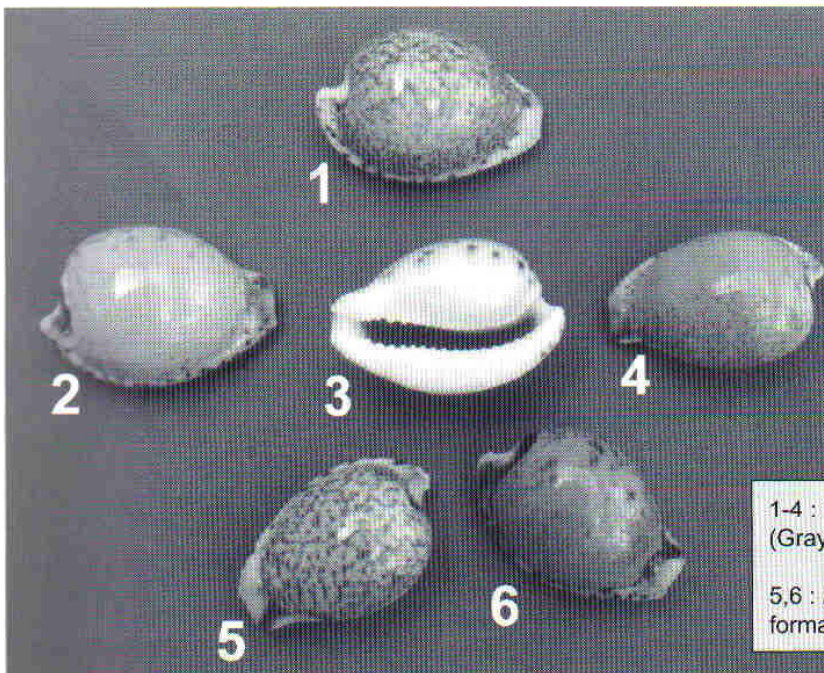
9. *Luponia fuscudentata* (Gray, 1825)

**Size.** 22 31 38 44 mm

**Distribution.** False Bay to Cape Recife.  
**Habitat.** On sponges and under rocks and kelp roots between 5- 25m. In cray fish pots from 80 - 250m.

6. *Luponia algoensis permarginata* Lorenz, 1989  
**Size.** 17 19 23 25mm  
**Distribution.** Cape Agulhas to Algoa Bay in deep water (100-400m). Jeffrey's Bay 35-45m.

7. *Luponia mikharti* Lorenz 1985  
**Size.** 18 19 23 25mm  
**Habitat.** Under black sponges and kelp roots in turbid water. Mostly between 5-8m, very rarely deeper than 20m.



1-4 : *Luponia algoensis algoensis* (Gray, 1825)

5,6 : *Luponia algoensis algoensis* in formal 'peppercorn' form



**Remarks.** Narrow aperture with brown dentition reaching the margin labrally. Dorsum mottled with brown. Margins never spotted. Species varies greatly. There are several names proposed to separate local variation (e.g. *occidentalis* and *orientalis*) of which none seems necessary considering the enormous variability of this species. Common.

9.1 *Luponia fuscudentata* fm. *sphaerica* Raybaudi, 1986

**Distribution.** Port Elizabeth to Cape Agulhas.

**Habitat.** Deep water.

**Remarks.** Depressed and heavy.

10. *Luponia fuscrobura* (Shaw, 1909)

**Size.** 21 30 36 41 mm

**Distribution.** Cape Columbine- Table Bay area to Cape Agulhas.

**Habitat.** On rocks during daytime between 25 - 45 m. Feeds on demo sponges and supplements its diet with algal and bryozoon material.

**Remarks.** Oval, with callous margins.

Strong teeth, slightly extending on both sides but not reaching the unspotted margins. Dorsum finely mottled with brown. Base yellow. Hybrids of *L. fuscrobura* with *L. fuscudentata*, *L. coronata* and *L. algoensis* are known. Moderately common.

11. *Luponia cohenae* (Burgess, 1965)

**Size.** 17 24 28 31mm

**Distribution.** Jeffrey's Bay to Aston Bay.

**Habitat.** Up to 1993 no live species had been collected. Crabbed species 25m depth.

**Remarks.** Possible hybrid of *L. fuscudentata* and *L. edentula* although Raybaudi, 1991 indicated that *L. cohenae* is a deep-water species and not a hybrid. Very rare.

12. *Luponia castanea* Higgins, 1868

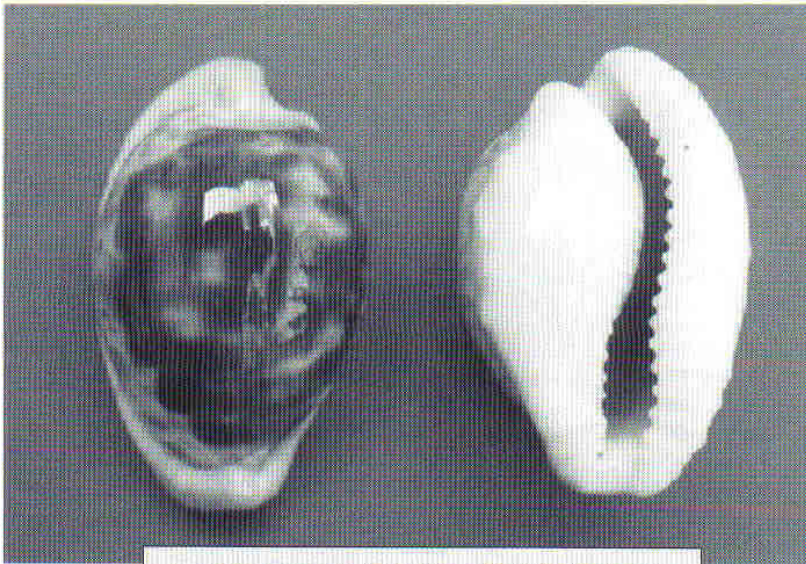
(*Cypraea verhoefi* Burgess, 1965)

**Size.** 28 34 42 48 mm

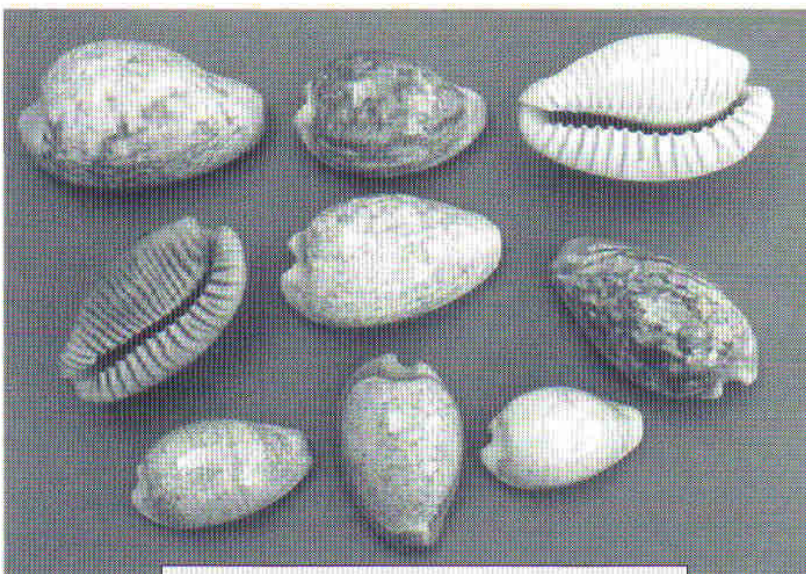
**Distribution.** False Bay to north of East London.

**Habitat.** Amongst soft coral and rubble at 45 to 65m on high-profile reef.

**Remarks.** Lorenz and Hubert, 1993 mention that the name *verhoefi* was introduced to replace *L. castanea* Higgins, 1868 which was claimed to be pre-occupied by *Cypraea castanea* Röding, 1798. Burgess decided to use the Linnaean genus *Cypraea* and was allowed to give this rare South African shell a new name *Cypraea verhoefi* Burgess, 1982 because the older name *castanea* was preoccupied within the genus *Cypraea*. If another person like L. Raybaudi Massilia chooses to consider the cowries as a family with many genera the same shell carries the old name *Notocypraea castanea* Higgins, 1868. In this case, the name *Luponia castanea* remains valid and has priority over the younger name *C. verhoefi* Burgess, 1965. Very rare in good condition.



*Luponia coronata* (Schilder, 1930) [False Bay]



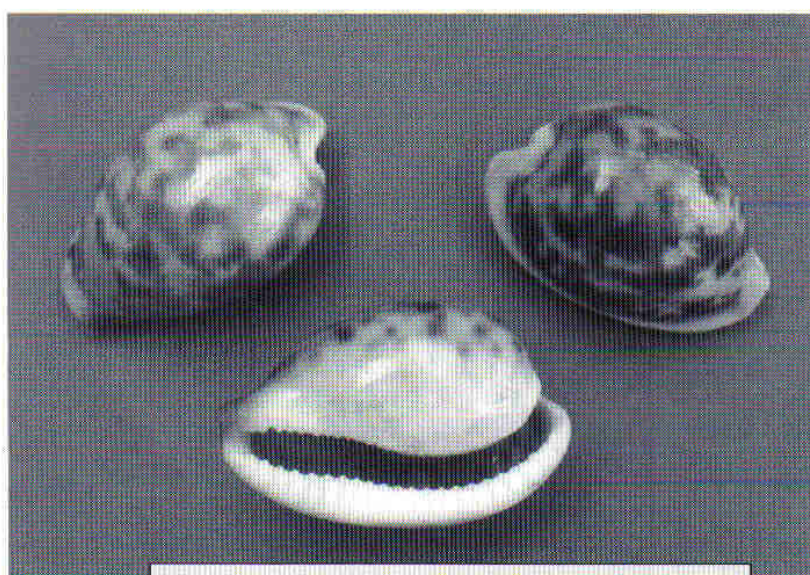
*Luponia fuscudentata* (Gray, 1825) [False Bay]

[Editor's note added in print- The question of genera or sub-genera within the Cypraeidae and Conidae is a bit problematic, and readers may expect this to be quite an unsettled situation until scientists have finished comparing the results of anatomical and genetic examinations. ]





*Luponia fuscorubra* (Shaw, 1909) [Hout Bay]



*Luponia castanea* Higgins, 1868 [Cape St. Francis]

### Crossia-Group.

Globular shells mostly with spiny extremities.

13. *Crossia cruickshanki* (Kilburn, 1972)

Size. 18 27 33 35mm

Distribution. Natal, Durban area.

Habitat. Trawled smooth bottom at

depths between 350 - 650m (water temperature between 9°C to 12°C).

Remarks. Compare with *C. iutsui* and *C. connelli*. Very rare

14. *Crossia iutsui* Shikama, 1974

Size. 23 26 33 39mm

Distribution. Western Cape to Port Alfred

Habitat. Crayfish pots from 200-400m. Single specimens have been dived at Betty's Bay and Jeffrey's Bay.

Remarks. Compare *C. cruickshanki* with *Austrocypraea reevei* and *L. castanea*

14.1. *Crossia iutsui atlantica* Raybaudi, 1988

Size. 23-39 mm

Distribution. West coast from Elephants River to Cape Point.

Habitat. Rock walls, usually after rough weather at depth of 45 - 60m.

Remarks. No or very faint blotches. Solid shell.

14.1. *Crossia iutsui levissima* Raybaudi, 1995

Distribution. Port Nolloth southwards along the Namaqualand coast.

Remarks. Large, extremely lightweight.

Habitat. Trawled at depths of 300 to 350m.

15. *Crossia connelli* (Liltved, 1983)

Size. 20 22 27 29 mm

Distribution. East London to Natal, north of Durban.

Habitat. Dredge and crayfish pots at depths of 60 - 150m.

Remarks. Compare *L. algoensis* and deep water *L. coronata*. Extremely rare.

15.1 *Crossia connelli peelae* Lorenz & Hubert, 1993

Depth. Deep water.

Distribution. Natal.

Remarks. Callous rotund. Extremities less rostrate. Possible intergrade between *C. connelli* and *C. cruickshanki*. Extremely rare

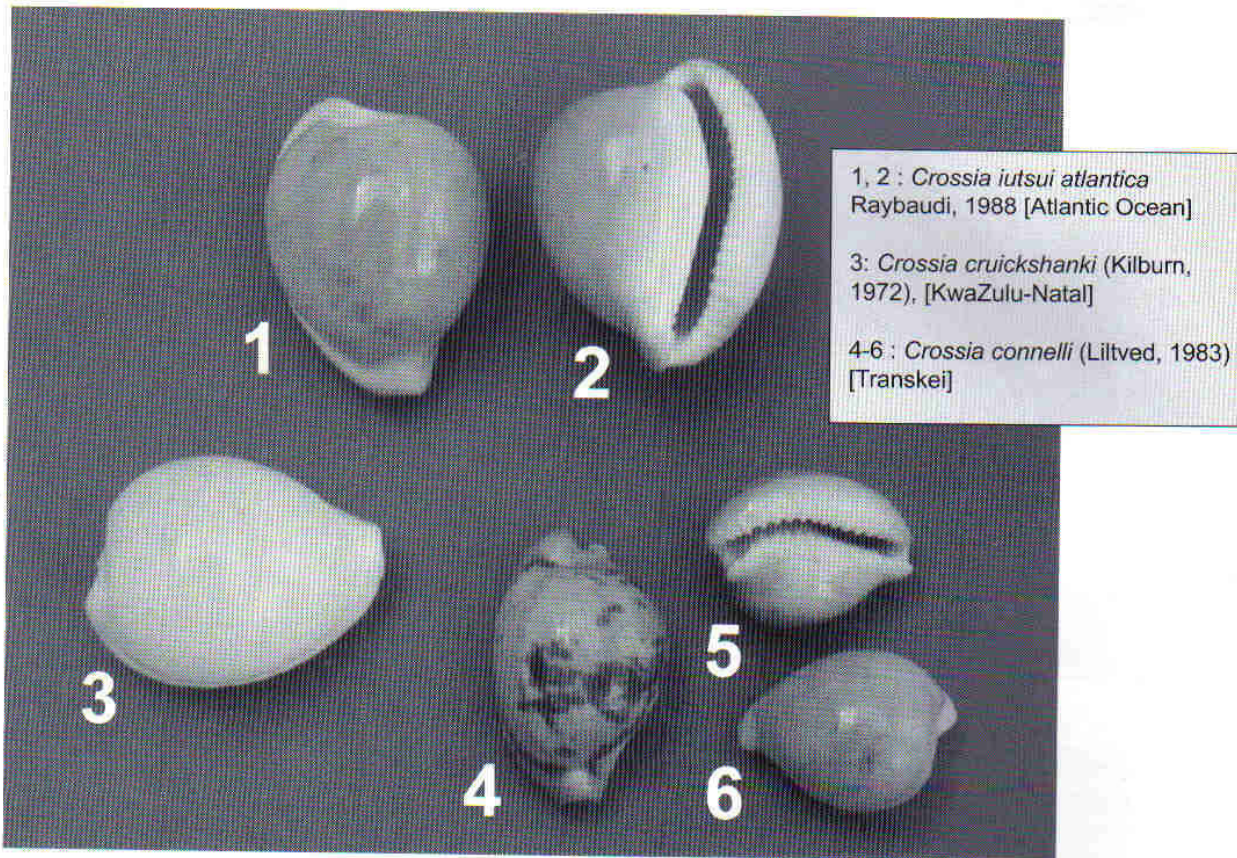
16. *cf. Crossia iutsui* / *Luponia castanea* (*Cypraeaovula castanea latebrosa* Swart & Liltved 2000),

Depth. Deep-water +120m

Distribution. south Cape

Remarks. Various authors mention the existence of a deep water *Cypraea verhoefi* Burgess, 1965 (Liltved, 1989).





1, 2 : *Crossia iutsui atlantica*  
Raybaudi, 1988 [Atlantic Ocean]

3: *Crossia cruickshanki* (Kilburn,  
1972), [KwaZulu-Natal]

4-6 : *Crossia connelli* (Liltved, 1983)  
[Transkei]

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## Communication December 2000

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will start at 9:30 on 6 May 2001 and will be held at the National Botanical Gardens in Pretoria (in the east, near Geosciences and CSIR). After a welcoming cup of tea/coffee, there will be a 'landsnail' field trip and some hands-on lessons in snail collecting under the guidance of Dr Mike Cortie and Mrs K. du Preez. Videos on sea life will be screened for those not wishing to take part.

The exhibition's theme this year will be "One describer". Please bring one or more entries comprising only three shells each. Each entry must be linked to one of the sub-themes - artistic, scientific, beginner or general. The Trophy will be awarded to the entry whose three shells most appropriately matches the stated sub-theme and which presents a fascinating aspect of shells or shell collecting. (The three shell limit is because we may have to walk some distance from the car park to the venue!)

Lunch will be served at 12:30 (R30 per head) and the business part of the meeting will start at 13:30. It will comprise:

1. Reports
2. Election of office-bearers from the following nominations:

Patron: Dr R N Kilburn

President: Mr Vellies Veldsman

Vice President: Mr Jelle Lammers

Secretary: Mrs Kobie du Preez

Treasurer: Ms Christelle Deysel

Three Members: Ms Jeanie Willemse, Mr Stephan Veldsman, Mr Maurice Evans

Strandloper: Dr. Mike Cortie

3. General

Only members whose subscriptions for 2000/2001 are paid may vote. Members may exercise a Proxy Vote and these must reach the secretary, P O Box 32748, Glenstantia, 0010 before 30 April 2001.



All members are urged to attend. If there are people who want to stay over, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can arrange accommodation.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions for next year (2001/2002) will be as follows:

**Local Members : R75. Overseas Members : US\$50 for 2 year period.**

**Life Members :** No subscription but if they want to receive the *Strandloper* they need to pay R50. **Pensioner Members (before November 1999) :** R25 but if they wish to receive the *Strandloper* they need to pay an additional R50 (total R 75).

### Errata

In the last *Strandloper* No 262 it was wrongly indicated that Vellies Veldsman sent in the news of the Pretoria Group. It was sent in by Joh Groenewald.

Please correct the following on the first page of *Strandloper* 262 :

May 1999 should read May 1998

**Contended** should read **continued**  
**Governorship** should read **Convenor**. **Life member** should read **Life Members**

### New members.

Welcome to the following members.

P (Flip) Jooste

P. J. C. van Zyl

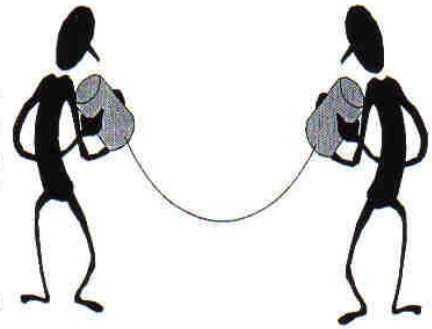
I Yeroslavsky (Israel)

### Advertisement

The following overseas magazines advertised the *Strandloper* in their publications.

### Xenophora

Association Francaise de  
Conchyliogic  
1 Impasse Guemenee  
Paris 75004  
France



### Vita Marina

P.O.Box 64628  
2506 CA Den Haag  
Netherlands

### Argonauta

Associazione Malacologica  
Internazionale (A.M.I.)

### Western Australia Shell Club

C/O Schneider  
4 McKay Street  
Bentley, WA 6102  
Australia

### La Conchiglia

Att. Ed. Mrs. K Nivolay  
Via Cesare Frederici 1  
00147 Rome  
Italy

### Donations.

We record our thanks to the following for donations of money, shells for sale, sponsored pages in the *Strandloper* and a trophy.

Natal Durban Group

South Coast Group whose raffle of shells made over R900.

Arrie Jooste (shells)

Danny and his wife, who sponsored a page for R300

Willie Immelman who sponsored a page for R300

Jelle Lammers (trophy)

Mnr. Lourens

M. C. Fouchè

Mrs. C Connelly

Mr. Marcham

Iorry Evans

J M Joseph

Gorlu Sandro

M v. d. Spuy

C Richter

K du Preez

O Meyer.

Stephan Veldsman



continued from page 7

## Afrikaans in die Strandloper

Verskeie versoeke is aan ons gerig vir die plasing van meer Afrikaanse artikels in die *Strandloper*. Tydens die bestuurskomiteevergadering gehou in November, is hierdie versoek noukeurig bespreek. Sedert Dr. Cortie Redakteur is het daar meer Afrikaanse artikels verskyn as in die verlede. Dankie Mike.



Ons ontvang ongelukkig nie baie Afrikaanse artikels vir plasing nie, en ons wil lede uitnooi om sulke artikels in te stuur. Om voorsiening te maak vir die groot hoeveelheid lesers wat nie Afrikaans geletterd is nie, sal 'n Engelse samevatting of vertaling (moontlik verkort) die artikel vergesel. Wetenskaplike artikels sal sover moontlik volledig vertaal word. Die Redakteur sal dit natuurlik waardeur as u 'n Engelse weergawe saam met u artikel kan instuur, en sal, indien nodig, die nodige klein veranderings vir jou maak.

[English : The language issue was recently discussed by the Executive Committee. We reiterate that we will print articles in either English or Afrikaans, but that Afrikaans text will in general be accompanied by a translation (possibly abbreviated) in English.]



Illustration courtesy 1995  
Broken shells from Port Macquarie, N.S.W.

C. Pye

## Flotsam

### Grandest shell book ever?

If you have a bit of spare cash (about US\$350 or R2800 or so!), you may wish to consider what is being billed as the 'LARGEST and NEWEST Mollusk book in the WORLD!!!'. The book, *Marine Mollusks in Japan* was published by the Tokai University Press and covers 5106 species. All are said to be illustrated in colour or, if very small, with scanning electron microscope photographs. See [www.press.tokai.ac.jp/issu/marine/index.html](http://www.press.tokai.ac.jp/issu/marine/index.html) for more details or contact Kotaro Tsuchiya at [ktsuchiya@sbnature2.org](mailto:ktsuchiya@sbnature2.org).

## Thanks to Kobie du Preez

I am very grateful to Kobie du Preez of the Pretoria Group for putting together the previous issue of *Strandloper*, which I was not able to work on due to other pressures on my time. It was a very interesting newsletter, and it was a rare pleasure to receive and read a *Strandloper* without having to do any work !

## Move over Methuselah?

Some people say that the North American clam, *Arctica islandica*, is one of the world's longest living animals, with lifespans estimated to be up to 220 years. The claim for its long life is based on microscopic examination of its fine growth lines, supposedly laid down on an annual basis. However, sceptics have speculated that the growth lines might be laid down more often than annually, and that the bivalves are really only a few decades old at most.

[Source : *Mollusca Discussion Group* at [mollusca@ucmp1.berkeley.edu](mailto:mollusca@ucmp1.berkeley.edu), 4<sup>th</sup> January 2001.]

## Shells on the 'Net

There is a rapidly growing amount of information on molluscs and their shells on the Internet. Look for example at Guido Poppe's site 'Cyberconchology' at [www.conchology.be](http://www.conchology.be), which has over 4600 images of shells, or perhaps the *Cypraea* site of Felix Lorenz at [www.cowries.net](http://www.cowries.net) which illustrates over 350 species in comprehensive detail. More cowrie-stuff may be found at [www.geocities.com/~makuabob/](http://www.geocities.com/~makuabob/). Another interesting site, which has links to a host of other interesting stuff is Man-and-mollusc, a project of Ross Mayhew of Canada. See [manandmollusc.net/](http://manandmollusc.net/).

Our own society also has a presence on the 'net, but any member who fancies putting up a webpage on South African shells would be rendering a wonderful service.

## News from our members

The Border Group have asked for help with the care of collections. Can anyone help? The Pretoria Group have compiled notes for beginners called "How to start shell collecting". They address some of the issues pertaining to safeguarding of a collection. If there is interest this could be published in the *Strandloper*. It is available in English and Afrikaans. Most prominent shell books have sections dealing with the problem.

Also from the Border Group: a reminder to start planning to attend the next Great Shell Show in August 2001

### Results of KZN South Coast shell competition


First Prize *Conus betulinus*  
Flip Jooste of Jeffreys Bay  
Second Prize *Bolma andersoni*  
K Borland of Pietermaritzburg  
Third prize *Chicoreus fosterorum*  
Dr. MS Els of Port Elizabeth



## Send us your articles !!!

The job of the Editor is not to write the articles ! This is your magazine and also your opportunity to let us know about your shelling finds and experiences. What kind of stuff are we looking for? Well anything that you would want to read - probably anything that relates to shells and shell collectors, especially in the Southern African context. Detailed, illustrated descriptions of whole families are always welcome of course, but so too are shorter articles describing some interesting find, holiday or observation that you have made. If you can also send us a good photograph (electronic or physical) of a shell or of Society members engaged in their hobby then so much the better. However, please do not send colour transparencies ('slides') as these are very expensive to scan properly.

Some members seem nervous about the scientific accuracy of their articles. Rest assured that if you need assistance, it can usually be arranged (within broad limits). However, neither the Editor nor the Society warrant that all the information contained within the pages of the *Strandloper* is absolutely correct in a taxonomic sense. We do not in general have the time, skills, or resources to engage the authors of articles in a long correspondence concerning names *etc.* But this should not deter prospective authors I hope, because the most important information about a shell is where and how it was found. The names are constantly being updated, according to a complex and sometimes controversial process which sometimes leaves some members frustrated and confused. Don't worry! If in doubt use the name you have and then just take care to mention the source (book or other) for it.

<b>PHILLIP W. CLOVER</b>		
Dealer in Specimen Since 1960 In Ancilla, Cancellaria, Conus, Cypraea Marginella, Mitra, Latiaxis, Morum, Typhis Voluta and Out-of-Print Shell Books PH/FAX # 707-996-6960 My 40th year in mail orders. Free Lists P.O. Box 339 - Glen Ellen - CA - 95442		World Wide Sea Shells Specializing

In rare cases I have sought the assistance of Drs. Kilburn and Herbert of the Natal Museum on some matters, but in general we prefer to be very selective in which matters get referred to them as they are busy men. For this reason also, the *Strandloper*, like most other club conchological publications does not publish claims for 'new species' as these can confuse the record terribly if not done properly. Such important matters must be dealt with through the good offices of one of the professional malacological journals.

We do make the odd minor change to articles that are contributed, usually to do with grammar or spelling, or very occasionally, to some other aspect of the article. If it is a big change, it gets referred back to the contributor for approval. Sharp-eyed authors may have noticed that I often prefer the post-1994 place names. South Africa has changed so we should change as well. Anyway, so far, nobody has complained. Our language policy is addressed elsewhere in the newsletter.

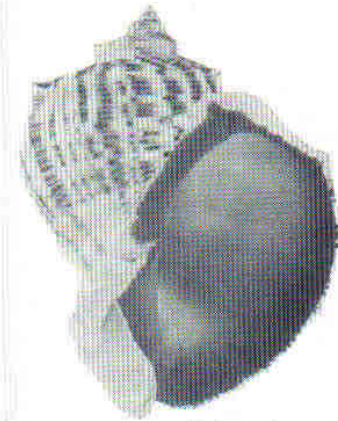
We will, from time to time, also republish articles that have appeared in overseas shelling journals or which have appeared on the Internet. In the same way, overseas publications have occasionally republished articles that have appeared in the *Strandloper*.

Have fun !

### For sale

1. Display collection, consisting of South African and world shells. Housed in glass cabinet. No data. Contact Hilton on 011-435-5784
2. Small, diverse shell collection for sale. Mixed S. African (incl. trawled) and foreign. Approx. 100 species, most without data. Contact Peter Cooke 011-791-1899 or 082-880-4785. Asking R2000 o.n.o.

## Rapacious *Rapana* on rampage again !



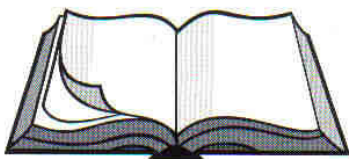
*Rapana venosa* Valenciennes, a predatory whelk from the Sea of Japan has already wrought havoc in the Black Sea, having probably arrived there in the ballast water of ships. Now it has been found in Chesapeake Bay on the east coast of the USA. The shells were already 160 mm long, showing that they have been living there for at least 7 years. Flotsam wants to know what our American shell collecting friends have been up to that they didn't find it before the scientists did?

[Marine invader, *New Scientist*, 30th January 1999, p.23]

### Exchanges wanted

1. Mr Henk van Noordenburg, of Schaapherder 16, 3834 CK Leusden, The Netherlands (email : postbus-@hebri.demon.nl) wishes to receive sea urchins from South Africa. He can offer sea urchins, shells and fossils in exchange
2. Mr Ian Purvis of 63 Farleigh Crescent, Lawn Estate, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 1JY, United Kingdom wishes to exchange shells with South African collectors. He is especially interested in Cypraeaidae. (Email : ian.purvis-@btinternet.com)
3. Mr Yves Terryn, of Acaciastraat 44, 9000 Gent, BELGIUM (email: y.terryn@planetinternet.be) wishes to receive well-prepared specimens of South African chitons, and offers world shells in return.





## Book review

### COWRIES AND THEIR RELATIVES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(SECOND ENLARGED EDITION)

W R Liltved, Seacomber Publications,  
Cape Town, January 2000

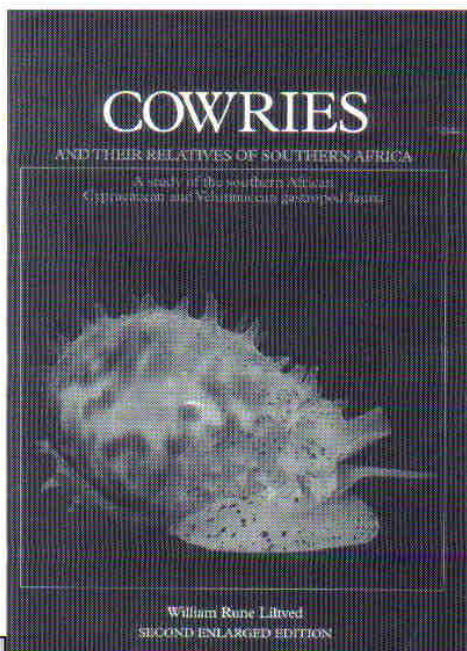
Reviewed by David Freeman

In the eleven years since the first edition of this book appeared, sufficient new information and material has come to light to warrant consolidation in the form of a second edition.

I can strongly recommend that the Introduction, enhanced by exquisitely detailed drawings and photos, be read for the clear and simple explanation of so many aspects of the structure and classification of our "cowries and their relatives".

The limited second edition of *Cowries and their relatives of southern Africa* has additional appeal as a collectors' item by its lavishly re-de-

signed inner-cover overlain by a new, high quality dust-jacket with French-folds and spot-varnished detail. Through improvements in printing technology, the high quality colour and sharpness of the original plates have been notably enhanced in the second addition. In passing, I would mention that the pages of my personal copy of the first edition are showing signs of yellowing at the edges after eleven years. This is a universal drawback of most modern books which are not made of the very expensive acid-free rag paper. This also serves perhaps as an additional recommendation to buy a copy of the new edition while it is still available.



As the author explains in his preface to the new edition, a complete redrafting of the entire text was simply not viable, so compromise was reached by adding 86 new photographic images and illustrations, together with supplementary text and revised captions, in the spaces on the existing pages wherever appropriate.

Other completely new information is accommodated in two additional Appendices at the end of the book.

This compromise has created one or two minor problems:

A few species have been renamed and the relevant plates have been given new captions, but unfortunately the Index to Scientific Names has not been up-dated, so one is forced to page through the book to find those "new" species.

Two Appendices, included at the end, have extended the book from its original 208 to 224 pages. At the same time, the errata which were listed at the end of the First Edition (mostly spelling errors) have been corrected in the latest text.

The disjointed placing of Appendices 1, 2 and 3, before and after the main Bibliography and Index, is somewhat confusing, but appears to have been caused by last-minute arrival of material that the author particularly wanted to include in the book. Appendix No 2, with its useful explanation of some of the matters raised, would have been more logically placed before the other two, and all three of them placed after the Index.

Regardless of these criticisms, this new book provides us with a most useful consolidation of the latest information on our southern African cowrie families, and is strongly recommended. As the second edition of *Cowries and their relatives of southern Africa* is intended mainly for the international market, only a limited number of copies are available to the South African public at R400 per copy (excluding postage). International buyers should expect to pay about US\$70. Queries in this regard may be addressed directly to the author at P.O. Box 372, Noordhoek 7979 or [cowries@telkomsa.net](mailto:cowries@telkomsa.net).

**Postscript :** The author reports that, as it is unlikely that further editions of the book will be published, a supplementary document formatted for ready inclusion into the book is currently being produced in order to convey noteworthy recent developments.

### Strandloper

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

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P.O.Box 1664,  
Ferndale, 2160  
South Africa

or e-mail me at  
[achatina@iafrica.com](mailto:achatina@iafrica.com), or  
[mikec@mintek.co.za](mailto:mikec@mintek.co.za)



## New Shell Display at Pretoria Zoo

by Mike Penrith

Head Aquarium and Reptile Park, National Zoological Gardens

When the Aquarium of the National Zoological Gardens was opened in 1974, a small display of shells formed part of the decor. This display was largely taxonomic, and coming from a museum background, I had for a while thought that it needed a new approach. It was with great pleasure when during the general upgrading of the aquarium, we were approached by Prof Steyn regarding the redoing of the shell display. The shells on display had in any case to be removed during the builder's work so it was an ideal time to tackle the display.

The new displays for those who have not seen them are a great improvement on the old ones. They are more "eye-catching" and I have noticed attract considerably more attention from visitors than the old ones.

While the new displays do include

some taxonomic displays, these are mainly limited to the popular groups such as cowries and cones and the ever present limpets.

There is a large corner case of large and spectacular Indo-Pacific molluscs, which still needs at least common names. The displays of growth series are impressive but I wonder how many visitors appreciate the time and dedication needed to collect a series of perfect shells of all sizes.

Many of the displays will be of considerable use to our education section. These include the displays of the shells of various regions, including of course Jeffrey's Bay, the influence of sea temperatures and currents, and the intertidal area.

There are also displays of shells and man, both information on Stone-Age coastal communities and the use of

molluscs by modern man, not forgetting those molluscs used for food, from the humble black mussel to the oyster.

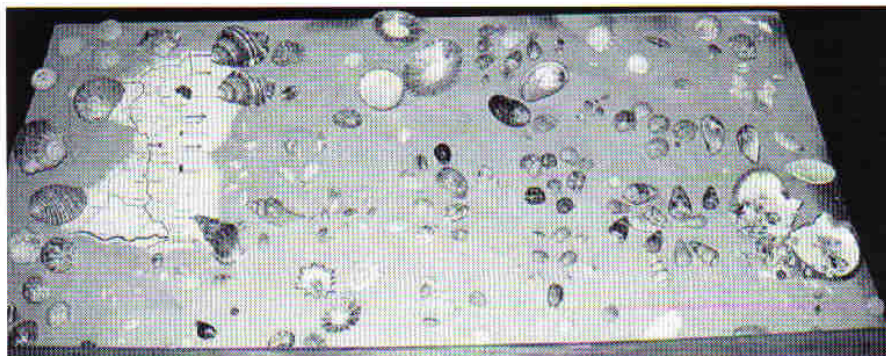
Personally I was sorry not to see the Cape Pecten, *Pecten sulcicostatus* in either the bivalve display or in the molluscs as food display. If it is felt that it could be added I can donate a pair of valves personally collected at 50 metres in False Bay. The animals themselves got wrapped in bacon and grilled.

The micro shell display reminded me of when I started work as a new graduate at the South African Museum. I had the room next to the late Keppel Barnard, who at that time was sorting through sediment samples that had been collected by Gilchrist around 1900. Occasionally as I walked past I would be called in to look at some exiting tiny shell he had found. I am

afraid that for a young biologist working on tunas and marlins, these tiny shells failed to excite me at all.

Finally there are displays of cephalopod shells, and non-gastropod shells. This last for educational purposes really needs some brachiopod shells as well as the echinoderm exoskeletons. Among the cephalopod shells are several *Spirula* shells. It is strange that these shells are so common on some Cape sandy beaches, yet the first live example to be caught in South African seas was only collected in 1960.

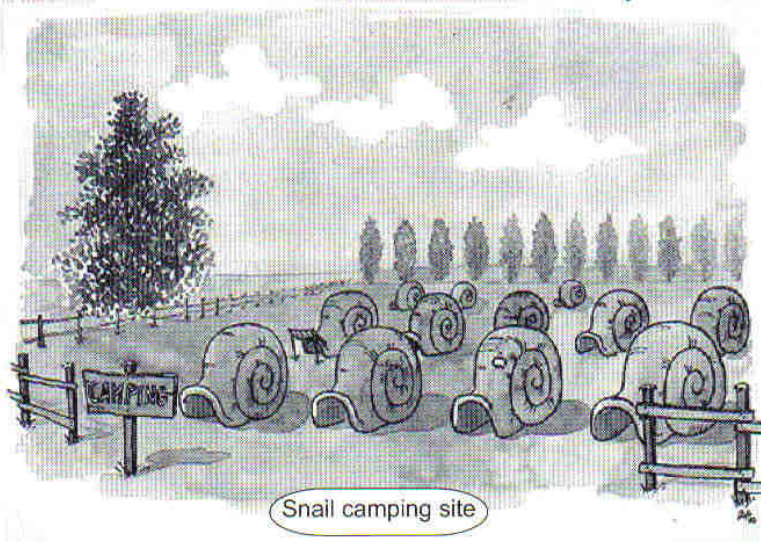
For those members who have spent much time and effort on these displays, Thank You, and for other members if you have not seen them try and find time to come and have a look.



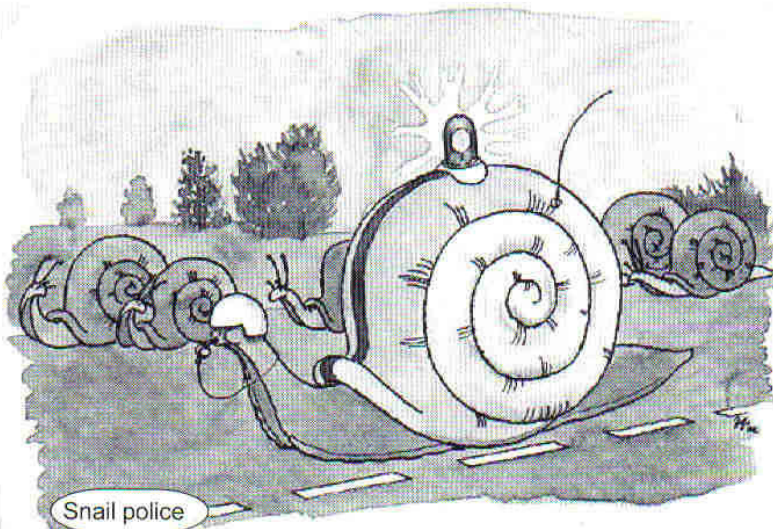


**From Guido Poppe's wonderful Internet site :**  
**www.conchology.be**

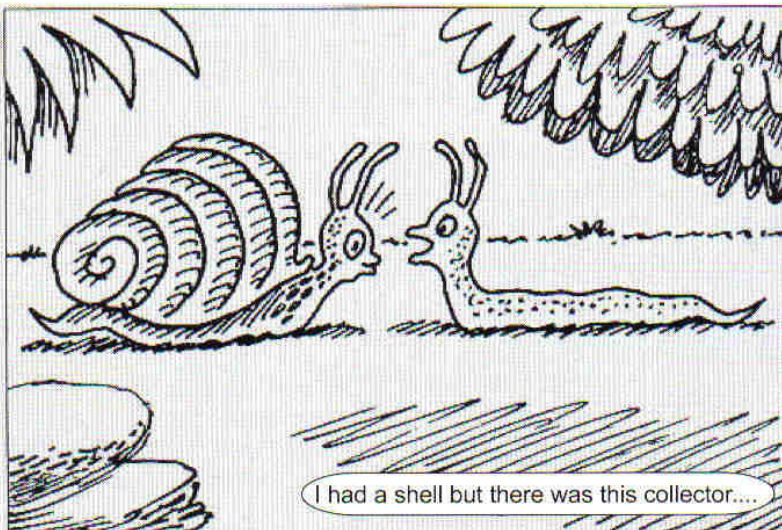
sent in by Kobie du Preez



Snail camping site



Snail police



I had a shell but there was this collector....

**Conchological Society of Southern Africa**

*Founded 1958*

**Patron :** Dr R. Kilburn

**Correspondence to:**

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