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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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Edited by Leila Kerr.

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X A very Happy Christmas to all Members! X  
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SEASONAL GREETINGS.

With the approach of the Festive Season, the President takes this opportunity to wish all Members a Happy and Bright Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year. May you all enjoy good "shelling", and continue to add to the good work of the Society in 1966.

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MEETING.

As advised in the last Circular, this will be a Christmas Party on Tuesday, 14th December at 8.15 p.m. at the S.A. Museum. Don't forget your pencils and the eats. We hope to have Mr and Mrs Les Cock from Natal with us as well.

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N.B. There will be no meeting in January, 1966 or Circular. Instead we are sending you an index to Circulars 41 - 60 compiled by Mr Percy Elston and kindly donated by him to the Society. We are indeed grateful to Mr Elston for all the many gifts he has presented to us recently.

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Minutes of Meeting held at the S.A. Museum 23.11.1965.

As Dr Grindley was away in Pretoria, Mr Elston took the chair. He welcomed the large gathering present especially Mr Dick Kilburn, late of Natal and Rhodes University. Apologies were received from Mrs Kuttel and Mrs v.d. Velde. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

The Following were elected as members of the Society:

- Mr H.F. Brunette, 39, Lewis Drive, Amanzimtoti, Natal.
- Mr A.T. Hellet, P.O. Box 11, Darnall, Natal.
- S Miss K. Jagoe, 16, Rosyth Rd., Nahoon, East London.
- Mrs H. Jonsson, Prosper Farm, Rosetta, Natal.
- Mrs W. Malcolm, c/o 876, Stockport Rd., Manchester 19, England.
- Mr J.D. Möller, P.O. Box 981, Walvis Bay, S.W.A.
- S Miss A. Shone, 29, Harewood Drive, Nahoon, East London.

The Following were proposed as new members:-

Mr C. Appleton proposed by C. Walker seconded by R. Kilburn  
Miss D. Vice " " D.H. Kennelly " " M. Kempthorne

Mr Elston informed the meeting of Dr Talbot's appointment in January, 1966, as Director of the Sydney Museum, Australia. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to him.

Mr Elston spoke about the work of Mr Richard Kilburn, who, while at the Natal University collected during his vacations an astonishing number of Natal shells, no less than 70 Genera and 122 species. We are very pleased to have him with us, if only for a short time.

Mr Jack Walker then gave us a very interesting and amusing talk about their trip to Mocambique. During the tea interval, we were able

to examine the beautiful shells he and Chris had collected. We also saw Plate 2 of Cone Shells brought by Mr Elston.

After tea, Chris Walker gave a commentary on slides of the expedition, which included some excellent shots taken in the Mozambique Game Reserve.

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As members in Cape Town are aware, Mr Elston is displaying, at each meeting, Marsh's Cone Shells of the World, and has, so far, in October and November shown Plates One and Two, which the Editor thinks, have been most interesting. Now he suggests that as he has not all of Plate Three, members might assist for the display at the February meeting. What are required to complete the Plate are as below and he suggests that they be numbered and labelled accordingly. Locality, of course, may be different, which adds to the information and our study of the Genus.

No. 5	Conus abbreviatus	Reeve 1843	Hawaii
10	" mus	Bruguière 1792	Florida
11	" gilvus	Reeve 1849	West Australia
14	" nux	Broderip 1843	Mexico
15	" nanus	Sowerby 1833	North Queensland
18	" prytanis	Sowerby 1882	North Queensland
21	" sugillatus	Reeve 1844	New Guinea
22	" balteatus	Sowerby 1833	Pacific
23	" moreleti	Crosse 1858	Hawaii
26	" tenuisulcatus	Sowerby 1870	North Queensland

Do not forget to put your name on each card so that you receive your exhibit back after the meeting.

Please note his new telephone number as from the January issue of the telephone directory - 45-2100

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mr R. Kilburn, 145, High Level Road, Three Anchoe Bay.  
Mr R. Pollard, St. John's College, Cambridge, England.

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mrs J. Couacard, c/o The Auction Mart, Port Louis, Mauritius would like to exchange good taken live specimens.

Mr I. Bendersky, 111-45, 76th Avenue, Forest Hills 75, New York, U.S.A. is interested in cones.

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BORDER NOTES.

by D.H. Kennelly.

Our members in this area were disappointed recently, as the Field meeting scheduled for the 7th November had to be cancelled owing to the wet weather. All are now hoping for better luck next time.

A suggestion has been put forward for meetings to be held once a month, if possible, at the residences of members. At present four members have offered their homes as available, and this coupled with an occasional Field meeting, will go far to keep the interest going in shell collecting.

At each meeting a different Family of shells will be discussed, with specimens available for study.

With the Xmas and New Year holidays being so near, the first meeting will not be held until the latter end of January, as some of our

members will be away from East London.

In the meantime members have been very active in adding desirable shells to their respective collections, and Nahoon, Bonza Bay, and Gonubie are proving very good localities for specimens.

Further data regarding shells taken alive on our "Wild Coast" is being recorded, and it is hoped to issue a further List in the near future for the benefit of all collectors.

A List of Members, with addresses, was published in September, and those members who have not received a copy, are requested to write to the Secretary and have the omission rectified.

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CAPE NOTES.

by L. Kerr

Our skin-diving expert, Jock Dichmont, found a Marginella bairdowi, Conus simplex and Murex uncinarius all alive in Simonstown harbour recently.

Clarice Connolly reports that the Marginella capensis have hatched. They can just be seen with the naked eye.

While shelling at Buffels Bay, Cape Point recently, the writer found a perfect specimen of Cypraea algoensis, also a beach worn Trivia ovulata.

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GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES ON TWO RARE MARINE SHELLS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

by D.H. Kennelly

Colubraria alfredensis Bartsch, 1915

The type locality for this shell is Port Alfred, and specimens have also been found at Jeffreys Bay, but it appears to be rare at both places.

Border members, owing to their persistent and careful collecting, have now recorded several specimens taken at Haga Haga during the latter end of 1964 and in 1965, but examples are scarce.

Our well known member, Les Cock (1965), reports alfredensis as occurring at Palm Beach, Natal, a further extension of the known range of the species.

Regarding size, Bartsch states that the type shell, which has lost the nuclear whorls, measures 33.5 mm. in length, with a width of 11.5 mm.

A specimen in the East London Museum, ex Jeffreys Bay, has a length of 35 mm. and is illustrated in the writer's book.

Barnard reports a shell in the South African Museum as being 36.5 mm. in length, width 10 mm., presumably from Port Alfred - the exact locality not having been recorded.

Hazel Jefferies - in her splendid collection - has several specimens of alfredensis from Haga Haga and Double Mouth (Morgan Bay), two of which probably exceed in length those quoted above.

It would be interesting to know the dimensions of these, and also that of the Palm Beach shell, so over to you, Hazel and Les.

Les Cock records an additional two species of Colubraria obscura Reeve, from Kelso, South Coast, Natal, and C. nitidula Sowerby, from Palm Beach. The writer is unacquainted with these two shells, but it appears possible they may be found at some locality on the Transkei Coast, and Border members should be on the watch for specimens.

ACRILLA thalia Bartsch, 1915

This shell, type locality Port Alfred, may be regarded as being far more rare than Colubraria alfredensis, Bartsch records two specimens, one (the type shell) measures 33 x 8 mm. and is minus the nuclear whorls. The other measures 17 x 4.3 mm.

Barnard states there is one example in the South African Museum

from Port Alfred measuring 23 x 6 mm. minus the lost nuclear whorls.

The writer was fortunate some years ago, while at Jeffreys Bay, in obtaining a fourth specimen from a visitor (non-collector), which is now in the East London Museum.

According to Barnard (1963), the following species of Acrilla have been reported from Natal and Port Alfred, i.e. acuminata Sowerby 1844, gracilis H. Adams 1860, minor Sowerby 1874, thalia Bartsch 1915, and recreata de Boury 1921. De Boury (1921) incidentally recorded minor from Port Shepstone. Tomlin (1923) considered thalia to be a synonym of acuminata. Barnard inclines to be in agreement with this opinion, but is not sure on account of beach worn material which may have been used in the several identifications.

Rippingale & McMichael (1961) illustrate and describe Acrilla acuminata Sowerby 1844, giving the size of the shell as  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, or about 33 mm.

Until some definite conclusion is arrived at, it appears wise to call our South African shell Acrilla thalia for the time being.

#### References:

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|------------------------|-------|--|
| Barnard, K.H.          | 1963. | Annals S. African Museum, Vol. 47<br>Contributions Gastropoda. |
| Bartsch, Paul          | 1915. | U.S. National Museum, Bulletin 91,<br>South African Shells.    |
| Cook, B.L.             | 1965  | List of S.A. Marine Shells from Natal &<br>Zululand.           |
| Kennelly, D.H.         | 1964  | Marine Shells of Southern Africa                               |
| Rippingale & McMichael | 1961. | Queensland & Great Barrier Reef Shells.                        |

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#### NOTES ON ARGOBUCCINUM (EUGYRINA) GEMMIFERA, (EUTHYME). by D.H. Kennelly

This species is well known in South Africa, with an extensive distribution from False Bay to Delagoa Bay.

Owing to this lengthy range, examples of gemmafera are found which vary in build from heavy shells with large nodules, to lighter ones with smaller and more numerous nodules. Both types may be taken at the same place, e.g. Jeffreys Bay.

It is therefore not surprising to find when studying the literature that this shell has had other generic and specific names applied to it in past years.

The shell is brown in colour, and has varices with darker marks at approximately every half whorl. There are 8 to 10 dark brown marks on the outer lip, and the aperture is white inside.

Nodules on the body whorl vary in number from 12/14 on the heavier examples, to 20/22 on the shells of lighter build.

The latter were placed as var. lepta by Paul Bartsch (1915), but with a number of shells it was found they all graded together.

The periostracum is yellowish green, moderately thick and close, and of veley consistence.

A large number of specimens are held in the East London Museum collection, which have been taken at many different localities on the Ciskei and Transkei coasts, the largest measuring 100 x 60 mm., and live specimens have been taken at Bonza Bay, Queensbury Bay, Haga Haga and Kei Mouth.

These localities have been placed on record in addition to the places recorded by the South African Museum, i.e. False Bay, Natal Coast and Delagoa Bay.

The habitat of gemmafera appears to be well below low tide mark, and live specimens are found on the reefs between tide marks only after very rough weather.

Synonymy: Tritonium gemmafera Euthyme, 1889  
Ranella leucostoma Lam. var poecilostoma Lam. von Martens, 1903

*Charonia poecilostoma* Smith, 1915.  
*Eugyrina gemmifers* (sic), and var. *lepta* Bartsch, 1915  
*Charonia gemmifera* and var. *lepta* Bayer, 1933.

- References: Barnard, K.H. 1963. Annals South African Museum Vol. 47,  
 Contributions, Gastropoda.  
 Bartsch, Paul, 1915 U.S. National Museum Bulletin 91, South  
 African Shells.  
 Kennelly, D.H. 1964. Marine Shells of Southern Africa.  
 Sowerby, G.B. 1892. Marine Shells of South Africa.  
 Turton, W.H. 1932 Marine Shells of Port Alfred.

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LETTER RECEIVED FROM DAVID FREEMAN.

I arrived at Jeffreys Bay on Wednesday at noon and returned on the Saturday, so had two and a half days of intensive collecting in very windy weather. Had been there only once before, in October 1959, and found conditions little changed, except for a complete absence of Murex uncinarius and Epitonium coronatum.

Having my own transport this time meant that I could collect some live specimens (which I brought back pickled in Gin!) and so have some good Thais capensis, a number of Dinoplax gigas, a nice Fusus verruculatus, some Fusia patula, Tritonalia and Clionella. As far the dead stuff, Cypraea edentula were fairly plentiful and in reasonable condition. C.fuscudentata were mostly worn and damaged but one of the highlights of the trip was to have a perfect specimen deposited at my feet by the incoming tide along with a perfect Cymatium kleinei on which the periostracum is quite undamaged. It is most unusual, with a fringe all down each varix. When wet, the shell glowed bright orange through the periostracum. Unfortunately, now that it is drying out, this papery covering is curling up.

A worn specimen of the rare Clavatula halistrepta will be kept and not dumped with all the rubbish, but I wonder why I usually bring back so much broken junk from this kind of outing.

There was a lot of the usual Jeffrey's Bay things besides those I have mentioned - Demoulia retusa and abbreviata (quite good ones), Cassis or whatever they are calling them these days (I can't keep up with all the changes, must be getting old), Cancellaria foveolata, millions of those small Nassa and Pyrene albuginosa (that is the tiny translucent one with an incredibly delicate and precise pattern of flecks and broken lines all over it). Also Trivia sauvis, T. pellucidula, T. aperta, T. ovulata and one small Volva, I think sowerbyana.

As a welcome relief from conchology, I had many entertaining encounters with a pair of Sandpipers who were raising two newly hatched chicks on the beach immediately below the hotel, and who never wholly accepted my presence. Their methods of protecting the two tiny chicks from the imagined danger of me, were quite fascinating to watch and to study, but would take too long to describe in this letter.

As a change from the well worn and now rather commercialised coastal route via the Storms River Bridge, the two passes, Plettenberg Bay and Knysna, I came home via the Long Kloof (from Humansdorp you turn up towards Joubertina and come back on to the Garden Route through the Outenique Pass). No motels, no advertising hoardings, no noise, hardly any traffic, and a beautiful road. A rest cure in itself.

One other item - the other day I found a young specimen of Turbo sarmaticus at Bachelors Cove, Clifton. I did not know that it occurred on the West side of the Peninsula at all and, as I have been collecting at this place for the past six or seven years without ever seeing even a dead specimen before, this occurrence is very interesting.

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SECRETARY: Mrs L. Kerr, 37 Kenilworth Rd., Kenilworth, Cape.  
 TREASURER: Miss M. Kempthorne, 15 Upper Whelan St., Newlands, Cape.  
 LIBRARIAN: Mr S. Kruger, 26 Kloof Nek Rd., Tamboerskloof, Cape Town.