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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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CIRCULAR NO. 69. NOVEMBER, 1965. PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday, 23rd November at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum. Mr. Jack Walker will give us a talk on his trip to Mocambique, illustrated with slides. Bring along any new shells for display or exchange.

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DECEMBER MEETING.

As the December Circular may not be ready in time, we are giving local members due notice of this meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, 14th December at 8.15 p.m. at the S.A. Museum. This will be our Christmas "get-together", so will the ladies please bring along a plate of cake etc. to make it a real party. We hope to have Mrs. Hazel Jefferies from Kei Mouth with us, also Mr. Edward Dee from Durban. See you have a pencil with you for a novel competition. The shells for display will be the family you like best - (Max Ackermann has already 'bagged' Volutes!) There will be a film too, so let us have a really good turn-out.

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Minutes of Meeting held at S.A. Museum. 19.10.1965.

The Chairman, Dr. Grindley, welcomed members, new members and friends. Apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. J.N. Ackermann, Mrs. E. Lowry, Mr. J. Dichmont, Mr. R. Kilburn and Mr. and Mrs. E. Pickstone. The Secretary conveyed greetings from the Border and Natal Groups. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

The following were proposed as new members:-

Mr. H.F. Brunette,	proposed by B.L. Cock,	seconded by I. Cock.
Mr. A.T. Hellet,	" " P. de Broglio,	seconded by L. Kerr.
Miss K. Jagoe,	" " M. Rix,	" " "
Mrs. H. Johnsen,	" " N. Smit,	" " "
Mrs. W. Malcolm,	" " B. Richards,	" " "
Mr. J.D. Möller,	" " D.H. Kennelly,	" " M. Kempthorne.
Miss A. Shone,	" " M. Rix,	" " L. Kerr.

Dr. Grindley drew the members' attention to the plaque on the library cupboard, erected to the memory of the late Dr. K.H. Barnard and donated by Mr. P. Elston. This is a small token of our appreciation of all Dr. Barnard did for us. Dr. Grindley also spoke about the unfinished work of Dr. Barnard and was happy to tell us that the sixth supplement which includes a check list of S.A. shells and the Index to the contributions is now finished and will be published shortly.

Master Brian Horne was presented with a book on shells given by Mr. Elston to the Junior Member with the best attendance at meetings.

During tea interval, the shells on display were examined. Mr. Elston had brought along all the cones shown on Plate 1 of the new Cone Shells of the World, which made a very interesting exhibit.

Two films were shown - "Animals in Africa" and "Fossils."

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FIELD DAY 31.10.1965.

This was held at Miller's Point on a very windy day. Fifteen of us braved the elements, found a sheltered spot and had an enjoyable

time. The Juniors were much in evidence. The day's bag included Conus simplex, C. elongatus, Haliotis parva, Patella dunkeri, Marginella rosea, M. capensis, M. biannulata, Thais dubia, Burnupena cincta, Mitra ? etc. etc.

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NATAL CHECK LIST.

Mr. B.L. Cock is to be congratulated on his hard work in compiling his "A Preliminary List of S.A. Marine Shells recorded from the Natal and Zululand Coasts." This is an excellent piece of work and very helpful to all our members and we strongly recommend it to your attention. Copies may be had directly from Mr. B.L. Cock, Chelston Place, P.O. Manaba Beach, South Coast, Natal, or from the Secretary. Price 54 cents, post free.

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

New members may be interested to know that we still have a limited number of our own publications:-  
1. A Check List of False Bay Shells. 2. Families and Genera of S.A. Marine and Estuarine shells. 3. A Key to S.A. Chitons, all at 54 cents each, post free, local members, 50 cents. Also Mr. Kennelly's Wild Coast Shell List price 22 cents from the East London Museum.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. M. Pinkham, Strathreede Farm, Wolseley.  
Mrs. Pinkham would welcome any members who would care to call as she misses our meetings and "shelly" talks.

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THE LIBRARY.

We would like to thank Mr. P. Elston for the gift of a loose-leaf binder for the R. Tucker Abbott Indo-Pacific Mollusca.

Will all members with books please return them at the December meeting as we would like to take stock during the holidays.

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NATAL NOTES.

by B.L. Cock.

The last meeting of the Natal Group was rather disappointing as far as the attendance of members was concerned. Nevertheless those who did manage to come along had an enjoyable afternoon. Apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. Brunette, and from Mrs. Baxter, the veteran collector from Maritzburg whom we were sorry to hear was on the sick list. We hope that by the time these notes appear she will have recovered.

Many aspects of the hobby were discussed, but in view of the smaller than usual number of younger members present, it was decided that the prescribed talk be held over until a later date.

However, in its place Dr. v. Bruggen showed us a portion of the collection of shells given to the Natal Museum by Dr. P.H. Boshoff which the latter had recently collected at Inhaca Island. Being so near our Natal border these shells were of particular interest to us all.

On view was a copy of the new Cone book, as well as copies of the new Check Lists of the Wild Coast and the Natal and Zululand Coasts.

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BORDER NOTES.

By D.H. Kennelly.

The Public Holiday of the 11th October has come and gone, leaving behind the memory of the successful Field Meeting at Gonubie, held by the Border Group.

A party of seven Members and friends, with the two faithful canine members - Susie and Jerry - met at the Gonubie Hotel at 10 a.m.,

and soon after moved off to the collecting ground.

Much regret was expressed at the absence of Mrs. Hazel Jefferies, and her party from Kei Mouth, occasioned probably by the bad weather on the 9th and 10th, for right up to Sunday night there were doubts as to whether the Field meeting would be held at all.

Soon all the "Micawbers" were on the beach "waiting for something to turn up", and when the finds were produced at lunch time there was much of interest to examine and talk over.

Miss Benson, Miss Jackson, and Mrs. Maimie Rix all obtained good additions for their respective collections.

Miss Jackson was fortunate in finding an example of Conus rattus Hwass, the first to be collected on this part of the coast, plus the largest specimen of Cancellaria semidisjuncta Sowerby, found during the day. Not to be outdone, Maimie Rix obtained a second specimen of Conus rattus in the afternoon, together with a live specimen of Drupa biconica Blainville. The latter is the first evidence of this shell occurring on this part of the coast, an important discovery for scientific records.

More interest was also roused in the afternoon with the collecting of two or three specimens of Conus infrenatus, with the uncommon blue ground colour.

With all this excitement the leader of the party was heard attempting to sing an extract from "The Gondoliers," but there was no call for an encore.

At four o'clock the gathering dispersed homewards, quite convinced that Gonubie, and many other collecting grounds near East London, are worth further investigation.

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#### CAPE NOTES.

By L. Kerr.

My holiday in September seems just a dream now. It started off with a very pleasant meeting at the East London Museum. Many of the members present had just been names on a list, before, now they seem like old friends. I was glad to meet Mr. Kennelly again after nineteen years - needless to say, we both saw changes!

After the meeting, Hazel Jefferies, Les and Rene Cock and I motored to Kei Mouth where I stayed for the rest of my holiday, making various trips to shelling spots round about.

Four times we went to Haga Haga, a favourite spot. On my second trip, I found a live Lima rotundata Sow. and the rare chiton Notoplax productus Pils. plus several good beach specimens of Cypraea amphithales and C. capensis. The last time we visited Haga Haga we found plenty of live Cheronia pustulata, Eugyrina gemmifera and ten cones, which I think are all Conus aurora.

Before the Cocks left for Natal, we all made a trip to the Haven, which is in the Transkei at the Bashee River Mouth. It is 165 miles from Kei over very indifferent roads part of the way. However, the scenery more than made up for that. Unfortunately we ran into a very heavy mist over a high pass which rather slowed us down.

The great feature of the Haven is the birds. They are very tame indeed and nest in the thatch of the rondavels. On our second day we were rowed across the river and walked for a long way on the beach. I was lucky in finding a good Cypraea marginalis and various other beach shells. The others were equally fortunate in their finds.

Leaving The Haven, we said farewell to Les and Rene at the turn-off and while they continued to Natal, we went back to Kei.

On Sunday, 19th September, Hazel and I had lunch with Maimie Rix at Bonza Bay. She had invited Mr. Kennelly too, so you can guess what the conversation was about! We spent a very enjoyable time "shelling"

in Maimie's collection! After lunch, Miss Benson, affectionately known as "Bennie" arrived to go back with us to Kei for a week. During her stay there, I think we taught her a thing or two (about shells of course!) and we were sorry to see her leave for East London.

At Kei Mouth I collected some fine Turbo natalensis, Cyprinus africanus, Maminea natalensis, Xenomalea labiata, Eucyrtus gemmifera, Charonia pustulata, etc. etc. also some live land snails, Achatina zebra.

Hazel Jefferies really has a fine collection which will eventually be housed in a Museum to be built for it at Kei Mouth.

To all my friends on the Border, I want to say a big thank you, I enjoyed being with you.

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Mrs. Connolly reports that the eggs of the Marquinaella capensis are fully developed and ready to hatch. Each capsule contains one shell and the eyes of the little animal may be seen inside. Clarice had a very good write-up in the Week-end Argus, 6.11.65. Get one for your scrap-book!

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

#### NOTES FROM THE CATALOGUE OF LIVING CYPRAEIDAE BY W.O. CERNOHORSKY, 1963. By D.H. Kennelly.

The following notes have been written with the hope that they are of interest, and possible assistance, to those of our members who are making a special study of the Family Cypraeidae.

Cypraea angustata Gmelin, 1791. (verconis, Cotton & Godfrey, 1932).

In the past some confusion has arisen owing to some writers placing this species in South Africa, rather than in South Australia. Joyce Allan did so. Her description (Pages 31 and 32), and Figs. 23 and 24, Plate 3, depict our South African fuscodentata.

In order to clear matters, R.J. Griffiths made an application to the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature.

A ruling has now been made placing C. angustata on the list of valid species in Australia, as interpreted by the selected Neotype of Cypraea verconis Cotton & Godfrey, 1932 in the South Australian Museum.

The range of this species is quoted as New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania.

Cypraea fuscodentata Gray, 1825, is now confirmed as a valid South African species, which, as far as the writer is able to ascertain, has a restricted range from Mossel Bay to Port Alfred. The main centre for this shell being Jeffreys Bay.

Cypraea fuscodentata coronata Schilder, 1930, according to Cernohorsky, was known only from the type in the Museum Hamburg, and this was destroyed in World War 2. Cernohorsky further writes that coronata was either a full species (it occurred in the same locality as fuscodentata) or it was an individual variation with two more labial teeth, an anteriorly dilated aperture, and less produced columellar teeth.

Having seen hundred of specimens of fuscodentata, the writer supports the opinion that coronata was merely an individual variation.

Cypraea edentula Gray, 1825 and C. edentula alfredensis Schilder, 1929.

The variety alfredensis is now placed as a synonym of edentula.

Turton stated this variety was distinguished by the absence of spots, and a thickened outer lip.

Cernohorsky, in his "Notes of the Species" at the end of his list, made a curious slip in writing that alfredensis is "only an ecotype with less numerous teeth." He seems to have confused the variety with Cypraea algoensis Gray, 1825.

Cypraea chinensis Gmelin, 1791 and Cypraea tortirostris Sowerby, 1906.

Cernohorsky mentions tortirostris as a doubtful species. Joyce Allan (Page 45) writes that this may, or may not, be regarded as a race of chinensis.

In his notes, Cernohorsky states "tortirostris appears to be a dwarf stunted race of chinensis with a length of 12 m.m. only. Interbreeding between the two appears unlikely. However, the small size might be due only to unfavourable environmental conditions."

Obviously a final decision in regard to these two species is still to be reached.

Cypraea helvola Linne, 1758, and six listed Varieties.

Joyce Allan (Page 95) writes that helvola is a very variable species, and only very minor differences account for the races (varieties).

In his notes, Cernohorsky mentions "With the exception of hawaiiensis there seems to be very little difference in these sub-species of helvola."

Distribution areas seem to overlap considerably with resultant interbreeding of the various sub-species."

From the opinions of the authorities cited above, it appears possible further research may place these varieties as synonyms of helvola.

References:- Allan, J. 1956. Cowry Shells of World Seas.  
Turton, W.H. 1932. Marine Shells of Port Alfred.  
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MARINE SHELLS FROM NTHLONYANA, TRANSKEI.

By D.H. Kennelly.

<u>Family Mytilidae.</u>	Mytilus perna Linn. Septifer bilocularis (Linn).
<u>Family Fissurellidae.</u>	Fissurella natalensis Krauss. Amblychilepas scutella (Gmelin). Fissurellidea (Pupillaea) aperta (Sowerby). Diodora elizabethae (Smith).
<u>Family Haliotidae.</u>	Haliotis queketti Smith. do. speciosa Reeve. do. sanguinea Hanley.
<u>Family Trochidae.</u>	Calliostoma eucosmia Bartsch. Gibbula tryoni Pilsbry. do. rosea (Gmelin) (Syn. G. gaudiosa Gould). Clanculus atricatina Tomlin. Monodonta australis Lamarck.
<u>Family Turbinidae.</u>	Turbo natalensis Krauss.
<u>Family Neritidae.</u>	Nerita polita Linn. do. plicata Linn. do. albicilla Linn. do. umlaasiana Krauss.
<u>Family Scalidae.</u>	Scala coronata (Lamarck).
<u>Family Littorinidae.</u>	Littorina obesa Sowerby.
<u>Family Cerithiidae.</u>	Cerithium pingue A. Adams.
<u>Family Tonnidae.</u>	Tonna variegata (Lamarck).
<u>Family Naticidae.</u>	Natica genuana Reeve. do. marochiensis (Gmelin). do. simiae Chemnitz.

Family Cypraeidae.

Cypraea caputserpentis Linn.  
 do. carnea Linn.  
 do. clandestina Linn.  
 do. citrina Gray.  
 do. contaminata distans S. & S.  
 do. edentula Sowerby.  
 do. erosa Linn.  
 do. felina Gmelin.  
 do. helvola meridionalis S. & S.  
 do. isabella Linn.  
 do. lynx Linn.  
 do. marginalis Dillwyn.  
 do. staphylaea Linn.  
 do. teres Gmelin.  
 do. vitellus Linn.  
 do. fimbriata Gmelin.

Family Triviidae.

Triviella ovulata (Lamarck).  
 Trivirostra pellucidula natalensis Schilder.

Family Amphiperatidae.

Volva sowerbyana Weinkauff.

Family Cassidae.

Phalium labiata (Perry) var. iredalei Bayer.

Family Cymatiidae.

Charonia pustulata (Emthyme).  
 Cymatium africanum (A. Adams).  
 do. parthenopeum Von Salis.  
 do. dolarium (Linn).  
 do. klenei (Sowerby).

Family Bursaidae.

Bursa granularis (Bolten).  
 do. do. do. (Variety).

Family Muricidae.

Drupa granulata (Duclos).  
 Murex ramosus Linn. (Beach worn).  
 do. mitraeformis Sowerby.  
 Thais castanea (Kuster).  
 do. capensis (Petit).

Family Pyrenidae.

Pyrene floccata Reeve.  
 do. filmerae (Sowerby).

Family Buccinidae.

Euthria filmerae Sowerby.

Family Fasciolaridae.

Fasciolaria heynemanni Dunker.  
 Fusus africanus (Sowerby). (Beach worn).  
 Latirus bairstowi Sowerby.  
 Peristernia leucothea Melvill.  
 do. fuscotincta (Sowerby).

Family Olividae.

Ancilla optima Sowerby.  
 do. obtusa (Swainson).  
 do. fasciata Reeve.  
 do. cbesa Sowerby.  
 Melapium lineatum (Lamarck).

Family Mitridae.

Mitra picta Reeve.  
 do. latruncularia Reeve.  
 Pusia patula (Reeve).  
 Vexilla vexillum Linn.

Family Varidae.

Vasum truncatum Sowerby.

Family Volutidae.

Voluta africana Reeve.

Family Cancellariidae.

Cancellaria foveolata Sowerby.  
 do. semidisjuncta Sowerby.

Family Marginellidae.

Marginella ornata Redfield.  
 do. mosaica Sowerby.  
 do. piperata Hinds.  
 do. do. strigata Sowerby.  
 do. albocincta Sowerby.  
 do. keenii Marrat.  
 do. nebulosa Bolton ? (To be confirmed).

<u>Family Conidae.</u>	<i>Conus aurora</i> Lamarck. do. <i>infrenatus</i> Reeve. do. <i>natalis</i> Sowerby. do. <i>minimus</i> Linn. do. <i>lautus</i> Reeve.
<u>Family Actaeonidae.</u>	<i>Bullina undata</i> Bruguiere.
<u>Family Hydatinidae.</u>	<i>Hydatina physis</i> Linn.
<u>Family Bullariidae.</u>	<i>Bulla ampulla</i> (Linn).

Publication of the foregoing list has been made possible by our well known member, Mrs. Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, who very kindly communicated the result of her several collecting trips to Nthlonyana, for the writer to comment upon.

This is the first time it has been possible to place on record a list of the Mollusca found at one locality on the Transkei Coast.

It should be pointed out that this list is not complete, nor is it presented as such, and further careful collecting at Nthlonyana will undoubtedly add to the ninety odd species now published.

Notable items are *Vasum truncatum*, and a *Marginella*, tentatively identified as *M. nebulosa*. It is hoped in the near future to refer again to the latter species, and give a little more information thereon.

*Vasum truncatum* is a deep water shell, and as far as the writer is aware, not very many examples have been found on the beach. A report has been received of the finding of one or two specimens which still retain the periostracum.

All members will join with the writer in congratulating Hazel Jefferies on her patient and careful collecting, plus our sincere thanks for an excellent addition to the recorded data of the Marine Mollusca of the Transkei Coast.

The information now published is of scientific value, and it is hoped that as the opportunity occurs, other members will assist in this good work.

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MORE CONUS CLYTOSPIRA FOUND.

By G. de Gersigny.

Mr. Darroll Smith and family - his wife Maureen is a member of the Society - were part of a group of about fifteen who returned recently from a three-month specimen-collecting expedition to Porto Amelia and adjacent islands in Northern Mocambique.

While the expedition was not officially sponsored, it was meant to benefit various marine research establishments as well as augment private collections. While in Porto Amelia, Darroll Smith went aboard the fisheries survey vessel, 'Gambas', to exchange some of his snorkeled shells for some of the captain's deep-trawled specimens.

In the resulting negotiations he obtained four specimens of, subject to expert confirmation, *Conus clytospira*. Three of the shells are about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and the fourth about 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". They were trawled in 1000 metres of water. All have varying degrees of lip blemishes, but are otherwise in very good condition.

*Conus clytospira* is referred to in Marsh and Rippingale's "Cone Shells of the World" as a synonym of *C. milneedwardsii*. The type and a smaller specimen are in the British Museum, and I believe there are at least three other specimens - one in Mauritius, one in Cape Town and one in America. There are probably others in existence, but the total number is likely to be small.

The Smiths also collected a magnificent variety of cowries, cones, harps, augers, mitres, lambis, strombus, etc. Among the cones were *litoglyphus*, *generalis*, *geographus* and *tulipa*, while the cowries included *testudinaria*, *argus*, *depressa*, *histrion* and *eglantina*.

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NOTES ON SOME RARE SPECIES OF SHELLS.

By D.H. Kennelly.

Conus clytospira.

The type of this species is in the British Museum, and the locality is recorded as 125 miles W.S.W. of Bombay.

The writer is indebted to Mrs. Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, for the loan of a cutting from a Johannesburg paper, (the Star?), issued during October, 1965. This cutting reports the taking of three more specimens of this extremely rare Conus off the coast of Mozambique. The shells were obtained by Mr. Darroll Smith, leader of a team from the Transvaal Underwater Research Group, engaged in scientific marine investigation, based at Porto Amelia, Northern Mozambique.

These specimens were dredged from a depth of 3000 feet, and, as far as the writer is able to ascertain, brings the total of known specimens to twelve.

Conus clytospira is much rarer than the famous Conus gloria maria of which about twenty-four specimens are now known.

Cameron (1961) states that clytospira is known from the Gulf of Oman, Bombay, Japan, Aden and Mauritius. To this list must be added the new locality of Porto Amelia, P.E. Africa.

Marsh & Ripplingale (1965) write that clytospira is now placed as a synonym of Conus milneedwardsii, Jousseaume.

Cypraea leucodon Broderip, 1828.

This is the rarest of the Cypraeidae. Only one specimen (the type) was known, which is in the British Museum, and the exact locality is not on record.

In 1960 Clench reported the discovery of a second example in the huge collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, Mass. This shell as far as could be ascertained was received in the U.S.A. about 1840, and the locality is recorded as Indian Ocean.

It is therefore of great scientific interest to learn that a third specimen has been found in the Philippines, according to a report in the Hawaiian Shell News. A further report has been promised giving more details. Meantime - after a lapse of over 100 years, a definite locality has been recorded for this extremely rare Cowry.

Cypraea guttata Gmelin, 1791.

The above is another very rare Cowry. Woodward (1963) reported having traced thirteen specimens known to exist at that date, while in addition three other shells are said to exist, of which confirmation is awaited. In the latter event the total of known specimens would be sixteen, and it is considered further research may possibly add to this number.

References:- Allan, Joyce. 1956. Cowry Shells of World Seas.  
Cameron, R. 1961. Shells.  
Clench, William J. 1960. Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia, No. 4.  
Hawaiian Shell News, Vol. XIII, No. 11, Sept. 1965.  
Woodward, F.R. 1963. Journal of Conchology, Vol. 25, No. 5, Oct. 1963.  
Marsh & Ripplingale, 1965. Cone Shells of the World.

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