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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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XX

CIRCULAR NO. 72.

MARCH, 1966.

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 22nd March at 8.15 p.m. Our President, Mr. D.H. Kennelly of East London will be present and will say a few words. In addition, Mr. Elston has managed to obtain some excellent new slides on Mauritius, including a few on shells. As this is a very special meeting will all members try to be present and bring along your friends too. We want to give Mr. Kennelly a very big welcome. The shell family for display will be the Strombidae, both S.A. and foreign, also any new finds.

FIELD DAY.

There will be a Field Day on Sunday, 20th March at Kommetjie. Low water is at 8.45 a.m. Meet on the rocks below the parking place near the pool as early as you like. As this is near the equinox, shelling should be good. We hope Mr. Kennelly will be there too. Please mark your calendar, as no further notice will be sent.

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Minutes of Meeting held at the S.A. Museum 15.2.1966.

Dr. Grindley was in the Chair. Apologies were received from Mrs. Kuttel, Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Connolly, Mrs. Weakley and Miss Jakobsen. In spite of the rain, there was a very fair turnout. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

Mrs. T.W. MacKenzie, P.O. Box 2418, Mombasa, Kenya.
Mrs. S.M. White, P.O. Box 1846, Mombasa, Kenya.

The following were proposed as new members:-

Mr. J. Dench	proposed by	M. Smith	seconded by	L. Kerr.
Mr. F.V. Descroizilles	"	"	P. de Broglio	"
Mr. A.B. Jenner	"	"	B. Richards	"
Miss S. Kleynhans	"	"	D.H. Kennelly	M. Kempthorne.
Mr. J.F. Louw	"	"	L. Kerr	D. Freeman.
S. Miss D. Louw	"	"	"	"
S. Miss N. Louw	"	"	"	"
Mrs. A.L. Olivier	"	"	"	M. Kempthorne.

Mr. Elston informed the meeting that Dr. van Bruggen would be leaving for Leyden, Holland, in April to take up a new appointment. We thank him for the interest he has shown in the Society, the help he has given us and wish him every success in his new post.

New Year greetings from Dr. Talbot in Australia were read. He thanked us for our good wishes.

Prof. Day is back again from the U.S.A. and it was agreed that a letter of welcome be sent to him.

Two films were then shown - "Birds", and "Life in the Sea".

During tea the shells on display were discussed. Jock Dichmont had brought a bag of Volutocorbis lutosa Koch for distribution among the members. Thanks Jock. Mr. Elston's cones, Plate 3 of Cone Shells of the World, were much admired.

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IN MEMORIAM.

It is with regret that we record the death on March 2nd of Miss Edith Stephens, a foundation member of our Society. Although she was not a collector, she was keenly interested in all branches of Nature Study, being the Founder of the Cape Natural History Club. Miss Stephens was also the fungi expert, trying out specimens of new mushrooms on herself first, to see if they were poisonous. She will be sadly missed by all her many friends.

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BROCHURE ON "MOLLUSCA".

A brochure covering the five talks on "Molluscs" by Dr. P.H. Boshoff last September in the "University of the Air" series has at last been published at the very moderate price of 20 cents, and may be obtained from:-

The Publications Dept., S.A.B.C., P.O. Box 8606, Johannesburg.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. M. Smith, 20 Riebeeck, 208, Cowey Road, Durban.
Miss I. Jakobsen, 39 Clifton Parade, Main Road, Fish Hoek, Cape.
Mr. R. Kilburn, Natal University, Pietermaritzburg.

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MEMBERS LIST.

Our apologies to Miss M. Stocker, Good Hope Cottage, Groot Drakenstein, Cape, who was left out of the list.

We hope that you are adding the new members to your list after every circular. Please delete the following, who have resigned or left:-

Miss J.D. Kitchener, Kimberley. Mr. R.W. Cox, Fish Hoek.
Mr. R. Hutchins, Claremont. Mr. A. Ribbink, Rondebosch.
Miss E.L. Stephens, Rondebosch. Mrs. J. Ward, Kenilworth.
Miss K.M. Wilson, Sea Point. Miss D. Wilson, Durban.
Mrs. A. Keane, Kenya. Mrs. Carl B. Chandler, U.S.A.
Mrs. D. Hawley, Australia.

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NATAL GROUP NOTES.

by Les Cock.

The first meeting of the year of the above Group was held at the Durban Under-Sea Club-House on Saturday afternoon, 26th February. There was an excellent attendance of 18 members and friends. The writer welcomed those present and in particular Mr. and Mrs. Smit from Mfolozi, who were visiting us for the first time, and also Mr. and Mrs. Darrol Smith from the Transvaal, who are now domiciled in Durban. A warm welcome was extended to Dick Kilburn on his return from Cape Town to take his final honours degree at the Natal University. An apology was received from Dr. and Mrs. v. Bruggen.

Before giving a short talk entitled "The Naming of Shells and the Origin of some of their Names", Mr. Cock referred to the loss the Group was sustaining in the departure of Dr. v. Bruggen shortly to take up an appointment at Leyden University, Holland. Dr. v. Bruggen was instrumental in forming the Natal Group, and was always willing to assist members. We in Natal particularly will miss him and his good lady. It was resolved that a letter congratulating him on his appointment, and wishing him every success and good health, be sent.

After tea, members soon got together and discussions on various aspects of the hobby were in full swing, and some took the opportunity of having some of their unknown shells identified.

When eventually the break-up came at 5.30 p.m. many were loath to go and all declared the meeting to have been one of the most successful

held.

Intimation of the next meeting will be given as soon as arrangements are final.

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BORDER NOTES.

By D.H. Kennelly.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, no Border news appeared in the last Circular, therefore these notes cover the period from December onwards.

In December we had a visit from Edward Dee, who with Les and Rene Cock, were on their way from Natal to Cape Town. These enthusiasts were accompanied by Hazel Jefferies, who appeared to be shepherding the trip.

Friend Dee exhibited a splendid specimen of Murex annandalei Preston, the type locality of which is Ceylon. Unfortunately the writer lost the notes taken about this species, which is one of the most beautiful examples of the Murex family seen during fifty years of collecting. It is hoped our member, E. Dee, will contribute full details of this shell to a Circular, for this would be of interest to all Members.

On the 23rd January the Border Group held a meeting at the Bonza Bay Hotel. The Genus for display and discussion was Patella, and a short talk thereon was given. The attendance at this meeting was smaller than anticipated, due to the absence from East London of some of our Border members.

We were very pleased to have a Pretoria member, Mrs. A. Blomerus, with us, who came with her husband and Hazel Jefferies from Kei Mouth. A welcome was also extended to Mr. Graham Ivy and his good wife, who had arrived at Gonubie in time to attend. This was a very pleasant occasion to the writer, for Graham Ivy is a very old friend, and we met again after a lapse of about sixty years.

It is also pleasing to note the presence of a Student member, Miss Ann Shone, and with regret we learned that another Student member, Miss K. Jagoe, could not be present. The old hands cannot last for ever, and every encouragement is being given our Student members to further their interest in Conchology.

At the conclusion of this successful meeting, the writer left for Kei Mouth with Hazel Jefferies and Mr. and Mrs. Blomerus. Mr. and Mrs. Graham Ivy promptly packed up and followed on Monday morning, so our Sunday meeting extended over Monday and Tuesday.

Border member, Mrs. A. Gilmer, has been away visiting Mauritius, and it is hoped there will be some Mauritian shells to exhibit at the next Border meeting.

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Mr. E. Dee would like to inform members who took tickets in the raffle for the shell lamp, that it was won by Mr. Keightly of Kei Mouth.

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GENERAL NOTES.

VOLUTOCORBIS LUTOSA.

By P. Elston.

At the February meeting of the Society that most generous member, Mr. Dichmont, distributed, to those interested, specimens of Volutocorbis lutosa Koch 1948.

Several of the shells the writer was surprised to observe, were very good specimens indeed with the parietal glaze nearly complete, which is unusual as the shell lives in deep water, forty to sixty fathoms, on clay from, as far as we know at present, the Orange River Mouth to Saldanha Bay with the other similar shell overlaps, Volutocorbis abyssicola Adams & Reeve 1848 - 100 years between - the latter being a larger shell.

I had the privilege of examining 20 specimens of lutosa from those of the Dichmont collection, and on measuring them found all larger than the stated sizes of Barnard and Koch, and these check up very well with the description and measurements given by Koch in the Journal of Conchology.

The inner side of the shells examined have the pale orange colour not often seen in older specimens and the columella pleats in all examples, both large and small, quite distinct, several specimens having five. All had the very dark brown clay covering characteristic of this part of the west coast, whereas further south the clay is mostly white.

One shell, in the area of the apex was completely covered by the clay, which I carefully removed and obtained a perfect mould of the protoconch. The shell bears some resemblance to Volutocorbis abyssiola but is more squat, has fewer folds on the columella and the sculpturing is never so sharp, although in one shell the writer found six folds instead of the usual three to five. Perhaps some of our members could examine their specimens and report thereon and so add to our knowledge of this Mollusc.

For the information of members and to assist in checking should they have larger specimens, the Koch and Dichmont figures are given:

	Koch.	Koch.	Dichmont.	Dichmont.
	<u>Largest specimen.</u>	<u>Smallest.</u>	<u>Largest.</u>	<u>Smallest.</u>
Height	- 8.0 cm.	4.5 cm.	8.5 cm.	5.1 cm.
Width	- 3.5 "	2.8 "	3.7 "	3.4 "
Length of aperture	- 5.0 "	3.4 "	5.3 "	3.6 "
Breadth of aperture	- 1.5 "	1.0 "	1.3 "	1.1 "

Ref. Barnard. Contributions, Part 11, Page 27;
Koch. Journal of Conchology Vol. 23, No. 1.

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NOTES ON CONE SHELLS OF THE WORLD (Marsh & Rippingale).

By D.H. Kennelly.

The following notes have been written in an endeavour to assist those of our Members who are interested in our Conidae, and have consulted the latest book mentioned above.

1. Conus gilvus Reeve (Plate 3, Fig. 11. Test on page 28.

Marsh quotes the type locality as Saldanha Bay, with a range to West Australia. In his introduction to the Conidae, Barnard (1958) lists gilvus as a species yet to be proved as living in South Africa, i.e. he had no live taken specimens with precise locality at the time he was writing.

Turton (1932) lists this shell as C. caffer gilvus Reeve, thereby placing it in the same category as those variable shells now known as C. tinianus Bruguiere. The reader is referred to Marsh, Plate 17, Figs. 17, 18, 19 and 20, also the text on page 121, concerning C. tinianus.

Bartsch (1915) on page 235 lists C. gilvus Reeve, Saldanha Bay, S. Africa. Bartsch (in his heading to the list quoted) states he had inserted the locality if same was quoted by the Author in the original description. In many of his descriptions Reeve did not have a record of the locality from whence the shell he described came. In this instance obviously Reeve's specimen did come from Saldanha Bay, as he recorded this locality.

The writer is unaware if there is a set of Reeve's Conchologia Iconica in the S.A. Museum library, which could be referred to for Reeve's figure and description - Reeve's Monograph on the Conidae, if available, would be invaluable for reference in conjunction with Marsh's book. Until an examination of a living specimen of C. gilvus Reeve is made, and a report published, we can for the present accept C. gilvus Reeve as a

South African species, provided any shells collected agree with the specimen or specimens Barnard had before him when he wrote his Contributions in 1958. The writer unfortunately has never collected, or seen, an authenticated specimen of C. gilvus.

2. Conus algoensis Sowerby 1834. (Plate 10, Fig. 9. Text on page 74).

Barnard (1958) places this as a synonym of C. aurora Lamarck, i.e. C. tinianus Bruguiere 1792 according to Marsh. Again the writer cannot comment further, as no authentic specimen of algoensis has been collected or seen by him. Further examination of the living animal may confirm Barnard's action in rating this name as a synonym.

3. Conus scitulus Reeve. (Plate 3, Fig. 12. Text on page 28).

This is listed by Turton (1932) as C. pictus scitulus Reeve. To the writer, Marsh's Figure 12 of scitulus appears to be very similar to a specimen of C. simplex. Barnard (1958) states that simplex is variable in markings. (Vide next paragraph of these notes).

4. Conus pictus Reeve 1844. (Plate 21, Fig. 22. Text on page 149).

Figure 22 quoted above clearly depicts the shell known for years as C. scitulus. Turton (1932) states that scitulus has two broad bands, as shown in Fig. 22 by Marsh, and that pictus has several narrow bands. Barnard (1958) describes both pictus and scitulus, but his descriptions seem to be the reverse of what Turton wrote.

Here again reference to shells in Barnard's possession, would give accurate information. The writer has never seen an undoubted specimen of pictus, and scitulus depicted by Marsh as being pictus (Fig. 22) is scarce at Jeffreys Bay.

5. Conus simplex Sowerby 1857/8. (Plate 10, Fig. 8, Text on page 73).

So far as the writer knows, this figure appears to be correct. Barnard (1958) records this species as living in False Bay, and in addition says there are two specimens from Mauritius in the S.A. Museum. Marsh quotes the type locality as East Indies, which is presumably correct, and then states simplex to be an endemic South African species! This seems to be a slip by Marsh. A species with the type locality East Indies, and also living in S. Africa, is an indigenous species - not endemic.

6. Conus inflatus Sowerby. (Plate 17, Fig. 16. Text on page 121).

Figure 16 clearly depicts the shell known to us for years as C. lautus Reeve. Unfortunately Barnard (1958) did not mention either inflatus or lautus. The writer has not been able to trace inflatus in the literature available, and it seems dubious if it is really a S. African shell. (Vide next paragraph of these notes).

7. Conus lautus Reeve. (Plate 18, Fig. 10. Text on page 124).

Figure 10 is certainly not C. lautus, which is depicted on Plate 17, Fig. 16. (Vide Paragraph 6 above). This appears to be a transposition of figures and captions in Plates 17 and 18. Marsh's attention should be drawn to this error, and at the same time he should be requested to give more information about inflatus.

Reeve's Monograph on the Conidae would undoubtedly clear this matter to a certain extent with the figure of his lautus.

But where is Sowerby's description of inflatus published and figured? As already said, Barnard did not mention this species, so Marsh is the only person who could answer the question.

8. Conus informis Bruguiere. (Plate 18, Fig. 11. Text on page 124).

This species was not mentioned by Barnard, nor has the writer been able to trace it in available literature. In his text Marsh gives the type locality as American Ocean, but in his caption to Fig. 11 he

quotes informis as being South African in range. There is a mix up here, and if Reeve's Monograph is not available, Marsh should explain. The reader is left wondering if this shell is American or South African, and the writer is of opinion it is NOT S. African.

9. Conus mozambicus Bruguiere. (Plate 9, Fig. 16. Text on page 70).

Our well known shell, C. elongatus Chemnitz, has been identified as mozambicus Bruguiere, and the name elongatus is now a synonym.

The type locality for mozambicus according to Bartsch (1915) is New Guinea, which would be correct. (Vide Para 1 of these notes).

Sowerby (1892) considered these two names as being synonymous, and Barnard (1958) was of the same opinion, but was waiting for confirmation. Les Cock (List of Natal/Zululand Shells) lists elongatus Chemnitz (mozambicus Bruguiere) as taken alive at Park Rynie, Natal, which appears to be the first record of the species as occurring on the Natal coast.

10. Conus bairstowi Sowerby 1892. (Plate 22, Fig. 2. Text page 151).

Rather a poor figure. The usual marking is separate squarish marks in rows. As far as the writer is aware, this species has not been reported from Natal. Les Cock did not include it in his list.

Barnard (1958) places bairstowi Sowerby as a synonym of infrenatus Reeve, but it seems desirable to retain these as separate species on account of the distinctive marking of bairstowi. Barnard describes the radula of infrenatus, but says nothing about that of bairstowi.

Should the radulae of the two shells differ, then the two must be left as distinct species.

11. Conus coronatus Gmelin. Specimens from Natal hitherto identified as C. minimus Linn are now to be placed as coronatus Gmelin.

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CYPRAEA LEUCODON.

By E.T. Haywood.

Further to my correspondence relative to my letter to the Durban Museum - reproduced in Circular 71 on pages 3 and 4 - I have again combed Joyce Allan's "Cowry Shells of World Seas", and have come to the firm conclusion that the shell in question can be none other than Mystaopoda broderipi Sowerby 1832.

Unfortunately I cannot get access to the shell for a close and complete examination, and Joyce Allan's Plate drawing of it is poor and of little help, but her description of the dorsal appearance, coupled with its size - about that of a large specimen of Cypraea Tigris - is so correct that it leaves me in no doubt as to its identity. I cannot find any other shell dealt with by Joyce Allan with which it could reasonably be confused.

I am submitting the above because I cannot see any assistance forthcoming from the Durban Museum authorities in the foreseeable future, if ever, and I feel that the matter should not be left unresolved. If the whole issue is left in mid-air, and for a long time, then the copy of my letter which appeared in the last Circular will have proved a valueless insertion.

Incidentally, Percy Elston apparently did a good deal of work on the collection of shells at the Durban Museum, and informs me that he remembers coming across a shell which he, too, considered to be broderipi; that it was expiscis; and may originally have formed part of the collection of Lt. Col. Boisker of Natal.

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RE CYPRAEA LEUCODON BRODERIP 1828.

By E. Dee.

On reading Mr. E.T. Haywood's letter in the February Circular, Mr. Darrol Smith of the Transvaal Underwater Union (and a member of Dr. Boshoff's team who spent some three months at Port Amelia doing marine research work and collected four specimens of Conus milneedwardsii (Jousseaume 1894) and I decided to interview the Technical Officer of the Durban Museum, a Mr. Lawson, about the shell in question.

Mr. Lawson informed us that when he decided to make up the display of sea shells, he gathered together several groups of shells that would make up an attractive display and as he did not know much about shells in general, he approached Mr. P. Elston who was working on the Museum's shell collection, to name them. This he did.

On checking through the records of the Museum, I found that two specimens of the Cypraea were taken from the stomachs of musselcrackers off the Natal coast and were classified by Tomlin of the British Museum in 1938-39 as Cypraea nivosa Broderip 1877.

When Mr. Elston had concluded his work at the museum, he asked Mr. Lawson for the remaining specimen and this extremely rare shell was given to him. Perhaps Mr. Elston can be persuaded to show it to the Cape Town members at the next meeting.

Mr. Lawson of the Durban Museum can confirm the above facts.

Refs. Joyce Allen, Cowry Shells of the World, p. 107.

Prodrome of a Monograph on Living Cypraea, F.A. & M. Schilder.

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MARGINELLA CAPENSIS KRAUSS 1848.

By P. Elston.

Recently Mr. Dichmont collected the above shell from Simonstown and again many of them are larger than those described so far, the largest given in any reference I have, being 9 x 4.3 mm. Many of the Dichmont specimens measure 14.2 x 6.1 mm. and the average size of those seen 13.5 x 6 mm. Barnard gives the largest identified by Sowerby as 9 x 4.3 mm. The Dichmont shells were obtained in comparatively shallow water whereas Sowerby's were obtained at the depth of 256 fathoms. All the writer has examined have four columella plects but no trace of denticulations within the outer lip. Barnard (and I quote) writes "They probably represent another species, but for the present may be recorded here."

Can any member perhaps give us further information.

Ref. Barnard, Contributions Part 11, Page 3.

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SECRETARY:

TREASURER:

LIBRARIAN:

Mrs. L. Kerr,
77, Kenilworth Rd.,
Kenilworth,
Cape Town.

Miss M. Kempthorne,
15, Upper Whelan St.,
Newlands,
Cape Town.

Mr. S. Kruger,
26, Kloof Nek Road,
Tamboers Kloof,
Cape Town.

Phone 77-5369

69-9226

2-0436

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