



SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A gentle reminder from our Treasurer that your 1963-64 subscription will be due in June. In the next circular we hope to enclose a reminder of the amount owing, as some of you are very forgetful !

XX

BOOK BARGAIN.

Messrs. A. Asher & Co., Herengracht 306, Amsterdam-C, Holland, are publishing a reprint of J. Thiele's "Handbuch der Systematischen Weichtierkunde". The two volumes of this important work will be available at the subscription price of #32.00 or of #38.00 after publication.

As this work has long been out of print, members may wish to avail themselves of this offer. If you forward cash with order, your Secretary will place a bulk order with the firm.

XX

NATAL MEMBERS ATTENTION !

Proposed Meeting in Pietermaritzburg. Why not have a meeting of members and interested persons in Pietermaritzburg one Saturday afternoon in May? Kindly contact undersigned at Natal Museum, Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg or phone 41604 (FNB.)

A.C. van BRUGGEN.

XX

EXCHANGE WANTED.

Senor Carlos Altimira Aleu, Avenue Rep., Argentina, 54-pral 2a, Barcelona, Spain, would like to exchange land and fresh water shells.

XX

GENERAL NOTES.

THAUMASTOCHITON ISIPINGORNIS, Sykes. By D.H. Kennelly.

In his Beginner's Guide, Dr. K.H. Barnard lists this species on account of its rarity, and mentions two examples as being the only ones known.

It is therefore of interest to learn that a third specimen has been taken alive at Kei Mouth, by Mrs. Hazel Jefferies, during the recent stormy weather.

This constitutes an important discovery, and Mrs. Jefferies has generously donated the specimen to the East London Museum.

Kei Mouth is gradually coming into the limelight for shell finds. In addition Mrs. Jefferies reports Turbo coronatus, Gmelin. As far as the writer is able to ascertain, this is the nearest locality to East

London/.....

London where this shell has been proved to live.

(While on holiday at Morgan Bay in June, 1959, live specimens of Turbo coronatus were found near the first river on the East London side of Morgan Bay. Editor)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SPIRULA SPIRULA, Linn. (Ram's Horn Shell). By D.H. Kennelly.

Everyone knows this shell, as it is cast up on all sandy beaches, particularly after a strong South Easter, but it is seldom indeed that a shell attached to the animal is found.

This has been one of the mysteries of the ocean for over a century, and it was not until the research ship Dana secured living ones during an expedition in the Atlantic in 1920/22, enabled scientists to determine the animal as a species of Cuttle.

Our enthusiastic member - Mrs. Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth - was extremely fortunate in finding a shell, with the major portion of the animal attached. The head, arms and tentacles of the creature are missing, but it still is a very unusual find.

This rare specimen has very generously been presented to the East London Museum by Mrs. Jefferies.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

BOOKS, PERIODICALS, ARTICLES AND PAMPHLETS. By A.C. van Bruggen.

The total amount of papers on molluscs published annually is nowadays quite unbelievable. Fortunately the Zoological Record tries to index all these papers and books, so that one at least has an idea what has been published and where. The following table gives a summary of what has been published on shells and the increase in recent years. The figures have been extracted from the Zoological Record and cover all books, papers, pamphlets or chapters in books of a more general nature, that have a bearing on recent and fossil molluscs.

1922	-	666 titles
1927	-	905 do.
1932	-	998 do.
1937	-	1192 do.
1942	-	444 do. (wartime!)
1947	-	1114 do.
1952	-	968 do.
1957	-	1338 do.
1959	-	1289 do. (latest figure available)

These publications are written in many languages in a large number of scientific (and sometimes also popular or semi-popular) journals, which are published by museums, universities, societies, research institutions and other bodies. The number of new periodicals which are appearing every year is unfortunately quite large, so that

every/.....

every day it becomes more difficult to keep up with things. To give only one example: in our own country there have appeared during the last few years new journals with a biological slant such as Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums, Durban Museum Novitates, Journal of Agricultural Science, Koedoe, Lammergeyer, etc. - all of these may print articles on molluscs. Meanwhile other journals have already passed the planning stage.

There exists a fair number of purely malacological journals, which cover some of the field, although less than half. Some of these are quite old and have a long tradition behind them. In 1958 there were 15 (in 1940, 9) current printed malacological periodicals, viz., 6 in the U.S.A., 3 in Great Britain, and one each in France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Cuba and Australia. The oldest among the still existing journals are the Journal de Conchyliologie (France, 1850), the Archiv für Molluskenkunde (Germany, 1868) and the Journal of Conchology (Great Britain, 1878). Since World War II up to 1958 the following new journals have appeared: Occasional Papers on Mollusks (U.S.A., 1945), Leaflets in Malacology (U.S.A., 1946), Gastropodia (U.S.A., 1952), Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia (1957). In the meantime at least three more have been started in various parts of the world.

An entirely new trend has appeared lately, namely specialist journals. For a long time some of the existing periodicals have applied themselves to various fields, but never exclusively. The German Archiv für Molluskenkunde is the world's leading journal for land molluscs, the Cuban journal has always devoted most of its space to Cuban species, etc. However, the appearance on the market of journals such as Gastropodia (for univalves only) and The Cowry (for Cypraeidae and allied groups only) has started a new era in malacological publications. Is there really a demand for such specialist journals? It is still too early to assess the position, but it is expected that some more periodicals of a restricted scope will make their appearance soon. I would not be surprised at all to see a journal solely devoted to bilharzia malacology and another exclusively for bivalves.

Papers on molluscs take up a considerable amount of space in biological, zoological, marine biological, science and museum journals. It is difficult to consult all these, which as a rule are only available in large scientific reference libraries. The only possibility of building up such a library is exchange of scientific journals; consequently the only libraries of any real importance for systematic zoology are found in the three national museums which have been publishing their own Annals for a long time, viz., Pretoria (Transvaal Museum), Cape Town (South African Museum) and Pietermaritzburg (Natal Museum).

It is utterly impossible to give an account of these journals, which are published in a variety of languages all over the world. Journals of institutions which have one or more malacologists on their staff (such as in London, Paris, Leiden, Frankfurt, Stockholm, New York, etc., etc., etc.) are absolutely essential.

Books are quite another chapter. They are helpful up to a point, but in fact are not really essential to the professional man. Monographs are seldom produced commercially, but almost always appear in a series published by scientific institutions or societies. Therefore, books which appear on the general market are nice and helpful, but rarely give a definitive opinion on many controversial issues. Of course, there is a minority of books, such as texts and handbooks (e.g. Thiele and Wenz-Zilch), which are indispensable for a malacological library.

Actually it would be possible for a malacologist to spend most if not all of his time catching up and keeping up with the literature. In

doing so/.....

doing so he should at least have a reading knowledge of French and German, while a bit of Latin is also invaluable in interpreting very old papers (in Latin) or papers in languages such as Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. One should not forget that some of our South African classics are written in German (Krauss, Sturany, Thiele) and that our Portuguese neighbours also publish quite a lot; moreover, countless monographs, texts and handbooks are written in French or German.

What books to buy for the collector of sea shells in South Africa? It is well-nigh impossible to give sound advice here. Everybody should possess Dr. Barnard's booklet. Depending on available funds one should buy the same author's three major scientific papers in the Annals of the South African Museum. Old works are valuable, but have to be interpreted cautiously: Krauss, Soverby, Bartsch and Turton are the four classics. The first two are rarely offered for sale and fetch quite high prices; the others are met with more frequently, but also fetch fair prices.

Unfortunately that is about all in the line of books. Numerous papers are to be found throughout the literature. In the period 1935-1960 there appeared 107 papers and books (of which 75 on marine molluscs) in 5 languages in 37 different journals, which have a bearing on South African molluscs. A large increase in this can be expected for the next quarter century. This will result in a better understanding of our mollusc fauna, which at the moment is still so imperfectly known.

XX

A NEW GENUS IN THE FAMILY MARGINELLIDAE. (Notes taken from the proceedings of the Malacological Society of London) by K.H. Barnard (South African Museum) 9th June, 1961.

Diluculum inopinatum n.sp.

Shell ovoid, polished, subpellucid, spire short, obtuse, whorls 3-3½, aperture narrow, outer lip thickened, not denticulate or plicate internally, columella with 3 pleats, the posterior one weakest. Creamy-white. 4.5 x 2.75 mm. and 5 x 3 mm.

Radula with 120-130 plates. Animal pale fawn or pinkish. Saldanha Bay area, 3-28 fathoms.

Type, with radula, in Zoology Department, University of Cape Town. No.SB.244.V. Cotypes in South African Museum, Cape Town.

XX

VOLUTA AFRICANA, Reeve, and V. AFRICANA, Var. RIETENSIS, Turton.

By D.H. Kennelly.

Prompted by the remarks recently by Dr. K.H. Barnard, on the two species mentioned above, the writer made an examination of the specimens held by the East London Museum.

There are about 30 shells, and considering they are all beach specimens, are all in very good condition.

The following measurements are given for further reference:-

- One specimen, Bonza Bay, 75 x 45 m.m.
- Two from East London, both 70 x 50 m.m.
- One from Pearde Kraal E.L. 70 x 40 m.m.
- One from Xora Mouth, 50 x 25 m.m.
- One from Port Alfred, 25 x 15 m.m. (The smallest)

A survey/.....

A survey of all specimens shows they grade in size from the largest (75 m.m.) to the smallest (25 m.m.), and in view of this, it appears that the Variety rietensis could well be omitted as being the properly adult - or aged - shell of africana.

In regard to the range of V. africana, this appears to be from Port Alfred to the Natal coast mainly. At Port Elizabeth the species appears to be rare, while at Jeffreys Bay not even a broken specimen has been found so far as is known by the writer.

References:- Marine Shells of Port Alfred, W.H. Turton, 1932.  
Annals, South African Museum, Vol. XIV, Part 1,  
June 1959, by Dr. K.H. Barnard.

XX

BORDER NOTES. By D.H. Kennelly.

Donax serra, Roding. (Cir. No. 41. Page 6)

With reference to the above, the writer has now succeeded in finding D. serra living at three localities on the East London Coast. These colonies are all small, and are being strictly preserved by the local Angling Society to avoid possible extinction.

Lamellaria Sp.? ex Bonza Bay. (Circ. No. 41. Page 8)

The specimen sent to Dr. K.H. Barnard has now been identified as Lamellaria perspicua, Linn., and we are grateful to Dr. Barnard for his interest in this matter.

This species has also been reported from Port Elizabeth and Port Alfred, but the writer is unaware if positive identification has been made of these specimens.

Proposed Meeting of Shell Collectors.

As the winter School holidays will soon be with us, an effort is being made to hold a meeting of all Shell Collectors in this part of the country at the Bonza Bay Hotel.

The date is the long week end in July (6th to 8th), and it is hoped that in addition to Eastern Province and Border members, it may be possible for Western Province members visiting East London to attend also. The meeting will not be confined to members of the Society, but a welcome is extended to all interested in shells including Juniors.

Personalia.

We very much regret to learn that our enthusiastic Member - Mr. E.C. Wicks of Uitenhage - has been seriously ill, and spent three weeks in hospital. He is now up and about once more, and we hope he will shortly be enabled to continue his shell collecting.

XX

SECRETARY.

Mrs. L. Kerr,  
Ryde Villa,  
Kenilworth Road,  
Kenilworth.

TREASURER.

Miss M. Kempthorne,  
3 Alvanley,  
Main Road,  
Kenilworth.

Phone: 77-5369

Phone: 77-7138