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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 92.

DECEMBER, 1967.

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

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A very happy Christmas to all members
and a healthy and prosperous New Year,
with good shelling!

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MEETING:

As advertised in the last circular, there will be a "special" meeting on Tuesday, 12th December, 1967 at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum. We still need shells for the Auction and also some for the Lucky Dip. Don't forget those cakes, ladies!

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE S.A. MUSEUM 28.11.1967:

A full house of members and friends was welcomed by Mr. Freeman in the Chair, especially Mrs. Pinkham, who had been away for a long time owing to ill health, Mrs. le Roux from Somerset West and Mr. Fenwick from the Transvaal. We were also pleased to see our old friends Jack Walker and son Chris. Apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. Dewar and Mr. Swaneveld. Mrs. Giles brought greetings from Mr. Aiken and Mr. Jenner, both of Johannesburg. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

The following were elected as members of the Society:

Mr. J. Polack, 80, 16th Street, Parkhurst, Johannesburg.
Mr. J. Cummins, 82, McKillop Street, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Mr. C.F. Claydon was proposed as a new member by Mrs. E.K. Giles and seconded by Mr. M.C. Giles.

Mr. Freeman informed us that our President, Mr. Kennelly, would like information on S.A. Cypraea. Mr. Kennelly also said that members were not reporting shell finds to the Secretary. The localities of even the commonest shells are important.

Mr. Freeman then mentioned that the Society had been asked to exhibit in the Hall of Science at the Cape Show in February and March. The Council would consider this in detail.

There were nine magnificent displays of rare shells on the table, notably Max Ackermann's, Elizabeth Kinloch's, Jock Dichmont's and a good exhibit from our young Junior Member, Kraziella Bolza. Mrs. Pinkham had brought a large semi-fossil Nautilus pompileus which had been found 3 ft. under the sand at Struis Baai, Agulhas.

After tea, Dr. Richard Hewlett gave a most informative talk on Marine Toxins, which he illustrated by means of diagrams and pictures.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mrs. S.M. White, c/o Ass. Portland Cement Man. (Aus.) Ltd.,
P.O. Box 1571, 20 Bridge Street, Sydney, Australia.

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Exchange/...

EXCHANGE WANTED:

1. Mr. Daniel Boust, 57 Rue de l'Eglise, Harcourt, Belgium. Offers Cones and Cypraea.
2. Mr. A.D. Bickell, Hewlett Packard Aus. (Pty) Ltd., 22-26 Weir Street, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146, Australia.
3. Mr. Neil Russel, P.O. Box 124, Port Alice, B.C. Canada.
4. Mr. Dario Franchini, 37 via Cremond, 46100 Mantova, Italy - is writing a book on Murex.
5. Mr. Alejandro del Valle Y Suero, Apartado Postal 33, Veracruz, Ver. Mexico.
6. Mr. T. Montgomery, P.O. Box F.L., Agana, Guam, M.I. 96910.

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NATAL LIST:

by P. Elston.

With regard to the recently published Additional List of South African Marine Shells, Natal and Zululand and Coast, By (The Late) B.L. Cock, where Authors are not mentioned the following may be added:-

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|----------|--------|--------|
| No. 17 | author Sowerby. | 105. | Gaskoin. | 134. | Reeve. |
| | 134. | Bruguiere. | 158. | Reeve. | |

Ref: Marine Shells of South Africa-Sowerby. 1892. Barnard. Contributions Pt. 1 February 1963. Thes. Conch. Sowerby. Man. de Conchy Chenu and Ponsonby's Annotations. Brit. Mus.

Also please note that Mrs. R. Cock recently found LIVE specimens of No. 1 (in the Additional List, just published. Patelloida profunda Deshayes.

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BORDER NOTES:

by D.H. Kennelly.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances and the absence of several members during December and January, meetings have been suspended. Activities will be resumed on the 28th January with a meeting in the Lecture Room, East London Museum.

Reminders will be posted to Border members in good time. There will be interesting shells exhibited, and colour slides of Mauritius in addition.

The President takes this opportunity to wish his fellow Council members, and all members of our Society, a Bright and Happy and a Prosperous New Year.

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CAPE NOTES:

by L. Kerr.

Our Betty Giles found two live Turbo cidaris at Melkbos (beyond Blaauwberg) the other day. They were fairly large. (Don Aiken please note). Elizabeth Kinloch and the writer spent two interesting days at Cape Point recently. As it was not Spring Tide, we did not find very much. A fine Conus elongatus was bagged and live Patella compressa, Thais dubia and very large Oxystele tigrina and O. sinensis. Among the beach shells we found a broken Cypraea algoensis.

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The Occurrence of Turbo cidaris Gmelin, west of Cape Point. by D. Freeman.

Mr. D. Aiken's notes in circular 90 of October, 1967 are yet another reminder of the need for collectors to report what they find. Turbo cidaris does, in fact, occur in large numbers at suitable localities along the West coast of the Cape Peninsula. Dr. Barnard's remarks in his "Contributions to the knowledge of South African Marine mollusca" are all the more surprising when one discovers, as I did some time ago, that one gentleman who is partial to cooked, pickled Turbo, has been gathering them at Bachelors' Cove near Clifton by the bagful for the last 30 years.

One observation that I have made over the years may be of interest: As you know, T. cidaris is a very variable species as far as its colour pattern is concerned. Bachelors' Cove is fairly close to where I live and I have collected there regularly for the past 8 years. I have been particularly struck by the way in which certain colours and patterns seem to predominate in one season, only to be replaced by a different set in the following year. One year most of the shells will be dark brown with small white axial flashes; the next year there will be a large number with prominent orange spiral bands; and then there may be a year when green seems to be fashionable. Whatever colour happens to be predominant, of course, there are still many of the others to be found at the same time.

Rather more exciting than the above, however, was the discovery on 10th October, 1965 of a juvenile Turbo sarmaticus at Bachelors' Cove. This is a warm water species and the West Coast of the peninsula is a cold water area. The discovery of another specimen in October, 1966 indicates that isolated veligers do get washed along the coast at times, but it is unlikely that they arrive in large enough numbers to become established.

Would any member who finds Turbo cidaris or Turbo sarmaticus at Mouille Point, Blouberg or Melkbosch, or perhaps even North of those points, please report to the Secretary for publication in the circular.

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Cypraea amphithales Melville 1888.

by E. Dee.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Carlsson on his article on Cypraea amphithales appearing in Circular 91 and wish to add that I too have not reported my finds of this supposedly rare shell. I have at the moment in my possession some 10 specimens (2 fresh dead shells, 2 fairly fresh beach rolled shells, and 6 other rather the worse for wear). I have also exchanged or given away another 8 or 9 specimens over the last 4 years and have also had the privilege of examining Hazel Jeffries' excellent specimens.

The description as given in Joyce Allen's "Cowry shells of World Seas" page 30 is accurate as far as it goes, but one important fact is omitted. It is to be noted that the margins are spotted and also all the specimens I have examined, the left margin has a brown mark immediately above the spots extending from the anterior canal right round and into the sunken umbilicus.

In December 1965 Hazel Jeffries and I stopped over at Mossel Bay while on our way to Cape Town. Bobbie Richards showed us her new acquisition and told us the story.

On examining the shell I informed Bobbie that it was not Cypraea amphithales, but a very fine specimen of Cypraea algoensis, Gray 1825. I took several colour slides of the shell showing the dorsal, base and margins of the shell and I am going to use them to illustrate this shell in my book on South African Marine shells.

To the/....

To the best of my knowledge no one has collected a live specimen of Cypraea amphithales even while skin diving, and that is one of my treasured ambitions to be able to say I have done so.

The range of Cypraea amphithales is the same as that of Cypraea capensis namely Cape St. Francis to Kei Mouth. C. edentula extends further north and very beach rolled specimens have been found up to Umgasana Mouth.

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Letter from Mrs. P. Ogilvie, Johannesburg.

I read with interest R.O. Carlsson's article in Circular No. 91 - on Cyp. amphithales: For your record I have found three specimens - Locality Queensterry Bay - 18 miles north of East London -

1 July 1965 (good condition)

1 July 1966 (good condition)

(These are no longer in my possession).

1 July 1967 (worn).

All specimens found in the same place where Cyp. capensis and Cyp. edentula are frequently found.

In July 1966 I found three Cypraea with ridging and narrow aperture of Cyp. capensis, but with spotted margins.

Joyce Allen states that specimen Cyp. capensis in British Museum measures 37 mm. in length and 21 mm. in width.

The largest Cyp. capensis I have found near Kwelega River mouth, is 36 mm. length, 22 mm. breadth. (Measurements taken by Allan Jenner). My own measurements may not be accurate, but the average size in the past four years is 34 mm. length and 20 mm. breadth.

In July 1967 all specimens were very scarce and small. The largest being 26 mm. length, 17 mm. breadth.

I have noticed that fresh specimens capensis and edentula taken near a river mouth have been larger but duller in colour than those taken further north away from the swiftly flowing river.

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Notes on the Range of Indo/Pacific Cypraeidae on the South Eastern Coast of South Africa:

by D.H. Kennelly.

In order to arrive at a better understanding of the subject under discussion, it is necessary to look into the background and study the records published by writers half a century ago.

Sowerby (1892) listed 31 species of Cypraea, of which 25 have the locality Port Elizabeth. Turton (1932) listed 16 species from Port Alfred. All these specimens were dead beach shells.

In the collections held by South African Museums, and those owned privately, will be found records of Indo/Pacific Cypraea taken at numerous localities. Here again all these records refer to dead shells.

Scientific workers and writers today demand production of a live taken specimen before they will add the locality to the known range of the species concerned.

This certainly is the correct attitude, as it minimises the risk of incorrect entries in scientific records.

Barnard (1963) listed 23 species of Cypraea, which he accepts as living on the South African coast - the locality furthest South (from Natal) being Umgasana (near Port St. Johns).

At this last mentioned locality, Barnard records C. caput-serpentis, C. erosa and C. falina.

The writer is very grateful to several members of the Conchological Society, who have communicated the result of their collecting together with the specimens for identification.

A list is appended of the species collected and the localities.

All these specimens were taken alive, thereby increasing the known range of five species mentioned by Barnard, together with one not mentioned by him, i.e. C. fimbriata.

Coffee/....

<u>Coffee Bay</u> (Transkei)	Cypraea carneola, Linn. (Bulla stage).
	" tigris, Linn. (Sub-adult).
	" caput-serpentis, Linn.
	" vitellus, Linn.
<u>Kei Mouth</u>	Cypraea helvola meridionalis, Schilder.
	" caput-serpentis, Linn.
<u>Haga Haga</u>	Cypraea vitellus, Linn.
<u>Queensberry Bay</u>	Cypraea vitellus, Linn.
	" fimbriata, Gmelin.
<u>Gonubie</u>	Cypraea caput-serpentis, Linn.
	(Two shells taken).
<u>Nahoon</u> (East London)	Cypraea caput-serpentis, Linn.
<u>Summerstrand</u> (Port Elizabeth)	Cypraea vitellus, Linn.

Collectors who are able to dive, or snorkel, for live specimens, have every chance to add reliable records to the known range of South African Mollusca.

References: Barnard, Dr. K.H. 1963. Annals S.Af. Museum, Vol. XLVII, Part 3 Cont ... S.Af. Shells.
 Cock, B.L. 1965. South African Marine Shells from the Natal/Zululand Coast.
 Kennelly, D.H. 1965. Shells from the "Wild Coast", South Africa.
 Sowerby, G.B. 1892. South African Marine Shells.
 Turton, Lt.Col. W.H. 1932. Marine Shells of Port Alfred.

See also C.S.S.A. Circulars No. 67, page 4, No. 69, page 6 and No. 87, page 3.

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A JAPANESE SHELL IN SOUTH AFRICA:

by D.H. Kennelly.

October has proved to be a month of surprises from a conchological point of view.

During the month our member, Mr. G.C. Le Roux of Bellville (Cape), called at the East London Museum for identification of some specimens.

The surprise came when this keen collector produced a shell identified as being an example of Cassia japonica Reeve, measuring 70 mm.

From information supplied by Mr. Le Roux, this specimen was trawled from a depth of 60 fathoms in the Port Alfred area. The shell retains the colour and sculpture, but the outer lip has been chipped. It is not known if the animal was in the shell when it was discovered. Although a little larger than specimens in the East London Museum, the Port Alfred shell agrees in colour and sculpture.

There is no mention of this shell in available literature in regard to its presence in South African waters and Mr. Le Roux's specimen is apparently the first to be discovered and reported.

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