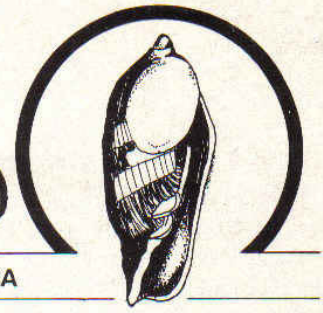


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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1975

THE GENUS *COLUBRARIA* SCHUMACHER, 1817, IN SOUTH AFRICAN WATERS

by R.N. Kilburn,
Natal Museum

INTRODUCTION

The Latin name *Colubraria*, meaning "snake-like", refers to the long, tapering spire, which is, appropriately, curved in a sinuous manner in some species. The genus was originally included in the Cymatiidae, but in recent years there has been some controversy as to whether *Colubraria* should be placed in the Buccinidae or in its own family. The latest opinion, that of Ponder (1973), is that the Colubrariidae should be maintained as a valid family, allied to the Buccinidae, but separable from it on characters of the anterior alimentary canal. Supposed buccinid genera such as *Metula* and *Kanamaria*, which have been regarded as connecting links, could well prove to be colubrariid.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Shell relatively solid, elongately-fusiform; spire high and acuminate, 1.5 to 2 times the length of the relatively small aperture; siphonal canal short. Columella with a thick callus shield, whose outer edge is free or even flaring, and which extends over the parietal region as a smooth glaze. Outer lip thickened by a varix, inner margin usually with small teeth; previous lip varices (one or two per whorl) are retained on the spire. Sculpture is usually granular or cancellate, sometimes intricately so. Protoconch smooth, conical, 3-4 whorls. Colouration usually consists of brown markings on a lighter ground. The periostracum is un conspicuous or absent. Species range in length from 2 to 9 cm. Operculum corneous, with a terminal nucleus.

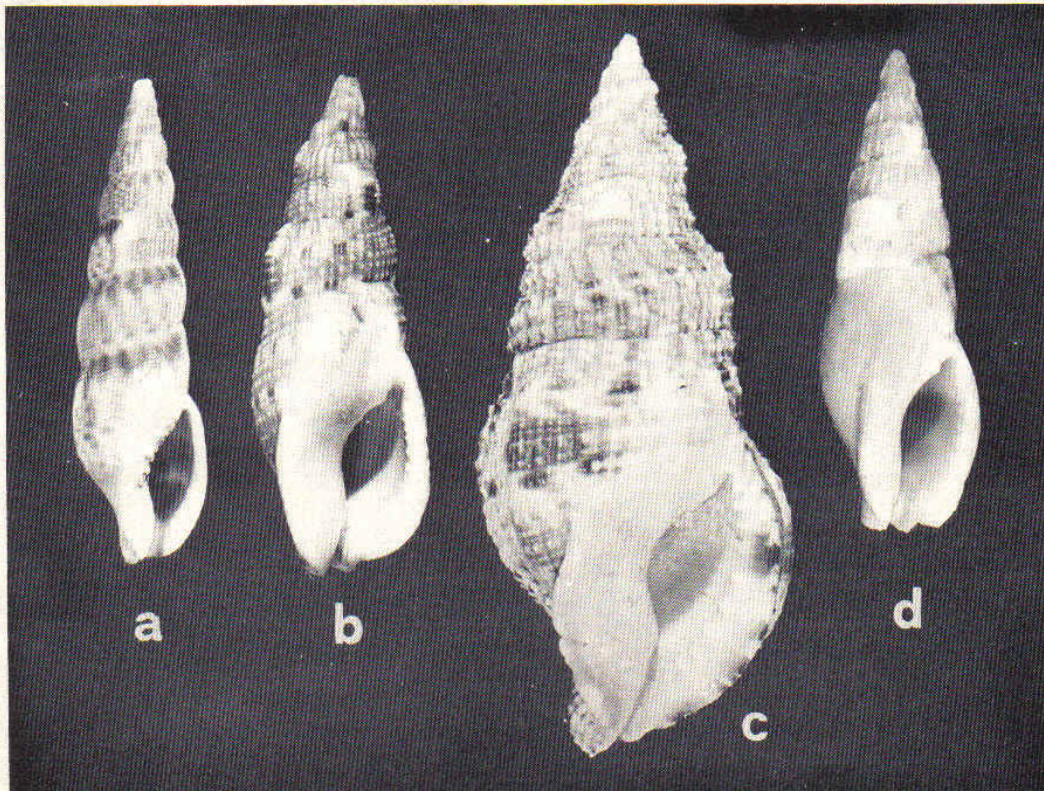


Plate 1. South African
Colubraria spp.
(a) *C. alfredensis*
Batsch.
(b) *C. obscura*
(Reeve)
(c) *C. muricata*
(Lightfoot)
(d) *C. nitidula*
(Sowerby)

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There is no radula whatsoever (in the related genus *Ratifusus* it is present, although degenerate).

OCCURRENCE:

Colubraria is a shallow water group, inhabiting tropical and subtropical seas (Mediterranean, Caribbean, and tropical Indo-Pacific). There are probably between twenty and thirty species, of which four occur in South Africa. A fifth (*C. soverbii* (Reeve, 1844)) has been found in northern Moçambique, but this is here regarded as being beyond the limits of the South African region (Kunene River to the Bight of Sofala).

BIOLOGY:

Apart from the fact that *Colubraria* species live among sheltered rocks or coral, and presumably swallow their prey (whatever that might be!) by suction, nothing is recorded of their biology. None of the South African species appear to have been taken in living state.

Note: Two supposed South African *Colubraria*, *fictilis* (Hinds, 1844) and *crebrilirata* (Sowerby, 1903), from deep water on the Agulhas Bank, are closer to the Australasian *Ratifusus* - *Iredalula* complex of genera, and are here excluded from *Colubraria*.

KEY TO SOUTH AFRICAN SPECIES:

- A. Outer lip smooth inside, varices weak and barely raised, spire twice length of aperture; sculpture very finely cancellate; chiefly E. Cape to Pondoland
 *C. alfredensis*
- B. Outer lip toothed inside, varices strong, spire only 1¼ to 1½ times aperture; Pondoland/Natal.
- a) Adult whorls almost smooth to the naked eye
 *C. nitidula*
- b) Adult whorls with coarse granular or cancellate sculpture.
- (i) Sculpture coarsely cancellate, with sharp granules, interstices dull, with microscopic axial or cancellate striations; large (8-9cm)
 *C. muricata*
- (ii) Sculpture of axially aligned granules, with polished, spirally microstriate intervals, smaller (5-6cm) *C. obscura*

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES

Colubraria alfredensis Bartsch, 1915 (pl. la.)

DESCRIPTION:

Rather slender, spire twice length of aperture, often slightly bent, whorls convex; outer lip not greatly thickened, smooth inside, slightly flattened above middle; parietal region without a denticle; varices barely raised, rather irregular, but tending to be spirally aligned on later whorls. Sculpture finely cancellate, the spiral threads being a little finer than the axial ribs; the latter are usually obsolete on the last whorl. Mottled and flecked with dull chestnut or yellowish-brown on a whitish ground. Length 48mm.

DISTRIBUTION:

Eastern Cape to Natal south coast.

LOCALITY RECORDS:

E. Cape: various localities between Jeffreys Bay and Bulugha (Natal Museum); also seen from Nthlonyane (Transkei), and reliably reported from Palm Beach, Natal (L. & R. Cock). Type locality: Port Alfred.

REMARKS:

Colubraria alfredensis is one of the most prized of eastern Cape shells and is decidedly rare throughout its range.

Colubraria nitidula (Sowerby, 1833) (pl. 1d.)

DESCRIPTION:

Broader and more solid than *C. alfredensis*, with less convex whorls, a lower, more tapering spire (about 1.5 times length of aperture) and conspicuous varices which ascend up the spire in a more or less spiral (or oblique) sequence. Outer lip with small teeth inside, edge flattened below middle in fresh shells due to the presence of a thin, lobe-like expansion of the base of the lip; parietal region with a tubercle. Sculpture of the earlier whorls consists of thin, low axial and spiral threads, with small rounded granules at their intersections; this becomes weaker with growth, and the axial element generally becomes obsolete by the last whorl, which bears only thin, rather widely spaced, spiral threads bearing degenerate granules; the interstitial surface is glossy, with close, microscopic spiral striations. Colour pale brown, mottled with darker and lighter brown, the paler areas showing chestnut spots, varices white with brown bands. Length 43mm.

DISTRIBUTION:

Natal south coast to Indo-West Pacific.

LOCALITY RECORDS:

Natal: Durban and Port Shepstone (Natal Museum). An early Port Elizabeth record was rejected by Kilburn (1972). Type locality: Caroline Islands.

REMARKS:

A rare species. All of the Natal Museum shells are worn, save for one juvenile. Fresh adults from South Africa are badly needed!

Colubraria obscura (Reeve, 1844) (pl. 1b.)

DESCRIPTION:

Similar in shape, colouration and general character to *C. nitidula*, but is slightly broader, more solid, and attains a larger size. Sculpture of small granules set on low, close axial ribs, but also aligned spirally (penultimate whorl with 7-9 spiral rows); intervals glossy, with microscopic, wavy, spiral striae as in *C. nitidula*. The heavy varices are irregularly arranged, usually being staggered in an open spiral sequence. Base of lip convex but without a conspicuous lobe. Length 56mm.

DISTRIBUTION:

Indo-West Pacific to Pondoland.

LOCALITY RECORDS:

Moçambique: Jangamo area (N.M.: A. Jenner). Natal: Umhloti: Kelso (N.M.). Also seen from Coffee Bay and Mzamba (Pondoland), and was recorded from Umzikaba by Barnard (1963: 37). Type locality: East Indies.

REMARKS:

This is probably the least rare of the southern African

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Colubraria spp., particularly on the Natal south coast. Nevertheless rarity is a relative term and fresh shells must be considered scarce indeed.

Modern American workers also list *C. obscura* as a tropical west Atlantic species. However the species in question differs from *obscura* in its granulose-plicate columella, coarser and more wided set sculpture and more restricted callus; moreover the interstitial microsculpture is here purely axial, instead of strictly spiral as in true *obscura*. The name *Colubraria testacea* (Mörch, 1852) should probably be utilized for the New World species.

Colubraria muricata (Lightfoot, 1786) (pl. 1c.)

SYNONYMS:

Murex maculosus Gmelin, 1791 [= *Colubraria maculosa* of authors]; *Colubraria granulata* Schumacher, 1817.

DESCRIPTION:

Basically similar to *C. obscura*, but larger and broader, with a proportionately lower spire, narrower aperture and a more produced and upturned siphonal canal. Outer lip massive, not very convex basally, with strong teeth, columella callus thick, bearing weak pustules basally.

Sculpture cancellate, with thin, more or less equal axial and spiral ridges, and with rather sharp tubercles at the intersections, rendering the shell somewhat prickly to the touch; the intervals bear minute dense axial threads, rendered microcancellate in places by spiral striae. Colour richly blotched in zones with deep chestnut, light reddish brown, and white, with a few rows of small dark brown spots separated by white intervals. Length 83mm.

RANGE:

From Natal throughout most of the Indo-West Pacific.

LOCALITY RECORDS:

Natal: Durban (Natal Museum: P. Elston); Isipingo (old, eroded shell, South African Museum: R.K.). Type locality: unknown.

REMARKS:

C. muricata is undoubtedly the rarest member of the genus in South Africa.

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AUSTRALIAN JOURNEY

By V. NIELL

One of the high lights of my recent visit to Australia and New Zealand was the time I spent attending the Third Australian Shell Convention, which was held in Fremantle from 26th — 30th August, 1974. A Shell Show was held in conjunction with the Convention and this was attended by many people.

During the week prior to the opening of the Convention it was arranged for a party of Conchologists to go south from Fremantle to a place called Yallingup, for a weeks shelling. Everything was well planned and we shared three holiday cottages right on the shore. The company was great but the weather certainly wasn't. The wind blew every day and the sea just didn't give us a chance to get to the rocks at all. In spite of this we did go to the beach everyday and I was lucky enough to find two *Cypraea reevi* and some *Conus doreenensis*, beach shells but in quite good condition. There was plenty to do and see other than trying shelling. Most interesting was a visit to a wild park which housed a good selection of Australian birds. The park was also planted with many varieties of wild flowers but we were a few weeks too soon to see them at their best. Later, during my trip to Broome, the wild flowers were out in all their glory — West Australia is well named the Wild Flower State. There were flowers everywhere.

On our return from this happy week down south we headed for the Fremantle Town Hall which was a hive of activity with a wonderful display of shells. The centre of the hall held the long display tables divided into sections for the various families of shells. Round the walls the larger shells were on display and there were some real beauties among them. Marine tanks containing beautiful fish and many live shells made a fascinating exhibit. There was also a shell shop with a good selection of shells at reasonable prices. A shell competition was organised and the judges certainly must have had a hard time selecting the winners. The shells were all beautiful specimens. The 'Shell of the Show, Australia' was a magnificent *Cypraea talpa* taken in the Coral Bay, West Australia, and the 'Shell of the Show, World Wide' was a *Phalium (Semiccassis) adcocki* (Sowerby, 1896) taken at 90 fathoms in Investigator Strait, South Australia — this was a real gem.

Other sections were of World wide cypraea, cones, volutes, olives, marginella — in fact most of the different families were displayed. Yet other sections were Best big shell minimum size 6 in., best display of shell craft, world wide — any selection, West Australian selection, a juvenile section and one for photographs of shells.

It was estimated that 7000 people paid to enter the show which was billed as the World's Largest Exhibition of Shells. The claimed value of shells on exhibit was 100,000 dollars and the display was attended by Club members for twenty-four hours a day.

The Convention was officially opened by the Governor of West Australia after which members were entertained at an official luncheon. Interesting lectures and papers on a wide variety of topics were presented, including 'Breeding Habits of a Turban Shell', 'The Life History of Red Abalones' and 'Advanced Aquarium Methods'.

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AN ENERGETIC "CONCHO-MANIAC'S" IDEA OF FUN

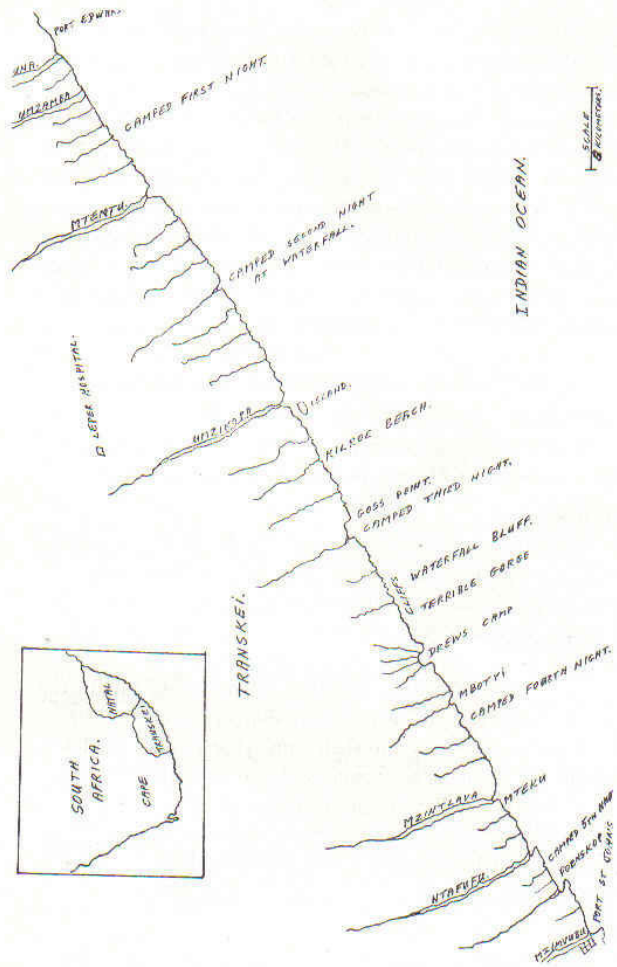
by C. Hanneman

The next morning we rose early after a restful night, but we did, however, feel the effects of sunburn. After a hot breakfast we packed up camp and were on our way by six o'clock. We stuck to an inland route which led us through a leper reserve. Before we left home we had been warned to be careful in this area, as it abounds in snakes, with baboons and leopards in the rocky kranses. We soon encountered some of the wild life. As we were walking through knee-deep grass there was the most blood-curdling hiss. Mark and I sprung sideways in terror. Belinda and Glenn, bringing up the rear thought it very amusing, but we noticed that they gave that spot a wide berth. A kilometre further on the same thing happened when we were all together but the grass was so tall and dense that we could not see what it was. Further on, while passing an outcrop of rock, I happened to look up, and there was a large male baboon staring down at us. I regretted not having brought a firearm, nevertheless we continued with one eye on the baboon and one eye in the grass.

Eventually we joined up with a sand road from the coast, which we followed down to the Msikaba river mouth. It was here that we came across a cannon from the Grosvenor wreck. The river was deep and wide so we used our dinghy to cross and, as we climbed the steep hill away from the river, an island was visible just off shore.

We were now passing through the Hlabati tribal territory which consisted of long, flat grassy hills over which we made rapid progress. The foreshore was rocky and we were anxious to get back there to do some shelling. We crossed numerous little streams, each consisting of a series of pools with little waterfalls between each, and each pool had its water lilies with large green leaves and bright purple flowers. The banks were lined with green grass, groups of palms, reeds, bullrushes or multicoloured wild flowers. I thought of all the botanical gardens I had seen which qualified horticulturists had made beautiful, but none could compare with the least of these creations. These streams were ideal for filling our waterbottles.

At 12.30 p.m. we arrived at Kilroe beach and enjoyed lunch next to the Mbaxeni river. A lone hiker who was going in the opposite direction came along and we had quite a chat. Lunch over, we continued along the flat grassy slopes just above the rocky shore, passing through numerous little streams. We waded through the Magoga river and then made our way down to Port Grosvenor at the mouth of the Tezana river. This was a disappointing place consisting of a number of dilapidated cottages which were probably built by treasure hunters seeking the gold that was supposed to be aboard the sailing vessel Grosvenor which was wrecked over a hundred years ago. Progress was fast over the flat grass above the rocky shore, and, after passing through more streams, the Maviti river and Goss Point we arrived at the mouth of the Mkweni river where we camped for the night. We pitched our tent on a thick grassy bank next to a lovely bay with rocks on both sides, a white sandy beach and a picturesque lagoon inland. After a



Map of the South African coastline from Port Edward to Port St. Johns.

nourishing supper of curry and rice we turned in for the night.

On the morning of our fourth day we again rose early and by 6 a.m. were paddling through the surf across the bay. Here we again headed off along the grass and shortly came across a camp of students, also on a hike, but they were still in bed. We passed through more streams and the Lupatana river after which we found the hills becoming higher until we were walking on the tops of cliffs, with near-vertical drops of 250 metres into the sea. From this height we could see many kilometres out to sea. This area was the Lambasu tribal section, but there was not a living sole to be seen. Eventually we came to a cliff at right angles to the sea that cut right across our path. This was Waterfall Bluff and we had to turn inland in order to descend to cross the Mlambomkulu river. Again this was a magnificent place with pools, waterfalls and flowers. We climbed out the other side and continued along the top having to descend and climb out of yet another gorge to cross the Mfihlelo river. Arriving at the Culweni river we came to another almost vertical drop and once again headed

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inland till we felt we could manage the steep descent. This was difficult but eventually we waded the river and then scaled up the opposite almost vertical side, pulling ourselves up by means of tufts of grass and taking frequent rests. We kept going, not daring to look down till we reached the top 500 metres above, where we all lay down to recover. When we looked back to where we had crossed we all vowed never to do anything like that again. Here we saw the most gorgeous protea flowers, but as we could not spend all day there we set off again, stopping on a hillside at Sikatsha for lunch.

After lunch we descended to the beach at Drews Camp, a delightful bay about two kilometres across, rocks at each end and a fantastic reef in the centre. There are four rivers within the bay, one waterfall about 150 metres high, with the whole surrounded by steep high hills. Again we arrived at high tide but nevertheless managed to collect quite a variety of shells, some of which still have to be identified. We tore ourselves away from the beach and continued on our way sticking to the coast, and, going right off our second map! There was a gap of about 15 kilometres between our second and third maps. Arriving at Mbotyi we relaxed on the beach over refreshments after which it was off again over a steep hill where we were able to look back on the cliffs we had been walking over all day. We descended into a delightful bay surrounded by huts with lovely vegetable gardens; cattle, sheep, pigs and goats abounded. It was a prosperous farming area and the Africans were generous and kind-hearted, as they were all along the trip. On reaching the beach, bounded by a lagoon, we decided to camp for the night. A group of children, the eldest was about ten years, congregated to watch proceedings, we offered them food, but they said "No, we would prefer cigarettes". I was thankful I could not oblige as I do not smoke. We had a hot meal and turned in, all agreeing that it had been a most strenuous day's hike.

We awoke to the shouting of the shepherd boys watering their sheep and cattle before driving them off for grazing. As we ate breakfast the farmers were driving teams of oxen across the beach up the hillsides to plough the fields. We met an elderly African who was journeying in the same direction as us and, as we were still on that section not covered by our map, he agreed to act as guide. We headed up steep hills then down to the beach then up steep hills again. The scenery was changing as now forests covered the hillsides, so dense in some places one could not penetrate. Undergrowth, vines and creepers turned the forests into jungle and the going was difficult. Mark found a large puff-adder skin that had been shed. Eventually we looked down from the cliff and saw some rocks we could identify as Lityelentaka rocks — we were now on our third map. Later, from the top of a high hill, we looked down on the large Mzintlava river. Down we went and managed to wade across on a sandbank. Ascending the opposite side we arrived at a trading store where we purchased some "cool" drinks which were so hot we could barely drink them. We were now in the Mtambalala tribal area so we paid our guide and bade him farewell and set off on our own again. After heading along a hill top we went down to the beach as the jungle was particularly dense. After a while we were forced up the hillside again and followed a path which

went through a village and then followed the coast. As we progressed, Mark observed that we were slowly moving inland, but as it was such a pleasure walking on a path, we decided to keep to it. After about an hour we came out on top of a cliff and a thousand metres below was the Mntafufu river. We followed the muddy path down the steep incline, through thick bush until we emerged at a muddy flat. Here we met a woman who agreed to guide us to the beach. She led us through large flat salt pans and mudflats with millions of crabs, each with one large red nipper and on normal black one. We entered the mangrove swamps and waded through knee-deep muddy water among the mangrove trees. Our guide told us we had to cross a deep section on an underwater bridge, a tree trunk laid across the channel. She went first, holding onto vertical sticks stuck in the mud, next Mark and Glenn crossed and then Belinda. As she was making her way up the slippery wood, her foot slipped and into the water she went, together with her heavy rucksack. Our guide rushed in and dragged a wet but thankful Belinda onto the far bank. We continued to the river which we followed to the mouth where we met some young people fishing. These youngsters ferried us across the very wide river in their boat and we set off again, this time in the Ntafufu tribal area. Here we followed a path along the sea-side of the narrow ledges on the hillside and had a few scary sections where there were considerable drops, with a gusty wind adding to the hazards. Crossing a beach we climbed a huge hill and, as we were descending, could see yet another hill across a kilometre stretch of beach, with a large lagoon in the background. This was Poenskop which was to be our camp site for the last night. On the far hill we saw an amazing sight; a group of fishermen with 18 porters were making their way. It reminded me of pictures I had seen of David Livingstone in Central Africa.

We crossed the beach and river and set up camp on a grassy bank. As we were completely out of drinking water we approached the fishermen, but, although they had a large supply, they refused even one bottle full. No sooner had we started our campfire then down came the rain. We dived into the tent except for Mark who sat in his rain-gear and cooked the supper. Needless to say we collected enough rainwater to fill a bottle.

As usual we awoke early the next morning, packed up camp and set off without breakfast for the last kilometres. Up the hill, past the fishermen's camp, through a village and then along a path with sheer drops below and high cliffs above. When we came atop the next hill a cheer went up for in the distance was Port St. Johns with the Cape Hermes lighthouse standing out prominently. We descended the hill, crossed a beach and arrived tired, dirty and footsore, but triumphant, at a tearoom at 8 a.m. Here we celebrated with cream scones and milkshakes. We had hiked 160 kilometres in five days, over some of the most inhospitable terrain, but also the most beautiful and unspoilt. We gave thanks for the beauty we beheld and for our safety and knew that we would remember this venture for a long time.

We would welcome any article of interest to Shell Collectors for future publication.

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A visit to the West Australian Museum was most interesting, seeing behind the scenes the mollusc department. Another afternoon was spent at the Fremantle Maritime Museum where the delegates were shown around the conservation laboratory where all sorts of restoring work was in progress, from silver coins and clothing to anchors and entire ships.

The presentation of prizes on the last night at a dinner marked the end of a highly successful convention and it was a privilege to have been able to meet so many collectors and to have seen such wonderful collections. The words of one visitor echoed the thoughts of most people, he was sorry for the folk who had missed it.

SKULPE VERSAMEL VIR PLESIER EN SKOONHEID

Deur A.P. Havenaar

As kind was dit altyd een plesier om skulpe te versamel. Dit was in my geval nie moeilik nie omrede daar nie ver van my geboorte dorp, Delft in Holland, een kalk brandery was waar hulle skulpe het gebrand om klak te vervaardig.

Daardie kalk materiaalwas van uitstekende kwaliteit om metselwerk operig wat absoluut waterdig moes wees. Die fondasies en kelders van ou huise die vaak onder watervlak is geleë bestaan nog altyd en hulle is honderde jare oud, terwyl die mure nie die water deurlaat nie.

Vandag is dit alles deur sement vervang. Die kalk-brandery was aan een van die hoofkanale geleë en die skulpe is met skepe aangevoer. Enige soort skulp wat in die Noordsee voorkom het ek daar gekry. Die skulpe word vandag hoofsaaklik gebruik vir oppervlaktes van voet en fietspaadjies. Hulle word met teer gemeng en vorm een mooie gladde oppervlak.

Al jare lank het ons op vakansies by die kus waar dit moontlik was skulpe versamel die ons dan in groot flesses met skoon water bewaar het. So nu en dan het ons een bysondere skulp in hande gekry maar om te se dat ons nu groot versamelaars was is nie so nie. Die moeilikheid was dat ek nie het geweet nie waar en hoe ek my versameling kon uitbrei. En daar het die uitkoms plotseling gekom deur een magasyn die my vrou in hande het gekry terwyl sy by die haarkapper het gesit. Dit het een artikel gehad van en oor skulpe uit die versameling van Bill Dyer uit Hermanus. Ek het onmiddellik my papier en pen geneem en aan hom geskryf. Ek was my bewus dat daar verenigings het bestaan van skulpversamelaars maar ek het nie geweet nie hoe om in aanraking te kom met so'n vereniging. Mr Bill Dyer het my adres van die vereniging gegee plus adresse van handelaars en ook die name van boeke die baie help met die uitken van skulpe. In middels het ek nu uitgevind dat daar selfs een tek van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Skulpkunde in Pretoria aanwesig is. Ek is bly dat ek nu een lid van bogenoemde vereniging kan noem en ek hoop om nog baie kennis op te doen.

Is dit nu nie toevallig dat ek deur die artikel in "Fair Lady" in aanraking het gekom met uw vereniging nie?

INTERTIDAL TALK

Some members may have sent exchange parcels off to Mr A. Bhagat of Bombay and not received an acknowledgement. It appears that Mr Bhagat has been experiencing a bit of trouble and we are grateful to Mrs Crossley for sending us a letter received from him and here we quote from his letter, "It is surprising but believe me totally my eight shell parcels sent from S. Africa are either returned or confiscated by the customs over here. Many of them were having some of the rare shells in them. All this parcel were opened by customs in front of me and still those goodies I can not have it. What a pity. I was not aware of the laws due to some political reasons here in India we are not allowed to receive any parcel from S. Africa. Well many of my shell friends of S. Africa might not believe this but you had a proof of it. Please kindly do me a favour of explaining this unfortunate condition to your other shell collector friend of S. Africa Clubs who might have looked down upon me thinking I swallowed their parcels". This is indeed an unfortunate incident and members are warned to make sure that parcels from South Africa are acceptable in the country of destination before entering into an exchange agreement. In cases like this it might be possible to send the parcels via a third person in another country.

It is unfortunate that we have to report that the membership of forty-two members has been suspended due to non-payment of subscriptions. These members names will be removed from the membership list at the end of December if their subscriptions are not paid by then. In the meantime they will receive no copies of the Strandloper or any other notices.

Many members have asked what type of articles are acceptable for publication in The Strandloper. To answer this question we must ask another. What is the purpose of The Strandloper? The Strandloper is the Society's bulletin, and as such its purpose is to keep members informed of the activities of our Groups as well as what individual members are doing. An attempt is also being made to fill the gap caused by the lack of shell books on South African shells by publishing articles with descriptions localities and habitats. It must be remembered that The Strandloper is not a scientific publication and that the readers are just ordinary shell collectors who collect, identify, display and exchange for the joy of doing so. Therefore, any article or event which interests you as a shell collector will interest other members as well.



B. M.

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AROUND THE GROUPS

Pietermaritzburg: Mr Kilburn addressed our August meeting with a talk on the Triviidae. Specimens of all eleven known species from South Africa were handed around while the variances in structure and colour were discussed. Ten species are normally found washed up on the beaches. Of these *T. costata* is the rarest, although species such as *T. phalacra* and *T. versicularis* are seldom found in good condition. Several species are white, but for the most part the shells are pale pink. The soft parts of most of the Cape trivias are unknown. At our September meeting we were privileged to have Mr Grosch, from Moçambique, as our guest speaker. He told us of his experiences over the past twenty-five years and stated that he had limited his collecting to five bays only. He urged members to specialise in a similar way so as to build up a complete record of their region. On display was a selection of rare and noteworthy shells from his collection which has been handed over to the Natal Museum.

Durban: The outing of 22nd June took place along the beach at Umtwalumi, almost, one could say, individually. Somehow we all went to the same place, but at different times. Shell-wise it was disappointing, but judging from the growth on the rocks, it should be an area to re-visit in the future. Our August meeting took place at the home of Colin and Shirley Hanneman. We were pleased to have the company of some of the Pietermaritzburg members. The families under discussion were Bullia, Naticidae and Neptunea. Perhaps the most rewarding result of the meeting was the decision to put together as complete a collection as possible of shells from the Natal Coast.

East London: Our Annual General Meeting was held at our July meeting and after the business formalities were completed Mrs Latigan gave a very interesting talk on the Cypraeidae which was well illustrated with shells and books. At our August meeting Mrs Latigan reported on the meeting held by the Divisional Council with regard to the conservation of the coast line. It had been decided that the intertidal zone will be closed in rotational strips for periods of up to two years during which no live material may be collected. After general discussion exchanging of shells took place. Mr Brickhill, our Vice-Chairman, took the September meeting in the absence of Mrs Latigan. After the usual business session he gave a talk on the Turritellidae.

Port Elizabeth: Our July meeting was held at the home of Mrs Hoogenhout in Jeffreys Bay. The shells on display and for discussion were the Pyrene and Columbella. Confirmation is needed of Sowerby's *Pyrene floccata* found in the Eastern Cape areas and any member who can confirm a find is asked to do so. The last recorded find was in 1892. We decided at the September meeting that a proposal be made to the Border Group that we hold a joint meeting at Port Alfred on the first Saturday in December. The shells on display were the Olividae and Cymatidae. After discussion the checklists for these families were brought up to date.

Pretoria: At a well attended July meeting Mr Smith gave a most interesting introductory talk on the Conidae. We then discussed the South African cones as listed by Kensley. Items of interest were a sinistral cone from Anne Wilsons collection and a large *Conus prometheus* from the collection of Arie Jooste. Ons Augustus vergadering is deur die Voorsitter ge-open en Eddie Ralph, die gasspreker,

is verwelkom. Nadat die besigheid verklaar is het Mnr Ralph oor die Mitridae, geïllustreer met skyfies, gepraat. Mnr Ralph is hartlik bedank vir die skenking van sy boek oor die Mitridae van Suidelike Afrika. At our September meeting we discussed the arrangements for the exhibits to be shown at the November meeting. Attie and Cornel Driessen had recently returned from a shell hunting holiday. Laurie Smith described the beautiful animal of *Hydatina physis* to the members. We then had a "Bring and Buy" sale in aid of Group funds.

Johannesburg: Our June meeting saw the results of almost a year's work on the family Mitridae. Eddie Ralph brought his completed volume of individual maps and drawings of all known Southern African species, a list of synonyms, and the updated list of known localities supplied by members. He also showed colour slides of more than fifty of the near ninety known species, while the owners of the shells brought them to the meeting so that they could be studied. When our locality list project was started, few had any idea that this would develop into such a comprehensive work. After all - Eddie had only volunteered to act as Recorder. In July we held our Annual General Meeting. It was interesting to note from the Secretary's Report how the spectrum of the Group's activities had broadened. Michael Cortie and his brother rounded off the meeting when they screened a movie they had made while visiting Malawi and the Seychelles. At our August meeting Allan Jenner spoke about his study concerning the Ancillinae. Allan described how he started collecting shells and his eventual decision to study the Ancillinae. In 1973 he undertook to assist in locating all available published material, locating holotypes, obtaining black and white photographs and acquiring world-wide specimens. He spoke of the many difficulties encountered and of the confusion which still exists. He said that only when the soft parts were examined could the various genera be established with confidence. In the past three years seven new Southern African species had been found between Beira and Mossel Bay. At the September meeting Bobby Adam showed slides of molluscs, other invertebrates and fish living (mostly) in harmony in her aquarium and Michael Cortie repeated the screening of his film on Malawi and the Seychelles for the benefit of those who had not seen it.

Cape Town: At our July meeting Mrs Giles gave a short talk on their trip up and down the coast. The condition of the shells was most disappointing, old shells, very much beach rolled were in evidence with very little fresh material to be seen. Mrs Giles also brought greetings from the Border and Natal Groups to the members in Cape Town. Mr Carlsson gave a talk on *Marginella*, particularly those found around the Cape Peninsula and surrounding areas. This was illustrated with slides of the shells in their habitat and of the animals. Our August meeting took the form of the Annual General Meeting of the Society. After the business discussions had been completed two films 'The Living River' and 'The Living Lakes' were screened. Members then enjoyed tea and cake supplied by the members of the Council. The full minutes of this meeting will be circulated to all members in due course. At our September meeting we had a display of shell books for the benefit of the newer members and Mr Schweitzer of the South African Museum then gave a most informative talk on the Strandlopers, a name given to the coastal inhabitants of South Africa of about 3 to 10 thousand years ago.

EXCHANGES WANTED

Mr S.L. Pompey, Box 357, Harrisburg, Oregon 97446, U.S.A. Is a Research Historian and is interested in South African cowries as well as those of Africa's west coast to add to his collection. For the study he is doing he needs to know location where found as well as tide conditions.

Miss K. Zaynaki, 15 Socratus Street, Cholacgor, Athens, Greece. Would like to come into contact with other collectors who will exchange with her and give her useful advice.

Mr Vasco Riva, 39 Brodetski Street, Ramat-Aviv, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Has access to Mediterranean and Red Sea shells and would like to exchange with members.

Mrs V. Wanadit, 246 Soi Ekamit, Ekami Road, Sukumvit, Bangkok, Thailand. Would like to obtain South African Shells in exchange for Thai shells.

Mr A. Ellis, P.O. Box 814, Holly Springs, Mississippi 38635, U.S.A. Would like to trade shells.

Mr W.E.J. Walles, P.O. Box 4323, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa. Wants to obtain cowries and cones from India, Burma and Caledonia in exchange for *Conus milneedwardsi*, *C. eucoronatus*, *C. eumitus* and many other shells.

Mr Petrement, 11A rue de Mulhouse, 68000 Colmar, France. Would like to make contact with other collectors with the view to exchange.

Mev M. Potgieter, Strubenstraat 18, Rynfield, Benoni 1500, Transvaal. Would like to make contact with other collectors.

Claire Frank, c/o Jersey City Seaplane Base, Rt. 440, Jersey City, New Jersey 07305, U.S.A. Wants to exchange shells with members and other collectors.

Mr R. Comtois, 986 Rue Jules-Armand, Saint-Vincent, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7C 2EA. Started collecting about five years ago and wants to exchange shells on a purely amateur shell collector basis.

Mr K.L. Mirati, P.O. Box 606, Oakley, CA 94561, U.S.A. Is making a collection of the 'tent-marked', or textile, cones of the world and would like to obtain gem specimens of the species from Africa. He is also interested in the spiny Murices.

Fabre Machado de Lima, Caixa Postal (Box) 725, 36.100 - Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Wants to exchange shells from Brazil for South African species.

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

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All enquires should be addressed to the Secretary,
The Conchological Society of South Africa,
P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450, Cape, South Africa.

Entrance Fee is R1,00, with a yearly subscription of R4,00.
The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and
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of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the
30th June of that year.

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The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper is issued free to
members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:-

Cape Town:	Secretary, Mrs R.O. Carlsson, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450 Tel.: 53-1536
Port Elizabeth:	Secretary, Mr F. Greave, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6063 Tel.: 45744
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Pietermaritzburg:	Secretary, Mrs G. Webber, 242, King Edward Ave., Scottsville 3201. Tel.: 52925.
Johannesburg:	Secretary, Mrs A.H. Adam, 37, Newport Road, Parkwood 2001. Tel.: 424298
Pretoria:	Secretary, Mrs A. Wilson, 283 Silver St., Muckleneuk 0002. Tel.: 444495

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	141 to 160	R2,00
	161 to 170	10 cents each, no index.

Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.

BOOK REVIEW

The World of Shells; text by Robert Scase, photographs by Eric Storey. Published by Osprey Publishing Limited, 137 Southampton Street, Reading, Berkshire, England.

This book is the fourth in a series published by Osprey. The others being 'The World of Butterflies', 'The World of Moths' and 'The World of Minerals'. The book 'The World of Shells' contains 106 pages with 106 full colour photographs and descriptions of 106 species (i.e. one per page). A short but well written introductory section contains aspects of classification, distribution, biology and general hints to collectors about forming and maintaining a collection. The balance of the book consists of the 106 single page treatments as mentioned above. Each colour illustration is outstanding with a good deal of detail. The details supplied for each species appears to be fairly accurate and the authors do give credit to the British Museum of Natural History for providing facilities for studying their collection, and for access to literature. The book, although not coming up to the expectations that the title promises, is recommended to those collectors who already have a library of reference books, but to new comers to collecting it might prove more of a hinderance because of its limited coverage. The 106 species covered are mainly the more exocitic and better known shells. The published price in the United Kingdom is £2.95. The availability and price in the Republic is not known at this stage as the book was only due for publication late in September.

NEW MEMBERS

Dr E.J. van Hoepen, 851 Louis Pasteur Building, Schoeman St. Pretoria.
Mrs E.J. van Hoepen, 851 Louis Pasteur Building, Schoeman St., Pretoria.
Mr V.G. Millard, 19 Rocklands Villas, off Rocklands Rd., Sea Point, Cape.
Mr A. Bummel, 4 Imhoff Avenue, Tableview, Cape.
Mrs A. Bummel, 4 Imhoff Avenue, Tableview, Cape.
Mr V. Jeffreys, 41 Hillside Road, Fish Hoek, Cape.
Mr A.J. Dogterom, Pyrola Dreef 8, Oostvoorne, Holland.
Mr J. Preston, 100 Berry Street, Queenstown.
Mr R. de Villiers, P.O. Box 42, Clarens, O.F.S.
Mrs S. Burnett, 103 Trust Bank Centre, Uitenhage, Cape.
Mrs C. Frank, Jersey City Seaplane Base, Rte 440, Jersey City, New Jersey 07305, U.S.A.
Mr A. Andrade E. Silva, 1 Amajuba St., Noordheувел, Krugersdorp, Transvaal.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Miss M.E. Booth, 301 Joselea Court, Cor. Fife Ave. & High St., Berea, Johannesburg.
Mrs M. Norris, 3 Maskel Lane, Oribi Heights, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
Mrs N. Gie, Doctors Quarters, Tygerberg Hospital, Tiervlei, Cape.
Mrs M. Mears, 18 Sorrento, Western Road, Port Elizabeth, Cape.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Society has copies of the following publications for sale at the prices stated:

A Preliminary list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock	R0,50
Additional list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock	R0,50

Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.