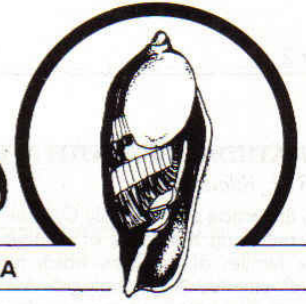


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

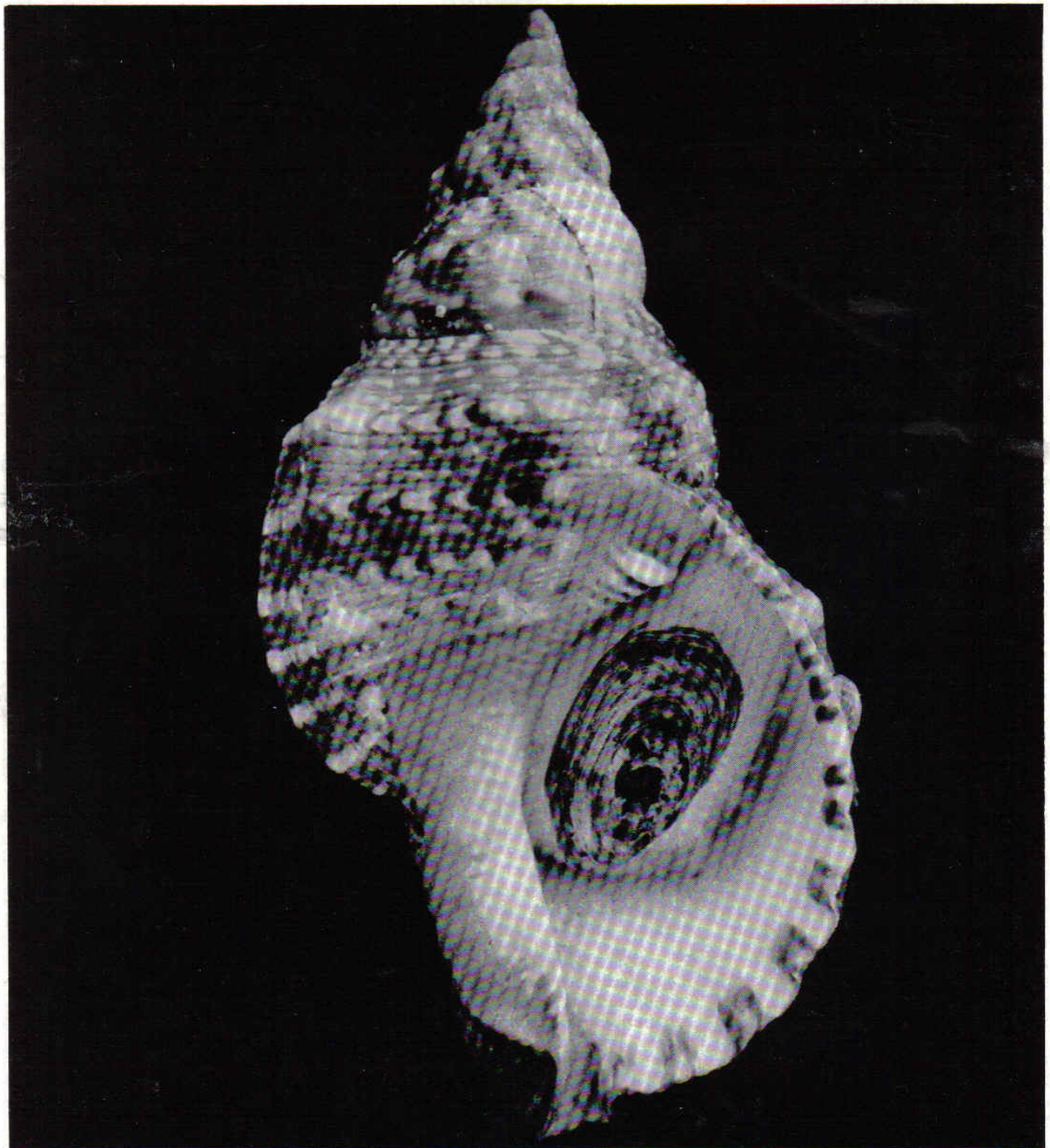


No. 212

JUNE 1984

Page 1

CYMATIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA



Chaironia lampas pustulata. (Euthyme)

CYMATIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA

by R.N. Kilburn

With this article on the family Cymatiidae we are continuing the series of summaries of those families of mollusca which have attracted interest of conchologists for many years, and which have consequently accumulated their fair share of confused taxonomy.

Thanks to:

1. The South African Museum, Cape Town, from whom a number of specimens were borrowed for the illustrations.
2. Dr R.N. Kilburn of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, who made massive corrections to his series of articles in the societies bulletins.
3. Mrs Maureen Quicquelberge of Durban who suggested improvements and added valuable comments on localities and lent shells for the illustrations.
4. Mrs Clarice Connolly of Cape Town, whose shells and knowledge have enriched the plates and text.
5. Mr Billy Liltved of the South African Museum, Cape Town, for his assistance.
6. Mrs Val Van Der Walt and Dawn for the use of their shells in the illustrations.
7. Mr D. Strong for shells loaned for the colour plates.
8. Mrs D. Brink who let us have a photograph of *ranzanii* which was required to make the illustrations more complete.

1. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Cabestana Röding, 1798

cutaceum africanum (A. Adams, 1854)

Synonyms:

Triton dolarium; Krauss, 1848 and other authors

Cymatium adjacens Turton, 1932

Cymatium forticostatum Turton, 1932

Triton africanum A. Adams, 1855

The name *dolarium* (Linnaeus, 1767), traditionally given to South African shells, applies to a barrel-shaped, spirally-ridged form that also occurs in the Mediterranean, *Cymatium cutaceum* (Linnaeus, 1767). (The type locality of *dolarium* was in fact given as the Mediterranean Sea.) In South Africa this form freely intergrades and interbreeds with *C. africanum*, and in North Africa the same appears to occur with *C. cutaceum*, so that the name *dolarium* has no taxonomic value. The local subspecies *africanum*, in its typical form differs only slightly from *cutaceum* and cannot be treated as a full species.

2. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Cabestana Röding, 1798

klenei (Sowerby, 1889)

Distribution: Durban to False Bay

Size: 57mm

Synonyms:

Triton klenei (sic) Sowerby, 1889

It is a fairly common species although really fresh shells are quite rare. It is easily distinguishable on account of the very angular varices and the shoulder nodules.

3. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Cabestana Röding, 1798

labiosum (Wood, 1828)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Jeffreys Bay

Size: 31mm

Synonyms:

Tritonium rutilum Menke, 1843

This is a small, squat species with cancellate sculpture. It is chiefly Indo-Pacific in distribution but also appears in the Caribbean. It lives under rocks, at and below low-water mark.

4. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Cabestana Röding, 1798

tabulatum durbanense (E.A. Smith, 1899)

Distribution: Bazaruto area (Mozambique) to

Jeffreys Bay

Size: 32mm

Synonyms:

Lotorium durbanense Smith, 1899

Was thought to be a full species, but is now regarded as the South African subspecies of the Australian *C. tabulatum* (Menke, 1843). *C. t. durbanense* looks something like a dwarf *parthenopeum* save for the freely ridged white columella and the spiral ridges which have a finely "milled" appearance. It lives under rocks and in silted crevices along the infratidal fringe.

5. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Cymatium Röding, 1798

ranzanii (Bianconi, 1851)

Distribution: West Pakistan to Durban

Size: 200mm

This species was "lost" for over half a century until rediscovered in the 1960's in Mozambique. Most living specimens appear to have been collected in 3-10m on eelgrass in sheltered bays. It is very rare and few specimens are known from South Africa.

6. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Cymatriton Clench and Turner, 1957

nicobaricum (Röding, 1798)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific as far as Durban

Size: 74mm

Synonyms:

Triton chlorostomum (Lamarck, 1822)

This is a greyish white shell with an orange aperture. It preys on other gastropods. It is locally rare but may occasionally be found under rocks at extreme low tide or in a few meters of water.

7. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Monoplex Perry, 1811

parthenopeum parthenopeum (von Salis, 1793)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Mozambique to False Bay; also Mediterranean, West Africa, etc.

Size: 108mm

Synonyms:

Murex costatus Born, 1778 (non Pennant, 1777)

Monoplex australasiae Perry, 1811

This species is almost world-wide in distribution, occurring in the Mediterranean, West Africa and Australia, as well as South Africa, with related subspecies in Japan and central West America. It is very distinct on account of its shape and columella markings (chocolate brown with white ridges) although the juveniles have a different form and lack the columella callus. It chiefly lives buried in the sand and among rocks in crevices from low tide down and preys on other molluscs.

8. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Septa Perry, 1810

aquatile (Reeve, 1844)

Distribution: Widely spread through the Indo-Pacific region but only occasionally occurs in Natal

Size: 70mm

Is closely allied to *C. pileare* and was regarded as a synonym. It differs in the orange-to-flesh coloured aperture, the lower spire and the coarser, more nodular sculpture. It is much rarer locally than *pileare*.

9. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Septa Perry, 1810

hepaticum (Röding, 1798)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Natal South Coast

Size: 50mm

Is very rare in our waters. Habitat resembles that of *pileare*. Previously confused with *C. rubeculum* (Linnaeus, 1758), a bright orange or red species found in the tropics.

10. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Septa Perry, 1810

mundum (Gould, 1849)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Natal South Coast

Size: 46mm

A drab shell, creamy-white in colour throughout. It lives under dirty rocks at and below tide level. Previously known as *C. gemmatum* (Reeve, 1844) but that proves to be a Philippine species differing in shape and sculpture.

11. CYMATIINAE

Cymatium Röding, 1798

Septa Perry, 1810

pfeifferianum (Reeve, 1844)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific as far as Durban

Size: 40mm

Synonyms:

Triton gracile Reeve, 1844

This shell is commonly confused with *C. vespaceum*. It can be distinguished by its finely cancellate sculpture and by the presence of SINGLE teeth (not paired as in *vespaceum*) on the outer lip. In colour it is greyish brown. All Natal specimens found have been immature.

Helotype of **Xhixoreus Kilburni Houart and Pain**, 1982

Charonia launpas pustulata (Euthyme, 1889) collected at 4m in False Bay

Argobuccinum pustulosum proditor (Frauenfeld, 1865) dived at Tristeen da Cunha, Said to be widely distributed through various subantarctic islands (Kilburn, 1982)

14. CYMATIINAE

Linatella Gray, 1857

Gelagna Schaufuss, 1869

clandestinum (Lamarck, 1816)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Natal South Coast and Eastern Pondoland
Size: 40mm

SA shells are uniform golden fawn in comparison with the typical Indo-Pacific form in which the spiral cords are chocolate-brown. The periostracum behind the lip, when submerged, forms a flowing tangle of silky golden threads. Said to live under rocks, low tide to 36 metres.

15. CYMATIINAE

Linatella Gray, 1857

Linatella Gray, 1857

caudata (Gmelin, 1791)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific as far south as Durban.

The larger specimen illustrated in our colour plate was collected dead at Knysna by D. Freeman - Ed.)

Size: 58mm

Synonyms:

Cassidaria cingulata Lamarck, 1822

A tropical species once fairly common in Durban Bay but now seldom, if ever, seen. In Mozambique inhabits sheltered sandflats, often living inside the empty valves of **Pin-nidae**.

16. CYMATIINAE

Ranularia Schumacher, 1817

encausticum (Reeve, 1844)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Durban

Size: 52mm

This is the rarest of the SA Cymatiinae, only three specimens being known from the region. It is distinguishable by the very thick flesh- or salmon-coloured columella callus, which extends over the ventral side as far as the last varix.

17. CYMATIINAE

Ranularia Schumacher, 1817

gallinago (Reeve, 1844)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific as far south as Durban

Size: 65mm

This shell is white throughout, except for traces of orange blotches on the varices. It lives below the infratidal fringe, chiefly buried in muddy sand among the eelgrass.

18. CYMATIINAE

Ranularia Schumacher, 1817

monilifera (Adams & Reeve, 1850)

Distribution: Tropical Indian Ocean to Durban

Size: 59mm

This is a rare species with a graceful reddish-fawn and a very long siphonal canal, a white aperture and a channelled suture. A few have been found in Durban Bay dredgings.

19. CYMATIINAE

Ranularia Schumacher, 1817

moritincta (Reeve, 1844)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific as far as Transkei

Size: ?

Early collectors incorrectly called this **Cymatium cynocephalum** (Lamarck, 1822), a doubtful name. It is readily identifiable by its rich reddish- or orange-brown colour and by the characteristic purplish-brown blotch in the parietal region. Sculpture varies somewhat, the form with weak axial ribs having been separated as **caribbaeum** Clench & Turner, 1957 (the species occurs in both the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean regions). It lives infratidally, buried in sand among rocks, but is seldom seen.

20. CYMATIINAE

Ranularia Schumacher, 1817

pyrum (Linnaeus, 1767)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Durban

Size: 67mm

This species is even rarer than **moritincta**. It differs from it in its uniform orange colouration and the absence of the parietal blotch. Whether the name **pyrum** is correctly applied to this species remains to be proven.

21. CYMATIINAE

Ranularia Schumacher, 1817

Gutturium Mörch, 1852

muricinum (Röding, 1798)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Durban

Size: 60mm

Synonyms:

Triton tuberosum (Lamarck, 1822, non Röding, 1798)

This species is distinguishable by the unusually extensive white columella callus and the orange-brown interior. It lives among rocks on clean or muddy sand, but is rather rare locally.

22. DISTORSIONINAE

Distorsio (Röding, 1798)

Distorsio (Röding, 1903)

anus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific as far as

Durban

Size: 69mm

Synonyms:

Distorta rotunda (Perry, 1811)

Distorta rugosa (Schumacher, 1817)

This species is rare in Natal, but a few specimens have been found under rocks below the low-tide mark. It has a distinctively upturned siphonal canal and an expansive, flaring parietal callus.

23. DISTORSIONINAE

Distorsio Röding, 1903

Rhysema Clench & Turner, 1957

reticulata Röding, 1798

Distribution: Indo-Pacific with Durban as southern limit

Size: 61mm

Synonyms:

Murex cancellinus (Lamarck, 1803)

continued on page 8

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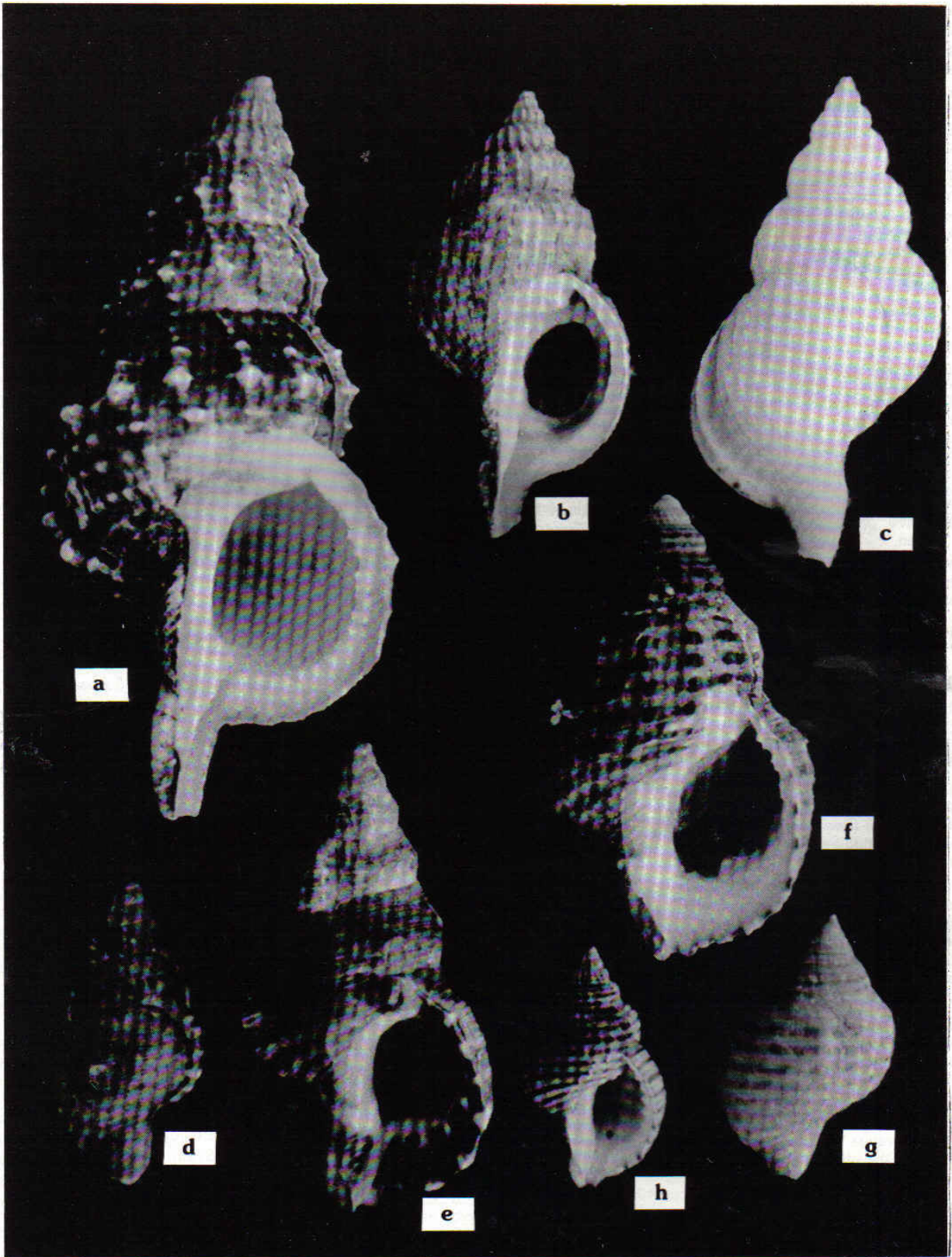
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PLATE A



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATE A

Numerical references are to the text.

A.a **Ranella olearia** (Linnaeus, 1758) see 31.

A.b,c **Fusitriton megallanicus murrayi** (E.A. Smith, 1891) see 28.

A.d,e **Ranella australasia gemmifera** (Euthyme, 1889) see 30

A.f,g **Argobuccinum pustulosum** (Lightfoot, 1786) see 24

A.h **Argobuccinum tumidum** (Dunker, 1862) added only for interest and reference. This shell is from Cape Campbell New Zealand.

PLATE B

Numerical references are to the text.

B.a,b,c,d **Cymatium cutaceum africanum** (A. Adams, 1854) see 1.

B.e **Cymatium parthenopeum parthenopeum** (Von Salis, 1793) see 7.

B.f **Cymatium pileare** (Linnaeus, 1758) see 12.

B.g **Cymatium nicobaricum** (Röding, 1798) see 6.

B.h,i **Cymatium hepaticum** (Röding, 1798) see 9.

B.j,k **Cymatium aquatile** (Reeve, 1844) see 8.

PLATE C

Numerical references are to the text.

C.a **Cymatium klenel** (Sowerby, 1889) see 2.

C.b **Cymatium labiosum** (Wood, 1828) see 3.

C.c **Cymatium tabulatum durbanense** (E.A. Smith, 1899) see 4.

C.d **Cymatium vespaceum** (Lamarck, 1822) see 13.

C.e **Linatella clandestina** (Lamarck, 1816) see 14.

C.f **Cymatium pfeifferianum** (Reeve, 1844) see 11.

C.g **Linatella caudata** (Gmelin, 1791) see 15.

C.h **Ranularia gallinago** (Reeve, 1844) see 17.

C.i **Ranularia monilifera** (Adams and Reeve, 1850) see 18.

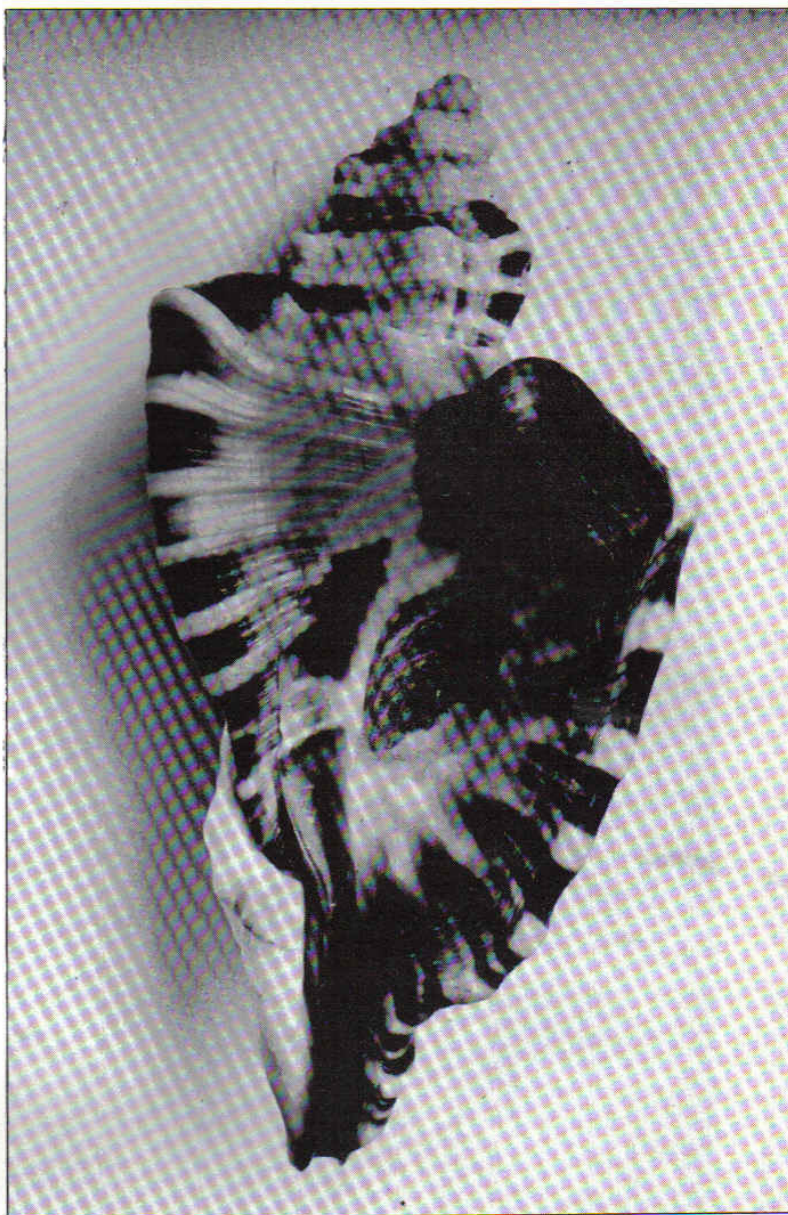
C.j **Ranularia moritincta** (Reeve, 1844) see 19.

C.k **Ranularia pyrum** (Linnaeus, 1767) see 20.

C.l **Ranularia muricinum** (Röding, 1798) see 21.

C.m **Distorsio anus** (Linnaeus, 1750) see 22.

C.n **Sassia nassariformis** (Sowerby, 1902) see 32.



Cymatium ranzanii (Bianconi, 1851). Found in Southern Mozambique (Dawn Brink collection).

C.o **Gyrineum pusillum** (Broderip, 1833) see 29.

C.p **Distorsio reticulata** Röding, 1798 see 23.

Cymatium ranzanii (Bianconi, 1851) from Mozambique. see text 5.

Charonia lampas pustulata (Euthyme, 1889) from False Bay see text 26.

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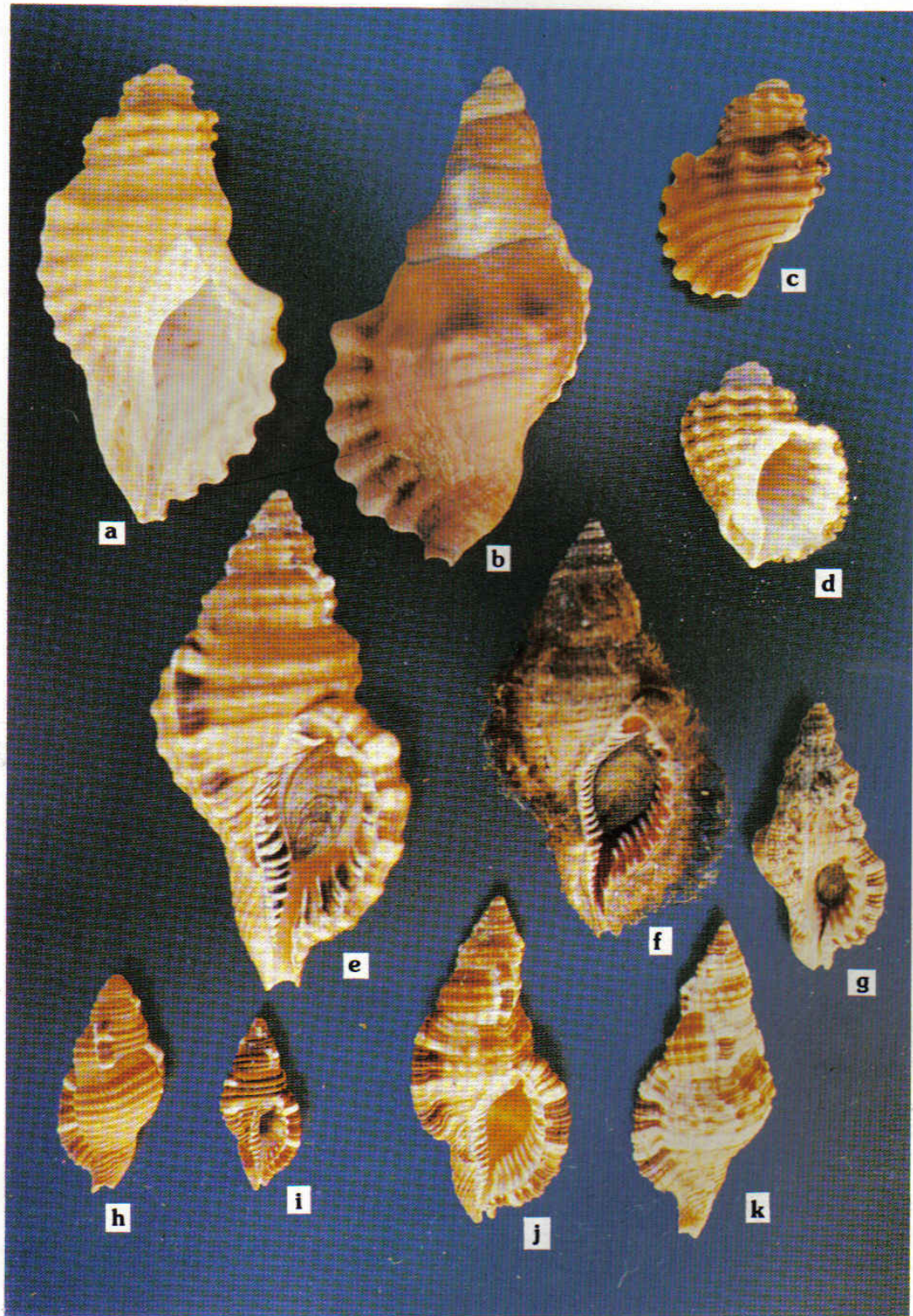
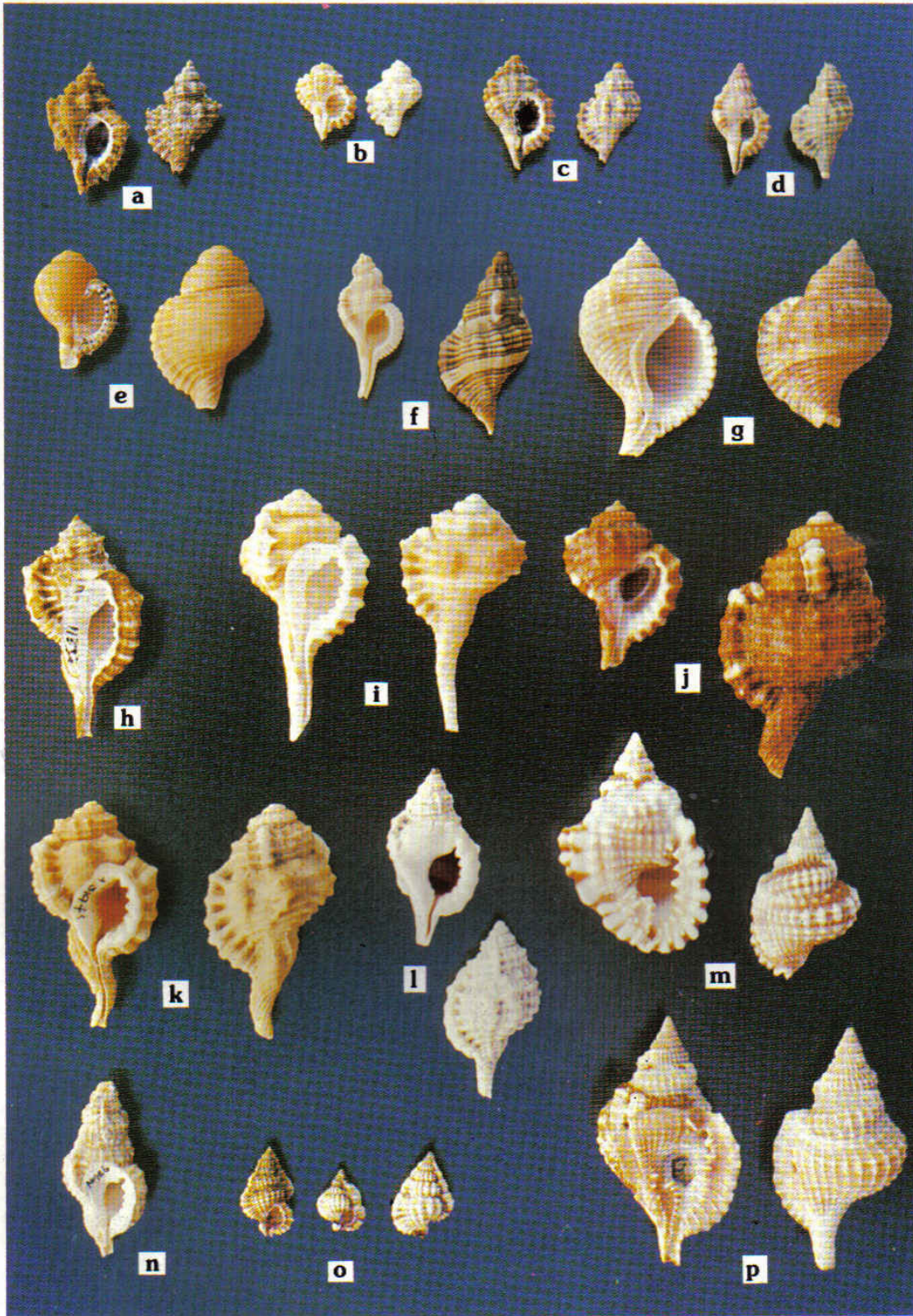


PLATE C



continued from page 3

Has a more restricted, non-flaring callus than *anus* and has a weakly bent siphonal canal. This is also found under rocks below the low tide mark. A closely related Indo-Pacific species, *D. perdistorta* Fulton, 1938, is often trawled off Natal towards the outer edge of the continental shelf. It is more distorted than *reticulata*, with finer axial ribs.

24. RANELLINAE

Argobuccinum Hermannsen, 1846

pustulosum (Lightfoot, 1786)

Distribution: South West Africa to Port Alfred

Size: 84mm

Synonyms:

Ranella polyzonalis Lamarck, 1816

Murex argus Gmelin, 1791

This species is common in the infratidal zone in the western Cape, but in the eastern Cape lives infratidally. West coast specimens are usually distinguishable by presence of a tooth near the anterior of the outer lip, and by their finer nodules; they may be referable to form/subspecies *proditor* (Van Fraunfeld, 1865). Like *R. a. gemmifera*, *A. pustulosum* feeds on reef worms.

25. RANELLINAE

Charonia Gistel, 1847

lampas lampas (Linnaeus, 1758)

Distribution: Mediterranean and West Africa to South West Africa

This subspecies has been dredged off Northern South West Africa. Specimens intermediate between this and *C. lampas pustulata* have been found far out in the South Atlantic on Vema Seamount.

26. RANELLINAE

Charonia Gistel, 1847

lampas pustulata (Euthyme, 1889)

Distribution: False Bay to Natal

Size: 196mm

Synonyms:

Tritonium pustulatum var. *minor*

Euthyme, 1889

Tritonium pustulatum var. *varicosa*

Euthyme, 1889

Nyctilochus alfredensis Bartsch, 1915

C. lampas lampas has weaker shoulder nodules than *lampas pustulata* and the pleats on the outer lip are thinner. The form is pale brown or salmon-colour. This subspecies lives infratidally in rock pools and in gulleys and also to about 50m.

27. RANELLINAE

Charonia Gistel, 1847

tritonia tritonia (Linnaeus, 1758)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to Mozambique

Size: 270mm

Has been reported from Durban, but this record is very doubtful. It is not frequently taken by divers in Mozambique, on submerged reefs. Feeds on starfish.

28. RANELLINAE

Fusitriton Cossmann, 1903

magellanicus murrayi (E.A. Smith, 1891)

Distribution: Saldanha Bay to South Mozambique

Size: 104mm

Synonyms:

Lampusia (Priene) murrayi Smith, 1891

Fusitriton algoensis Tomlin, 1947

This is a deep-water species inhabiting the continental slopes in 160-600m. The South African population is now regarded as a subspecies of *Fusitriton magellanicus* (Röding, 1798) of South America.

29. RANELLINAE

Gyrineum Link, 1807

pusillum (Broderip, 1833)

Distribution: Indo-Pacific to East London

Size: 23mm

Synonyms:

Triton lacunatum Mighels, 1845

Gyrineum is the tropical equivalent of *Argobuccinum*. *G. pusillum* is a small species with cancellate sculpture and a violet aperture. Found on the underside of rocks in sheltered low-tide pools. At least two other species of *Gyrineum* occur in Natal, and are still being studied.

30. RANELLINAE

Ranella Lamarck, 1816

australasia gemmifera (Euthyme, 1889)

Distribution: False Bay to Mozambique

Size: 106mm

This species has been placed in various genera in the past, including *Mayena*, *Eugyrina* and *Argobuccinum*. *Ranella* is warm temperate equivalent of the cold water genus *Argobuccinum*. The two groups differ only in colouration and small radula details. It lives half buried in gravel in low tide pools and gulleys and also clings upside down to rocks. There is a deep-water form which has prominent, angular nodules, pale colouration and faint 'lip blotches.

31. RANELLINAE

Ranella Lamarck, 1816

olearia (Linnaeus, 1758)

Distribution: Off Tugela River Mouth to Port Alfred in deep water (160-330m)

Size: 182mm

Synonyms:

Ranella gigantea Lamarck, 1816

Commonly trawled on the continental slopes of Natal and Zululand. Known also from the Mediterranean, New Zealand and elsewhere.

32. RANELLINAE

Sassia Bellardi, 1873

nassariformis (Sowerby, 1902)

Distribution: Dredged off Natal in 100-225m

Size: 40mm

This species resembles *D. reticulata* to some extent but lacks its distorted spire and aperture. Although *C. nassariformis* was recorded from Japan by Bayer (1933) and Hirase (1922), this was renamed *semitorta* by Kuroda and Habe (1952) and is now regarded as a subspecies of our *nassariformis*. The SA subspecies lives on bottoms of coarse sand and sponge rubble towards the outer edge of the continental shelf and upper slopes.

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Colour Plates.

Colour plates are available of the photographs which have appeared in the Strand-
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A live specimen of *Cypraea capensis* photographed by Brian Hayes in his tank in Port Elizabeth.

KEEPING LIVE SHELLS IN AN AQUARIUM – SOME OBSERVATIONS

B. Hayes – Port Elizabeth

I have been keeping live molluscs in a marine aquarium for 15 months now and they have provided me with a great deal of knowledge, pleasure and amusement. The aquarium is 1,22m long, 0,61m high and 0,61m wide. I also keep tropical fish in the tank.

Some people say that you can only truly appreciate a shell if you have seen it with the animal in its natural environment. I can endorse that statement and would recommend the keeping of live molluscs. Sometimes the animal is even more beautiful than the shell.

Here follows a list of the specimens that I have in the tank with some notes on observations that I have made:-

Charonia lampas pustulata

Their chief delight is the common cushion star and they will polish off as many as you put into the tank in as quick a time as possible. They must have a very good sense of smell because when you put the stars into the tank, even if the shell has buried itself under the gravel, it will almost immediately emerge and start looking for its prey!

Another interesting fact is that a 3cm juvenile I have, after crawling about the tank, always goes back to the same place under the ledge of the rock – no place like home! These molluscs will also eat pieces of ox heart. One even used to extend its proboscis and take the piece from my fingers.

Cymatium parthenopeum

These eat mainly bi-valves and also have a strong sense of smell. I once put a *Pinctada capensis* into the tank, and this hungry mollusc made for it, proboscis extended

about 2cm, like a bee for a hive. It then sat on top of the bi-valve and inserted its proboscis into the opening after, presumably, poisoning to relax its muscles.

One of the shells laid 2 egg cases, which it buried in the gravel. They are half-moon in shape, covered on the outside with bits of gravel and lined with eggs on the inside.

Hydatina physis

The animal of this shell is extremely beautiful – being a pink-like carpet, lined with blue upon which it sits. They are a joy to watch; however they don't last long in captivity, even with a supply of worms which

Strombus decorus

This shell was found in Port Elizabeth, which must be a record limit of its range. It walks about the tank with curious hops and leaps, using its serrated operculum to push itself along. It has a long proboscis which it uses to eat the algae and detritus on the rocks. It cannot climb the smallest rock although it valiantly tries to do so. One of the fish bit off its right eye, which was on a short "stalk" for better vision. Within four days, however, I could see a new eye starting to grow – really amazing!

Cypraea caputserpentis

This shell was put into the tank when it was still a juvenile with a very thin lip. Within a month or two it had matured into an adult with a thick lip. It is an active browser, coming out at night to eat algae off the rocks. It has been in the tank for about 11 months and is still doing well.

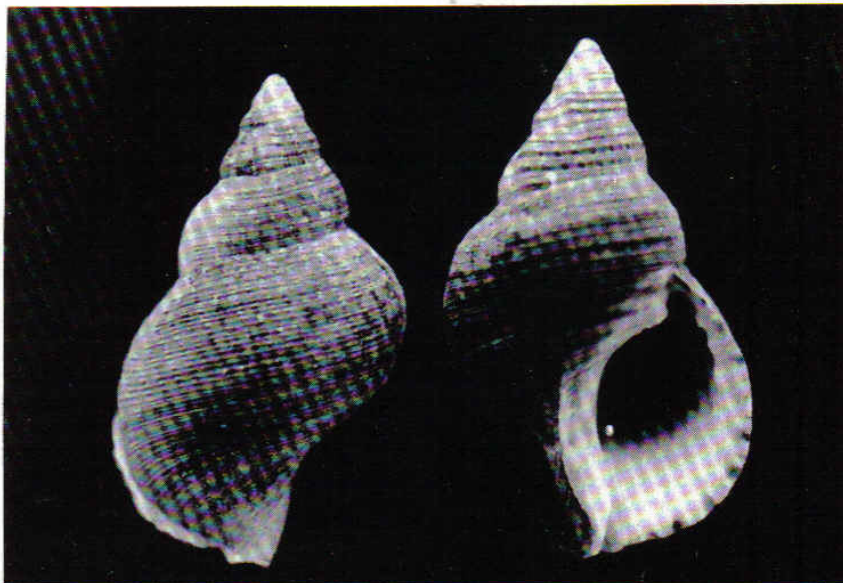
Conus coronatus

This is not a very active shell. It stays buried or hidden for long periods at a time, eventually coming out for a few days to look for food. Although it has been in the tank for nine months I have never actually seen it eat anything which it should have done to stay alive.

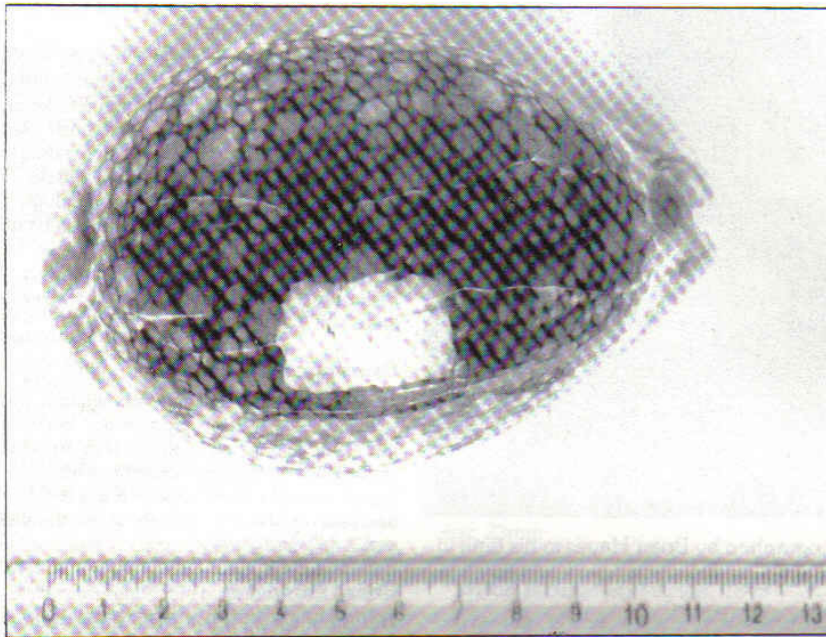
Cypraea capensis

This shell has a beautiful mustard yellow animal, with very small projections on an otherwise smooth mantle. It is quite active at night and can sometimes be seen scraping the algae off the glass.

continued on page 10



Arobuccinum pustulosum proditor (Frauenfeld, 1865) from Tristan da Cunha Kilburn and Rippey (1982) note *proditor* as the subspecies of *pustulosum* without nodules.



Cypraea broderipi dived off Durban, live in 210ft water in April, 1983. The shell belongs to Jack Scheepers of the Durban branch of the Conchological Society and is 113mm. (The largest previous record being 107mm)

continued from page 9

Chlamys tinctus

One of the most amusing sights to see is one of these shells "swimming" about the tank with a series of butterfly-like flaps of its valves. It is a filter feeder and can be seen "breathing" the water in and out. I noticed that from the time I had it in the tank, that its growth lines changed colour - probably as a result of the different diet. Unfortunately the *C. parthenopeum* ate the animal.

Lima rotundata

This is even more beautiful than *C. tinctus*, having a completely white animal with long cilia-like tentacles protruding from the aperture. When feeding, it opens its valves very wide and in the middle of the animal can be seen a "proboscis" with a bright red tip, almost like a cigarette.

The best time for observing the shells in the tank is at night, about an hour after it has been in complete darkness. (I use a torch.) By then the shells should have started browsing or walking about looking for food. One night I came across an **Acteocina fusiformis** on the glass. It must have been on one of the rocks from the sea which I put into the tank. Apparently this shell has not been found alive before, and so I passed it on to Sandy Muller of the East London Museum.

I can assure anyone who takes the trouble to set up a marine tank will have many hours of pleasure watching live molluscs in their natural state!

A booklet on displaying shells
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NEW IN THE LIBRARY

JOURNAL OF THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY of Australia with such items as: **Siphonaria funiculata** Reeve, Genus **Helcarion**, Genus **Katelsia** on burrowing, Position of **Hemidonax** in taxonomy and a review of **Cardiacea**, Land snail *Gulella bicolor* (Hutton 1834) etc.

OCCASIONAL PAPER of the Delaware Museum of Natural History with a review of the Columbariinae (Gastropoda: Turbinellidae) of the Western Atlantic with notes on the anatomy and systematic relationships of the subfamily by M.G. Harasewych.

ROSSINIANA numbers 21 and 22 this is the Bulletin of the Conchological association of New Caledonia and is in French and English.

No 21 contains some notes on Cones, *Cypraea* and an original description of **Pecten lividus** Lamarck, 1819.

No 22 contains "A geographical variation of the taxon **Placostylus** (Beck, 1837), a table of record length cones and a description of **Volumitra vaubani** Cernohorsky, 1982 and also notes on **Chlamys squamosa** (Gmelin, 1791).

THE SHELL-O-GRAM Vol 23 No 6 and Vol 23 No 8. Published by the Jacksonville Shell Club.

HAWAIIAN SHELL NEWS Issues for September, January and December have arrived.

OF SEA AND SHORE Vol 13 No 1 has arrived.



Xenophora pallidula (Reeve, 1843) Trawled off Natal January, 1984) Attached to the shell are a **Conus eucoronatus** and a Riley bottle top. Riley beer bottles were imported between 1900 and 1930 and as far as can be established the tops were made in South Africa during that time. (Val van Der Walt collection)

SHELL NEWS FROM VANCOUVER

published by the Vancouver and district Shell Club.

Vol 3 No 2 - Dangerous marine animals by Ted Davies.

Vol 3 No 3 - The calcium cycle in sea water by Ted Davies.

Vol 4 No 3 - Name changes by D.E. Foote on why shell names change, also Gastropod Classification by A. Leroi.

GLORIA MARIS (in Dutch) by the Belgian Society of Conchology.

Vol 22 No 7 contains a list of 148 *Cypraea* species and their synonyms.

Vol 22 No 9 - Two *Vasum* species dealt with.

Vol 22 No 10 - Some notes on landsnails with drawings and also **Pandora albida** Röding, 1798.

NATIONAL CAPITAL SHELL CLUB of Washington D.C. Issue 74. Has articles on night diving and notes on Caribbean **Chitons**, and **Pinnidae**. There is also a mention of a talk given by Terry Gosliner on the 3 west coast **Trivia**.

XENOPHORA - French Conchologists (in French).

No 16 - Notes on the **Zonaria** group of *Cypraea*, two new species of **Pleurotomaria**.

No 18 - Some notes on small shells e.g. **Aspella vokesiana** Houart, 1983, also notes on landsnails by Simon Tillier.

THE LITTORINA - Louisville Conchological Society. Vol 8 No 1.

Conus Algoensis Algoensis

Sowerby, 1834

A note on diet and habitat.

i) Diet: Kilburn (1982) said that this species feeds on small polychaete worms during ebb and rise of tide. This proved to be the case, when a specimen I caught regurgitated a 10mm long worm, identified by Professor Branch of the University of Cape Town as **Platynereis dumerillii**, an errant polychaete worm of the family Nereidae. The shell that had eaten this worm was only 27mm long.

ii) Habitat: The intertidal habitat is in sheltered, mid-intertidal areas on rocky reefs. Notably, the animal prefers small pockets of fine sand and shale in which it may bury itself when not foraging for living prey. The species is strictly nocturnal and is often collected beneath small rocks.

D.M. Strong

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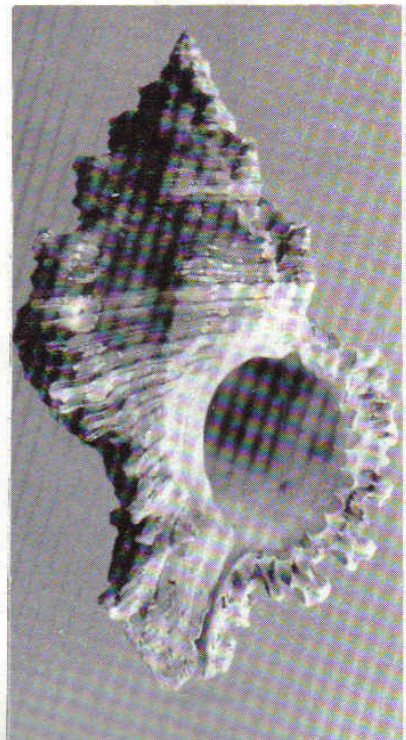
A dream that could become a reality.

The Maldives has been all but closed to shellers. The Comores is one of the few shelling havens that is still available to us. Let us all go and enjoy a trip of a life-time. The Conchological Society would like to organize such a trip. Two weeks in this primitive paradise would cost in the region of R1 500 from Cape Town. (From Johannesburg it would cost less). This includes airfare and hotel accommodation.

We plan to do this trip in November 1984 or February 1985. For further particulars, or to be put onto the list please write to:
 Conchological Soc. SA.

COMORES TRIP 1985
 P O BOX 1200
 Cape Town
 8000

If this trip is successful we may arrange trips to Mozambique and Angola as soon as these are open to us.



Holotype of **Chicoreus kilburni** Houart and Pain, 1922

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Chicoreus kilburni Houart & Pain, 1982

This shell was known as **Chicoreus maurus** (Broderip, 1833). But these two shells are very different, (see table). Another related species is **Chicoreus torrefactus** (Sowerby, 1841), but the South African species has a stouter shell, also a much more appressed suture, the spines are loner in **C. torrefactus**, which bears one, two or three axial nodes on the body whorl while **C. kilburni** has only one. Houart and Pain note that the type locality is Durban Bay, Natal. Other published records include Northern Mozambique.

COMPARISON OF C. maurus and C. kilburni.

	Aperture	Suture	Columella	Sculpture
kilburni	Oval	Appressed	No Denticles	One Intervarical Ridge
maurus	Oval	Not Appressed	Denticles On	2 or 3 Intervarical Ridges

RANGE: **kilburni** - South Africa and Mozambique
maurus - Marqueses Islands.

Informations la Societe Belge de Malacologie 10th Anniversary issue 1982.

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

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(Founded 1958)

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The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half the subscription to ensure membership to 30th June. Members joining after March are expected to pay a full subscription which will be carried forward to the following year.

An Entrance Fee of R2,00 (U.S.A. \$3,00) is payable by all applicants except Student members.

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

The Society has active groups in the following areas:

Cape Town:	Secretary Mrs G. Whitehead, 10 Mimosa Street, Milnerton 7405	Tel: 52-1418
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Port Shepstone:	Secretary Mrs M. Borland, P.O. Sea Park 4241	Tel: 5-0543

Exchanges wanted

Live taken Cape Shells are wanted by Anne G. Wilson, 283 Silver Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria 0002, South Africa.

Mr Vincent Kessner, c/o Dept. Health, P.O. Box 40596, Darwin, N. Territory 5794, Australia, would like to exchange shells with any members. He has live taken shells with data from the Great Barrier Reef.

Mike Fainzilber, P.O. Box 6012, 31060 Haifa, Israel. My main interests are CONIDAE and XENOPHORA, both shells and preserved animals, photographs of live species, etc. I would like to exchange shells and information with SA collectors and can usually offer a large variety of shells of all families from the Mediterranean, North Red Sea and East Africa, from common to rare.

Harry G. Lee, 709 Lomax Street, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. 32204, would like to obtain cockles (Cardidae) from South Africa, especially Parvicar-

dium turtoni and Afrocordium shepstonensis. He can offer live taken Cypraea marginalis from Somalia and many other shells from the Caribbean.

Mrs Suni G. Cabrena, Ocean House, 151 C. Tetuan, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00901 USA, collects only 3" (674mm) long specimens. She would like to obtain certain specimens such as Marginella pringlei and Argobuccinum murrayi of that dimension for her collection.

Mr Marcel Mailly, 18 Ave. Jean-Jaures, 97200 Fort de France, Martinique, F.W.I., would like to exchange for live taken Conus and Cypraea from South Africa for shells from his area.

Patrice Bou, 2 Macabou, 97280 Vauclin, Martinique, would like to exchange shells with members in South Africa for shells from Martinique.

Maurice Maurel of "Bénarès", Rivière de Anguilles, Mauritius, has some very interesting shells for sale.

EDITORIAL

The interim council are now the elected council and have been bringing the society's work up to date. There are however, the inevitable problems that crop up from time to time.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

If you have informed us of an address change during the last year and a half and find that this has not been done, please let us know. We will change the computer entry.

The council has a working meeting on the last Wednesday of every month to get everything up to date. This will mean that cheques and letters will be processed by that day.

Decisions taken at the last council meeting: **STRANDLOPER**

There would be at least two Strandloper every year consisting of approximately 12 pages each. Instead of more smaller Strandloper.

The cost of printing Strandloper has risen to such an extent that we can no longer sell back copies at the old prices. The new prices are therefore:

Circular and Strandloper	
1-170.....	15c each
Strandloper 171 to 194.....	50c each
Strandloper 195	
(Conidae).....	R1,50 each
Strandloper Marinellidae	
(the pair).....	R3,00 the pair
Strandloper Cymatiidae	
(No 212).....	R2,00 each

As there was only one Strandloper during 1983, a call for subscriptions would not be made until June 1984.

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The following list of people want to exchange with members in South Africa:

Noel and Peggy Trevor, 76 Wyndham Ave., Boyne Island, Near Gladstone, Queensland, Australia.
Charles and Thalia Webster, P.O. Box 300, Bowen, Queensland, 4805, Australia.

Alwyn and Beverly Heidke, Heidkes Road, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia.

Mrs Thora Whitehead, 172 Burbong Street, Indooroopilly, Chapel Hill, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Keith and Glenda Rowse, 19 Farrel Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4814, Australia.

Mrs Nell McKay, c/o Earlsville P.O., Cairns, Queensland, 4870, Australia.