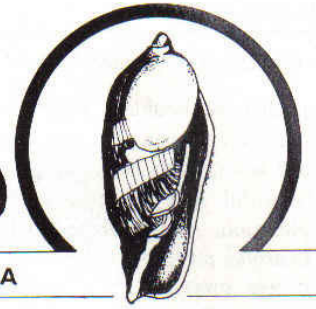


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 190

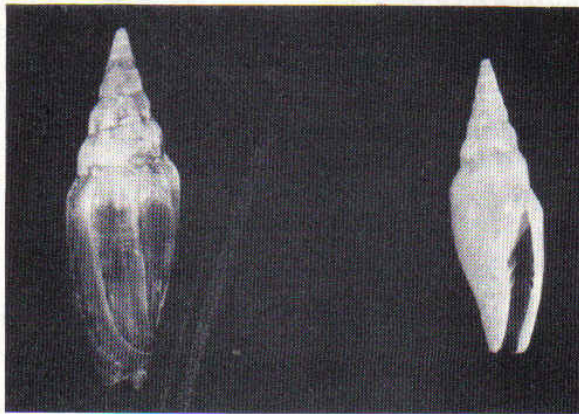
JUNE/JULY

Page 1

WEST AFRICAN CORNER

by LUIS P. BURNAY and ANTÓNIO A. MONTEIRO

MITRA (Ziba) CARINATA Swainson, 1824



Shell small and fusiform, presenting about 7 whorls with a well marked suture. Cream coloured, a little lighter near the suture.

The whorls are smooth, usually showing several growth marks. The last whorl is sculptured in its anterior part, with several parallel striae, starting from the columella. These whorls present a quite typical carena, from which the specie's name derives.

The aperture is longer than the spire, narrow, smooth and cream coloured. The outer lip is simple, moderately thick and almost straight in the middle portion.

The collumella shows 3 oblique folds and presents a glossy surface.

This species has been reported from several parts of West Africa, namely from the Cape Verde Islands, and from Senegal to Angola, and seems to be generally uncommon.

We have no indications about the living animal, and we also know nothing of its habitat, since most specimens observed were dead collected ones, namely taken in dredgings in Luanda's Harbour, Angola, like those figured in the above photograph.

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M. Nicklés - "Mollusques testacés marins de la côte occidentale d'Afrique" 1950.
W.O. Cernohorsky - "Systematics of the families Mitridae and Volutomitridae" 1970.

KNYSNA – PART THREE

by KENNETH BROWN and MICHAEL CORTIE

DIVING AND CANOEING AT THE HEADS

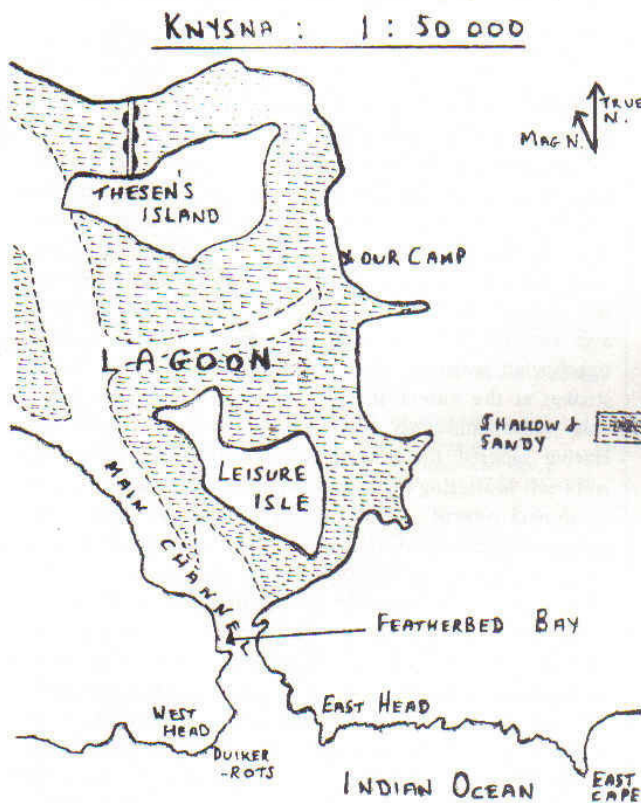
The clear, deep, and gray-blue waters spread recumbent in the bay between the surrounding mountain-land. A highly laden aluminium Indian canoe cleft a sharp cut on the surface, with ever-widening ripples behind; destination Featherbed Bay, in the lea of the main current, calm and devoid of swells. The day was cold and a fine, misty rain was falling spasmodically; the trees glistening in their hoary jewellery, the low clouds blanketing visibility, yet the air was still, and steeped, laden in wetness. Shivering even in their tightly-clad wetsuits, three skindivers pulled with steady strokes at the waters; the only remedial action against the cold was unanimously acknowledged as physical exertion. Having secured the aforementioned craft offshore, *alea jacta est!* Muttering vague and muted imprecations as to the uncooperativeness of the weather and icy waters, the three reluctants steadied the canoe and one by one slipped over its side into this Neptunian world . . .

To say that I was cold is the quintessence of understatement – an iceberg would have been torrid in comparison to my exposed feet, arms and face. Slowly I became anaesthetised, then, miraculously, a timorous sun appeared, was wafted away, but soon resolutely remained to burn away the cloudbank, so that by mid-afternoon the sun was shining brightly. On the shore a huge pile of sunbleached *Haliotidae* lay discarded, each shell connected to the other by a strand of metal looped through a hole drilled in the centre of the shell, rendering every specimen useless. Apparently such a huge quantity of live *Haliotidae* had been 'imported' to the area from Hermanus to supply food material for an oyster hatchery. Indeed as we dived in this area, remnants of racks spread out beneath us, and the huge, stark pile of shells bore mute testimony to the thoughtlessness of man, for the racks were now as useless as if they had never been. Finding this area comparatively poor in shelling, we anchored the canoe this time in Featherbed Bay proper. By now a warm sun was shining, and had improved visibility considerably. In fact, from where we were anchored, the rope could be glimpsed hazily snaking down 8 metres, where the anchor was dug into a sandy floor interspersed with

(Continued on page 2)

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small loose boulders. We dived to check the secureness of the anchor, then set about exploring. Closer in shore, the bed was entirely rocky, and very rich in marine life. Many beautiful rocky grottos and crevices invited further exploration. Almost immediately a large, brightly coloured *Charonia pustulata* was found, indeed but for the fact that it was somewhat barnacled, its bright orange-red colour was the finest example I had yet seen. By overturning numerous rocks – this involved kicking madly to dislodge the rock and with near-bursting lungs quickly scanning the rock surface while the fine silt caused by the disturbance cleared – we found many of our smaller specimens. Here again bright purple and orange *Calliostoma eucosmia* were to be found, averaging 12mm in diameter, while large *Turbo sarmaticus* were to be seen crawling in many nooks.



Other Trochidae, such as *Oxystele sinensis*, *O. tabularis*, *O. variegata* and others, because of their frequency of occurrence, deserve no further mention. Live *Haliotidae* were relatively uncommon on this side of the bay, while we found several *Argobuccinum argus*, but as we had specimens already, we took none. Firmly fixed to the rocks too we occasionally found brightly coloured *Pectinidae*, while *Mytilidae* – *Mytilus perna* were common in certain areas. The visibility here too was phenomenally good; 6 – 8 metres, and we remained in the water most of the day. Repetitive diving caused us to realise that this locality rewarded us with our finest shells, but we always made it our duty to disturb the ecology as little as possible: while overturning rocks small fish darted in to nibble at the newly exposed delectables, so we always returned the rocks to their original position after our search.

Generally the rock was covered in relatively little seaweed and only on closer inspection did the richness of sponges and urchins swim into view on the everchanging dapples of shade and sunlight beneath the surface. Every rocky crevice held some secret, and we took our time diving here, often camping near a small, stone pier for lunch. We swam around the seaward corner of Featherbed Bay, but here the stony shore quickly fell off into a short sand flat and below that the deep main channel. From scanning this sandworld we turned up little of interest.

On one of our earlier jaunts we anchored the canoe off the shallow sandbanks and quickly began searching for shells as the tide was turning, wading through the ever deepening water. Several dead shells of *Solen capensis*, *Venus verucosa* and *Macra glabrata* were to be found, while smaller *Tellinidae* and *Donacidae* shells too could be found.

The combination of a swift, efficient method of transport, with space for additional equipment for a day's activities, and due keenness, give to the sum total of that equation the finest that South African shelling can give, and indeed this proved to be no exception in our case, for diving and canoeing in Knysna and environs surely amply repaid us in our finds.

CHANGES TO JANUARY, 1978 MEMBERSHIP LIST

New Members:

- Miss C.H. Scott, "Tinkers Den", 15 Western Road, Port Elizabeth 6001
- Mr C. Marais, 128 Mitchell Street, George 6530.
- Mr L. Innocenti, Viale Guidoni 191, 50127 Firenze, Italy.
- Mr P. Bouchet, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 Rue de Buffon, 75005 Paris, France.
- S Miss C.M. Sher, 6 Highfield Road, Rosebank 7700.
- S Mr G.L. Gorton, 20 Dancks Court, Albert Road, Tamboerskloof 8001.
- Mr E.J.G. Crews, P.O. Box 7, Coega 6100.
- Mrs E.J.G. Crews, P.O. Box 7, Coega 6100.

Resignations:

- Mrs P. Beuster, P.O. Box 17197, Congella 4013.

Change of Address:

- Mrs H. Bebington, P.O. Box 248, Knysna 6570.
- Dr A. McLachlan, 195 Water Road, Walmer 6065.
- Mrs N. Gie, 38 President Swart Street, Panorama, Parow 7500.
- Mr A.C. Sinclair, 149 Commercial Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland.
- Mr G.A. Hyatt, Poste Restante, Uvongo 4270.
- Mrs G.A. Hyatt, Poste Restante, Uvongo 4270.
- Mrs J.M. van Huysteen, 109 Klein Drakenstein, 31 Knipe Street, Horizon Extension, Florida 1710.

EXCHANGES WANTED

- Mrs E. Sadler, D4 Buffelstontein Centre, 17th Avenue, Walmer 6065, South Africa. Wishes to contact overseas members willing to exchange. Neritas of special interest.
- Mr W.J. Dyer, "Pebbleways", 43, 8th Street, Voeklip 7203, South Africa. Will buy all good South African *Cypraea*, *Marginella*, *Mitras* and trawled shells or exchange world wide species.
- Mr Didier Marcellesi, Paicrie Generale de France, 5 Rue Louis Braille, Tunis, Tunisia. Would like to contact members with view to exchange. Can offer Tunisian, West African and Polynesian shells.
- Mr Mario Bellavita, Standard Fruit Co., Apartado N. Limon, Limon, Costa Rica. Would like to contact members with view to exchange. Can offer Philippine or Costerrian shells.
- Mrs E.W. Butler, 1324 Union Avenue, Steilacoom, Washington 98388, U.S.A. Would like to contact members with view to exchange.

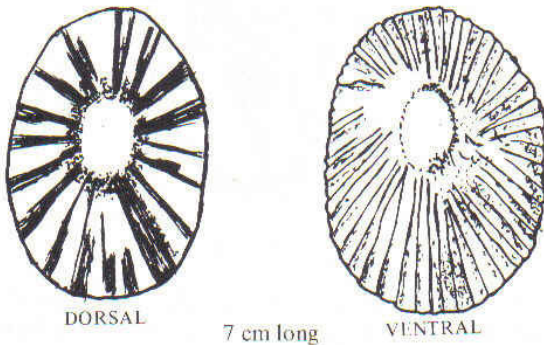
AN ILLUSTRATED LIST OF THE MARINE ANIMALS WHICH INHABIT THE INTER-TIDAL REGION OF UMDONI PARK, NATAL SOUTH COAST

(Continued)

Compiled by

Mrs I.F. Lambert and Miss A. Lambert

Patella miniata sanguinans Reeve



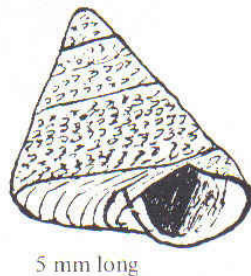
Low spired on dorsal side with small radiating ridges. Ventral side is smooth, polished, with pale brown centre and alternating brown and white lines radiating out to margin. Distribution as for *Cellana capensis*.

FAMILY TROCHIDAE

GENERA *Calliostoma*, *Monodonta* and *Oxysteles*

SPECIES

Calliostoma burnupi Smith



Conical shell, pale pink colouration with fine ridges which follow the direction of coil. Aperture pink mother-of-pearl. One beach rolled specimen was found in a sand filled pool.

Monodonta australis Lam.



Aperture is white or green mother-of-pearl. Operculum is horny. Exterior of shell is ridged with alternating pink, green and black markings on the ridges. Ground colour is pink-brown. Found under overhangs of the verticals.

Oxysteles tabularis (Krauss)



Shell has a pink ground colour which is ornamented with oblique radiating white lines, on the ventral side, and brown lines, on the dorsal side. Aperture is white or blue mother-of-pearl. Abundant throughout the shore.

Oxysteles variegata (Anton)



Shell has green ground colour, ornamented with blotches of brown, black and deeper green. Aperture white. Uncommon, found in algal turf.

FAMILY NERITIDAE

GENUS *Nerita*

SPECIES

Nerita albicilla Linn.



Low spired shell with white and black markings. Aperture yellow-white with calcareous operculum. Found in gulleys and under overhangs.

Nerita plicata (Linn.)



Strongly ridged, dirty-white shell. Aperture yellow-white with strong teeth on inner lip. Found in gulleys and under overhangs Uncommon.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Nerita polita Linn.



15 mm long

Only one specimen was found under an overhang. Dorsal side smooth and polished, ornamented with pale brown and green blotches. Aperture white, no teeth.

FAMILY OLIVIDAE

GENUS *Ancilla*

SPECIES

Ancilla fasciata Reeve



6 mm long

Only one dead specimen was found in a sand-filled pool. Light brown in colour with a polished surface.

FAMILY THAIDIDAE

GENERA *Drupa* *Morula* and *Thais*

SPECIES

Drupa granulata (Duclos)



2 cm long

A heavily built shell covered in regular dark-brown nodes. Base of nodes is usually white, because of calcareous encrustation. Aperture is purple with white margin and black rim. Aperture is strongly toothed. Found in gulleys in the middle shore.

Morula margariticola (Brod.)



2 cm long

Shell very finely ornamented with concentric ridges and nodes. Dark-brown to grey colouration. Aperture purple, lacks teeth. Found amongst algal turf.

Thais bufo (Lam.)



6 cm long

Heavily built shell, pale brown colour. Shell finely lined with well developed nodes on shoulders. Aperture cream with alternating dark brown and cream marking on the serrate outer lip. Dark brown horny operculum. Found in gulleys in the middle shore.

Thais capensis (Petit)



4 cm long

Heavily built pale brown shell, with very strong, robust nodes on shoulders and outer lip of aperture. High spire. Aperture cream with alternating brown and cream markings on outer lip. Found in gulleys on the middle shore or on verticals in the *Octomeris angulosa* colonies.

Thais dubia (Krauss)



6 mm long

Specimens are small for this species. This is the most northern record of this species on the Natal Coast. Surface ridged, grey, with bands of mottled dark brown lines radiating from the spire. Common in the *Octomeris angulosa* colonies.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Thais rudolphi (Lam.)



6 cm long

Strongly built shell, very similar to *Thais bufo*. Exterior dark brown with alternating black and white markings on raised shoulders. Aperture deep pink with strongly serrate and dark brown outer lip. Habitat as for *Thais bufo*.

FAMILY CONIDAE

GENUS CONUS

SPECIES *Conus coronatus* Gmelin

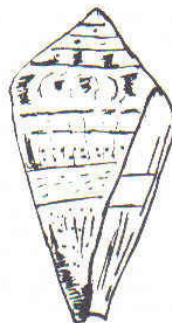
External surface smooth or finely ridged. Pink ground colour covered in white, brown and pink blotches oriented concentric with the spire. Uncommon, in algal turf.



1 cm. long

Conus piperatus Dillwyn

Shell has medium spire. Ground colour is buff with dark purple or brown spots and lines radiating from the spire. Aperture white with purple outer lip. Uncommon, in algal turf.



4 cm. long

FAMILY FASCIOLARIIDAE

GENUS *Peristernia*

SPECIES *Peristernia forskalii leucothea* (Melv.)

Heavily built shell with dirty white colouring externally and in aperture. Shell is strongly ridged. Common, in algal turf and on *Octomeris angulosa* colonies.



1,5 cm. long

FAMILY MITRIDAE

GENUS *Mitra*

SPECIES *Mitra littorata* Lam.

Strongly built, pale brown shell with dark brown blotches. Aperture white, strong teeth on inner lip. Uncommon, found in gulleys and in algal turf.



1,5 cm. long

ORDER MESOGASTROPODA

FAMILY CYMATIIDAE

GENERA *Cymatium* and *Gyrineum*

SPECIES *Cymatium dolarium* Linn.

Strongly built shell, brown in colour with moderate spire and with heavy nodes on the shoulders. Outer lip of aperture is strongly noded. Aperture white, operculum horny. Uncommon, under overhangs and in gulleys.



4 cm. long

Gyrineum pusillum (Broderick)

Strongly built shell with high spire. Covered in ridges and nodes. Aperture white with purple outer lip. Uncommon, found in gulleys and overhangs amongst algal turf.



1 cm. long

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

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AROUND THE GROUPS

CAPE TOWN Mr Simons gave a very interesting talk, illustrated with specimens and slides, on kelp at our February meeting. Kelp recipes were handed out and all were surprised at the wealth of uses to which this seaweed is put. There was an excellent and varied display of Nassariidae on view at our March meeting. Miss Everitt read some notes on Bullia and Mr Freeman gave an interesting and enlightening talk on a day's dredging from a friends yacht. At our April meeting we decided to ask each member to pay a subscription of R2,00 per year in place of the present system of a small donation at each meeting. The rest of the evening was spent in exchanging useful hints and tips on collecting, cleaning and storing shells. At our May meeting we had a very interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on the ecology of St. Croix Island in Algoa Bay.

PORT ELIZABETH. Our field day on March 12th took place in poor weather conditions. Shell life was found to be abundant but the number of species encountered was limited. On 15th April we start the first of a series of work mornings changing the display cases at the Port Elizabeth Museum. During the Easter holidays Mrs Mears found a magnificent live *Cypraea erosa* at Kenton-on-Sea, certainly a new southern most record for this species. The rest of our April meeting was spent discussing the family Muricidae. Our May meeting took the form of the Annual General Meeting of the Group. The committee was re-elected. After the business formalities the family Fascioliariidae was discussed.

EAST LONDON. The field day on 9th April was a great success with many species being found alive. At our April meeting the competition was a set of S.A. cypraea; all did well, three members obtaining nineteen and a half points out of a possible twenty. Instead of a meeting in May we had a farewell party for Derry Sinclair who is returning to Scotland. Our field day on May 7th was again a great success. Allen Jenner and his wife from Johannesburg were with us and were a great help with naming specimens and giving collecting and cleaning tips.

DURBAN. Our Annual General Meeting is behind us and we are into a New year. We wish to thank our Val for holding the fort for so long and for all her help, patience and friendship over the past years. Put all thought of ease and rest aside; we have decided to try our hands at another shell show this year. Jean Pierce gave a fascinating talk on her recent trip to Patagonia — she brought some beautiful postcards to illustrate the scenery as well as some interesting shells. At our April meeting Maureen Quickeberge gave a talk on the families Epitoniidae and Littorinidae, handing around specimens for observation. Many members brought specimens for display and identification.

PRETORIA. Ons April vergadering was die Vyfde Algemene Jaarlikse Vergadering van die Groep. Twee rolprente word vertoon: 'Kosi Bay' en 'Marine Life of the open Coast'. At our May meeting Laurie Smith gave a very interesting and informative talk on the family Cassididae. On display was a collection of shells collected by Lizeke and Han van den Berg during their holiday at Jefferys Bay.

JOHANNESBURG. We intend to hold a show in September to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Group. Details will be finalised at our April meeting. We are hoping to shortly have a talk on fossil shells to be given by Dr Cruickshank of the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research.



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