

XX
X
X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
X X
XX

CIRCULAR NO. 44

JULY, 1963

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING:

As advised, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 23rd July, at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum. The Cape Natural History Club and the Wild Life Society have joined with us in inviting Mr. Colin Tayler of the Oceanarium, Port Elizabeth, to tell us something about Dolphins. His talk will be illustrated with slides and a tape recording. Mr. Tayler has had amazing results in training these intelligent mammals, so this will be an interesting evening.

The shells for display will be those found on the Great Barrier Reef Australia. Will members please take their shells to the main building, of the Museum, where tables will be provided for the display.

XX

MEETING AT THE U.C.T. 18.6.1963

This, our fifth birthday meeting, was well attended and proved to be a very enjoyable occasion. Prof. Day showed some wonderful slides of Nudibranchs and shells and told us about them. His students had put on a display of tanks containing various sea-anemones and bivalves, etc. The Japanese shells displayed by members were of a high standard.

The birthday cake, decorated with marzipan shells, had five candles. These were blown out at one go by the youngest present, David Lowry, much to his delight !

At the short meeting before the talk, the following was elected as a member of the Society:- Mr. P. Botha, P.O. Box 94, Walvis Bay, S.W.A.

The following were proposed as new members:-

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Miss M. Lord | proposed by | D. Kennelly, | seconded by | M. Kempthorne |
| Mr. K. McNamara | " | L. Kerr | " | D. Freeman |
| Mr. A. Ribbink | " | Prof. Day | " | C. Swaneveld |
| Mr. D. Wolmarans | " | L. Kerr | " | J. Walker. |

XX

FIELD DAY AT ST. JAMES. 23.6.1963

A fair number turned out to shell on the rocks round the pool, including some Junior members. The tide was nice and low and some interesting material was found. David Freeman bagged four cones, Conus elongatus and C. simplex. We were fortunate in having Prof. Day with us, so we were able to have our finds identified on the spot. It is encouraging to note that more members are coming to the Field Days.

XX

In this Circular we publish accounts of the meetings held in Natal and Border respectively. The Council are very pleased with the enterprise

shown by/.....

shown by members in these districts and congratulates the conveners. Will other centres please do likewise with our blessing.

XX

FIRST MEETING IN NATAL.

The Conchological Society had its first meeting in Natal on 15th June, 1963 in the Board Room of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. It was indeed an occasion of some historic interest, because as far as is known there has never before been a meeting of conchologists in Natal, not even in Burnup's days. A total of eleven members and guests were present. The director of the museum, Dr. J.A. Pringle, kindly opened the meeting and expressed the hope that once again Pietermaritzburg should become a centre of conchological activities. The Convener took the chair in the absence of Mr. Elston and conveyed the apologies of the latter and Mr. Dee. It was decided to have regular meetings every other month, outings and other activities as far as possible. The showing of appropriate films was also suggested. Various members displayed interesting specimens from the coasts of East Africa (e.g. the recently described Cypraea titan) and Natal. The display collection of the museum and some recent books were closely scrutinized; Mrs. Cock had the pleasure of holding the famous Cypraea fultoni in her hand. After tea the meeting broke up at about half past four. It was decided to have the NEXT MEETING ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th, 1963, AT THE NATAL MUSEUM AT 2 P.M. You are requested to make a note of this as no further notice will be given.

A.C. van Bruggen, convener.

XX

FIRST MEETING IN THE BORDER. by D.H. Kennelly.

The long week end in July (6th to 8th), has come and gone, but there is no doubt whatever that it will always be looked back to with pleasure by the members of the Border Branch of our Society. We were favoured with lovely weather, and had the benefit of a low spring tide on all three mornings. This made collection of live specimens fairly easy, of which full advantage was taken.

The gathering of shell collectors at Bonza Bay numbered some fourteen, and the names are appended:-

In addition to the writer, were Mrs. M. Rix, Mrs. Hazel Jefferies, Mrs. Mason, Jill Mason, Pam Holland, Anne Lord and her brother. Mr. and Mrs. Cock came all the way from Natal to attend. Mrs. C.M. Connolly from Cape Town, and Mrs. Hulley and Mrs. Watters of East London.

Our new member, Mr. John Kernan, was prevented from attending, much to our regret.

It is not possible to detail all the incidents which happened during the three days of collecting, but on Saturday morning Mrs. Mason found a large loose piece of reef, which enabled her to "See-Saw". There were no acceptances to the invitation to join in. Later on Mrs. Mason obtained a fine large Charonia pustulata, alive, with two live specimens of Ischnochiton oniscus attached.

Mr. Cock - determined not to be out of the fun - came to light with a second live specimen. However it was to the credit of one of our Juniors - Jill Mason - that she found an almost perfect specimen. This was also alive and only the extreme tip of the spire was missing.

Our quiet Junior - Pam Holland - makes up in her collecting for her lack of talk, and wiped every member's eye by finding the one and only Cypraea caputserpentis.

Mrs. Connolly/....

Mrs. Connolly joined forces with the collecting on the second day, and thrilled everyone by producing live specimens of Cymatium parthenopeum, Tonna variegata, and a Cypraea (no specific name recorded). These shells were secured at Queenbury Bay, where Mrs. Connolly is located for the winter holidays.

All present assembled at the Bonza Bay Hotel for dinner on the Sunday, where Mrs. Rix with her usual care for the comfort of Members, arranged for all to sit together.

In the afternoon, the Branch meeting was held in the garden of the Hotel, and thanks are due to Mrs. Myra Church for providing the necessary seating from the Hotel.

This Branch meeting - the first for Border members - is a milestone in the history of our Society, and a full discussion was held on various aspects of the Society and its Library. The writer (in the Chair) was glad that discussions were not too prolonged, and we had then the opportunity to view Mrs. Connolly's Reference collection, which she had kindly brought with her. This collection proved to be an eye-opener for many present, and enabled past mistakes in nomenclature to be rectified, and identifications made of Bonza Bay specimens.

All present were most appreciative of the field work by Mrs. Connolly and her studies of the life history of various species which she has collected alive with their eggs.

Mrs. Rix produced a number of lovely Australian shells, which arrived just in time for the meeting, and were greatly admired. This same enthusiastic member also showed a large selection of Bonza Bay shells, of which the two specimens of Voluta africana were outstanding.

Mrs. Hazel Jefferies, in addition to collecting a number of species alive, found time to look for egg masses. The latter were handed to Mrs. Connolly to assist her investigations.

The last day (Monday) saw as many as possible on the reef for a final look round in the morning, and, as usual, the shells found made everyone wish for an additional day of collecting. Mrs. Mason came to light with a small, slightly damaged example of Argonauta hians, a complete Lamellaria with animal (dead), and one or two more live specimens of other species.

Finally it may be added that the meeting was a real success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The last thought of everyone was as to when and where the next meeting will be held, but of this more anon.

XX

THE LIBRARY.

Ordered some time ago, but only recently arrived from America, are the first 226 pages of Dr. R. Tucker Abbott's monograph on the Indo-Pacific Mollusca. As the pages are loose, the Librarian regrets that they cannot be loaned to members at present, but may be studied at the meetings.

Dr. Morris Cohen of Durban has promised us the rest of his very valuable conchological library and we are looking forward eagerly to their arrival.

XX

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

- Mr. P. Elston, 105 Wellfreer Rd., P.O. Fynnland, Durban.
- Mrs. Jean Ward, 42 Musson Street, Hermanus.
- Mrs. E. Visagá - where are you now ?

Will members/....

Will members please notify change of address promptly, as we would like to compile a new Members List.

XX

S.O.S.

* * * - - - . . .

This comes from all the poor creatures left to die on exposed rocks after shelling ! Will members please remember to turn the rocks back again, and see that bait hunters do the same. So much marine life is lost by not obeying this rule.

XX

WILD LIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

Members interested may obtain particulars and entry forms from :-
The Secretary, Wild Life Photographic Competition, P.O. Box 1313, Cape Town.

XX

SHELLS WANTED.

The Geological Survey of New Zealand wish to increase their collection of the Genus Naticidae. Any members wishing to oblige, please write to :- W.J. Paul, 6 McNaghan Avenue, Karori, Wellington, New Zealand.

XX

THE COWRY, Vol. 1, No 5.

For the information of those members interested, the above-mentioned issue of this publication is now on sale.

As mentioned in previous Circulars, it is devoted exclusively to the Genus Cypraea, and copies may be ordered from the Editor, Lt.Col. R. J. Griffiths, Sea Acres Sanctuary, Port Macquarie, N.S.W. Price 6/- sterling per copy, or 12/- per annum.

XX

GENERAL NOTES.

THE GENUS LAMELLARIA IN SOUTH AFRICA. By D.H. Kennelly.
(See Circular 41, page 8.)

During the stormy weather in March, a live specimen of Lamellaria was taken at Bonza Bay by Miss A, Lawford.

As examination of the radula is essential to determine the specific name, this example was sent to Dr. K.H. Barnard

Dr. Barnard very kindly examined the specimen, and has advised that it is Lamellaria perspicua, Linn. We are very grateful for this prompt assistance and advice.

It appears/.....

It appears there is another example of Lamellaria occurring at Bonza Bay, which differs from L. perapicua in the colouration of the body.

Steps are being taken to procure more of the latter for proper examination.

XX

ARCHAEOGASTROPODA. By P. Elston.

With reference to Circular 43 June, page 6, I feel sure my dear friend and Honorary member D.H. Kennelly has baited a hook hoping I would bite, so I really must reply to prevent going into the frying pan!

Firstly neither myself nor Mr. Talmage mentioned Cellana capensis Gmelin (first wicket to me)

Secondly, Patella barbara Linn. and P. miniata Born of the sizes mentioned was the interesting problem, as I have the first from Mocambique but, like the Natal specimens is small and light, whilst those collected from the "middens" at Park Rynie were the heavy large type as found in the colder waters of the Cape. Macnae & Kalk mention P. barbara from Inhaca and I have seen specimens in Lourenco Marques Museum similar to the present living specimens of Natal waters.

As Koch mentions "in some cases these shells in the more Eastern regions are very weak" this was also a reason to send them to Mr. Talmage and to my mind his reasoning and theory is correct.

On the Zululand coast there have been subterranean disturbances in recent memory and why should this not have occurred in the past? From skin-diving I have learnt of the definite alteration in temperature even on the surface, so why should the Natal coast not be subject to these "upwellings" which happen in many other parts of the sea shore throughout the world.

Another most interesting subject which Mr. Talmage and Museum authorities in California are going into on our behalf is the Fossil Pecten from the Umfolozi Delta obtained some 70 feet down and given to me by Mrs. Helene Boswell. Mr. Talmage reports this to be Miocene (period covering 60 million years) Genus Flabellapecten, species unknown and suggests it may be found in some of the French literature covering Madagascar. The species could not be identified with any degree of accuracy as the hinge could not be cleared.

XX

SOME ASPECTS OF SHELL COLLECTING. By D.H. Kennelly.

In his book - Marine Shells of Port Alfred - the late W.H. Turton states that it seems a peculiarity of Port Alfred that the shells vary in different years. Turton did not give any details of what he had noted, and this is unfortunate for there are many aspects of collecting at different localities, which are of interest to the observant.

In this article the writer is giving a short account of what has been noted during many years of collecting.

A few years ago at Jeffreys Bay during the month of September, Melapium lineatum was plentiful on the beach. The following month this species had disappeared.

In May of this year Helcion pectunculus was found in profusion at Kidd's Beach, E.L., far more than the writer had seen at other times.

At Queensbury Bay, E.L., in June, the predominate shell was

Patella/.....

BORDER NOTES. By D.H. Kennelly.

We had the pleasure of a visit from our member, Mrs. Richards of Mossel Bay, who was on her way home after a collecting trip to Natal.

Judging by the box of samples seen by the writer, this enthuasiastic collector obtained a very fine lot of Cowries including two large specimens of Cypraea vitellus.

Other species were not so plentiful as on previous trips, but there is no doubt that the Shell Museum at Mossel Bay has agin benefited considerably.

Members of the Society at Mossel Bay now total about 8 - 10, and they have a grand opportunity to form a Mossel Bay Branch. Occasional meetings and field trips for collecting, would go far to increase interest in shell collecting and our Society.

Recently the writer had an opportunity to put in a day collecting at Queensbury Bay, about 18 miles from East London.

A party of ten made the trip, and though only two shell collectors - the writer and Mrs. M. Rix - were present, a good representative lot of shells was obtained.

Our live shell enthusiast, Mrs. C. Connolly, knows Queensbury Bay well, and it is certainly a locality worth visiting more than once.

All Border members regret to learn that our good friend and member, Mr. E.C. "Ginger" Wicks of Uitenhage, is not yet able to get out and collect shells, and they sincerely hope it will not be long before he can resume his usual activities.

XX

CAPE NOTES. By L. Kerr.

Our "Durban" weather has been too perfect for beachcombing, but at the time of writing, a south-westerly gale is blowing, with rain, so am hoping for some finds tomorrow morning.

Clarice Connolly writes from Queensbury Bay, near East London:- "Perfect weather and quiet seas were ideal for shelling along this interesting coast; I already have a 'bag' of some very good material. On turning over a rather small, flat rock, I was very excited to see fourteen Conus aurora with red animals. These cones were surrounding a four inch mass of egg-cases, all exactly alike. Another find was Peristernia fuscotincta with one egg-case already on a rock. After being in a jar of water, this mollusc, with pretty red foot, laid further cases on the glass."

Mary Kuttel is at Port Shepstone and writes that she is having a wonderful time shelling. She has already posted home 30 lbs of shells, enough to share with us! Mary has found a shell new to her and is hoping it is new to science too, but will have to wait until it can be examined by Dr. Barnard.

Nancy Prior is back from her trip to East Africa. We are waiting to see her 'bag' at the next meeting.

Our Junior member, John Lighton, was lucky enough to obtain a perfect Cypraea marginalis at Jeffreys Bay. Dirk Ackermann also has another good specimen, sent to him last week.

XX

SECRETARY: Mrs. L. Kerr,
Ryde Villa,
Kenilworth Road,
Kenilworth. Ph: 775369

TREASURER: Miss M. Kempthorne,
3 Alvanley,
Main Road,
Kenilworth. Ph: 777138