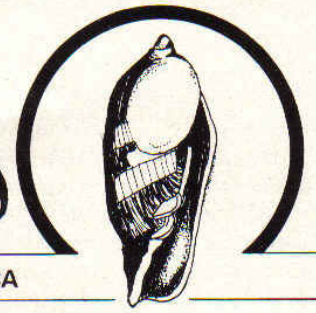


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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1975

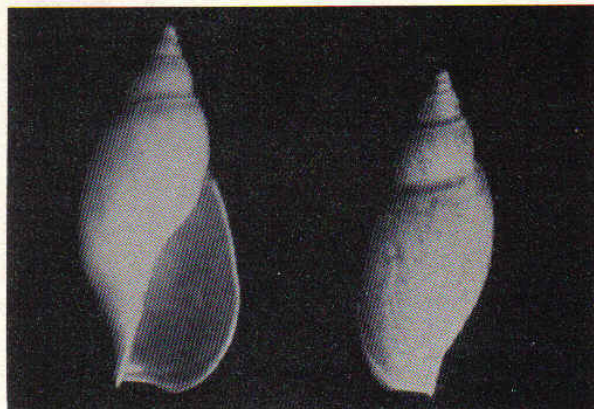
REDISCOVERY OF *Provocator pulcher* WATSON, 1882

By P.W. CLOVER

This little known Volutidae has only been known from two dead specimens in the British Museum of Natural History for over ninety years. Somewhat similar to *Provocator corderoi* Carcelles, 1947, found off Argentina and also in very cold seas. The type locality of *P. pulcher* is Kerguelen Island, over 1500 miles due south of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, a very remote place indeed.

In 1974 my good friend Vic Chakowa, from Mauritius, visited me in Seattle at the Conchologists of American convention and gave me one of these shells. It was so thin and smooth that at first I thought it to be a land shell or some odd *Ancilla* species. All Vic could tell me at the time was that Russian trawlers had brought them in from way south of Mauritius! Well, in the spring of 1975, on a trip around the U.S.A., I visited Commander Blankenship who had been in Arabia at the time these shells were collected and during a visit to Mauritius he had also got two specimens from Vic (there were about ten specimens collected by the Russians). With these added shells to study we decided they were a Volute and while at the Smithsonian, Dr Rehder confirmed our identity of *Provocator pulcher* Watson.

The two specimens illustrated are 77 and 88 mm long, a flesh white colour, very thin and light weight shells with 2-3 columella folds. Trawled in deep water near Kerguelen Island, South Indian Ocean.



Provocator pulcher Watson, 1882 (Photo: Clover)

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

By C. HANNEMAN

A 160 kilometre coastal hike from Port Edward, on the Natal south coast, to Port St. Johns, in the Transkei.

This section of the South African coastline is aptly named the "Wild Coast". It is sparsely populated, rugged and inhospitable country. Accurate Trigonometrical Survey Maps showed the dramatic terrain changes we would have to contend with. The area comprises three African nations, the Zulu, Mpondo and Xhosa, and is divided into nine tribal regions.

The four-person team consisted of myself, my daughter Belinda, aged 17, and two sons, Mark, 14, and Glenn, 12. Our equipment consisted of one lightweight two-man tent, one two-man rubber dinghy, first-aid and snake-bite kits, change of clothing, raingear, torch, eating and cooking utensils and sleeping bags, all packed into frame type rucksacks. We wore sandshoes, shorts, shirts, sunhats and sun-tan cream. In addition each had a water bottle; the boys carried a paddle each, and walking sticks were carried by Belinda and Dad, who was also photographer.

After a 160 kilometre drive we arrived at our starting point, the large suspension bridge over the Mtwamvuna River, on the Natal border, at 10.30 a.m. on 8th December, 1974, in torrential rain. After donning rain gear, we reluctantly left the shelter of our car and, with false smiles, the children wished their mother goodbye while Dad pretended to be thoroughly enjoying himself. Setting off over the 200 metre long bridge and looking down at the brown, muddy flooding river below, we soberly reflected on the fact that we would be self-reliant and self-sufficient from here onwards.

The southern side of the bridge lies on Transkei territory and the first African huts we passed belonged to Zulus of the Imizizi tribe. On the crest of the hill beyond the huts we left the road and headed for the beach, where we waded through the first river which was flowing strongly. Proceeding along the beach we came to the cretaceous deposits of Umzamba. This is a complete pertified forest, where stone trees are clearly visible at low tide and, except for odd spots that have been chipped by souvenir hunters, the whole forest has been wonderfully preserved. Further on we came to the Umzamba river, which was in flood. It was far too deep to wade so we called a halt and inflated the dinghy. I rowed Glenn and his rucksack across and

Continued on page 2

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few miles further on we came to a dead-end; a beautiful bay with sheer sides, 500 metres wide and 500 metres high, with a waterfall dropping straight into the sea. It was magnificent. We had to climb the very steep side, walk along the top of the river and then wade across at the top of the waterfall. The beauty of the place is indescribable. We were on top of a waterfall with the water cascading into the sea in the rock-lined bay, inland was a large clear pool with another waterfall flowing into it at the upper end. The pool was surrounded by indigenous trees, plants and

water lilies. There were wild birds, butterflies and an assortment of frogs.

It was 5 p.m. and we had been walking for eleven hours so we decided to camp right next to the pool at the top of the falls. We all had a wash and then enjoyed the first hot meal of the trip, after which we sat around the camp fire sipping coffee and admiring God's creation. Eventually we crawled into our sleeping bags, very weary but content, and were lulled off to sleep by the music of the waterfalls and a choir of 1000 frogs.

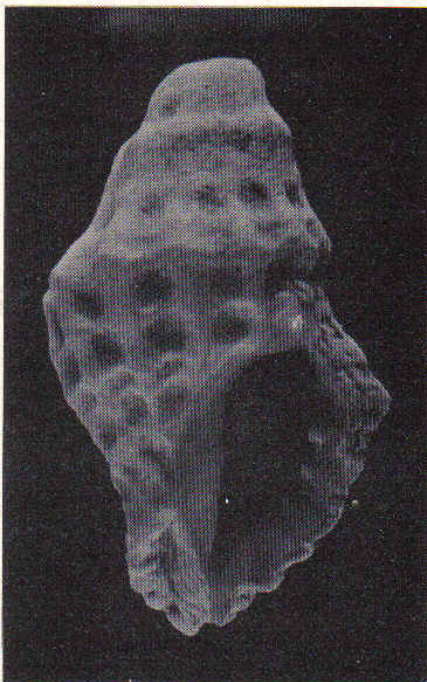
(To be continued)

INTERTIDAL TALK

Some time ago Mrs Skead wrote to us informing us of some of her finds whilst shelling near Port Grosvenor in Pondoland. Unfortunately her letter was misfiled and has only recently come to light. However, the details of at least one of her finds is still of interest and we pass the following details on. Mrs Skead writes "I found an unfamiliar shell near Port Grosvenor, it was alive, with a greyish green animal with irredescent green spots. After months of searching I was still unable to identify it. The local university kindly photographed it for me with their equipment and I sent these photographs to Mr Kilburn and received a reply from him recently. A copy of his letter is enclosed. The actual size of the shell is 1½ inches (length). The shell, by the way, was well out of the water, nearer to the high water mark than the low." Mr Kilburn's reply to Mrs Skead's enquiry reads "Your very clear and careful description and excellent photographs make the

identification of your shell a simple matter. It is *Morula (Cronia) cariosa* (Wood, 1828), a species which occurs occasionally in Natal, but is far from common. Yours is a new record for Pondoland. The "old" names for this species are *Drupa cancellata* (Q & G, 1833) and *D.fenestrata* (Blainville, 1832)." According to Spry (1968) in *The Sea Shells of Dar es Salaam, Part 1, Gastropods*, the shell is uncommon in that area, the length is 3,5cms, it is ivory-coloured and the interstices are light brown. Mrs Skead's photographs are published elsewhere.

At the time of writing all but 102 members have renewed their subscriptions for the current year. We would like to thank those who have renewed already, especially those who have added extra to cover bank charges. Prompt payment does reduce the amount of administration work. Those whose subscriptions are still unpaid are reminded that this will be the last issue of *The Strandloper* they will be receiving until they are again 'paid up'. These members will shortly be receiving a reminder account so if you do not receive an account it means you have already paid.



Morula (Cronia) cariosa (Wood, 1828)

EXCHANGES WANTED

Mrs A. Randall, 84 Marlow Road, Christchurch 7 New Zealand. Has quite a number of S.A. patella but very few other S.A. shells and would like to contact members with a view to exchange. Can offer New Zealand shells in exchange — mostly common but a few rarer ones as well.

Miss A. B-Lao, Mahineeg, Camiguim, Mindanao. Philippines. Would like to contact members with the view to exchanging.

Mrs V. Heath, P.O. Box UA. 5, Union Avenue, Salisbury, Rhodesia. Has a few *Cypraea carneola*, *C. caurica* and *C.moneta* which she offers in exchange for any type of South African shell.

Mr J. Ramon, B.P. 2738, Noumea, Nouvelle-Caledonie. Is especially interested in *Cypraea*, *Conus* and *Olives* and would like to exchange with members.

Mr Vittorio e Ambrogio Orlando, via Palermo N. 168, 90049 Terrasini, Sicily. Is interested in a qualified exchange of rarer or uncommon shells from the Mediterranean with species of *Haliotis*, *Cypraea* and *Strombus* from South Africa. Members are requested to write first to ascertain which shells are wanted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr B.O. Lafferty, 255 Kenora Ave., No. 58, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8E 3G5.

Mr I. Davies, 9 Parel Vallei Rd., Somerset West, Cape.

Mr R. le Maitre, 'Blyhoek', P.O. Box 39, Lynedoch 7603, Cape.

Miss M.M. Eva, P.O. Box 23, Port Shepstone 4240, Natal.

Mr L.W. Evans, 94 Fairlie Road, Port Alfred 6170, Cape.

Mr R.E. Krige, 8 Verbena Circle, Jeffreys Bay 6330, Cape.

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

OFFICE BEARERS 1974/75

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Prof J.H. Day |
| <i>Vice-President</i> | Mrs M.C. Giles |
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| <i>Treasurer/Editor</i> | Mr R.O. Carlsson |
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| | Mr G. Verhoef |
| | Mr J.W. Watt |

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| | |
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| <i>Durban and Natal Coast</i> | Mr J. Scheepers |
| <i>Border</i> | Mrs M.J. Latigan |
| <i>Eastern Cape</i> | Mr A. McLachlan |

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 members joining after December need only pay one half of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the 30th June of that year.

Members who are full-time students at an Educational Institution in South Africa may join as Student Members on payment of an annual subscription of R2,00. No Entrance Fee is payable in respect of Student Membership.

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 |
| East London: | Secretary, Mr B.E. Brickhill, Fort Cox Agricultural College, P.O. Middledrift 5685. |
| Durban: | Secretary, Mrs. V. Niell, P.O. Box 31, Amanzimtoti 4125 |
| 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 |

AROUND THE GROUPS

Port Elizabeth. Our July meeting was held at the home of Mrs Watters. The shells for discussion were the Chitons and Mrs Watters had arranged a most interesting display with drawings and notes. She also demonstrated how she dried and preserved these shells. After the meeting the Group walked to the Summerstrand Beach to look for shells. It was low tide and there was quite a good selection of shells, for which we were most thankful.

East London. Mrs Latigan reported at our May meeting on visits she had paid to various members in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town. She then gave a brief talk on the Eulimidæ after which Mrs Brickhill gave the main talk of the evening on the Neritidæ, this was well illustrated with shells. With apologies from one there were nine members and two prospective members present at our June meeting. It was reported that a delegation representing the Society would be attending a meeting called by the Divisional Council for the purpose of discussing conservation of the coast line around East London. The families Phasianellidæ, Epitonidæ and Janthinidæ were discussed and the checklist brought up to date.

Durban. Our meeting of May was a most interesting one spent at the flat of Mrs Lubbe. She and Stan have recently returned from a trip to Mautitius and brought back some lovely shells. Stan showed their slides and gave a most interesting talk. One interesting shell they found was a *Conus betulinus*, measuring 160mm. On picking it up they found a long, thick worm protruding from the shell, and when they got back to the hotel the shell was put on the verandah. The heat of the sun was too much for the worm and it came out, all ten foot of it! When they cleaned the shell they found all the abdominal parts had been eaten.

Pietermaritzburg. Only ten members were able to go to Scottsborough for our field outing on 11th May. It was an early tide and, though we gathered at 8.30 a.m. we were only able to shell for two hours. Mr Tosio found a live *Cypraea carneola* and three *Thyas rudolphi* which he has added to his marine tank, with which he has been very successful and now has quite a number of live specimens. The June meeting was planned as our A.G.M. and although several people were present very few of our regulars attended and so, it was felt that it would be better to defer elections till our August meeting. Mr Colin Hanneman very kindly agreed to show his slides taken on his hike along the coast. This proved a great interest to all present — a truly remarkable documentary.

Pretoria. Ons Junie vergadering is deur die Voorsitter geopen en hy spreek sy genoeë uit met die vooruitgang van die Groep. Met die eerste vergadering op April 17, 1974 was daar vier daadwerklike lede teenwoordig. Vandag staan die ledetal op agtien. Nadat almal die Allied Cowries nou onlangs van Yeppoon deur die Voorsitter ontvang, bekyk en bewonder het, vertel Laurie dat hy van plan is om nog voor die einde van die jaar 'n begin te maak met die skryf van 'n boek oor Suid-Afrikaanse skulpe in Afrikaans. Dr van Hoepen se praatjie oor die Noordelike gedeelte van Mozambique geïllustreer met skyfies was hoogs interessant. Dit was vir ons leke ook leersaam om die geweldige Cabora-Bassa te sien.

Cape Town. In the absence of both our Chairman and Secretary Mr Carlsson welcomed all present with a special word of welcome to Mr Pfeiffer, our main speaker for the evening. Mr Pfeiffer spol briefly on an ecological system and explained that although the film to be shown was based on a land system the same principles would apply to the sea. The talk was followed by a film on the study being done on the ecology of a forest in England. After tea Gordon Verhoef showed his underwater film taken when diving off Truk Island, the scene of the sinking of the Japanese fleet.

NEW MEMBERS

- Mr J. Trondle, B.P. 1753, Papeete, Tahiti.
- Mrs N. Gie, 41 Bremmerhof, Couch Crescent, Parow-East 7500, Cape
- Mr L. Whatmore, 704 Carillon, Prince Street, Durban 4001.
- Mr M.S. Els, 134 Beach Road, East London 5201.
- Mr P.D. Berndt, 12 Turnberry Ave., Bunker's Hill, East London 5201.
- Mrs A. Wissing, 46, 12th Street, Menlopark, Pretoria 0002.
- Mrs M.J. Armstrong, 195 Boom Street, Pietermaritzburg 3201.
- Mrs D.P. Fichbaum, P.O. 5106, Ausspanplatz, Windhoek 9111.
- Mr J.B. Hamrick, P.O. Box 11666, Atlanta, GA 30305, U.S.A.
- Miss W.J. Wilkinson, 4 St. Mark Road, Houghton, Johannesburg 2001.
- Mr C. Bloch, 60 Molteno Road, Oranjezicht, Cape Town 8001
- Mrs M. Moffitt, 14 Divot Street, Westdene, Benoni 1500.
- Mrs P.M. MacLennan, 106 Limburg Court, Ampthill Ave., Benoni 1500.
- Mr J. Schutz, P.O. Box 10998, Johannesburg 2000.
- Mrs D. van der Spuy, P.O. Box 8539, Johannesburg 2000.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Western Atlantic Specimens — deep water dredge by our own trawler.
Our interest: Cypræidæ, Marginella, Volutidæ, Muricidæ, Conidæ, Latiaxis, Pleurotomaria, etc.

For trade please include in your first letter, species you have, prices and species you would like to trade.

Note: All of my specimens are live collected.

Write for free list to:—

Ted Yocius, 321 Ribault St., St. Augustine, Florida 32084 U.S.A.



B. M.

BERZIGOTTI & MONTANARI

We are interested in collection and commercial shells, souvenirs and curiosities

We would be very pleased to see your lists.

Write:

P.O. Box 106, 47045 Miramare di Rimini, ITALY