

The Strandloper

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Strandloper 245

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Impressions of the Philippines

by Kenneth Brown

As the Airbus of Grand Air commenced its descent to Davao, a sense of excitement filled me. Our two hour flight from Manila on the northern island of Luzon, and the largest of the 7107 islands that comprise the Philippines, had taken us over endless vistas of coral cays and aquamarine seas. We had been overflying the Visayas group of islands. In the distance Mt Apo reared its volcanic head, the highest mountain in the country at 2954 m, and surrounded by lush tropical jungle.

I had not been impressed by southern Luzon island with its crush of people, and frankly, Manila must rank amongst the poorer of the giant Third World messes that are called cities. Any seashells living within a wide radius of 'civilisation' had long since packed their shells and left for the south, where I was now about to touch down.

Davao is situated on the south-eastern tip of the southern island of Mindanao, second largest in the Philippines. From the air, I had seen the hazy outline of the islands of the Sulu archipelago, which form giant stepping stones south to Borneo.

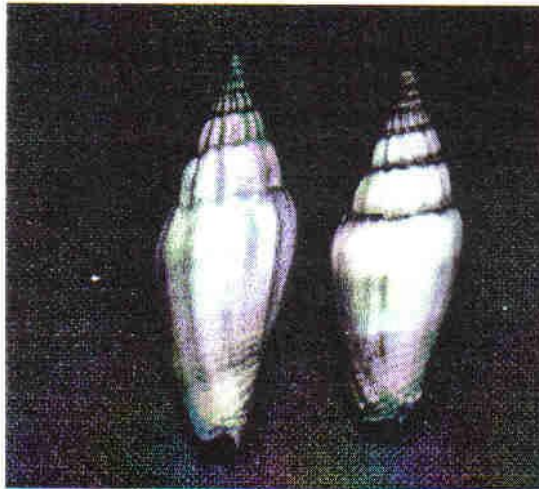


The warm tropical air hit me with a blast after the air-conditioned flight, and soon I was travelling through the brash bustle of Davao to catch a harbour ferry to the tiny Samal Island. As the tiny, laden ferry left the noise and grubbiness behind, I looked back to Mindanao and to Mt Apo and the jungles beyond the city. I wished I had more time to get away from the ugly cities and over-populated plains into these vast jungles and unspoilt islands I had seen from the air. Over 5000 of the islands are uninhabited, and only 500 islands are larger than one square kilometre - 2 500 aren't even named!

A slow chug of one and a half hours brought me to Samal Island's discontinued pearl farm, now converted into an attractive resort. The waters were clear and inviting, and soon I was snorkelling in the waters of the south Philippine Sea. As usual, it took a while to get one's eyes accustomed to the underwater world, and start "seeing" the marine life properly. I floated over lazy sandbanks and seagrasses until I reached

the reef, where the marine population exploded into its customary display of colour and motion.

Returning to shore, I walked along the beach, and it was here that I made my greatest find. The Philippines is exceedingly primitive in its attitude to conservation in any form, and locals plunder the reefs near the towns and tourist resorts, selling a wide variety of sea shells, from giant conchs and *Cypraea* *cassia rufa* to smaller cones and cowries. An entire shell-industry has sprung up, making ornaments and hanging decorations out of shells - mostly money and ring cowries. An aspect of this disregard for conservation was found along the beach. The resort was extending its manicured beach, and the best way to do this was to pump sand from the shallow offshore sandbeds to the shore, rake it out neatly, and throw the rocks and other junk away. The other junk just happened to include a huge array of freshly dredged seashells. Weeks of painstaking diving could not have afforded me the rewards that sifting through the piles of "landfill" did, and it gave me my first glimpse of the astounding richness of these waters. In the space of 30 minutes, I had quadrupled my collection of the Mitridae (I am one of those collectors who believes that collecting means just that - far removed from the 'instant cash-to-conch-collector' - hence my collection remains small and personal - each addition a memory of discovery). In my short stay I was able to find a number of uncommon miters, all as fresh specimens - provisionally identified as *Vexillum plicarium*, *Vexillum rugosum*, *Vexillum dennisoni*, *Vexillum echinatum*, *Vexillum taeniatum* and the beautiful *Vexillum regina*. I also collected specimens of *Vexillum subdivisum*, *Vexillum taylorianum*, *Vexillum granosum*, *Vexillum sanguisugum*. I also did well on marginellas, adding specimens



such as *Marginella philippinarium*, *Marginella quadrilineata* and *Marginella ventricosa* to the list. Other families in abundance were *Conidae*, *Cypraeidae*, *Strombidae*, *Muricidae*, *Cassidae* and *Coralliophilidae*, and I am still wading through the identification.

My sponsored trip then took me on to the island of Cebu, where I stayed on Mactan island. Just offshore are an endless number of islands, where locals dive for the big touristy shells to supplement their meagre existence. I decided to do the same, and in waters no deeper than about 3 metres, found live *Cypraea* *cassia rufa*, *Cassis cornuta*, *Phalium glaucum*, *Lambis lambis* and *Lambis scorpius*, none of which I took live.

My time in the Philippines was very limited, and I never had more than a few hours to investigate the shelling, but a number of things immediately struck me. The first was that I had

only visited areas adjacent to major concentrations of population - with careful planning and time, I believe the Philippines would be an absolute paradise for even a remotely dedicated conchologist. If shells abound in areas close to man, what about the thousands of remote islands? Not all the remote islands are difficult to get to. I would head away from the urban sprawls as quickly as possible - heading to the secret paradises of Boracay or Palawan, barely touched by population or tourism, or with a boat, explore the Sulu and Celebes Seas. The mouth waters at the knowledge that there are clear waters teeming with exciting and exotic shell life.

The down side of a visit is, of course, the distance and the cost, but it may be worth some careful planning some time in the future to get a group of South African strandlopers together ...any takers?

Apology!

Due to a little technical and human problem the cover photo on Strandloper 244 was printed over the name of the author of the Zanzibar article. The author was Mrs Media Evans. Sorry Media!! If anything can go wrong it **will** go wrong go wrong go wrong go wrong

Ja, daar *is* skulpe in Suid-Kaapland



(Regs) 'n Kaleidoskoop van kleur en vorm — Joey Scheepers van Riversdal by 'n plaat skulpe op die strand van Groenkant Privaat Natuurreservaat in Suid-Kaapland.

Daar was in Januarie 1996 'n "ope dag" vir lede van die Skulpkondevereniging in Suid-Kaapland, met 'n besoek aan 'n uitsonderlike skulpstrand op uitnodiging van Joh Groenewald van Pretoria, wat vir 'n vleisbraai by die see gesorg het.

Die uitstappie is meegemaak deur (bo, van links na regs) Jeannie en John Willemse van Pretoria, wat met vakansie op Stilbaai was, Henriette en Johannes Botha van Kleinmond, en Matie (en Joey) Scheepers van Riversdal.

South Cape shelling

In January of this year Joh Groenewald of the Pretoria Group arranged an "open day" at the Groenkant Private Nature Reserve for southern Cape members. Besides an interesting day sifting shells on the beach, members also enjoyed a braai (barbeque).

Seen at top, from left to right, are Jeannie and John Willemse of Pretoria, who were on holiday in Stilbay, Henriette and Johannes Botha of Kleinmond, and Matie Scheepers of



A kaleidoscope of colour and shape - Joey Scheepers of Riversdal at a drift of shells on the beach of the Groenkant Private Nature Reserve in the southern Cape.

EXCHANGES WANTED

Pyramidellidae

Graeme Mason of New Zealand is undertaking a world-wide revision of the Pyramidellidae, and is also interested in heterobranchs and molluscs generally. He would like to exchange material for S.A. pyramidellids. Contact him at Archaeological Laboratories, University of Otago, P.O.Box 56, Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND

South African Cones

Mr Sigurd-Dieter Hamscher of Tassiloweg 3, D44139 Dortmund, Germany, is a member of the German Conchylia club. He would like to purchase or exchange South African and Namibian cones.

Flotsam

Nasty tasting mollusc keeps amphipod safe

Young specimens of the planktonic mollusc *Cione antarctica* are regularly 'kidnapped' by the 1 mm long amphipod *Hyperietta dilatata* which carries the mollusc around on its back, holding it in place with four of its legs. The amphipod has apparently found that fish dislike the taste of the mollusc, and that it is safer with its molluscan hostage than without. Incidentally, the chemical that has the bad taste, pteronenone, also absorbs ultraviolet radiation. This is thought to be a useful attribute in planktonic creatures that live near the surface of the sea.

Reference

Wood, W. Disgusting sunblock keep snails off the menu, *New Scientist*, 15 April 1995, p.15.

Shell collection for sale

Collection comprising of shells worldwide including from the Great Barrier Reef. All families well represented, labelled and well kept. Collection has been in existence for 35 years. Glass cabinets with 80 shelves included as well as complete shell library. Bargain at R60 000. Contact Dirk van Niekerk, tel. 012-466954, fax. 012-346-1265.

I. Yeraslavsky, P.O.Box 6085, Beer Yaakov 70300, ISRAEL

Exchange worldwide/Red Sea pectens, murex, *Conus*, volutes and *Cypraca* for some families from S.A. Also sell/buy/exchange freak & unusual cowries.

Sea shells on the 'net

Members with access to the Internet may find the following sea shell-related sites to be of interest.

You might care to start with Deborah Wills' *Internet Resources for Conchologists*, which may be found at the Internet address [HTTP://FLY.HIWAAY.NET/~DWILLS/SHELLNET.HTML](http://FLY.HIWAAY.NET/~DWILLS/SHELLNET.HTML). Ms Wills' electronic catalogue includes information on practically every Internet related shelly activity or source. Links to museums, clubs, dealers, educational web sites, information about books and newsletters, shelling sites and much more can be found there.

The Dutch magazines *Vita Marina* and *Spirula*, which are dedicated to malacology and conchology more or less respectively maintain a web page at [HTTP://WWW.PI.NET/~SPIRULA](http://WWW.PI.NET/~SPIRULA). All kinds of goodies are kept here including a list of new molluscan species and cross-links to other mollusc-orientated sites.

Conchologists of America (COA) have an experimental web site at [HTTP://HOME.EARTHLINK.NET/~JCALDEIRA/COA.HTML](http://HOME.EARTHLINK.NET/~JCALDEIRA/COA.HTML) which may be worth visiting. Alternatively, why not "subscribe" to their mailing list, which is a kind of free discussion forum in which subscribers place questions or statements for

general perusal and response. To become a subscriber you must already have your own e-mail address. After that you can subscribe by sending the e-mail message

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to the e-mail address LISTSERV@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU.

To submit your own comments or questions just e-mail them to

CONCH-L@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU.

The more scientifically inclined might find the transactions of the mollusc list, typically discussions of a malacological nature, interesting. To subscribe to this, rather more serious list, send the message

SUBSCRIBE MOLLUSCA to LISTPROC@UCMP1.BERKELEY.EDU.

Another useful resource on the Internet is the electronic catalogue of Naturama, an Italian bookstore that specializes in malacology and marine biology. To receive their catalogue by e-mail (in Word 4 format) send a request to NATURAMA@MBOX.VOL.IT.

You may also contact the Editor of the *Strandloper* by e-mail at MIKEC@MSINFO.MINTEK.AC.ZA.

Notes on *Haustellum dentifer* (Watson, 1883) and *H. haustellum* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Dr M. Parth of Germany has specialised in this genus and recently shared his experience in the pages of *La Conchiglia*. Noting that R. Houart had recently split *H. haustellum* into seven species, he proceeds to analyse shells from all around the Indo-pacific, including East Africa, with a view to confirming or rejecting the splitting. However, he concludes that the *H. haustellum* is actually a very variable species and

that there are no consistent traits to justify the proposed new species. With regards to *H. dentifer*, he finds that the rather similar *H. gallinago* (Sowerby, 1902) is probably a synonym.

Reference

Parth, M. Remarks on the infraspecific varieties of *Haustellum dentifer* (Watson, 1883) and *Haustellum haustellum* (Linnaeus, 1758); *La Conchiglia*, No. 277, 1995, pp. 61-65.

Events in the Philippines effect shelling in the Red Sea!

It never ceases to intrigue me just how complicated the natural world actually is. For example, in 1992 the coral reefs of the Gulf of Eilat (between Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia) were plagued by the growth of a 15 cm thick mat of filamentous algae. Coral underneath the algae died off causing widespread devastation to the reefs and their inhabitants. Was the culprit pollution? Was it caused by hordes of shell collectors scooping up all the Trochidae (algae eaters!) they could find? Maybe an oil spill? Not according to Genin, Lazar and Brenner in a report in the famous scientific journal *Nature*. If we are to believe their explanation, the cause had nothing to do with humans at all. Rather it was the eruption of Mount Pinatubo about ten thousand kilometres away in the Philippines that kicked quantities of fine dust into the atmosphere. For whatever reason, eruptions of such tropical volcanoes apparently cause anomalously cool winters in the Middle East. The Gulf of Eilat, which is over 1800 m deep in parts has, as result of geographical factors, rather a weak stratification of its waters. However, normally the cold nutrient-rich waters at the bottom of the Gulf stay where they are, and coral reefs flourish in the warm, nutrient-depleted surface layers. However, as a result of the cold winter allegedly caused by Mount Pinatubo, there was excessive turnover of the water column, leading to the ingress of nutrients into the surface layers and the consequent flourish of algal growth.

Reference

Genin, A., Lazar, B. and Brenner, S. Vertical mixing and coral death in the Red Sea following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. *Nature*, vol.377, 12 Oct 1995, pp.507-510.

Introducing *Trochia cingulata* (Linne, 1758)

by David Freeman

The fuzzy relationships between the genera in the very large family MURICIDAE have been a constant cause of confusion and disagreement among taxonomists for generations. Several attempts to solve the problems have been made by creating separate families, or at least subfamilies, to accommodate the less typical genera.

The subgroup known commonly as "Thaids" has been periodically revised, into families (names ending -IDAE) or subfamilies (ending -INAE). So we have had, among others:

PURPURIDAE Broderip, 1839 RAPANINAE Gray, 1853 THAISIDAE (revised to THAIDIDAE) Jousseume, 1888 THAIDINAE Jousseume, 1888 CONCHOLEPADIDAE Perrier, 1897 OCENEBRINAE Cossman, 1903 TROPHONINAE Cossman, 1903 THAIDAE Cooke, 1919 COLUMBARIINAE Wenz, 1941 DRUPINAE Wenz, 1941 THAISIDINAE Kuroda & Habe, 1971 THAIDIIDAE Atapattu, 1972 NUCELLINAE Kozloff, 1987

Other revisors have made further "rearrangements" within the superfamily MURICOIDEA, some raising the subfamilies to full family status, such as Keen, or Radwin & D'Attilio, both in 1971. In 1973, Ponder stirred up the stew most mightily when he included the family BUCCINIDAE in the superfamily MURICOIDEA along with 16 other rachioglossate families that had previously been placed elsewhere. In 1983, Harasewych moved the subfamily COLUMBARIINAE out of the MURICIDAE into the family TURBINELLIDAE.

Since Jousseume first recognised the Thaids, in the broad sense, as a separate family in 1888, they have been recognised as such by some 24 taxonomists while about a dozen authors have preferred subfamily rank. Ten authors, from Thiele in

1929, to Powell in 1979, have lumped them as genera under the family MURICIDAE.

The latest, and to date the most thorough, attempt to get to the root of the persistent confusion has recently been made by Silvard P Kool of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A. His paper on this subject was published in the *Journal MALACOLOGIA* in 1993.

He states that the characters on which all past taxonomic schemes were based are distilled primarily from external shell shape. These features can be misleading in that they could have arisen from convergent and/or parallel evolution. Shell shape, colour patterns, and sculpture are known to

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be affected by environmental factors in various Muricid genera such as *Nucella*, *Drupa* and *Stramonita*.

The second most used criterion for determining taxonomic groups within the THAIDIDAE, in combination with shell shape, has been radular characters. These have recently also been found to be not always universally consistent.

This has led researchers to look for additional features such as egg capsule morphology and anatomical features (i.e. soft anatomy excluding the shell and radula) to unravel relationships among the Thaidids.

Kool has used a set of anatomical characters, together with data from protochonch, operculum, radula and shell structure, to study some two dozen type species, representing genera usually placed in the Thaididae/Thaidinae.

The methodology and results of his research are given in great detail and cover some 100 pages of text. His conclusions are briefly that most of the genera hitherto included under the

subfamily THAIDINAE Jousseume, 1888, should be placed in the subfamily RAPANINAE Gray, 1853. This means that the subfamily name THAIDINAE Jousseume, 1888, becomes a junior subjective synonym of Gray's RAPANINAE. Kool has placed 15 genera and three subgenera in this subfamily. He has revised the Subfamily OCENEBRINAE Cossman, 1903 to include the remnants of the THAIDINAE, together with a couple of other genera, placing a total of six genera in this subfamily.

The newly proposed classification for the taxa examined by Kool is as follows:

SUPERFAMILY
MURICOIDEA Rafinesque, 1815

FAMILY MURICIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

SUBFAMILY
RAPANINAE Gray, 1853 [Synonym THAIDINAE, Jousseume, 1888]

GENERA
Choncholepas, Lamarck, 1801

Cronia H & A Adams, 1853
Cymia Mörch, 1860
Dicathais Iredale, 1936
Drupa Röding, 1798
Mancinella Link, 1807
Morula Schumacher, 1817
Nassa Röding, 1798
Pinaxia H & A Adams, 1853
Plicopurpura Cossman, 1903
Purpura Bruguière, 1789
Rapana Schumacher, 1817
Stramonita Schumacher, 1817
Thais Röding 1798
subgenera

Neorapana Cooke, 1918
Tribulus Sowerby, 1839
Vasula Mörch, 1860
Vexilla Swainson, 1840

SUBFAMILY
OCENEBRINAE Cossman, 1903
[Synonyms ECPHORINAE Petuch, 1988 NUCELLINAE Kozloff, 1987]

GENERA
Acanthina Fischer von Waldheim, 1807
Ecphora Conrad, 1843 (a fossil genus)
Forreria Jousseume, 1880
Haustrum Perry, 1811
Nucella Röding, 1798

Trochia Swainson, 1840

Kool does not mention the genus *Ocenebra*.

Apart from several of the common Indo-Pacific genera that we know from our East coast, Kool also examined the species that we have known variously as *Purpura cingulata* or *Thais cingulata* and most recently as *Nucella cingulata* (Linne, 1758).

You will find it illustrated in the handbooks of Dierdre Richards on plate 29, and Kilburn & Rippey on plate 20.

This cold water gastropod, which ranges from Namibia to Cape Point, is not uncommon on beaches near rocky areas on the Atlantic coast. Shells with three or four prominent spiral cords encircling the whorls are most common, but there are rarer forms varying from one without any cords at all, to shells with one, two, and even five or six prominent ridges. These last two are extremely rare and are worth looking for among beach litter.

Of particular interest to our readers is the revival of the genus *Trochia* Swainson, 1840 and the renaming of our *Nucella cingulata* (Linne, 1758) as *Trochia cingulata* (Linne 1758). Kool calls this a monotypic genus, i.e. it contains only this one species. He suggests that data on the egg capsule morphology of this species supports separate generic status, but he adds that further anatomical and/or molecular studies of all the other South African *Nucella*-like species are necessary.

Another change affecting local collectors is that of the "introduced" species *Thais haemastoma* (Linne, 1767) which becomes *Stramonita haemastoma* (Linne, 1767).

All of the above may prompt methodical conchologists to rewrite their labels, although we can be reasonably sure that the last word has not yet been said on the subject.

Van Kowiemond (Oos-Kaap) tot Olifantsmond (Weskus)-

'n Ontdekkingsstoer langs die kus

deur Johel van den Berg

ONS TOER dikwels met die woonwa en dan moet my man my na die see se soom neem, en Jobsgeduld openbaar wanneer vroulied die strand op en af loop en tuur, op soek na die see se wonderwerke.

Aldeur bly dit 'n plesier, veral as die leek begin om méér as net die uiterlike van die skulp raak te sien.

Hier is die skulpverhaal van 'n onlangse kuslangse toer van hierdie binnelanders van Burgersdorp.

Port Alfred was ons eerste stilhouplek. Die woonwapark was nie waffers nie, maar dis tog nie waaroor dit gaan nie.

Wolke het toegepak, en die windjie het begin sny, en ek het manlied letterlik aangestoot om my na Flame Lily se skulpiesstrand te neem.

Ken u hierdie strandplek? Tot my vreugde kon ek vir die eerste keer sien hoe 'n *Nucula nucleus* (neutskulp) lyk, en het ek 'n verdwaalde *Arcopsis gibba* gevind.

Aardighede was: 'n helderpienk *Venus verrucosa* (pienkrifbakkie), 'n sjokoladebruin *Afrocominella turtoni* en 'n pragtige vuilpienk *Conus tinianus*. Die *Amalda obesa* had my in vervoering, so helder-

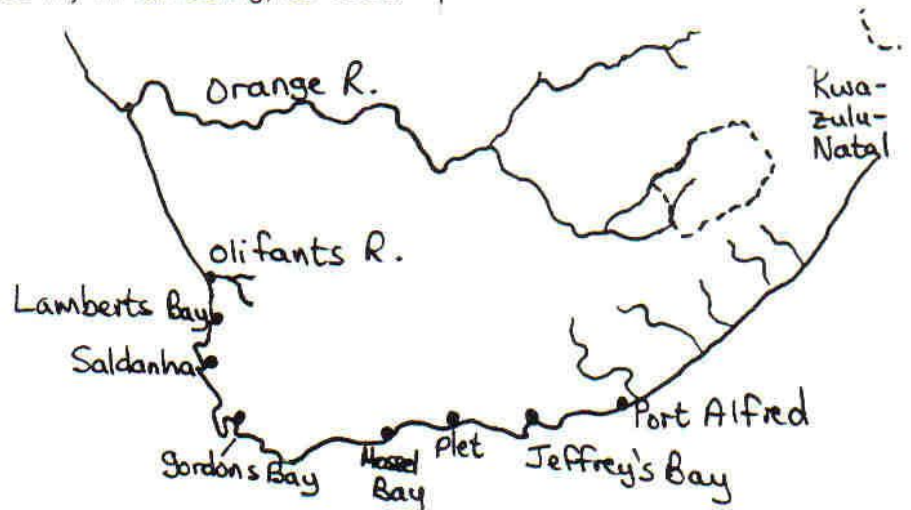
A tour of discovery along the Cape coast

by Johel van den berg

(This is a condensed version of the Afrikaans text. Unfortunately much of the charm and language usage of the original does not make it across in my translation. Mrs van den Berg lives in the little town of Burgersdorp in the Eastern Cape. Anybody who is interested in beach-collected shells from the Eastern Cape may write to her at 30 Murray Str., Burgersdorp 5520, South Africa - Ed)

We often tour the coast line with our caravan and on these occasions I always drag my long-suffering husband down to the beach to help me look for treasures from the sea. What follows is an account of a recent tour which covered over 1400 kms of coastline, from Port Alfred in the east to the Olifants River mouth in the west.

Our first stop was at **Port Alfred**, and it was cloudy with a cold wind. It took some persuasion to get my husband to come with me to a nearby shell-laden beach, but it was well worthwhile with shells like *Nucula nucleus*, *Arcopsis gibba*, wonderful pink *Venus verrucosa*, a chocolate brown *Afrocominella turtoni*, a beautiful dirty-pink *Conus tinianus*, beautifully patterned *Amalda obesa*, a fresh *Cypraea edentula* with golden-brown spots, brown *Crepidula porcellana*, many *Patella longicosta* with unusual grey-blue interiors, an abundance of



gespikkel en geband was hy, ook die *Cypraea edentula* (tandlose kauri), 'n suiwer ligbruine oortrek met goudbruin spikkels.

In sy eweknie, die smal geelbruinetjies, kon ek vir Jeffreysbaai raaksien - en wonder terloops of hierdie nie 'n spesiale naam het nie. Die verkrimpte klein *Calyptrea chinensis* (ouvroupramme) steek maar swak af by hul Jeffreysbaaise niggies.

Die *Crepidula porcellana* was feitlik deurgaans bruin gespikkeld terwyl die *Patella longicosta* (stekelklipmossel) almal 'n eienaardige grysblou binnekant vertoon het. *Hyalina keenii* was volop en ek kon die eerste *Pteropurpura capensis* (hert) van die Kaap se wêreld optel.

'n Reuse *Trivia aperta* (babatoontjie) van 26 mm was volgende, en dan die *Patella barbara* se geheimsinnige dwergvorm (volgens Kilburn). Vierkantig, met geboë rug, 8 mm lank en spierwit.

Kan dit wees? En gepraat van patellas, die mooiste beskilderde *Patella miniata* wat ek nog gesien het, is nou my trotse besitting.

Toe is ons na die mekka vir skulpmense, **Jeffreysbaai**. Skaars gestop, toe het die ou tannie in die kortbroek die koninkryk binne gesprong. So gelukkig, want die opgehoopte bergie skulpe het net daar gelê waar ek dit twee jaar gelede gelos het. My eerste vonds, wonderlik, 'n baie mooi versamelaarstuk eie aan Jeffreysbaai, *Callipara bullatiana* (mol)! Helder gevlek in bruin, met sy twee-twee penstrepies dwars getrek op die columella!

Ook 'n *Diodora elizabethae* met die uiterste lengte van 44 mm! Dan, gelukkig, 'n geel *Pinctada capensis* (pêreloester), hoewel sy groot oom van die Transkeise kus sal neus optrek vir hierdie een se effense lyf. Gepraat van Transkei, jare gelede het ek daar heldergroen pernas gevind, toe sien ek weer so een in einste Jeffreysbaai.

Ander aardighede: 'n pikswart (sowaar!) *Chlamys tinctoria* (waaiertjie), 'n wit *Ancilla marmorata* en 'n twee-kleurige *Bullia annulata* (bobbejaan-



nucula nuxus
9 m.m.



acropsis gibba
15 m.m.



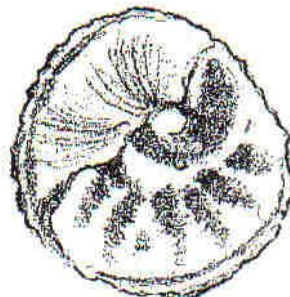
Cypraea edentula
25 m.m.



Smal geelbruin
Vorm
20 m.m.



hyalina keenii
12 m.m.



Calyptrea chinensis
35 m.m.

boud) - boonste windinge grys en die lyfgedeelte roomkleurig! Natuurlik die fyn *Cypraea capensis* (tandlose kauri), die bultende *Cypraea fusco-dentata* (groot uil), wat volgens Kilburn soms roomkleurig is en waarvan ek toe drie sulkes kry, bottergeel *Natica tecta* (halsnoerskulp), wat in skoon sand skoffel, asook 'n ewe geel *Clionella sinuata borni*, alles het ek daar gevind.

Om oor Jeffreysbaai se sagte pienk babatoontjies in vervoering te raak, geld ook vir die skel gekleurde *Amblychilepas scutellum mantula* ('dolly vardens'). En natuurlik het die *Calyptrea chinensis* (ouvroupramme) my bek-af gemaak. Skaamtelose verkrimpte ou uit-verhouding-goed.

Ons derde aanrypelek was die veel geroemde, snobistiese geldbaron-paradys, **Plettenbergbaai**. Dis sekerlik een van die mooiste oorde in die land, indien nie die aller-mooiste nie.

By Robberg-woonwapark het ek toe die skoonheidskoningin van al ons skulpe opgetel, 'n *Tellina alfredensis* (pienk engelvlerk). Wêér is die stelling aan my bewys: moet nooit moed opgee nie. Ná 'n hele oggend se vergeefse soektog ('n paar witmossels en vlinders) het die pragtige dieppienk skoonheid daar gelê - wat 'n beloning!

Mosselbaai se vonds was 'n pragtige rondgevormde oranje *Cymatium dolarium* (mandjieskulp). Ja, julle lees reg, oranje, nie eers doforanje volgens Kilburn nie. Ek kon my ook verlustig aan al die oranje-kleurige *Turbo cidaris cidaris*, het selfs drie gebandes met gemak gevind. Waarom het hierdie kus se *Patella tabularis* (swartpuntbakkie) altyd vir my so 'n broos-beskeie bekoring?

Selfs by **Gouriqwa** is ons aan. Ek kon tussen die rotse snuffel en is beloon met 'n handjievol verbleekte Trochidae (tolskulpe), en as troos 'n diep bruinrooi swartgestippelde seeboon. Vanwaar kom jy?

Toe reguit na **Jongensfontein**, waar my familie feitlik op die oranjegeklepte rotse 'n strandhuis het. Jongensfontein herinner weereens aan geldbaronne...

Nietemin bly sy fyn skulpies 'n keurigheid, veral in glaspotjies op tafeltjies uitgestall!

Die vonds was 'n oranjekeurige *Haliotis parva*, en toe nog 'n *parva*, dié een in diepbruin kartelvlamme, maar ongelukkig 'n winkelhaak uitgeruk.

Terwyl ek so met 'n stuk bamboes die skulpe sit en wegkrap, het ek aan sy wortels 'n vulkaanmossel gesien met 'n wit skulpie daarin genestel. By nadere ondersoek blyk dit 'n perfekte *Hiatella arctica* te wees, in een stuk!

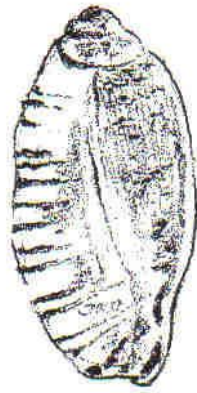
Daar was 'n geel *Turritella carinifera* (boorskulp) (nie roes nie, dog behoorlik geel), 'n geel *Chlamys tincta* en 'n geel baba *Burnupena cincta*. Verruklik mooi is die blink *Turbo cidaris* met sy baie kleursame stellings, wat partykeer aardige fratse vorm. So ook die halwe boggelrug pienk *miniata*'s en die *Amblychilepas scutellum mantula* wat in pienk strepe die strand vol gelê het. Van turbos het ek ook oranje, donkerbruines en 'n groene gevind.

Die soektog het verder opgelewer: drie koffiekleurige *Conus mozambicus lautus*, en 'n *Eumarcia paupercula* met 'n bruin krapwerkpatroon waardeur twee wit strale soos pyle skiet, wonderbaarlik mooi. Van krapwerk gepraat die sig-sag patrone van jong *Perna perna* en *Tivela compressa* is ook ewe boeiend. So het ek 'n voorbeeld van laasgenoemde opgetel met daarop al die moontlike etse soos strepe, sig-sags, merke en bande.

Daarna was dit **Kleinmond**, eintlik die staanplek by die Palmietriviermond.

'n Enkele noemenswaardige vonds was 'n pragtige *Nucella dubia* met sy kenmerkende hiërogliewiese skrifpatroon, maar ongelukkig met twee gaatjies deurboor.

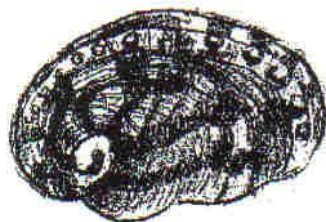
'n Mens kon duidelik die invloed van die kouer water sien met klein voorbeelde van *Aulacomya ater* (riffelmossel) en donkerkeurige *Patella compressa* (opskeplepel). 'n Obskure *Patella granatina* het te voorskyn gespoel, saam met piepklein *Venerupis corrugata* wat reeds die delikate etswerkies vertoon wat eie



Callipara bullatiana
62 mm.



2 kleurige
Bullia annulata
45 mm.



Haliotis parva
30 mm.



Conus mozambicus
lautus
33 mm.

Hyalina keenii, and my first *Pteropurpura capensis*. The finds did not stop there, and a giant 26 mm *Trivia aperta* was next, followed by a mysterious dwarf *Patella barbara*, and finally the most beautiful *Patella miniata* that I had ever seen.

After Port Alfred we went to **Jeffreys Bay**, the mecca of many shell collectors, and I dived into the piles of shells on the beach. My first find was a lovely fresh *Callipara bullatiana*, a shell for which Jeffreys Bay is well-known. Soon after I found a 44 mm long *Diodora elizabethae* and then a pretty yellow *Pinctada capensis*. However the latter's Transkei relatives would have turned their noses up at the shell's slender form. Talking of the Transkei, many years ago I found green pernas, and then again this time at Jeffreys Bay. Other finds included a surprisingly dark *Chlamys tincta*, a white *Ancilla marmorata* and a two-tone *Bullia annulata*. Of course there were also specimens of *Cypraea capensis*, as well as three specimens of cream coloured *Cypraea fuscudentata*, butter-yellow *Natica tecta* and a yellow *Clionella sinuata borni*. I should not forget to mention Jeffreys Bay's pink 'baby toes' (*Trivia aperta*), the many brightly-coloured *Amblychilepas scutellum* and the oddly-shaped *Calyptrea chinensis*.

Next stop was **Plettenberg Bay**, renowned as a holiday spot for the moneyed set. It is certainly a very attractive location. I picked up the beauty queen of all the Cape shells, a pink *Tellina alfredensis* at the Robberg caravan park. Once again, the statement 'never give up hope' was proved to me; my pink beauty came after a nearly fruitless morning. What a reward!

Mossel Bay, further to the southwest turned up a plump, distinctly orange *Cymatium dolarium*, as well as many orange-coloured *Turbo cidaris*. Next came **Gouriqwa** where I browsed between the rocks to emerge with a handful of bleached Trochidae. From

aan die Valsbaaise omgewing is.

Maar voor almal in simpatie wil saamsug: ek het die mooiste vonds vir 'n troefkaart gehou, naamlik 'n wynrooi *Patella miniata*, so rooi dat 'n mens net hier en daar 'n horisontale lyntjie kan onderskei.

By **Koeëlbaai** se verruklike park moes ons eenvoudig indraai en gaan loer. Wie loer kry, en onder die opgetelde sewe skulpe, twee reuse *Fissurella aperta*, een nogal 48 mm!

Gordonsbaai lê in die blaaspad van die alleenheerser, die Kaapse sedoos. Die paar verdwaalde skulpe wat naby Hendonpark rondgelê het, was binne tien tellings onder die waiende sand begrawe.

Dus, geen skulpsoekery, maar 'n bietjie gaan stap. Dan, sowaar, doer langs die Akademiegebou vind ek toe allerhande goedjies!

'n Nuwigheid vir my versameling was *Pseudopythina africana*, sommer vier van hulle, en *Homalopoma quantillum*, asook *H.q. rotundatum*, die spierwit een.

Gibbula capensis, twee ampter swartes, kon ek voorts vind, asook egte ou Kaapse koffiepitte, *Crepidula porcellana*. Vir die eerste keer kon ek my oë lê op die dieperwater *Pteropurpura capensis*, met sy, volgens Kilburn, onbeduidende horings.

Daar was 'n *Epitonium kraussi*, seksies wildgekleurde kitons, *crawfordi* of net ordinêre ou *tulipa*? *Fissurella mutabilis* was die Kaapse soort met wyer gaatjies.

Ek kon uiteindelik die *Marginella zonata* en *capensis* goed beskou, asook die slanker Kaapse Dubious thais, ofskoon 'n ietwat obskure voorbeeld. Die vonds van die oggend was ongetwyfeld 'n pragtige *Ocenebra fenestrata*, "with its sometimes brown streaks", volgens Kilburn.

By **Muizenberg** was dit 'n perfekte wit uitgestrektheid met brekende branders wat *Scissodesma spengleri* (doodmossel), *Tellina alfredensis* en *Bullia digitalis* by die honderde op die strand uitspoeg. Vir 'n verandering is daar tóg skulpe, en skulpe van formaat nogal.



nucella dubia

30 mm.



pseudopythina africana

14 mm.



homalopoma quantillum

3 mm.



crepidula porcellana

16 mm.



volvarina zonata

5 mm.



pteropurpura capensis

diepsee vorm
12 mm.



eumarcia paupercula

28 mm.

there, straight on to **Jongensfontein** which, with its beach houses right on the rocks, reminded me of the money-barons again! Here I found *Haliotis parva*, including a fine orange specimen, and then while I was scratching for shells with a piece of dry kelp, I saw a little white shell lodged in a mussel valve. A closer examination proved it to be an unbroken *Hiatella arctica*, an unusual find! Other finds included fresh yellow *Turritella carinifera*, *Chlamys tinctoria*, a juvenile *Burnupena cincta*, shiny and variable *Turbo cidaris*, pink *Patella miniata*'s and thick drifts of pink *Amblychilepas scutella*'s. Extending my search further I found coffee coloured *Conus mozambicus lautus* and a *Eumarcia paupercula* with a marvellous zig-zag pattern.

Next came **Kleinmond**, actually the Palmiet River mouth. The single interesting find was a *Nucella dubia* with its characteristic hieroglyphic pattern, but unfortunately also with two drilled holes. The effect of the cooler water was now becoming quite apparent. There were small examples of *Aulacomya ater* and dark *Patella compressa*. An odd *Patella granatina* washed up here and there together with tiny *Venerupis corrugata*, already with the delicate markings known from the False Bay region. But the best find of all was a magnificent wine-red *Patella miniata*.

Next a quick visit to **Koeëlbaai** which turned up two large *Fissurella aperta*, and then on to Gordon's Bay, which lies squarely in the path of the infamous Cape winds. The few lost shells lying around on the beach were buried under windblown sand faster than you could count to ten. Later, some new shells for my collection: four *Pseudopythina africana*, *Homalopoma quantillum*, two very dark *Gibbula capensis*, some *Crepidula porcellana*, the deep-water form of *Pteropurpura capensis*, an *Epitonium kraussi*, wildly-coloured sections of chitons, *Fissurella mutabilis*, and *Marginella zonata* and *capensis* (a first for me), but the find of the morning was a fine *Ocenebra fenestrata*.

Die see het my daar twee ongeskonde vars *Phaxas decipiens* en 'n ekstra lank en slank *Fusinus ocelliferus* aangebied, laasgenoemde geelbruin gestreep. Te pragtig, maar toe ek die skulp omdraai, is daar 'n ontugterende verrinnewering. Nogtans sal dit meer as genoeg wees vir my versameling, plak hom net styf vas!

As kompensasie vir hierdie beskadigde een het ek 'n *Dosinia lupinus orbigny* gevind, gekoppelp en pragtig groot en rond. Daar was ook twee van die reusevorm *Natica tecta* (hals snoerskulp) met onge-looflike kleurforms.

Van kleure gepraat: ek vind toe 'n mooi diep persbruin met wit strale, ja glo dit, *Donax serra* (witmossel), plus 'n lemmetjiegroen een! Van al die skakerings van pers wil ek nie eers praat nie. Die vier

oranje *Chlamys tecta* (waaiertjie) is op hul beurt ook reuse, 52 mm, maar die enkele *Lutraria capensis* bra klein.

'n Bonus was die Kaapse *Suretta contempta bruggeri* en dis waar wat Kilburn sê, dat hulle teenoor hul Natalse nefies maar afgeskeep lyk.

Ook 'n spierwit *Pecten maximus sulcicostatus* en die mooiste gestreepte *Tivela compressa*, een met fyn potloodstrepies pleks van die gewone breë strepe, en een met drie vertikale lyne in kontras met die horisontales.

Moeg gelees? Ek het mos gesê dis 'n fees!

Die *Tellina alfredensis* en *Bullia digitalis* wil ook vermeld word. Eersgenoemde, geel of pienk getint met party binne-in geel met wit strale, hoes daai? Laasgenoemde weer pragtig groot en fantasties gekleurd. Daar was ook fratse, een was bruin en room gestreep terwyl die onderste winding tot halfpad effegrys met wit strale is. En twee perfekte *Bullia dilutus*.

Hoekom is al die *Crepidula porcellana* pampoenkleurig en sommige nog wit geblerts aan hul punte? Is dit waar dat bruin mossels daar taamlik skaars is? Wel, ek kon darem 'n paar vind.

Toe was dit aanstryk' na Saldanhaabaai, geboortegrond.....



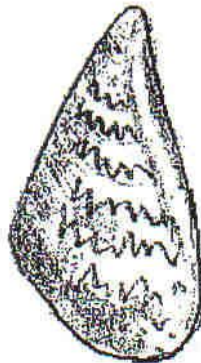
natica tecta
Reuse vorm
35 mm.



phaxas decipiens.
55 mm.



dosinia lupinus orbigny
50 mm.



perna perna
30 mm.

Word vervolg

Muizenberg was a vast sandy openness with breaking surf, which spat out *Scissodesma spengleri*, *Tellina alfredensis* and *Bullia digitalis* by the hundreds. Walkers and their dogs ignored the feast but I got stuck in! The sea also donated two undamaged *Phaxas decipiens*, and an extra long and thin *Fusinus ocelliferus*, with yellow-brown stripes but unfortunately damaged. Still, as compensation I found a large and round *Dosinia lupinus*, and two large and colourful *Natica tecta*. Talking of colours, I found a large purple-brown *Donax serra* and then a lime-green one, not to mention all the variations of purple! Four 52 mm *Chlamys tecta* were next followed by a rather malnourished *Lutraria capensis*, and then a *Suretta contempta bruggeri*. More searching turned up a pure white *Pecten maximus sulcicostatus* and the prettiest striped *Tivela compressa*'s. The *Tellina alfredensis* were worth mentioning: yellow or pink, with some insides with white stripes. And then the *Bullia*'s, *digitalis* large and variously coloured and two perfect *dilutus*, and finally some pumpkin-coloured *Crepidula porcellana*.

Tired of reading? I did say it was a feast! - Next issue, the West Coast.

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Book Reviews

The Non-marine Molluscs of the Maltese Islands

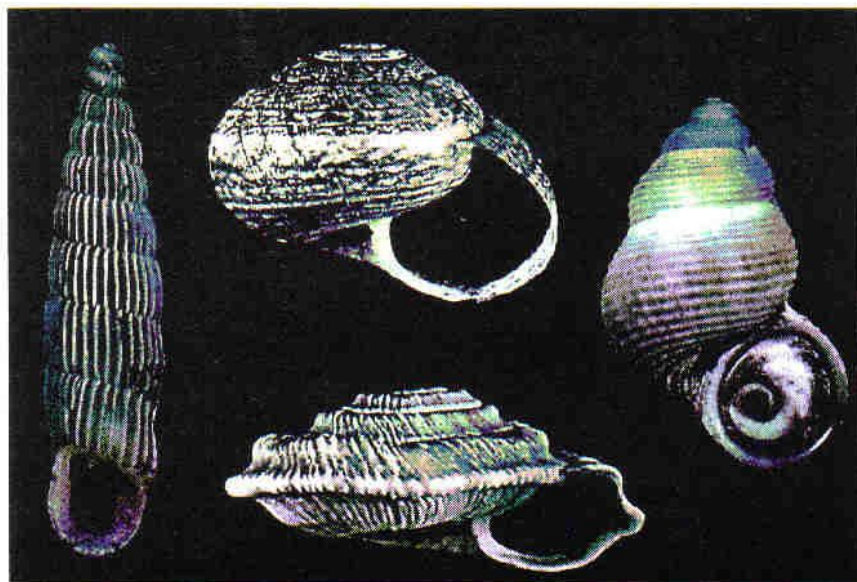
by F. Giusti, G. Manganelli and P.J. Schembri, published by Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino, Italy, 1995.

I can imagine some readers asking, why Malta? Well, Malta has a Mediterranean climate a bit like that of the Western Cape, and lies at the other end of Africa. However, the similarities diminish up after that. Malta is mostly underlain by limestone and has been quite intensively inhabited since 5000 BC. Soil cover is rather thin, both as result of millennia of agriculture and of the karstic landscape

Nevertheless, the island has or has had at least 78 species of non-marine mollusc (including slugs). Each of these is clearly illustrated in the book with black and white plates and discussed.

A few of these are likely to turn up in Southern Africa too. For example, the very first illustration in the book is of *Melanoides tuberculata*, which may be found through much of Africa. Other species in common, which have been introduced into South Africa, include the fresh water snails *Physa acuta*, and *Lymnaea truncatula*, and the land snails *Vallonia pulchella*, *Oxychilus draparnaudi* (Beck, 1837) (was previously known as *O. cellarius*), *Theba pisana* and *Cantareus aspersus* (previously *Helix aspersa*). Genera in common include *Planorbis* and *Helisoma* ('ramshorn snails'), *Ancylis* (fresh-water limpet), *Truncatellina* (a little land snail), and *Pisidium* (a tiny little bivalve). These similarities, taken with the relative scarcity of illustrated publications on land snails, make this book a worthwhile acquisition for the non-marine specialist.

Copies may be ordered from the publisher at Via Giolitti, 36 - 10123, Torino, Italy at L.130 000 plus postage.



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Correspondence to:

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Regional contact names

DURBAN

Mrs A.Carcenac, 6 Highfield Dr.
Westville 3630. 031-86-1040

PORT ELIZABETH

Mr B.Hayes, 10 Munro St., Millard
Grange, Port Elizabeth 6001
041-33-4521

EAST LONDON

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