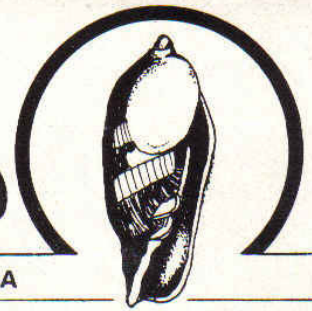


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 179

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

1976

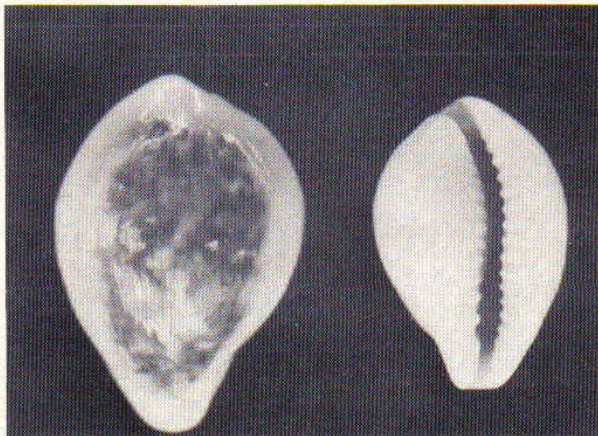
RECENTLY NAMED CYPRAEA

By PHILLIP W. CLOVER

Since Dr Burgess published his book "The Living Cowries" in 1970, many new species have been named. In fact the last photos of new species in his book were cut off around 1966, as there was a four year delay in its publishing. Lately a new book, "Cowries" by Taylor and Walls, has illustrated many of these. This article and these new species bring up to date all the species named since 1966, when and where they were published and, my opinion of which are valid.

Cypraea angelicae Clover, 1974

From West Africa, size 19 to 33 mm., mostly trawled in 40 to 80 metres off Gulf of Guinea. It is similar in size to *C. petitiana* Cross. Published in Journal of Conch. Vol. 28-4; London, England.



Cypraea angelica

Cypraea bernardi G. Richard, 1974

From Tahiti, French Polynesia, size 12 mm., found by divers in coral reefs. Looks somewhat like *C. cumingii* Sowerby in colour pattern only. Published Bull. de la Societe des Etudes Oceaniennes; Paris, France.

Cypraea cruickshanki Kilburn, 1972

From Durban, South Africa, size 20 to 33 mm., trawled from 400 to 600 metres. A most unusual bulbous species that is not typical of most *Cypraea*. Has been illustrated in

Hawaiian Shell News No. 169, pg. 6, and was published in Durban Museum Novitates Vol. 9, pt. 14, pgs. 209-216.

Cypraea eugeniae Cate, 1975

From Albany, South West Australia, size 20 to 35 mm., on beach and from sand dredgings. In my opinion this is a semifossil *C. xanthodon* Sowerby and not a new species at all. Published in Veliger Vol. 17, pt. 3, pg. 260; California, U.S.A.

Cypraea fernandoi C.N. Cate, 1969

From Zamboanga, Philippines, size 20 to 30 mm., from low tide to several metres deep on coral reefs. Closely related to *C. rabaulensis* Schilder. Published in the Veliger Vol. 11, pt. 3, pg. 256; Berkeley, California, U.S.A.

Cypraea fischeri astaryi Schilder & Schilder, 1971

From Marquesas Island, size 12 to 14 mm. This new subspecies is also similar to *C. cumingii* Sowerby. In fact *C. fischeri* Vayssière was till recently thought to be a synonym of *C. cumingii* Sowerby. See H.S.N. Nos. 87 and 135. Described in Arch. Moll., Vol. 101, pgs. 297-299; Frankfurt, Germany.

Cypraea gloriosa Shikama, 1971

From Taiwan trawlers that may have found it off South Africa. Considered to be a form of *C. gondwanalandensis* Burgess, which is a new name for *C. similis* Gray. See H.S.N. No. 165 page 1. Published in Science report of Yokosuka City Museum, Japan.

Cypraea jeaniana C.N. Cate, 1968

From West Australia, size 55 to 95 mm., mostly trawled but also found by divers. Described as a subspecies of *C. friendii* Gray, but I have seen so many specimens now that I firmly believe this is a separate and valid species. Further many of the orange/white patterned specimens called "*C. contraria*" and coming from the Taiwan trawlers could also be this species. As many new areas are now being worked by these trawlers, producing specimens with wide ranging colour patterns as has been found in the more shallow water *C. friendii* and *C. thersides*. Described in the Veliger Vol. 10, pt. 3, pg. 222.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Cypraea joycae Clover, 1970

From Taiwan, size 50 to 58 mm., only trawled in deep water. Maybe related to the small unique Philippine *C. porteri* Cate. *C. joycae* is illustrated in H.S.N. Nos. 139 and 148 but not in the Taylor and Walls book "Cowries". The shell they illustrate on page 261 is a juvenile West Australian *C. zoila*. Described in the Venus Vol. 29, pt. 2, pg. 35; Tokyo, Japan.



Cypraea joycae

Cypraea ju-kui Shikama, 1974

From Taiwan trawlers and again possibly found off South East Africa, size 30 mm. Appears to be *C. cruckshanki* Kilburn, 1972. Published in Science report of Yokosuka City Museum, Japan.

Cypraea haddnighiae Trenberth, 1973

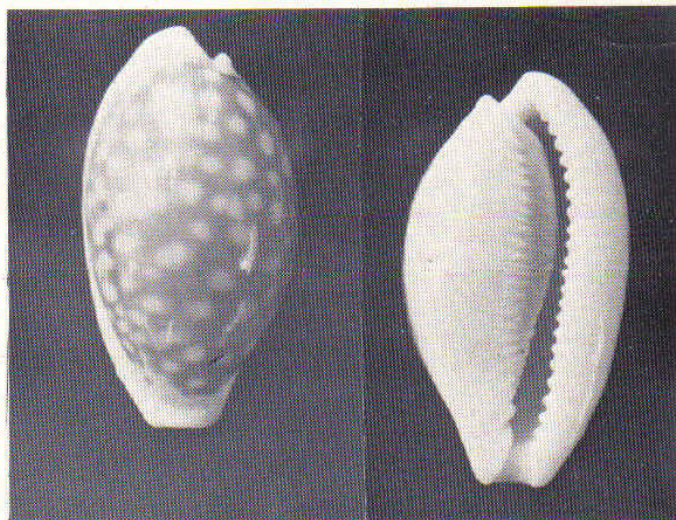
From Albany, South West Australia, size 25 to 35 mm. A controversial new species close to *C. cribraria* Linne, but I think distinct. See H.S.N. Nos. 174 and 183. Described in South Australian Museum Pub. No. 17.

Cypraea hartsmithi Schilder, 1967

From Sydney Harbour, New South Wales, Australia, size 25 mm. Another controversial species and Cate compares his *C. eugeniae* to it while H.S.N. had articles on it in Nos. 93 and 101 and related it to a *Notacypraea bicolour* Gaskoin, which equals *C. piperata* Gray, and that is just what it is in my opinion. Described in Arch. Mollusk Vol. 96, pg. 39-41; Frankfurt, Germany.

Cypraea kingae Rehder and Wilson, 1975

From Pitcairn Island, South East Pacific, size 14 to 19 mm., trawled in 70 to 140 metres. Similar in size and colour to *C. gaskoini* Reeve, but not related. Rehder compares his species to the new *C. bernardi* Richard. Described in Smithsonian contributions to Zoology, No. 203, pgs. 2-6.



Cypraea haddnighiae

Cypraea midwayensis Azuma and Kurohara, 1967

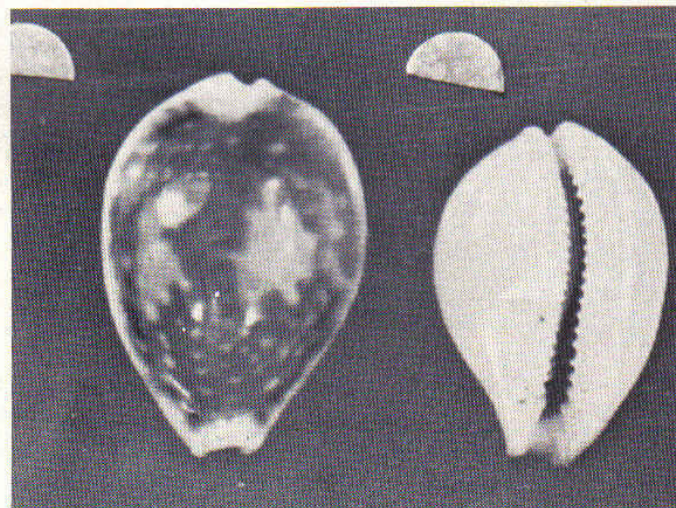
From trawling in deep water near Taiwan. Not from 460 metres off Midway Island as in the original description — this is one of the problems in dealing with trawlers. Size 20 to 22 mm., the new *C. lisetae* Kilburn is very similar. Described in the Venus Vol. 26, pt. 1, pg. 1; Tokyo, Japan.

Cypraea maricola Cate, 1976

From Marinduque Island, Philippines, size 14 mm. Compared to *C. globulus* Linn. by the author and is very close indeed except in teeth arrangement. Described in the Veliger Vol. 18, pt. 4, pg. 383; Berkley, California, U.S.A.

Cypraea lisetae Kilburn, 1975

From Southern Moçambique, East Africa, size 12 to 13 mm. Known from two species only so far, ex-pisces in 25 metres. Similar to *C. midwayensis* Azuma and Kurohara. Described in Durban Museum Novitates Vol. 10, pt. 16, pgs. 217-220.



Cypraea kingae

(Continued on page 3)

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Cypraea miyokoae Habe and Kosuge, 1970 (?)

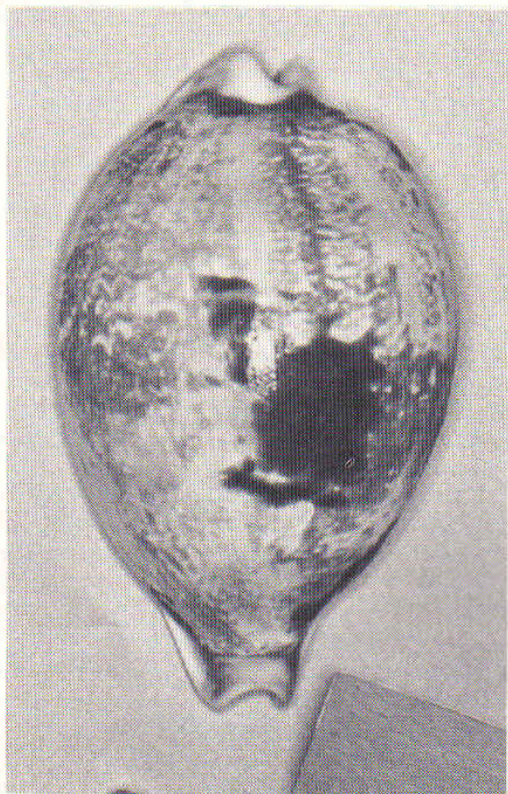
From Taiwan trawlers, possibly off Thailand, size 39 mm. Appears to be a slightly juvenile *C. lamarckii redimita* Melvill, but more purple in colour. This species was ready to publish in the *Venus* and was mentioned in the *Pacific Shell News* No. 2, but I cannot find out if it was ever described and would make it a *Nomen nudum*.

Cypraea perlae Lopez and Chiang, 1975

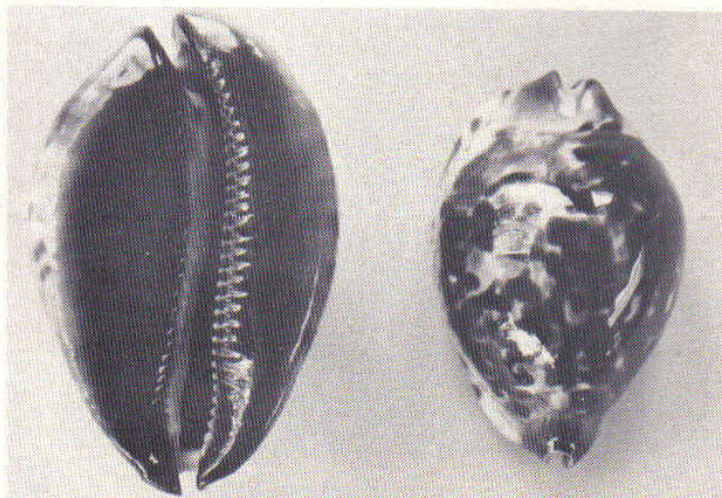
From Onslow North West Australia, size 42 to 50 mm. One of the more interesting *Zoila*s being trawled off West Australia by Taiwan fishermen. It is similar to *C. decipiens* Smith except in colour pattern. There are several new shells from this area called "*contraria*" that could be new to science or they may be odd colour forms of *C. jeaniana* Cate. Most of these shells come up in nets of the large Taiwan trawling ships from 150 to 300 metres. *C. perlae* was described in the *Veliger* Vol. 18, pt. 1, pgs. 84-85; Berkley, California, U.S.A.

Cypraea queenslandica Schilder, 1966

From Cape Moreton, Queensland, Australia, size 57 mm. Burgess mentions it in his book and I agree it is a pyriform *C. hirasei* Roberts. See H.S.N. No. 86, pg. 4, and most recent Australian shell books illustrate it. Described in *Arch. Moll.*, Vo. 95, pg. 157; Frankfurt, Germany.



Cypraea queenslandica



Cypraea jeaniana

Cypraea sakuraii Habe, 1970

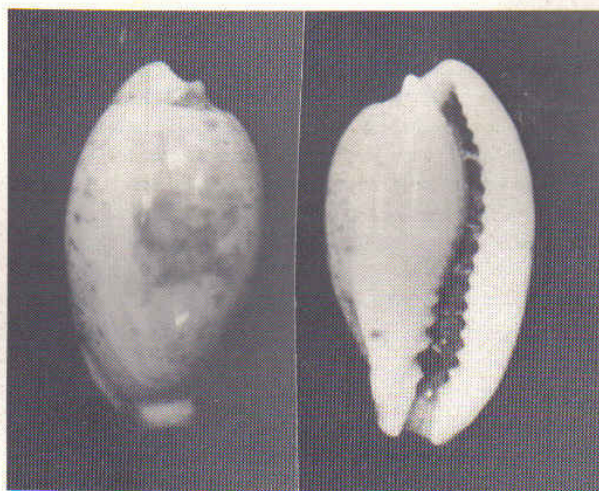
From south west of Taiwan, size 40 to 60 mm. This species is close to *C. hirasei* Roberts but has coarser teeth, and in the adult shell develops a pattern quite unlike *C. hirasei*. See H.S.N. No. 130 page 8. Described in *Bull. of Japan*, Vol. 24, pg. 10; Tokyo, Japan.

Cypraea steineri Cate, 1969

From Russell Island, Guadalcanal, size 22 mm. This unique specimen appears to be a bulbous form of *C. coxeni* Cox and is not a valid species in my opinion. Described in the *Veliger* Vol. 11, pt. 3, pg. 257; Berkley, California.

Cypraea stohleri Cate and Schilder, 1968

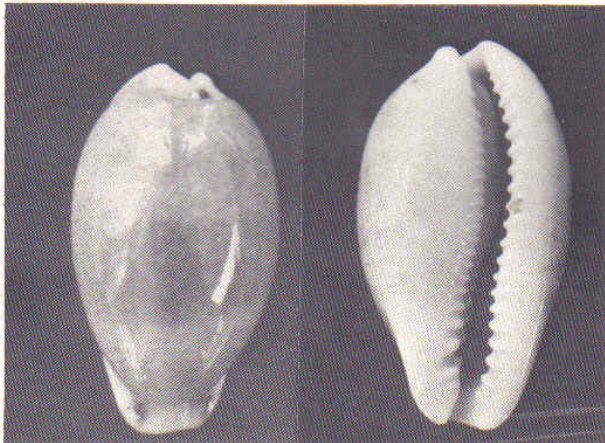
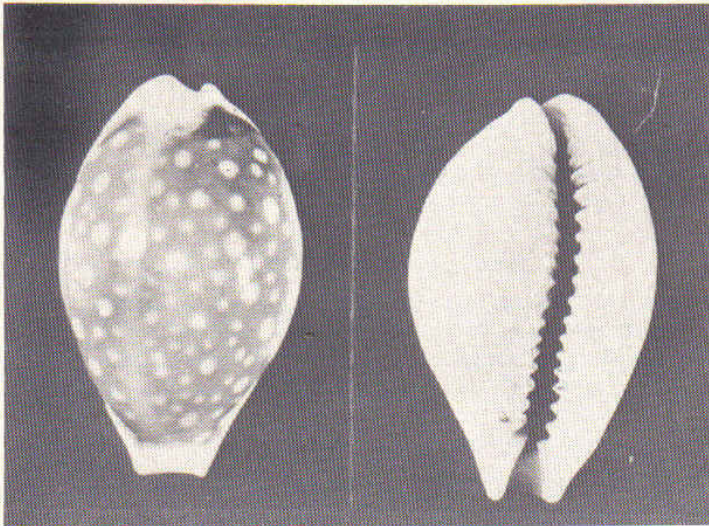
From Siasi Sulu Sea, Philippines, size 15 mm. Also unique and likely to remain so as it appears to be just a large odd form of *C. contaminata* Sowerby, which also has its centre of distribution in the Sulu Sea. Described in the *Veliger*, Vol. 10, pt. 4, pg. 382; Berkley, California, U.S.A.



Cypraea stohleri

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

*Cypraea eugeniae**Cypraea bernardi*

INTERTIDAL TALK

We have recently had the good fortune to be able to tour the country and in the course of our travels managed to meet a fair number of members in different areas. The trip was more a geography and history tour and only on two occasions were we able to get near a beach for shelling. The two beaches we visited, Shelly Beach, Natal and Gonubie were denuded of shells, but what we failed to collect this way we made up for by the generosity of the members we met. We are grateful to them, not only for their shells but also for their hospitality wherever we went.

From the Group notes for the Eastern Cape Group we notice that Anton McLachlan, Chairman of the Group, has obtained his doctorate in Marine Biology and we would like to add our congratulations to those expressed by the Port Elizabeth members.

LIFE AND THE SEA

By MYRTLE EWELS

The summer breeze cleans a misty morning
The salty sea air is crisp and clean
And, gradually the sea comes to life
With the warm colours of the sun —
as the rays glance off the uneven surface of the water;
Merging to become one shimmering sheet of silver.

The hours float by, and the beach,
becomes a hive of activity —
oiled bodies baking, mothers' voices, gently coaxing,
Children screaming
And the sound of the waves, breaking on the shore
All are part of life at the sea.

The afternoon sun gives little mercy
to the burnt and bruised humans,
Trudging home on painful feet,
Having trod on many, many deserted shells
Shells and unwanted — humiliated
Always tortured, taken from their resting place
Tossed and flung — then finally smashed,
Against the rocks — It's all part of LIFE AND THE SEA.

The farewell rays of that fireball in the sky,
Gently touching the water,
To leave the dark restless sea,
Until tomorrow . . . SUN, SHELLS and SEA.

SMALLS

M. Jean Trondle, B.P. 1753, Papeete, Tahiti would like to contact South African collectors with the view to exchanging.

Wanted to buy:

Any publication on worldwide marine fauna, particularly W. Turton's 'Marine Shells of Port Alfred'. Please write to M. Meyer, P.O. Box 20085, Durban North 4016.

Willing to buy or trade:

South African Mitra especially the following: *Austro. euzonata* (Sow), *Char. agulhasensis* (Thiele), *Austro. bathyrhaphé* (Sow), *Mitra guttata* (Swainson), *Neocancilla hebes* (Reeve), *Austro. kowieense* (Sow), *Austro. rhodarion* (Kilburn), *Strigatella picta aerumnosa* (Melvill), *Char. pasithea* (Tomlin), *Mitra sanguinolenta* (Lamarck), *Char. thalia* (Tomlin). Please write to: Ms H. Eker, 3968 Coquina Drive, Sanibal Is., Fla 33957, U.S.A.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Society has copies of the following publications for sale at the prices stated:

A Preliminary list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock	R0,50
Additional list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock	R0,50

Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.

CYPRAEA CARNEOLA LINN

A Report by G. EVENS

Late April, early May 1973 Mrs J. Berlyn, of East London, collected five live specimens of *Cypraea* at Gonubie. Two of these specimens were juveniles. She gave all the specimens to the East London Aquarium, on condition that she could have the shells when the animals died. They were housed in a tank from which all harmful species of fish etc. were removed.

On 25th January, 1975 Mrs Berlyn noticed that the one remaining specimen (two had died and two had disappeared) was not *Cypraea caputserpentis* as had been the others. Mrs P. Palmer was called and identified the shell as *Cypraea carneola*. Consultation with Mrs M. Latigan and Mrs P. Faulkner confirmed that neither knew of this species having been found alive at Gonubie before.

Mrs Berlyn, and the writer, who saw all the shells before they were put into the tank at the Aquarium, both confirm that the adult shells were all specimens of *C. caputserpentis* – and bear this out from periodic visits to the Aquarium. The writer's observation was that all the shells reached maturity – definitely on one occasion she saw five live adult *Cypraea*, one of which appeared smaller than, and different from, the others. This observation was through glass and when the shells were semi-covered by their mantles.

On Saturday, 1st February, 1975 Mrs Berlyn noticed that a starfish had entered the tank. Next morning the *C. carneola* was found dead – completely clean, but with no hole in the shell. The only assumption can be that the starfish fed on the animal of the shell during the night.

The shell is now in Mrs Berlyn's possession. It measures 3 cm in length and 18 mm in breadth. The colour is good but towards the lip the shell is slightly irregular with a white streak – possibly the growth in captivity?

The interesting fact about this shell is that, on the evidence of Mrs Berlyn and the writer, it not only lived for 21 months in captivity, but completed its growth there from either a two thirds grown juvenile, or from an even less advanced stage – the most immature shell originally collected the writer would estimate as having been between one third and a half way to maturity.

EXCHANGES WANTED

Mr E.A. Pescatore, 4316 Hakupapa Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Is particularly interested in *Cypraea* species and would like to obtain endemic South African species (*C.edentula*, *C.capensis*, *C.fuscudentata* and possibly *C.stercoraria*) in exchange for endemic Hawaiian cowries.

Mr Aldon I.B. Spencer, 20 West Virginia Avenue, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380, U.S.A. Is interested in the species and variations of *Cypraea* found in the East African and Cape Provinces and would very much like to correspond and exchange with anyone who would be interested. Can offer specimens from the Panamic and Floridan Provinces in exchange, as well as others.

CHANGES TO JANUARY, 1976 MEMBERSHIP LIST

NEW MEMBERS:

- 1975 Mrs A.P. Havenaar, 83 Aries St., Waterkloof Ridge, Pretoria 0002 (Omitted from The Strandloper No. 174 in error)
- 1976 Mr R.R. Thurnburn, P.O. Box 523, Salisbury, Rhodesia
- 1976 Mrs J.A. Ford, P.O. Box 15663, Siemend, Johannesburg 2133
- S 1976 Master S.H. Oliver, 10 Highfield Road, Beacon Bay, East London 5241.
- S 1976 Master D.M. Little, 249 West 2nd Street, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L9C 4J3
- S 1976 Miss S. Linsdell, 3 Montrose Ave., Bunkers Hill, East London 5241.
- 1976 Mrs J.E. Linsdell, 3 Montrose Ave., Bunkers Hill, East London 5241.
- 1976 Mrs H. Nash, 73 Lichfield Road, Sutton Cold Field, West Midlands, England B74 2N4.
- 1976 Mr F.M. de Lima, Caixa Postal 725, Juiz de Fora, Minas, Gerais, Brasil
- 1976 Mrs C. Davidson, 50 Woodside Road, Tamboerskloof, Cape Town 8001
- 1976 Mrs P. Coles, 23 De Lorentz Street, Tamboerskloof, Cape Town 8001.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:


- 1971 Mr P.G. Goosen, 26 Raasblaarlaagte Road, Arboretum, Richards Bay 3900
- 1968 Mr A.F.B. Hawkins, P.O. Box 1033, Empangeni 3880
- 1973 Mrs S.M.E. Lubbe, 608 Far Horizon, Doonside 4125
- 1972 Mr J.P. Marais, Private Bag 9059, Pietermaritzburg 3200
- 1963 Mr S.B.D. Nevill, Flat No. 8, Sonning, 355 Innes Road, Morningside, Durban 4001
- 1975 Mr L. Whatmore, 66 Carlton Towers, Sontseu Road, Durban 4001.
- 1974 Mr W. van Putten, c/o Sasol, P.O. Box 1, Sasolburg 9570
- 1975 Mrs V. Heath, 13 Cypress Avenue, Westview, Gatooma, Rhodesia.
- 1971 Mr C.P. Fernandes, P.O. Box 1430, Maputo, Moçambique.
- 1976 Mr T. Grootens, Bernhardtweg 2, Ouddorp (ZH), Nederland (formerly Transvaal)
- 1976 Mrs A.L. van der Berg, P.O. Box 68204, Bryanston 2021
- 1973 Mr R.R. Rofen, 2242 Davis Court, Hayward, California 94545, U.S.A.

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- 1971 Mrs. M. Farrell, Port Elizabeth
- 1973 Mr D.B. Cook, Pietermaritzburg
- 1969 Mrs G. Hurry, Johannesburg
- 1974 Mrs E. van Mekend, Pretoria
- 1974 Mrs C. Stewart-Wynne, Tzaneen
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Shell Collectors for future publication.

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(Founded 1958)

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Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.

AROUND THE GROUPS

PIETERMARITZBURG. Our June meeting was the Annual General Meeting of the Group. Prior to the meeting proper the Committee members of Natal and Pietermaritzburg discussed the amalgamation of the two bodies. After discussion it was decided that the Groups continue to operate separately. At the Annual General Meeting the following committee was elected:— Chairman, Mr R.N. Kilburn; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. C. Cook and Secretary, Mrs. M. Armstrong. After the business a friendly discussion took place on various species.

DURBAN. We must congratulate Bernie Young on the fine work he is doing in sifting the dredgings from Durban Bay. It is painstaking work like this that adds much to the knowledge of shells and their range. Of particular interest to collectors will be the news that, after painstaking research, Dick Kilburn has succeeded in isolating *Opalia mormuliformis* Masahito, Kuroda and Habe evolved from dredgings in Durban Harbour. This species was previously known only from Japanese waters. In June we had lengthy discussions with the Pietermaritzburg committee with regard to the amalgamation of the two groups. Unfortunately the committees could not concur so it was decided to carry on as before. Early in July Richard and Thelma Carlsson passed by and, although their stay was short, they did meet a fair number of our group and now at least the long membership list will have more meaning and they will be able to conjure up a picture when a name appears.

EAST LONDON. At our June meeting Mrs Lentz gave an interesting talk on Cypraea, including those she found at Mauritius. She touched on how and where to find them as well as how they are cleaned. At our July meeting there was a good display of allied cowries. These were discussed and carefully examined. Mrs Palmer mentioned that she had had a visit from Thelma Carlsson who had left some Cape Town shells which were handed around the members.

PORT ELIZABETH. At our June meeting arrangements were made for our display at the Hobbies Fair. Mr Graeve reported on the Field outing held on 16th May which, although blessed with beautiful weather, was attended by only four members. The families Naticidae and Mytilidae were discussed with Dr McLachlan explaining the most interesting feature.

PRETORIA. With apologies from six, nineteen members and friends attended our June meeting at which Dr van Hoepen spoke on classification. This talk was most interesting and enlightening. The identification of the shells brought by Anne Wilson proved to be rather disappointing as only a few members participated — the cake donated by Laurie Smith was won by Joey Scheepers. Die vergadering van 7 Julie is deur die Voorsitter ge-open en verslag is gedoen oor die besoek van Richard en Thelma Carlsson aan Pretoria. Van die lede wat beskikbaar was het die geleentheid aanvaar om hulle te ontmoet. 'n Aangename middag is by Anne Wilson aan huis deur-gebring. Laurie Smith se praatjie oor die Conidae en Haarpidae, met voorbeelde, was besonder interessant. Die skulpe deur lede ten toon gestel is bespreek.

CAPE TOWN. At our June meeting three members, Nancy Prior, Tom Hart and Betty Giles, gave interesting 'mini-talks' on shelling experiences, the paper nautilus and *Onithochiton literatus* respectively. The shells on display, those from the Indo-Pacific, were discussed. Two films, 'Station 307' and 'Let's go Skin-diving' were screened. At our July meeting the shells on display were the Patella. On display were some oddities — a P.compressa which thought it was going to be a P.granatina and vice versa. Mr Schweitzer, an archeologist at the South African Museum spoke on the life and habits of the Strandlopers of five to ten thousand years ago.

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