

RESIGNATIONS.

We regret that the following have resigned from the Society owing to their distance from the coast:- Mrs. I. Fynn, Mrs. J. Tuer, both of Rhodesia.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Our Treasurer, who is about again, wishes to remind you that your subscription for July, 1962 to June, 1963 is now due. Members, R1, students 50 cents, corresponding Members 75 cents. As our financial year ends on June 30th, we hope that members will be prompt with their payments. Cheques etc. should be made payable to the Conchological Society.

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THE COUNCIL.

During Dr. Talbot's absence in the U.S.A., Mr. C. Swaneveld will take his place as Vice-President on the Council. We take this opportunity of wishing Dr. Talbot bon voyage, and every success in his studies in California.

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"THE COWRY". Editor: Lt. Col. R.J. Griffiths.

The latest issue of the above - No. 3 - has just come to hand. This is not only interesting, but useful for reference as it contains a list of the species of "Cypraea", as accepted at date of issue.

In addition there is the first article dealing with some of our S. African species.

Any of our members who may wish to obtain copies may write to the Editor:- Lt. Col. R.J. Griffiths, Sea Acres Sanctuary, Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie, N.S. Wales, Australia.

The price is 6/- (Six shillings sterling), or 7/6d. (Australian currency) per copy.

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GENERAL NOTES.

ARTICLE NO.8 CATALOGUING, STORAGE AND DISPLAY. by J. & C. Walker.

Cataloguing and storing your shells is important, not only for availability, but also for future reference.

There are many methods of storing shells which are very simple. If you ask your smoking friends to collect their cigarette and match boxes for you, then the names may be written on the outside of the boxes and they can be stacked in an apple box (which takes three rows of cigarette boxes.) The boxes may be arranged in alphabetical order, so that it is easy to find a shell by just running your finger down the boxes until you find the name

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you require. Very little space is needed in this method.

The same method may be adopted with match boxes, but it is advisable to glue a number together. Match boxes may be used for small shells, while the cigarette boxes take the medium ones, but the larger varieties present a different problem. Whatever type of box you are using for storage, it is wise to have the names written on the side of the box as well as on the top.

Having stored your shells, using whichever method you prefer, the next step is to catalogue them, so that you can see at a glance what shells you have available. An index book with the following headings written on each page may be used as shown below:-

NAME	LOCALITY	CABINET OR BOX	DRAWER	REMARKS
<u>Patella barbara</u> Linn	St. James	3	4	Low spring tide 18.2.1962
<u>Patella cochlear</u> Born	Slangkop	Box 7	Cig.box 100	Very low spring tide Plentiful. 22.3.1962

If you prefer it a series of index cards may be used on which may be written the name, locality, etc. This latter method is better than an index book. In the remarks column, you may add notes about when collected, weather conditions, etc., then on the reverse side, you may state to whom and in what country you have sent the various shells.

When you have collected, cleaned, stored and indexed your shells, you will naturally wish to show them to your friends. Glass display cabinets are ideal, but they are very expensive and require constant dusting. Display cabinets take up a great deal of space and really need a large room to be seen to advantage. Packing cases may be used to make a cabinet with drawers and your shells mounted in them.

The best way of arranging shells is to keep the families, such as cowries, volutes, cones etc. together. Wherever possible, it is good to show a pair; one upward and one downward, for in many shells the aperture is a beautiful colour, while the outside may show structural beauty.

There are many ways of mounting shells for display, but by far the safest is to use Plasticine which may be removed later if necessary, without spoiling the shell. With Plasticine, the shell may be tilted almost to any angle so as to give the best light for effective display.

Remember that it is most important when setting out your shells, not to overcrowd them. Rather leave out one than spoil the whole display.

This article suggests a number of ideas which may be helpful, but no doubt many improvements can be made on these, and it would be interesting to hear of methods of recording, storage and display used by other members.

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CLEANING SHELLS. by P. Elston.

Much as I admire the Walkers' (Father and Son) for their enthusiasm and collecting ability I must disagree with the article published under their name recently (Cir.32. No.7.) with regards to the use of Hydrochloric Acid (Spirits of Salt) and Caustic Soda.

To remove the periostracum the safest way both for collector and shell is to immerse the shell in a solution of Sodium Hypochlorite for 24 hours or more, testing after 24 hours by removing the shell from the solution and scraping, and if not soft enough, replacing for a further period.

I have found the best brand to be the well known "Nomisol". Use four tablespoons to one pint of water, or even less. Shells can be left safely in a weaker solution for several days which also helps to soften any animal remains in the top of the shell.

I use Hydrochloric Acid (Full strength) occasionally for cleaning shelly matter of a shell by touching lightly with a small brush and then plunging into running water, repeating until the growth is removed. Care naturally has to be taken not to cut into the colour, but with practice one can restore a shell to its original beauty. Incidentally the acid must be kept in a glass stoppered bottle such as Chemists use, for cork or rubber stoppers are eventually eaten away. Do not forget to have plenty of fresh air in the kitchen or bathroom on account of fumes of hydrochloric acid.

If you use a fine jet of water, do not make it too fine, or you will be surprised at the needle like sting a very fine jet will cause on the hand.

None of our smaller shells need cleaning. Just immerse them in either Alcohol or Methylated spirits for a week and then dry in the shade. The animal can then be removed or left in. Both liquids remove the water content of the animal.

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FURTHER NOTES ON SEMIFUSUS PUGILINUS, BORN 1780. (MELONGENA PUGILINA, BORN).

by D.H. Kennelly.

Dr. E. Van Bruggen's note in Circular No. 31, is certainly most timely, for he refers to Bayer's Catalogue of 1952, a publication not available to me.

In my notes (Cir. No.30), the genus of the Australian shell was incorrectly quoted as Volema - this should be Volegalea of the family Galeolidae in which Thiele places the genus.

Dr. McMichael, (Queensland & Great Barrier Reef Shells, 1961), states that Melongenidae is an alternative family name for Galeolidae.

The name Volegalea wardiana was bestowed by T. Iredale on the Northern Australian shell, but the date is unknown to the writer, and at the present time it is desirable to know the details.

Iredale's paper affects one of our S. African shells, and should and should any member have access to publications of the Australian Museums, an extract in one of the Circulars would be very acceptable.

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CYPRAEA CHINENSIS-GMELIN 1791, AND C.TORTIROSTRIS-SOW.1906. by P. Elston.

The former is quite common in the vicinity of Durban, both in sheltered waters of the Bay and on the reefs and piers washed by the open sea at the entrance to the harbour, specimens from the latter being more brilliant and larger than those in the Bay. 35mm. in length against 28-30mm. in the harbour.

Our enthusiastic member "Eddie" Dee has recently collected several C.tortirostris-Sow. hitherto, as far as I can ascertain, unknown on this coast, both animals are identical in colour as are markings on the shell, C.tortirostris differing in size only from 20 to 25 mm. and number of teeth being, columellar 12, labial 10, compared with the average C.chinensis adult of 16 and 14 respectively.

Now comes the problem:- Lt.Col. R.J. Griffiths in his recent issue of The Cowry (Vol.1. No.3 of Feb.1962), in the List of Species, places both in the Genus Cribraria, whereas Joyce Allen (Cowry Shells of World Seas)

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places them in Ovatipsa and regards tortirostris as synonymous, although qualifying this with "may or may not be regarded as a race of O.chinensis".

Lt. Col. Griffiths bases his list (with additions) on those given by the Schilders in 1938. (Proc.Malac.Soc. Lond. 23) and remarks on Iredale and Allen placings as "unfortunate".

Perhaps some of our members would care to put their views forward.

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THAIS CASTANEUS, OUR WORST PREDATOR. by C.M. Connolly.

My field observations include hundreds of instances where Thais castaneus have been observed busily feeding through a small hole made in fresh egg-cases, notably of Fusus, Conus and Afrocominella. Before the parent shell has finished laying, the predator begins feeding on the first cases.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE bring home a score or more Thais castaneus on every shelling trip, or we soon will not have any cones left - dreadful thought.

Thais castaneus are under every rock, only $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, often purple, sometimes pure white, or even half white and half purple.

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NATAL NOTES. by E. Dee.

Mrs. V. Nell found a Cypraea Arabuca which must be the record for here. The shell measures 10.4 cm. and is fully adult. This was found at Reunion Rocks.

G. Askew brought me three specimens he found at Sawdwana Bay, Zululand on Jan. 14th which I have identified as Turbo marmoratus. Size of shell from 3" to $3\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.

D. Daniels found a Turbo marmoratus while diving at Second Bay at Reunion Rocks on the 4th Feb. , Size 4". This was the first one I know of found at Durban or so far South.

Dr. Wright gave me a Cypraea talpa which is I am sure a record for S. Africa. The jaws measure 10.2 cms. It is a very fine adult specimen and makes all other specimens look puny.

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BORDER NOTES. by D.H. Kennelly.

During the third week of this month (May), we were very pleased to receive a visit from our member - Mrs. "Bobby" Richards - who, with her husband, passed through East London on the way to collect along the Transkeian coast. It is hoped that Mrs. Richards will be successful in obtaining some good material to help maintain the Shell Museum at Mossel Bay.

Cypraea fimbriata Gmelin.

This species appears to be decidedly scarce, and the known localities few and far between.

An effort is being made to record further data in regard to the range, and the writer would be grateful if any member in possession of information, would kindly communicate the relevant details to him.

The/.....

The Genus "Tonna" in South Africa.

It seems very probable that some of our members - in addition to the writer - are more or less puzzled as to the correct specific name to be applied to the South African shell.

For many years our shell was listed as Dolium luteostoma Yendo. Sowerby (1892) mentions it as being allied to D. variegatum Lamarck. In 1932 Turton listed the species as Tonna porcellanum Euthyma 1895, and another T. dunkeri Hanley, in addition. The latest mention will be found in the List of False Bay Molluscs by Professor Day & Dr. Barnard, (1960) as Tonna variegata Lamarck. Are our members to regard this last name as being the correct one for use?

With regard to T. dunkeri Hanley, the writer has two specimens, each about 35 m.m. ex the South Coast of Natal. These shells appear different from Tonna variegata, of a similar size, and may possibly be dunkeri.

Any information in regard to this last mentioned species will be welcome.

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CAPE NOTES. by L. Kerr.

Our reference collection.

Will Members please make use of our reference collection of correctly identified shells, by bringing along their specimens to meetings. We are grateful to Dr. K.H. Barnard for all his help with this collection, which we hope will stop too many new members calling on Dr. Barnard to identify their shells. Shells brought in should have labels with the date and locality where they were collected.

Scala coronata.

Mrs. Connolly reports finding two living Scala coronata on Fish Hoek rocks. Both were given to the South African Museum.

Collecting near Cape Agulhas.

Mrs. Pinkham and Mrs. Connolly spent a most enjoyable week in May on a private farm near Agulhas. Their bag included cones, chitons, Mitra, and Haliotis parvum, Their biggest surprise was to find a seven-valve Dinoplax gigas.

This is the second seven-valve Dinoplax gigas found by a club member, as Mrs. Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth recently found such a chiton in her area.

Our good wishes go to Miss Ann Kerr, who became Mrs. Ben Ricketts on June 2nd. New address later.

Mrs. Mary Kuttel sends regards to all friends. Her letter written from the Cape Verde Islands will be published in the next circular.

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