

The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 215

JANUARY 1986

Page 1

VOLUTIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA



Callipara bullatiana Weaver & Du Pont, 1967

VOLUTIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA

by **Bill Liltved and Victor Millard.**

The Volutidae is a large family of neo-gastropods consisting of numerous genera distributed through worldwide seas from the tropical to antarctic environments, from the intertidal to depths of thousands of meters. Seas surrounding Australia, southern and western Africa are particularly endowed with volute species.

Volutes are voracious predators, preying on molluscs and other invertebrate animals and also scavenge for food should living prey not be available. Volutes have separate sexes, and are oviparous (egg laying) - Cymbiums brood eggs and young within a modified foot gland.

Shell form and colouration is extremely diverse in the family, species may or may not possess an operculum. Much of what we know about molluscs is about their shell morphology. Comparitively little is known about living animals, their habits and internal morphology.

FAMILY: VOLUTIDAE

SUBFAMILY: ATHLETINAE

Volutocorbis Dall, 1890

Volutocorbis abyssicola (Adams & Reeve, 1848)

Page 4 fig. 2

Voluta abyssicola Adams & Reeve, 1848

Voluta (Volutilithes) abyssicola; Watson, 1886

Ternivoluta abyssicola; von Martens, 1904

Locality: Agulhas Bank from Namaqualand to Tsitsikama

Size: 45 - 105mm

Depth: 80 - 300 fathoms

Volutocorbis boswellae

Rehder, 1969

Page 4 figs 4, 5

Volutocorbis boswellae Rehder, 1969

Locality: Agulhas Bank

Size: 30 - 59mm

Depth: 80 - 300 fathoms

Volutocorbis disparilis

Rehder, 1969

Page 4 figs 6, 7

Volutocorbis disparilis Rehder, 1969

Locality: Agulhas Bank

Size: 29 - 36mm

Depth: 80 - 300 fathoms

Volutocorbis gilchristi (Sowerby, 1902)

Page 4 figs 8, 9

Volutilithes gilchristi, Sowerby, 1902

Volutocorbis gilchristi, Barnard, 1959

Locality: Durban to Zululand

Size: 25 - 30mm

Depth: 160 - 200 fathoms

Volutocorbis glabrata

Kilburn, 1971

Page 4 figs 10, 11 (Holotype)

Volutocorbis glabrata Kilburn, 1971

Locality: Off Natal

Size: 23mm

Depth: 80 fathoms

Volutocorbis lutosa Koch, 1948

Page 4 fig 3

Volutocorbis lutosa Koch, 1948

Locality: Off Cape Point to Namibia

Size: 55 - 88mm

Depth: 40 - 100 fathoms

Volutocorbis kilburni Rehder, 1974

Page 4 figs 12, 13

Volutocorbis kilburni Rehder, 1974

Locality: Off Durban

Size: 33 - 44mm

Depth: 100 - 120 fathoms

Volutocorbis magister Kilburn, 1980

Page 4 figs 14, 15

Volutocorbis magister Kilburn, 1980

Locality: Continental shelf between Agulhas

and Cape St Blaize

Size: 65 - 74mm

Depth: unknown

Volutocorbis mozambicana Rehder, 1972

Page 4 figs 16, 17 (Paratype)

Volutocorbis mozambicana Rehder, 1972

Locality: Off southern Mozambique

Size: 14 - 20mm

Depth: 480 - 880 fathoms

Volutocorbis nana Rehder, 1974

Page 9 figs 18, 19 (Paratype)

Volutocorbis nana Rehder, 1974

Locality: Off southern Zululand

Size: 21 - 24mm

Depth: 160 - 180 fathoms

Volutocorbis semirugata

Rehder & Weaver, 1974

Page 9 figs 20, 21

Volutocorbis semirugata

Rehder and Weaver, 1974

Locality: Off southern Mozambique

Size: 35 - 56mm

Depth: 100 - 180 fathoms

**URGENTLY REQUIRING
ALL AFRICAN VOLUTES TO
PURCHASE OR EXCHANGE
IN ORDER TO UP-DATE
"THE LIVING VOLUTES OF
AFRICA"**

**CONTACT KEN FULLER
JOHANNESBURG
AFTER HOURS TELEPHONE
(011)615-2548**

SUBFAMILY: LYRINAE

Lyria Gray, 1847

Lyria africana (Reeve, 1856)

Page 9 figs 22, 23

Note Sometimes mentioned under the

Genus *Festilyria* Pilsbry & Olsson, 1954

Voluta africana Reeve, 1856

Voluta (Alcithoe) africana; Reeve, 1901

Smith, 1901

Voluta africana beckeri Turton, 1932

Voluta africana ponderosa Turton, 1932

Voluta africana rietensis Turton, 1933 (new name for *Voluta africana ponderosa* Turton, 1932 preoccupied)

Alcithoe africana africana; M Smith, 1942

Alcithoe africana; Weaver, 1962b

Festilyria africana; Weaver & Du Pont, 1970

Lyria africana; Kilburn, 1971

Locality: Off Port Elizabeth to Off Durban

Size: 42 - 75mm

Depth: 20 - 40 fathoms

Lyria duponti Weaver, 1968

Page 9 figs 26, 27

Festilyria duponti; Weaver, 1968

Locality: Off Mozambique

Size: 124mm

Depth: 12 fathoms

Lyria sonsonbyi; (E.A. Smith, 1901)

Page 9 figs 28

Note: Sometimes Genus referred to as

Festilyria Pilsbry & Olsson, 1954

Voluta (Alcithoe) sonsonbyi; E.A. Smith, 1901

Voluta sonsonbyi; Cooke 1922

Festilyria sonsonbyi; Weaver & Du Pont, 1968

Lyria sonsonbyi; Kilburn, 1971

Alcithoe sonsonbyi; M. Smith, 1942

Locality: Eastern Transkei to Natal

Size: 54 - 101mm

Depth: 20 - 50 fathoms

Lyria queketti (E.A. Smith, 1901)

Page 9 figs 25, 29. Live animal illustrated back page.

Note: Sometimes Genus referred to as *Festilyria* Pilsbry & Olsson,

Voluta (Lyria) queketti; E.A. Smith, 1901

Lyria queketti; Barnard, 1959

Lyria (Lyria) queketti; Weaver and Du Pont 1970

Locality: Natal south coast to Mozambique

Size: 41 - 55mm

Depth: 40 - 90 fathoms

SUBFAMILY: CYMBIINAE

Callipara Gray, 1847

Callipara bullatiana Weaver & Du Pont, 1967

Page 9 fig 30. Live animal illustrated on front page. Fig. 1

Voluta bullata Swainson, 1829 (*non Voluta bullata* Born, 1778)

Harpula bullata Swainson, 1840

Voluta (Callipara) bullata; Tyron, 1882

Callipara bullatiana; Weaver & Du Pont, 1967

Locality: Cape St Francis to Port Alfred

Size: 50 - 70mm

Depth: 5 - 6 fathoms, washing ashore

SUBFAMILY: CALLIOTECTINAE

Fusivoluta von Martens, 1902**Fusivoluta barnardi** Rehder, 1969

Page 9 fig. 31

Fulgoraria blazei; Barnard, 1963*Fusivoluta barnardi*; Rehder, 1969

Locality: Off Tugela River to Durban

Size: 93–117mm

Depth: 120–180 fathoms

Fusivoluta blazei; (Barnard, 1959)

Page 9 fig. 32

Fulforaria blazei; Barnard, 1959*Fusivoluta blazei*; Weaver, 1963

Locality: Off Cape St Blaize

Size: 39mm

Depth: 105–125 fathoms

Fusivoluta capensis (Thiele, 1925)

Not illustrated.

Glypteuthria (?) capensis Thiele 1925*Fusivoluta capensis*; Barnard, 1959this shell is probably synonymous with *Fusivoluta sculpturata*.

Locality: Agulhas Bank

Size: 11mm

Depth: 308 fathoms

Fusivoluta clarkei Rehder, 1969

Page 9 fig. 33

Fusivoluta clarkei Rehder, 1969

Locality: Off Mozambique

Size: 97mm

Depth: 240–300 fathoms

Fusivoluta decussata Barnard, 1959

Page 12 figs 34, 35.

Fusivoluta decussata Barnard, 1959

Locality: Off East London and Transkei

Size: 35mm

Depth: 310 fathoms

Fusivoluta elegans Barnard, 1959

was named from a single dead specimen which was dredged off East London at a depth of 400 fathoms. Rehder (1969a) and Weaver & Du Pont (1970) suggest because of the small protoconch and the general shape of the shell that this shell belongs in the Fusinidae. See illustration on page 9 fig 24.

Fusivoluta sculpturata (Tomlin, 1945)

Page 12 figs 36, 37

Glypteuthria capensis Tomlin, 1932*Fusivoluta capensis*; Barnard, 1957

Locality: Off Cape Point

Size: 29–38mm

Depth: 318–400 fathoms

Fusivoluta pyrhostoma (Watson, 1882)

Page 12 fig 38

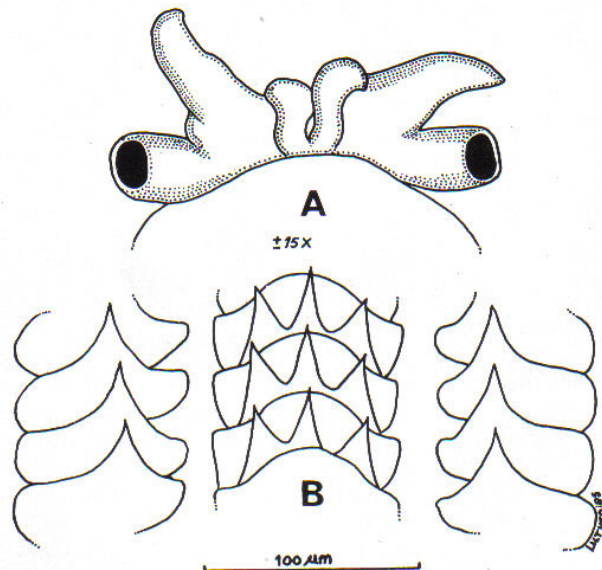
Fusus (Sipho) pyrhostoma; Watson, 1882*Neptuneopsis pyrhostoma*; Sowerby, 1903*Fusivoluta pyrhostoma*; von Maartens, 1904

forma major Barnard, 1959

Locality: Saldanha Bay to Cape St Blaize

Size: 40–83mm

Depth: 39–200 fathoms



A. Ventral view of head of *Volutocorbis boswellae* Rehder, 1969. S.A.M. A.36965 (21.2 mm juvenile)

B. Three rows of radula teeth of *V. boswellae* S.A.M. A36965.

Fusivoluta wesselsi Kilburn, 1980

Page 12 fig 39

Fusivoluta wesselsi Kilburn, 1980

Locality: Tugela Bank to Mozambique

possibly also Tanzania

Size: 21–25mm

Depth: 50 metres

Neptuneopsis Sowerby, 1898**Neptuneopsis gilchristi**; Sowerby, 1898

Page 12 fig 40

Neptuneopsis gilchristi; Sowerby, 1898

Locality: Off Cape of Good Hope

Size: 115–200mm

Depth: 33–250 fathoms

SUBFAMILY: FULGORARINAE

Pilsbry and Olsson, 1954

Guivillea Watson, 1886**Guivillea alabastrina** Watson, 1882

Page 12, fig 41

Wyvillea alabastrina Watson, 1882*Guivillea alabastrina*; Watson, 1882*Voluta alabastrina*; Sowerby, 1887*Guivillea alabastrina*; Thiele, 1929

Locality: Off Marion Island and Crozet Island

Size: 165mm

Depth: 1600 fathoms

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Volutocorbis glabrata length 22.8mm (Holotype) Natal Museum 7667
Off Natal Coast. 80 fathoms

Volutocorbis mozambicana length. 15.4mm (Paratype). Natal Museum G. 668
Off Cabo da Correntes. 880 fathoms

Volutocorbis nana length 20.6mm (Paratype) Aiken & Fuller Collection
Off Zululand 160–180 fathoms

Fusivoluta elegans Barnard (Holotype)
length 18.8mm S.A. Museum A8803
Off East London 400 fathoms

Thanks to Dr Kilburn and Mrs Connolly for the checking of all the details and suggesting changes.

We also extend our appreciation to Dr. H. Wessels, Mr. A. Jooste, Mrs. D. Brink, Mr. D. Aiken and Capt. K. Fuller for the loan of the specimens depicted in the photographic plates.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Living Volutes by C.S. Weaver and J.E. du Pont. 1970 Delaware Museum of Natural History. USA.

Sea Shells of Southern Africa—R.N. Kilburn and E. Rippey. 1982 Published Macmillan S.A.

Annals of the Natal Museum Vol. 21(1) pages 123–133: Pietermaritzburg. R.N. Kilburn, 1971

Annals of The Natal Museum Vol. 24(1) pages 193–200 Kilburn, 1980

Annals of The S.A. Museum Cape Town, Barnard, 1969. 45:1–255

Annals of The S.A. Museum Cape Town, Barnard, 1969. 49PT 4:595–661

Veliger 9 No. 4:385 Weaver & Du Pont 1967

Veliger 10 No. 4:444 Weaver, 1968

Veliger 11 No. 3:200–209 Rehder, 1969

Veliger 12 No. 4:415 Rehder, 1970

Veliger 15 No. 1:11–14

Veliger 15 No. 2:125 Rehder, 1972

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

from G Hyatt, South Coast Natal.

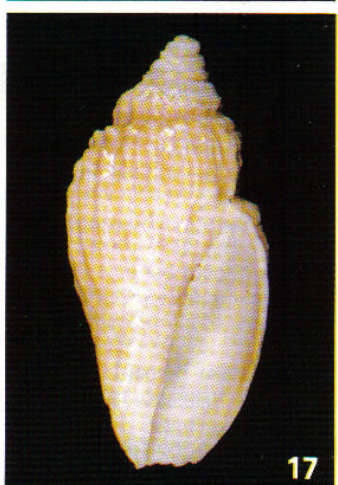
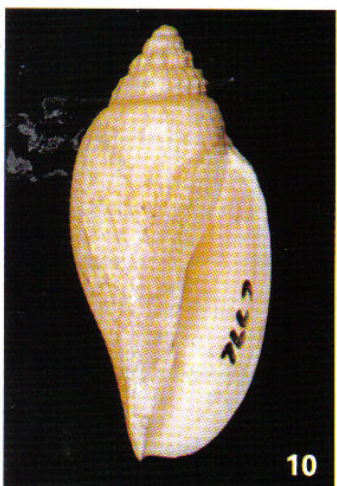
I have in my collection seven specimens of **Cymatium Ranularia gallinago** (Reeve, 1844) which my wife and I collected on a large sandbank in the southern bay (or saco) of Inhaca Island in May 1973 and March 1975. I have also two specimens found at Morrungulo (also Mozambique) in September 1973.

I identified these shells from Dr Kilburn's description in Strandloper 135 page 2 and Eddie Ralph's drawing in Strandloper 148 page 4.

Comparing my specimens with Strandloper 212 page 3, No 17 I note the following:

a) All my specimens have spiral cords

cont. on page 11



NO SNAIL'S PACE

Whilst recently reading Bequaert's Monograph on the Achatinidae¹ the largest known group of living terrestrial molluscs, my attention was drawn to the most amazing spread of one particular snail throughout the tropics from its original East African and Madagascan home.

The snail is *Achatina fulica* Bowdich, and its population explosion is all the more remarkable when one considers that its habitat is exclusively restricted to areas of high temperature and humidity, and, as Bequaert notes "it is averse to sunshine, exposure to the direct rays of the sun killing it off rapidly"². Yet *Achatina fulica* has spread rapidly from its original home to the Indian Ocean Islands, India, the Orient, the East Indies and the Pacific Islands in a small space of time. It appears as if this rapid dispersion was due almost exclusively to transport of the mollusc by man.

The first journeyings of the snail are recorded in 1803 when *Achatina fulica* was shipped from Madagascar to Mauritius by the wife of the governor of the Island who "ailing of the chest, has on doctor's orders fetched from Madagascar many of these snails, since there were none in this part of the colony. She died shortly after and the snails spread over the island, increasing to the extent of becoming a calamity"³. (snails a cure for chest disorders?) By 1828 the snail was a pest on the island.

From Mauritius the snail reached Reunion several years later⁴, and there are records of the mollusc on the Seychelles from 1840⁵ and on the Comoros from 1860⁶. The molluscan diaspora continued, and *Achatina fulica* was carried from Mauritius to India in April 1847 where it was released in gardens in Calcutta⁷.

The progeny of the Calcutta immigrants were transported to Musoori at the foothills of the Himalayas in 1848. By 1910 the snail was to be found in Ceylon⁸ and in 1922 in several localities on the Malay Peninsula, particularly in the Singapore area⁹.

Achatina fulica was observed in Borneo in 1928¹⁰, South China in 1931¹¹ and in Hong Kong in 1948¹².

The snail was first recorded in Siam in 1937¹³, and had flourished in the Dutch East Indies since its introduction there in Sumatra in 1921¹⁴. It reached Java in 1933, and was recorded in Formosa in 1932, where it is now very common. By 1925 it was to be found in Japan, and later also in the Palau Islands, Ponape, Tinian, Rota, Yap and Saipan, and the other Micronesian islands, where it is now extremely abundant.

Achatina fulica was carried from Formosa to the Philippines by the Japanese during the Second World War¹⁵, and is frequently found in the Manila area. The earliest record of the snail in Hawaii was in 1936, when 12 snails were imported from Japan¹⁶, rapidly spreading to become an

agricultural threat.

The snail was also exported to New Guinea, New Britain and New Ireland¹⁷, and several snails were introduced in San Pedro, California, but were destroyed by the US Department of Agriculture for fear of their spreading, and presently strict measures exist to prevent any further importations of the snail.

The possibility of the snail spreading to South and Central America is likely since ideal conditions exist there for its permanent establishment. Only one specimen has ever been found in South Africa, at Durban in 1911¹⁸, and is believed to have been imported from Mauritius among plant material. The introduction of the snail, mainly by the Japanese, into many tropical and subtropical islands of the Pacific appears mainly to be as a culinary delicacy and for medicinal reasons¹⁹, and in many cases the spread of the snail has posed a threat to agricultural crops. Nevertheless it remains remarkable that no other African species of *Achatina* or related genera has spread and established itself throughout the tropics, and all primarily at the instance of man.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- 1 J C BEQUART: Studies in the Achatininae, a group of African land snails: Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, Vol 105, 1950.
- 2 J C BEQUART: Op cit p 74.

cont. on page 8

SEA GIFTS

SUPPLIERS OF TOP QUALITY LOCAL AND WORLD-WIDE SPECIMEN SHELLS

160 Main Road Sea Point 8001 Cape Town

Phone (021) 44-9753

Regent Road Checkers Galleria Sea Point 8001 Cape Town

Phone (021)49-2957

a/h 49-1604

We receive specimen shells weekly from all over the world.

Latest arrivals include the newly described *Pleurotomaria westralis*, also *Pleurotomaria hirasei*, *Cypraea valencia*, *venusta*, *vercoi*, *surinamensis*, *guttata*, *mauiensis*, *martini* etc.; *Lambis violacea*, *pilsbryi*; *Murex bodjadorensis* *bednalli*, *miyokae*; *Conus milneedwardsi*, *bengalensis*, *kinoshitae*, *barthelmyi*, etc.; *Harpa costata*, *doris*, *gracilis*; and many more.

URGENTLY WANTED (PURCHASE OR EXCHANGE):

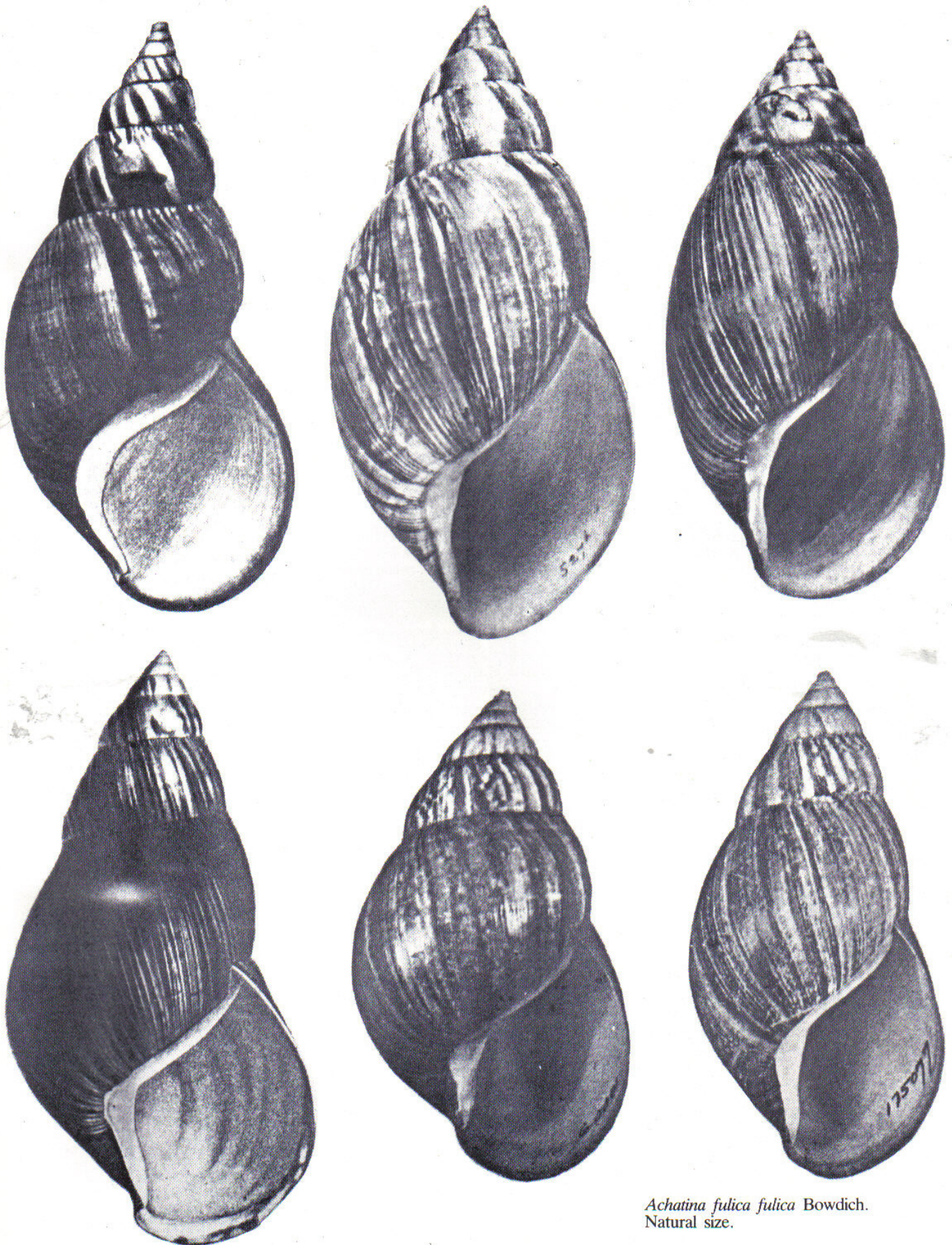
Cypraea fultoni, *iutsui*, *cruickshanki*, *connelli*, *lisetae*, *barclayi* and *broderipi*;

Voluta ponsonbyi, *boswellae*, *magister*, *festiva*, *queketti*

All local Cones and Ovulidae (*Phenacovolva*) and Muricidae (*kilburni*, *uncinarius*, etc).



Achatina fulica fulica Bowdich.
Natural size.



Achatina fulica fulica Bowdich.
Natural size.

BEAUTIFUL BUT DEADLY

by **Olive Peel**

Unaware of the dangers that lurk underfoot we gayly walk into pools at low tide, we snorkel or go scuba diving; cones are placed into pockets, sea urchins are picked up by hand and placed into thin plastic bags!

Just as the beautiful Mata Haris of the underground are beautiful but deadly so are some of the most beautiful of the sea creatures.

Those lovely sea urchins that quiver and shimmer in the sunlight, sparkling with lovely hues, can cause excruciating pain if they sting you. If you are lucky enough to be near to hot water place your ailing limb into it unless of course it's an eye-glass, or in fact any heat will deactivate the poison. If you have the courage and do not automatically try to pull a spike out if one is accidentally left in your tender hand or foot, then crush it and try not to pull it out. But most sea urchins are not dangerous—it is merely the pain which is uncomfortable.

Stings from jellyfish or bluebottles can be treated with vinegar. If you are swimming or diving and a sea wasp (a type of jellyfish) stings you—beware—for this can cause drowning and the venom from this sea menace is so potent it may also have a direct effect on the heart. If you can, try not to pull the tentacles off as this releases more venom into the body. But I have not been able to find out anywhere what you are supposed to do about the tentacles—maybe your screaming will frighten the thing away or maybe if you bite it it will withdraw! If you do not carry vinegar with you underwater then alcohol or urine can be used for these stings. On second thoughts if you survive and can make it to shore then possibly the latter will be your best bet, provided it is behind a rock!

Cones are predators and need a weapon to kill and thus shoot poison-filled darts into their enemies. It is said that if a poisonous cone stings you and you can survive the first two hours then you have a chance for survival—a comforting thought indeed! Someone once claimed that the animal of a cone once stung him even after several days when he thought that the animal was dead. Don't take chances with cones. Use gloves when picking them up. The hotwater treatment will not work for predators' stings.

A seacucumber looks innocent enough lying placidly in the water, but beware if you decide to handle one to have a closer look. They eject a sticky substance which could cause blindness if rubbed into the eyes, so do make sure that your hands are washed after handling one of these echinoderms.

It is interesting to note that in the largest of the sea snakes, one drop of venom is sufficient to kill three adults—a horrific thought but I wonder who discovered that! These gentle creatures only become aggressive in the mating season if you can find out when that it is!

The stone fish is very dangerous and cannot be easily seen because of his chameleon habit of changing colour. The pain from this sting is unbelievable apparently and one in three victims will die from this sting—again in

an emergency this can be treated with heat but the victim should be rushed to a hospital as soon as possible after being stung.

Be conscious at all times of your surroundings—somewhere danger may be lurking—don't treat a sting lightly—treat it as though your life depends upon its treatment as quickly as possible and if you are alone on a beach do seek assistance from someone nearby, even if just to tell them of your problem in case there is an emergency.

And maybe we should think about including a small bottle of vinegar or alcohol in our 'shelling bags' and do always remember that bit of plaster for cuts from barnacles. Use gloves when feeling under ledges and other dark places. Don't take chances—your life is precious to someone, if not to yourself. (Ref: Carfel Philippine Shell News, Jan-Feb 1985, p 5-8.)

"Mollusques marins de l'Océan Indien - Comores, Mascareignes, Seychelles."

by **J Bons**

Published by Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique, Paris, 1984.
108 pages & 19 colour plates.

Despite being written in French, this book whose translated title reads 'Marine molluscs of the Indian Ocean' could have been very useful to South African readers taking a holiday or shelling trip to the Indian Ocean; Mascareignes being the French name for the group of islands comprising Mauritius and Reunion.

As described in the foreword, this book is part of a series published by the Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique (an intergovernmental agency grouping most French speaking countries in the world) to establish an inventory of the natural resources and ecosystems of the Indian Ocean islands; curiously though Madagascar is excluded! The other books apparently cover insects and plant life of these islands.

Based on that description, I expected a scientifically researched and expertly written monograph; I was sadly disappointed. The book is little more than a field guide, and a very poor one at that.

After a general introduction on molluscs, which is the best part of the book, the author proceeds to systematically describe the different species of marine molluscs occurring in the region of interest.

This is where the trouble starts: some families are given a rather succinct treatment!; Fissurellidae, 4 lines, not a single species described; Patellidae, 3 lines, no species described, and so on; the same applies to the Lamellibranchiata. Some families are totally ignored (Pholadidae, Janthinidae, Triviidae...); and one does not get to know whether it is because these families are absent from these islands or whether it is due to omission by the author.

Many species who get to receive a few lines of description are not illustrated; but perhaps this is better so, as the quality of the photography is rather poor. The illustrated specimens hardly contrast against a very dull and overexposed grey background; and as

all shells are presented on the same scale, the small ones are very difficult to identify. On the other hand, a few illustrated shells are not even described in the text! Illustrated shells also lack locality names.

Maps are sadly missed; one would have liked to see maps of all the islands covered in the book with appropriate geographic ranges properly defined for all species. At the end of the book, the bibliography is very elementary.

A few invalid names were noticed: **Murex triremus** Perry 1811, the spelling mistake being the book as well!, **Oliva episcopalis** Lamark 1811, **Oliva sericea** Roding 1798, **Cancellaria asperella** Sowerby 1825, . . . Furthermore the book is riddled with misprints and spelling mistakes; nothing is safe from them: genera (**Acnaea** for **Acmaea**, **Dupra** for **Drupa** & more), species (**Cypraea dilucum** for **C. diluculum**, **Cons textilis** for **C. textile**, **Conus mussatella** for **C. mussatella** & more), author names (Swaison for Swainson, Quay for Quoy & more), even publishers and cities in the bibliography (Veviers for Verviers, Larrousse for Larousse); I stopped checking in detail when I reached 50!

All in all, a very disappointing book which did not live up to my expectations; I could not recommend it to any of our readers.

Patrick J Longerstey

cont. from page 5

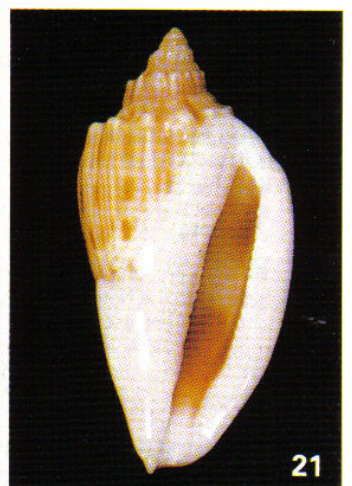
- 3 BOSCH 1803: Nouveau Dict. Hist Nat, 1, p 134 (translation).
- 4 FERUSSAC 1821: Tabl. Syst. Moll.
- 5 DUFO 1840: Ann SCI Nat (2) 14 Zool p 198.
- 6 MORELET 1860: Series Conchyl 2, p 70.
- 7 BENSON 1858: JI DE CONCHYL 7, p 266-268.
- 8 E. E. GREEN 1910: Spolia Zeylanica 7, p 56.
- 9 JARETT 1923: Singapore Naturalist 1, pt 2, p 73-76.
- 10 JARETT 1931: Hong Kong Naturalist 2, pt 4, p 262-264.
- 11 JARETT 1931: Hong Kong Naturalist 2, pt 4, p 262-264.
- 12 HERKLOTS 1948: Bulletin of Agriculture Department Hong Kong Govt, No 1, p 1-4.
- 13 R T ABBOTT: in litt. to Bequaert: op cit p 72.
- 14 V D MEER MOHR 1935: Natur und Volk 65, p 62-67.
- 15 BULLETIN OF THE BUREAU OF EDUCATION IN MANILA, 1546, 6, S No 19075.
- 16 PEMBERTON 1938: Hawaiian Planters Record 42, p 132-140.
- 17 1947 PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY 18, pt 2, p 75.
- 18 CONNOLLY 1912: Ann SA Mus 13, pt 5, p 188.
- 19 F W WILLIAMS: Life History Studies of E. African Achatina Snails: Bull of Mus of Comp Zool, Harvard Vol 105, 1950, p 295.

PHILLIP W. CLOVER

P.O. M.O. BOX 339 Tel. 707-996-6960
GLEN ELLEN
CALIF. 95442



Dealer in world wide specimen seashells, specializing in rare cypraea, conus, voluta and murex. Also current and out of print shell books. Free price lists on request. Mail orders since 1960.



MICHAELHOUSE NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITION TO SEYCHELLES

by K Borland

I recall my very enjoyable holiday to the Seychelles with the Natural History society of my school. There was great excitement as we landed at Victoria airport on Saturday night at 9, with a breeze blowing and the Mercury reading 29 degrees C. The airport is a perfect example of how the Seychelles government has decided to conserve their beautiful natural surroundings at the cost of millions of Rands which could be earned by turning the Seychelles into another Mauritius. The airport is built on a coral foundation and juts out into the sea. When you land your wings actually hang over the sea. President Albert Rene has also passed a decree forbidding any artificial structure to be taller than the indigenous palm trees. This retains the Seychelles' natural beauty.

We were accommodated on the luxury "Breakaway" yacht, the same yacht used in the Breakaway with Mainstay advertisement.

Unfortunately we could not leave Victoria until the yacht had filled up with water, petrol and food. So Sunday was spent sight-seeing. On Monday we went for a gentle two hour sail to our first diving spot, Mammal Island. As soon as our goggles met water we were met by a new world. Even though there was no coral reef, the diving at this island was better than any dive along the Natal coast. Around the rocks swam Surgeon fish, Parrot fish, Rockcod and Wrasse. Shell life was scant but there were numerous *Turbo chrysostomus* (gold-mouth turban) amongst the rocks. Although Mahe' itself had few good diving spots, walking along the dazzling coral sands at neap tide produced some interesting finds *Conus chaldeus* (worm cone); *Conus tessellatus*, *Terebralia paulustris*, *Drupa morum*, *Cypraea caputserpentis* and some species of *Bullia*.

Finally, we left Mahe' and spent our first night on the sea. Silhouette and North Islands are two islands relatively close to Mahe'.

Both produce good diving along their reefs and were excellent for beach-combing. Diving in the open sea was easy as there were virtually no waves and sharks were more friendly than dangerous. Many shells were found including various *Trochidae* and *Vasum turbinellus*, *Lambis*, the rare *Conus aulicus*, *Conus virgo*, *Cypraea histrio* and a colony of 40 *Nerita textilis* all over 40 mm. Walking along the beach produced *Conus arenatus* and *Conus miles*. Bird island is a flat, granite based tourist attraction approximately 60 miles from Mahe'. After a days sailing we reached this bird sanctuary. Come July this whole island is covered with nesting birds. Shelling is very poor there. Next stop was closer to Mahe'. Cousin and Cousine Islands are two of the most beautiful islands. Cousin is privately owned while Cousine is a sanctuary. Due to our skipper Francis having

many friends we were privileged to be allowed to dive at this paradise island. Many shells were found, including *Lambis crocata*, *Chicoreus kilburni* (first recorded specimen from the Seychelles), *Latirus polygonus*, *Drupa morum*, *Cerithium nodulosum* (near record size) and *Chicoreus brunneus*. On the beach the following good cowries were found, *talpa bistrinotata* and *nucleus*.

The last few days were spent at La Digue, Francis' birthplace, and the most enjoyable of the islands. Shelling there was limited but *Thais tuberosa*, *Cypraea caputserpentis*, *Cypraea poraria* (name in the Seychelles), *Terebra guttata* and other *Mancinellas* and *Thais* were found.

La Digue was nearby the best diving spot in the world - Coco Island. It was unanimously agreed that this was the best two days of the holiday. Everything else that had been seen during the past week and a half could be seen here, including the birds.

The water was generally shallow, but was filled with fish, coral, shells and generally abundant life. I was lucky enough to catch a Hawksbill Turtle, which is fairly rare. We took the turtle aboard and cleaned its shell, which turned out to be very beautiful. We then let it loose again and, to show how quickly organisms grow in the Seychelles, within a day we found it again, it had fresh encrustations on the shell. That is why very few of the shells found had perfect or clean shells. Most of them had to undergo drastic cleaning programmes. A few of the shells found were: *Ovula ovum*, *Fasciolaria filamentosa*, *Tridacna squamosa* and *Fasciolaria trapezium*. Coco Island is the closest to heaven one can get and is easily accessible. Both young and old can dive in the area.

The holiday ended on a bad note. At North Island we anchored the boat in deep water just off the reef as usual, allowing us to swim to the reef in our diving gear. As I dived off the boat, I happened to look down and saw a triton shaped shell crawling along the bottom on the sand. I knew that this was an opportunity not to be missed. After two deep dives which were unsuccessful due to the pressure and depth, I finally managed to get the shell and came up with streaming ears and eyes. Luckily it was not attached to anything. The shell was a live *Bursa bubo* (lamp shell) of about 35 cm, in perfect condition and worth about R60 on the Seychelles market. Francis cleaned it up superbly for me and we stowed it away. When it came to packing away, the shell had mysteriously disappeared. It transpired that some of the boys had supposedly thrown it overboard with other shells because they were smelling too much. I was very angry of course.

The holiday was without doubt the best I have experienced. For a conchologist it is paradise, as shells are still plentiful. Luckily there is a factor that prevents easy access.

One must have a boat to find the shells. Hopefully I will be returning there sometime.

CYPRACASSIS RUFA LIVING IN TRANSKEI

by Margaret Stuart

During the Easter School holidays, my family and I spent 10 days at Xora, on the Wild Coast, Transkei. For me, this has always been a particularly good shelling spot, both for live and beach specimens.

After a fairly successful week or so of shelling, with our holiday drawing to a close, I went on one last forage ± 4 kms. up the coast to a spot known as Bulungulu. It was a lovely hot morning with a Spring low tide. I was rock shelling in the pools, looking for something different. I must have been working in this particular ankle-deep pool for ± 10 mins before my eyes became riveted on a beautifully camouflaged piece of shell amongst the pebbles and gravel. I tried to pick it up only to find that it belonged to something lying buried in the sand I dug around it and finally unearthed a magnificent live *Cypracassis rufa*, ± 16 cms in length! I put it into a bucket of salt water and watched the lovely orange body emerge as the creature sought a way of escape.

I could not believe what I was seeing, as I had always associated this species with tropical Indo Pacific areas. I subsequently found out, after looking up Kilburn & Rippey's book on "Sea Shells of Southern Africa" that Red Helmet Shells do wash up at a certain spot on the Zululand coast, from a ship that was wrecked en route to Italy. This beautiful prize of mine must have somehow got washed much further south than usual and landed up near Xora. As much as I searched for evidence of another one, I never found any. I would be most interested to know if any other *Cypracassis rufa* have been found as far south in Transkei.

I successfully kept the animal alive all the way back to P.E. with the intention of putting it into a fellow-conchologists marine tank for further observation. He, unfortunately, felt that shells in the tank were in danger of being eaten by this monster (probably quite right!) and was not prepared to take the risk! So with much hesitation and sadness, it went into the deep-freeze and a few days later I successfully managed to get the whole animal out in one piece.

I now have this prize shell in my collection to remind me of a wonderful shelling holiday.

Editorial comment:

Mrs Stuart's finding of a live *Cypracassis rufa* (Linné, 1758) at Xora is an important discovery. Southern Africa indeed lies at the westernmost fringe of the range of the species. Divers have collected live *C. rufa* off Zululand and Durban, and the Natal Museum has a shell collected on one of the Durban beaches near the turn of the century by Henry Burnup. We also have dead juveniles from Umkomaas (Burnup), Scottburgh (William Falcon) and "Pondoland" (Mrs Agnes Filmer, collected in the 1980's). The tank-owner's fears were probably unfounded, as large Cassidae are said to feed on sea urchins and "pansy shells" (sand dollars), which they first crush with blows of their heavy lip. (Dick Kilburn).

The Office Bearers of the Committee of the Conchological Society of SA:

**Address: Conchological Society of SA
c/o Durban Museum
P.O. Box 4085**

**Durban
4000**

President: Dr R N Kilburn
Vice President: Mr N E M Newman
Director: Mr G Wallace
Executive Members: Dr D Herbert
Mrs V van der Walt
Mrs M J Quickelberge
Honorary Auditor: Mr I McKenzie
Membership Secretary: Mrs K Eastwood
Treasurer: Mrs O Meyer
Secretary: Mrs M Mears
Historian: Mrs B Fouche
Librarian: Mr C Quickelberge
Distribution Secretary: Miss D van der Walt

Strandloper Editors

Address: P.O. Box 1200

**Cape Town
8000**

Mr V Millard
Mr D Freeman
Editorial consultants: Dr R N Kilburn
Dr Herbert

**ADVERTISING RATES IN THE
STRANDLOPER**

R200 per page
R100 per half page
R60 per column
R30 per half column
R1 per column line
Exchanges wanted will be inserted free as a service to members

The rates for overseas advertisers

\$100 per page
\$50 per half page
\$30 per column
\$15 per half column
\$0.50 per column line

A bank exchange of \$5 would be required for each cheque or draft

Copies of the constitution may be obtained from the Society at the head office address in Durban.

A limited number of bound sets of Strandloper of Numbers 171 to 213 inclusive at R100 per set plus postage and packing. (\$50 plus postage and packing plus \$5 bank exchange)

Back issues of the circulars will be made available soon. If you are interested then you can contact the secretary at the Durban Museum address.

Exchanges wanted

Anne Wilson of 283 Silver Street, Muckelneuk, Pretoria, would like to acquire a specimen of *Haliotis speciosa*.

Mr P Kreuter, P.O. Box A399, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe, would like to make contact with South African collectors to purchase shells. He is interested in only live taken material of good quality from South Africa and extending to the West African coast.

AROUND THE GROUPS

Johannesburg Members

Ken Brown would like to start the Johannesburg group again. Please give him your support. You can write to:

Kenneth Brown
c/o 1 Arend Avenue
Windsor Glen
Randburg 2174

Cape Town:

Chairman: John Coquillon
Secretary: Deirdre Richards,
7 Sunningdale Road, Kenilworth 7700
Telephone: (021) 71-4760

Eastern Cape:

Chairman: Mr F Graeve
Secretary: Ms M Stuart,
30 Mill Park Road, Mill Park,
Port Elizabeth 6001
Telephone: (041) 33-5032

Border and Transkei:

Chairman: Mr G Kirchoff
Secretary: Mr N Newman,
42 Irvine Road, Bonnie Doone,
East London 5421
Telephone: (0431) 5-6274

Southern Natal:

Shell Group look back on a busy year

October 12 saw the start of the Southern Natal Group of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa's new year with the Annual General Meeting held at the Port Shepstone Library. The present committee stands as last year, with office bearers Mr Geoff Wallace, Chairman, Mrs Kay Eastwood, Secretary, and Mr Eric Balsan, Treasurer.

Stimulating competitions have been held at our monthly meetings, when the quality of the shells displayed is matched with the artistic display abilities and the factual data of each specimen. During the AGM, members brought five favourite shells, with reasons for their preference.

Mr Peter Mendelsohn, Chairman of the Wildlife Society, local branch, a former CSSA member, was our guest speaker, enlarging upon the passage of an imaginary drop of rain in the water cycle on our coast.

Our group grows with prospective new members, namely Mrs Marina Lake, Mrs Lorna Flick and Mrs Rosemary Sim. Further interest was stimulated at the Summer Holiday Promotion Exhibition at Sanlam Centre, where Mrs Ferdie Lennon and Mrs Kay Eastwood had a shell display.

In September, Kenneth Borland exhibited his South Coast shells at the Natal Schools Science Expo at Natal University, Durban. Mrs Doris Smith had earlier given a fascinating talk to the Arcadia Garden Club and Mrs Borland spoke briefly to the Bendigo Sea clubs on shell collecting as a hobby.

Outings to Leisure Bay, Southbroom, Mtwalume and Rocky Bay have been greatly enjoyed and at the latter, several live cowries were found (*Cypraea arabica*, *C. carneloia*, *C. helvola*) live cones (*Conus musicus*, *C. sponsalis* and *C. biliosus*) and a live *Cymatium* sp. Dead shells included *Mitra literata*, *Cypraea marginalis* and *Harpa major*.

Elsewhere Rosemary Sim found the uncommon *Cypraea cribraria* dead on south Margate beach. Very large *Patella miniata* have been found at Leisure Bay (up to 100 mm). The last outing was to Oslo Beach on Sunday November 24, where a live *Cymatium parthenopeum* was found by Kay Eastwood. We welcomed Mr Flip Prinslee from Rustenberg, who joined us for this day and for the last meeting on November 9, when the sub family Thaidinae were discussed and exhibited.

It is to be regretted that on outings locally, we see many boulders in the rock pools, carelessly turned over and left. This exposes a host of creatures that live protected under these rocks, and they die, thus upsetting the ecology of the whole rocky shore.

Our beaches are suffering in many ways through our pollution and carelessness, but we can preserve much if we all care a little more for the unique flora and fauna on our shores. It does help to always put gently back any rocks we disturb.

There was a Christmas party on Saturday December 14 at 7 p.m., in the Port Shepstone library. The winners of the annual competition were announced.

Further information on our group may be obtained by telephoning Mrs Kay Eastwood at 0391-3568 (evenings).

Durban:

Chairman: Mrs M Quickelberge
Secretary: Ms D van der Walt, 40 Madelaine Road, Morningside, Durban 4001

Pietermaritzburg

Chairman: Dr R.N. Kilburn
Secretary: Mrs V. Coetzee
P.O. Box 12014, Oribi, Pietermaritzburg
Tel: (0331) 6-1179

Pretoria

Chairman L.J. Smith
Secretary: T.R. Duncan
131 Burger St. Lyttelton, 0140
Tel: (012) 62-1548

Exchanges Wanted

Mr Patrice Bou, 2 Macabou, 97280 Vauglin, MARTINIQUE. (French West Indies) collects *Conus* mainly and rare shells. If you are interested in exchanging shells with him then please write to him at the above address.

cont. from page 3

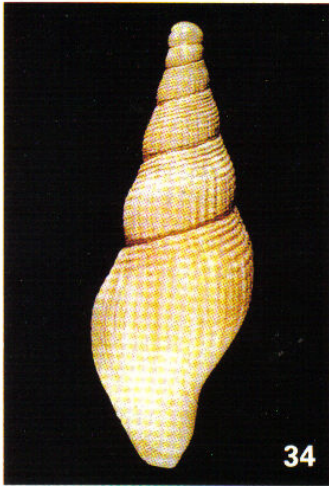
continuing over the columella as shown clearly in Eddie Ralph's drawing. This is a distinguishable feature.

b) My two specimens from Morrungulo are white with traces of orange/brown on the varices and body whorl.

c) Two of my specimens from Inhaca Island are similar to b) above in colouring but darker. The remaining five are virtually the same colour orange/brown all over the shell with different depths of colour. Two of these five have white bands which span one spiral cord to the next on the body whorl.

d) The nuclear whorls are distinctly darker brown.

e) In the older or adult specimens, the spiral cord on the shoulder is developed into prominent ribs. There are five of them and they are similar to those on *Ranularia monilifera*, but sharper.



34



35



36



37



38



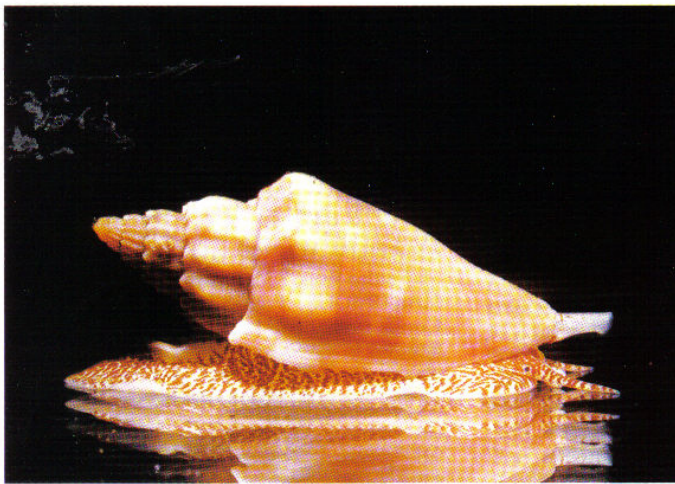
39



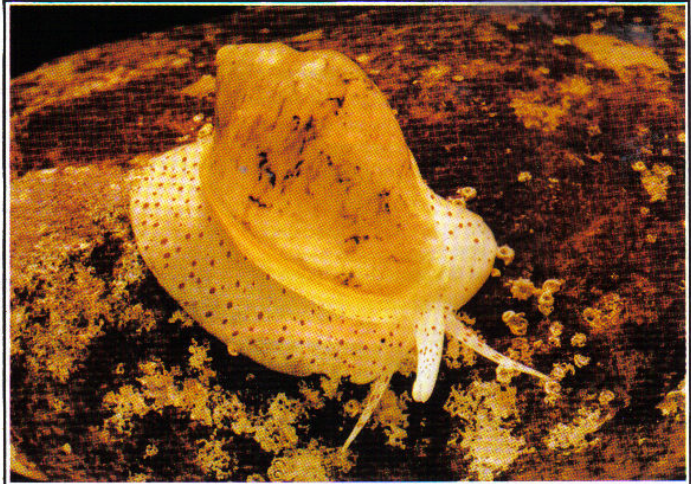
40



41



A live *Lyria queckettii*
(E.A. Smith, 1901)



MARGINELLA LINEOLATA

Sowerby, 1886

by **Mike Hart**

Photograph by Cedric Robertson

False Bay is well known for its beautiful **Marginellids**. I have found such gems as **M. nebulosa**, **floccata**, **rosea** and some, as yet, unnamed, species. I have now added another to my list. **Marginella lineolata**. Early in October this year I found my first live mature specimen.

Marginella lineolata is found from 10 m and deeper. The foot is plain white underneath with red dots on top. The proboscis and antenna is white with red dots. The mantle is opaque with red dots.

The shell is a dirty grey white colour with fine grey axial zig-zag markings and indistinct darker blotches. It ranges from False Bay to the Great Fish River.

THE EDITOR WELCOMES articles for **STRANDLOPER**. Also photographs (preferably black and white prints) with notes. Interesting finds can also be shared through **STRANDLOPER**.