



THE  
CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

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*Afrivoluta pringlei* Tomlin 1947

DENNIS HARPER KENNELLY

The death of D.H. Kennelly, President of our Society, has come as a shock to all members, even though it was known after his last illness that his condition was serious.

Born in Grahamstown on 6th May 1890 he worked at a bank after leaving school. Sometime during the period 1936 - 38 he worked at the Port Elizabeth Museum as Conchologist. He then took a post in Uitenhage.

He became a friend of the East London Museum on its inception in 1931 and in 1961 he offered his entire collection as a gift to that institution. In accepting the gift the Director of the Museum suggested that he be appointed Conchologist, which post he assumed on 1st January, 1962.

The Society has lost one of its most dedicated members, for Mr. Kennelly, while not a Foundation Member, joined shortly after the formation of the Society in 1958 and from the start he was active in furthering its interests in every way open to him. Himself an ardent collector and student, he encouraged others to join the Society, and stimulated their interest in the fascinating hobby of shell-collecting, and was always ready to share his knowledge both by direct conversation and by writing articles for the Circular. There must be very few issues of the Circular which do not contain at least one article by him, and these contributions will be greatly missed. He was instrumental in forming the Border Group, and guided this keen and active body up to the time of his recent period of ill-health. Elected an Honorary Member in 1961, he became Council Representative for the Border Group in 1962 and in 1964 was elected President.

He wrote the well-known book "Marine Shells of Southern Africa" the first edition of which was published in 1964, with a second, enlarged and revised edition being published in 1969. He also compiled three lists of shells to be found along the South African coast from False Bay to the Natal Border as well as writing several articles for scientific papers.

Mr. Kennelly was loved by all who knew him; his bright sparkling eyes always lit up when one mentioned a new shell or a new locality. He was alert to the name changes up to

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his end which came very suddenly, but it was the way he had often said he wished to go - like the puff out of a candle.

We shall long remember him as a wonderful man, keenly interested in his shells, which became his one aim in life, and his love of helping other shell collectors. He was indeed a remarkable man.

On behalf of the Society we tender our profound sympathy to all members of his family in the severe loss they have sustained.

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Conus pastinaca Lamarck 1810 - A Correction by D. Smith

Since writing the article on deep-water shell collecting, which appeared in the February 1971 Circular (Cir.No.126,p.3) I have shown the shell I called Conus pastinaca to Mr. R. Kilburn of the Natal Museum and he unhesitatingly identified it as Conus caillaudii Kiener 1849.

The only reference I have which mentions this shell is 'Van Nostrand's Standard Catalogue of Shells', second edition. This reference gives no information at all. It is not even mentioned by Marsh and Rippingdale in "Cone Shells of the World". However, while the illustration in that work of C. pastinaca strongly resembles this shell, the spire, when viewed end on appears as a spiral flute. This is not the case with C. pastinaca where the whorls appear to be flat and smoothly contiguous.

I shall be most grateful to hear from Members more about this little known and uncommon C. caillaudii.

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Notes on Voluta africana, Reeve 1856 by The Late D.H. Kennelly

On the 19th. January, the writer had an unexpected telephone call from Mrs. Thelma Trow, of Mqanduli, Transkei, who is well known to Border members for her collecting at Coffee Bay.

According to the information received, Mrs. Trow was lucky to have collected a LIVE specimen of Voluta africana. The specimen has been preserved, and will be sent to Mr. R. Kilburn of the Natal Museum for examination and report.

Though this species is well known, and may be found from Port Elizabeth to Natal, there is some doubt as to whether it possesses an operculum. Mrs. Trow informed the writer that it does possess this, and thus the doubt expressed by Dr. Barnard (1959) may possibly be removed. Mr. Kilburn's report will be awaited with interest by all collectors both in South Africa and overseas.

The foregoing information prompted a further examination of all specimens of V. africana - and relative data - held here at East London.

From this examination some points of interest have been noted which have a bearing on the species. The ground colour of all specimens seen collected on the coast of the Ciskei is light brown (Kennelly, 1969), but it is remarkable that specimens from various localities on the Transkei coast are all of a very dark brown colour. Here and there a shell may be described as being almost black. Mrs. Trow reported having one of the latter taken at Coffee Bay.

Probably/...

Probably collectors who have been to the Transkei coast, may have noted that the colour of the sandy beaches is very dark when compared to the usual light yellowish colour of the beaches on the Ciskei coast. It seems a plausible explanation that in the Transkei there are deposits of a mineral known as 'tritonium', which is possibly the cause of the darker colour of the beaches in that area and as is well known in nature, protective colouration occurs, it may well be that specimens of *V. africana* from that coast have developed their darker hue for protection.

References:- Barnard, Dr.K.H.1959. Annals S.African Museum, Vol.XLV. part 1, Cont. to knowledge of S. Af. Marine Shells.

Kennelly, D.H. 1969. Marine Shells of Southern Africa, 2nd. Ed.

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Further Notes on South African Marginella. By C.M. Connolly

Further to the article on page 2 of Circular No. 118 the following arrangement details the varieties of *M. piperata*, and separates the possible piperata group from the cosmia group, with a few undecided species, as descriptions of the types are not available at the moment.

		<u>Size.</u>
<u>M.piperata</u> , Hinds, 1844.	all the patterns are made up of spiral lines and dots.	20x11
<u>M.piperata scitula</u> , Turton	spiral black dotted bands with two light bands	20x10
<u>M.thetis</u> , Turton 1932.	spiral band of dark spots (juv)	10x5
<u>M.albocincta</u> , Sowerby 1889.	spiral white bands, varied	20x10
<u>M.monozona</u> , Turton 1932	spiral broad brown band	19x10
<u>M.ancilloides</u> , Turton 1932.	spiral white band	18x8
<u>M.rubrocincta</u> , Turton 1932.	spiral brown lines	16.5x10
<u>M.piperata lutea</u> , Sowerby 1889.	spiral lines and dots on yellow shell	22x12
<u>M. pachista</u> , Tomlin 1913.	northerly shells and therefore short and thickened	13x8
<u>M.piperata lineata</u> , Sow.1889.	spiral dotted lines	14x?
The following shells all have a dark stain on the lower pleats and the base of the outer lip is spotted with dark grey.		
<u>M.eucosmia</u> , Bartsch 1915.	spiral broad white band	12.5x
<u>M.punctilineata</u> , Smith 1889.	continous axial streaks	9.5x?
<u>M.piperata strigata</u> , Sow 1889.	axial streaks, Tomlin says this is punctilineata	16x?
<u>M.cosmia</u> , Bartsch 1915.	axial streaks, finer than above, figure clearly shows the spotted base of the lip	11.7x6.8

*M.piperata*/....

* <u>M.piperata lineatolabrum</u> , Gaskoin 1849.	spiral purple lines, northerly shells	12x?
<u>M.fulvocincta</u> , Turton 1932.	spiral redbrown lines	13x6
<u>M.roseolineata</u> , Turton 1932.	spiral red lines, less than in <u>M.fulvocincta</u> .	10x5.5
<u>M.fuscopicta</u> , Turton 1932.	spiral dark spots	11.5x6.5
<u>M.piperata minuscula</u> , Turton.	spiral band on shoulder	12x?

It may be reasonable to consider that all those species having the dark stain on the lower pleats and the spotting on the base of the outer lip belong to the 'cosmia' group and that the others belong to the 'piperata' group.

It will be appreciated if members can supply further notes on M.pachista, M.piperata strigata and M.piperata lineata.

Where a specimen has been marked with an \* in the margin indicates that I have not a shell that compares with size or description. If any members can help I will be willing to exchange.

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#### MEETINGS:-

The next meeting of the SOCIETY will be held on Tuesday, 30th. March, 1971 in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum, at 8.15 p.m. We will see shells and hear of shelling trips in "An Evening on the Pondoland Coast".

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The next meeting of the NATAL MIDLANDS GROUP will be held on Saturday, 3rd, April, 1971 at the Natal Museum at 2.30 p.m. The subject for discussion will be "Trawled Shells".

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The next meeting of the BORDER GROUP will be held on Sunday, 28th. March, 1971 in the Lecture Hall of the East London Museum at 3 p.m.

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The next meeting of the EASTERN CAPE GROUP will be held on Saturday, 3rd. April, 1971 at 4 Molsonder Mansions, 10th Avenue, Summerstrand at 2.30 p.m.

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#### Border Notes.

Sixteen members and one visitor attended our January meeting. We were most happy to have Mr. Kennelly back with us after his illness, and our "Bennie" after a long break.

Two interesting letters from Dick Kilburn were read to the meeting. The first was to Peggy Faulkner, and contained some exciting information about the live C. capensis she had found - a full report on which we hope will appear in a later Circular. The second was to Mrs. Armstrong stating that the mystery shell she had found at Bulugha was one normally found on the South Coast of Natal. (Mr. Kennelly kept the letter which we can't find, so I cannot give the name).

Thelma Trow had phoned from Coffee Bay to say she had found a live Voluta africana, which was being sent to Dick for examination. We congratulate Thelma on this very exciting find.

Mr Kennelly/...

Mr Kennelly received an author's reprint of a book written by a Mr Beau, of New Zealand, on Cymatidae of the world. The book contains illustrations and photographs of specimens sent to him by Mr Kennelly. Comparisons between such species as *Charonia pustulata* (S. Africa) *lampis* and *tritonis* (Mediterranean) have led him to make an interesting and informative study of what he calls "geographical sub-species". We hope that this book may become available in the near future.

Since the writing of these notes we have been saddened by the passing of our "Ken".

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Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society held on Tuesday, 23rd February, 1971.

At the start of the meeting Mr Freeman informed those present of the passing of our President, Mr Kennelly, and requested the meeting to stand in silent tribute.

The notice convening the meeting, having been circulated to all members was taken as read.

The Chairman called for nominations for two scrutineers and Messrs Hart and Titterton were duly appointed.

The votes were counted and the following result was announced:-

In favour of the new constitution	52
Against the new constitution	3
Spoilt papers	6

The Chairman duly declared that as a two-thirds majority of those voting had been cast in favour of the new constitution, the new constitution was now in operation.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the scrutineers.

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Society held on 23rd February, 1971.

Mr Freeman, in the Chair, welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Mrs Lewis & Family, Mrs Pugsley, Mrs Gaynham, and Mr & Mrs D.S. Wright.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as published in Circular No. 126, were taken as read and adopted.

The following were elected Members:-

Mr J.R. Penniket, 1 R.D., Warkworth, New Zealand.  
 Miss K. Swart, "Barracuda", Indwe Road, Milnerton, Cape.  
 Mr P.G. Goosen, 18a Scully Road, Umbogintwini, Natal.  
 Mr J. Lavranos, P.O. Box 4603, Johannesburg.  
 Mr C.A.S. Roca, P.O. Box 1076, Beira, Mocambique.  
 Mrs S.E. Wastell, P.O.Box 42, George, Cape.  
 Mrs M. Farrell, 180 Main Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth, Cape.  
 Mr R. Trott, "St. Francis", Montrose Avenue, Clovelly, Cape.

It was noted that these new members were the last to be elected in terms of the old constitution.

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The Chairman warned members that, because of the rising costs of paper, duplicating and postages, it had become necessary for the Treasurer to draw on accumulated funds. This was a very sorry state of affairs and as a result the Council were considering the increase of fees. The amount of the increase would be announced later.

It was announced that Mrs Connolly had found it necessary to resign from the Council. In informing the members of this Mr Freeman expressed the Society's gratitude to Mrs Connolly for her many years of faithful service to the Society. Those members present expressed their appreciation audibly. The Council had co-opted Professor Mallory to fill the vacancy and we were most grateful to him for agreeing to serve the Society.

After tea members examined the shells on display before discussion took place. Professor Mallory displayed a large Pinna (Atrina) squamifera, Sowerby 1835, which had been collected in about 60 foot of water in Simons Bay, and he had some very interesting information to pass on about this species. The many varieties of Cypraea arabica on display were discussed, examined and compared. A very enjoyable evening was had by all as shown by the fact that the meeting closed well after 10.30 p.m.

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New Members.

Applications for membership have been received from the following and they have been elected members in terms of section 4(a) of the constitution:

Mrs P. Beuster, 5 Aandean, Cathcart Road, Humewood, Port Elizabeth.  
Proposed by C. Watters, Seconded by J. Dawson.

Miss E.J. Kriel, 64 Orange Grove, Greenwood Park, Durban.  
Proposed by G. Steele-Boe, Seconded by T. Carlsson.

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Family SCALIDAE

These are predatory, carnivorous shells occurring in all seas, and popularly known as "Wentletraps" or "Staircase Shells". The shells are high spired, usually white and polished, and consist of many rounded, ribbed whorls which gradually decrease in size from base to summit. The outer lip is thickened considerably by a reflected border, secreted during rest periods in shell growth, and this thickened lip becomes a new riblike varix as the mollusc increases in size. These are among the most delicately graceful of all molluscs.

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SECRETARY/LIBRARIAN

Mrs T.J. Carlsson

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TREASURER/EDITOR

Mr R.O. Carlsson