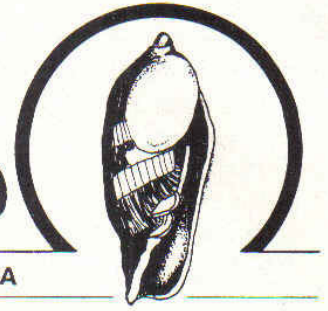


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 178

JUNE/JULY

1976

NOTES ON THE FAMILY MARGINELLIDAE RECORDED FROM FALSE BAY

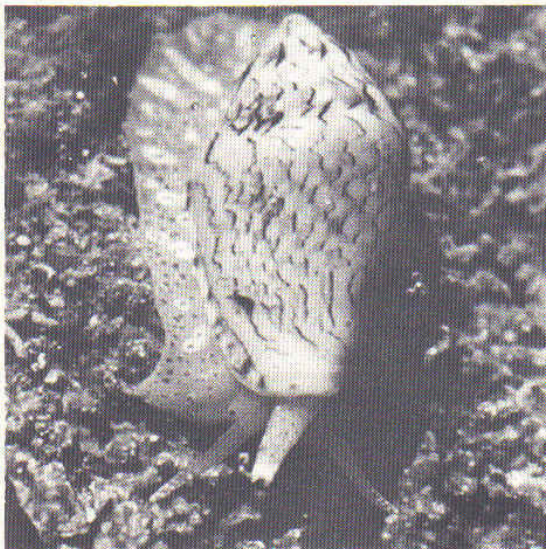
By R.O. CARLSSON

CLASSIFICATION:

Phylum	Mollusca
Class	Gastropoda
Sub-class	Prosobranchia
Order	Rhachiglossa
Superfamily	Volutacea
Family	Marginellidae

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Generally speaking the Marginellas are small, porcellaneous, highly polished shells. They are conical, ovoid or cylindrical in shape, with a long narrow aperture. The outer lip is somewhat thickened and curled inwards. The spire is short or, in some cases, nearly lacking, and the body whorl is very large. The columella is plicate or 'toothed'. The majority of the species have four pleats on the columella, but there can be anything from two to twelve, depending on the species. The largest tooth is at the bottom and they grade upwards to the smallest at the top. They can thus be distinguished from the Mitridae, where the largest tooth is at the top, grading down to the smallest at the bottom. In some species of Marginella the outer lip is denticulated.



Marginella rosea Lamarck
Cold water colour form with foot extended

Marginellas are generally to be found in sand. Some species live in rock pools, under rocks on shale, grit or sand, other species are obtained by dredging on sandbanks. They are carnivorous in their feeding habits in that they feed on other molluscs, for example *Gibbula*, and they also scavenge for dead fish.

Although many species of Marginella appear to have no radula, five radula patterns are known from South African specimens. These species fall into the following genera:—*Marginella*, *Afrivoluta*, *Persicula*, *Volvarina* and *Diluculum*. However, as so little is known about the majority of the South African species, for convenience, all are left as plain *Marginella*.

According to Day (1970) as many as twenty species are to be found in False Bay. One of these, *M.fallax*, is recorded from a single specimen, and three others, *M.floccata*, *M.perla* and *M.zeyheri*, are listed as doubtful records.

NOTES ON THE SPECIES:

Marginella pseustes E.A. Smith, 1904

Synonyms: *Persicula alborubrida* Barnard, 1969.

A very small shell of 2 mm. The shell is translucent white with three columella pleats, with sometimes a trace of a fourth. The animal, tentacles and mantle edge are translucent white, the proboscis is orange-red and the eyes are black. The mantle within the shell is black. There is no radula. The habitat is rock pools, under rocks on seaweed. The range is from the west coast of the Cape Peninsula to Natal.

Marginella aphanospira Tomlin, 1913

Synonyms: *Persicula nigrocrocea* Barnard, 1969

Another small species of 3 mm. The shell is translucent white with a high lip, no spire and four columella pleats, the upper two of which are barely visible. The animal, tentacles and mantle edge are orange, the mantle within the shell is black and the eyes are red. There is a radula. The habitat is rock pools, under rocks on seaweed and the range is from False Bay to Natal.

Marginella inopinatum Barnard, 1962

A species of 5 mm. with a creamy-white shell, ovoid in shape, the spire is short and obtuse. There are three pleats

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

on the columella. The animal is pale fawn or pinkish. There is a radula. The recorded range is from South West Africa to False Bay.

Marginella neglecta Sowerby, 1846

Synonyms: *Marginella reevei* Krauss, 1852

Marginella ignota Jousseaume, 1875

An Indo-Pacific species of about 5 mm. The spire is fairly pronounced giving a fusiform appearance. The aperture is about two-thirds of the length of the shell. The ground colour is chestnut with orange splashes or flames on the lip. Four strong columella pleats. The animal is white. No radula. The habitat is rock pools under rocks on shale, and the range is from the west coast of the Cape Peninsula to East London. According to Kilburn (Pers. Com.) our South African "*M. neglecta*" is different from the Indo-Pacific species so-called by various writers and it is uncertain at this stage which is the true *M. neglecta*.

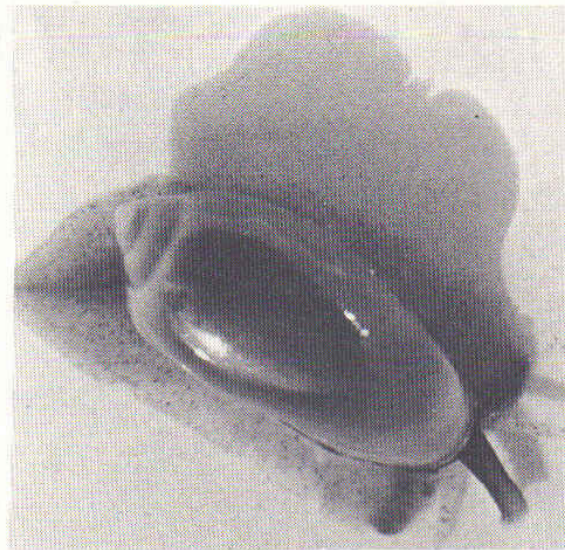
Marginella dulcis Smith, 1904

Listed as: *Marginella bensoni* Reeve, 1865.

Another small species of only 5 mm. It has six columella pleats, the apex is pointed and the outer lip is denticulated. There is a faint spiral band below the suture and another on the lower part of the base, which is indented. The range is from False Bay to Natal. The name *M. dulcis* is used here on the recommendation of Kilburn who maintains that the name *bensoni* is actually an earlier name for another species (Pers. Com.).



Marginella rosea Lamarck
Warm water colour form with foot extended



Marginella capensis Krauss
With foot extended

Marginella biannulata Fabricius, 1826

Synonyms: *Marginella bilineata* Krauss, 1848

Marginella dunkeri Krause, 1848

Marginella zonata Kiener, 1841

Marginella kraussi Turton, 1932

A shell of about 7 mm. in length. By far the most commonest of all the *Marginellas* around the Cape Coast. There are two main colour forms, either with a broad brown band in the middle of the body whorl with the extremities white, or, shell cream with two narrow chestnut bands on the body whorl. It can also be plain creamish-white, this colour form, however, is not common. There are four strong pleats on the columella. The animal, proboscis and foot are white, the tentacles opaque with white spots, and the mantle is clear, edged with pink and white spots. There is a radula. The habitat is rock pools, under rocks on shale or grit and the range is from Luderitz to the Tugela River.

Marginella rosea Lamarck, 1822

The shell reaches a length of up to 25 mm. The cold water species have a grey (sometimes white) ground colour and the warm water species have a pink to rose coloured ground colour. Both ground colour varieties have a darker pattern of small squares and zigzags. There are four strong pleats on the columella. The animal is white, the foot is plain white underneath and white, dotted with red on top. The proboscis and antenna are white with pink dots. The mantle is opaque with white dotting. There is no radula. The habitat is rock pools at low water mark and the range is from Saldanha Bay to Cape Agulhas.

Marginella capensis Krauss, 1848

Synonyms: *Marginella contharus* Reeve, 1865

A shell of about 14 mm. Oblong-ovate in shape, fawn or yellowish-white in colour with the sutures marked by a

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

narrow white band, the outer lip and columella are white. The outer lip is slightly depressed. Four strong pleats on the columella. The animal is very dark coloured, almost black. There is a radula. The habitat is sheltered sandbanks in the low water to 26 metre range and specimens may be collected by means of a trap using old fish heads as bait, or by merely sifting the sand. The range is from Luderitz to False Bay.

Marginella cylindrica Sowerby, 1846

Synonyms: *Marginella ponsonbyi* Sowerby, 1897

A shell of about 7 mm. The ground colour is white with chestnut brown cylindrical lines, or, plain fawn. There are three columella pleats. The animal is plain white and the mantle is clear. There is no radula. The habitat is in rock pools under rocks on shale or grit. The range appears to be from the west coast of the Cape Peninsula to Port Alfred.

Marginella nebulosa Röding, 1798

Synonyms: *Marginella flammea* Link, 1807

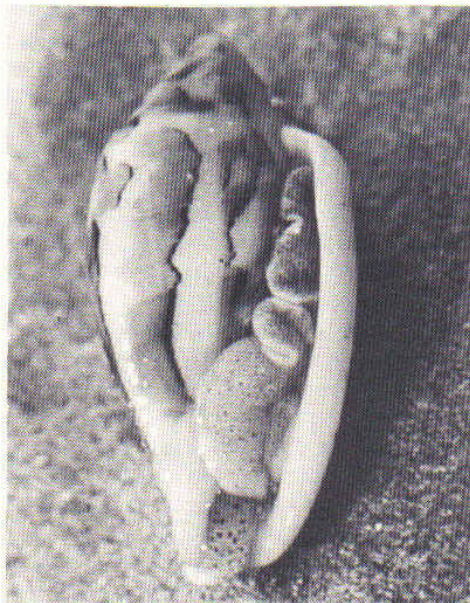
Marginella nubeculata Lamarck, 1822

Marginella nubicola Swainson, 1840

Marginella pallidus Meuschen, 1787

Marginella pyrum Gronovius, 1781

A species very rarely found on the beaches, occasionally found in rock pools, but normally dredged. A heavy greyish white shell with darker irregular marks all over the body whorl, the outer edge of the lip is white. Attains a length of up to 50 mm. Four strong pleats on the columella. The animal was not studied but there is no radula. The habitat is on sand banks at depths of 38 to 44 metres, and the range is from False Bay to beyond East London.



Marginella nebulosa Röding
Showing aperture and animal

Marginella epipolia Tomlin, 1921

A very rare species. The shell attains a length of about 24 mm. The ground colour is white with a pattern of deep grey dashes running round the body whorl. This pattern is quite irregular and is of varying size, interspersed with zig-zag flashes which proceed to the spire. The shell has a high shoulder and bluntish apex. The lip and aperture are plain white. There are four strong pleats on the columella. The animal is translucent white in colour on head, siphon and mantle, with bright white spots on the upper side of the foot. The habitat is on sand banks and the range is from False Bay to Mossel Bay.

Marginella attractus Tomlin, 1918

Synonyms: *Marginella julia* Thiele, 1925

Marginella meta Thiele, 1925

A white shell of 7 mm. with a very high spire. There are four strong pleats on the columella. The habitat is at depths of 40 metres on shale. The range is from Hout Bay to East London.

Marginella bairstowi Sowerby, 1886

Identical to *M. epipolia* except that the spire is lower and it is smaller in size attaining lengths of about 17 mm. The animal was not studied, there is no radula. The range is from False Bay to Port Alfred, possibly East London, and the habitat is intertidal to 27 metres on shale and sand.

Marginella cleo Bartsch, 1915

A shell of about 7 mm. in length. It is yellowish-white in colour with a broad aperture and four pleats on the columella. The animal was not studied. The habitat is intertidal and the range is from False Bay to Port Alfred.

Marginella cysticus Redfield, 1870

Synonyms: *Marginella capensis* Stimpson, 1865.

No information could be found about this species.

Marginella lineolata Sowerby, 1886

A deep water species of about 27 mm. The ground colour is dirty white and there are thin, irregular axial lines. There are four strong pleats on the columella. The habitat is at about 100 metre depth and the range is from False Bay to the Great Fish River.

Marginella musica Hinds, 1844

Synonyms: *Marginella diodochus* A. Adams & Reeve, 1848.

A cream, pale buff or grey shell with dark spiral lines, varying in number. Specimens vary in length from about 15 to 25 mm. There are four strong pleats on the columella. There is no radula. The animal was not studied. The habitat is in shale and sand at a depth of about 50 metres. The range is from Luderitz, around Cape Point to Cape Recife.

Marginella fallax E.A. Smith, 1903

A white shell of about 9 mm. in length, with a very high spire. The length of the aperture being about two thirds of

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the total length of the shell. The range is from False Bay to East London and the habitat is at depths of about 40 to 60 metres.

Marginella perla Marrat, 1876

Synonyms: *Marginella biplicata* Krauss, 1852

Marginella chrysea Watson, 1886

Marginella innocens Turton, 1932

A translucent creamy-white shell of 10 mm. in length. A feature of this species, which may be regarded as a diagnostic character, is the retention of previous lip varices on the outer surface. Sometimes it gives an almost turreted appearance to the spire. The range is from the west coast of the Cape Peninsula to Port Alfred.

Marginella zeyheri Krauss, 1852

Synonyms: *Marginella aurclia* Thiele, 1925

Marginella pura E.A. Smith, 1904

A creamy-white shell of 7.5 mm. in length. Biconical in shape with the outer lip forming a strongly projecting shoulder. The habitat is at up to 150 metres depth. The range is from Port Elizabeth to Natal with records from Saldanha Bay and False Bay.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I am grateful to Mrs C. Connolly, of Cape Town, for assistance and advice in the early days of my *Marginella* collecting, to Mr J. Watt, also of Cape Town, for lending me his excellent colour slides from which I was able to take the black and white photographs published with this article, and, to Mr R. Kilburn of the Natal Museum for advice on the original draft of this article.

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INTERTIDAL TALK

We notice that yet once again a new shell has been named after a member. Mrs Muller found a shell in Durban Bay which has been described by Mr Kilburn and is to be known as *Clavagella mullerae*. A number of new species have been found by members during the last couple of years and they are to be complimented that they sent these

shells to Mr Kilburn for describing. The object of the Society is to promote the study of mollusca in general and those of Southern Africa in particular and these members are doing just that.

Early in May subscription accounts were sent to all members who are liable for subscriptions for the year ending 30th June, 1977 (some had already paid in advance). The response has been terrific and we would like to thank all those members who have paid so promptly, especially those who have added extra by way of donation and bank exchange. Prompt payment of subscriptions is beneficial to the Society in that it saves the expense of sending out reminders as well as giving funds for short-term investment, thereby earning more interest.

SHELLS BY ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT

By V. MILLAND

Certain shells contain certain pigments which when subjected to external radiation (such as Ultra Violet light) will show fluorescence. What happens is that the atoms become excited by the absorption of the radiation (Ultra Violet Light) and then emit radiation as the atoms decay to lower states.

One such pigment is porphyrin which is found in the skins or shells of many invertebrates. I have a *Voluta junonia* fossil (25 million years old) - it is chalk white. There are very faint reminders, almost like oily marks, which indicate where the black squares once were. Under Ultra Violet light this long-gone pattern shows up fluorescent yellow.

Another result which was startling is the *Cypraea mappa* - the pink one - this shows up fluorescent scarlet. There are many other shells which show up the green, yellow or red. Some are *Marginella ornata*; some *Marginella rosea*; some Keyhole Limpets, *Cypraea mappa*, *Zoila venusta*.

But experimenting is all the fun. It is generally the shells that are primitive (evolutionarily speaking) that show these traits.

The prerequisites for such an experiment for those interested in trying it, will firstly be to obtain a fluorescent tube which emits light in the Ultra Violet range, i.e. 3200 angstrom units to 4000 angstrom units. (320 nano meters to 400 nano meters); 4000 angstrom units being the edge of violet; 3200 angstrom units being the limit of Ultra Violet that will pass through glass. Mount this tube on a board suspended about 20 cm from the floor. The shells can then be placed under the light to be viewed.

Two things to remember: A white background to the shell will not show up the fluorescence as well as a dark background; and secondly, the Ultra Violet Light can not be detected by the eye. The iris does not therefore close down and conjunctivitis of the eye can result.

For photographic purposes it is important to have filters. I do not know to what extent the Ultra Violet light will effect the light-reading of your camera, so I suggest an Ultra Violet filter. Very good results are obtained by using a No. 8 Yellow Filter. This is probably the best, as some violet light is emitted from the tube.

SIXTH EUROPEAN MALACOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN THE NETHERLANDS (Amsterdam, 1977)


The Sixth European Malacological Congress of the UNITAS MALACOLOGICA EUROPAEA will be held in the week 15-20 August, 1977, in the Free University, Amsterdam. This congress, under the auspices of a Comité d'honneur consisting of Dr. Vera Fretter (U.K.), Dr. A. Riedel (Poland), Dr. K.M. Wilbur (U.S.A.), Dr. J. Lever and Dr. C.P. Raven (both from the Netherlands), is intended to be a meeting place of everybody engaged in or interested in any branch of malacology. Apart from the usual items on the program such as a meeting of the European Invertebrate Survey, field trips, and the General Assembly of the U.M.E., there will be twelve main lectures by specialists in the various fields. Ten of those have already consented to read a major paper, viz., Dr. E.A. Malek (U.S.A.) on the control of snail hosts of schistosomiasis, Dr. J. Joosse (Netherlands) on the endocrinology of molluscs, Dr. J. Knudsen (Denmark) on deep sea bivalves, Dr. J. Lever (Netherlands) on torsion in gastropods, Dr. A.S.M. Saleuddin (Canada) on shell formation, Dr. A. Solem (U.S.A.) on zoogeography of land gastropods, Dr. N.H. Verdonk (Netherlands) on symmetry and asymmetry in the embryonal development of molluscs, Dr. M.J. Wells (U.K.) on brain and behaviour of cephalopods, Sir Maurice Yonge (U.K.) on cementation in bivalves, and Dr. A. de Swaan (Netherlands) on the energy metabolism in molluscs. There will also be so-called 'poster sessions' in order to present material and data instead of contributed papers, for which latter also provision will be made.

All malacologists, i.e., everybody working with molluscs, whether in a professional capacity or not, are invited to attend the Amsterdam congress. For further information write to Sixth European Malacological Congress, c/o Congresbureau van de Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam, Holland.

The fees will be as follows: Hfl. 100.- for full congress members (approximately US\$ 40), Hfl. 20.- for associate members (e.g., accompanying ladies), and Hfl. 50.- for student members.

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We would welcome any article of interest to Shell Collectors for future publication.

CHANGES TO JANUARY 1976, MEMBERSHIP LIST

Due to a misunderstanding we published a change of address of Mr. A. Andrade e Silva in the last issue of the Strandloper. It was in fact Mr. A.D. Da Silva Ramalho who moved from Moçambique to Portugal. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this error. The correct addresses for these two members is:

- 1975 Mr A. Andrade e Silva, 1 Amajuba St., Noordheувel, Krugersdorp 1750
- 1975 Mr A.D. da Silva Ramalho, Avenida De Portugal 18A, Estoril, Portugal.

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- S 1976 Miss L. Langlands, 123 van Buuren Road, Bedfordview 2008
- 1976 Mrs E.C. Danks, 18 Maple Ave., Willowpark, East London 5201
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- S 1976 Master A. Leroi, P.O. Box 2003, Pretoria 0001
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CHAGNE OF ADDRESS:

- 1974 Mr. J. Davidson, 50 Woodside Road, Tamboerskloof 8001
- 1969 Mr E. Caponnette, via Cavottole No 14, 80069 Vico Equense, Italy

RESIGNATIONS:

- 1971 Mrs H. Fuller, Cape Town
- 1969 Mrs E.A. Lewis, Port Elizabeth
- 1969 Miss V. Lewis, Port Elizabeth
- 1972 Miss C. Watkinson, Durban
- 1964 Mr P.D. de Broglio, Salt Rock.

EXCHANGES WANTED

- Mrs D.A. Alska-Wilkinson, P.O. Box 9, Ruwa, Rhodesia. Would like to make contact with collectors with a view to obtaining all South African and other species of Cowries.
- Mr F.G. Cabral, Jr., P.O. Box 313, Westport Point, Westport, Mass., U.S.A. 02791. Would like to contact members who would be interested in trading specimens in exchange for most native American shells.
- Mrs M. Murphy, 13 Churchill Ave., Devonport 7310, Tasmania. Would like to contact members with the view to exchange.

BACK COPIES OF CIRCULARS FOR SALE

Copies of back numbers of the Society's circulars are available at 10 cents each or in sets, complete with index, at the following prices:—

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	161 to 170	10 cents each, no index.

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

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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**

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(Founded 1958)

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Personal Smalls from members — R1,00 per column inch.

AROUND THE GROUPS

EAST LONDON: With apologies from four, five members attended our April meeting which was held at the home of Mrs P. Palmer. It was decided, in view of the transfer of half the existing committee, that the Annual General Meeting be brought forward to 19th May. Also decided that it be recommended to members of the Group that a smaller committee of three members only be elected. The Port Elizabeth Group had been advised that work on the combined Check list had been suspended for the time being. The family *Natica* was discussed.

PIETERMARITZBURG: Mrs M. Armstrong has stepped in as acting secretary to fill the gap caused by the sudden death of Mrs G. Webber and we are grateful to her for assisting the Group in this way. At our last meeting Mr Kilburn, our chairman, discussed the Harpidae. Specimens and illustrations were passed around for members to study during his talk.

JOHANNESBURG: In February our meeting was designed to bring new and old members together — the former to bring their queries and the latter, their expertise. With a preponderance of those who had joined the Society in 1975, it was an evening of enthusiasm and, we hope, encouragement. Then in March Eddie Ralph forsook the excitements of "Shane" for the sake of Cymatiidae. Those others who defied the wind and wet thoroughly appreciated his slides of Cymatiidae species. Eddie has a few more drawings to do before his work on the Cymatiidae is complete. We still have some

copies of the Mitridae of Southern Africa which are available at a nominal charge of R1,00 per copy. Anyone interested would write to the Secretary, Transvaal Group.

DURBAN: We recently attended a meeting in Pietermaritzburg — not really a meeting as far as discussing shells was concerned but more interesting as we discussed amalgamation of the two Groups in Natal. Another most enjoyable meeting was held at the Young's flat in Durban. There were some very lovely shells from overseas on display. Mrs H. Nash from the United Kingdom who was out here on a visit attended the meeting which she thoroughly enjoyed. We are all looking forward to the visit during May of Mr Abbottsmith and Mr Brough from Australia.

PORT ELIZABETH: Our March meeting was characterised by the attendance, for the first time, of an overseas member — Mrs M. de Lanoy Meijer from the Netherlands. For discussion were three families: Turbinidae, Liotiidae and Siphonariidae. Mr McLachlan explained the way Siphonaria breathe; they are to be regarded as land snails who breathe air. They cannot breathe when the tide is in and the sea covers the rocks on which they live. Mrs Ball displayed a very nice collection of Turbo shells. At our April meeting we congratulated Mr McLachlan on obtaining his doctorate in Marine Biology. The families Donacidae and Fissurillidae were discussed. Our May meeting was our Annual General Meeting and after the Chairman's report on the years activities was presented the following Committee members were elected:— Chairman: Dr. A. McLachlan, Vice-Chairman and Secretary: Mr F. Graeve, Members: Mesdames Ball, Hoogenhout and Watters. The family Marginellidae was discussed.

PRETORIA: Our April meeting was our third Annual General Meeting and was attended by twenty-three members and guests. Four apologies were received. After the Chairman's report on the years activities was presented the Committee was re-elected for a further year. The business being completed the Cymatiidae and Marginellidae were discussed. Daar was ongeveer vyftig lede en besoekers by ons vergadering van Mei 5. Die ere-gaste Mnre F. Abbottsmith and B. Brough, albei van Australia, is deur die voorsitter verwelkom en voorgestel. Mnr Abbottsmith is 'n deskundige op die gebied van die Australiese Volutidae en het ook 'n boek oor die skulpe geskryf. Die skyfies met kommentaar deur Frank Abbottsmith gelewer was besonder interessant, skulpe sowel as diere, plante, ensovoorts. Hy is hartlik bedank.

CAPE TOWN: Mr Freeman spoke at our March meeting on the colouration and patterns on shells. His talk was most clearly illustrated by using an arrangement of rollers, patterned paper, a glass rod and a light behind. Early in April we had an "extra" meeting: when about twenty members were among the audience at the slide and film evening given by Mr Rodney Jongklaas of Sri Lanka. This evening was enjoyed by all. At our April meeting Mr Kapp gave a most interesting talk on the Strombus illustrated with the many shells of this genus that were on display. After the tea break we had a new experience in the viewing of shells. Mr Millard and Mr Freeman put on a display using ultra-violet light. Slides were shown giving us an unusual effect using natural and ultra-violet light. The highlight was seeing some fossil shells 25 million years old, lime encrusted and chalky white showing their pattern clearly under the ultra-violet light. On 15th May we held a field outing at Kommetjie. The weather was perfect but only 15 members and friends attended. Everyone present was satisfied with their finds.

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