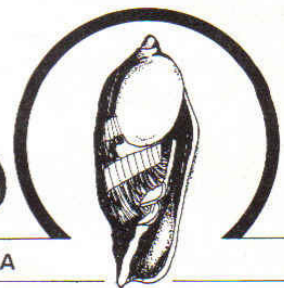


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 202

JUNE/JULY 1980

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RICHARD & THELMA CARLSSON

After a decade and a half, the members of the Society can be excused for assuming that the Secretary and Treasurer were as much a permanent part of the scenery as Table Mountain, and so it was with consternation that we learned that they had decided to resign from the central council.

Richard's business partner has died, leaving him with a heavy work load that requires all his attention and the help of Thelma as well. This has made it impossible for them to devote any time to the Conchological Society's affairs although, of course, they intend keeping up their interest in shells and their connection with the Society through Richard's membership.

It is a privilege to pay tribute to Richard and Thelma for their years of service and self-sacrifice during which they have given up many hours of their spare time to attend to members' business. I know they would be the first to say that their joint positions of Secretary and Treasurer, which can be very suitably held by a husband and wife team, have given them great satisfaction and fulfilment, but that is because they have so wholeheartedly and enthusiastically tackled the job.

We should also remember the care with which our finances have been looked after and the efforts put into the development of the STRANDLOPER from its old roneo'd format as a circular, to the professionally printed magazine it is today. This has called for a continuous monitoring of technical and financial resources, and the sacrifice of free evenings and weekends to look after members' affairs. It wasn't all beer and skittles.

All members will want to say to Richard and Thelma a very sincere thank you for a job well done.



A BEACH SPECIMEN OF CYPRAEA FULTONI

Pretoria member T.R. Duncan has sent us an interesting photo of a specimen of *Cyp fultoni* collected in the surf at Haga Haga.

It is very unusual for this species to be found in this way. As we know, it is a deep water species normally found only ex pisco. The specimen was sent to Mr R. N. Kilburn of the Natal Museum where it was confirmed to be *fultoni*.

NEW SUBSPECIES CONUS ALGOENSIS AGULHASI

As mentioned in our previous issue, the Malacological Society of the Netherlands publishes a journal, *BASITERIA*, in which there is currently appearing an alphabetical revision of the Conidae, under the joint authorship of H.E. Coomans, R.G. Moolenbeek and E. Wils. The issue dated 19 June 1980 contains a description of a new subspecies of *Conus algoensis*. This is the form in which the body whorl is a plain grey colour with just a single narrow band of reddish brown immediately below the shoulder. Type locality Cape Agulhas.

There is bound to be a good deal of disagreement about the validity of this, on the grounds that the typical *Conus algoensis scitulus*, with its speckled body whorl, varies a great deal as to the degree of speckling. It is quite usual to find a series of these shells ranging from the densely speckled form with a dark shoulder band and a broken zone of brown flecks at the base of the shell, through various degrees of speckling down to (or up to) the plain shell with only a narrow brown band at the shoulder.

However, if we reject this new classification, we must then also query the status of *Conus algoensis simplex* which also varies in the intensity of its markings, so that it virtually bridges the gap between *Conus algoensis algoensis* and *scitulus*.

The main weakness in the validity of the subspecies *agulhasi* lies in the fact that it is found in the same area as the typical *scitulus*, and merges with it, whereas the other subspecies in the *algoensis* complex occur in fairly well defined localities.

Please refer to the comments in our issue: No. 195, etc. on this species.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

The National Geographic Magazine has, over the years, published a number of issues containing articles of specific interest of conchologists. Many of these back issues can be found at reasonable prices in second-hand book shops and on the book stalls at church bazaars. Here is a list for you to look for:

January 1932 – Fantastic Sea Life from Abyssal Depths. Paintings and photos, mostly of fish.

August 1935 – Cephalopods. Paintings and photos.

February 1937 – Denizens of our Atlantic waters. Paintings and photos of marine animals including shells.

June 1940 – Great Barrier Reef.

July 1949 – Shells Take You Over World Horizons. The first major article devoted to shells.

February 1952 – Bimini Islands. Many photos of live molluscs on these islands of the Bahamas group.

July 1952 – Plankton. Mainly paintings.

June 1955 – Glass Menageries of the Sea. Colour photos of jellyfish and many other organisms.

January 1957 – Great Barrier Reef.

January 1959 – Sea Horses.

October 1959 – Creatures of Hawaii's Coral Reefs.

March 1965 – Tree Snails, Gems of the Everglades.

November 1966 – Marvels of a Coral Realm. Underwater photos among the reefs off Florida.

May 1967 – Micronesia. An article describing life on the islands of the Marianas, Carolines and Marshalls.

March 1969 – The Magic Lure of Shells. This issue rivals the earlier one of July 1949.

December 1971 – Shy Monster, The Octopus.

June 1973 – Great Barrier Reef.

November 1973 – The Friendless Barnacles.

September 1975 – Strange World of the Red Sea Reefs.

January 1976 – The Chambered Nautilus. Remarkable photos of the animal.

July 1976 – Truk Lagoon. Describes marine organisms have covered the island of the Japanese war in this

CONUS VISAGENUS/ INFRENATUS

Dr Hugo Wessels has commented that further specimens of the shell classified as *Conus visagenus* Kilburn have been found, which seems to confirm that it can be regarded as a valid species and not just an unusual form of *infrenatus*. See also our article on Cones in Issue No. 195, etc.

Incidentally a live specimen of *Conus infrenatus* was brought to a meeting of the Cape Town Branch a few months ago by Billy Liltved. It was found off Jeffreys Bay and is now in the S.A. Museum in Cape Town.

CAPE AGULHAS

Cape Agulhas is the most southerly point of the African continent. Here and at neighbouring Struisbaai which is immediately to the East, a number of fine holiday cottages have been built. Families flock to this area in the summer but outside of the holiday season it is quiet and at times almost deserted.

Speed restrictions and the high price of fuel have discouraged many Capetonians from making the three and a half hour journey because it is a bit far for just a day trip, and the hotel accommodation is limited. Caravanners with a weekend to spare might find the place worth a visit.

Our member Michel Fascio who lies in the area reports some interesting finds at Struisbaai: *Nerita albicilla*, *Callipara bullatiana* (beach), *Conus tinianus* and an albino *tinianus*. Apart from the *tinianus*, the others must be at the most westerly end of their range. A couple of specimens of the rare *Trivia neglecta* have also turned up in the course of many long and weary walks along the shore.

The editor's remaining impression of the place is of an unremitting and perishingly cold wind, but perhaps it is not always like that.

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CONUS MOZAMBICUS

Comments continue to come in about the proposal by Mr Jerry Walls in his Cone Book to use the name *Conus guineensis* for the shell we know as *C. mozambicus*. Readers may have seen the article in the Hawaiian Shell News for September 1979 by Dr Dieter Röckel of Germany. Dr Röckel has sent us the following additional comments:

Walls bases his choice of the name *C. guineensis* on a picture by Chemnitz which he relates to the written description of *guineensis* by Gmelin, 1791, but which other authorities consider to relate correctly to the old German description of *guinaicus* Hwass. The locality of the species is also clearly mentioned as being the coast of Guinea which at the time included Senegal, so the shell described can hardly be our Cape Cone. Walls also seems to have problems with *Conus guinaicus* which he considers to be a synonym of *C. ermineus* but this is not so. It is a valid species on its own.

Where a familiar and commonly accepted name is called into question, it should only be dropped in favour of a prior name when there is absolutely no doubt about the case. If the type specimen no longer exists and there is the least uncertainty about the illustration and description, the older name should not be revived as it only causes confusion.

The conclusion we have come to therefore is that we would be well advised to retain the name *Conus mozambicus*.

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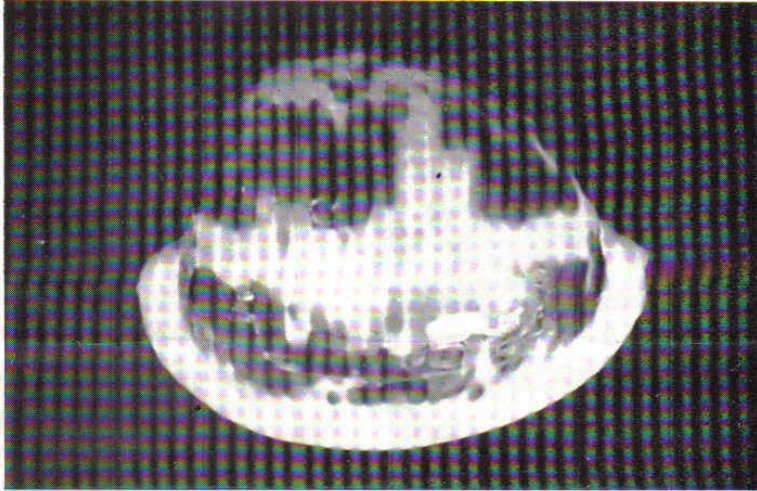
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*Cypraea iu tsui*

CYPRAEA IU TSUI Shikama 1974

Another rare and beautiful cowrie is slowly becoming known to collectors from specimens trawled off the Agulhas Bank. It was recorded with much doubt by Barnard (1963) as a globose form of *Cypraea fusciorubra* Shaw 1909. The shell has also been labelled as *Cyp. similis* Gray 1831 but this name is preoccupied as a synonym of *Cyp. erosa* Linne (*Cyp. similis* Gmelin 1791) and so cannot be used.

Live material was apparently taken by a Taiwanese trawler and sent to Shikama at the Yokohama University where he described it as a new species under the name *Cypraea iu tsui* in 1974.

The shells in the S.A. Museum were badly worn and faded and broken, but a perfect specimen has recently been acquired and it is now possible to see the shell in all its glory. The base is covered by a substantial callus which is a delicate pink colour, while the dorsum is a creamy salmon colour overlaid with pale brown maculations. Our black and white photo doesn't do justice to it. It is definitely not the same as *fusciorubra* or *gondwanalandensis* as suggested by Walls in his book *COWRIES* (second edition 1979).

ANNE WILSON

The past financial year of our Society has seen several changes in the composition of the committees that guide the affairs of the Branches around the country. One of these was the withdrawal from the Pretoria Branch committee of that lively figure, Mrs Anne Wilson.

In many ways she reminds one of our founder, Leila Kerr, who was likewise an incorrigible stirrer-up and organiser who prodded the lethargic local conchologists into life some 20 years ago. It can fairly be said that Anne's enthusiasm did much to build up the Pretoria Branch into the active group it is today, with its regular shell shows that have become such a praiseworthy feature of their activities despite their distance from the sea. The sheer inconvenience of living inland, cut off from the main source material of one's hobby for long periods, is enough to dampen the enthusiasm of most people, and it needs a dedicated and strong personality to provoke, to revitalise and to encourage a group to remain active in such circumstances. Thanks, Anne, for your contribution to the Society's progress, and may you continue for many years to enjoy your shell collecting.

EXCHANGES WANTED

- Mr J. Trondle, B.P. 1753, Papeete, Tahiti, requests contact with members to obtain worldwide shells in exchange for Polynesian shells. Interested in Mitridae.
- Mrs Clarice Connolly, 45 Monton Road, Kenwyn 7764, wants land shells.
- Student member Dalton Gibbs, Mountain Street, Hout Bay 7800, wants help to expand his *Marginella* collection.
- E. Rolán, Canovas del Castillo 22-5^o, Vigo, Spain, offers West African *Conus*, *Cypraea*, *Marginella* and *Murex*, preferably in exchange for shells of these genera, but others also acceptable.
- Duane L. Thenhaus, 1856B, Beech Drive, Grand Forks Afb, N.D. 58205, U.S.A., Has a large list of Pacific shells from Hawaii and elsewhere. His main interest is in *Cypraea* and *Conus*.
- Dr G.S. Hubrecht, P.O. Box 720, 2149 River Club, originally from Belgium, now temporarily living in South Africa, has a comprehensive list of W. European, Mediterranean and N.W. African as well as S.W.A. species for exchange. Wants lesser known S.S. marine species, trawled, dredged or dived shells, microshells, etc.
- Louis Willems, 8 Round Plein, 1881 Meise (Brussegem), Belgium, has written to us in Nederlands as he has difficulty with English. He would like to make contact with collectors and is interested in *Patellas*.
- Roger Hendrickson, P.O. Box 88411, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815, wants a gem specimen of our *Columbarium eastwoodae*.
- Stephen Samu, c/o G. Quentin, Apartado Postal 1729, San Jose, Costa Rica, offers a number of Central American cones and cowries in exchange for S.A. cones and cowries.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 1979 Dr M R Hart, Victoria Hospital, Lovedale 5702
- 1979 Mrs M R Hart, Victoria Hospital, Lovedale 5702
- 1974 Dr D L J van Vuuren, Posbus 31, T.B. Hospitaal, Parow Vallei 7505
- 1973 Mrs C M Watters, 108 Rietvlei Centre, Ixia Street, Milnerton 7405
- 1978 Mrs S M Cuckow, 32 Riverside Park, Lourensford Rd., Somerset West 7130
- 1977 Mrs D M Juniper, 8 Arend Avenue, Rand Park Ext. 5, Johannesburg 2194
- 1969 Miss M I G Mains, 205 Merrow Down, 5 Rudd Road, Illovo 2196
- 1974 Mrs J A Scheepers, Waterhof 603, Spuystraat 398, Sunnyside 0002
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The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half the subscription to ensure membership to 30th June. Members joining after March are expected to pay a full subscription which will be carried forward to the following year.

An Entrance Fee of R1,00 (U.S.A. \$1,50) is payable by all applicants except Student members.

The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper, is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:—

Cape Town:	Secretary: Mrs. C. Bootsma, P.O. Box 211 Durbanville 7550	
Port Elizabeth:	Secretary Mr. F. Graeve, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6056	Tel.: 54-3374
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Pretoria:	Secretary: Mr. T.R. Duncan, 131 Burger Ave., Verwoerdburg 0140	Tel.: 62-1548
Port Shepstone:	Mrs. D.L. Borland, P.O. Sea Park 4241	Tel.: 5-0543

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AROUND THE GROUPS

Activities continued unabated during the winter months.

EAST LONDON: Meetings were held monthly in April, May and June, with the Annual General Meeting on July 18th. Office bearers for the year 1980/81 were elected:— Chairlady — Eva Roscoe; Vice-chairlady — Natalie Russell; Secretary — Noggs Newman; Treasurer — Joan Tasker; Committee — Jill Linsdell and Pat Palmer. A parcel of shells received from Cape Town was sold for Strandloper funds and R39 was raised.

PORT ELIZABETH: The committee was re-elected for the following year and is as follows:— Chairman — Mrs M.W. Mears; Vice-chairman — Mrs E.E.F. Sadler; Secretary — Mr F. Graeve; Co-opted members — Mrs L.W. Evans and Mrs R.E. Hoogenhout. Some live taken specimens of *Conus mozanbicus lautus* have been sent to the Natal Museum for examination of the animal. Mrs Sadler, who is working on the shell collection at the Jeffreys Bay library, had heard that divers had obtained live specimens of *Cypraea edentula* and *Calli-para bullatiana*.

CAPE TOWN: The new committee for the year ending June 1981 is: — Chairman — Mrs R. Botes; Secretary — Mrs C. Bootsma; Treasurer — J. Coquillon; Members — D. Scha and D. Wilson.

Meetings continue at the S.A. Museum on the second Monday of each month, and field outings have been held at Melkbos and Kommetjie.

PORT SHEPSTONE: Fellow members will offer condolences to the families of Messrs D. Borland and D. Smith who died in June. The group has been considering ways of improving a system of recording the distribution of shells in their area as a contribution to a nationwide record. The Southern Natal Branch is to be congratulated on its constructive approach to conchology and its responsible attitude and awareness of the considerations that extend beyond the localised interests of individual shell collectors.

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

CHANGES TO MAY 1980 MEMBERSHIP LIST

OMISSIONS

1975 Mr L.P. Burnay, Rua Maestro Antonia Taborda 41.1, Lisboa 3, Portugal.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1980 Mrs C. O'Brien, P.O. Box 2006, Windmeul 7630
- S 1980 Mr S.J. O'Brien, P.O. Box 2006, Windmeul 7630
- 1980 Mrs C. Bootsma, P.O. Box 211, Durbanville 7550
- S 1980 Miss G.L. Robson, 45 Orchard St., Newlands 7700
- S 1980 Mr Q.E. Stanton, P.O. Box 1, Observatory 7935
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- 1980 Mrs E.C. Ewels, 104 Stellenhof, Alma Rd., Rosebank 7700
- 1980 Miss B.L. Dreyer, 48 Wellington Rd., Wynberg 7800
- 1980 Miss L.L. Wyness, 13 Crossley Rd., Sunnyside, East London 5201
- 1980 Mr B.P. Bursey, Lowlands, P.O. Kei Road, 4920
- 1980 Mr W.D. Gellatly, 22 Blackburn Rd., Beacon Bay 5241
- 1980 Miss B.A. Martin, 18 Aragon Rd., Amphyll, Bedfordshire MK45 2TL, U.K.
- 1980 Mr G.F. Ratti, via T. Tasso 4, Milano, Italy 20123
- 1980 Mr L. Willems, 8 Rond Plein, 1881 Meise, Brussels, Belgium
- S 1980 Master Kenneth Rodney Borland, 73 Cyclamen Terrace, P.O. Sea Park 4241.
- 1980 Mr T G Frost, 46 Severn Rd., Plumstead 7800.
- 1980 Mrs C E Frost, 46 Severn Rd., Plumstead 7800.
- S 1980 Mr H G Frost, 46 Severn Rd., Plumstead 7800.
- 1980 Mr Hideo Katori 2-5 - 2-Chome, Miyuki-cho Suma-ku Kobe - City Japan 664.
- 1980 Mrs D.M. Koekott, 1, Deary Drive, Gonubi 5256.

DEATHS

- Mr D Borland, P.O. Sea Park 4241 - June
- S Mr P L van der Walt, Bryanston, Tvl.
- S Mr S J Visser, 65 Sir George Grey St., Horison, Roodeport 1725 - May

RESIGNATIONS

- Mr S Aaron, Fife Road, Rondebosch 7700
- Mr S T Theron, Heidelberg, Struisbaai 7285
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