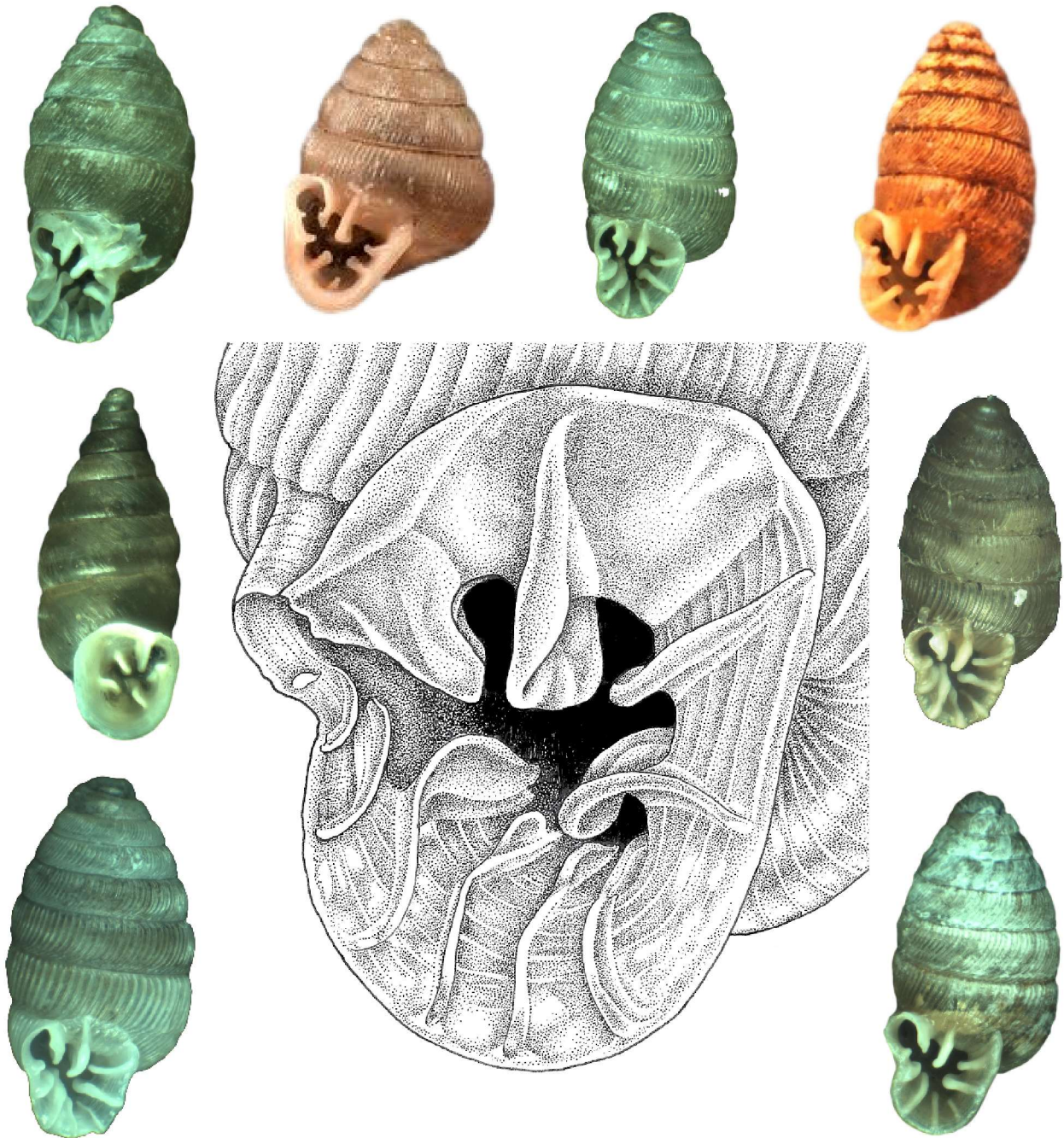


the Strandloper



Strandloper 300 September 2021



The amazing Fauxulidae

Shell Collectors SA

Founded 1958

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FRONT PAGE

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilliana drawing by Linda Davis, with permission by Dr Dai Herbert. Species of *Fauxulus* surround the drawing.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) pereximia (Melvill & Ponsonby 1897)

Image: Ken Brown

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300 Editions later...

It is an extraordinary milestone, and one I am privileged to be participating in. This is the 300th edition of the Strandloper.

It takes place in a time of uncertainty, but with hope firmly on the horizon that the fear and devastation of the Covid 19 pandemic will come to pass, albeit as a grim and awful test of resilience and the indomitable spirit of humankind.

We have also lived through some of the worst days of our country's history since the darkest days of apartheid, and violence and anarchy has threatened to overwhelm us. We generally seem to have low expectations of our leaders, our future, our fellowman, and the brain drain of intellectuals, leaders and entrepreneurs is sharply on the increase. What cause for celebration, you may well ask?

It is often in our darkest hour that hope shines the brightest. It is a time, when, if we take the time to look, we find the moments of quiet heroism, of a deep and abiding spirit of faith in humanity, a belief in one another, and the extraordinary which lies close within our reach. It does not matter how dark the night is: when we look to the night skies, it is not the darkness that we see, but rather the myriad individual stars that represent a fraction of the enormity of the universe. Some years ago, at my mother's funeral, I had the hardest of tasks - as a son, to do her eulogy. I showed all her family and friends a totally black page, with one white dot on it. That dot was my mother's life, it was what immediately drew one's eye to the otherwise blackness of the page. She shone like a star in the darkness of the night. Yet she also belonged to the night, for without it, her brightness would have been lost.

The same is true of our wonderful indulgence, as hobby or science or both. In the dark days that have been our reality, many of us have drawn fortitude and comfort from the consistency of having conchology as a constant companion throughout this strangest of journeys. It has become that star in the night, giving us comfort and showing us that we, and our passion, are all truly exceptional, if we but take the time to ponder and accept.

As the pages of time have turned, and I look back at 300 editions of the Strandloper, I have seen so many improvements, so many leaps and bounds in our knowledge. Yet I cannot but be humbled by all the bright and shining stars that have kindled our passion and interest. I have been a member of the Society for almost half a century. I have not met many of the great doyens and stars of South African conchology. Yet I have been

enriched by the passion and knowledge they have brought to bear. You will notice within this edition that there are tributes to two of our leading members from yesterday who have passed away. One is to Maureen Purdon, written by Barbara Fouche. I never knew the lady, but I truly wish I had met her. Douw Steyn too has passed. They are part of the indelible backbone that has made our Society and its members great. There are many like them and I would do a great injustice if I selected just a few to pay tribute to, from the long list of special people who have graced our Society, and made it special. It would truly be a wonderful reflection in a future edition to look to some of our South African conchologists who have made our journey that much more special...

Yet, in many ways, every one of us has been part of the specialness of our Society's great journey, each a star in our own way. And so this 300th edition is a time for reflection, a tribute to the small and great leaders that have been our past, are our present, and will be our future. Thank you all for being a part of it.

Let us revel in this day together, let us make it the more special by having lived it to the full, shining in the darkness of the night.

"... and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy"

Max Ehrmann's *Desiderata* 1927

Ken Brown
Editor



Updating the Fauxulidae

by Ken Brown

It has been said that if a man has no appreciation of the small things in life, he will have but a false appreciation of the large things. Arthur Conan Doyle put it a little differently: "It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important."

The family of tiny Southern African landshells the Fauxulidae has puzzled scientists for a while as to its placement. It has at one time or another been assigned to the Chondrinidae, the Pupillidae and subsequently in the widespread European and Asian family the Orculidae (Gittenberger E. 1983. Beitrage zur Kenntnis der Pupillacea. IX. Nochmals uber Orculidae. *Proceedings of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, C* 86: 325–34).

A relatively recent phylogenetic study has indicated that *Fauxulus s.l.* is not closely related to the Orculidae, resulting in the creation of the family Fauxulidae Harl & Pall-Gergely *fam. nov.* (Harl J., Haring E., Asami T., Sittenthaler M., Sattmann H. & Pall-Gergely B. 2017. Molecular systematics of the land snail family Orculidae reveal polyphyly and deep splits within the clade Orthurethra (Gastropoda: Pulmonata). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, Vol 181, 2017, p778-794*). The authors place the family within the order *Stylommatophora* and the clade *Orthurethra* Pilsbry 1900, but dismiss the creation of a superfamily proposed by Schileyko in 1998 (Schileyko A. 1998. Treatise on recent terrestrial pulmonated molluscs, part 1. Achatinellidae, Amastridae, Orculidae, Strobilopsidae, Spelaeodiscidae, Valloniidae, Cochlicopidae, Pupillidae, Chondrinidae, Pyramidulidae. *Ruthenica 1 (Suppl 2): 1–127*), on the grounds of insufficient molecular data.

The type genus is *Fauxulus* Schaufuss, 1869, with the type species being *Pupa capensis* Küster, 1841. The genera included in the family are the nominotypical subgenus *Fauxulus* Schaufuss, 1869, and the subgenera *Afriboysidia* Zilch, 1939, *Anisoloma* Ancey, 1901, *Fauxulella* Pilsbry, 1917 and *Tomigerella* Pfeiffer, 1878).

Authors creating the original subgenera often applied the scantest of reasoning in doing so, with genera and subgenera often being dragged into existence at a whim, such as on the basis of placement of lamella in relation to their distance from the edge of the apertural lip, or the colour of the shell.

The entire family begs to be looked at on the basis of a holistic evaluation which includes DNA sequencing, genital studies, morphology and distribution patterns.

I can find almost no justification at present, except for the geographically distinct and morphologically dextral *Afriboysidia*, for the continuation of the baldly unscientific and vague rationales provided for the existence of the subgenera as they presently stand.

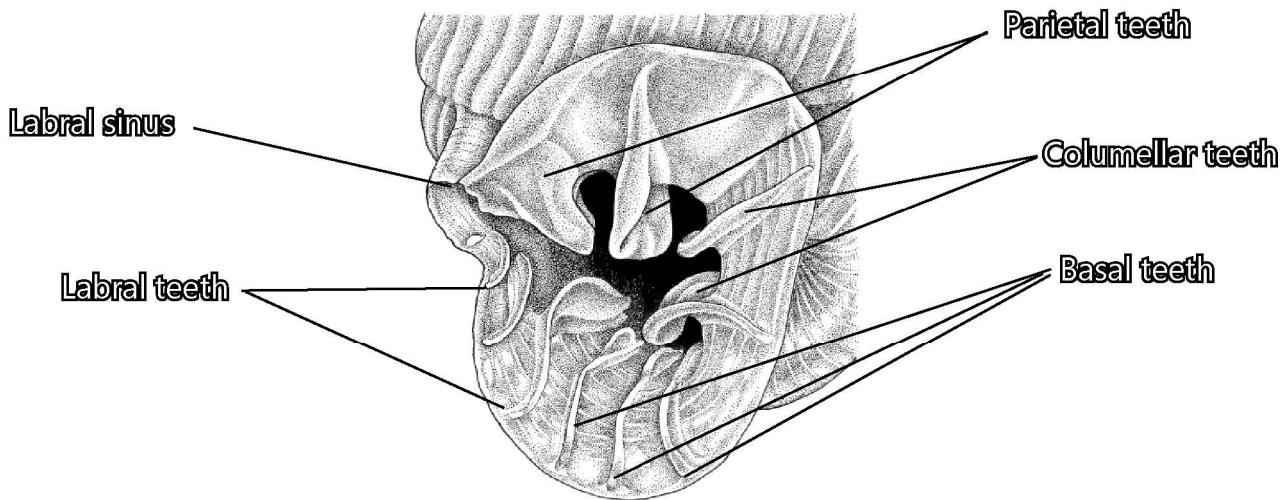
Considering that Harl *et al.* undertook phylogenetic studies in 2017 to establish the family, and determine genera and subgenera, it is sad that their re-evaluation was so unhelpfully partial.

I have provided this update knowing that a major re-evaluation appears warranted, and have retained present unhelpful classifications.

I have however reduced *Fauxulus kurrii* to synonymy with *Fauxulus capensis*, as I can see no justification whatsoever in my mind for its existence as a separate species.



The type species *Fauxulus capensis*



The wonderfully complex dentition of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilliana*
 This drawing is taken, with permission, from the 2004 *Field Guide to the Land snails and slugs of eastern South Africa* by Dai Herbert and Dick Kilburn.
 The drawing is the work of Linda Davies.

Shells are generally sinistral and occasionally dextral, elongate-ovate, conic or fusiform.

The peristome is strongly expanded and reflexed; the protoconch is smooth or spirally striated; the teleoconch is smooth to ribbed.

The parietal and angular lamellae are strong, but short; there is a columellar lamella, sometimes also with additional lamellae or denticles, and there are generally also several additional, mostly tuberiform denticles and teeth present.

Shells are often axially sculptured.

Many species exhibit short hairy bristles at suture lines and along the periphery of the body whorl, as remnants of the periostracum.

The family is distributed primarily in South Africa with three species being found in Namibia, a single species being recorded from Malawi and five from Madagascar.

Van Bruggen records that *Fauxulus* seems to prefer moderately cool conditions, combined with a fair amount of rainfall, but this of course fails to account for the desert-dwelling subgenus *Afriboysidia*.

He correctly notes that species from the Cape Point to about Mossel Bay tend to favour a coastal, open fynbos environment, whilst more easterly and inland species tend to prefer sheltered forest environments.

The genus *Fauxulus* Schaufuss (1869).

(Schaufuss L.W. (1869). *Molluscorum systema et catalogus. Aufzählung sämtlicher Conchylien der Sammlung von Fr. Paetel. Dresden: Oscar Weiske, 1869, p 15*).

Shells are generally sinistral and perforate, cylindrical with a conic summit or acutely ovate. The aperture has at least five teeth, two of which are on the paries, two on the labrum and one on the columella, although there can be up to twelve teeth on some species.

The nominotypical subgenus *Fauxulus* Schaufuss (1869).

In zoological nomenclature, when a genus is split into subgenera, the originally described population is retained as the “nominotypical subgenus” or “nominate subgenus”.

Within the nominate subgenus *Fauxulus*, there is just one species, *Fauxulus capensis*, as I have synonymised *Fauxulus kurrii* with it.

The subgenus is found predominantly in the Western Cape, and invariably inhabits open coastal plains, sheltering under fynbos bushes.

A characteristic of the subgenus is that the angular parietal lamella emerges onto the lip edge of the aperture, with all other teeth being set distinctly deeper.

***Fauxulus capensis* (Küster, 1841)**

Cape cask shell

Described by: Küster H.C. (1841-1855). Die Gattungen *Megaspira*, *Balea* und *Tornatellina* In Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen. *Systematisches Conchylien-Cabinet von Martini und Chemnitz*. Bd. I Abt. 15. 1841, p10.

Original name: *Pupa capensis*.

Synonyms: *Fauxulus aghulasensis*, *Fauxulus burnupianus*, *Fauxulus capensis pottbergensis*, *Fauxulus kurrii*, *Fauxulus ovularis*, *Fauxulus ovularis fortidentata*, *Pupa fonticola*.

Whorls: 9-10.

Size: Up to 11,7mm in height and 5,2mm in width, with the type species measuring 7,9 x 3,4mm.

Shell description: A sinistral, ovate-acuminate to cylindrical, blue-white but often faded shell with close, slightly irregular, slightly curved and oblique axial striations. Pfeiffer reduced *Pupa ovularis*, first named by Küster in 1841, to the status of a junior secondary homonym for *Pupa kurrii*, as he believed the name *Pupa ovularis* had already been applied elsewhere (although this was an incorrect assumption as that shell was in fact a member of the Chondrinidae). Burnup was clearly of the opinion that *Fauxulus kurrii*, which at the time he was writing was a subspecies of *Fauxulus capensis*, was “scarcely worth perpetuating” as a separate name and was no more than its synonym. In 2012 Schileyko undertook anatomical examination of both species and decided that this species was “most probably” a synonym of *Fauxulus capensis* (Schileyko. A.A. (2012). On the anatomy of Orculidae with special reference to the spermatophores (Gastropoda Pulmonata, Stylommatophora). *Ruthenica*, vol. 22, No. 2, 2012, p143.

It is writer’s view that the perpetuation of the status of *Fauxulus kurrii* as a separate species is unwarranted and that it is no more than a slightly larger and more ovate version of *Fauxulus capensis* with which it should properly be synonymized. It has a sympatric

but far smaller distribution than *Fauxulus capensis* being found in the Cape Peninsula and eastwards through Swellendam (where the type species is found) to Bredasdorp in the Overberg and Bettys Bay.

Aperture: Sub-quadrate and ochre-colored in fresh specimens. Five to sixfold dentition consisting of an angular parietal lamella on the left of the paries, commencing from almost the height of the top of the labrum, and situated close to it an inset mid-parietal lamella, parallel to the angular parietal lamella, a roundly trigonal, mid-columellar tooth, occasionally there is a small basal denticle to the right of centre and two thin, upward-inclined lamellae appearing as lower and mid-labral teeth.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Lightly impressed.

Locality: The shell ranges throughout the coastal western Cape, from Cape Point, along the coast northwards to St Helena and Saldahna Bay, eastwards to Swellendam, where the type species is found, and along the coast as far east as Port Elizabeth. There are records of the shell being found at Kuruman and Kimberley, which are certainly dubious, and Van Bruggen recorded in 1983 that despite intensive collecting by him in Kimberley, he failed to find the shell.



Connolly’s 1939 depiction of *Fauxulus capensis* (left) and “*Fauxulus kurrii*” (right)



Pilsbry's 1917 Manual of Conchology drawings indicating variations in *Fauxulus capensis*



Typical *Fauxulus capensis* from Cape Aghulas (left) and Somerset West (right)

Fauxulus capensis aghulensis (left) and *Fauxulus kurrii*, both synonyms for *Fauxulus capensis*

The subgenus *Fauxulella* Pilsbry, 1919

Pilsbry H. A. (1916-1918). *Manual of Conchology, structural and systematic, with illustrations of the species. Ser. 2, Pulmonata. Vol. 24: Pupillidae (Gastrocoptinae). pp 1-380. Conchological Section, Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia, 1917, p241.*

Pilsbry distinguishes this subgenus from the nominotypical subgenus *Fauxulus* Schauffuss, 1869 on the basis that this subgenus, represented by just one species, is darker in colour, has more numerous teeth and an expanded peristome.

***Fauxulus (Fauxulella) pamphorodon* (Benson, 1864)**

Jug-shaped cask shell

Described by: Benson W.H. (1864). Descriptions of new species of *Helix* and *Pupa* from the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Zoology, Botany and Geology, Ser 3, Vol 13, 1864, p495.*

Original name: *Pupa pamphorodon*.

Whorls: Up to 10,5, first two practically smooth, remainder with strong, coarse, oblique axial ribbing and microscopic spiral grooves.

Size: Up to 10,7 x 4mm.

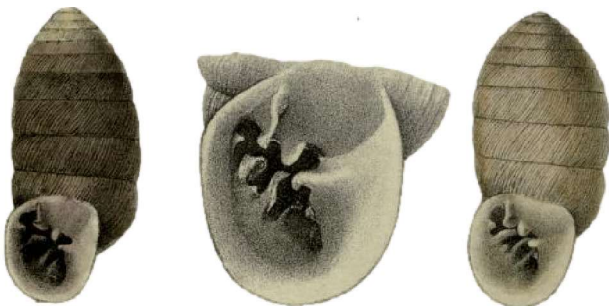
Shell description: The shell ranges in colour from a dark chocolate-brown on its spire to a far paler colour further down the shell.

Aperture: Subquadrate but rounded at the base with ninefold dentition: a thin, ridge-like curved and angular parietal lamella which commences on the upper labral lip, a small, almost parallel parietal lamella to the left of centre, a very large butte-like columella lamella with at least three teeth set on this common slab, a small sharp denticle at the top of the slab, a large downward-hooked tooth midway on the slab and a pointed denticle toward the bottom of the slab, three recessed labral teeth, the lower thin and ridged, the mid-tooth curved and more solid and the upper tooth large but squat, and a small somewhat recessed trigonal upper labral tooth.

The shape and number of teeth varies, and the columellar slab may have just two teeth, and there may also be an additional small labral tooth between the recessed mid and upper teeth.

Umbilicus: Narrowly perforate.

Locality: The type species was found at Simonstown, but ranges from Cape Point as far as Hermanus.



Pilsbry's 1917 Manual of Conchology drawings of *Fauxulus (Fauxulella) pamphorodon*



Images of a *Fauxulus (Fauxulella) pamphorodon* shell in the Museum of Natural History, London

The subgenus *Afriboysidia* Zilch, 1939

Zilch A. (1939). Landschnecken aus Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika. *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 7, 1939, p221.

Zilch created the subgenus to describe *Fauxulus* shells endemic to Namibia, which exhibited 5 to 6 whorls, were somewhat ovate in shape and had a prominently dextral and sub-ovate aperture containing generally quite short dentition. He noted that the subgenus exhibited similarities with the Southeast Asian genus *Boysidia* Ancey, 1881 which falls within the Gastrocoptidae, and hence the name derivation of the subgenus.

Fauxulus (Afriboysidia) buchmanni (Zilch, 1939)

Buchmann's cask shell

Described by: Zilch A. (1939). Landschnecken aus Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika. *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 7, 1939, p222.

Original name: *Afriboysidia buchmanni*.

Whorls: 6, the topmost whorl smooth, the remainder with close, fine, oblique, axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 4,5 x 2,6mm.

Shell description: This shell is the type species for the subgenus. It is dextral and ovate, and is differentiated from other Namibian *Afriboysidia* by its fine, regular axial ribbing.

Aperture: Characterised by an enormous and solid, thick lip. The aperture contains at least sixfold dentition which is slightly recessed. Teeth are generally short but solid and consist of two short and ridge-like parallel, angular parietal lamellae, a minute sinular denticle higher on the labrum, a large, oblong and butte-like, upper-labral tooth, a squarish mid-labral tooth, a roundly trigona, lower-columellar tooth and a slightly longer roundly trigonal mid-columellar tooth.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: The type species is found at Kaliombo 60km west of Karibib in Damaraland.



Zilch's black and white image of *Fauxulus (Afriboysidia) buchmanni*

Fauxulus (Afriboysidia) regiusi (Zilch, 1939)

Regius's cask shell

Described by: Zilch A. (1939). Landschnecken aus Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika. *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 7, 1939, p223.

Original name: *Afriboysidia regiusi*.

Whorls: 5, smooth,

Size: Up to 3 x 2mm.

Shell description: This shell is dextral, ovate, smooth and somewhat transparent.

Aperture: Characterised by a large, solid, thick lip. The aperture contains fivefold dentition which is slightly recessed. Teeth are generally short but solid, consisting of two short and solid angular parietal lamellae set on a common slab, a trigonal, upper-labral tooth, a squarish, lower-labral tooth and a roundly trigonal, mid-columellar tooth.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: The type species was found on Friedland Farm between Mariental and Aus.



Zilch's black and white image of
Fauxulus (Afribosidia) regiusi



Zilch's black and white image of
Fauxulus (Afribosidia) volkmanni

***Fauxulus (Afribosidia) volkmanni* (Zilch, 1939)**
Volkman's cask shell

Described by: Zilch A. (1939). Landschnecken aus Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika. *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 7, 1939, p223.

Original name: *Afribosidia volkmanni*.

Whorls: 5, with fine, oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 4 x 2,7mm.

Shell description: This shell is dextral, ovate and broader than the two preceding species.

Aperture: Characterised by a large, solid, thick lip. The aperture contains fivefold dentition which is slightly recessed. Teeth are generally short but solid, consisting of two short and solid angular parietal lamellae set on a common slab, the lower the larger, a roundly trigonal, upper-labral tooth, a squarish, lower-labral tooth and a roundly trigonal, mid-columellar tooth.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: The type species was found on Auras Farm in the Rietfontein Mountains of Damaraland.

The subgenus *Anisoloma* Ancey, 1901

Ancey C.F. (1901). Notes critiques et synonymiques sur quelques Mollusques. *Journal de Conchyliologie* 49(2), 7 July 1901, p141.

Ancey examined specimens of *Fauxulus pereximia*, *F. glanvilleana* and *F. pononbyana* and believed their shape and dentition was distinctive enough to create the subgenus *Anisoloma*.

Often early authors applied excessive optimism in creating subgenera, and with this subgenus it is difficult to determine what constitutes its defining characteristics.

Connolly in his 1939 Monograph devotes the briefest of descriptions to the subgenus: "All or nearly all lamellae emerge to the edge lip" (Connolly M. A Monographic Survey of South African Non-marine Mollusca. *Annals of the South African Museum, Vol 33, 1939, p384*), whilst Herbert and Kilburn simply describe *Anisoloma* as "species occurring in the eastern region", (Herbert D.G, Kilburn D. (2004). Field Guide to the land snails and slugs of eastern South Africa. *Publication of the Natal Museum, 2004, p108*).

Species within this subgenus include one Malawian species, five Madagascan species and

and a number of South African species which range from the Eastern Cape to KwaZulu-Natal, with isolated occurrences in the eastern interior of South Africa, probably attributable to very partial collecting rather than anything else.

However, the patchwork distribution and vague common morphologic similarities allows for only the most threadbare of logic in creating this subgenus. All shells evidence sculpturation, and are sinistral with the exception of the Madagascan *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) milloti*. Dentition commences, as Connolly points out, close to the inner edge of the generally thickened lip. All species appear to have at least two parietal lamellae, two labral lamellae and two columellar lamellae.

The Madagascan shells

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) andohahelae (Emberton & Pearce, 2000)

Andohahela cask shell

Described by: Emberton K.C. & Pearce, T.A. (2000). Small, high-spired pulmonates from Mounts Mahermana, Ilapiry, and Vasiha, southeastern Madagascar, with description of a new genus, and with conservation statuses of 15 streptaxid species. *The Veliger*, Vol 43, 2000, p129.

Original name: *Fauxulus andohahelae*.

Whorls: 6.

Size: 4,4mm in height and 3,3mm in width.

Shell description: A sinistral, closely ribbed shell with sutures angled downwards at approximately 20 degrees.

Aperture: Subtrigonal with eightfold dentition, consisting of two ridge-like, thin, shortish, parallel, mid-parietal lamellae, two thin columellar lamellae set on a common slab and parallel, the lower the longer, a deep-set and small, trigonal, mid-basal denticle, a deep-set, ridge-like, angular, lower labral lamella, and two minute denticles set at either end of a common upper-labral slab.

Umbilicus: Deeply perforate.

Sutures: Shallow and angular.

Locality: Found in rainforest leaf litter on the slopes of Mt Vasiha at 700m elevation, adjacent to Andohahela Reserve, within which it is to be incorporated.



Emberton and Pearce's black and white image of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) andohahelae*

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) gaillardii (Fischer-Piette et al., 1994)

Gaillard's cask shell

Described by: Fischer-Piette E., Blanc C., Blanc F., Salvat F. (1994). Gastéropodes terrestres pulmonés. *Faune de Madagascar*, Vol 83, 1994, p17.

Original name: *Fauxulus gaillardia*.

Whorls: 7, protoconch smooth, with remaining whorls with close, regular and slightly oblique axial ribbing.

Size: 6mm in height by 4mm in width.

Shell description: A ribbed, whitish-yellow, sinistral shell.

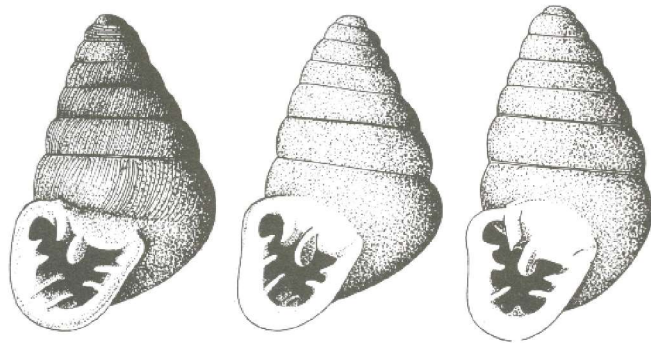
Aperture: Subtrigonal with a thickened lip. Dentition is ninefold, consisting of two short but stout, parallel parietal lamellae, the left ending sharply whilst the right ends somewhat bulbously, two short, almost horizontal, rounded, mid-columellar teeth, a minute trigonal basal denticle

to the far right, a thin, sharpish trigonal basal denticle to the left of centre, a rounded lower-labral tooth, a rounded mid-labral tooth and a roundly trigonal upper-labral tooth.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed with banding.

Locality: The shell is found in south-eastern Madagascar at Chaines Anosyennes.



Fischer-Piette et al drawings of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) gaillardi*

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) josephinae (Emberton & Pearce, 2009)

Josephine's cask shell

Described by: Emberton K.C. & Griffiths O.L. (2009). Pulmonate land mollusks from three rainforest transects in northeastern Madagascar: part 1 of 2, with descriptions of 12 new species and one new subspecies: (Gastropoda: Pulmonata). *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 138(2), 2009, p139.

Original name: *Fauxulus josephinae*.

Whorls: 7, with oblique axial ribbing of varying strength.

Size: Up to 8mm in height and 5,5mm in width.

Shell description: An orange-brown, ribbed, sinistral shell.

Aperture: Obliquely ovate with a thickened lip. Nine to tenfold dentition, consisting of two thin, ridge-like, parallel and reasonably close-set parietal lamella of similar length, two short, ridge-

like. mid-columellar teeth, the lower the longer a very small trigonal basal denticle to the far right, sometimes absent, a thin, sharpish trigonal basal denticle to the left of centre, a rounded lower-labral tooth, a thin, ridge-like, mid-labral tooth and two roundly trigonal upper-labral teeth.

Umbilicus: Deeply perforate.

Sutures: Deeply impressed and angular.

Locality: Rainforest leaf litter on Mt Ambohivohitra, southwest of Antalaha at an elevation of 500m.



Variations in *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) josephinae*

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) milloti (Fischer-Piette & Bedoucha, 1965)
Millot's cask shell

Described by: Fischer-Piette E. & Bedoucha J. (1965). Mollusques terrestres de Madagascar. Famille Vertiginidae. *Bulletin du Museum National de Histoire Naturelles, Paris, Vol 40 (1), 1965, p14.*

Whorls: 6, protoconch smooth, the remaining whorls with regular and slightly oblique and wavy, axial ribbing.

Size: 9mm in height by 5,5mm in width.

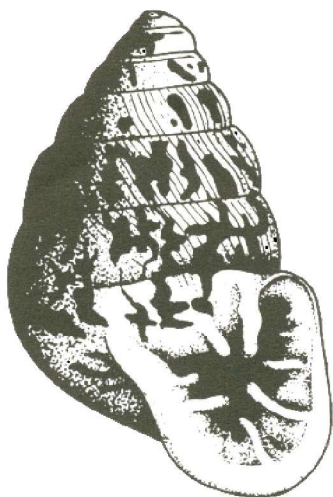
Shell description: A ribbed, dextral shell with dark-brown, blotched patterns on a lighter beige background, irregularly covering the entire shell.

Aperture: Obliquely subtrigonal with ninefold dentition, consisting of two thin, ridge-like parietal lamellae facing slightly inwards towards one another, a minute sinular denticle, below this a very small ridge-like upper labral lamella, a thin, ridge-like mid-labral lamella, a long, ridge-like, upward-slanted lower-labral lamella, an angular, thin, ridge-like, mid-basal lamella, a long, thin, ridge like mid-columellar lamella and a short, thin upper-columellar lamella.

Umbilicus: Deeply perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: Found in rainforest leaf litter at Ambohositondrona on coastal northeastern Madagascar.



Fischer-Piette & Bedoucha drawing of
Fauxulus (Anisoloma) milloti

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) tsarakely (Emberton et al., 2010)
Tsarakely cask shell

Described by: Emberton K.C., Slapcinsky J., Campbell C.A., Rakotondrazafy J.A., Andriamiarison T.N., Emberton J.D. (2010). Terrestrial mollusks of Andriantantely Massif, Eastern Madagascar, with descriptions of 36 new species (Gastropoda: Caenogastropoda; Pulmonata). *Archiv für Molluskenkunde 139 (1), 2010, p89.*

Whorls: 6, with faint oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 4,7mm in height by 3,5mm in width.

Shell description: A sinistral, yellowish-brown, ribbed shell.

Aperture: Obliquely subtrigonal with a thickened lip. Dentition is eightfold, consisting of two stout, angular, ridge-like, parallel parietal lamellae, two parallel ridge-like lamellae appearing as upper- and mid-columellar teeth, a thin, small, angular, ridge-like mid basal lamella, a long, thin, ridge-like, upward-inclined mid-labral lamella and two thin, upward-inclined parallel upper-labral lamella set on a common base.

Umbilicus: Deeply perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: Found in rainforest on the Andriantantely Massif in central-eastern Madagascar, 30km west-northwest of Ampasimanolotra.



Variations in
Fauxulus (Anisoloma) tsarakely

The Malawian Shell

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) grayi (Van Bruggen & Meredith, 1983)

Gray's cask shell

Described by: Van Bruggen A.C. & Meredith H.M. (1983). *Fauxulus grayi* n. sp., a biogeographically interesting addition to the land snail fauna of Malawi, south central Africa (Gastropoda: Pulmonata: Orculidae). *Proceedings of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, Series C. Vol 86(3), 1983, p310.*

Original name: *Fauxulus grayi*.

Whorls: 6-7, with spiral apical sculpture, remaining whorls having oblique, strong, close and regular axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 4,2mm in height and 2,5mm in width.

Shell description: A squat, acuminate-ovate, sinistral, pale rufous-brown ribbed shell.

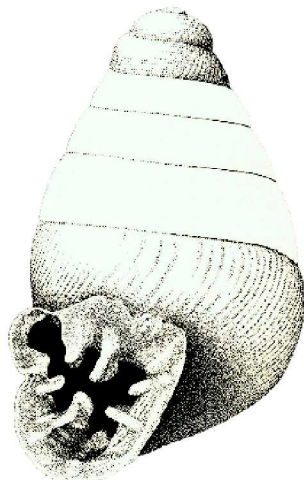
Aperture: Subquadrate and indented near mid-labrum. Dentition is eightfold, consisting of two parallel, in-running mid-parietal lamellae, a thin, ridge-like, downward-inclined upper-columellar lamella, a thin, ridge-like mid-columellar lamella, a low, rounded and recessed basal tooth to the right of centre, an upward-curved, tongue-like lower labral lamella, a small, thin, ridge-like mid-labral lamella, and a rounded protuberance which may be interpreted as an upper-labral tooth.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: Found in afro-montane leaf litter on Mt Thyolo in southern Malawi at an elevation of about 1450m.

Van Bruggen & Meredith's drawing of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) grayi*



The South African Shells

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) barnardi (Connolly, 1931)

Barnard's cask shell

Described by: Connolly M. (1931). Descriptions of new non-marine Mollusca from North, South, and Central Africa, with notes on other species. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Vol 8, 1931, p309.*

Original name: *Fauxulus barnardi*.

Whorls: 8 with oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 4,7mm in height and 2,6mm in width.

Shell description: A reddish-brown, ribbed sinistral shell.

Aperture: Subquadrate with sevenfold dentition, consisting of two stout, ridge-like parietal lamellae of similar length, inclining inwards towards one another, an inverted, boot-like mid-columellar lamella which is bifid, a low, recessed, trigonal, mid-basal tooth, a ridged, upward-inclined lower-labral lamella, a rounded mid-labral lamella and a roundly quadrate upper-labral lamella.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: Found in Keurboomsriver Nature Reserve near Plettenberg Bay.



Connolly's drawing of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) barnardi*

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) falconiana (Pilsbry, 1929)

Falcon's cask shell

Described by: Pilsbry H.A. (1929). Pupillidae from Natal and the Cape Province, South Africa. *Annals of the Natal Museum, Vol 6, Part 2, May 1929, p299.*

Original name: *Fauxulus falconianus*.

Whorls: 9, the first two smooth, the remainder with delicate, oblique axial ribbing which bends to the left as it reaches the suture below.

Size: Up to 4,5mm in height and 2,6mm in width.

Shell description: An ovate to conic, ribbed, sinistral shell which is a light cinnamon colour except for paler apical whorls.

Aperture: Sub-trigonal with an indented mid-labrum. Dentition is ninefold, consisting of two almost parallel, thin, ridge-like mid-parietal lamellae, a slightly-downward inclined, thin, ridge-like upper columellar lamella, a thin, ridge-like mid-columellar lamella, a minute basal denticle to the right of centre, and situated close to the outer lip, a thin, ridge-like, upward-inclined lower-labral lamella and two upper-labral lamellae which are thin and ridge-like and set at either end of a common base.

Umbilicus: Narrowly perforate.

Sutures: Lightly impressed.

Locality: Found at Krantzkop in the KwaZulu- Natal Midlands.



Pilsbry's drawing (left) and photograph (right) of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) falconiana*

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilleana (Ancey, 1888)

Glanville's cask shell

Described by: Ancey C. F. (1888). Descriptions de mollusques terrestres. *Le Naturaliste Vol 10, 1888, p200.*

Original name: *Pupa glanvilleana*.

Synonyms: *Pupa glanvilleana tomlini*, *Fauxulus glanvilleanus novenarius*.

Whorls: 8,5 with regular, oblique, axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 5,6mm in height and 2mm in width.

Shell description: A translucent, dark-brown, ribbed, sinistral shell.

Aperture: Subquadrate and indented at mid-labrum, with a complex array of dentition, varying from ten to twelvefold as follows: a large, somewhat recessed, trigonal lamella to the far left of paries, a ridged and solid vertical mid-parietal lamella which appears tongue-like at its base with two minute ridges at either end, a thin, ridge-like, downward-inclined upper-columellar lamella, a downward-curving, tongue-like mid-columellar lamella, three parallel and ridge-like, thin basal lamellae, a thin, ridge-like, S-shaped lower labral lamella extending upward and inward and two thin, ridge-like, parallel upper-labral teeth, the lower the longer.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed, angular and banded.

Locality: Found primarily in the Eastern Cape from East London and Grahamstown to Port Alfred and Knysna, and more isolatedly in KwaZulu-Natal at Southport, Bulwer and Krantzkop.

The subspecies *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilleana darglensis* is the most common form of the Kwa-Zulu Natal populations.



Burnup's drawing of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilleana*



Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilleana from East London

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilleana darglensis (Burnup, 1908)

The Dargyle subspecies of Glanville's cask shell

Described by: Burnup (1911). A Revision of "A Survey of the Species and Varieties of *Pupa*, Draparnaud (*Jaminia*, Risso), occurring in South Africa" by James Cosmo Melvill and John Henry Ponsonby. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Vol 7, 1911, p412.

Original name: *Fauxulus glanvilleanus darglensis*.

Shell description: The shell is similar to the nominate species, apart from being found in Podocarpus forest leaf-litter ranging from Ngelele Forest near Kokstad through to the Estcourt area and the central Drakensberg, and by having two additional teeth: a small fold-like lamella on the right of base and a minute, superficial lamella above the upper-labral lamella.



Fauxulus (Anisoloma) glanvilleana darglensis from Ngelele Forest near Kokstad

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) mcbeanianus (Melvill & Ponsonby, 1901)

McBean's cask shell

Described by: Melvill J. C. & Ponsonby J. H. (1901). Descriptions of fourteen new species of terrestrial Mollusca from South Africa. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Vol 8, 1901, p319.

Original name: *Fauxulus mcbeanianus*.

Whorls: 8 convex whorls, apical whorls smooth, the remainder with oblique, regular, close, curved axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 4,4mm in height and 2,6mm in width..

Shell description: A translucent when fresh, varying from orange-brown to whitish, sinistral shell.

Aperture: Obliquely subtrigonal with ninefold dentition, consisting of two short, parallel, ridge-like thin parietal lamellae, two short, parallel, ridge-like, mid-columellar lamellae, a short, ridge-like mid-basal lamella, an upward-inclined, thin, ridge-like lower-labral lamella, a far shorter, thin, ridge-like mid-labral lamella and a low, slab-like, bifid upper-labral tooth.

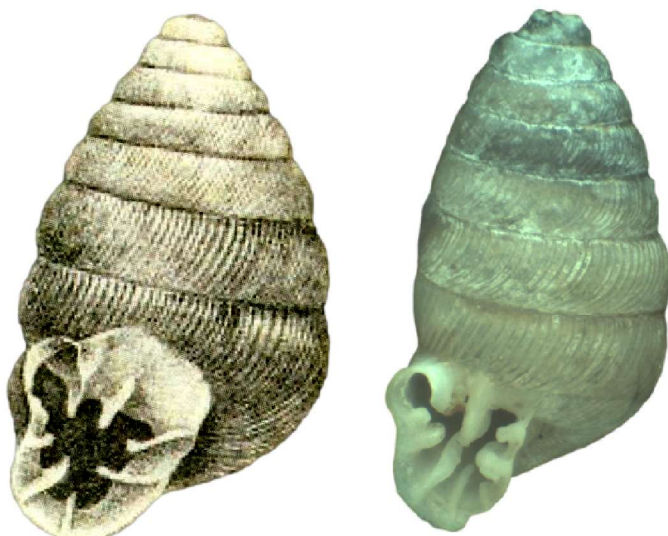
Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed and angular.

Locality: Found in the highlands of central and northern KwaZulu-Natal and the Drakensberg escarpment, ranging from Bulwer northwards and into Mpumalanga. It is usually found in podocarpus forest leaf litter and under logs.



Fauxulus (Anisoloma) mcbeaniana
from Cathedral Peak



Burnup's drawing (left) and author's photograph (right)
of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) mcbeaniana*
The righthand shell is from Sabie, Mpumalanga
(collected by author)

***Fauxulus (Anisoloma) pereximia* (Melvill & Ponsonby, 1897)**

Extraordinary cask shell

Described by: Melvill J. C. & Ponsonby J. H. (1897). Descriptions of eleven new species of land and freshwater Mollusca from South Africa. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Vol (6) 19, 1897, p 638.

Original name: *Pupa (Faula) pereximia*.

Whorls: 9,5, apical whorls somewhat lopsidedly bulbous, smooth apart from close microscopic lines, the remainder with close, regular, curved, oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 6,7mm in height and 2,8mm in width.

Shell description: A shiny brown to pinkish-brown sinistral shell.

Aperture: Sub-quadrant with a thinish apertural lip and ninefold dentition, consisting of two shortish, parallel parietal lamellae, the left sometimes stronger and subtrigonal, a curved, thin, ridge-like upper columellar lamella, a thicker ridge-like, mid-columellar lamella, a small trigonal lower columellar lamella, a short, ridge-like, mid-basal lamella, a long, pointed, thin and ridge-like lower-labral lamella, and two short, pointed denticles set at either end of a mid to upper-labral slab.

Umbilicus: Narrowly perforate.

Sutures: Impressed and inclined.

Locality: Ranges from Pt St Johns in the Eastern Cape along the coast as far as Pt Shepstone in KwaZulu-Natal.



Connolly's 1939
drawing of *Fauxulus (Anisoloma) pereximia*



Tharfield specimen of
Fauxulus (Anisoloma) pereximia



Igoda, East London specimen of
Fauxulus (Anisoloma) pereximia



Coffee Bay specimen of
Fauxulus (Anisoloma) pereximia

Fauxulus (Anisoloma) ponsonbyana (Morelet, 1889)

Ponsonby's cask shell

Described by: Morelet A. (1889). Coquilles nouvelles d' l'Afrique méridionale. *Journal de Conchyliologie*, Vol 37, 1889, p9.

Original name: *Pupa (Faula) ponsonbyana*.

Whorls: 8, apical whorls smooth apart from microscopic lines, the remainder with close, regular, curved oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 3,6mm in height by 1,9mm in width.

Shell description: An ovate-acuminate, pale rufous-brown, but often white, sinistral shell.

Aperture: Subquadrate and indented at mid-labrum, with ninefold dentition as follows: two parallel mid-parietal lamellae, the left far more stocky and subtrigonal, a downward-inclined thin, ridge-like upper-columellar lamella, a ridge-like mid-columellar lamella, a short to very short ridge-like lower-columellar lamella, a ridge-like mid-basal lamella, a ridge-like, upward-inclined lower-labral lamella, a shorter ridged mid-labral lamella and a short rounded upper labral lamella.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed and angular with banding. Short bristles are common at sutures in fresh specimens.

Locality: This species has a fairly broad South African distribution, ranging from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown and through southern coastal KwaZulu-Natal along the eastern Drakensberg escarpment into Limpopo, being recorded from Pepidi near Sibasa, and at Hangklip and Entabeni, in the Soutpansberg Mountains. I have also found shells at Sabie in Mpumalanga.



Fauxulus (Anisoloma) ponsonbyana
from Dwesa (top), Hole in the Wall (middle)
and Magoebaskloof (bottom)

The subgenus *Tomigerella* Pfeiffer 1859

Pfeiffer L. (1878-1881). *Nomenclator heliceorum viventium quo continentur nomina omnium hujus familiae generum et specierum hodie cognitarum disposita ex affinitate naturali*. Cassellis, 1879, p347.

It seems almost par for the course for early describers to create genera and subgenera without any explanation or detail, and Pfeiffer is certainly no exception in this instance. Van Bruggen indicates that the subgenus was created to cater for *Fauxulus* shells where only the angular parietal lamella and the upper labral lamella reach the edge of the apertural lip. Apparently this sort of nonsense is sufficient to create a subgenus (Van Bruggen A.C. (1967). Miscellaneous notes on Southern African Gastropoda Euthyneura (Mollusca). *Zoologische Verhandelingen, Vol 91, 1967, p5*). There are four species within this subgenus.

Fauxulus (Tomigerella) crawfordiana (Melvill & Ponsonby, 1903)

Crawford's cask shell

Described by: Melvill J. C. & Ponsonby J. H. (1903). Descriptions of thirty-one terrestrial and fluviatile Mollusca from South Africa. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Vol 7, 1903, p607*.

Original name: *Fauxulus crawfordianus*.

Whorls: 8,5, the apical whorls being smooth, the remainder with faint, fairly distant, oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 8mm in height by 3,6mm in width.

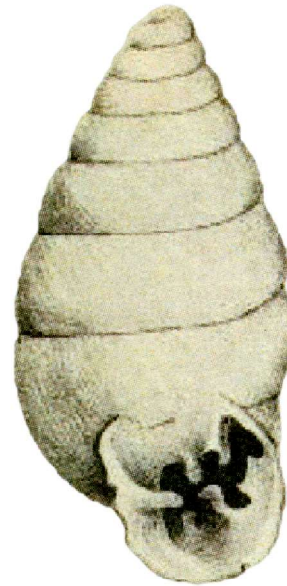
Shell Description: A transparent, pale fawn to darkish-brown dextral shell.

Aperture: Subquadrate and rounded at the base with sevenfold dentition, consisting of two fairly stubby, ridge-like parallel mid-parietal lamellae, a slab-like, upper labral tooth with two pointed denticles at either end, a thin, ridge-like, strongly-curved lower-labral lamella, a short, recessed, almost vertical mid-basal lamella and a stout, horizontal, upper labral lamella.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: Ranges along the Western Cape coast from Hermanus to Mossel Bay, where the type species was found.



Burnup's 1911 drawing of *Fauxulus (Tomigerella) crawfordiana*

Fauxulus (Tomigerella) fryana (Benson, 1864)

Fry's cask shell

Described by: Benson W. H. (1864). Descriptions of new species of *Helix* and *Pupa* from the colony of the Cape of Good Hope. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Vol 13, p495*.

Original name: *Pupa fryana*.

Whorls: 12, the apical whorls smooth, the remainder with close, regular, oblique axial ribbing.

Size: Up to 8mm in height and 4mm in width.

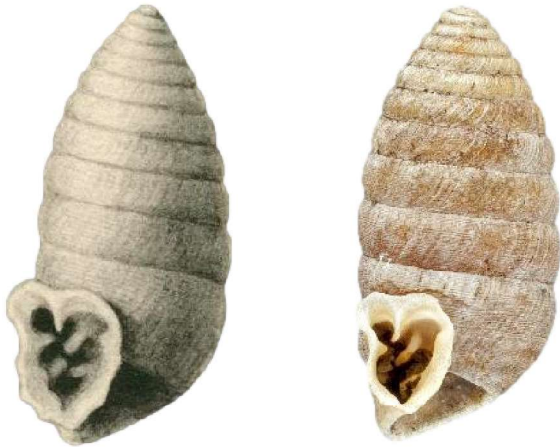
Shell Description: A silky, pale lilac to reddish-brown sinistral shell.

Aperture: Subtrigonal and indented at paries and labrum, with fivefold dentition: a sharp trigonal parietal lamella to the left of centre, situated on the lip of the aperture, a recessed, thin, ridge-like, angular parietal lamella to the right of centre, a downward-inclined, thin, ridge-like mid-columellar lamella, a deeply-recessed, upward-inclined, thin, ridge-like mid-labral lamella and a ridge-like, thin upper-labral lamella close to the apertural lip.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed and angular.

Locality: The shell has only ever been found at Bredasdorp in the southern Overberg of the Western Cape.



Fauxulus (Tomigerella) fryana

Image by Burnup 1911 (left), and Museum of Natural History, London photo (right)

Fauxulus (Tomigerella) layardi (Benson, 1856)

Layard's cask shell

Described by: Benson W. H. (1856). New land snails collected by E.L. Layard, Esq. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Vol 18, p435.

Original name: *Pupa layardi*.

Synonyms: *Pupa soluta*, *Fauxulus layardi minor*, which is a slightly smaller shell from Bredasdorp, and *Fauxulus layardi stoaphora*.

Whorls: 9, the first two smooth, the remainder with weak, slightly curved, oblique axial ribbing, which itself is crossed in lower whorls by microscopic spiral grooves.

Size: Up to 9,2mm in height and 3,3mm in width.

Shell Description: A thin, smooth, glossy, transparent, corneous brown, dextral shell.

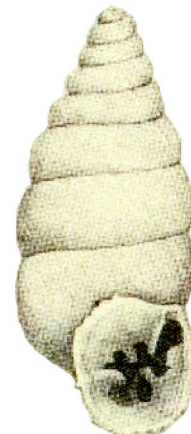
Aperture: Roundly quadrate with a thickened lip and sevenfold dentition consisting of a short, inset mid-parietal lamella, an angular, sharpish parietal lamella set close to the apertural lip, to the right of centre,

a ridge-like, upward-inclined, lower labral lamella, a deep-set mid-basal lamella, a large, horizontal mid-columellar lamella and a very small trigonal tooth at the top of the columella.

Umbilicus: Perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: Ranges from Cape Point, where the type species was found, eastwards to Hermanus.



Fauxulus (Tomigerella) layardi

Image by Burnup 1911

Fauxulus (Tomigerella) pycnochilus (Connolly, 1939)

Thick-lipped cask shell

Described by: Connolly M. (1939). A Monographic survey of South African non-marine Mollusca. *Annals of the South African Museum*, Vol 33, 1939, p384.

Original name: *Fauxulus pycnochilus*.

Whorls: 10, the apical whorls smooth, the remainder with curved, oblique axial striations.

Size: Up to 6,1 mm in height and 2,6mm in width.

Shell Description: A cylindrical, white, sinistral shell.

Aperture: Subquadrate and indented at mid - labrum and mid-columella, with sixfold dentition: a curved, ridge-like parietal lamella close to the apertural lip, set to the far left of centre, a deeply-recessed quadrate mid-parietal lamella, a deeply recessed mid-columellar lamella,

a recessed, rightward-inclined mid-basal lamella, a deeply-recessed mid-labral lamella and a swelling on the upper columella interpretable as a tooth.

Umbilicus: Narrowly perforate.

Sutures: Impressed.

Locality: The shell has only been found in the Bredasdorp area of the Western Cape.



Connolly's drawing of
Fauxulus (Tomigerella) pycnochilus



In Memoriam Maureen Purdon 02.09.1946 - 30.12.2020

by Barbara Fouche

Maureen Purdon, better known as M. Quickelberge to shell collectors, passed away peacefully at her home in Stromness, Orkney, Scotland on the 30th December 2020. Maureen was a member of the executive committee of the Conchological Society of Southern

Africa from 1982 to 1988 and was the scientific officer and later Chairman of the Durban Group of the Society. Prior to that, she held the position of researcher at the East London Museum succeeding the well known Dr Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, famous for discovering the Coelacanth in 1939. Maureen was meticulous when it came to the scientific aspects of sea shells. During her tenure at the East London Museum she met and collaborated closely with Dick Kilburn in matters conchological and malacological. He became a life long friend and mentor who she would jokingly address correspondence to as "To my mentor - From your tor-mentor". Maureen was well liked by all her shelling friends and was always a master at neutralizing club politics. One of her favourite shelling spots was Mbotyi, a remote seaside village on the Wild Coast. Those who knew her are the richer for having been touched by her enthusiasm and passion for shell collecting. Maureen will be sorely missed and remembered by many. Rest in peace, Maureen.

An overview of some South African Patellidae

Part 2 The Scutellastra

by Anton Groenewald

The *Scutellastra*

H. Adams & A. Adams, 1854

The Genus *Scutellastra*, according to Vaught, is a subgenus of *Patella*. In the second part of Patellidae of South Africa, we will look at the Genus *Scutellastra* found along the Southern African coast, excluding Madagascar and Angola.

Scutellastra aphanes
(Robson, 1986)

The smallest of the species, occurring all along the Natal Coast to the northern parts of the Eastern Cape. The exterior of shell varies from light brown to cream white. The interior is white with radiating bluish lines. The interior colour at the spire is often brown with soft blueish-grey colouring, or just a blotch of dark brown surrounded by another light orange to brown blotch on the side. Shell size 20mm. Spire high. *Scutellastra aphanes* is found almost exclusively on the bivalve *Perna perna* (Robson, 1986)



Port Edward, Kwazulu Natal

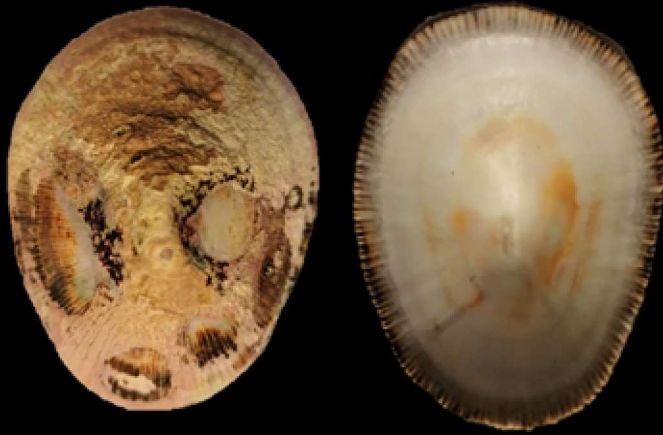
Scutellastra argenvillei
(C.F. Krauss, 1848)

Argenville's limpet ranges from Namibia all the way to the southern border of the Eastern Cape. Shell size is 60 – 100mm. The shell is large, thick and deep. The outer surface of the shell is covered in a calcium layer which erodes away as the shell tumbles in the surf. The shell's interior is white with a slight orange to brown centre around the apex. Juveniles often cling onto the exterior shell of adults, forming their own homing scar. *S. argenvillei* feeds on kelp at the low water level of spring tide, as well as on biotomes. The animal stays in close proximity to its homing scar.



Park Rynie, Kwazulu-Natal

Doringbaai, Western Cape



Kleinzee, Westen Cape

Scutellastra cochlear
(I. Born, 1778)

The Spoon or Pear limpet occurs from Namibia to Palm Beach, southern KZN, with sizes ranging from 10mm to 70mm. Shells collected on the west coast of the Cape are much larger than specimens collected at Palm Beach or Port Edward. Shells from the latter are really small measuring as little as 10mm. Pear limpets are very slow growing, and can live as long as 25 years. They live in dense clumps where they cultivate algae, to sustain larger individuals. Juveniles make their own home scar on the exterior of adults.

Scutellastra barbara
(C. Linnaeus, 1758)

The Bearded limpet is found from the Western Cape Coast to northern KZN. Shell size ranges from 50 – 100mm. Shells are variable in morphology. The ribs on the exterior of the shell are strong and high and project at the margin. The shape of the shell may vary according to locality. The shells exterior colour ranges from light brown to white. It is usually covered in algae. The interior of the shell is white with the muscle scar ranging from white to brown or orange. Shells found along the KZN coast tend to be smaller than those of the rich kelp waters of the Western Cape.



Kleinmund, Western Cape



Seapoint, Cape Town



Port Edward, southern KZN



East London, Eastern Cape

Scutellastra exusta
(L.A. Reeve, 1854)

This species of *Patella* is not endemic to South Africa, though common in the northern parts of KZN, becoming scarcer towards the South Coast. It ranges from the Seychelles, Mauritius, all the way to Mozambique and finally becoming more scarce in South African waters.

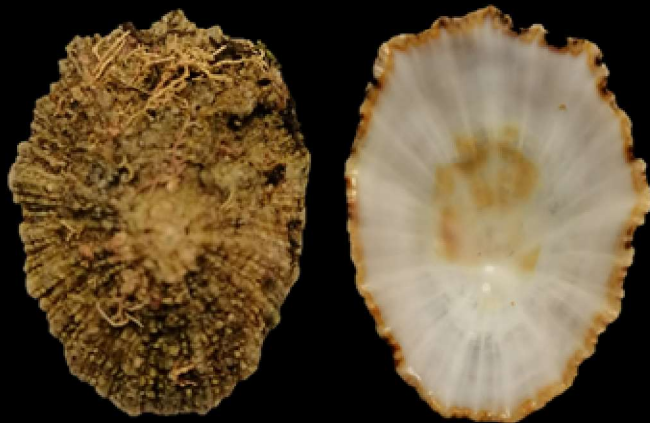
Scutellastra exusta

(continued)

The average shell size is 45 - 50mm, and it is unevenly shaped. The exterior of the shell is often covered with sea grass, and other marine flora, which hide the black dots on the cream-white surface. The interior of the shell is white with orange blemishes in the centre. This species has now been synonymized with *Patella pica* (Reeve, 1854).



Park Rynie, KZN



Park Rynie, KZN

Scutellastra granularis

(C. Linnaeus, 1758)

This species occurs from West Africa to the Eastern Cape. Shells collected on the West Coast are large and heavy, measuring up to 70mm, while the Eastern Cape specimens are smaller. The average size of the latter only reach 20mm in size. The exterior of the shell is granulated and ridged. In less eroded shells the white granules can be seen on the dark brown back ground of the shell. The interior is white.

The centre where the muscle scar is, is orange with mottled purples and browns. The edge of the shell is dark, mostly brown or black. The KwaZulu-Natal population is separated into its own species, *Scutellastra natalensis*, C.F. Krauss, 1848.



Brittania Bay, Western Cape



Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape

Scutellastra longicosta

(J.B.P.A de Lamarck, 1819)

Referred to as Duck Feet by locals, the Long Spine limpet is one of the most variable in the *Scutellastra* genus. The species ranges from the Western Cape Coast to KwaZulu-Natal. Specimens from the Western Cape have extended spikes from the ribs of the anterior of the shell, while KwaZulu-Natal species have short spikes and in some cases nearly none. Size varies by province, in a range from 30mm to 90mm.

Shells from KwaZulu-Natal are significantly smaller than specimens from the Western Cape, with hardly any rib from the edge of the shell. The exterior of the shell is mostly black or brown.

Scutellastra longicosta
(continued)

The interior of the shell is soft blue-white with a soft yellow colouring at the muscle scar. *Scutellastra longicosta* inhabits the low neap-tide zone where it feeds on brown seaweed.



The Strand, Western Cape



Kleinmond, Western Cape



Kleinmond, Western Cape

Scutellastra natalensis
(C.F. Krauss, 1848)

Without a doubt the Granulated limpet is the most common shell found along our Natal shoreline.

The species was formerly classified as *Patella granularis* (Linnaeus, 1758) – (Ridgway T.M., Branch G.M., Stewart B.A. (1999). *Patella natalensis* Krauss, 1848: re-description of an unrecognized limpet from the east coast of South Africa. *Journal of Molluscan Studies* 65:139-142. - via World Register of Marine Species)

The Natal Limpet is only found on the shoreline of South East Africa. Shell size ranges from 20 to 35mm. A distinguishing characteristic that separates it from *S. granularis* is the soft yellow rays that emanate out of the black edge from the inside of the shell.



Park Rynie, KZN



Mbotyi, Eastern Cape

Scutellastra obtecta
(F. Krauss, 1848)

Occurring from the northeastern Cape up to northern KZN. Shell size is 20 – 30mm. The shell exterior is dark brown to black with off-white ribs.

Scutellastra obtecta
(continued)

The interior of the shell is white with orange-brown colouring inside the muscle scar area. Fresh-beached shells are mostly encrusted with sand and algae.



Port Edward, KZN



Park Rynie KZN

Scutellastra tabularis
(C.F. Krauss, 1848)

The Giant Tabular limpet is unmistakable in its shape and colour. Reaching monstrous sizes that will fill a side-plate from side to side, this is the third largest limpet on earth. The shell occurs from False Bay, Western Cape to Southern KZN. The size of the shell ranges from 75mm in KZN to approximately 150mm in the rich cold waters of the Cape. The exterior of the shell is orange to brown, while the interior is white with a brown-pink border. Juvenile in this species may wonder up to 3m away from their home scars.

Scutellastra tabularis
(continued)



Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape



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Marine Ecology Progress Series 243:111-122

DOI: 10.3354/meps243111

Marine Shells of South Africa by Douw G. Steyn and Marcus Lussi.

Sea Shells of Southern Africa by Richard Kilburn and Elizabeth Rippey

SHELLERS FROM THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

By Tom Rice and Frank Maartense

“Every man on earth has his own story that is admirable in some sort of way”.

That certainly applies to us shell collectors. We are all so eager to tell our stories and to share our beautiful treasures. Even more so if the story is well written. And why not? Many shell stories have been recorded in *“Shellers from the Past and the Present”*, a database with the names of approximately 69,000 people who are or were engaged with shells. *“Shellers from the Past and the Present”* goes back to the early times of shell research.

The founding father of this magnificent database is Tom Rice, a malacologist in heart and soul. When Tom started scientifically collecting shells some 60 years ago, he noted the “authors” of the shell species and immediately wondered “who were these scholars”? In the next half century he would meet many of them. After Tom stopped with his shell magazine *“Of Sea and Shore”*, which at its height reached collectors in more than 60 countries, he looked for another challenge. Over the years, Tom compiled a photo archive of people he’d met at many shell fairs and trips around the world. Not to forget the numerous visitors to his shell museum *“Of Sea and Shore Museum of Shells and Natural History”* in Port Gamble, US.

Tom asked himself what had become of these people and their collections and began to gather information. His file started to grow, thanks also to the American Malacological Society’s *“2400 Years of Malacology”*, which lists thousands of malacologists from around the world and throughout the centuries. *“Biographical Etymology of Marine Organism Names (Bemon)”* became also an important source of information. And on a fine day Tom had gathered more than 20,000 names. What to do next?

He showed a CD with all those names to Guido and Philippe Poppe. That turned out to be a great decision. Guido and Philippe encouraged Tom to continue his research and agreed to add the files on their *Conchology website* www.conchology.be.

In 2018 Frank Maartense from The Netherlands added the Dutch zoologist Jan van der Hoeven (1801-1868) to *“Shellers”*. That was his first real acquaintance with the database. When studying Tom’s project, the continual description of knowledge about malacology really appealed to him. And of course all those great stories behind the shell collectors. Frank wanted this knowledge to remain available to everyone in the future: *“Shellers from the past and the present for the benefit of the shellers in the future”*, was what he had in mind. Frank and Tom have worked together ever since.

“Every man on earth has his own story that is admirable in some sort of way”. We read this comment in an email from a South African lady who asked if we would put information about her father, the malacologist Hugo Wessels, on *Shellers*. A wonderful story about a farmer who, next to collecting shells, was also a medical doctor and worked among the local people of South Africa, where he was considered as a kind of saint. The story goes that after his death, people broke into his grave to get a piece of hair or bone... as a relic.

Stories abound in *Shellers*. Walter Jakob Eyerdam (1892 - 1974). A staunch collector of shells from all over the world. Acclaimed by botanists, ornithologists and conchologists. For many years Eyerdam made a living making wooden barrels for whaling in Alaska, as a cooper. His shell travels took him five times to Siberia (where a mountain is named after him there), the Pacific, Alaska (25 summers), South America and the Caribbean.

Nobel Prize winners are also on our list, such as Eric Richard Kandel who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2013. In his research on the biological mechanisms of memory storage, he used the seaslug *Aplysia californica*, better known as the Californian sea hare. Other laureates are Bernhard Katz, Sidney Brenner and August Krogh.

Really all the big names in the field of malacology are listed in *Shellers*. But not to forget all those collectors who are simply fascinated by the colour, shape, habitat and complexity of shells. And that is the vast majority. It’s what makes *“Shellers”* so much fun.

In Memoriam Prof Douw Steyn

3.12.1926 - 14.8.2021

Douw Steyn passed away peacefully at his home in Lynwood, Pretoria on 14 August 2021.

He leaves his wife Elise, a daughter and two sons.

Douw was a long-standing member and past president of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa.

After graduating from the University of Pretoria, Douw practised as a veterinarian. Later he was appointed to a teaching post at the Department of Veterinary Sciences at Onderstepoort, and held the position of Professor and Head of Surgery until his retirement.

Douw was retired for over thirty years, during which time he passionately embraced many diverse hobbies such as conchology, woodwork, photography and tapestry.

He had an intense interest in all aspects of the natural world. He co-authored four publications on South African seashells.

Two seashells are named in his honour, *Mitrella steyni* and *Lutraraia steynlussi*.

Despite all his achievements, Douw remained a humble man. He certainly lived life to the full.

On behalf of us all, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Elise and family

Society News

Our much delayed Annual General Meeting will take place in Pretoria on Saturday 27 November 2021.

In many ways Covid 19 has played havoc with our get-togethers, and in particular the AGM.

This year it would be great to see as many of us together as possible. A new executive will need to be appointed, and a detailed agenda will be forwarded to all members soon.