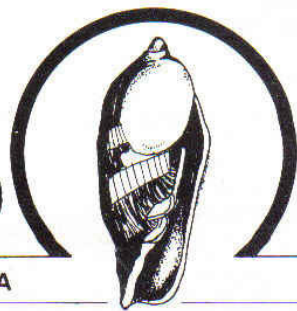


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 196

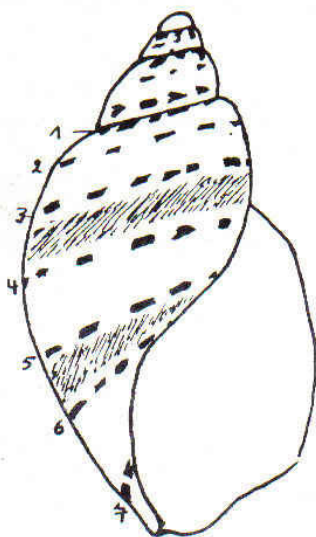
JUNE/JULY 1979

Page 1

NOTES ON AMPULLA PRIAMUS

(Gmelin 1791)

by Guido T. Poppe, of Belgium



Ampulla priamus (Gmelin 1791) is the only species of the genus *Ampulla* Roding 1798 and used to be classified in the genus *Halia* Risso 1826. It is also the only member of the family *Volutidae* in Europe, apart from some *Cymbium* species.

During a stay in the Canary Islands in March 1978, 14 specimens of *Ampulla priamus* were obtained from fishermen. It is interesting to compare the observations of these specimens with the information contained in the more popular reference works used by most collectors, where it is described as a species with a very limited distribution:

- D W Aiken & K J Fuller:
"off Portugal and Spain in the Gulf of Cadiz."
- J B Lozet:
"Volute plus typiquement méditerranéenne, tres rare et trouvée lors de dragages dans le bassin ouest de

Méditerranée, signalée également sur les côtes Atlantiques du Maroc."

- Dr F Nordsieck:
"Lus. Meer (Vigo, Cadiz) tiefes Wasser."
- P Parenzan:
"Specie Atlantica segnalata anche per il Mediterraneo. La trovai piu frequente nel mare di riva de Vigo (Spagna)."
- Ch Pasteur-Humbert:
"Atlantique (au large du Maroc)."
- Maxwell Smith:
Off Spain and Portugal; Porcupine Expedition 1870, sta 26, 30, (fragments); off Cape Sagres 45–58 fathoms; off Cadiz; most abundant in bay lying between Cape St Vincent and Trafalgar; fossil in the Italian Pliocene."
- C S Weaver & J E duPont
"From Spain to Portugal."

It is very likely that the species has a more southerly distribution in the Atlantic than is generally assumed. The species does not live in the territory of the Canaries, but has been collected by fishermen at the shelf of the Spanish Sahara in an area extending to Mauretania, according to a personal communication from Mr F G Talavera of the Museum of Natural Sciences, Canary Islands.

The species lives in mud and sand at depths between 25 and 150 fathoms according to Weaver & duPont. Mr Talavera claims that the West African specimens are found between 80 and 100 metres. The animal has been described by Weaver & duPont.

In the literature a maximum size of 95 mm was recorded but generally 80 mm is given. The average shell length of the specimens obtained in the Canaries is 59,7 mm. The biggest measured 73 mm, while three shells of 40, 40 and 41 mm were probably immature.

The colour pattern of most shells was found to consist of dark brown

blotches arranged in rows. Applying the system used by Dr W A Adam for the description of colour forms of *Cepaea nemoralis* and *hortensis*, seven bands of colour can be distinguished in *Ampulla priamus* and in the summary that follows, these are numbered (from the top down) as 1 to 7. Row no. 1 touches the suture and row no. 7 almost disappears in the columellar callus. If a row is missing or does not continue to the end of the body whorl, it is marked as 0. In this way, the 14 specimens are listed as follows:

9 specimens	1034567
2 "	1234567
1 specimen	1000507
1 "	0000007
1 "	0034000

In 13 of the 14 shells, one or two indistinct bands appear on the background (best seen in daylight). The most prominent of these occurs between the 3rd and 4th rows of dots, and the other is between the 5th and 6th row.

To summarise, *Ampulla priamus* normally has 6 rows of blotches on the body whorl, with two dark intermediate bands, on a base colour of light brown.

Ampulla priamus is a very attractive shell for the collector and, while it is locally common, gem specimens with a perfect lip are difficult to obtain.

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- Fritz Nordsieck — Die europäischen Meeres-Gehäuseschnecken, 1968.
- Pietro Parenzan — Carta d'identita delle conchiglie del Mediterraneo (Volume primo gasteropodi), 1962.
- Chantal Pasteur-Humbert — Les mollusques marins testacés du Maroc (I : Les Gastéropodes), 1962.
- Maxwell Smith — A review of the Volutidae, 1942.
- Clifton S Weaver & John E duPont — Living Volutes, 1970.

CONIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA

The arrival of Mrs Carlsson's copy of the new book, *CONE SHELLS* by Jerry G. Wells, coincided with the printing of our special issue No 195 containing the article on S.A. Cones. The book is reviewed elsewhere in this issue and, as it proposes radical changes in the identification of two or three of our Cones, the following comments are being published while we will be taking up certain aspects with Mr Walls for further clarification.

The name *Conus algoensis* Sowerby 1834 has priority over, and thus should replace *Conus scitulus* Reeve 1849.

If you will refer to the plates in the Strandloper, figs w, x and y on Plate B become *Conus algoensis algoensis*, while figs v, z and aa are *Conus algoensis simplex*; and figs bb and cc are *Conus algoensis scitulus*.

We are not at all happy about the specimen used by Mr Walls for the illustration of *Conus algoensis* on page 72 of his book (upper photo). It appears to be a dark form of *Conus tinianus* well-known from the Gonubie area but, as we have not seen Sowerby's original illustration or the type specimen of *Algoensis*, we are writing for more information.

Mr Walls also proposes the name *Conus guineensis* Gmelin 1791 for the species we know as *Conus mozambicus* Hwass 1792.

We have queried this, as we understand that this is a *nomen dubium* which Mr Walls has attempted to validate. Until we can find out more about the problem, we suggest that the name *Mozambicus* be retained.

Further changes on Plate B are as follows:

Fig ee is not *Conus caillaudii* but merely a form of *Typon*. Fig jj has been renamed *Conus orbygni elokis-menos* because the name *aratus* belongs to a fossil species.

While I would be prepared to go along with Mr Walls's suggestion that the three subspecies *Algoensis*, *Simplex* and *Scitulus* could all be lumped together as forms of one species, I am not yet ready to accept that they should all be lumped with *Mozambicus* (*Guineensis*). Nor am I able to see any

evidence that *Conus pictus* is likely to be lumped with *Algoensis*.

In the article (on page 9) we quoted Wagner and Abbott as saying that *Conus visagenus* might be a synonym of *Infrenatus*. Mr. Walls supports this suggestion and I must say I am inclined to agree after seeing the photograph he publishes as a text figure along with his description of *Conus infrenatus*. It does look like a shell with a distorted shoulder and the pattern is otherwise singularly like that of *Infrenatus*.

The remaining endemic South African Cones not yet illustrated by us are *Conus altispiratus* and *Conus lohri*. Both of these are particularly well covered by Mr Walls, so we will not be printing photos or descriptions beyond what has already been done in the previous article.

Please note that we would welcome readers' comments on the cone article and on any supplementary notes that we might publish.

SHELLING IN NATAL

For the benefit of members who may be planning a visit to Natal in the winter holidays, the collection of marine shells in Natal requires a permit which is available from the Natal Parks Board, P.O. Box 17090, Congella 4013. Collectors are permitted three shells of each species. Collecting is not allowed in the reserves at Trafalgar Beach (see 'Round the Groups' for details) and on the stretch of coast between Sordwana Bay and Cape Vidal.

Details are given in the pink form issued to all new members, of restrictions on the collecting of specific types of mollusc in certain other areas.

BACK COPIES OF CIRCULARS

Copies of back numbers of the Society's bulletin are available at the following prices:

Nos. 1 to 170 15c each
Nos. 171 onwards 50c each
No. 195 R1,00 each

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

WHEN IN DOUBT, FIND OUT

by G.A. HYATT

It was in May 1970 that my wife and I decided to start a collection of shells and our first expedition from Johannesburg was to Inhaca Island in May of that year. The success of that trip spurred us on and everywhere we went we talked shells and probably bored many people!

In this way we met a young English couple, who had just returned from a trip to Pomene in Mozambique and they enthused about the shells which they had found on the beach and brought home for their cat, yes, their cat to play with!

Because we like them, we responded to their invitation to visit them and see the shells, which we found piled in a basket. The basket was upturned onto the floor so that we could examine the contents and not unexpectedly we saw a lot of beachworn shells, recognized by us as common species, but due to our extremely limited knowledge at that time, we could not identify any of them.

One shell, also beachworn and broken lip, attracted our attention as it was unlike anything we had seen before so our hosts happily gave it to us.

Eventually we joined the Society and a member of the Johannesburg group suggested that this shell was a *Voluta duponti*. We however, were unable to trace this name in any reference book available to us so it remained in our collection so-named.

It was not until recently, when the Volutidae family was discussed at a meeting of our Natal South Coast Section, that Mrs Doris Smith suggested that the shell might be a *Festilyria festiva* (Lamarck).

A careful check has shown Doris to be right and that it is the female of the species.

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THE NEW CONE BOOK

CONE SHELLS:

A Synopsis of the Living Conidae:
by Jerry G. Walls

This is an important new book illustrating (in full colour) and describing 309 species and many subspecies and varieties of Cones. The text and the plates are arranged in alphabetical order of the specific names, and are easy to follow, although this layout does create problems for anyone wanting to compare several look-alike shells, or trying to identify a shell if the shape is known but not the name. However, the text includes references to related species, so you should be able to find them if you just read the descriptions.

There are one or two surprises for South African collectors. The author proposes the name *Conus guineensis* Gmelin 1791 for the species we have been calling *Conus mozambicus* Hwass 1792. However, it has been stated by Wagner & Abbott in the latest edition of their Standard Catalog of Shells that *Guineensis* is a *nomen dubium* which Mr Walls has attempted to validate. His references to *Conus algoensis* and *Conus lautus* also raise questions, and we will be taking all these matters up with the author and we hope to be able to publish the outcome in a future issue of the Strandloper.

The quality of the printing is very high and the colour photos of the shells are thoroughly satisfying. The pages are a convenient 14 x 22 cm but there are over 1000 of them and the book is thick and heavy, so one hopes the binding will stand up to the frequent use that it will certainly get.

It is priced at 31 U.S. dollars including one dollar for postage and is worth every cent. Order direct from the publishers, T.F.H. Publications, Box 427, NEPTUNE, N.J. 07753, U.S.A. Cape Town members may contact Mr Millard or Mrs Carlsson who would like to arrange a bulk order. We suggest that other groups do the same in their areas.

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CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs E P C Duncan, ByGum, Karakal Road, Hout Bay 7800.

Mr M F P Fascio, P.O. Box 300, Bredasdorp 7280.

Miss J L Witten, c/o Fishing Industry Research Institute, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700.

Mr G S P Hubrecht, c/o I C I South Africa, Imperial Chemical House, Leyds St., Braamfontein 2001.

Mr W Wismeijer, P.O. Box 117, Pretoria 0001.

Mr D W Taylor, P.O. Box 773, Tiburon, California 94920, U.S.A.

Mr R Goldberg, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York 11365, U.S.A.

Mr G. Ernst, International Conchological Society, P.O. Box 3289, 1002 Lausanne, Switzerland.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Miss C H Scott, 68 Holland St., Goodwood West 7460.

Mr S H Spiesser, 8 Donlea, Cathcart Road, Humewood, Port Elizabeth 6001.

Mr D Fabrie, 54 Falaise, 23 Prince St., South Beach, Durban 4001.

Mr K S P Fourie, 3 Melanie Avenue, Lambert, Germiston 1401.

Mr & Mrs J.P.C. Grobler, Posbus 2030, Bethal Noord 2310.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs F M Myburgh, Cape Town.

Mr W J Dyer, Voelklip.

Mrs H. Bebbington, Knysna.

Mrs E R Bowker, Stanger.

Mrs S L. Theunissen, Pretoria.

INTERNATIONAL CONCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An international society has been formed in Lausanne, Switzerland, and they are inviting applications for membership. A bulletin will be published four times a year to start with and will carry articles of interest such as reports of shell discoveries world-wide, record sizes of shells, and inserts, free of charge to members, of those wishing to exchange shells. Applications for membership with the subscription of 20 U.S. dollars may be sent to The International Conchological Society, P.O. Box 3289, 1002 Lausanne, Switzerland. Contributions to their bulletin may be addressed to Gilbert Ernst, Editor, International Shell News, at the same address.

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EXCHANGES WANTED

John J Brandyberry, R.D. No 2, Box 278, Ridge Road, Elizabethtown, PA. 17022, U.S.A., offers world wide shells in exchange for S.A. material.

Mr Alex Arthur, 6 Lancaster Place, Twickenham, Middlesex, England, wants *Cancellaria* species in exchange for Mediterranean material.

David Attard, "Serhan", Cikku Bonaci Street, B'Kara, MALTA, is interested in *Murex*, *Cypraea*, *Strombus* and *Volutes*. Jacques Parisot, BP 3741, Noumea, New Caledonia, South Pacific, has a large range of cones and cowries, including the rostrate and melanistic forms from that area, and wants to trade local cones and cowries.

Roberto Ubaldi, Via Giovanni Fattori n. 40, 00100 Acilia, Roma, Italy, is interested in *Patellidae*, *Acmaeidae* and *Fissurellidae*.

Fred R Cannon Jr., 292 Warren Street, Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, NY 11201, U.S.A. is starting an international shell club for people interested in land snails. Annual dues are 6 U.S. dollars for overseas members.

Mrs H Edwards, 16A George Street, Rockhampton 4700, Queensland, Australia, offers *Cypraea roselli* in exchange for *fultoni* and a range of Indo-Pacific cowries for *immanis*.

Victor Manuel da Silva Ferreira, Rua das Tílias n. 66, 4100 Porto, Portugal, would like to start swapping with South African collectors.

PLEASE NOTE, WHEN SENDING SHELL PARCELS TO PRIVATE COLLECTORS, THAT THE CUSTOMS SLIP SHOULD BE FILLED IN TO INDICATE: "SEA SHELLS FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY: NO COMMERCIAL VALUE" OTHERWISE THE RECIPIENT WILL PROBABLY BE CHARGED TAX ON THE PARCEL.

MEMBERS?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
or are you just content that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
or do you sit at home and criticise and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to only just belong?
Do you do your part with your hands upon the stick?
Or do you leave the work to others, then talk about "the clique"?
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong.
Are you an active member or do you just belong?

Western Province News — April 1979.

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
(Founded 1958)

OFFICE BEARERS

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All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary:
P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450, Cape, South Africa.

Subscriptions:

	<i>Per Year</i>
Ordinary Members receiving The Strandloper	R5,00
Ordinary Members not receiving The Strandloper (Applies to husbands or wives of members receiving The Strandloper)	R2,00
Corresponding Members (Members not resident in South Africa or adjoining territories)	R6,00 or U.S.A. \$9,00
Student Members (Members attending full time educational institution in South Africa)	R2,00

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. G. Whitehead, 10 Mimosa Street, Milnerton 7405	Tel.: 52-1418
Port Elizabeth:	Secretary Mr. F. Graeve, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6056	Tel.: 54-3374
East London:	Secretary: Mrs. P. Palmer, 5 John Bailie Road, Bunkers Hill 5241.	Tel.: 5-4306
Durban:	Mr. D. Oosthuizen, 514 Windermere Centre, Windermere Road, Durban 4001.	Tel.: 33-3606
Pietermaritzburg:	Secretary: Mrs. M. I. Armstrong, 195 Boom Street 3201	Tel.: 2-5553
Pretoria:	Secretary: Mrs. A. Wilson, 283 Silver Street, Muckleneuk 0002.	Tel.: 44-4495
Port Shepstone:	Particulars to follow.	

Advertisements are accepted for publication in The Strandloper. Advertising rates supplied on application. The Society accepts no responsibility for any transaction arising from advertisements published in good faith.

ROUND THE GROUPS

PORT ELIZABETH: Plans for a shell show have been modified due to a shortage of available helpers. A special showcase at the Museum is being considered instead. The families *Cymatiidae*, *Pectinidae* and *Cerithiidae* were studied at the March and April meetings and *Marginellidae* in May. The annual general meeting of the group was held on May 5th 1979 and the new committee was elected:

Mrs M W Mears	Chairman
Mrs E E F Sadler	Vice-Chairman
Mr F Graeve	Secretary

In addition, two members would be approached as contact members for the country and Mr Spiesser would act as Librarian, while Mrs Ball, although no longer on the committee, would organise tea.

LOWER SOUTH COAST, NATAL: Port Shepstone is becoming a hive of Conchological activity and the minutes of their meetings are full of interest. They report that:

- Collecting of dead shells might not be allowed from new marine reserves.
- A set of Strandlopers and Circulars had been donated to the group by Mrs Cock, along with shells for disposal for the group's benefit.
- An exceptionally fine *Cypraea marginalis* had been found on the beach by Mrs Cuthbert.
- The Natal Parks Board would be approached about a news report that a fertiliser company was to start a seaweed harvesting operation near Hibberdene.
- A marine reserve had been proclaimed at Trafalgar between the centre rocks at Marina Beach and the North bank of the Impenjati River on the Palm Beach side of Trafalgar.
- A list would be compiled of shell books owned by members of the group who might be prepared to share them with others.
- A number of families and genera have been studied at meetings.

DURBAN:

- The date of the shell show has been set for 12th to 15th July.

- Nature Conservation and shelling permits: Any problems and related matters must please be referred to the committee and not be dealt with by individual members as it is essential to preserve the best possible relationship with the bodies concerned.
- Bernie Young has been seriously ill. (The national council joins Natal in sending best wishes for a speedy recovery).
- The Group has decided to change its name as there are three groups operating in Natal and they will now be known as Durban and District's Group.

PRETORIA:

- In Maart en April was die groep baie besig om die skou te reël, maar aandag was tog aan ander aspekte van skulpkunde bestee, en spesifieke skulpsoorte is gereeld bespreek en bestudeer.
- Die skou is gedurende die eerste week van Mei gehou en ons het verneem dat dit uiters suksesvol was. Bzie geluk!
- The new committee was elected at the group's annual general meeting in April: Laurie Smith Chairman
Arie Jooste Vice-Chairman
Anne Wilson Secretary
George Wilson Treasurer
Ammie Wissing, Tom Duncan, Lizeke Vandenberg and Han Vandenberg.

EAST LONDON:

- The Society can be proud of the active role being played by student members Stephen Olivier at the Selbourne School, and Sarah Linsdell and Gillian Oosthuizen at Hudson Park High School in promoting conchology through talks given at the schools, and in supporting a student conchology club at Hudson Park.
- The Museum and Aquarium would be approached about putting up posters to publicise the Conchological Society.
- Shell families discussed at meetings have included Bivalves, the Allied Cowrie Groups and Ancillas.

CAPE TOWN:

- This group's newsletter will be called "Cape Tidings" in future, a name proposed by Mrs Rose of Somerset West, who thereby won the shell prize. Congratulations.
- As the field day in April was so well attended and produced so many shells, especially Cones and Marginellas, it was considered advisable to sound a warning about the dangers of over-collecting and denuding popular shelling areas. Will members please leave Cape Hangklip alone until the end of the year, to give it time to recover?
- The Society's 21 birthday meeting in May saw a fine display of choice shells, a lucky dip of shells donated by members, and an interesting film on the underwater world of False Bay.
- The splendid new book on Cones by Jerry G Walls is due to be discussed at the June meeting.
- Mr Thompson has donated a copy of Kensley's Sea Shells of Southern Africa to the group and plans are being considered for making the best use of this generous gift, either as a prize to be competed for, or as a presentation to the Society's library. An announcement will be made in due course by the committee.