The Strandloper

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FURTHER UNUSUAL FINDS ON THE EAST LONDON COAST

by **Sandy Muller East London Museum P.O. Box 11021 Southernwood 5213**

BOLMA ANDERSONI (E.A. Smith, 1902)

During 1984, 1985 and 1986 four juveniles specimens of **Bolma andersoni** were found on the East London North East and South West coasts. Two of the specimens were found less than a kilometre apart. One was found on 7/7/84 at the rifle range and another on 16/4/85 at Fullers Bay. Both these localities are on the South West coast and frequently visited by avid shell collectors. Although the specimens were fragmented, probably as a result of the very rocky shore they were washed across, they show little sign of being beach rolled, worn or old. The colours are a bright purplish pink with small blue flames forming patterns along the whorls. On 16/6/85 and 8/2/86 the third and fourth juvenile specimens were found at a locality known affectionately as "Dots Farm", and Glen Navar respectively. The farm lies a couple of kilometres North of Cintsa to the NE of East London. Although not as popular shelling sites as Fullers Bay or Shelly beach, these spots have yielded some exciting finds in the past and will no doubt do so again in the future.

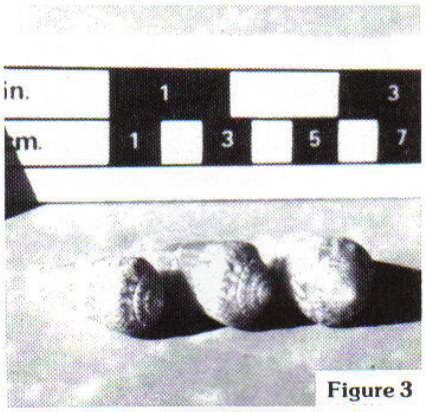


Figure 3

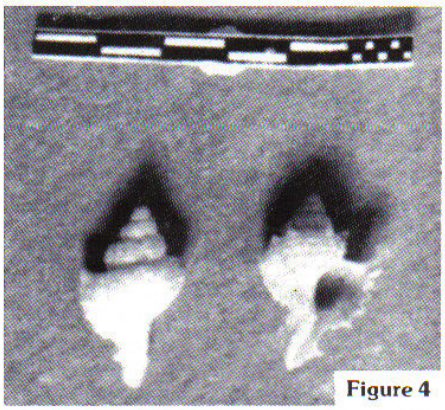


Figure 4

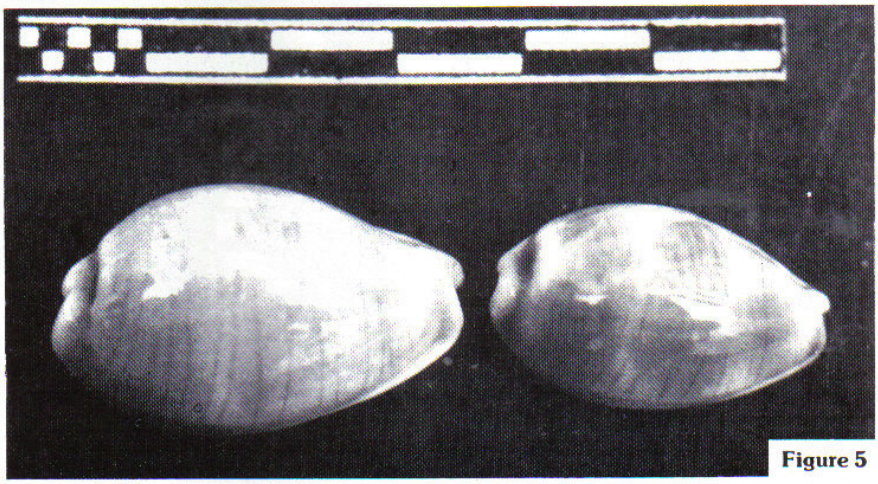


Figure 5

CONUS PICTUS (Reeve, 1843)

This beautiful cone (Fig. 3) has been avidly collected in the Port Alfred area over the past few months. It has however been markedly absent from the beaches in and around East London, that is until the floods in late October and early November 1985. On 6/11/85 members of the East London museum did a survey of the flood damage to the surrounding beaches and three specimens of **C. pictus** were found on three of the beaches visited. Although badly fragmented the shells were in a very fresh condition. It would appear as if the flood waters were in part responsible for the sudden appearance of these shells on the beaches. Not only were the shells freshly dead but in all three instances were found on beaches adjacent to river mouths. From the latter observation it is tentatively assumed that the shells inhabit areas close to the river flow path and that the sudden inundation of fresh water and/or silt were responsible for their untimely demise.

CHICOREUS AUSTRAMOSUS (Vokes, 1978) (Fig.4)

A number of juvenile **C. austramosus** have been found at regular intervals at Claytons Rocks, near the Kleinemond seaside resort in the eastern Cape. According to Kilburn and Rippey (1982) the most southern known distribution was East London. This new record thus extends their known distribution by several kilometres further south west. It is of interest to note that all the specimens found were very fresh and in excellent condition, probably indicating that they are living offshore in that area and spreading further south.

CYPRAEA CLANDESTINA (Linne, 1767) Fig. 5)

The known distribution of this cowrie extends from the Indo-Pacific to the western Transkei (Kilburn and Rippey, 1982). However, in the East London museum are housed specimens recorded from Bulugha. In February 1985 a single specimen was found at Shelly Beach and in October 1985 a freshly dead specimen was found near the Kleinemond seaside resort. It is possible that this small cowrie may be far more abundant along the South-western coast of East London than is generally known. It is possible that many collectors are ignoring it due to the mistaken belief that it appears to be a beach worn or juvenile **Cypraea edentula** or **C. capensis.**

LATIAXIS MAWAE (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834) (Fig.6)

A single specimen of this shell was found during the early part of 1984 at Shelly Beach. Although the specimen was fairly worn it could readily be identified. During March and April 1985 a further three fragmented specimens were again found on the same beach. Although the distribution records for this shell are offshore Japan (Abbott and Dance 1982), it is probably more abundant than generally suspected. This

shell, like various other foreign shells, is being found more regularly in South African waters; as interest in conchology grows and more collectors carefully record the locality data, further "foreign" shells will be recorded.

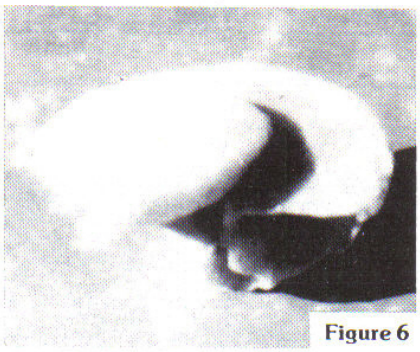


Figure 6

ANOTHER SINISTRAL TURBO SARMATICUS (Fig. 7)

A third **Turbo Sarmaticus** has been found in the vicinity of Shelly Beach, Fullers Bay East London. The previous specimens (Muller, 1985) were found in the same vicinity as the new specimen. The latest is however much larger than either of the previous two.

Since the floods in October and November 1985 very few shells have been washed ashore, those appearing on the beaches have been badly worn and often only fragments have appeared. However in the case of this specimen of **T. sarmaticus,** the shell is, as with the first two, in near perfect condition. When considering the prevailing weather conditions at the time it must be assumed that it was washed ashore soon after it had died.

BULIA TRIFASCIATA (Smith) (Fig. 8)

During the past year a large number of specimens of **Bulia trifasciata** have been found on the east coast beaches of East London. Most of the specimens were freshly dead and in good condition. Many crabbed specimens were found in the rock pools and estuary mouths (both excellent sources of the rarer type of shell). These shells were also in an excellent condition. It is of interest to note that no juveniles have thus far been recorded from this area although there suddenly appears to be an abundance of adults. These animals live offshore as the areas in which they have been found are usually close to, or consist of sandy bays with shallow off shore reefs.

During the latter part of 1985 a regular dredging and trapping programme was initiated in conjunction with an avid amateur. We regularly collect live **B. trifasciata.** Both dark and albino (few) forms are collected but as yet no juveniles have been found.

BULLIA CALLOSA (Fig. 9)

During the operations mentioned above a number of live albino **B. callosa** (Fig. 10) were collected. This appears to be the first record of albino shells being found. Has anyone else ever found albino **Bullia** shells or for that matter any other albino shells? I would welcome some feed back as I am collecting data on albino forms.

Figure 7

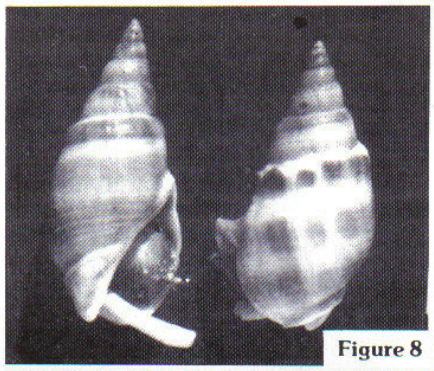


Figure 8

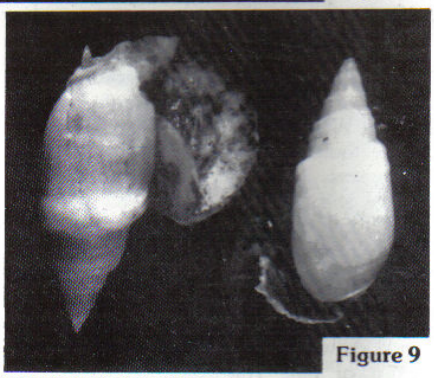
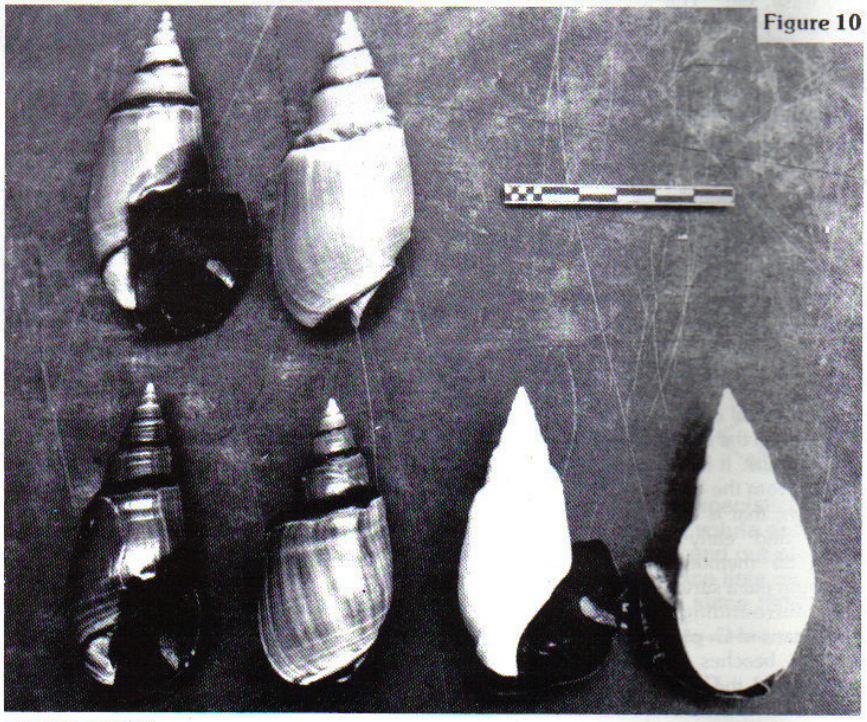


Figure 9

Figure 10



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COLLECTING AND COLLECTORS OF SHELLS

by **Olive Peel**

It was as early as 384 BC that Aristotle wrote about molluscs and in the ruins of Pompeii in AD 79 shells were discovered such as Cypraea pantherina, Lightfoot; Cypraea erosa L; Conus textile L; all thought to have come from the Red Sea and belonging to a natural history collection.

During the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries men and women of all walks of life were attracted to collecting 'curiosities', amongst which were shells. Collectors vied with each other for first place in the ranks of collectors of carpets, painting and natural history objects. The Grand Duke of Tuscany was a keen collector of these 'curiosities' and in 1682 Rumphius a Dutch collector sent him a collection of 360 species of shells and in his accompanying letter spoke highly of the consignment: "These are, O Serenissimo Prince and Duke, the rarest and strangest objects which I have assembled over 26 years, and which I have thought worthy to be considered by Your Highness. Other objects, more common and more vile, I have left out. I will be greatly relieved to learn that Your Highness has received and seen the present objects and furthermore whether they please your Highness for I honest doubt whether anything so rare, novel or strange has been seen by so many illustrious, learned and excellent men in Italy'.

It was Carl Linnaeus a Swedish naturalist, (1707-1778 – Carl von Linné) with his sparkling personality who inspired his countrymen to collect natural history objects, and soon through his inspiration collectors were travelling abroad in order to enhance their collections. In 1751 the Queen of Sweden commissioned Linnaeus to name her cabinet of shells for her. Linnaeus with his sense of humour saw shells in the shape of human anatomy and he became an embarrassment to his friends and other collectors who were incensed that they had to speak these names out aloud let alone write them down. Linnaeus started collecting at the age of 20 and was considered to have one of the finest collections at that time. Today his collection is in the care of the Linnaean Society in London.

Times seem not to have changed at all when we hear rumours or tales from our friends of visitors 'lifting' shells which please them. It is noted that in 1756 a lady collector who lived in France had a Peruvian shell collector by name of Don Pedro Francisco Davila come to view her 'natural arts'. She allowed him the run of her collection, giving him some rare shells as a gift and then despite her protest that she did not normally give shells away for free, he removed three more specimens, and as though that were not insult enough, he broke three more! A catastrophe by any standard. Davila upon his return to Peru sent the distraught lady in question shells in exchange but so disappointed was she in their condition that she refused to include them in her own collection.

In the year 1744 another of our remarkable men was born – Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monet Lamarck, Comte de Lamarck, who was regarded as one of the world's greatest natural philosophers. By the time he was 50 he had accumulated a large natural history collection, rich in shells and based many new names of shells upon his own collection. Because he was one of those who did not accept Linnaeus's mode of naming shells, he renamed shells in his own collection much to the horror and outrage of Linnaean enthusiasts who refused to accept this insult to their hero Linnaeus.

It was in 1768 that Captain James Cook was sent by the British Government to investigate the existence of the disputed southern continent 'Terra Australis Incognita' and to look for undiscovered land masses. Accompanying him, and reminiscent of our own beloved Dick Kilburn's sojourns around our own coast on dredging trips, was the young Englishman Joseph Banks and Daniel Carl Solander a former pupil of Linnaeus, both to keep records of all the natural history and topography of the places visitied and what a trip this was. How we today envy them. The cabins became overflowing with objects including shells and soon the ship became a floating museum. The enthusiastic crew were all taking part in the hunt, for they assumed that when they reached home again they would make fortunes by selling all the objects, but their hopes were in vain for the shells and other natural objects did not fetch large prices. But in spite of the crew's disappointments, the trip was such a success that the Admiralty endorsed similar programmes and it was thus that Captain Cook undertook two more similar voyages. The bulk of the large shipment of shells from the first trip were bought by Thomas Martyn (1760-1816) who was disappointed that so few new species were discovered.

Thomas Martyn's acquisition of the shells was not for personal gain as a collector, but to use in the illustrating of his magnus opus 'The Universal Conchologist'. He gathered together several young men from humble homes, who could not afford to cultivate their arts, and taught them the skills of drawing and design, and together they produced this living memorial to a kindly and generous man.

We all know the agonies of wanting something and not being able to afford it and it is interesting to note some of the methods of the early days that were used in acquiring shells.

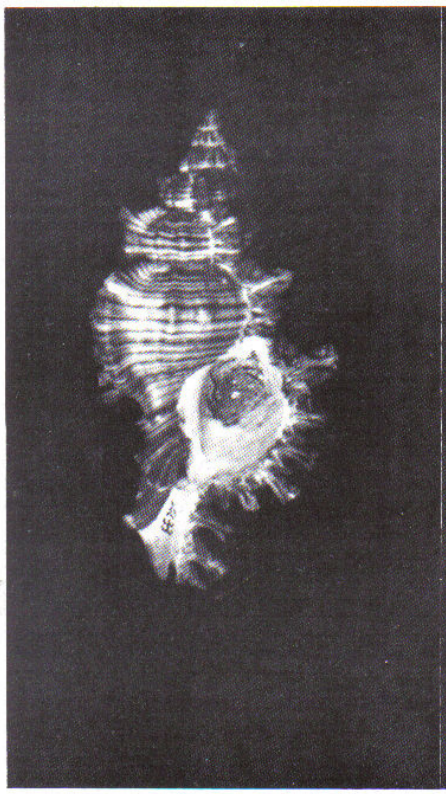
In France was a collector of 'curiosities', Charles Alexandre de Calonne (1734-1802), Contrôleur général des Finances, who had the largest and most perfect shell collection in France. He would never accept anything inferior for his collection. All this does not seem surprising for being a minister of France he was able to gain 'inside information' about people's disposal of cabinets of shells and also information about ships arriving from expeditions to collect natural curiosities from all over the world. As he was wealthy he could outbid everyone else at auctions. He was far happier arranging his shells than he was with his position of trying to reorganise France's chronic financial position and it was thus that shells caused his downfall and exile to Lorraine upon France's bankruptcy!

One of the largest collections in France belonged to a botanist Louis Claude Marie Richard (1754-1821) and which included the collection of Hwass who named some of our South African cones. One of the shells a Spondylus regius which came from one of the Cook voyages was offered to Richard and he could not afford it. He was mortified – and we all know that feeling! How could he find the extra money needed quickly. He rushed home, made up a parcel of the family heirlooms and when his wife was not looking, sneaked them out of the house. He returned home with his precious cargo beneath his cloak, all neatly wrapped up in a box. His wife in the meantime had discovered that her precious items were missing and poor Richard was in return so distressed upon seeing his wife's distress that he absentmindedly put the box down on the chair and tried to comfort her, knowing full well that when she discovered his misdemeanour the joy he would experience from his ill-begotten treasure would outweigh any reprimand he would receive from her. But his joy was short-lived when he discovered the shell damaged after she had sat down on it in her grief causing broken spines and fortunately for her no damage to herself. But she was far more distressed when she saw her distraught husband and stopped complaining about her missing silver.

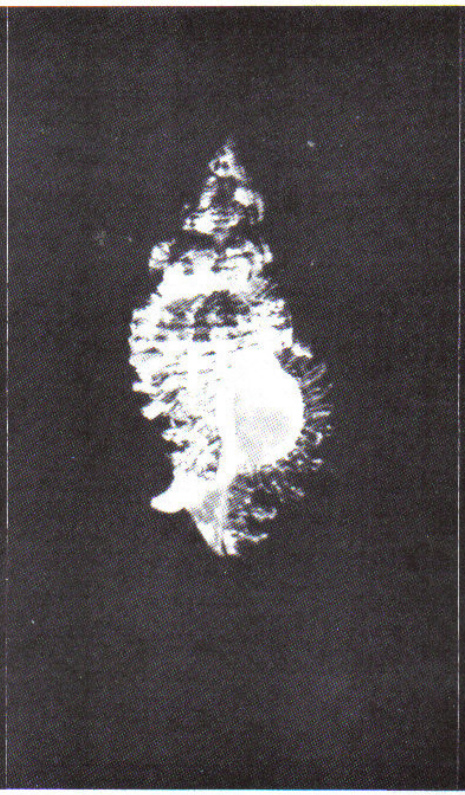
Yet another interesting hobbyist was born in 1789 by the name of William John Broderip. He like all of us and the poor Richard also had his methods of obtaining shells. He badly wanted the famous Bligh collection of rare shells but because this collection could not reach the price wanted at the auction, it was broken up and sold separately. He wrote to his friend Swainson saying that 'a little bird has told be that in May next the Bligh collection will be hammered away by Mr du Bois – what a scramble there will be among collectors. May I secure you to bid for my cousin and myself? Say nothing of this to anyone at present and if Mr du Bois mentions it to you, as probable, appear not to know anything about it'. And so he obtained by means foul or fair, the shells he so badly wanted for they were included in his collection which the British Museum bought in 1837 for a mere £1,575. But like some other modern collectors Broderip only collected for purposes of beauty and so full data was unfortunately not included in his collection.

In my mind the most exciting and interesting of all conchologists was High Cuming (1791-1865) who had a passion for conchological pursuits. He left England in 1819 as a sailmaker and settled in Buenos Aires where he started his collection of shells, and of course made sails. Such was his success at sail making that soon he had accumulated enough money to retire at the age of 35 and to build himself a yacht. He took on a captain and set sail in 1827 to collect natural ob-

Continued on p. 7



Chicoreus torrefactus (Sowerby, 1841) (Size 80 x 45mm)



Chicoreus microphyllus (Lamarck, 1816) (Size 70 x 34mm)

Chicoreus kilburni Houart & Pain, 1982 (Size 95 x 50mm)

CHICOREUS MAURUS (Broderip, 1833)

by **David Freeman, Cape Town**

South African shellers were all very interested when the well-known muricid from Durban Bay was reclassified in 1982 by Houart and Pain as **Chicoreus kilburni.** This was reported in the Strandloper and in Hawaiian Shell News at the time but, although fairly full details were published in the special edition of the Belgian Malacological Society's journal INFORMATIONS, one very pertinent question remained unanswered, viz, what then is the true identity of **Chicoreus maurus** (Broderip, 1833) which was the name previously applied to "our" shell? Houart & Pain's description of **Chicoreus kilburni** included an illustration of **Ch maurus** but the reproduction by Xerox or a similar method was very poor indeed, and the features of the shell were blurred.

In the year 1976, Radwin & D'Attilio published their comprehensive Murex Shells Of The World and illustrated a shell from the Marquesas as **Chicoreus maurus,** noting that **Murex steeriae** Reeve, 1845 is a synonym. This shell is very different from the Natal species, and it was therefore very perplexing that neither Dr Vokes in her important paper on the Muricidae from the African East Coast (Annals of the Natal Museum Vol 23(2), 1978) nor Kilburn & Rippey in thier Sea Shells of Southern Africa (1982) bothered to comment on Radwin & D'Attilio's conflicting identification, but merely perpetuated the use of **Ch maurus** for the Natal species.

A further oddity that South African shellers have had to contend with over the past 20 years has been the incorrect illustrations of the Natal species appearing in the only books available to us in South African shells until recently. Both Kennelly (1964) and Kensley (1973) appear to have used a specimen of **Chicoreus torrefactus** (Sowerby, 1841) in their illustrations of what we now call **kilburni.** The two species are conchologically very closely related and, furthermore, Radwin & D'Attilio proposed that **Chicoreus torrefactus** (Sowerby, 1841) should be synonymised with **Chicoreus microphyllus** (Lamarck, 1816) which it also resembles.

Dr Vokes (op. cit. 1978) also mentioned the similarity of these species but did not consider them identical. Since she and Dr Kilburn accepted the use of the name **maurus,** apparently without question, until Houart & pain proposed the new name **kilburni,** we have been left with some unanswered questions:

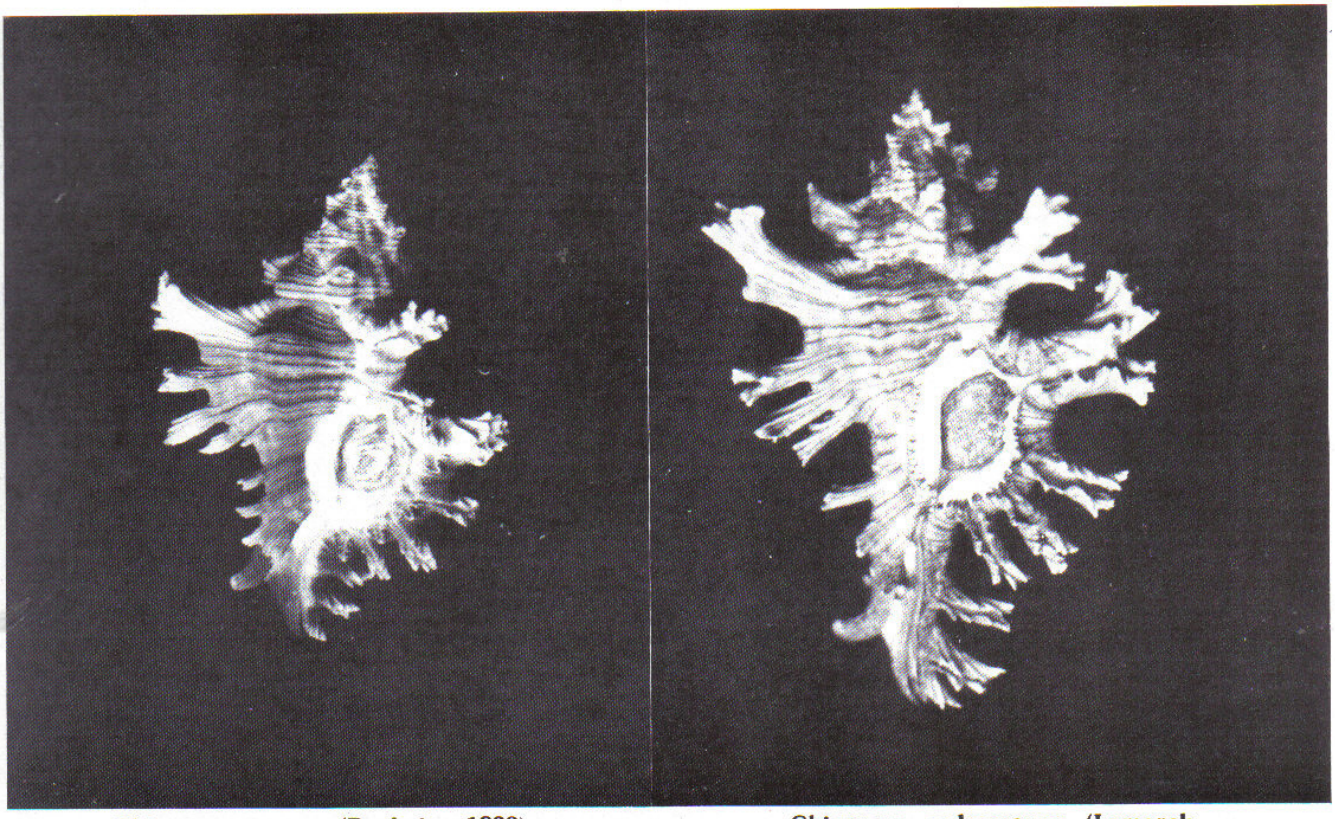
1. When and by whom was the name **maurus** first applied to the Natal species?
2. If it isn't **maurus,** what does the true **maurus** look like?
3. May we please see some specimens of **Chicoreus maurus, kilburni, torrefactus, microphyllus,** and anything else that would help us to understand the relationship of these species?

Well, with the kind assistance of Roland Houart in Belgium, Walter Sage in New York, Dr Kilburn in Maritzburg and Victor Millard in Cape Town, I can now explain that the identification of our shell as **Murex (Chicoreus) maurus** (Broderip, 1833) can be traced back to JR le B Tomlin in 1931, in his paper published in the Annals of the Natal Museum, wherein he reported the occurence of the species in Natal waters. It is not clear precisely what reference he might have used to arrive at his identification, but is was not questioned until Messrs Houart & Pain looked into it in 1982, i.e. 51 years later. Broderip's original type locality for **maurus** was the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia, but this was explained away as being just another one of those rather common locality errors that taxonomists have to deal with all the time. Only this time it wasn't a mistake after all.

As you can see from the pictures, the true **Chicoreus maurus** (Broderip, 1833) looks closer to **Chicoreus palmarosae** (Lamarck, 1822) than to the species in the **microphyllus/torrefactus** group to which **kilburni** belongs. The specimen of **maurus** in our illustration came from the Marquesas; **palmarosae** came from Sri Lanka; **kilburni** is from Natal, and the others from Mozambique and northwards on the East African coast.

This situation, where an ordinary human error gets into print at the instigation of one very reputable author and is then repeated in good faith by a series of later reputable authorities, gaining respectability in the process, can be very embarrassing to all concerned but it is likely to happen because it is just not always practically possible for every researcher to go back to the original sources and re-check everything that has been done before.

I hope this article ties up all the loose ends in this saga.



Chicoreus maurus (Broderip, 1833) (Size 84 x 63mm)

Chicoreus palmarosae (Lamarck, 1822) (Size 118 x 80mm)

HABITATS OF VARIOUS MOLLUSCS AROUND PORT ELIZABETH

by **Brian Hayes**

All of the species I have listed in this article have been found while scuba-diving. So first a note to would-be divers:

If you just use goggles, snorkel and flippers, then there is not much to limit you from exploring the shallows of your coastline. Your only limiting factors will be how deep you can dive, how long you can hold your breath, and the weather conditions.

If you are interested in scuba-diving in order to look for shells, then the obstacles become much greater. Firstly, you need to buy the necessary equipment (wet-suit, aqualung, regulator, buoyancy jacket, weight-belt, etc) which can cost anything from R1 000 to R2 000, and then it is not just a matter of 'going diving'; you are advised to join a scuba-diving club and receive the essential training because scuba-diving can be highly dangerous to the misinformed.

Lastly, whether you are snorkelling or scuba-diving, **ALWAYS** dive with a friend and **NEVER** alone.

The molluscs I have found can be grouped into three main categories depending on their habitat:

1. Living in open sand

By this I mean a large area of open sand, say 100m square. This may or may not be next to an adjoining reef. Types of gastropods found here, living a few inches below the surface of the sand are: **Marginella floccata; M. bairstowi; Amalda obtusa; Ancilla albozonata; Melapium lineatum; Bullia tenuis; B. laevissima; B. annulata; B. callosa; Demoulia abbreviata; Nassarius speciosus.** These molluscs are either scavengers or predators and emerge from the sand at night to find their prey.

Types of bivalves found are: **Mactra glabrata; Tivela compressa; Phaxas decipiens; Crassatina sowerbyi; Donax burnupi; Pitar madecassinus.** Bivalves are filter feeders and circulate water to extract food particles by means of siphons which protrude through the surface of the sand.

2. Living in sand amongst reef

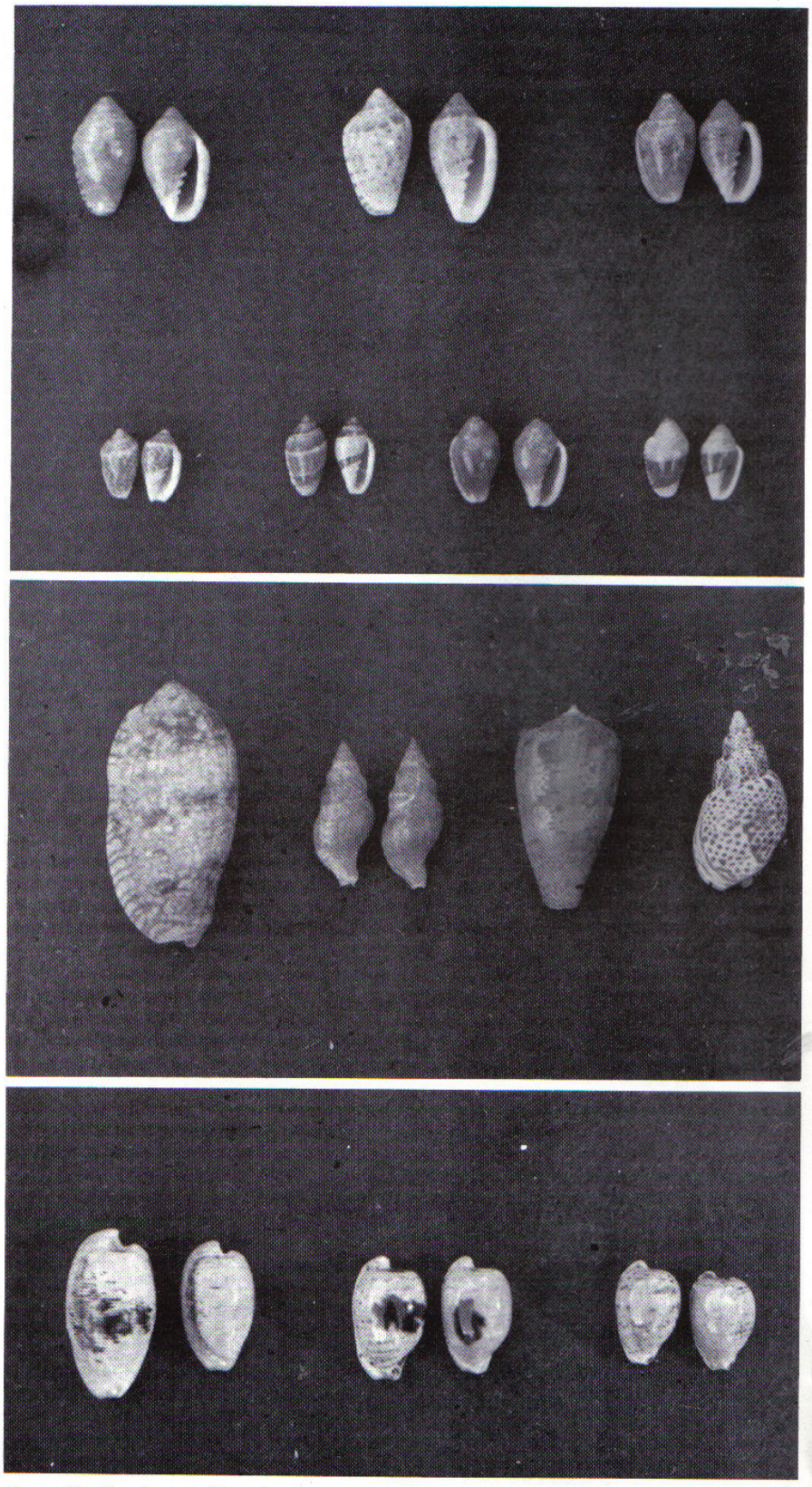
By this I mean little sand pockets of about a metre square occurring within a large area of heavy reef which has a great variety of sea life existing on it. These molluscs depend for their food on other animals or organisms living on the reef. Gastropods found here are: **Marginella piperata** in various forms; **M. ornata; M. lineolata; Callipara bullatiana; Afrocominella turtoni; Conus tinianus; Fusinus ocelliferus; Fasciolaria lugubris heynemanni; Clionella tripartita.**

Bivalves found are: **Pecten sulcicostatus; Donax burnupi; Gari depressa.**

3. Living on the reef itself

These molluscs live, either exposed or hidden under ledges or in crevices, directly on the reef itself and generally in close proximity to their source of food. For example, **Trivia aperta** lives in or next to colonial tunicates. Gastropods found on the reef are: **Cypraea capensis; C. edentula; C. alfredensis; Clanculus miniatus; C. waltonae; Calliostoma ornatum; C. africanum;** various species of **Chiton; Haliotis parva; Charonia lampas pustulata; Nassarius kockianus; Crepidula** and **Calyptraea species**

Bivalves found, generally hidden in lace coral, are: **Chlamys tinctus** and **Limaria rotundata.**



NERITA ATERRIMA – SOUTH AFRICA'S RAREST NERITE

by **D G Herbert Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg**

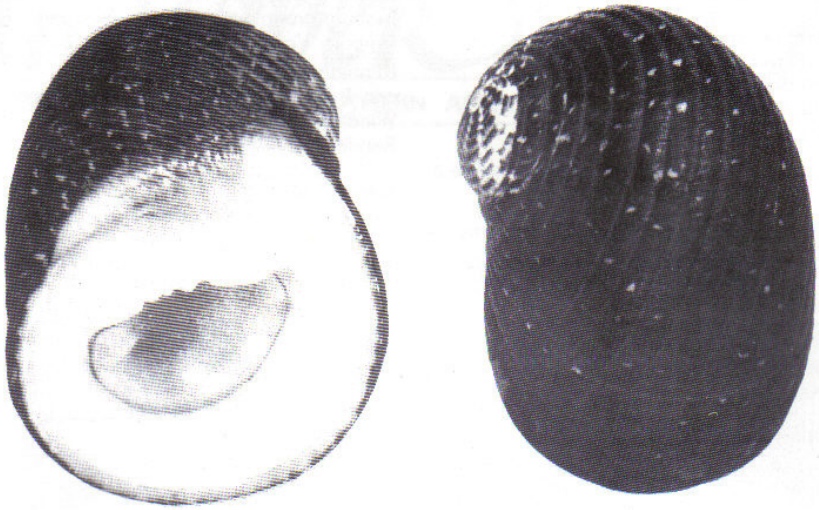
Nerita aterrima Gmelin, 1791, is almost certainly South Africa's rarest nerite. Only two specimens are currently known from the region, both collected many years ago and both now in the Natal Museum. They were found alive on the Natal south coast, one at Amahlongwana Lighthouse, near Umkomaas, by Henry Burnup and the other at Margate, by William Falcon.

Amongst other South African nerites it is fairly distinctive on close inspection, but in the field could easily be overlooked. The ground colour is black, though the apex is frequently eroded and appears whitish where the inner shell layers are exposed. Numerous small white flecks occur over the whole surface, particularly the penultimate whorl and the first half of the body whorl. The surface is sculptured by spiral ribs which become broad and flat with growth and have very narrow, shallow intervals which appear as striae on the last half of the body whorl. In apertural view the shell is seen to be thick, like that of most nerites, and the aperture itself is white with pale yellow tinges. The inner lip has 2-3 weak teeth centrally, while the outer lip has numerous fine teeth, the posterior (upper) two of which are stronger. The columella area bears weak irregular ridges and a small number of rounded granules, although in some specimens it may be almost smooth. The operculum is generally pale in colour (externally), greyish-green around and above the nucleus and orangish peripherally; its surface is relatively coarsely granular.

Considerable controversy has surrounded the identity and distribution of this species. The type locality is unknown and many records are based on incorrectly identified specimens. Cernohorsky (Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus. 11:143-192; 1974) has figured two syntypes in the Copenhagen Museum and South African material agrees well with these. Cernohorsky suggested that **N. aterrima** may simply be a variant of **N. senegalensis** Gmelin, 1791, from tropical West Africa, but it seems to differ consistently from that species in respect of several features, most notably the white flecking of the shell.

After careful examination **N. aterrima** is unlikely to be confused with any other South African species except possibly small, dark specimens of **N. undata** Linné, 1758. That species, however, has much coarser ribbing, lacks fine white flecks and has a higher spire; it too is rare, but not as rare as **N. aterrima.**

N. aterrima is evidently a tropical species and is known primarily from the islands of the south west Indian Ocean *viz*: the Seychelles, the Amirantes, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodriguez and northern Madagascar. It is apparently common on Mauritius where, together with other nerites, it is eaten by the local inhabitants. Specimens have also been found on Inhaca Island, Mozambique. It is not extraordinary, therefore, that occasional individuals should occur in Natal, particularly in a species presumed to have a planktonic stage in its development. The two specimens found are thus almost certainly strays carried south as veligers by the prevailing currents. It is most unlikely that a viable breeding population could ever establish itself in this region for any length of time.



I hope in writing this article to bring **N. aterrima** to the attention of local collectors such that they may keep an eye open for this rare species. Its drab, rather ordinary appearance will doubtless add to the likelihood of its being overlooked and hence increase the challenge of collecting it. Any information regarding **N. aterrima** would be received with interest.

Continued from p. 3

jects. On South Marutea he erected a small house and engaged divers to dive for pearls and shells. After a fruitful eight months he returned home to put his collection into order and then sailed once more, this time along the west coast of South America. A very popular and likeable man it appears for Cuming was well received – well almost – wherever he went. Whilst in the Philippines he scoured the woods for snails and sometimes had hundreds of schoolchildren collecting for him, being rewarded with silver coins. The authorities became suspicious of him after seeing him in the woods at night with a candle and certainly would not believe that he wanted these snails for museums and other collectors. As the natives here were in the habit of making an ash of burnt shells to assist in chewing betelnut, Cuming told the authorities that this was exactly what he wanted the shells for, to be used in England for the same reason. It was only then that they left him alone. At another stopover he was arrested as a suspicious character and thrown into prison. Eventually he persuaded the authorities that he was a meek and mild man not bent upon destruction and they released him.

After this voyage he returned to England where he was set upon by many zoologists and botanists who were eager to relieve him of his treasures and willing to describe his finds for him. Amongst these men was G.B. Sowerby (1st) who had never before seen such a collection and in Sowerby, Cuming saw someone who could describe his collections for him and so bring them to the notice of the rest of the world. Upon his death in 1865 most of his shells had been named by Broderip and Sowerby, but as Sowerby was a very sick man his son G.B. Sowerby (2nd) stepped into his father's shoes and took over the reins of naming and illustrating Cuming's shells.

Another interesting character on the shelling scene was Lovell Augustus Reeve (1814-1865) a close friend of Cuming whose first initiation into conchology was the purchase of a handkerchief full of cowries bought off a sailor who came into his father's shop. In 1835 he published his first paper which included the description of Cypraea subviridis, the first of two thousand species which he described as new to science. His first major work was Conchologia Systematica, published in two volumes and illustrated by the Sowerbys. After Reeve's death Sowerby (2nd) edited Reeve's last and best known work the Conchologia Iconica which had occupied him for 22 years. Once more Reeve had Cuming to thank for most of the material put into this work.

And so it is these pioneers and many others like them that we have to thank for all the research and efforts put into conchology so that a much loved and rewarding hobby could be enjoyed by generations to come.

'It is perhaps a more fortunate destiny to have a taste for collecting shells than to be born a millionaire'.

Robert Louis Stevenson

REFERENCE:

Dance, S Peter. Shell collecting; an illustrated history.

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PERSONALIA

Due to ill health Mrs Mary Mears has had to relinquish the post of Secretary and has moved to Port Elizabeth where she is now staying with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr & Mrs Carstens. The Executive wishes to record their thanks to Mary for her help in the past and wishes her best of health and happiness in the future.

Johannesburg Members
Ken Brown would like to start the Johannesburg group again. Please give him your support. You can write to:

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THE RECENT AND FOSSIL SHELLS OF THE GENUS SCUTUS MONTFORT, 1810

The Belgian Society for Conchology publishes a bimonthly bulletin named GLORIA MARIS and they have just devoted their issue of January 1986 to an interesting paper dealing with the complete bibliography in chronological order of the genus **Scutus** Montfort, 1810 in the family Fissurelloidea. The list is intended as a neutral, historical and objective compendium of the literature, and it does not discuss the validity and synonymy within the genus.

The Belgian Society, and the author J Christiaens, are to be congratulated on this painstaking production.

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Mrs Thea Marsh, P O Box 10, Jeffreys, Bay 6330 has beach collected Jeffreys Bay shells for exchange.