

The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Strandloper 243

September 1995

THE GENUS *GULELLA* IN SOUTH AFRICA

D.W. Aiken

Preface

My late father dedicated much of his spare time to a systematic study of South Africa's terrestrial molluscs, with a view to ultimately bring out a book on the subject. Tragically, he passed away before the task could be completed. Last year Mike Cortie contacted me about the draft book, and asked whether a part of it at least could be published by the Society. This is a shortened version of the chapter on Streptaxidae, which covers only 50 species of *Gulella*. A full version of the chapter is available from the Society as Special Publication No. 6, *The Streptaxidae of South Africa*. This contains descriptions of 136 species and many additional illustrations (see elsewhere in this issue for ordering info). My father was assisted in his hobby by many people but I think that he would like to have thanked in particular the late Dr H.E. van Hoepen, as well as Drs A.C. van Bruggen and R.N. Kilburn. Locality data for the Transvaal region has been reported as in the original, due to some uncertainty allocating place names to the new administrative regions, elsewhere we have used the new provincial names. Terminology and language have otherwise been largely left intact. We recognise that study of the genus has undoubtedly progressed since my father's work stopped, and that there will be errors of omission in the work. However, on account of the lack of a readily-available guide to this family, we feel that his material is worth presenting "as is" for the use of interested parties. The Editor of the *Strandloper* would welcome any subsequent correspondence with corrections, contributions, contrary views and relevant reprints.

Roy Aiken

General

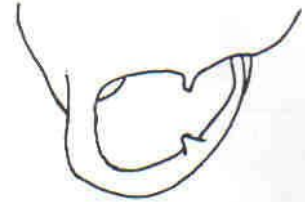
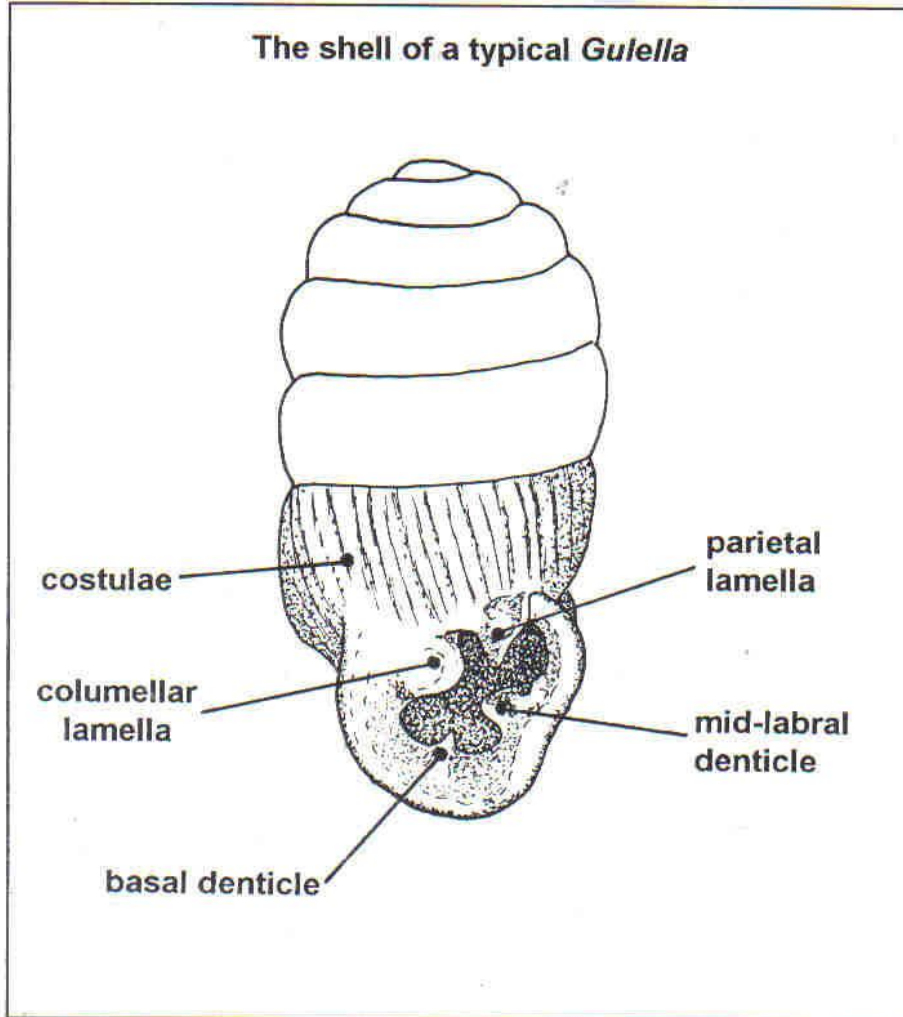
The family Streptaxidae contains several genera which are active predators or scavengers. The absence of a jaw and the radula, with its strong, sharply pointed teeth, is characteristic. It is well represented in South Africa with four genera (*Gonaxis*, *Afristreptaxis*, *Streptostele* and *Gulella*). The shells range from extremely small to medium sized and vary in shape from globular to elongate-turritiform to cylindrical. They generally inhabit bushy or forested areas in the east and north-east of

South Africa. Specimens may be found by rummaging carefully through the leaf litter and underlying soil amongst indigenous vegetation. The genus *Gulella* Pfeiffer, 1856 has over 100 species found in South Africa. The shells are small to minute, cylindrical or ovate, characterized by apertural processes variable in number; the number, shape, size and position of which are diagnostic features for each species. A complete key to the species in groups, based on Connolly's 1939 monograph and more recently named species is given in Special Publication No. 6, but can-

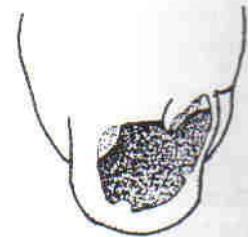
not be printed here due to limitations of space.

The animal has a radula typical of the scavenging/flesh eating species and, although the diet is not known, they have been seen to feed on liver in captivity, and soft invertebrates may well be part of their diet. The aperture has a parietal lamella referred to as the angular lamella, near the junction of the paries and labrum and there is a columellar lamella. Additional processes can occur on the labrum, base, columella and paries. Groups 1 to 11 have a single colu-

The shell of a typical *Gulella*

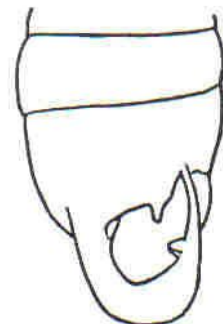


Gulella triglochis (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1903)



Has four-fold dentition, a parietal lamella, a mid-labral denticle, a small tubercle on left of base and a blunt columellar lamella. Size: 8 to 12 x 4 to 6 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal coast (Sodwana, St Lucia, inland at Bothas Hill near Durban and as far as Swaziland).

Gulella zuluensis Connolly, 1932. Has three apertural processes, a parietal lamella, a mid labral tubercle and an immersed columellar shelf. Distinguished from *G. queketti* which also has three fold dentition, by smaller size and more acuminate shape. Size: 10 to 12 x 5 to 5.5 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal coast (Mission Rock, north of St Lucia)



near the junction with the labrum and, usually, the only other process is a fairly deeply immersed columellar ridge. The simplest dentition of the genus but these two processes are found, in one form or another, in all *Gulella* species. Size: 16 to 21 x 8 to 10 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (from Durban in the south to the north east and inland to Kranskop and Drummond).

Gulella queketti (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1896)

Smaller in size than *G. planti*. Shell ovate with eight whorls, sculptured after the first two with fine, oblique, transverse striae. Aperture with three processes, a parietal lamella, a small mid-labral denticle and a blunt columellar lamella. Size: 11 to 15 x 6 to 7 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal south coast (Umkomaas, Oribi Gorge, Kelso, Port Shepstone) and Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape.

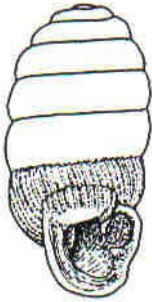
mellar process, groups 12 to 20 have duplex or complex columellar processes.

Gulella planti (Pfeiffer, 1855).



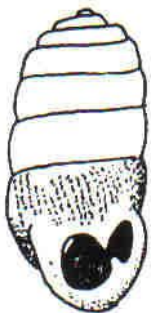
Unmistakable because of its large size and weak processes in the large, unobstructed aperture. Shell ovate, transparent, smooth to the touch but with fine, regular, oblique striae on all but the apical whorls. There are eight or nine whorls and the aperture has a weak, angular lamella on the paries

Gulella crassilabris Craven, 1880.



Shell large, cylindrical, transparent and can appear to be brown or red according to the soil in which they live. When carefully cleaned there is little or no colour to the shell and this is true of all the species in this genus that are mainly translucent, pale straw. There are seven or eight whorls, sculptured with regular, slightly curved, costulae. Aperture with a short angular lamella, a mid-labral denticle and an immersed columellar shelf. Connolly (1939) notes that occasionally there is an extra process in the form of a slight swelling on the left of the base, but the present author has not seen more than differences in the curvature of the inner part of the base and nothing that can be construed as a process. Size: 8 to 14 x 4 to 5 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (Lydenburg, Witbank, Laagersdrift).

Gulella infans (Craven, 1880).

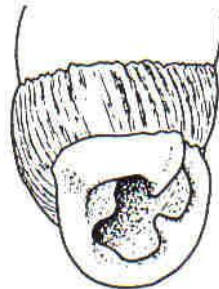


A common species with seven or eight whorls, first two smooth, remainder sculptured with close, regular, straight, vertical costulae. Aperture with three processes, a strong, short angular lamella, a short, blunt denticle in mid-labral position and an oblique shelf-like columella process. Size: 4 to 5.7 x 2.2 to 3 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (widespread), Kwazulu-

Natal (widespread), Eastern Cape (incl. Port St Johns).

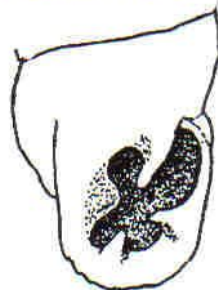
Gulella johannesburgensis (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1907).

A widely distributed species distinguishable from *G. infans* by the presence of a strong mamillate columellar lamella and, normally with a basal denticle which is, however, sometime weak or absent. Whorls eight, first two smooth, remainder sculptured as in *G. infans*.



Size: 6 x 2 mm (type). Distribution: Transvaal (Berrario- Johannesburg, Potchefstroom -Boskop Dam, Standerton-Pepiti Falls), Free State (Bloemfontein), Kwazulu-Natal (Van Reenen, Weenan, Mkolombe, Mfongosi)

Gulella kraussi (Pfeiffer, 1855).



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A fair size shell with seven whorls sculptured with negligible, microscopic, growth striolae. (The word "negligible" is Connolly's not the author's who has not seen the species.) Aperture with four fold dentition; a strong, short angular lamella, a strong, triangular tooth in mid-labral position, sharp denticle on left of base and a strong ridge-like triangular columella lamella. Size: 7 x 3 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Durban and general over south)

Gulella perspicua (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1893).



A small, smooth shell with seven or eight whorls; close to *G. infans* except for the total lack of sculpture. It

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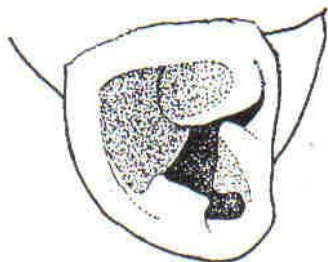
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occasionally has a slight swelling on the left of the base. Size: 4.8 x 2.4 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (Middelberg, Barberton, Waterval Boven, Ondersabie, Wyliespoort, Strydom Tunnels).

Gulella bowkeræ (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1892)

A small cylindrical shell, smooth and glossy with seven whorls, showing only microscopic growth striolae. Aperture with four processes; a huge, long, oblique angular lamella, a strong, mid-labral denticle, a ridge-like tooth on left centre of base and a large, round, deep-set columella lamella.

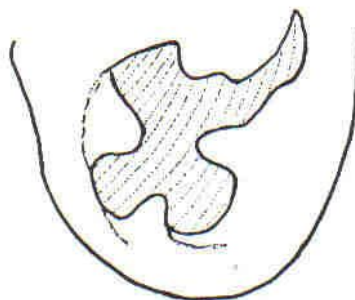


Size: 3.5 x 1.4 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape Province (East London, Kowie, Tonti Forest, Iugeli Bush, Coffee Bay, Haven, Port St Johns)

Gulella pentheri (Sturany, 1898).

Displays a total lack of sculpture. The labral process is a blunt denticle and the columella process is triangular. Size: 3.1 x 1.1 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (South Coast, Umkomaas, Umhlali, Nkandla, St Lucia), Eastern Cape Province (Bushmans River, East London, Kowie, Dwesa)

Gulella delicatula (Pfeiffer, 1856).

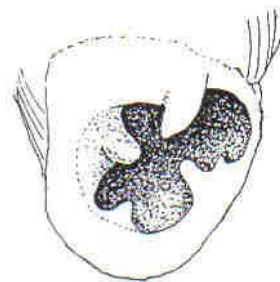


A small cylindrical shell with seven or eight whorls, first two smooth, remainder sculptured with close, regular, straight, oblique striae. Aperture with five processes, a strong lamella, two labral denticles at the extremities of a labral fold near the base (the lower the stronger), a small denticle on left of base, and a squarish columellar lamella. Size: 5.9 x 2.9 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (various localities incl. Eshowe, Melmoth).

Gulella menkeana (Pfeiffer, 1853).

A comparatively large shell with eight whorls, first two smooth, remainder sculptured with strong, close, regular, nearly straight, oblique, costulae. Aperture with five processes; a strong, oblique, angular lamella, two labral denticles, the lower the longer and nearer the surface than the upper, a small denticle at left centre of

base and a triangular, horizontal columellar lamella.



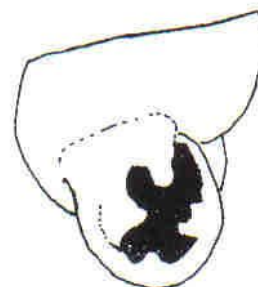
Size: 13 x 6.3 mm (paratype). The holotype was said to measure 11 x 5 mm but has apparently been lost (Connolly 1939). Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Oribi Gorge, Port Shepstone), Eastern Cape (The Haven)

Gulella minuta (Morelet, 1889).



Not as small as the name suggests because the larger specimens are about 5 mm but the smaller are only 2 mm. The shell has six whorls, the last four sculptured with strong, oblique striae. Apertural processes as in the group but the upper cusp on the labrum is frequently absent (even in a series from the same locality). Size: 2.3 to 5 x 1.3 to 2 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape province (Tsitsikama, Canon Rocks).

Gulella orientalis Connolly, 1929.



Has a relatively coarse sculpture and



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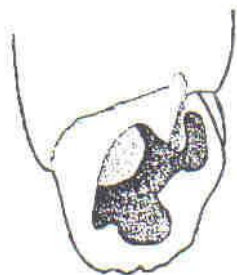
the labral teeth are unequal in length (the lower sometimes being twice the length of the upper, and, although always present, is occasionally represented by a smaller swelling). Size: 7.1 x 3.4 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Wyebank, Sand-spruit, Estcourt, Winterton, Mfongosi).

Gulella subframesi Connolly, 1929.



A small, cylindrical shell with six whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with an angular lamella, a small, double toothed, mid-labral process, of which the lower tooth is the larger, a small denticle on left of base and a round columellar lamella. Size: 5 x 2.2 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Mfongosi, Nkandla).

Gulella caryatis (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1898).



A very small cylindrical shell with seven whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with regular, straight, vertical striae, strong below the suture, weakening and then disappearing from the middle of the whorls downwards. Aperture with four or fivefold dentition; a short, oblique, angular lamella, a small denticle in mid-labral position, either single and pointed or blunt and weakly bicuspid, a tubercle on left edge of base and a deep-set columellar lamella. Size: 2.9

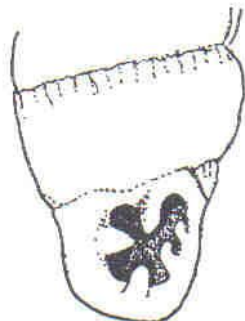
to 3.5 x 1.1 to 1.3 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape province (Cradock, Grahamstown, Martindale, Coffee Bay), also as far as Prieska

Gulella isipingoensis (Sturany, 1898).



A very small, cylindrical shell with seven or eight whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with strong, close regular, oblique costulae. Aperture with five fold dentition; a strong, oblique angular lamella, a large, squarish labral tooth, more or less bicuspid but the upper cusp is often lacking, a small denticle on right centre of base, another on left of base and an inset, scoop-shaped columellar lamella. Size: 2.7 to 3.5 x 1.4 to 1.8 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (coast and inland to Pietermaritzburg, Jamesons Drift), Eastern Cape province (Van Staden Pass, Tsitsikama forest, Dwesa, Umzamba), Transvaal (Rosehaugh).

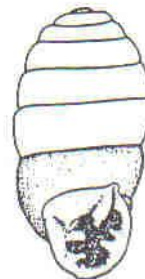
Gulella instabilis (Sturany, 1898).



A medium sized, smooth, cylindrical shell with seven whorls; sculptured only with very short, oblique striae in the median sutures. Aperture with fivefold dentition; a strong angular lamella, a very low labral base with a pointed denticle at each end, the lower twice as large as the upper, a strong, pointed denticle on left centre of base and a strong, bluntly

rounded columellar lamella. Size: 5.4 to 6.8 to 2.5 to 2.9 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal coast, Eastern Cape (Coffee Bay, Port St Johns, The Haven)

Gulella maritzburgensis (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1893).



A small, smooth, cylindrical shell with seven whorls; sculptured with short oblique striae just below the sutures but they occasionally extend lower on the later whorls. Aperture with fivefold dentition; a strong oblique lamella, a low labral base with a pointed denticle at each end, the lower far stronger, a small denticle at left of base and a strong, triangular columella lamella. Size: 4.2 x 2 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg, Isolo, Karkloof, Eshowe, Melmoth), Eastern Cape (Dwesa).

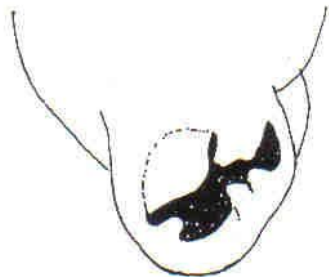
Gulella obovata (Pfeiffer, 1855)

Smaller than *G. instabilis* which it resembles in most respects except that the basal denticle is more to the left of the base, almost low on the columella and the columellar lamella is comparatively broader at its base and more triangular.



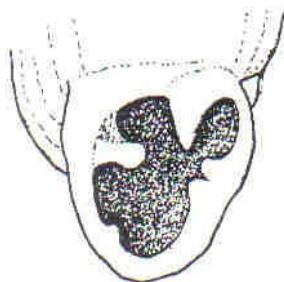
Size: 5.1 x 2.5 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Isipingo, Pennington, Umkomaas, Kelso, Umhlanga, Ballito), Eastern Cape (Port St Johns).

Gulella polita (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1893)



Resembles *G. maritzburgensis* except for being entirely smooth, being smaller and the labral process is more like a tooth with two cusps, the lower the stronger. Columella process simple. Size: 3.3 x 1.6 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape province (Tharfield, Alicedale, East London, Kowie, Bathurst, Van Stadens Pass).

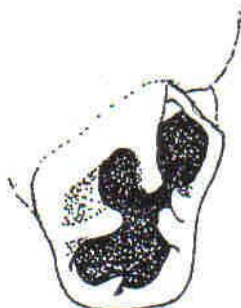
Gulella bushmanensis Burnup, 1926. A very small, cylindrical shell with seven whorls. There is no sculpture and the aperture has five processes; a short, angular lamella, a minutely bicuspid labral tooth, a small denticle on left of base and an inset, slightly bulbous, columellar process. Size: 3 x 1 mm (type). Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Weenen, Pomeroy, Mfongosi), Transvaal (Sabie).



Gulella columnella (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1901).

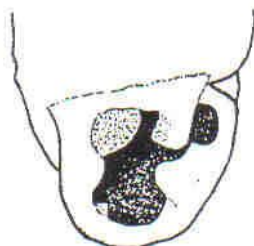
A minute, cylindrical shell with about five whorls. Practically smooth except for microscopic striolae just below the sutures. Aperture with five processes; a vertical angular lamella, a bicuspid labral tooth, a denticle on left of base and a horizontal columellar lamella, entering from the surface near the top of the columellar margin. The superficial edge of the columellar lamella distinguishes this species. Size: 2 x 1 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Karkloof, Dargle, Edendale, Ntim-

bankula, Umkomaas, Isipingo, Park Rynie, Umhlanga, St Lucia, Sodwana), Eastern Cape (Umzamba).



Gulella fraudator Connolly, 1939.

A very small, cylindrical shell with six to seven whorls; sculptured with microscopic growth wrinkles only. Aperture with six processes; a strong oblique, angular lamella, a large mid-labral tooth with two cusps, the lower the larger, a strong mid-basal denticle, a strong tubercle just above the centre of the columellar lip and a large simple, deep-set columellar lamella.

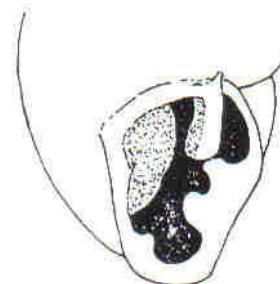


Size: 2.8 x 1.2 mm, Distribution: Eastern Cape (Mbotjie, Hole in the Wall).

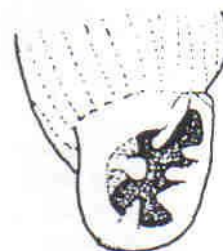
Gulella mooiensis (Burnup, 1914)

A very small, elliptical, smooth and glossy shell with five or five and a half whorls, practically smooth except for some radial sculpture behind the labrum and microscopic spiral lineation on some specimens. Aperture with five processes; a strong angular lamella; a mid-labral tooth with two cusps, a small denticle on left of base and a scoop shaped columella. There is also a slightly raised ridge within the basal lip, extending round the base from behind the labral tooth. This shell is similar to *G. columnella* except for the inset basal process. Size: 2.6 x 1.2 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Game Pass, Upper Mooi River, Mont Aux Sources,

Tugela Basin, Pomeroy), Eastern Cape (Port St Johns).



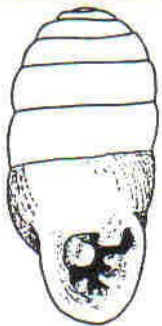
Gulella gouldi (Pfeiffer, 1855)



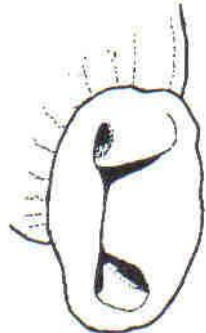
A fairly large, cylindrical, or slightly barrel-shaped shell with seven whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with close, regular, nearly straight, radial costulae. Aperture with six processes; a strong, vertical, angular lamella, three sharp, short denticles, of which the upper is the shortest, on a broad labral base, a denticle on left centre of base and a convex, bluntly pointed columellar lamella. Size: 6.4 to 11.5 x 3 to 5 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg, Durban, and common along coastal districts), Eastern Cape (Port St Johns, Coffee Bay, Bathurst).

Gulella pretoriana Connolly, 1932.

A fair-sized, cylindrical shell with seven whorls, sculptured with strong, close, regular, nearly straight costulae. Aperture with six processes; a strong angular lamella, a flat labral slab bearing three denticles, the lowest separate and distinct, the upper forming a double tooth of which the lower cusp is slightly longer, a denticle on left centre of base and a large, square columellar lamella. Size: 6.4 x 2.7 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (Pretoria district, including Hennops River).



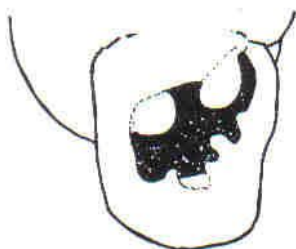
Gulella arnoldi (Sturany, 1898).



A very small, cylindrical shell with six or seven whorls, sculptured with strong, close, regular costulae. Aperture narrow and constricted, dentition fourfold; a strong oblique, angular lamella, a large triangular slab occupying the whole labrum, a small denticle at centre of base and a long, low, deep-set columella lamella, almost concealed by the other processes. Size: 2.8 to 3.5 x 1.3 to 1.9 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Umhlanga, widespread along South Coast), Eastern Cape (Coffee Bay, Dwesa).

Gulella sexdentata (Von Martens, 1897).

Similar to *G. gouldi* but the shell is smooth and glossy and devoid of sculpture except for growth lines. There are eight whorls. Size: 9.5 to 10.5 x 4 to 5 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (Barberton, Sibasa, Montrose Falls, Rosehaugh).

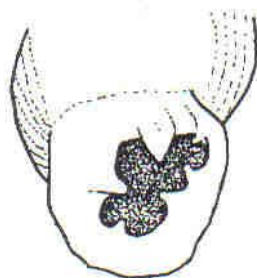


Gulella distincta (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1893).



A large, cylindrical shell with eight whorls; first one or two smooth, remainder sculptured with close, regular, straight costulae. Aperture with six processes; a short, angular lamella, a minute sinular denticle, a labral tooth with two cusps (but sometimes single and acute), a small tubercle on left of base and an immersed columella shelf. Size: 10.9 x 4.7 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (Middelburg, Barberton, Hectorspruit, Montrose Falls, Strydom Tunnels, Rosehaugh, Abel Erasmus Pass)

Gulella warreni (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1903).



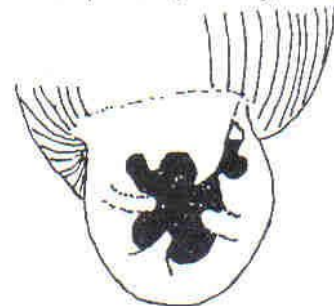
A fair-sized, cylindrical shell with eight whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with close, regular, straight striae. Aperture with six processes; a strong angular lamella, a minute sinular denticle, a long labral base bearing a short denticle at its upper end and a larger triangular one at its lower end, a pointed denticle on left centre of base and a strong mamillate columellar lamella. Size: 10 to 12 x 4 to 5 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Umfolosi, Makowe, Melmoth, Mfongosi, St Lucia), Eastern Cape (Port St Johns).

Gulella laevorsa Burnup, 1925.



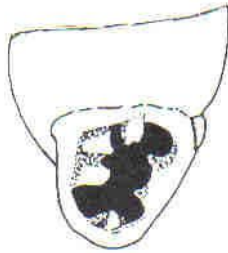
A minute shell with seven to eight whorls, sculptured with coarse, regular costulae. Aperture with six processes; a strong angular lamella, a sinular denticle, almost obscured by the parietal lamella, two in-running labral ridges, the upper with one or two minute cusps, a deeply inset denticle at left of base and a large mamillate columellar lamella. Originally considered by Burnup and Connolly to be a variety of *G. isipingoensis* but given full species status by Van Bruggen in 1969. Size: 2.6 to 3.1 x 1.3 to 1.5 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Eshowe), Transvaal (Waterval Boven).

Gulella separata (Sturany, 1898).



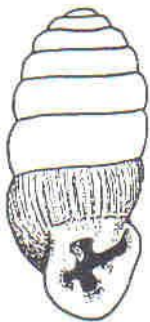
A fair sized, ovate shell with eight whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with strong, close, regular, straight costulae. Aperture with seven processes, a strong, oblique angular lamella, a minute denticle at the top of the sinulus, a low labral base with pointed cusps at each end, the lower slightly stronger, a pointed denticle at left of base, a narrow, superficial, horizontal lamella near the top of the columella and small tubercle on the centre of the paries. Size: 4.6 to 7 x 2.3 to 4 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Isipingo, Durban Bluff, Umkomaas, Kelso, Pietermaritzburg), Eastern Cape (Port St Johns).

Gulella darglensis (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1908).



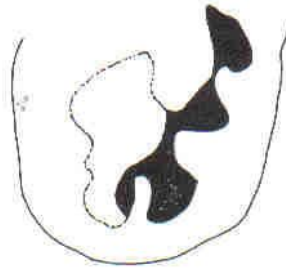
A very small shell with six whorls sculptured with regular, straight, vertical striae. Aperture with five processes; a strong, short, angular lamella, a prominently bicuspid palatal plait, a denticle on left of base and a bicuspid columellar lamella. Size: 2.6 x 1.2 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Dargle, Richmond, Inhluzani, Karkloof, Port Edward, Oribi Gorge, Nottingham Road, Bulwer, Ingeni Forest), Eastern Cape (Pirie Forest, Mhlosana, Tonti Forest, Dwesa, Coffee Bay, Hole-in-the-Wall).

Gulella barnardi Van Bruggen, 1965.



A medium sized, sub-cylindrical shell with seven whorls, sculptured with fairly close, regular, straight, prominent costulae. First two whorls with spiral sculpture. Aperture with seven or eight processes; a prominent angular lamella, which is slightly bifid, at right of paries; a minute sinular denticle which may sometimes be absent; labral process with three teeth, the upper small and blunt, middle tooth a blunt swelling, and the lower long and blunt; a large, rounded mid-basal tooth; a superficial, square columellar process and a large, round immersed process. Size: 6.3 x 3 mm. Distribution: Transvaal (Nelspruit, Hectorspruit, Abel Erasmus Pass).

Gulella euthymia (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1893).



Has seven whorls on which the costulae on the last five are straight and nearly vertical. The angular lamella is relatively long, there is a low labral process, and a basal denticle at left of base. With the bicuspid labral and a superficial tooth near the top of the columella the dentition becomes six fold. Size: 4.6 x 2.3 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Thornybush, Karridene, Umkomaas, Illovo River, Isipingo, Scottburgh).

Gulella falconi Burnup, 1925.



Separable from the last species by more convex whorls, weak costulation, and a narrower, pinched aperture. The labral denticles are strong and separate, the lower the longer, basal tooth long and narrow, marginal columellar process is a long, flat slab and occasionally bearing a small cusp at each end and the columella lamella is blunt and convex. Size: 3.4 to 4.6 x 2 to 2.1 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Port Shepstone, Port Edward, Kelso, Oribi Gorge).

Gulella linguidens Connolly, 1939.

A small, cylindrical shell with seven whorls, sculptured on the last five with close, strong, regular wrinkles just below the suture except on the penultimate and last whorl where they extend across the whole whorl. Ap-

erture with five processes; a strong, short, oblique angular lamella; a large triangular tooth in mid-labral position bearing minute, blunt cones on its upper and lower sides; a small mid-labral denticle; a deep-set, rounded columellar lamella and a low, superficial swelling on the inner surface of the columellar lip. Size: 4.4 x 2.1 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Hluhluwe, Jozini, Lebomba Mtns.)



Gulella connollyi (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1909).



An extremely small, cylindrical shell with six whorls; first two smooth, re-

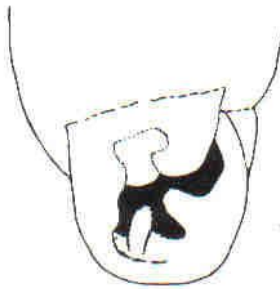
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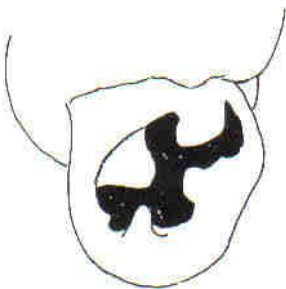
mainder sculptured with strong, close, regular, straight, nearly vertical costae. Aperture with six processes; a strong, straight, erect angular lamella; a bluntly pointed or squarish, faintly bicuspid labral tooth; a minute denticle on the right of base; a small denticle on left of base at the foot of the columella, another near the top and a large, squarish, deep-set columellar lamella. Size: 3 x 1.3 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Majuba), Transvaal (Hennops River, Strydom tunnels).

Gulella ponsonbyi (Burnup, 1914).



Another extremely small, cylindrical shell with six whorls, last four sculptured with fairly strong, regular, radial costae. Aperture with five or six fold dentition; a strong, short angular lamella; a bilobed labral tooth; a small denticle just to the left of base; a swelling, often hardly noticeable, on the columellar margin and a large, deep-set columellar lamella. Size: 2.9 x 1.3 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape (Grahamstown, Port Alfred, Kasongo, East London, Bushmans River), Kwazulu-Natal (Tugeli Forest).

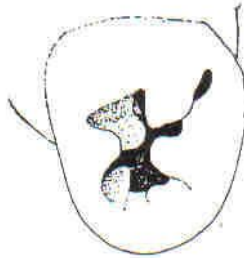
Gulella himerothales (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1903).



A small cylindrical shell with seven whorls, practically sculptureless. Aperture with six processes; a strong, oblique, angular lamella; two promi-

nent labral denticles, the lower the longer; a sharp denticle on left of base; a strong tubercle high on the columellar margin and a mamillate columellar lamella. Size: 4 x 2 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Umhlanga, Port Shepstone, Darlington, Southport, Pietermaritzburg, Impolwene, Ingeli), Eastern Cape (Port Alfred, Dwesa, The Haven).

Gulella multidentata (Sturany, 1898).

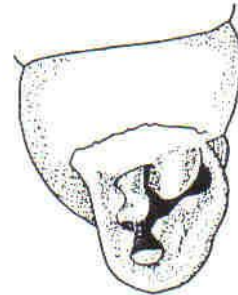


A small, cylindrical shell with six or seven whorls, sculptured with only beaded striolation just below the sutures. Aperture with a variable number of processes. There are six main processes plus additional denticles; a strong, slightly oblique, angular lamella; two strong labral denticles; a sharp denticle slightly to left of centre of base; a strong, nearly square, hollowed tooth on upper margin of columella and a strong, blunt columellar lamella. In addition, there are usually two minute denticles just below the lower labral, two more on right of basal denticle and frequently another on left of base. The last four may or may not be present and rarely, there may be others in irregular positions. Size: 3.8 to 4.3 x 2 to 2.1 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Isipingo, Equeefa, Leisure Crest, Kelso, Durban, Illovo River, Pietermaritzburg, Clairwood), Eastern Cape (Coffee Bay, Nqababa River, Umzamba, The Haven, Coffee Bay, Dwesa, Hole-in-the-wall).

Gulella umzimvubuensis Burnup, 1925).

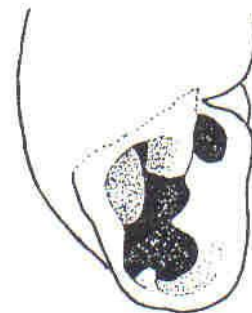
A small, cylindrical shell with six or seven whorls sculptured, just below the sutures, with short, regular striolae. Aperture with six processes; a strong, oblique angular lamella; a large, triangular labral slab usually

with a minute denticle on its upper edge; a small mid-basal denticle; a sharp denticle at bottom, another at top of columellar margin and a large, round, deep-set columellar lamella. Size: 3.7 to 5.1 x 1.9 to 2.3 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape (Port St Johns, Nkombati, Ulfandi).



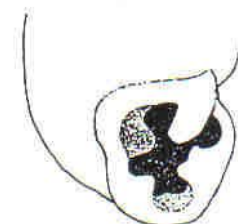
Gulella mariae (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1892).

A minute, cylindrical shell with six whorls practically devoid of sculpture. Aperture with six processes; a short, angular lamella; a labral tooth with two cusps; a denticle at left of base; a tubercle on the middle of the columellar margin and a rounded inset columellar lamella.



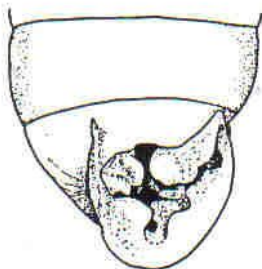
Size: 2.5 to 3 x 1 to 1.2 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape (Somerset East, Grahamstown, Cradock, Bedford, Bushmans River, Coffee Bay), Kwazulu-Natal (Kokstad, Ingeli Forest).

Gulella melvilli (Burnup, 1914).



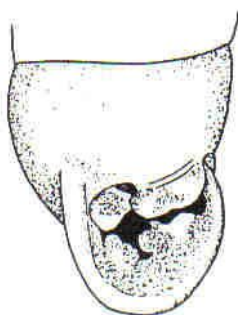
A minute, elongate-ovate or cylindrical shell with six whorls, last four with microscopic striolae. Aperture with seven processes, a short angular lamella; a broad tooth with two cusps in mid-labral position; a deep-set, low ridge on right of base and another near the surface on left of base; a weak swelling or tubercle high on the columellar margin and a large deep-set simple columellar lamella. Size: 1.9 to 2.6 x 0.9 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Nottingham Road, Curry's Post, Karkloof, Dargle, Edendale, Paulpietersburg, Balgowan, Nkandla Forest, Jamesons Drift).

Gulella daedalea (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1903).



Similar to *G. infrendens* but the basal denticle, near the surface, has another, more deeply immersed, behind it, thus having seven processes. Size: 6.2 to 9.1 x 3.1 to 4 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Zululand).

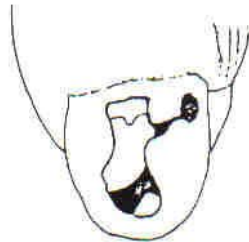
Gulella infrendens (Von Martins, 1866).



A smooth, ovate shell with eight practically sculptureless whorls. Aperture with six processes; the sides of the parietal lamella and the upper labral process run close together and the basal process is large and round, and

close to the marginal columellar tubercle. Size: 7 to 8.7 x 3½ to 4 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (widespread), Eastern Cape (The Haven).

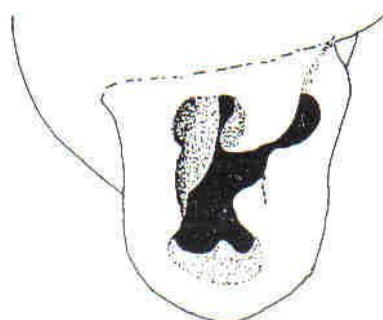
Gulella tharfieldensis (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1893).



The labral slab is usually tricuspid, the middle large and triangular, the upper and lower small; the superficial slab on the edge of the columellar is flat and there is usually a minute denticle on the left of the paries. Size: 5 x 2.2 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape (Tharfield, Kowie, Great Fish River, Grahamstown, Bushmans River).

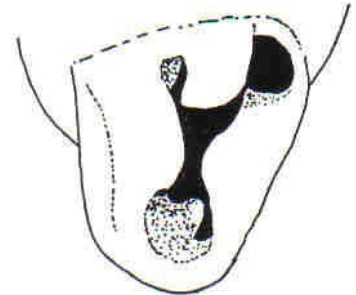
Gulella farquhari (Melvill and Ponsonby, 1895).

A minute, cylindrical, smooth, glossy shell with five or 5½ whorls; first two smooth, remainder sculptured with regular, comparatively distant, nearly straight and vertical striae just below the suture, more or less disappearing lower on the whorls except on the last whorl where they continue on the base; suture subcrenulate. Apertural dentition fivefold; an oblique angular lamella; a large triangular or rectangular labral slab, usually more or less bilobed; a small denticle in centre of base; a low swelling on columellar margin and a deep-set rounded columellar lamella.



Size: 1.9 to 3.8 x 1 to 1.7 mm. Distribution: Eastern Cape (incl. Hole-in-the-wall), Kwazulu-Natal (Oribi Gorge, Blythdale, Weenen, Mfongosi, Eshowe, Nkandla).

Gulella contraria Connolly, 1932.



A small, cylindrical shell with seven or eight whorls without sculpture. Aperture with five processes; a strong, curved angular lamella; a long flat plate near the labral margin with a denticle at its upper end; a broad, deep-set, square slab beneath the flat plate; a small, deep-set denticle at left of base and a broad square slab on the columella. Size: 4.7 x 2.2 mm. Distribution: Kwazulu-Natal (Vryheid), Transvaal (Sabie).

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People People People

An Honorary Life Member: Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer

by Ms R.M. Tietz, Director,
East London Museum

Members in the East London area will need no introduction to the Society's newest Honorary Life Member, Dr Courtenay-Latimer, however members elsewhere may be interested to learn more about this capable lady. Marge Courtenay-Latimer was born in East London in 1907. Throughout her childhood which was spent in the Eastern Cape and Orange Free State, she was encouraged by her parents to take pleasure in the world around her. She developed life-long interests in the study of local birds, in indigenous plants, and in the Arts in which latter field she displayed considerable talent and ability.

With this background she was the natural choice of the East London Museum Society for appointment as first Curator of their newly erected museum. She started her museum career in 1931 and rendered 42 years of service until her retirement at the beginning of 1973. Initially

there were so few specimens in the Museum that she transferred the Latimer family collections of ethnographic material and natural history specimens to use as a nucleus for her displays. These collections were augmented by annual field trips so that today the East London Museum boasts a comprehensive collection of the birds of the Eastern Cape, significant conchological collections and one of the finest collections of early cultural material of the Xhosa-speaking people. The most important specimens in the Museum were acquired through her insight, drive, enthusiasm and wide contact with the community. These include the only Dodo egg in the world, the rare *Cypraea fultoni*, the most complete dicynodont reptile skeleton yet recovered and the coelacanth, which was named *Latimeria chalumnae* in her honour. The latter was to make her, and the East London Museum, famous through out the world. She was also involved in the discovery of the first specimen of *Afrivoluta pringlei*, the shell selected as emblem of the Conchological Society.

With the erection of a new museum building in Oxford Street in 1950, Miss Latimer had the opportunity to fulfil an ambition to create museum displays in natural settings. She pioneered the diorama concept in South Africa and her Bird and Mammal galleries stand as testimony to her imagination, perseverance and skill. They have delighted thousands of visitors, even to the present, and have earned for the Museum a reputation as a "Museum for the People".

At the same time she has communi-

cated her knowledge and researches in regular newspaper columns, magazine articles, scientific periodicals and journals of international standing. She is the co-author of books on the flowers and birds of the Tsitsikama Coastal National Park. Through 42 papers she has made a significant contribution to


the study of ornithology in South Africa.

With her knowledge, wide-ranging interests and deep concern for conservation it is not surprising that Miss Latimer's energies have also been directed beyond the walls of the Museum. She was a founder member of the South African Museums Association in 1936 and served on the Council for 17 years. She was instrumental in the founding of the Border Wildflower Society, the Border Historical Society and the Border Shell Club, has served on their committees and also has to her credit the establishment of the Gonubie Nature Reserve. Other Societies including the Wildlife Society and the S.A. Red Cross have benefited from her participation on their committees. Dr Courtenay-Latimer has also been a member of numerous other organizations and has been the recipient of numerous awards over the years.

On 20th February 1989, 50 years to date and day after the discovery of the famous living fossil fish, the coelacanth, was published, the Freedom of the City of East London was conferred on Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer by His Worship the Mayor Alderman Donald Card. This honour is in recognition of her inspired work at the East London Museum and of the enormous contribution she made to the conservation of both the cultural and natural heritage in the city. The ceremony was a fitting climax to the Coelacanth Jubilee Celebrations and a richly deserved tribute to one of South Africa's most noted and devoted museologists.

More recently her distinguished service to the community was acknowledged by Rotary in the presentation of the Paul Harris Award and in 1994 life membership of the Royal Society of South Africa, South Africa's oldest scientific society, was conferred upon her. Her titles are formidable; Freeman Dame Dr Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer PhD FSAMA MCC DMSS but to us her friends and colleagues, she is fondly known as Marge.

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Book Reviews

Bursidae of the World

by Tiziano Cossignani

Published by :

L' Informatore Piceno
Via Tibaldi 4
60125 Ancona, ITALY

reviewed by D. Freeman

Hard cover, 199 pages, A4 size, with 96 pages of colour plates illustrating four genera, subdivided into seven subgenera.

This is a beautifully produced publication, and the text is well laid out. The colour plates are the very best examples of the Italian printing trade's high quality reproduction methods. They make the identification very easy and tend to justify, at least partly, the author's decision to reduce the text to the minimum.

The bibliography lists 41 references. In addition to the index of valid species, there is a separate alphabetical list of some 140-odd names indicating at least some of the main synonyms. This list is a bit unwieldy in practice, and the book would have been improved by listing the relative

synonyms with the text for each species. The 64 species are arranged alphabetically within their respective subgenera, making the book easy to use.

It would have been useful to have the reasons for the subgeneric classification briefly explained. Although the distinctions between the subgenera appear to be based on the more obvious structural differences of the shells, not all collectors have access to all the scientific literature, and it is not at all obvious why, for example, *Crossata* should be separated from *Tutufa* or what the differences are between *Tutufa* and *Tutufella*.

There is a good range of specimens of the more variable species, and there are useful comparative plates showing some of those almost identical species which are easily confused.

I found only one problem with the text on page 109, where there seems to have been an error in the discussion of *Tutufa* (*Tutufella*) *rubeta*. It reads: "...this Indo-Pacific species is indeed very striking. It is very similar to *T. rubeta*." It would guess this ought to read "... similar to *T. nigrita*."

This book is a very worth-while addition to any collector's library. It may also be ordered from

Seashells Treasures Books,
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Founded 1958

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