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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 24.

AUGUST, 1961.

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FIELD DAY:

There will be a field day on Sunday, 13th August at Buffels Bay in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Cape Point. Enter by the main gate (entrance 10c per head and 10c per car) and continue until you pass the Tea Room. Then take first turning to your left, see Notice board. Near beach, take the right fork and park at picnic spot. Low water is at 10.19 a.m. Meet on the rocks as early as you like. There will be a short meeting at noon to examine the "catch". There are facilities for a braai vleis for those who wish to spend the day. Members are reminded that no dogs are allowed in the Reserve. Phone the Secretary for lifts. New members should have a plastic bag or bucket, knife, small jar and wear "tackies".

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MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 15th August at 8.15 p.m. Dr. A.C. Brown has kindly consented to give us a talk on his further research on Bullia. The shells for display will be Bullia and Chitons. We hope to show a film.

Members are reminded that shells for exchange may be brought to every meeting.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:-

MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM - 18.7.1961.

Apologies were received from Dr. Talbot and Mr. and Mrs. J. Ackermann
The following new members were proposed:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by:-</u>	<u>Seconded by:-</u>
Miss G. Jackson	L. Kerr	P. Kempthorne
Miss Jill Barrett	"	J. Walker

The following members have resigned:-

Mrs. H.E. Bragg, Mrs. H. Coates, Mrs. H.M. Duffett, Dr. C. Grobbelaar.

The sudden death of Mr. S. Hirschmann (Chummie) in Tokyo was noted and members expressed condolences to Mrs. Hirschmann and the boys. A telegram had been sent from the Society. Members will remember the excellent article on Zanzibar in Circular No.19 written by Chummie. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Mr. John Grindley then gave an interesting talk on Plankton, illustrated by sketches on the black-board, which was followed by some discussion.

After tea, the Walt Disney film on "Water Birds" was shown.

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EASTERN PROVINCE AND NATAL SUPPLEMENT

It is with regret that we announce that the above Supplement will no longer appear separately. It has been merged with the rest of the circular and from now on, all material will be published in one section. The Natal Notes promised by Mr. Kennelly in the last circular, are published in this. We are very grateful to Mr. Kennelly and Dr. van Bruggen for their hard work in producing the Supplement in the past, and hope that they will continue to contribute as generously to the circular in the future.

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LIBRARY.

Mr. D.H. Kennelly has very kindly presented the Library with a book "Strange Sea Shells and Their Stories" by A.H. Verrill. Please add it to your list.

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ADVANCE NOTICE.

In March, 1962, we hope to have a display of members' Scrap Books and Drawings, so get busy with that paste-pot and make your books up-to-date! Members in other parts of S.A. are welcome to exhibit.

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PERSONALIA:-

JEFFREY'S BAY.

During May, Mr.E.C. Wicks, with Mrs. Wicks, spent a few days collecting at this well known locality, and the time was well spent.

A second specimen of Cypraea lamarcki Gray, was found. Mr.Wicks was about to discard the shell, as it appeared to be a little faded, but his good wife suggested keeping it for identification, a good piece of advice.

The first reported example of this species - also found by Mr.Wicks at Jeffreys Bay - is recorded in Circular No. 16, Supplement No. 1. The late Mr. J.S. Hutt also reported C. lamarcki from Port Alfred. (Circular No. 18, Supplement No. 3).

Another outstanding find during this visit, is a perfect specimen of Cymatium labiosum Wood. This shell appears to be rare on our Southern and Eastern Coasts, and we congratulate "Ginger" on his collecting ability.

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Recently our very keen young member - Chris. Walker of St. James - succeeded in finding some ten or more species alive in False Bay, all of which are additional to the Check List of Mollusca from False Bay issued in November last.

As this is data of importance to all members, it is hoped the details will appear in the Circular without delay.

Now, Chris., what about it? D.H.K.

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Congratulations to Mr. R.N. Kilburn on his very successful collecting trip to Natal, and his account thereof makes very interesting reading. The list of shells collected has thrown additional light upon what may be found by patient collecting on the Natal coast - "Dick" tramped miles in his quest, and we hope for more news of interest in due course. D.H.K.

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Our enthusiastic member - Mr. E.C. Wicks - paid a flying visit to Jeffreys Bay for one afternoon in July. It proved to be one of those occasions when days could have been spent collecting, instead of a few all too short hours.

One section of the beach presented a collector's dream, with masses of shell awaiting patient sorting.

"Ginger" was able to collect fresh "dead" specimens of the following, all in fine condition:-

Cypraea helvola, Bulla ampulla, Voluta bullata, Murex uncinarius, Melapium lineatum, Ancilla obtusa, and Tellina madagascarensis.

Of these, Murex uncinarius has been very scarce at Jeffreys Bay for a long time, while some of the Melapium were the largest and most perfect examples seen by the writer from this locality.

The high light of the afternoon was finding a splendid specimen of Colubraria alfredensis Bartsch, a very rare shell.

Our friend was very lucky to select a day when shells were coming ashore in profusion. D.H.K.

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GENERAL NOTES:

PORT NATAL - DURBAN.

These notes are in continuation of those in the last Supplement, and are compiled from letters received from Mr. Edward Dee of Durban.

The following list of species with a total of 37, were all taken by Mr. Dee and his son Tony by skin diving at various points in Port Natal, Munster Reef and Port Edward. Many of these shells which were difficult to identify, were submitted to Dr. Schilder in Europe for verification.

<u>Cypraea globulus</u> Linn.	<u>Cypraea onyx</u> Linn.
" <u>staphylea</u> Linn	" <u>caurica</u> Linn.
" <u>limacina</u> Lam.	" <u>clandestina</u> Linn.
" <u>helvola</u> Linn.	" <u>ziczac</u> Linn.
" <u>caput-serpentis</u> Linn.	" <u>diluculum</u> Reeve.
" <u>erosa</u> Linn.	" <u>felina</u> Gmelin.
" <u>nebrites mozambicana</u> Schilder.	" <u>fimbriata</u>
" <u>marginalis</u> Dillwyn.	" <u>durbanensis</u> Sch.
" <u>lamarecki</u> Gray.	" <u>punctata</u> Var.
" <u>annulus</u> Linn.	" <u>atomaria</u> Gmel.
" <u>moneta</u> Linn.	" <u>kieneri</u> Hild.
" <u>turdus</u> Lam.	" <u>teres</u> Gmelin.
" <u>fimbriata</u> Gmelin.	" <u>cribraria</u> Linn.
" <u>chinensis</u> Gmelin.	" <u>testudinaria ingens</u>
" <u>isabella</u> Linn.	Sch. & Sch.
" <u>talpa</u> Linn.	" <u>arabica</u> Linn.

" histrionicus /

"	<u>histris</u> Gmelin	"	<u>mauritiana</u> Linn.
"	<u>tigris</u> Linn.	"	<u>lynx</u> Linn.
"	<u>vitellus</u> Linn.	"	<u>carneola</u> Linn.
"	<u>citrina</u> Gray.		

In addition Mr. Dee reports the taking of two beautiful examples, one of Ranella crumena Lam., measuring 3.5 inches, and the other of Cassia glauca Linn. measuring 3.1 inches. All members will be interested in this news from Mr. Dee, which has materially added to our knowledge of species proved to be living on the Natal Coast.

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NOTES ON ARGOBUCCINUM ARGUS GMELIN, 1792. by D.H. Kennelly.

This species is well known to South African collectors and regarded by many as occurring only in the Indian Ocean. Most of the older authors mention it as an Indian Ocean shell.

Julia Rogers (1908), in the "Shell Book", states this species feeds by night on abandoned skeletons of seals on the Islands of Amsterdam and St. Paul, Indian Ocean. Also that a dead bird or fish hung as bait overnight in water thirty or forty feet deep, will capture living specimens without fail.

However A. argus also occurs in the cold Atlantic, and has been taken at various points in Table Bay and as far north as Saldanha Bay. Mr. D.W.J. Ackermann states that specimens larger than those in Table Bay, are found in Saldanha Bay, and in general the size of examples range from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches.

Though this shell is widely distributed in the Indian Ocean, Macnae & Kalk (1958), do not report finding it at Inhaca Is., P.E.Africa, and in view of this it will be interesting to learn if it occurs on the Natal coast.

Comparison of examples from Table Bay with those from Jeffreys Bay and other localities, proved very interesting.

Jeffreys Bay shells are more rugged, the ridges are more pronounced and the nodules larger and more irregular in size, but the construction of the shells appear to be not as solid as the Table Bay specimens. This difference in structure would be due to the difference in the chemical content between the waters of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, already commented upon by H.J. Koch in 1949 (Review of the S. African Patellidae).

It may be of interest to collectors to add that the nearest relative of our shell is Argobuccinum tumidum Dunker, which occurs in New Zealand, (type locality), also in Tasmania, Victoria, South West and South Australia. This species - of which the writer possesses a specimen from New Zealand - is much smoother than the South African A. argus.

I am deeply indebted to the courtesy and assistance of Mr. D.W.J. Ackermann of Camps Bay, whose information and specimens for examination materially assisted in the writing of these notes.

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FURTHER NATAL NOTES by D.H. Kennelly.

NOTE 1: The genus Cypraea on the Natal Coast with a note on Cymatium.

Mr. E. Dee of Durban has sent in a list of no less than 37 species and/.....

and varieties of Cypraea, all of which have been taken alive by him during the years 1940/42 and 1960/61. These specimens were all found at various places on the Natal Coast, and in the Bay - Port Natal. The list is accompanied by detailed notes, and we regret that a full article dealing with this important information, has to be held over for the next issue of the Circulars owing to lack of space.

Mr. Dee also reports a noteworthy addition to the Natal marine fauna, when he found a specimen of Cymatium tuberosum Lam., at a depth of about 15 feet in the Bay during April 1961. Dr. Nell and Mr. Daniels also found a specimen each of the same shell on the same day, but although a diligent search has been made no further examples have been found. R. Tucker Abbott, 1953, in his book "American Sea Shells", states that C. tuberosum Lam. is a synonym of C. muricinum Röding, and the range of the species is given as South East Florida, Bermuda and the West Indies. I have not been able to trace any mention of this shell on the South African Coast, and the information from Mr. Dee is of real interest.

NOTE 2: Further additions to the Natal marine fauna:-

The undermentioned specimens are reported by Mr. Percy Elston, of Durban, both of which were taken alive.

Conus abbas Brug. This was found by an Australian skin diver in 25 feet of water, Port Natal, in 1960, and when this collector was leaving for Australia, he gave the specimen to Percy Elston. As far as I know this is the first time C. abbas has been reported as taken on our coast.

Harpa amouretta Röding. Again this appears to be the first report received of the species occurring on our coast, and it is hoped that further examples may be discovered in the near future. For the benefit of those members unacquainted with this species of the "Harp" genus, it may be mentioned that this was formerly known as H. minor, and stated to occur at various places in the Indian Ocean.

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P.S. Enclosed please find the Index to the Check List of False Bay Shells, kindly compiled by Mr. Jack Walker.

L.K.