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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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XX

CIRCULAR NO. 41

APRIL, 1963

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 23rd April at 8.00 p.m. The shell family for display will be the Cypraeidae, S.A. and foreign. To encourage the beginners, there will be a prize for the best collection by a beginner. Points will be given for no. of species, correct names and localities, condition and display. Will the more experienced collectors also bring along their cowries so that we can have a really good show. There will be a film.

XX

MEETING AT THE MUSEUM. 19.3.1963.

Apologies were received from Miss K. Leers and Mr. Graham Ivy.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

- Mrs. M. Bereth, 12 Constantia Court, Skinner St., Pretoria.
- Master J. Byrne, 170 Horton St., North Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.
- Mr. & Mrs. B.L. Cock, Chelston Place, Manoba Beach, South Coast, Natal,
- Mrs. S. du Preez, 1167 Wesley Road, Queenswood, Pretoria.

Miss Pam Holland was proposed as a new member by Mrs. H. Jefferies and seconded by L. Kerr.

The next meeting and Field Day were discussed then the excellent Great Barrier Reef film was shown. During and after tea, the cones on display were examined.

XX

FIELD DAY AT MOUILLE POINT. 10.3.1963.

A select company of members, including two enthusiasts from as far away as Simondium, spent a very enjoyable morning shelling in perfect weather. The "bag" included, apart from the more usual shells, a large Aplysia, Conus elongatus, Fasciolaria lugubris and Thais cingulata.

XX

IMPORTANT - OUR NEXT FIELD DAY

This will be held at Kommetjie on Sunday, 12th May. Low water is at 11.14 a.m. We will shell in the "Kom", so come early. Afterwards, we will meet at the new car park, about 12.30 p.m. to sign the book and examine the finds. Please make a note of this excursion in your diary, as no further notification will be sent. Friends and Junior Members very welcome.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY/....

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Mrs. Joyce Barnes of Natal has very kindly donated some "paperbacks" to the Library. These are:-

- 2 "The Living Tide" by N.J. Berril.
- 2 "The Sea Around Us" by Rachel Carson.
- "The Edge of the Sea " " "
- "Under the Sea Wind " " "

Dr. K.H. Barnard has presented us with his new Annals of the S.A. Museum, and Prof. J.H. Day with the paper by B.R. Allanson, M.Sc. on the systematics and distribution of Siphonaria in S.A.

To all these donors we extend our grateful thanks.

XX

To obtain the Annals of the S.A. Museum, February, 1965, Vol.47, Part I by Dr. K.H. Barnard, write to:-

The Librarian, S.A. Museum, P.O. Box 61, Cape Town.

The price is R2.70.

XX

GENERAL NOTES.

Dr. Barnard at the South African Museum is compiling notes on South African shell collectors whose personal names have been used as specific names of shells. eg. Drillia layardi named after Layard. There are still a number of names which Dr. Barnard has not been able to trace. He would be very pleased if any members of the Society could tell him anything about the people on the following list, such as date and place of birth and death, Christian names, profession, where they lived and collected, and any other biographical details. Any members who do know anything about them should write to the Hon. Sec. (or Dr. Barnard himself) as soon as possible. The Society hopes to publish these notes when they are completed as another "special publication". The following people are still unknown:-

- Alexander, C.W. referred to in 1926 as "the late.."
- Anderson "junior of Durban. Astraliu andersoni Smith 1902.
- Babington ? Reverend. ? Port Elizabeth
- Cato, G.C. early Natal settler (18 fifties) Cato's Creek, Durban.
  
- Canplin, Miss Natal
- Churchill Natal
- Crosby Zululand. ? friend of Burnup.
- Crossley, Mrs. Natal
- Farquhar, J. Grahams town area etc.
- Filmer, Mrs. Pondoland
- Hickey, Miss Eastern Province and Natal
- Jones, W.D. M'fongosi, Zululand
- Kincaid, Scott East London

Kitching, I/....

Kitching, L.	Cape
Langley	Port Elizabeth
Leslie	Port Elizabeth
Peterson, Mrs.	Redhouse, Zwartkops, Port Elizabeth
Pusey, H.J.	Natal
Rous	Port Elizabeth
Trotter, Miss)	Eastern Province & Natal
Trotter, Mrs.)	
Walton, Miss	
Westcott, G.W.	Durban
Wood, J.	East London
Wotton	?

XX

New records of the slug *Limax valentianus* Fér. By A.C. van Bruggen.

*Limax valentianus* Pörussac is our rarest and most recently discovered imported slug of the family Limacidae. In the past I have written up some notes on this species, viz., in Circulars 21 and 31. Recently, more specimens from Port Elizabeth have been discovered, but by far the most interesting find is that of a flourishing population in the garden of the Natal Museum, right in the middle of Pietermaritzburg. It is possible that it is a fairly recent importation, although the colony seems large and well established. There is, of course, also a remote possibility, that the slugs have been there for a long time and have escaped detection, although they are large and certainly do not lead a very cryptic life. However, if we consider the fact that the Natal Museum, almost from its inception, has been a centre of malacological activity (we have only to mention Burnup and his circle of friends and a succession of curators and directors who were interested in molluscs), this possibility becomes really remote. Actually there are in our collection slugs of other species collected in Loop Street by Dr. E. Warren, the first director - which leads us to assume that the museum's garden must have been examined for snails now and then.

The importation in Port Elizabeth is certainly of recent date; so far only odd specimens have been found and as yet no well established and flourishing colonies.

The fate of the population of *Limax valentianus* in Pietermaritzburg is uncertain, because extension of the museum will replace the garden in the near future.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. C.O. van Regteren Altena of the Leiden Museum for identification of the Maritzburg specimens.

XX

Natal Collecting Notes. By R.N. Kilburn.

The following is an abbreviated account of various collecting trips made during 1962 at several localities on the Natal and Pondoland coasts.

DURBAN:

Collecting in the vicinity of Durban seems to be deteriorating rapidly, probably partly due to overcollecting. Thus, although a visit to the north pier in 1961 yielded some excellent specimens, more recent trips

have/.....

have been rather disappointing.

Wading in shallow water did result in the finding of several Proterato sulcifera (Sow.) clinging to the undersides of loose rocks; the animal is a pretty little creature with a red and blue speckled foot, and a brownish mantle crossed by rows of little gold tubercles. Under stones in lower balanoid pools were also collected living Columbella varians Sow., and the dwarf Natal form of Nassarius capensis (Dnkr.). After rough weather a fine Venus clathrata A. Adams was found thrown up on the sangle. A few nice dead shells were found here too, including Solariella sculpta Sow., Natica areolata Recluz, Ringicula australis Hinds, Rissoina shepstonensis Smith and Acteocina fusiformis (A. Ad.) (syn. avenaria Watson).

Some good specimens were obtained along the south embankment. One of the best was a fair-sized Irus irus (Linn.), a small white Venerid with beautiful imbricate lamellae, which was found in a rock crevice. Several Cypraea larmarcki Gray, (examples of which were seen guarding clusters of white egg-capsules, during April), were found under rocks and old tiles in shallow pools. Living Strombus decorus (Röd) were collected in sandy and muddy crevices, well-camouflaged by tufts of algae growing on their shells. Several Scintilla queketti Sow. (plus one slightly broken turgida Desh.), and a small colony of Hiatella (synonym Saxicana) arenacea (Smith) were found under rocks. Nassarius fenestratus (Marrat) is the dominant scavenger here, living in abundance on the silt between rocks.

Some excellent dead shells were found along the south pier, the most noteworthy being a good example of the rare and beautiful Phos cyanostoma A. Ad., and other species such as Polinices melanostoma (Lam.), Murex trivialis A. Ad., Bursa bufonia Gmel. (form siphonata) and Cymatium gracile (Rve).

At the base of the jetty at Salisbury Island were collected nice specimens of Drupa biconica (Blainv.) and one aspera (Lam.), and a single Chama, apparently gryphoides Lam, although a maroon staining about the umbones does suggest iosstoma Conrads.

One excursion to Reunion beach, south of Durban, resulted in finding a small colony of Columbella (Euplica) turturina Lam. and three Micromelo undatus (Brug.). One of the latter was collected in the act of lurching on a polychaet worm. M. Undatus has a very beautiful animal, the foot and all appendages being edged with mustard yellow and blue green.

#### PARK RYNIE

Several visits were made to this attractive little resort, situated a few miles south of Scottburgh.

The rock pools to the north of the station yielded some fine live material. Drupa's were especially abundant. D. ricinus (L.) was found nestling in crevices among marine growths on the sides and floor of a large sheltered pool, the spreading digitate lip giving it a distinctly spider-like appearance (the old name arachnoides was certainly apt.) When distressed it secretes a bright green dye, smelling of garlic, that soon turns bright purple. The cancellate Drupa marginata (Blainv.) is also common in exposed, but moist, situations, such as the fissures crossing low rocky outcrops. D. anaxares (Ducnos), a pretty little shell with alternate rows of black and white tubercles, occurs in small isolated colonies among granulata and margariticola. Two dead Drupa squamilirata Smith were also collected.

A rarity, Engina astricta Rve., was found under a stone in a sheltered cavern, also a fine dead shell of the quite dissimilar Engina marmorata Rve. Live Cypraea felina Gmel. and a very large erosa L., and a moderately large Conus coronatus Dillw. (syn. minimus L.) were collected at the same spot.

Some excellent dead shells have been collected here, for example Planaxis acuta Kras., Cymatium labiosum (Wood), a young Conus eximius Rve.,

a specimen/.....

a specimen of the albino form of Nastula diversa (Smith), a fine Mussulna of cumingiana Desh., an exceptionally large fresh dead Cyprina testis L. (belonging to the cylindrical form commonly misidentified by hotel collectors as the Pacific race subfasciata Link), and a single Philippia radiata (Rsd)

KELSO:

Equally good collecting was done here. Living Cyprina parthenoneum Von Salis, Conus abraeus L. and sponsalis Hwass (syn. esylloperis Hwass) and an Umbraculum sinicum Gmel. (syn. indicum Lam.). Fresh dead Colubraria obscura (Rve.), Polinices sabae (Sow.), Natica slapsdillionis Rsd., Bullia similis Sow., Phalium arsolium (Lam.), Bursa erumana (Lam.), a young Nassa davidis Rsd. (syn. conoidalis Lam.), the estuarine bivalve Psammotasa lunulata (Desh.), and a specimen of the bulbous Natal race of Damoullia retusa (var. natalensis Smith M/S)

Some nice Pteropods were collected on the beach, including Cuvierina columella Rang, Cressia virgula Rang, Diopsis trispinosa (Les.) and Cavolinia globulosa (Rang).

SHELLY BEACH (between Port Shepstone and Margate) :

Although in its day this spot was indeed the "Jeffreys Bay" of Natal, it now hardly even merits the name "Shelly". Nevertheless some exciting little shells were found (including some rarities). Of these may be mentioned Apicalia leptostoma (Smith), Calliostoma crossleyae Smith, Oliva paxillus Rve., Bullia anillaeformis Smith, Tritonalia natalensis Smith, Calliostoma layardi Sow., a small Strombus dentatus L., and some good Vanikoro ligata Recluz (mainly the smooth form deshayesiana Recluz). Two Littorina pinctata Wood were the only living specimens of interest.

PORT SHEPSTONE :

Total yield of a miserable days collecting - one large, but slightly worn, Diodora fuscoarenulata Smith.

UMZAMBA (just inside the Pondoland border) :

The writer was fortunate enough to spend a weekend at this wonderful spot, thereby enriching his collection by many new species.

Unfortunately no living molluscs worth mentioning were found, the rocks having apparently been stripped practically clean of anything edible by the local natives. Nevertheless there was no shortage of beach material, especially among the smaller species.

The most interesting find was a specimen of Meritina (Meripteron) lecontei Recluz, a species hitherto not recorded from our coast. Other items of interest include Cymatium clandestinum (Lam.), Marginella shepstonei Smith, Diodora leucostata Smith, Tivela rejecta Smith, Elusa natalensis Smith, Pyrene moleculina (Duclos), "Columbella" shepstonei Smith, Pyrene burnupi (Smith), Gibbula (Enida) perspectiva Sow., Turbo ponsenbyi Sow., Polinices simiae Recluz, Clanculus mixtus Smith, Philippia layardi (A. Adams) (syn. hybrida non Linnaeus), Murex ramosus Lam. (a young example that has turned pink as a result of beach rolling), Natica burnupi Smith, quecketti Sow., a young Mitra punctostriata A. Ad., "Drillia" thetis Smith, Pucithera ? afriana Sow., Picus ficoides Lam. and Conus piperatus Dillw.

CHAKA'S ROCK/.....

CHAKA'S ROCK

Two visits were made to this fine collecting spot, the second coinciding with the draining of the Chaka's Rock swimming pool.

Collecting on the open coast was rather disappointing, and the only item of real interest was Helicogon trochoides (Desh.), living between the polyps of the common Zoanthid Palythoa nolliae. The swimming bath at nearby Salt Rock yielded some fine Pinctada nigra (Gould) (syn. natalensis Jameson).

The Chaka's Rock pool itself was a collector's paradise. Unfortunately the local authorities have now covered the floor completely with sand. This will ruin it for future collectors, as all the loose rocks have been covered over, and even sanddwellers will probably be unable to gain a foothold for a long time, due to the quite considerable pollution that will result from the decomposition of uncountable numbers of marine animals that have been smothered beneath the sand.

The present writer naturally made the most of the short time available, and succeeded in collecting some excellent material. Under stones along the edges were numerous Planaxis lineatus D'Orb. and Assiminea umlaasiana Smith. Under rocks in the deeper parts of the pool were found Cerithium zebrum Kiene, Travardia annulata (Dnkr.), Rissoina crassa Angas, Cyclostrema pellucida Smith, Arca avellana Lam. (syn. acuminata Krss.), and a good Bursa bufonia (Gmel.) (form siphonata Lam.)

Silt pockets among the rocks contained Cymatium vespaceum (Lam.), Nassarius gaudiosus (Hinds), Scutus unguis (L.), and numerous Strombus mutabilis Swainson. A sandy corner yielded a beautiful Pisania tritonoides (Rve.), young Mitra (Strigatella) limbifera Lam., and a fine Triphora consors Hinds. Two Cymatium cynocephalum (Lam.) were also collected, one buried in sand, the other clinging to a low reef. Two Bursa granulata Röd. form affinis Brod. (the angulate var.), and some Cypraea fimbriata Gmel. were also taken.

Sunken into the sand were numerous Pinna muricata L, while several Nassarius horridus (Dnkr.) and natalensis (Smith) emerged from the sand with the rising water. Pyramidella sulcata A.Ad. occurred occasionally among the silt-covered pebbles.

On the wall at the deep end of the pool were collected large examples of Trapezium bicarinatum (Schum.) and Modiolus auriculatus Krss. On rocks on the floor were two magnificent Anomia sp. (unidentified), and last, but not least, a pair of Malleus cf. legumen Rve., hanging from the underside of the ledge.

XX

Notes on Donax Serra, Roding. (Sand Mussel). By D.H. Kennelly.

Investigation of the range of this species has proved interesting.

Records show that it occurs in all suitable sandy beaches, from the Cape Peninsula to Port Alfred.

With regard to East London and vicinity, no evidence has so far been found to prove that D. serra actually lives here.

Within the last month, at Bonza Bay, the writer found some six or eight fresh dead shells on the rocks, which had obviously been opened not more than a couple of hours previously.

There was no indication that these shells had been dug out on the adjacent beach, and it seems probable that a fisherman had brought them to Bonza Bay from an unknown locality.

An old/.....

An old gentleman, now resident in East London, who had been a keen fisherman for many years, informed the writer that he had dug for bait at numerous places on the Ciskei and Transkei Coast.

He states he never found D. serra, but always obtained the local Sand Mussel. The latter is now identified as being Tellina madagascariensis, Gmelin.

At Kei Mouth similar evidence has been obtained relative to D. serra.

The present investigation is being continued, and it may be possible to communicate further information later on.

(Donax serva also occurs on the West Coast. - Ed.)

BORDER NOTES! By D.H. Kennelly.

In Part III of Dr. Barnard's Marine Mollusca published in the latest issue of the Annals of the S.African Museum (Vol.47, Part I, Feb. 1963) appears the reference to a new species of the Family Potamididae, collected by our enthusiastic Helen Boswell.

Dr. Barnard proposes to call this Pirenella boswellae, and a figure will appear in a later publication. All members will be glad to learn that Helen has been singled out for this honour, which she well deserves. (Page 140. Ed.)

In the same publication, our old friend Percy Elston of Durban is mentioned as having proved that three species of Strombus are living on our coast. This has cleared up a long standing question, and it is hoped that Percy will continue the good work.

After an interval of some eighteen months, we again had the pleasure of a visit from our Council Member for the Transvaal.

Most members will know the collector referred to, for this is none other than Helen Boswell.

An attempt was made for all Border members to meet in East London on this occasion. Unfortunately one member was away on a visit to Joburg, while the exceptional heavy rain prevented the others from attending.

It is during these occasional, and all too short visits, that local members get a chance to see the latest exceptional specimens acquired by Helen for her famous collection.

This time examples of Murex were the attraction, comprising Murex lobeckii, M. palma-rosae, M. steeriae, M. sauliae, and a fifth specimen as yet unidentified, which may prove to be new to science.

These shells were all taken alive, and the delicate fronds thereon, make the exhibit a thing of beauty and a joy for ever to the proud owner.

Helen also reported another important discovery from deep water off the Zululand coast, consisting of two or three dead shells of Conus orbigny, Audouin. This is not altogether surprising, as these specimens were taken from the same locality where another Japanese species occurs, i.e. Xenophora pallidula, Reeve.

Our members will applaud Helen's latest success in locating an additional species for the list of South African marine fauna.

XX

