

The Strandlooper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 185

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1977

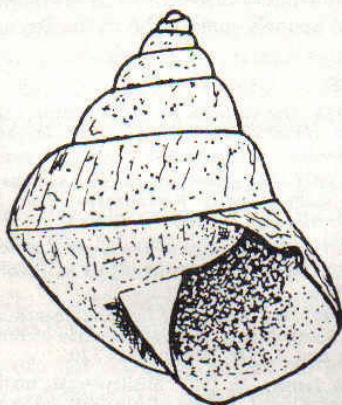
Page 1

"LANDSNAILING" AT KINGSKLOOF, TRANSVAAL

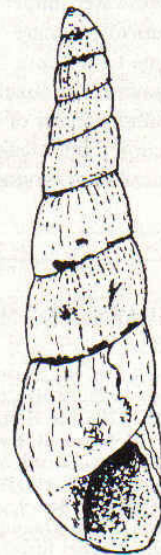
by MIKE CORTIE

The joint outing of the Pretoria and Johannesburg groups of the Conchological Society took place at Kingskloof near Krugersdorp on Saturday 18th June. The kloof is a secluded and unspoilt spot and the day was clear and warm. We had been looking forward to this day of land snail hunting for months and on arrival all made straight for the bushes and trees to begin the search. Doctor van Hoepen explained how the elusive little shells were to be found and we set about sifting through the leaf mould and soil with gusto.

Some of us started finding specimens at once but for most it took a little longer to get our eyes accustomed to the business of picking shells out from the soil. The richest places to search for snails proved to be at the base of indigenous trees. The loose leaves on top were generally barren but did yield the odd specimen of the long, "twirly" *Opeas lineare*. Deeper down, in the leaf mould, and humus-rich dark, loose soil were many more *O. lineare*. The live ones appeared a sort of lemon-yellow, this due to the animal's body colour. By diligent searching numerous colourful little *Gullela infans* turned up. The live ones were variously orange, pink or brown. Several empty white shells were also found in the soil. A few specimens of juvenile *Gullelas* were found, these reminded one strongly of tiny pink Trochidae.



Conulinus species
Length 14,0 mm



Opeas lineare
Length 9,5 mm

The sizes of the *O. lineare* were widely distributed. The mean size was 8,9 mm but specimens ranged from 4,5 to 14,8 mm. Two-thirds of the specimens lay between 5,5 mm and 12,3 mm (ie. a standard deviation of 3,4 mm and a variation in size of 38%). Only 20% of the shells were actually live. The mature *Gullela* did not vary nearly as much in size, having a mean size of 4,4 mm with two-thirds of the specimens lying between 4,1 mm and 4,7 mm. (Once again, for those interested, a standard deviation of 0,3 mm and a variation in size of only 6%). The smallest specimen was 3,9 mm and the largest 5,1 mm. 75% of the *Gullela* were live. Actually, the above numbers only emphasise what is already well-known; namely that *O. lineare* carries on growing up to its death while *Gullela* only grow up to a certain size where they begin to develop their teeth.

In leaf-filled gutters between rocks on the other side of the stream Laurie Smith from the Pretoria Group found numerous dead specimens of a species of *Conulinus*. These

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ranged in size from 5 mm to 15 mm. A 14 mm one is illustrated in this article. The use of the genus *Conulinus* may puzzle readers who recognize this shell as the *Edouardia* of Barnards "A Beginners' Guide to South African Sehlls." It seems as if *Conulinus* is the preferred name especially since this genus was created in 1895 whereas *Edouardia* was only created in 1914. In any case as was so aptly said a century or two back:

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet".

When, at last, we tired of crouching at the base of trees and logs looking for little shells, we took variously to talking, walking or, in one case, hunting butterflies. The surrounding kloof was very attractive with a clear cold stream and a noisy little waterfall. The watery sounds set some of us to looking for freshwater molluscs but none, not even the tiny freshwater limpet *Burnupia*, were to be found. Shelling is normally hungry work and eventually the picnic aspect came to the fore. The picnic was enjoyed by all, the enjoyment probably being intensified by observing the entertaining antics of a certain two gentlemen attempting to cook their steaks without any braai-forks etc. The meet ended at around three in the afternoon.

CHANGES TO JANUARY, 1977 MEMBERSHIP LIST:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 1976 Miss P.F. Forbes, 4-Swansea Street, Newlands 7700
1975 Mrs H. Bebington, 11 Mikahaja Court, Durbanville 7550
1973 Mrs S.M.E. Lubbe, 1205 Far Horizon, Doonside 4125
1973 Mr S.B.D. Nevill, 41 Sunlands, Doonside 4125
1975 Mr P.C. Ellison, 537 Stella Road, Malvern 4093
1969 Mr R.W. Eastwood, P.O. Box 9, Anerley 4230
1969 Mrs R.W. Eastwood, P.O. Box 9, Anerley 4230
1969 Mrs E. Desfontain, S.V.S. Dunnottar, Dunnottar 1590
1972 Mr K.S.P. Fourie, 39 Safier Street, Klopper Park, Isando 1600
1971 Ms H. Eker, 2502 E. Valley View Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85040, U.S.A.
1975 Mr L.P. Burnay, Rua Maestro Antonio Taborda, 41,1., Lisboa 3, Portugal

NEW MEMBERS:

- Mrs S. Magni, Loudon Hill, Coronation Road, Sandhurst 2196
Mr A.G. Enslin, 2 Cecilia Mansions, Walker Street, Sunnyside 0002
Mrs A.G. Enslin, 2 Cecilia Mansions, Walker Street, Sunnyside 0002
Mr S.G. Lennon, 10 Aberdeen Street, Westdene, Johannesburg 2092
Master G. Rohland, 101 Hillcrest Drive, Beacon Bay 524L
Mrs E.M. Dale, 76 Harris Crescent, Sherwood, Durban 4091
Master A.P. Marais, Private Bag 9059, Pietermaritzburg 3200
Mrs D.M. Juniper, 54 Lawn Street, Rosettenville, Johannesburg 2190
Mr J.D. Venter, P.O. Box 1760, Johannesburg 2000
Mr J. Hoffman, P.O. Box 1760, Johannesburg 2000
Mr I.K. Aiken, 18 Pieter Raath Avenue, Lambton, Germiston 1401

RESIGNATIONS:

- Mr J.R. Jacobson, Koegasbrug
Mrs J.R. Jacobson, Koegasbrug
Mr T.D. Hart, Rondebosch
Mrs T.D. Hart, Rondebosch
Mrs S.E. Wastell, George
Mr J.A. Wannenburg, East London
Mr D.J.C. McLeod, Port Edward
Mrs M.L. von Bredow, Ballitoville
Mrs H. Nash, United Kingdom

DECEASED:

- Mrs H. Jefferies, Kei Mouth

BULLIA RHODOSTOMA IN SALDANHA BAY

by A.C. BROWN

Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon, on South Africa's cold-temperate west coast, are of interest to biologists, including conchologists, for a number of reasons, one being the fact that species are found there which do not otherwise occur on the west coast but are limited to warmer marine provinces (Day 1959, Brown & Jarman 1977). For example *Patella oculus* occurs in the warm waters of Langebaan Lagoon and locally in St. Helena Bay but is absent from the rest of the west coast and is typically a south coast species (Branch 1974). It is generally accepted that this distribution is linked with the fact that in early spring a continuous tongue of warm water commonly extends from the Agulhas Current, round Cape Point, to flow parallel to the west coast, frequently approaching the shore in the Saldanha area (Shannon 1966, Bang 1973). Animals such as *Patella oculus* have planktonic larvae in the water at this time of year, larvae which may be carried up the west coast to localised pockets of warm inshore water where settlement and maturation may occur.

No such satisfactory explanation can be attached, however, to the discovery of large numbers of the nassariid whelk *Bullia rhodostoma* in Saldanha Bay in August 1976 and reported here for the first time. *B. rhodostoma* has not previously been recorded west of Cape Point (Brown 1971) and only *B. digitalis* occurs intertidally on the sandy beaches immediately outside the mouth of Saldanha Bay. *Bullia* lacks a planktonic larva, the young emerging from their egg-cases as miniature adults. The cases themselves are laid below the surface of the sand, below low water mark, and it is not reasonable to suggest that they might be transported long distances by currents.

An alternative explanation might be transport by man, a phenomenon which is known to influence the distribution of some animals which are used as bait (Brown 1953). However, *Bullia* is not commonly used as bait and it is in any case difficult to see why anyone would transport *B. rhodostoma* to Saldanha Bay from the south coast when the very closely related *B. digitalis* is already plentiful there.

There is thus no satisfactory explanation at present as to how these animals come to be in the Bay.

REFERENCES:

- Bang, N.D. 1973. *The southern Benguela system: bathythermography and related air/sea interactions*. Ph. D. thesis, University of Cape Town.
- Branch, G.M. 1974. The ecology of *Patella* Linnaeus from the Cape Peninsula, South Africa. 2: Reproductive cycles. *Trans. roy. Soc. S. Afr.* 41 (2): 111-160.
- Brown, A.C. 1953. *The ecology of the larger Kleinmond estuary, Eastern Cape*. M.Sc. thesis in the library of Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
- Brown, A.C. 1971. The ecology of the sandy beaches of the Cape Peninsula, South Africa. Part 2: The mode of life of *Bullia*. *Trans. roy. Soc. S. Afr.* 39 (3): 281-320.
- Brown, A.C. & Jarman, N. 1977. Shallow-water marine habitats. In *Biogeography and ecology of southern Africa* (ed. M.J.A. Werger). W. Junk, The Hague.
- Day, J.H. 1959. The biology of Langebaan Lagoon. *Trans. roy. Soc. S. Afr.* 35: 475-547.
- Shannon, L.V. 1966. Hydrology of the south and west coasts of South Africa. *Investl Rep. Div. Sea Fish. S. Afr.* 58: 1-22.

AROUND THE GROUPS:

PRETORIA. By ons vergadering van Junie 14 was die uitstappie saam met die Transvaal groep bespreek, daarna die skouskedule word aan almal teenwoordig oorhandig en bespreek. At our July meeting we had Don Aiken from Johannesburg as our guest speaker. His talk on minute shells proved to be most interesting and collectors were advised to take more interest in these as the larger shells were disappearing from our shores. The excellent drawings and shells exhibited by Don were found to be fascinating – with the use of a magnifying glass, of course!

JOHANNESBURG. First and foremost, our King's Kloof outing with the Pretoria Group was a tremendous success. Apart from the more serious aspect of shelling, the company was bright and lively, and members who had little interest in this branch of conchology also came along. This enthusiasm bodes well for the groups. At our June meeting Mike Cortie and Ken Brown presented a documentary-type slide show on shelling in South West Africa, from the Fish River Canyon to the coast and thence to the far-off Guinas and Otjikoto in the north. The evening seemed to go down well, but then South West Africa is an inspiring place at the best of times. We had an all time "high" for attendance at our July meeting, the number somewhat exceeding 40. Mrs Mains and Mrs Hooper donated shells from Kenya to members, while in the background Mrs Powel was kept more than busy filling tea cups.

EAST LONDON. With two apologies we had an attendance of 15 at our June meeting. Steve Olivier was congratulated on a talk he gave in his class at school on conchology – he obtained 90%. Steve will also be talking on shells at the Beacon Bay library later this month and Mrs Tasker and Mrs Palmer will be talking at Selbourn College during July. Michael Els and Peter Berndt then spoke on the family Marginellidae. Their talk was well supported with a fine display of shells, even to the animal of *Marginella nebulosa*. Our July meeting took the form of our Annual General Meeting. Mrs Linsdell was elected Chairman, Mrs Roscoe as Vice-Chairman, Mrs P. Palmer as Secretary, Mrs Wood as Treasurer and Mrs G. Palmer as a Committee member. Mrs Roscoe presented each member present with a pair of *Amalda similis*. Thereafter the *Ancilla* were discussed with fine specimens on display and many others to be named. Kay Erasmus had a live taken *Sylvanocochlis ancilla* (Hanley) dredged off East London.

PORT ELIZABETH. At our June meeting Mrs Watters showed a live *Melapium* found in the harbour workings and Mrs Sadler displayed a sinistral *Marginella piperata lutea* from Jeffreys Bay. Thereafter the family Marginellidae was discussed. Our July meeting saw an interesting collection of African Cypraea and Tonnidae, as well as some foreign shells. A lively discussion was held about the displays while tea was served.

DURBAN. Our last newsletter and all our notes were lost when a car was stolen. The thieves abandoned the car but made off with its contents including our notes – maybe they were studious types! Our May meeting was held at Maureen Latigan's home and it was the notes relating to this which have been stolen. The June meeting was also

held at Maureen's home and the family discussed was the Turbinidae.

CAPE TOWN. The shells for display and discussion at our June meeting were the genus *Thais*. Mr Carlsson gave a brief talk on the species found around the South African shores. After tea some general scenic slides were screened. At our July meeting we had a talk by Mr Cooper of the University of Cape Town, on the Jackass Penguin. This talk was well supported with slides.

EXCHANGE WANTED:

- Mr C. Piredda, via Peracba 4, 00141 Roma, Italy. Requests exchange with South African collectors. Has Mediterranean shells to offer in exchange.
- Mr Jean Luc Viale, Rue Mare Baron, L'Abâtre YC 1, 83000 Toulon, France. Requests South African cowries in exchange for world wide species.
- Mr Yvan Attard, 18 rue du Rieth, 67200 Strasbourg, France. Is interested in trading fresh-water shells and fossils.
- Mrs Christian Adler, 14 Rue Adler, 67000 Strasbourg, France. Is interested in trading marine shells.
- Mr Gian Andrea Ceci, 37 V. della Luce, 00153 Roma, Italy. Would like to obtain South African cowries in exchange for rare and common shells collected in Senegal.
- Mr Warren E. Burgess, T.F.H. Publications Inc., 211 West Sylvania Avenue, Neptune, New Jersey 07753, U.S.A. Is interested in obtaining specimen shells of Cypraea and Conus.
- Ms Helene Eker, 2502 E. Valley View Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85040, U.S.A. Would like to contact members with view of exchanging Mitridae and Conidae.
- Mr L.P. Burnay, Rua Maestro Antonio Taborda 41.1, Lisboa 3, Portugal. Is interested in obtaining South African Cypraea and Conus and can offer shells from West Africa, Cape Verde Islands and world-wide in exchange.
- Mr Jean Trondle, B.P. 1753, Papeete, Tahiti. Would like to contact South African collectors with the view to exchanging.

REVISED LIST OF FAMILIES AND GENERA OF MARINE AND ESTUARINE MOLLUSCA RECORDED FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

by PROF. J.H. DAY

A complete revision of special publication No. 2 of August, 1962 now available at R1.50 per copy (postage free)

Send cash with order to:
THE CONCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

P.O. Box 98 – Howard Place 7450 – South Africa

SEASHELLS FROM CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

by LUIS P. BURNAY and ANTONIO A. MONTEIRO

The first recent book about Cape Verde Islands (West Africa) shells that we know about. More than 50 species, fully described and illustrated in black and white photographs, plus reproductions of original illustrations from Kiener's "Iconographie des Coquilles Vivantes".

Copies can be obtained directly from the authors at the following address: Rua Maestro Antonio Taborda 41-1, Lisboa 3, Portugal

The price is U.S. \$5.00 (plus U.S. \$0.50 postage)

MONTILLA ENTERPRISE

59 MARIA CLARA, QUEZON CITY 3008, PHILIPPINES

Specimen Shells, Black Coral Earrings, Necklaces and Bangles, Sea Urchin necklaces of assorted designs. Abaca fibre placemats, Heishei necklaces, Shell pictures

WRITE FOR FREE LIST

**THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

(Founded 1958)

OFFICE BEARERS 1977/78

President	Prof A.C. Brown
Vice-President	Mrs M.C. Giles
Secretary/Librarian	Mrs R.O. Carlsson
Treasurer/Editor	Mr R.O. Carlsson
Council Members	Mr J. Davidson
	Mrs J. Davidson
	Miss L. Everitt
	Mr M.C. Giles
	Mr V. Millard

Regional Council Members:

Eastern Cape	Mrs M.W. Mears
Border	Mrs J.E. Linsdell
Natal	Mr J. Scheepers
Johannesburg	Dr H.E. van Hoepen
Pretoria	Mr L.J. Smith

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

Entrance Fee is R1,00, with a yearly subscription of R4,00. The Financial year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the 30th June of that financial year.

Members who are full-time students at an Educational Institution in South Africa may join as Student Members on payment of an annual subscription of R2,00. No Entrance Fee is payable in respect of Student Membership.

The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper, is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:—

Cape Town	Secretary: Mrs G. Whitehead, 44 Monte Vino, Rosmead Ave., Kenilworth 7700. Tel.: 61-1580
Port Elizabeth:	Secretary: Mr F. Graëve, P.O. Box 2054, Port Elizabeth 6056. Telephone 4-5744.
East London:	Secretary: Mrs P. Palmer, 5 John Baillie Road, Bunkers Hill 5241. Telephone: 8-4306.
Durban:	Secretary: Mrs V. Neill, P.O. Box 31, Amanzimtoti 4125. Telephone: 93-3910
Pietermaritzburg:	Secretary: Mrs M.I. Armstrong, 195 Boom Street 3201 Telephone: 2-5553
Johannesburg:	Secretary: Mr K. Brown 1 Arend Av., Windsor Glen, Randburg 2194 Telephone: 678-5060
Pretoria:	Secretary: Mrs. A. Wilson, 283 Silver Street, Muckleneuk 0002. Telephone: 44-4495

Advertisements are accepted for publication in the Strandloper at the following rates:

Display adverts from dealers — R5,00 per column inch.

Smalls from members — R1,00 per column inch.

The Society accepts no responsibility for any transaction arising from advertisements published in good faith.

BACK COPIES OF CIRCULARS FOR SALE

Copies of back numbers of the Society's circulars are available at 10 cents each or in sets, complete with index, at the following prices:—

Nos.	1 to 40	R4,00
	41 to 60	R2,00
	61 to 80	R2,00
	81 to 100	R2,00
	101 to 120	R2,00
	121 to 140	R2,00
	141 to 160	R2,00
	161 to 170	10 cents each, no index.

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

INTERTIDAL TALK:

It is with deep regret that we learnt of the passing on 11th July of Mrs Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth. Hazel joined the Society in its early days, 1959, and will be missed by all who knew her. We would like to take this opportunity of extending our sincere sympathies to her family. During her time of membership Hazel stirred the interest of many in the hobby of conchology and was instrumental in getting many collectors to join our ranks. For many years Hazel was the Council Representative for the Border area and together with the late D.H. Kennelly was responsible for the formation of the Border Group. At one stage she donated her collection to the Kei Mouth Village Management Board who erected a special building to house what is known as their Shell Museum. Hazel was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in 1974 in appreciation of her fifteen years faithful service to the Society and furtherance of conchology in South Africa.

We have received a copy of a new book entitled "Sea-shells from Cape Verde Islands" by Luis Burnay and Antonio Monteiro. This book consists of an introduction of 16 pages covering among others collecting and cleaning techniques, 40 pages covering descriptions of species and 22 pages of good quality black and white photographic plates. In reporting on their molluscan finds the authors are cautious in their identifications in that when the nomenclature is confused they prefer to leave a shell unnamed. However, they do explain its similarities to known species. All in all this is a very useful book which adds much needed information to collecting in that part of the world. For details of price and availability of book please see separate advertisement.

A KEY TO SOUTH AFRICAN CHITONS

by PROF. J.H. DAY

A re-print of special publication No. 3 of June, 1963.
now available at 75 cents a copy (Postage free)

Send cash with order to:

**THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

P.O. Box 98 — Howard Place 7450 — South Africa

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Society has copies of the following publications for sale at the prices stated:

A Preliminary list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock	R0,50
Additional list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock	R0,50

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

*We would welcome any article of interest to
Shell Collectors for future publication.*