

XX
 THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.
 XXX

CIRCULAR NO. 7.

MAY, 1959.
 (Reprinted - 1969)

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MEETING:

This month, our Society celebrates its first anniversary, and to mark this occasion our next meeting will be an anniversary dinner which will be held on Thursday, June 11th, at the HOTEL CECIL in Newlands, at 6.45 p.m.

We regret that many members, due to the fact that they are living far away from Cape Town, will be unable to attend, and we hope that during the years to come the Society will grow sufficiently to warrant future celebrations in other centres.

To enable the Committee to make adequate arrangements with the Hotel, those members who wish to attend this dinner are kindly requested to complete the attached form and to return it to the Secretary before June 2nd.

Members may bring a partner. The charge for the dinner will be 12/6. per head. Dress informal.

After the dinner, we will hold a short meeting.

Agenda :-

- (1) Minutes of last meeting.
- (2) Matters arising out of the Minutes.
- (3) Election of Members.
- (4) Proposal of new Members.
- (5) Any other business.
- (6) Dr. Francois Retief has kindly agreed to show one of his own underwater films and one film made by the English underwater expert, Lee Kenyon, both taken at the Cape.

NEW MEMBERS :

At our last meeting, held on April 23rd 1959, the following members were elected.

(C = Corresponding Member)
 (S = Student Member)

- Mrs. Nancy Deverall, "Coombe-Dingle", 55 Athol-Oaklands Road, Melrose North, Johannesburg, Transvaal.
- C Mr. J. Dryver, 10 Sledoordnplantsoen, Wageningen, Holland.
- S Miss Vickie Klarwill, 7 Hilton Road, Oranjezicht, Cape Town, C.P.
- C Mr. Frank Lovejoy, 195 Ocean Street, Narrabeen, Sydney, N.S.W. Australia.
- Mrs. C.J. Robinson, c/o The Star, P.O. Box 319, Pretoria.
- Mrs A.C. Villet, Long Street, Bredasdorp, C.P.
- Mrs A.C. Wakeham, 5 Beach Court Mansions, Muizenberg, C.P.
- S Master Kenneth Hughes, 20 Avenue la Croix, Sea Point, C.P.

PROPOSED MEMBERS:

At our next meeting, the following will be proposed for membership.

(S = Student Member)

	<u>Proposer:</u>	<u>Seconder:</u>
S Miss Wendy Brown	Mrs. L. Kerr	Mr. J.N. Ackermann
S Master Robert Day	Mrs. L. Kerr	Mr. J.N. Ackermann
S Miss Pamela Rayner	Mrs. L. Kerr	Mr. J.N. Ackermann
Mrs. J.N.O. Uys	Mr C. Swaneveld	Mrs. L. Kerr
S Miss Priscilla Whitehead	Mrs. L. Kerr	Mr. J.N. Ackermann

At our last meeting, apart from those listed in Circular No. 6, the following were proposed.

(C = Corresponding Member)

	<u>Proposer:</u>	<u>Seconder:</u>
Mr. M.E. Dormer	Mrs. H.E. Coates	Mr. C. Swaneveld
Mr. E.T. Haywood	Mr. P. Elston	Mr. J.N. Ackermann
C Mr. A.M. Van Wezemael	Mr. C. Swaneveld	Mr. J.N. Ackermann

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Members are requested to notify the Secretary of any change of address.

New Address: Mr. P. Elston,
9 Garlands,
19 Montclair Road,
Montclair, Durban, NATAL.

GENERAL NOTES:

Mr. Xavier Debras, Grand'Rue 78, Prayon-Trooz, Belgium, wants to exchange shells with somebody in South Africa. He offers marine shells from Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy, as well as land and freshwater shells from Germany, Holland, Belgium and France.

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Mrs. Bea M. Cole, P.O. Box 1003, Naples, Florida, U.S.A. is interested in exchanging or buying shells. She offers Florida shells including many rare ones, as well as world-wide shells.

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Mrs. Carl B. Chandler, P.O. Box 621, Chatham, Massachusetts, U.S.A. would like to make some exchange friends in Southern Africa. Her main interest are Cones, Mitras, Volutes, Murex, Pectens and Cypraea in order named, and she can offer a great variety of exchange material from both coasts of the Americas, including *Cypraea cervinetta*, *Fasciolaria princeps*, *Murex brevifrons* (a semi-rare species), *Strombus peruviana* (rare), *Strombus tricornis* (Persian Gulf), *Fasciolaria granosa*, *Conus dalli*, *Conis pyriformis*, *Diastorsio decussata*, *Voluta musica* (Grenada, BWI) and a list of further specimens will be sent on application. She is particularly keen to get some *Conus zonatus* and *Conus patens*.

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Circulars: Back copies of circulars may be obtained from the Secretary at 1/- each.

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Commenting on the notes on "*Nerita albicilla*", Linn, by Mr. D.H. Kennelly, which appeared in Circular No. 6, Prof. Day says that he has found this shell, occurring alive, from Durban to as far South as Knysna.

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Members are advised that the Cones will be the next family to be discussed at a future meeting. We suggest, therefore, that they start early with the preparation of their displays.

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Mrs. J.N.O. Uys, Eerstekop, Heidelberg, C.P. wants to borrow a copy of Burch's Directory of Conchologists. Will one of our members who has this publication kindly help Mrs. Uys.

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Mrs. C.M. Connolly, 40 Third Avenue, Fish Hoek, C.P. has a copy of the Geographical Magazine, July 1949 issue, in which appears an article by Rutherford Platt "SHELLS TAKE YOU OVER WORLD HORIZONS", which she wants to sell for £1. -- --

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A notice, giving details of the newly formed "ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA", is attached to this circular. Any members interested in this Society should contact Mr. F.H. Talbot at the South African Museum in Cape Town.

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We want to remind our readers that opinions expressed in articles which appear in our circulars are those of the authors and publication of these articles does not necessarily mean that the Committee supports these views.

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NOTES ON SOME TROPICAL SPECIES OF "CYPRAEA" OCCURRING AT JEFFREYS BAY:

By D.H. Kennelly.

As this genus was the subject of discussion at the April meeting of the Society, it seems to be an opportune time to submit these notes.

For many years the writer has been interested in the occurrence of tropical species at Jeffreys Bay, and to date the undermentioned species of "Cypraea" have been recorded.

Cypraea helvola, Linn.
 Cypraea vitellus var. dama, Perry.
 Cypraea chinensis, Gmelin.
 Cypraea cruenta, Dillwyn.
 Cypraea citrina, Gray.
 Cypraea marginalis, Dillwyn.
 Cypraea tabescens, Solander.

The type localities afford some interest. For the species *Cypraea chinensis*, Gmelin, the locality is China.

Cypraea marginalis, Dillwyn, is quoted as S.E. Africa, and *Cypraea citrina*, Gray, as Natal.

All the examples collected by the writer are fresh dead shells, and in addition juvenile specimens of *Cypraea chinensis* and *Cypraea tabescens*, have been secured.

Therefore, it would appear that these species are living in the vicinity of Jeffreys Bay, the ova - or young - having been brought down by the agency of the Mozambique Current over a period of many years - how many years is anyone's guess.

Sowerby examined the collection formed by Mr. S.D. Bairstow at Port Elizabeth many years ago. It now appears that in those far off days, the emphasis was on the specimen and the actual locality was ignored. Hence, Mr. Bairstow lists many examples of shells from the tropics, which were ascribed to Port Elizabeth, which was the collector's place of residence and in many cases not where the shells were really obtained.

Today it cannot be too strongly urged that the actual locality of shells must be recorded, lest collectors add more confusion to that already existing, and this applies to our own coast line from Natal to the Orange River.

References: Turton, 1932, Marine Shells of Port Alfred.
 Sowerby, 1892, Marine Shells of South Africa.
 Allan, Joyce, 1956, Cowry Shells of World Seas.

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THE MOVEMENT OF TROPICAL SHELLS TO THE SOUTH:

By D. J. Bosman.

This is merely an introduction to a subject that I started investigating recently, and for further study I need all the help of my fellow conchological enthusiasts to supply me with data and specimens, wherever possible, of tropical shells found along our South African coast, especially between East London and Cape Town.

The following is a list of some of the shells that I have in my possession, and all were found by frogmen at depths of 5 fathoms and deeper in the vicinity of the Simonstown harbour during the first half of 1958:-

Clavatula taxus, Kiener. According to Reeve, the author should be Chemnitz.

Conus tessellatus, Born. Sowerby (Marine Shells of S. Africa, 1892) lists the species as occurring in Natal, having been collected there by Mr. Crawford of Port Elizabeth many years ago.

Conus arenatus, Hwass. Listed in the "Natural History of Inhaca Island", Macnae and Kalk, 1958, as occurring there. This island is at the entrance to the Bay of Lourenco Marques.

Conus bandanus, Hwass. The only locality that can be found for this species is New Caledonia.

Chlamys testudineus, Reeve. The name of this Pecten has not yet been verified. The specimen I have is $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". The shell is equivalve with unequal ears, each valve being convex and each also has about 26 distinctive ribs with short flattish spikes along the top of each rib. These ribs can also be seen on the ears of this shell which also have the fine spikes as the rest of the shell. The exterior is reddish-brown to dark brown in colour, while the interior colour varies from a light brown to almost a light gold colour. If any of the other members know more about this shell, I will be pleased to get more details.

Murex ramosus, Lam. Mr. Elston, in the last circular, reports that he has found two specimens at Durban North Pier, June 1958, and Mr. Kennelly also reports having found a specimen at the mouth of the Kromme River, about 12 miles west of Jeffreys Bay, some ten years ago and a second specimen on the beach at Jeffreys Bay.

In all these years, none of the abovementioned tropical shells have been found further south than mentioned and now specimens of all the above shells have been found as far south as Simonstown. This means that during the last 50 - 100 years a great movement of shells must have taken place unnoticed by collectors.

None of the above species are free swimmers, so that it would mean these shells have gradually been swept down by the exceptionally strong Mocambique Current in the larval stages or whilst the shells were still very small and comparatively light.

Mr. Kennelly now also agrees with me that Murex ramosus does occur on our southern coast, and he has revised his opinion as to his previous theory that these shells were thrown overboard from passing ships, as expressed in Circular No. 5.

I also wish to thank Mr Kennelly for notes he sent me on the different species and which I have included in this article being, I think, of interest to all the members of our Society.

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NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN HALIOTIDAE:

By D.H. Kennelly.

Haliotis midae, L.Haliotis Midae elatior, Pilsbry 1890.

The first mentioned species is, of course, well known to collectors and occurs all round our coast.

The variety H. midae elatior is of interest and is not generally known, but it occurs at Port Alfred, Cape Receife and Jeffreys Bay, and the writer has had a number of good specimens from the two latter localities.

In appearance, the variety looks very much like H. midae but measurement and closer scrutiny reveals that it is deeper and more circular.

The average depth of the variety is half an inch more than H. midae and the length from the anterior to the posterior end is about half an inch less.

These figures were arrived at by the writer after examining a number of specimens from Cape Receife and Jeffreys Bay, together with several in the collection of the Port Elizabeth museum.

In reporting the presence of the variety at Port Alfred, Turton states that the young of H. midae and the variety are indistinguishable, but the writer was fortunate in securing a half grown shell of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, which is undoubtedly the juvenile of the variety. This specimen was found at Jeffreys Bay and where there is one, more will certainly be found later, but juveniles are definitely scarce.

The type locality of the variety is not known to the writer, but efforts are being made to obtain this information from the U.S.A.

It will be interesting to learn if the variety elatior occurs round the Cape Peninsula.

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Please address all correspondence and contributions for future circulars to the Hon. Secretary:-

C. Swaneveld,
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Highstead Road,
RONDEBOSCH, C.P.

'Phone: 69-8063 (Home)
2-7594 (Office)

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