

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 22nd September, 1964, at 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Helen Duffett will tell us about her trip to Europe via the East Coast and illustrate it with slides in colour. The shells for display will be what you consider your rarest or most beautiful ones - not more than ten, please, as space is limited. We hope that many members will show their treasures.

MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM, 18.8.1964.

Mr. Elston was in the Chair. Apologies were received from Dr. Talbot, R. Pollard and Miss M. Kempthorne. The minutes of the June and July meetings were confirmed.

The following were elected as members of the Society :-

- Mrs. A. Ritter, 139A, High Street, Worcester, C.P.
- Mrs. Horne, 11, Leno Mansions, Rosmead Avenue, Kenilworth, C.P.

Mrs. A. Gillmer was proposed as a new member by D.H. Kennelly and seconded by L. Kerr.

The Secretary reported that the Division of Fisheries had informed her that, with the exception of Haliotis and Solen (Perlemoen and Pencil Beit), there were no restrictions on the collection of other Marine Mollusca in the Cape Province. Members were requested to observe the Society rule on the conservation of live specimens.

Mr. Swaneveld raised the matter of the Natal Museum having advertised spare copies of books and monographs in overseas publications and suggested that the Museum be written to, so that, in future, this Society be given first choice. Mrs. Connolly requested that we endeavour to obtain any editions of the Annals of the Natal Museum containing articles on Mollusca. The Chairman said that he would write to this Museum and report back.

A very fine display of Cassis was viewed with interest by all present.

Mrs. Connolly displayed and answered questions on her Queensbury Bay shells collected during her recent trip.

After the tea interval, a film on the Congo Pygmies was shown. Mr. John Grindley was thanked for working the projector and congratulated on his advancement to two senior posts at the Museum.

Dr. Talbot looked in at the end to thank us for the book token we had presented to him as a parting gift.

XX

FIELD DAY, 7.9.1964. By L. Kerr.

Twenty-two members turned out on Monday to shell at Slangkop in ideal weather. The sea was calm and the tide right out. We were pleased to see so many juniors present and judging by their enthusiasm and some lucky finds, they had a good time.

Altogether

GENERAL NOTES.

AN ADDITION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN FAUNA-LIST OF MOLLUSCA. By K.F. Bernard.

Mrs. H. Jefferies recently sent me a "puzzle" picked up on the beach at Kei Mouth. At first sight it looked like an empty barnacle shell (about an inch across), with a tube sticking out at one side. Examination soon showed that it was an example of the interesting genus Clavagella.

This mollusc forms a tube, with which the left valve of the shell is completely fused; the right valve remains free. The front end is surrounded by numerous frilly processes; the hind end is a plain tube of varying length. The present specimen unfortunately lacks the right valve, and some of the hind end of the tube has evidently been broken away.

Clavagella inhabits holes and crevices in rocks and corals. That it bores its own hole, as has been stated, seems doubtful, because it has no rasping valves like Pholas or Teredo, and apparently no mechanism, unless it be chemical, for enlarging its hole.

It occurs in various parts of the world, but of the localities recorded in the literature available to me, the nearest to South Africa is the Island of Reunion (Bourbon). It has not been recorded from Madagascar or the East African coast.

The "puzzle" is where did the present specimen come from? Did it live in a rock crevice near Kei Mouth, or was it transported in some way from farther afield? Does Clavagella live in the coral reefs on the Natal coast, or at Inhaca Island (Delagoa Bay), or at Basaruto Island? Here is a challenge to members who do not object to a wetting, because the only way to obtain a perfect specimen is to find a live one in its home. And a gentle reminder to the lucky finder: do not clean out and throw away the soft parts. They are as interesting as the shell.

In the same family is an even more peculiar mollusc: the watering-can shell (Brechites or Aspergillum). Here both valves are firmly embedded in the long tube, one end of which is closed by a perforated plate like the rose on a watering-can. It lives buried vertically in sand. I have seen a specimen from Mozambique (Island), and have been told that it occurs at Inhaca Island.

XX

NOTES ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SHELL ARGOBUCCINUM (EUGYRINA) GEMMIFERA (EUTHYME) 1889, AND THE AUSTRALIAN SHELL MAYENA AUSTRALASIA PERRY 1811.

By D.H. Kennelly.

A recent study of examples of these two species held in the East London Museum collection, and the relative literature, has proved interesting.

Many years ago these shells were identified as Ranella leucostoma Lamarck. L. Reeve, 1844, in his Monograph of Ranella, describes and illustrates R. leucostoma Lamarck, habitat New Holland.

The South African shell was listed by G.B. Sowerby, 1892, (Marine Shells of South Africa), as Ranella leucostoma Lamarck "VAR".

Sowerby mentioned the striking difference between specimens from the two countries, the South African shells being distinguished by the black markings on the outer lip.

In 1889

The Schilders' formula for the S.E. African chinensis is 31.63, 15.15, and tortirostris (Port Elizabeth to Port Alfred, Natal?) is 10.65, 12.12. While the smallest of the Elston specimens is still larger than the mean length of tortirostris, it is now clear that there is a tendency for chinensis in South East Africa to vary in length considerably below the normal mean of the species in warmer more northern waters. It is highly probable that the few specimens of tortirostris are only extreme forms of this variation.

The Schilders describe C. tortirostris in their Prodrôme as :-

"fossula still more reduced, even in shells in which the few teeth do not become so obsolete nor the extremities so irregularly rostrate as in the type shells; it approaches violacea in colour, but is often distinctly zonate."

In the Elston shells, the fossula, formed by a notch in the front few columellar teeth, varies considerably in depth, and does not appear to be a significant factor. Rostration of the ends is small, and is greatest in the smallest specimen. Two shells are zonate: Nos. 3 and 8; both also have darker colouring generally. In addition, No. 8 has a much deeper basic colour on sides and base; this is deep pink with a dark patch on the columellar side of the base. None of the points mentioned by the Schilders seems to support genetic distinction for tortirostris.

In Veliger 5, 2, 1962, Cate describes the Hawaiian form of C. chinensis, for which he revived the name C. c. amigea Melville and Standen 1915. It is interesting to note that, at another extreme limit of the range of the species, very similar forms are found. Several of the Port Natal shells very closely resemble Cate's plate and description of amigea. This indicates that the Hawaiian form is ecological only, and not genetic, and suggests that the peculiarities observed in Hawaiian shells are due to some unidentified environmental factor which is found in a number of places within the range of the species.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FARVIPERNA DENTIFERA, KRAUSS.

By D.H. Kennally.

This seems to be a little known bivalve, inasmuch as many of our members are unacquainted with the species.

The shell is recorded as living on the Natal coast.

In July, our enthusiastic member - Mrs. Hazel Jefferies - submitted a couple of specimens taken alive at Kei Mouth, to the writer.

The tentative identification was F. dentifera. This has been confirmed by Dr. Barnard, and Kei Mouth is the most southerly record for this species up to the present.

In addition, Hazel submitted her "puzzle" shell, ex Kei Mouth, to Dr. Barnard, who has identified it as a specimen of Clavagella, the first record for South Africa.

The foregoing constitutes two interesting discoveries, and all members will congratulate Hazel on the reward she has gained by careful and persistent collecting.

We can only repeat "Ex Kei Mouth aliquid semper novi".

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WORLD

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND.

By J. Kernan.

Some time ago there was a notice in the circular from Dr. Boscott, asking for South African shells that he could sell in aid of funds for the World Wildlife Fund.

I sent a box, and since then have had a very interesting correspondence with Dr. Boscott. He collects shells from various parts of the world and puts them into starter boxes to sell. He has already collected over £100 for the World Wildlife Fund.

He and his wife have opened a shell museum at their home in Deal, Kent, and have attracted a great deal of attention to shells and the Fund.

Dr. Boscott also writes of research that is being done in the United States and other places on possible uses of shellfish in prevention and treatment of various diseases. He mentions specifically work by a Sister Rosaria in cancer research with Quahog clam extracts.

On a recent trip to the States, he visited Harvard University's Comparative Biology Museum, with 15 million shells, and Smithsonian Institute's 12 million.

He still wants South African shells; would like regular supplies in quantity, but will be glad to accept any that members want to send. He is willing to pay postage if the sender desires it.

I can urge South African collectors to contact Dr. Boscott, as he is doing a great work with shells. His address is :-

"Sunnycroft", 14 Southwall Road, Deal, Kent, England.

XX

NATAL NOTES.

By B.I. Cock.

Weather: Excellent. Tide: Spring low.
Enthusiasm: 100%. Objective: Shell collecting.

Such were the conditions prevailing when nine members and three visitors set off in three cars for Reunion Rocks, which was thought would be the best place to suit conditions that lovely Sunday morning.

On arrival it was just a matter of minutes before everybody was out on the ledge, eyes down and body bent forward, carefully scanning the rocks, crevices and pools for what was hoped would be a new specimen for his or her collection.

During the two hours spent collecting, many fine specimens came to hand and when the count-up came, there was quite a fair and varied selection.

Among the Cypraea collected were: onnulus Linn., caput serpentis Linn., teres Gmel, mauritiana Linn., cameola Linn., felina Gmel, rossa Linn., and also small Trivlia oryza.

Other shells collected were Conus ceylonensis Hwass, C. lividus Hwass, C. miliaris Brug and C. minimus Linn.

The Nerita and Drupa groups were well represented, and of interest. Among others found were Nassarius pictus, Mitra litterata Lam., M. limbefera Lam., Chama iostoma Conrad, Spondylus hystrix Rod, Bursa pusilla, and Pyrene turturina.

The general feeling was that the experiment was a great success and should be repeated more often in the future.

XX

BORDER NOTES. By D.H. Kennelly.

The recent extra rough seas along this part of the coast have been productive of many shells, and advantage has been taken by collectors in the vicinity to secure some good specimens.

At Bonza Bay, Mrs. Maimie Rix obtained a live specimen of Tonna variegata Lamarck, measuring 55 mm. In addition, this enthusiastic member found three or four good examples of Voluta africana Reeve, and two more shells of Volva volva Linn. - one in very good condition.

Members are referred to Circular No. 49, page 4, for further notes on the last mentioned species by the writer and Mr. Les Cock.

From East London, right up to Kei Mouth, this particular stretch of coast line is becoming known for good specimens, particularly during, or just after very rough seas, and our members are now very much alive to the possibility of adding worthwhile shells to their collections.

Our noted member - Mrs. Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth - is away on a collecting trip to the Natal South Coast at the time of writing these notes. We hope that Hazel will write an account of her collecting for the Circulars, after she returns home.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CAPE NOTES. By L. Kerr.

Last week, while walking along Strandfontein beach (extension of Muizenberg), our member, Mr. David Freeman, found a large, perfect Australium taylorianum which still had part of the animal inside. This extends the range of this shell found washed up. Mrs. Iris Cohen found an extra large Cymatium africanum amongst red-bait on this beach also.

Mrs. Clarice Connolly rang me last week to say that she had picked up a perfect Marginella nebulosa on Fish Hoek beach, so I think it is time I resumed my early morning walks!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SECRETARY:

TREASURER:

Mrs. L. Kerr,
Ryde Villa,
Kenilworth Road,
KENILWORTH, C.P.

Miss M. Kempthorne,
3, Alvanley,
Main Road,
KENILWORTH, C.P.

Phone: 77-5369.

Phone: 77-7138.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX