

# The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Strandloper 260

December 1999

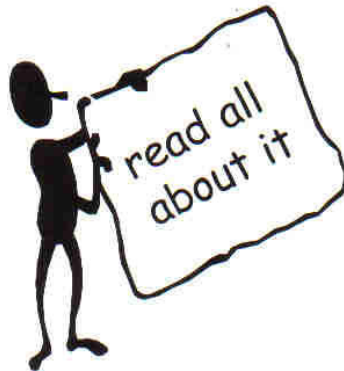
Page 1

## Society news - December 1999

**A**t the Special General Meeting held on the 10 November 1999 a quorum was achieved and the draft Constitution with all the amendments was adopted with a 97% majority. This remedied the situation which occurred after the last A.G.M. of the Society some 18 months ago. You may recall that those elections were declared null and void as a result of the procedure for nominations and voting not having been followed correctly.

Thanks to the Pretoria workshop convened by Medea Evans with members Joh Groenewald, Danny Spengler and myself who produced the draft of the revised Constitution as circulated in the *Strandloper*.

A management committee was elected as per the new Constitution (see information box).



The meeting expressed gratitude to the outgoing Committee: Dr. Kilburn, Liseke and Han van den Berg, Laurie Smith, Bill Kruger and Mike Cortie for their solid contribution to the Society for the past six years.

As we move into the new millennium with a new Committee (whose ages range from 70 to 19 years) we feel geared to cater for all members regardless of age, and we look forward to the active support of all our members.

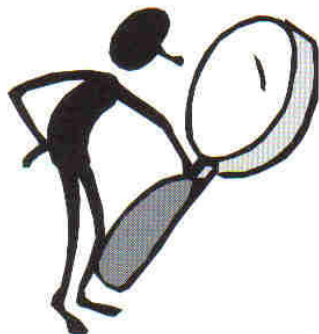
by Vellies Veldsman

The objectives of the Society in terms of our new Constitution are

*"to promote the collection and study of shells; to protect and promote the interest of shell collectors; to encourage the study of conchology and malacology and the development of a body of knowledge on molluscs and to foster conchological practices which do not compromise the natural environment".*

To achieve these objectives we need to increase our membership to be a recognised and respected conchological society, both national and international.

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The *Strandloper* is a valuable mutual link. Please assist the editor, Mike Cortie, by responding to his appeal for interesting articles, new shell finds, news from Groups etc. etc. In short, all the information you yourselves would like to read about in the publication.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me President. All of us on the Management Committee are keen shell collectors. We will tell you more about ourselves as time passes. Thank you also to our "silent supporters" – the wives and husbands of the committee members – we value their help.

I wish you all a prosperous New Year as we enter the millennium.

'Vellies' Veldsman  
6th December 1999

## Notes on interesting molluscs from our shores

by Vellies Veldsman and Stephan Veldsman

### 1. A Very Rare Coralliophilidae - *Babelomurex capensis* (Tomlin, 1928)

by Stephan Veldsman

Recently, I came across two small *Babelomurex* shells with the name *Babelomurex capensis* (Tomlin, 1928) on the name tag. Searching for this shell in our own library, I managed to find it in two publications (Kosuge & Suzuki, 1985 and Lussi & Brink, 1999). There was only a drawing of the shell, which made identification very difficult. In the Tomlins (1928) original article a photo indicates that the identification of the two shells is possibly correct, because it is difficult to come to a conclusion when looking at the line drawings of the species.

The shell on the left is 15.05mm and the shell on the right is 19.10mm. Both these two shells were collected

on the KwaZulu-Natal South coast at a depth of 100 meters.

The locality where this extremely rare species is found, ranges from southern KwaZulu-Natal to the northern part of Eastern Cape and is endemic to the South African waters.

#### References.

- Kosuge, S. & Suzuki, M. 1985 : *Illustrated Catalogue of Latiaxis and its related groups. Family Coralliophilidae* : Institute of Malacology of Tokyo.
- Lussi, M. & Brink, D. 1999 : The family Coralliophilidae in South Africa, *Strandloper* 258.
- Tomlin, 1928 : *Ann. S. African Mus.* : vol 25, p 332, pl 26, f. 3

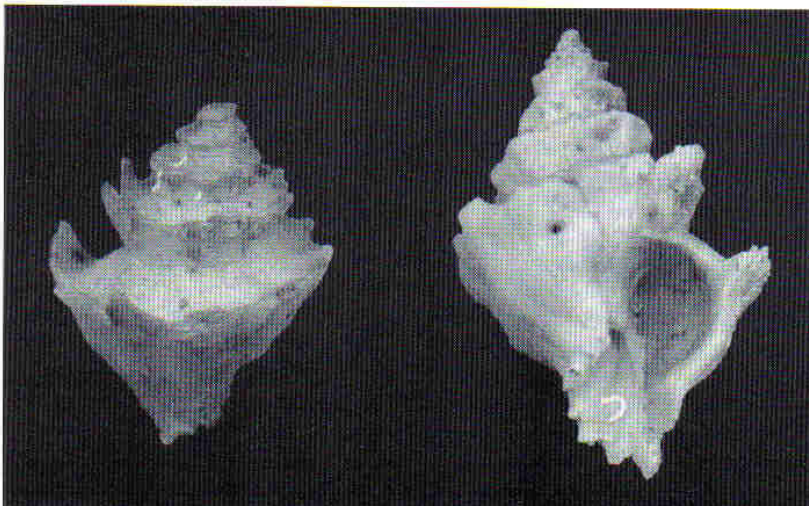
### 2. MURICIDAE *Morula* (*Cronia*) *cariosa* (Wood, 1828)

by Vellies Veldsman

Working through the old *Strandloper*s I came across notes on the above mentioned species in No. 150 of April 1973:-

Extension of Range:- *Morula* (*Cronia*) *cariosa* Wood, 1828).

Mrs C.M. Skead wrote to us a little while ago with the news that she had found a shell near Port Grosvenor, Pondoland on the 5th November, 1971. After months of searching she was not able to identify it so she had it photographed and sought the help of Dr. R.N. Kilburn. The following is an extract of Dr. Kilburn's reply to Mrs. Skead:



"Your very clear and careful description and excellent photograph make the identification of your shell a simple matter. It is *Morula (Cronia) cariosa* (Wood, 1828), a species which occurs occasionally in Natal, but is far from common. Yours is a new record for Pondoland".

Syn:- *Drupa cancellata* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1833), *Drupa fenestrata* (Blainville, 1832)

Shell ivory, interstices light brown. Size 33 mm.

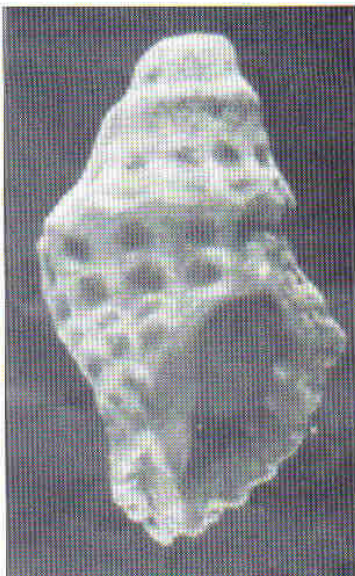
Animal greyish-green with iridescent green spots.

Range:- Pondoland northwards.

In *Strandloper* No. 173 August/September 1975 the Editor had the following comments to add about this mollusc:-

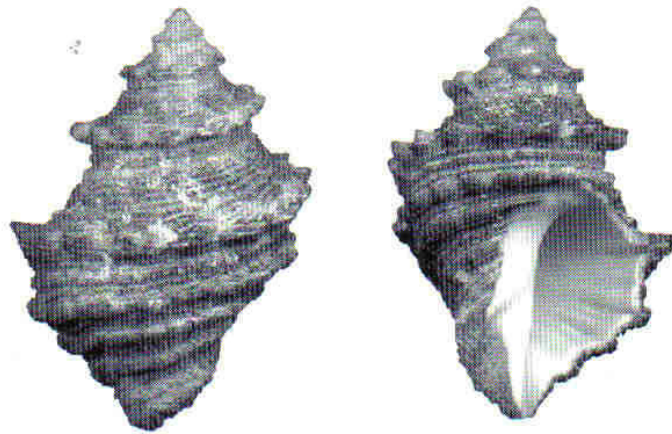
Some time ago Mrs Skead wrote informing us of some of her finds whilst shelling near Port Grosvenor in Pondoland. Unfortunately her letter was misfiled and has only recently come to light. However the details of at least one of her finds is still of interest — it was alive. The shell was well out of the water nearer to the high water mark than the low.

In all the references and information available to me on Southern-African Muricidae this species is not mentioned at all. If somebody did have more information I will appreciate it if we can publish it in the *Strandloper*.



### 3. *Thais rugosa* (Born, 1778) vs. *Thais sacellum* (Gmelin, 1791)

by Stephan Veldsman



This rugged looking *Thais* was collected on the beach at Mzamba. When identifying the shell, the following was observed: Lussi & Brink, 1996 and Steyn & Lussi, 1998 both identified it as *T. sacellum*. Dance, 1995 named the same shell *T. rugosa*. Abbott & Dance, 1991 suggested that the two names are synonyms of each other. It is concluded, here based on Dance, that the shell, collected at Mzamba is *T. rugosa* and not *T. sacellum*.

Its locality range is from Kosi Bay to the northern part of the Eastern Cape. *T. rugosa* is rarely found in the South African waters. Beach collected shells are often broken and very worn. The average size of this species is about 35 – 28 mm in length. The shell on the photo is 32.45 mm long.

Lussi & Brink, 1996 mention that this shell was introduced into Natal and that it originates from the Northern Indian Ocean.

#### References:

- Lussi, M. & Brink, D. 1996 : *Thais* and allied genera in South Africa, *Strandloper* 248.
- Steyn, D. & Lussi, M. 1998 : *Seeskulpe van Suid Afrika* : Ekogilde.
- Abbott, R.T. & Dance S.P. 1991 : *Compendium of Seashells* : Charles Letts & Co. Ltd.
- Dance S.P. 1995 : *Seashells of Eastern Arabia* : Motivate Publishing.

### 4. Notes on Olividae, *Amalda whatmoughi* Kilburn, 1993 and *Amalda jenneri* Kilburn, 1977

by Stephan Veldsman

These two rare, relatively unknown species are moderately small, are basically the same size and are very similar in form. The aperture is practically the same, while there is a slight

difference in the colour and marks on the colour bands on the shell. The colour on the body of the shells is slightly different. *A. whatmoughi* is

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dark cream in colour whereas *A. jeneri* whiter. The ancillid groove on both shells is the same, but the ancillid band differs. On *A. jeneri* is there a narrow white band whereas *A. whatmoughi* has a broader creamy band. The posterior fasciolar band is again very similar but whereas the anterior fasciolar band of *A. jeneri* is white, *A. whatmoughi* is creamy with a whitish blotch. The anterior fasciolar groove, basal sinus, labral denticle and the columella pillar is almost the same in structure in both species.

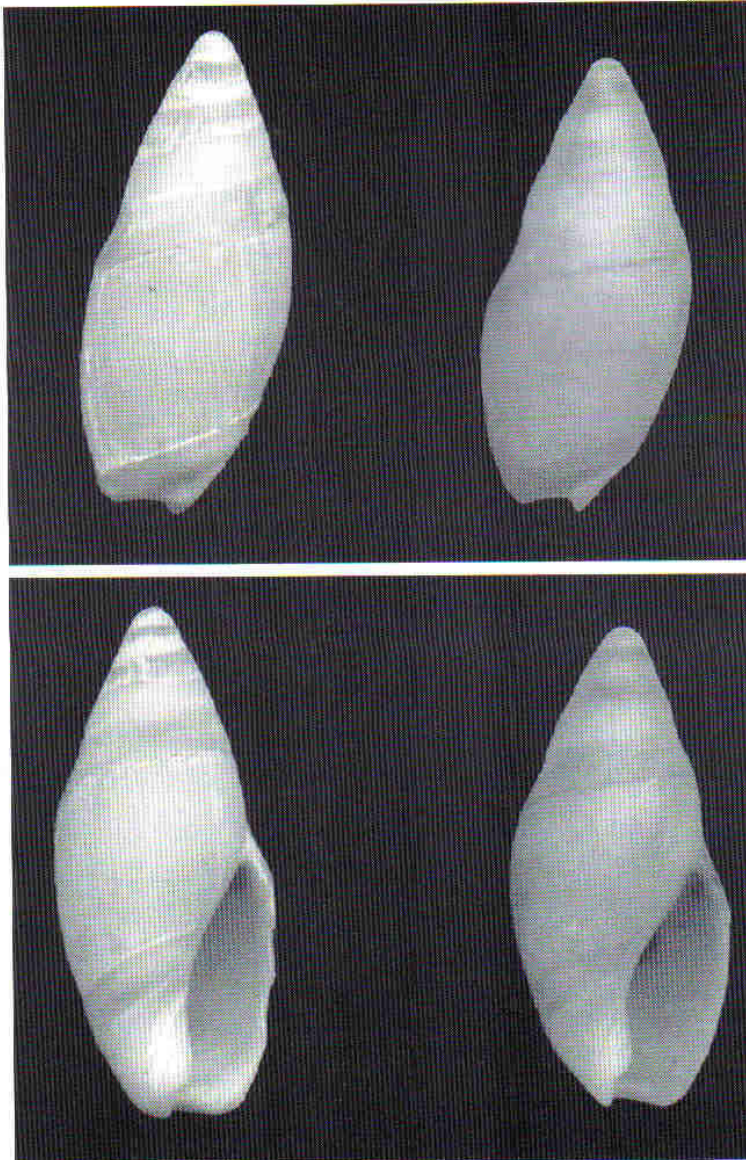
On the photographs it can clearly be seen that these two species are very similar, with a few small differences.

The shell on the left is *A. jeneri*, length 12.05 mm and the one on the right *A. whatmoughi*, length 11.10 mm.

Both shells were *ex pisces* and were collected near Mossel Bay by local fisherman. The locality range for both is mainly on the Agulhas Bank.

#### References

- Kilburn R.N. 1977 ; *Ann. Natal Mus.* Vol 23(1) pp.15,18
- Kilburn R.N. 1993 ; *Ann. Natal Mus.* Vol 34(2) pp. 384-386



## INTRODUCTION

### What is a micro-shell?

The concept of defining a micro-shell is very difficult, and will mostly vary from collector to collector.

- Need magnifying glasses or stereo microscope to distinguish features of shell
- Sturdy in comparison with baby shells of big ones
- Protoconch is corresponding small

### Where does one find micro-shells?

- Shell grit is usually found in the mid to high tide level on sandy beaches.
- Those beaches are most likely not exposed to the full forces of the ocean, and at a point where there is a change in the slope of the gradient of the beach.
- The shell grit usually washes up next to either end of a beach between rock outcrops, and along the high tide line.
- The roots of mangrove swamps may also provide you with small shells, as the roots trap plenty of stuff.

I scoop the grit with a piece of driftwood, mussel shell or anything that I can find. Sorting can be done at home.

### Preparing for sorting of shells

The first thing to do is to **wash the shell grit in fresh water**. Salt crystals can damage any shells over the years. Just make sure that you do not lose any in the washing process! Dry the grit thoroughly.

# TO SOUTH AFRICAN MICRO-SHELLS

by Kobie du Preez

## Sorting

- Kitchen utensils such as sieves of different mesh size are very handy.
- Put a sheet underneath your working area. Why, you may ask? If you lose something, it is much easier to find. Believe me, to find a fallen micro-shell in a carpet is a nightmare! I once crawled my knees raw for over an hour to find a missing shell

If you work on a tile floor, shells can very easily break when falling. It happened to me! The delicate protoconch of a perfect Epitoniidae was missing after a meeting with the tile floor...

If it happens that you lose a shell in a carpet, firstly look on your clothes, shoes and socks. If that is unsuccessful, stand up without moving your feet and **beg** a family member to fetch the vacuum cleaner. Tie a piece of a light cotton cloth (like a handkerchief) tightly to the opening of the vacuum cleaner and methodically vacuum until you find your shell. Good luck!

I put bits of sand and shell grit in a shallow container under my microscope and pick the shells up with a moist Size 0 painting brush. Be careful though not to put a wet shell in a gelatin capsule. The shell will stick to the capsule and will break on an attempt to loosen it later.

If you do not have access to a stereo microscope, a good quality magnifying glass serves just as well. Some models even have their own light source! Your nearest optometrist will most likely stock a variety of magnifying glasses, or will be willing to help finding one.

## Looking after micro-shells

- Your local pharmacist may stock empty transparent **gelatin capsules**. These are very handy, as they not only keep the little things together, but they also prevent the shells from further drying. **Do not put wet shells in the gelatin capsules, the moisture will dissolve the capsule!** Put a little piece of paper with your data with the shell in the capsule.
- If gelatin capsules are unavailable to you, use plastic drinking straws cut in required lengths. Stopper the ends with something you find appropriate. Do not use cotton wool. Cotton wool may be slightly acidic and your shells may get Byrne's disease over time.
- Follow the same precautions for storing micro-shells as for any other shells - keep light out, keep humidity as low as possible and all material or paper in contact with your shells should be acid or soda free. Do not store your collection in oak cabinets, and use a little light mineral oil to keep them from drying.

## What are the advantages of collecting micro-shells?

- If you are very conservation aware, this is definitely for you! Most micro-shell collecting would be from already dead molluscs lying on the beach.
- There will be no nasty smells hanging around in your house ....
- The field of micro-shells is still open. Lots of work needs to be done and the possibility of finding or naming a new species is there!

- If space is your problem, this is definitely for you! A lot more micro-shells can fit into drawers or containers than ordinary sized shells.
- More quality time with your family can be spent on the beach, just find a good spot and scoop buckets full of grit to sort at your own leisure at home or during your lunch breaks at work. You will be surprised to see how can be done during half an hour!

Remember that you may not collect more than 3 kg of shell grit at a time in terms of the new marine legislation.

## Twenty South African microshells

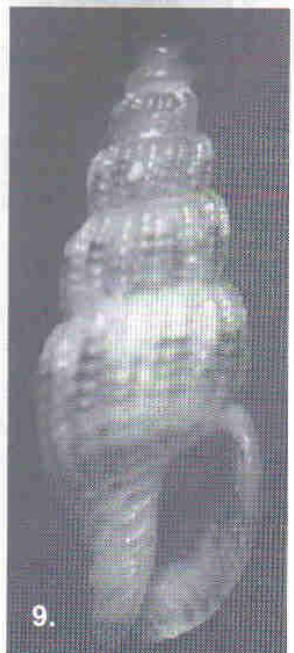
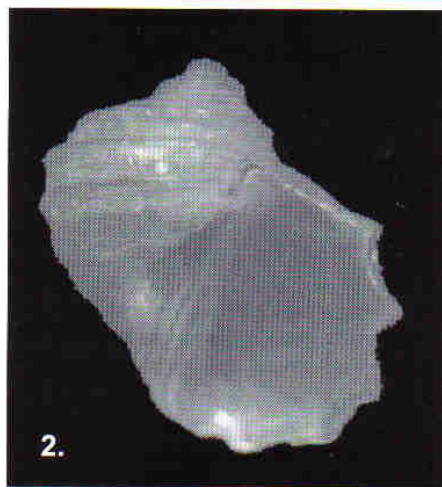
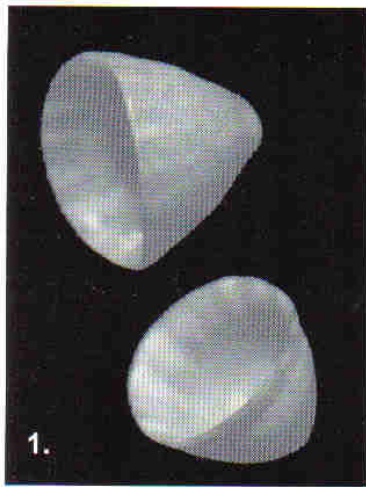
**FAMILY: LOTTIIDAE**  
(Synonym: Acmaeidae)

Shells resemble Patellidae, but much smaller in South African species. The main difference between the two families is that Lottiidae possesses a true gill within the mantle cavity. The two (three, including *Patelloida profunda*) small species occurring in South Africa are uncommon and usually found in beach grit. Marine.

### 1. *Patelloida maraisi* - Kilburn, 1977

Was family Acmaeidae  
Synonym: *Acmaea maraisi*

Shell is cap-shaped with a very wide mouth. The apex is nearly central. Shell is thin and silky. Base even or concave. Sculptured by fine and coarse concentric growth lines. Colour white with rays.  
Size: 2.41 mm



**FAMILY: FOSSARIDAE**

Shells from the family Fossariidae are small, high spired with only a few whorls. Umbilicus wide. Live predominantly in warmer waters. Marine.

**2. *Fossarus ambiguus* - Linnaeus 1758**

Synonym: *Fossarus aptus* - Melvill, 1912

Shell small. Solid, globose with a short spire. Protoconch of about 4 granulated whorls (suggesting a long larval stage). Aperture semi-lunate, labrum thin. Columella slightly curved. Umbilicus narrow, but deep. Sculptured by strong spiral cords and distinct growth lines. Yellowish to white. Size: 2.29 mm

**3. *Fossarus capensis* - Pilsbry, 1901**

Spire high, sharp. Whorls angular. Spiral ridges on whorls leaf-shaped. Umbilicus wide. Greyish-brown to nearly black in colour. Size: 5.33 mm

**FAMILY: COLUMBELLIDAE**

Synonym: Pyrenidae

Shells small to tiny. Spire conical. Siphonal canal short. Labrum often thickened. Operculum small and horny, nucleus apical - sometimes absent. Columbellidae are omnivorous. Most are marine, but a few are estuarine and can tolerate a range of salinities.

Some of the smaller *Anachis* species have been confused with members of the Turridae (Some now Conidae), because of the shallowly rounded sinus, situated near the posterior end of the lip.

**4. *Anachis consanguinea* - Sowerby, 1897**

Synonym: *Columbella consanguinea*  
Synonym: *Columbella langleyi* - Sowerby, 1897  
Synonym: *Mangilia elizabethae* - E.A Smith, 1910

Synonym: *Mangilia nympha* - Bartch, 1915

Synonym: *Mangilia thalia* - Turton, 1932

Synonym: *Mangilia farquhari* - Turton, 1932

Synonym: *Mangilia whitechurchi* - Turton, 1932

Very small. Variable. Shells narrow with a strongly shouldered labrum and deep posterior sinus. Usually marked by 1-2 rows of white dots, or by a white shoulder line, often with brown flecks below the suture. Translucent. Some shells are very narrow and high-spired, sculptured strongly cancellate, while others are broad and almost smooth.

Size: 3.05 mm

**5. *Anachis leptalea* - Smith, 1902**

Shell small, fusiform. Shiny, opaque translucent. Whorls slightly rounded, sculptured by low axial ribs. Base obliquely striate. Labrum smooth, aperture narrow with narrow callus-shield. Colour greyish-white with thin brownish band on whorls. Base brownish. Size: 2.92 mm

**6. *Anachis lightfooti* - EA Smith, 1901**

Shell narrow, whorls convex, not shouldered. Labrum smooth. Sculptured by low oblique axial ribs that are crossed by flat, close-set spiral threads. Pale buff or yellowish, with interrupted lines of reddish-brown, sometimes whitish blotches. Protoconch tipped with dark grey. The spiral brown lines and weak axial ribs are diagnostic.

Size: 5.91 mm

**7. *Euplica ionida* - Duclos, 1840**

Synonym: *Euplica amirantium* - Smith, 1844

Synonym: *Columbella amirantium* - Smith, 1844

Shell small, fusiform with a sharp apex. Labrum ridged inside with one columellar tooth. Sculptured by alter-

nating axial ribs. Base with spiral striae. Coloured creamish-white, yellowish or dark pink with alternating white flecks on shoulder. Apex pink. Size: 5.65 mm.

**8. *Zafra troglodytes* - Sowerby, 1866**

Synonym: *Anachis troglodytes* - Sowerby, 1866

Synonym: *Zafra ornata* - Pease, 1868

Synonym: *Zafra succinea* - Hervier, 1899

Shell small, shiny and opaque-translucent. Sculptured by regular angular axial ribs. Interstices smooth. Base of shell obliquely striate. Aperture narrow. Labrum denticulated. Columella with narrow callus-shield and obsoletely plicate anteriorly. Colour variable, generally whitish ornamented with 3 greenish or greenish-brown bands on body whorl. Band frequently bordered by dark short lines. Aperture white. Some specimens are dark brown with a white central band on the body whorl. Axial ribs occasionally spotted with white. Size: 2.86 mm.

**9. *Zafra trifilosa* - Smith, 1882**

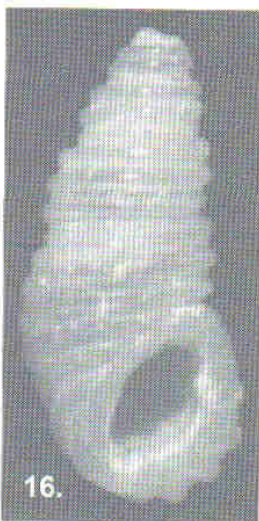
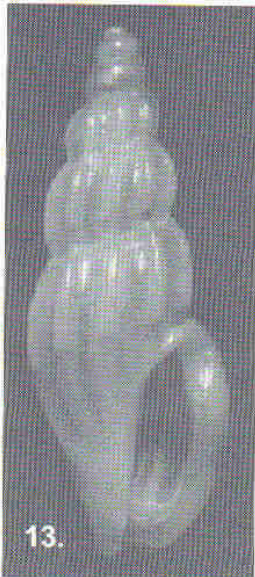
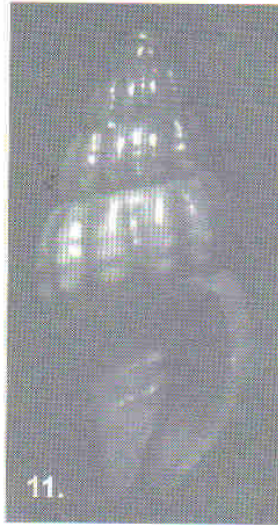
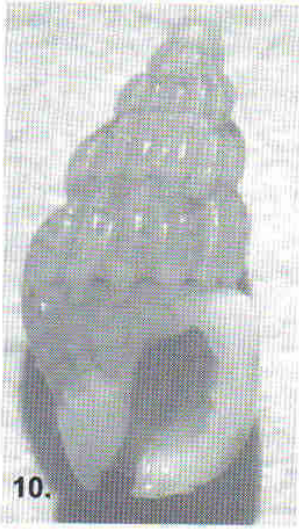
Synonym: *Anachis burnupi* - E.A Smith, 1901

Shell very narrow, whorls shouldered with very deep sutures. Sculptured by thin, sharp axial ribs that almost reaches the base. Appear granular from the crossing of fine, rounded spiral threads. Surface slightly iridescent when fresh. With traces of brown lines.

Size: 4.32 mm

**FAMILY: NASSARIIDAE**

Shells small to medium sized. Spire usually fairly high and conical. Aperture small, inner lip often with a strong callus deposit. Siphonal canal short. Operculum small, horny - nucleus more or less apical, edges often serrated. Nassariidae tend to be scavengers. Some can tolerate low salinities. Marine.





**10. *Nassarius formosus* - Turton, 1932**

Shell small and narrow with a high spire and small aperture. Labrum thick. Whorls convex. Axial ribs almost straight with weak spiral ridges - often obsolete at periphery. Two basal cords present. Coloured buff with brownish or orange flecks, interrupted brown peripheral line.

Size: 6.48 mm

**FAMILY: COSTELLARIIDAE**

Synonym: Vexillidae

Shells are similar to those of Mitridae, but the dominant sculpture is axial instead of spiral. They are active predators, but carrion is also consumed. Marine.

**11. *Austromitra rhodarion* - Kilburn, 1972**

Shell small, fusiform but whorls convex with deep sutures. Columella with 4 pleats and a posterior nodule. Labrum smooth inside. Sculptured by low, rounded, slightly oblique axial ribs. Intervals sometimes with spiral threads. Strong spiral ridges on base, the posterior one is a continuation of the hindmost columella pleat. Pinkish-brown or brilliant orange-red with a whitish band around the periphery. Band occasionally pale brown, sometimes restricted to the ribs.

Size: 5.14 mm

**FAMILY: TURRIDAE**

Synonym: Turritidae

Shell spindle-shaped or conical. Siphonal canal well developed. Labrum with notch-like anal sinus. Operculum horny, with its nucleus terminal or on the edge; sometimes totally absent.

**12. *Anarithma metula* - Hinds, 1843**

Shell narrow, body whorl longer than rest of shell. Sculptured by thin axial ribs. Appear granular from the crossing of fine, flat spiral threads sub-sutural. Base with spiral threads. Aperture elongate with columellar folds. Coloured whitish sub-sutural, rest of

whorl coloured orange-brownish. Size: 4.95 mm

**FAMILY: CONIDAE****13. *Mangelia alfredi* - E.A Smith, 1904**

Was family Turridae

Synonym: *Pseudoraphitoma alfredi* - E.A Smith, 1904

Synonym: *Cythara alfredi* - E.A Smith, 1904

Shell narrow with a high spire. Whorls convex. Labrum thick, smooth with a sharp, slightly projecting edge. Anal sinus rounded, fairly shallow. Sculptured by high, crested, almost straight axial ribs. Ribs aligned across the sutures, intervals wide and concave. Interval crossed by fine, dense spiral threads. Colouring variable. Uniformly pale to dark brown, or white with a reddish-brown spiral line.

Size: 5.27 mm

**14. *Mangelia shepstonensis* - E.A Smith, 1914**

Was family Turridae

Shell small, fusiform. Whorls slightly convex. Sutures deep, shoulder angular. Sculptured by strong axial ribs, interstices striate. Base striate. Aperture narrow with a rounded posterior sinus. Labrum thickened. Shell shiny and semi-translucent. Coloured yellowish to whitish with the protoconch light brownish.

Size: 5.14 mm

**FAMILY: RISSOIDAE**

All shells fall within the micro-shell range, small to minute. It is a very complex family and needs a lot more study. Shells very variable in shape and sculpture, but spire usually longer than aperture. Base of aperture sometimes with a shallow canal. The operculum is horny, nucleus marginal or nearly so, sometimes with a small peg-like projection inside. Marine or estuarine.

**15. *Alvania fenestrata* - Krauss, 1848**

Shell, ovate. Spire conical. Aperture rounded. Labrum strongly curved. Shell with 2-3 strong spiral ridges, intersected by straight axial ribs with nodules at the junctions and square interstitial pits, giving the shell coarsely cancellate sculpture. Base with 2 smooth ridges. Pale amber to whitish in colour.

Size: 2.73 mm

**16. *Stoiscia annulata* - Dunker, 1860**

Shell tiny. Spire conical, convex-sided. Sutures deep. Sculptured by 3-4 strong spiral cords. Base of body whorl with spiral ridges. White.

Size: 3.68 mm

**17. *Rissoina crassa* - Angas, 1871**

Shell narrow, elongate. Whorls slightly angular, suture shallow. Sculptured by strong axial ribs, interstices smooth. Shell shiny, opaque-translucent. Labrum oval, thickened. Coloured greyish-white.

Size: 5.78 mm

**18. *Rissoina shepstonensis* - Smith, 1906**

Shell narrow, elongate with a sharp apex. Whorls slightly convex, suture well defined. Sculptured by low axial ribs, interstices smooth. Shell shiny, opaque-translucent. Base faintly spirally striate. Labrum oval, thickened. Coloured greyish-white.

Size: 7.24 mm

**FAMILY: EULIMIDAE**

Was family Melanellidae

Synonym of Melanellidae also Stiliferidae

Shells are minute to small. Usually slender with a high, tapering spire. Rarely globular or even cap-shaped. Spire sometimes bent. Aperture pear-shaped. No siphonal canal. Surface smooth and glossy, usually white. Operculum (when present) horny. Eulimidae are entirely parasitic on

echinoderms. Eyes reduced or absent. Some Eulimidae have become internal parasites on the hosts. Marine.

**19. *Pyramidelloides miranda* - A. Adams, 1861**

Was family Rissoidae

Shell solid, elongate-conic. Spire whorls with spiral row or large tubercles at periphery. Last whorl with 4 smooth spiral cords below periphery. Parasitic on brittlestars. Semi-translucent, white.  
Size: 2.60 mm

**FAMILY: ELLOBIIDAE**

Ellobiidae live well above the high-tide line and in swamps near the seacoast. They are pulmonates and have developed a modified lung, but always remain close to salt water. The columella with ridges, often ridges or teeth inside the labrum. No operculum. Estuarine/marine.

**20. *Pedipes affines* - Férussac, 1821**

Shell broadly ovate. Spire about one third to a quart of the entire shell length. Whorls with 2-3 cords sub-sutural. Columella broad, with three teeth. Labrum with one projection. Shell light yellowish-brown in colour, columella white.  
Size: 5.59 mm



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Mrs. Val van der Walt for the shells  
Dr. Dick Kilburn (Natal Museum) for reading the text and scientific information

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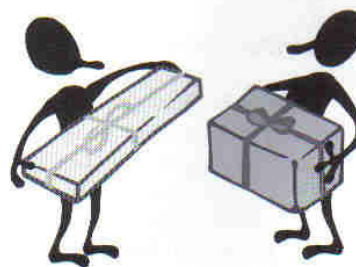
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**Obituary**

Stephen Whatmough passed away in Knysna in July 1999. He was well known to many shell collectors as a reliable and knowledgeable shell dealer with a reputation for straight dealing. He ran a small shop in Sea Point in the mid-1980's, until the ill-health of his parents necessitated a move to Beaufort West, from where he continued his business by mail order. Thereafter he moved to George. [information supplied by David Freeman of Cape Town]

**Exchanges wanted**

1. **Mr Jim Fallon**, a geologist from San Antonio, Texas, USA, collects recent and fossil sea urchins and sand dollars. He wishes to obtain South African material. Contact him on email at [jhfgeol@hotmail.com](mailto:jhfgeol@hotmail.com).
2. **Mr Luc Segers** of Jan de Knuytstraat 24, 2380 Ravels, BELGIUM, wishes to exchange specimens of the Cassidae, Ranellidae, Bursidae, Tonnidae, Ficidae, Marginellidae, Veneridae and Littorinidae. He has an extensive swop or sell list which includes other families as well.
3. **Mr F. Dellaporta** of Strada Viorate 2, 27043 Broni (PV), ITALY, wishes to exchange Mediterranean shells or world cowries for South African Cypraeidae.
4. **Mr Antonio Tarruella Ruestes**, of C./Grassot, 26-1°-2°, 08025 Barcelona, SPAIN, collects worldwide marine, freshwater and terrestrial shells. He wishes to enter into an exchange arrangement with South African collectors.
5. "Ted" at [ted@mail.gips.ptc.edu.tw](mailto:ted@mail.gips.ptc.edu.tw) wants to exchange Conidae, Harpidae, Cypraeidae, Littorinidae, Neritidae, Olividae, Turridae and Volutidae with South African collectors.
6. **Mr Josep M<sup>a</sup> Blanco Oliver** of C/ Ramon Trias Fargas 46-3°-2°, Barcelona, SPAIN wishes to contact South African collectors with a view to exchange of shells and literature.
7. **Glenn and Laura Burghardt** of 11424 Pioneer Ave, Oakdale, California USA, are interested in exchanging worldwide shells for South African chitons.
8. **Mr Rob West** of Australia wishes to exchange shells. Contact him on email at [robwest.bigpond.com@bigpond.com](mailto:robwest.bigpond.com@bigpond.com).





Sketchbook drawings 1991  
Belemnite shells from Fort Macquarie, N.S.W.

# Flotsam

**4th International Shell  
Show and Symposium  
November 2000**

Any members who find themselves by chance in the Netherlands in mid-November next year may wish to plan a visit to the large shell convention organised by the Dutch Malacological Society and the *Vita Marina* magazine. The venue will be Erasmiaans Gymnasium, Wytewaweg 25, Rotterdam, 18 & 19th November, 2000. For further information contact Guus Gulden of Vrijland 19, NL-3271 VH Mijnsheerland, The Netherlands.

## Strandloper

The editor welcomes original articles, news, shelling reports, feedback, advertisements (rates on application) and any other material likely to be of interest to members of the Society. Illustrations are especially welcome. Please send to

Dr M.B. Cortie,  
P.O. Box 1664,  
Ferndale, 2160  
South Africa

or e-mail me at  
[mikec@mintek.co.za](mailto:mikec@mintek.co.za)

## Demise of the Strandloper Museum at Gold Reef City

Readers may recall that Olive Peel negotiated and organised a shell display at the Gold Reef City theme park in Johannesburg. Called the Strandloper Museum, it was housed in a small building of its own and was well-stocked with donations from several members. However, as the years went by, Olive became concerned that the collection was not being properly cared for. Attempts to remedy the situation appeared to fall on deaf ears. And to make matters worse, the contact details that were displayed for the Society were out-of-date. I paid a lengthy personal visit myself some years back to try get things sorted out but found that the attitude of the staff was rather offhand.

Recently, Olive Peel investigated matters again, and after finding that the display was to be packed up to make room for an expansion of the hotel, she requested that the shells be returned. This the management of Gold Reef City acceded to. Most shells have now been returned to the original owners or their children, while a few have been donated to the Natal Museum.

I am sure that members will join me in thanking Olive for her dedication to the cause, both for getting the museum going in the first place, and then getting it dismantled when it became clear that it was no longer in the interests of the Society to be associated with it.

### Can anyone beat this??

According to a posting on the Cybersnail list on the Internet, the biggest land snail ever recorded was an *Achatina achatina* named Gee Geronimo. This individual had a shell of 273 mm and evidently was someone's beloved pet before it passed on to the Great Lettuce-in-the-Sky.

## Local news/plaaslike nuus

### Pretoria



September 1999 - Douw Steyn het verslag gedoen oor die skulpuitstalling wat hy by die Universiteit van Pretoria gereel het om die stokperdjie "sigbaar" te maak. Douw was ook doenig oor die radio, met 'n lang geselonderhoud in die stokperdjie-program van RSG en met inset oor skulpe vir Tertius Harms se omgewingspraatjie. Vellies Veldsman het skyfies gewys oor skulpversameling in Okinawa, Japan.

Oktober - Dit was feestyd met 'n heerlike koek vir die 80e verjaardag van prof Lorrie Evans, wat met lewenslidmaatskap van die vereniging vereer is. Kobie du Preez het skulpe gewys wat sy in Florida, VSA, gekry het, en Laurie Smith het 'n praatjie met skyfies aangebied oor die familie *Ovulidae*.

November - Naas die spesiale algemene vergadering was daar ook 'n "gewone" Pretoriase jaareindevergadering, en almal het versnaperings en eet- en drinkgoed saamgebring. Die tema was "die vyf skulpe wat jy sal gryp as die huis aan die brand raak". Daar was mooi skulpe, en seldsames, en skulpe waarmee mense 'n emosionele band voel. Die prettigste aanbieding was deur Danny Spengler, met 'n reuse *Tritonis tritonis* van meer as 300 mm lank. "Ek vat hom eerste want ek kan die ander uitsoek-skulpe binne-in hom sit!"

## SUBSCRIBE NOW TO LA CONCHIGLIA

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## SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The financial situation gives cause for concern as we have depleted the reserves we held in the mid -1990's. At present we have R3 948 which may be sufficient to meet another *Strandloper*. No income is expected until subscriptions come in in April. The results for five years were:

1995	Profit	7 442	
1996	Profit	2 330	
1997			Loss 3 703
1998			Loss 940
1999			Loss 5 247
Total		9 772	9 890 (Loss 118)

It will not surprise you to know that the cost of producing the *Strandloper* is also on the increase. The four issues 253 to 256 printed in 1998/1999 cost R16 733 or R 55.77 per member. The three issues for this year 1999/2000 (257 to 259, all black and white) cost R8 039 or R2 679 per issue.

The new Constitution makes no provision for new Life members, Pensioner members and Student members, but it honours the membership categories in place before the new Constitution.

We have 26 non-paying "exchange" members, 9 non-paying Hon. Life members, 40 non-paying Life members, 40 Pensioner members (paying R25) and 133 Full members (paying R50), giving a total of 248.

Taking no cognizance of cost of administering the Society in 1998/99 an income of:

40 X R25 (R1 000) plus 133 X R50 (R6 650) Total R7 650 had to meet the cost of *Strandloper* R16 733. The overseas subscription of \$25 is influenced by bank exchange, which now costs about R70 per transaction.

Your Management Committee have no option but to increase subscriptions. Starting with the 2000/2001 year all ordinary members will pay R75 per annum. Overseas members will pay \$50 for two years subscription.

It is hoped that Life and Pensioner Members will tell us if they still wish to receive the *Strandloper* and if they do, that they will make a voluntary donation towards the actual cost of the publication sent to them.

Having to send subscription due notes to members is also costly. None will be sent out in April and we appeal to members to pay their subscription on receipt of this notice.

The issuing of membership cards is to be discontinued. The committee is investigating the production of an A4 size membership Certificate that can be optionally purchased when joining the Society. The R5 entrance fee has also been abolished.

Back copies of the *Strandloper* are available from the Editor, but now cost R15 for colour and R10 for black and white.

### 2. NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th August 2000 at the Bridge Club, 26th Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria immediately following the monthly meeting of the Pretoria Group. The documentation will be sent out later.

The draft Constitution presented to the Special General Meeting held on 10 November 1999 was adopted together with the amendments circulated with the notice of the meeting. Should any member wish to have a copy of the final document they should write to the Secretary requesting one.

### Conchological Society of Southern Africa

*Founded 1958*

#### Correspondence to:

PO Box 32748, Glenstantia 0010  
South Africa

#### Membership (incl. *Strandloper*)

- ordinary members R75
- overseas (2 years) US\$50
- pensioners&scholars R25

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- Vice-President: Danny Spengler
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- Secretary: Jelle Lammers
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