



Astrooluta pringlei Tomlin 1947

THE
CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR 128
APRIL 1971

FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Further to the announcement on page 1 of Circular No. 126, the question of increased fees has been fully discussed by the Council and the following are the fees which will be payable in the new financial year commencing on 1st July:-

Ordinary Members	R2-50
Student Members	R1-00
Corresponding Members	R2-50 (U.S.Dollars \$4-00)

The increase has become necessary to meet rising costs of running the Society (postage rates, paper, typing and printing the Circular). In addition we would like to improve the Circular and have more pages of photographs etc.

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Conus barthelemyi Bern 1861 Re-discovered

by P.W. Clover.

As was common practice in the 1800s many unique Cones were named, illustrated and never heard of again. Fortunately in the case of *C. barthelemyi* the unique type collected by Mr. Lienard had localised data (Diego Garcia Arch. Indian Ocean) and has been sought after several times since by shelling expeditions and is now in 2 or 3 museum collections.

Recently divers using aqua lungs have discovered another habitat of this beautiful and rarest cone, in sand and rocks, 10 to 15 fathoms deep around Mauritius Is., some 1000 miles south of the type location.

Description: A heavy solid shell with a thick outer lip, basic colour white overlaid with deep orange leaving only $\frac{1}{4}$ " bands of white in the middle and base of the body whorl. The orange surface is covered with many black spots and would form about 10 parallel bands if connected. There are five spiral grooves near the base and the entire body whorl has very fine ribbing like a finger nail file. The aperture is white, rather narrow and constricted at the top, which is grooved on the inside body whorl as well. Spire is low and deeply grooved and covered with

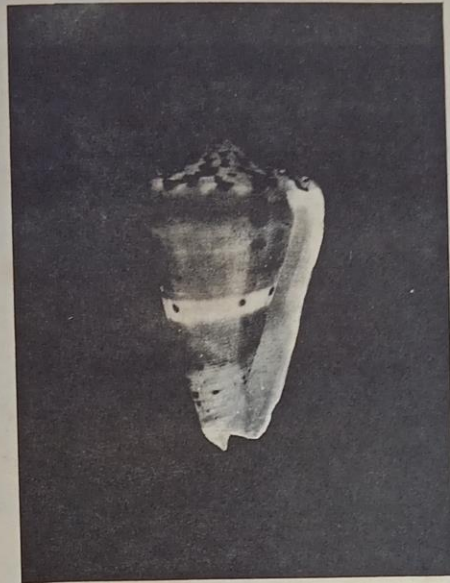
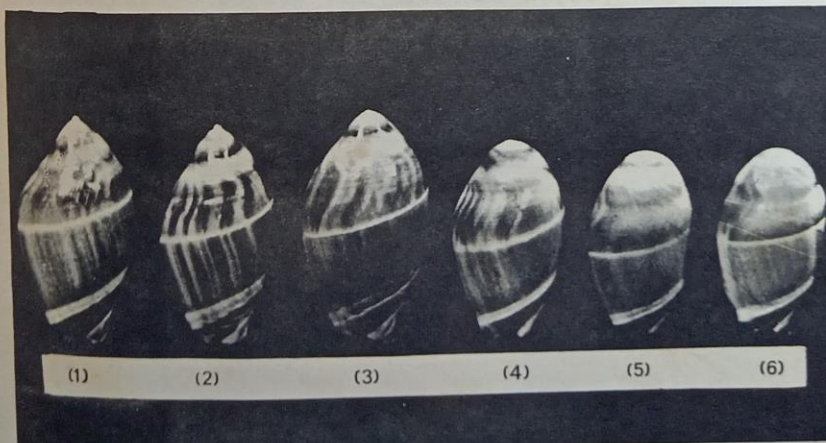


Fig. 1. *Conus barthelemyi* Bern., 1861.

Photo: P.W. Clover

Fig. 2. *Ancilla obtusa* Swainson, 1825.

Photo: A. Jenner



black blotches in a spiral pattern.

The type specimen of C. barthelemyi Bern., which I have seen in the Melvill-Tomlin Collection at Cardiff in the National Museum of Wales, is 70 mm long and identical to my specimen (illustrated on page 2) except there are only 3-4 dark spots on the body whorl and the colour has somewhat faded in the 110 years. As far as I know this species has not been illustrated in any recent publication. It was described in 1861 in The Journal of Conchology Vol. 9 - pp. 285-6 and again in Vol. 10 - pp. 46-7 with a colour illustration.

 Editors Note. This article was sent to us direct by Phillip Clover and has also been published recently in the Hawaiian Shell News, together with two photographs (HSN February 1971)

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Ancilla Species - A Correction.

by A. Jenner.

In the second paragraph on page 6 of Circular No. 95 (April 1968) reference is made to the finding of a specimen of Ancilla contusa Reeve, off Mossel Bay.

Since recording this finding I have been fortunate in acquiring the further ancilla specimens described below and, after careful study of these, I am now of the opinion that the original specimen is in fact an Ancilla obtusa Swainson, 1825.

The photograph, on page 2, of all the specimens enables the comparisons to be made and clearly shows the transition from a pointed to a rounded blunt apex and substantiates my contention that this correction is necessary.

Details of the specimens in the photograph are as follows:-

- (1) Specimen detailed in Circular No. 95
- (2) A dead specimen, 51 x 26 mm., trawled off Mossel Bay coast in December 1969, which apart from a damaged lip is perfect in all other respects. The spire is complete with protoconch and the colouring and polished appearance equal the live-taken specimen (1).
- (3) A shell found on the beach at Jeffries Bay in very good condition. This specimen, 54 x 29 mm., also has a damaged lip. There is a slight fading of the colour and some diminution of polish. The tip of the protoconch is still clearly visible but it does give the impression that it is being submerged in callous.
- (4) A beach specimen, 46 x 25.5 mm., from Jeffries Bay in fair condition but showing obvious signs of wear in that the callous which had already covered the protoconch has been damaged and is in the process of flaking away, thereby exposing the protoconch, which is just visible. The dark brown colour has faded to a greater extent than (3) and much more of the polish has been removed.
- (5) & (6) Two beach-rolled specimens measuring 43.5 x 25 and 43.5 x 24.5 mm. from Jeffries Bay, whose structural characteristics, apart from the complete absence of the protoconch, giving

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the apex its blunt rounded appearance, are identical in all other respects with the four other shells. The dark colouring has faded to a lighter brown and fawn tints, while the mauve tones present on the body whorls of (1) to (4) have almost disappeared. The colour fading has resulted in the dark brown callous becoming more conspicuous on the worn shells.

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The Cape Peninsula

by D. Gould.

The headquarters of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa is in Cape Town - in my opinion the most beautiful and certainly the most historic city of this country.

Cape Town, founded by Jan van Riebeeck in 1652, lies on the shores of Table Bay and at the foot of Table Mountain. The city is situated at the head of a narrow tongue of land known as the Cape Peninsula and on whose shores lap the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

Leaving the city one drives through the southern suburbs towards the Indian Ocean sweep of False Bay, stopping first at Muizenberg with its miles of smooth white sands. After a good blow and high seas I have found good specimens (animals intact) of Tellina madagascariensis (now T. alfredensis), T. triangularis (now T. trilatera) and Tivela compressa. In 1968 I had an excellent winter season picking up the fragile Argonauta argo.

From Muizenberg one drives on towards St. James with its sea filled swimming pools, then the mountain hugging, small harbour suburb of Kalk Bay and so to the resort town of Fish Hoek, another spot where some people have found Argonauta argo in winter.

Simonstown, an attractive village, is a naval base and here on a small, quiet little beach I have recently found many good beach Nassa speciosa, Conus mozambicus, Philine capensis, Clavatula taxus and hundreds of Marginella capensis.

Miller's Point, a few miles further on is a good spot for Marginella rosea, pink variety.

The road now starts to wind high alongside the mountains with beautiful sea views stretching away into the distance across False Bay. After the turn off to the Cape Point nature reserve, where one can see the point known as the Cape of Good Hope, and described by Sir Francis Drake in 1580 as "the fairest cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth", one drives inland for a few miles and then along the lovely scenic drive close to the Atlantic Ocean.

At Kommetjie, with its stretch of rocks, I have found many Marginella rosea, grey variety, M. biannulata, Argoboccium argus, Turbo cidaris, Haliotis midae, Patella granatina, P. granularis and P. cochlear.

Passing Noordhoek beach, which can be a beachcombers delight, one drives round the perpendicular cliffs of Chapmans peak to Hout Bay, a fishing village. Then finally onto Bantry Bay, Camps Bay, Sea Point and Mouille Point and back to Cape Town, a round trip of some fifty miles.

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Meetings/....

MEETINGS:-

The next meeting of the SOCIETY will be held on Tuesday, 27th April, 1971 in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum, at 8.15 p.m. The shells for display and discussion will be the family Terebridae - World wide.

The next meeting of the EASTERN CAPE GROUP will be held on Saturday 1st May, 1971 at 4 Molsonder Mansions, 10th Avenue, Summerstrand at 2.30 p.m.

The next meeting of the BORDER GROUP will be held on Sunday 25th April, 1971 in the Lecture Hall of the East London Museum at 3 p.m.

The next meeting of the NATAL MIDLANDS GROUP will be held on Saturday 1st May, 1971 at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzberg at 2.30 p.m. The subject for discussion will be "South African Limpets".

The next meeting of the TRANSVAAL GROUP will be held on Friday, 30th April, 1971 in the Theatre Hall of Shell House, Johannesburg at 8 p.m.

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Border Notes.

Sixteen members were present at our February meeting with apologies from Peggy Faulkner and Bennie Benson who are on holiday. Peggy is hunting shells at Xora and we look forward to an exciting meeting in March when she will be displaying her treasures.

The meeting stood in silent tribute to Mr. Kennelly.

Miss Courtney Latimer, our guest speaker for the afternoon, told us some interesting aspects of the early days and shelling career of Mr. Kennelly, and of his work in the Museum.

After business had been attended to, tea was served, and members spent a joyful time swopping and admiring each others latest 'finds'

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Transvaal Notes.

Allen Jenner has found it necessary, for personal reasons, to resign as our Chairman and our new committee is as follows:-
Chairman - Eddie Ralph; Vice-Chairman - R. Ruben. Mrs. M. Adam has taken over the Secretary's duties from Pauline Ogilvie.

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Minutes of Meeting of the Society held on 30th March, 1971.

Apologies were received from Mr. Titterton, Miss Swart, Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Z. Wright, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Mallory, Mrs. Pugsley, Mr. M. Wright and Mr. Graham Ivy.

We were pleased to have with us Mr. and Mrs. Sprighton from Durban.

The minutes of the previous meeting as published in Circular 127 were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. Freeman/

Mr. Freeman informed the meeting that Mr. Jenner had asked to be relieved of the Chairmanship of the Transvaal Group and that Mr. Ralph had undertaken this task. It was recorded that in terms of the constitution Mr. Ralph automatically becomes Regional Council Representative for the Group.

Professor Mallory told the meeting of the result of his visit to Agulhas after the stranding of the tanker Wafra. It appears that oil pollution has concentrated between Struis Bay and the Agulhas lighthouse, and that the cleaning up operations are well in hand. Professor Day had also visited the area and recorded that the Patella were still living happily on the oil covered rocks but that the seaweed had been killed. It was too early at this stage to say what the effect of this would have on the patella. Members were requested to refrain from shelling at the locality until the effect on the marine life had been fully investigated. We hope to report on developments in due course.

Five members then gave very interesting accounts of their shelling experiences on the Wild Coast and much interest was shown in the variety of shells displayed, and in the shelling conditions to be expected in that area.

Mrs. Giles reported that whilst on a recent visit to Johannesburg she had seen an advance copy of a book on South African Volutes written by Messrs. Aiken and Fuller. We look forward to hearing more about this book in due course.

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Members.

Please add the following name to the list of members sent to you a short while ago.

1969. Mr. S. Angeletti, c/o Societa Malacologica Italiana, Civico Museo di Storia Naturale, Venezia 55, Milano, Italy.

The following have been elected members.

Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Vosloo, c/o Sezela Govt. School, P.O. Sezela, South Coast Natal.

Mrs. J. Muller, 2b Highfield Road, Umgeni, Durban, Natal.

Mrs. M. Cauchard, B.P. 107, Papeete, Tahiti.

Miss F. Maule, 6 Parkridge Crescent, Port Elizabeth, Cape.

Mrs. G. Clausen, P.O. Box 23151, Oyster Bay, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

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Exchange Wanted.

Amsc. L.J. Kelly, DCFWP, Box 33, F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96654, U.S.A. Wishes to exchange two beach worn Cyp.martini Schepman 1907 for the best single shell trade offer made.

Mr. R.L. Casanova, Paleontological Research Laboratory, 3616 Garden Club Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28210 U.S.A. Wishes to obtain South African Olividae, Naticidae and Cypraea in exchange for North American mollusca or shell books, as desired.

Mr. J.J. Kock, Boutensstraat 16, Breda, Netherlands. Wishes to contact members with the view to exchange.

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