



Afrivoluta pringlei Tomlin 1947

THE STRANDLOPER

BULLETIN OF THE
CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NO. 147
DECEMBER, 1972.

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GREETINGS: The President, Vice-President, Group Chairman and the members of the Council wish to take this opportunity to wish all members, wherever they may be, the Compliments of the Season.
May you all enjoy a Happy and Bright Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year.

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SEA SHELLS AND THEIR MAKERS.
by R.N. Kilburn.

Part 6 - The Venomous Cone Shells.

One of the most popular groups of shells among collectors are the Gastropods of the family Conidae, commonly known as Cone shells. Many are of great beauty, colours such as red, pink, orange and yellow being common. Among the most popular are the textile cones, which are intricately marked with wavy chestnut brown lines, the ground colour of white or pink showing through as a pattern of tiny tents. Of these one may single out the famous Glory-of-the-Sea Cone which is regarded by collectors as the most desirable and valuable of all sea shells. In fact one of the forty-four known specimens of this shell was recently sold for the sum of two thousand dollars, an all-time record for a sea shell.

However, the cones can also claim another kind of record; they are the only gastropods capable of inflicting a lethal sting.

The first recorded case of a Cone sting was officially reported as long ago as 1848, when the Captain of a British research ship was bitten by a Marbled Cone. On this occasion only local pain resulted, compared by the victim to that of phosphorous burning under the skin. Over the years further isolated incidents were reported from different parts of the western Pacific but aroused little more than casual interest. The possibility of real danger was not realised until it was too late. In 1936 a young Australian, while collecting shells on the Great Barrier Reef, was stung by a Geographic Cone. Within half an hour paralysis

had set in, followed rapidly by loss of consciousness. The victim was dead within five hours, having reached hospital too late for effective treatment.

It is now realised that all cones possess poison glands, together with the means of injecting their secretion. Fortunately only a few species are known to be able to inflict a dangerous bite; three of these, incidentally, have been recorded from Durban.

The poison apparatus is complex. It consists of a long coiled poison gland ending in a muscular pressure bulb, while the radula is reduced to a bunch of microscopic harpoon like teeth. When the victim is within range, a long proboscis is protuded, grasping a single tooth at its tip. This is raised like the head of a cobra, then swiftly thrust forward. On striking the victim, the tooth penetrates, together with a quantity of venom. This venom acts on the nervous system, producing effects similar to those of curare.

The most dangerous Cones are those which feed on small fishes, and thus require a venom of high potency to prevent their prey escaping. Some of the mollusc-eating species are also dangerous. Most, however, are timid worm-eaters whose sting is no more serious than that of a bee. Nevertheless, all cones should be treated with respect and large examples should not be held in the naked hand. Although, no antidote has yet been perfected, successful treatment has been obtained with injections of adrenaline (a stimulant) and anthisan (an anti-histamine).

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This article was the sixth in a series which were originally compiled for, and broadcast by, the English Service of the S.A.B.C., who have given permission for distribution amongst members of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa.

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NOTES ON THE FAMILY STROMBIDAE

by E.H. Ralph.

Strombus (Euprotomus) aurisdianae Linné, 1758

Solid, rugose with a posterior projection on the outer lip, a strongly recurved siphonal canal and with a smoothish, glossy, cream to orange-red aperture. From Zululand northwards. 50-75 mm. in length. Figure 1.

Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus subspecies columba Lamarck, 1822

Light brown with patches of white. Lighter band round centre of body whorls. Fine ridges round body whorl. Aperture usually dark purple-brown. From Bazaruto northwards. 45-60 mm. in length. Figure 2.

Strombus (Conomurex) decorus (Röding, 1798)

Solid, heavy, conic in shape with a brown-flecked columella and a rose-tinted aperture. Colour of shell variable, with a white to cream background over which are sparse mottlings of brown. Interior of aperture light orange to rose with a broad white border. From Port Shepstone northwards. 34-74 mm in length. Figure 3.

Strombus (Canarium) dentatus Linné 1758

Cream with irregular cloudings, maculations and flecks of chestnut or yellow-brown and white. Base of siphonal canal with a blotch of bluish brown. Interior of aperture yellow

or rose. From Palm Beach northwards. Figure 4. 26-56 mm. in length.

Strombus (Canarium) fusiformis Sowerby, 1842

Whitish cream mottled and speckled with light to dark yellowish brown. May be 4 or 5 narrow spiral brown dotted bands of white on last whorls. Columella and aperture white. From Palm Beach northwards. Figure 5. 26-45 mm. in length.

Strombus (Gibberulus) gibberulus Linné, 1758.

Brown lines on whitish background. Aperture purplish within and white lip. Has peculiar humped outline. From Durban northwards. 30-70 mm. in length. Figure 6.

Strombus (Dolomena) labiosus Wood, 1828.

Cream, smoke-grey or yellowish. Spire ribbed. Columella and outer lip white. From Port Amelia northwards. 25-51 mm. in length. Figure 7.

Strombus (Lentigo) lentiginosus Linné, 1758.

Silver lip, whitish grey spots. Light orange in aperture and silvery glaze on columella. East Africa. 55-104 mm. in length. Figure 8.

Strombus (Canarium) mutabilis Swainson, 1821.

Ivory white with broken bands of light or dark brown. Aperture pink. From Port Alfred northwards. 16-40 mm. in length. Figure 9.

Strombus (Canarium) labiatus subspecies olydus Duclos, 1844.

Columella orange to yellowish orange and with 30 to 40 spiral stripes of darker brownish orange. From Port Amelia northwards. 16-47 mm. in length. Figure 10.

Strombus (Canarium) terebellatus subspecies afrobellatus Abbott, 1960.

Glossy, coloured cream with a heavy suffusion of light to dark brown mottlings and flecks. From Lourenco Marques northwards. 29-39 mm. in length. Figure 11.

Lambis (Harpago) chiragra subspecies arthritica (Röding, 1798)

Exterior rough and mottled with brownish black spots and marks. Aperture ivory and orange with dark brown stripes on columella and outer lip. From Lourenco Marques northwards. 120-190 mm. in length. Figure 12.

Lambis (Millepes) digitata (Perry, 1811).

Whitish with yellow-brown specklings and mottlings. Aperture purplish-mauve with numerous whitish spiral lirae. Throat yellowish white within. From Lourenco Marques northwards. 98-145 mm. in length. Figure 13.

Lambis (Lambis) lambis (Linné, 1758)

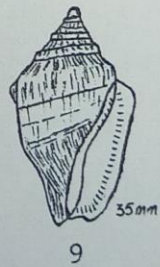
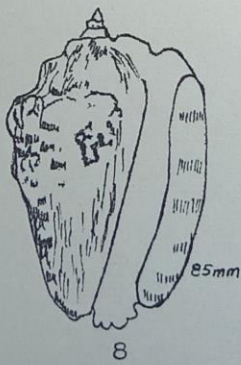
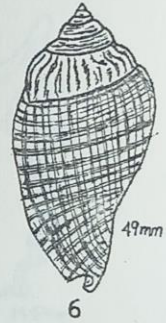
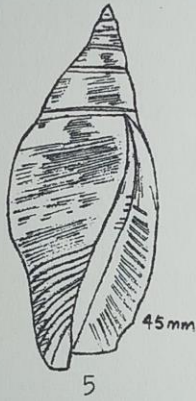
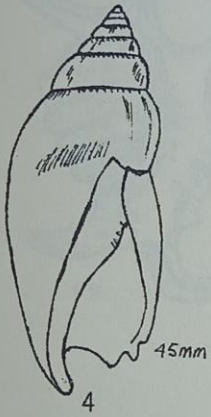
Exterior brown. Interior flesh pink to purple. From Lourenco Marques northwards. 90-120 mm. in length. Figure 14.

Lambis scorpius subspecies indomaris Abbott, 1960.

Aperture deep purple, columella brownish purple overlaid with white spiral lirae. Edge of outer lip yellow orange. From Lourenco Marques northwards. 100-165 mm. in length. Not illustrated.

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STROMBIDAE



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STROMBIDAE

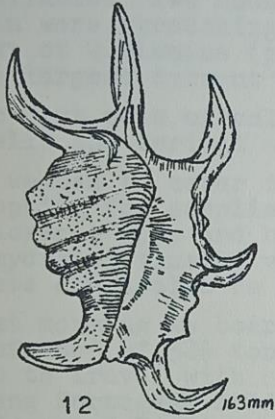


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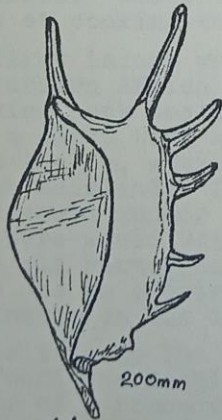
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HOLIDAY IN NORTHERN MOCAMBIQUE

by J.A. Polack.

On 18th September, 1972 a party consisting of Dr. H. van Hoepen - organiser and leader - his brother, Dr. E. van Hoepen and wife, Jack and Marie Polack, Sister Jordaan (Piet) and her sister Jorrie and Marfred Lohr set off for Lourenco Marques in two cars and a station wagon. After passing through customs without any complications we arrived in Lourenco Marques, garaged the cars and settled down for the night at the Hotel Mozambiquana.

Early the next morning we proceeded to the airport, boarded our Boeing 737 and at 8.30 set off on our flight northwards. The identity letters on our aircraft were BAC and it was not long before we were BACK as the Boeing could not attain altitude. We had to disembark and transfer to another jet which was made available. Two hours later we were in the air again and very soon were stretching our legs at Beira airport. We touched down next at Quelemane (pronounced Kill-i-man-i) where are situated the largest coconut plantations in the world.

Our next port of call was Nampula. We then flew on to Porto Amelia and arrived at about 3.30 that afternoon.

As we had to cater for ourselves on the trip, the women went shopping for supplies. Meat was unobtainable, so a few frozen chickens, eggs and bacon, flour, mealie meal, etc. were purchased. Dehydrated tins of vegetables were purchased in Johannesburg but these could also be bought in Porto Amelia.

Next morning we boarded our travelling hotel, the motor ship "Infante" of 32½ tons. We found that the owner, Senor Gaspar, was to travel with us and do the navigation. With him was a young Portugese soldier, George Vasques, who could speak and understand English and who acted as interpreter. He was on sick leave. The rest of the crew consisted of four Africans and a piccanin called Alie. Alie was supposed to be the cook but, to our sorrow, we soon found out that he could not even make tea or coffee. The catering therefore fell to the women who took turns at cooking the meals.

The first island we called at was Ibo, which was the first place in Southern Africa to be settled by whites. At one time it was a thriving port dealing in ivory and slaves, but now it is more or less a ghost town as ships found it difficult to navigate and Porto Amelia, with its beautiful natural harbour, was developed on the mainland. It is said that all the merchant fleets of the world could anchor in Porto Amelia's Pemba Bay at the same time and there would still be room for more ships! Ibo Island has three old Portuguese forts, of which only one, S. Joao Batista, is in use as a prison. Ebony carvings and old coins are obtainable on the island at very reasonable prices.

On the trip to Ibo we had a go at catching our dinner by trolling and found the fishing excellent. In no time at all we had a number of barracuda, king fish, queen fish and grouper lying on the deck. We had no trouble in catching or shooting fresh fish each day for use by ourselves and the crew. When we felt like a change, it was either chicken purchased in Porto Amelia or crayfish caught on the reefs.

The next island to be visited was Ilha das Rolas (the island of doves) which was an annual invasion of these birds, but as the tides were still too high the shells were conspicuous by their absence.

Macalao Island was also visited in the afternoon, but as it was high tide no shelling was attempted. We sailed for Pangani on the mainland, where we had a crayfish dinner with the Lobos who ran a trading store. Senora Lobo comes from Ibo Island and is a mixture of Chinese and native, and is a wonderful cook.

The following day we shelled very close to Pangani, and Marfred Lohr found 15 Conus geographus - all mature - under one slab of rock. The reef we shelled on was a grave yard of old coral with very few shells, but 2 Pterygia nucea were taken alive. It was off Pangani that Marfred was really successful with his dredging. The shells brought up were not large, but a variety of molluscs such as mitres, terebras and bivalves were caught in the dredge, together with an interesting collection of marine life such as small crabs, octopi etc. These were transferred to a small tank which Piet Jordaan had stocked with a selection of cowries. The crabs etc. unfortunately did not survive for very long.

The next day we visited Medjumbe where Marfred had an unsuccessful attempt at further dredging - he brought up next to nothing. The shelling on this island was, however, very good and a number of large Lambis lambis, Conus leopardus and Cassis rufa were taken. We slept that night off this island and three of the party attempted night shelling and collected a few olives, ancilla, etc.

All the reefs and islands visited are too numerous to mention, but the high light of our expedition was two days shelling on the Massasare reef. Shells were very prolific and tiger cowries lay in the open in vast numbers. Bursas and Lambis were plentiful and about 20 varieties of cowries were collected. Not all the cones were found here but the greater variety came from this locality. Massasare Reef lies north of Mocimboa de Praia. Our visit to Mocimboa de Praia is worth mentioning if only for the fact that we were invited to Captain Gaspar's flat for a bath which we all needed very badly.

On our return journey we again visited Ibo to buy a few carvings and while walking through the cymodocea weed, exposed by the low tide, found a number of Cypraea moneta. Prior to this none had been found. All over the shore were enormous piles of pinna. The empty shells lay around in their thousands as the natives collect them and extract only the tiny adductor muscle which they eat.

The beautiful island of Quirimba was our last call before returning to Porto Amelia. In order to reach Quirimba one sails through mile after mile of mangrove swamps where egrets sit in their hundreds. A German, Joachim Gessner, and his family farm coconuts on this island - a plantation consisting of 60,000 trees which each yield on an average of 50 coconuts per year. These hospitable people wined and dined us and took us on a sight seeing trip through the coconut groves and on to the processing plant where the nuts are de-husked, cracked and the flesh laid out in the sun to dry and later to be sold as copra. We did no shelling here but after seeing the Gessner collection of shells came to the conclusion that this could be a very rewarding area.

On arrival back at Porto Amelia we slept the night again at the Hotel Cabo Delgado. The next day Marie and I were royally entertained by Senor Viera who presented us with a number of quite rare cones etc. From the quantity and variety of his collection one comes to the conclusion that the shelling here is probably the finest along this coast.

On the Saturday morning we had a royal send off at the airport from our Portuguese friends. This time we started our return flight/

flight in a Fokker Friendship plane and flew first to Nacala, on to Mocambique Island where we touched down at Lumbo Airport and then on to Antonio Dnes which boasts the finest prawning grounds on the Coast. From here we back-tracked to Nampula where we transferred to a Boeing 737 and returned to Lourenco Marques, landing at Quelimane and Beira on the way. That night we slept once again in Lourenco Marques and, joy of joys, had a nice hot bath. The inch thick scum on top of the water proved how badly we were in need of a bath.

The expedition, whether from the fishing or shelling angle, was highly successful and every minute of the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The party got on well together and there was no unpleasantness or grumbling. Life was not exactly luxurious as the accommodation on board was very limited and at night bodies were found strewn on the after deck, in the salon and even on top of and in the wheel house. As only two tiny cabins were supplied for sleeping purposes, every one had to make out as best they could. The toilet on board was very primitive and even after hours of hand pumping refused to function. These minor inconveniences, however, made life on board all the more interesting and entertaining.

The cost for 14 days? Together with lots of excellent beer and vino, souvenirs, charter of boat, travel to and from Lourenco Marques and the air flight the average cost per head was a modest R260.

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AROUND THE GROUPS.

Natal Midlands Groups, Pietermaritzburg. At a well attended meeting on the 2nd November we had the pleasure of listening to a very interesting talk by Mr. R. Kilburn on the general characteristics and biology of the Trochidae family; and noted there were no less than a thousand species. Several rather handsome specimens, all from our South African coast, were handed around for us to examine. These ranged from a size not much more than a pin's head to about 5 inches.

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Eastern Cape Group, Port Elizabeth. Our meeting of 4th November was attended by a total of 18 members and visitors, with apologies from a further 8 members. Apologies were received from Mr. Ross on being unable to give the expected talk on marine life as he was extremely busy on preparations for the opening of the Tropical House at the Museum. He was, however, quite prepared to give the talk at a later date.

Mrs. Watters told members of her appointment to the Council and assured members of doing her best to further the aims of the Society and to assist members wherever possible.

It was decided to hold all future meetings on the first Saturday of each month except where the said Saturday was part of a long weekend, when the meeting would then be held on the following Saturday. Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Greave were thanked for their donations of books for our Reference Library. Mr. McLachlan told members of the work being done on our Reference Collection and asked if members would contribute shells to complete the collection at a later date.

Mrs. Watters read out notes on the families Patellidae and Muricidae (Thais only) after which tea was served and members discussed shells of these families.

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Our next meeting will take the form of a Christmas party to be held at the home of Mrs. Lewis at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 2nd December. The family for discussion is Muricidae (Murex only).

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Border Group, East London. Including 4 visitors, we had an attendance of 10 at our November meeting. There were apologies from 2 members. In the absence of both Chairwoman and Vice-Chairwoman, our Secretary, Mrs. Latigan took the meeting. After welcoming two prospective new members a discussion was held on various literature. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Mr. Kilburn as regards the availability of copies of his papers. A discussion was held on the fostering of public interest in shells and it was reported that Mrs. Latigan had given a lecture to the East London Professional Womens Association on shells and that the French Bank had offered their window early in the new year, for a period of two weeks, for a display of shells. The members present accepted this invitation and it was decided that at this stage we start assembling suitable shells.

It was decided that members would bring gifts of shells to the December meeting and that these would be exchanged. A field day would be held on 3rd December at Shelly Beach. Mrs. Latigan asked members to hand in information every month about live taken shells. This information was to enable the Museum to keep the check lists up to date. The subject for the December meeting would be "Beginners open session for questions and identification".

Mrs. Latigan gave a most interesting talk on the breeding habits of the family Cymatiidae in South Africa with special reference to Charonia (Lampas) pustulata and Mayena australasia gemmifera. The incubation period, hatching and veliger stages were described. Specimens of the eggs were on display. The life cycle, general habits, structure of the soft parts, radula and distribution were discussed with special reference to endemic species.

As there were a number of beginners present Mrs. Latigan then spoke on "How to collect, clean and present shells, their general structure and habits". The nomenclature system was explained, and extracts from the Government Gazette referring to conservation were read.

Mrs. Hully proposed a vote of thanks for the work put in by Mrs. Latigan for having assembled a reference display, with ranges, of S.A. Cymatiidae.

This months "finds" included a good beach specimen of Voluta africana, a ? Spondylus sp. from Coffee Bay, a live Conus lividus from Nthlonyane, a beach, unidentified cowry from the same locality and a beach cone at Gonubie which has so far defied identification.

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Durban and Natal Coast Group, Durban. 12 members and 3 visitors attended our October meeting with apologies from a further 3 members.

Mr. Smith asked if anything had been heard regarding shell permits for members holidaying in Mocambique. The Chairman replied that he had received no replies to letters to the authorities and that more would be achieved by personal contact which he would arrange on his next visit to Mocambique. Mr. Young reported that a meeting had been held regarding the shell exhibition at Umzinto. It was decided that this was too ambitious a project. A letter to

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the Natal Parks Board regarding the removal of "sea lettuce" from Durban Bay was read together with the reply from the Board in which the matter was referred to the Port Captain, as this was not a protected plant. The Chairman undertook to discuss this matter with the Harbour Engineer. It was suggested that if no satisfaction was received from this meeting the Committee would try to have this plant declared a Protected Plant. The Secretary pointed out that a letter to the Society's Bulletin had been considerably shortened in that the entire list of shells collected on the last outing was omitted. Mr. Young undertook to investigate the matter.

It was proposed that as the Shell Exhibition was temporary postponed members would keep a complete record of all live taken shells in Natal waters. Members were asked to bring lists of their finds to the monthly meetings.

Mr. Young exhibited a collection of shells found mostly in Durban Bay and Mr. Smith showed two films - "The River must Live" and "The Underwater Search".

Our November meeting was, according to the register in use, i.e. since January 1968, the best ever attended with 15 members and 9 visitors present. Five apologies were recorded.

Arising from the minutes of the October meeting as regards the question of shelling in Mocambique Mrs. Muller suggested that her husband, Mr. Justice Muller, might consider contacting Authority in that territory with the object of simplifying the present difficulties which are encountered by members. Mr. Muller, who was present at the meeting was approached and kindly offered his services. With regard to the matter of the removal of "sea lettuce" from Durban Bay the Chairman stated that he had not been successful in making contact with the Harbour Engineer. Noted that a letter had been received from the Editor explaining his inability to publish the list of shells found on an outing due to lack of full details.

The subject for the meeting was the family Strombidae. An extensive display of specimens was on view and great interest and discussion was prompted thereby. During discussion on this display it was felt that, owing to the keen interest shown, members be urged to bring information on the ecological, breeding, distribution and living conditions appertaining to a particular group under discussion. A prominent feature of the meeting was the large marine tank made by Mr. Young and devoted to the keeping of mollusca. This was arranged with seaweed-encrusted rocks amongst which could be seen *Cypraea*, *Drupa*, *Murex*, *Natica* and a number of bivalves. Of special interest was a small member of the *Epitoniidae* and a specimen of *Cypraea arabica* var. *histrion* Gmelin bearing a bivalve and two barnacles over the anterior canal, all of which the animal failed to cover with the mantle.

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Transvaal Group, Johannesburg. Our meeting of 17th November was attended by 21 members and visitors. A panel consisting of Mr. Jenner, Mr. Polack and Mrs. Adam (with apologies from Mrs. Hooper, Mr. Aiken and Mr. Ralph) discussed the preservation of the mollusc and cleaning of the shell. Mr. Jenner, who was the first speaker, stressed the importance of preserving unknown or doubtful species for anatomical study. He referred to articles in Circulars No. 55 and 103. It was generally agreed that molluscs should not be placed directly in alcohol or boiling water as this will cause an immediate involuntary retraction. Various methods of inducing the mollusc to emerge from its shell before preserving were discussed. The panel agreed that 70% alcohol was preferable to formalin and

other/

other preservatives. It was decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting in January and it is hoped that the panel members will then contribute towards a paper, possibly for future publication.

The Chairman, Mr. Hyatt, again spoke to members about the forthcoming visit of Dr. Norman Paschall, a collector from the U.S.A., and said that he hoped as many members as possible would be able to meet him and assist him in any way. Mrs. Leslie of the Border Group has exchanged shells with Dr. Paschall and had written to Mr. Aiken asking the assistance of our Group during his visit to Johannesburg. We are indebted to Mrs. Leslie who unfortunately will not be able to meet Dr. Paschall.

Owing to the difficulties of finding a suitable venue it was decided that the proposed Christmas party would not be held.

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mr. J.H.L. Mallac, 14, Bestel St., Forest-side, Mauritius.
Wants to contact members who would be interested in exchanging.

Mr. R.A. Salisbury, Was Box 70, FPO San Fransisco, Calif. 96637, U.S.A. Has been collecting for a little over a year and has shells from Guam for exchange. He is mainly interested in Mitra and Terebra.

Mr. R.A. Whitney, 953 East Prairie, Decatur, Ill. 62521, U.S.A.
Is doing research work in Chitons and would like to contact members who would be willing to exchange. He can offer shells from many parts of the world from virtually any family in exchange.

Capt. D. Stewart, 4 Magnus St. (East), Nelson Bay, N.S.W. 2315, Australia. Wants to obtain African cowries and murex. He can offer New Guinea and Australian shells in exchange.

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ABOUT MEMBERS.

Change of Address.

- Mrs. P. Beuster, 79 Nellie Road, Norwood, Johannesburg.
- Mr. G.L. Vowles, Tenby Apartments, 77 Fleet St., East London.
- Mrs. S.C. Vowles, Tenby Apartments, 77 Fleet St., East London.
- Mrs. J.M. Verwey, 66 Starke Road, Bergvliet, Cape.

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New Members.

- Mrs. I. Davies, 1 Impala Court, Short St., Somerset West, Cape
- Mr. C. Ehrlich, 7 East, 14th St., New York, NY 10003, U.S.A.
- Mr. H-U. Lützw, 10 Whinfield Rd., Parsons Hill, Port Elizabeth.
- Dr. S.E. Phillips, P.O. Box 3, Ixopo, Natal.
- Mrs. M.L. Ludgater, Bemberero Farm, P.O. Box 63, Bindura, Rhodesia.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Society held on 28th November 1972.

The Chairman, Mr. Freeman, opened the meeting with a word of welcome for all members and visitors present. Apologies for absence were recorded from eight members.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as published on page 6 of "Strendloper" number 146, were taken as read and adopted.

Arising/

Arising from these minutes it was noted that three members had attended the talk given by Mr. D. Good of the False Bay Underwater Club on his trip down the Amazon. It was suggested that he be invited to address the Society in the New Year. The Secretary agreed to arrange this.

Members were then asked to write down the names of twenty shells on display, a time limit of 15 minutes was allowed for this and a prize would be given to the member who had the most correct. While the entries to this competition were being marked Mrs. Prior gave a talk on her recent trip to Mauritius and she spoke about the shells she had found there. These shells were on display and were greatly admired by all present.

With regard to the mounting of the Reference Collection examples of small shells mounted in fibre glass were displayed by Mrs. Giles. It was decided that the Council would meet later to discuss the best methods and to proceed with the mounting of the Reference Collection.

It was reported that there had been various problems with the final stages of the printing of the revised "Beginners Guide" but that the publishers stated that it would be on the shelves before Christmas. Mr. Freeman had a book entitled "Shells" on display. The text is by Emerson and the photographs by Feininger. This book is lavishly illustrated with both colour and black and white plates. The text is well written and informative. The price of this book is R17-00.

Mr. Freeman announced that the Council had resolved to finance some of the research work being done by Mr. Kilburn at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. A grant of R300, payable over three years, had been made for the purchasing of publications which would assist Mr. Kilburn in his research. At the end of the three years the situation would be reviewed. A letter had been received from Dr. Pringle, Director of the Museum, expressing his grateful thanks to the Society for this assistance. In making this decision the Council had felt that it was possibly the best way, at the moment, of fulfilling the object of the Society which is to promote the Study of molluscs in general and those of South Africa in particular.

It was announced that the winner of the competition was Mrs. Connolly with Messrs. Giles and Kapp coming joint second.

There being no further business the meeting developed into general discussion and the viewing of the shells on display.

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Index Circulars Nos. 121 to 140.

This has now been completed and has already been posted to all members. We are most grateful to the compilers of this work.

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NOTE: Following normal custom there will be no issue of the "Strandloper" in January. The next issue will be No. 148 in February 1973. An up-to-date list of members will be sent to all members during January.

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