



THE STRANDLOPER

BULLETIN OF THE
CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NO. 155

SEPTEMBER, 1973.

Afrivoluta pringlei Tomlin 1947

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE FAMILY STROMBIDAE

by W.E.J. Walles

Further to Mr. Ralph's article in *The Strandloper* No. 147 of December, 1972 the following supplementary notes are offered.

Strombus wilsoni Abbott, 197-

Differs from *S. mutabilis* Swainson by the conspicuous lack of a shoulder and its rather smaller size. Kenya: Jadini, dead on coral in intertidal zone: 24,32 x 11,42 mm; Mozambique: Lorenzo Marques, ex pisce (Fernandes). Fig. 1.

Strombus plicatus Röding, 1798

Differs from *S. columba* Lamarck by elongated spire and white coloration of aperture. Mozambique: Vilanculos in intertidal zone, up to 63,5 mm long (Walles). Fig. 2.

In Indo-Pacific Mollusca Dr. Abbott considers it to be a subspecies, a zoogeographical race restricted to the Red Sea.

Three specimens found by the writer in the vicinity of *S. columba* Lamarck prove that both are full species but not races.

Strombus fusiformis Sowerby, 1842

Adult specimens have white colour predominant with only sparse discoloration in irregular patches. Mozambique: Paradise Island, 58,72 mm long (Lohr, in writers collection).

Strombus labiosus Wood, 1828

Kenya: Port Rietz, on silty intertidal flats in colonies, up to 65,3 mm long (Walles).

Strombus mutabilis Swainson, 1821

As the name implies is very variable in form, colour, micro-sculpture and design of opercula. In Kenya the writer collected 87 distinct population groups and higher forms, the largest specimen, from Msambweni, being 40,4 mm long.

Strombus lentiginosus Linné, 1758

Dr Abbott (ididem) quotes a length of "105 mm from East Indies". The biggest collected by the writer in Kenya was 84,3 mm long. Mauritius: Mrs. H. Boswell col.: 102,3 mm.

Strombus aurisdianae Linné, 1758

Quite variable population forms, the biggest being restricted to silty intertidal flats: Mozambique, 83,0 mm long (Walles).

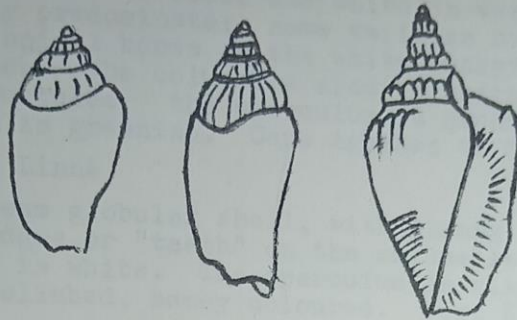


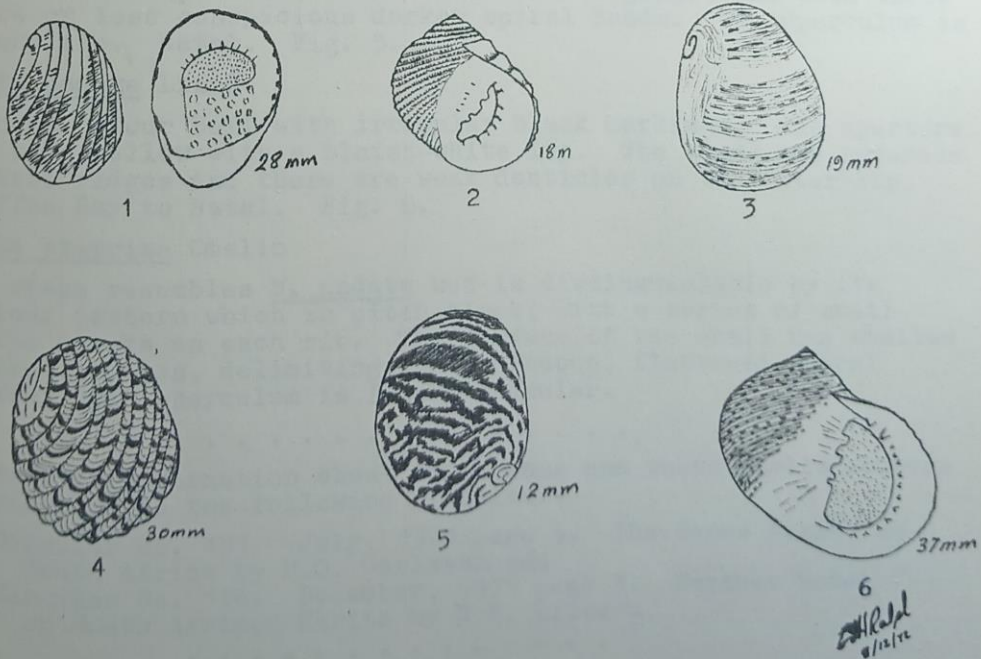
Fig. 1.
Two variants.

Fig. 2.
(from I.-P. Moll.)

THE GENUS NERITA IN SOUTH AFRICA

by R.O. Carlsson
Illustrated by E.H. Ralph

Most of the Neritidae are thick, solidly built shells, oval or globular with a short spire, sometimes flattened or depressed, and a broad columellar area. The aperture is semi-circular. The operculum is also semi-circular, calcareous, and has a flange or peg in the inner edge which fits under the columella. The shells are to be found in sea, brackish or fresh water and are herbivorous.



Nerita albicilla Linné.

The general colour is black and white in various patterns, the black usually predominate; some varieties have two or three broad black spiral bands on the white background, others are entirely black. The columella area is white and has some indistinct pustules; the operculum is granulate; the periostracum is greenish. Cape Agulhas to Mocambique. Fig. 1.

Nerita plicata Linné

A pinkish cream globular shell, with strong spiral ridges and prominent ridges or "teeth" on the columella and outer lip. The aperture is white. The operculum is slightly concave, smooth and polished, honey coloured. Port Elizabeth to Natal. Fig. 2.

Nerita polita Linné

A smooth polished shell but the growth lines may be fairly strong. Colouring varies considerably and may be blackish, greyish or whitish with a zigzag pattern. Aperture is pale yellow. The operculum has a raised outer margin, crossed with fine ribs. Gonubie to Natal. Fig. 3.

Nerita textilis Gmelin

This shell has a very rough surface and is strongly ridged. The colour is off-white with irregular black markings. The aperture is bluish-white with yellow on the columella. The operculum is horny, bluish-black in colour. Port Elizabeth to Natal. Fig. 4.

Nerita umlaasiana Krauss

The colour varies from black to olivaceous grey, variously marbled and speckled, often with axial zigzags, and with three more or less conspicuous darker spiral bands. The operculum is granulate. Natal. Fig. 5.

Nerita undata Linné

Ground colour buff with irregular black markings. The aperture is pale yellow with a bluish-white lip. The shell has numerous spiral ridges and there are weak denticles on the outer lip. Coffee Bay to Natal. Fig. 6.

Nerita aterrima Gmelin

In shape resembles N. undata but is distinguishable by its colour pattern which is pitch black, with a series of small white flecks on each rib. The surface of the shell has shallow spiral grooves, delimiting inconspicuous, flattened spiral cords. The operculum is finely granular.

.....
For further information about this genus and these shells members are referred to the following articles:-

Circular No. 131. July, 1971 page 3. The Genus Nerita in South Africa by R.O. Carlsson and
Circular No. 136. December, 1971 page 3. Further Notes on South African Nerita by R.N. Kilburn.

* * * * *

Exchanges Wanted:-

Mrs. P. Crossley, 3 McInnes St., Kimberley. Would like to obtain specimens of Cypraea marginalis, Haliotis midae elator, H. queketti and H. assinina. To swop or to buy.

- Mr. Felix del Barrio III, SS 465-62-7952, Thailand Reg. Exch. Eng. Br., APO San Francisco 96346, U.S.A. Has common and rare Indian Ocean and Andaman Sea shells for sale or exchange and would like to acquire some exchange pals.
- Mr. H. Symonds, 24 Harris St., Parramatta, Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Collects all shells but is particularly interested in *Cypraea* and *Conus*.

* * * * *

New Members.

- Sister Miriam Cusack, Sint Paulusklooster, Posbus 11041, Brooklyn, Pretoria.
- Mrs C. Lawlor, 104 Elizabeth House, Park Drive, Port Elizabeth.
- Mrs G.E. Colquhoun, 42 Townsend Ave., Taybank, Port Elizabeth.
- Mr T.C. Lan, 40, Lane 105, Liao-ning Street, Taipei, Taiwan.

* * * * *

Changes of Address:

- Mrs B.G. Granville, Silverstream, P.O. Schagen, E. Transvaal.
- Mrs S.C. Vowles, Weedon, Copperbins Lane, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England.
- Mr & Mrs G.A. Hyatt, P.O. Box 247, White River, Transvaal.

* * * * *

Around the Groups:-

Transvaal Group, Johannesburg. Our meeting of 24th August was attended by 29 members and visitors with apologies from the Chairman, Dr. van Hoepen. Mr Ruben welcomed Sister Miriam, a new member, and three prospective members. Mr Eddie Ralph then gave an interesting talk on Nassariidae, outlining the characteristics and feeding habits of the three genera, Bullia, Nassarius and Demoulia. He had illustrated fourteen species of Bullia, published in the Strandloper, and since then two new species has been found - one by Mr Lohr of the Transvaal Group and the other by Mr Kilburn of the Natal Museum. He had found seven varieties of Bullia digitalis (Meuschen, 1787) on the Transkei coast and stated that the obvious difference between this species and B. diluta (Krauss, 1848) is to be found in the operculum. Bullia live in sand which is neither too fine nor too coarse and are scavengers, feeding on dead jellyfish and other matter. Turning to the genus Nassarius, Mr Ralph said that the majority still require clarification and names are continually being changed. Like the Bullia they are scavengers but live in calmer waters.

Mr Jenner told members about his visit to Coconut Bay, Mocambique, in July. During his stay there a strong southeast wind blew and the sea was extremely cold. Perhaps because of this he did not find any live shells on the reef, but at low tide in the warm sand pools he found a quantity of Bullia natalensis lying upside down and quite helpless. These recovered when he placed them in salt water. At nearby Jangamo he was fortunate in finding a live Conus geographus and saw Cypraea caputserpentis breeding in their hundreds. He also found seven Conus flavidus living under a leathery coral head and two Conus moreleti in soft coral heads.

Mr and Mrs Adam described their visit to Tofo and Inhambane, Mocambique, where their chief interest lay in collecting live material for their aquarium. They had observed Cypraea moneta, C. annulus, Hydantina physis and H. velum breeding in the bay of

Inhambane. They noted that live shells were not plentiful on the reef at Tofo as during their previous visit last October.

These "report-back" talks are proving very interesting and useful to our members.

.....

Natal Midlands Group, Pietermaritzburg. At our August meeting we discussed the family Architectonicidae, biology and characteristics. It is interesting to note that of the 70 known varieties, 40 may be found along the Natal Coast. Mr Kilburn brought several specimens to the meeting for members to examine.

Mr and Mrs Dale went on a shelling trip to Tofa, Mocambique, in June. They were, on the whole disappointed with what they had collected. The specimens, though a little bleached were in good condition and the small live collected ones were very interesting. It would seem that one needs to go a second time before one is familiar with the proper shelling areas and this Mr and Mrs Dale hope to do in the near future.

Mrs Balfour has also just returned from Mocambique where she shelled at Tofo during July. The quality of the shells found is very good and she returned with a simply splendid collection.

.....

Durban and Natal Coast Group, Durban. Twelve members and three visitors attended our August meeting which was held at the home of Mr and Mrs Vosloo of Park Rynie. There were apologies from a further five members. The committee were requested to carry out enquiries as regards the shell permits to "eliminate any anomalies relating to restrictions etc." They were also to investigate the question of a field outing to Kosi Bay and the possibility of arranging a Shell Exhibition.

.....

Border Group, East London. With apologies from one member there were five members and five visitors present at our August meeting. It was announced that a field outing had been arranged for the 19th August at Gonubie and that a Social evening would be held at Mrs Faulkner's shop on 23rd August. Mrs Latigan spoke at length on the family Cypraeidae in South Africa. There was great excitement over the recent find at Gonubie by Mrs Evans of a live Cypraea lamarckii Gray. This is the first C.lamarckii to be found alive in our area. The animal was donated to the East London Museum.

Mr Quickelburge explained taxonomy and polymony as opposed to sub-species and when to use parenthesis with regard to the authors of shell names. He then spoke on the cypraea he had brought to the meeting. These had mostly been collected at Mbotyi and Port Grosvenor.

Mrs Armstrong brought two boxes of cowries - some local, but many world-wide and rare specimens. Mrs Hulley also had some fine specimens on display - all collected at Xora. Last but not least a specimen of C.fultoni Sowerby was on display. It was borrowed from the Museum for the meeting.

.....

Eastern Cape Group, Port Elizabeth. With apologies from four members a total of 15 attended our August meeting. Arising from the previous meeting Mr McLachlan reported that he had not had time to look over the bivalves at the Museum. Mrs Ball and Mrs Lewis had provided a very good display at the Summerwood School Hobbies Carnival.

Mrs Farrell, our Vice-Chairwoman, then handed over to Mrs Rennie who gave a very interesting talk on skin diving. She had brought various kinds of coral and a few shells picked up while diving in Algoa Bay. Looking at very fresh specimens of Marginella ornata and Ancilla obtusa most members displayed keenness to take the plunge too but Mrs Rennie issued strong warnings to those not initiated in skin diving.

Mrs Carstens had just returned from a few weeks shelling between Port Alfred and Durban and showed some interesting finds, among them a very good Haliotis queketti from Kelso and a live taken Cancellaria foveolata from Port Alfred.

* * * * *

It is interesting to notice that a number of the Group notes include "report-backs" by members who have been on shelling trips. Please share your finds and experiences with other members. Either report back to your Group Meeting when your trip will be recorded in the Group notes or write direct to the Secretary for inclusion in a proposed new series of articles about members finds and experiences.

* * * * *

Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting - 28th August 1973.

Mr Freeman, Chairman and Vice-President, welcomed all present. Apologies were recorded from Miss Bustin.

The notice convening the meeting, as published in the Strandloper No. 154, was read out by the Secretary.

The minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting, as published in the Strandloper No. 144, were read and adopted. It was noted that there were no matters arising from those minutes.

The report of the Secretary in respect of the year ending 30th June 1973, as published in the Strandloper No. 154, was considered and formally adopted by the meeting.

The report of the Treasurer in respect of the year ended 30th June 1973, as published in the Strandloper No. 154, was considered. Mr Freeman, from the Chair, stated that the books had, in terms of the Constitution, been scrutinised by two members of the Society. Miss F. Leers and Miss K. Leers were thanked for performing this duty. It was reported that the books were available at the meeting to any member who wished to inspect them. The Treasurer, Mr. R.O. Carlsson drew the members' attention to the fact that the year under review had resulted in a small surplus of only R23-40, and that this was not sufficient to meet the ever increasing costs. The members were warned that the Council might consider increasing the annual subscription. The report was then adopted by the meeting.

The Chairman announced that the following nominations had been received for the Council:-

President	Professor J.H. Day
Treasurer	Mr R.O. Carlsson
Members	Mrs M.C. Giles
	Mrs J. Watt
	Mr M.C. Giles
	Mr. L. Kapp
	Mr J. Watt

As the number of nominations received equalled the number of vacancies on the Council there was no necessity to hold a ballot.

The other members of the Council are:-

Vice-President	Mr D. Freeman
Secretary	Mrs R. Carlsson
Regional Members	Mrs M. Latigan (Border)
	Mr J. Scheepers (Natal Coast)
	Dr H.E. van Hoepen (Transvaal)
	Mrs C. Watters (Eastern Cape)

In closing the meeting Mr Freeman thanked all the Council members for their support and guidance during the year. Mrs Connolly proposed a vote of thanks to the Council. This was carried by loud applause.

There being no other business Mr Freeman handed the meeting over to Professor J.H. Day, President of the Society, who addressed the meeting on "The Feeding of Gastropods". This talk was very interesting and was supported by colour slides.

After tea the film "The Last Frontier" was screened. This film, by the National Parks Board, dealt with the Tsitsikama Coastal Reserve.

* * * * *

Notes from the Secretary's correspondence file.

Cypraea lamarcki Gray, 1825, found live at Gonubie.

On Saturday, 21st August, 1973, Mrs Evens of East London found the above mentioned shell at about 2 p.m. following a low neap tide at 12.48 p.m. The sea was relatively calm with a breeze from the west. The shell was found lying on its back between two rocks clear of the water.

The length of the shell was 35 mm. The mantle was chocolate brown; the animal pale lemon yellow. The shell has strong teeth, the base is white with reddish-brown spots on the sides and the dorsum has white spots.

The identification has been confirmed by Mr R.N. Kilburn of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg.

* * * * *

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 25th September, 1973 in the Lecture Hall of the South African Museum, Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, at 8.15 p.m. The shells for display and discussion will be the families Littorinidae, Turritellidae and Architectonicidae (pages 66, 74 and 76 of "Sea Shells of Southern Africa" by B. Kensley).

Members are also requested to bring any other shells received recently in parcels which they think might be of interest.

* * * * *