

October 1962

Redhill,
Surrey.

Produced by 'The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland'

A LITTLE MORE BIOGRAPHY

In most well organised homes each room has its own day for being cleaned. In my young days it was bedroom day on Wednesday. On a certain Wednesday my younger brother asked permission to dust mother's glove box. (They had those things in Edwardian days). In it he found a shell we later came to know was called the Sunset Shell. After some minutes of admiration he announced his intention of making a collection of shells. Our mother soon acquainted her friends of his intention and I well remember one contribution to our collection, a box of very beautiful Australian shells. I had by this time joined him in partnership.

Then next came our introduction to British land snails when we discovered that they comprised more than the common garden snail. At the end of our road in Enfield (Middlesex) was an area of lanes, fields and orchards known as Cherry Orchard Lane. Alas! no trace remains today for the area is completely covered with houses and roadways. Here we got our first thrill over the varied beauty of Cepaea hortensis and its band forms and colour varieties. We turned to books for information and 'cut our teeth' on Rev. J. G. Wood's primer 'Field and Lane' (still in my library). We soon added to this and most of our birthday and Christmas present money was spent on natural history books. Then the 'Harmsworth Natural History' was published at 7d. per part fortnightly. This was a strain on our slender resources of 3d. per week pocket money.

Shortly after this my brother began to be interested in mechanical things and money was needed for trains. I bought him out, taking over responsibility for Harmsworth Natural History, and paying him his share of the books - I suppose one would call this a 'take-over bid'.

Hours and hours were spent cutting up cigar boxes to make tablets. Having seen this method of exhibition in the collections at the British Museum I thought there was no other. All sorts of devices were used to house the collection. When I secured an old show-case from a jeweller's shop with very scratched glass top I really felt I was on the way to doing things properly. If only I had met someone who could have taught me something about collecting and the care of collections! If only someone had introduced me to the Conchological Society how much time and energy would have been saved! I remember even now and am horrified at myself - I knocked off a spine of a large Murex with a hammer because it would not fit in that jeweller's show case.

I always consider that serious conchology began in 1914 when I took Succinea putris from reeds near the Base Camp at Le Havre and later collected C. hortensis in the front line trenches before Ypres. Later I made a considerable collection of the same species having a great variety of band formulae and colours from Flanders lanes. Then in 1917 the Battalion moved to Italy and a completely different fauna was studied in the mountains of the north, the Asiago Plateau and its foothills. But enough of this - my chief object in writing this short autobiographical note is to say it all began with one sunset shell in 1907.

Rev. H. E. J. Biggs

Grasswood, Yorkshire

One Saturday in May we went to Grasswood in the Pennines; it is limestone scenery there, with large expanses of limestone pavement. It is as flat as pavement on top but there is a network of long cracks wide enough to

catch your feet in, in which Hart's Tongue Fern grows abundantly. These cracks, called grykes, are often very deep. Among them I found many well ground Helix turtoni [H. rotundata, a flat variety - Ed.] and H. rotundata.

Around a tree stump, amongst dead leaves, I made an interesting discovery, 7 specimens (adult) of Clausilia laminata, five of which were a nondescript greybrown but two had pink lower whorls. I made sure, or thought I made sure, that they were dead, but the following day I found that three of the grey-brown ones were alive, and later when identifying one of the pink ones, it picked up its shell and walked off!

In a different place, on the verge near the river, just after rain, I found Helix arbustorum feeding on Lady's Mantle. I noticed when the leaves dried a bit after the rain those snails went down to the roots of the plants; they seem to be a damp-loving species. I also found eight snails, none above $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, feeding on a four-inch thistle - they were H. rotundata, H. arbustorum, H. virgata and what I think was H. caperata.

Caroline Hancock

The compiler is very pleased to welcome the above contribution from Miss Hancock, aged 11, who must be our youngest contributor. M. Goodchild

BRIEF NOTES

1. Mrs. R. P. Ritchie, of [redacted] Mass., U.S.A., requests contacts in Great Britain with a view to exchanging U.S.A. marine shells for those from Europe and elsewhere.

2. MARINE CENSUS BULLETIN - CORRECTION.

I am grateful to Mr. N. A. Holme for pointing out an error in the marine census bulletin. The last line on p. 6 should read:-

40. Sole 51°0'N.; 7°15'W.; 49°30'N.; 100fm.

D. Heppell

3. SUBSCRIPTIONS A very considerable number of members have not yet forwarded their membership fee. Will those who have not paid please remit it immediately to save unnecessary work and postage. Last year some members had four form letters besides a personal one. Please do not make this again necessary.
C. A. Raffray, Hon. Treasurer

4. Members are reminded of two Natural History Museums in which shells form the principal display, the directors of which are members of the Society: in both cases the museums are run for charitable objects.

One is that of Mr. L. C. Prebble at [redacted] Binstead Hill, Isle of Wight. Mr. Prebble's museum has recently been featured, July 18th. 1962, by the Southern Regional News Service of B.B.C. Television. The other museum is directed by Miss A. M. Saunders, Rosemary, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton, Sussex. Members will be very welcome to call at either establishment.

5. Nearly all back numbers of the Journal of Conchology are still available from Vol. 13 onwards at a cost (to members only) of 2/6d. per number or £1 per volume. Volumes 24 and 25 however, cost more. Price details are as follows:

Volume	Cost to Members	Cost to the Public
13 - 23	2/6 per no.	5/- per no.
24 (1954-60)	6/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	7/6 " "
25 (1961-)	7/6 " "	10/- " "

6. PHILLIPINE ISLANDS Mrs. I. Duncan, [redacted] Edinburgh, has for disposal a collection of shells from the Phillipines, made 30 to 40 years ago. There are "at least 150 - 200 shells, some very small and delicate, some large and colourful," in good condition.

7. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Notice is given of the proposed use of plenary powers in the following cases, full details of which will be found in the Bulletin of Zoological -28-

Nomenclature, Vol. 19, part 5:

- (1) Suppression of piperita (Cypraea) Gray, 1825 (Gastropoda) Z.N.(S.) 1510.
- (2) Validation of Jovellania Bayle, 1879 (Cephalopoda) Z.N.(S.) 1511.
- (3) Validation of Vanikoro Quoy & Gaimard, 1832 (Gastropoda) Z.N.(S.) 1524.

Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the above cases should do so in writing and in duplicate as soon as possible, and in any case before 10th. March 1963. Each comment should bear the reference number of the case in question. Comment received early enough will be published in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature. Communications should be addressed: The Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

Trochus magus in Isle of Wight

On February 22nd. 1960, I was collecting shells on the east side of Ryde Pier, a beach I often visit, when I found two specimens of Trochus magus - the first I had seen in the Isle of Wight. Following the tide out I found a water-filled depression in the sands running in a N.W. direction full of masses of Crepidula fornicata, with T. magus feeding near them. Three days later I visited the spot again but only C. fornicata was present and a fortnight later the depression had vanished. Since then I have not found T. magus again.

Considerable variation was present amongst the 36 specimens I collected, several being pale brown, two pink and others mottled with various shades of brown and pink. One white specimen was noticeable as the umbilicus was shallower and the animal black.

L. C. Prebble

Field Meeting at Amberley, Sussex, August 26th. 1962

Director: M. Goodchild

Nine members and friends met at Amberley Station and were transported to the Wildbrooks in one squashed load by Dr. Llewellyn Jones!

Amberley Wildbrooks is a stretch of marshy country lying beside the River Arun which is flooded for 6 to 12 weeks every year. Before the days of enclosures it was an impassible swamp but by a system of intersecting dykes and sluices most of it has been drained to give rich water meadows used for fattening stock in summer. Small portions have been left unclear and are almost impenetrable. Many species of freshwater shells were collected, Planorbis, Limnaea, Bythinia tentaculata, Physa fontinalis, Paludestrina jenkinsi being common. Sphaerium comeum was present and several species of Pisidium were found including the beautifully marked P. amnicum and P. pulchellum.

In most of the area land snails and slugs were conspicuously absent, but on very slightly higher ground carrying the main cart track a few species of wet loving shells were found. They included Cochlicopa lubrica s.s., Zonitoides nitidus, Vitrea crystallina s.s., Vallonia pulchella and the slugs Agriolimax reticulatus, A. laevis, Arion fasciatus, A. hortensis and A. subfuscus.

After tea at Houghton Bridge, the party visited Arundel Park in pouring rain. Five dead shells of Abida secale were found but many other chalk loving species were abundant. The meeting was brought to a close by failing light at 7.30 p.m. and members dispersed homewards.

MARINE MOLLUSCA OF CARNAC, BRITTANY

This summer we spent a fortnight's holiday at the small fishing port of La Trinite sur Mer on the south coast of Brittany in the Morbihan region. During the holiday we explored several local beaches which were fairly interesting but the most rewarding for the shell collector proved to be Carnac - a sandy bay just over a mile long, with groups of rocks, mostly exposed only at low tide.

inches long, one or two Archidoris, etc., and have no doubt that the nudibranch devotee would find the rock pools equally interesting.

For those wishing to combine gastronomy with conchology there are many possibilities, molluscan and otherwise. In addition to the well known edible mollusca such as oysters, mussels, cockles, etc. others are eaten. Venus verrucosa is sold in the fish market under the name of 'Praire' and Paphia decussata is sold as 'Palourde'. The dish 'Palourde Farcie' is more than a dish - it is a gastronomic experience that should not be missed. Should any member require further information on this picturesque region I should be very pleased to supply it.

R. Fresco-Corbu

ON THE USE AND MISUSE OF COMMON NAMES

It is considered pedantic in everyday conversation to speak of the Jenny Wren as Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes yet lacking in scientific exactitude if we call an obscure species of the Acari by a common name, and merely facetious to use such names as the Depressed Limpet and the Warty Venus for some of the more common shells. Nevertheless common names often encourage the beginner to take an interest in a group at a stage when scientific names would be formidable, although their use will be later recognised and employed as the anomalies of common names become apparent to the student and as the growth of enthusiasm and interest encourages the effort of understanding. The professional zoologist generally abhors these haphazard and vague terms, whilst many reputable natural history journals of the more serious kind are diffident about using scientific names which will be meaningless to the average reader. The more well worked a group the more common names are in use, and the stability of these seems to be in direct ratio to the length of time a group has received the attention of generations of naturalists: Butterflies, Birds and Flowers are good examples. Occasionally a common name may have a more ancient lineage than a scientific one. If Haliotis must become a nomen nudum perhaps even the professionals may find themselves talking of Sea Ormers rather than using the 'new' Asinina!

But there is another reason why some of the older common names at least, should be kept in being: they enshrine much useful data for the ethnologist, the philologist and for the student of those studies which the 18th. century was wont to call 'popular antiquities'. A forthcoming posthumous volume by the great Cornish Celtic scholar, the late Morton Nance, will have much material and argument based on popular local names of various marine molluscs, and I myself have noted some interesting changes in local usage. For instance in Scilly where the Edible Winkle is virtually absent, the name Winkle is given to the Thick Top shell, Gibbula lineata (da C.). Since, so it is thought, the Island received cultural influences from the Isle of Man only a few centuries since, it may be significant that a population from a land where the Winkle is abundant would apply the name - at first no doubt nostalgically - to an entirely different but very abundant local species. Likewise, if the line of research pursued by the late Dr. Dexter is at all valid, the changes of species and common name which varied from one population to another but which centred around the 'collecting' of shells for food on Good Friday - a custom known in Cornwall as 'trigging' - may well prove important data to future scholars working the same field.

The value of listing, recording and affording scholarly treatment to the common names has long been the practice of students of mammals, birds and, less widely, of fish: those of molluscs are not without their value too and should not be lost.

Stella M. Turk

STRAND SHELLS AFTER CORNISH GALES

On March 7th. of this year (1962) great damage was caused to harbour walls, roads and buildings on the South Cornish coast by hurricane force south-easterly gales, and on the 11th. March we saw the effect of the tremendous seas on the molluscan fauna at Crinnis beach near St. Austell,

Cornwall. At the top of the beach there was a strand line consisting exclusively of Otter shells, Lutraria lutraria (L.). Many thousands could be counted, and although most were broken, measurements showed that the majority reached the maximum size of 5" x 2". Devoid of all living tissue these shells had been cleaned by various scavengers, and this together with their position on the beach above normal high tide mark suggests that they were churned out of their deep burrows by the turbulent seas at the height of the gale and that they marked the furthest reach of the Spring equinoctial gales some four days previously. Lower on the beach and presumably representing the two foot slackening of the tidal reach, and the abating of the wind, was a more recent strand line, composed of mixed species, most of them still alive. There were numbers of empty Razor shells, Ensis sp., but of the living species, Rayed Trough shells, Mactra corallina (L.) occurred in enormous numbers, Banded Wedge shells, Donax vittatus (da C.) - less numerous - and Thin Tellins, Tellina tenuis da C. in smaller numbers. Some specimens showed feeble response when their gaping shells were touched, but other, selected, specimens lived for many weeks in an aquarium. Besides these burrowing species others such as the Edible Mussel, Mytilus edulis L. and Limpets, Patella sp. which had been torn from the rocks were also present.

Some idea of the relative abundance of the various forms could be gauged from this event and valuable studies could certainly be made on the shell jetsam of a beach after such holocausts or, better still, comparisons made between several beaches. Miss Harvey of Padstow made some similar observations in the same gale period, and recorded one strand line composed entirely of Saddle Oysters, Anomia ephippium.

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Barbara D. Stephens and Stella M. Turk

Marine Collecting in New Zealand

These notes concern two of New Zealand's off-shore islands. Stewart Island, in the south, comes within the Forsterian marine province, but Great Barrier Island, which lies some 50 miles from Auckland, is within the Aupourian/cookian zone which is affected by the warm current from East Australia.

Common to both islands are 3 species of Haliotis, (H. iris, H. australis and H. virginea), but the bigger and heavier specimens of the first-named are those prised from rocky ledges - often under dangerous conditions of rough seas - by the Stewart Island fishermen. These shells are used in workshops organised by the Returned Servicemen's Association, where they are made up into dress jewellery and other ornamental objects, and consequently their export from New Zealand is normally prohibited.

Among the less common shells, Astraea heliotropium, although mainly a deep water shell, can be found occasionally cast up and wedged among the rocks on Stewart Island. On the sandy beaches Struthiolaria papulosa gigas and Alcithoe swainsoni (the latter mentioned by A. W. B. Powell as being more common in the south) are both to be found in fair quantity and although not live, in good condition.

The Stewart Island oyster (Ostrea sinuata) must be dredged. The rock oyster of the Auckland region (Saxostrea glomerata) is more accessible, though any temptation to sample those almost on our doorstep on Great Barrier Island had to be resisted, as unauthorised gathering is forbidden. The eastern coastline of that island with its many wide sandy stretches contrasts strongly with the deep-water rocky bays of the western shore. Along the sandy shores a highly coloured line of Chlamys valves often edges high tide mark, and once, after a storm, we found a wide semicircle of Janthina, but we never found the one shell for which we greatly hoped - the Argonaut.

With the occurrence in this northerly zone of warmer water molluscan genera, one may expect to find representatives such as Tonna haurakiensis and Xenophalium pyrum, but to find a good specimen of Xenophora neozelica, as well as Xenophalium labiatum and an (incomplete) Bullinula lineata did much to compensate for other blank collecting days.

On certain smooth rocks in the western bays of the island it is possible to find Acmaea fragilis, though they are difficult to remove without damage to the edges. A shell which seems to occur only in the northern marine provinces is Maurea tigris, one of the more handsome representatives of the Calliostomatidae. Among the smaller species of Trochidae, Cantharidella tessellata of fair size can be found grouped here and there on the rocks of Great Barrier Island.