

September 1966

London, S.W.1.

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

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

New Junior Members elected 21st. May 1966:-

HARD, Robin Launcelot, [REDACTED] Bristol.

WALKER, Mark A., [REDACTED] Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

THE 10 KILOMETRE SQUARE MAPPING SCHEME FOR BRITISH
NON-MARINE MOLLUSCA

Once again, may I make a plea to members for greatly increased help with the Society's mapping scheme for land and freshwater Mollusca? I have as yet adequate lists of species for only a very small proportion of the 3,500 or so 10 kilometre National Grid squares in the British Isles. If you can provide me with modern (post-1950) local lists in any form, from any part of the British Isles, PLEASE let me have them. I should be particularly glad to hear from members willing to work consistent blocks of adjacent squares expressly for the purpose of the scheme. Areas which are still very sparsely covered are East Anglia, the Midlands, Central Wales, the Scottish Highlands, and most of Ireland. Further details of the scheme will be found in a recent issue of the Newsletter (No. 15, December 1965).

M. P. Kerney,
Department of Geology,
Imperial College,
Prince Consort Road,
London, S.W.7.

A SOUTH AFRICAN BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

My interest in shells commenced in 1902. I was then a twelve year old schoolboy living in Grahamstown.

One very wet Saturday, as I could not go out to play with my friends, I was amusing myself with some shells collected at Port Alfred, mementos of a couple of visits to that holiday resort.

My father came into the room, and, seeing the shells, asked if I knew they all had names. Very surprised, I replied in the negative. Father then assured me of this fact, and added that if I went to the Albany Museum I would be able to ascertain the scientific names of my shells.

My curiosity was roused, and the school being closed over the week-end, I spent many Saturday mornings browsing over the exhibited shells in the Museum, gradually identifying my own specimens.

It was not very long before my regular Saturday visits were noted by a member of the Museum staff, a Miss Daly. This young lady came to me one morning, to ascertain the reason for my regular visits. I remember being rather scared at the time, but was soon reassured by Miss Daly telling me that I was welcome, and should I require any information I was to apply to a member of the staff, who would assist.

It was not long after this that I completed the identification of my Port Alfred shells, a total of about 30 different species, and that was the start of

my interest in a fascinating hobby which has continued to the present time.

D. H. Kennelly
East London,
South Africa.

FIELD MEETING TO NORTH END OF BARNES BRIDGE, LONDON, W.4. 17th. APRIL 1966

Leader - B. Verdcourt

Owing to the cold weather there was a poor attendance, but the four members who did turn up (T. Pain, D. Pickrell, M. Block and myself) were ample for the task in hand and a larger party might have been an embarrassment. At first progress was slow and only about a hundred Lacinaria biplicata were found before lunch. Attention was only paid to the small plot of nettle patches with scattered elder bushes, but after lunch a much larger number of specimens was found on the river side of the retaining wall bordering the path leading to the boat house. By pulling the nettles and other plants away from the wall, where they formed a sort of ledge, hundreds of specimens were found adhering to the wall. Undoubtedly the water level at high tide must come close to the habitat and at certain times must wet it, if not cover it. It is possible that the lime content of the wall is a factor and the fact that it faces S.E. might be significant. Some 850 specimens were collected altogether, all within a few square yards. About one third of these were taken to Eton College Bird Sanctuary and released in a nettle patch also subjected to swamping in parts. Two lots were taken by Messrs. Block and Pickrell for experimental breeding. The remainder are at present in the leader's garden in an extensive nettle patch, awaiting replies from various kind folk who offered suitable areas for colonisation.

Bearing in mind the size of the population there were remarkably few dead shells, and if the development at Barnes is delayed, it is hoped that the population will have regained its original numbers and a further operation can be carried out. It does not seem beyond the bounds of possibility that the species might persist despite building developments. During the day we were visited by BBC TV, ITV and The Times photographer.

Leader - Wm. F. Edwards

Four members and one visitor met at Marple Station, Cheshire, on Saturday afternoon, May 14th., and proceeded to the nearest point of the Peak Forest Canal, which passes under the main road about 100 yards from the station. The northern section was examined first, and on reaching the towpath, work was commenced immediately, the following species being taken at the foot of a stone wall:-

Cochlicopa sp. (to be det.); Carychium sp. (to be det.);
Lauria cylindracea (da Costa), frequent; Helix nemoralis L., shell;
Hygromia striolata (C. Pfeiffer), one (M. Fogan), rare in Cheshire;
H. hispida (L), several; Discus rotundatus (Muller);
Arion circumscriptus Johnston; A. hortensis Ferussac;
A. ater (L), s.l. juv.; Oxychilus cellarius (Muller);
O. alliarius (Miller); Zonitoides nitidus (Muller);
Vitrina pellucida (Muller), shell; Agriolimax agrestis (L.), agg.

The canal at this point consists of several locks, and these and the short stretches in between were found to be singularly lacking in specimens, in what is usually a rich hunting ground. It is quite probable that the water had recently been drained for cleaning purposes, indeed one lock was empty of water that afternoon. Most of the species taken were shells obtained from mud found dumped by the side of the canal. The list of species was as follows:-

Viviparus viviparus (L.), shell; Bithynia tentaculata (L.), shells;

Circular No. 72 (March 1966) of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa.

In addition to a great deal of material of local interest, this number contains some notes on Volutocorbis lutosus by P. Elston, a debate on Cypraea leucodon by E. T. Hayward and E. Dee, and a short note on Marginella capensis by P. Elston.

D. H. Kennelly contributes some important information to supplement that provided in Marsh and Rippingale's "Cone Shells of the World", including synonymous names and extended locality data.

Circular No. 73 (April 1966) of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa.

Reports of meetings held by the various groups of the Society seem to stress poor attendance and a good deal of trouble caused by heavy rain and high gales which might almost lead one to suppose that the meetings had been held in an English Summer. The circular contains a report of an underwater expedition at Porto Amelia, Mozambique, an article on the derivation of some latin names, and a note on Afrivoluta pringlei by D. H. Kennelly. (c.f. Barnard, J. Conch. 25, 5)

Circular No. 74 (May 1966) of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa lists a number of extensions to the range of local marine shells recently recorded by members; evidently there is quite a lot still to be discovered about the ecology of some of the species concerned.

D. H. Kennelly contributes an article concerning Patella and Haliotis analysing the various possible causes of mortality of young shells; further observations would be welcomed. Another article by the same writer deals with the interaction of molluscs on echinoderms and the methods of attack employed. There are no records of starfish attacking Patella or Haliotis in the absence of more attractive food but the reasons for this (if any) are unknown.

T.E.C.

RENFREWSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

The Museum, High Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire, is undertaking a re-survey of the natural history of the county in collaboration with the Paisley Naturalist's Society in order to bring the county records up to date. These records have not been revised for 50 years. The Museum, will, therefore, be grateful if members will advise them of any molluscan records for the county of Renfrewshire which they may have.

COMPILER'S REQUEST

The Compiler will be grateful for any contributions for future issues of the Newsletter. Articles of about 2 or 3 pages in length are particularly required, but shorter notes and news items will also be welcomed.

IN THE EBB

Even upon the margin of the deep
Life spills her myriad forms before our gaze
In tiny treasures - bright anemonies,
Worms, star-fish, crabs, and little fish that leap
Across the pools. Look how storm waves heap
A fringe of shell along these sandy bays,
And how on golden bladderweed that sways
With rhythmic motion periwinkles creep.

I step from stone to stone, and as I peer
Far into depths of pools inhabited
By swarming ocean creatures, I can hear
Echoes around me of the Voice that said,
Go, have dominion over great and small,
And name all living things that swim or crawl.

Robert Rendall

(From 'Shore Poems', with acknowledgements to the Author)

EXCHANGES

Mr. Ken Fuller, [REDACTED] Nairobi, would like to exchange shells with any member interested. He is in the Comet Fleet with East African Airways and often 'nightstops' London, staying at the Skyways Hotel opposite the Airport. Any correspondents please?

SECRETARY'S NOTES

It is hoped to circulate an up-to-date Membership List with this Newsletter. Certain points have arisen concerning this, and members are asked to make the following amendments to their lists:

CLEEVELY, R.J., No. 4, not No. 6

CONWAY, M.E., Add 'Mrs'

WHITE, Miss A.R.

FRYER, J.D.R. appears incorrectly as
'PRIOR, J.D.R.'

In the supplemental list, HARD, R.L. and WALKER, M.A. are Junior Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The Hon. Treasurer reports with concern that nearly a hundred subscriptions for the current year have not yet been received. Individual reminders, having regard to the Society's financial position, are expensive and should be unnecessary.

Please send your subscription to the Treasurer at an early date if you have not done so.

T.E.C.