



Conus marmoreus Linne

THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA Inc. VICTORIAN BRANCH BULLETIN

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APRIL/MAY 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Monday the 21st of May at the Melbourne Camera Club Building, cnr. Dorcas & Ferrars Sts South Melbourne at 8pm. This will be a Member's night.

There will be no meetings in June or July. The next meeting will be on the 20th of August.

Each meeting will also be an opportunity to trade or sell any shells or books – so come along, you never know what you might find and the more people who attend the better!

Lorna Marrow, well known and long time member of the MSA passed away on the 13th of April, just 6 weeks short of her 100th birthday. A tribute to Lorna will be included in the next bulletin.

Meeting dates for 2019

August Tuesday 20th

October Tuesday 22nd

November Tuesday 19th

Currently Branch Bulletin issues from VBB169- 288 can be accessed via the Society's website which includes an index 1-276 . http://www.malsocaus.org/?page_id=91

Bulletins mentioned in this issue prior to 169 can be obtained from the editors in PDF form on request.

Vale Ray Power.

Raymond Harold Power passed away on the 16th of May aged 90 years. A long time member of the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, Ray's main interest was the Microscopy group of which he was the leader for many years. He was of great assistance to me when I first joined the group in the mid 90's.

Ray briefly joined the MSA and attended our meetings for a short time, but due to age and distance was unable to continue

He was a very quiet, kind and unassuming man with a passion for all aspects of nature.

Don Cram

March 2019 Meeting Notes**Geoff Macaulay**

Geoff showed images taken with his new Olympus TG5 camera beneath Flinders Pier and San Remo Jetty. From Flinders Pier, *Australaria australasia*, *Notocypraea comptonii*, *Plaxiphora matthewsi* and various sea stars and fish. From San Remo, *Amalda marginata*, *Astele armillata*, *Notocypraea comptonii* and *Scutus antipodes*.

Geoff also tabled new additions to his collection and to his library, including journals from Club Conchylia, Vita Malacologica, amongst others.

Platon Vafiadis

Platon gave an account of his trip to New Zealand to attend the Molluscs 2018 conference held in Wellington.

Platon took the opportunity to holiday with his family and do some exploring on the north island. For this presentation, Platon concentrated on the area north of Auckland. Places visited included Snell's Beach, Leigh, Paihia, the Tawharanui Peninsula, Mathesons Bay and New Zealand's famous Goat Island marine park. He showed images of intertidal molluscs, sea stars and crustaceans plus images of the plentiful fish life to be seen at Goat Island.

Don Cram

Don updated us on the progress of his work on the *Notocypraea*. He stressed the importance of dealing only in facts (evidence that can be tested) as opposed to opinion.

May 2019 Meeting Notes**Simon Wilson**

Presented on his recent 4 week trip to Esperance. Along the way he had an enforced 3-day stopover at Ceduna due to a blown tyre. He took the opportunity to undertake a night dive under the Ceduna Jetty. He reached a maximum of around 3 metres and the conditions under the jetty were silty. There were limited shells, although he did manage to collect some *Conus anemone*. Simon showed GoPro footage showing the conditions and some of the marine life he encountered.

Once he was back on the road, he drove nonstop to Esperance. Here he undertook 8 boat dives and 5 shore dives. Simon showed GoPro footage of a boat dive on to reef that began in around 25 metres. The footage showed descending onto a weed covered reef, which had large undercuts and overhangs which provided habitat for a profusion of invertebrate life. Simon reached a maximum depth of 35 metres and saw three *Zoila venusta* shells, of which two were badly flawed and not worth collecting.

Don Cram

Don discussed the 13 Cowrie radula types as identified in Bradner & Kay's 1996 publication, Atlas of Cowrie Radulae. Don presented images from representative species of each radula type of the 13 groups.

Michael Lyons

Showed images of marine life taken during a recent trip to South Australia. Mollusc images included *Chiton calliozona*, *Lyria mitraeformis*, *Zoila friendii thersites*, *Ericusa fulgetrum*, *Sepioloidea lineolata*, *Hapalochlaena maculosa* and an unidentified red coloured cuttlefish, all seen at Edithburgh.

From the town jetty at Port Lincoln several species of cephalopod, including *Sepioloidea lineolata* and at least two types of octopus.

From Maclaren Point, *Chiton diaphorus* plus several species of fish and a passing dolphin.

Michael Lyons

Diving at Edithburgh

The jetty at Edithburgh, South Australia would have to be one of my favourite dive sites. It is situated within walking distance of reasonable accommodation and has ample area in which to gear up, with a bitumen carpark – so no annoying sand on ones wetsuit and booties when getting changed at the end of the dive, a big bonus when there are limited opportunities for rinsing dive gear!

An added bonus is the ease of entry to the water; located at the beginning of the jetty are a set of steps that allow divers to walk into chest deep water, making donning fins and clearing masks super easy.



Figure 1 *Notocypraea comptonii* crawling on sand

Geoff Macaulay and I had an opportunity to dive here in early April. The evening we arrived, the temperature was a pleasant mid twenties and there was no wind – ideal for night diving. We entered the water from the steps at the base of the pier into 1.5-2 metres of water. There was an ebb current flowing, but it was negligible in power. I settled on the clean sand bottom, adjusted my buoyancy and commenced searching, hoping to find an *Ericusa fulgetrum*. The visibility was great, and I felt really comfortable and just took in all that was going on around me. I had my camera and there was no shortage of photographic subjects. I was trialing a new video light that I had obtained via eBay and took snaps of spider crabs on pylons, nudibranchs, fish, chitons, sea stars and urchins.

Before entering the water, I had mentioned to Geoff that I wanted to take a snap of a pajama squid, *Sepioloidea lineolata*. A short while into the dive I felt a ‘strange weight’ push against me and then saw Geoff’s torch flickering in the distance; I immediately connected the two events and thought Geoff was warning me about something, so finned over to him, whereupon he pointed his torch down at an obliging squid. I took several pictures of the squid completely forgetting about the mysterious ‘weight incident’.



Figure 2 *Sepioloidea lineolata*



Figure 3 juvenile *Ericusa fulgetrum*

At one stage I was menaced by an angry looking Blue Swimmer Crab.

I found *Notocypraea comptonii* to be common, many crawling on sand or at the lower portions of jetty pylons. I collected a nice looking *Pterochelus triformis* (others seen looked pretty scungy) and a *Diodora lincolnensis* from a fallen jetty timber. Other shells seen included *Halliotis cyclobates*, *H. emmae*, *H. laevigata*, *Chiton calliozona*, *Ischnochiton contractus*, *Lyria mitraeformis*, *Mimachlamys asperima*, *Equichlamys bifrons* and plenty of *Bulla* shells. I even collected a live *Acrosterigma cygnorum*.



Figure 4 Blue Ringed Octopus pair (mating?)

As usual, the jetty's pylons were covered in colourful sessile life and I frequently shone my torch towards the surface in the hope of finding a *Zoila friendii thersites*. It wasn't until I was a fair way along the jetty that I ended up finding the first one, it was low on a pylon, quite small, but otherwise looked gem. I placed it on the substrate, allowing me to have a close look at its wonderful form.

Further on I found a large juvenile and a large example with an "x" carved in its shell. At the extreme end point of the jetty, the central pylons sported some large examples, but close examination of each one revealed a defect of some kind. I ended up seeing 7 for the dive - a number I thought was a bit low. The dive did not end being much of a shell bonanza, with the shells mentioned above and a dead *Lutraria rhynchaena*, a dead *Pseudarcopagia* sp., a dead *Hiatella australis* and an orange coloured *Chiton tricostalis* collected.



Figure 5 Juvenile *Zoila friendii thersites*



Figure 6 Large *Zoila friendii thersites* on jetty pylon

From a marine life perspective, this dive is right up there with the best. There are a range of habitats, with fallen timbers, areas of sand, beds of Pinna shells, bryozoans and sponges to explore. It is always with regret that, having reached the end of the jetty, and with limited air remaining, it is time to turn back. On my return journey, I found an amazing black anglerfish and many other fish of interest. When back at the start of the jetty I looked around in the shallows to see if I could find any *Chiton exoptanda* but had no luck. I did see some of the largest *Scutus antipodes* I have ever seen. Their shells here are quite broad, much more so than similar sized specimens seen in our Victorian waters.



Figure 7 Unidentified cuttle, approximately 150mm

Finally, after a good two-and-a-half-hour dive, I exited the water and made my way back to the car, where Geoff was waiting, having exited the water a short time earlier. We compared notes about what we had seen before heading off to our accommodation for some well-earned sleep.

Michael Lyons

Articles for bulletin required

We are finding it difficult to produce the bulletin due to lack of suitable articles. Now in its 51st year and approaching 300 issues we would at least hope to achieve that target. To date all issues from 1-296 have been digitized and along with a complete index are available on a disc.

All issues are currently in the National Library in Canberra and the Natural History Museum in London and some Australian museums.

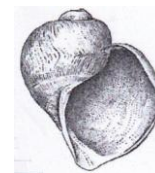
As it is now a history of collecting, people, their interests and research in Victoria, it is important that it remains preserved for posterity.

Don and Val Cram

Janthina* and *Recluzia

A most recent revision (Beu, 2017) of living and fossil species of the violet snails, *Janthina*, based upon , morphological characters, concludes that there are five living species, one of which has two known fossil records and three entirely fossil species. These are:

<i>typica</i> (Bronn, 1861)	fossil, Miocene –Pliocene
<i>krejeii</i> Beu, 2017	fossil, Pliocene
<i>chavani</i> (Ludbrook, 1978)	fossil, Pliocene – Pleistocene
<i>globosa</i> Swainson, 1822	fossil & living, Pliocene – Pleistocene
<i>exigua</i> Lamarck, 1816	living
<i>janthina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	living
<i>pallida</i> Thompson, 1840	living
<i>umbilicata</i> d’Orbigny, 1841	living

*Janthina globosa*

Two species of the brown-shelled *Recluzia* are included in the revision; neither species is known as fossil.

<i>johnii</i> (Holten, 1802)	living
<i>lutea</i> (Bennett, 1840)	living

Each of living species of *Janthina* washes-up along the Australian coastline. For unknown reasons, *pallida* is not recorded from either New Zealand or the east coast of Australia. Among museum material examined, Victorian localities are listed for *janthina*, *exigua* and *pallida*. Macpherson & Chapple (1951) list five species for Victoria, all but *exigua* synonyms of species accepted in the revision. Eleven years later, Macpherson & Gabriel (1962) had reduced the list to three species with five synonyms.

Recluzia has yet to be reported from Victoria, though there is every chance that the longer spired *lutea* might turn up in the far east of the State. There is a record of this species from south-eastern Tasmania, possibly carried south by the East Australian current.

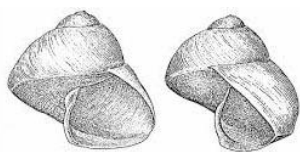
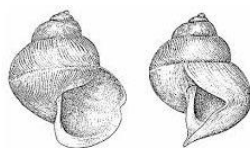
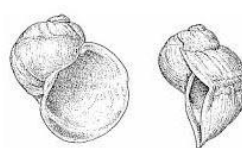
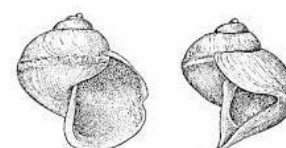
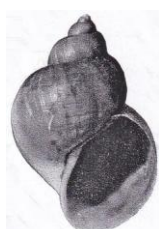
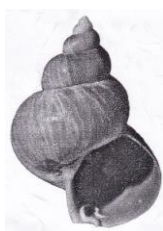
Beu (2017:161) admits that his revision “is based solely on morphology and should be tested, -----, by comparing molecular sequences.” Where other neuston has been tested, eg. The nudibranch genus *Glaucus*, hitherto regarded cosmopolitan species have proved to be species complexes. This may be the case with *Janthina*. Lastly, the family name Janthinidae is synonymized with Epitoniidae Berry, 1910 (1812) within the superfamily Epitoniioidea.

My only interaction with violet snails was in the 1970s at Fishermans Beach, Torquay, when, after a week of easterly winds, hundreds of beautiful little *Janthina exigua* complete with egg floats, were washed ashore by persistent small (100m high) waves. I think that I kept only the shells.

References

- Bell, A.G. 2017. Evolution of *Janthina* and *Recluzia* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Epitoniidae). *Records of the Australian Museum* 69 (3): 119-222
- Macpherson, J.H. & Chapple, E.H., 1951. A systematic list of the marine and estuarine Mollusca of Victoria. *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria* 17: 107-185
- Macpherson, J.H. & Gabriel, C.J., 1962. *Marine Molluscs of Victoria* Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.

Robert Burn

*Janthina janthina**Janthina exigua**Janthina pallida**Janthina umbilicata**Recluzia lutea**Recluzia johnii*

Janthina : Drawings from Laursen, 1953

Recluzia : Photographs from Beu, 2017

More on the radulae of the family Rhytididae

In May 1997 I collected a snail at Belmont, Newcastle, which I named from Joyce Allan's *Australian Shells*, *Strangesta capillacea* (Ferussac, 1832). In November 1994 three more specimens were collected in the Watagan State Forest at the Boarding House Dam, about 35k west of Newcastle under fallen logs. These were placed in the collection under the same name, as were similar specimens collected further north. The radula of the largest specimen was stained with Lignin Pink and sealed in Aquamount on a slide.

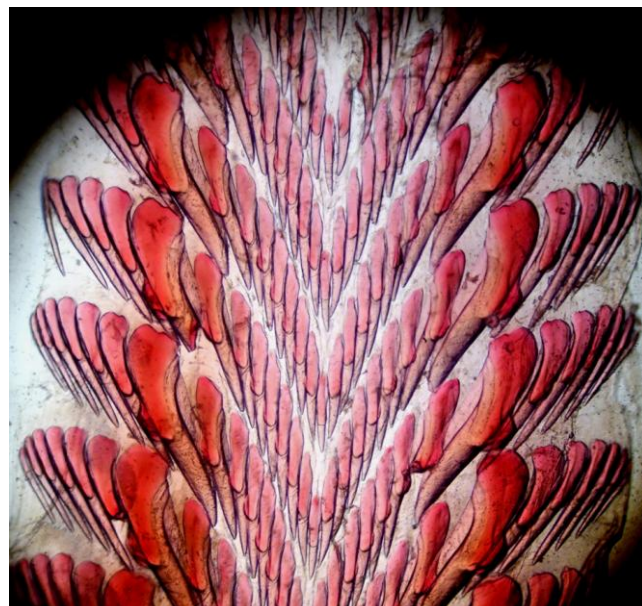
The publication of *Australian Land Snails* Vol.1 in 2010 and the introduction of new names for the variety of forms of this species prompted a relook at what was in my collection. Mainly due to the locality of where they were collected and the flattened spire, I have provisionally relabeled these three specimens *Protorugosa burraga* Shea & Griffiths, 2010.

In VVB 263 :4-5 photomicrographs of the radulae of *Victaphanta atramataria* & *V.compacta*, two Victorian species of the family Rhytididae were shown, so I thought differences between the radulae of these two species and *P.burraga* would be an interesting comparison.



G-18 *Protorugosa burraga* Shea & Griffiths, 2010. 25.4 mm, one of three collected at Watagan State Forest.

Radula of G-18 right : although the rows are arranged in a V shape, similar to *Victaphanta* sp. starting from the outer margin the dagger like teeth increase in size to about the middle of the row then taper down to a smaller central tooth. Radula 20 mm long, 2.1mm wide and 116 rows of teeth.



Close up of teeth of *Victaphanta compacta*

Victaphanta compacta was shown in VBB 263:4-5 feeding on a worm .

Strangesta capillacea, now *Austrorhytida capillacea*, found around western Sydney have been recorded preying on the introduced *Helix aspersa*.

Reference

Stanisic,J., Shea,M., Potter,D.,& Griffiths,O. 2010. *Australian land snails Volume 1. A field guide to eastern Australian species*.Bioculture Press:Mauritius.