



Conus marmoreus Linne

THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA Inc. VICTORIAN BRANCH BULLETIN

(Mailed to financial members of the Society within Victoria)

Price 50¢

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VIC. BR. BULL. NO. 298

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday the 22nd October at the Melbourne Camera Club Building, cnr. Dorcas & Ferrars Sts South Melbourne at 8pm. This will be a Member's night.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday the 19th of November. This 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! Presentations from members will be welcome.

Meeting dates for 2019

October Tuesday 22nd

November Tuesday 19th

We need articles for the Bulletin to continue it being published . If anyone who has an interesting story relating to molluscs, an article would be appreciated.

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.

Secretary / Treasurer Michael Lyons Tel. No. 0428 600 615

Vale Lorna Marrow : 2nd June 1919 - 13th April 2019

Well known and long time shell collector Lorna Marrow passed away on the 2nd of June just 6 weeks short of her 100th birthday.

Lorna was a long time member of the Keppel Bay Shell Club, the Malacological Society of Australia, the Marine Research Group and many other shell clubs throughout the world

For many years from the early sixties with husband Ivan they collected locally and travelled extensively, amassing a large well documented collection of about 11000 species that attracted visitors from all over the world.



Because of both her and Ivan's scientific interest in their chosen hobby they made friends with many well known malacologists both here and overseas and assisted with many important publications.

After Ivan's death in 1994 she continued on with her interest, holding regular meetings of the Port Phillip Bay Shell Club at her home in Hampton and was a regular visitor to shell shows in Australia. She also had many interests other than shells and was an active member of her local Uniting Church.

Because of her friendly and welcoming nature, Lorna assisted and mentored many collectors. When we first joined the MSA in 1969 we made several visits to see their collection and were introduced to many well known collectors. A portion of the Marrow collection is now in Museum Victoria and will be of great assistance to scientists in the future and a legacy to a life well lived.

Don and Val Cram

A new identification booklet

Early in July, Parks Victoria launched a new 60 page identification booklet for the *Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park*. Coverage includes marine plants, invertebrates, ascidians and fish, plus four pages on marine pests. All species are illustrated by a colour figure, but better figures were surely available than some of those used. Editing and proof-reading leave much to be desired, and identifications could have been better. Many of the species are found only subtidally, somewhat deeper than the ability of the average snorkeler.

Among Mollusca, *Coryphellina rubrolineata* (p.29) may well belong to that genus, but the species is an unidentified species known locally as *Flabellina* sp. RB1. *Notocypraea comptoni* (p.32) is more probably *N. angustata* and *Thalotia conica* (also p.32) is *Prothalotia pulcherrima*. Bivalves do not rate a mention except among marine pests.

The booklet will prove useful for youngsters trying to identify or name their finds from intertidal rock pools or shallow-water snorkeling. More useful is the fact that the booklet is a "freebie" from Parks Victoria. With a bit more thought and care, it could have been a great deal more useful to a wider audience. Curiously, the booklet has no author or editor, nor date and place of publication.

Reference

Parks Victoria 2019. *Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park. Identification Guide*. 60pp.

Robert Burn

Hazelwood Pondage Closure

The discovery of two molluscs which were exposed with the continuing drainage of the Hazelwood Pondage came as bit of a surprise! Hazelwood Pondage is the former cooling pond of the former Hazelwood Power Station, which is about 150 kilometres South East of Melbourne, between the towns of Churchill and Yinnar.

The Indigenous species of Sphaeriidae, *Sphaerium tasmanicum*, (Tennison-Woods 1876), a small bivalve about 10mm in diameter, and a Non Indigenous gastropod in the Thiaridae family, *Melanoides tuberculatum*, (Muller 1774) which is approximately 30 mm long, has a distribution in Asia and East Africa and is an Aquarium species sold in pet shops.

Material used.

About ten specimens of *Sphaerium tasmanicum* and forty specimens of *Melania (Melanoides) tuberculata* were collected on the first of April 2019 in Hazelwood Pondage in Gippsland at the junction of an unnamed creek that entered the pondage on Switchback Road, near Frasers Road, Churchill.

Sphaeriidae

The *Sphaerium tasmanicum* were collected in pairs and were deemed to be fresh dead, the periostracum still being present. In the living state it is to be found in sandy muddy environment on banks with reeds. It lives in at a depth of 60 centimetres to about a meter.

Distribution.

S. tasmanicum is common in Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and the Southern part of Queensland. It lives in rivers, creeks, bogs, waterholes, dams and swamps.

Thiaridae

The *M. tuberculatum* were collected at the same site and they too were deemed to be of recent demise.

Distribution

Melania (Melanoides) tuberculatum has spread through parts of Asia, East Africa and the Central Americas. A colleague from Pakistan, who, in a personal communication, has shown me a photo of a shell which she collected there appears to be this same species.

These are a common aquarium snail sold by pet shops and have at some time found their way into the river systems, possibly by dumping, either in a nearby creek or via storm water outlets. Aquarists have in some case being overwhelmed by the prolific breeding rate of this species.

Notes: A number of specimens have been deposited in the Inverloch Shell Museum for future reference.

Four specimens of the above species have been sent to Michael Lyons of The Malacological Society of Australasia for examination and permission to add to the Victorian Collection, pass onto a Museum of his choice or distribute between members. Hazelwood Pondage is now closed to public access due to safety concerns, and despite attempts to gain legal access, they were denied.

Eddie Beulke

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Images taken from the internet



Sphaerium tasmanicum, (Tennison-Woods 1876),

Melania (Melanoides) tuberculatum (Müller, 1774)

Naccula parva again from Western Victoria

In 2010, Audrey Falconer of the MRG (FNCV) and the writer published a short paper reporting the rediscover in February 2007 of live specimens of the small limpet *Naccula parva* (Angas, 1878) on the seagrass *Amphibolis antarctica* at Anderson Point, Portland. Though we have searched diligently much more *Amphibolis* since then, including in the Portland area in March 2013, no further specimens had been discovered.

The MRG extended field trip to Portland in February this year again sampled much *Amphibolis*, especially at the Allistree or eastern end of the Dutton Way foreshore road. Here I was very pleased to find one more live specimen of *Naccula parva*, not so vibrantly green coloured as the 2007 Anderson Point specimens because of extensive coralline overgrowth, but still with green animal within the shell.

The specimen has been deposited in the MV molluscan collection.

Reference

Falconer, A. & Burn, R. 2010. Rediscovery of the seaweed limpet *Naccula parva* in Victorian waters. *Victorian Naturalist* 127 (6): 246-247.

Robert Burn

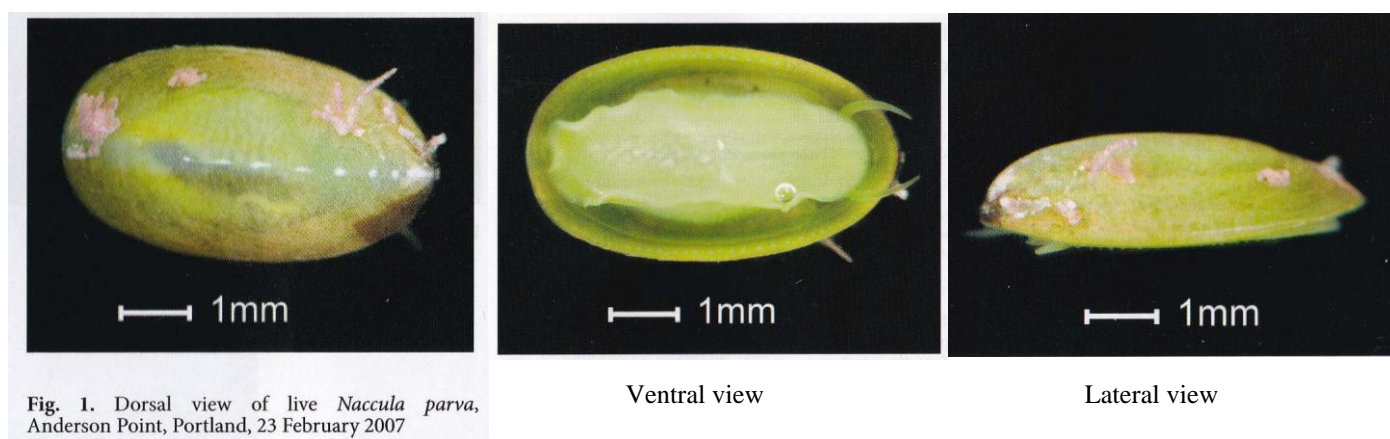


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of live *Naccula parva*, Anderson Point, Portland, 23 February 2007

Images from - Falconer, A. & Burn, R. 2010. *Victorian Naturalist* 127 (6): 246-247. Photos by Leon Altoff

Marine Molluscs of Victoria: E & O E

Lately both Lynton Stephens and Alan Monger have commented upon errors and omissions in *Marine Molluscs of Victoria* (Vic. Br. Bull. 286, 288). I too have made similar comments over the years, and I recall a branch meeting in the 1970s at which Peter Noonan deplored the omission of the bivalve family Cuspidariidae from what has proved to be an otherwise excellent identification guide to all of us for the past 55 years.

But are all omissions from *Marine Molluscs of Victoria* really omissions from the Victorian marine molluscan fauna? The short answer is no. To provide answers, one must start with the earliest lists to seek clues regarding inclusions, omissions and errors.

Prior to 1887, a number of species had been described or reported from Victorian waters but no-one had gathered together these species in an attempt to list the fauna. The first published list was that by Gatliff (1887), with acknowledgement to "John Brazier --- of the Sydney Museum" for help with problematic identifications. This first list included two species, *Strombus (canarium) floridus* and *Cypraea annulus* found "on the beach near Portland" which even Gatliff doubted as indigenous. Fortunately neither species made it on to future lists. One other species, *Voluta (Amoria) zebra*, listed in 1887 and later localized to the "Gippsland Coast" (Pritchard & Gatliff, 1898), has appeared in all subsequent lists, without confirmation of further specimens of this otherwise Queensland and New South Wales species. Perhaps the record was misidentification of an unusual colour form of *Amoria undulata* species common along the Gippsland coast.

Phos senticosus now re-identified as *Fax grandior* by Lynton Stephens (2016), made its first appearance in the Victorian fauna that same year (Wilson, 1887). Professor Ralph Tate of Adelaide University provided a number of identifications for Wilson's dredged material, but responsibility for this identification appears to lie with Wilson, possibly from comparison with specimens in the old National Museum of Victoria then at the University of Melbourne. This too remained on all subsequent lists.

Pritchard & Gatliff (1898) in the very first number of their nine part Catalogue, listed *Cantharus australis* and *Rincula aspersa* respectively from “Port Fairy (Rev.W.T.Whan)” and “Lakes Entrance, collected by Mr Kershaw.” The first is now *Engina australis* (Ponder, 1972) and its Port Fairy occurrence has been questioned (Beechy, 1996). A somewhat similar plain coloured but unnamed *Engina* that has been found at Port Fairy (Burn, 2007) may have been the source of this record. Wilson (1994) examined Kershaw’s *Rincula aspersa* shells, re-identifying them as the wide-spread tropical species *Morula biconica* assigning the species name *aspersa* to synonymy of *Morula uva* and suggesting Lakes Entrance to be a very unlikely locality.

Ellatrivia oryza, *Ninella torquata* and *Exohaliothis cyclobates* are a further three dubious records listed in *Marine Molluscs of Victoria*. The record of *Trivia oryza* is probably a misidentification of small unspotted specimens of *Ellatrivia merces*. *Ninella torquata*, first listed and localized as *Turbo torquatus*, Polwarth Coast (Pritchard & Gatliff, 1902), once occurred along the Victorian coastline, evidenced by the Quaternary fossils that are found from time to time. I have only ever found recognizable fragments of the large shell as well as complete opercula. *Exohaliothis cyclobates* appears to be a late addition to the Victorian list by Macpherson & Chapple (1951), localized to Portsea by Macpherson & Gabriel (1962). Small high shells from the ocean coast at Portsea are certainly not *Haliotis cyclobates*.

Regarding Lynton’s and Alan’s concerns, the systematic list by Macpherson & Chapple (1951) does include *Proterato denticulata* (as *Lachryma denticulate*), *Leucotina concinna* (as *L. casta*) and *Leucotina micra*, as well as the genus *Cuspidaria* and three species, *alta*, *brazier* and *tasmanica*. *P. denticulata* and *L. micra* were both described from Victoria by Pritchard & Gatliff (1900) and *L. concinna* added to the list in the same year. *Cuspidaria* and the species *alta* and *brazier* were later additions to the list (Gatliff & Gabriel, 1913), localized as “c40 fms, off 90 Mile Beach”.

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Robert Burn

A busy executive bought a mountain retreat and moved in for a vacation. Answering a knock on the door, he didn't see anyone until a snail at his feet said, "May I come in? It's cold out here." "No shouted the man," I want to be alone", and forthwith kicked the snail over the edge, to roll away down.

Back for his vacation next year, the man heard a knock and found the snail at his feet shouting, "What did you do that for?"

