

# PALLIDULA

ISSN 0140-2471 • VOL. 34 • NO. 1 • APRIL 2004

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH SHELL  
COLLECTORS' CLUB



---

COVER PAGE

A wonderful pair of *Buccinum undatum* Linne 1758 from the collection of Derek Howlett, showing a typical dextral specimen as well as a very rare sinistral specimen, both trawled off Wells, Norfolk by commercial fishermen.

## SYMBIOSIS BY JOHN FISHER

I am sure that all of us who have engaged in beachcombing on our Western coastline have found the dead shells of *Turritella communis* Risso.1826. But how often do we come across any live specimens? It is said to be a mud dweller and are usually found partially buried.

During my recent collecting trip to County Galway in Ireland I visited Carraroe. This is a coral strand where many interesting species are washed ashore. However I was very surprised to find a large number of live *Turritella* but what was even more surprising was that every one of them had long strands of a "ribbon" seaweed attached to them as illustrated in the photograph. What is more the seaweed was always attached to the outer apertural lip. This must be some kind of symbiotic lifestyle which I have never come across before. Has anybody any ideas?



The beach at Carraroe

## The Molluscs of Dogs Bay

By John Fisher.

Dogs Bay is a small secluded sandy inlet on the Roundstone peninsula in County Galway on the west coast of Ireland. It is bordered on each side by rocky outcrops and faces the open Atlantic Ocean. It is renowned for its enormous variety of molluscs which are largely obtained from the shell grit and drifts on the beach.

My study has been conducted over a period of four years and has involved sorting through over one hundredweight of grit collected at various times over this period.

The beach is extremely variable, at times it is totally sandy with not a shell in sight and at others there is nothing but shells. On the latter occasions one has to be patient sorting through literally millions of *Rissoa parva* in the hope of finding something new.

When I visited Dogs Bay in April 2002 it was one of those occasions when the beach was covered with sand and I was unable to find any shell grit at all. However on my way off the beach I noticed a drift of black material which I presumed was disintegrated seaweed. On close inspection this was full of small white shells, so I collected four good sized bags and put it in the boot of the car, only to get into trouble later from Margaret when we discovered the bags were not watertight and the boot was saturated. But all was not lost and the contents provided several additions to the species list. The most notable being *Spiratella retroversa*, a very minute and delicate sinistral shell which I had never seen before and here they were in very good numbers. Also the specimen of *Odostomia* and *Brachystomia* were in very good condition showing both spiral and growth lines, making identification considerably easier. This was also the only occasion when I was fortunate enough to find specimens of *Pusillina sarsi*, *Ammonocera rota*, and *Aclis ascaris*, presumably these normally get broken up by the wave action on the beach.

I have been impressed by the variety of turrids recorded on nearly every visit. The commonest of these is *Mangelia nebula* which can be collected in good numbers by just walking along the beach. Others include *Haedropleura septangularis*, *Cythereella coarctata*, *Oenopota rufa*, *Oenopota turricula*, *Raphitoma linearis*, and *Raphitoma purpurea*.

My interest in Dogs Bay is far from finished as I still have approximately 14lbs of shell grit sitting in the garage but with winter approaching it will keep me occupied on those cold dreary nights.

On my next visit I shall be brushing and scraping the rocks at either end of the bay in order to ascertain which species live in the littoral zone and which have been washed up from deeper water.

As the beach is also an outlet to several freshwater streams the shell grit contains some interesting land and freshwater species including *Vertigo angustior*, the origin of which I still have to locate.

The following is my complete list of shells obtained to date.

### GASTROPODS.

Diodora graeca. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Acmaea virginea *Muller 1776*  
 Patella vulgata. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Helcion pellucidum. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Gibbula tumida. *Montagu 1803*  
 Gibbula umbilicalis. *daCosta 1778*  
 Monodonta lineata. *daCosta 1778*  
 Skenea nitens *Philippi 1844*  
 Skenea serpuloides. *Montagu 1808*  
 Tricolia pullus. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Lacuna pallidula. *daCosta 1778*  
 Rissoa lilacina. *Recluz 1843*  
 Rissoa rufilabrum. *Alder 1844*  
 Rissostomia membranacea. *J.Adams 1800*

Lacuna parva. *daCosta 1778*  
 Lacuna vineta. *Montagu 1803*  
 Littorina neglecta. *Bean 1844*  
 Littorina neritoides. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Littorina littorea. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Littorina obtusata. *Linnaeus 1758*  
 Littorina saxatilis. *Olivi 1792*  
 Hydrobia ulvae. *Pennant 1777*  
 Rissoa parva. *daCosta 1778*  
 Rissoa parva interrupta. *Adams 1798*  
 Spiratella retroversa. *Fleming.*  
 Philine catena. *Montagu 1803.*  
 Philine punctata. *Adams 1800.*  
 Cylichna cylindracea. *Pennant 1777.*

*Pusillina sarsi*. *Loven 1846*  
*Alvania cancellata*. *daCosta 1778*  
*Alvania cimicoides*. *Forbes 1844*  
*Alvania punctura*. *Montagu 1803*  
*Alvania semistriata*. *Montagu 1808*  
*Manzonina crassa*. *Kanmacher 1798*  
*Cingula trifasciata*. *J.Adams 1800*  
*Onoba aculeus*. *Gould 1841*  
*Onoba semicostata*. *Montagu 1803*  
*Barleeia unifasciata*. *Montagu 1803*  
*Barleeia unifasciata rubra*. *J.Adams 1797*  
*Cingulopsis fulgida*. *J.Adams 1797*  
*Rissoella diaphana*. *Alder 1848*  
*Omalogyra atomis*. *Philippi 1841*.  
*Ammonocera rota*. *Forbes & Hanley 1850*  
*Skeneopsis planorbis*. *Fabricus 1780*.  
*Circulus striatus*. *Philippi 1836*.  
*Caecum glabrum*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Caecum imperforatum* *Kanmacher 1798*.  
*Turritella communis*. *Risso 1826*.  
*Bittium reticulatum*. *DaCosta 1778*.  
*Aporrhais pespelecani*. *Linnaeus 1758*  
*Lamellaria latens*. *Muller 1776*.  
*Velutina velutina* *Muller 1776*.  
*Trivia monacha*. *DaCosta 1778*.  
*Trivia arctica*. *Pulteney 1799*.  
*Lunatia alderi*. *Forbes 1838*.  
*Nucella lapillus*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Ocenebra erinacea*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Chauvetia brunnea*. *Donovan 1804*.  
*Nassarius incrassata*. *Strom 1768*.  
*Nassarius pygmaea*. *Lamarck 1822*.  
*Nassarius reticulata*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Haedropleura septangularis*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Oenopota rufa*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Oenopota turricula*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Mangelia nebula*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Cytharella coarctata*. *Forbes 1840*.  
*Raphitoma linearis*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Raphitoma purpurea*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Cerithiopsis pulchella*. *Jeffreys 1858*.  
*Cerithiopsis tubercularis*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Triphora adversa*. *Montagu 1803*  
*Epitonium clathratulum*. *Kanmacher 1798*.  
*Epitonium clathrus*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Janthina exigua*. *Lamarck 1816*.  
*Aelis ascaris*. *Turton 1819*.  
*Cima minima*. *Jeffreys 1858*.  
*Graphis albida*. *Kanmacher 1798*.  
*Eulima bilineata*. *Alder 1848*.  
*Melanella alba*. *DaCosta 1778*.  
*Chrysallida decussata*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Chrysallida indistincta*. *Montagu 1808*.  
*Chrysallida obtusa*. *Brown 1827*.  
*Evalea diaphana*. *Jeffreys 1848*.  
*Evalea obliqua* *Alder 1844*.  
*Evalea warreni*. *Thompson 1845*.  
*Jordaniella nivosa*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Brachystoma albella*. *Loven 1846*.  
*Brachystoma eulimoides*. *Hanley 1844*.  
*Brachystoma rissoides*. *Hanley 1844*.  
*Odostomia plicata*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Odostomia turrita*. *Hanley 1844*.  
*Odostomia unidentata*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Ebala nitidissima*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Leucophytia bidentata*. *Montagu 1808*.

*Diaphana minuta*. *Brown 1827*.  
*Cadulus jeffreysi*. *Monterosato*.  
*Retusa truncatula*. *Bruguere 1792*.  
*Siphonodentalium lofotense*. *M.Sars*.  
*Turbonilla lactea* *Linnaeus 1758*.

## BIVALVES.

*Arca tetragona* *Poli*  
*Anomia ephippium*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Heteranomia squamula*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Monia squama*. *Gmelin 1791*.  
*Monia patelliformis*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Modiolus phaseolinus*. *Philippi 1844*.  
*Mytilus edulis*. *Linnaeus.1758*.  
*Chlamys varia*. *Linnaeus.1758*.  
*Chlamys opercularis*. *Linnaeus.1758*.  
*Lima loscombi*. *Sowerby 1841*.  
*Lima subauriculata*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Lucinoma borealis*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Thyasira flexuosa*. *Montagu 1803*  
*Kellia suborbicularis*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Lasaea rubra*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Neolepton sulcatulum*. *Jeffreys 1865*..  
*Montacuta ferruginosa*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Mysella bidentata*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Parvicardium exiguum*. *Gmelin 1791*..  
*Parvicardium scabrum*. *Philippi 1844*  
*Cerastoderma edule*. *Linnaeus.1758*.  
*Timoclea ovata*. *Pennant 1777*.  
*Chamelea striatula*. *daCosta 1778*.  
*Clausinella fasciata*. *daCosta 1778*..  
*Venerupis pullastra*. *Montagu 1803*.  
*Irus irus*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Turtonia minuta*. *Fabricius 1780*.  
*Mactra corallina*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Spisula subtruncata*. *daCosta 1778*.  
*Donax vittatus*. *daCosta 1778*  
*Tellina tenuis*. *daCosta 1778*..  
*Tellina fabula*. *Gmelin 1791*.  
*Tellina pygmaea*. *Loven* .  
*Gari tellinella*. *Lamarck 1822*.  
*Ensis arcuatus*. *Jeffreys 1865*.  
*Mya truncata*. *Linnaeus 1758*.  
*Hiatella arctica*. *Linnaeus 1758*.



Dogs Bay, Co. Galway, Ireland

## COMMON WHELK SHELLS IN THE NORFOLK BROADS **BY DEREK HOWLETT**

During the early summer of 2003 when I was at one of the Broads Authority depots, I was handed a bag containing 14 shells of the Common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*, L.) by a member of staff there. When asked where he obtained them from, he replied, from a drainage dyke on the marshes at How Hill, Ludham (Map Ref. TG 374 190). Chatting further with him revealed that dyke clearance and digging work had been going on at How Hill and the shells had been found on one of the clay spoil heaps. These shells were obviously fossil. It is no secret that the Norfolk Broads were at one time underneath the North Sea, but it is nice occasionally to see the proof of this.

Later on at home I decided to clean up the shells for easier examination. Imagine my surprise when I found the operculum present in the dried clay inside five of the shells. This posed the question "How did these Whelks die?" Was it receding sea levels?

I assumed this to be the case but, surely it would take a long time, plenty of time, in fact for the operculum to become separated from the shell, I would have thought. Up to now I have never ever found a beached gastropod complete with the operculum inside.

Most of these shells are in remarkable condition, some still with polychaete worm tubes in place. All are quite a small size for the species, the largest measuring only 66mm, and the smallest 39mm. Perhaps they could be ancestors of the form *B. littoralis*, King which is smaller than the deep water forms.

If any member would like one of these shells please give me a ring. At the moment I have 10 specimens left. Also if anyone has any theories or information on this subject please let me or the Editor know. As this would be a useful note for a future edition of Pallidula.



## SHELLING IN NEW CALEDONIA BY JOHN BATT

In early September 2003 we set off on our long awaited trip to what many people call the end of the earth, the beautiful subtropical island of Grande Terre, New Caledonia.

Both my wife and I along with my parents arrived in Sydney, Australia some twenty hours after our departure from Heathrow, including a one hour stop in Singapore for refuelling. We had decided to stay and recover in Sydney for five days with my wife's cousin who lives near Bondi. He was more than happy to act as our guide and show us the usual tourist sites in and around the city. On our first day we decided to visit the Opera House, Botanical gardens and Sydney harbour bridge and over the following four days visited the Koala Park, Blue Mountains, Sydney Aquarium, and took a boat trip around the harbour. We searched Sydney high and low for shell shops but never came across any. I did have the address of one but when we eventually found the place it had closed down. On our last night we had dinner in the restaurant at the top of the sky tower to try such delicacies as Kangaroo, Emu and Camel, and then returned to Bondi to pack for our onward flight the next morning to New Caledonia.

Our flight with Air Calin departed from Sydney at 11am and we arrived at our hotel, the Kuendu Beach Resort at 3pm. The Resort is about ten minutes drive from the capital Noumea and about one hour from Tontouta international airport. New Caledonia is a French Pacific territory in Melanesia. The main island of Grande Terre is the fourth largest island in the south pacific after New Guinea and the north and south islands of New Zealand. It is about 400km in length and 50km in width and is surrounded by the second largest barrier reef in the world after Queensland's Great Barrier Reef, but New Caledonia's lagoon is the worlds largest.

We stayed in a traditional palm thatched pillared bungalow with all of the necessary self catering facilities and colour TV. I awoke at about 6 am on our first morning and was far to excited to wait for Goga (the wife) to get up, so I slipped off down to the beach to see what I could find. The sea was quite choppy and had washed up many Bluebottle jellyfish, along with hundreds of *Spirula spirula* L.1758 and as many *Janthina janthina* L.1758 as you could wish to collect, still alive with the bubble sacks attached. I found a live *Ficus subintermedia* Orbigny 1852, a couple of *Strombus mutabilis* Swainson 1821 and picked my way through hundreds of beached bivalves, most with both valves and many in good condition. After a couple of hours I returned to our bungalow to freeze the live specimens and get myself ready for our morning trip to Noumea .



The main reef off Noumea



Kuendu Resort



Highly venomous seasnake  
*Laticauda colubrina*

As a cowry collector my main interest in visiting New Caledonia was to collect melanistic and rostrate cowries (I will refer to these as M&R in the text). Many of the 44 known species to be found M&R can be collected in shallow water so I hoped that I would get lucky and find some on this trip. Realising the rarity of these shells I knew I would have to purchase the majority from the various dealers and shops in the city.

On our way to Noumea I spotted a shop called Caldoshell Creations but was unable to stop as we were on the hotel shuttle bus, but I knew that once we had our hire car we would be free to do as we please.

On arrival in Noumea we changed up some money and set off in search of some new specimens for my collection. We headed straight for the market at Port Moselle and found many stalls selling native crafts and an amazing fish market with some of the strangest looking fish I had ever seen. Luckily there was a stall selling specimen shells and they had a lovely assortment of M&R cowries including some splendid specimens of *Leporicypraea mappa viridis* "montrouzieri" Dautz1903, they were however a bit top heavy in the price department so I thought I would hold on and see what else I can find around Noumea. Walking back from the market we spotted a shop called Ocean Distributors and this is where I purchased the cowries pictured below.



*Mauritia arabica arabica*  
(M&R) - L. 1758



Left: *Erronea caurica caurica*  
(M&R) - L.1758  
Right: *Lyncina lynx* (R) -L.1758



Left: *Bistolida hirundo rouxi*  
(M&R) Ancey 1882  
Right: *Erosaria annulus* (R)  
L.1758

From here we went to pick up our hire car to return to Kuendu for an afternoon on the beach. After a great day we decided to go for an evening meal in the hotel restaurant followed by a win for me against my mother in the all new South Pacific scrabble championships – there is not much to do in the evenings at Kuendu!

We decided that a trip to Prony Bay on the southern tip of Grande Terre will make for a great second day in N. Caledonia, so we packed some food and drink along with my snorkelling gear and set off for the south. As soon as we left Noumea we noticed very little in the way of civilisation, just a few small villages containing a handful of houses and the further we drove south the more the roads deteriorated, especially through the mountains. We were told not to venture south if rain was forecast as in N. Caledonia they have depressions in the roads for rivers to run through instead of bridges over them so it's easy to get cut off. We must have looked a picture in our tiny Renault Clio rattling over six inch potholes and covered in red dust. We eventually arrived at Prony and found ourselves too far up the river and the only shells we could find were Cerithiums. Looking at the map it would take us too long driving back inland to reach the other side which is more easily accessible from Goro and Port Boise. It turned out to be one of those days that nothing was going to go right. We realised today that southern N. Caledonia is a difficult place to get around but it was a lesson that we needed to learn.



**Prony Bay**

We thought that it would be nice to stay around the Noumea area on our third day, so we decided to check out Magenta beach, as I remember reading an article in the past relating to collecting M&R cowries there at low tide. The beach is right at the end of Magenta airport runway and is a muddy bay where the tide goes out quite a long way. I waded through water about 12 inch deep at low tide and found many specimens of *Strombus gibberulus gibbosus*, Roding 1798 with very dark brown banding, live crawling over the muddy sand totally exposed along with a beautiful live specimen of

*Phos senticosus* L.1758. I headed towards the rocks and dead coral towards the right hand side of the bay and found *Erronea erronea* "caerulescens" Schroter 1804 and *Erosaria moneta* L.1758 under just about every rock or slab that I turned over but no luck with M&R specimens. I was lead to believe before the trip that the M&R cowries are very rare these days and that the majority were collected throughout the 1970's and 1980's but are still collected from time to time these days.

On our way back from Magenta we stopped at Caldoshell Creations, the shop that I noticed on our first day on the bus to Noumea and my luck was about to change. I introduced myself to the owner, who luckily spoke good English and I explained that I was looking for M&R cowries. He replied that he does not trade in them any more due to their expense but he does have a large number of other N. Caledonian Cypraeidae. He had a magnificent selection of *Erronea subviridis subviridis* Reeve 1845 so I picked out a large 36mm specimen and a small almost albinotic specimen as well as four superb *Erronea bregeriana* Crosse 1868, one at a whopping 31mm, an unusual small pale specimen and two very dark pieces. We were very lucky to buy a fantastic pair of rare deep water main reef forms of *Leporicypraea mappa viridis* Kenyon 1902. All pictured below.



*Erronea subviridis subviridis*  
Reeve 1845



*Erronea bregeriana*  
Crosse 1868



*Leporicypraea mappa viridis* Kenyon 1902



These map cowries differ from typical *mappa viridis* being far more callous around the margins and extending further at the canals, as well as lacking the usual prominent basal blotch, they are very heavy for *viridis* and may well deserve a separate name at form level. I would like to propose the name *L. mappa viridis* "kanakinus" but I will have to speak to Mr Lorenz about this one. Along with these acquisitions I also purchased a large *Leporicypraea mappa viridis* "montrouzieri" Dautz 1903 with a very wide open map pattern, a *Strombus thersites* Swainson 1823, *Bistolida stolida crossei* Marie 1869 and several specimens of *Nautilus macromphalus* Sow. 1849.

The owner of the shop mentioned that he had a friend who was the Treasurer of N. Caledonia's Shell Club that published the Rossiniana magazines – now finished, and that he had a marvellous collection of M&R cowries. He arranged for me to meet Mr Gille Naveau the following morning and from the shop we headed for his home to view the collection. Although Mr Naveau had given up collecting some time ago he still had an impressive collection and did not mind selling specimens from it.



John Batt and Gille Naveau



Some of Mr Naveau's collection



The best of Mr Naveau's mappas

I was really taken by the map cowry pictured above although I thought the \$7,500.00 price tag was a little bit out of reach at this time, however, I did purchased the slightly less dark but still impressive specimen pictured on the following page. I also purchased the pair of *Cribrarula cribraria cribraria* L.1758, an exceptionally dark *Mauritia arabica arabica* L.1758 and a small but very rostrate *Bistolida hirundo rouxi* Ancey 1882. I asked Mr Naveau if he thought it was still possible to collect M&R cowries around the Noumea area, but he said probably not, you will have to travel south to Goro where you should look for the old, now derelict mine where there is a large metal structure jutting out

into the bay on large concrete pillars. It was an old conveyor for loading nickel onto ships when the mines were operational. He said that he had collected *arabica*, *mauritiana*, *eglantina* and *pallidula* in this area.



*Mauritia arabica arabica*  
L.1758



*Cribrarula cribraria cribraria*  
L.1758



*Bistolida hirundo rouxi*  
Ancey 1882



*Leporicypraea mappa viridis* "montrouzier"  
Dautz 1903

We thanked Mr Naveau for his hospitality and headed off to one of Noumea's beaches for the remainder of the day, and to catch low tide. With nothing very interesting found this afternoon we decided on day five to take the taxi boat to Canard Island and spend the day snorkelling on the reef, but we found out that in March a powerful hurricane hit Noumea and it seemed to have largely damaged the reef and huge piles of dead staghorn coral were piled up everywhere. At low tide we walked out to the edge of the reef dodging the numerous sea snakes to turn some dead coral slabs. I found the usual common species like *Erosaria annulus* L.1758, *Erosaria moneta* L.1758 and a couple of *Erosaria caputserpentis caputserpentis* L.1758, when Goga shouted for me to come and look at something. She had found a live specimen of *Lyncina leviathan titan* Sch.& Sch. 1962 crawling amongst the dead staghorn coral, the first and only one of the trip. Another day had passed with no sign of self collecting any M&R cowries, so we decided that we would rise early the following morning and head for Goro bay in the south to check out the area around the old nickel mine.

It took us about three hours to reach Goro crossing the mountains towards the village of Yate on the east coast and following the coast road down to Goro bay over some very bumpy dusty tracks. This was certainly not a place to be visited by people who suffer from arachnophobia. All along the road from ground level up to the telegraph wires were huge spider webs and it was not long before we noticed one of the residents, a huge Orb spider the size of the palm of my hand with a massive bright green abdomen amongst other black and white specimens dotted about everywhere. I could not help but prod big "greenie" with a stick to get him to show us his fangs – awesome! We then crossed the road onto the beach in search of some shells. There was no evidence of shells washed up on the beach so I headed for the piles of large rocks built up against one of the huge concrete columns holding up the conveyor. The water here was about 18 inches in depth and the same orange colour as the beach, a mixture of metallic elements like nickel, cobalt, manganese and iron. It certainly seemed a likely place to find M&R cowries so I began to turn some of the rocks. I immediately found a sub adult *Mauritia mauritiana* L.1758 which I left under its rock and then my first specimen of *Mauritia arabica arabica* L.1758 not melanistic but still very dark and in perfect condition. Throughout the next two hours of low tide I found fifteen specimens of arabica but only kept four of them, all variations in pattern and size. As the tide began to turn I hurried frantically looking for at least one melanistic specimen, crawling on my hands and knees peering into the crevices of rocks that were too large to move. I noticed a cowry deep in between two large boulders so I reached in and grabbed the shell. To my great surprise it was a melanistic *Mauritia mauritiana* L.1758, about 85% black and a perfect flawless mature adult. I could not believe what I had just found. I had bought quite a few M&R cowries back in Noumea from the shops but to find one myself was a far greater pleasure. We could not help but wonder how many more we could have collected given more time in Goro but happy with my finds it was time to start heading back to Noumea before dark, as we had been warned of how dangerous it is to drive through the mountains at night due to stray animals on the roads and a lack of crash barriers on the corners.



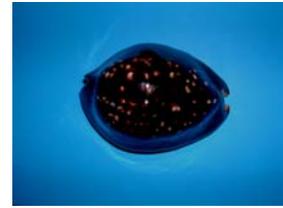
A live *Mauritia arabica arabica* L.1758



Goro Bay



Orb spider



Self collected Melanistic *Mauritia mauritiana* L.1758

The following morning, day seven, I woke early to defrost my cowries from Goro but was unable to extract the slugs so they needed to be re-frozen. We then headed into Noumea for a day of souvenir shopping and to hand back our hire car. Just along from the hire car centre we noticed a shop called La Bougainville with a selection of shells in the window so in we went to find a wonderful assortment of N. Caledonian cowries. I purchased a spectacular main reef orange form of *Cypraea tigris* L.1758 very rare these days, and the largest specimen of M&R *Bistolida stolidia crossei* Marie 1869 that I ever recall seeing at a huge 49.1mm along with four smaller specimens of stolidia, three rostrate *Erosaria moneta* L.1758 and a M&R *Erronea cylindrica lenella* Iredale 1939. It turned out to be a fruitful day all be it a costly one, so we returned to Kuendu resort to relax on the beach for the remaining hours of daylight.

At Kuendu beach I got chatting to Tarawake, who owns the dive shop there and the company that runs boat trips to some of the uninhabited islands offshore. He and his partner Anabella invited us on our last day to sail to a small un-named island six miles offshore for a day of snorkelling, water sports and a beach barbeque.

We had a fabulous day on the island with a superb barbeque and some great snorkelling. I did find a pretty specimen of *Lambis lambis* L.1758 with a bright orange aperture buried in the sand at about three feet but that was about all I found in the way of shells worth keeping.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Grande Terre and I am sure that N. Caledonia has so much more to offer, especially for those able to dive. I will definitely return and hopefully spend a lot more time around the Goro area in search of more melanistic and rostrate cowries.

Its on to Fiji and the island of Viti Levu for us now but I will use this as a separate article in the next issue of Pallidula



*Cypraea tigris* (orange form), L.1758



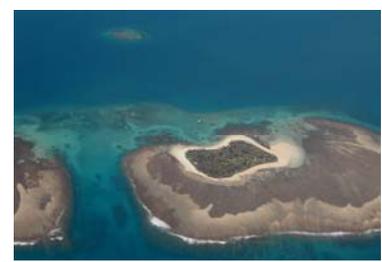
*Bistolida stolidia crossei* Marie 1869  
Left 33mm, right 49.1mm



Typical beach at Goro



Un-named island we visited on our last day



Aerial view of an island on the main barrier reef

## Shelling in Cumbria October 2003

By Selina Wilkins

I was sent on business to Barrow in Furness, and was delighted to find it marked on the map with golden sands. I booked into a delightful small hotel that is also a pub, with excellent breakfast and evening meals called Clarke's Hotel, at Rampside. Although on arrival it was raining, I put on my raincoat and ambled down to the beach, it might never have stopped raining. On first perusal I discovered hoards of cockles, *Cerastoderma edule*, and beautiful *Macoma balthica*. The *Macoma balthica* were pink, dark pink, pale pink, yellow, cream, white, peach and all with both valves preserved and intact. They were mostly juveniles, but to have them intact, with such colour variation – I was very happy. I was also pleased to find a few *Turritella communis*, as the beaches I go to rarely have them, and I also found one specimen of a little un-yet identified gastropod.

At Whaley Island I found nothing at the beach, but it was raining, and I didn't have a pair of wellies to investigate slippery stones and seaweed. So I chose on my remaining days to concentrate on Foulney Island and Rampside Beach.

For the next three days after work I explored the area. Rampside Beach was very good for beached specimens of bivalves and gastropods, especially the *Macoma balthica* and *Littorina* genus. To the far right of the beach there was an area of rocks with more gastropods and the *Mytilis edulis* and the oysters.

Foulney Island was a lovely walk out along a causeway. This is where the beached gastropods and *Mytilis edulis* mainly came from. Beyond the cement block on the right hand side (as recommended for baiters) there were stones strewn with seaweed. *Littorina obtusata* could be found moving amongst the seaweed, and the *Mytilis edulis* was between the rocks and stones. The *Nucella lapillus* preferred the exposed rocks and stones, and *Littorina littorea* and *saxatilis* could be found wherever there was moisture, but also in the seaweed.

It was a very picturesque place and those of you into bird watching as well would have appreciated the oystercatchers, redshank, sanderlings, dunlins, curlews and whimbrels, various gull species. In the summer there are nesting eiders, sandwich and little terns as well as common terns. It might not seem a shelling Mecca to some of you, but I found the place delightful, relaxing and the food at Clarke's hotel was wonderful (the *Moules marniere* come all the way from Chile!)

### Rampside Beach

*Cerastoderma edule* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Ostrea edulis* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Crassostrea virginica* Gmelin, 1791  
*Mytilis edulis* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Macoma balthica* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Littorina obtusata* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Littorina saxatilis* Olivi, 1792  
*Littorina littorea* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Ocenebra erinacea* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Turritella communis* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Nucella lapillus* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Chlamys varia* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Buccinum undatum* Linnaeus, 1758

### Foulney Island

*Littorina littorea* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Mytilis edulis* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Nucella lapillus* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Littorina obtusata* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Buccinum undatum* Linnaeus, 1758