

BIOGEOGRAPHY, BIOMES AND THE MOLLUSCA OF SOUTH EAST AFRICA

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Subtraction margins of the Indo-West Pacific - such as the east coast of South Africa - present several commonly ignored problems when their biogeography is examined in detail. Conventional treatments require some refinement through exclusion of vagrant taxa and perched faunules, and allowance for sampling artifacts. Furthermore, a simple linear approach is applicable only to the littoral region, and should not assume concordance with the corresponding shelf and slope benthos. Because of the difficulty of integrating a second dimension, more useful information can often be derived from examining the faunal composition and probable history of individual marine biomes.