



# *THE CONE COLLECTOR*

## *# 3 - July (2007)*

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### EDITORIAL

Summer is with us once again – here I am obviously referring to the northern hemisphere – which for many of us means hot weather, lots of sun and vacations! A good opportunity to look for shells, to be sure, or to work a bit on the ones we already have in our collections... There are always a few specimens that need cleaning, ranging, identifying, cataloguing or even getting rid of! The lucky ones benefiting from holiday time may also wish to catch on with some reading and that is where *TCC* comes in. Here you will find a new issue packed with articles, comments, opinions, photos, news, etc.

I hope that you will enjoy it at least as much as I have found pleasure in putting it together. And please remember: this can only go on with your help and collaboration.

No contribution is too simple or too small – or too important, for that matter. So, be sure to let us know your views and to tell us your experience. We will all want to read about it.



### Obituary



#### **César Passos Fernandes**

This is of course the kind of news that we wish we did not have to include in *TCC*. However, it is my sad duty to report on the passing away of my very dear friend César Fernandes. He died in Cape Verde, on the 22th April.



César Fernandes  
(1930-2007)

César Passos Fernandes was born at Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Moçambique, on the 30TH November 1930. His father was César Augusto da Silva Fernandes, from Santiago Island, Cape Verde Islands; his mother was Rosa Passos, from Porto, Portugal.

César Fernandes married Maria Lisete de Sá (also deceased) in June 1956. They had a son, César Fernandes Jr..

After a few years working in different firms from Lourenço Marques, César's interest in shells was born when he was 21 years old, during a trip do Mocímboa da Praia (North Moçambique), with his younger brother Álvaro. From then on he collected intensively along Moçambique's shores and built an important regional collection.

In the 1980s, the family came to Lisbon and César Fernandes became a professional wholesale shell dealer, making frequent trips to Moçambique and to the Cape Verde Islands.

His collecting efforts led to the discovery of a number of new species

from both regions and several of them (such as *Semicassis bulla fernandesi* Kilburn, 1975, *Ancillista fernandesi* Kilburn & Jenner, 1977, *Bursa fernandesi* Beu, 1977, *Haustellum gallinago fernandesi* Houart, 1990, *Dolicholatirus fernandesi* Bozzetti, 2002, *Euthria fernandesi* Rolán, Monteiro & Fraussen, 2003 and *Calliostoma fernandesi* Rolán & Monteiro, 2006) were named after him. Although he was always interested in Cones and was a subscriber of TCC, he curiously never had a Cone with his name.

César was an extremely kind person, well loved by all who knew him. He had a great appreciation for good cuisine – especially for Indian cuisine – and was a good cook. A cultivated person of many different interests, always generous and a notably good companion, César was someone who was at peace with the World.

His absence is very much lamented by his many friends. May his soul rest in peace.



## Colour variations of *C. guanche* Lauer, 1993

Francisco Deniz

You will find here a plate with specimens of *Conus guanche* Lauer, 1993 from my collection.

As you know, this species occurs around the eastern islands in the Canarias archipelago (from Tenerife to the Chinijo archipelago, a number of small islets East of Lanzarote) and is not found in the three western islands (La Palma, El Hierro and La Gomera).

According to location, a number of seemingly fairly constant morphometric differences, as well as distinct colours and patterns are to be found.

The specimens shown vary from 21 to 42 mm in length and were found in the following locations:

First row: La Graciosa Island  
 Second row: Lanzarote Island  
 Third row: first specimen on the left from Lobos Island, the others from Tenerife  
 Fourth row: Fuerteventura Island  
 Fifth, sixth and seventh rows: Gran Canaria Island (always darker and with a heavier pattern)



## WHAT AM I?



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

✉ From Felix Lorenz:

Hi Antonio

Many thanks for sending me the Cone Collector-magazine.

It is a fine effort and I am happy to contribute if I can (as I have already done with an uncredited photo of *Conus helgae* that was taken from my website)

Good luck for the fine project and keep me posted please.

#### The Editor replies:

Thank you very much for your message, Felix! I am very glad to know that you enjoy TCC.

I will of course look forward to your contributions for future issues, they will be most welcome!

Sorry about the photo of *C. helgae*. As a matter of fact, I took it from the website of Paul Kersten ("An Illustrated Checklist of Recent Conidae" at <http://www.schnr-specimenshells.com/ConidaeChecklist.html> as I am sure you know).

It is included in the site with the mention "from Gene Mallory's site"; I checked with Paul about the possibility of using the photo and he told me that he had no further contact with Gene Mallory and that he believed we could use the photos. I should have explained all this

when including the photo, but to be honest it simply slipped my mind and the photo appeared without any origin at all! Sorry for the confusion caused.



✉ From Bill Fenzan:

Dear Antonio,

You have produced another interesting issue. Congratulations on the variety of the articles. The issue kept me reading until the end.

[...] Typos were seen in reading the issue (spelling of Kaicher's name was wrong ("Laicher") in one place), but not considered important enough to list. The contributions by Jon Singleton were especially interesting! The following comments occurred to me as I read the issue:

**General comment:** At 2Mb, the attached .pdf file containing issue 2 is a large one. My Internet Service Provider (ISP), Earthlink, finally got the file to me after two failed attempts. Suggest you look into ways to compress the .pdf file, send issues in parts, or otherwise keep attachment file size low. Unfortunately, I still have a dial-up 56kps account.

#### The Editor replies:

Yes, Bill I believe the files containing whole issues of TCC can be quite heavy indeed and I suppose you are not the only one with this problem.

I will try to do something in the future along the lines that you suggest.

**On the mystery cone from New Caledonia (starting on page 11):** [...] Vincent's [...] frustration with other people comes through too clearly. I

have seen a specimen of this shell, but I have never owned one. So, I have no plans to name this shell myself. The statement: "Anyway, Bill Fenzan is now in charge of sorting out that situation with Bill Cargile, so it should be okay soon." is misleading. I have never told Vincent, or anyone, I would accept any responsibility for sorting things out between him and Mr. Cargile.

#### The Editor replies:

I can assure you that TCC has no wish whatsoever of hurting anybody's feelings. On the other hand, it should be clear for everybody that any signed article, letter, etc. will at all times represent only the writer's opinions and that by publishing such texts the bulletin in no way expresses any kind of position about their contents, provided the limits of decency and politeness are preserved.

I was fully aware that Vincent's blunt statements would be a bit polemic, but I really saw no way of editing them without changing the contents and tone that he had intended.

**On *Conus ciderryi* (starting on page 16):** A photo of paratype 3 can be found on the website of the British Shell Collectors' Club

(<http://www.britishshellclub.org.uk/>).

The photo is found by navigating to the "Picture gallery" section of the "Reference" menu choice on the home page. When you get to the picture gallery page, you will see a listing of club members and their photo pages in a table. Choose "Rare and unusual Cones" to see Mike Filmer's cone page. The specimen of *C. ciderryi* illustrated is owned by Mike Filmer, so he may also send you this information. On April 18, 1986, I purchased the 7th known specimen of *C. ciderryi* from Cid Derry in Fullerton, California. I

have seen and studied three other specimens, in addition to the holotype in Geneva. Two were in museums (AMNH & ZMUA), and one in a private collection. All shells of *C. ciderryi* are similar to the holotype and appear consistently different from all specimens of *C. guidopoppei* I own or have seen.

The type locality for *C. ciderryi* is "Trawled in the Strait of Taiwan and not seen elsewhere to date.", not Australia.

#### The Editor replies:

Thanks a lot for your comments and information. You are quite right about the type locality for *C. ciderryi*. The fault was entirely mine: I was probably so enthused over Jon Singleton's Australian notes that I wrote "Australia" instead of "Taiwan"!

#### On "They Are Out There Somewhere" by Jon Singleton (starting on page 18):

A few years ago, I obtained a portion of an article from the Journal "Pes-pelican" dated 1968 that illustrated Fenaux types with good black and white photos. I believe this was the journal of a shell club based in Nice, France. There was a museum mentioned in the article (near or in Nice) that was the inferred source of the photographs and/or specimens. I can be motivated to find this article again if there is someone (who speaks French better than I) out there who is willing and able to work on this project. I made a copy of the paper once before, but the individual I asked to help me was too busy at the time. I am too far away from France to investigate this lead myself.

**On "Kaicher's cards" (starting on page 19):** A good reference for this issue is:

Rosenberg, G. & Petit, R. E.. *Kaicher's Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells: A collation, with discussion of species named therein*. The Nautilus 117(4): 99-120, 2003

In this paper there is a clear explanation of why the authors believe opinion #1905 (in 1998) made the Card Catalogue an available source of names. Perhaps in a future edition of the Cone Collector this opinion and the other references that discussed the issue can be reprinted with permission?

#### The Editor replies:

It would indeed be quite interesting to reprint the opinion in point. We will try to get permission.



 From Mike Filmer:

Dear Antonio,  
Issue no 2 another great effort, congratulations to you. Three points for the next edition

1) **What am I? (page 10)**. I agree this is a juvenile *C. litoglyphus* I attach a picture of a juvenile in my collection size 17.2 x 8.3 mm. from Santa Rosa Cebu PI, which is very similar.



2) ***C. ciderryi* (page 16)** I can enlighten Giancarlo Paganelli on the whereabouts of some specimens:

a) Paratype no. 1 was in Bob's collection and measures 39 x 18 mm and should be in SMNS (Stuttgart)

a) Paratype no. 2 is in AMNH New York and measures 30 x 13.2 mm. I have a picture if you need it.

b) Paratype no. 3 is in my collection and measures 32 x 16 mm. Bob very kindly gave this to me when I last saw him in 1987 in Hong Kong. I attach a picture.





c) The specimen figured on plate 34, no.24 is now in Bill Cargile's collection.

Finally I should point out that *C. ciderryi* is known only from the Taiwan Straits and Vietnam not from Australia. Although it must be admitted that in the 1970's Taiwanese trawlers were frequently in the Arafura Sea off Northern Australia and it is possible that Sid Derry who gave Bob the material might have been misled by the trawler men. As is stated in the description under Etymology Mr Derry was highly regarded in terms of providing accurate data. I believe this and the presence of this species in Vietnam is enough to suggest that the proper locality is indeed the Taiwan Straits. What is not in doubt is its current rarity.

#### The Editor replies:

Thanks a lot for your comments and information, Mike. You are quite right about the type locality for *C. ciderryi*. The fault was entirely mine (see reply to Bill Fenzan, above).

Gavin Malcolm also made a few similar observations.

3) **What am I? (page 20).** I believe this specimen to be a colour form of *C. collisus* Reeve, 1849. This is a very variable species commonly found off the West coast of Southern Thailand and out towards the Andaman Islands. I have specimens close to this in my collection.



✍ From Gabriella Raybaudi Massilia:

Dear Antonio,

I just received your Issue # 2, many thanks and congratulations again for your efforts, surely appreciated by all Cone lovers.

As author of *C. guidopoppei*, I feel obviously called inside the debate on the doubts expressed on your page about *Conus ciderryi* and I will give some explanations, though I would suggest that any serious collector should go into the data supplied within the original descriptions and literature rather than just looking at a superficial view of a single shell picture.

Below is a resume of morphometric shell data taken out from my description in *Visaya* and from RKK *Manual* (for the data of *C. ciderryi*). Dieter had certainly checked the type material, of *C. ciderryi*, since he redescribes it, and I too examined both the holotype in Geneva and paratypes from the collections in Stuttgart.

*Conus ciderryi* completely belongs to another group! It's an *Asprella* very much more similar to *C. proximus cebuensis* than to any species of the *dictator* group. From the table you may deduct:

1) *guidopoppei* most probably planctotrophic, *ciderryi* ( From Taiwan straits, not from Australia) paucispiral and lecithotrophic

- 2) 2 main parameters, RSH and RD significantly not overlapping
- 3) More specimens of *ciderryi* are also figured in RKK, clearly showing a nodulose shoulder!

Finally (but this is my bet), *ciderryi* like *proximus* will turn out to have an intermediate fish-hunting radula, *guidopoppei* an obvious worm hunting species where as the so called needle cones that you mention, like *hopwoodi*. These are in a completely different subgeneric group of "primitive" worm hunting. Easy to distinguish also for the undulated outer lip basal profile.

I hope to have offered enough convincing evidence, though of course checking or just obtaining a spire view of a paratype of *ciderryi* in Stuttgart would convince you better!

Surely you will be posting this letter including the morphometric table to your subscribers or just publish in a next issue. Thanks for this.

Warmest regards

#### Shell morphometry - Comparative Table

	<i>guidopoppei</i>	<i>ciderryi</i>
Number of protoconch whorls	2,25-2,75	2-2,25
Maximum diameter of larval shell	0,8 -1 mm	0,8
Postnuclear whorls sculpture	no or obsolete tubercles	4-5 tuberculated whorls
Adult shell Length ( L )	22-35 mm	30-42 mm
Relative Diameter (RD)	0,45-0,49	0,50-0,63
Relative Spire Height (RSH)	0,14-0,18	0,08--0,24

#### The Editor replies:

Thank you very much, Gabriella, for your explanation. This is exactly the kind of discussion that will be of great help to

everybody! About the type locality of *C. ciderryi*, please see previous comments.



✍ From Jon Singleton:

- 1) The colour illustration of *C. richardi* [in TCC # 2] was a disaster area. I had reduced it to match the size of the Fenaux figure, but I guess that was a big mistake. So I enclose a full size one, and if you re-publish it in the next issues please also state my apologies for the previous poor effort.



- 2) **What am I? (page 20).** I was surprised someone would liken the little stranger to a *C. helgae*. I am sure this species will show some Turrid genes when animal studies are done some time in the distant future.

- 3) The small pustulated *litoglyphus* was also named by Sowerby I, 1833 as *C. bicolor*, a small 18mm × 10mm specimen. Surprisingly, he erroneously re-named it *C. albomaculatus* in 1841. The Kohn taxonomy book shows *bicolor* on Pl. 22, fig. 451, and as

*albomaculatus* in the *Thesaurus* Pl. VI, fig. 113. The small pustulated *litoglyphus* seems not too uncommon, but I have never seen a really large specimen. Enclosed a photo of the best one I have, which may be worthy of your “Specials” section.



✍ From John Tucker:

Number 2 looks good.

My only concern is whether *C. olgiatii* of Bozzetti is published yet. I have asked Bozzetti and he did not have a copy of the magazine yet. Maybe you should insist on your correspondents producing at least a complete citation before including a species in the recently described species section. You might even want to actually see a scan of the first page or the article. Another minor point the material by Mike Filmer on publication dates only

applies to names where the actual day of publication cannot be determined. Where it can be determined then that particular day is used for purposes of priority. In fact the code recommends that publications have the month day and year of publication for all relevant parts in the publication.

Most of the peer-reviewed journals (*Veliger*, *Nautilus*, *Journal of Molluscan Studies*) publish these dates in the last number for the year or in the first number of the next year.

Unfortunately such dates are poorly documented by many of the publications where descriptions of new species of cone shells are appearing making use of the last day of the month or year almost necessary.

I noted an error that I made on the citation for the subspecies of *betulinus*, namely *rufoluteus* in The Cone Collector 2. I gave the date as 1995 it should have read 2005. This was my error not yours.

#### The Editor replies:

Thank you for your comments and corrections, John! You are quite right about the need to confirm publication of new names and I am sure that Paul – who takes care of that section of TCC – will bear in mind your useful suggestions for future use.

Your precisions about dating are quite useful, of course!



## *C. ebraeus* variations

In our last issue we showed a picture of a beautiful specimen of *C. ebraeus* Linnaeus, 1758, from the collection of Alexander Medvedev. We asked for photos of other interesting specimens of the same species and while we are still waiting for contributions, here are some from the collection of Paul Kersten:



And some more from the collection of António Monteiro (the rule on the right is in centimetres):





## A new website

David Touitou is well known by all of us through his beautiful website [www.seashell-collector.com/](http://www.seashell-collector.com/) which is full of useful information (including a “beginner’s corner”) and photos. David always included links to the issues of *TCC*, so that our bulletin will be as widely known as possible.

By the end of May David completed a new website, dedicated to showing photos of live shells. It can be found at [www.live-seashells.com](http://www.live-seashells.com) and it presents a truly wonderful selection of beautiful photos. It is well worth a visit!

Inevitably, a whole section is devoted to Cones:

[http://www.live-seashells.com/images/conidae/index\\_conidae.htm](http://www.live-seashells.com/images/conidae/index_conidae.htm)

David is looking for further contributions to this new site, so, should you have photos of live mollusks that you are willing to present there, do get in touch with him. We will all benefit from your cooperation!



## WHO'S WHO IN CONES

### John K. Tucker

Effingham, my home town in central Illinois, is far from collecting localities for cone shells. However, the area is a great place for a collector to grow up. I spent my early years collecting fossils, mostly Pennsylvanian invertebrates, and reptiles and amphibians. I have always been interested in turtles and their biology.

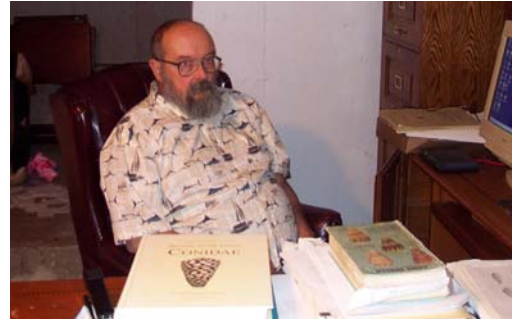
I attended Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois and received a bachelors and masters degree from that university. My studies were interrupted by a four year enlistment in the United States Navy. It was on the two cruises that I made to the western Pacific aboard the USS Constellation, that I became interested in marine mollusks and cone shells in particular. In 1974, I returned to Illinois State to complete a Masters degree.

I actually completed my thesis on variation in *Clonophis kirtlandi*, a

small natricine snake. However, I also published papers on Pennsylvanian nautiloids, turtle biology, as well as many articles in Hawaiian Shell News on cone shells. I was fortunate in making several discoveries in paleontology. With the aid of several coworkers, I described a number of new nautiloid species as well as a few new genera.

After a period in private business, I returned to research when I joined the Illinois Natural History Survey. During the years after I completed my Masters but before joining the Survey, I spent many hours in University and Museum libraries doing literature research on cone shells and on turrids. I was fortunate in gathering copies of literature and began to keep catalogs for the cone shells and for turrids. The latter project soon got completely out of control as I had no idea that the group was so complicated when I began to look at it.

When I joined the Survey, I was hired as a herpetologist and my research subjects have been frogs (mainly the Illinois chorus frog, *Pseudacris illinoensis*) and turtles (primarily the red-eared slider, *Trachemys scripta elegans*). Each spring I conduct surveys of the frog, a threatened species in Illinois. In late spring and summer I turn my attention to the turtles and perform experimental studies as well as trapping surveys. Since 1993, I have published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals including journals such as *Evolution*, *Ecology*, *Functional Ecology*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, and the herpetological journals.



In 2004, I finally got the turrid work to a stage where it could go to press. I published in *Zootaxa* 682 a catalog of the turrids consisting of 1295 riveting pages including as much as I could gather between 1974 and 2004 on the turrids. This group contains all of the toxoglossate mollusks including the cone shells. Despite all of these pages I know the cone shells much better than I do most turrids. I can happily say that I have not ever described a new species of cone shell.

This does not mean that I think that describing species is not important. I would be more than happy to name a few but only in the context of a more inclusive study covering a broad sample of related species. I think the description of isolated taxa based on one or a few empty shells is a mistake. I find few of the recent descriptions of new cone shells convincing and think most of them are likely synonyms of other described species. But I digress.

My current interests include a study in progress to determine what actually is a cone shell. I am also interested in supra-specific classification of the Conidae (*sensu* Alan Kohn) and in the Conoidea. I also hope to publish an identification guide to Atlantic and Eastern Pacific cone shells.

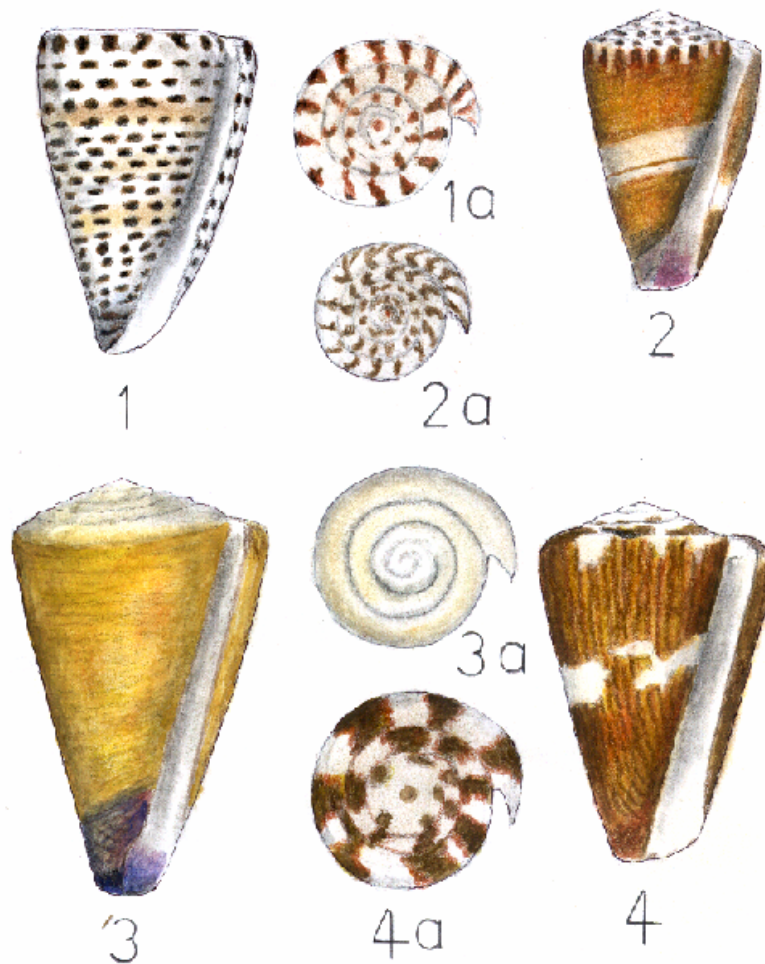


## Shell Art

Alfred J. Spoo

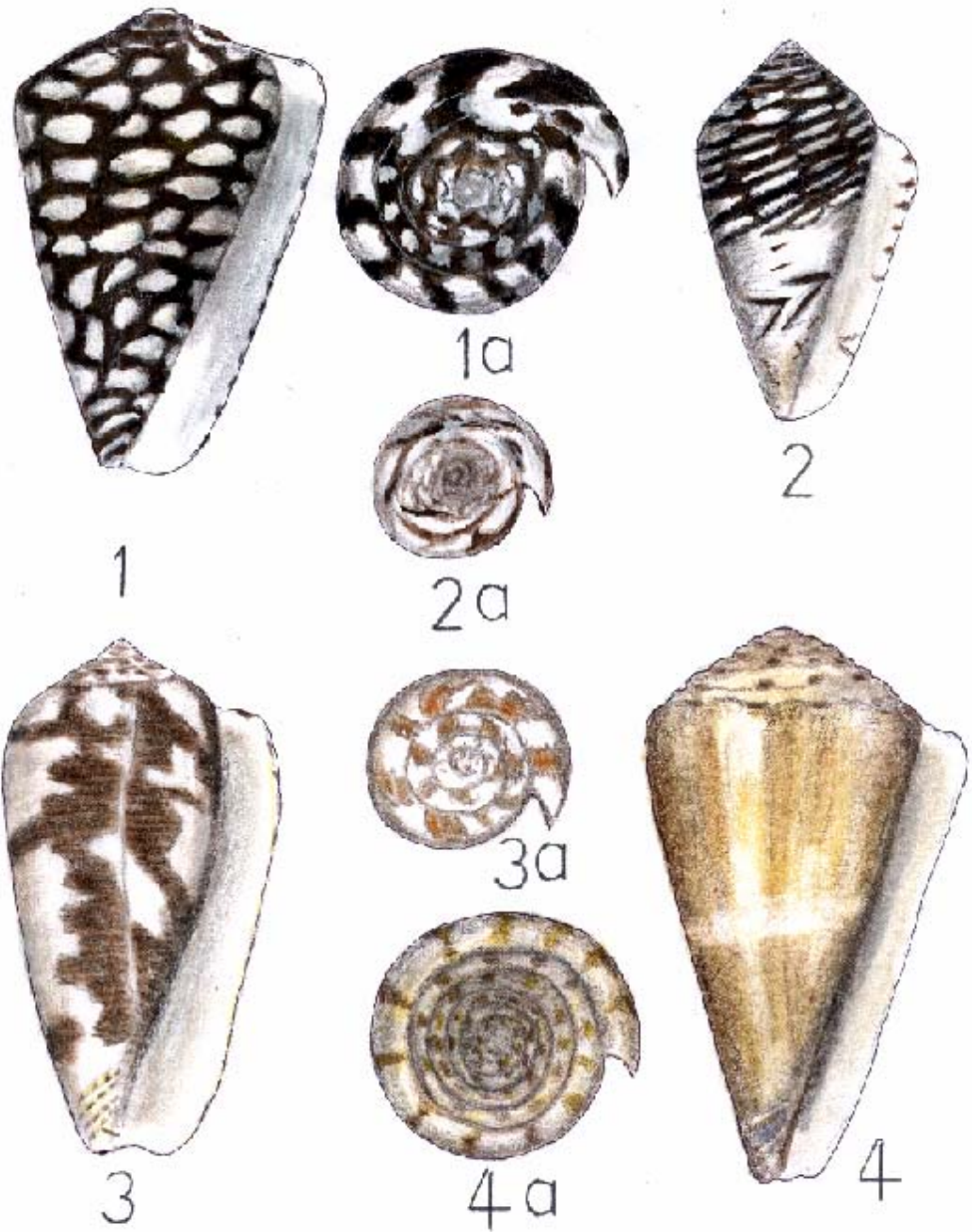
Here are a few new examples of the talent of our friend Al Spoo. I am sure everybody will enjoy these:

Conidae Indo-Pacific Region



1. *Conus litteratus*, 2. *C. vitulinus*, 3. *C. virgo*, 4. *C. vexillum*

Conidae African Region



1. *Conus marmoreus*, 2. *C. mercurator*, 3. *C. striatus*, 4. *C. distans*

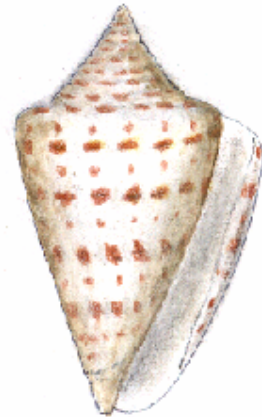
Conidae American Region



1



1a



2



2a



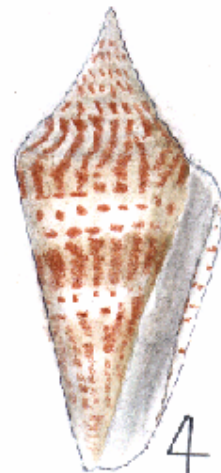
3



3a



4a



4

1. *Conus princeps*, 2. *C. spurius atlanticus*, 3. *C. brunneus*, 4. *C. delessertii*

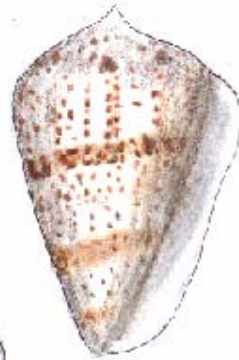
Conidae Philippines Region



1



1a



2



2a



3



3a



4



4a

1. *Conus tribblei*, 2. *C. pullearius*, 3. *C. furvus*, 4. *C. caecineus*



## AUSTRALIAN CORNER

### Cone News from Australia

Jon F. Singleton

#### Cone News from Australia - 6

One of the early cones named by Petuch was *Conus boholensis* in 1979. He named his species for the type locality of Bohol Island in the central Philippines.

In the late 1980's the known range of *C. boholensis* was extended to Australian waters, when a few specimens surfaced within the nets of the scampi trawlers operating in deep water to the north of Port Hedland, Western Australia. These were all mature cones averaging 40 mm in length, mainly all white, but a few having a very few brown scattered spots.



*C. boholensis* Petuch, 1979

After a lengthy gap of nearly 20 years, *C. boholensis* has again been collected in W. Australian waters, off the western side of the N. W. Cape,

and the range extended to the eastern Indian Ocean. These surfaced from a survey vessel and from several locations along a 200 kilometre stretch of water.

Whereas the original Australian specimens were all fully mature, all the latest finds are much smaller sub-adult specimens. All are well patterned with light brown markings, some quite densely. It would appear that *C. boholensis* is a species which loses most of the colour and pattern during growth to maturity.

The illustrated specimens are 15 mm and 27 mm in length, and from a depth of 100 metres, west of the N. W. Cape, W. A.

#### Cone News from Australia - 7

*Conus mustelinus* is a well known species ranging from the Eastern Indian Ocean to the Western Pacific. The colour, shape and pattern are fairly constant throughout the range, and only two variations are known to me. One is a very dark greeny-brown colour form which is known from Irian Jaya, Indonesia, and the other a broader triangular form from North-west Australia.

The standard *C. mustelinus* is not uncommon off the Queensland coast, and also from a few isolated regions across the Northern Territories. It is very uncommonly collected in West Australian waters, and then only at coastal and inshore islands between the Buccaneer and Bonaparte Archipelagoes. This short stretch is where is where the triangular form occurs, though large regions either side are difficult to access, so the range is possibly greater.

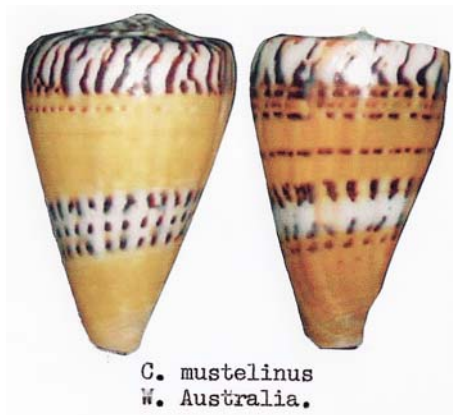
The West Australian form compares favourably with the *C.*

*melinus* named by Shikama, 1964. His type locality was just Arafura Sea, which to me is likely erroneous, and I suspect his source was likely Taiwan fishing boats which are known to have made unauthorised landings on remote N. W. Australian locations during the 1960's and 1970's.

The two illustrated specimens from the N. W. of Australia are 56 mm × 35 mm and 53 mm × 34 mm.

#### Reference:

1964. Shikama, T., *Venus*, Kyoto, 23(1)



*C. mustelinus* Hwass, 1792

Shikama made no mention of *C. mustelinus* within his published description. This is puzzling, as his choice of the name “*melinus*” comprises of seven letters from the ten of “*mustelinus*”. Just a coincidence or deliberate?



## Sinistral Cones

In our previous issue, we mentioned *C. ventricosus* Gmelin and suggested that it would be interesting to have some record of all species of Cones for which sinistral specimens are known.

We have received the following communication from our good friend Jon Singleton:

You made mention of recording cone species which have produced a sinistral specimen. I have been keeping records of these for many years, and I enclose a copy of my list. It is a little out of date due to the neat “flood” of sinistral *C. furvus* being trawled off Aliguay Island, Philippines. There are at least a dozen not listed by me, ranging from all white to a dark brown. It is likely they now exceed the number of *C. ventricosus* which is a regular find in the Mediterranean. There is also a website ([www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org)) which lists sinistral specimens of all families in one section. I have not checked for a couple of years, so possibly they may have added another cone not on my list.

And here is Jon's list, to which any additions will of course be quite welcome:

Species	Reference
<i>C. ventricosus</i>	Dautzenberg records the first known (non-fossil) specimen from the Mediterranean, in a 1920 journal
<i>C. ventricosus</i>	A 10 mm specimen self collected in Cyprus during 1963 (Singleton collection)
<i>C. ventricosus</i>	10 specimens found at Côte d'Azur in France during 1967. No sizes given
<i>C. rutilus</i>	A 10 mm specimen found at Hopetoun, West Australia, in 1968 (Singleton collection)
<i>C. furvus</i>	Illustrated in the March 1971 <i>Hawaiian Shell News</i> and collected in the Philippines. No size stated
<i>C. papilliferus</i>	A 13 mm specimen found at Iluka, N.S.W., Australia in 1971. Personally sighted and examined
<i>C. lignarius</i>	Specimen mentioned in the March 1972 <i>Hawaiian Shell News</i> and collected in the Philippines. No illustration or size given
<i>C. ventricosus</i>	A lot of 17 specimens collected between 1973 and 1981 from the one locality in Sardinia. Size range 7 mm to 20 mm. Illustrtaed in 1982 <i>La Conchiglia</i>
<i>C. floridanus</i>	A specimen mentioned in the May 1987 <i>Hawaiian Shell News</i> . No illustration or size stated
<i>C. magus</i>	A 57 mm specimen is recorded within the third edition of Wagner & Abbott't World Record Size tables. Philippine specimen
<i>C. furvus</i>	A 38 mm specimen illustrated within the July 1981 <i>Hawaiian Shell News</i> from the Philippines (possibly same shell as 1971?). Also shown in colour within <i>World Shells</i> # 19, Oct./Dec.'96
<i>C. amadis</i>	By personal communication from Franz Hüber who reported sighting a specimen during a 1992 Thailand visit
<i>C. ventricosus</i>	A 10 mm specimen collected in Greece during 1992 (Singleton collection)

<i>C. infrenatus</i>	An 11 mm specimen from South Africa during 1992 (Singleton collection)
<i>C. furvus</i>	A 46 mm specimen on offer by Al Deynzer within a sales catalogue. Philippine specimen
<i>C. furvus</i>	A 42 mm specimen mentioned within the Hutsell & Pisor world record size shell book. Philippine specimen
<i>C. tinianus</i>	A 28 mm specimen mentioned within the Hutsell & Pisor world record size shell book. South African specimen
<i>C. furvus</i>	A 41.5 mm specimen from Bohol, Philippines, illustrated on the Internet, August 2001
<i>C. furvus</i>	A 31 mm specimen from Mindanao, Philippines, collected 1975
<i>C. infrenatus</i>	A 33 mm specimen from Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa, 1997
<i>C. baccatus</i>	A 20 mm specimen from Panama, collected 1991
<i>C. anabathrum</i>	A 31 mm specimen from Marco Island, Florida, collected 1967
<i>C. furvus</i>	A mature specimen illustrated on the Suduiraut Website in 2002, no size stated
<i>C. furvus</i>	A 17 mm sub-adult specimen obtained in 2004 (Singleton collection)
<i>C. anemone</i>	A mature "high-spired" form collected at Baird Bay, South Australia, in Grocke collection, no size stated
<i>C. furvus</i>	Two specimens in possession of A. Moncur (March 2006), both approximately 30 mm in length, one brown and one white



## Recently described species

As far as we could ascertain, only one new species was described since publication of our last issue. That is of course

*Conus damasoi* Cossignani, 2007

The new species is named after my old friend Dâmaso Monteiro (no family relation...). He tells me that it is caught by lobster fishermen on rocky bottom 25 to 35 metres deep, in an area about 300 kilometres North of Fortaleza, Ceará, Brasil. Only a very few live specimens have been found, most others are crabbed; the living animal is grayish with a thin light brown periostracum. Other species collected in the same region include *C. selenae*, *regius*, *worki* and *jaspideus*.



*Conus damasoi* Cossignani, 2007

Described from orange coloured specimens, a rare yellow form is included in this photo  
(sizes, from left: 16.9, 18.8, 18.6 and 17.6 mm)



# CARIBBEAN CORNER

Andre Poremski

I would like to propose an ongoing contribution to *The Cone Collector* by submitting colour plates from my personal cone collection to be placed in each upcoming issue. But first, I would like to share with you a little background about how I organize my collection.

To begin, my collection is rather specialized in the sense that I only collect Conidae species that occur in the Caribbean and Western Atlantic, stretching from North Carolina, through the Caribbean Sea, and south as far as Argentina.

The species complexes that live within this vast area are diverse and challenging. I say challenging because literature covering the nomenclature of Conidae from this area are limited, especially photography exhibiting the range of variation within and between populations.

Another reason I say challenging is because several named species are seldom seen in collections. These circumstances have contributed to a great deal of confusion regarding accuracy and validity of *Conus* identification, especially for species that exhibit extraordinary variability in colour, pattern, and shape.

For example, *Conus jaspideus* Gmelin, 1791 can be found throughout the Caribbean and Brazil, but individual populations can be so different in physical appearance, they are often perceived to be entirely

different species. Some would argue that two *jaspideus*-like populations should be separated at the subspecific or even specific level. Others would say they are the same species and any new, affiliated names should be cast aside as synonyms. Both sides could have very compelling arguments.

I consider myself a splitter simply because I enjoy recognizing differences consistent among *populations*. Therefore, I have focused my collection at the population level with the objective of gaining a better understanding of population dynamics, and learning how to distinguish forms from individual aberrations--variations that can be found within a population sharing the same locality and habitat--and variations triggered by environmental factors such as geographic isolation or ecologic niche. Most of the intra-population forms that I have studied carry no taxonomic status but have significant value in understanding diversity with a species complex. In other words, I'm a "locality collector" more than "name collector."

With that said, I have embarked on an exciting project of figuring and sharing *Conus* populations from the Caribbean and Western Atlantic. Each plate exhibits the best 9 examples from my collection that share the same general description, locality, and habitat data. I try to select specimens

that exhibit the most extreme divergence in variation.

For identification purposes, I select the name that I think most closely matches a given set of specimens using a species' original figure, description, and type locality as a guide. I leave it up to others to place the name in context with level of separation from other names - species, subspecies, or form/synonym. For instance, I may provide a plate of 9 examples of from one bay in Columbia that I assign the name *lorenzianus* Reeve, 1849. I would not denote that *lorenzianus* is a geographic variant of *Conus spurius* Gmelin, 1791 or that it is a subspecies to be written *Conus spurius lorenzianus*. In most cases I do not have enough evidence such as comprehensive DNA data, or scans of radular teeth in order to make a solid claim either way. I only have my personal theories based on collection data and morphological characteristics.

I hope to revisit species populations that are common and well-

known as well as forms seldom seen and even entirely new. I hope you enjoy the images and find these plates to be a good reference in determining where EXACTLY some of your more unusual *Conus* specimens come from.

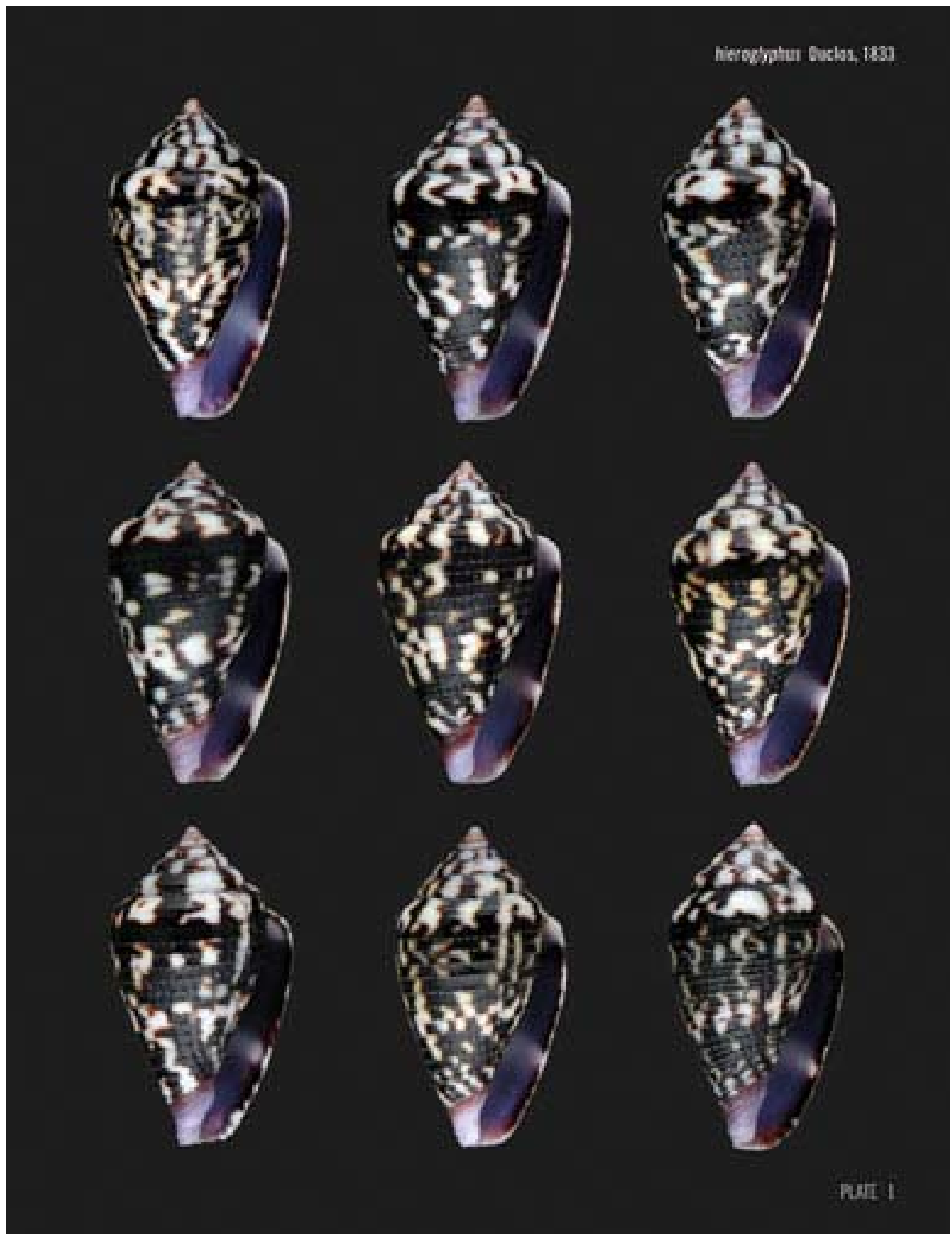
The first plate I am submitting shows the dorsal and ventral views of *Conus hieroglyphus* Duclos, 1833. These specimens were collected off the northeastern tip of Aruba, Netherlands Antilles in shallow water. The largest specimens out of several collected reached 19 mm. *C. hieroglyphus* is endemic to Aruba with *C. armillatus* Adams, 1850 often considered a junior synonym. I place *hieroglyphus* next to *pusio*, *mindanus*, and *jaspideus* in my collection.

P.S. The numbers on the right side of each shell is the shell height in millimetres (e.g. 17,3 mm or 17.30 mm). Also please note that the images are not proportionate in size.

*Hieroglyphus Daclos, 1833*



ARUBA > Malinok Beach > 1-2 m buried in coarse sand



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## Primary type

Recently, our friend Giancarlo Paganelli wondered about the correct meaning of the term “primary type”, occasionally used to qualify type specimens, not necessarily the holotype (cf. *C. altispiratus* Sowerby, 1873).

He decided to make a few questions to enlighten the matter and here is the answer obtained from Alan Kohn:

Your question is an excellent one. Because the ICZN does not use the term 'primary type,' it has no 'legal' definition. Primary type is generally (and by us) used synonymously with 'name-bearing type.' The latter is defined in the Code, as "The type genus, type species, holotype, lectotype, series of syntypes (which together constitute the name bearing type) or neotype that provides the objective standard of reference whereby the application of the name of a nominal taxon can be determined." (!). Several databses other than ours also use the term, for example MCZ (Harvard) and California Academy of Sciences. I suspect this is because the term 'primary' is shorter than 'name-bearing.'

I am sure that this explanation will be useful to others and I do thank Giancarlo and Alan for sharing their thoughts with us.

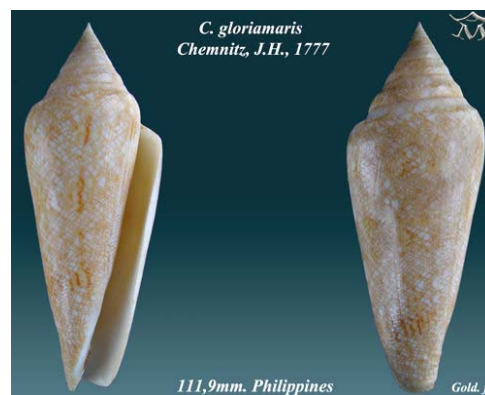


## Unusual or little known species

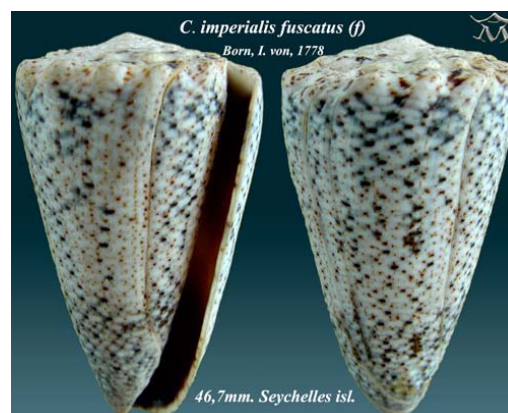
We are always interested in including on the pages of TCC photos of outstanding specimens of Cones. Examples of unusual colours or

patterns will always be most welcome and certainly everybody will be interested in having a look at such.

Our good friend Alexander Medvedev has sent a selection of specimens he recently acquired. Among them were a pretty light coloured *C. gloriamaris*



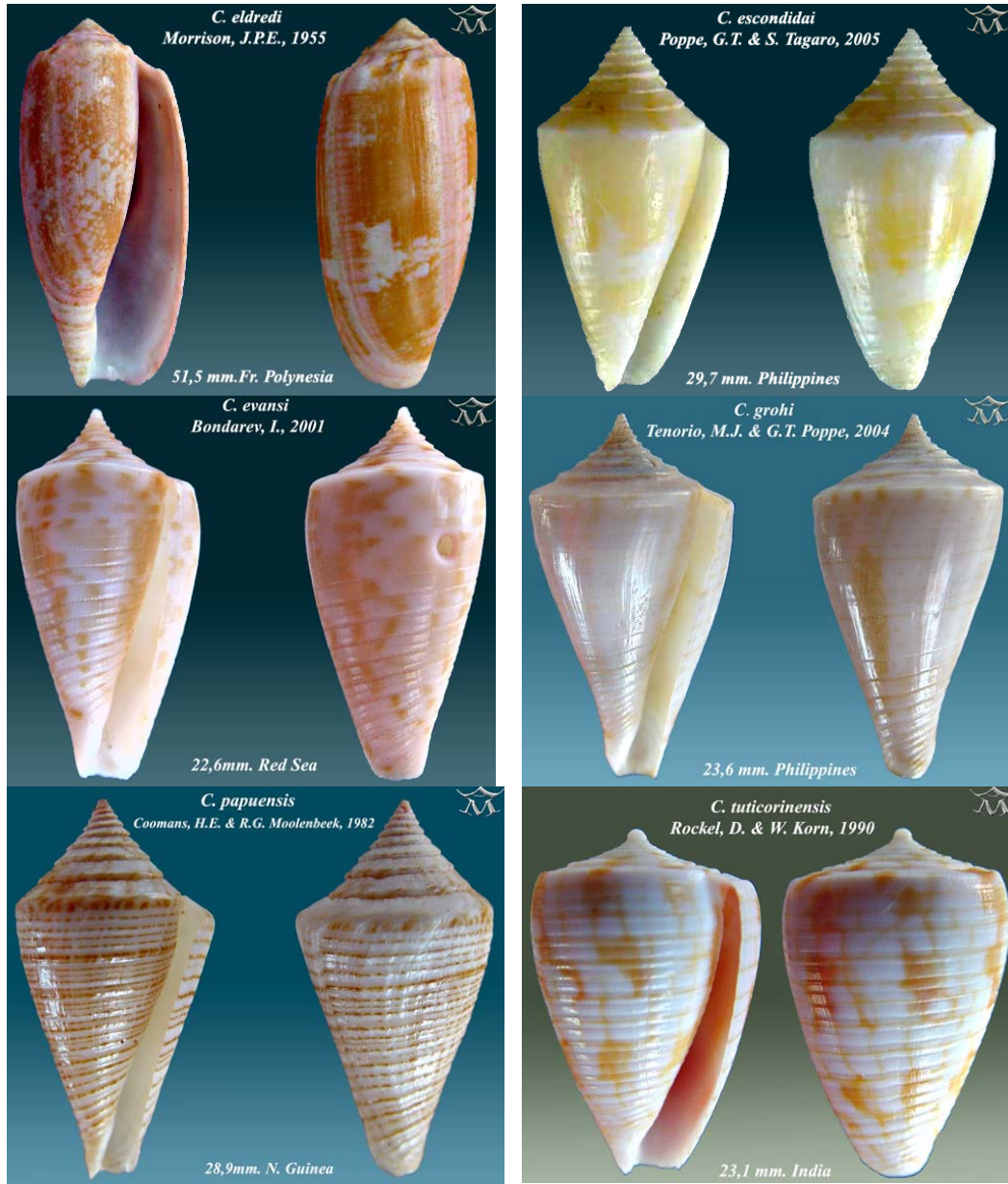
and a rather unusual *C. imperialis fuscatus*



Do remember to check your drawers and send along photos of interesting specimens from your collection for us all to enjoy.

On the other hand, there are species that are not yet widely known or understood. These include rare or very uncommon species, as well as recently described ones.

Here are a few examples, also from the Alexander's collection:



## A rather confusing group

Paul Kersten

I would like to start a discussion about a few (valid/so called???) cone species.

Several dealers are offering quite pretty shells from the Philippines that they call *Conus andamanensis*. The holotype of *C. andamanensis* Smith, 1878 shows a rather different shell from another location. What are these shells?

Is *Conus blanfordianus* Crosse, 1867 (two forms are called as such) a

different species from *C. zapatosensis* Röckel, 1987?



*C. sp. cf. andamanensis* Smith, 1878

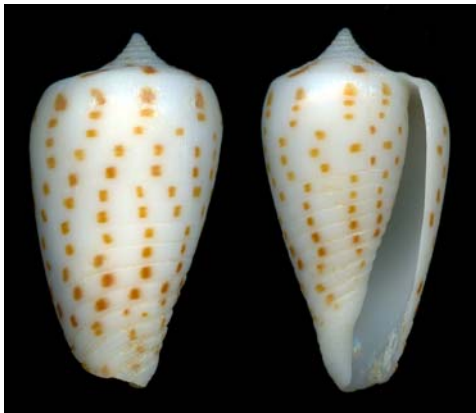
The article by Gabriella Raybaudi Massilia in Gloria Maris Vol. 31 1992 (1-6) answers a few questions but raises others. The so called Philippine *andamanensis* are not included in this article.



*C. zapatosensis* Röckel, 1987



*C. zapatosensis* Röckel, 1987



*Conus blanfordianus* Crosse, 1867



*C. sp. cf. sertacinctus* Röckel, 1986

Maybe people can give there opinions about this complex (in which *C. stramineus*, *broderipi*, *zebra*, *nahoniaraeensis* and *solomonensis* are also included). If needed I have pictures of these shells too.

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# The pebble, an elusive cone from Franziskaner gymnasium, Bolzano, Italy

Giancarlo Paganelli

I received the image of this cone from Dr Giovanna Lipparini, who found it at the Museum of Natural Sciences, Franciscan Gymnasium, in Bolzano (Italy).



Cones drawer

This specimen is a part of the Collection Gredler (Vinzenc Maria Gredler, 1823-1912) which includes shells collected between 1840 and 1865. It measures 45 mm in length and there is no information on its provenance.



"The pebble"

As it is round shaped, we nicknamed it "the pebble". The spire and shoulder have traces of reddish spots and the surface appears rather glossy so it shouldn't be a fossil.

The right identification of this cone is not easy indeed!

A particular thanks to Prof. Wolfgang Malsiner and prof. Daniel Lorenz, respectively Headmaster and Guardian of the Museum for the kind helpfulness.



*Conus gubernator f.*  
*Leehmani* Da Motta &  
Röckel, 1979, in the  
Seychelles

David Touitou

As you all probably know, *Conus gubernator*'s variation *leeamani* can be found roughly from Maldives to La Réunion. Since the Seychelles archipelago is geographically in this area, it should host this beautiful variation.

However, in Alan Jarrett's *Marine Shells Of The Seychelles*, the author shows several specimens of *Conus gubernator* but none can strictly be related to the *leeamani* variation.

I had the chance to snorkel and dive there and fortunately I found three specimens of *Conus gubernator*. The first one was found during the daytime in very shallow water in a sandy grass field, near the beach; the second specimen was crawling on the sand and coral rubble at night in 15m of water; the third one was found deeply buried in fine sand under a dead coral plate in 3 meters of water, near the shore.

All three were found during different trips (in 2002, 2004 and 2007), meaning that *Conus gubernator* is a rare shell there.

The first has the shape of *Conus gubernator* but few dark markings on a full white test links this specimen to the *leehmani* variation. Personally I prefer to keep *Conus gubernator* as data for this one. The second and the third still have very few dark markings on a pure white overall colour but are also more inflated like the *leehmani* variation, to which they are very close, especially the third one with its orange tint.

The Seychelles islands could effectively host *Conus gubernator* and *Conus gubernator leehmani* with of course many intergrades.

Specimen N°2 : 48.0 mm



Specimen N°3 : 60.9 mm



Specimen N°1 : 62.0 mm

