



*THE
CONE
COLLECTOR*

#18 - September 2011



THE CONE COLLECTOR

Editor

António Monteiro

Layout

André Poremski

Contributors

Michel Boutet

Remy Devorsine

Sébastien Dutertre

Valentin Dutertre

Joaquin Inchaustegui

Paul Kersten

Bruno Mathé

Somwang Patamakanthin

Alfonso Pina

Philippe Quiquandon

Jon F. Singleton

Reto Stöcklin

Lyle Therriault

John K. Tucker

Thierry Vulliet

On the Cover

Conus mappa trinitarius from

Los Frailes, Venezuela.

Image courtesy of

Afonso Jorio

Note from the Editor

Every once in a while, we hear collectors complaining that Cones are often hard to identify, being so variable and everything.

Well, perhaps “complaining” is not the exact word, but it is an observation that does surface from time to time. Because, of course, it is quite true! And that is what makes them so interesting and fascinating.

Collecting shells – or other Natural History subjects, for that matter – is not like collecting stamps, where one has a catalogue of every possible variety and can tick off the ones that have just entered the collection. And I know what I am talking about, since I collect stamps myself... Shells are the exoskeletons of living beings, animals that breathe, feed and reproduce just like we do, and, what’s more, beings that have a complex genetic pattern and adapt to their environment and evolve.

Little wonder that new populations, new forms and varieties, and new species are so regularly found. The oceans are still far from being fully known and their vastness probably means that they will remain so for quite some time. Let’s hope that pollution and other Man-caused phenomena can be restrained, otherwise much will be lost before it is even known...

Cones are delightful creatures, quite often intriguing ones. Certainly a great joy to collect. Each little piece of information we manage to gather adds to our understanding of the group as a whole, and of the natural order of things. In our bulletin – always open to collaboration from our readers – we do our best to convey news, information and the beauty of pretty specimens, to all our readers. I hope that you will enjoy each new issue.

A.M.

Who's Who in Cones: Joaquin Inchaustegui

J.M. Inchaustegui II, (Joaquin or "Joe") was born in 1932 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where he grew up ¼ mile from the Caribbean Sea where, at an early age, he learned how to collect live Limpets, Chitons, Periwinkles and other rock loving shells as well as the occasional beach worn shells washed ashore after the frequent hurricanes. In 1943 he immigrated with his entire family (his father was an Attorney and a Dominican Diplomat) to New Orleans, LA.

At a young age he would travel to Florida for his annual vacation from the University, (and later from work). During one of these visits to FL. he met Dr. R. Tucker Abbott who took a liking for this young man and decided to teach him how to snorkel, prepare a log with all pertinent information on each shell, write a specimen label, clean and store the shells. A few years later Tucker invited him to various areas of the Caribbean such as Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Caymans and Aruba where he continued to teach Joaquin his methods of collecting, including trawling from a small boat, search a reef, use a hand dredge, snorkel over the sand flats and beach comb after a storm, and prepare general interest articles about his collection so others could learn from his experiences while Dr. Abbott collected shells for his Caribbean shell books and later for his "Compendium". He encouraged Joe to become a "lumper" and to collect all Families rather than specializing in any one Family. However, he soon began to show a preference in the Families that he liked best, Cones and Cowries.

During this time Joaquin was attending LSU in Ba-

ton Rouge, LA studying Civil Engineering and he later transferred to Tulane University in New Orleans where he would work all day to pay for his tuition, and attend the University at night. Here he majored in Industrial Chemistry with a minor in languages such as Latin and German to add to his Spanish. To this day he remains fluent in the latter.

Joaquin has collected for the past 68 years in both coasts of the U.S.A, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, Panama, Tahiti and French Polynesia, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Canada, Nicaragua, Venezuela, the Bahamas and Uruguay while augmenting his collection by trading with collectors in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, France, Malta, Israel, Brazil, Mauritius, Spain and Portugal accumulating about 3200 species and a total of about 4000 specimen which Hurricane



Katrina would destroy in 2005 forcing him to start a second collection. One of his favorite shells was a gem *Conus gloriamaris*, 128 mm. that he had traded with a collector in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. The day after Hurricane Katrina abated a bit, Joaquin

went to see what he could recover from the ruins of his 3 story home in Long Beach, MS. Although all his belongings had been swept away by the 125 mph. winds and 25 ft. waves that hit the Coast, and were not to be found, he was able to find the *C. gloriamaris* on the banks of the little creek that ran behind his home with very little damage to this shell. It is now in his Cone cabinets as a reminder of the forces of Nature.

Joaquin (Joe) has contributed articles to *Hawaiian Shell News*, *La Conchiglia*, *Of Sea and Shore* magazine, *The*

The beauty of *Conus zonatus*

Bruno Mathé

Triton, *The Epitoneum* and the *American Conchologist Magazine*. He also edited the *Newsletter of the Louisiana Malacological Society* for eight or nine years until Katrina ended that. His latest project is editing Eduard Heiman's book *Cribrarula Gaskoini (A Conchological Study)* which will be in print very shortly.

The short piece about *Conus zonatus* in the previous issue of TCC interested me greatly, since it is a species that really means much to me.

I believe there is a tendency to overlook the fact that it can present wonderful motifs, namely because of the presence of a fine spiral orange border. I am enclosing a photo of a 60 mm *C. zonatus* from Thailand, to illustrate this.



The black *Conus* of Mooloolaba, South East Queensland, Australia

Sébastien Dutertre, Thierry Vulliet,
Remy Devorsine and Valentin Dutertre

We report on unusually dark forms of two *Conus* found along the sunshine coast of Australia.

Conus catus, (*Pionoconus*) Hwass in Bruguière, 1792

So far, all specimens (about 35 shells) were “dead collected” along a small stretch of rocky shores about 100 m long near Mooloolaba. Thoroughly searching the area at low tide, during the day or at night, did not yield any live specimens. Therefore, it is highly likely that these shells were surfaced by the hermit crabs that were unmistakably found inside. Yet, the area must sustain a colony of live *C. catus* close by, based on the number and state of the shells found (some very “fresh dead”). In the RKK reference book, the habitat of *C. catus* is described as follows: “Intertidal to about 20 m; in protected and exposed sites on benches, rocky shores and subtidal coral reef flats, occupying crevices, pockets or patches of sand with or without vegetation, bare limestone, algal turf and coral rubble”. This description fits quite well the rocky shores of Mooloolaba (see photo), and we suspect that the colony lives slightly below the low tide mark, probably in 1-8 metres of water.

There is a “dark” *C. catus* shown page 357 of the RKK, number 23. This specimen comes from the Marquesas Islands, which are well known for dark forms of other *Conus* species, such as *C. retifer* or *C. textilinus*. However, the “Mooloolaba” shells appear even darker, together with a different pattern. The reason behind this unusual dark coloration is presently unknown, and may reflect a local genetic variation or may be due to cooler environmental conditions. Interestingly, a few shells were found with an orange, redish colour.

Conus chaldeus, (*Virroconus*) Röding, 1798

This is the second species of *Conus* from Mooloolaba for which unusually dark coloration occurs. Most specimens are found among coarse sand pockets in rocky area. In these specimens, the black axial streaks appear fused together, with the white-yellowish portion

left to a very narrow filament. The result is an almost completely black pattern, with white visible only on the apex of the shell. Again, the origin of these variations is currently unknown. *Conus chaldeus* exhibiting the normal pattern co-occur in the area with these black forms. Interestingly, *Conus ebraeus*, a closely related species, is also found on the sunshine coast, but no black specimens have been reported so far.

Planche 1 – *Conus catus*, Mooloolaba, Australia

1. 33.2 mm	11. 39.6 mm
2. 36.6 mm	12. 40.5 mm
3. 41.5 mm	13. 37.0 mm
4. 32.4 mm	14. 44.0 mm
5. 36.1 mm	15. 42.6 mm
6. 39.6 mm	16. 36.4 mm
7. 42.7 mm	17. 39.5 mm
8. 44.2 mm	18. 36.5 mm
9. 40.2 mm	19. 40.4 mm
10. 37.6 mm	20. 26.7 mm

Planche 2 – *Conus chaldeus*, Mooloolaba, Australia

1. 20.2 mm	7. 26.0 mm
2. 21.6 mm	8. 24.9 mm
3. 23.0 mm	9. 25.2 mm
4. 25.0 mm	10. 27.2 mm
5. 30.8 mm	11. 24.5 mm
6. 27.5 mm	12. 26.6 mm

Planche 1 – *Conus catus*, Mooloolaba, Australia

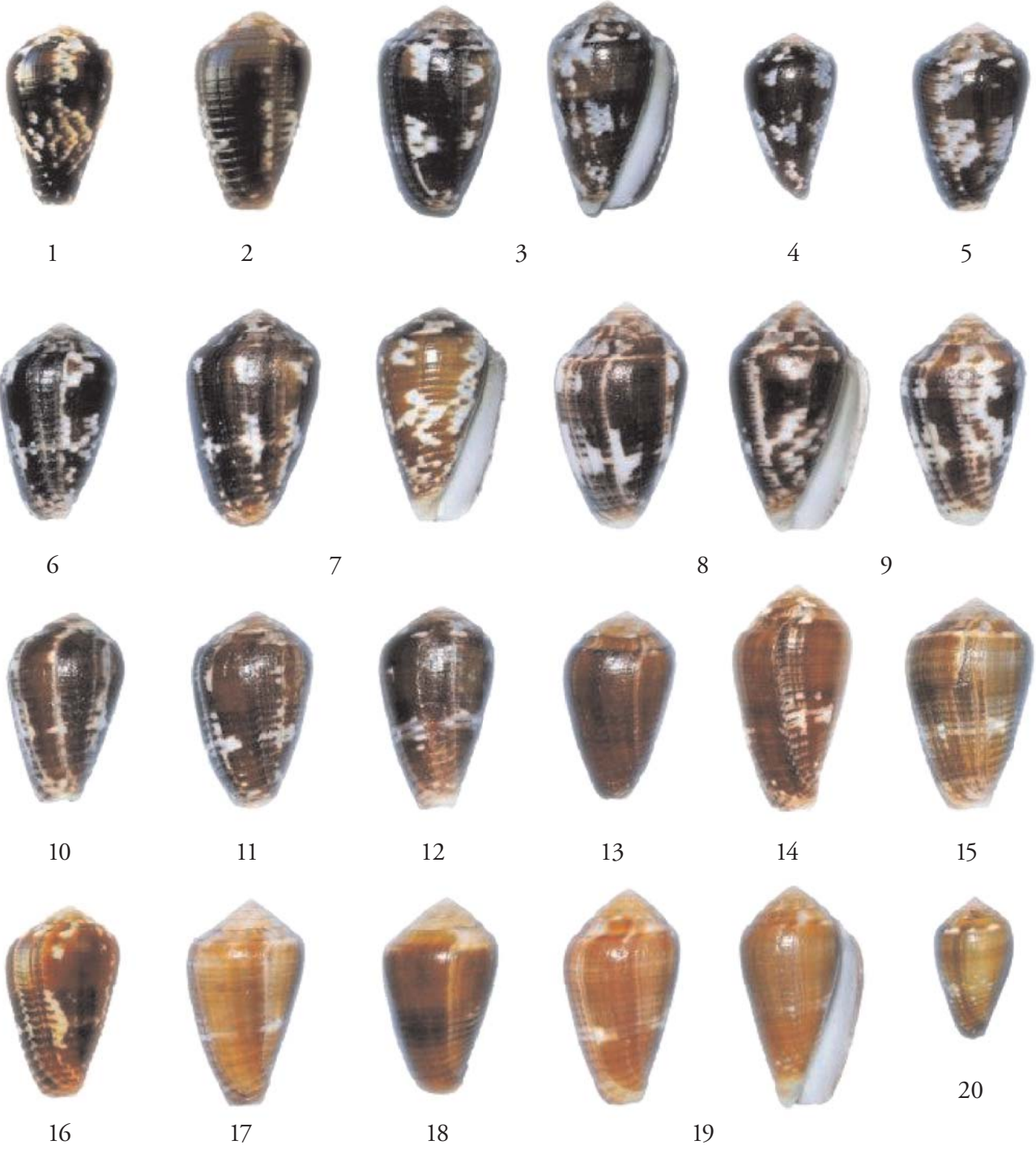


Planche 2 – *Conus chaldeus*, Mooloolaba, Australia



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



Are the species *Rolaniconus balteatus cernicus* (Reeve) and *R. olgiatii* (Bozzetti) the same species?

John K. Tucker

In 2007, Luigi Bozzetti described an interesting mostly yellow colored species of *Rolaniconus* as *R. olgiatii* from Toliara, Madagascar. My first impression was that this represented a form or synonym of the well known *R. balteatus*. As can be seen from the illustration these two are structurally very similar except for that odd yellow color of *R. olgiatii*. Normal *R. balteatus* are tinted purple with varying degrees of white and darker purple-brown (see top row). Most collectors identify the *R. balteatus* from the western Indian Ocean (Reunion to Madagascar and southeast Africa) as *cernicus* using the name for them as a full species, a subspecies, or as a form (e.g., RKK).

Recently, I was able to acquire a small sample (N = 5) of *R. olgiatii*. After examining them in detail, I am not convinced that the two (i.e., *balteatus* and *olgiatii*) are the same species. The color difference is striking and it should be remembered that both of these occur along the coasts of Madagascar. So the new species cannot be a subspecies because there is no geographic isolation. Thus, *R. olgiatii* must either be a different species or a simple color form of *R. balteatus*. After I set up the illustration, I noted that shells of *R. olgiatii* seemed be decidedly wider at the shoulder than were the *R. balteatus* from Madagascar that I was comparing it with.

I measured the length of the shell, the width of the shell and the spire height for all the specimens I had available (5 *olgiatii* and 11 *balteatus*) and compared these using the computer statistical package from SAS, Inc. A word of caution is needed. Namely the sample size is pitifully small but it was what was easily available to me. These two do differ statistically in both shell width and spire height ($p < 0.008$). Essentially *R. olgiatii* is statistically wider at the shoulder and shorter spired than is *R. balteatus* from Madagascar. I adjusted for differing shell sizes by using an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) with the shell length as the covariate. This procedure produces what is called a least squares mean (= lsm) for each trait for each species. For *R. olgiatii*

the lsm for shell width is 14.4 mm compared to the lsm for width for *R. balteatus* of 13.0 mm. For the spire height, the lsm for *olgiatii* is 1.55 mm and that for *balteatus* is 2.37 mm. These pair-wise comparisons are statistically significant. Whether they are also biologically significant will have to await detailed ecological studies. However, given a difference in shell shape along with the obvious difference in coloration, I think it is reasonable to consider *R. olgiatii* and *R. balteatus* to be closely related but distinct species.

Luigi Bozzetti informed me that *R. olgiatii* is found only in the Toliara region, whereas *R. balteatus* occurs there and all along the coasts of Madagascar. Thus these two appear to occur in sympatry further supporting the hypothesis that these two are different species.

References

- Bozzetti, L. 2007. *Conus olgiatii* (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia: Conidae) nuova specie dal Madagascar Sud-Occidentale. *Malacologia Mostra Mondiale* 54(1):16-17
- Röckel, D., Korn, W. & Kohn, A. J. 1995. *Manual of the Living Conidae Volume 1: Indo-Pacific Region*. Verlag Christa Hemmen, Wiesbaden, 517 pp.

Figures

Top row 1-3: *Rolaniconus balteatus* (Reeve) from Toliara, Madagascar, collected at low tides, reef edge, rocks. Shell lengths are from left to right: 26.9, 25.5 and 24.5 mm

Bottom row 4-6: *Rolaniconus olgiatii* (Bozzetti) collected in shallow water, intertidal, from north of Toliara, Madagascar. Shell lengths are from left to right: 26.5, 24.5 and 24. mm

Plate 1 – *Rolaniconus balteatus* (top) and *Rolaniconus olgiatii* (bottom)



1

2

3



4

5

6

Fine thai cones

(Paul Kersten & Somwang Patamakanthin)

Paul Kersten has sent pictures of interesting Cones from Thailand. These specimens belong to the collection of Somwang Patamakanthin, to whom we extend our sincere thanks for allowing us to publish the photos. No measurements for the specimens were supplied.

Figures

1-3 - *Conus patamakanthini* Delsaerdt, 1997

4-6 - *Conus phuketensis* da Motta, 1978

7-10 - *Conus ranonganus* da Motta, 1978



1

2

3



4

5

6



7

8



9

10

Conus consors in Australia

Jon F. Singleton

Conus consors Sowerby I & II, 1833 is a well known large species which can attain a length in excess of 120 mm. It is represented by a type figure in Sowerby, size 63 x 34 mm, the type locality not being stated, but later designated as Singapore. The known range is from East Africa to the Western Pacific.

This cone is found within Queensland waters, but is extremely uncommon, and my own specimens, plus a handful of others were all trawled from depths between 40 to 60 metres. This is an easily recognizable species, the standard pattern being a few broad bands of varying shades of light brown, and a white aperture. Within the nomenclature there are *forma* synonyms, of which I feel only three are distinct enough to be considered “forms”, but none of these are known from Australia.

I have always expected *C. consors* to be found around the off-shore islands and reefs off the N. W. Coast of Western Australia, but it remains strangely absent. If it is found, likely it might be the *C. turschi* da Motta, 1985, the form with the striking black markings.

The illustrated specimens range in length from 66 to 95 mm, the two largest from off the Mellish Reef, and the other from off Tideway Reef.



An odd *C. bayani*?

Jon F. Singleton

At a recent shell show in Queensland, I obtained a large striking cone, elongated with straight sides and a flattened spire. As to identity, I can only think this is an unusual form of *C. bayani* Jousseume, 1872.

The stated location was Thailand, but this may well be incorrect. The Thai fishing trawlers range far afield from their home waters, and likely all shells landed on return are just labeled as “trawled off Thailand”.

I consider it more likely that this cone was trawled a lot further west of Thai waters, very possibly the Andaman Islands region.



Conus bayani
94.9 x 44.7 mm
Thailand?

Australian Corner

Jon F. Singleton

#42 - *Conus armadillo*

Conus armadillo was described and named by Shikama, 1970, and the type locality stated to be Taiwan. Over the ensuing years the range has been extended from Japan, and south to New Caledonia. The holotype, size 73 mm x 32.6 mm, is within the KPMY. Although not stated within the original description, one assumes the name was for the colour and sculpture which resembles the armoured land animal. A colour illustration of the type is shown within the Walls Cone Book.

C. armadillo has not been found alive as yet within Australian waters, but there are records of two dead and eroded specimens from off the Queensland Coast. Both specimens were trawled from depths of 200-220 metres, so with deep water prawning vessels working at these depths, there is hope for the living specimen to surface in the future.

Reference

Walls, J. G., 1979. Cone Shells – *A Synopsis of the Living Conidae*.



77 x 31 mm
Sauramez Reef
Queensland



76 x 30 mm
Lady Elliot Is.
Queensland

Photos 7-9

Conus trencarti Nolf & Verstraeten, 2008 – 42.04 mm
Senegal

Photos 10-12

Conus cakobai Moolenbeek, Röckel & Bouchet, 2008 – 33.67 mm
Philippines

Photos 13-15

Conus lorosii insignis Dautzenberg, 1939 – 125.30 mm
Philippines

Photos 16-18

Conus floccatus magdalenae Kiener, 1845 – 73.2 mm
Philippines

Photos 19-21

Conus glorioceanus Poppe & Tagaro, 2009 – 47.22 mm
Philippines

A gallery of exceptional specimens

(Philippe Quiquandon)



Conus genuanus Linnaeus, 1758
92.30 mm
Cape Verde Islands





Conus kinoshitai calliginosus Shikama, 1979
94.52 mm
Balut Island, Philippines





Conus trencarti Nolf & Verstraeten, 2008
42.04 mm
Senegal





Conus lorioi insignis Dautzenberg, 1939
125.30 mm
Philippines





Conus floccatus magdalenae Kiener, 1845
73.2 mm
Philippines





Conus glorioceanus Poppe & Tagaro, 2009
47.22 mm
Philippines





Conus cakobau
Moolenbeek, Röckel & Bouchet, 2008
33.67 mm Philippines

MEA CULPA

John K. Tucker

Recently Mr. Bruce Neville correctly identified the cones I referred to as *Conus recurvus* Broderip 1833 as *Conus emarginatus* Reeve 1844. However, this error was not intentional on my part since what happened was that I violated one of my own rules relating to adding new shells to my collection.

My rule has always been to curate all newly acquired shells regardless of how or from where they were acquired before adding them to my cabinets. In this case I obtained the Cones in the 2010 Auction of our Houston Conchology Society which received them as a donation from the Houston Museum of Natural Science with the original labels of Theresa Stelzig, Leola Glass and R.A. Sparlin. I placed them in my Cone cabinets with the intention of later curating the shells and correcting the labels, if needed.

However, a short time later I noticed the “hump” on one of the shells and decided to write about the little Slipper Shell and forgot that I had not completed the process of identifying these cones as I had intended to do. The rest is now history so I say to Mr. Neville, MEA CULPA.

A cone with two apertures

(Michel Boutet)



Some time ago, we received from our friend Michel Boutet some photos of an exceptional specimen of *Conus pulicarius*, which we had not yet published. Here it is now for your delight.

The specimen measures 36.8 mm and was collected at Papara, Tahiti by Michel's wife; it was resting on sand bottom, about 30 cm deep.

An exceptional and unusual specimen indeed!

A dark *Conus floccatus*

(Remy Devorsine)

We have received from Remy Devorsine these photos of a wonderful dark *C. floccatus*. Certainly a wonderful specimen.

Conus floccatus Sowerby, 1841

58.6 mm

Mindanao, Philippines



Etymology of Cone species names

António Monteiro

You may remember that in TCC #13 I started the publication of a list explaining the etymology of the names of species (and subspecies) of Cones. That first instalment dealt with West African Cones and now it is time to resume the work with everything else.

Proceeding alphabetically, in the present article I will cover letters A and B. Any comments or opinions concerning these listings will of course be most welcome, particularly since in a few instances the etymology indicated may be subject to debate.

Thanks are due to the following friends for their help in this compilation: Paul Kersten, Bill Fenzan, Kelly Dhondt, Paul Callomon, Prof. Takashi Okutani and Clara Gaspar.

abbas Hwass, 1792

From the Latin, meaning “abbot”

abbotti Clench, 1942

Named after Robert Tucker Abbott (1919-1995)

abbreviatus Reeve, 1843

From the Latin, meaning “shortened” or “abbreviated”

abrolhosensis Petuch, 1987

Named after the Abrolhos archipelago, off Bahia, Brasil

achatinus Gmelin, 1791

From the Latin *achates*, meaning “agate”, hence the “agate-like” Cone

aculeiformis Reeve, 1843

From the Latin *aculeus* meaning “spine” or “prickle”, hence the “prickle-shaped” Cone

aculeiformis delicatus Schepman, 1913

From the Latin, meaning “delicate”

acuminatus Hwass, 1792

From the Latin, meaning “pointed” or “sharpened”

acutangulus Lamarck, 1810

From the Latin, meaning “sharp-angled”

acutimarginatus Sowerby, 1866

From the Latin, meaning “with sharp margins”

adamii Bozzetti, 1994

Named after William Adam (1909-1988), Belgian malacologist

adamsonii Broderip, 1836

Named after John Adamson (1787-1855), of Newcastle, England, scholar and shell collector

alabaster Reeve, 1849

From the Greek *alabastros*, a finely granulate, often white and translucent, form of gypsum

alainallaryi Bozzetti & Monnier, 2009

Named after Alain Allary, French conchologist and shell dealer

alconnelli da Motta, 1986

Named after Allan (Al) Donovan Connell, (b. 1943), South African conchologist

algoensis Sowerby, 1834

Named after Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth, South African east coast

algoensis agulhasi Coomans, Moolenbeek & Wils, 1980

Named after Cape Agulhas, Western Cape Province, South Africa

algoensis scitulus Reeve, 1849

From the Latin, a diminutive of *scitus*, meaning “questioned”, “ascertained”, but “handsome”, “elegant”, “trim” or “neat”

algoensis simplex Sowerby, 1858

From the Latin, meaning “plain”, “simple”

alisi Mollenbeek, Röckel & Richard, 1995

Named after R. V. “Alis”, the vessel used for ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d’Outre-Mer, later renamed IRD, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement) cruises

allaryi Bozzetti, 2008

Named after Alain Allary, French conchologist and shell dealer

altispiratus Sowerby, 1873

From the Latin, “high spired”

amadis Gmelin, 1791

According to Reeve, the “Amadis” Cone, possibly from Amadis de Gaula, a 16th century Spanish tale of chivalry

amadis castaneofasciatus Dautzenberg, 1937

From the Latin, “with brown bands”

amadis arbornatalis da Motta, 1978

From the Latin, “similar to a Christmas tree”

amadis schech Dautzenberg, 1937

Etymology unknown

ammiralis Linnaeus, 1758

The “admiral” (military rank) cone

ammiralis archithalassus Solander, 1786

From the Greek *thalassa* meaning “sea”, with the prefix *archi* meaning “most important”

ammiralis blainvillii Vignard, 1829

Named after Henri Marie Ducrotay de Blainville (1777-1850), French zoologist

ammiralis pseudoceconulli Blainville, 1818

From the Latin, “resembling *ceconulli*”

ammiralis temnes Iredale, 1930

Possibly from the Greek *temnein*, meaning “to cut”, “to break into two parts”

amphiurgus Dall, 1889

From the Latin *amphi* meaning “both” and the Greek *ourgos* (= artisan?)

amphiurgus juliae Clench, 1942

Named after Julia Helmich, who married William J. Clench in 1924

anabathrum Crosse, 1865

From the Greek, meaning “a raised chair” or “platform”

anabathrum burryae Clench, 1942

Named after L. A. Burry, American conchologist

anabathrum floridensis Sowerby, 1870

From the Latin, “from Florida”

anabathrum philippii Kiener, 1845

Named after Rudolph Amandus Philippi, (1808-1904), German palaeontologist and zoologist who worked in Chile

anabathrum tranthami Petuch, 1995

Named after William Trantham, instructor of Marine Biology at the Florida Keys Community College

anaglypticus Crosse, 1865

From the Greek *anaglyphos*, meaning “wrought in low relief”

andamanensis Smith, 1878

Named after the Andaman Sea, northeastern Indian Ocean

andremenezi Olivera & Biggs, 2010

Named after André Menéz (1943-2008), French biochemist and toxinology expert

anemone Lamarck, 1810

From the Latin (and ancient Greek) *anemone*, meaning “daughter of the wind”, applied to a flower and also to animals of the order *Actiniaria*

anemone carmeli Tenison-Woods, 1877

Etymology unknown

anemone compressus Sowerby, 1866

From the Latin, meaning “compressed” or “restrained”

anemone novaehollandiae A. Adams, 1854

From the Latin, “New Holland”, the name given to Australia in 1644 by the Dutch seafarer Abel Tasman

anemone peronianus Iredale, 1931

Named after Peron, a suburb of Perth, Western Australia

anemone remo Brazier, 1898

Apparently from the Latin *remus*, meaning “oar” (?)

anemone saundersi Cotton, 1945

Named after Frank Lionel Saunders (1887-?) or Victoria Parsons Saunders (b. 1914), American conchologists

anemone singletoni Cotton, 1945

Named after F. A. Singleton (1897-1947), Australian conchologist

angasi angasi Tryon, 1884

Named after George French Angas (1822-1886), English naturalist and painter

angasi advertex Garrard, 1961

Possibly from the Latin *advertere*, meaning “to turn one’s attention to”

angioiorum Röckel & Moolnbeek, 1992

Named after Kety and Mario Angioi, conchologists and editors of the magazine *La Conchiglia*

anosyensis Bozzetti, 2008

Named after nome the region of Anosy, southeastern Madagascar

anthonyi Petuch, 1975

Named after the late Dr. James Anthony, an invertebrate zoologist who was the author’s Master’s thesis adviser at the University of Wisconsin

aphrodite Petuch, 1979

From Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty and love in Greek mythology (from *aphros* = sea foam)

aplustre Reeve, 1843

Possibly from Latin or Greek, meaning an ornamental appendage of wood at a ship’s stern, usually curved like a bird’s feather

araneosus Lightfoot, 1786

From the Latin *aranea*, meaning “spider”, referring to the pattern of the shell, that is remindful of a cobweb

araneosus nicobaricus Hwass, 1792

Named after the Nicobar Islands (eastern Indian Ocean)

arangoi Sarasúa, 1977

Named after Rafael Arango y Molina (1837-1893), a Cuban malacologist

archetypus Crosse, 1865

From the Latin *archetypum*, meaning “model”

archetypus beddomei Sowerby II, 1901

Named after Colonel Richard Henry Beddome (1830-1911), British military officer and naturalist

archetypus bertarollae Costa & Simone, 1997

Named after Berta Roll, the wife of Arthur Roll (1907-2005), German shell collectors

archetypus brasiliensis Clench, 1942

Named after Brasil

archon Broderip, 1833

From the Greek *arkhein*, meaning “to rule”, hence the “ruler” or “magistrate” Cone

arcuatus Broderip & Sowerby, 1829

From the Latin *arcus*, meaning “arch”, hence the “arched” Cone

ardisiaceus Kiener, 1845

From low Latin *ardesia*, meaning “slate” or referring to its colour

arenatus Hwass, 1792

From the Latin, “resembling sand” (referring to the pattern of the shell)

arenatus aequipunctatus Dautzenberg, 1937

From the Latin, “evenly-spaced dots”

arenatus bizona Coomans, Moolenbeek & Wils, 1981

From the Latin, “two-banded”

arenatus granulosa Dautzenberg, 1937

From the Latin, “bearing granules”

armadillo Shikama, 1971

Refers to the visual aspect of the shell, which rather resembles the American mammals of the family *Dasipodidae*; the word “armadillo” comes from the Spanish and means “little armour”

armiger Crosse, 1858

From the Latin, meaning “carrying weapons or armour”

armiger clarki Rehder & Abbott, 1951

Named after Austin Hobart Clark, (1880-1954), American malacologist

articulatus Sowerby, 1873

From the Latin, meaning “articulated” or “joined”

articulatus lombei Sowerby II, 1881

Named after Thomas Lombe Taylor (1802-1874), British shell collector

articulatus nadaensis Azuma & Toki, 1970

Named after Nada city, Kobe, Japan

articulatus tosaensis Shikama, 1970

Named after Tosa Bay, Japan

artoptus Sowerby, 1833

From the Latin *artopta*, a bread baking pan, probably referring to the shape of the shell, or from the Greek *artos*, meaning “bread” and *optos*, meaning “baked” or “roasted”, maybe referring to the colour of the shell

asiaticus da Motta, 1985

Named after Asia

asiaticus lovellreevei Raybaudi, 1993

Named after Lovell Augustus Reeve (1814-1865), English conchologist and natural history dealer

atheneae Filmer & Severns, 2011

Named after Athena, supposedly the daughter, but actually the granddaughter of J. J. Jackson

attenuatus Reeve, 1844

From the Latin, meaning “attenuated” or “made slender”

attenuatus ustickei Miller, 1859

Named after Gordon Wright Nowell-Usticke (1894-1978), British malacologist

atractus Tomlin, 1937

From the Latin *atractus*, meaning “drawn to”

atractus austini Rehder & Abbott, 1951

Named after Austin, Texas

augur Lightfoot, 1786

From the Latin, meaning “a diviner” or “a soothsayer”, possibly because the decoration of the shell is remindful of arrays used in divination

aulicus Linnaeus, 1758

From the Latin, meaning “princely” or “of a prince’s court”

aulicus aurantia Dautzenberg, 1937

From the Latin, meaning “golden”

aulicus auratus Hwass, 1792

From the Latin, meaning “golden” or “gilded”

aulicus gracianus Dautzenberg, 1937

From the Latin *gratia*, meaning “kindness”, from *gratus*, meaning “pleasing”

aulicus propenudus Melvill, 1900

From the Greek *prope*, meaning “almost”, and *nudus*, meaning “naked” (probably referring to the reduced pattern of the shells)

aurantius Hwass, 1792

From the Latin, meaning “golden” or “orange”

auratinus da Motta, 1982

From the Latin, meaning “small *auratus*”

aureolus Sowerby, 1858

From the Latin, meaning “made of gold” or “gold-coloured”

aureolus patglicksteinae Petuch, 1987

Named after Patricia Clara Landfield Glickstein (1933-2010), the wife of Marvin R. Glickstein, American shell collectors

aureonimbus Petuch, 1987

From the Latin, meaning “golden-clouded”

aureopunctatus Petuch, 1987

From the Latin, meaning “golden-dotted”

aureus Hwass, 1792

From the Latin, meaning “golden”

aureus paulucciae Sowerby, 1877

Named after the Marquessa Marianna Panciatichi Ximenes d’Aragona Paulucci (1835-1919), Italian malacologist

auricomus Hwass, 1792

From the Latin *aurum*, meaning “gold”, and *coma*, meaning “hair”, hence the “golden-haired” Cone

aurisiacus Linnaeus, 1758

From the Latin, meaning “orange”

australis Sowerby, 1823

From the Latin, meaning “southern”

australis duplicatus Holten, 1802

From the Latin, meaning “duplicate” or “double”

austroviola Röckel & Korn, 1992

From the Latin *australis*, meaning “southern”, and *viola*, meaning “violet”

axelrodi Walls, 1978

Named after Herbert Richard Axelrod (b. 1927) an American tropical fish expert and publisher of pet books

baccatus Sowerby, 1877

From the Latin, meaning “frenzied”

baeri Röckel & Korn, 1992

Named after Ted W. Baer, Swiss shell collector

bahamensis Vink & Röckel, 1995

Named after the Bahamas Islands, Western Atlantic

baiano Coltro, 2004

Named after the Bahia State, Brasil; in Portuguese, “*baiano*” means “from Bahia”

baileyi Röckel & da Motta, 1979

Named after Brian Bailey, conchologist from Honiara, Solomon Islands

bairstowi Sowerby, 1889

Named after Samuel Denton Bairstow (?-1899), South African (originally Yorkshire) naturalist

bajanensis Nowell-Usticke, 1968

From *Bajan*, a native of the Barbados (a variant of *Badian*, itself a shortened form of Barbadian)

balteatus Sowerby, 1833

From the Latin, meaning “motley” or “specked”; another translation of *balteatus* (which is a participle) is “furnished with a girdle or belt, belted”

balteatus cernicus Barclay & Adams, 1869

From the Latin, meaning “sieved”; other possibilities are: from the Latin *cernere*, meaning “to separate”, “to sift”, or “to discern”, “to distinguish” (with your eyes), or else “to decide”, “to take a decision in a difficult (doubtful) situation”

balteatus pigmentatus Adams & Reeve, 1848

From the Latin, meaning “colourful”

bandanus Hwass, 1792

Named after the Banda Sea (Indonesia)

bandanus equestris Röding, 1798

From the Latin, meaning “equestrian” or “related to cavalry”

bandanus nigrescens Sowerby, 1859
From the Latin, meaning “blackish”

bandanus vidua Reeve, 1843
From the Latin, meaning “widow”

barbieri Raybaudi, 1995
Named after Jean-Pierre Barbier, French conchologist and shell dealer living in the Philippines

barthelemyi Bernardi, 1861
Named after Baron Barthélemy de Basterot (1800-1887), French lawyer and palaeontologist

bartschi Hanna & Strong, 1949
Named after Paul Bartsch (1871-1960), German-American malacologist

bayani Joussemae, 1872
Named after Joseph Félix Ferdinand Bayan (1845-1874), French conchologist

bayeri Petuch, 1987
Named after Frederick (or Ted) Merkle Bayer (1921-2007), American malacologist

beatrice Tenorio, Poppe & Tagaro, 2007
Named after Beatriz Jiménez Sánchez, niece of the first author

bengalensis Okutani, 1968
Named after the Bay of Bengal (north Indian Ocean)

berdulinus Veillard, 1972
Named after Mrs. Berdu, who collected the first specimen

bessei Petuch, 1992
Named after Bruno Besse, French conchologist and shell dealer

betulinus Linnaeus, 1758
Apparently from the Latin *betula*, meaning “birch-

tree”, hence *betulinus* = birch-like (possibly referring to the colour and pattern of the shell)

betulinus zulu Petuch, 1979
Named after the Zulu people from South Africa

biancae Bozzetti, 2010
Named after the author’s granddaughter Bianca

bilius Röding, 1798
From the Latin *bilis*, meaning “bile”, possibly referring to the general colouration of the shell

bilius meyeri Walls, 1979
Named after Michael Meyer, South African naturalist

bilius parvulus Link, 1807
From the Latin, meaning “little” or “slight”

biraghii Raybaudi, 1993
Named after Guglielmo Biraghi, Italian conchologist

biraghii congruens Korn & Raybaudi, 1993
From the Latin, meaning “compatible”

biraghii omanensis Moolenbeek & Coomans, 1993
Named after the Sultanate of Oman (southeast Arabian Peninsula)

blanfordianus Crosse, 1867
Named after either William Thomas Blanford (1832-1905) or his brother Henry Francis Blanford (1835-1893), pioneers of Indian conchology

bodarti Coltro, 2004
Named after Alfredo Bodart, a Brazilian conchologist

boeticus Reeve, 1844
Possibly from the Latin *boetis*, a she-goat with which the Greek god Zeus consorted

boeticus cerinus Reeve, 1848

From the Latin *cera*, meaning “wax”, hence the “waxen” Cone

boeticus empressae Lorenz, 2002

Named after the ship *MV Empress* and its owners, Vidar and Alice Skoglie

boeticus meleus Sowerby, 1913

Possibly from the Latin *melleus*, meaning “resembling honey”

boeticus rivularius Reeve, 1849

From the Latin *rivulus*, meaning a small stream, probably referring to the pattern of shell

boeticus ruppellii Reeve, 1848

Named after Wilhelm Peter Eduard Simon Rüppell (1794-1884), a German naturalist and explorer

boholensis Petuch, 1979

Named after Bohol Island in the Philippines (Central Visayas region)

bondarevi Röckel & Massilia, 1992

Named after Igor Petrovich Bondarev, an Ukrainian conchologist

bonfiglioli Bozzetti, 2010

Named after Mauro Bonfiglioli, Italian conchologist

boschorum Moolenbeek & Coomans, 1993

Named after Donald Taeke Bosch (b. 1917), American medical officer and amateur malacologist resided in Oman, and his wife Eloise Bosch

boucheti Richard, 1983

Named after Philippe Bouchet (b. 1953), French malacologist

bozzettii Lauer, 1991

Named after Luigi Bozzetti, Italian conchologist and shell dealer

branhamae Clench, 1953

Named after Mrs. Hugh Branham, an American shell collector

brianhayesi Korn, 2001

Named after Brian Hayes, South African conchologist and shell dealer

broderipii Reeve, 1844

Named after William John Broderip (1789-1859), English shell collector

bruguieresi Kiener, 1845

Named after Jean Guillaume Bruguière (1749-1798), French doctor and naturalist

bruneofilaris Petuch, 1990

From the Latin, meaning “brown-streaked”, in reference to the characteristic thin brown lines of the shell’s pattern

brunneus Wood, 1828

From the Latin, meaning “brown”

bruuni Powell, 1958

Named after Anton Frederik Bruun (1901-1961), Dutch oceanographer and ichthyologist

bullatus Linnaeus, 1758

From the Latin, meaning “bubble-like”

bullatus articulata Dautzenberg, 1937

From the Latin, meaning “articulated”, “jointed”, but also “distinct”

bullatus pongo Shikama & Oishi, 1977

According to Prof. Takashi Okutani, “the name ‘pongo’ will be due to a misunderstanding of Prof. Shikama; the shape of *C. bullatus* looks like a conga rather than a pongo and Shikama most probably confused ‘conga’ and ‘pongo’, because both of them are native percussion instruments, and thus he mistakenly named pongo while thinking of conga; this is my personal guess, but may be right”

New Taxa

Here are the latest described taxa for Cones. I thank the authors for supplying details of the original descriptions and photos of the types.

1) *zandbergeni*

"A well known cone masquerading as *Conus broderipii* Reeve, 1844 is now named *Conus zandbergeni* n. sp. (*Gastropoda: Conidae*)" R. M. Filmer & R. G. Moolenbeek, *Miscellanea Malacologica* 4(5): 75-80

Conus zandbergeni Filmer & Moolenbeek, 2010



Holotype – 38.1 mm

Holotype in the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam, the Netherlands (no.179253)

Type locality: Sulu Sea, Philippines

Etymology: named after Arnold Zandbergen, Dutch conchologist and Cone collector

2) *leviteni*, ssp. *oahuensis*, *paukstisi*

"A Revision of the Status of Several Conoid Taxa from the Hawaiian Islands: Description of *Darioconus leviteni* sp. nov., *Pionoconus striatus oahuensis* ssp. nov., and *Harmoniconus paukstisi* sp. nov. (*GASTROPODA, CONIDAE*)" John K. Tucker, Manuel J. Tenorio & Henry W. Chaney in Mike Severns, *Shells of the Hawaiian Islands – The Sea Shells*, 2011

Darioconus leviteni Tucker, Tenorio & Chaney, 2011



Holotype – 64.4 mm

Holotype in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, California, U.S.A. (no. 423910)

Type locality: Oahu Island, Hawaii

Etymology: Named after the late Paul J. Leviten, a gifted ecologist and a student of the Hawaiian cone fauna



Paratype 3 (left) – 61.0 mm
Paratype 2 (right) – 51.8 mm

Pioconus striatus oahuensis Tucker, Tenorio & Chaney, 2011



Holotype – 106.8 mm

Holotype: In the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural

History, California, U.S.A. (no. 90431)

Type locality: Oahu Island, Hawaii

Etymology: Named after the type locality

Harmoniconus paukstisi Tucker, Tenorio & Chaney, 2011



Holotype – 25.0 mm

Holotype in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, California, U.S.A. (no. 90226)

Type locality: Oahu Island, Hawaii

Etymology: Named after the late Gary L. Paukstis, herpetologist and naturalist.

3) *athenae*

"A New Conus Species from the Hawaiian Islands (*Gastropoda: Conidae*)" R. M. Filmer in Mike Severns, *Shells of the Hawaiian Islands – The Sea Shells*, 2011

Conus athenae Filmer, 2011



Holotype – 22.65 mm

Holotype in the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii (no. 216315)

Type locality: Hawaii

Etymology: Named after Athena, supposedly the daughter, but actually the granddaughter of Mt. J. J. Jackson

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM MIKE FILMER

*I would like to apologise for some errors in my article describing *C. athenae* published in The book “Shells of the Hawaiian Islands – The Sea Shells” by Mike Severns. Firstly Athena after whom the species is named is The Grand Daughter not the Daughter of J.J. Jackson. Secondly, I should have included under “Acknowledgements” Ms Kathie Way of NHMUK for access to the collections and permission to photograph the holotype of *C. granifer* Reeve and I should have changed the references to BMNH to NHMUK.*

4) *denizi*

"A new, distinct endemic *Africonus* species (*Gastropoda, Conidae*) from São Vicente Island, Cape Verde Archipelago, West Africa" Carlos M. L. Afonso & Manuel J. Tenorio

Africonus denizi Afonso & Tenorio, 2011



Holotype – 11.62 mm

Holotype in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales de Madrid, Spain

Type locality: Praia Grande, Calhau, northeast coast of São Vicente Island, Cape Verde Archipelago

Etymology: Named after Francisco Deniz Guerra, a Spanish amateur collector

Range extension for *Conus moncuri*?

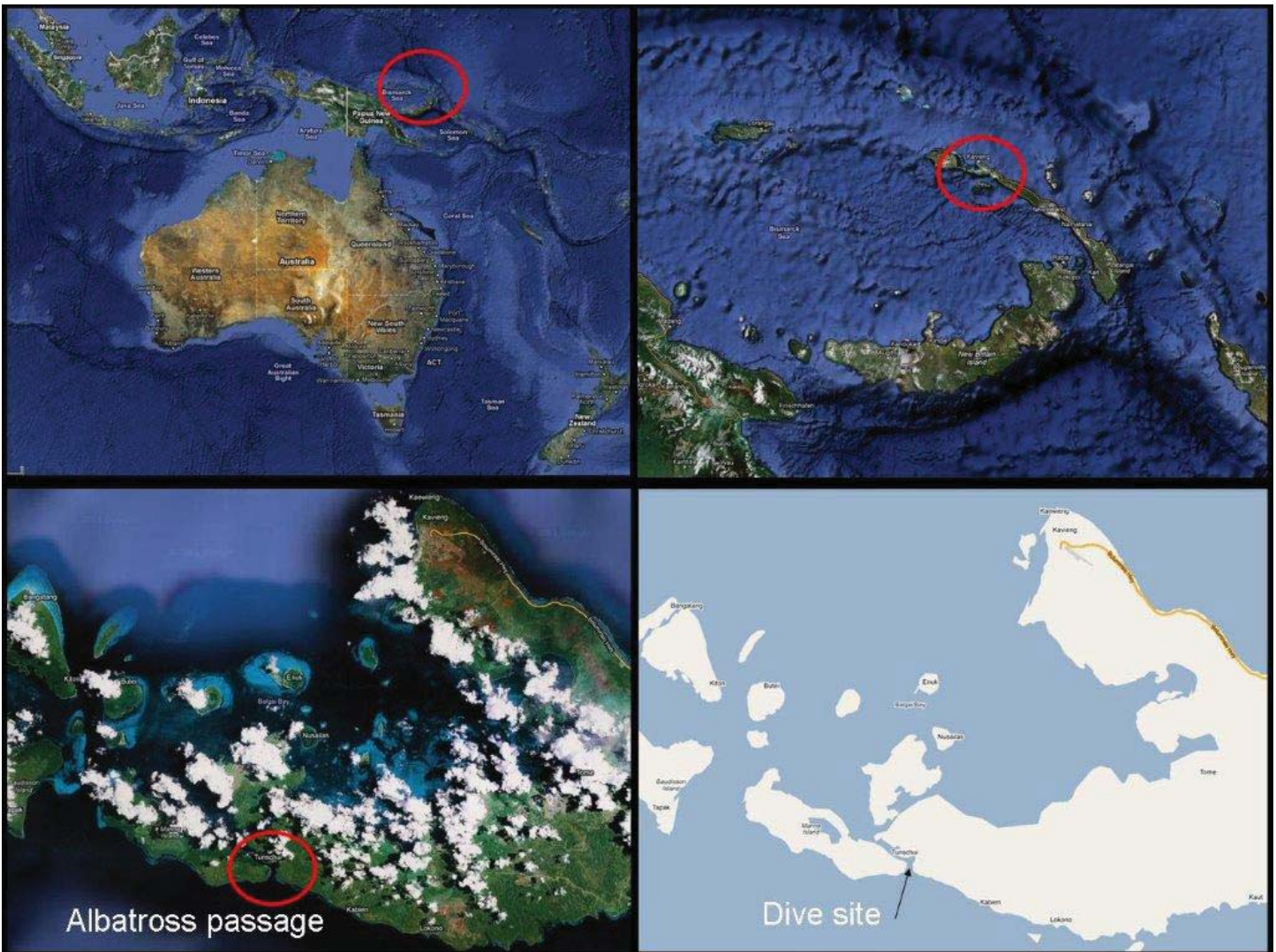
Sebastien Dutertre

We study cone snail venom here at the University of Queensland, and recently we went on to collect in Papua New Guinea, New Ireland province, near Kavieng. There, we found a cone that we could not identify at a first glance. After discussing that matter with members of the shell club here in Brisbane, we thought that the correct identification might be *Conus moncuri* Filmer, 2005, a recently described species.

The photos of the species were submitted to António Monteiro and Mike Filmer, to try to confirm this identification. Both were of the opinion that it is quite

likely to be correct, although some features – especially the dark violet blotch on the anterior end of the aperture – should be checked. Unfortunately, the accompanying photos are all that is left from that unique specimen, since the actual shell was not kept!

The idea of it being *C. moncuri* is very seducing and exciting, since in that case Papua New Guinea would be a new locality for that species, which was so far only described from the Philippines and South China, Vanuatu and Salomon Islands.



A strange specimen

Paul Kersten

Conus moncuri Filmer, 2005

Size: ~ 8 cm

Location: Found at the “Albatross Passage” by scuba diving, gps coordinates 02° 36.659' S / 150° 42.577' E

Habitat on site: live coral, sandy bottom 30 m, coral wall drop off

Here is a photo of a very strange specimen from Samal, in the Philippines, which I recently acquired for my collection. The specimen measures 33.4 mm and is identified as *Conus moluccensis* Küster, 1838. The colour is quite interesting.



Thoughts about aberrant *Conidae*

Lyle Therriault

Lately I have been giving some thought towards the aberrant *Conidae* that sprinkle my collection. I have noticed that it seems no species are safe from becoming twisted and malformed. Turreted spires grow forth, shoulders sink and in some cases a broken lip becomes inflated well beyond its normal plane. Naturally I asked myself what causes these mutations within species. I broke the question down into sections, as follows.

1. What causes mutations

- a. Are they mainly predatory
- b. Are they caused by external environment factors (ex. grain of sand under the mantle)
- c. Are they caused by man (ex. pollution, global warming)
- d. Are they caused by weather related environmental changes (ex. typhoons, earthquakes, tides)

After much research online, I was disappointed to realize that there are just little to no studies concerning such a question. There have been some papers written about effects of freshwater mollusks in terms of breeding rates, population declines and the matter when it comes to human intervention regarding pollution mainly. Yet little has come to light in regards as to what could cause mutations among marine species. I suspect that there is a chance of mutations being caused by every factor listed above, but in terms of frequency or numbers I would conclude that listing such would be nearly impossible to do on any level.

Recently I asked a number of shell collectors who collect mostly cones, to share their thoughts about the causes. Nearly every person who responded indicated in their replies that most mutated specimens are the result of predatory actions. Fish bites and crab attacks topped the list. This to me makes perfect sense, as we

are hardly able to visually observe such occurrences. One would believe, though not supported by study, that predatory attacks are the reason for 90% of mutated specimens that we see. Given the enormous numbers of mollusks and the enormous numbers of creatures that feed upon them, I would conclude that this is what gives rise to the majority of mutated specimens that we see. Imagine the number of specimens that were totally broken apart and dashed into pieces that we cannot see!

While this short article is not meant to be scientifically conclusive, I believe that a number of people would agree that nature itself gives way to creating living things which are different than the norm, in a variety of different ways. Much like our own human race, mollusks are not always perfect beautiful specimens, but they should be appreciated just as much as the specimens underneath a layer of glass or settled within a drawer. I would appreciate ANY thoughts about this subject, especially for those who are more scientifically inclined and know of any research done, papers written, etc.

For your viewing, I have included some photos of specimens within my own collection.



Conus delesertii - 79mm
From scallop boats, approx 50 meters depth, outside
Daytona Beach , FL, label says 1960



Conus furvus - 48.4mm
From deep water tangle net
Balut, Phillipines, 2007



Conus janus - 63 mm
Tulear, Madagascar, by
local fishermen 2007,
probably netted



Conus miles - 87mm
From fishermen in shallow
water, probably snorkeled,
Tulear, Madagascar



Conus marmoreus 59mm
Negros, Molocaboc
Island, Philippines,
by local fishermen in
shallow water, 2007



Conus coronatus 24mm
Reunion Rocks,
Durban, Natal, South
Africa, in sand in tidal
pool. Ex-coll. Meyer,
1967



Conus magus – 77 and 55 mm
Philippines, Balut, by divers in shallow water
about 20 feet among debris



Conus armadillo - Samal, Balut Island, Philippines,
from local fishermen, deep water tangle nets,
80-100 meters

When is a shell book not a shell book?

John K. Tucker

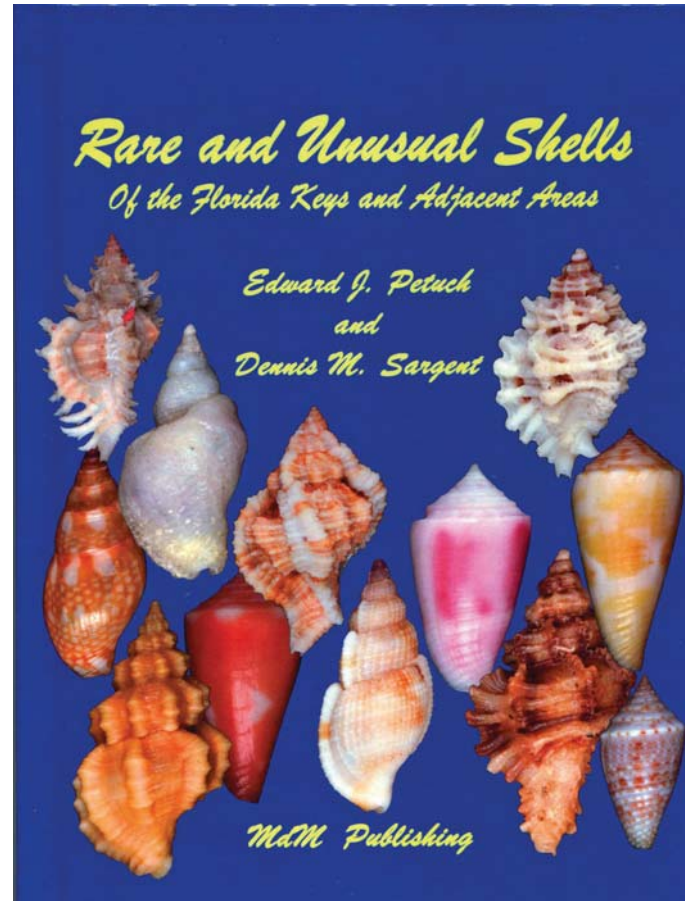
Recently I received a copy of the book *Rare and Unusual Shells of the Florida Keys and Adjacent Areas* by Edward J. Petuch (Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University) & Dennis M. Sargent (Molluscan Research and Photography, Mount Dora, Florida), published by MDM publishing (Bob Janowsky) in Wellington Trace, Florida. The book is relatively brief being 159 pages long. I might say that the binding and other items in the craft of producing books that last is absolutely top notch.

The book is organized into 5 chapters. Chapter 1, Origin of the Florida Keys and their unique mollusks; Chapter 2, Shells of Florida Bay; Chapter 3, Shells of the Florida Keys reef tract; Chapter 4, shells of the Dry Tortugas area; and Chapter 5, Shells of Palm Beach and Broward County coastlines. This list of chapters should be enough to alert readers to the biofascies sort of organization that Ed and Dennis have used similar to that Ed employed in several of his earlier books and thus my title.

This is not a cone book. For the cone collector the advantage of the book is that many of the less common cones from Florida are illustrated and their habitats discussed.

The book is more of a study of the molluscan biodiversity of a unique region of the world rather than a pure shell book with their rows of images and names. Rather the authors list the mollusks that they believe are important in each subdivision. There are also scattered lists of mollusks throughout the book. An example is 'List of Florida Bay Gastropods' (page 40-43). Such lists are useful and relevant to biodiversity studies. However, the sources of these lists are not mentioned. I doubt that Ed or Dennis personally saw all these snails in the province they list them from. In order to judge the quality of such lists it is nice to know where they came from.

I do not consider this a major problem. I must say



that the photography (largely the work of Dennis Sargent, Molluscan Research and Photography, Mount Dora, Florida) is excellent. I am expert with cone shells but even I could see that there were few if any problems with identifications. I am sure that the modern supraspecific taxonomy may be a little difficult for some readers. But I was personally gratified to see the authors using the cone shell taxonomy that myself and Manuel J. Tenorio proposed in 2009 (*Systematic Classification of Recent and Fossil Conoidean Gastropods*, ConchBooks, Hackenheim, Germany). I do think that utility of the book would have been improved if there was an index arranged by specific name as well as the generic index that was provided. This would be particularly helpful for readers who are not yet using some of the more recent generic revisions.

Although this may not be a shell book in the narrow

sense of the term, it certainly could be used to identify the shells from this region. It will be particularly helpful with some of the rarer species and variants of cone shells. Readers will note that a number of cone shell names attributed to Petuch & Sargent, 2011 are used with figures (p. 22, fig. 3.14D, fig. 4.1A & B). These taxa are all nomina nuda but will become available when an article by Petuch & Sargent comes out in an issue of *Visaya* due to publish soon.

I also found the Bibliography to be woefully inadequate. Ten references were cited of these six were authored by Petuch or by Petuch and coauthors. Not a single mention of Dall or Clench was made among many pioneers of malacology in Florida. I was happy to see the Tunnell et al. (2010) book cited. That volume should also be included in any malacological library. If there is another edition of the *Rare & Unusual* book, I suggest that a better use of paper would be to add another set of illustrations and leave the bibliography out.

The final portion of the book is a Systematic Appendix.

Here nine new species are introduced along with one new subgeneric name. These are: *Pusula juyingae*, Family *Triviidae*; *Vokesimurex morrisoni*, Family *Muricidae*; *Phyllonotus whymani*, Family *Muricidae*; *Favartia goldbergi*, Family *Muricidae*; *Latirus (Polygona) williamlyonsi*, Family *Fasciolariidae*; *Gemophos pacei*, Family *Buccinidae*; *Scaphella junonia elizabethae*, Family *Volutidae*; *Caricellopsis*, new subgenus (type species is *Scaphella (Caricellopsis) matchetti* Petuch & Sargent, 2011); family *Volutidae*; *Scaphella (Caricellopsis) matchetti*, Family *Volutidae*; *Tritonoharpa janowskyi*, Family *Cancellariidae*.

The question that must be answered is the book worth the list price of \$79.95 (currently discounted to \$69.95) to a cone shell enthusiast? This is an easy question to answer if you are interested in malacology and cone shells in Florida. If you are, then you should get this book. If your interests are less specialized, then I suggest that the book would still be a good addition to your library. It contains a wealth of information on Florida, which should be of interest to any collector or scholar.

A memory of a past rarity

Lyle Therriault & António Monteiro

To say that some shells are rarer than others is of course a triviality. But even within the realm of rare species some are more desirable than others, and desirability does not always coincide with strict rarity. Confusing? Perhaps slightly so...

Not that long ago, *Conus gloriamaris* Chemnitz, 1777 was perhaps the most desirable of all shells. Legends grew around this mythical creature and the few known specimens – to be seen in major museums – were numbered. Within the last few decades, of course, it became accessible to practically all collectors: one can purchase a reasonably nice specimen for as little as \$25.00 or so (although a large outstanding one will still fetch a premium price). *C. gloriamaris* downgraded from a very great rarity to a moderately uncommon species... How low can a shell get?

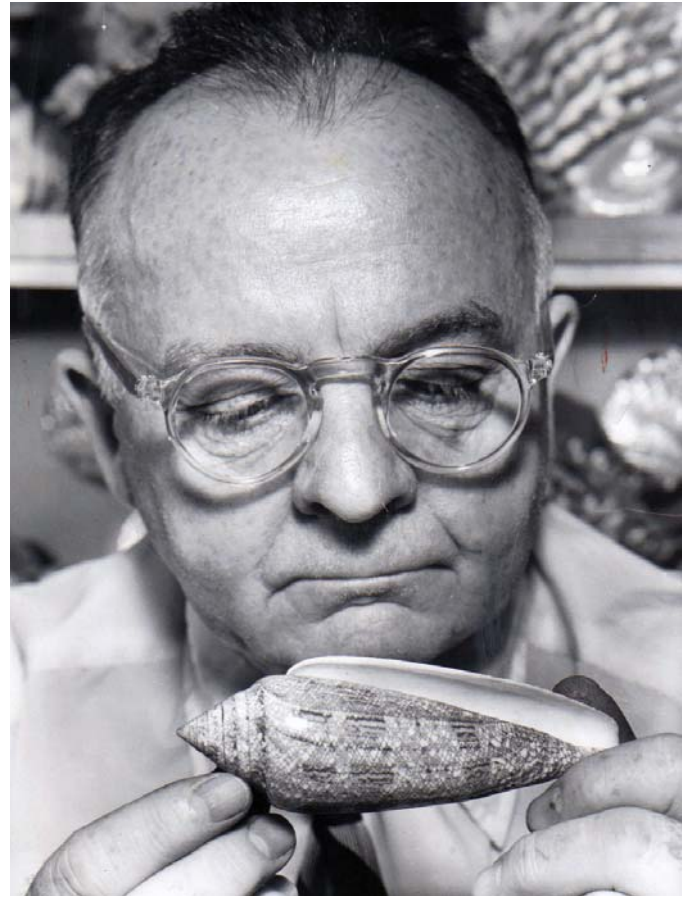
Even so, it has retained its aura of desirability, built along centuries of shell collecting

Recently, the first author has unearthed this wonderful original UP photo – an actual paper photo that one can hold in one's hands! – to commemorate those times, not so long ago, when *C. gloriamaris* still was something to dream about.

The photo measures about 7 by 9 inches and is printed on very glossy paper. On the back there is a date: AUG 1 1954. This means that the document is 57 years old and currently takes pride of place in the first author's collection of cone related items (stamps, postcards, etc.). Certainly a trip back through time for all Cone collectors!

Also on the back of the photo, a very short newspaper article is glued. Here's what it says:

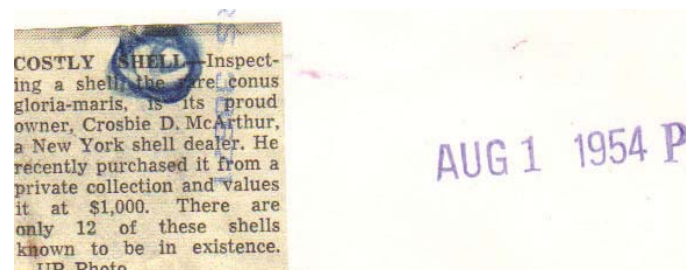
COSTLY SHELL – Inspecting a shell, the rare *conus gloria-maris*, is its proud owner, Crosbie D. McArthur, a New York shell dealer. He recently purchased it from a private collection



and values it at \$1,000. There are only 12 of these shells known to be in existence.

Times do change, and in this case in a relatively short time! Perhaps some of our readers even remember the person in the photo...

C. gloriamaris may no longer be a great rarity, but it undoubtedly remains a beautiful thing and a collectors' item – surely a source of joy for the collector who adds it to the collection.



Conus tribblei variations

Jon Singleton

Conus tribblei Walls, 1977 is one of the largest Western Pacific species, and can attain a length exceeding 120 mm. Although it was known for many years prior to being named, it had been constantly mixed with a similar sized group of China Sea cones, prior to being separated and named by J. G. Walls. The holotype, size 62.3 x 29 mm, is held within the DMNH, and three paratypes are illustrated within the Walls *Cone Shells* book.

Although generally a Western Pacific species, the range does extend into the extreme eastern Indian Ocean, and this species is not uncommon off the N. W. Coast of Western Australia. However, it is a deep water species, and the only source is from either scientific deeper water expeditions, or deep water fishing activities. I only have a record of one solitary specimen of *C. tribblei* being found in Queensland waters, a specimen trawled off Lady Musgrave Island.

I should state that I consider *C. tribblei* to be a separate

species from *Conus queenslandis* da Motta, 1984. The periostracums of the two species differ slightly, and a similar sized *tribblei* to a *queenslandis* is a heavier shell. Although the type material from Taiwan appear to be a similar smooth, brown on white cones, colonies elsewhere can show differences in the sculpture as well as colour and pattern. The West Australia specimens trawled from off Port Hedland are all-white and smooth, and the W. Australian Museum has many fine specimens from their surveys of the region. However, specimens from off the Rowley Shoals some 300 km N. N. E. of Port Hedland have brown and yellow colouration and are heavily pustulated. The one specimen from Queensland waters was the standard white with brown markings.

Reference

Walls, J. G., 1979. *Cone Shells – A Synopsis of the Living Conidae.*



63 x 41 mm
smooth brown & white
from Taiwan, matching
the type specimens

80 x 42 mm
Taiwan specimen
with periostracum

79 x 45 mm
all-white and smooth
from Pt. Hedland,
Western Australia

66 x 29 mm
brown-yellowish from
Rowley Shoals,
Western Australia

65 x 37 mm
heavily pustulated
from the
Philippines

CONODAYS

(Reto Stöcklin)

We have recently received information from Prof. Reto Stöcklin, concerning the 5th International Congress “Natural Peptides to Drugs – NP2D” that will take place in Zermatt, Switzerland, from 4 to 7 December, 2011.

All pertinent information can be obtained from the NP2D congress website at www.np2d.com and anyone interested may also wish to join the NP2D group on LinkedIn, with more than 1000 colleagues to exchange with.

NP2D – Congress Secretariat: Mrs Maya Antonin (congress coordination), Dr Estelle Bianchi (Scientific Coordination), Mr Daniel Biass (webmaster) & Mrs Coralie De Almeida (Administrative Management) – committee@np2d.com

At the same time, from 7 to 9 December, participants will also be welcome to attend the CONODAYS event, which celebrates the CONCO project.

Here is Prof. Stöcklin’s detailed information:

The first half of the Conodays will be devoted to invited lectures by key people in the field of cone snails and conopeptides, while the second part will focus on presentation by CONCO team leaders. There will be ample time for discussions and social activities (we plan special ones!) to keep a friendly and productive atmosphere.

Since we really want to bring a lot of colleagues and friends together, the oral presentations will be rather short, and we currently work on the idea of two opening lectures of 30 minutes covering a broad view of the field (tentatively Wednesday from 4-7 PM), ten 20 minutes external keynote presentations (Thursday morning) to allow time for series of 5 minute hot-spot presentations. The CONCO part of



the meeting shall consist of fourteen 20 minute keynote presentations and series of 5 minutes hot-spots. A round-table entitled “CONCO: What’s next” will close the event.

The list of speakers is truly impressive, with opening lectures by Prof. Baldomero Olivera and Dr. George Miljanich, plus a number of invited speakers from four different countries and of course many speakers from the CONCO project itself.

As is well known, the CONCO cone snail genome project for health (<http://www.conco.eu>) is part of the 6th Framework Program (LIFESCIHEALTH-6 Integrated Project LSHB-CT-2007, contract number 037592) of the European Commission.

International Cone Meeting: La Rochelle (France) September 2012

Within approximately one year we will have our 2nd International Cone Meeting. As announced in our last issue, it will take place in the beautiful town of La Rochelle, on the Atlantic coast of France.

As may be expected, the Organizing Committee is already quite active with all kind of preparations necessary to ensure that we have another hit, just like we did in Stuttgart last year. Our first meeting set very high standards and it is quite a challenge for all of us to try our best so that the second one will be at least as successful.

Lots of details must be taken into consideration, so that participants will have nothing to worry about and can enjoy their weekend discussing Cones, meeting others with similar interests and learning from our invited speakers.

Soon we will be able to let you know the choices available for accommodation – a number of hotels have already been contacted – and their respective prices, so that you will be able to organize your trip.

A program is also in the making and a number of first class speakers have been – or are in the process of being – invited. I hereby thank you those who have already agreed to present their talks. I can tell you now that there will be a number of different activities besides talks, including posters and workshops.

Dealers will also be invited to take part in the event, bringing to our mini-bourse a few gems from their stocks of beautiful Cones.

As a bit of firsthand information, I am proud to announce that Georges Richard, a very important and well-known figure in the Cone world – his Cone collection is housed in La Rochelle's Natural History Museum – has gracefully accepted to be our Guest of Honour at this meeting, thus stepping into the shoes of Dieter Röckel, who held that position in Stuttgart.



We plan on having a great meeting and the Organizing Committee will be at everybody's disposal for any information, comment, suggestion, etc., that may be useful to anyone planning to attend.

Last year we had over fifty participants, from about fifteen different nationalities – let us try to better these figures! Remember: no matter how well we organize things, no matter how distinguished and learned our speakers or how interesting their talks, it is your presence and your presence alone that will make our meeting a great hit! We are counting on you, so start planning your trip. Next year we will all meet at La Rochelle and you may be assured that it will be great and that we will have fun!

Let's do it!
- António Monteiro

The Natural History Museum at La Rochelle



Future Publications

We have recently heard of two forthcoming publications of interest to Cone collectors.

On the one hand, Manuel (Manolo) Tenorio informs that the next section of the well-known series *A Conchological Iconography*, dedicated to the Cones of the Panamic zone, will soon be ready and publication is expected towards the end of the current year. We can tell you first-hand that in this publication, four new species will be described.

On the other hand, Dr. Reto Stöcklin informs us that he is currently working on a Cone snail book project, with his wife Sylvie and also with Xavier Sprungli (graphist at Toxinomics Foundation), Renée Ménez (Toxinomics as well). This book will have general information about Cones (covering anatomy, physiology, etc.) but also more specifically about conotoxins and their use.

Certainly two books to look forward to in the near future!

A new online cone catalog

(Alfonso Pina)

Our friend Alfonso Pina has just finished a very fine catalogue of Cones in his web page (<http://www.malakos.org/index.html>). This work took about two years to complete but I do urge our readers to visit the site and in particular the catalogue section at

<http://www.malakos.org/Sis/Conidae/CONIDAE.html>

and I am sure nobody will regret it. There is lots of valuable information to be found, as well as truly excellent illustration.

So, well done, Alfonso!

**We hope to see your
contribution in
the next TCC!**

