

THE CONE COLLECTOR

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EDITORIAL

The family Conidae Rafinesque, 1815 (Mollusca, Gastropoda) has always been one of the most popular among collectors, along with others such as Cypraeidae, Volutidae, Muricidae, Pectinidae, etc.

It comprises a large number of species that so far have been usually included in the single genus *Conus* Linnaeus, 1758, despite several attempts to separate it into a system of different genera and subgenera, which however have not been universally accepted.



It should also be noted that in a recent (2005) work, *Classification and Nomenclator (sp?) of Gastropod Families*, Bouchet and Rocroi included the subfamilies of Claturellinae, Conorbinae, Mangeliinae, Oenopotinae and Raphitomininae in the Conidae. These subfamilies were previously included in the family Turridae.

Nevertheless, most collectors of Cones will most probably restrict their collections to those species so far attributed to the genus *Conus* alone.

Many such collectors are in touch with one another, either in person, through correspondence or, more recently – and ever more frequently – through e-mail.

The large number of species of Cones and the continuous publication of new papers, either describing new *taxa* or discussing existing ones, makes it some times hard to follow everything that is pertinent to the study and collection of the group.

For this reason, it was felt that an informal newsletter exclusively dedicated to Cones, to be distributed among all interested parties – collectors, researchers and dealers – could have some utility as a means of circulating news and information among all.

With this in mind, we present to you the first issue of *The Cone Collector*. This is to be thought of as a trial issue, sent to a number of friends and collectors around the world, mainly to give everybody a general idea of our aim. Any suggestions as to form and content will obviously be very welcome.

It should be stressed right from the start that such a project as this cannot go ahead without the interest and collaboration of a large number of people. This means that we shall be waiting for and expecting your contributions. These can take many different forms, from short articles to photos (for instance, if you have some unidentified specimen you may want to share a photo with the rest of us and perhaps get some suggestions about its possible identification), book reviews, faunal lists, jokes, etc., etc.

We do hope that you will find some merit in this newsletter and that you will be willing to join as a subscriber and, hopefully, as a contributor. If you wish to get *The Cone Collector* on a regular basis, just send us a message stating your interest. For that purpose you may use the e-mail (a.j.a.monteiro@netcabo.pt) or alternatively you may want to use the postal address (Rua Carlos Calisto, 3 – 4º Esq., 1400-043 Lisboa, Portugal) or even the phone ([00-351]-965115923). At the same time, if you know of someone whom you think might be interested in joining us, do give us his/her contact and we will get in touch.

We shall be eagerly waiting for your contact and in the meantime we send you our very best wishes.



EDITORIAL RULES

1. *The Cone Collector* is a periodical newsletter, privately published without commercial purposes.

1.1. The newsletter will have an Editor and an Editorial Committee formed by the Editor and another subscriber.

1.2. The Editor and the second member of the Editorial Committee

can be replaced every two years, through a voting among all the subscribers.

2. The purpose of the newsletter is to circulate information about the family Conidae Rafinesque, 1815 among interested collectors and also to provide them with a specialized forum for the discussion of all subjects pertinent to the said family.

2.1. The family Conidae Rafinesque, 1815 is considered in the classic sense, comprising the single genus *Conus* Linnaeus, 1758, and not in the sense of Bouchet & Rocroi (2005), *Classification and Nomenclator of Gastropod Families*.

3. *The Cone Collector* will be published four times a year, in the months of January, April, July and October.

3.1. The newsletter will be distributed in electronic form. Exceptionally, paper copies can be prepared for subscribers with no access to the Internet.

3.2. The number of pages per issue is not fixed.

4. *The Cone Collector* is distributed among subscribers that are primarily shell collectors interested in the family Conidae.

4.1. Other interested parties, including shell dealers, professional researchers, museums, shell collectors' clubs or other institutions can also be considered as subscribers.

4.2. Distribution to subscribers in electronic form will be free of charge. However, each subscriber wishing to receive copies on paper will be asked to pay an annual fee destined to cover any expenses to be met in the process of production of the newsletter.

4.3. All subscribers are encouraged to submit papers of interest to the subject in point. A "Letters" section will be created, to which subscribers

will be able to send comments, suggestions, etc., it being understood that the Editor will be free to include or not any correspondence received in the "Letters" column, eventually in abridged form.

5. In principle, any collector who states his interest in receiving *The Cone Collector* will be considered as a subscriber and will henceforth receive copies of each issue. However, the Editorial Committee will have the power of removing from the subscribers' list any former subscriber whose attitude, behaviour or activity is deemed to be unsuitable or inadequate to the purposes of the newsletter, or generally offensive to others.

6. *The Cone Collector* is not a scientific publication and does not have a board of referees. For this reason, no papers describing new species or otherwise proposing any nomenclatural changes will be accepted for publication.

6.1. Notwithstanding the above restriction, papers discussing the validity of *taxa* can be accepted for publication, provided their authors agree that no nomenclatural changes are to be expected as accepted after publication in *The Cone Collector*.

7. The final decision concerning what is published in each issue belongs to the Editor.



OBITUARY



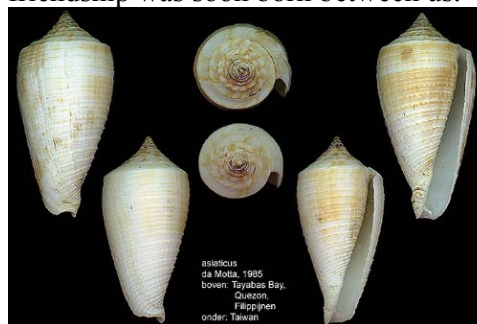
António José (Bob) da Motta

The news of the passing away of our dear old friend A. J. da Motta, known as Bob, were slow to reach his many malacological friends and correspondents.

It is true that for some time no news from him had been had by anybody, not even in reply to traditional Christmas greetings, which made many of us fear the worst, and only the more so because it was well known that poor health had been afflicting him in his old age.

Confirmation of Bob's death, almost three years ago, has finally been obtained, after a number of efforts and at the same time we also learnt of the death of his wife Liza.

My correspondence with Bob da Motta began some thirty years ago. at the time he was already a well-known collector, living in Bangkok and specializing in Cones. A string friendship was soon born between us.



It was easy to become friends with Bob. He was dynamic, kind and of convivial nature, with a genuine love for shells and for their study.

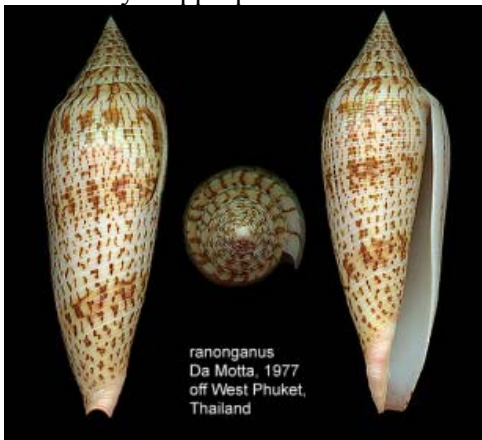
At a certain moment, more or less coincident with his move from Thailand to Hong Kong – somewhere around the late 70s or early 80s, if my memory serves me right – he considered the possibility of housing his vast collection in Portugal, through the creation of a foundation or some similar institution to take care of it and use it as a basis for research. But the negotiations undertaken at the time came to nothing and, as is well known, the collection found its definitive home somewhere else.

The interest of da Motta for Portugal was not fortuitous. In reality, despite having American nationality, Bob's roots were to be found in North

Portugal, in the region of Trás-os-Montes and it seems that he still understood at least some of the Portuguese language.

Along many years, our correspondence was vast and always quite interesting and as a result we had the opportunity of publishing several of his papers in the Occasional Publications of the Portuguese Malacological Society.

Da Motta described a number of species, not all of them accepted by the international community as valid, and in his later years he dedicated himself to try to split the genus *Conus* into several genera and subgenera, because the use of a single genus for the entire family Conidae seemed to him totally inappropriate.



In 1991 he published a booklet entitled «A systematic classification of the Gastropod family Conidae at the generic level», in which he proposed the consideration of eight genera:

- Conus* (with 15 subgenera)
- Leptoconus* (with 12 subgenera)
- Dendroconus* (with 16 subgenera)
- Hermes* (with 8 subgenera)
- Profundiconus* (with 3 subgenera)
- Gastridium* (with 1 subgenus)
- Conasprella* (with 3 subgenera)
- Cylindrus* (with 2 subgenera).

Three years later, in 1994, I had the great pleasure of welcoming my old friend to Lisbon and of having him in my own house. It was a true

pleasure for me and, I am certain of it, for him too. I remember well that as I parked my car near my house, Bob pointed at the plaque indicating the name of the square where I used to live, Largo da Princesa, exclaiming: “Here it is at last! How many times I wrote this address on an envelope!”.

Today, I still prefer to think of Bob as if he were still living far away. In a certain sense he still is, of course.

And I would most sincerely like to dedicate this first issue of *The Cone Collector* to his memory. I am sure that Bob would want to be its first subscriber and collaborator!

A.M.



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

To get us started, the Editorial Committee of *The Cone Collector* is currently formed by António Monteiro, the Editor (see above) and Paul H. Kersten (phkersten@planet.nl).

Most of you will already know both, either personally or through correspondence. In any case, it is perhaps fit to leave a few biographical notes here:

António Monteiro



I was born in Lisbon on the 15th August 1951; married, with two daughters and two grandsons (a third to arrive soon). Professionally I teach

Mathematics (Algebra as my specialist subject) in a University in Lisbon.

Interested in shells since childhood, I began to collect more seriously and systematically by 1966, later specializing in the families Conidae and Pectinidae.

I was a founder member and first President of the Portuguese Malacological Society, later acting as Secretary and as editor of the Society's publications.

I have authored or co-authored numerous papers on shells and shell collecting and have also a few books, namely: *Seashells from Cape Verde Islands* (1977, with Luís P. Burnay), *Cone Shells from Cape Verde Islands – a difficult puzzle* (1980, with Dieter Röckel e Emilio Rolán) and *The genus Conus of West Africa and the Mediterranean* (in *A Conchological Iconography*, 2004, with Manuel J. Tenorio e Guido T. Poppe).

As a compulsive collector, I also collect frog figurines, old picture postcards, Moorcroft pottery, stamps, Bank notes, antique belt buckles, etc. beside. I am also seriously interested in supernatural literature, having now published several ghost tales.

Paul H. Kersten



I was born in 1955 in the Netherlands. I have studied Dutch language and literature and currently work as a high school teacher.

As a young boy I was very much interested in birds and Birding. I

still am and own a nice collection of Bird Field Guides from all over the world and like to watch birds during my free time. Later on, I got interested in the life of plants too. I have a little rock garden with alpine plants and orchids and also a nice pond.

Since Holland has a long coast and nice sand beaches, there are good opportunities for collecting sea shells and fossils, great treasures for a young boy. The souvenir shops here also sell tropical shells and my sons occasionally buying them I got interested too. About 15 years ago, I started buying shells from all over the world, just like a youngster beginning a stamp collection: at first, everything you can get is interesting, later on you have to make choices since shells in general take far more space than a collection of cones only. I did sell my stamp collection and used the money for my first cone shells, in my opinion the most variable and adorable shell family.

Together with Ross Mayhew, from Canada, I started the Conidae Checklist Project <http://www.schnr-specimenshells.com/ConidaeChecklist.html>. Being a mere collector and not a malacologist, I had to contact my cone friends from all over the world to get all the information we wanted.

These contacts with other cone lovers are one of the pleasures of my cone passion. Almost all of them are very nice people who always want to share their knowledge and using the web eases contacts and in my case it was a big help in building up my collection and meeting friends like António Monteiro and many others.



F.A.Q.

Yes, it is obviously too soon to have any questions from readers (after all, apart from the pompously named Editorial Committee, nobody has read this yet...), much less “frequently asked questions” (FAQ but we thought we could imagine a few and give them answers, so as to save everybody a little time. Here we go then.

Q: Is *The Cone Collector* a scientific publication?

A: Not at all (see editorial Rules above). It is an amateur publication, primarily aimed at shell collectors. But it is equally open to professional researchers as readers and contributors.

Q: What kind of articles will be published in *The Cone Collector*?

A: The present introductory number will give everyone an idea of the kind of articles that will be found in the pages of *TCC*. Broadly speaking, all papers pertaining to Cones will be welcome.

Q: Do I have to be a researcher or an advanced collector to publish articles in *The Cone Collector*?

A: Anyone – from professional researchers and advanced collectors to beginners or even children – with an interest in collecting Cone shells will be welcome to publish opinions, comments or full-length articles in *TCC*.

Q: I would like to write something for *The Cone Collector*, but not being a great specialist, what can I write about?

A: Firstly, it should be noted that neither member of the Editorial Committee considers himself as anything close to “a great specialist”. Secondly, collaborations may include

biographical details (where, how and how long ago did you begin to be interested in Cones?), comments on previously published articles, notes on a shell collecting trip, a few lines on a favourite species of Cone, requests for help with the identification of dubious specimens, etc., etc.

Q: Do fossil Cones count?

A: Yes, *The Cone Collector* will gladly accept collaboration concerning extinct species of Cones.

Q: I am willing to write an article, but I would like to illustrate it with photos of shells and I do not have the means to send them. Can anyone help?

A: The Editorial Committee will be glad to help in finding appropriate photos, if necessary.

Q: Must articles be written in English?

A: *TCC* will be entirely written in English. Nevertheless, the Editorial Committee will be glad to assist in the translation of originals submitted in Portuguese, Dutch, French, Spanish, Italian or German.

Q: If I am not interested in receiving future issues, how should I unsubscribe?

A: Interested collectors are requested to send us a short note stating their interest in *TCC*, in order to receive future numbers. If we hear nothing from you for a couple of issues, we will probably assume that you are not interested but you will be asked whether or not you want us to keep in touch. If you decide that you do not want to get future issues, a short note saying so will be much appreciated.



ABOUT THE NOMENCLATURE OF ANGOLAN CONES

Beyond the well known intrinsic difficulties in the general nomenclature of Cones – which are mainly due to the great variability within some species –, that of species occurring along the Angolan coast has suffered from specific perturbations along the years, which did not help at all.

The Angolan fauna remains comparatively poorly known, despite recent advances. Rolán & Röckel, in their revision of Angolan endemics, published in 2000, state that “between 1758 and 1840, a total of 660 species-group names were introduced by Linné, Born, Gmelin, Hwass, Röding, Lamarck, Sowerby I and numerous other authors in the gastropod genus *Conus*, about 30% are considered to represent valid species (Kohn, 1992). Not a single one of these 660 *taxa* referred to an endemic *Conus* of Angola”.

Only in 1843 did Reeve describe *C. bulbosus* and, in the following year, *C. aemulus*. In 1845, French author Kiener described *C. africanus*, *C. variegatus* and *C. zebroides*. In 1879, G.B. Sowerby II published the description of *C. carnalis*; in 1884, Melvill presented *C. chytreus*; and in 1905 G.B. Sowerby III described *C. fuscolineatus*.

After that – we could call the years from 1843 to 1905 the “classic period”... – we had to wait seventy years until 1975, when Herculano Trovão published his first descriptions: *C. cepasi*, *C. amethystinus* (later found out to be a synonym of *C. carnalis* Sowerby II, 1879), *C. musivus* (unnecessarily renamed *C. tevesi* in the same year), *C. naranjus* and *C. nobrei*. To that list of species the same author

later added *C. albuquerquei* and *C. bocagei*.

The list of valid species described for Angola was completed in 1987 with *C. xicoi*, described by Dieter Röckel; in 1991 with the introduction of the new name *C. neoguttatus* by A.J. da Motta and finally in 2000 (*C. filmeri*, *C. franciscoi*, *C. gabriellae*, *C. micropunctatus* and *C. trovaoi*) and in 2001 (*C. anabelae*, *C. babaensis* e *C. tenuilineatus*) by Röckel & Rolán.

So far, so good, in spite of the lack of information of the scarcity of available samples that greatly delayed our knowledge of the local fauna. However, other aspects should be considered, some of them slightly ridiculous.

In 1957, for instance, Maria de Lurdes Paes da Franca, a Portuguese biologist, examined a collection of specimens brought from Angolan beaches. Among them, she believed she had found two new species, which she named *C. lucirensis* and *C. angolensis*.

Bad luck for Paes da Franca, because none of the two was really unknown and so none of them deserved a new name. As a matter of fact, *C. lucirensis* is a synonym of *C. chytreus* Melvill, 1884 whereas *C. angolensis* is a synonym of *C. zebroides* Kiener, 1845.



What is rather bizarre about the names introduced by Paes da Franca is that if the first is moderately acceptable, that she felt the need to create the second one is really

puzzling. In reality, *C. chytreus* was poorly known for many years, thanks to a very short description, a very blurred original illustration and the loss of the holotype; in the second half of the 20th century, for instance, *C. chytreus* was often mentioned as a synonym of *C. figulinus* Linnaeus, 1758. Quite on the contrary, the identification of *C. zebroides* described by Louis C. Kiener, who used a magnificent illustration, of a quality that the author kept throughout his entire work, *Spécies général et iconographie des coquillages vivantes*, offers little doubt or none at all. With its pattern of vertical lines, the shell is rather unique.



It is hard to understand how a trained biologist could have any doubts concerning the specific diagnosis of the specimens at hand, even if said specimens had been dead collected, as we understand was the case with the entire lot she was studying. The description of *C. angolensis* can be considered as rather ludicrous, by any standards.

Years have passed and in the beginning of the 70s, the Centro Português de Actividades Subaquáticas (CPAS) organized several diving trips to the Portuguese colonies in West Africa, including Angola. Most of the divers that went along had no interest whatsoever in shells, they were more interested in fishing and similar activities. Nevertheless, Herculano Trovão and a few others did collect

large malacological samples that were brought back to Lisbon.

Most of those samples were kept in the malacological department of CPAS, to be studied by Trovão, later helped by Luís Burnay. Using the morphology of the radular teeth to separate species – a method that at the time was not yet widely spread – their study ended in the description of several new species, listed above.

However, at the same time, a certain number of specimens found their way into the hands of shells dealers and through them into those of private collectors. Among the former, it is fair to mention the name of the late Joaquim da Costa Torres, who owned a shop in Lisbon, where several Portuguese collectors were able to purchase specimens of the new, undescribed species.

Obviously, the specimens offered for sale had no names attached, but collectors were informed that new descriptions would soon be published. The need to distinguish one thing from the other caused provisional names to begin to circulate among collectors. So, at that time we began to hear of *Conus alexandrinus* (collected at Porto Alexandre), *C. armatus* or *armadensis* (from the Chapéu Armado Bay), *C. cesarensis* (from César Bay), *C. lineopunctatus* (referring to a pattern of dotted transversal lines and at the same a name that was reminiscent of the well known *fuscolineatus*), *C. ficus* (greenish and resembling a small fig), *C. lilac* (of a lilac colouration, later described as *C. amethystinus*), *C. pipaensis* (from Pipas Bay) and others.

Unfortunately, things soon got out of control and such names, used by Trovão rather nonchalantly, began to get around, through the sale of specimens and through exchanges among collectors.

In 1978 Sally Diana Kaicher published in the United States her long

series of shell cards. Each card, with the approximate format of a playing card, included a photo, the name of a species, its locality – in broad terms – and little else.

In that series Kaicher included a number of species of Angolan *Conus*, which she referred to by those informal names that had not been validly proposed anywhere and had no descriptions to go with (many of them were attributed to Paes da Franca, God knows why!).

It would seem that such mistakes would be set straight without much difficulty: the names should be considered invalid and banned from the zoological nomenclature. Rather surprisingly, however, a somewhat unexpected decision from the ICZN (International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature), reached through a quite tight vote, established that the names used by Kaicher should be accepted as valid, as follows: *C. alexandrinus* “Paes da Franca” in Kaicher, 1978, *C. lineopunctatus* “Trovão” in Kaicher, 1978, *C. lobitensis* “Paes da Franca” in Kaicher, 1978 e *C. negroides* “Paes da Franca” in Kaicher, 1978. Such a decision seems a bit unusual, since the mentioned Kaicher cards do not include any detailed description, do not designate a holotype or any other type material, do not attempt comparison with other species and clearly had no intention whatsoever of introducing new names, as is clear from the fact that such names are (erroneously) attributed to someone else.

The listed problems may at the most suggest that reasonable doubt as to the intended identification of those particular species does exist. Anyway, some confusion is rather inevitable.

A.M.



CONES REIGN SUPREME!

The family Conidae has always been one of the favourites among collectors of sea shells, like other all-time popular groups like Cypraeidae, Volutidae, Muricidae, Pectinidae, Mitridae, etc.



Nevertheless, I claim that Cones probably caused the strongest impression not only in collectors but also in researchers. Almost two hundred years ago, John Mawe wrote: “There is, perhaps, no other genus which holds so important a station in collections as the Cones, a distinction to which it is eminently entitled, from the matchless beauty and endless variety of the species”.



The importance of Cones can be clearly seen from the choice of names for *Conus* species by many classical authors.



There are Cones honouring royalty (*Conus regius*, *C. imperialis*, *C. princeps*) as well as some of the highest ranks in the military hierarchy (*C. generalis*, *C. capitaneus*, *C. ammiralis*) or in Church status (*Conus cardinalis*), whereas no such names are to be simultaneously found in other families.



Moreover, Cones include the name that most vehemently expresses admiration for the wonderful and fascinating world of sea shells or even of marine life as a whole: *Conus gloriamaris*, the “glory of the seas”! A more explicit tribute to the beauty of a shell would be hard to find indeed...



And we must also remember that Cones also include the “glory of India” and the “glory of the Atlantic”, common names for *Conus milne-edwardsi* and for *C. granulatus*, respectively. There is also the well-known *C. cedonulli*, a name that is usually translated as “second-to-none” and one may wonder whether this compliment is meant for its position among other Cones only or if it may be extended to the remaining shell world...

A.M.



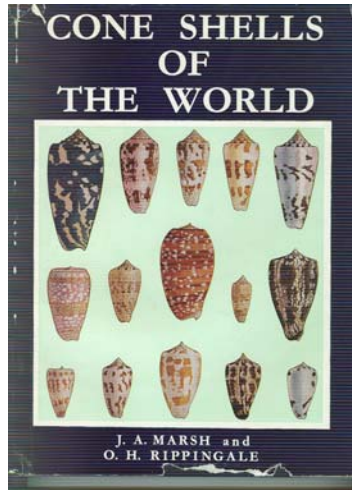
CONE BIBLIOGRAPHY

One of the main problems of shell collectors is to keep up to date with developments in the field, and in particular with the description of new species. A large number of scientific or even non-scientific publications, in the form of magazines, bulletins, newsletters, etc., appear regularly and it is hard to keep track of everything. One of the goals of *The Cone Collector* is precisely that of trying to give all interested parties the most complete information available about new publications pertaining to our subject.

Each individual collector will normally subscribe to a few periodicals, especially if a local shell collectors' club publishes one, but it is not easy to receive a large number of publications.

Besides periodicals, there are of course books. When it comes to Cones, and excluding the classical works by Hwass (in Bruguière), Reeve, Kiener, Sowerby or Tryon, for example, the first book dealing with the family as a

whole must be J. A. Marsh & O. H. Rippingale's *Cone Shells of the World*, first published in 1964 by The Jacaranda Press, from Brisbane, New South Wales, Australia (with a second edition dating from 1968).



I should stress that, for all its limitations and handicaps, this is a book that has a special place in my library, merely because it was the only one in existence for a long time, and hence one of the first I used to guide me in my collecting activities. But limitations and handicaps it had indeed. For one thing, it represents the joint efforts of both authors, who played different parts in the preparation of the book: J. A. Marsh wrote the text; O. H. Rippingale did the illustrations, which consist of watercolours of acceptable – but far from outstanding – quality. These illustrations are brought together in 24 plates. More than 400 valid species are considered.

From a taxonomical point of view, some of the author's opinions sound a bit strange on modern ears. He declares, for instance, that the name *C. cetonulli* is not valid, since it has "been applied to varieties of *C. ammiralis* and *C. regius*. Many other changes have been brought about in more recent works and many cases

consist of mere misidentifications (for example, on plate 24, *C. nivosus*, *C. pulcher* and *C. franciscanus* are clearly wrong, *pulcher* being indicated for Rabaul!).

No one would probably buy such a book today, but thirty odd years ago it was all we had!

Just a few years later, in 1979, collectors awaited with ill-disguised trepidation a new book that had been advertised for some time. It was entitled *Cone Shells – a synopsis of the living Conidae* and the author was Jerry G. Walls. It was published by T. F. H. Publications, New Jersey, U.S.A., a publisher that in the meantime has produced a large number of books by the same author, on a number of different subjects, including frogs, snakes, lizards, fishes and turtles.

The least that one can say is that it turned out to be a big disappointment! I remember that my first negative reaction had to do with the format of the book: with about 22 by 15 cm, more than a thousand pages thick, it looked more like a kind of Bible than like the lavish production I had been expecting. The graphic quality was also poor, with often bad photos of specimens placed against appallingly unsuitable (mostly blue) backgrounds. Moreover, the small size of pages meant that only four photos (normally depicting one species) could be presented on each page; since species were presented in alphabetic order and the text usually stretched for more than one page for each species, the descriptions quickly became more and more distant from the photos, forcing the reader to go back and forth continually to match one with the other.

Naturally, all of these graphic problems would be quickly forgotten if the contents were of a recognizably high standard. Unfortunately, that was

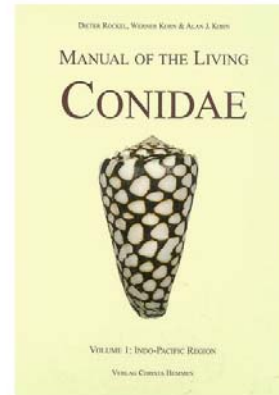
not the case, something that was forecasted by a quotation from Dorothy L. Sayers on the back of the title page, which is worth copying here, in part: “I’ve never yet succeeded in producing a plot without at least six major howlers [...]. After all, my books are only meant for fun; it’s not like a work of scholarship”.

Now, of course, Dorothy L. Sayers could indeed say such a thing, because even if she did serious Christian and academic work, she is best known today as author of crime mysteries featuring her fictional amateur sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey (and indeed the quotation is from one such novel). But if Jerry Walls wished to justify similarly any blunders that might be found in his book on Cones, I’m afraid it was a totally wrong posture!

Some errors can certainly be found in the text – which is more or less unavoidable anyway – but, more than that, the author seems to make some rather arbitrary decisions here and there. All in all, less than satisfactory. In any case, of course, the large number of species described in detail, and the fact that all of them are illustrated by colour photos, normally showing more than one specimen for each species, are positive aspects that must not be ignored.

We had to wait another sixteen years for another project aiming for a full revision of the family Conidae was carried out. As a matter of fact, in 1995, Verlag Christa Hemmen, from Germany, published the first part of a truly ambitious work, *Manual of the Living Conidae*, with the explicit indication: “Volume 1: Indo-Pacific Region”. In the Preface, the authors, Dieter Röckel, Werner Korn and Alan J. Kohn, state that the full work has been divided into three volumes; the second volume would “cover the tropical Atlantic and Eastern Pacific

Oceans as well as temperate-zone species of *Conus* throughout the world excl. Australia and New Zealand”; from personal communication with the first author I gathered the idea that the final volume would deal with different aspects of behaviour, physiology, etc. Unfortunately, the second and third volumes never saw the light of day.

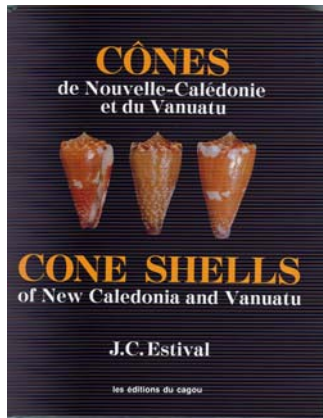


That was really a shame, because volume one had many virtues, not least from an aesthetic point of view. The plates (73 depicting shells, 3 with details of the feet of living animals and 8 with photos of living specimens) are ample; the photos are of a high quality, made easier by modern technology. The text is more than adequate, with distribution maps for each species.

Naturally, when preparing a work of that importance, the authors must of necessity make decisions that are bound to meet with disagreement from others. Röckel *et al* did have to make such decisions – especially as far as synonymy was concerned – and I believe that some of them were not universally accepted by readers and users of the book. But I have always felt (and still do, after more than ten years using it) that conclusions are always presented in such a way that no information is really left out; this means that even if one does not agree with the authors in some cases, one can

still find all that one need's to and interpret things differently. I do see that as a prime quality of the book.

In the meantime, in 1981 J. C. Estival authored a small book, entitled *Cônes de Nouvelle-Calédonie et du Vanuatu - Cone Shells of New Caledonia and Vanuatu*. This bilingual volume 126 pages, including 34 nice quality colour photographic plates, was published by Les Éditions du Cagou.



The Conidae fauna of the region is interesting indeed. It is a pity that the book was published before a number of deep water endemic species (such as *C. alisi*, *C. gondwanensis*, *C. kanakinus*, *C. loyaltiensis*, *C. luciae*, *C. pacificus*, *C. plinthis*, *C. richeri*, *C. swainsoni*, *C. tirardi* and *C. vaubani*) were described, but even so it has its unchallenged merits as a regional guide.

Two other works, of a rather different nature but also presented in book form, deserve reference here. The first of them, published in 1992 by the Smithsonian Institution Press, is Alan J. Kohn's *A Chronological Taxonomy of Conus, 1758-1840*; it is an eminently technical work that includes an invaluable wealth of information concerning the original descriptions submitted in the period under examination. As such, it is indispensable in the library of a collector of Cones.

Indispensable also is the second of the two, *A Catalogue of Nomenclature and Taxonomy in the Living Conidae, 1758-1998*, by R. M. Filmer, published in 2001 by Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2001. This book is an extremely useful tool to deal with any problems involving nomenclature, as well as to trace original descriptions and the whereabouts of type specimens.

Although we are dealing here with books and not with magazine articles, I feel that one particular series of articles deserves mention, because of its scope and uniformity. I am referring to the *Alphabetic revision of the sub(species) in recent Conidae*, parts 1 to 9 (the last one I am aware of), by H. E. Coomans, R. G. Moolenbeek and E. Wils, published in *Basteria*, from 1979 to 1986.

Personally, I think that to deal with species in alphabetical order is not the best solution, since when discussing a given *taxon* the authors are compelled to refer to others, not yet considered in the series. The best way to do this kind of revision is, in my opinion, to proceed chronologically: each new *taxon* considered must be either a valid species or a synonym of another one, considered previously.

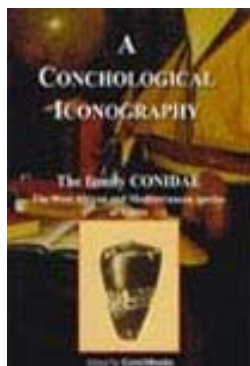
Nevertheless, the series of papers by Coomans *et al* is full of detailed and fundamental information and hence is of the greatest value. One would simply wish that it would have been carried much further.

I will mention only three other entries in the "book" category. The first one is *Cone Shells from Cape Verde Islands - a difficult puzzle*, by Dieter Röckel, Emilio Rolán & António Monteiro, privately published in 1980.

The publication of this book followed several shelling expeditions to the Cape Verde Islands during the 70s that brought to light a number of

previously unknown or overlooked populations of Cones.

The second reference, also pertaining to the fauna of west Africa, is the part of the by now well-known series *A Conchological Iconography*, edited by Guido T. Poppe & Klaus Groh, published by ConchBooks, Germany in 2004 under the title *The genus Conus of West Africa and the Mediterranean*. The authors are António Monteiro, Manuel Jimenez Tenorio and Guido T. Poppe, with a contribution on radular anatomy by Emilio Rolán.



The preparation of this work was motivated by two main factors: first, the fact that Röckel, Korn & Kohn's three volume set had been interrupted after publication of the first volume only, leaving the populations of the entire Atlantic Ocean out; second, the fact that two papers by Rolán & Röckel, in 2000 and 2001 respectively had finally provided names for a large number of Angolan species, known at least since the 60s but left undescribed (in part because of the death of Herculano Trovão, who had described several West African species before, and also of Francisco Fernandes, who at the time was practically the only person collecting shells in Angola).

Constituting the 10th part of the *Iconography*, this work included no less than 164 photographic plates presenting a very large number of specimens, in an attempt to offer collectors as wide an overview as possible of individual variation within each species. It should be noticed that shortly after publication, Manuel J. Tenorio and Carlos Afonso described four further species from the Cape Verde archipelago (*C. claudiae*, *C. crioulus*, *C. isabelarum* and *C. vulcanus*).

Finally we must take notice of a recent (2005) catalogue published by the State Darwin Museum, Moscow, by A. R. Aliakrinsky (Алякринский А. Р.): *Cones – deadly mollusks of tropical seas. Catalogue of the cone shells collection of the State Darwin Museum* (Каталог коллекции Государственного Дарвиновского музея. Конусы. Смертоносные моллюски тропических морей).



The fact that it is written in Russian will probably constitute an obstacle to many readers, but even so, there is a wealth of information in this work that can be apprehended.

A.M.



LIST OF SPECIES DESCRIBED AFTER 1999

P.K.

Here is (in alphabetical order) the list of species of *Conus* described after 1999:

Name of species	Author(s)	Geographic range
<i>C. anabelae</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2001	Angola
<i>C. atlanticoselvagem</i>	Afonso & Tenorio, 2004	Cape Verde Islands
<i>C. babaensis</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2001	Angola
<i>C. baiano</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. bodarti</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. empressae</i>	Lorenz, 2002	Philippines
<i>C. brianhayesi</i>	Korn, 2001	South Africa
<i>C. cargilei</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. chiapponorum</i>	Lorenz, 2004	Madagascar
<i>C. claudiae</i>	Tenorio & Afonso, 2004	Cape Verde Islands
<i>C. crioulus</i>	Tenorio & Afonso, 2004	Cape Verde Islands
<i>C. delucaii</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. escondidai</i>	Poppe & Tagaro, 2005	Philippines
<i>C. evansi</i>	Bondarev, 2001	Red Sea
<i>C. filmeri</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2000	Angola
<i>C. flavusalbus</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2000	Angola
<i>C. franciscoi</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2000	Angola
<i>C. frausseni</i>	Tenorio & Poppe, 2004	Philippines
<i>C. gabrielae</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2000	Angola
<i>C. garywilsoni</i>	Lorenz & Morrison, 2004	Australia
<i>C. giorossii</i>	Bozzetti, 2005	Indonesia
<i>C. gordyi</i>	Röckel & Bondarev, 2000	Mascarenes Islands
<i>C. grohi</i>	Tenorio & Poppe, 2004	Philippines
<i>C. guidopoppei</i>	Raybaudi Massilia, 2005	Philippines
<i>C. habui</i>	Lan, 2002	Taiwan
<i>C. henckesi</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. isabelarum</i>	Tenorio & Afonso, 2004	Cape Verde Islands
<i>C. kuiperi</i>	Moolenbeek, 2006	Oman
<i>C. leobottoni</i>	Lorenz, 2006	Philippines
<i>C. lucaya</i>	Petuch, 2000	Bahamas
<i>C. mauricioi</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. mcbridei</i>	Lorenz, 2005	Indonesia, New Ireland
<i>C. medoci</i>	Lorenz, 2004	Madagascar
<i>C. micropunctatus</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2000	Angola
<i>C. moncuri</i>	Filmer, 2005	Philippines
<i>C. moylani</i>	Delsaerdt, 2000	Solomon Islands

<i>C. pennaceus tsara</i>	Blöcher, 2000	Madagascar
<i>C. petergabrieli</i>	Lorenz, 2006	Philippines
<i>C. pseudocardinalis</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. pseudonivifer</i>	Monteiro, Tenorio & Poppe, 2004	Cape Verde Islands
<i>C. quiquandoni</i>	Lorenz, 2006	Philippines
<i>C. recluzianus simanoki</i>	Tenorio, 2006	India
<i>C. sartii</i>	Korn, Niederhofer & Röckel, 2004	Madagascar
<i>C. sauros</i>	García, 2006	Gulf of Mexico
<i>C. schirrmeisteri</i>	Coltro, 2004	Brasil
<i>C. solangeae</i>	Bozzetti, 2004	Madagascar
<i>C. suduirauti</i>	Raybaudi Massilia, 2004	Philippines
<i>C. tenuilineatus</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2001	Angola
<i>C. terryi</i>	Tenorio & Poppe, 2004	Philippines
<i>C. theodori</i>	Petuch, 2000	Bahamas
<i>C. trovaii</i>	Rolán & Röckel, 2000	Angola
<i>C. vulcanus</i>	Tenorio & Afonso, 2004	Cape Verde Islands
<i>C. wallacei</i>	Lorenz & Morrison, 2004	Indonesia



THE WORK OF HWASS

The *Encyclopédie Méthodique* was published in Padua, in the last decade of the 18th century. As is well known, among the many sections of this important work was a *Histoire Naturelle des Animaux* and in particular a *Histoire Naturelle des Vers*.

Christian Hee Hwass (1731-1803), was born in Danmark but he spent most of his life in France (arriving in Paris in 1780 and moving to Auteuil in 1794), where he built an important shell collection. Being a person of means, he was able to indulge in his interests, that included Art and Astronomy and throughout his life he spent significant amounts in the acquisition of shells for his collection, which included several rarities, such as *Nautilus scrobiculatus* Lightfoot, *Cypraea aurantium* Gmelin, *Conus gloriamaris* Chemnitz, *Harpulina arausiaca* Lightfoot, one of the four specimens of *Scaphella junonia* Shaw known in Paris, a sinistal specimen of *Cepaea nemoralis* Linnaeus (bought in the sale of the collection of Count De La Tour d'Auvergne), etc.

But of all that, it was his collection of *Conus* (today almost entirely preserved in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland) that was the greatest cause of envy to his contemporaries. Based on that outstanding collection Hwass wrote his famous monography, published in 1792 as part of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*. It should be noticed that although it is sure that Hwass was the main author of the original manuscript, authorship was often attributed to Jean Guillaume Bruguière (1750-1798), professor of Medicine at the University of Montpellier and a

good friend of Hwass's. Nowadays, however, the authorship of the many new species described in that work is given to the Danish collector.

We are fortunately able to share with our readers the plates illustrating Hwass's work. The first one, bearing the number 315, is shown below. Others will be presented in future issues.

