

***Conus africanus* Kiener, 1848**



Lectotype figure

Original description: Coquille turbinée, renflée et obtuse vers sa partie supérieure. La spire est surbaissée et convexe, elle est formée de cinq tours étroits; le dernier a son angle spiral arrondi et obtus; il porte vers sa partie inférieure huit sillons obliques assez espacés entre eux. La coloration consiste en un fond d'un brun très foncé ou noirâtre avec des points blancs épars sur la partie supérieure et des maculations également blanches, très-grandes, mais interrompues, formant, vers le milieu du dernier tour, une large fascie irrégulière articulée par des séries transverses de points bruns.

Translation: Shell turbanate, swollen and obtuse towards its upper part. The spire is low and convex, it consists of five narrow whorls; the last whorl has a rounded and obtuse spiral angle; it has towards its lower part eight oblique furrows fairly distant from each other. The colour pattern consists of a very dark brown or blackish background with scattered white dots on the upper part and maculations also white, very large, but interrupted, forming, towards the middle of the last whorl, a large irregular band articulated by transverse series of brown lines/dots.

Length=30mm; Locality= Coasts of Guinea.

Fernandes & Rockel, 1982



C. africanus

Size of pictured specimens: 22.9 mm, 22.0 mm, 24,6 mm.

13. *Conus africanus* Kiener, 1845 (Species Gèn. et Icon. d. Coq viv., Conus, p.260, pl. 104, fig. 2)

Essential characteristics: Small, light, conical shell. Upper part including shoulder rounded. Spire moderately elevated with straight sides. Spire whorls convex. Surface is smooth, but no gloss. Near base some spiral cords. Ground color milky white. Dark brown, irregular spots, in particular near base and shoulder, in between spiral threads with brown dashes and dots. Aperture white with purple hue deep inside.

Animal: Color cream pinkish with black dots. Periostracum yellowish and translucent.

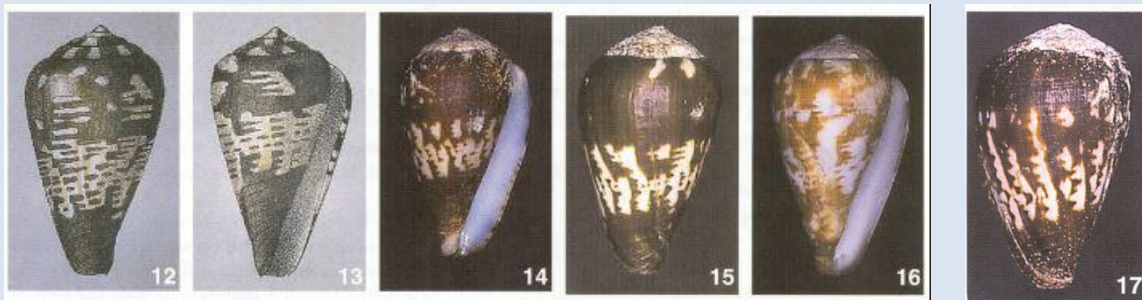
Habitat: From very low tide level till 2 m down near rocks half buried in sand or in rock crevices.

Locality: From Baia Farta up Lucira Bay. Typical shells were collected in Ponta das Vacas, Baia Farta, but there are closely related shells as far as Lucira Bay. Uncommon.

Sympatric with *C. bulbus*, *C. naranjus* and *C. zebroides*.

Similar species: *C. bulbus* with axial streaks, without spiral lines; *C. fuscolineatus* with continuous spiral lines, sometimes interrupted, but not in dashes. Inside violet.

Rolan & Rockel, 2000



Figures 12-17. *C. africanus*. 12-13: holotype in Kiener, 30 mm; 14-15: S. Nicolau, 19.9 mm (CER); 16: Ponta das Vacas, 24.6 mm (SMNS); 17: Bentiaba, 17.5 mm (CER).

Conus africanus Kiener, 1845

(Figs.12-17)

Conus africanus Kiener, 1845. Coq. Vivant., 2: 260, pl. 104, fig. 2. 1849: 260.

Conus neoafricanus da Motta, 1991: unjustified replacement for *C. africanus* Kiener (*C. africanus* Meuschen is a rejected taxon).

Type material: Representation of holotype (Figs. 12- 13) in KIENER (1845, pl. 104, fig. 2) (30 x 17 mm). Its present whereabouts unknown.

Other material studied: 2 sp, Sao Nicolau; 28 sp, Bentiaba (5. Nicolau); 7 sp, without locality, Angola.

Type locality: "L'ocean Atlantique, la cote de Guinee". We herewith designate Namibe, Province of Angola, between Chapeu Armada and Sao Nicolau, the type locality.

Shell description: Small, moderately light to moderately solid. Last whorl broadly and ventricosely conical to broadly ovate, outline convex at adapical third, slightly concave; near base. Aperture moderate. Shoulder rounded. Spire of low to moderate height, outline straight

to slightly convex. Teleoconch sutural ramps flat to convex, with fine spiral striae. Last whorl almost smooth and dull, with about 10 weak spiral grooves near base.

Ground colour white. Last whorl and spire with dark brown blotches and streaks turning into bars and dashes. Aperture white, occasionally with a brown fleck deep inside.

Shell morphometry:

L 17-25 mm (holotype: 30 mm)

RD 0.65-0.72

RSH 0.0.11-0.18

PMD 0.70-0.75

Description of animal: No information about the population we consider *C. africanus*. The information on soft parts -pinkish with black spots (ROCKEL & FERNANDES, 1982a) -for the population of Ponta das Vacas may be not applicable, as it cannot be affiliated to *C. africanus*.

Radula: High number (72-96) of teeth. Tooth (Fig.122) middle-sized with PA shorter than half DR. A narrow S with about 15-20 small D in a single row. F slightly prominent, covering about 82% of PA ABS about 45°

Radula morphometry:

(n = 5)

D 13-20

ABS 45°

LC/DR 46-58

DR/PA 2.1-2.4

Distribution: Several populations of Angolan *Conus* have been assigned to the taxon *C. africanus*. Shells from Baia Farta, Baia Azul and Chapeu Armado are similar in pattern, but lighter in colour, while shells from S. Nicolau and S. Maria are dark brown but their pattern is less similar the holotype as depicted by Kiener. We provisionally consider the dark brown populations from Bentiaba (S. Nicolau) (Fig. 145) conspecific with this species and have doubts with respect of the populations from Baia Farta and Chapeu Armado. The radula studies are made with specimens from S. Nicolau. In this place *C. africanus* is sympatrically living with *C. fuscolineatus*, *C. zebroides*, and *C. cepasi*.

Habitat: Buried in sand between rocks.

Discussion:

C. africanus resembles *C. bulbus* in size, shape, and shell sculpture. *C. bulbus* can be distinguished by its pattern: its axial streaks and the absence of spiral lines and dashes; in *C. africanus* axial lines are usually limited to a central belt. In Santa Maria and Lucira Bay both species may be sympatric.

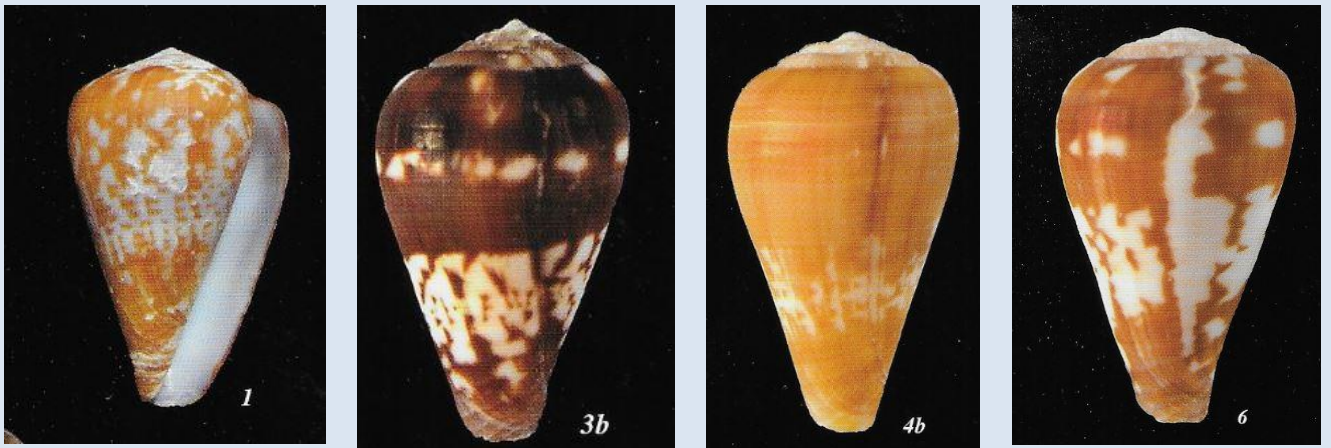
The radular tooth of *C. africanus* differs obviously from that of *C. bulbus*, chiefly being relatively smaller and having different proportions of the apical part, also in the number and arrangement of denticles in the serration. In *C. africanus* ,S is wide near serration, F is not

appreciable. D are not in the upper part of S and arranged in one row, while in *C. bulbus* D are in two rows in the upper part, being larger here.

C. africanus is also similar to *C. variegatus* and *C. nobrei*. For comparison, see the Discussion of the latter species.

Notes

The illustrations in the Iconography of West African cones are limited to populations from around the Sao Nicolau area.



Other populations are recorded in Baia Farta/Azul in the north and Tombua/Porto Alexandre in the south. These need radula testing to confirm their conspecificity with *C. africanus*.



Tombua Monnier et al.

Tombua GM

Specimens from the different populations are in circulation. As illustrated in Poppe Encyclopedia(www.Conchology.be)



Lucira 21mm



Tombua 23mm



Farta 21mm



Baia Farta GM



Bentiaba GM



Sao Nicolau GM

DNA analysis: There is no reported specimen of *C. africanus* in GenBank.
