

***Conus babaensis* Rolán & Röckel, 2001**



*Conus babaensis* n. sp. (Figs. 13-20, 23, 24)

Type material: Holotype (Figs. 13-14) in MNCN (15.05/44376) 25.8 x 15.7 mm;

Type locality: Bala do Baba, Province of Namibe, Angola.

Etymology: The name derives from the type locality.

*Shell description:* Small to moderately small, moderately solid. Last whorl ventricose, conical to broadly ovate. Outline convex at apical third, almost straight below. Left side concave near base. Aperture slightly wider at base than near shoulder. Shoulder rounded. Spire of low to moderate height, outline convex, slightly sigmoid near apex. Telioconch sutural ramps slightly convex, with fine spiral striae. Last whorl smooth but not glossy, with some weak spiral ribs near base.

Ground colour white. Last whorl with two light brown, broad spiral bands, leaving a white spiral band of varying extent below centre and a white base. The brown areas often show irregular darker brown spiral lines. Spire usually white with brown lines along suture, occasionally with irregular brown flecks. Aperture white.

*Periostracum:* Light brown, somewhat transparent.

*Shell morphometry:*

L 17-32 mm

RD 0.67-0.71

RSH 0.09-0.14

PMD 0.70-0.78

RW 0.09-0.19 g/mm

*Description of the animal:* Animal not available for study although the radula was obtained from dry soft parts.

*Radula:* In radula sac 48-78 teeth. Tooth of a vermivorous type, narrow and elongate (Fig. 23). PA larger than half DR, except in very juvenile specimens; S narrow, with about 33 in a single row of D, being present on its upper part. F covering near 80%.

*Radula morphometry:* (n = 12)

D 27-38

ABS 45-50°  
LC/DR 40-55  
DR/PA 1.71-2.09  
%PA 51-74

*Habitat:* Shallow water under rocks buried in sand. *C. babaensis* lives sympatrically with *C. flavusalbus*, and *C. fuscolineatus*.

*Distribution:* Found in Baia do Baba and Baia das Pipas, Province of Namibe, Angola.

*Discussion:* *Conus babaensis* is a typical member of the endemic cones of Angola (being small sized, with rounded shoulders and a smooth and dull surface), but can be distinguished from all others by its colour-pattern.

Most similar in size and shell shape are *C. anabelae* - living in the adjoining area of Moçamedes — and *Conus chytreus* Melvill. *C. anabelae* can be distinguished by its colour pattern, in particular by the very different characters of its radular tooth. For comparison, see the Discussion of the latter species.

*C. chytreus* and *C. bulbus* have a similar radula morphometry. However, *C. chytreus* differs in the number of D in S (*C. chytreus* 17-26 vs. 27-38) and in its shell characters: its dark reddish brown colour of pattern, composed of spiral lines, the lack of a white central band, and the dark brown coloured spire. *C. bulbus* has apart from small differences in morphometry - an obviously different colour pattern. *C. bulbus* lives far from *C. babaensis*. *C. filmeri* Rolán and Röckel, 2000, may have apparently the most similar radular tooth (different in DR/PA of 2.1- 2.3 vs. 1.71-2.09), but differs clearly in shell morphometry and colour-pattern (pure white), so conspecificity cannot be assumed.

The tooth of *C. babaensis* is very different from those of *C. flavusalbus*, *C. naranjus*, and *C. africanus*. The latter two species are from the north of the Cuanzo River, while *C. babaensis* occurs in the distant places of Baia do Baba and Baia das Pipas.

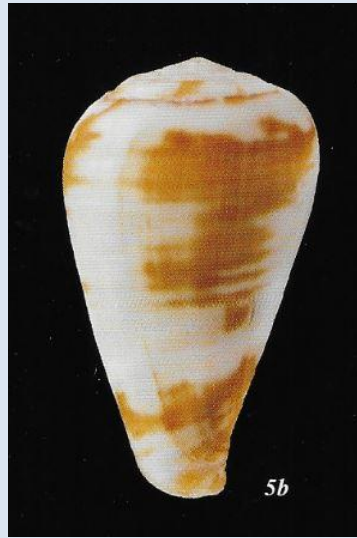
A paratype in the Rolán collection illustrates a different colour form.



Paratype Baba MHN\_USC

## Notes

In the **Iconography of West African Conidae**, some variations in pattern are illustrated from Baia Baba, Baia Pipas.



Atoll shells [www.atollseashells.com](http://www.atollseashells.com) illustrated the shell clearly



Other shells are in common circulation



Baba GM



Baba GM



Moçamedes GR/EM et al

The specimen in the Georges Richard collection is illustrated in Monnier et al, 2018. Its locality of Moçamedes suggests a slight extension of the distribution range and shows some features of the shell of *C. petuchi*.

The original description highlights the mainly white spire, brown ground colour with white broad spiral band below middle and sometimes dark brown spiral lines.



These Baba specimens are variations commonly found, with mainly brown spire, two white bands and some dark brown spiral lines.

Specimens similar to the type are harder to find:



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**DNA Analysis:** No results have been reported.

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Page last updated 13 May 2019.