Conus (Lautoconus) eusebioi Schönherr, 2018

Holotype

Type material

More than 30 specimens were found of which 20 specimens were studied in more detail and are considered type specimens.

Holotype: 27.5 × 17.2 mm, MNCN.

Type locality

Limagens Bay, Benguela Province, Angola, coordinates 13º 20´S, 12º 80 E; specimens found by diving along rocks in 2 – 4 meters.

Distribution and Habitat

Most specimens were found in Limagens Bay. *C. eusebioi* n. sp. can also be found in other bays along this coast at Elefantes, Baba and Namibe. At Namibe Bay, specimens were dredged at approx. 50 m.

Etymology

This species is named for EUSÉBIO MABURO, a community leader living in the Baía Equimina who helped the author who was stranded, to recover stolen car keys during a diving trip to Equimina.

Shell description

The shells are solid, medium-sized to large 25-35mm in adults. It is a pyriform shell, broadly ovate with a rounded to subangulate shoulder. The convex spire is moderately elevated, often eroded in adult specimens. The teleoconch whorls are weakly undulate, curved and stepped, creating an irregular open recessed suture. The sutural ramps have several weak fine spiral threads. The body whorl has a matt surface, smooth with very weak or no spiral or axial cords.

The ground colour is off white with tones of grey and light brown. The pattern is formed by many narrow spiral lines, often wavy in form and separated by narrow spiral bands of the ground colour. The lines around the body of the shell are continuous. Juvenile specimens have more than 20 spiral brown lines whilst adult specimens have 30-40 such lines. A brown

pattern covers the spire whorls and shoulder with many thin brown axial brown lines which often coalesce and are interrupted by patches of the off white ground colour. The edge of the suture is indicated distinctively with dark brown.

The wide aperture is white, the interior edge of the straight thin lip presenting the external coloration. In specimens with darker tones, a purple spot may be found in the upper aperture.

The periostracum is thin and transparent, and a translucent light tan colour, often persistent and difficult to remove.

The living animal is mainly dark black-grey with areas of yellow and light grey. The operculum is rather small and elongated.

Radula: LC 27.5 mm, DR 0.41 mm, PA 0.20 mm, LC/DR 67, DR/PA 2.05, F not estimated, D 16-18.

Text-Fig. 8: Radula tooth of *Conus* (*Lautoconus*) *eusebioi* n. sp.

This radula has a tooth of medium size, being the most common in the genus. *C. fuscolineatus* SOWERBY, 1905, has more denticles D: *C. variegatus* KIENER, 1845 has a radular tooth a little larger and the number of denticles D is higher. *C. babaensis* ROLÁN & RÖCKEL, 2001 has also more denticles on the serration (S).

Discussion

Variations observed include some darker specimens showing a purple band in the upper aperture.

C. eusebioi n. sp. is most similar to *C. fuscolineatus* SOWERBY 1905 and to some specimens of *C. chytreus* MELVILL, 1884. *C. lobitensis* KAICHER, 1977 (for many years considered a synonym of *C. fuscolineatus* but recently recognised as the valid name of the species) is also similar.

SOWERBY described *C. fuscolineatus* citing erroneously Sierra Leone as the locality. Angolan cone specimens with many shapes and patterns have since been labelled as *C. fuscolineatus*. ROLÁN & RÖCKEL clarified the status by identifying a population with matching morphology and pattern to the type specimen from Ponta de Noronha, near Moçâmedes Bay and correcting the type locality to this location. The specimens from the type locality were also illustrated in RÖCKEL & FERNANDES, 1983.

In the original description, SOWERBY emphasizes “dark spiral lines, broken into variable lengths, the spire adorned with large irregular dark spots” and “aperture is moderately broad, with three bands of dark purple”. ROLÁN & RÖCKEL note that the animals of the type locality population are coloured “pinkish with dark dots and spots” citing FERNANDES & ROLÁN 1982c.

C. eusebioi n. sp. differs in having a very different black and yellow animal. Its aperture is normally white with some specimens having a purple blotch in the upper aperture. The whorl pattern of *C. eusebioi* n. sp. is similar but its spiral lines are much more numerous (30-40 v 20) and the lines are continuous. The adult size of *C. eusebioi* is 30-40 mm much larger than specimens of *C. fuscolineatus* and its adult pyriform shape is quite different.

Text-Fig. 9: From left to right: Holotype of *C. fuscolineatus*; RÖCKEL & ROLÁN "typical specimen" Ponta de Noronha; holotype of *C. eusebioi* n.sp.; holotype of *C. lobitensis*; holotype of *C. chytreus.*

C. lobitensis KAICHER, 1977 is quite similar to *C. fuscolineatus* and *C. eusebioi* n. sp. It differs from *C. eusebioi* n. sp. in having very different pattern of spiral lines broken into long dashes and has wavy axial flammules of brown.

C. chytreus also has a pattern of spiral lines but its shell shape is different and its animal is pinkish cream with black dots [RÖCKEL & FERNANDES, 1982].

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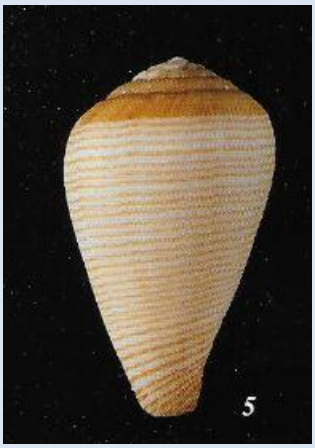
Specimens have circulated for many years under the label *C. fuscolineatus* or *C. aff fuscolineatus.* These specimens are recorded from Namibe province in the Iconography of West African cones.



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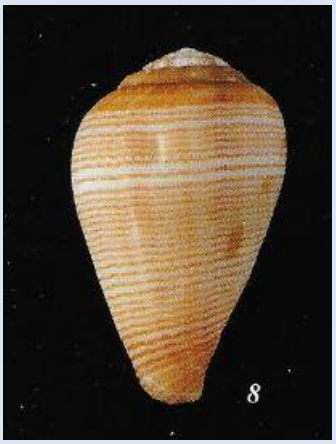

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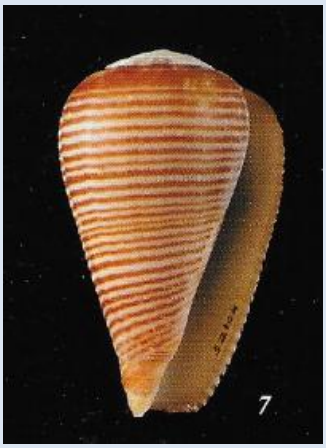

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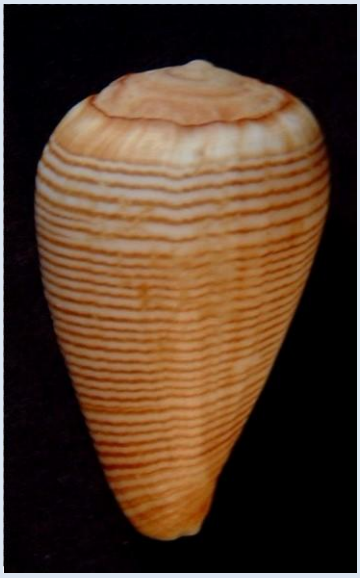
Limagens 28mm GM


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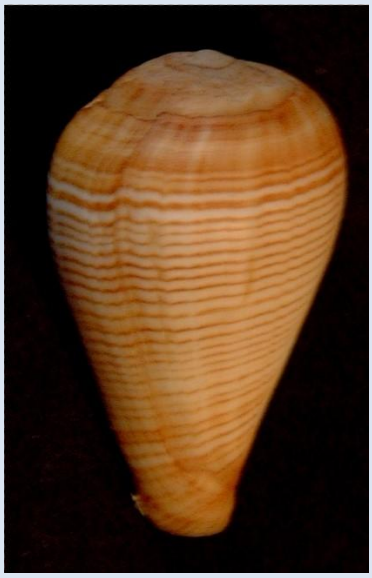
Limagens 29mm

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DNA Analysis: There is no data recorded on GenBank.

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Page last updated 31 May 2019.