

***Conus fuscolineatus* Sowerby III, 1905**



Holotype NHMUK: Specimen with periostracum.

Testa ovato-turbinata, laevis, antice attenuata, postico rotundata, albida, epidermide lutea induta, lineis angustis, fuscis, transversis, plus minusve interruptis, ornata, ad apicium maculis grandibus, fuscis, irregularibus, picta. Spira brevissime obtusa; anfractus haud carinati, Apertura mediocriter lata, intus purpureo-fusco late trifasciata.

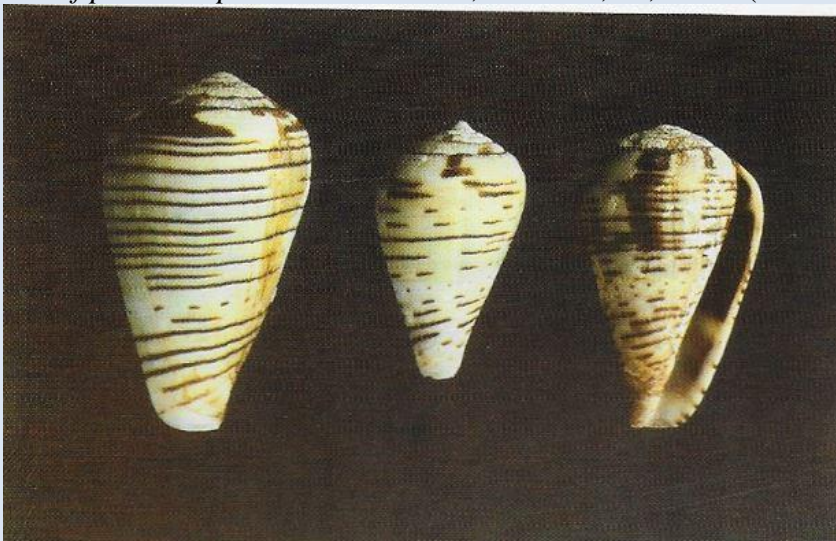
Size 22m x 12mm

Locality Sierra Leone(erroneous)

The shell ovate-turbinata, smooth, with anterior attenuate, posteriorly rounded, whitish, epidermis slightly yellow, pattern of narrow lines, dark coloured, running across whorl, interrupted into various lengths, adorned adaptically with large irregular dark blotches, Spire slightly obtuse; suture not carinate, aperture moderately wide, inside purple-brown in 3 wide bands.

Fernandes & Rockel, 1982.

Size of pictured specimens: 26.3 mm, 19.5 mm, 22,8 mm. (from left).



4. *Conus fuscolineatus* Sowerby 1905 (Proc. Malac. Soc. London, 6, 282, 6).

Main characteristics: Solid, slightly pyriform shell. Lower sides almost straight, near shoulder strongly convex. Spire depressed with straight sides. Surface smooth but not glossy. Color greenish brown toned white. Last whorl with interrupted spaced spiral lines of dark brown, changing at centre into 1 - 2 dotted lines. Inside deep violet.

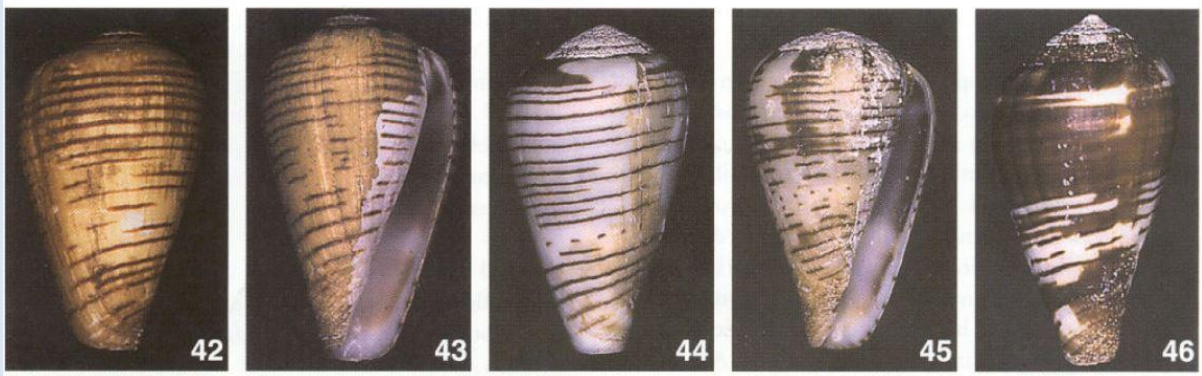
Habitat: Under rocks, half buried in sand. 2 - 3 m. deep.

Locality: Mossamedes Bay up to Limagens Bay, South Angola. (Type locality: Sierra Leone).

Similar species: *C. variegatus* has thinner shell and is smaller and more slender; its pattern is regular. *C. lucirensis* is white inside without greenish tone.

Rolan & Rockel, 2000

Conus fuscolineatus Sowerby, 1905



(Figs. 42-46) All specimens from Ponta de Noronha
Conus fuscolineatus Sowerby, 1905. Proc. Malac. Soc. London, 6: 282, fig. 6.

Type material: Holotype (Figs. 42-43) in BMNH (21.8 x 13 mm).

Other material studied: S. Nicolau; Chapeu Armado; Baia do Baba; Mucuio; Baia das Pipas Saco Mar, Ponta de Noronha; Tres Irmaos; Praia Amelia.

Type locality: "Sierra Leone". This is most probably erroneous. The type belongs to a population living off Ponta de Noronha, near Mocamedes Bay, Angola, which we herewith designate the type locality

Shell description: Small to moderately small, moderately solid. Last whorl ventricosely conical to ovate, outline convex at adapical third, straight or slightly convex below. Left side slightly concave near base. Aperture wider at base than near shoulder. Shoulder rounded. Spire of low to moderate height, outline straight to slightly sigmoid. Teleoconch sutural ramps flat to convex, with fine spiral striae. Last whorl smooth and dull, with few spiral grooves at base.

Ground colour greenish white. Last whorl with about 20 brown spiral lines, here and there interrupted and in the central area changing to dotted or dashed rows. Irregular brown flecks and streaks may be present. Aperture dark or light brown with two white spiral bands at shoulder and base.

Periostracum thin, smooth, translucent.

Shell morphometry:

L 19-27 mm

RD 0.63-0.69

RSH 0.06-0.16

PMD 0.70-0.73

RW 0.12 g/mm

Description of animal: Colour pinkish with dark dots and spots (ROCKEL & FERNANDES, 1982c).

Radula: Restricted to the typical material from Ponta de Noronha: Radula sac with about 45 teeth. Tooth (Fig. 127) of vermivorous type, rather small ($LC/DR = 70$). The apical part approximate half the total length ($DR/PA = 2.0$). A blade is not visible. There are about 20 very small denticles in the serration, arranged into a single row. ABS about 45° .

Radula morphometry: (including the other populations)

(n = 6)

D 20-45

ABS 45°

LC/DR 58-70

DR/PA 2.0-2.1

Distribution: Specimens matching the holotype are found in Ponta de Noronha, Mocamedes (Fig 146). The species lives sympatrically with *C. africanus*, *C. zebroides*, *C. cepasi*, and *C. filmeri* n. sp.

Habitat: Buried in sand at 1-2 m deep near rocks or in rock crevices (RÖCKEL & FERNANDES, 1981).

Discussion: Only the population of Ponta de Noronha corresponds exactly with the holotype. There are other populations along the Angolan coast with similar morphological characters. Whether they are local forms of this species or distinct species cannot definitively be answered at present. Therefore, we provisionally consider only the Ponta de Noronha population representing *C. fuscolineatus*. Future studies will shed more light upon this. *C. variegatus* may be similar in shape and pattern, but lacks the greenish ground colour and the unfinished brown spiral lines. The radula teeth are not very different, except the blade (F).

C. chytreus has a similar shape and pattern, but its spiral lines are continuous and not interrupted, its ground colour is white and the shell is also white inside the aperture. More important differences can be observed in the radular, tooth: LC/DR is 39-60 in *C. chytreus* and 58-70 in *C. fuscolineatus*. Blade is visible in *C. chytreus*, but not in *C. fuscolineatus*.

Iconography of West African cones.

The illustrations are limited to shells from Ponta de Noronha and nearby Moçamedes, similar to shells displayed in Rolan & Rockel, 2000.

A similar shell *C. lobitensis* was described on the Kaicher cards in 1977. After an ICZN decision validating the cards as a publication, *C lobitensis* becomes a valid species.



It is similar to *C. fuscolineatus* but with shorter spiral lines and a lighter aperture. Similar specimens are shown under the name *C. fuscolineatus* in Monnier et al, 2018.



Monnier et al. as *C fuscolineatus* 3 Sao Nicolau, 4. Baia Farta

If we take the whorl pattern and purple aperture as criteria, a number of other populations would be considered as *C. fuscolineatus*. However *C. fuscolineatus* is difficult to separate from *C. lobitensis*.



Baia Farta



Saco Mar GM



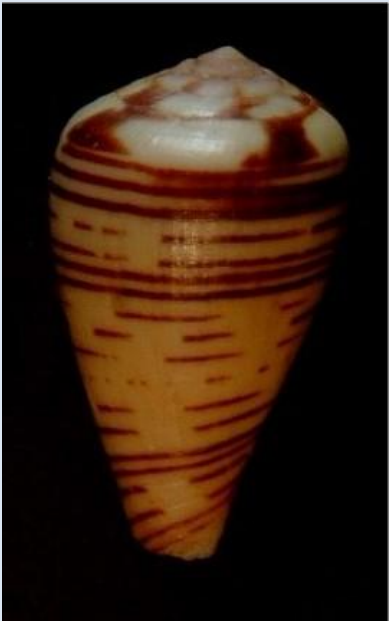
Saco Mar GM



Baia Farta 22mm GM



Baia Farta 25mm GM



Baia Farta 18mm GM

DNA Recorded Specimens

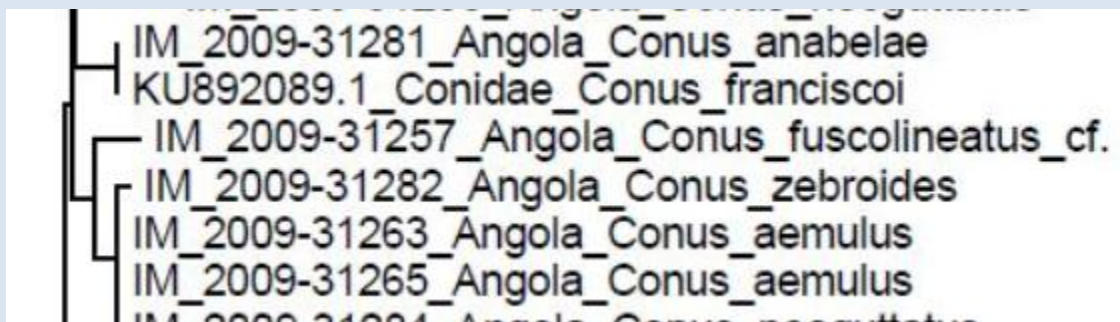
Specimen MNHN 31257 representing a specimen of *C. fuscolineatus* c.f. from Chapeu Armado is recorded in Gen Bank and would seem to be a representative specimen.



MNHN 31257



Holotype



In the current COI tree, the species has a moderate genetic separation from other species.
