



Type Specimen: Holotype MNCN 26 x 14.4mm

Type locality: Baía do Bom Fim (Lucira area) in the Namibe Province, Southern Angola, West Africa. (coordinates: 13°49.100' S, 12° 31.600 E).

Distribution and habitat: Specimens of the new species have been regularly sampled in the Lucira area, mainly in the localities of Baía do Bom Fim, Baía da Canoca, Zeca Pequeno, Periquitos and Doca. It occurs between 0.5 and 7 meters depth. Smaller juvenile specimens are normally observed in slightly deeper water (5 to 7 meters depth), completely buried in sand beneath rocks, while larger adult ones are commonly seen in shallower water (0.5 to 2 meters depth), partially buried in sand under rocks or in rock holes and fissures, normally close to the wave action zone.

Throughout its geographical distribution it occurs in sympatry with the endemic *Pseudonoduloconus carnalis* (G. B. Sowerby III, 1879), *V. chytreus*, *V. micropunctatus* (Rolán & Röckel, 2000), *V. naranjus* (Trovão, 1975), *V. nobrei* (Trovão, 1975), *V. cf. tevesi* (Trovão, 1978), *V. trovaoi* (Rolán & Röckel, 2000), *V. variegatus*, *V. zebroides* and the non-endemic *Kalloconus pulcher* ([Lightfoot], 1786), *Chelyconus ermineus* (Born, 1778) and *Genuanoconus genuanus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Egg capsules have been observed in October 2011 together with the ones of *V. chytreus*, *V. zebroides* and *V. variegatus*.

Description of the shell: Morphometric parameters: L = 23 – 29 mm; average L = 26 mm; RD = 0.61 – 0.64; RSH = 0.13 – 0.16; PMD = 0.80 – 0.85.

Shell small to moderately small, moderately solid. Last whorl ventricosely conical, slightly elongated. Profile more or less straight and with a rounded shoulder. Spire moderately high, convex, teleoconch whorls smooth. Last whorl smooth, except for about four spiral raised lines near the anterior tip. The ground colour of the shell is dark brown, occasionally olive-brown, with many light bluish specks (prone to fading over time) that normally form a wide central spiral band, but can also be present almost over the entire last whorl of the teleoconch, usually more numerous between the central band and the shoulder. In some specimens the bluish specks can give way to reticulated arrow shaped patterns. The spiral ramps present light bluish axial streaks. The aperture is bluish grey inside, with a dark violet zone parallel to the lip, interrupted about half the length of the lip and again near the shoulder; the interior of the lip is white, with the outer colour showing by transparency. Aperture banded at the

central portion and just below the shoulder. The periostracum is yellowish to olive-green, transparent. Operculum small and elongated, typical of a *Varioconus*. Shells often have scars and cracks and the first whorls are typically eroded; apex perforations are also common in many specimens.

Living animal and radula: The living animal is dark grey to black, tinged with pinkish shades. Radular tooth examined for the holotype (Fig. 4A). 40 teeth in radular sac. Radular tooth slender, medium-sized ($LC/DR = 51$) with the anterior section shorter than the half of the total tooth length ($DR/PA = 2.2 - 2.3$). Waist evident. Blade almost indistinctive, covering most of the anterior part ($100F/PA = 85\%$). 34 to 36 denticles present in serration (d in S), arranged in one row in the apical portion, becoming 2 rows below, ending in a rather large, prominent cusp which is characteristic. Basal spur present.

Other specimens have been illustrated on the web



Paratypes.



Medvedev collection



Atoll Seashells(www.atollseashells.com).

DNA Analysis: no record of any specimen being tested.

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