

Conus (Lautoconus) nunesi Schönherr, 2018



Holotype

Type material

More than 80 specimens were found of which 30 specimens were studied in more detail and are considered type specimens.

All specimens from Equimina Bay.

Holotype: 38.5 × 22.5 mm, MNCN*.

Type locality

Equimina Bay, Benguela, Angola; dived at 3 m.

Distribution and Habitat

This new species was found only in the Equimina Bay, in the south of the province Benguela. The area is a wadi within the desert in the south of Angola. *C. nunesi* is found on the south side of the bay along the rocks in 3 – 6 m deep between and under rocks or buried in fissures of the rocks. The species is living sympatrically with other endemic cones: *C. chytreus*, *C. zebroides*, *C. variegatus*, *C. carnalis*, *C. fuscolineatus*, *C. micropunctatus* However *C. nunesi* was not found in other bays along this coast.

Etymology

This species is named after NUNES ANTONIO QUIBULA, a colleague of the author in the public service of Angola.

Description

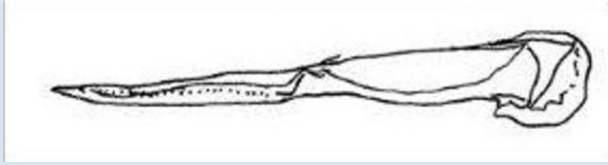
Shell moderately medium to large in size and quite solid. The outline is mainly conical to ventricosely conical in the adapical third, almost straight below. The left side is concave near the base. Body whorl smooth, sometimes with up to 4 well spaced grooves at base. The aperture is wider at the base than near the shoulder. Shoulder is rounded, spire moderately high, convex in outline, with tops of whorls rounded with many fine spiral threads. Protoconch paucispiral.

Ground colour off-white; the spire and the last whorl are covered with orange irregular axial streaks. A weak broad spiral band of white is found below middle. The interspaces between

streaks are wide but quite variable in width and the streaks are often broken. The interior of the aperture is totally white.

The periostracum is brown, opaque. The operculum is small and elongated. The animal is grey-orange, with black spots, the foot has areas of black and orange.

Radula: LC 38.5 mm, DR 0.25 mm, PA 0.15 mm, LC/DR 120, DR/PA 2.13, F not estimated, D 24.



Radula tooth of *Conus (Lautoconus) nunesi* n. sp.

This radula is extremely small (LC/DR = 120). Only *C. trovaoi* ROLÁN & RÖCKEL, 2000 and *C. neoguttatus* DA MOTTA, 1991 have smaller teeth, the latter having a very different tooth.

Discussion

Variations observed include specimens with an orange brown tone covering parts of the whorl and some specimens with greyish blue tone in the ground colour.

The new species should be compared primarily with *C. trovaoi*, and *C. zebroides*. It differs significantly from the type specimens of both these species but shares features found in specimens considered to be *C. trovaoi* or *C. zebroides*.

Specimens of *C. trovaoi* with a greyish ground colour occasionally have shorter wide dark brown axial streaks but have a purple aperture. Variations of its pattern can include orange tones in its background colour. Its periostracum is yellowish green and transparent. *C. nunesi* n. sp. has a broader profile, wider aperture, different colour pattern, a white aperture and an opaque brown periostracum.

C. zebroides has a pattern on its last whorl of brown/black axial lines and streaks. Its aperture is normally a bluish/brown shade. However extreme variations can be found in specimens accepted as *C. zebroides* from Elefant Bay. *C. zebroides* is a narrower, more cylindrical shell with a less distinct shoulder. Its periostracum is thin and transparent.

Some specimens of *C. tabidus* are found with wavy, weak orange flammules but that species has a larger more elongate conical shape, a different structure of the spire and has distinct spiral ridges particularly in its basal area.

C. naranjus has similar elements to its colour pattern but is a considerably smaller species (18-23 mm). It has a less angulate shell, with sloping shoulder, an orange ground colour and its periostracum is thin, brown and translucent.

C. cepasi has a white ground colour with many thin crowded axial lines. Its animal is pink with dark grey markings and its periostracum is transparent yellow.



C. nunesi paratypes GM

DNA testing: There are no current records in GenBank. Specimens were deposited with MNCN Madrid for future testing.

Page last updated 1 June 2019.