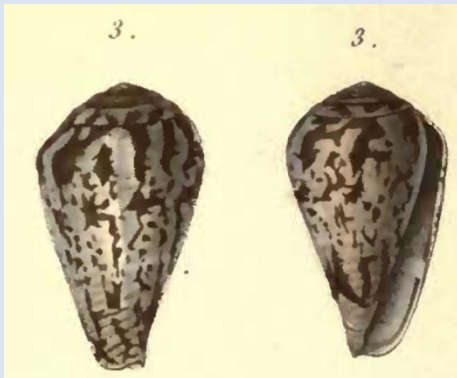


## *Conus obtusus* Kiener, 1850



Pl. CIX, fig. 3.

*C. testi ovato-turbinata, superné inflatâ, obtus, inferné attenuati; cinerei, maculis fuscis irregularibus longitudinaliter strigatâ; anfractibus quinque angustis; ultimo superné rotundato, laevi, basi sulcato.*

Coquille ovale, turbinée, renflée et obtuse a sa partie supérieure, atténuée vers sa base. La spire est très-courte, arrondie, formée de cinq tours légèrement convexes; L'angle spiral du dernier est arrondi et obtus; toute sa surface est lisse; sa base seule porte quelques gros sillons transverses. L'ouverture est étroite, un peu élargie vers sa partie inférieure. La coloration consiste en un fond gris cendré nuageux, couvert en grande partie par des maculations brunes très irrégulières, plus ou moins étendues et formant des espèces de fascies transverses: L'une d'elles occupe l'angle spiral. L'intérieur de l'ouverture est d'un gris cendré; le bord droit est liseré de brun.

Long. 24 millim.

Habite

Cette petite espèce a aussi quelques rapports avec le *Conus cinereus*, principalement par son système de coloration, mais elle en diffère par sa forme renflée et obtuse au sommet et fortement atténuée, au contraire, vers la base; sous ce rapport, elle aurait plus de ressemblance avec notre *Conus africanus*, mais la spire mucronée de celui-ci, et surtout sa coloration toute particulière, suffisent pour l'en distinguer.

Translation

Shell oval, turritate, swollen and obtuse at its upper part, attenuated towards its base. The spire is very short, rounded, formed of five slightly convex whorls; the spiral angle of the latter is rounded and obtuse; all its surface is smooth; its base alone bears a few large transverse furrows. The aperture is narrow, slightly enlarged towards the lower part. The coloring consists of a cloudy ashy grey background, covered in large part by very irregular brown patches, more or less extensive and forming sets of transverse bands. One of them also occupies the spiral angle. The interior of the opening is ash gray; the right edge is edged with brown.

Length. 24 mm.

This small species also has some resemblance with the *Conus cinereus*, principally by its colouring pattern, but it differs in being swollen and obtuse at the apex and in contrast being strongly attenuated towards the base; in this respect, it would have more resemblance to our *Conus africanus*, but the mucronate spire of this one, and especially its particular colour pattern, suffice to distinguish it.

**Note:** The holotype of *C. obtusus* was in the Lorois collection and is considered lost.

**Röckel & Fernandes in La Conchiglia, 1982**



*Conus obtusus* KIENER, 18949-50 (Species Gén. et Icon. d. Coqu. Viv., Conus p. 317, pl. 109 f. 3).

**Main characteristics:** Small solid shell (type picture 26,7x14,8 mm), body whorl elongated conical, shoulder rounded, spire depressed, straight sides. Surface smooth without gloss. Spire whorls convex. Ground colour bluish gray with irregular dark brown blotches or interrupted spiral bands and spiral lines. Inside greyish violet with a whitish central band.

**Habitat:** Near rocks half buried in sand in very quiet zones, 50 cm - 1 m deep.

**Locality:** Found from Iucira to Limagens Bay, South Angola. Very rare. Sympatric with *C. bulbus*, *zebroides*, *variegatus*, *lucirensis*, *naranjus*, *nobrei*, *tabidus*, *carnalis* and others.

**Similar species:** *C. aemulus* is larger, more regularly patterned, sides of spire whorls are straight, not convex. *C. africanus* has less elongated body whorl, white ground colour with interrupted spiral lines between axial streaks. *C. variegatus* is smaller, very thin shell, with regular interrupted, or dotted spiral lines around the body whorl.

**Size of pictured specimens:** 31,5 mm, 23 mm, 28,5 mm (from left).

**Notes:**

The two right specimens in the picture have the characteristics of the type figure, especially if one considers the grey tones of the original figure may be light blue. In this publication *C. obtusus* is recognised as a species.

**Rockel and Rolan, 2000** allocate *C. obtusus* as a junior synonym of *C. variegatus* without any explanation. They provide radula data for the form

“*C. variegatus* and *C. obtusus* are synonyms”

Radula (form obtusus): In radula sac 53-80 teeth. Tooth (Fig. 123) typical vermivorous, medium sized. PA slightly variable. D in S very small, arranged in a single row adapically, in two rows below. F hardly visible, covering about 70-80%.

Radula morphometry:(n = 13)

D 21-30

ABS 40-50°

LC/DR 47-62

DR/PA 2.0-2.2

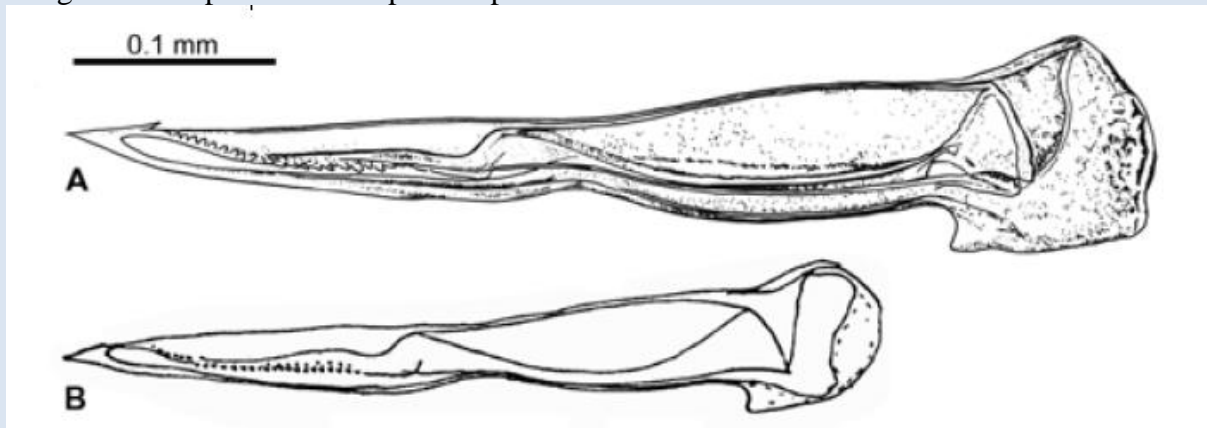


### Iconography of West African Conidae.

The publication denotes *C. obtusus* as a synonym of *C. variegatus* but does not provide any detail.

The specimen pl.153 f1. illustrated as the holotype of *C. variegatus* (=error) seems a good fit to the figure of form obtusus.

Monteiro et al ,2014 maintain the synonymy with a strong argument based on the radula being alike and provide a comparison picture of the two radula from similar sized shells.

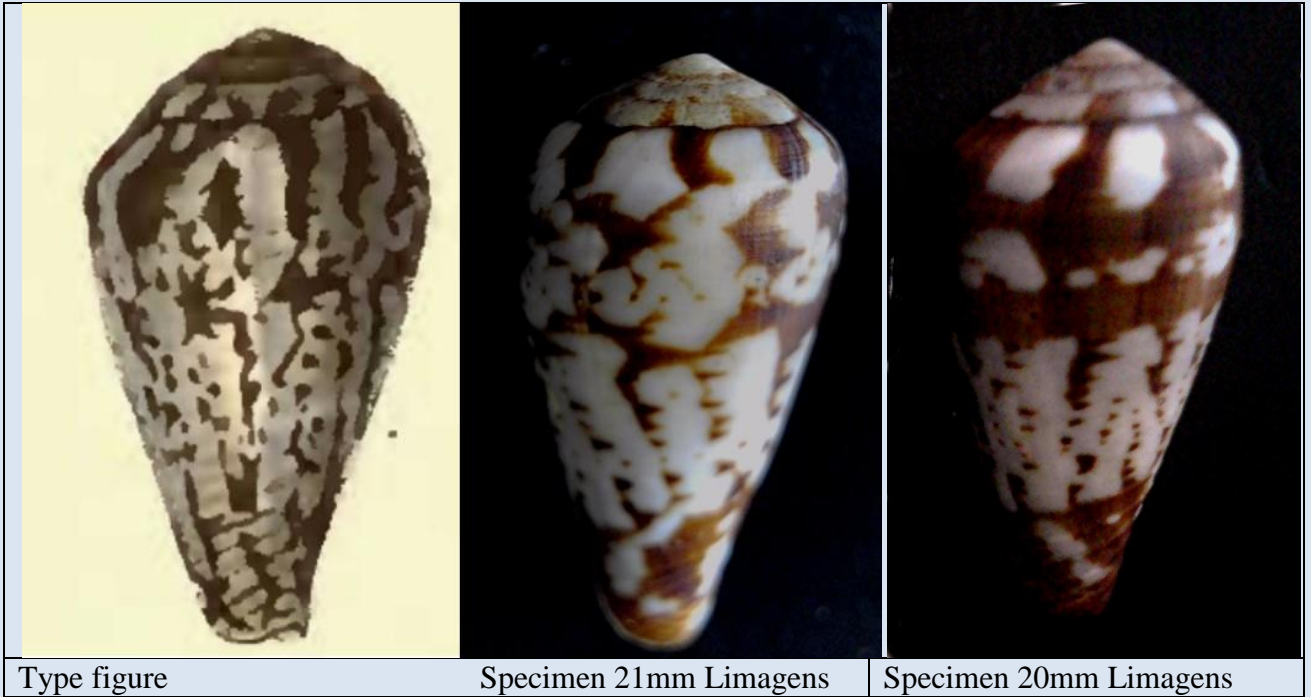


Given the similar size of the shell specimens, the length difference is unusual.

They also illustrate a sequence showing a transition in colour forms from typical *C. variegatus* to *C. variegatus f. obtusus*.



Specimens similar to the type representation figure are difficult to find, but the specimen below from Limagens is a good match.



Type figure

Specimen 21mm Limagens

Specimen 20mm Limagens

In many specimens, the upper half of the whorl becomes a more solid brown and a blue middle band with brown dashes or chevrons develops usually with a thin white spiral band below the middle.

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Page last updated 28 October 2020.