

Type material: Holotype: 28.6 x 17.2 mm (Plate 3, Figs. 2a – 2b), MNCN.

Other material examined: Between 20 and 25 live taken specimens have been studied.

Type locality: Northern Baía do Baba, Namibe Province, Southern Angola, West Africa. (coordinates: 14° 48.600' S, 12° 15.400' E).

Distribution and habitat: Specimens are only known from the type locality. The new species is found in fissures with coarse sand on rock slabs and platforms in relatively calm waters at the outer side of the bay, from 4 to 12 meters deep. *V. petuchi* sp. nov. can be seen living sympatrically with *V. babaensis* and *V. cf. fuscolineatus* (G. B. Sowerby III, 1905).

Description of the shell: Morphometric parameters: L = 28– 33 mm; average L = 30.5 mm; RD = 0.67 – 0.76; RSH = 0.09 –0.17; PMD = 0.73 – 0.82.

Shell solid, moderately small, broadly and ventricosely conical, with rounded shoulder. Spire low to moderate, spiral ramps slightly convex, depressed sutures; protoconch and first whorls typically eroded. Last whorl smooth, previous lips often noticeable. The periostracum is yellowish brown and translucent. Ground color ivory white, covered with axial lightning-shaped dark brown markings that may coalesce forming wide spiral bands, namely on the anterior tip of the shell and on the first third below the shoulder; almost entirely dark brown shells are known. The spiral ramps are of the same color as the body whorl. The aperture is white. The operculum is small and elongated.

Living animal and radula: The living animal is dark red. Radular tooth examined for the holotype . Around 85 teeth in radular sac. Radular tooth very small (LC/DR =103 – 104) with the anterior section much shorter than the posterior section of the tooth (DR/PA = 2.4 – 2.5). Waist evident. Blade not observable. 10 – 11 small denticles present in serration, arranged in one row in the apical portion, which may become 2 rows below, ending in a rounded, almost indistinct terminating cusp. Base large, with a basal spur pointing upwards.

Remarks: Morphologically, *V. petuchi* sp. nov. can be easily separated from the other endemic Cones found along the Angolan coast by its characteristic robust shell profile and typical pattern arrangement. In spite of the highly variable pattern, radular morphology

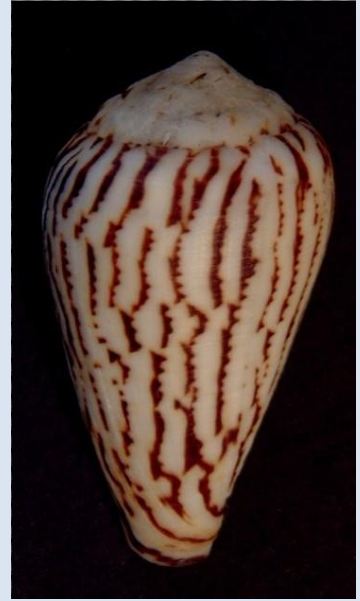
suggests that all examined specimens are in fact conspecific. *V. bulbus* may resemble *V. petuchi* sp. nov., but can be distinguished by its large axial streaks, more slender appearance, and less angulated shoulder; the radular teeth of *V. bulbus* (not shown, see Rolán & Röckel, 2000) has a much larger relative size, more denticles in the serration, and a blade covering most of the anterior part of the tooth. In this species, the anterior and posterior sections of the tooth are subequal in length. *V. zebroides* has a larger shell length (average 35 to 45 mm) and a different pattern arrangement.

Note: The paratypes demonstrate the wide variety in pattern of specimens.



The almost entirely brown specimens referred to in the description were illustrated from Baba by Atoll Seashells(www.atollseashells.com)





Specimens 35-38mm GM

DNA Analysis: There is no data in GenBank on this species.

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