

***Conus tabidus* Reeve, 1844**



C. tabidus Holotype ZMUC

Original description: “The consumptive Cone. Shell turbinated, slightly pyriform, thin, everywhere grooved, basal grooves wider and rather deep, the others irregular, very fine, waved ; white, entire surface peculiarly sculptured with longitudinal striae; ; spire rather obtusely convex, obsoletely coronated.

Reeve, Pro. Zool. Soc, 1843.

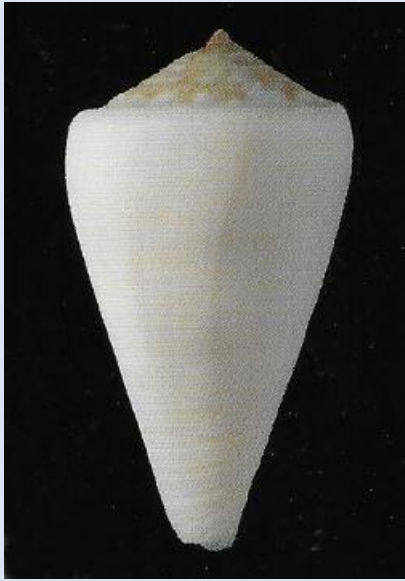
Hab. ?

I am not aware that the raised longitudinal striae with which this shell is so delicately sculptured are to be found in any other species of the genus.”

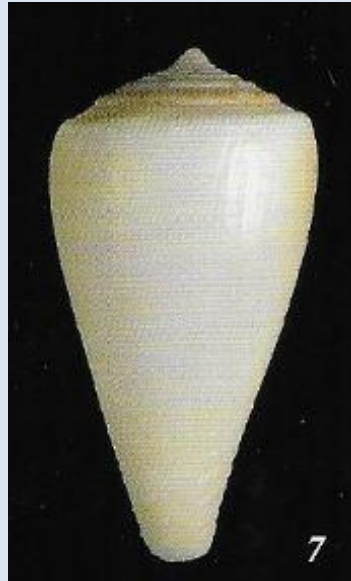
Iconography of West African Conidae

This publication updates the description and expands the distribution to Senegal, Angola and includes the off shore Cape Verde Is. and São Tome Principe. Several specimens illustrated show the variation in shape.

“Description: Shell moderately small (normal length: about 40 mm), with a convex, occasionally pear-shaped profile. The spire is moderately high and with a convex profile. The entire body whorl presents some spiral grooving, especially noticeable near the anterior end. The shell is entirely white or yellowish white. There are often dots and stripes near the suture. The aperture is milky white. The periostracum is very thick. “



Angola



Angola

Within Angola, the species is found from Luanda in the north to Namibe in the south



Luanda GM



Baba, Namibe GM

Many older specimens from Angola are labelled as *C. ambiguus*, a similar species. The differences are difficult to perceive in some specimens, especially those *C. tabidus* specimens with a pattern of brown spots on the spire. Specimens of *C. tabidus* are found over a wide range in Angola from Luanda to Namibe.

***Conus ambiguus* Reeve, 1844**



Holotype.

Original description: “The doubtful Cone. Shell turbinated, smooth, ridged towards the base, rather obsoletely engraved with very fine, festooned, longitudinal lines ; white, palely stained with light brown ; spire obtusely convex, slightly canaliculated, ornamented with arched brownish spots ; apex raised and pointed.

Reeve, Pro. Zool. Soc, 1843. Hab. ?

There is always a doubtful character about shells exhibiting faint indications of colour ; I have not, however, succeeded in referring this to any species hitherto described.”

Iconography of West African Conidae This publication expands the description of *C. ambiguus* and limits the distribution to southern Senegal, Gambia and Guinea Bissau

“Shell moderately large to large (normal length: about 40 to 65mm), smooth, with a straight to very slightly convex profile; the spire is low to moderately high, with a straight to slightly convex profile. The shoulder is clearly angulated. The shell is pale purplish-brown, with dark brown crescent shaped flammules on the spire. The aperture is white in the larger specimens and has a faint violet shading in the smaller ones.”



Iconography



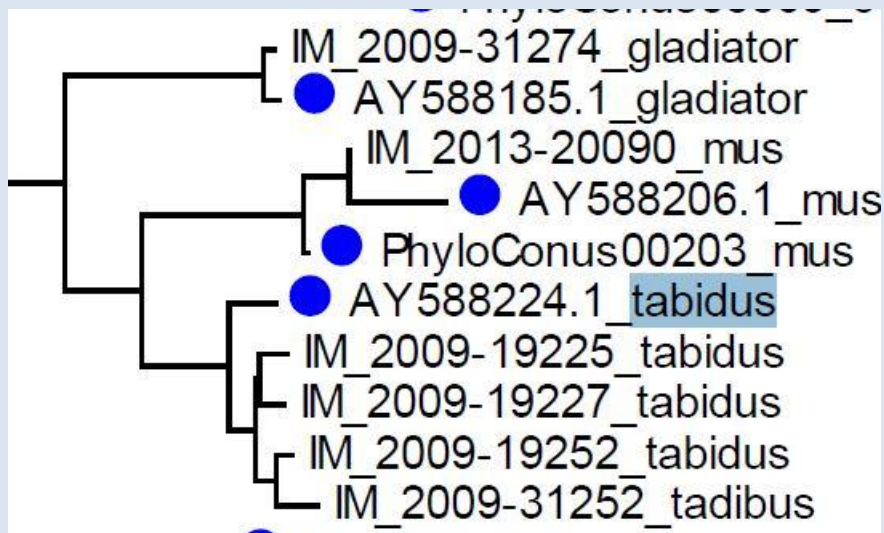
GM Senegal 50mm

Pin & Tack in their publication “Cones of Senegal”, 1995 Conchiglia put forward a structured comparison of *C. tabidus* and *C. ambiguus*.

“For a long time *C. tabidus* was mistaken for *C. ambiguus*. But, in addition to the fact that its habitat is slightly less deep, many constant differences exist between the two species:

- The shoulder of *C. tabidus* is relatively narrow, that of *C. ambiguus* quite wide;
- C. tabidus* shows two spiral cords on each whorl top, while *C. ambiguus* is smooth;
- C. ambiguus* is most often purplish, which is never the case for *C. tabidus*;
- The spots of the spire and shoulder of *C. ambiguus* are almost always quite sharply defined, while they are indistinct in *C. tabidus*;
- The height of *C. ambiguus* can reach 60 mm, while that of *C. tabidus* does not exceed 40 mm;
- In *C. ambiguus* the profile of the lip is very rounded near the shoulder and much more than in *C. tabidus*.

DNA Analysis: No specimens from Angola have been tested but several specimens from Dakar, Senegal are recorded.



The unusual grouping with species from Western Atlantic is recognised as *Monteiroconus*.
