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Thanks for their help to : Felix Lorenz, Loïc Limpalaer, Giancarlo Paganelli, Paul Kersten, Antonio Monteiro, Manuel Tenorio, Bruno Mathé, John K Tucker

## GENRE/GENUS CONUS

All shells displayed in this article come from Mauritius and come from the collection of Eric Le Court de Billot, except for *Conus julii* kindly shot by Bruno & Paul Mathé.

## A. "The *Conus textile* complex"

Here is the list of taxa studied in this work :

- *Conus textile*, Linnaeus 1758
- *Conus archiepiscopus* Hwass in Bruguière, 1792
- *Conus verriculum* Reeve 1843
- *Conus textile* f. *scriptus*, Sowerby II, 1858 (==> *Conus textile vaulberti*, Lorenz, 2012)
- *Conus textile* f. *euetrios* var. *cyanosus* Lauer, Rossiniana 1987
- *Conus textile vaulberti*, Lorenz, 2012

Mauritius offers, like other Indian Ocean localities, surprising variations of *Conus (Cylinder) textile*, Linnaeus 1758. Many very different patterns may force collectors to search for specific name of species, forms and/or variations. We have shown these specimens to many expert collectors and malacologists. Actually no real consensus have been established. So we had to make a choice. We will update this page whenever new descriptions will be published. The actual idea is that many localities from Indian ocean offers the species named : *Conus archiepiscopus* Hwass in Bruguière, 1792. This shell is very variable in shape and pattern, and may vary a lot in colors showing sometime real beautiful bleuish specimens.

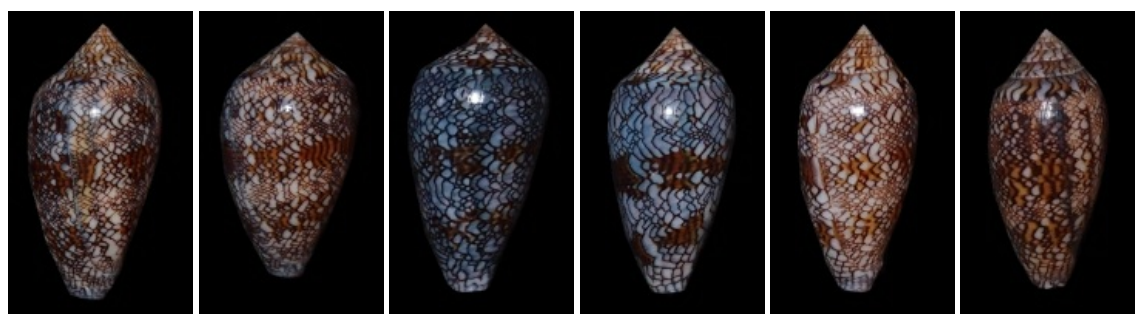
In the R.K.K. (Manual of the Living CONIDAE, 1995), the authors mentionned : "*C. archiepiscopus* : Know from different localities within the Indian Ocean. We consider it a form of *C. textile* very similar to form *eutrios*."

Recently (2012), Dr. Lorenz have isolated the St Brandon population and described as [Conus \(Cylinder\) textile vaulberti](#), Lorenz, 2012. [\[LINK TO THE PDF FILE\]](#) Some specialist think that it shall be treated as a species level (*Conus vaulberti*). This shell was earlier known as *Conus textile* f. *scriptus*, Sowerby II, 1858.

Some specimens have been also described by Reeve as *Conus verriculum* Reeve 1843.

Actually (2013) we choose to illustrate 3 different shells :

- St Brandon population of *Conus textile vaulberti*, Lorenz, 2012 (replace the older name *Conus textile* f. *scriptus*, Sowerby II, 1858)
- *Conus archiepiscopus* Hwass in Bruguière, 1792 and its bleuish variation *Conus archiepiscopus* var. *cyanosus* Lauer, Rossiniana 1987
- *Conus archiepiscopus* f. *verriculum* Reeve 1843



*C. archiepiscopus*

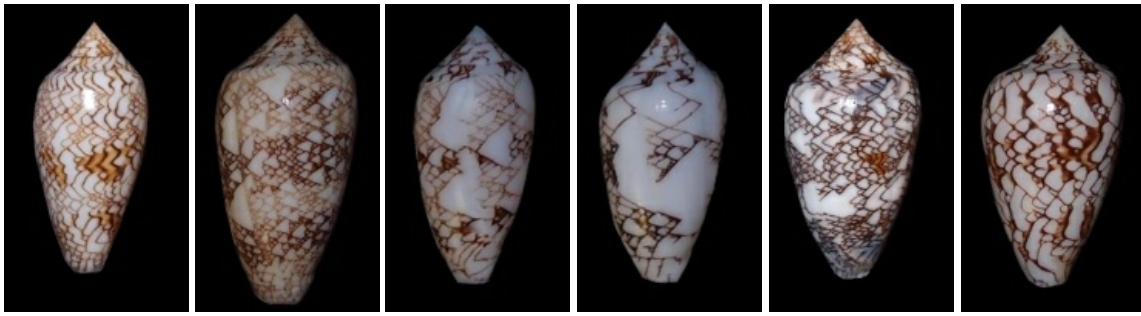
*C. archiepiscopus*

*C. archiepiscopus* f. *cyanosus*

*C. archiepiscopus* f. *cyanosus*

*C. archiepiscopus*

*C. archiepiscopus*



*C. archiepiscopus* (\*)    *C. textile vaulberti* (St Brandon island)    *C. textile vaulberti* (St Brandon island)    *C. textile vaulberti* (St Brandon island)    *C. archiepiscopus* f. *verriculum*    *C. archiepiscopus* f. *verriculum*

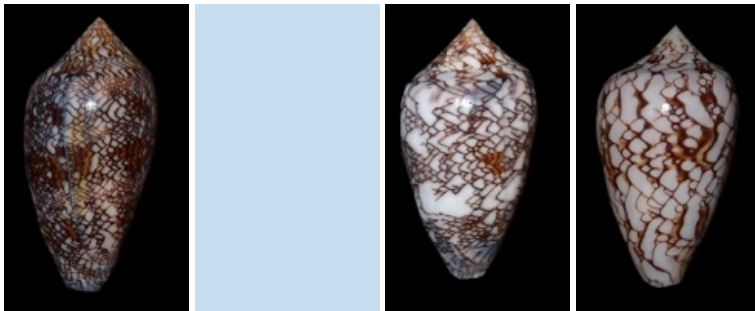
(\*) Dr Felix Lorenz recommend to use "*C. textile*" for this specimen : "I am not sure if that pale slender thing should also be called *archiepiscopeus*. I'd call that Indian Ocean *textile*. You probably go more by shape, whereas I tend to follow color pattern. I once had a PhD candidate who did DNA on *Conus* and he found that the color pattern much better reflects relationships than shape."

[His citation is Dr Christian Melaun \(2008\) Phylogenetische und toxinologische Untersuchungen an Conidae \(Mollusca: Gastropoda\) unter besonderer Berücksichtigung west-atlantischer Vertreter der Gattung Conus. 308 pp Inaugural Dissertation Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen, Germany](#)

### Discussion about the locally know variation of *Conus archiepiscopus*/*Conus textile* : *Conus archiepiscopus* f. *verriculum* (known as *Conus textile* f. *verriculum*) by David Touitou

Many collectors are pretty sure this to be a real subspecies or form of ***Conus archiepiscopus*/*Conus textile***. Personnally, with my field experience, I would better recommend to name it as a local variation, due to a variation of feeding habits or due to a variation of habitat. Well, in the *Conus textile* group, *Conus textile* and related species such as *Conus canonicus* may often reveal such patterns worldwide. Let me show you several examples :

#### Mauritius island : *Conus archiepiscopus*

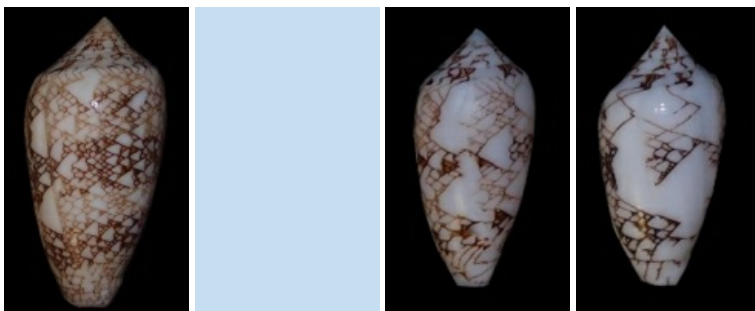


*C. archiepiscopus*

Variation

Variation

#### St Brandon island : *Conus textile vaulberti*



*C. textile vaulberti*

Variation

Variation

#### French Polynesia (Pacific Ocean) : *Conus textile textile*

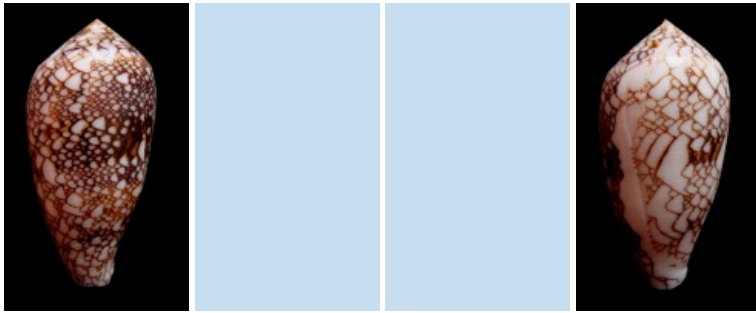


*C. textile textile*  
(Moorea)

Variation  
(Tuamotu : Hao  
Atoll)

Variation  
(Tuamotu : Hao  
Atoll)

French Polynesia (Pacific Ocean) : ***Conus canonicus***



*C. canonicus*  
(Tuamotu : Makemo  
Atoll)

Variation  
(Tuamotu :  
Makemo Atoll)

More images may be checked in this old article :

[http://www.seashell-collector.com/~ziptric/evo/articles/general\\_articles/page\\_conus-textile-variation-from-tuamotu.html](http://www.seashell-collector.com/~ziptric/evo/articles/general_articles/page_conus-textile-variation-from-tuamotu.html)

Seychelles (Indian Ocean) : ***Conus canonicus***



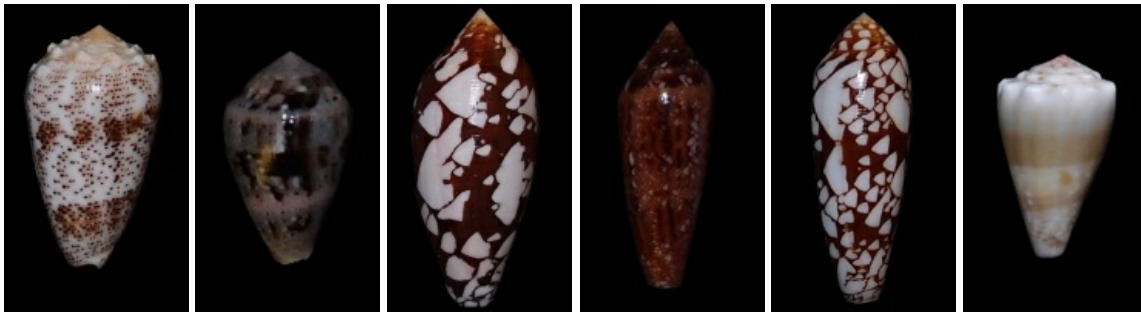
*C. canonicus*

Variation

Variation

I hope you will appreciate this discussion.

## **B. Other species**



*C. arenatus*      *C. aristophanes*      *C. aulicus*      *C. aureus*      *C. auricomus*      *C. balteatus*



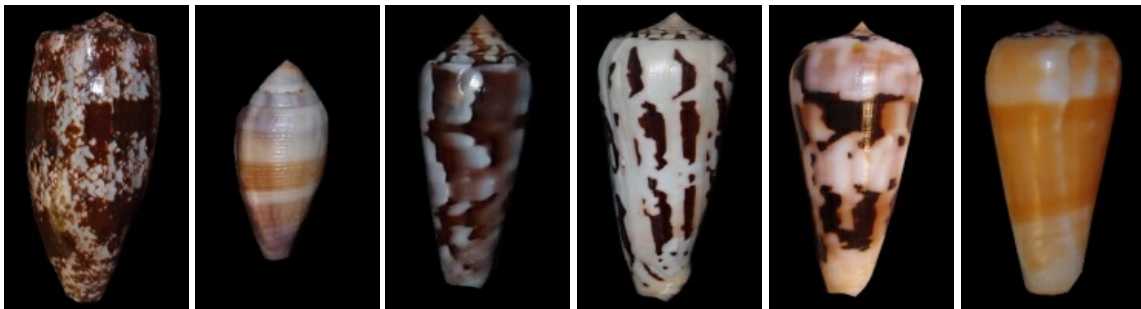
*C. balteatus* f. *cernicus*      *C. bandanus*      *C. barthelemyi*      *C. betulinus*      *C. biliosus*      *C. capitaneus*



*C. catus*      *C. catus*      *C. chaldaeus*      *C. circumactus*      *C. coffeae*      *C. coronatus*

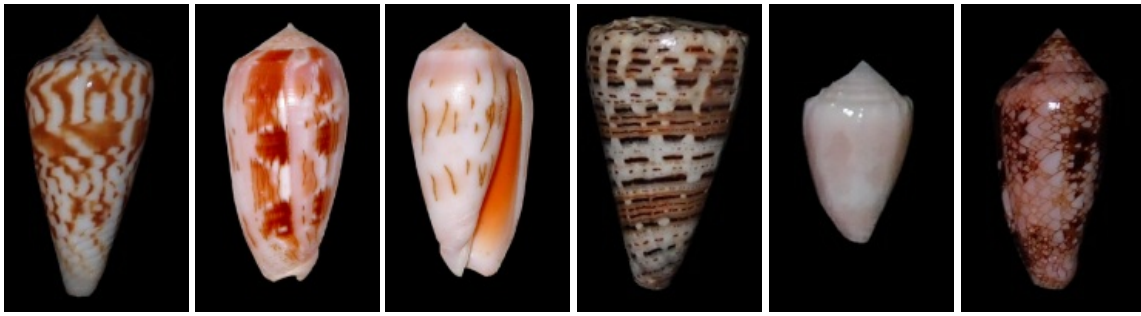


*C. distans*      *C. ebraeus* (1)      *C. episcopatus*      *C. flavidus*      *C. frigidus*      *C. fuscatus*



*C. geographus*      *C. glans*      *C. gubernator*  
(St Brandon island)      *C. gubernator* f. *leehmani*  
(Rodrigues island)      *C. gubernator* f. *leehmani*  
(Mauritius island)      *C. gubernator* f. *leehmani*  
(Mauritius island)





*C. janus*

*C. julii*

*C. julii*

*C. imperialis f. compactus*

*C. lecourtorum* (St Brandon)

*C. legatus*



*C. leopardus*

*C. litoglyphus*

*C. litteratus*

*C. lividus*

*C. maldivus*

*C. maldivus*



*C. maldivus*

*C. maldivus*

*C. miles*

*C. miliaris*

*C. moreleti*

*C. namocanus*



*C. nanus*

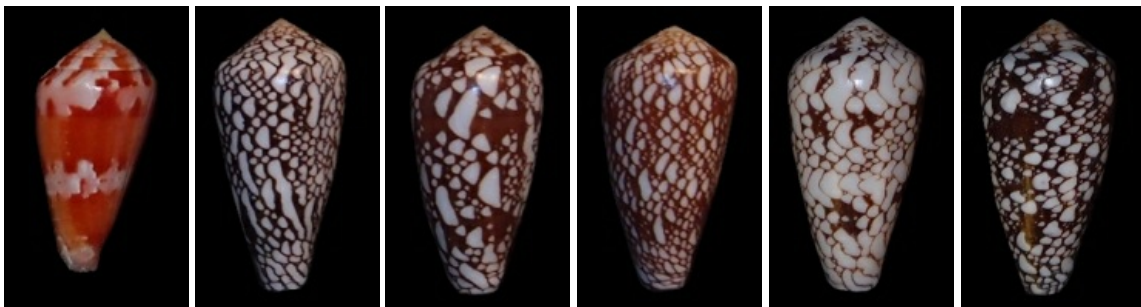
*C. nussatella*

*C. obscurus*

*C. paulucciae*

*C. parvatus*

*C. pertusus*



*C. pertusus*

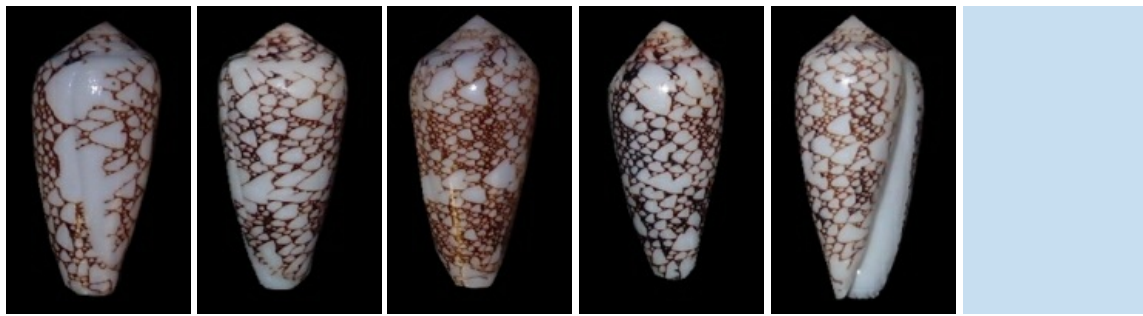
*C. pennaceus f. rubiginosus* (Mauritius)

*C. pennaceus f. rubiginosus* (Mauritius)

*C. pennaceus f. rubiginosus* (Mauritius)

*C. pennaceus episcopus* (Mauritius)

*C. pennaceus episcopus* (Mauritius)



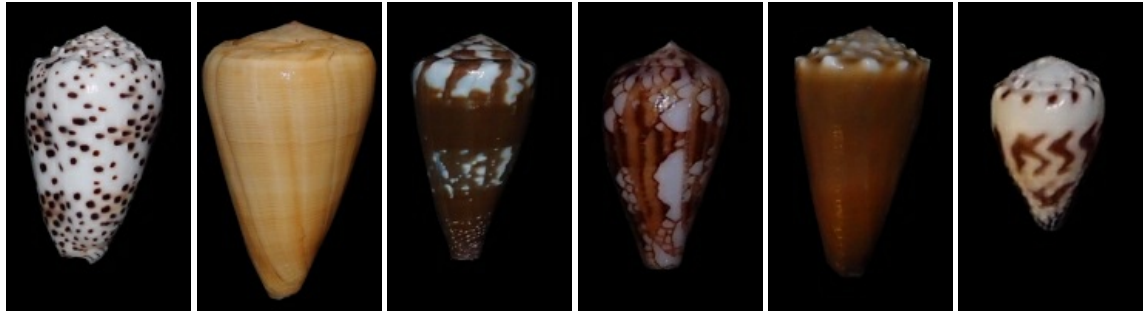
*C. pennaceus*  
local variation  
(St Brandon)

*C. pennaceus*  
local variation  
(St Brandon)

*C. pennaceus*  
local variation  
(St Brandon)

*C. pennaceus*  
local variation  
(St Brandon)

*C. pennaceus*  
local variation  
(St Brandon)



*C. pulicarius*

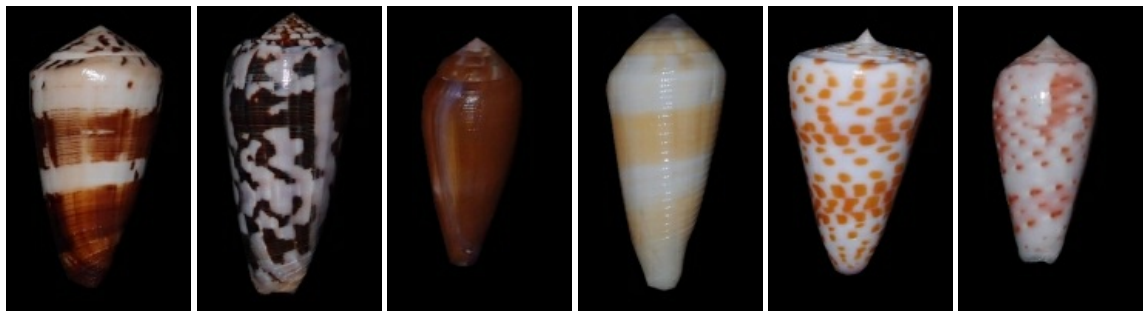
*C. quercinus*

*C. rattus*

*C. retifer*

*C. sanguinolentus*

*C. sponsalis*



*C. striatellus*

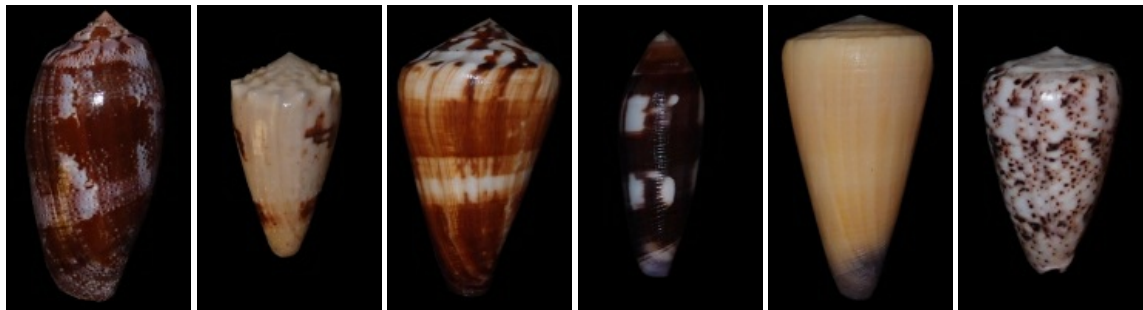
*C. striatus*

*C. tenuistriatus*

*C. terebra*

*C. tessulatus*

*C. timorensis*



*C. tulipa*

*C. varius*

*C. vexillum*

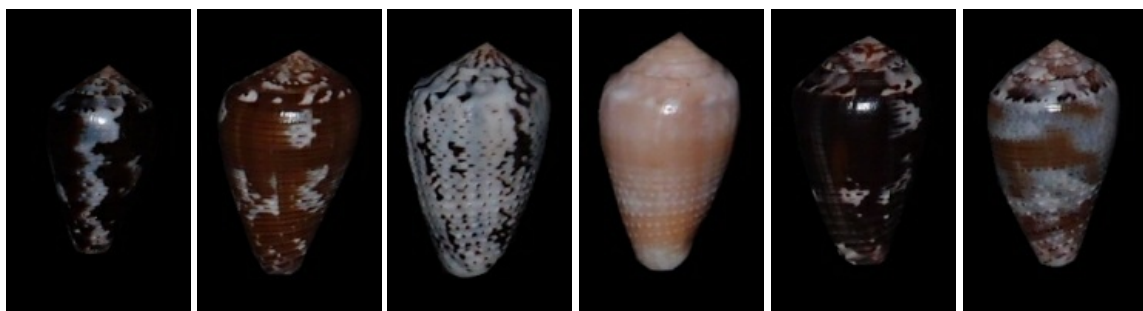
*C. violaceus*

*C. virgo*

*C. zeylanicus*

(1) *Conus ebraeus* have now a know criptic specie named as *Conus judaeus* and is very difficult to distinguish without radular studies. The specimen shown could be related to both species.

**Variations of *Conus catus* from Mauritius :** as usual this is a very variable species. It would have taken too much cases to display all local variations. Here are some of the variations you may find there :



*C. catus*

*C. catus*

*C. catus*

*C. catus*

*C. catus*

*C. catus*

## C. Shells from Agalega island



*C. arenatus*

*C. catus*

*C. coronatus*

*C. ebraeus*

*C. gubernatorf.*  
*leehmani*

*C. imperialis*



*C. miliaris*

*C. parvatus*

*C. pulicarius*

*C. rattus*

*C. sponsalis*

*C. tenuistriatus*

## D. DATA ON HABITAT, SIZE, RARITY & FORMS

**Rarity : VC (Very Common) C (common) UC (Uncommon) R (Rare) VR (Very Rare) E (Exceptionnal)**

**Depth : IT (Intertidal 0-5m) SW (Shallow water 5-10m) MDW (Moderately Deep water 10-30m) DW (Deep Water 30m-60m)**

**VDW (Very Deep Water 60-100m) DR (Dredged >100m) F(Only found in Fishes stomach)**

**Size : average adult size, in mm (millimeters)**

**Habitat : L(Lagoon) R(Reef) LP(Lagoon Pinnacles) OL(Outer Slope) S(Shore reef)**

**Areas : SANDY-LIVE CORAL-CORAL DEBRIS-ROCKY-WEEDY-MUDDY-HARD REEF**

The work below have been made by Eric Le Court de Billot



Name	Size	Rarity	Depth	Habitat/Areas	Comments
Capitaneus	40/80	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Catus	25/40	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	Very often between 0 and 1 meter.
Chaldeus	20/35	VC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Circumactus	30/65	R	IT to MDW	OL/CORAL DEBRIS/MUDDY	JUST small one live at 30 meter.
Coffea	21/33	VR	IT	L	Three dead
Coronatus	20/33	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Aureus	30/48	VR	DW	OL	Only three dead
Distans	40/110	C	IT/MDW	OL/CORAL DEBRIS/MUDDY	Small deep big ones shalow water.
Ebraeus	20/50	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Episcopatus	50/80	UC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/SANDY	
Flavidus	30/50	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Frigidus	30/65	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Geographus	80/140	UC	IT	OL/CORAL DEBRIS/MUDDY	
Glans	22/30	R	IT	L	Three dead
Leehmani	80/108	VR	IT	L/SANDY/ROCKY	
Legatus	27/55	VR	MDW	OL/CORAL DEBRIS	
Gubernator	35 and 40	E	IT	L/SANDY/CORAL DEBRIS	Only two small live
Imperialis compactus	51	E	IT	R/CORAL DEBRIS	Only one live
Fuscatus	30/65	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/WEEDY	
Janus	50/70	UC	MDW/DW	OL/SANDY	
Lecourtorum	10/16	VR	IT	L	Only dead
Leopardus	60/160	c	IT	L/SANDY/WEEDY	
Litoglyphus	30/63	UC	IT/SW	L/OL/ROCKY/MUDDY	
Litteratus	50/110	UC	IT	OL/SANDY	
Lividus	35/70	VC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Maldivus	45/75	UC	IT	L/SANDY/WEEDY	
Miles	35/60	C	IT/MDW	L/OL/CORAL DEBRIS	
Miliaris	20/35	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Moreleti	25/45	R	IT/MDW	OL/ROCKY/MUDDY	
Namocanus	35/85	UC	IT	L/MUDDY/WEEDY	
Nanus	12/20	C	IT	OL/ROCKY/MUDDY	
Nussatella	40/70	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Obscurus	25/35	R	IT	OL/CORAL DEBRIS	
Parvatus	12/22	VC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Paulucia	75	VR	MDW	OL	Only one dead
Penaceus episcopus	30/60	C	IT	L/SANDY/ROCKY	
Penaceus episcopus (rodrigues)	45/55	UC	IT	L/SANDY/ROCKY	
Penaceus rubiginosus	35/55	VR	IT	L/MUDDY/CORAL DEBRIS	
Pertusus	27/45	UC	MDW	OL/ROCKY/WEEDY	
Pulicarius	35/60	UC	IT	L/SANDY	
Quercinus	30/90	VC	IT	L/SANDY/WEEDY	
Rattus	30/60	C	IT	L/R ROCKY/WEEDY	Most of the time on top of coral
Retifer	25/42	VR	MDW	OL/ CORAL DEBRIS	
Sanguinolentus	25/60	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Sponsalis	15/24	VC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	Ofen shalow water
Striatelus	32/62	R	IT to MDW	OL/CORAL DEBRIS/MUDDY	JUST small one live at 30 meter.
Striatus	50/95	C	IT to MDW	L/OL CORAL DEBRIS	
Tenuistriatus	20/40	R	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Terebra	30/80	UC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Tessulatus	30/65	VC	IT/MDW	L/OL SANDY/WEEDY	Small deep big ones shalow water.
Timorensis	30/45	R	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/SANDY	St Brandon
Tulipa	50/80	C	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Varius	25/45	UC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Vaulberti	40/65	R	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS/SANDY	ST brandon only
Vexillum	45/135	UC	IT	OL/ CORAL DEBRIS	
Violaceus	45/65	R	IT	L/ CORAL DEBRIS	
Virgo	40/130	C	IT	L/ SANDY/WEEDY	
Zeylanicus	25/55	R	IT	L/ SANDY/WEEDY	
Textile vericulum	35/73	C	IT	L/SANDY/ROCKY	
Archiepiscopus	35/55	R	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Textile textile	40/75	VC	IT	L/CORAL DEBRIS	
Omaria convolutus	40/60	VR	IT	L/SANDY/ROCKY	