

The pebble, an elusive  
cone from Franziskaner  
gymnasium, Bolzano,  
Italy

Giancarlo Paganelli

I received the image of this cone from Dr Giovanna Lipparini, who found it at the Museum of Natural Sciences, Franciscan Gymnasium, in Bolzano (Italy).



Cones drawer

This specimen is a part of the Collection Gredler (Vinzenc Maria Gredler, 1823-1912) which includes shells collected between 1840 and 1865. It measures 45 mm in length and there is no information on its provenance.



"The pebble"

As it is round shaped, we nicknamed it "the pebble". The spire and shoulder have traces of reddish spots and the surface appears rather glossy so it shouldn't be a fossil.

The right identification of this cone is not easy indeed!

A particular thanks to Prof. Wolfgang Malsiner and prof. Daniel Lorenz, respectively Headmaster and Guardian of the Museum for the kind helpfulness.



*Conus gubernator f.*  
*Leehmani* Da Motta &  
Röckel, 1979, in the  
Seychelles

David Touitou

As you all probably know, *Conus gubernator*'s variation *leehmani* can be found roughly from Maldives to La Réunion. Since the Seychelles archipelago is geographically in this area, it should host this beautiful variation.

However, in Alan Jarrett's *Marine Shells Of The Seychelles*, the author shows several specimens of *Conus gubernator* but none can strictly be related to the *leehmani* variation.

I had the chance to snorkel and dive there and fortunately I found three specimens of *Conus gubernator*. The first one was found during the daytime in very shallow water in a sandy grass field, near the beach; the second specimen was crawling on the sand and coral rubble at night in 15m of water; the third one was found deeply buried in fine sand under a dead coral plate in 3 meters of water, near the shore.

All three were found during different trips (in 2002, 2004 and 2007), meaning that *Conus gubernator* is a rare shell there.

The first has the shape of *Conus gubernator* but few dark markings on a full white test links this specimen to the *leehmani* variation. Personally I prefer to keep *Conus gubernator* as data for this one. The second and the third still have very few dark markings on a pure white overall colour but are also more inflated like the *leehmani* variation, to which they are very close, especially the third one with its orange tint.

The Seychelles islands could effectively host *Conus gubernator* and *Conus gubernator leehmani* with of course many intergrades.

Specimen N°2 : 48.0 mm



Specimen N°3 : 60.9 mm



Specimen N°1 : 62.0 mm

