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GENERAL INFORMATIONS ABOUT SPECIES AND ISLANDS

In order to have an exhaustive species list, I used two different books :

- *Marine Shells of the Seychelles* Alan Jarret book

- *The Manual of Living Conidae* Röckel, Korn & Kohn

Both are recent and good literature to start with. Unfortunately these two books offer a different list concerning Seychelles cone shells. The one from A. Jarret shows 56 species and Röckel, Korn & Kohn one roughly 80.

I must add the following information to your knowledge : even if the *Marine shells of the Seychelles* is the most recent book, the informations inside were collected a long time ago while Mr Alan Jarret was living there. He started the book but never finished it and much later, he decided to publish his huge work. At the time he had poor informations about deeper species from 20-60m as scuba was not as common as today. I guess he and his mates did not have the chance to get their hands on all the species there. That's probably the reason why there is a huge difference between these two books.

Seychelles are unique and may not own all the species listed in *The Manual of Living Conidae* though. I can take the example of *Conus textile*, Linné 1758. It seems that the species is not present there... Mr Jarret did not list it and I never seen it even if elsewhere it is a common species... And it shall be present when you read the *The Manual of Living Conidae*. Meaning the real number is not known yet (and may not be since many more years). We can say that it shall be between 60 and 80.

Another important remark : Seychelles islands are spread over a wide territory (115 islands). These islands can be separated by huge distance. And like French Polynesia, Seychelles Islands may vary a lot depending of the island you study. The most known and visited (dived) islands are Inner ones (Mahe, Praslin, La Digue, Curieuse, Silhouette, Ile du Nord, Félicité, Marianne, Grande Soeur, Petite Soeur, Cousin, Cousine, Frégate, Aride,...) and they all are made from granite rocks (shown on any local postcards). In the same time you may have coral islands (still Inner Islands) like Denis Island (Far & North of Praslin) and Bird Island.

Much farther, you may reach Outer Islands, made of atolls :

- Coetivy Island

- Amirantes Group : Remire, D'Arros, Desroches, Etoile, Boudeuse, Marie-Louise & Desnoeufs

- African Banks : Banc Africain & Ile du Sud

- St.-Joseph Atoll

- Poivre Atoll

- Alphonse & St.-Francois Atolls : Alphonse, Bijoutier & St.-Francois

- Farquar group : Farquar Atoll & Providence Atoll

- Aldabra group ("close" to Madagascar) : Aldabra Atoll (which has many endemic species, like birds, fishes,... maybe seashells, and is a protected Natural Reserve by UNESCO), Cosmoledo Atoll, Astove & Assomption

We can say that these farther islands are less visited and seashells there were not that much studied, meaning that some species may only live on these far wild islands and one must reach these quiet spot to try to get his hands on all species...

Remarks :

- *Conus textile* or *Conus archiepiscopus* have not been found yet in the Seychelles (no verified record in 2013). They have been replaced by *Conus canonicus* which is locally common. Locally, *C. canonicus* is very variable in pattern. Often blueish it may offers some original pattern in the maner of *C. archiepiscopus* f. *verriculum* (see below). Could be present in the far away islands though.

- *Conus barthelemyi* is reported from Seychelles but I could not see any specimen. Mr Rawlingson Plant mention this specie in the Conch-L discussion (He has passed now and I was not able to get in touch with him).

- *Conus gubernator* is locally related to *Conus gubernator* f. *leehmani* (very close often and sometimes represent intergrades between *Conus gubernator* & *Conus gubernator* f. *leehmani*)

- *Conus episcopatus* is very variable in pattern and have often huge white triangles that are sometimes confluent.

- *Conus pennaceus* are different from other localities from Indian Ocean. It shall be treated as a local variation as no description have been made yet (2013).

- *Conus varius* is most of the time small and very clear, yellowish with few markings.

- *Conus legatus* may reach 60mm as some other Indian oceanr localities (La Réunion).

- *Conus omaria* has an interesting pattern. Often overall pinkish color. The spire is not that high and for that reason I treat theses specimens as *Conus omaria* local variation.

Conus convolutus have been described with a higher spire.

- *Conus inscriptus* have been found there in moderately deep water (trawlers), known as *Conus keatii*.

- *Conus zonatus* is very rare there and habitat have not been established yet. Though, several nice specimens have been found in Anse Marie-Louise's gap (see HSN, Mr Ballentine article).

Article's rarity grading :

Very Common - Common - Moderately Common - Uncommon - Moderately Rare - Rare - Very rare

Cone shells listed in A. Jarret's Book & modifications from author (David Touitou)

All shells displayed come from collection of Authro and have been found by author. Excepted : *Conus bullatus* (Collection Giancarlo Paganelli).

(SP) <http://www.shellspassion.com/> (I never found this species, this images was kindly sent by P. Quiquandon)

(GP) <http://www.coneshell.net/> (I never found this species, this images was kindly sent by G. Paganelli)

(DM) (I never found this species, this images comes from the R.K.K. and the specimen from Da Motta collection is at SMMS)

(4) (I never found this species, this images comes from the R.K.K. and the specimen from BMNH)

(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



C. ammiralis
(SP)

[C. arenatus](#)

C. aristophanes

C. aureus

C. auricomus

[C. aulicus](#)



[C. aulicus](#)

[C. bandanus](#)

[C. betulinus](#)

[C. bullatus f. pongo](#)
(GP)

[C. canonicus](#)

[C. canonicus](#)



[C. canonicus](#)

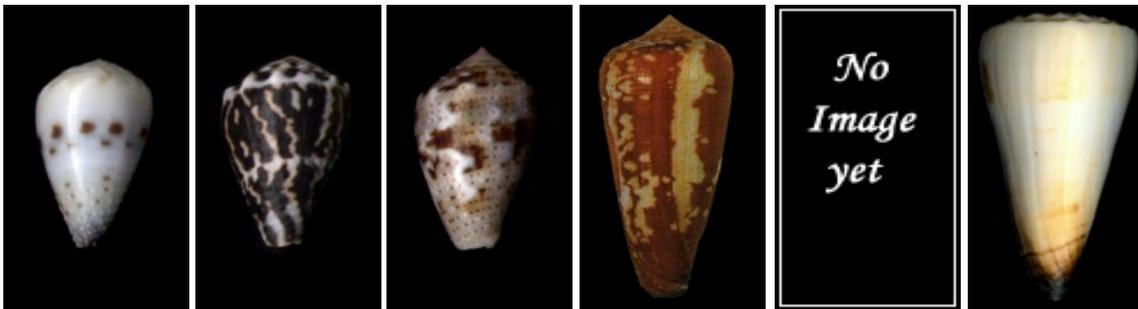
[C. canonicus](#)

[C. capitaneus](#)

[C. catus](#)

[C. catus](#)

[C. catus](#)



C. ceylanensis

[C. chaldeus](#)

[C. coronatus](#)

C. crocatus (DM)

C. cylindraceus

[C. distans](#)



[C. distans](#)

[C. ebraeus \(1\)](#)

[C. episcopatus](#)

[C. episcopatus](#)

[C. episcopatus](#)

[C. episcopatus](#)



[C. figulinus](#)

[C. flavidus](#)

[C. frigidus](#)

[C. fuscatus](#)

[C. geographus](#)

[C. geographus](#)



[C. gubernator f. leehmani](#)



[Conus inscriptus \(4\)](#)

[C. legatus](#)

[C. leopardus](#)

[C. litoglyphus](#)

[C. litteratus](#)

[C. lividus](#)



[C. luteus](#)

[C. maldivus](#)

[C. maldivus](#)

[C. miles](#)

[C. miliaris](#)

[C. mitratus](#)



[C. moreleti](#)

[C. namocanus](#)

[C. nanus](#)

[C. nussatella](#)

[C. obscurus](#)

[C. omaria](#)
(Local variation)



[C. omaria](#)
(Local variation)

[C. parvatus](#)

[C. pennaceus](#)
(Local variation)

[C. pennaceus](#)
(Local variation)

[C. pennaceus](#)
(Local variation)

[C. pennaceus](#)
(Local variation)



[C. pertusus](#)

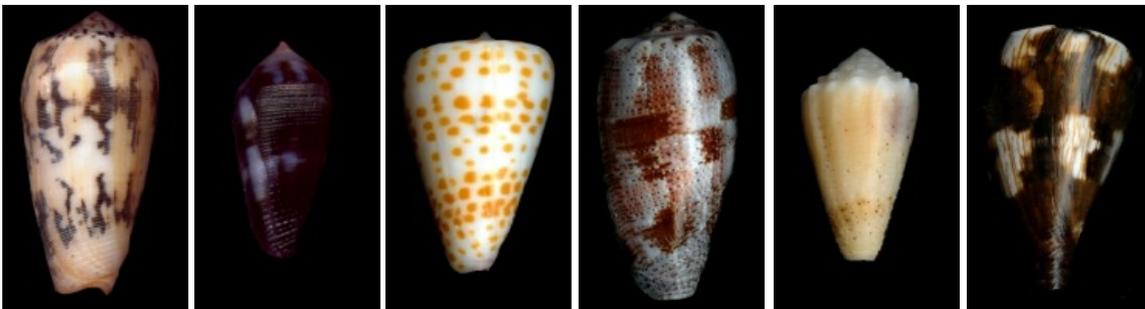
[C. quercinus](#)

[C. rattus](#)

[C. sanguinolentus](#)

[C. sponsalis](#)

[C. striatellus](#)



[C. striatus](#)

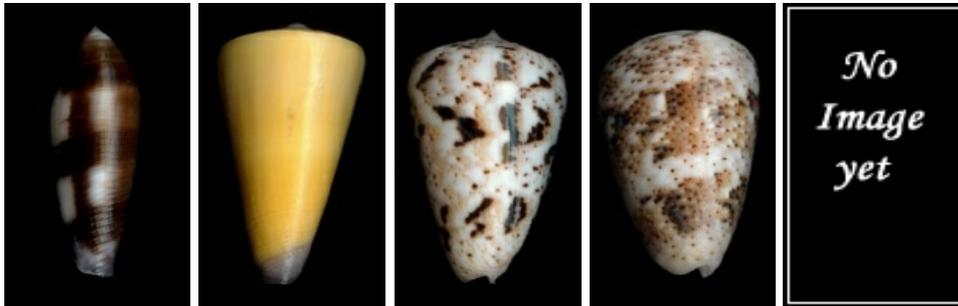
[C. tenuistriatus](#)

[C. tessulatus](#)

[C. tulipa](#)

[C. varius](#)

[C. vexillum](#)



[C. violaceus](#)

[C. virgo](#)

[C. zeylanicus](#)

[C. zeylanicus](#)

[C. zonatus](#)