



Conchology

Guido T. Poppe & Philippe Poppe - Since 1994

[For Sale](#) | [Encyclopedia](#) | [Auction](#) | [Shell Topics](#)

November 12, 2025



NEWSLETTER: WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2025 - MACTAN ISLAND

The photo above has been taken a few hours after typhoon TINO passed over Mactan Island on 4 November, early in the evening. How beauty can flower in the most miserable of places...

Our company and the houses went brilliantly through the challenge. On the walls of my house there was only 1 green leaf from a tree smashed. Compared with typhoon Odette where the house was all green, with thousands of leaves smashed on the walls by the heavy winds. It took 2 days with 4 people to remove all the leaves indeed.

The company functions again as if nothing happened. We removed all the plastics and the tapes and there was no damage. In the house on the other hand, we left all "as is", because a second typhoon is approaching Luzon now, and in case that one deviates to the south we will get a second shower. That's unlikely; so far, we haven't even had strong winds.

The devastation of typhoon "TINO" in Cebu City and on Mactan was a disaster. Hundreds of thousands got damage and at present the number of people that lost their life during the typhoon, of which the bodies were found back, stands at 188 as of today. If we add this to the 79 people that lost their life recently because of the earthquakes in the north of Cebu, we got a truly dramatic situation this month.

But let's go back to more positive news now. A few days before "TINO" arrived we got the very pleasant visit of our long-time friend Enrison T. Benedicto, the Honorary Consul of Belgium in Cebu.

He introduced to us the newly arrived Belgian Ambassador, stationed in Manila, but visiting Cebu: H.E. Ambassador Vladislava Lordanova and her husband Jonas Decloedt.

She fills in the gap left by H.E. Ambassador Michel Parys, who is now stationed on mainland southeast Asia as Belgian Ambassador to Thailand and Cambodia. Michel was an active Ambassador, who loved Conchology, Inc. and he never failed to visit us when in Cebu. We also often met in Manila.

The new Ambassador and her husband were enthusiast about our company. Here a few photos.



Explaining about slit shells, the PLEUROTOMARIIDAE.



In the evening, our Honorary Consul Enrison invited all us in "Anzani", one of the more famous restaurants in Cebu City. It was a nice culinary experience; our guests were very alive and happy and that made for all of us a great evening.

From left to right: Naomei, assistant of the Ambassador, Kristine, the wife of Consul Enrison, then the consul himself, and with the orange jacket, Mia Santamaria-Abela, Trade and Investment Counsellor. Heading the table, Sheila, on the right all of us, your author next to the Ambassador, then her husband, Philippe and Mona.

We spend a mere three hours tasting the artistic culinary skills of Anzani, and got a splendid evening all together. We hope and wish that the new Ambassador and her husband will have a splendid time in the Philippines.

BLACK FRIDAY

sale -50%

7 to 11 November



USA customers - pre-paid tariffs with airmail shipping is available
EU customers - pre-paid VAT with airmail shipping is available

a Conchology Inc. solution for a fast and reliable worldwide delivery of your shells without hassle

A great thank you for all who participated on the -50% November sale this year. Our people are now busy preparing, packing and sending all your parcels worldwide.

For the ones who could not read our Black Friday sale email, I here repeat the most essential things of that message:

We are delighted to announce that the shipping issues are now behind us.

For our valued USA customers, thanks to our new pre-paid tariff system with Airmail shipping, deliveries to the USA are once again smooth, and fully transparent. Your parcels now travel directly to your door - with all import duties handled in advance within 3 to 4 weeks, sometimes even faster. Express services are also available.

For our valued EU customers, we've the pre-paid VAT with Airmail shipping, ensuring that every order pass custom swiftly and without any unexpected charges within 7 to 11 days.

Our valued customers in Asia, Australia and all other regions on the planet, are very welcome. Also, these regions enjoy now an improved service time of 5 to 12 days, depending on the region.

These improvements are part of Conchology, Inc.'s ongoing effort to provide a truly worldwide, reliable and hassle-free delivery service for all collectors.

ABOUT SHELL LOCALITIES IN THE CENTRAL PHILIPPINES

On several occasions, it was necessary to help people out with the complicate names and locality data of shells found in the central Philippines. I here send you a map for easy use and understanding the very local names from around Mactan and the northwest of Bohol, the area where most dived shells come from.



[Click to enlarge](#)

This map covers about 50 by 25 km. Depths are not indicated but to give an idea: between Mactan and Olango Island, the channel goes from 300 to 600 m deep. The Olango Channel, I don't know exactly the deepest point, but I was putting traps in the center at about 150 m deep. The entire area and most of the Islands are densely populated, but not so Bohol mainland which is mostly farmed or forested. The light green patches around the islands are bottoms down to about 25 m deep, very suitable for diving. The entire area is relatively safe but needs rather experienced divers, as currents are often violent. The north of Bohol from Poblacion to Bien Unido, along the main coast one needs very experienced divers as currents and low visibility are both making diving difficult.

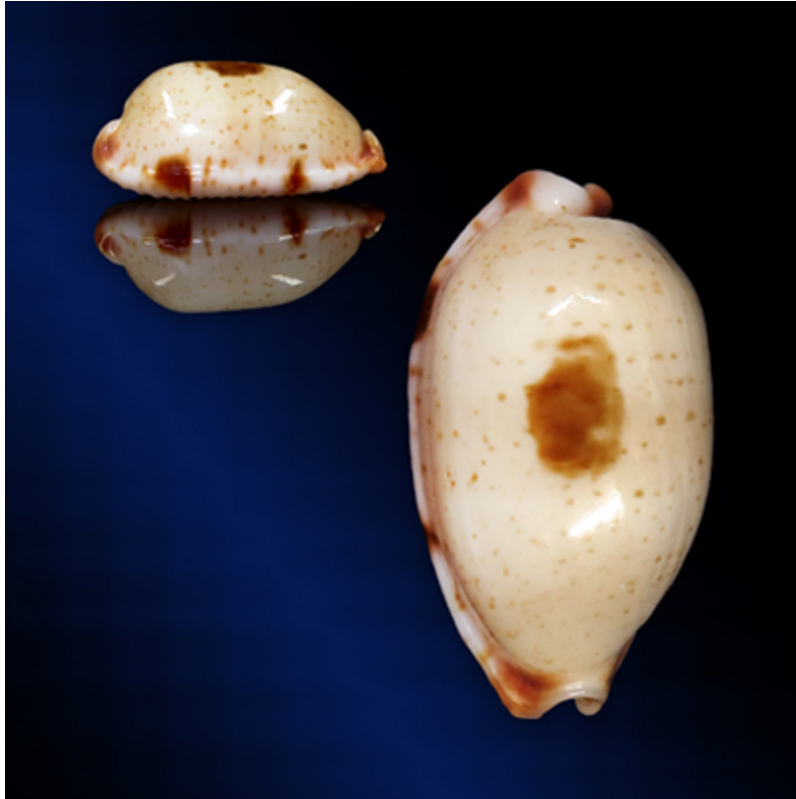
A FUNNY FURNITURE



Recently I came upon a 1 m big vase, decorated with hundreds of *Patelloida saccharina*, a local shallow water limpet. I don't approve the thing, I also don't disapprove, but it's at least a remarkable achievement. What was the biggest job: collecting and eating the *saccharina*, or glue the shells?

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LAST PRESTIGE AUCTION

Bistolida diauges salaryensis f. *fulva* L. Bozzetti, 2009



In the last 22 years we got many thousands of Madagascar shells. The "brown" *stolida*, called the "*fulva*" and described from beautiful Salary Bay, on the southwest coast of huge Madagascar, has never been common. It is a curiosity and a rarity. The specimen is in pristine condition and honors the name "*fulva*", which is the Latin for "reddish-brown". This beauty went through 12 bids, and this fierce bidding ended at 320 euro. This specimen was acquired out of a 60 years old Belgian collection.

Voluta musica f. *guinaica* J.B. Lamarck, 1811



The name *guinaica*, created by Lamarck for the music volute, appears in our literature systems first in the encyclopedia of Kiener & Fischer, in 1839 already.

More than two centuries later, while I was diving in Coche Island, offshore Margarita Island, Venezuela, I discovered a fantastic colony of this beautiful blueish form. It was occasionally frightening diving, as I was in the sea together with the late Jacques Colomb in very shallow water, about 5 m deep, in the night, between sleeping whales of a small size of about 10 meters only. One of the nights we were busy with that rather dangerous occupation, I almost died but Koen Fraussen saved me...

These Volutes were feasting on millions of pearl oysters... can that explain their beauty? The present shell is a masterpiece of design, and has a very big size. More valuable, as today the oyster beds have been destroyed: a village has been built on the spot and I returned there years later: no volutes any longer. This masterpiece of design went through 13 bids, reached 226 euro and found an American home...

***Volutoconus bednalli* J. Brazier, 1878**



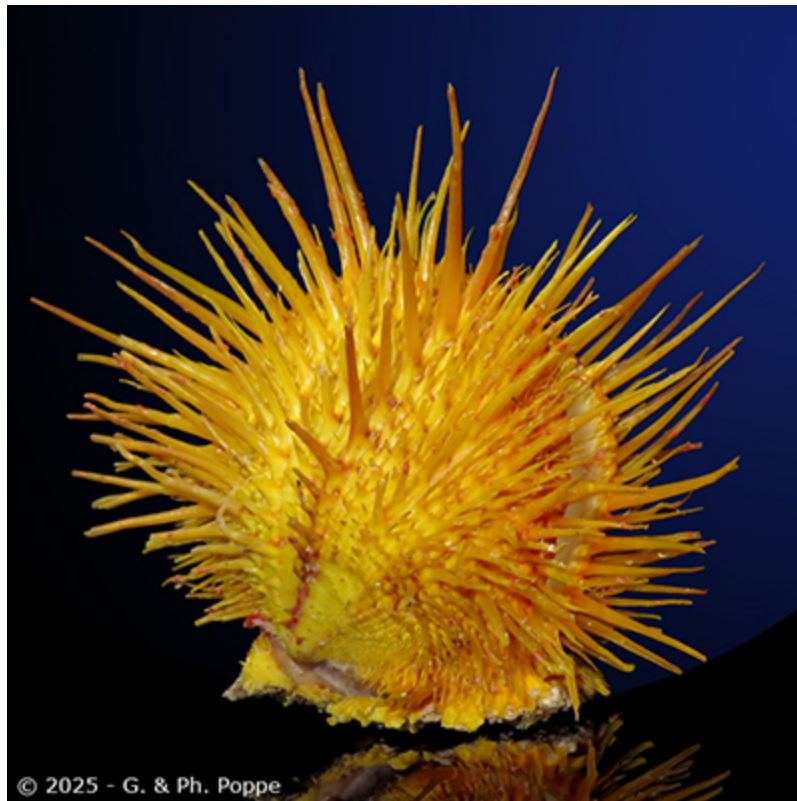
Most among you know I'm a Volute lover... and definitely, the *bednalli* has since always been in my top five most cherished species in that quite amazing and varied family.

Here, a very well size *bednalli* with the very "standard" pattern as it should be: three lines with the arrow pattern between in, very regular and well designed. I must say that it is not very evident to find shells with this quality of pattern.

9 different bidders were competing for this beauty, which ended up at a respected 290 euro. Well done for this well sized piece of 130 mm+ with a great pattern. This *bednalli* ends up in a German collection.

OUR NEXT PRESTIGE AUCTION OF NOVEMBER 14 - SOME HIGHLIGHTS

***Spondylus visayensis* YELLOW G.T. Poppe & S.P. Tagaro, 2010
126 mm**



We were lucky to acquire recently this uppermost magnificent YELLOW *visayaensis*. A shell I described with Sheila only 15 years ago. At the time we knew only about red-brown and white shells. The white shells often with delicate darker red on points of the spines, very much as also seen in the gigantic yellow one we got now. Since then, we obtain 8 yellow *visayaensis* and this is the biggest of all of them. Rare.

The shell is not only the biggest but definitely the most beautiful yellow one ever, with the spines getting darker to their ends, very sharp and very intact. A reddish darker line starts on the umbo and tries to climb to the periphery, but is halted by a raised row of spines. The ensemble superb, and the shell stands, as shown here, slightly gaping.

***Textilia cervus* (J. B. Lamarck, 1822)**
With an unusually beautiful dark pattern.



This 105 mm shell is a superb example of the species, superior because of the three bands that stand out on the background because they are less decorated. The browns in these bands are very shiny and bring variation...

The *Textilia cervus* is one of the famous "Rare Shells" from Peter Dance, a compilation of 50 shells of fame of which he retraced the history in a book of 1969.

The present piece has been fished in Balut Island, in the very far south of the Philippine Islands, with a tangle net, only days ago.

***Zoila marginata marginata* f. *consueta* G. Biraghi, 1993**



I handpicked this superb 63.8 mm very slender and high shaped *marginata* in the last shell show in Antwerp, by now more than half year ago. So, I guess the color has been stabilized and will not fade...

This beautiful shell, with the qualities already enumerated in the text above: slender and high shaped, has been collected on Breaksea Island, Western Australia. This small island is situated at the most southern tip of Western Australia, in front of a superb bay. There are many other small islands around, and the area must be a marine paradise, easily seen on the topography of the place. Diving there must not be simple: I'm sure most of the time the waves are considerable in the area, and there are big white sharks in the south of Australia... But I'm sure the one who got the thrill to dive this specimen forgot all inconveniences....

A masterpiece that will find a good place in any collection, even in the most advanced ones.

We all thank you for your continued support of our company and wish you good luck bidding on our upcoming sales and auctions.

Sincerely yours,

Guido T. Poppe
For Conchology, Inc.

You can contact us: philippe@conchology.be
guido@conchology.be

sheila@conchology.be

<https://www.conchology.be/>
<https://www.poppe-stamps.com/>
<https://auction.conchology.be/>

You are receiving this e-mail because you asked us to notify you about any updates from Conchology, Inc.
If you no longer wish to receive any e-mails: [Unsubscribe here](#)

© 1994-2024 Guido T. Poppe & Philippe Poppe - Conchology, Inc.