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NET

CONUS MERCATOR LINNAEUS, 1758

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Conus mercator Linnaeus, 1758

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I had the please to do an identification job of a collection for a private individual in 1989 and was fortunate to receive from them some of the shells in the collection as donations to the Institute of Invertebrate Research Hawaii. This one specimen labeled Senegal or West Africa is examined; for this article.

SYSTEMATICS

Family **Conidae** J. Fleming, 1822
Type genus ***Conus*** Linnaeus, 1758
(type by subsequent designation)

SYNOPSIS

The family of Cone snails or Cone shells that are both predatory and venomous group of Gastropoda described by Carl Linnaeus, in 1758. The species in the family have a cone like or triangular appearance. They are nocturnal family divided into three groups; vermivorous or feeding on worms, molluscivorous or feeding on other Gastropoda or mollusks, and piscivorous or fish eating. They are nocturnal family consist of about 4 to 8 genera depending on the authority. There is no doubt sub-genera that gets erected to full accepted or recognized status.

Genus ***Conus*** Linnaeus, 1758
Type species ***Conus marmoreu***s Linnaeus, 1758

SYNOPSIS

The genus consist of about 1,126 accepted species according to current databases or well over a thousand species. The species in the genus is cone shaped or triangular in appearance; most with low spires. This genus is widely distributed throughout the world...one of the most diverse of the genera's. Before 2009, most species were lumped in the genus *Conus*...today a more accurate account of them are now assigned into specific genera.



Conus mercator Linnaeus, 1758
Common name: Trader Cone or Merchant Cone

SYNOPSIS

Specimen measuring about 26.06 mm in length, 13.64 mm in width, and 12.23 mm in height; Conical stature with a medium height spire usually eroded. Color is yellowish-tan with chestnut elongated tenting pattern on the posterior and anterior of the main body whorl. Anterior tip and end of apex void of pattern. Lip is pronounced and thin. Aperture average narrow for species.The species is rather small for a cone shell.

LOCALITY

Senegal, also West Africa.

COLLECTION DATA

From old collection given to me in 1989. The collector traveled the world.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The species is unique and sought after. The species has become scarce and very uncommon, probably attributed to the collection of the species and locality. Mostly prized by collectors for its locality and beautiful patterns of the shell. Conservation measures need to be implemented.

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