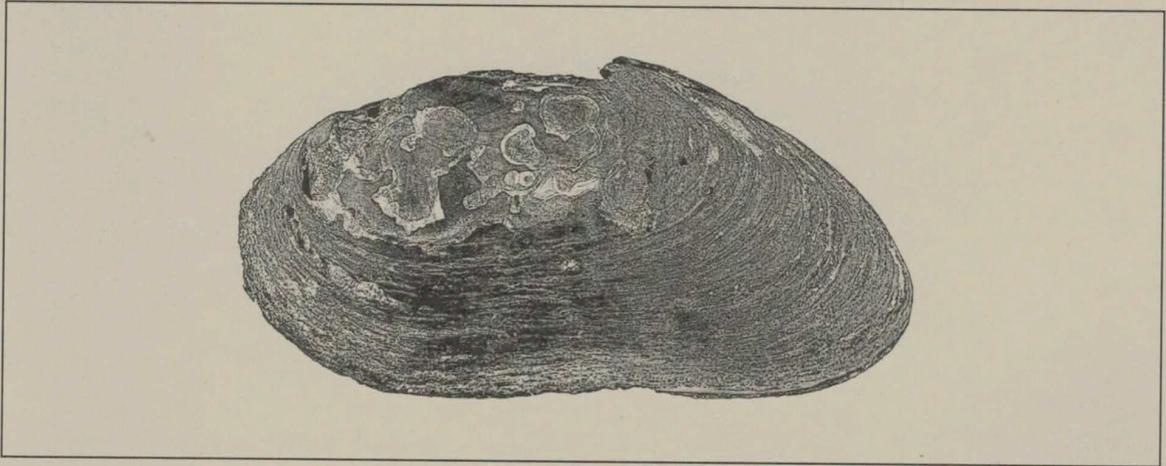


# Schriften zur Malakozoologie

## aus dem Haus der Natur - Cismar

Heft 27



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## A new subspecies of Conidae from Mauritius (Gastropoda).

By FELIX LORENZ, Buseck-Beuern

**Abstract:** *Conus (Cylindera) textile vauberti* n. ssp. from Cargados Carajos, N. Mauritius differs from the other subspecies and their numerous variations in that it is a more lightweight shell, with a more cylindrical shape, and is absent of any blue, red or yellow pigment. The usage of the name *Conus scriptus* SOWERBY II 1858 non DESHAYES 1823, 1831, is discussed in this context.

**Keywords:** *Conidae, Cylindera textile vauberti, Mauritius.*

**Zusammenfassung:** *Conus (Cylindera) textile vauberti* n. ssp. von Cargados Carajos, N. Mauritius unterscheidet sich von anderen Unterarten und deren zahlreichen Variationen durch ein leichteres, schmal-zylindrisches Gehäuse und dem Fehlen jeglicher blauen, roten oder gelben Farbelemente. Der Gebrauch von *Conus scriptus* SOWERBY II 1858 non DESHAYES 1823, 1831, wird in diesem Zusammenhang diskutiert.

**Introduction:** During recent trips to Mauritius and St. Brandon, a surprising number of new species and subspecies have been discovered (see also the description of *Ficus dandringtoni* n. sp. in this issue). In the following, two subspecies of Conidae from that area are described.

### *Conus (Cylindera) textile vauberti* n. ssp.

Holotype: 46,3 mm x 20,5 mm. Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, MNHN25146  
 Paratype 1: 44,4 mm x 19,7 mm. Haus der Natur, Cismar, Germany  
 Paratype 2: 42,6 mm x 20,7 mm. Felix Lorenz, Buseck, Germany  
 Paratype 3: 36,0 mm x 16,5 mm. Senckenberg Naturkundemuseum, Frankfurt, Germany  
 Paratype 4: 39,6 mm x 18,3 mm. Michael A. Mont, Owing's Mills, Maryland, USA  
 Paratype 5: 44,1 mm x 20,6 mm. Jean Pierre Vaubert de Chantilly, Mauritius  
 Paratype 6: 41,6 mm x 18,5 mm. Felix Lorenz, Buseck, Germany  
 All collected by the author at South Island, Cargados Carajos, North of Mauritius

**Description:** The shell is rather small, almost cylindrical, and of light weight. The spire is of moderate height with a slightly concave outline. The protoconch is pointed and consists of three smooth whorls. The aperture is quite wide anteriorly and constricted posteriorly. The anal notch is deep and symmetrical. The ground colour is plain white, and the protoconch is also white. There are fine, dark brown, variably sized, angular tentacles on the body whorl, which are arranged along two darker areas where they are smaller and condensed and along a paler middorsal section where they are larger, exposing much of the white ground colour. The spire shows fine lines which are prolongations of the tentacle pattern. The aperture and the interior are plain white. There are no blue, yellow, or red dashes.

The periostracum is thin and yellow.

**Habitat and distribution:** *Conus (Cylindera) textile vauberti* n. ssp. is common throughout the Cargados Carajos Shoal, North of Mauritius. It lives in shallow, sheltered lagoon waters, under rocks, and half buried in fine clean sand. It is not found anywhere else.

**Etymology:** Named in honor of my friend JEAN PIERRE VAUBERT DE CHANTILLY of Mauritius, a keen student of the family Conidae.

**Discussion:** For decades, no specimens of *Conus (Cylinder) textile* from St. Brandon have been available and not much effort was made to review the taxonomy of the endemic *textile* from that place. The name *scriptus* SOWERBY II, 1858, had been proposed for specimens that appeared to be of this population, but the name is preoccupied by *scriptus* DESHAYES, introduced twice by this author (1823, 1831; see FILMER, 2001). Sowerby described *scriptus* only briefly, with no locality data and just a single aspect of a specimen that belongs to the *textile*-complex, but not necessarily to the taxon discussed herein (Fig. 1).

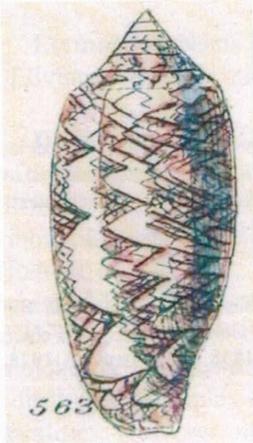


Fig. 1:  
Figure of *Conus scriptus* SOWERBY II 1858 (non DESHAYES 1823, 1831),  
from SOWERBY 1858, pl. 23, fig. 563

There is no indication of the origin of the three specimens that are only suspected to be syntypes (in the British Museum of Natural History). RÖCKEL (1983) chose SOWERBY's *scriptus* as the name for the St. Brandon population, based on the similarity of that taxon's suspected syntypes, and yet the situation retained an aspect of uncertainty. As no locality data was given by SOWERBY, it seems necessary to describe the population on the basis of new type material of ascertained origin.

The name *loman* DAUTZENBERG, 1937 was originally introduced for a shell from Senegal, later corrected to "Mauritius and Cargados". There is no original figure and no data available that would allow an assignment of the name to the population described herein.

The population from Cargados Carajos differs consistently from other populations of *Conus (Cylinder) textile* by its narrow, nearly cylindrical shape, the lightweight shell, the wider aperture, and the plain white and dark brown ornamentation lacking any shades of blue, yellow, or red color components. Also, the protoconch is white instead of pale-pink to orange-red. *Conus (Cylinder) textile vaulberti* n. ssp. probably constitutes the least variable and most restricted endemic subspecies of the *textile*-complex.

In the community of shell collectors, the name *scriptus* is in common use for pale forms of *Conus (Cylinder) textile* with large, angular tentmarks. Such shells are common in the south of Madagascar and other places in the Indian Ocean. These shells differ from *Conus (Cylinder) textile vaulberti* n. ssp. as they are solid and heavy, with a more angular shoulder and being a ventricosely conical instead of cylindrical shell. Also in these shells the protoconch is typically orange to red and not white as in the subspecies described herein. The tentmarks of the St. Brandon population are more angular and thinner, and the markings on the spire are finer and not condensed to darker patches.

#### Explanations of Plate 5:

*Conus (Cylinder) textile vaulberti* n. ssp.  
All from Cargados Carajos, N Mauritius

1st row left: holotype, right: paratype 1  
2nd row left: paratype 6, right: paratype 3  
3rd row left: detail of the protoconch, right: paratype 2

LORENZ, F.: A new subspecies of Conidae from Mauritius (Gastropoda)

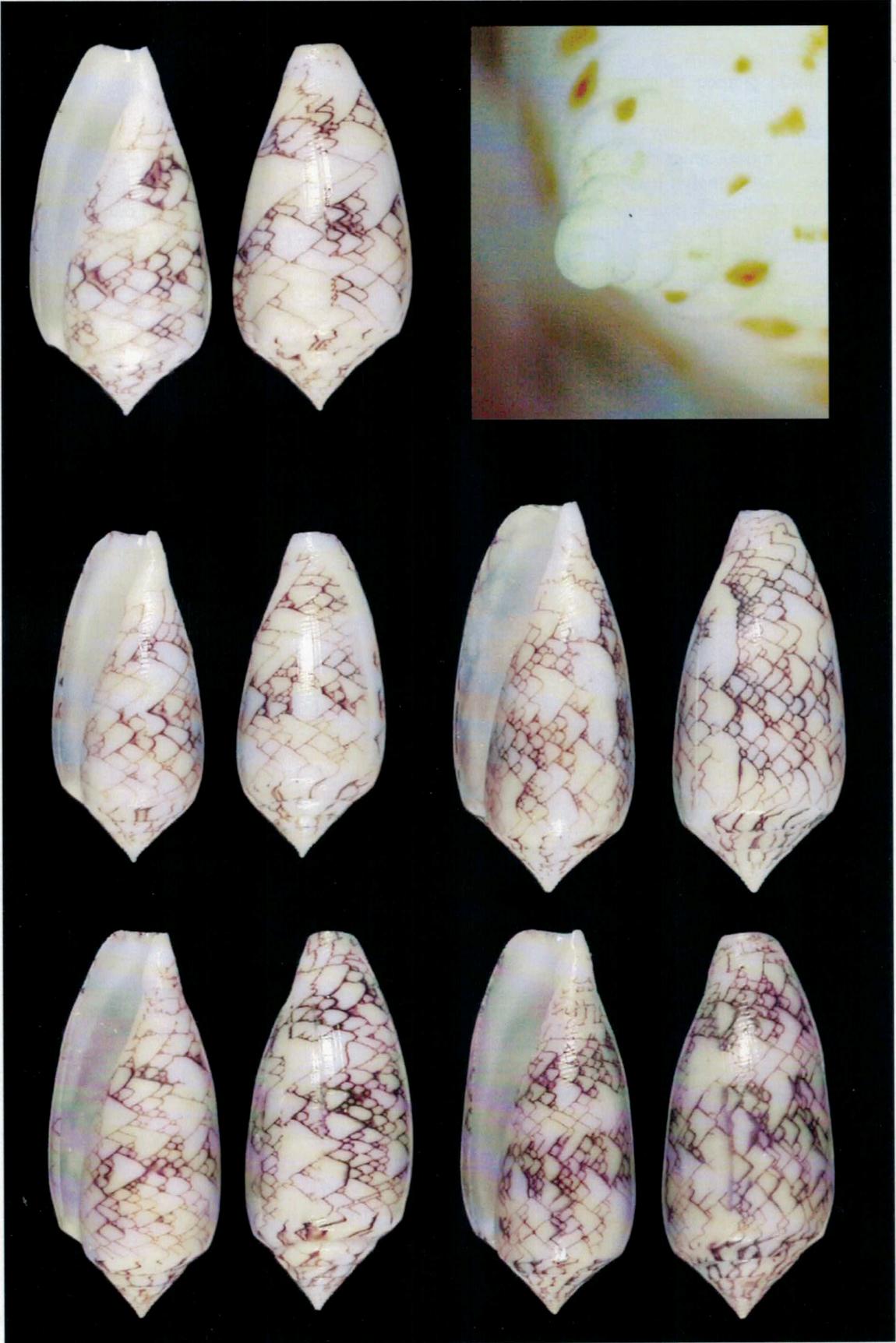


Plate 5

Schr. Malakozool., 27, 2012

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