

A Case of Batesian Mimetism

Conus unifasciatus KIENER, 1845 - *Imbricaria carbonacea* HINDS, 1844

At first sight the specimens in fig. 1 could seem to be both *Conus unifasciatus*, but seen from ventrum (fig. 2), the one on right side appears to be a miter, *Imbricaria carbonacea*, as the plaits on the columella show.

As both species come from Senegal, and most probably live in the same habitat, in my opinion a batesian mimetism is taking shape.

Miters are carnivorous, but cones are venomous as well and certainly more aggressive, therefore *I. carbonacea* "has taken" the shape of *C. unifasciatus* to avoid the strikes of the predators.

Usually *I. carbonacea* has a more concave and pointed apex and a darker colour. The specimen in question has an apex and a colour pattern very close to *C. unifasciatus*: very hard to distinguish indeed.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Left side *Conus unifasciatus*, Senegal, Popenguine. 26.3 mm

Right side *Imbricaria carbonacea*, Senegal, Dakar. 25.9 mm