

Fossil *Conus* from Castell'Arquato (Piacenza, Italy)

When on November 1970 I made a trip to the gullies of Rio Stramonte I was not aware that I found the first specimens, although fossil, of my future *Conus* collection and that some years later I would become a devote collector of that family of gastropods.

The territory round the country town of Castell'Arquato (Piacenza province, Italy) is constituted of sediments of geological beds dating between 3.5 and 2.5 mya, medium-upper Pliocene, called Piacenzian by the Swiss geologist Karl Mayer-Eymar, 1858.

At the beginning of Pliocene, about 5 mya, when the continuity between Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean was established, the waters came to flow again into the Po river basin and unusually warm climatic conditions for this latitude were fixed. Many molluscs settled in the gulf of Castell'Arquato that were covered by clayey deposits.

In these gully lands, Protected Natural Reserve since 1995, many fossil *Conus* species as *Conus antediluvianus* Bruguière, 1792, *Conus brocchii* Bronn, 1828, *Conus canaliculatus* Brocchi, 1814, *Conus pelagicus* Brocchi, 1814, *Conus ponderosus* Brocchi, 1814, *Conus striatulus* Brocchi, 1814, *Conus virginalis* Brocchi, 1814 are found.

During that trip I collected a few specimens of *C. antediluvianus*, *C. brocchii*, *C. canaliculatus* and only one *C. virginalis*.

References

Brocchi, G. B. 1814, Conchiliologia fossile subapennina. II

Caprotti, E., 1976. Malacofauna dello stratotipo piacentino (Pliocene di Castell'Arquato)

Rossi Ronchetti, C., 1955. I tipi della "Conchiliologia fossile subapennina" di G. B. Brocchi. II Gastropodi, Scafopodi.



Conus antediluvianus BRUGUIÈRE, 1792
Castell'Arquato – 67.7 mm

Conus antediluvianus BRUGUIÈRE, 1792
Castell'Arquato – 61.1 mm



Conus brocchii BRONN, 1828
Castell'Arquato – 39.8 mm



Conus brocchii BRONN, 1828
Castell'Arquato – 25.9 mm



Conus canaliculatus BROCCHI, 1814
Castell'Arquato – 27.7 mm



Conus virginalis BROCCHI, 1814
Castell'Arquato – 36.1 mm