

## Who's Who

### in Cones: Giancarlo Paganelli

I was born on April 18, 1947 in Ancona (Italy) and have lived in Rimini, a town on the Adriatic Sea, for over 55 years.

I have been interested in nature and animals since I was a little boy and this was one of the reasons why I got a Master's Degree in Biological Science at Bologna University. Then I taught Mathematics and Sciences in the secondary school until four years ago. Now that I'm retired I can better cultivate my favourite hobbies. Listening to music, chiefly jazz, playing guitar, reading, bicycling, but above all I can dedicate most of my time to my cones collection.

I started collecting shells about forty years ago, chiefly fossil shells in the Apennines. There I found *C. antidiluvianus*, *C. brocchi*, *C. canaliculatus*, *C. virginialis* but I didn't know yet that Conidae should become my favourite Family. My interest in cone shells arose about twenty five years ago. At that time I was on a school trip in Verona and in a little shop my attention was drawn by the shape and the colour pattern of a plain *Conus thalassiarachus*, so I realized I liked such a shaped shells. Since then I have tried to get more specimens, at first in the marketplaces, but not all were so nice, sure enough many had the lip filed!

Then I got other specimens by exchanges, from dealers in internet, at shell exhibitions, or self collecting by snorkelling.

I collect cones only since, because of the great number of species and the wide intraspecific variability, it is hard having a sufficient knowledge even of one Family.

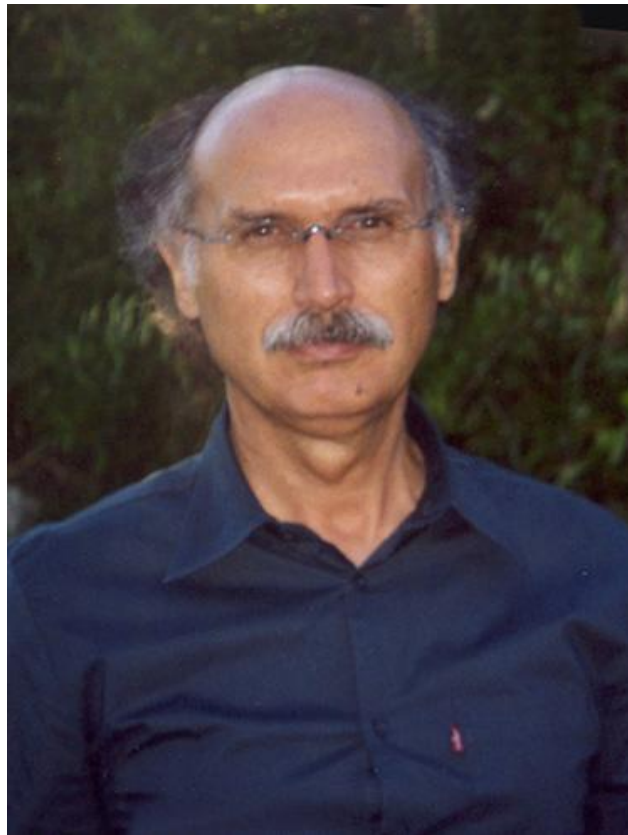
I also have a fair literature on Conidae

that helps me to better classify my cones and improves my knowledge. Currently I have roughly 4,000 cones in my collection, 200 of which are fossil, placed in two self-made cabinets.

About ten years ago I thought that sharing my small cone collection, at that time about 200 specimens only, was a good opportunity. So I built my website

"coneshell.net" changing the

out many times and trying to get better its look and affordability. Currently more than 2,000 different specimens are on line plus many other images for a total of 2,600 or so. Through my web site I had the opportunity to know many shellfriends with whom I can swap opinions about this fascinating pastime.





*A pennaceus* Box



Cabinet

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