

# The Taxonomy of Conidae Fleming, 1822 (Mollusca: Gastropoda) in Sarawak Natural History Museum Collection

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## ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the taxonomic study of the gastropod's family, Conidae, in Sarawak Natural History Museum based on their collection of specimens. A total of 27 specimens were identified where 15 species are found, which are *Conus virgo*, *Conus miles*, *Conus hyaena*, *Conus furvus*, *Conus eburneus*, *Conus crosnieri*, *Conus amadis*, *Conus marmoreus*, *Conus geographus*, *Conus guinaicus*, *Conus lividus*, *Conus ebraeus*, *Conus patricius* and two unidentified species. A list of species is provided in this study. A dichotomous key is formed according to the specimens found in the museum. It is hoped that this study serves as a basis for further work on gastropods, especially family Conidae in Sarawak.

**Key words:** Conidae, identification, taxonomy, specimens, museum

## INTRODUCTION

Taxonomy is generally the science of classification of living and extinct organisms (Dhar, 2020). In taxonomy, various organisms are named, described, and classified by taxonomists according to their morphology, behaviour, genetic and biochemical observations regardless of the age of the species (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2011). Taxonomy utilizes hierarchical classification to guide scientists in comprehending and organising the diversity of life on Earth. However, the number of unidentified species is much larger than we think due to evolution and adaptation of those species to the changing environment due to climate change.

Cone shells belong to the diverse family of Conidae J. Fleming, 1822 (Dutertre and Lewis, 2013). Species of family Conidae are easily identified through their distinctive cone shaped shells and patterned body (Kohn, 1990). In living marine invertebrates, members of Conidae form among the biggest single