

# GEOGRAPHY CONE

(CONUS GEOGRAPHUS)

## CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Mollusca
Class	Gastropoda
Order	Neogastropoda
Family	Conidae
Genus	Conus
Species	<i>C. geographus</i>



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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The geography cone has an off-white to pink colored shell with an overlying red or brown mottled pattern. The aperture is off-white to pink in appearance. The shell is thin and elongated with a shorten spire and roughened texture approximately 4-6 inches in length.

A prominent foot, two eyestalks, a proboscis, and siphon extends from the aperture. The proboscis houses a hollow radular tooth used as a harpoon.



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## HABITAT AND RANGE

The geography cone is found in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, off the northern coast of Australia, and is indigenous of the Indo-Pacific reefs excluding Hawaii.

The highest population of geography cones are focused along the northern shores of Australia.



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## DIET

Geography cones generally feed at night on fish between 1 and 5 inches in length. Larger cones may feed on fish as large as 6 inches in length.

The cone snail has two methods of hunting. Smaller prey can be netted and then harpooned. Larger prey are lured in by the proboscis and then harpooned.



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## REPRODUCTION

The geography cone are monogamous and breed once per year between April and September. Each cone has an average 2500 offspring with a gestation period of 3 days. New cones mature and may reproduce within 6 to 12 months.



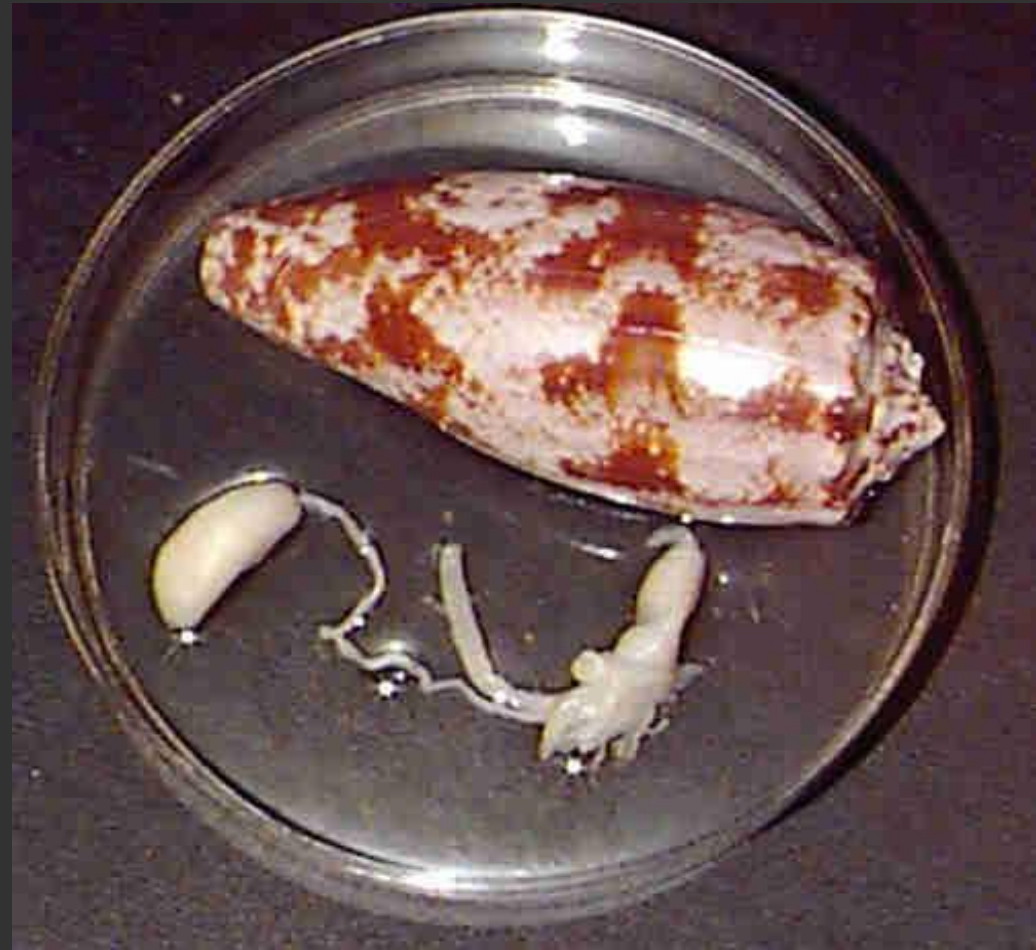
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## THREATS

The geography cone have no known threats to their survival as a species and are listed as “least concern” by most conservation organizations.

Humans have recently shown interest in the organism due to the potency of its venom. Its venom, considered the most venomous in the world, is thought to have medicinal application as a pain reliever.



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## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

Even the deathstalker scorpion, the world's most venomous scorpion, has venom only  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  as potent as the geography cone.

Its venom is 10,000 times more potent than morphine.

65% of reported cases of geography cone stings on humans have resulted in death. There is no anti-venom.

