

Attempted stick-insect predation by a wasp

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On Tuesday 12th March 2002 a wasp was observed attacking a stick insect at Jardin Marron on Silhouette island, Seychelles. The observation was made at 13:45hrs within 3 metres of the stream at the top of Jardin Marron, on the vertical side of a dead fallen tree approximately 12cm diameter at the trunk base and 75cm above the ground.

A stick insect *Carausius seychellensis* (Bolivar, 1895) was observed being attacked by a single yellow wasp *Polistes olivaceus* (De Geer, 1773). The wasp flew toward the head and placed its body in a curved attacking position. The wasp had to adjust and re-adjust as the stick insect moved sideways and also reversed approximately 10cm down the trunk as the wasp was flying around. The wasp did not get a firm grip on the stick insect and flew off to the top of a stick 0.5m distant. The wasp cleaned its head and antennae, returned to the stick insect and attacked again. This time the attack was noticeably less aggressive and lasted approximately 15 seconds as opposed to the initial attack of 30 seconds. The wasp flew off again, stayed flying around in the immediate vicinity 3-5m distant, returned, landed on the same stick but approximately 30cm away. Meanwhile the stick insect had continued reversing and had covered another 5cm. The wasp did not attack a third time, cleaned itself again and flew off. It did not return for at least the next five minutes.

NOTES

Corals of Silhouette island, Seychelles

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In 2000 the dredging of a harbour at La Passe, Silhouette island, broke up a section of the fringing reef. In December 2001 a collection of corals found on the beach at La Passe was made. 14 families and 37 species were collected and identified from 'Corals of the World' (Veron & Stafford-Smith 2000). This included species from a range of depths.

Gorgonia

Corallium cf. *nobile*

Tubipora musica Linnaeus, 1758

Octocorallia

Acroporidae

Acropora hemprichii (Ehrenberg, 1834)

Acropora divaricata (Dana, 1846)

Acropora formosa (Dana, 1846)

Acropora robusta (Dana, 1846)

Montipora digitata (Dana, 1846)