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NOTES

The presence of *Scolia ruficornis* in Seychelles (Scoliidae: Hymenoptera)

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The Scoliid wasp *Scolia* (*Discolia*) *ruficornis* Fabricius was introduced to Seychelles as a biocontrol agent for the palm damaging rhinoceros beetle *Oryctes monoceros* (Greathead 1971). Subsequent to its introduction over 30 years ago there have been no published records of *S. ruficornis*.

In 2001 three scoliid wasps were observed on Silhouette island by R. & G. Gerlach. One of these was caught and is preserved in the collection of the Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles. The specimen was compared with published descriptions of African and Oriental scoliidae and was thought to be close to *S. ruficornis*, although differing in several respects. The identification was subsequently confirmed by Dr. T. Osten of the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart. In 2002 the same species was observed on La Digue and Bird island. A specimen collected on Bird island is more typical of continental *S. ruficornis*. There appear to be interesting differences between these specimens and typical *S. ruficornis*, research is continuing into the morphological diversity of the Seychelles population.

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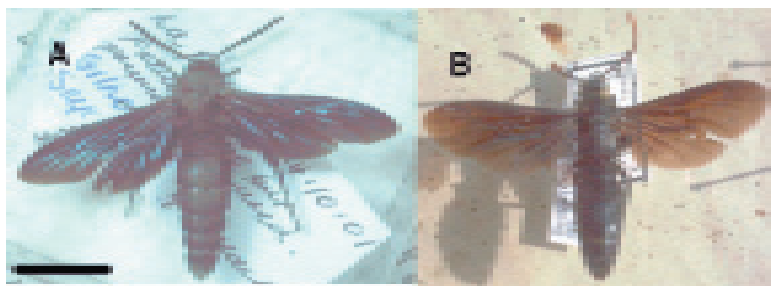


Fig. 1. *Scolia ruficornis* from Silhouette island (A) and Madagascar (B). Scale 10mm

NOTES

First record of the family Chrysididae (Insecta: Hymenoptera) from Seychelles

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In the Malagasy Subregion the family Chrysididae is represented by about 40 species. 37 species have been recorded from Madagascar, three from the Comores (Grande Comore, Anjouan, Moheli, Mayotte) and two each from Réunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues. The *Chrysis lineea* group is easily recognized by the metanotal mucro and extraordinary mesopleural projection (Kimsey 1994). It comprises three species: *C. gheudei* Guérin-Ménéville, 1842 (Madagascar) and *C. laevicollis* Buysson, 1898 (Philippines) are endemic species; the third species, *C. lineea* Fabricius, 1775, is widely distributed in the southern Palaearctic, Ethiopian, Oriental and Australian regions. Mud-nesting *Sceliphron* (Sphecidae) species are known as hosts. In Seychelles *S. fuscum* Klug, 1801 could be a possible host.

***Chrysis lineea* Fabricius, 1775**

Material: Silhouette: La Passe 3 females 6.iv.2003 leg. Gerlach; 2 females 16-22.v.2003 leg. Madl.

In the Malagasy Subregion recorded from the Comoros (Grande Comore, Anjouan, Mayotte).

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