

## A new species of Scatopsidae (Diptera) from the Seychelles islands

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Scatopsids are small-sized, rather inconspicuous non-biting midges with short antennae, characteristic eye-bridge over antennae and reduced wing venation. About 350 species are known worldwide but tropical faunas are still very poorly known, with probably very numerous undescribed species. Known larvae are saprophagous, living in various decaying organic media.

Two species have been recorded from Seychelles, *Psectrosciara brunnescens* (Brunetti, 1911) and *Rhegmoclema rufithorax* Enderlein, 1912. Both result from the scanty material gathered during the Percy Sladen Trust expedition 1905 which was summarized by Enderlein (1914). Only one specimen of Scatopsidae was collected during the recent Indian Ocean Biodiversity Assessment by Justin Gerlach. It belongs to a new species of the genus *Rhegmoclemina* which is described below.

### ***Rhegmoclemina botulus* sp. nov.** (Figs. 1-3)

**Diagnosis:** the shape of the elongated spermatheca is unique among known species of Scatopsidae (Fig. 3).

**Description:** Body length 1.1mm. Head damaged, flagellar segments of antennae lacking; palpus short, rounded. Thorax: anterior spiracular sclerite (Fig. 2) elongate, spiracle large, anterior, submedian. A row of 10 supra-alar setae, not markedly different from vicinuous pilosity. Legs brown, shortened, tarsi and basal portion of tibiae lighter, a basal submedian brown ring on tibiae, fore femora thickened, all tibiae clavate, regularly widening towards apex. Wing (Fig. 1) 1.0mm long. Anterior veins yellowish brown, posterior veins hyaline, no setae on posterior veins. Membrane entirely microtrichiose. Veins of sector R reaching about middle of wing, M fork elongate,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  diverging from base, sinuosity of CuA2 weak. Stem of halter devoid of setae.

Abdomen (Fig. 3): sternites and tergites simple in shape, sternites widening towards apex of abdomen; tergite 8 very narrow, articulated with a pair of shortened apparent cerci; sternite 8 divided in 2 lateral lobes; genitalia with atrial sclerotization elongate; spermatheca very peculiar in shape, elongate, sausage like, with subterminal spine-like cuticular expansions on both ends.

**Type material:** SILHOUETTE. La Passe (above Dauban Mausoleum), Malaise trap, 1-4.VII.2000, 1♀, J. Gerlach (NHML). The dissected female holotype is slide mounted in Euparal.

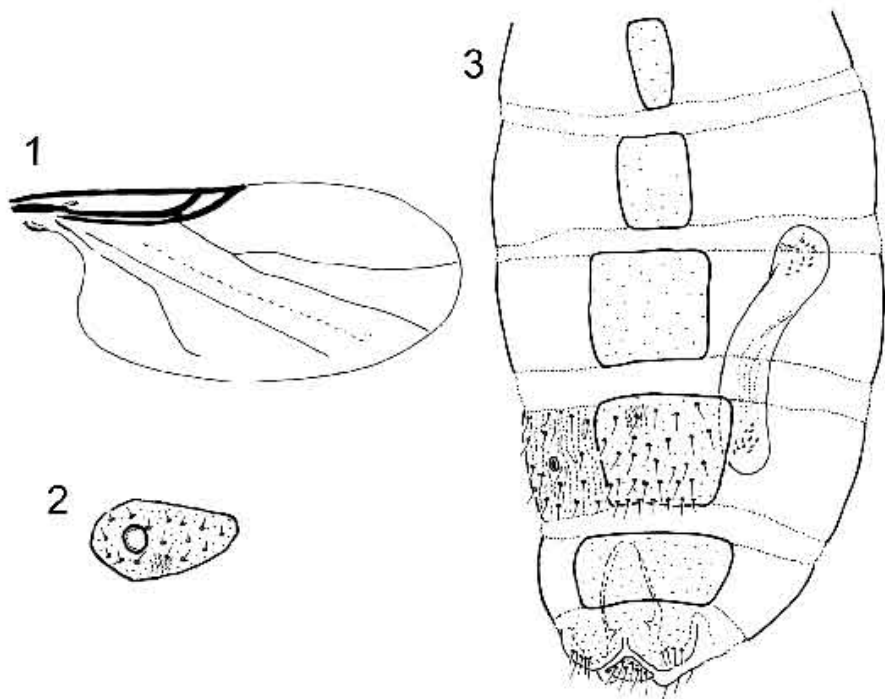
**Distribution:** Known only from Seychelles Islands (Silhouette).

Ecology: The only known specimen was caught in a Malaise Trap placed in a rain forest.

Etymology: The specific name derives from *botulus*, the latin word for sausage and refers to the unusual shape of the genital vesica of this species.

#### REFERENCES

Enderlein, G. 1914. No. XVI. - Diptera: Scatopsidae, Simuliidae. (The Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to the Indian Ocean in 1905, under the leadership of Mr J. Stanley Gardiner M. A., Vol. V). *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, 2nd Series, Zoology* **16**(4): 373-375.



**Figs 1-3.** *Rhegmoclemina botulus* sp. nov.(female holotype) : 1. Wing (diagrammatic).  
– 2. Anterior spiracular sclerite. – 3. Abdomen and genitalia (ventral view).