

## Some faunistic notes on selected moth species (Lepidoptera) from the Seychelles

Willy De Prins<sup>1</sup> and Paolo Mazzei<sup>2</sup>

1. Department of Entomology, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences,  
Vautierstraat 29, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM  
[willy.deprins@gmail.com]
2. Dynastes – via di Torre Morena 48, 00118 Rome, ITALY  
[paolo.mazzei@dynastes.it]

**Abstract:** In the present list two Lepidoptera species are mentioned for the first time for the Seychelles: *Autocharis marginata* and *Traminda obversata*. Several species are mentioned for the first time for the islands of La Digue (33), Mahé (1), Praslin (1), and Grande Soeur (1). The larval hostplant of the endemix species *Glyphodes duponti* is recorded as *Ficus lutea*.

### Introduction

While the butterfly fauna of Seychelles is relatively well known (e.g. Lawrence 2000, Bolotov *et al.* 2015), there is still need for much more detailed studies on the moth fauna, though some publications contain much information already (e.g. Legrand 1965, Gerlach & Matyot 2006). Furthermore, there are some detailed studies on selected moth groups (e.g. Sphingidae by Matyot 2005) or on specific islands (e.g. Woods 2013), but some visits to the islands of La Digue and Mahé of the second author, and to Praslin of Maik Bippus, revealed several new moth species for those islands and even two species which had never been mentioned before from the Seychelles as a whole. The present faunistic notes aim at further advancing our knowledge of the moth fauna of this interesting archipelago.

The new records are from four islands all belonging to the granitic group:

La Digue (4°22'S 55°50'E), the fourth largest island of Seychelles, lying east of Praslin and west of Felicité, with an area of 10 km<sup>2</sup> and the highest point reaching 300 m;

Mahé (4°40'S 55°28'E), the largest island of Seychelles, with an area of 155 km<sup>2</sup> and the highest point reaching 905 m;

Praslin (4°19'S 55°44'E), the second largest island of Seychelles, lying 44 km northeast of Mahé, with an area of 37 km<sup>2</sup> and the highest point reaching 330 m.

Grande Soeur (4°17'S 55°52'E), the 12<sup>th</sup> in a descending series of Granitic islands, lying 6 km NE of La Digue and an area of only 84 ha.

The systematic order and nomenclature follows the one in De Prins & De Prins (2016). The general distribution of the species is taken from the same source, Afromoths, where references to the first published faunistic and biological records can be found. The specimens have not been caught, but only photographed.

## Tortricidae

### *Eccopsis incultana* (Walker, 1863)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 1). Formerly known from Curieuse, Mahé and Silhouette, **new record for La Digue**. Also distributed in Mauritius and São Tomé and Príncipe, and on the African continent in Gambia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The larva has been found on the African continent on *Acacia tortilis* (Forssk.) Hayne, *Aeschynomene telekii* Schweinf. and *Piptadenia africana* Hook f., all Fabaceae.

## Hyblaeidae

### *Hyblaea puera* (Cramer, 1777)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 2). Formerly known from Aldabra, Cosmoledo (Menai), Mahé, Praslin, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. Also distributed in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), La Réunion, Madagascar, Maldives (Hulule), Mauritius (Mauritius and Rodrigues), and on the African continent in Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania (Pemba island), Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It has furthermore been reported from the Neotropical region (Honduras, Mexico, Suriname) and the Oriental region (India, Indonesia, Myanmar, New Guinea and Sri Lanka).

The larva has been found on a variety of plant species belonging to Acanthaceae, Araliaceae, Bignoniaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Lamiaceae, Myrtaceae, Poaceae and Verbenaceae.

## Pyralidae

### *Endotricha mesenterialis* (Walker, 1859)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 01.x.2007 (Fig. 3), 03.x.2007, 16.viii.2007 and 02.v.2014, all photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Curieuse, Mahé, Sainte-Anne, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. Also distributed in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), and the Maldives (Hulule, Minikoi). The species has hitherto not been found on the African continent, but it is widely distributed with several subspecies in the Australasian region: Austral Island, Australia, Kermadec Island, New Caledonia, New Guinea, Palau Island, Samoa, Tahiti, and in the Oriental region: Begum Island, Christmas Island, India, Indonesia (Borneo), Malaysia (Sarawak), New Hebrides, Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka, Tonga. The records from the Seychelles represent the most western distribution of this species, where it has been described as *Endotricha mesenterialis mahensis* Whalley, 1963.

The biology is unknown.

### *Hypsopygia mauritialis* (Boisduval, 1833)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007, 15.viii.2009 (Fig. 4), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Bird, Curieuse, Mahé, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. Also distributed in La Réunion, Madagascar and Mauritius. On the African continent it has been recorded from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, but these records need confirmation since earlier records from South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and



**Figs 1–15.** Moths of the Seychelles. 1. *Eccopsis incultana*; 2. *Hyblaea puera*; 3. *Endotricha mesenterialis*; 4. *Hypsopygia mauritialis*; 5. *Lamoria anella*; 6. *Autocharis marginata*; 7. *Cadarena pudoraria*; 8–9. *Cirrhochrsta muelleralis*; 10. *Cirrhochrsta perbrunnealis*; 11 –12. *Cnaphalocrocis trapezalis*; 13. *Diaphania indica*; 14. *Diasemiopsis ramburialis*; 15. *Eurrhyarodes tricoloralis*. All pictures © Paolo Mazzei, except 14 © Maik Bippus.

Zimbabwe have proven to be erroneous (Leraut 2006). *H. mauritialis* has also been mentioned from the Australasian region (Australia, Hawaii) and from the Palaearctic region (China, Iran).

The larva has been found in nests of Hymenoptera, e.g. *Polistes* sp. (Martiré & Rochat 2008).

***Lamoria anella*** (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 21.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 5). Formerly known from Curieuse, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. On the African continent it has been recorded from South Africa and Sudan, and it is widespread in the Palaearctic region (China, South and Central Europe, Japan, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Russia (incl. Far East), Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates).

The larva has been found in nest of Hymenoptera, e.g. *Polistes* sp., *Vespa* sp., but it has also been found in silken tubes among low plants like *Aster* sp. and *Inula* sp. (Slamka 2006).

**Crambidae**

***Autocharis marginata*** Guillermet, 1996 [**new for the Seychelles**]

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 01.x.2007, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 6). Until now only recorded from La Réunion, where it was thought to be endemic. Thus far only recorded in the Seychelles from La Digue. Perhaps *Autocharis linealis* Shaffer & Munroe, 2007, described from the Aldabra group, is a junior subjective synonym of this species.

The biology is unknown.

***Cadarena pudoraria*** (Hübner, 1825)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 13.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 7). Formerly known from Mahé, Praslin and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. Also known from the Comoros, La Réunion and Madagascar, and from São Tomé and Príncipe. On the African continent very widespread and common in Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, but probably present in all Afrotropical countries. It has also been recorded from the Oriental region: India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

The larva has been found on *Gossypium* sp. and *Sida rhomboifolia*.

***Cirrhochrista muelleralis*** Legrand, 1957

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 12 (Fig. 8) and 20.viii.2009 (Fig. 9), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Mahé, North, Praslin, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. An endemic species for the Seychelles, not encountered elsewhere.

The biology is unknown.

***Cirrhochrista perbrunnealis*** Fletcher T. B., 1910

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 20.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 10). Formerly known from Curieuse, Mahé, Praslin, and Sainte-Anne, **new for La Digue**. An endemic

species for the Seychelles, not encountered elsewhere.  
The biology is unknown.

***Cnaphalocrocis trapezalis* (Guenée, 1854)**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007 (Fig. 11) and 16.viii.2009 (Fig. 12), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Cerf, Fregate, Mahé, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. Also recorded from La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Saint Helena. On the African continent it has been recorded from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It enters into the South Palaearctic region via Oman and Saudi Arabia and is also known from the Oriental region: S. China, India, Indonesia (Sulawesi), Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka), the Neotropical region: Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Peru, and the Australasian region: Australia, Fiji, Palau, Polynesia.

The larva can be a serious pest on various grasses, like *Oryza* sp., *Panicum trichodadum*, *Sorghum* sp., and *Zea mais*.

***Diaphania indica* (Saunders, 1851)**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 17.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 13). Formerly known from Aldabra, Aride, Bird, Coëtivy, Cousine, Fregate, Mahé, Praslin, Sainte-Anne, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. This species has been recorded in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), the Comoros (Mayotte), La Réunion, Madagascar, the Maldives (Hulule), Mauritius, and Saint Helena. On the African continent it is known from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. It furthermore occurs in the subtropical and tropical zones of all the zoogeographic regions.

The larva feeds on several species of Amaranthaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, and Malvaceae. On the Seychelles it is reported from *Achyranthes aspera*.

***Diasemiopsis ramburialis* (Duponchel, 1834)**

Praslin, 08.vii.2014, photo by M. Bippus (Fig. 14). Formerly known from Aldabra and Mahé, **new for Praslin**. This species is also recorded from La Réunion and Madagascar. On the African continent it is known from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. It has a cosmopolitan distribution and is mainly found in the subtropical and tropical zones.

The biology is unknown but the larva is supposed to live on Brassicaceae.

***Eurrhynodes tricoloralis* (Zeller, 1852)**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 12 and 14.viii.2009 (Fig. 15), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Aldabra, Denis, Mahé, Marie-Louise, Praslin, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. The species also occurs on the Comoros (Mayotte), La Réunion, Madagascar, the Maldives (Hulule, Minikoi), and Mauritius. On the African continent where it has been recorded from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo,

Gambia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. It also occurs in the Australasian region: Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and in the Oriental region: India, Indonesia (Java), New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand. The biology is unknown.

***Glyphodes duponti*** de Joannis, 1915

La Digue, La Mare Soupape, e.p. 25 and 26.viii.2009 (Figs 16, 17); La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 02.v.2014 (Fig. 18), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Aride, Denis, Félicité, Long, Mahé, Marie-Anne, Round, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. An endemic species for the Seychelles, not encountered elsewhere.

As far as we know the biology of this species has never been described. The second author, however, found rolled leaves on *Ficus lutea* Vahl (Moraceae) at La Mare Soupape on the island of La Digue which contained brown pupae (Figs 19–21). Some adults emerged on 25 and 26 August 2009.

***Palpita vitrealis*** (Rossi, 1794)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 14.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 22). Formerly known from Aldabra, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. This species is also known from the Comoros (Mayotte, Mohéli), La Réunion, Madagascar, and Mauritius. On the African continent it has been recorded from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Via Yemen, it is furthermore distributed in the Palearctic region (esp. South Europe), the southern parts of the Oriental region and it reaches Australia.

The larva lives on several *Jasminum* species and on *Olea europea* (Oleaceae).

***Zebronia mahensis*** (Fletcher T. B., 1910)

La Digue, Nid d'Aigle trail, 18.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 23). Formerly known from Mahé, Praslin and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. An endemic species in the Seychelles, not encountered elsewhere.

The caterpillar lives on *Tabebuia pallida* (Bignoniaceae).

## Sphingidae

***Cephonodes tamsi*** Griveaud, 1960

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 15.viii.2009 (Fig. 24); La Digue, L'Union, 15.viii.2009, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Mahé, Praslin and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. This species is endemic in the Seychelles and currently known only from the four mentioned islands.

The larva has been observed on *Canthium bibracteatum* and on *C. carinatum* (Rubiaceae).

***Temnora peckoveri*** (Butler, 1877)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 13.viii.2009 (Fig. 25) and 26.iv.2014, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Denis, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. Also recorded from the Comoros (Grande Comore) and Madagascar.





**Figs 16–30.** Moths of the Seychelles. 16. *Glyphodes duponti*; 17. *Glyphodes duponti* (underside); 18. *Glyphodes duponti*; 19. Rolled leaf of *Ficus lutea* containing pupae of *Glyphodes duponti*; 20. *Ficus lutea*, foodplant of *Glyphodes duponti* with some rolled leaves; 21. *Glyphodes duponti*, pupa; 22. *Palpita vitrealis*; 23. *Zebronia mahensis*; 24. *Cephonodes tamsi*; 25. *Temnora peckoveri*; 26. *Phazaca theclata*, female; 27. *Phazaca theclata*, male; 28. *Thalassodes antithetica*; 29. *Traminda obversata*; 30. *Achaea catella*. All © Paulo Mazzei.

The caterpillar lives on *Morinda citrifolia* (Rubiaceae).

## Uraniidae

*Phazaca theclata* (Guenée, 1857)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 01 (Fig. 26, female) and 03.x.2007 (Fig. 27, male), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly also known from Curieuse, Félicité, Long, Mahé, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. The species is recorded from the other archipelagoes in the Indian Ocean: Comoros (Mayotte), La Réunion, Madagascar, and Mauritius and it also occurs on the African mainland: Democratic Republic of Congo (Katanga), Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, South Africa (Gauteng) and on the Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The caterpillar lives on *Paraserianthes falcataria* (Fabaceae) and *Stachytarpheta urticifolia* (Verbenaceae).

## Geometridae

*Thalassodes antithetica* Herbulot, 1962

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007, 14.viii.2009 and 26.iv.2014 (Fig. 28), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Cousine, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. This species is endemic in the Seychelles and currently known only from the four mentioned islands.

The larval hostplant is unknown.

*Traminda obversata* (Walker, 1861) [**new for the Seychelles**]

La Digue, Daniella's Bungalows, 10.x.2007; La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 12.viii.2009 (Fig. 29), photos by P. Mazzei. Thus far only recorded in the Seychelles from La Digue. The species is also known in the Indian Ocean from the Comoros (Grande Comore and Mayotte), La Réunion and Madagascar. On the African continent it occurs in Angola, Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, São Tomé, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The larval hostplant is unknown.

## Erebidae

*Achaea catella* Guenée, 1852

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 02.v.2014, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 30). Formerly known from Aldabra, Aride, Cousine, Curieuse, Mahé, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean the species also occurs on the Comoros, La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and Rodrigues. On the African continent it is widely spread and known from Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (East Kasai, Katanga, Kinshasa), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It also is recorded from the Arabian Peninsula: Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen (incl. Socotra) and from the Atlantic Ocean island of Saint Helena. It enters the Palaearctic region in Egypt.

The caterpillar has been recorded from several hostplants, e.g.: *Afzelia africana*,



*Bauhinia*, *Lonchocarpus* and *Tamarindus* (Fabaceae), *Eucalyptus* (Myrtaceae), *Euphorbia pyrifolia*, *E. systyla* and *Ricinus* (Euphorbiaceae), and from *Terminalia catappa* (Combretaceae).

***Achaea violaceofascia*** (Saalmüller, 1891)

Mahé, Sans Souci road, Copolia Lodge, 08.v.2014, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 31). Formerly recorded from Aldabra, Assomption, Cosmoledo, Praslin and Silhouette, **new for Mahé**. The species also occurs on La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Mafia Archipelago (Tanzania).

The caterpillar is polyphagous.

***Amyna axis*** Guenée, 1852

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 02 (Fig. 32) and 03.x.2007, Mahé, Daniella's Bungalows, 10.x.2007, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Aldabra, Aride, Bird, Coëtivy, Cosmoledo, Denis, Fregate, Mahé, Menai, Praslin, and Providence, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean it lives on the Comoros, La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and Rodrigues. In the Atlantic Ocean it has been recorded from the Cape Verde Islands (Santiago, São Nicolao, São Vicente) and on the African continent from Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (Province Orientale, South Kivu), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, North-West), Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This widespread species occurs also on the Arabia Peninsula: Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen (incl. Socotra). It furthermore has a world wide distribution occurring in all zoogeographical zones, but it is unknown from Europe.

The caterpillar lives e.g. on *Beta vulgaris* and *Chenopodium album* (Chenopodiaceae).

***Hyospila thermesina*** Guenée, 1862

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 26.iv.2014, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 33). Formerly known from Félicité, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. This species has furthermore been recorded from La Réunion.

The larval hostplant is unknown.

***Mocis conveniens*** (Walker, 1858)

La Digue, Petite Anse, 04.x.2007; Calou Guesthouse, 06.x.2007 (Fig. 34), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Cousine, Félicité, Mahé, Poivre, Praslin, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean the species also occurs on the Comoros (Mayotte), La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Zanzibar. In the Atlantic Ocean it has been recorded from the Cape Verde Islands (Santiago, Santo Antão). On the African mainland it occurs in Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas Congo, East Kasai, Equateur, Katanga, Kinshasa, North Kivu, Province Orientale), Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. On the Arabian Peninsula it is only known from SW Yemen.

The larval hostplant is unknown.

***Simplicia extinctalis* (Zeller, 1852)**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.viii.2007 and 13.viii.2009 (Fig. 35), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species occurs on the Comoros (Mayotte), La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Rodrigues. In the Atlantic Ocean it lives on the Cape Verde Islands (Santo Antão) and on Saint Helena. On the African continent it has been recorded from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. On the Arabian Peninsula it is known from Saudi Arabia and Yemen (incl. Socotra). The larval hostplant is unknown.

***Utetheisa pulchelloides* Hampson, 1907**

Grande Soeur, e.l. 07.ix.2009 (Fig. 36) and subsequent days from caterpillars found early May 2009, photo by P. Mazzei; also some specimens reared from caterpillars found on 01.v.2014 on *Tournefortia argentea*. This species is widespread in the Seychelles archipelago: Aldabra, Aride Arros, Bird, Coëtivy, Desroches, Eagle, La Digue, Mahé, Poivre, Praslin, Rémire, Saint-Joseph, and Silhouette, **new for Grande Soeur**. Apart from the Seychelles, this species is known in the Indian Ocean from the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), La Réunion (incl. Tromelin Island), Mauritius (incl. Cargados Carajos), and Rodrigues. It also occurs in the Australasian Region: a.o. Australia, Ellice Island, Gilbert Island, Marshall Island, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, and in the Oriental Region: Nicobar Islands, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan.

The caterpillar lives on *Tournefortia argentea* and *Trichodesma zeylanicum* (Boraginaceae).

**Nolidae**

***Earias biplaga* Walker, 1866**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 06 and 14.x.2007 (Fig. 37), 20.viii.2009, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Mahé and Praslin, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species also occurs on the Comoros (Grande Comore), La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Zanzibar. In the Atlantic Ocean it has been recorded from the Cape Verde Islands (Brava, Fogo, Santiago, Santo Antão, São Nicolao, São Vicente). It is widespread and mostly common on the African continent: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas Congo, East Kasai, Equateur, Katanga, Maniema, North Kivu, Province Orientale, West Kasai), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. On the Arabian Peninsula it has been recorded from Saudi Arabia and Yemen (incl. Socotra). It has also been mentioned from the Australasian Region: Samoa, Tonga.

The caterpillar lives on a wide range of mainly Fabaceae and Sterculiaceae. It has been found to damage *Gossypium* and *Theobroma cacao*.

***Nola jourdani* (Legrand, 1966)**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 38). Formerly known from Mahé, Praslin and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. This is an endemic species in the



**Figs 31–45.** Moths of the Seychelles. **31.** *Achaea violaceofascia*; **32.** *Amyna axis*; **33.** *Hyospila thermesina*; **34.** *Mocis conveniens*; **35.** *Simplicia extinctalis*; **36.** *Utetheisa pulchelloides*; **37.** *Earias biplaga*; **38.** *Nola jourdani*; **39.** *Callopietria maillardi*; **40.** *Chasmina candida*; **41.** *Chrysodeixis chalcites*; **42.** *Spodoptera cilium*; **43.** *Spodoptera mauritia*; **44.** *Stictopera antemarginata*; **45.** *Stictopera poecilosoma*. All pictures © Paulo Mazzei.

Seychelles, not occurring elsewhere.  
The larval hostplant is unknown.

### Noctuidae

#### *Callopietria maillardi* (Guenée, 1862)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 10.x.2007, 26 (Fig. 39) and 27.iv.2014, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Coëtivy, Fregate, Mahé, North, Round, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species also occurs in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), Comoros, La Réunion, and Mauritius. In the Atlantic Ocean it is known from the Cape Verde Islands (Fogo, Santo Antão), Equatorial Guinea (Bioko) and São Tomé. It is widespread on the African continent: Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (Katanga, Province Orientale), Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga), Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It has not been recorded on the mainland of the Arabian Peninsula but it occurs on Socotra. It is widespread and mostly common in the Australasian and Oriental regions.

The caterpillar lives on *Asplenium nidus* (Aspleniaceae), *Nephrolepis biserrata* (Lomariopsidaceae) and *Pellaea viridis* (Pteridaceae).

#### *Chasmina candida* (Walker, 1865)

La Digue, Anse La Reunion, e.l. *Hibiscus tiliaceus* in October 2007 and September 2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 40). Formerly known from Mahé and Praslin, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species has been found in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), on Madagascar and in the Maldives (Hulule, Minikoi). It has been mentioned from South Africa and it occurs in the Australian (e.g. Fiji) and Oriental (e.g. Cambodia, S Japan, Singapore) regions.

The caterpillar lives on *Calophyllum inophyllum* (Clusiaceae), *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and *Thespesia populnea* (Malvaceae).

#### *Chrysodeixis chalcites* (Esper, 1798)

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 14.viii.2009, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 41). Formerly known from Aldabra, Arros, Bird, Coëtivy, Desroches, Eagle, Farquhar, Mahé, Marie-Anne, Poivre, Providence, Rémire, Sainte-Anne, Saint-Joseph, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species occurs in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), the Comoros (Anjouan, Mohéli), La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Rodrigues. In the Atlantic Ocean it has been recorded from the Cape Verde Islands (Fogo, Santiago, Santo Antão, São Nicolao), Saint Helena and São Tomé. It is widespread on the African continent: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas Congo, Katanga), Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal), Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. On the Arabian Peninsula it occurs in Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen (incl. Socotra). It enters the Palearctic Region via NW Africa (Algeria, Morocco), Egypt, Libya, the Levant (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine) and occurs throughout S Europe eastwards

through Syria, Turkey till China, Japan and Korea. It was introduced by man into Hawaii. Former records of the Australasian and Oriental regions refer to *Chrysodeixis eriosoma* (Doubleday, 1843).

In the Seychelles the caterpillar lives on *Achyrospermum seychellarum* (Lamiaceae), *Allamanda cathartica* (Apocynaceae), *Begonia seychellensis* (Begoniaceae), *Gloriosa superba* (Liliaceae), *Scaevola taccada* (Goodeniaceae) and *Tabebuia pallida* (Bignoniaceae).

***Spodoptera cilium* Guenée, 1852**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 02.x.2007, photo by P. Mazzei (Fig. 42). Formerly known from Mahé and Praslin, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species occurs on La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Zanzibar. It is widespread on the African continent: Democratic Republic of Congo (East Kasai), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa (Eastern Cape, Western Cape), Sudan, and Zimbabwe. In the Arabian Peninsula it has been recorded from Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen (incl. Socotra). In the Palaearctic Region it occurs from NW Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) through Libya, Egypt (incl. Sinai), Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan till China, Japan, and Nepal. It furthermore occurs in the Oriental Region: India, Indonesia (Borneo, Java), Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The caterpillar feeds on grasses.

***Spodoptera mauritia* (Boisduval, 1833)**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 01 and 03.x.2007 (Fig. 43), photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Cousine, Fregate, Mahé, Praslin, and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species has been recorded from the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos), the Comoros (Anjouan, Grande Comore, Mohéli), La Réunion, Madagascar, and Mauritius. In the Atlantic Ocean it occurs on Principe and on the African continent it lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (East Kasai), Eritrea, Gambia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. On the Arabian Peninsula it has been reported from Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen (incl. Socotra). It furthermore occurs in the Australasian (e.g. Australia, Hawaii, Marquesas, Tahiti) and Oriental (e.g. India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand) regions.

The caterpillar feeds on grasses. In the Seychelles it has been reported to live on *Cyperus rotundus* (Cyperaceae) by Legrand (1965).

***Stictoptera antemarginata* Saalmüller, 1880**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 03.x.2007 (Fig. 44) and 13.viii.2009, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Félicité, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean this species also occurs on La Réunion and Madagascar. On the African continent it has only been reported from the south-eastern region: Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa (Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal), Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

The biology is unknown.

***Stictoptera poecilosoma* Saalmüller, 1880**

La Digue, Calou Guesthouse, 10.x.2007, 14 (Fig. 45) and 18.viii.2009, photos by P. Mazzei. Formerly known from Curieuse, Félicité, Mahé and Silhouette, **new for La Digue**. In the Indian Ocean it has been recorded from the Comoros (Grande Comore), La Réunion and Madagascar. There is one record of this species from the African continent (Tanzania) which needs confirmation.

The biology is unknown.

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank Maik Bippus for allowing us to publish the new record of *Diasemiopsis ramburialis* on Praslin island, accompanied by its photo.

**References**

- Bolotov I., Spitsyn V., Kolosova Y. & Vlasova A. 2015. New and recent records of moth and butterfly species (Insecta: Lepidoptera) from Praslin and Mahé Islands, Seychelles. *Check List: the journal of biodiversity data* **11**(5): 1–7.
- De Prins J. & De Prins W. 2016. *Afromoths, online database of Afrotropical moth species (Lepidoptera)*. Online at <http://www.afromoths.net> [last accessed on 30 May 2016].
- Gerlach, J. & Matyot P. 2006. *Lepidoptera of the Seychelles islands*. Leiden: Backhuys Publishers. 130 pp.
- Lawrence J. M. 2000. Preliminary evaluation of the composition, distribution and faunal affinities of the butterflies of the Seychelles Archipelago. *Metamorphosis* **11**(4): 174–184.
- Legrand H. 1965. Lépidoptères des îles Seychelles et d’Aldabra. *Mémoires du Muséum nationale d’Histoire naturelle*, Paris A **37**: 1–210.
- Leraut P. 2006. Contribution à l’étude du genre *Hypsopygia* Hübner (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae). *Revue française d’Entomologie* (N. S.) **28**(1): 5–30.
- Martiré D. & Rochat J. 2008. *Les papillons de La Réunion et leurs chenilles*. Biotope, Mèze (Collection Parthénope), Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, 496 pp.
- Matyot P. 2005. The hawkmoths (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae) of Seychelles: identification, historical background, distribution, food plants and ecological considerations. *Phelsuma* **13**: 55–80. <http://islandbiodiversity.com/Phelsuma%2013-4.pdf>.
- Slamka F. 2006. *Pyraloidea (Lepidoptera) of Europe, Volume 1. Identification – Distribution – Habitat – Biology*. F. Slamka, Bratislava, 138 pp.
- Woods P. J. 2013. The Lepidoptera of Curieuse Island, Seychelles. *Phelsuma* **21**: 58–64. <http://islandbiodiversity.com/Phelsuma%2021f.pdf>.