

ered and several species appear to be new to science. The notable dominance of family Oonopidae on the granitic Seychelles is an interesting phenomenon; about 20% of the known species belong to that family.

Finally it must be said that without the help of the above mentioned people it would not have been possible to arrange this collecting of spiders in Seychelles. My sincerest thanks are due to all of them. I wish also thank Mr. Ron Gerlach and Mrs. Gill Gerlach for all their valuable help during my visit on Silhouette.

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## NOTES

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### New animals in Seychelles

Justin Gerlach

PO Box 207, Mahé, SEYCHELLES / 133 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, UK.

Recent collections of insects from Silhouette include many new records, including several new records for Seychelles. Three of these are reported on below.

#### *Achaea violaceofascia* (Saalmüller, 1891) (Lepidoptera; Noctuidae)

This distinctive large noctuid moth was found at a light at La Passe, Silhouette on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1999 by M.I. Saaristo (NPTS H11999.16). This species can be distinguished from all other Seychelles noctuids by its large size (60mm wing-span) and generally dark brown fore-wings. In common with other *Achaea* species the hind-wings are blackish with white patches. This species is recorded from Madagascar and Reunion. The Silhouette specimen resembles the Reunion subspecies *A. v. richardi* Viette, 1975 in size (*A. v. violaceofascia* <60mm, *A. v. richardi* = 60-65mm) and in having generally indistinct markings on the fore-wing and a reduced white bar on the hind-wings. This species is presumed to be a natural colonist. On Reunion it has been recorded feeding on Euphorbiaceae and Sapotaceae.

#### *Hypocala deflorata* Fabricius, 1775 (Lepidoptera; Noctuidae)

This highly distinctive noctuid moth was found at a light at La Passe, Silhouette on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1998 by the author (NPTS H11998.103). It is a widespread species ranging from southern Africa to India, distinctive in the Seychelles fauna in having grey-brown fore-wings with indistinct bands in striking contrast to the bright orange hind-wings. There is a broad

black border to the hind-wings, curving into the centre. Two marginal spots are present. The wing span of the species is 30-45mm. The Silhouette specimen measures 40mm and appears to be the typical variety, with indistinctly marked greyish fore-wings. The species is probably a natural colonist.

*Heteropsylla cubana* (Hemiptera; Psillidae)

The *Leucaena* psillid was located at three sites around the coast in January: Pointe Zeng-Zeng (10<sup>th</sup> January) (NPTS Hh1999.12), Baie Cipailles (14<sup>th</sup> January) and La Passe (26<sup>th</sup> January). The largest population was at Pointe Zeng-Zeng which appears to be the site of the original colonisation. It feeds on *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Dendrolabium umbellatum*, causing damage to the growing shoots of the alien *L. leucocephala* but apparently no damage to the native *D. umbellatum*. The spread of this introduced species and its effects on *L. leucocephala* will be monitored. Initial observations and reports from other parts of the world suggest that this may reduce the threat posed by *L. leucocephala* invasion. *H. cubana* is a widespread species, apparently accidentally dispersed by human agency, its presence in Seychelles appears to have been first recorded by Carlström (1996) as 'leucaena psillid'.

*Puliciphora borquinensis* Wheeler (Diptera; Phoridae)

Three wingless female flies were found in leaf litter in the coco-de-mer (*Lodoicea maldivica*) grove at Jardin Marron. Two of these were identified by H. Disney as *Puliciphora borquinensis*, a tramp species with a worldwide distribution. The third specimen was identified as a species of *Chonocephalus*. This appears to be an undescribed species but winged males are needed to confirm identification. The larvae of *P. borquinensis* are polyphagous saprophages and it is probable that all three specimens were associated with the abundant palm fruits of the area.

**Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to H. Disney for his identification of the phorid flies.

**References**

- Carlström, A. 1996 - *Endemic & threatened plant species of the granitic Seychelles*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Planning & Environment, Seychelles, unpublished.