

Ecology

H. braueri is principally associated with marshes and pools in slow flowing streams. *M. scotti* is present in fast flowing streams from sea level to the stream source. These differences are reflected in the streamlined morphology and grasping claws of *M. scotti*, compared to the heavier body and weaker grip of *H. braueri*. Nymphs of *M. scotti* are found under small rocks in streams, run over the surface of the rocks when lifted out of the water. They can be locally highly abundant.

References

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NOTES

Notes on the diet of sooglossid frogs

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There are few published references to the diet of any species of the Seychelles endemic frog family Sooglossidae (Brauer 1898; Mitchell & Altig 1983). The diet of *Sooglossus gardineri* has been studied based on a large number of preserved specimens. Collection of new material to determine the diet of the other species is not ethical and only isolated records can be made. The available data are reported below based on published material and specimens in the collection of The Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles (NPTS).

Nesomantis thomasseti Boulenger, 1911

The stomach of one dissected Silhouette specimen (NPTS Ca2000.2) contained insects (one Lepidoptera larva, two Fulgoroidea nymphs, one Curculionidae), one spider (*Nephila inaurata* juvenile) and one woodlouse (pers. obs.).

Sooglossus seychellensis (Boettger, 1896)

Of two dissected Silhouette specimens (NPTS Ca2000.3) one contained a beetle larva and a soldier termite (*Nasutitermes nigratus*), the other a neriid fly (*Chaetonerius alluaudi*). A faecal sample from one Silhouette adult male contained 12 Lepidoptera larvae. Termites and beetles have previously been recorded from *S. seychellensis* stomachs from Mahé (Brauer 1898), these presumably include the apparent lectotype in the University of Marburg (L3.38/Amph.34).

Sooglossus gardineri (Boulenger, 1909)

Diet was studied from 186 dissected Mahé specimens (Mitchell & Altig 1983). Main dietary items comprised sciarid fly larvae (40.6%), ants (22.0%) and mites (18%).

Sooglossus sp.

In captivity this undescribed Silhouette species eats termites (*Nasutitermes nigratus*), only small individuals were eaten. It is probable that in the wild small invertebrates such as mites and Collembola are consumed.

References

- Brauer, A. 1898. Ein neuer Fall von Brutfliege bei Fröschen. *Zool. Jahrb. Abtheil. F. Syst., Geogr. U. Biol. Der Thiere* 12; 89-94
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NOTES

New records for some vertebrates in Seychelles

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The last overview of the vertebrate fauna of Seychelles with distribution records was in the relevant chapters of Stoddart (1984). Since then, the birds in particular have continued to draw attention (e.g. Skerrett *et al.* 2001), and the Netherlands Indian Ocean Programme has added to our knowledge of the distribution of fishes in Seychellois waters (Egmond & Randall 1994), but there have been relatively few new distribution records for other groups. The following are records collected over the past year based on personal observations and on animals found by others and identified by me.

Satyrichthys sp. (Order Scorpaeniformes: Family Peristediidae)

Fishes of the family Peristediidae, commonly known as armoured searobins or armoured gurnards, have not been reported from the waters around Seychelles up to now. Smith & Smith (1963) listed "*Peristedion*" *adeni*, now treated as *Satyrichthys adeni* (Lloyd, 1907) as one of the species "not yet found at Seychelles but likely to be there". Polunin (1984) did not include any member of the family in his list of additions to the known Seychellois fish fauna; and none was reported by Egmond & Randall (1994) in their report on the fish collected by the Netherlands Indian Ocean Programme in 1992-1993.

On 28th February 2001, while fishing on the Correira Bank at 57° 09.189 East and 06° 29.726 South, Noël Jumeau caught a specimen of *Elops saurus* Linnaeus,