

Table 2 Use of other nesting beaches by turtles tagged on Cousine. * = L. Tideman, pers. com.

N = nests, E = emergences

Turtle no	History of emergences
3	1993/4: 28/10/93 - N1, Cousine; 14/11/93-16/12/93 - N3, Aride 1997/8: 26/10/97 - Tag added, A, no other details available; 9/12/97 - N, Aride
14	1994/5: 19/12/94 - N1, Cousine, no other records for the season 1996/7: 26/11/96-12/1/97 - N4, Cousine 1998/9: 23/12/98 - N, Cousine: 7/1/99 - E, unable to climb dune crest, Cousine 9/1/99 - N, Cousin*: 21/1/99 - E, Cousine: 22/1/99 - N, Ce: 6/2/99 - N, Cousine.
56	1997/8: 16/11/97 - N, Cousine : 28/11/97 - N, Cousin*
89	1998/9: 4/12/98 - E, Cousine : 5/12/98 - N, Cousine: 20/12/98 - N, Cousin*.
1023	1997/8: 5/11/97 - N, Cousine : 19/11/97 - N, Cousin*

References

- Diamond, A.W. 1976. *Biol. Conserv.* **9**: 199-215.
- Frazier, J. 1984. Marine turtles in the Seychelles and adjacent territories. In: *Biogeography and Ecology of the Seychelles Islands*. D.R. Stoddart (ed.). W. Junk, The Hague.
- Garnett, M.C. 1978. *The breeding biology of hawksbill turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata) on Cousin*. ICBP, London.
- Hitchins, P.M., Bourquin, O., Hitchins, S. & Piper, S.E. 2003. *Phelsuma* **11**; 59-69
- Meylan, A.B. 1999. *Chel. Conserv. & Biol.* **3**(2): 189-194
- Mortimer, J.A. 1984. *Marine turtles in the Republic of Seychelles: status and management*. IUCN Res. Publ. Serv.
- “ *in press*. Conservation of hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the Republic of Seychelles. *Proc. 2nd ASEAN Symp. workshop sea turtle biol. & conserv. Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. 15-17 July 1999.*

NOTES

Ghost crabs (*Ocydode* spp.) of Bird Island, Seychelles

James M. Lawrence

21 Venus Street, Atlasville, 1459, SOUTH AFRICA

This article provides a brief overview of the ghost crab (Crustacea; Ocypodidae; *Ocydode*) species observed on Bird Island (3°43'S; 55°13'E), Seychelles between 21 March 2003 and 26 March 2003. This low-lying coral island lies on the northern rim of the Seychelles bank (Braithwaite 1984) and is the northern-most island. The following species were seen:

1. *Ocydode cordimana* (Desmarest, 1825). This steel-blue/grey species was regularly seen along the western beach crest in the evening. Several were also observed digging burrows on the north east beach. This species has been previously recorded on Bird Island by Haig (1984).
2. *Ocydode ceratophthalmus* (Pallas, 1772). Of the three ghost crab species seen, this was the most visually abundant. In the evening they were regularly seen digging burrows on the western beach. It is easily recognized by the plums or horns above

- its eyes, and is pale green in colour.
3. *Ocypode ryderi*, Kingsley 1881. Several individuals were seen along the eastern beach of the island. A single male specimen was collected off the north-east beach on the 26 March 2003. In appearance, it is similar to *O. cordimana*, but can be easily distinguished by its larger size, overall white/pink colouration, mauve/dark red joints, and lack of brushes on the inner edge of the propodus. The straight line carapace length and width of the collected specimen was 40.9mm and 47.3mm respectively. The only other published Seychelles locality for *O. ryderi* is Cousine Island (De Bruyn 2002), although the species was also observed on Silhouette in April 2003 (J. Gerlach pers. comm.).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Norah, and Mr. Savy for the opportunity of visiting Bird Island.

References

- Braithwaite, C.J.R. 1984 Geology of Seychelles. In: *Biogeography and Ecology of the Seychelles Islands* (Ed. D.R. Stoddart) Dr W. Junk, the Hague
- De Bruyn, P. 1984 *Phelsuma* 10:28-34.
- Haig, J. 1984 Land and freshwater crabs of the Seychelles and neighbouring islands. In: *Biogeography and Ecology of the Seychelles Islands* (Ed. D.R. Stoddart) Dr W. Junk, The Hague

NOTES

Inconclusive published and museum bird records from Seychelles

Adrian Skerrett and the Seychelles Bird Records Committee

Since its inception in 1992, Seychelles Bird Records Committee (SBRC) has assessed all known published records of birds recorded in the Republic of Seychelles. Frequently, published sources have involved records of a particular species new to Seychelles, some of which have never been subsequently recorded. In assessing these records, it has not always been possible to confirm identification. As a result, there are now a number of species listed in the published literature attributed to Seychelles, whose occurrence in Seychelles SBRC has not been able to confirm. At the Tenth Annual Meeting of SBRC in 2001, it was agreed that it would be valuable to publish a list of these inconclusive records. It was also agreed that inconclusive museum records should also be published.

In assessing records, every effort has been made by SBRC to contact observers and obtain the fullest possible details. However, in the case of records earlier than 1992, the intervening years (or sometimes decades) have inevitably meant that further details are not available or perhaps notes have been lost.

In order to maintain the highest standards of assessment, SBRC has sometimes found it necessary to classify such records as “not accepted”, which does not necessarily imply that the Committee believes a mistake has been made, but that the available evidence