

New records of *Seychellaria thomasetti*

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In 1994 I found *Seychellaria thomasetti* Hemsley, 1907 at three new locations - each time in the company of Pat Matyot. These are described below:

## Mahé

map ref.: Mahé 3 27/5 86/9

Date - 28/8.94

Found at 600m on the east-facing slope of Morne Seychellois, in damp *Pandanus sechellarum* Balfour, 1877 leaf litter

map ref.: Mahé 2 21/8 88/3

Date - 2/1/95

Found at 300-320m on the bluff behind Mt. Jasmin, facing towards Anse Major. Growing beneath *Phoenicophorium borsigianum* (Koch) in minimal leaf litter on rocky terrain. This was predominantly the white form (Gerlach 1994) but darker "normal" purple forms were also present. This seems to be in the same area reported by J. Collie & K. Fleishmann in August 1993 (Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles 1993) but as the terrain is so difficult I find it unlikely that it is the same, and only, patch.

## Praslin

map ref.: Praslin 3 20/4 60/6

Date - 17/9/94

Found at 367m looking W250S towards Grosse Roche, St Sauvenir. Under two *Cinnamomum verum* Presland trees, in leaf litter and seedlings in a cool rock-shaded area 2x2m with some *Hypoxidia rhizophylla* (Baker, 1877) but no palms or *Pandanus*. Abundance may be due to unduly wet 9 weeks preceding; only found in this one spot and definitely not in evidence in March 1994 on my previous visit.

Further evidence of the biological value of this sites at Fond Azore is provided by the animal life present. Among the insects observed flying in the vicinity that day were the "skipper" butterfly *Coelades forestan* (Cramer, 1782) and the scarabacid beetle *Perissosoma grande* (Scott)

## NOTES

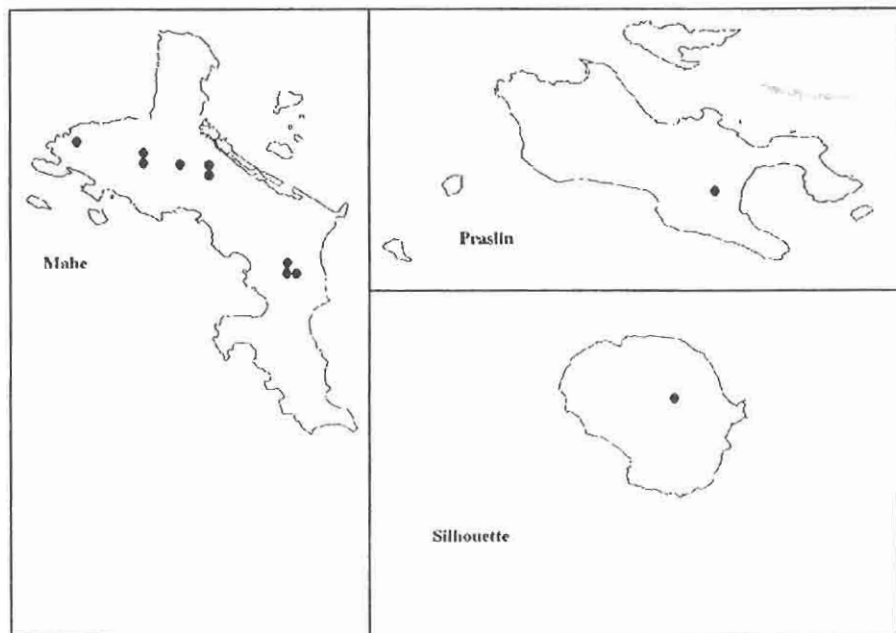


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Seychellaria thomasettii*

The Praslin record is the first for that island. The growth of *Seychellaria thomasettii* in the absence of palm or *Pandanus* litter on Praslin disproves the suggestion that the species is only found in association with *Pandanus sechellarum* (Robertson 1989).

### References

- Gerlach, J. 1994  
Some new forms of plants from Seychelles. *Phelsuma* 2; 61-63
- Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles 1993  
Mapping projects. *Phelsuma* 1; 15-16
- Robertson, S.A. 1989  
*Flowering plants of Seychelles*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 327pp.