

New records of freshwater leeches

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There is only one published record of freshwater leeches in Seychelles, that is to *Barbronia weberi* (Blanchard, 1897) from an unspecified locality (High 1974). In 1989 a species of aquatic leech was found in the Rivière Mare Anglaise on Mahé, this was assumed to be *B. weberi* but was not identified or collected. In July-August 1996 aquatic leeches were collected at the same site and have been identified as two species: *B. weberi* and *Glossiphonia complanata* Linnaeus, 1758.

***Barbronia weberi* (Blanchard, 1897). Family Erpobdellidae**

2 adults and 1 juvenile collected from the Rivière Mare Anglaise, Mahé on 9th August 1996 (NPTS V1996.1). Present on dead leaves in slow flowing lower parts of the river. Largest specimen measuring 25mm extended live length (19mm preserved). The segmentation is very indistinct, four pairs of eyes are arranged round the head. The body is long and thin. The anterior sucker is indistinct, the posterior well developed. Live colouration is red-brown to orange with two blood red longitudinal lines. Also located at Anse Intendance.

This species is from south-east Asia (the type is from Java), the Philippines and India. It is a scavenger on animal remains and a predator on molluscs, worms and insects. It is almost certainly a recent introduction to Seychelles.

***Glossiphonia complanata* Linnaeus, 1758. Family Glossiphoniidae**

4 adults collected from the Rivière Mare Anglaise, Mahé on 31st July 1996 (NPTS V1996.2). Present on dead leaves in fast flowing upper parts of the river. Largest specimen measuring 15mm extended live length. The segmentation is distinct, 1-2 pairs of eyes are present, clustered together on the head. The body is broad, not elongated. Both anterior and posterior suckers are distinct. Live colouration is beige with a medial brown longitudinal line, two lateral pale brown longitudinal lines with a black line between the medial and lateral lines. The black lines fade posteriorly; the posterior of the body is marked with 5-6 brown lines. This pattern corresponds to the form described as *G. concolor* Apáthy, 1888.

This species is a snail predator with a wide distribution in north America, Europe, Asia and Africa. It is almost certainly a recent introduction to Seychelles.

References

High, J. 1974 - *The Natural History of the Seychelles*. Government Printer, Seychelles.