

Two additions to the insect fauna of Seychelles

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1. *Achaea klugii* (Boisduval, 1833)
(Lepidoptera, Family Noctuidae, Subfamily Catocalinae)

In his monograph on Seychellois Lepidoptera, Legrand (1965) lists only two species of *Achaea* from Seychelles: *A. catella* Guenée, 1852 and *A. mercatoria* (Fabricius, 1775). I have observed a third species, identified by me as *A. klugii* (Boisduval, 1833), on several occasions hovering around lights at night inside a house in Marie Laure Estate (Bel Ombre district) on Mahé, at around 90 metres above sea level. This species differs from the other Seychelles *Achaea* spp. by its mostly yellow hind wings and overall yellowish tinge on the rest of the body.

The dates of most sightings were not recorded, but one such observation was made on 3rd January 1995. On 30th January 1997 Katy Beaver and Lindsay Chong-Seng discovered a moth answering to the description of *A. klugii* in a similar situation close to the coast at L'Îlot (Glacis district).

According to Guillermet & Guillermet (1986) this species occurs in Réunion, Mauritius and Madagascar as well as on the African continent. With this distribution it may be a recent natural colonist in Seychelles.

2. *Thea variegata* (Fabricius, 1781)
(Coleoptera, Family Coccinellidae, Tribe Psyllborini)

Sicard (1912) mentions 14 species of ladybird recorded from Seychelles. Vesey-Fitzgerlad (1953) adds 7 more species, most of them introduced as biological control agents to combat coccids. Surprisingly, Géry (1991) mentions only those species listed by Vesey-Fitzgerlad (1953) and makes no reference to Sicard (1912).

Another species must now be added to the coccinellid faunal list of Seychelles. This is *Thea variegata* (Fabricius, 1781), a ladybird previously known from Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and the African mainland (Chazeau *et al.* 1974) and is perhaps a recent natural colonist. It differs from other Seychelles ladybirds by its black markings on a yellow background (Fig. 1.).

It was discovered by Dominique Moustache in August 1996 on the underside of leaves of *Carica papaya* Linn., 1753 growing in a garden at Forêt Noire (Mont Fleuri district) on

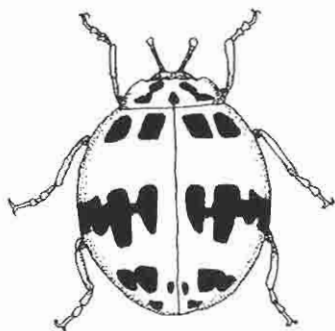


Fig. 1. *Thea variegata*

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Mahé. The insects were still present on the same trees in March 1997.

Chazeau *et al.* (1974) report that this ladybird feeds on the fungus *Oidium* sp. and that in Réunion large numbers are found on the underside of *C. papaya* leaves on which this fungus occurs.

References

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NOTES

Further records of jewel beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) from Seychelles

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The state of knowledge regarding the Buprestidae of Seychelles was summarised in a previous account (Matyot 1996). The following observations, most of them accumulated over the past year, should improve understanding of the distribution of several species.

1. *Belionota prasina* Thunberg, 1789

This species is now known to occur on Praslin island as well. On 9th August 1996 Catherine and Michel Claveau discovered a specimen on a felled tree