

Table 1. Distribution of Seychelles Chrysomelidae

Species	Mahe	Sil.	Praslin etc.	Aldabra etc	Habitat	Range
<i>Aspidomorpha apicalis</i>	1909	-	-	-	mid-alt.	Africa
<i>Biaksha fortipunctata</i>	1909	1908	Praslin 1908	-	mid-high	
<i>B. minor</i>	1909	1999	Aride (1999); Denis (1908)	-	lowland	
<i>B. taeniopunctata</i>	1909	1908	-	Aldabra 1907	mid-high	
<i>Chaetocnema krishna</i>	1909	1908	Praslin 1908	-	mid-high	
<i>C. mahensis</i>	1909	1908	-	-	high	
<i>C. sundara</i>	1909	-	-	-	coastal	
<i>Coptocyclus leopardina</i>	? (1892)	-	-	-	?	Malagasy
<i>Diaetha unifasciata</i>	1905-9	1908	-	-	all	Malagasy
<i>Eka nigra</i>	-	1908	-	-	coastal	
<i>Hoplionota lila</i>	1909	-	-	-	mid-alt.	
<i>Keeta aldabrana</i>	-	-	-	Aldabra 1908	low	
<i>Keeta fryeri</i>	-	-	-	Aldabra 1908	low	
<i>Longitarsus gardineri</i>	-	-	-	Providence (1905)	low	
<i>Nesohispa lambaciras</i>	1908-9	-	-	-	high	
<i>Pratima costata</i>	-	1908	-	-	high	
<i>P. variabilis</i>	1908-9	1909	-	-	high	
<i>Rhabdotohispa scotti</i>	1909	-	-	-	high	
<i>Rhyparida scotti</i>	1908-9	1908	-	-	high	
<i>R. seychellensis</i>	1908-9	1999	-	-	mid-high	
<i>Rhyparidula insularis</i>	-	-	-	Aldabra 1907-8	low	

References

- Maulik, S. 1913 - *Trans. Linn. Soc., Lond.* 2 (Zool.) 16; 237-242.
 -" 1917 - *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8) 19; 144-146
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NOTES

An arachnological excursion to the granitic Seychelles, 1-26th January 1999

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In January this year I had an opportunity to collect spiders on three different islands of the granitic Seychelles, viz. Mahé, Silhouette and Cousine. Most of the time was spent on Silhouette (26 collecting days), while only three collecting days were possible on each of Mahé and Cousine. The purpose of this paper is to give a general review of the results of these collectings as well as preliminary species lists for Silhouette and Cousine (provided in the supplement). These lists include several species and even genera which were not possible

ble to identify; they are indicated by the expression sp. ign. or genus ign.

Collecting on Mahé was done between 2-4th January 1999 and it would not have been possible without the kind help of Mr. Pat Matyot and Dr. Maureen Kirkpatrick who took me to a few suitable places on the mountains. Collecting was mainly done by sweep netting of vegetation and sieving litter and mosses. Some pitfall traps were also placed and later emptied by Mr. Matyot. In all 363 specimens were collected, making 113 different samples including 46 different species. Of them 15 are new to Mahé. Further, one new species for Mahé was found among the material collected earlier by Dr. Justin Gerlach. According to the available literature (Blackwall 1877; Simon 1893 & 1898; Hirst 1911; Bristowe 1973; Saaristo 1978, 1995a-b, 1996a-b, 1997a-b & 1998; Benoit 1978a-g & 1979; Brignoli 1978 & 1980; van Helsdingen 1978; Roberts 1978; Platnick 1979 & 1981; Grasshoff 1980; Wanless 1984 - all references are listed in the supplement) the number of spider species known from the granitic Seychelles is 167 and of these 119 have been found on Mahé. Adding the new findings will raise the number of species found on Mahé to 134.

Between 5-22nd January I had a great pleasure to visit Silhouette. During this time Dr. Gerlach and I made a great effort to collect spiders from numerous various habitats using several different collecting methods including pitfall trapping and funnelling soil and litter. This activity yielded conspicuous spider material consisting of 2012 specimens in 614 different samples. Unfortunately, because of heavy rain, higher sites could only be reached twice. Thus the main part of our material is from the lower parts of the island.

According to the above mentioned literature 51 different spider species have been recorded from Silhouette. Our material consists of 118 species of which 70 are new to Silhouette. They also include several species which are new to the granitic Seychelles or even new to science. In addition, two families, viz. Miturgidae and Mimetidae, which are new for the granitic Seychelles were recorded. Furthermore, the material collected by Dr. Gerlach between 1983-88 includes 3 species new for Silhouette. Thus the total number of spider species from Silhouette is now 124. The high species number from Silhouette compared to Mahé (10 times larger in area) is explained by the more extensive collecting on the former island, as described above. It is also worth mentioning that a well established population of a mygalomorphid spider was found on the trunks of old *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels trees on Silhouette. At present even its familiar placing is uncertain as it has a mixture of characters of the Ctenizidae and Miturgidae. This is apparently the same species as was recorded by Hirst (1911) from Silhouette under the name *Conothele* sp.

My last days on Seychelles were spent on the small island of Cousine, at the kind invitation of Mr. Peter Hitchins and Ms. Stella Le Maitre. Collecting was done between 23-25th January yielding 373 specimens split into 103 samples, including 37 different species. No spiders have ever been recorded from Cousine but the material sent to me earlier by Mr. Hitchins and Ms. Le Maitre comprised 16 species while in the new material there are 29 additional species, bringing the total number on Cousine to 45. Among them is a very interesting eyeless oonopid and also a species representing a new family (Prodidomidae), for the granitic Seychelles. Unfortunately only a female of each species was collected.

As mentioned before 166 spider species have been reported from the granitic Seychelles. The new material in this report includes 28 new species for the area bringing the total to 194 species. Also three new families for the granitic Seychelles were dis-

ered and several species appear to be new to science. The notable dominance of family Oonopidae on the granitic Seychelles is an interesting phenomenon; about 20% of the known species belong to that family.

Finally it must be said that without the help of the above mentioned people it would not have been possible to arrange this collecting of spiders in Seychelles. My sincerest thanks are due to all of them. I wish also thank Mr. Ron Gerlach and Mrs. Gill Gerlach for all their valuable help during my visit on Silhouette.

NOTES

New animals in Seychelles

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Recent collections of insects from Silhouette include many new records, including several new records for Seychelles. Three of these are reported on below.

Achaea violaceofascia (Saalmüller, 1891) (Lepidoptera; Noctuidae)

This distinctive large noctuid moth was found at a light at La Passe, Silhouette on 14th January 1999 by M.I. Saaristo (NPTS H11999.16). This species can be distinguished from all other Seychelles noctuids by its large size (60mm wing-span) and generally dark brown fore-wings. In common with other *Achaea* species the hind-wings are blackish with white patches. This species is recorded from Madagascar and Reunion. The Silhouette specimen resembles the Reunion subspecies *A. v. richardi* Viette, 1975 in size (*A. v. violaceofascia* <60mm, *A. v. richardi* = 60-65mm) and in having generally indistinct markings on the fore-wing and a reduced white bar on the hind-wings. This species is presumed to be a natural colonist. On Reunion it has been recorded feeding on Euphorbiaceae and Sapotaceae.

Hypocala deflorata Fabricius, 1775 (Lepidoptera; Noctuidae)

This highly distinctive noctuid moth was found at a light at La Passe, Silhouette on 1st August 1998 by the author (NPTS H11998.103). It is a widespread species ranging from southern Africa to India, distinctive in the Seychelles fauna in having grey-brown fore-wings with indistinct bands in striking contrast to the bright orange hind-wings. There is a broad