trapped in a web of the spider *Nephila inaurata*, close to an *Averrhoea carambola* tree on which I had previously found the other flower scarab of the granitic islands, *Protaetia aurichalcea*.

30th January 2000: I found another specimen of "var. b" in the same web!

1st March 2000: At 10 a.m. three scarabs were seen on a bunch of green pods on a flamboyant tree in the grounds of the Youth Centre at Mont Fleuri. Since they were quite high overhead, it was not possible to ascertain that they were *O. versicolor*.

3rd March 2000: At around 7.30 a.m., I observed a number of flower scarabs circling above the carambola tree mentioned above. A Seychelles bulbul *Hypsipetes crassirostris* was flying to and fro among them, catching them in its beak with a loud cracking sound. Again, it was not possible to establish if the beetles were *O. versicolor* or *P. aurichalcea*.

18th March 2000: At 3 p.m. I found a specimen of "var. b" and one of "var. d" resting on the foliage of two *Nerium oleander* bushes in front of the National Library in Victoria.

6th May 2000: I found a specimen of "var. d" resting on a compound leaf of a *Leucaena leucocephala* bush at Anse Nord-Est at 12.15 p.m.

The above observations raise the following questions:

1. Is *O. versicolor* more numerous than it used to be or is its recent "obviousness" on Mahé due to some other factor?
2. Why does this apparent increase in numbers coincide with the appearance of a colour form that up to the end of 1999 had not been recorded from Seychelles?

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NOTES

The rediscovery of the Seychelles hummingbird hawkmoth *Macroglossum alluaudi* Joannis, 1893 (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae)

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Two species of hawkmoth have been described as endemic to Seychelles. One, the Seychelles bee hawkmoth, *Cephonodes tamsi* Griveaud, 1960, was rediscovered after 92 years (Gerlach 1998). This species remains known from the type secimen from Mahe and a small extant population on Silhouette. The second endemic species, the Seychelles hummingbird hawkmoth *Macroglossum alluaudi* was described from two female specimens from Mahe. The type specimen was collected by Charles Alluaud in 1892 and the second reared from a

larva by Philibert (this specimen is now lost - Legrand 1965). A third specimen is present in the Berlin museum but without any locality data (Legrand 1965). No further specimens were located despite searches by professinal and amateur lepidopterists and the species has been considered as possibly extinct for many years (Legrand 1965; Gerlach 1997).

During a survey of the *Cephondes tamsi* population on Silhouette in July 2000 an unfamiliar hawkmoth was noticed near the Dauban mausoleum at La Passe. This was captured and identified as *M. alluaudi*. The species was found at the same site on several occations, always in the late afternoon. Its presence was recorded on 10th July (16:25hrs), 11th July (17:00hrs), 12th July (17:30hrs), 13th July (18:00hrs), 17th July (17:00hrs) and 26th July (17:30hrs). On each occasion only a single individual was observed. All individuals were seen feeding on *Lantana camara* flowers alongside *C. tamsi* and *C. hylas* Linnaeus, 1771.

As with the bee hawkmoth population, it is probable that the *L. camara* flowers offer a larger nectar source than most of the native plants in the vicinity. Small populaitons of bee hawkmoths and hummingbird hawmoths may survive in areas where *L. camara* provides a reliable nectar supply and where patches of high quality lowland vegetation survive. For the bee hawkmoths this is provided by the abundance of their larval food plant *Canthium bibracteatum* at Point Varreur. The single recorded larva of *M. alluaudi* was reared on *Morinda citrifolia* (Legrand 1965) which is also present in this area.

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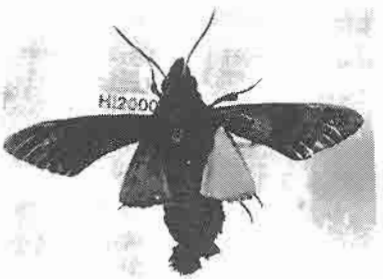

Fig. 1. *Macroglossum alluaudi*, Silhouette July 2000