

**Hemiptera, Hymenoptera and other insects of the Seychelles
islands**

Edited by Justin Gerlach



**Siri Scientific Press
Manchester
2013**

Seychelles Fauna Monographs

The Indian Ocean Biodiversity Assessment 2000–2005 reviewed the biogeography of the Seychelles islands through systematic collecting of all taxonomic groups. Biodiversity collecting for this assessment started in 2000 under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Seychelles government with taxonomic support from 87 expert taxonomists in 20 countries. These taxonomists reported the identification of a large number of previously undescribed species and the material initiated taxonomic revisions of most of the groups concerned. These revisions are being published in widely dispersed academic journals, most of which are not available in Seychelles. The only comprehensive taxonomic treatments available cover dicotyledon plants and vertebrates. The information generated by the project has been collated into a monographic series on the Seychelles fauna. The aim of these monographs is to disseminate taxonomic information in a form that can be easily utilised by future workers in the region and by conservationists and researchers in Seychelles. This high quality biodiversity information is essential for future sustainable biodiversity management.

Further details of the Indian Ocean Biodiversity Assessment can be found on the Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles web-site: <http://islandbiodiversity.com>.

Cover photo: *Mahehia bicornis* on Silhouette island, J. Gerlach

First published 2013

ISBN 978-0-9558636-8-4

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Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles

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Superfamily **PENTATOMOIDEA** Leach, 1815

Key to families:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Antennae 4–5- segmented | Tessaratomidae |
| | Antennae usually 5-segmented | 2 |
| 2. | Scutellum triangular and large | Pentatomidae |
| | Scutellum smaller | 3 |
| 3. | Ovoid, heavily sclerotised; tibiae armed with strong spines; tarsi 3-segmented | Cydnidae |
| | Not as above, second visible abdominal sternum with an elongate spine; tarsi 2-segmented | Acanthosomatids |

Family **CYDNIDAE** Billberg, 1820

Jerzy A. Lis

The family includes 89 genera and about 700 species distributed worldwide (predominantly in warm and tropic parts of the Old World). Most cydnids are soil-diggers using their spiny tibiae and head (therefore, they are called “burrower bugs” or “burrowing bugs”). They are usually black or blackish brown, only occasionally reddish brown or yellowish in shade. Almost all species feed on plants and their roots, but some are regarded as non-fossorial (they are suggested to be seed-feeders or mycetophagous). Only five species representing four genera have hitherto been known from Seychelles, among them three originally described from the islands and regarded as endemic. All these species represent the subfamily Cydninae.

African *Geocnethus proximus* (Signoret, 1882) was erroneously listed from Seychelles in my catalogue of burrower bugs of the Old World (Lis 1999), and it should be excluded from its faunal list.

Key to species

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Scutellum short, at best reaching a half length of hemelytra, almost as broad as long (Fig. 2) | 2 |
| | Scutellum long, extending far beyond a half length of hemelytra, longer than broad (Figs 3–5) | 3 |
| 2. | Pronotal disc with transverse (coarsely punctured) lateral impressions about its midlength (Fig. 1) | <i>Chilocoris felicitatis</i> |
| | Pronotal disc without transverse lateral impressions (Fig. 2) | <i>Chilocoris mahensis</i> |
| 3. | Larger species, body length about 7.0 mm (Fig. 4) | <i>Macroscytus fryeri</i> |
| | Smaller species, body length not exceeding 5.0 mm (Figs 3 & 5) | 4 |