

of the fate of the plant or if the seed was germinated only to confirm its viability. Given the distance from Madagascar and the provenance of many other species from that area, it is strange that this plant has not established itself naturally in Seychelles.

Seed pods of this climbing plant were seen by Charles Morel at Quincy Village on Mahe. With the pod, leaves and photographs of the flowers of the plant, it was identified from Robertson (1989) and from Friedmann (1994) who both cite the same record from Praslin. The Botanical Gardens on Mahe have no known records of this species (D. Dogley pers. comm.).

Both authors inspected the plant on 6th June 2000 and confirmed that it is well established with a number of 5-10cm diameter stems. Its behaviour is identical to most alien invasive climbers and was heavily entangled with the alien *Antigonon leptopus* Hook. & Arn. and the indigenous *Merremia peltata* (L.) Merr.. The plant does not appear to be growing in a position that could have resulted from natural colonisation and it is assumed therefore to have been introduced. An appeal for records from the general public was made through the press.

References

- Friedmann, F. 1994 *Flore des Seychelles. Dicotyledones*. ORSTOM, Paris. 663p.
Robertson, S.A. 1989 *Flowering plants of Seychelles*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 327p.

NOTES

The mayflies of Seychelles: morphology, distribution and ecology.

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In the Seychelles islands Ephemeroptera are represented by two mayfly species: *Hagenuloides braueri* (Ulmer, 1919) and *Maheathraulius scotti* (Eaton, 1913). Both are endemic monotypic genera belonging to the Leptophlebiidae. Their presence on the islands is a result of the Gondwanan biogeography of the islands; with the adults being short lived and relatively weak fliers they cannot have reached the islands by dispersal but are remnants of the ancient fauna of the islands. Very little is known of these species; adult morphology has been well described, as has the larva of *M. scotti*. Distributions have been recorded but there is little published data on behaviour and ecology.

Recent research on Silhouette island has located both species and provided data on habitat preferences and distribution. Existing and new data are reported below.

***Hagenuloides braueri* (Ulmer, 1919)**

Morphology

Male imago: Described by Ulmer (1919). Light grey in life with blue eyes. Body 7-8mm, fore wing 7.5-8.5mm.

Female imago: Not known to Ulmer (1919). Resembles male. Eyes grey in alcohol, blue-grey in life. Body colour light, white in alcohol. Body 6.0mm.

Nymph: Not known to Ulmer (1919). Antennae slightly longer than maximum length of head. Legs: claw 1 apically hooked, others robust and pad-like. Gills: gills on segments 1-7; all gills broad, plate-like. Paracercus shorter than cerci. Cerci and paracercus white, every 5th segment grey. Body 4.3mm; cerci 1.9mm.

Distribution

Mahé: widespread (recorded from Riviere du Cap, Rochon river, Desert river, Val Riche, Riviere St. Louis, Athanas river, Le Niol reservoir, G. Anse river, Cascade - Peters 1980)

Praslin: waterfall in the Vallee de Mai (Peters 1980)

Silhouette: Grande Barbe (pers. obs. and D. Simpson & A. Royo pers. comm.)

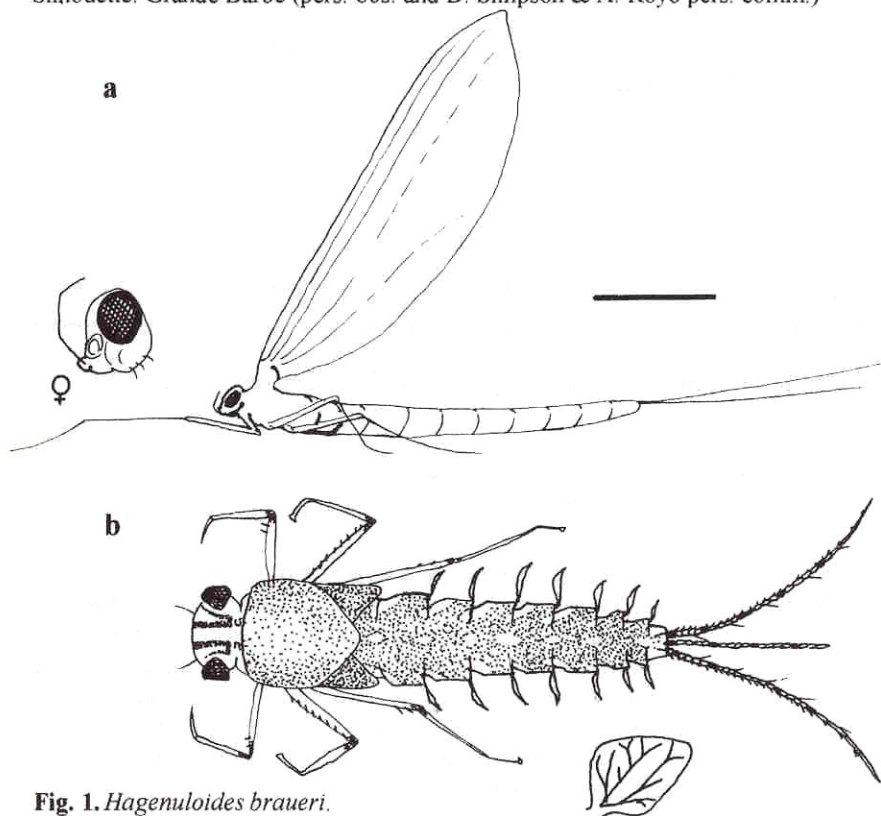


Fig. 1. *Hagenuloides braueri*.

a). Imago (adult female), with detail of head; scale bar 1mm.

b). Nymph, with detail of gill; scale bar 1.25mm

***Maheathraulius scotti* (Eaton, 1913)**

Morphology

Male imago: This has been well described by Peters & Edmunds (1964), additional to their description the upper portion of the eyes in live specimens is red, the lower portion very dark grey or black.

Female imago: Well described by Peters & Edmunds (1964).

Body: Female 3.3-3.4mm; male 3.4-3.8mm. Fore wings: female and male 3.8mm.

Nymph: Well described by Peters & Edmunds (1964), in addition the gills are black in life and dark brown maculations are present on the vertex. Body 3.4mm; cerci 3.1mm. Largest mature nymph (Riviere Macchabbe, Silhouette) 7.0mm long, cerci 8.9mm.

Distribution

Mahé: widespread from sea level to Morne Blanc and Mare aux Cochons (Eaton 1913; Peters 1980). The high altitude records were mostly "in a swampy hollow containing pools, long grass, wild palm-trees, &c." (Eaton 1913).

Praslin: Vallee de Mai (Peters 1980).

Silhouette: Grande Riviere, Riviere Macchabee (pers. obs.).

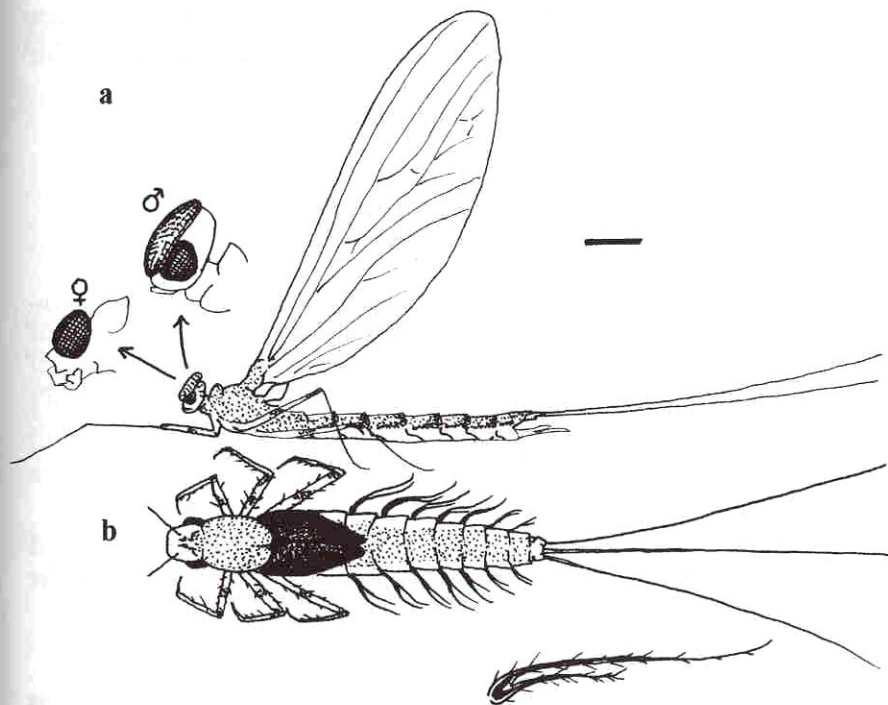


Fig. 1. *Maheathraulius scotti*.

a). Imago (adult female), with details of male and female heads; scale bar 1mm.

b). Nymph, with detail of gill; scale bar 1mm.

Ecology

H. braueri is principally associated with marshes and pools in slow flowing streams. *M. scotti* is present in fast flowing streams from sea level to the stream source. These differences are reflected in the streamlined morphology and grasping claws of *M. scotti*, compared to the heavier body and weaker grip of *H. braueri*. Nymphs of *M. scotti* are found under small rocks in streams, run over the surface of the rocks when lifted out of the water. They can be locally highly abundant.

References

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NOTES

Notes on the diet of sooglossid frogs

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There are few published references to the diet of any species of the Seychelles endemic frog family Sooglossidae (Brauer 1898; Mitchell & Altig 1983). The diet of *Sooglossus gardineri* has been studied based on a large number of preserved specimens. Collection of new material to determine the diet of the other species is not ethical and only isolated records can be made. The available data are reported below based on published material and specimens in the collection of The Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles (NPTS).

Nesomantis thomassetti Boulenger, 1911

The stomach of one dissected Silhouette specimen (NPTS Ca2000.2) contained insects (one Lepidoptera larva, two Fulgoroidea nymphs, one Curculionidae), one spider (*Nephila inaurata* juvenile) and one woodlouse (pers. obs.).

Sooglossus seychellensis (Boettger, 1896)

Of two dissected Silhouette specimens (NPTS Ca2000.3) one contained a beetle larva and a soldier termite (*Nasutitermes nigratus*), the other a neriid fly (*Chaetonerius alluaudi*). A faecal sample from one Silhouette adult male contained 12 Lepidoptera larvae. Termites and beetles have previously been recorded from *S. sechellensis* stomachs from Mahé (Brauer 1898), these presumably include the apparent lectotype in the University of Marburg (L3.38/Amph.34).