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Vespidae and Sphecidae from the Aldabra Group (Seychelles) (Insecta: Hymenoptera)

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Abstract: Records of three species of Vespidae and four species of Sphecidae are dealt with. *Delta emarginatum emarginatum* LINNAEUS 1758, and *D. esuriens gracile* SAUSSURE 1854, are new to the fauna of the Aldabra Group. A check list is added.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Sphecidae, Seychelles, Aldabra, Assumption, Astove, Cosmoledo, Glorieuses, fauna, new records, check list

Introduction

The Aldabra Group, a part of the Republic of Seychelles, is situated 46° – 48° E and 9° – 10° S, appr. 800 km SE of the Inner Seychelles, but only 300 km N of Madagascar. It consists of Aldabra, Assumption, Astove and Cosmoledo. All are high limestone islands of pleistocene origin.

In the Aldabra atoll Hymenoptera were collected on Grande Terre (= South Island), Ile Michel, Malabar (= Middle Island), Picard (= West Island) and Polymnie. In the Cosmoledo atoll surveys were made on Menai and Wizard.

The paper is based on the material of the Natural History Museum in London. My friend Pat Mathiot (Mahé, Seychelles) forwarded data of the material housed in the research centre on Picard (indicated only as specimens). Dr. Josef Gusenleitner (Linz, Austria) identified the material of Vespidae.

Material

Family V e s p i d a e

Delta emarginatum emarginatum (LINNAEUS 1758)

Material: Aldabra: 1♀ leg. Dupont – Grande Terre (settlement 1 specimen 23.8.1972).
Cosmoledo: Menai (3 specimens, 6.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson).

New to the fauna of the Aldabra Group. Known from the Ethiopian Region. In the Malagasy Region recorded from the Comoros (Grande Comore, Anjouan, Mayotte) and Madagascar.

***Delta esuriens gracile* (SAUSSURE 1854)**

M a t e r i a l : Aldabra: Picard (1 ♀, 1968 leg. Potts; 4 ♀ ♀, 13.4.1977 leg. Waloff; 1 ♀, 2.8.1983)
New to the fauna of the Aldabra Group. Known from the Ethiopian Region.

***Euodynerus farquharensis* (Cameron 1907)**

Odynerus farquharensis CAMERON 1907: MEADE-WALDO 1912: 43 (distr.)
Rhynchium farquharensis (CAMERON 1907): VESEY-FITZGERALD 1957: 362 (distr.)
M a t e r i a l : Aldabra: Grande Terre (Cinq Cases 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 3.-16.1.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson – 100 m SW Cinq Cases, on Suriana bush 1 ♂, 12.8.1983 leg. Freeman – Anse Cedre 1 ♀, 17.-19.1.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson) – Malabar (near East Channel 1 ♂, 13.-16.1.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson; near Passe Gionnet 1 ♀, 2.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson) – Picard (near settlement 2 ♀ ♀, 30.-31.1.1968, 1 ♀, 21.2. - 4.3.1968, 1 ♀, 21. - 31.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson; Research station, verandah 1 ♀, 8.8.1983 leg. Freeman).

Endemic to the Malagasy Subregion. Known only from the Aldabra and Farquhar Group.

Family S p h e c i d a e

Subfamily Nyssoninae

***Bembix madecassa* (SAUSSURE 1891)**

Bembix madecassa SAUSSURE 1891: FRIESE 1900: 267 (distr.)
Bembix madecassa SAUSSURE 1891: TURNER 1911: 371 (distr.)
Bembix aldabra PARKER 1929: VESEY-FITZGERALD 1957: 362 (distr.)
M a t e r i a l : Aldabra: Grande Terre (Anse Cedre 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀, 17. - 19.1.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson – Cinq Cases 23 ♀ ♀, 3 specimens, 3. - 16.1.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson; 800 m SW 2 ♂ ♂, 2 ♀ ♀, 13.8.1983 leg. Freeman – Dune Jean Louis 2 ♀ ♀, 13. - 20.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson – Takamaka 2 ♀ ♀, 2.10.1966 leg. Wright; 2 ♀ ♀, 23.-27.2.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson) – Ile Michel (1 ♀, 3.2.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson) – Picard (2 ♀ ♀, 21. - 31.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson, 9 specimens, 20.11.1971) – Polymnie (1 ♀, 5.8.1983 leg. Senambe (!)).

Endemic to the Malagasy Subregion. Recorded from Madagascar. *Bembix aldabra* Parker, 1929, is apparently a synonym, but the synonymy can not be established formally without studying the types.

Subfamily Sphecinae

***Podalonia canescens madecassa* (KOHL 1909)**

Ammophila capensis LEPELETIER de Saint Fargeau 1845: TURNER 1911: 369 (distr.)
M a t e r i a l : Aldabra: 1 ♂, June/July 1916 leg. Dupont. Assumption: 2 ♀ ♀. Astove: 1 specimen (partly destroyed) 1937 leg. Vesey-Fitzgerald. Cosmoledo: 3 ♂ ♂, 1907 leg. Dupont.
New to the fauna of Aldabra and Astove. Subspecies is endemic to the Malagasy Subregion and recorded from Madagascar and Europa. The nominale species is known from the Ethiopian Region.

***Prionyx crudelis* (SMITH 1856)**

Sphex aegyptius LEPELETIER de Saint Fargeau 1845: TURNER 1911: 370 (distr.)

M a t e r i a l: Aldabra: 1 ♀, 1907 leg. Dupont; 1 ♀, 1908/9 leg. Fryer, West Island (1 ♂, 1 ♀, 18.8.1983 leg. Vanning; 1 ♀, 18.8.1983 leg. Sei Cheong).

Known from the southern Palearctic, Ethiopian and Oriental Region. In the Malagasy Subregion recorded from the Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius.

***Sphex torridus* SMITH 1873**

Sphex torridus SMITH 1873: FRIESE 1900: 266 (distr.)

Sphex torridus SMITH 1873: TURNER 1911: 369 (distr.)

Sphex torridus SMITH 1873: VESEY-FITZGERALD 1957: 362 (distr.)

M a t e r i a l: Aldabra: Picard (1 ♀, 7.-12.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson; 1 ♂, 3 ♀, 13.4.1977 leg. Waloff; 1 ♀, 5.7.1983 leg. Vanning; 1 ♀, 18.8.1983 leg. Freeman; 1 ♀, June/July 1916 leg. Dupont) – Grande Terre (Dune Jean Louis 1 ♂, 3 specimens 13. - 20.3.1968 leg. Cogan & Hutson) – Malabar (1 ♀, 4.8.1983).

Endemic to the Malagasy Subregion. Recorded from the Comoros (Mayotte), Madagascar, Europa and Glorieuses (1 ♀, 22.11.1952 leg. Brown (?), new record).

Zusammenfassung

Vespidae und Sphecidae von der Aldabra-Gruppe (Seychellen) (Insecta: Hymenoptera). – Die Funddaten von drei Arten der Vespidae und vier Arten der Sphecidae werden mitgeteilt. *Delta emarginatum emarginatum* LINNAEUS 1758, und *D. esuriens gracile* SAUSSURE 1854, sind neu für die Fauna der Aldabra-Gruppe. Eine Artenliste ist beigelegt.

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Tabelle 1: Distribution of Vespidae and Sphecidae in the Aldabra group. The synonymy of *Bembix aldabra* Parker (= *B. madecassa* Saussure) and *Trypoxylon scutifrons aldabranum* Tsuneki (= *T. scutifrons* Saussure) is not established formally.

Family	Species	Aldabra	Assumption	Astove	Cosmoledo
Vespidae	<i>Delta emarginatum emarginatum</i>	+		+	+
	<i>Delta esuriens gracile</i>	+			
	<i>Euodynerus farquharensis</i>	+		+	+
Sphecidae	<i>Bembix madecassa</i>	+		+	+
	<i>Cerceris nenicra</i>	+			+
	<i>Pison argentatum</i>	+			
	<i>Podalonia canescens madecassa</i>	+	+	+	+
	<i>Prionyx crudelis</i>	+			
	<i>Sceliphron fuscum</i>	+			
	<i>Sphex torridus</i>	+			
	<i>Trypoxylon scutifrons</i>	+		+	
	<i>Tachysphex micromegas</i>			+	