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Linzer biol. Beitr.	48/1	483-485	30.07.2016

Notes on the Pompilidae (Hymenoptera) of the Mascarenes

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A b s t r a c t : New records of *Episyron histrio* LEPELETIER DE SAINT-FARGEAU, 1845 and *Episyron insularis* (DE SAUSSURE, 1887) are reported from Mauritius. The latter is also recorded from Réunion.

K e y w o r d s Pompilinae, *Episyron*, synonymy, new records, Mauritius, Réunion.

Introduction

The family Pompilidae is represented by about 70 species in the Malagasy subregion (Madl, unpublished catalogue). To date only two species of the genus *Episyron* SCHIOEDTE, 1837 (subfamily Pompilinae) are known from the volcanic islands of the Mascarenes restricted to Réunion and Mauritius (DE SAUSSURE 1892, WILLIAMS 1958). Nothing is known about the biology of both species.

This study is based on the material of the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute at Réduit (Mauritius) and the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien at Vienna (Austria). It contains *Episyron histrio* LEPELETIER DE SAINT-FARGEAU, 1845 and *Episyron insularis* (DE SAUSSURE, 1887) from Mauritius and the latter also from Réunion.

Abbreviations

cat. ..... catalogue
descr. ..... description
figs ..... figures
MSIRI ..... Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute
NHMW ..... Naturhistorisches Museum Wien
pl. ..... plate
syn. ..... synonymy
tax. ..... taxonomy

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Taxonomy and faunistics

Episyron histrio (LEPELETIER DE SAINT-FARGEAU, 1845)

Episyron histrio LEPELETIER DE SAINT-FARGEAU, 1845: WILLIAMS 1958: 122 (Mauritius: Deux Bras).

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Mauritius: without locality 3♀♀ 1956 leg. S. Koenig (MSIRI) – Benares 1♂ 13.02.1958 leg. M.R. Rajabalee (MSIRI) – Deux Mamelles 1♂ 1♀ 18.12.2006 leg. M. Madl (NHMW) – Henrietta 1♀ 08.03.1990 leg. J.R. Williams (MSIRI).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Mauritius.

N o t e s : *Episyron histrio* is widely distributed in the Afrotropical region and is also known from the Palaearctic region (Madl, unpublished catalogue). In Mauritius it was discovered for the first time by A. Delord at Deux Bras in November 1944 (WILLIAMS 1958).

Episyron insularis (DE SAUSSURE, 1887)

Schistonyx insularis n.sp.: DE SAUSSURE 1887: 3 (descr. ♀, without locality).
Schistonyx insularis DE SAUSSURE, 1887: DE SAUSSURE 1890: pl 8 (figs 25, 26, 26a).
Schistonyx insularis DE SAUSSURE, 1887: DE SAUSSURE 1892: 390 (key), 391 (key, tax., descr. ♂ ♀, Réunion without locality, Mauritius without locality).
Pompilus (*Episyron*) *insularis* (DE SAUSSURE 1887): KOHL 1906: 269 (tax.).
Episyron insularis (DE SAUSSURE 1887): HAUPT 1929: 179 (tax.).
**Pompilus Boris* n.nom.: DE DALLA TORRE 1897: 277 (replacement name for *Schistonyx insularis* in the genus *Pompilus* FABRICIUS, 1798, world cat.).
Pompilus boris DE DALLA TORRE, 1892 (!): KOHL 1906: 269 (syn.).

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Réunion: Bois de Nefles Découverte, Forstweg Bras Mort – Ilet Acide 1♂ 18.05.2004 leg. M. Madl (NHMW) – Mauritius: without locality 2♂♂ 2♀♀ 1956 leg. S. Koenig (MSIRI) – Black River Gorges National Park: Umgebung Petrin 1♂ 1♀ 10.-12.05.2004 leg. M. Madl (NHMW); gorge, Kiosque 1♀ 19.10.2004 leg. M. Madl (NHMW) – Mondrain Reserve 2♀♀ 14.05.2007 leg. M. Madl (NHMW) – Réduit 1♀ 01.11.1971 leg. J.R. Williams (MSIRI).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Réunion, Mauritius.

N o t e s : *Episyron insularis* is an endemic species of the Mascarenes. The replacement name *Pompilus boris* DE DALLA TORRE, 1897 is a synonym of *Episyron insularis*, because *Pompilus insularis* HOLMBERG, 1881, *Epipompilus insularis* KOHL, 1884 and *Schistonyx insularis* DE SAUSSURE, 1877, which have been catalogued by DE DALLA TORRE (1897) under the genus *Pompilus* FABRICIUS, 1798, belong currently to three different genera.

Acknowledgements

We thank John Rhys Williams (formerly Mauritius Sugarcane Research Institute, Réduit, Mauritius) for his constructive remarks on the Hymenoptera and other insects of Mauritius and Manuela Vizek (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria) for her help in searching Mauritian specimens.

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Zusammenfassung

Neue Funddaten von *Episyron histrio* LEPELETIER DE SAINT-FARGEAU, 1845 and *Episyron insularis* (DE SAUSSURE, 1887) aus Mauritius werden mitgeteilt, von der letzteren Art auch aus Réunion.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Linzer biologische Beiträge

Jahr/Year: 2016

Band/Volume: 0048_1

Autor(en)/Author(s): Ganeshan Seelavarn, Madl Michael

Artikel/Article: Notes on the Pompilidae (Hymenoptera) of the Mascarenes 483-485