



Ichneumons in Reunion Island: a catalogue of the local Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) species, including 15 new taxa and a key to species

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Abstract

We revised the ichneumonid fauna of Reunion Island, where 17 species were hitherto recorded. One genus (*Tariqia* **gen. nov.**) and 14 species are newly described: *Acrolyta dindar* **sp. nov.**, *Campoplex techer* **sp. nov.**, *Diaparsis ramassamy* **sp. nov.**, *Dusona douraguia* **sp. nov.**, *Eriborus cadjee* **sp. nov.**, *Enicospilus vitry* **sp. nov.**, *Enytus huet* **sp. nov.**, *Paraphyllax mussar* **sp. nov.**, *Phygadeuon nativel* **sp. nov.**, *Pristomerus rivier* **sp. nov.**, *Stenomacrus payet* **sp. nov.**, *Tariqia stellaris* **sp. nov.**, *Temelucha labusi* **sp. nov.** and *Xanthocampoplex huberti* **sp. nov.** *Himertosoma aciculata* (Seyrig, 1932), *Itopectis albipes evoluta* (Benoit, 1957) and *Megastylus mascarensis* Benoit, 1957 are now considered as synonyms of, respectively, *Himertosoma striata* (Seyrig, 1932), *Itopectis albipes* Seyrig, 1932 and *Megastylus vagabundus* Seyrig, 1934. Furthermore, the subspecies *Echthromorpha agrestoria spinator* (Fabricius, 1781) and *Echthromorpha agrestoria macula* (Brullé, 1846) are synonymized and raised to species level as *Echthromorpha spinator* (Fabricius, 1781). A catalogue is provided for 13 subfamilies, 36 genera, and 65 species of Ichneumonidae known to occur on Reunion Island, together with new distribution and/or host records for 28 species. A key to subfamilies, genera and species is also provided.

Key words: Parasitic wasps, Hot spot volcanic island, Indian Ocean

Introduction

With probably over 100 000 species (Gauld 1991), Ichneumonidae is one of the largest families of the tree of life. Considered as a fascinating taxonomic nightmare, it is also one of the less investigated. In particular, the fauna of the Afrotropical area is still poorly known. That is particularly true for the Mascarene Archipelago (Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues) though the entomofauna of Madagascar was intensely prospected during the 1930s. More generally, data about ichneumonofauna of "young" volcanic islands are scarce.

We propose here a practical guide for the identification of Ichneumonidae in Reunion Island. Previous works on the local ichneumonofauna were published by Brullé (1846), Saussure (1892), Bordage (1914), Seyrig (1932, 1934), Heinrich (1938), who made occasional observations on material from Reunion, but Benoit's catalog (1957) was a seminal work. The Taxapad database (Yu *et al.* 2005) currently reports 17 ichneumonid species in Reunion, including three doubtful records. Our recent field collections however show that this total is greatly underestimated, and a significant number of morphospecies with single records strongly suggests that this revision is still far from exhaustive.

Material and methods

Abbreviations

MNHN: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (Claire Villemant).