



A new endemic genus of Oecleini from Seychelles (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Cixiidae)

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Abstract

A new genus, *Fipsianus* gen. nov., from Seychelles is described. It is closely related to the genera *Volcanalia*, *Eumyndus*, *Borbonomyndus* and *Nesomyndus*. *Fipsianus*, is endemic to the granitic “inner islands” and comprises two species, *Fipsianus picturatus* (Distant, 1917) comb. nov. (type species; synonym *Volcanalia varicolor* Distant, 1917, syn. nov.) on Mahé and Silhouette islands and *Fipsianus andreae* sp. nov. on Praslin island. Both species are monophagous on the thief palm *Phoenicophorium borsigianum*.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, taxonomy, endemism, *Fipsianus*, *Volcanalia*, *Eumyndus*, *Borbonomyndus*, *Nesomyndus*, *Phoenicophorium*

Rezime

En nouvo zanr, *Fipsianus* gen. nov., sorti Sesel i ganny dekrir. I byen pros avek zanr *Volcanalia*, *Eumyndus*, *Borbonomyndus* ek *Nesomyndus*. *Fipsianus* i andemik dan bann “zil pros” granitik e i enkli de lespes, *Fipsianus picturatus* (Distant, 1917) comb. nov. (lespes tip, sinonim *Volcanalia varicolor* Distant, 1917, syn. nov.) lo zil Mahé ek Silhouette ek *Fipsianus andreae* nov. spec. lo Praslin. Toulede i monofaz lo lantannyen fey, *Phoenicophorium borsigianum*.

Introduction

The granitic “inner islands” of the Seychelles archipelago—Mahé, Silhouette, Praslin, La Digue and some small islands—are terrestrial peaks of a mainly submarine plateau which is a fragment of the former Gondwana continent isolated about 75 million years ago. Thus, the Seychelles granitic islands are the only mid-oceanic islands of continental origin (Stoddard, 1984). Due to their origin and age, the Seychelles host a diverse and archaic flora and fauna, completed by more recent immigrant taxa and introduced “alien” species. The planthopper fauna of the Seychelles was studied through the Percy Sladen Trust Expeditions in 1905 & 1908/1909 with the results being published mainly by Distant (1917). Within the Cixiidae, Distant (1917) erected four new, endemic genera to accommodate 14 new species. Within the tribe Oecleini Muir, 1922, he described one genus, *Volcanalia* Distant, 1917, including 12 species.

A re-examination of the type material and of additional, fresh material collected in 2006 and 2008 gave evidence that one of Distant’s species, *Volcanalia picturata*, has to be placed in a separate genus of the Oecleini. This new genus is described below. In addition, a redescription of its type species and the first description of a congeneric new species are given.