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The male of *Sauris mouliniei* (Legrand, 1971) comb. n. (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Larentiinae: Trichopterygini), an endemic Inner Seychelles moth

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The history of lepidopteran studies of the Inner Seychelles is about one hundred years old, and the data have been summarized recently in a comprehensive monograph (Gerlach & Matyot 2006). The largest granitic islands contain the greatest number of species—345 for Mahé and 288 for Silhouette—but the second largest, Praslin, has only 42 recorded species. A total of 17 Geometridae species occur in the granitic Seychelles. Among them are six species of Larentiinae with two endemics, including *Episteira mouliniei* Legrand, 1971, a unique Trichopterygini for these islands (Gerlach & Matyot 2006). This species was described based on a single female specimen in the genus *Episteira* Warren, 1899. The previously unknown male of the taxon is described herein.

***Sauris mouliniei* (Legrand, 1971) comb. n.**
(Figs 1–7)

Episteira mouliniei Legrand, 1971: 81; Gerlach & Matyot, 2006: 66.
Episteria mouliniei Legrand, 1971 inadv. err.: 81, Fig. 1.

Material examined. 1♂, "Seychelles, Praslin Island; near the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve [4º20'00"S; 55º44'15"E]; ~170 m a.s.l.; mid-altitude forest dominated by the coco-de-mer palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*); on the trunk of endemic Seychelles tree *Northea hornei*; 5.1.2013, Bolotov leg.". Deposited in the collection of Biological Museum of Institute of Ecological Problems of the North of Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, Arkhangelsk, Russia (IEPN).

Description. *Male morphology*: forewing length 14 mm (Figs. 1–2). Forewing is large; apex angular; with termen cleft near tornus between veins CuA_1 and A. Dorsum is winding, angular subtornally. The hindwing is small, not reaching the tornus of forewing, lobed marginally and folded between Sc+R and $Rs+M_1$. The dorsal lobe is small (one fourth of the hindwing length), re-folded dorsally. Forewing's venation has typical larentiine character (Viidalepp 2011) and is characterised by the presence of two accessory cells between radial veinlets; vein R_2 anastomoses with R_1 and then with R_{3-5} in a point of origin of R_5; M_1 begins from the accessory cell. Hindwings venation, principally, as shown for the males of *Sauris* species by Dugdale (1980: Figs. 27, 29–40); veins Sc and R fused; Rs and M_1 also fused; M_2 always present (a larentiine character); M_3 and CuA_1 fused; CuA_2 stump-like and perpendicular to anal margin of wing. Head with frons distinctly narrower than eye diameter. Labial palpi are stout, upright, long (over twice eye diameter), underside ciliate (with scarce short ciliae). Proboscis is well developed. Antennae are long, thicker subapically. Hind tibia with thin scale tuft (Fig. 3). Abdomen is long, with small setal patches laterally on the 6th and 8th segments (Fig. 4). *Male markings:* Head is pale green; eyes of living specimen also green, but brown after drying. Vertex scales are of the same colour. Labial palpi are green with white border and apex. Thorax (including extreme base of forewings) is dorsally green, underside is pale grey; with a row of whitish scales towards thorax. Abdomen is dorsally whitish grey with green spots. End of abdomen is hiding a tuft of long white hair-scales. The forewing is darkly fasciated, its ground coloured in deep green and black patterns (Fig. 1); there are three extremely broad, black transverse bands at postbasal, medial and postmedial areas. Marginal one third of the forewings is covered by three thick, black and waved transverse lines, a broad black spot between veins M_1 and M_3 and a white unclear ovate path, subtornally. Basal part of the forewing has one thick black line from three black spots between veins. Marginal area is green, with black triangular dots at vein ends.

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(Legrand 1971; Gerlach & Matyot 2006). The male specimen was found in a mid-altitude forest, dominated by the coco-de-mer palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*) (Fig. 7). This site presents a part of the largest endemic palm forest massif of Praslin Island. The species is extremely rare and just three specimens are collected at the moment. Immature stages and caterpillar host plants are unknown. Known species of *Sauris* are distributed in the Indo-Australian region and African region; the range of the genus extends from S. Japan and the N.E. Himalayas to tropical Australia (Dugdale 1980; Holloway 1997). The genus includes many endemic species which were described from the small islands (Dugdale 1980). *S. mouliniei* is the westernmost representative among described species in the genus.

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