



Contribution to the knowledge of Seychellois Scirtidae (Coleoptera: Scirtoidea)

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Abstract

Scirtes confinis sp. nov., *S. flavohumeralis* sp. nov., and *S. mahensis* sp. nov. are described from the Seychelles Archipelago. *Cyphon circumductus* Champion, 1924 is synonymized with *C. insularius* Champion, 1924. *Cyphon insularius* Champion, 1924, *C. biperforatus* Champion, 1924, *C. mahensis* Champion, 1924, and *Scirtes seychellensis* Champion, 1924 are redescribed and illustrated; lectotypes and paralectotypes of *C. insularius* and *S. seychellensis* are designated.

Key words: Scirtidae, *Scirtes*, *Cyphon*, taxonomy, new species, new synonym, redescrptions, Seychelles Archipelago

Introduction

The only study dealing with the taxonomy of Seychellois Scirtidae is Champion (1924) which was based on materials collected by the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition of 1908-1909. It includes descriptions of five species. After a detailed examination of the type specimens of species described by Champion and additional material deposited in the Naturhistorisches Museum (Wien), the Natural History Museum (London), and Oxford University Museum of Natural History (Oxford), it was possible to prepare the present study which includes descriptions of three new species, redescrptions of previously described ones, to synonymize *Cyphon circumductus* Champion, 1924 with *Cyphon insularius* Champion, 1924, and to report new faunistic data.

Methods and conventions

Measurements are given in millimetres. The following abbreviations are employed: TL – total length (measured from anterior margin of the pronotum to the apex of elytra), EW – maximum elytral width, EL – elytral length, PW – maximum pronotal width, PL – pronotal length, HW – maximum head width, HL – head length. The nomenclature of genital morphology follows Nyholm (2000).

Label data are cited *in extenso* for type specimens. Each label is cited with quotation marks, lines are delimited by a forward slash. Specimens collected by the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition have additional numbers handwritten (in black ink) on cards on which specimens are glued, corresponding to notes in the notebook which is deposited in the manuscripts collection of the library of the Natural History Museum (London). These data are cited in square brackets. Labels are printed on white paper unless otherwise noted.

Lectotypes are designated from series of syntypes of *Cyphon insularius* Champion and *Scirtes seychellensis* Champion in order to preserve the stability of nomenclature by selecting one specimen as the sole, name-bearing type of the taxon.