

***Odonata, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera
and other insects of the Seychelles Islands.***

Edited by Justin Gerlach

400 pages, 325 B/W line drawings, 20 B/W photos, 4 colour plates, 24 x 16 cm. Soft-cover.

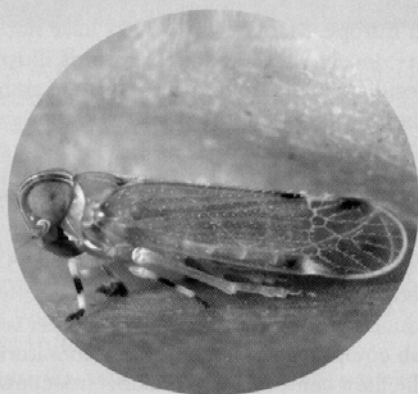
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It is my pleasure to introduce a new book of the monographic series devoted to the Seychelles insect fauna to fellow-entomologists. It is the final volume of the large series produced by different publishers, of which the three latest ones were published by Siri Scientific Press: the volume on Arachnida & Myriapoda, the one on Crustacea & various groups of invertebrates and the latest book reviewed here. The reviewed book is a comprehensive synopsis of the following 14 insect orders: Protura, Collembola, Diplura, Microcoryphia, Zygentoma, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Hemiptera Thysanoptera, Psocodea (Psocoptera and Phthiraptera), Neuroptera, Siphonaptera, Trichoptera and Hymenoptera. In total, the volume contains information on 945 species. The volume was prepared by 17 expert authors from 11 countries. Most contributors' names and addresses are given on p. 4, except for B. and C. Wain (the chapter on Odonata; pp. 50–63). As in the earlier published volumes, the new book starts with an abstract, a list of contributors, a brief introduction, a brief discussion of the comparative diversity of the included insect groups on the various islands and an identification key to the orders included in this volume (pp. 4–12). In the main part, different orders were obviously given different attention and space, ranging from a single page on the fleas (one introduced species) to 113 pages on the Hymenoptera (266 recorded species). Some chapters contain illustrated identification keys to genera and species (e.g., the chapter on Hemiptera; pp. 67–161), others only annotated checklists (e.g., Collembola; pp. 16–19). Some chapters (e.g., the Trichoptera; pp. 212–229) contain illustrated taxonomic descriptions of all the recorded species. Pages 343–369 contain a table of red-listed indigenous and endemic species according to the IUCN Red list criteria.

Unfortunately, there is no cumulative account of

how many red-listed species of various categories occur on the Seychelles and/or individual islands, and what is to be done in order to protect them or their habitats. The volume ends with an index to taxa treated (pp. 370–394) and four plates of colour photos (Hemiptera and Hymenoptera only). Overall, this volume has made a very good impression on me, and I wish to congratulate the authors, editor and publisher for such fine work. The book constitutes a reliable source of taxonomic information on these 14 insect orders of the Seychelles and indeed will be a very useful reference volume in the library of any natural history museum or university.

Dmitri V. Logunov
Curator of Arthropods
The Manchester Museum