

Keys to the Seychelles Fauna: 4. Ants

J Gerlach

53 River Lane, Cambridge CB5 8HP, UK/PO Box 207, Mahé, SEYCHELLES
[E-mail: gerlach@bogo.co.uk]

The following key is for the identification of workers of the ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) recorded in Seychelles. The key is based on Hölldobler & Wilson (1990), modified to place emphasis on easily observed features such as coloration. Species recorded from Aldabra or the Amirantes only are marked with an asterisk. Distributions are given only for records not included in Dorow (1996).

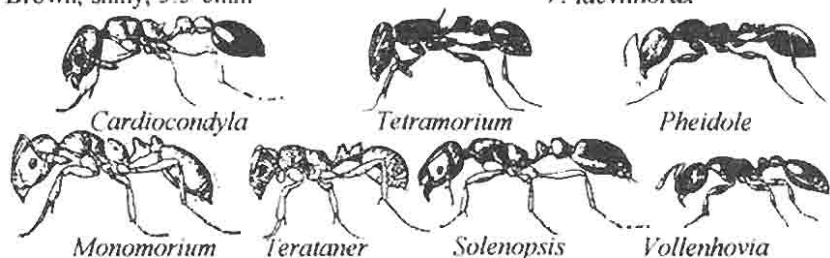
Key:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Pedicel in two parts | 2. (Myrmicinae) |
| Pedicel single | 24. |
| 2. Very elongate, legs relatively short | <i>Tetraponera rufonigra</i> |
| Short bodied to moderately elongate | 3. |
| 3. Abdomen heart-shaped, petiole dorsally attached | 4. (<i>Crematogaster</i>) |
| Abdomen not heart-shaped, petiole normally attached | 5 |
| 4. Brown, 3-4mm | <i>Crematogaster gibba</i> |
| Yellow, 4-6mm | <i>C. ratsoherinae</i> |
| 5. Mandibles elongate, usually linear | 6. (<i>Strumigenys</i>) |
| Mandibles triangular | 8. |
| 6. Mandibles curved | <i>Strumigenys emmae</i> |
| Mandibles linear | 7. |
| 7. Head elongate | <i>Strumigenys scotti</i> |
| Head broad | <i>S. rogeri</i> |
| (NB. There is a doubtful record of <i>S. godeffroyii</i> which is reddish rather than the yellow colour of <i>S. rogeri</i>) | |
| 8. Thorax armed | 9. |
| Thorax unarmed | 13. |

*Tetraponera**Crematogaster**Strumigenys*

NOTES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9. Thorax armed with 2 spines, abdomen dark
Thorax armed with 2-4 spines, uniform colour | <i>Cardiocondyla emeryi</i>
10. (<i>Tetramorium</i>) |
| 10. Woolly appearance, 2 spines
Not woolly, 2-4 spines | <i>Tetramorium lanuginosum</i>
11. |
| 11. 2 spines
4 spines | <i>Tetramorium bicarinatum</i>
12. |
| 12. <3mm, reddish brown to black
3.5-4.5mm, reddish brown | <i>Tetramorium similimum</i>
* <i>T. quadrispinosum</i> |
| 13. Monomorphic, mandibles delicate, 1-6mm
Dimorphic, mandibles powerful, 1-3mm | 14.
20. (<i>Pheidole</i>) |
| 14. Usually <2mm (rarely to 3.5mm), yellow to brown
2-6mm, brown to black | 15. (<i>Monomorium</i>)
18. |
| 15. Brown, 1.5mm
Yellow-brown, 2-3.5mm | <i>Monomorium fossulatum</i>
16. |
| 16. Thorax ridged
Thorax shiny | <i>Monomorium destructor</i>
17 |
| 17. 2mm, head and abdomen brown, thorax yellow
2-2.5mm, uniform colour | <i>Monomorium floricola</i>
* <i>M. pharaonis</i> |
| 18. Pedicel with short spine, black body, 5.5-6mm
Pedicel unarmed, brown to black, 2-6mm | <i>Terataner scotti</i>
19. |
| 19. Red brown, 2.5-3mm
Brown to black, hairy, 2-2.5mm
Brown, shiny, 3.5-6mm | <i>Solenopsis seychellarum</i>
<i>Vollenhovia prioskiae</i>
<i>V. laevithorax</i> |



NOTES

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 20. | Surface rough, 2mm
Surface smooth, 1-3mm | <i>Pheidole punctulata</i>
21 |
| 21. | Long hairs on body, >2mm
Short, sparse hairs on body, <2mm | <i>Pheidole megacephala</i>
22. |
| 22. | Spines on thorax, 1-2mm
Thorax unarmed, <1-1.5mm | <i>Pheidole flavens</i>
23 |
| 23. | <1mm
1-1.5mm | * <i>Pheidole voeltzkowi</i>
<i>P. braueri</i> |
| 24. | Sting not visible
Sting visible | 25.
43. (Ponerinae) |
| 25. | Petiole covered by abdomen
Petiole visible | 26. (Dolicoderinae)
29. (Formicinae) |
| 26. | Abdomen light, 4 segments visible dorsally
Abdomen dark, 5 segments visible | <i>Tapinoma melanocephala</i>
27. (<i>Technomyrmex</i>) |
| 27. | Narrow abdomen, projecting mandibles
Broad abdomen, short mandibles | <i>Technomyrmex mayri</i>
28. |
| 28. | Pale tarsi, 3mm
Dark tarsi, 2mm | <i>Technomyrmex albipes</i>
<i>T. foreli</i> |
| 29. | Short, broad body & legs, antenna 9 segments
Body & legs long, antenna with 11-12 segments | <i>Brachymyrmex sordemoyi</i>
30 |
| 30. | Long legs, slender body, short, round abdomen
Body, legs and abdomen not as above | 31.
33. |

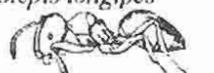
31. 1-3mm, dull yellow to black
5-7mm, yellow



Tapinoma



Technomyrmex



Brachymyrmex



Plagiolepis



Anoplolepis

32. (*Plagiolepis*)
Anoplolepis longipes

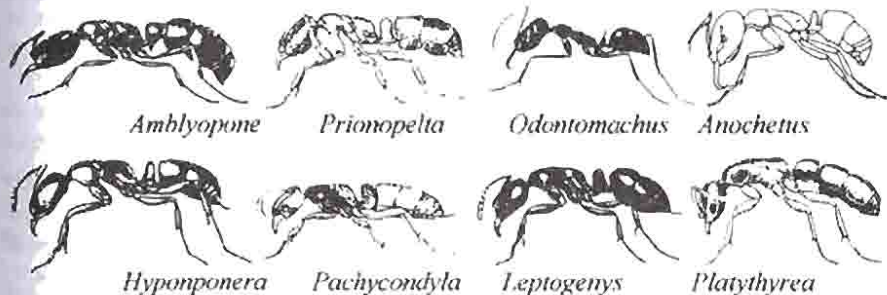
NOTES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 32. Dark brown to black
Pale brown with paler antennae and limbs
Dull yellow, head darker | <i>Plagiolepis exigua</i>
<i>P. alluaudi</i>
<i>P. madecassa</i> |
| 33. Slender body, long antennae, abdomen tip projecting
Body, antennae and abdomen not as above | 34. (<i>Paratrechina</i>)
38. (<i>Camponotus</i>) |
| 34. Yellowish
Brownish | <i>Paratrechina bourbonica</i>
35. |
| 35. Distinct blue or violet tint, limbs & antennae paler
No blue tint | <i>Paratrechina longicornis</i>
36. |
| 36. Light brown
Dark brown | 37.
<i>P. madagascariensis</i> |
| 37. 5mm
2-4mm | <i>Paratrechina mixta</i>
* <i>P. steinheili</i> |
| 38. <5mm
>5mm | <i>Camponotus thomasseti</i>
39. |
| 39. Black with pale hairs on abdomen, 6-8mm
Yellow to red-brown, 8-14mm | <i>Camponotus grandidieri</i>
40. |
| 40. Shiny, hairs not apparent
Yellow hairs visible | 41.
* <i>Camponotus auropubens</i> |
| 41. Yellow with reddish head, 6-8mm
Yellow to brown, head yellow or black, 7-14mm | * <i>Camponotus olivieri</i>
<i>C. hova</i> spp. (42.) |
| 42. Yellow-brown, abdomen with dark patches, 8-14mm
Red-brown, abdomen uniform black, 9-10mm
Uniform brown, 7mm | <i>C. h. fulvus</i>
<i>C. h. boivinii</i>
* <i>C. h. mixtellus</i> |
| 43. Petiole not distinct from abdomen
Petiole narrowly attached to abdomen | 44.
45. |



NOTES

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 44. | Mandibles elongate, linear, black, >7mm | <i>Amblyopone besucheti</i> |
| | Mandibles short, triangular, reddish, <2mm | <i>Prionopelta descarpentriesei</i> |
| 45. | Long linear mandibles in middle | 46. |
| | Linear or triangular mandibles, at sides | 47. |
| 46. | Black, >8mm | <i>Odontomachus troglodytes</i> |
| | Yellow to brown, <8mm | <i>Anochetus madagascariensis</i> |
| 47. | Mandibles elongate, yellow to brown, 1-6mm | 48. |
| | Mandibles not elongate, red to black, 3.5-8mm | 50. |
| 48. | Yellow to pale brown, <5mm, abdomen constricted between segments 1 & 2 | 49 (<i>Hypoponera</i>) |
| | Dark brown with red legs, >5mm, abdomen not constricted, curved down | <i>Pachycondyla melanaria</i> |
| 49. | Yellow | <i>Hypoponera ragusai</i> |
| | Pale brown | <i>H. johamae</i> |
| 50. | Abdomen not elongate, pedicel small, black, >5mm | <i>Leptogenys maxillosa</i> |
| | Elongate abdomen, broad pedicel, reddish, <5mm | <i>Platythyrea parallela</i> |



Additional distribution records (new island records or first records for 50 years)

Island abbreviations: M = Mahé, C = Cerf, S = Silhouette, P = Praslin

Ponerinae *Odontomachus troglodytes* Santschi, 1914 - S 1996-8; *Pachycondyla melanaria macra* (Emery, 1894) - P 1996; *Prionopelta descarpentriese* Santschi, 1924 - S 1998

Pseudomyrmecinae *Tetraponera rufonigra* (Jerdon, 1851) - M 1994, S 1997

NOTES

- Myrmicinae *Cardiocondyla emeryi* Forel, 1881 - S 1997; *Crematogaster ratsoherinae* Forel, 1891 - S 1998; *Monomorium destructor* (Jerdon, 1851) - P 1996; *M. floricola* (Jerdon, 1851) - S 1998; *M. fossulatum* Emery, 1894 - S 1998; *Pheidole braueri* Forel, 1897 - S 1997; *Solenopsis seychellarum* Forel, 1909 - M 1996; *Strumigenys emmae* (Emery, 1890) - M 1994-6, S 1997; *S. rogeri* Emery, 1890 - M 1991-2, S 1998; *Tetramorium simillimum* (Smith, 1851) - S 1998; *Vollenhovia laevithorax alluaudi* Emery, 1894 - S 1998; *V. prioskae* Forel, 1912 - S 1997
- Dolichoderinae *Technomyrmex albipes* (Smith, 1861) - C 1996, S 1998; *T. foreli* Emery, 1893 - S 1997-8; *T. mayri* Forel, 1891 - S 1997-8
- Formicinae *Camponotus thomasseti* Forel, 1912 - M 1994, S 1997; *C. grandidieri* Forel, 1886 - S 1998; *C. hova* Forel, 1886; *hoivini* Forel, 1891 - M 1996; *C. h. fulvus* Emery, 1894 - S 1998; *Paratrechina bourbonica* (Forel, 1886) - M 1992; *Plagiolepis exigua* Forel, 1894 - S 1998, P 1993-6

References

- Hölldobler, B. & Wilson, E.O. 1990 - *The Ants*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin.
- Dorow, W.H.O. 1996 - Review and bibliography of the ants of the Seychelles (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *J. Afr. Zool.* **110**:73-96.

NOTES

New and rediscovered animals in Seychelles

Justin Gerlach

PO Box 207, Mahé, SEYCHELLES / 53 River Lane, Cambridge CB5 8HP, UK.

Recent research on Silhouette island has resulted in the discovery of new populations of several invertebrate species. Two of these are distinctive species that were previously known from single specimens collected before 1911 and are rediscoveries of species feared extinct (Gerlach 1997). The third represents a new family for the islands.

DIPLOPODA

Family POLYXENIIDAE

Polyxenus sp.

A species of bristly millipede, *Polyxenus*, was found under the bark of a coconut tree (*Cocos nucifera* L.) at La Passe, Silhouette on 7/2/1998. These wood-inhabiting millipedes are widely distributed but have not previously been found in Seychelles. The specimens

