

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Entomologica Americana 120(1):39–42, 2014

THE FIRST RECORD OF *HYDROMETRA BIFURCATA* (HETEROPTERA: HYDROMETRIDAE) FROM THE ISLAND OF RÉUNION, WITH DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON OTHER *HYDROMETRA* SPECIES FROM MADAGASCAR

This short paper provides the first record of *Hydrometra bifurcata* from the island of Réunion in the Mascarene Archipelago, accompanied by additional distribution records for *H. bifurcata* on Madagascar, where it has proven to be widespread. New distribution records are also provided for the endemic Madagascar species *H. fanjahira* and *H. isaka*, both of which occasionally co-occur with *H. bifurcata* on Madagascar.

The Hydrometridae biota of Madagascar as currently understood comprises an assemblage of six regionally endemic species, plus the widespread *H. albolineolata* Reuter and *H. carayoni* Poisson, which are also shared with Africa. The status of the latter species in the Madagascar biota is indicated as provisional by J. Polhemus and D. Polhemus (1987). Several species that are allied to *H. madagascariensis* Hungerford & Evans and display atypical terrestrial ecologies were treated by J. Polhemus and D. Polhemus (1987), but the more typical stream- and pond-dwelling endemic forms have not been dealt with in any detail since their original descriptions based on limited material by Hungerford and Evans (1934).

Collections by the second author and other staff at the Insectarium de La Réunion (IDLR) have now shown that one of these species, *H. bifurcata* Hungerford & Evans (Fig. 1), is present on the island of Réunion, in the Mascarene Archipelago, which represents a considerable eastward range extension. We discuss this record, provide additional distributional data from the J. T. Polhemus Collection (JTPC), which is currently being transferred to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, to clarify the range of *H. bifurcata* in Madagascar, and also provide further distributional records for the Madagascar endemic species

H. fanjahira Hungerford & Evans and *H. isaka* Hungerford & Evans, both of which occasionally co-occur with *H. bifurcata*.

The only other species of Hydrometridae currently known from the Mascarene Islands is *H. mameti* Hungerford 1951, which is apparently endemic to Mauritius. Due to a *lapsus*, this species was mistakenly credited to Poisson, 1951 in the checklist of Mauritius aquatic Heteroptera provided by D. Polhemus and J. Polhemus (2008). However, the proper author is Hungerford. A key is provided below to easily distinguish between these two Mascarene species.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *HYDROMETRA* IN THE MASCARENE ISLANDS

1. Clypeus bifurcate, bearing a pair (1+1) of pointed process to each side; male abdominal segment VII bearing small, acuminate tufts of dark hairs laterally on each side; length 11.8–13.9 mm; Reunion (also Madagascar and Comores) *H. bifurcata* Hungerford & Evans
- Clypeus truncate, lacking pointed processes; male abdominal segment VII bearing small, pointed, triangular-shaped projections laterally on each side; body length 9.5–11.0 mm; endemic to Mauritius *H. mameti* Hungerford

Hydrometra bifurcata Hungerford & Evans
Figs. 1, 2

Hydrometra bifurcata Hungerford and Evans
1934: 43.

DISCUSSION: This species was described by Hungerford and Evans (1934) from Madagascar material taken in the “Région du Sud-est” (the type locality), the “Région du Sud,” and at Diego Suarez. Poisson (1959) later recorded the species from the Comoro Islands, listing specimens from Mohéli, Anjouan, and Grand Comore. It seems to be confined to stream margin habitats.

By contrast, *H. bifurcata* is not listed in Poisson’s (1957) treatment of the aquatic Heteroptera fauna of Réunion, so our new record appears to be the first for both this island and for the Mascarene Archipelago, which extends the range of this species considerably to the east. *Hydrometra bifurcata* is the only species of *Hydrometra* currently known from Réunion, and based on the new records presented herein occurs