

Notes on the Sphecidae of Madagascar (Hymenoptera) based on the material of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria

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Abstract

Records of eight species of the family Sphecidae are communicated. For *Ammophila madecassa* KOHL, 1909, now a subspecies of *Podalonia canescens* (DAHLBOM, 1843), a lectotype is designated.

Key words: *Ammophila*, *Chalybion*, *Isodontia*, *Podalonia*, *Prionyx*, *Sceliphron*, *Sphex*, lectotype designation, new records, Madagascar.

Zusammenfassung

Die Funddaten von acht Arten der Familie Sphecidae werden mitgeteilt. Für *Ammophila madecassa* KOHL, 1909, jetzt eine Unterart von *Podalonia canescens* (DAHLBOM, 1843), wird ein Lectotypus festgelegt.

Introduction

The Malagasy material of the family Sphecidae housed in the Natural History Museum Vienna (Austria) has been examined by the author during the last years. The material has been collected mainly by Franz Sikora (1863–1902) in the 19th century and by the author himself in 1993–2001. As the original labels of Sikora's material are partly lost, the exact localities are often unknown. The year “1891” printed on some labels is the date of acquisition by the Natural History Museum Vienna. The material collected by the author on Nosy Boraha (= island of Sainte Marie) was published previously (MADL 1997) and is not repeated in the record lists below. Parts of the material were published by KOHL (1909) and DOLLFUSS (2010).

During the search for sphecid wasps from Madagascar in the Hymenoptera collection the type material of *Ammophila madecassa* KOHL, 1909 was found by Manuela Vizek and the author. A lectotype is designated.

The notes on the general distribution of the species are based on an unpublished catalogue of the Ampulicidae, Crabronidae and Sphecidae of the Malagasy subregion by the author (MADL in press). Only those references are listed that refer to specimens in the Natural History Museum Vienna.

Faunistics and taxonomy

Ammophila beniniensis imerinae DE SAUSSURE, 1892

Material examined: Prov. Mahajanga: Katsepy, 30.V.–3.VI.1995, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. – Prov. Antananarivo: near Analavory, at the gush springs, 4.XI.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂; Antananarivo, leg. F. Sikora, 3 ♀♀; Ivato, 7.–10.I.1994, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂; 17.–20.V.1998, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂, 1 ♀. – Prov. Toamasina: Ivondro, XI.1904, leg. A. Voeltzkow, 1 ♂; Toamasina, coll. H. Rolle, 1 ♀. – Prov. Fianarantsoa: Antsirabe – Ambositra, 27 km from Ambositra, river bank, 23.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀; Site Naturel Analanja, 25.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♂♂; near Antoetra, 24.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂; Col de Tapias, 29.X.2001 leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂, 1 ♀. – Prov. Toliara: Baie de Saint Augustin, Onilahy river bank, 3.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂; Toliara – Miary, Befanamy, 19.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂; Fort Dauphin, leg. F. Sikora, 1 ♂. – Without locality: 1857 (not 1858), leg. I. Pfeiffer, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; leg. F. Sikora, 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.

Notes: This subspecies is endemic to the Malagasy subregion, where it is recorded from Assumption, Europa, Mayotte, and Madagascar. The nominate subspecies is widely distributed in Africa.

Chalybion madecassum (GRIBODO, 1882)

Chalybion madecassum (GRIBODO, 1882): MADL 1997: 819 (Nosy Boraha), 821 (cat. Nosy Boraha).

Material examined: Prov. Antsiranana: Nosy Be, 1 ♂. – Prov. Mahajanga: Katsepy, 27.–28. XII.1993, leg. M. Madl, 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; near Katsepy, 17.–28. XII.1993, leg. M. Madl, 11 ♂♂. – Prov. Antananarivo: Ivato, 7.–10.I.1994, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Prov. Fianarantsoa: Antsirabe – Ambositra, 27 km from Ambositra, river bank, 23.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Site Naturel Analanja, 25.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♂♂. – Prov. Toliara: Baie de Saint Augustin, Onilahy river bank, 3.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 6 ♂♂. – Without locality: without data, 1 ♀; “1891”, leg. F. Sikora, 7 ♀♀; leg. F. Sikora, 7 ♂♂, 1 ♀.

Notes: *Chalybion madecassum* is endemic to the Malagasy subregion, where it is recorded from Seychelles (= Inner Seychelles: Mahé, Long, Sainte Anne, Silhouette, La Digue), Glorieuses, Moheli, Mayotte, and Madagascar.

Isodontia leonina (DE SAUSSURE, 1890)

Material examined: Prov. Antsiranana: Cap d’Ambre, leg. G. Schneider, 1 ♀; Nosy Komba, 25.–26.V.1995, leg. M. Madl, 3 ♂♂. – Without data, “Nr. 526”, 1 ♀.

Notes: Endemic to Madagascar.

Podalonia canescens madecassa (KOHLE, 1909) (Fig. 1)

Ammophila (*Psammophila*) *madecassa* n.sp.: KOHL 1909: 372 (descr. ♂ ♀, fig. 3, Imerina Prov., without locality, leg. F. Sikora).

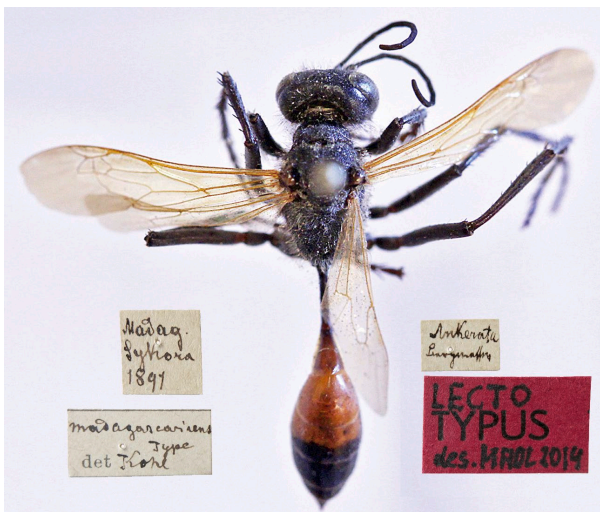
Podalonia canescens madecassa (KOHLE, 1909): DOLLFUSS 2010: 1246 (key), 1248 (key), 1253 (tax., Madagascar, without locality, leg. F. Sikora).

Type material examined: Lectotype (present designation): Massif de l’Ankaratra, “1891”, leg. F. Sikora, 1 ♀ (labels see Fig. 1). – Paralectotypes: Massif de l’Ankaratra, “1891”, leg. F. Sikora, 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Madagascar, without further data, 1 ♀.

Non-type material examined: Prov. Antananarivo: Ivato, 17.–20.V.1998, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♀♀; Tsinjoarivo, 22.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂. – Prov. Fianarantsoa: Antsirabe – Ambositra, 27 km from Ambositra, river bank, 23.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♀♀; Site Naturel Analanja, 25.X.2001,

leg. M. Madl, 2 ♂♂; near Antoetra, 24.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀; Ifanadiana – Fort Carnot, 27 km S Ifanadiana, 27.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Prov. Toliara: Toliara, garden of Bistro du Sud, 19.–21. III.1996, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. – Without locality: leg. F. Sikora, 5 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀.

Notes: This subspecies is endemic to the Malagasy sub-region, where it is recorded from Aldabra, Assumption, Astove, Cosmoledo, Europa, and Madagascar. The nominate subspecies is widely distributed in Central and southern Africa.



The author has selected as type series only the specimens with the type labels of F.F. Kohl which, however, are not the original ones. The species name on the labels (Fig. 1) is “madagascariensis”, which is probably a transcription error (see also name “Sykora”). The type material has been overlooked by DOLLFUSS (1989, 2010). The lectotype (Fig. 1) is designated to fix the species’ identity in accordance with the revision by DOLLFUSS (2010). The “non-type material” collected by F. Sikora has no identification labels, but was also studied by F.F. Kohl, because he (KOHLE 1909: 372) wrote: “Das Naturhistorische Hofmuseum in Wien besitzt eine große Anzahl Stücke dieser Art aus der Hand des verstorbenen Madagaskar-Forschers Franz Sikora”. KOHL (1909) mentions also specimens collected by A. Voeltzkow, but their repository is unknown. They may also be regarded as part of the type series.

Prionyx crudelis (SMITH, 1856)

Material examined: Prov. Toliara: Fort Dauphin, leg. F. Sikora, 1 ♂.

Notes: *Prionyx crudelis* is known from the Ethiopian, Oriental, and Palaearctic regions. In the Malagasy subregion it is recorded from Seychelles (= Inner Seychelles: Mahé), Aldabra, Astove, Comoros (without particular island), Madagascar, and Mauritius.

Sceliphron fuscum KLUG, 1801

Sceliphron fuscum KLUG, 1801: MADL 1997: 820 (Nosy Boraha), 821 (cat. Nosy Boraha).

Material examined: Prov. Antsiranana: Nosy Be, 29.X., 2 ♀♀; Nosy Komba, 25.–26.V.1995, leg. M. Madl, 3 ♀♀. – Prov. Mahajanga: Katsepy, 30.V.–3.VI.1995, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Prov. Antananarivo: Ivato, 3.XII.1994, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; near Talata-Angavo, 3.XI.2001, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♂♂. – Prov. Toamasina: Toamasina, XII.1904–I.2005, leg. A. Voeltzkow, 1 ♀; Toamasina, coll. H. Rolle, 1 ♂. – Prov. Fianarantsoa: Site Naturel Analanja, 25.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Prov. Toliara: Baie de Saint Augustin, Onilahy river bank, 3.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; Toliara – Miary, Befanamy, 19.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀; Toliara – Sakaraha, river valley (at bridge) 8 km from Sakaraha, 15.–18.V.1997, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♀♀. – Without locality: “1891”, leg. F. Sikora, 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; 1896, leg. F. Sikora, 6 ♀♀; “Africa” (mislabelled), unknown collector, 1 ♀.

Notes: *Sceliphron fuscum* is endemic to the Malagasy subregion, where it is recorded from Seychelles (= Inner Seychelles: Mahé, Silhouette, Praslin), Aldabra, Anjouan, Moheli, Mayotte, Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius.

***Sphex malagassus* DE SAUSSURE, 1890**

Sphex malagassus DE SAUSSURE 1892: MADL 1997: 820 (Nosy Boraha), 821 (cat. Nosy Boraha).

Material examined: Without locality: leg. F. Sikora, 5 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀.

Notes: Endemic to Madagascar.

***Sphex torridus* SMITH, 1873**

Sphex torridus SMITH, 1873: KOHL 1909: 370 (tax., Toamasina) – MADL 1997: 820 (Nosy Boraha), 821 (cat. Nosy Boraha).

Material examined: Prov. Mahajanga: Katsepy, 30.V.–3.VI.1995, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Prov. Antananarivo: near Analavory, at gush springs, 4.XI.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀; Ivato, 17.–20.V.1998, leg. M. Madl, 2 ♀♀; near Talata-Angavo, 3.XI.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂. – Prov. Toamasina: Baie d'Antongil, Tohizona river, 1880, leg. G. Schneider, 1 ♀; Toamasina, XI.1904, leg. A. Voeltzkow, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; coll. Plason, 2 ♀♀. – Prov. Fianarantsoa: Site Naturel Analanja, 25.X.2001, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Prov. Toliara: Fort Dauphin, leg. F. Sikora, 6 ♂♂; Toliara – Miary, Befanamy, 19.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♂; Toliara – Morombe, PK 32, 21.–23.V.1997, leg. M. Madl, 3 ♂♂; Sakaraha, river valley (at bridge) 8 km from Sakaraha, 22.X.1996, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀, 22.–25.V.1998, leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀. – Without locality: 1857 (not 1858), leg. I. Pfeiffer, 2 ♀♀; "1896", leg. F. Sikora, 1 ♀; leg. F. Sikora, 7 ♀♀; leg. Sikora, 2 ♂♂.

Notes: *Sphex torridus* is endemic to the Malagasy subregion, where it is recorded from Aldabra, Assumption, Astove, Cosmoledo, Mayotte, Europa, Glorieuses, and Madagascar.

Acknowledgements

It is a great pleasure to thank Manuela Vizek (Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria) for her support in the search for material from Madagascar.

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Jahr/Year: 2014

Band/Volume: [66](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Madl Michael

Artikel/Article: [Notes on the Sphecidae of Madagascar \(Hymenoptera\) based on the material of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria 21-24](#)