

Notes on *Megastigmus transvaalensis* (HUSSAY, 1956) in Mauritius (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Torymidae)

Seelavarn GANESHAN & Michael MADL

Abstract

New records of *Megastigmus transvaalensis* (HUSSAY, 1956) (Torymidae, Megastigminae) associated with *Schinus terebinthifolius* RADDI, 1820 (Anacardiaceae) are reported from Mauritius.

Key words: Torymidae, Megastigminae, new records, *Megastigmus transvaalensis*, *Schinus terebinthifolius*.

Zusammenfassung

Neue Funddaten von *Megastigmus transvaalensis* (HUSSAY, 1956) (Torymidae, Megastigminae), der in Mauritius die Samen von *Schinus terebinthifolius* RADDI, 1820 (Anacardiaceae) befällt, werden mitgeteilt.

Introduction

The genus *Megastigmus* DALMAN, 1820 (Torymidae, Megastigminae) is known from all zoogeographical regions, but it is rather uncommon in the Afrotropical region (GRISSELL 1999). Hitherto seven species have been recorded: *M. aculeatus* (SWEDERUS, 1775), *M. hypogea* (HUSSAY, 1956), *M. pretorianensis* DOĞANLAR, 2015, *M. somaliensis* (HUSSAY, 1956), *M. thomsoni* (HUSSAY, 1956), *M. transvaalensis* (HUSSAY, 1956) and *M. zebrinus* GRISSELL, 2006 (GRISSELL & PRINSLOO 2001, GRISSELL 2006, DOĞANLAR, 2015). Of these seven species, only *Megastigmus transvaalensis* is known from the Malagasy subregion, where it has been recorded from Mauritius and Réunion (GRISSELL & PRINSLOO 2001).

In the Malagasy subregion *Megastigmus transvaalensis* feeds on seeds of the Brazilian peppertree, *Schinus terebinthifolius* RADDI, 1820 (Anacardiaceae) (MAMET & WILLIAMS 1993, GRISSELL & PRINSLOO 2001), which has been planted on several islands as an ornamental tree. As the Brazilian peppertree is one of the worst invasive plants, *Megastigmus transvaalensis* is used in biological control programmes (WHEELER et al. 2001).

The paper is based on the material of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) at Réduit (Mauritius) and the Natural History Museum Vienna (NHMW), Austria.

Megastigmus transvaalensis (HUSSAY, 1956)

Megastigmus nr. *pistaciae* WALKER, 1871: MAMET & WILLIAMS 1993: 108 (Mauritius without specific locality, foodplant cat. Mauritius), 168 (foodplant cat. Mauritius).



Fig. 1: The locality in Mondrain with Brazilian peppertree (*Schinus terebinthifolius* RADDI, 1820) (circled), 6.XII.2007. © M. Madl.

Megastigmus transvaalensis (HUSSAY, 1956): GRISSELL & PRINSLOO 2001: 272 (tax., figs. 1–3), 273 (tax., descr. ♂ ♀, fig. 4 (map), biol., Mauritius without specific locality), 274 (figs. 5–7), 278 (key).

Material examined: Black River Gorges National Park, near headquarters, 13.V.2004, 1 sample (NHMW, currently on loan), and near kiosque, 18–21.X.2004, 4 ♀♀ (NHMW, currently on loan), 1.VI.2006 leg. M. Madl, 1 sample (NHMW, currently on loan). – Medine, on seeds of Brazilian Peppertree 14.V.1986 leg. M.A. Rajabalee, 4 ♂♂ (yellow morph with small stigma) (MSIRI). – Mondrain (Fig. 1), on *Schinus terebinthifolius*, 14.V.2007, leg. M. Madl, 9 ♂♂ (dark morph with large stigma), 15 ♂♂ (yellow morph with small stigma), 9 ♀♀ (NHMW), 6.XII.2007 leg. M. Madl, 1 ♀ (NHMW).

Distributional notes: *Megastigmus transvaalensis* is native to the Afrotropical region. It has been accidentally or intentionally introduced in several countries or islands of the Malagasy subregion (Mauritius, Réunion), Australian (Hawaii), Nearctic (U.S.A.), Neotropical (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico), and Palaeartic regions (Canary Islands, France, Israel, Morocco, Portugal). In the Afrotropical region *Megastigmus transvaalensis* has been recorded from Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe (GRISSELL & PRINSLOO 2001, SCHEFFER & GRISSELL 2003, ROQUES & SKRZYPCZYŃSKA 2003, Madl, unpublished catalogue of Afrotropical *Megastigmus*).

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Authors' addresses: Seelavarn GANESHAN, Department of Entomology,
Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, Réduit, Mauritius.
E-mail: seelavarn.ganeshan@msiri.mu
Michael MADL, 2nd Zoological Department,
Natural History Museum Vienna, Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna, Austria.
E-mail: michael.madl@nhm-wien.ac.at

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Ganeshan Seelavarn, Madl Michael

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