

## INTRODUCTION

The Seychelles consist of 92 islands (including islets and atolls) distributed over an ocean area of 390 000 km<sup>2</sup> and together cover a land mass of about 400 km<sup>2</sup> (Därr, 1991). They can be arranged into 6 groups (from west to east): Aldabra Is., Farquhar Is., Amirante Is., Inner Seychelles, Ile Plate and Coetivy Is. Table 1 shows those islands, where ants have been collected so far. Summed up, collections have been made until today on 30 islands belonging to 5 of the 6 island groups. No collections exist from Ile Plate and even many of the other larger islands have remained unstudied until today. The last summary of the ant fauna of the Malagasy Region was given by Wheeler (1922). The many nomenclatural changes after this publication together with several new findings, make it useful to compile an updated list. A problem in identifying localities is that several islands have identical names (e. g. "St. Pierre" in the Farquhar Group and north of Praslin; Ile aux Vaches southwest of Mahé and west of Denis; Round Island northeast of Mahé and southeast of Praslin). Furthermore several localities on different islands have identical names (e. g. "Anse Fourmi" exists at many different localities). Most places have both English and French names (e. g., Beacon Island = Ile Sèche). The collections on "St. Pierre" by Mühlenberg *et al.* (1979) and some old collections on the outer island groups exemplify a further problem in that some islands carry the same name as the island group as such. I counted Mühlenberg's findings (see question mark) to the Farquhar Islands, the findings from the outer island groups to the island with the identical name.

No large collections have been made for the past 70 years. Most studies on ants concentrated on the pest status of introduced species like *Anoplolepis longipes* (Haines & Haines, 1974ff) and *Technomyrmex albipes* (Dupont, 1914ff). Several

**Table 1. — Islands of the Seychelles where ants have been collected.**

Aldabra Is. (AL)
Aldabra
South Island
Amirante Is. (AM)
D'Arros (Darros)
Désroches
Coetivy (C)
Coetivy
Farquhar Is. (F)
Farquhar
Providence
St. Pierre
Inner Seychelles (S)
Albatross
Anonyme Island (Ile Anonyme)
Aride
Bird
Cerf (Ile aux Cerfs)
Chauve Souris
Cousin
Cousine
Denis
Félicité
Frégate (Frigaté)
Grande Soeur
La Digue
L'Islette
Long Island (Ile Longue)
Mahé
Marianne (Marie Anne)
Praslin
Petite Soeur
Round (Ile Ronde) (northeast of Mahé)
Silhouette
St. Pierre Islet

of these papers are governmental reports, which were never published, but are accessible at the National Archives in Victoria (Mahé). The only recent studies published in the last decades on ant communities of the Seychelles are Haines & Haines (1978a) and Mühlenberg *et al.* (1977). Haines & Haines listed the genera *Conomyrma* and *Myrmecina*, which had never been collected in the Malagasy Region or in Africa before, and their collection is not available via the Seychelles