

***Plagiolepis (Plagiolepis) exigua* Forel**

*Plagiolepis exigua* Forel, 1894a: 415+417.  
*Plagiolepis (Plagiolepis) exigua* Forel; Emery, 1925: 20.  
*Plagiolepis exigua* (sic) Forel; Mühlenberg et al., 1977;  
 Rowley & Warman, 1979.

**Distribution.** - Africa, Asia, Australia; SEYCHELLES: S: Aride [J. Rowley & S. Warman], Grande Soeur [M. Mühlenberg], Mahé (Union Vale [I. H. & J. B. Haines]), Petite Soeur [M. Mühlenberg]. [Mühlenberg *et al.* cited their findings as "*Plagiolepis* sp. (near *exigua* Forel)"].

**Ecology.** - One single specimen collected on Aride in 1975, but none in 1978 (Rowley & Warman, 1979).

***Plagiolepis (Plagiolepis) madecassa* Forel**

*Plagiolepis pygmaea* r. *madecassa* Forel, 1892: 241.  
*Plagiolepis madecassa* Forel; Forel, 1892: 519.  
*Plagiolepis madecassa* (sic) Forel; Forel, 1899: 187.  
*Plagiolepis (Plagiolepis) madecassa* Forel; Emery, 1925: 20].  
*Plagiolepis madecassae* (sic) Forel; Rowley & Warman, 1979.

**Distribution.** - Endemic species of the Malagasy Region; SEYCHELLES: AL: Aldabra [A. Voeltzkow]; AM: Desroches [J. S. Gardiner]; S: Anonyme Island [H. M. Scott], Aride [J. Rowley & S. Warman], Félicité [H. M. Scott], Mahé ([C. Alluaud; I. H. & J. B. Haines], Union Vale [I. H. & J. B. Haines]), Praslin [H. M. Scott], Silhouette (lowland and Mare aux Cochons [H. M. Scott]).

**Ecology.** - Distributed over all of Aride (Rowley & Warman, 1979).

***Prenolepis* sp. indet.**

[probably misidentification of *Paratrechina*, see Emery, 1925: 217ff].

**Distribution.** - America, Asia; SEYCHELLES: S: La Digue [C. Alluaud].

**Ecology.** - See *Paratrechina* species above; two apterous females were

mentioned by Emery (1894a) without further details.

**BIOGEOGRAPHY**

Scott (1932: 366) pointed out that the ant fauna of the Seychelles comprises cosmopolitan species as well as elements of the African, Oriental and Malagasy Region.

The actual list of ants from the Seychelles gives at species level the following picture (*Dorymyrmex* and *Myrmecina* excluded): 6 species are endemic of the Seychelles, another 9 endemic of the Malagasy region. 17 species also occur in one additional zoogeographic region (to the Malagasy Region), i. e. 10 species in the Ethiopian Region, 4 in the Oriental Region and 3 in the Neotropical Region. Another 23 species occur in more than one additional zoogeographical region. Most of these latter ants are typical "tramp species" (Hölldobler & Wilson, 1990), which show the following characteristics:

- distributed widely by human commerce,
- living in close association with man,
- polygynous,
- preadapted for patchy but persistent and species poor-habitats within manmade environments.

About 50% of the fauna of the Seychelles consists of ant species with very good tramping abilities. These species, together with some African-Malagasy elements (*Odontomachus*, *Camponotus*), provide the dominant ant fauna. None of the endemic elements of the Malagasy fauna could establish itself as a dominant species.

A good picture of the tramping abilities of some ant species is obtained when we compare the far distant island faunas of the Seychelles and the French and Venezuelan Islands in the Caribbean. Jaffe & Lattke (1994) reported 34 genera with 88 species from the latter area. 26 genera with 55 species are known from the