

## A new Indian Ocean species of *Ochterus* from the island of Mauritius (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Ochteridae)

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**Abstract.** *Ochterus stysi* sp. nov. is described from the island of Mauritius in the western Indian Ocean. This species is only the second member of the family Ochteridae known from the islands of the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar, and the first recorded from the Mascarene Archipelago. Comparative notes are provided in regard to this new species and *Ochterus seychellensis* Polhemus, 1992, its closest putative relative. Figures are provided of the dorsal habitus and male genitalic structures.

**Key words.** Heteroptera, Ochteridae, *Ochterus*, taxonomy, new species, Indian Ocean, Mauritius

### Introduction

The aquatic Heteroptera biota of the high islands in the western Indian Ocean is imperfectly known. Despite several centuries of intermittent collecting, new species and even genera have been described in the past 20 years from the Seychelles (D. POLHEMUS 1992; J. POLHEMUS 1990; J. POLHEMUS & D. POLHEMUS 1995; ANDERSEN & D. POLHEMUS 2003), and in this paper we add a new endemic species of Ochteridae to the documented biota of Mauritius. This also represents a new family record not only for this island, but for the Mascarene Archipelago as a whole.

Mauritius lies in the western Indian Ocean approximately 900 kilometers east of Madagascar. The island, with an area of 2040 km<sup>2</sup>, is a highly dissected edifice representing the eroded remnants of a hotspot volcano, with basalts ranging from 7.8-0.2 millions of years (= My) in age (MACDOUGALL & CHAMALAUN 1969). The general form of the island is that of a half-circle, truncate to the northwest. The center of Mauritius forms an elevated central plateau approximately 550-600 meters high, surrounded by several taller, isolated peaks,