

7. LIST OF PLANTS COLLECTED ON PLATTE ISLAND, SEYCHELLES

by S. A. Robertson and F. R. Fosberg

Introduction

On 26 February 1980 a visit was made to Platte Island, Seychelles, by the first author, and during the three hours spent there as many plant species were collected as possible. No crop plants or obvious garden ornamentals were taken. Two sets of plants were collected, one of which is incorporated in the Herbarium, Ministry of Agriculture, Mahe, Seychelles, and the other lodged with the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. The first author is indebted to the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, and his staff, in particular Mr S. Renvoize, for verifying the identifications. Families in the following list have been arranged alphabetically. The names used have been checked by Fosberg and conform to the usage of others in this series of papers. There the names adopted here differ from those used by Robertson (in press), the latter are given as synonyms.

Platte (Figure 8) is a small sand cay, aptly named, about 125 km south of Mahe, surrounded by an extensive fringing reef. It is about 65 ha in extent and is run as a coconut plantation. There is a small settlement on the west coast with the manager's house and a few guest cottages to the northwest. There is a serviceable grass airstrip aligned southeast/northwest and approximately 900 m long.

The vegetation pattern is similar to that of other sand cays in the Seychelles, with beach crest colonisers *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Sporobolus virginicus* backed by a thicket of *Scaevola sericea* and *Guettarda speciosa* which extends slightly into the coconut plantation. A mixture of herbs and small shrubs forms an undergrowth of varying density beneath the palms. The list of plants is certainly incomplete but there are some surprising gaps in it, notably *Stenotaphrum dimidiatum*, *Morinda citrifolia*, *Asystasia gangetica* and *Triumfetta procumbens*, all of which are found in the Amirantes to the west and on

55° 23' E


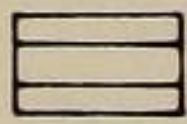


PTE. BRAC

SETTLEMENT

AIRSTRIP

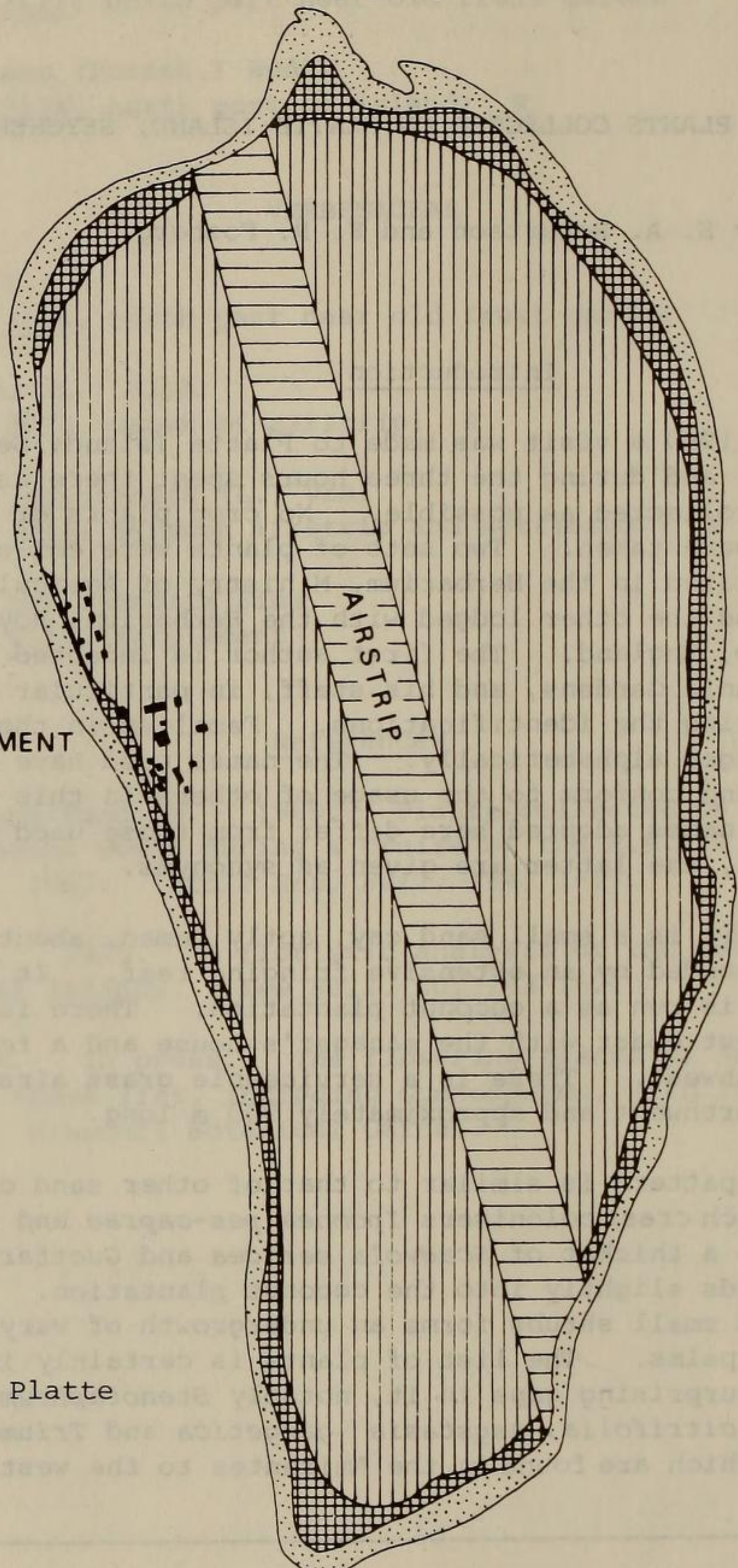
5° 52' S

PTE. CIMETIÈRE

-  Sand
-  Herbaceous mat
-  Littoral scrub
-  Coconut woodland

0 m 200

Figure 8. Platte



Coetivy to the south. As far as we are aware this is the first plant collection made from this island.

The first author would like to thank Mr G. Savy for permission to visit Platte and collect plants there, and the Government of Seychelles for assistance in reaching the island.

List of plants

AMARANTHACEAE

Achyranthes aspera L.

Robertson 3021

Amaranthus dubius Mart. ex Thell.

Robertson 3012

APOCYNACEAE

Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don

Robertson 3010

ARECACEAE (PALMAE)

Cocos nucifera L.

Robertson, sight

BORAGINACEAE

Cordia subcordata Lam.

Robertson 3050

Tournefortia argentea L.f.

Robertson 3032

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Drymaria cordata (L.) Roem. and Schultes

Robertson 2998

CASUARINACEAE

Casuarina equisetifolia L.

Robertson 3007

COMPOSITAE

Vernonia cinerea Less.Robertson 3045

CONVOLVULACEAE

Ipomoea macrantha Roem. & SchultesRobertson 3036*Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) R. Br.Robertson 3029

CRASSULACEAE

Kalanchoe pinnata (Lam.) Pers.*Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Lam.) OkenRobertson 3038

CYPERACEAE

Cyperus dubius Rott.*Mariscus dubius* (Rottb.) Fisch.Robertson 3047*Cyperus kyllingia* Endl.*Kyllingia nemoralis* (Forst.) Dandy ex Hutch.Robertson 2999*Cyperus ligularis* L.*Mariscus ligularis* (L.) Urb.Robertson 3041*Fimbristylis cymosa* R. Br.Robertson 3019

EUPHORBIACEAE

Acalypha indica L.Robertson 3044*Eurphorbia hirta* L.Robertson 3048*Euphorbia prostrata* Ait. ?Robertson 3011*Pedilanthus tithymaloides* (L.) Poit.Robertson 3041

Phyllanthus amarus Schum. & Thonn.
Robertson 3000

Phyllanthus maderaspatensis L.
Robertson 3026

FABACEAE (LEGUMINOSAE)

Cassia occidentalis L.
Robertson 3008

Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.) de Wit
Robertson 3005

GOODENIACEAE

Scaevola sericea Vahl
Robertson 3053

HERNANDIACEAE

Hernandia sonora L.
Hernandia nymphaeifolia (Presl) Kubitzki
Robertson 3034

LAURACEAE

Cassytha filiformis L.
Robertson 3006

LILIACEAE (sensu lato)

Haemanthus multiflorus Martyn ssp. *multiflorus*
Scadoxus multiflorus (Martyn) Raf.
Robertson 3053

MALVACEAE

Hibiscus tiliaceus L.
Robertson 3003

Sida acuta Burm.f.
Robertson 3009

Sida pusilla Cav.
Robertson 3017

Sida stipulata Cav.
Robertson 3014

NYCTAGINACEAE

Boerhavia repens L.
Robertson 3035

PASSIFLORACEAE

Passiflora suberosa L.
Robertson 3042

POACEAE (GRAMINEAE)

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.
Robertson 3002

Dactyloctenium ctenoides (Steud.) Bosser
Robertson 3037

Digitaria setigera Rotn.
Robertson 3013

Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn.
Robertson 3016

Eragrostis subaequiglumis Renv.
Robertson 3018

Lepturus repens (G. Forst.) R. Br.
Robertson 3025

Sporobolus virginicus (L.) Kunth
Robertson 3028

Stenotaphrum micranthum (Desf.) C. E. Hubb.
Robertson 3027

POLYPODIACEAE (sensu lato)

Nephrolepis biserrata (Swartz) Schott
Robertson 3023

Polypodium scolopendria (Burm.f.) Copel.
Microsorium scolopendria (Burm.f.) Copel.
Robertson 3022

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca oleracea L.
Robertson 3033

PSILOTACEAE

Psilotum nudum (L.) Beauv.
Robertson 3020

RHAMNACEAE

Colubrina asiatica L.
Robertson 3004

RUBIACEAE

Guettarda speciosa L.
Robertson 3039

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Striga asiatica (L.) Kuntze
Robertson 3031

SOLANACEAE

Datura metel L.
Robertson 3043

Solanum nigrum L.
Robertson 3015

SURIANACEAE

Suriana maritima L.
Robertson 3030

TURNERACEAE

Turnera ulmifolia L.
Robertson 3046

URTICACEAE

Laportea aestuans (L.) Chew
Robertson 3040

Pipturus argenteus (Forst.) Wedd.
Robertson 3024

VERBENACEAE

Lippia nodiflora (L.) Rich.
Robertson 3001

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl
Robertson 3049

Reference

Robertson, S. A. In press. *The flowering plants of Seychelles: an annotated check list, including Gymnosperms, with line drawings.* St Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden.