

CHECKLIST OF THE HERPETOFAUNA OF THE MASCARENE ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

An up to date checklist of the reptiles and amphibians of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Round Island and Reunion is presented. Maps showing subfossil collecting sites and localities where living specimens had been reported by old settlers, sailors, or travellers are also included.

RESUME

Une liste à jour des reptiles et amphibiens de l'Ile Maurice ainsi que de Rodrigues, de l'Ile Ronde et de la Réunion est présentée, et également des cartes précisant les sites de collecte de subfossiles et les endroits où ont été repérés des spécimens vivants par d'anciens colons, des marins, ou des voyageurs.

The small Mascarene islands, Mauritius, Rodrigues, Reunion and particularly Round Island, an offshore islet lying northeast of Mauritius, supported a poor but interesting and peculiar reptile fauna. Over the past three centuries with the advent of man followed by large settlement, the reptile populations of these islands, the endemic elements in particular, have suffered considerably from degradation of their natural habitats and from the depredation of domestic animals.

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Reports from various sources in Mauritius and Reunion and a survey carried out by the authors in Rodrigues and on Round Island in 1980 reveal that the composition of the reptile fauna have been greatly modified: impoverishment of the previously abundant endemic species, precarious existence on Round Island of the most remarkable representatives of the reptile fauna of the Mascarenes. There has also been a depletion of the introduced species (tortoises, frogs, agamids, snakes).

A reappraisal of all existing genera and species hitherto described permits the publication of a complete list of extant and extinct reptiles and amphibians of the Mascarene islands. A list of amphibians and reptiles erroneously cited in literature or accidentally met with in the Mascarene islands is also given.

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TABLE 1 : List of species

	Mauritius	Round Island	Rodrigues	Réunion
LIZARDS				
Calotes versicolor (Daudin)	▲			▲
Chamaeleo pardalis (Cuvier)	△			☆
SKINKS				
Cryptoblepharus boutonii boutonii (Desjardins)	★	●		○
Gongylomorphus bojerii borbonica Vinson & Vinson	★	●		○
Leiolopisma (= Didosaurus) mauritiana (Günther)	○			
Leiolopisma telfairii (Desjardins)	○	●		○
DIURNAL GECKOS (Green lizards)				
Phelsuma borbonica agalegae Cheke				▼
Phelsuma borbonica borbonica Mertens				▼
Phelsuma cepediana (Milbert)	●			●
Phelsuma edwardnewtonii Vinson & Vinson			○	☆
Phelsuma gigas (Liénard)	▼		○	▼
Phelsuma guimbeau Mertens*	●			▼
Phelsuma guentheri Boulenger		●		▼
Phelsuma lineata Gray				☆
Phelsuma ornata Gray (= vinsoni)	▼			▼
subsp. ornata ornata Gray	●	●		★
subsp. inexpectata Mertens (Réunion)	▼			●
subsp. coindemirensis (Gunner's Quoin, Mauritius)	●			▼
* subsp. guimbeau Mertens (Mauritius)				
subsp. roseigularis Vinson (Mauritius)				

	Mauritius	Round Island	Rodrigues	Reunion
NOCTURNAL LIZARDS ("Mabuyas")				
<i>Cyrtodactylus serpensinsula</i> (Loveridge)	○	★		
<i>Ebenavia inunguis</i> Boettger	▲		▲	▲
<i>Gehyra mutilata</i> (Wiegmann)	▲		▲	▲
<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> Schlegel	▲		▲	▲
<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i> (Moreau de Jonnés) (= <i>mercatorius</i>)	▲		☆	▲
<i>Hemiphyllodactylus typus</i> Bleeker	▲		▲	▲
<i>Lepidodactylus lugubris</i> Duméril et Bibron			▲	
FROG				
<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis mascareniensis</i> (Duméril & Bibron)	▲			▲
TOADS				
<i>Bufo marinus</i> (Linné)	☆			
<i>Bufo gutturalis</i> Power	▲			▲
TORTOISES				
- <i>Land-Tortoises</i>				
<i>Astrochelys radiata</i> (Shaw)	?			☆
<i>Cylindraspis borbonica</i> Bour				○
<i>Cylindraspis graii</i> (Duméril et Bibron) (= <i>triserrata</i> ?)	○	○		
<i>Cylindraspis inepta</i> (Günther)	○	○		
<i>Cylindraspis peltastes</i> (Duméril et Bibron)			○	
<i>Cylindraspis vosmaeri</i> (Fitzinger)			○	
<i>Dipsochelys elephantina</i> (D. & B.) (= <i>Testudo gigantea</i>)	☆			☆
- <i>Fresh-Water Tortoises</i>				
<i>Pelusios subniger</i> (Lacepède)	△			
<i>Trionyx steindachneri</i> Siebenrock	▲			

	Mauritius	Round Island	Rodrigues	Réunion
★	★	★	●	★
★	★			
★	★	★	●	★
		★		
		★		
	○			
	▲			▲
	★			
	▲		▲	▲
	○			

- Marine Turtles

- Chelonia mydas (Linné) (green turtle)
- Dermodochelys coriacea (Vandelli) (lute)
- Eretmodochelys imbricata (Linné) (Hawk's bill)

SNAKES

- Bolyeria multocarinata (Boie) } (boa)
- Casarea dussumieri (Schegel) }
- Lycodon aulicus (Linné)
- Pelamis platurus (Linné) (sea-snake)
- Rhamphotyphlops braminus (Daudin) (blind snake)
- "Typhlops" cariei Hoffstetter

KEY TO SYMBOLS :

- Endemic species
- present
- ★ accidental, rare or localized
- extinct
- Introduced species
- ▲ present
- ☆ rare or localized
- △ extinct

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES ERRONEOUSLY CITED
OR ACCIDENTLY ENCOUNTERED IN THE MASCARENE ISLANDS

M = Mauritius

R = Reunion

Rodr. = Rodrigues

FROGS AND TOADS

- Bufo melanostictus R
- Rana hexadactyla R
- Rana tigerina R

CROCODILES

- Crocodylus niloticus M
- Crocodylus porosus M

TURTLES

- Amyda cartilaginea M
- Chinemys reevesii M
- Chrysemys s. elegans M, R
- Cuora amboinensis M
- Dipsochelys elephantina Rodr. ?
- Geomyda spengleri M, R
- Homopus areolatus M
- Homopus signatus M
- Psammobates geometricus M
- Psammobates tentorius M
- Testudo graeca Rodr.

SNAKES

- Acrantophis dumerilii M ?, R
- Dromicodryas bernieri M
- Helmintophis flavoterminalis M
- Liophidium vaillantii M
- Praepeditus lineatus M

(an obscure name; the identity of
this nominal species has not yet
been clarified)

CHAMELEONS

- Chamaeleo bifidus M, R
- Chamaeleo lateralis R
- Chamaeleo pardalis M
- Chamaeleo parsonii M
- Chamaeleo pumilus M, R
- Chamaeleo tigris M, R
- Chamaeleo verrucosus M, R

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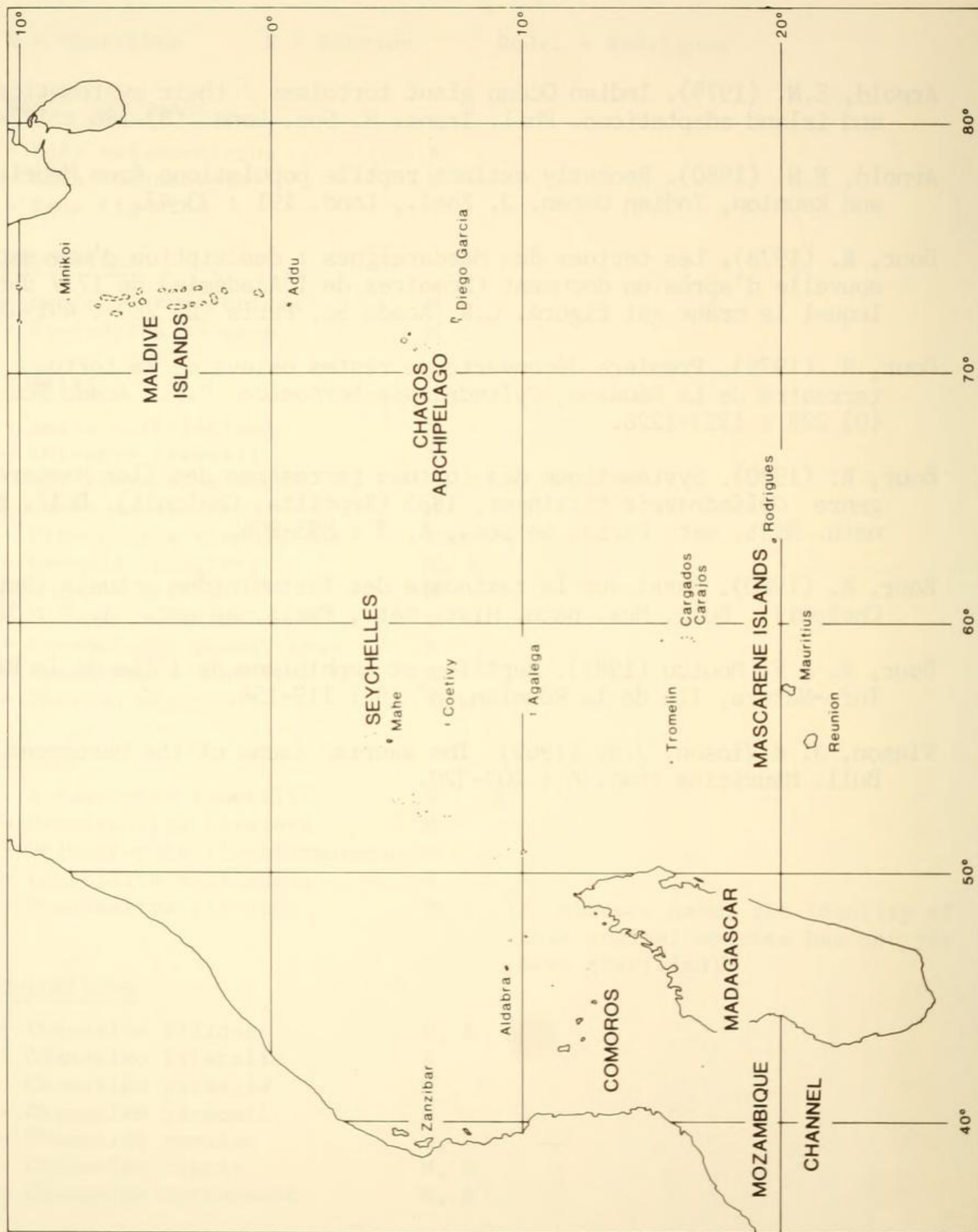
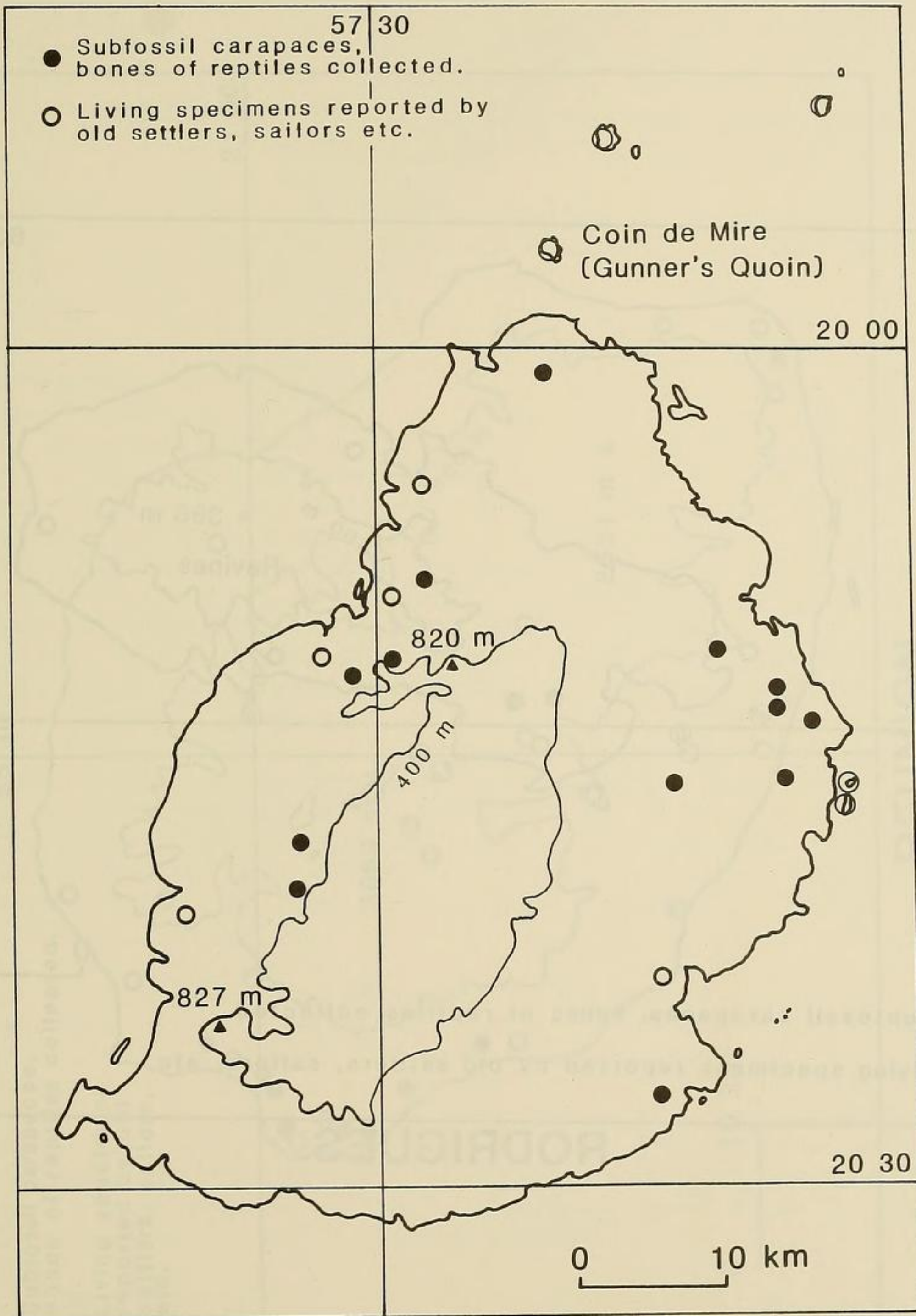
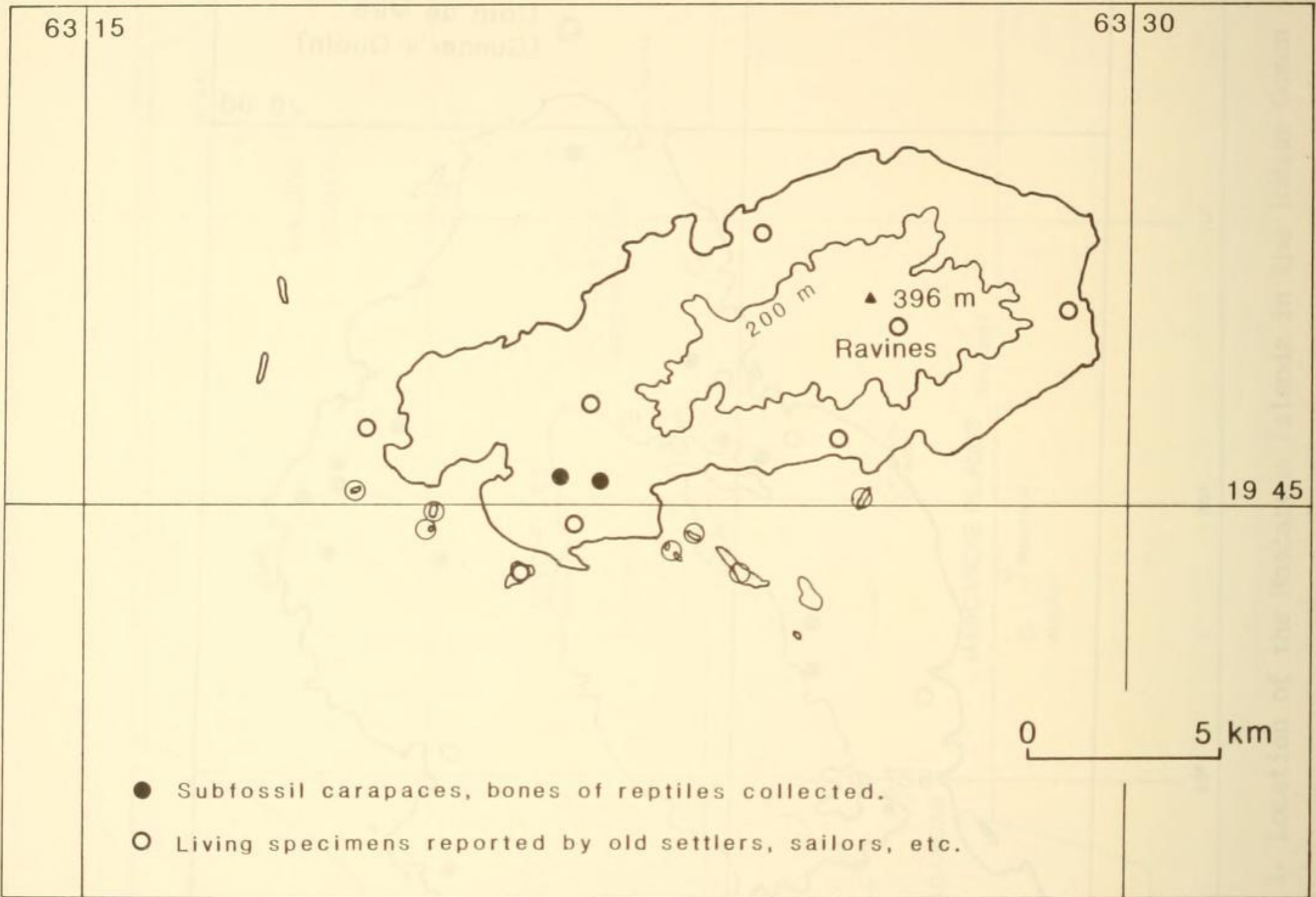


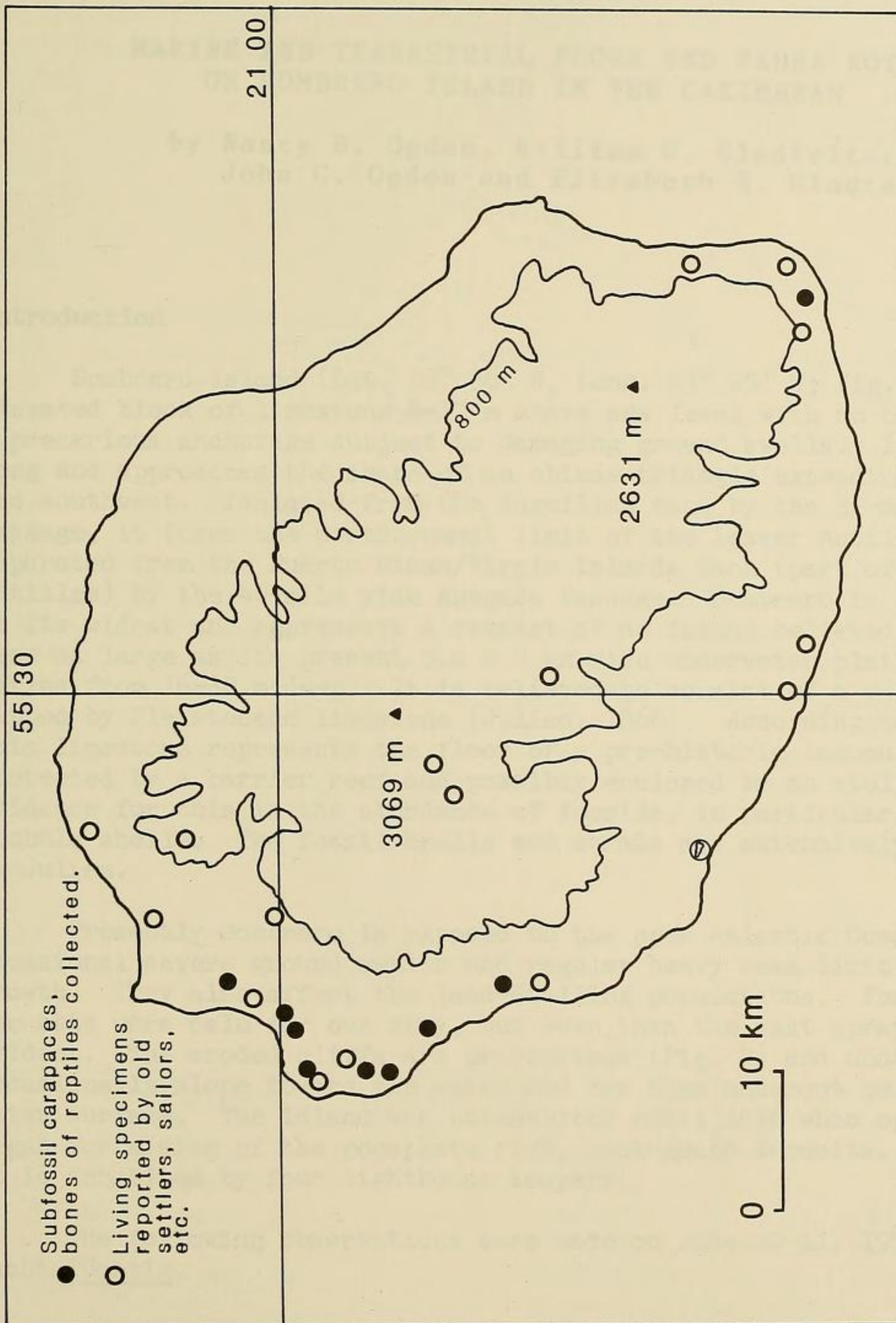
Fig. 1. Location of the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean



MAURITIUS



RODRIGUES



REUNION