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REPORT ON THE HALOBATINAE (HETEROPTERA: GERRIDAE) COLLECTED DURING THE SIBOGA EXPEDITION

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ABSTRACT

Two species of Halobatinae, viz. Halobates hayanus Buchanan White, 1883, and H. princeps Buchanan White, 1883, have been collected by the Siboga Expedition in the East Indian Archipelago. The records are plotted in a chart.

INTRODUCTION

During the voyage of the Siboga some marine water striders have been collected, belonging to the Halobatinae, a subfamily of the heteropterous family Gerridae. They all belong to the genus Halobates, the members of which are oceanic in habit. They form one of the very rare groups of true marine insects, maintaining their existence hundreds of miles from the nearest land. Not all species of the genus, however, have an open-ocean distribution. Most of them are confined to islands or island groups. The main distribution is circumtropical.

An extensive review of the genus Halobates, originally described by Eschscholtz in 1882, is given by Matsuda (1960). Revisions of the genus were made by Buchanan White (1883) and recently by Herring (1961), who described several new species and made distribution maps. Additional data on the distribution of some species can be found in an article by Cheng & Fernando (1969).

The material collected during the Siboga Expedition consists of two species. Their distribution is shown in fig. 1.

Halobates hayanus Buchanan White, 1883

Material collected.-

"Siboga" Station 7, near Reef of Batjulmati, Java, 07° 55'. 5 S, 114° 26' E, March 11, 1899, 1♂, 5♀♀, 23 larvae.
"Siboga" Station 66, Bank between islands of Bahuluwang and Tambolungan, south of Saleyer, (04° 29' S, 120° 39' E). May 7, 1899, 3♂♂, 1♀, 40 larvae; 1♂, 1♀, 28 larvae in another vial only labelled with "May 7".
"Siboga" Station 96, South-east side of Pearlbank, Sulu Archipelago, (05° 46' N, 119° 45' E), June 27, 1899, 1♀.
"Siboga" Station 106, Anchorage off Kapul islands, Sulu Archipelago, (06° 04' N, 121° 24' E), July 4, 1899, 1♂ 1♀, 1 larva.
"Siboga" Station 110, 04° 34' N, 122° 00' E, July 6, 1899, 1♂.

"Siboga" Station 117a, 01°15' N, 123°37' E, July 12, 1899, 1♂, 1♀.
"Siboga" Stations 194 - 197, 01°53'.5 S, 126°39' E - 01°45'.3 S, 127°08'.3 E, September 15, 1899, 1♂.
"Siboga" Station 245, 04°16'.5 S, 130°15'.8 E, December 3, 1899, 8 larvae.
Paternoster Islands, March 28 - April 8, 1899, 1♀, 1 larva.

This species is closely related to *Halobates calyptus* Herring, 1961. Both males and females are somewhat smaller, but more robust. *H. hayanus* is easily distinguished from the other species by the yellow base of the first antennal segments.

Originally described from the Red Sea, near Aden; the known distribution is now all over the Old World tropics to Torres Strait in the East.

Halobates princeps Buchanan White, 1883

Material collected.-

"Siboga" Station 99, Anchorage off North - Ubian, 06°07'.5 N, 120°26' E, June 28 - 30, 1899, 3♂♂.
"Siboga" Station 117a, 01°15' N, 123°37' E, July 12, 1899, 1♀.
"Siboga" Station 136, Ternate Anchorage, (00°46' N, 126°23' E), July 29 - August 3, 1899, 1♂.
"Siboga" Station 220, Anchorage off Pasir Pandjang, west coast of Binongka, (05°58' S, 124°01' E), November 1 - 3, 1899, 1♂.

This very large, silver grey species is the largest of the genus. Apart from the size, specimens are readily recognized by the extra - long first anterior tarsal segment. The known distribution is confined to the Indian Archipelago from East Malaya to West New Guinea.

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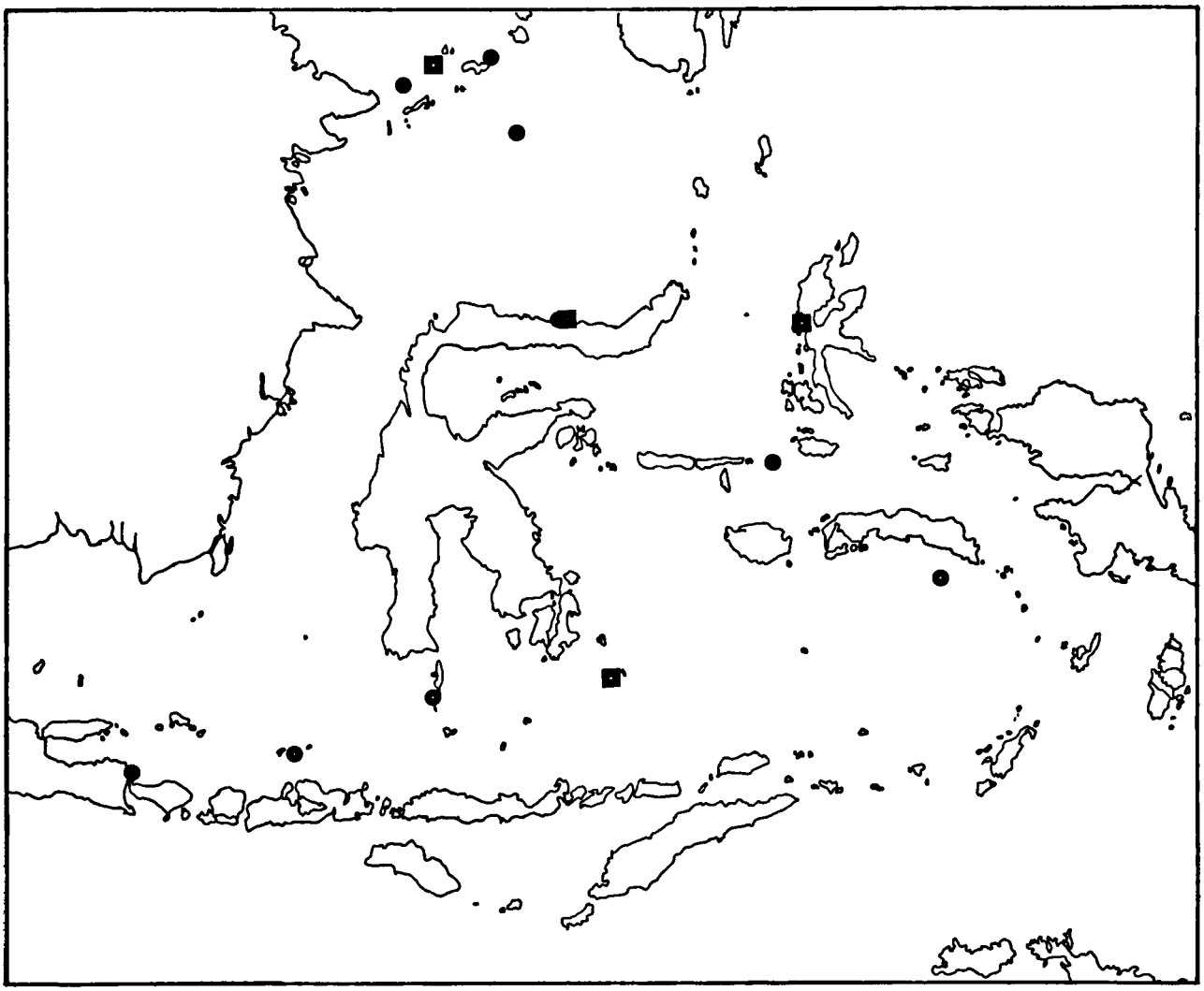

Fig. 1. Distribution of Halobates hayanus (dots) and H. princeps (squares) in the East Indian Archipelago.