



## ENDEMIC AND INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY OF REUNION ISLAND'S RIVERS AND PONDS

Larva

## **Introduction**

Due to our island's situation, just a few species have settled it.:

- The island is 2000 km far from Africa.
  - It is 2 million years old, and was formed by volcanoes.
- Wetlands have to face hard rains during cyclones.

That's why only a few species have managed to colonize our rivers and ponds for real.

Noni (*Morinda citrifolia Linné*): exotic but not invasive and very useful, can reach 6m, its fruits don't smell really good and taste awful but some eat them (Polynesia) or make curries (India), they're known to have medicinal properties too.

Mahot bord de mer (Hibiscus tiliaceus): endemic, its flowers start yellow and they die being red



Manioc bord de mer (*Scaevola* taccada): indigenous, <2m



Saliette (*Psiadia retusa*): endemic, 1m

Dytique (*Hydroglypus stri-gicollis*): endemic

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Demoiselle (*Coenagriocnemis* reuniense): indigenous, 40mm

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Anguille marbrée (Anguilla marmorata): endemic endangered species

Coquille ronde (*Neretina*gagantes): indigenous, 5 to

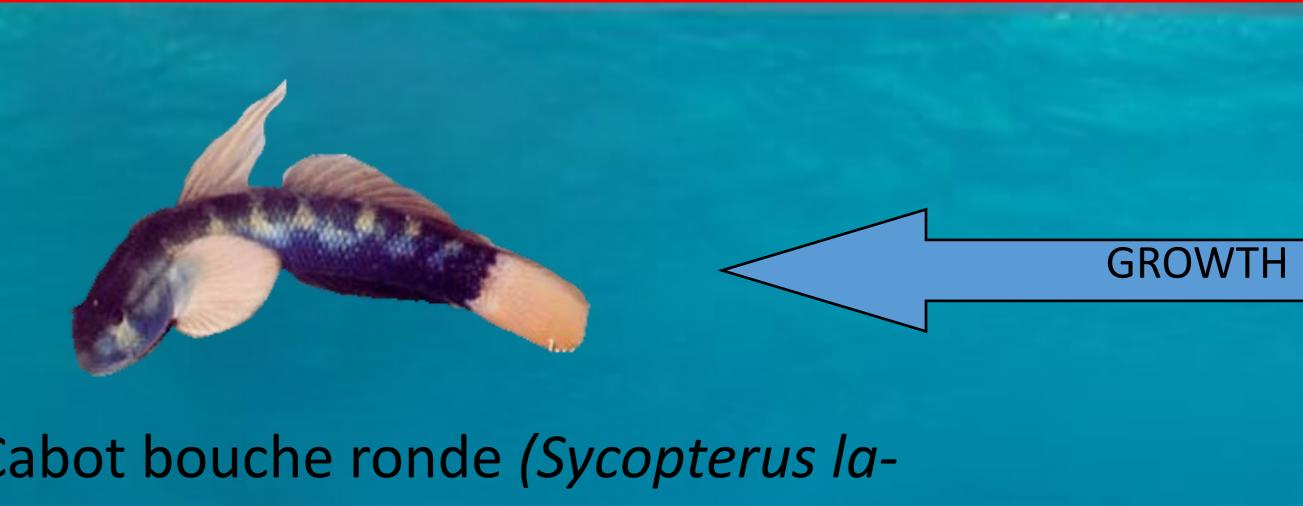
Camaron (Manobrachium lar): endemic, 15cm

Héron vert (Butorides striatus ru-

tenbergi): indigenous, 40cm



Loche (Awaous nigripinnis): indigenous, 4-13cm

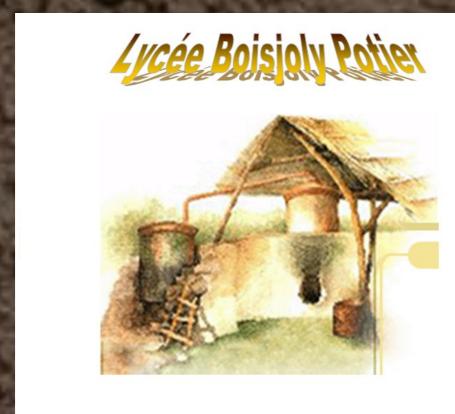


Cabot bouche ronde (Sycopterus lagocephalus): endemic, 4-13 cm

EGGS







Conclusion: Our rivers may look poor in terms of endemic species, but the biodiversity that it hosts is unique. But it is also very fragile and that's why we

have to protect it!