

THE THERIDIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA Part 1 A-P

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THE THERIDIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

The Theridiidae is a large cosmopolitan family of spiders represented by 124 genera and more than 2517 species. Presently 20 genera represent by 64 species are known from South Africa but the taxonomy of theridiid spiders in South Africa is still chaotic and numerous genera and species are still not named. Only a few genera have been revised and thorough revisions are needed to clarify the situation. Of the presently known South African species 50% are South African endemics and 20% are cosmopolitan species and 67% species are listed as Least Concern and 31% is Data Deficient. No species is presently listed as of Special Concern. There are large number of specimens in collections that are not named.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FAMILY THERIDIIDAE Sundevall, 1833

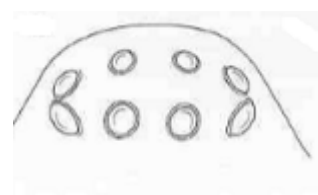
The Theridiidae is a large cosmopolitan family of spiders represented by 124 genera and more than 2517 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). Presently 20 genera and 64 species are known from South Africa but several genera and species are still not named.

COMMON NAMES: Cob-web Spiders / Gumfoot-web Spiders or Comb-footed Spiders

MORPHOLOGY: Body size: 2-15 mm (males usually much smaller than female, frequently sexual dimorphism in shape and colour). Body colour variable from greyish brown to pitch black to bright yellow; many species are cryptic. Carapace variable in profile from flat to high, in some genera males with frontal region of carapace with extravagant modifications; eyes 8 in 2 rows. Abdomen variable in shape from oval to round and high to very long, sometimes extending past spinnerets; some species with dorsal stridulating plates near pedicel; colulus present in some species. Legs moderately to very long, with no or few spines; no spines on the tibiae and metatarsi; tarsi usually tapering; tarsus IV with a row of slightly curved serrated setae composing a comb.

LIFE STYLE: They usually construct three dimensional aerial webs in dark corners in a variety of micro-habitats. The retreat is usually made inside or outside the frame using plant material or soil particles to hide beneath. They are a diverse group of spiders found in all the different biomes in a variety of habitats e.g. on plants, on tree trunks, in the crevices of rocks and walls under stones and under a variety of structures in and around houses. A few species are web less and run on the ground. The theridiid spiders have very diverse life styles and the structure of their webs vary between genera. In most of the smaller ground-living species the lower catch threads are attached under high tension to the ground and are studded with sticky droplets. When pedestrian prey collide with these threads, which dislodge readily, they stick to the droplets and end up swinging helpless while being lifted from the substrate by the spider. The theridiids wrap attack is unique in that viscid silk, and not dry silk is thrown over the prey from some distance with the help of the comb of setae on tarsi IV. In some genera the web is reduced or has been lost.

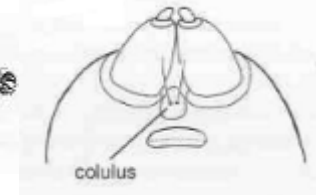
TAXONOMIC NOTES: Only a few genera have been revised such as *Latrodectus* (Lotz 1994), *Anelosimus* (Agnarsson 2006) and *Tidarren* Knoflach & Van Harten (2006). With the new publication of Vanuytven (2021) "The Theridiidae of the World. A key to the genera with their diagnosis and a study of the body length of all known species" we tried to name a few unknown genera from South Africa but that still need to be confirmed after studying the genitalia during a revision.



eyes 8 in 2 rows.



tarsus IV with a row of slightly curved serrated setae



colulus



Steatoda sp. female Photo Peter Webb

GENUS *ACHAEARANEA* Strand, 1929

The genus *Achaearana* is a genus of comb-footed spiders that was first described by Strand in 1929 (World Spider Catalog 2021). The genus was reduced from about 150 species to about 28 species during major revisions. Possibly even more species should be transferred to other genera.

COMMON NAME: Achaearane Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Achaearana trapezoidalis* (Taczanowski, 1873)

MORPHOLOGY: Male 1-3.4 mm, female 1.2-6.8 mm. Carapace slightly longer than wide. Abdomen slightly longer than wide and high, sometimes higher than long, mostly with large posterior tip; greyish brown to blackish brown. Legs of medium length, with spines and many hairs. First legs longest in male, fourth pair longest in female.

LIFESTYLE: Their web is an irregular network of threads, usually in a sheltered place. These spiders build untidy tangled cob-webs amongst trees and along walls. Their webs sometimes contain a leaf or other debris that is used as shelter. The male and female may occupy the same web for some time before mating occurs. After mating the female constructs up to eight pear-shaped papery brown egg-sacs. They feed on all kind of insects, even on ants as well as spiders. Only one species so far recorded from South Africa

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Only one species so far named from South Africa.



Achaearana sp. Photo Nico Dippenaar



Achaearana sp. Photo ASD

Achaearanea globispira Henschel & Jocqué, 1994

COMMON NAME: Sanddrift Bauble Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DD

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic described by Henschel & Jocqué (1994) from Dwarsrivier, Sanddrift, Western Cape. Also sampled from Northern Cape (EOO= 3 478 km²; AOO= 12 km²; 78-1458 m a.s.l.). Some more sampling is needed to determine the species' range. Therefore, listed as Data Deficient.

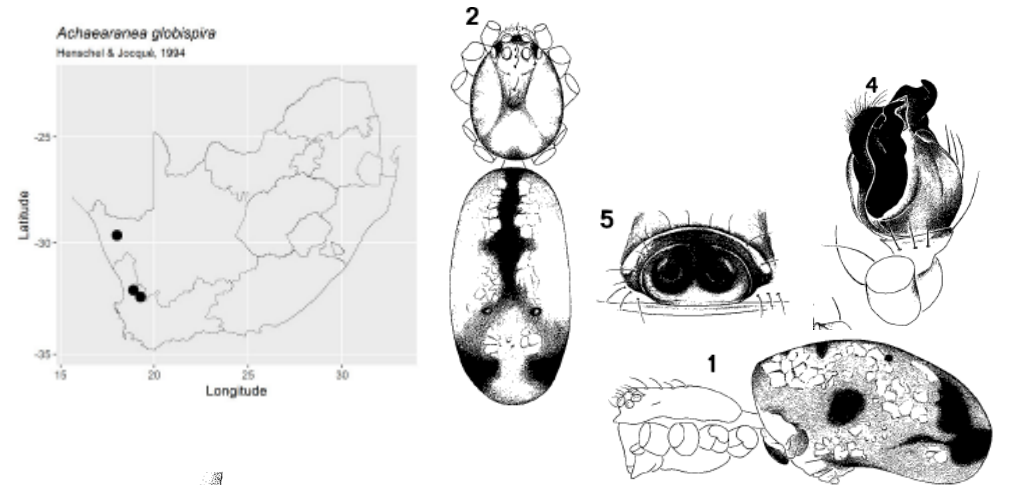
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Northern Cape:** Goegap Nature Reserve (-29.66, 18.01); **Western Cape:** Clanwilliam (-32.16, 18.89); Cederberg, Dwarsrivier, Sanddrift (-32.47, 19.27).

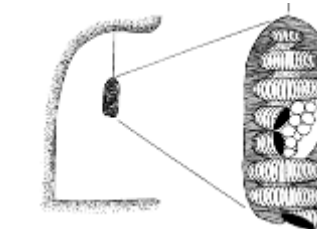
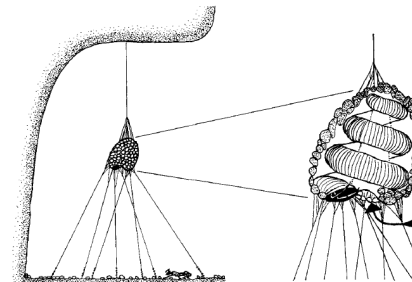
LIFE STYLE: This spider lives in a spherical retreat comprising silk, and sand pebbles. This structure typically dangles from only one thread and has a tiny opening at the bottom that leads into a spirally-coiled tunnel. Males and females build spirals in opposite directions. This enables the male to construct his retreat against that of the female in such a way as to form a brood chamber. Retreats are situated in cool places under low overhanging rocks or branches. The configuration of the narrow, suspended retreat may decrease the spider's vulnerability to enemies while foraging for ants in a typical theridiid fashion. Bauble spiders captured mostly ants (Henschel & Jocqué 1994).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: Threats to this species are unknown. It is presently protected in the Goegap Nature Reserve but more sampling needed to determine the range.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known from both sexes.



Habitus and genitalia after Henschel & Jocqué (1994)



Retreat after Henschel & Jocqué (1994)



Spider egg retreats at Goegap. Photo J. Stuart

GENUS *ANELOSIMUS* Simon, 1891

The genus *Anelosimus* Simon, 1891 is represented by 75 species (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Anelosimus Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Anelosimus eximius* (Keyserling, 1884)

MORPHOLOGY: Male 1.3-5.9 mm, Female 1.2-7.3 mm. These spiders closely resemble Theridion species but are separated from them by presence of several teeth on anterior margin of chelicerae. Carapace longer than wide, pear shaped; widest in the middle usually with wide broad median stripe; clypeus flat, its height usually about three times diameter of anterior median eyes; chelicerae with a series of denticles on posterior margin; eyes sub equal in size, lateral eyes touching. Abdomen oval elongated with brown broad median stripe; colulus bearing two setae or replaced by two setae. Leg I longest.

LIFESTYLE: The spider lives in a web that is a tangle of crisscross threads made on shrubs. Often the spider can be seen guarding a white round egg sac.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Only one species presently reported from South Africa.



Anelosimus nelson Photo ASD



Anelosimus nelson Photo Peter Webb

Anelosimus nelsoni Agnarsson, 2006

COMMON NAME: Nelson's Anelosimus Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic described by Agnarsson (2006) from iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Fanie's Island. Presently known from eight provinces (EOO= 648 416 km²; AOO= 96 km²; 4-1556 m a.s.l.). Due to the wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

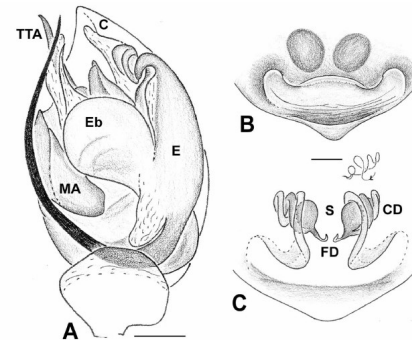
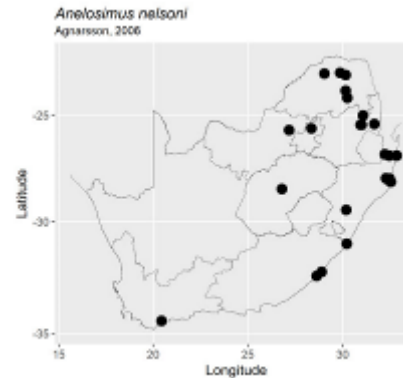
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Cwebbe Nature Reserve (-32.28, 28.9); Mazeppa Bay (-32.47, 28.64); Mkambati Nature Reserve (-31.02, 30.23). **Free State:** Erfenis Dam Nature Reserve (-28.5, 26.8). **Gauteng:** Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (-25.64, 28.36). **KwaZulu-Natal:** iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Cape Vidal (-28.16, 32.56); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Hell's Gate (-28, 32.48); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: St Lucia (-28.00, 32.30); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (-26.93, 32.87); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47); Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (-29.47, 30.2). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Little Leigh (Western Soutpansberg) (-22.95, 29.87); Ratombo Forest (-23.06 30.17); Legalametse Nature Reserve (-23.82, 30.16); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve Farm Malta (-24.17, 30.25). **Mpumalanga:** Burgers Hall (-25.02, 31.08); Hectorspruit (-25.43, 31.68); Lowveld National Botanical Gardens (-25.47, 31); Nelspruit (-25.47, 30.96). **North West:** Rustenburg Nature Reserve (-25.72, 27.18). **Western Cape:** De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44).

LIFESTYLE: A web dweller that was collected beating bushes and trees from the Fynbos, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Forest, Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013), Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Thicket biomes. The species was also sampled from citrus orchards (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013)

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known from both sexes.



Genitalia after Agnarsson (2006)



Anelosimus nelsoni female from Hoedspruit Photo Peter Webb.

GENUS ARGYRODES Simon, 1864

The genus *Argyrodes* Simon, 1864 is represented by 98 species and subspecies worldwide (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Dew-drop Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Argyrodes argyroides* (Walckenaer, 1841)

MORPHOLOGY: Both sexes of these small spiders (2-11 mm) have the same colour pattern. Carapace of female smooth but the male's eye and clypeal region are swollen ; or with clypeus indented by deep cleft below; median eyes anterior median eyes on anterior side of ocular tubercle; some species with stridulating organ consisting of two ridged, oval patches on the carapace. Abdomen triangular in shape with a hump, that is higher than long; general colouration dark brown, with bright white, shining guanine spots or whole are silvery; length and size of the abdomen varies between the species. Legs are slender and I and II usually the longest.

LIFESTYLE: Members of *Argyrodes* live on the webs of other spiders. They are especially common on large orb-webs. According to Vollrath (1987), some *Argyrodes* species have a high degree of specialization. Some are harmless guests on the web of the host, feeding opportunistically on very small prey, whereas others steal prey from the host. Some species cut a small section out of the host's web, replacing it with their own threads, whereas others are araneophagous, preying on their hosts. Lawrence (1938) described two *Argyrodes* species: *A. stridulator* and *A. convivans* collected from the web of *Trichonephila inaurata madagascariensis*. Both of which have a stridulating organ consisting of two ridged, oval patches on the carapace that are scraped against a chitinous ring on the anterior apex of the abdomen (Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué 1997).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: African species not revised. *Rhomphaea* and *Ariamnes* are closely related.



Argyrodes sp. female Photo Peter Webb



Argyrodes sp. female Photo Len de Beer

Argyroides argyroides (Walckenaer, 1841)

COMMON NAME: Argyroides Dew-Drop Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A species with a wide distribution described by Walckenaer (1841) as *Linyphia argyroides* and recorded throughout the Mediterranean Region and Africa. An introduced species in South Africa and recorded from three provinces (EOO<500 km²; AOO=8 km²; 1247-1303 m a.s.l.) Due to wide range listed as Least Concern.

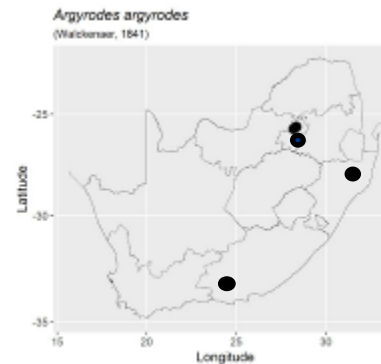
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Mediterranean to West Africa. Introduced to Seychelles, Hawaii New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Seekoeivlei (-34.05, 24.53). **Gauteng:** Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (-25.64, 28.36); Pretoria/ Tshwane (-25.74, 28.19); Tswaing Nature Reserve (-25.41, 28.08). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Hluhluwe Nature Reserve (-28.09, 32.1).

LIFE STYLE: These spiders are usually found on the webs of other spiders. They are klepto-parasites and steal prey from the webs of other spiders. Only a few spiders from this genus catch prey in their own webs.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: The species has a wide distribution and there are no significant threats to this species. It is under sampled in South Africa.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Introduced species, known from both sexes.



Argyroides argyroides male Photos ASD



Argyroides argyroides female Photo Peter Webb



Male and female Photo: Ernst Klimsa



Female from Seekoeivlei Photo Linda Wiese

Argyroides convivans Lawrence, 1937

COMMON NAME: Kosibay Argyroides Dew-Drop Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African endemic described by Lawrence (1937) from Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal. Known also from Zimbabwe. Presently recorded from six provinces (EOO= 845 477 km²; AOO= 100 km²; 29-1341 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

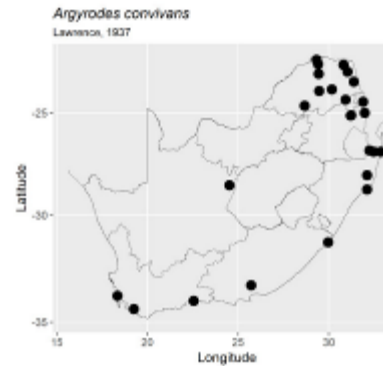
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Zimbabwe, South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Addo Elephant National Park (-33.32, 25.72); Mkambati Nature Reserve (-31.31, 29.96). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Hluhluwe Nature Reserve (-28.09, 32.1); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (-26.93, 32.87); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Richards Bay (15 km N) (-28.78, 32.1); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47). **Limpopo:** Makalali Nature Reserve (-24.34, 30.93); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Kruger National Park (-22.93, 31.02); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Rochdale Farm (-22.54, 29.41); Tshulu (Venda) (-22.58, 30.81); Lhuvondo Nature Reserve (-23.038, 29.442); Venetia, Limpopo Valley Reserve (-22.320, 29.324); Kruger National Park, Mopani, Dzombo (-23.437, 31.377); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (-23.82, 30.16). **Mpumalanga:** Kruger National Park: Skukuza (-25, 31.97); Kruger National Park; Pretoriuskop, Shabeni (-25.123, 31.237); Kruger National Park: Pretoriuskop, Numbi (-25.140, 31.208); Kruger National Park: Satara, N'wanetsi (-24.445, 31.889). **Northern Cape:** Pniel (-28.58, 24.52). **Western Cape:** Goukamma Nature Reserve (-34.03, 22.55); Robben Island (-33.80, 18.35); Hermanus (-34.40, 19.25).

LIFE STYLE: These spiders are kleptoparasites. This species steal prey from the webs of other spiders. Only a few spiders from this genus catch prey in their own webs. This species were sampled from orb-webs of other spiders. Sampled from the Forest, Fynbos and Savanna biome (Foord et al. 2011). Also sampled from citrus orchards and cotton (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in >10 protected areas.

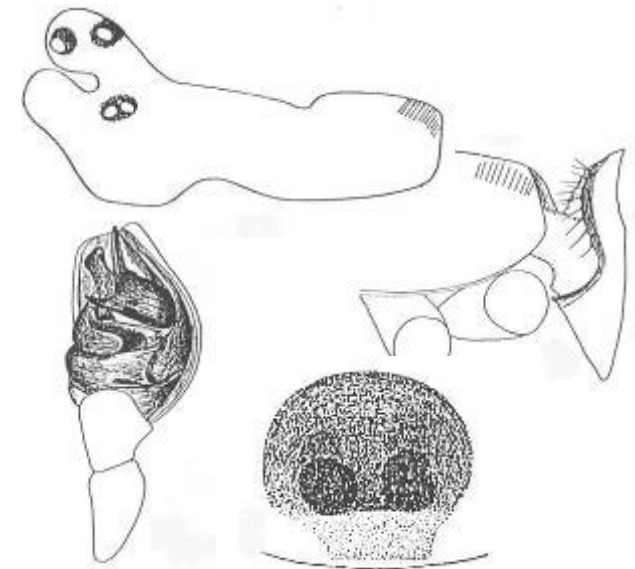
TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known from both sexes. Abdomen above yellow, brownish at the sides, posterior apex with a round blackish spot; black spot on each side of spinnerets (Lawrence 1937).



Argyroides convivans female from Hluhluwe NR Photo Ernst Klimsa



Palp Photo ASD



Argyroides convivans habitus and genitalia after Lawrence

Argyroides sextuberculosus Strand, 1908

COMMON NAME: Mozambique Argyroides Dew-Drop Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described Strand (1908) from Mozambique. It is known from two African countries and Madagascar. In South Africa recently identified from Limpopo (EOO=<100 km²; AOO=4 km²; 582 m a.s.l.). Introduced but still under sampled. Due to its wide global geographical range, the species is listed as Least Concern.

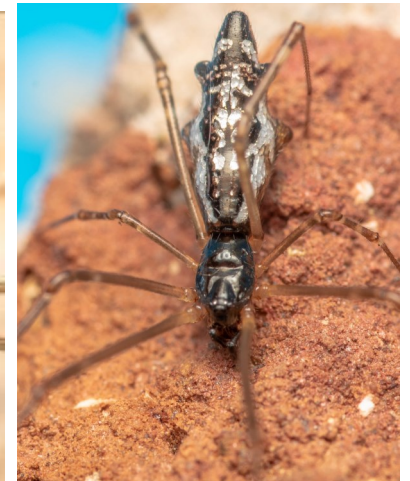
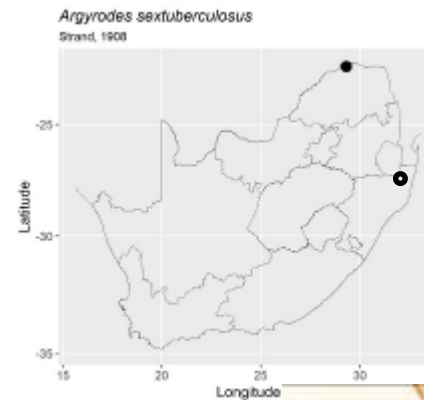
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Mozambique, Madagascar. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *KwaZulu-Natal:* Tembe Elephant Park (-27.0337, 32.4245). *Limpopo:* Venetia, Limpopo Valley Reserve (-22.320, 29.324).

LIFE STYLE: These spiders are kleptoparasites.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: No known threats, It has a wide global geographical range.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known from both sexes.



Argyroides sextuberculosus female from Tembe Elephant Park Photos Rudi Steenkamp

Abdomen after Lessert, (1936).

Argyroides stridulator Lawrence, 1937

COMMON NAME: Zululand Argyroides Dew-Drop Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A KwaZulu-Natal endemic described by Lawrence (1937) from Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (EOO= 5 918 km²; AOO= 12 km²; 47-40 m a.s.l.). All known records are from within protected areas, it is also suspected to be under collected and much suitable natural habitats exists within its range, it is therefore listed as Least Concern.

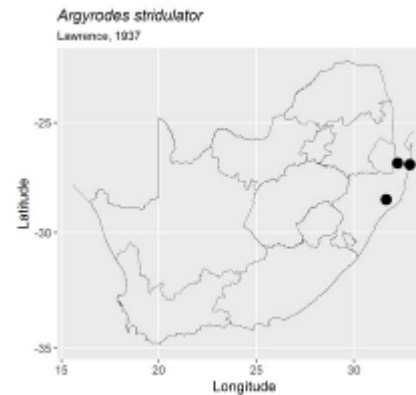
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: KwaZulu-Natal: iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (-26.93, 32.87); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Ophathe Game Reserve (-28.52, 31.66).

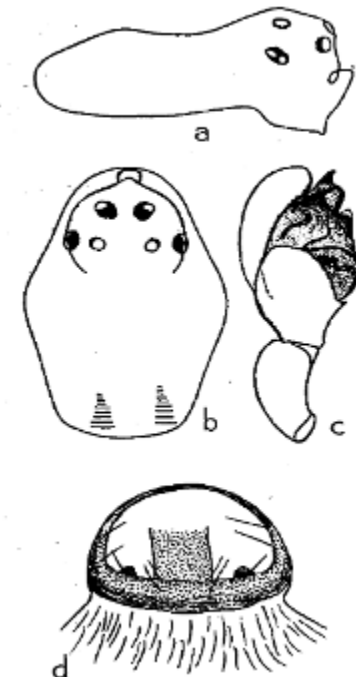
LIFE STYLE: These spiders are kleptoparasites. This species steal prey from the webs of other spiders. Only a few spiders from this genus catch prey in their own webs. This species were sampled from orb-webs of other spiders. Sampled from the Indian Ocean Coastal Belt and Savanna biomes (Foord et al. 2011).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in the Opathe (Haddad & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2016), Kosi Bay Nature Reserve and Ndumo Game Reserve (Haddad et al. 2006).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised, only male known.



Argyroides stridulator undescended female Photo Len de Beer



Argyroides stridulator male after Lawrence (1937)

Argyroides zonatus (Walckenaer, 1841)

COMMON NAME: Silver Argyroides Dew-Drop Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described by Walckenaer (1841) as *Linyphia zonata*. Recorded from several African countries. In South Africa known from five provinces (EOO= 660 807 km²; AOO= 60 km²; 228-1535 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

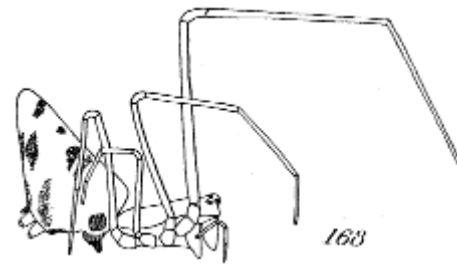
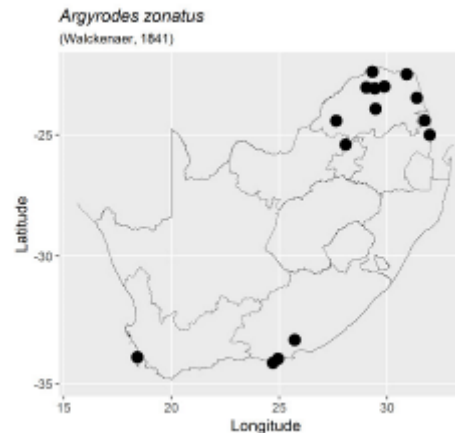
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: East Africa, Madagascar, Réunion, Bioko, Swaziland. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Jeffrey's Bay (-34.04, 24.94); Thyspunt, 12; km WNW, Cape St Francis (-34.206, 24.708); Addo National Park (-33.32, 25.72). **Gauteng:** Tswaing Nature Reserve (-25.41, 28.08). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Little Leigh (Western Soutpansberg) (-22.95, 29.87); Pafuri (Waller's Camp) (-22.43, 30.91); Venetia Limpopo Valley Reserve (-22.32, 29.32); Marakele National Park (-24.41, 27.64); Lhuvondo Nature Reserve (-23.038, 29.442). **Mpumalanga:** Kruger National Park : Skukuza (-25, 31.97; Kruger National Park: Satara (-24.402, 31.745); Kruger National Park: Mopani, Dzombo (-23.437, 31.377). **Western Cape:** Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (-33.98, 18.42).

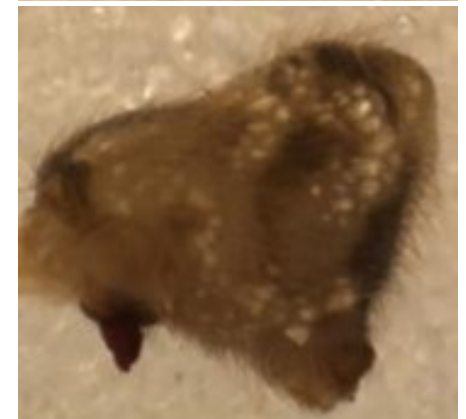
LIFE STYLE: These spiders are kleptoparasites. This species steal prey from the webs of other spiders. Only a few spiders from this genus catch prey in their own webs. This species were sampled from orb-webs of other spiders. Sampled from the Fynbos, Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Thicket biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is sampled from eight protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known from both sexes. Color: pale fawn cephalothorax veined with brown, sternum brownish, same tone as cephalothorax, abdomen creamy white, except plaques covering the lungs, which are brown, and epigyne, fawn -very dark red; on the abdomen, a few elongated black spots, one on the belly touching the spinnerets, another, on the posterior surface of the abdomen, on each side a few spots of the same nature, one closer to the spinnerets, one closer to the top, one towards the middle of the back, a few other spots near the last ones, and formed of silver plates (Berland 1920).



Habitus after Berland (1920)



Argyroides zonatus male and female Photos ASD

GENUS *ARIAMNES* Thorell, 1869

The genus *Ariamnes* Simon, 1869 is represented by 34 species. Only one species have been recorded from the Afrotropical Region *A. campestratus* Simon, 1903 (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Whip Dew-Drop Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Ariamnes flagellum* (Doleschall, 1857)

MORPHOLOGY: Carapace is longer than wide; creamish brown; eye region only slightly projecting, Abdomen can be very long extending past the spinnerets, worm-like. Legs very thin and long especially leg I.

LIFESTYLE: They are mostly free-living, at least as adults, although a number have been found to occur, at least facultative, as kleptoparasites on the webs of other spiders. These spiders are all nocturnal. The egg sac is elongated. They are rare and little known about them in South Africa.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: *Ariamnes* was removed from the synonymy of *Argyroides* Simon, 1864 by Agnarsson (2004: 478).



Ariamnes sp. Photos John Leroy

Ariamnes campestratus Simon, 1903

COMMON NAME: Whip Dew-Drop Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described by Simon(1903) from Gabon. Presently known from three African countries. In South Africa recorded from two provinces (EOO= 125 613 km²; AOO= 16 km²; 8-1703 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

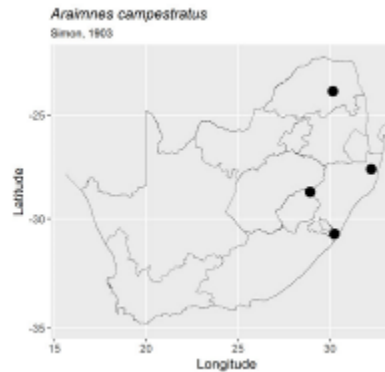
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Gabon, Congo. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *KwaZulu-Natal*: Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve (-30.71, 30.26); Royal Natal National Park (-28.73, 28.92); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: uMkuze Game Reserve (-27.63, 32.25). *Limpopo*: Lekgalameetsi Nature Reserve (-23.82, 30.16).

LIFE STYLE: This species was sampled from the Savanna Biome.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in the Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve, Royal Natal National Park, uMkuze Game Reserve and Lekgalameetsi Nature Reserve (Foord et al. 2016).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known only from the female.



Ariamnes campestratus male and female Photos: ASD

GENUS *CHORIZOPELLA* Lawrence, 1947

The genus *Chorizopella* Lawrence, 1947 is monotypic known from a species endemic to South Africa (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: *Chorizopella* Comb-foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Chorizopella tragardi* Lawrence, 1947

MORPHOLOGY: Carapace reddish-brown, abdomen above brown with a bronze-green tint enclosing in its posterior half a more or less quadrate whitish marking which itself contains two blackish transverse bars, one near its centre and the other situated more posteriorly; ventral surface with reticulate blackish-brown markings, sides similar but considerably lighter in colour. Legs yellow with brownish annulations. Carapace strongly convex, projecting much further in the neighbourhood of the anterior median eyes; thoracic striae represented by only a slight indentation. Abdomen roughly triangular in shape and only a little longer than high, normal except for three small spherical tubercles at its posterior apex near the dorsal margin, the middle one a little in advance of the two lateral ones.

LIFESTYLE: Little known about them in South Africa.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised.



Chorizopella tragardi female and male Photos ASD

Chorizopella tragardhi Lawrence, 1947

COMMON NAME: Choriozopella Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic described by Lawrence (1947) from Umfolosi Drift in KwaZulu-Natal. Presently known from seven provinces and occurring in more than 10 reserves (EOO= 521 950 km²; AOO= 128 km²; 4-1451 m a.s.l.). Although the species is presently known only from one sex it has a wide geographical range and is therefore listed as Least Concern.

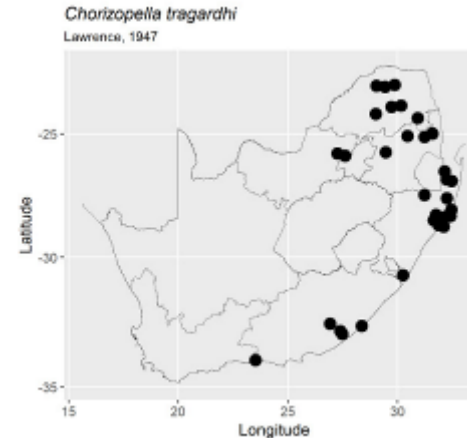
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** King William's Town (-32.88, 27.39); Kei River Mouth (-32.68, 28.37); Mount Coke State Forest (-32.991, 27.479); Hogsback (-32.59, 26.92). **Gauteng:** Hekpoort (-25.90, 27.61). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47); Umfolozi Nature Reserve, Umfolosi Drift (-28.3, 31.76); Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve (-30.71, 30.26); iSimangaliso Wetland park: uMkuze Game Reserve (-27.63, 32.25); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: St. Lucia (-28.36, 32.41); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Fanie's Island -28.10, 32.45); Dukuduku Forest Station (-28.37, 32.23); Ithala Nature Reserve (-27.51, 31.23); Richards Bay (-28.78, 32.10); Ophathe Game Reserve (-28.5, 31.66); Empangeni (-28.72, 31.88). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Little Leigh (Western Soutpansberg) (-22.95, 29.87); Potgietersrus/ Mokopane (-24.17, 29); Sovenga Hill (-23.88, 29.73); Lekgalameetsi Nature Reserve (-23.82, 30.16); Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve (-23.038, 29.442); Swadini Nature Reserve (-24.34, 30.93). **Mpumalanga:** Kruger National Park (-24.98, 31.58); Kruger National Park: Skukuza (-24.989, 31.593); Kruger National Park: Pretoriuskop, Shabeni (-25.123, 31.237); Middelburg (-25.76, 29.46); Bourke's Luck (-25.09, 30.46). **North West:** Retiefkloof (-25.81, 27.26). **Western Cape:** Tsitsikamma National Park (-33.98, 23.52).

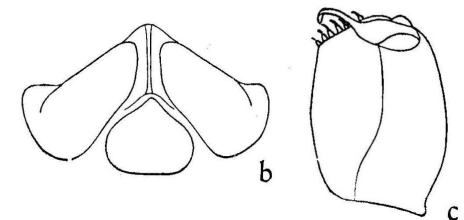
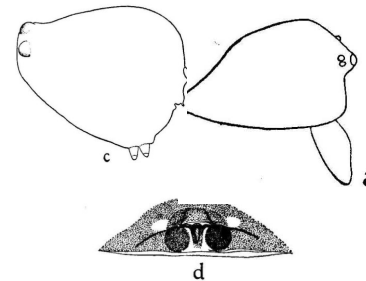
LIFE STYLE: Specimens have been sampled mainly from pitfall traps. The behaviour of this genus is possibly the same as the cosmopolitan genus *Dipoena*. This species are associated with ants. Sampled from the Forest, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt and Savanna biomes (Foord et al. 2011)

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is sampled from >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known only from the female.



Chorizopella tragardi male Photos ASD



Habitus and epigyne after Lawrence (1947)

GENUS *CHRYSSO* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882

The genus *Chrysso* O. P.-Cambridge 1882 is known from 64 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). No species have yet been named from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: Crysso Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Chrysso albomaculata* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882

MORPHOLOGY: Male 1.1-6 mm, female 1.4-8 mm. Carapace: longer than wide; anterior eye row slightly procurved, posterior row straight or slightly procurved or recurved as seen from above. Abdomen longer than wide or high, very rarely higher than long, with tubercle or tip above and posterior to spinnerets. Legs with metatarsus I very elongate, at least 3-4x as long as tarsus; leg I longer than leg IV. Many species strikingly coloured, but variable.

LIFESTYLE: Found on vegetation.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: *Chrysso* differs from *Theridion* by having a hump or posterior dorsal extension of the abdomen; from *Archaearenea* by having a much more complicated palpus containing a radix; from *Agyrodes* and *Spintharus* by lacking a colulus (Levi & Levi, 1962).

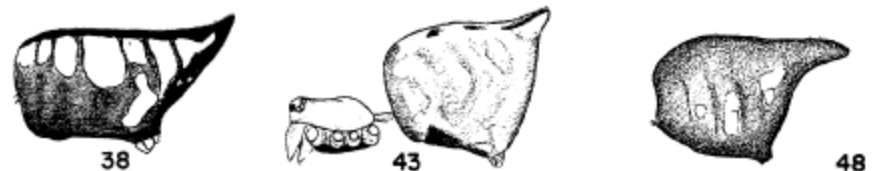
Many of the spiders that are listed under *Chrysso* in the literature probably belong in other genera according to Deeleman-Reinhold (2009: 407) and it is not a senior synonym of *Meotipa* Simon, 1894 (World Spider Catalog 2021).



Chrysso sp. from Kloof Photos Peter Webb



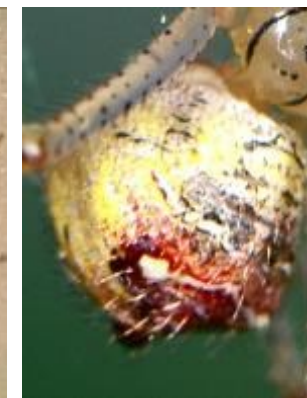
Chrysso sp. from Wakefield farm Photos Peter Webb



Abdomen variation after Levi (1962)

"CHRYSSO " SPECIES GROUP

In southern Africa different species have been recorded with the posterodorsal angle of the abdomen being conical, evenly rounded or acuminate, but lacking a distinct knob. According to Deeleman (2009) species related to "*Chrysso*" *spiniventris* differ from *Meotipa* by the posterodorsal angle of the abdomen being conical, evenly rounded or acuminate, but lacking a distinct knob and lateral humps; there are often parallel black or grey stripes or lines, sometimes red, on the dorsum and flanks. In some populations, no abdominal spines are present at all. The clypeus is more vertical. The metatarsi of leg I–IV are only slightly thinner than tibiae in both sexes, the femora and tibiae lack distal brushes with black flattened spines. None of the species has dwarf males. In collection, there are many such "Chrysso" species from various locations, the majority probably new. At present, the taxonomical position of this species group is in the genus *Chrysso*. This is also true for South Africa and several species have not yet been named from South Africa.



FAERIE GLENN NATURE RESERVE P. Webb



BRONKHORSTSPRUIT P. Webb



WAKEFIELD FARM P. Webb



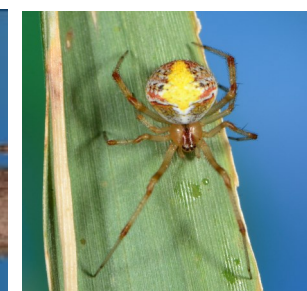
LEKGALAMEETSE NR P. Webb



SWAZILAND P. Webb



DENOKENG P. Webb



CAPE TOWN P. Webb

GENUS *COLEOSOMA* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882

The genus *Coleosoma* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882 is represented by 10 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). No species have yet been named from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: Coleosoma Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Coleosoma blandum* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882

MORPHOLOGY: Female abdomen sub oval or with tubercle above and posterior to spinnerets legs I and II longest in males, legs I and IV longest in females. Tarsal comb present but hardly visible. Tibial bristles long; trichobothrium on metatarsus III present. The male is recognized by the sclerotized ring around anterior part of abdomen and anterior half of venter. Not strongly elongated, without posterior stalk. Clypeus rounded, projected anteriorly. Abdomen always modified in males, usually constricted, sclerotized ring around anterior end of abdomen, extended as ventral shield.

LIFESTYLE: Sampled from soil surface.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Cosmopolitan.



Coleosoma sp. male Midlands Photos ASD



Coleosoma sp. ? female Pretoria Botaniëse
Tuin Photo Peter Webb

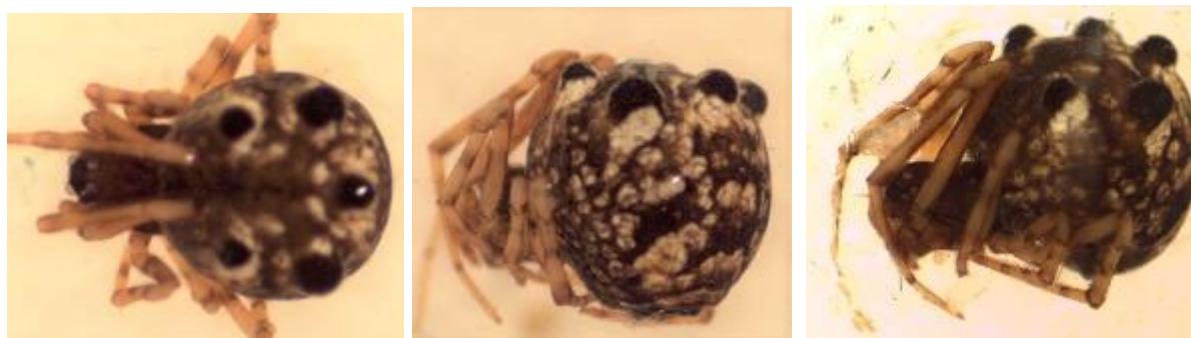
“DIPOENURA Simon, 1909 group”

In South Africa some species have been recorded with the abdomen dorsally evenly rounded bearing tubercles. The tubercles vary in number. It might belong to the genus *Dipoenura* but the number of tubercles is more or less than the four recorded normally from *Dipoenura*. No species have yet been named from South Africa.

According to Vanuytven (2021) in *Dipoenura* the carapace, sternum are sclerotized. Fovea absent, slight depression in the foveal area. Abdomen extended beyond and above spinnerets with four tubercles at posterior tip. Legs short. Chelicerae small with one blunt tooth on anterior margin.



Specimen from KZN Photos ASD



Specimen from uMkuze NR Photo ASD



Specimen from Soutpansberg Photo Stefan Foord

GENUS *ENOPLOGNATHA* Pavesi, 1880

The genus *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880 is represented by 74 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). Three species are recorded from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: Long-jawed theridiids

TYPE SPECIES: *Enoplognatha mandibularis* (Lucas, 1846)

MORPHOLOGY: They are, for theridiids, medium to large sized. Carapace not modified in this genus. They are recognized by the chelicerae in the males that are enlarged but normal in the female. Carapace oval, male carapace elongated with stridulating ridge posterior on each side; carapace usually with two thin lines on the carapace and a thin line around the border; sternum posteriorly long, reaching posterior part of the coxae IV; male chelicerae strongly enlarged, diverging and bearing at least one large tooth. Abdomen sub oval often with dark dorsal pattern consisting of white and red pigments and minute dark spots; with large colulus. First or fourth leg longest, patella and tibia 1 to 2.5 times carapace length.

LIFESTYLE: They have a diverse lifestyle and make cob-web under stones or ground debris while some specimens were sampled from vegetation where they build webs on, between and around leaves. The white egg sacs are deposited in the web. *Theridion purcelli* and *Enoplognatha molesta* were the most abundant theridiids found in citrus orchards in South Africa (Van den Berg et al. 1992). In cotton fields, *E. molesta* was the most common species, followed by *T. purcelli* (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 1999). In the laboratory both species fed on red spider mites, the first three larval stages and adult stages of *Helicoverpa armigera*, leafhoppers and aphids.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Three species of *Enoplognatha* are listed on the World Spider Catalog (2021) for South Africa but wrongly *Enoplognatha procerula* Simon, 1909 is listed from South Africa instead of Ethiopia.



Enoplognatha molesta female and male Photo Peter Webb



Enoplognatha inornata female with egg sacs from Irene Photos Peter Webb

Enoplognatha inornata O.P.-Cambridge, 1904

COMMON NAME: Clanwilliam Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic species described by O.P.-Cambridge (1904) from Clanwilliam in the Western Cape. The species has been sampled from five provinces and (EOO= 398 140 km²; AOO= 32km²; 9-1649 m a.s.l.). Although the species is presently known only from one sex it has a wide geographical range and is therefore listed as Least Concern.

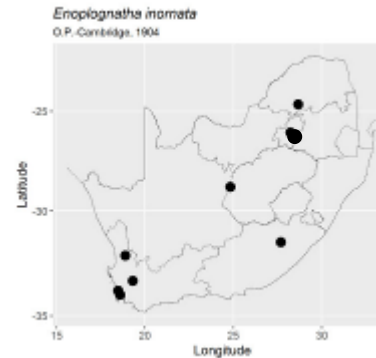
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Cala (-31.52, 27.68). **Gauteng:** Kempton Park (-26.09, 28.23); Irene (-25.87, 28.21). **Limpopo:** Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67). **Northern Cape:** Benfontein Game Reserve (-28.82, 24.82). **Western Cape:** Ceres (-33.36, 19.31); Clanwilliam (-32.16, 18.89); Cape Flats (-34.02, 18.6); Table Mountain National Park (-33.82, 18.48).

LIFE STYLE: This species makes cob-webs under stones or ground debris. The white egg sacs are deposited in the web. Sampled from the Fynbos, Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013) and Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in Nylsvley Nature Reserve (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2009), Benfontein Game Reserve and Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020a).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised, known only from the female.



Habitus and epigyne after
O.P.-Cambridge (1904)



Enoplognatha inornata female from Irene Photos Peter Webb

Enoplognatha molesta O.P.-Cambridge, 1904

COMMON NAME: Long jawed Comb-Foot Spider

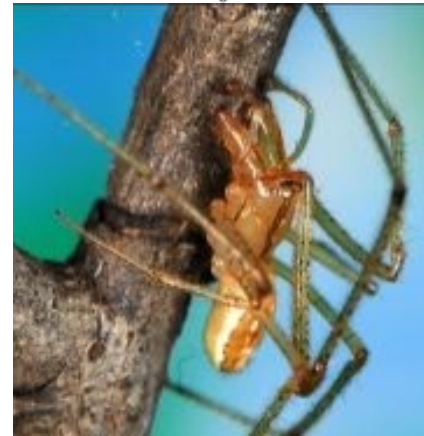
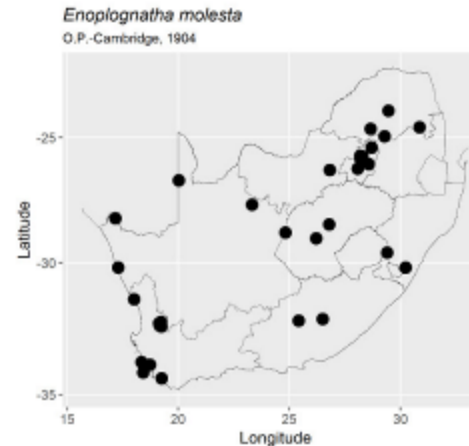
NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic described in O.P.-Cambridge (1904) from Simonstown. The species has a wide distribution throughout South Africa and is sampled from all the provinces (EOO= 989 122 km²; AOO= 128 km²; 22-1998 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa .

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Mountain Zebra National Park (-32.24, 25.43); Tsolwana Nature Reserve (-32.171, 26.500). **Free State:** Erfenis Dam Nature Reserve (-28.5, 26.8); National Botanical Gardens, Bloemfontein (-29.05, 26.21). **Gauteng:** Irene (-25.87, 28.21); Pretoria/Tshwane (-25.74, 28.19); Faerie Glen Nature Reserve, Pretoria (-25.771, 28.301); Irene Veld field opposite Gem Village (-25.89, 28.23); Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve (-26.27, 28.08); KwaMhlanga (-25.42, 28.70). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Sani Pass 1200m alt. (-30.19, 30.24); Sani Pass 3000 m altitude (-29.61, 29.41). **Limpopo:** Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Ellisras/Lephalale (-27.71, 23.32); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.6); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47). **Mpumalanga:** Delmas (Farm Rietvallei) (26.08, 28.57); Marble Hall (-24.96, 29.29); Delmas farm Rietvallei (-26.08, 28.57); Mariepskop (-24.58, 30.87). **North West:** Ventersdorp (-26.32, 26.82). **Northern Cape:** Koiingnaas (-30.19, 17.29); Rietfontein (-26.74, 20.02); Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park (-28.25, 17.17). **Western Cape:** Brand-se-Baai (-31.42, 18.01); Brackenfeld Nature Reserve (-33.9, 18.72); Simonstown (-34.19, 18.42); Cederberg Wilderness Area, 1152 m a.s.l. (-32.46, 19.24); Cederberg Wilderness Area, 1187 m a.s.l. (-32.455, 19.235); Cederberg Wilderness Area: Driehoek, 918 m a.s.l. (-32.424, 19.165); Cederberg Wilderness Area: Driehoek, 930 m a.s.l. (-32.42, 19.16); Cederberg Wilderness Area: Crystal Pools, Wupperthal 15.2 (-32.33, 19.14); Cederberg Wilderness Area: Wupperthal, 531 m a.s.l. (-32.280, 19.219); Robben island (-33.80, 18.35); Hermanus (-28.82, 24.82).

LIFE STYLE: . This species is very commonly found on vegetation as well as the soil surface. The species was very commonly sampled from crops: citrus, cotton, maize, potatoes, sorghum, strawberries, sugarcane and tomatoes (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013). Van den Berg et al. (1990) and Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. (1999) found them to be among the most abundant spiders collected from cotton.



Enoplognatha molesta male Photo Peter Webb



Enoplognatha molesta female and male from Faerie Glenn NR Photos P. Webb .

Enoplognatha molesta (continued)

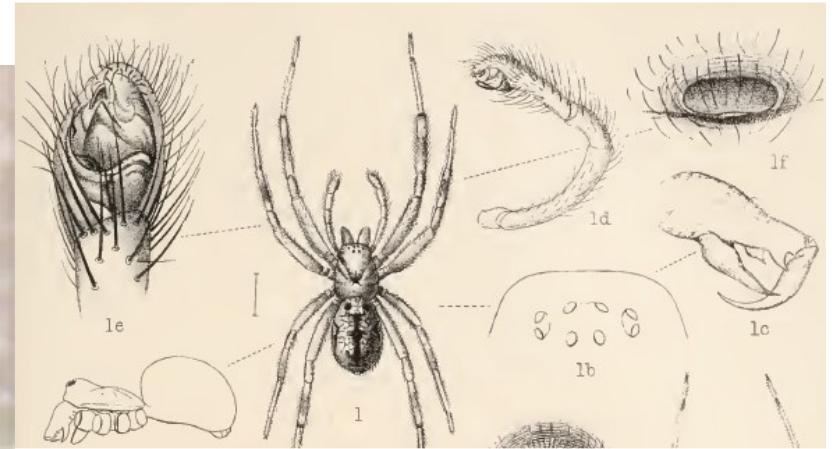
This species has been sampled from the Desert, Fynbos, Grassland, Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Succulent Karoo biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known from both sexes.



Male palp and chelicerae Photo ASD



Habitus and genitalia after O.P.-Cambridge (1904)



Enoplognatha molesta female and male from Bloemfontein Photos Rudi Steenkamp

GENUS *EPISINUS* Walckenaer, in Latreille, 1809

The genus *Episinus* is represented by 62 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). They are rare spiders and three species recorded from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: Episinus Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Episinus truncatus* Latreille, 1809

MORPHOLOGY: Body length 6 mm. Carapace slightly longer than wide; eye region roundly elevated or projected anteriorly; often with pair of horns between anterior and posterior median eyes with silvery and sometimes reddish pigment; clypeus low and flat, usually projecting anteriorly; fovea distinct and long; eight eyes arranged more or less circularly often on tubercles; anterior median eyes smallest; eye usually bordered by black. Abdomen usually widest behind the middle; modified with humps, tubercles; often light-coloured with marks and streaks; sometimes white pigment. Leg formula 1423 or 4123, all legs somewhat robust; usually pale yellow to brown, with dusky flecks and marks or bands.

LIFESTYLE: Spider can be found at ground level between low vegetation making a very simple H or Y-shaped web near ground level. Courtship takes place in summer. The egg-sac is white and spherical and has coarse loop of silk around it.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: A cosmopolitan genus but African species not revised. In Vanuytven (2021 p. 166) a photo listed as *Janula* sp. resemble *Episinus marignaci*.



Episinus marignaci female Photo Peter Webb



Episinus bishopi female Photo Peter Webb

Episinus bilineatus Simon, 1894

COMMON NAME: Butterfly Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African endemic described by Simon (1894) based on a juvenile specimen with type locality only given as Transvaal. The species is presently known also from Botswana and Lesotho. In South Africa recorded from all the provinces (EOO= 880 575 km²; AOO= 180 km²; 4-1703 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

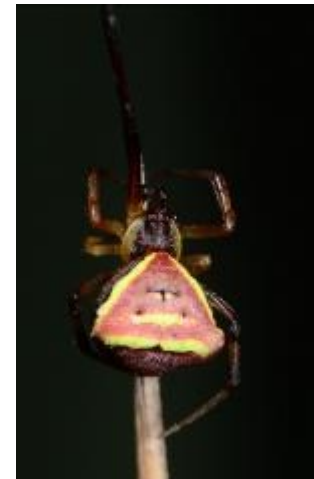
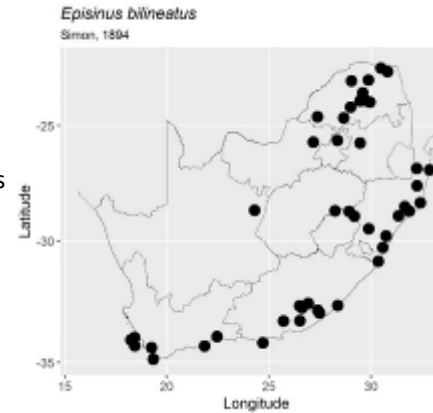
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Kei River Mouth (-32.68, 28.37); Addo Elephant National Park (-33.32, 25.72); Buffels Bay (-34.32, 18.43); Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve (-32.69, 26.51); King William's Town (-32.88, 27.39); Grahamstown (-33.30, 26.52); Hogsback (-32.59, 26.92); Thyspunt, 12 km WNW, Cape St Francis (-34.206, 24.708); Katberg (-32.78, 26.62); Mount Coke State Forest (-32.991, 27.479). **Free State:** Wyndford Guest Farm, Fouriesburg (-28.7, 28.24). **Gauteng:** Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (-25.64, 28.36). **KwaZulu-Natal:** uMkuze Game Reserve (-27.63, 32.25); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Cathedral Peak (-28.94, 29.19); Empangeni (-28.72, 31.88); Ophathe Game Reserve (-28.52, 31.66); iSimangaliso WP: Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, (-26.93, 32.87); Royal Natal National Park (-28.73, 28.92); iSimangaliso WP: St. Lucia Game Reserve (-28.36, 32.41); Margate (-30.85, 30.36); Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve (-30.27, 30.57); Wakefield Farm (-29.473, 29.893); Pongola, Farm Vergeval, district Ngotsche (-28.92, 31.35); Alverstone near Hillcrest (-29.77, 30.73); **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Little Leigh (Western Soutpansberg) (-22.95, 29.87); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Potgietersrus/Mokopane (-24.17, 29); Sovenga Hill (-23.88, 29.73); Mphaphuli Cycad Reserve (-22.42, 30.49); Thabazimbi (-24.60, 27.38); Tshulu Camp Venda (-22.580, 30.809); Wolkberg Nature Reserve (-23.94, 29.95); Swartbos Forest (-23.53, 29.59). **Mpumalanga:** Middelburg (-25.76, 29.46). **Northern Cape:** Rooipoort Nature Reserve (-28.678, 24.304). **North West:** Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (-25.72, 27.18). **Western Cape:** Borrelfontein, 8 km W of Gouritz Mouth (-34.33, 21.85); George (-33.95, 22.46); Hermanus (-34.40, 19.25); Fernkloof Nature Reserve (-34.86, 19.34).

LIFE STYLE: Spiders are found at ground level between low vegetation making a very simple H or Y-shaped web near ground level. Courtship takes place in summer. The egg-sac is white and spherical and has a coarse loop of silk around it. Sampled from the Fynbos, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Thicket biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Description based on immature specimen without drawings.



Episinus bilineatus from Alverstone Photos Peter Webb



Episinus bilineatus from Alverstone Photos Peter Webb

Episinus bishopi (Lessert, 1929)

COMMON NAME: Congo Butterfly Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described in 1929 from Democratic Republic of the Congo as *Episinopsis bishop*. Recently recorded from South Africa from four provinces (EOO=222 681 km²; AOO=20 km²; 233-1645 m a.s.l.). Although the species is presently known only from one sex it has a wide geographical range and is therefore listed as Least Concern.

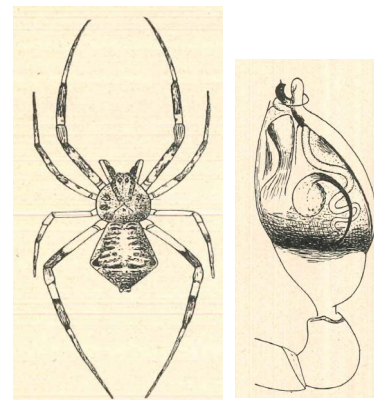
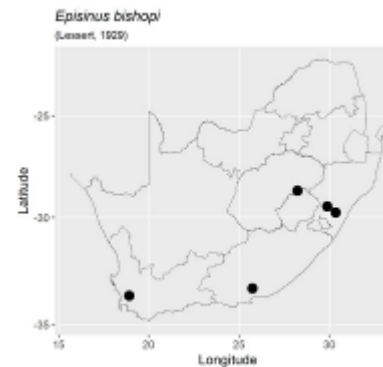
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Democratic Republic of the Congo. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Addo Elephant National Park (-33.343, 25.739). **Free State:** Wyndford Guest Farm, Fouriesburg (-28.7, 28.24). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Wakefield Farm (-29.473, 29.893); Baynesfield Natal Midlands (-29.762, 30.351). **Western Cape:** Windmeul, Ridgeback Paarl (-33.71, 18.98).

LIFE STYLE: The spiders were found at ground level between low vegetation from the Grassland, Fynbos and Thicket biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in the Addo National Park (Dippenaar et al. 2019).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known only from the male.



Habitus and palp after Lessert (1929)



Epigyne undescribed female
Photo ASD

Episinus bishopi from Wakefield Farm Photos Peter Webb

Episinus marignaci (Lessert, 1933)

COMMON NAME: Angola Butterfly Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African endemic species described by Lessert (1933) as *Episinopsis marignaci* from Angola. The species is presently recorded from three southern African countries. In South Africa recorded from three provinces (EOO <1000 km²; AOO=8 km²; 83-586 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

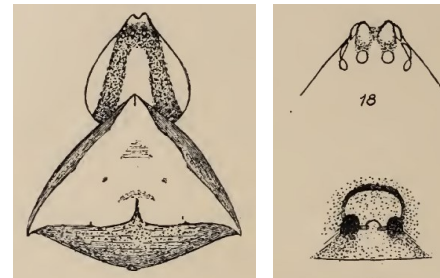
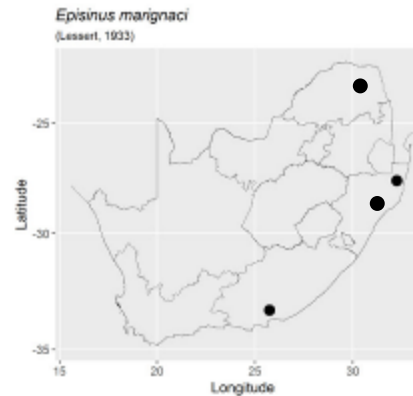
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Angola. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Addo Elephant National Park (-33.343, 25.739). **KwaZulu-Natal:** iSimangaliso WP: uMkhuze Game Reserve (-27.63, 32.25); Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (-29.29, 30.15). **Limpopo:** Mphaphuli Cycad Reserve (-22.8128, 30.6632).

LIFE STYLE: These spiders have been found at ground level in low vegetation. A species that have been sampled from the Savanna and Thicket biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in the Addo Elephant National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2020), uMkhuze Game Reserve and Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised, known only from the female. The two species *E. marignaci* and *E. bilineatus* can easily be confused and need to be re-examined and described.



Habitus and epigyne after Lessert (1933)



Habitus and epigyne Photo ASD



Episinus marignaci from Mphaphuli Photos Peter Webb

GENUS *EURYOPIS* Menge, 1868

The genus *Euryopsis* Menge, 1868 is represented by 77 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). No species presently listed from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: Euryopsis Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Euryopsis flavomaculata* (C. L. Koch, 1836)

MORPHOLOGY: Small spiders 2 -4 mm. Carapace variable in shape with head region sometimes high; anterior median eyes larger than and wide apart from posterior median eyes; chelicerae very small and the fangs long and flattened. Abdomen triangular and pointed behind, sometimes sclerotized; colour variable some dark almost shine black while other paler with silver markings and spots. Leg IV slightly longer than I and III might be longer than II.

LIFESTYLE: Found on ground level and observed to prey on ants.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: African species not revised. Several species sampled from South Africa have not yet been named.



Euryopsis sp. female and male from Irene Photos Peter Webb



Euryopsis sp. male from Bloemfontein Photo Rudi Steenkamp



Euryopsis sp. female Photo Vida van der Walt

Euryopsis episinoides (Walckenaer, 1847)

COMMON NAME: Black Ant Eating Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A species common in the Mediterranean region described by Walckenaer (1847) as *Argus episinoides*. Introduced species and presently known from eight South African provinces (EOO= 881 499 km²; AOO= 136km²;37-1909 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

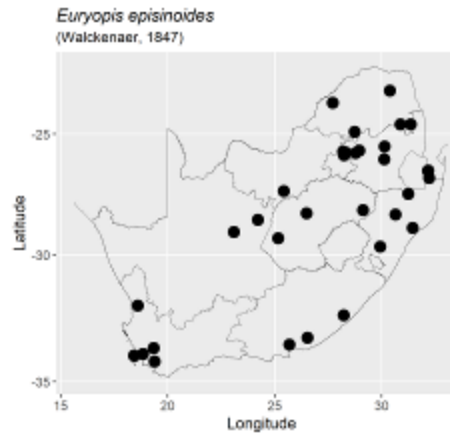
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Mediterranean to Turkey, Israel, China, India and Africa. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Addo National Park (-33.57, 25.68); Grahamstown (-33.30, 26.52); Kei Mouth (-32.41, 28.22). **Free State:** Sandveld Nature Reserve (-27.39, 25.42); Erfenisdam Nature Reserve (-28.30, 26.48); Platberg Nature Reserve (-28.17, 29.12); Kalkfontein (Boat area) (-29.32, 25.16). **Gauteng:** Ezemvelo Nature Reserve (-25.80, 28.77); Ezemvelo Nature Reserve - Site 1 (-25.700, 28.941); Faerie Glen Nature Reserve, Pretoria (-25.771, 28.301); Irene Veld field opposite Gem Village (-25.89, 28.23); Pretoria/ Tshwane (-25.74, 28.19). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Isandlwane Nature Reserve (-28.359, 30.640); Dhlizha Forest Nature Reserve (-28.905, 31.445); Ithala Nature Reserve (-27.51, 31.23); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.544, 32.155); Ndumo Game Reserve, Red Cliffs road (-26.85, 32.21); Ndumo Game Reserve, Nyamiti Pan (-26.53, 32.17); Midlands Fabershill (-29.673, 29.928). **Limpopo:** Lephalale/Ellisras (-23.67, 27.71); Vyeboom (-23.144, 30.380); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Springbok Flats: Tuinplaas (-24.9, 28.73). **Mpumalanga:** Carolina (-26.06, 30.11); Verloren Vallei Nature Reserve (-25.53, 30.13); Mariepskop (-24.58, 30.87); Kruger NP, Skukuza (-24.59, 31.35). **Northern Cape:** Rooipoort Nature Reserve Site 2 (-28.573, 24.204); Farm Rooipan (-29.07, 23.08). **Western Cape:** Springerskuil (-34.22, 19.38); Ratelfontein (-32.03, 18.59); Rawsonville (-33.70, 19.34); Stellenbosch (-33.93, 18.85); Table Mountain National Park, Cecilia Rooikat (-33.99, 18.42); Table Mountain National Park, Cecilia Spilhou (-34.00, 18.43).

LIFE STYLE: Ground dwellers associated with ants. An introduced species that is sampled in high numbers from crops such as cotton, minneola, maize, vineyard and pear orchards (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al 2013). This species is common in the Mediterranean region.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Species with a wide distribution and in South Africa sampled from >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: An introduced species, known from both sexes.



Euryopsis episinoides female with dead ant Photo to Charles Haddad



Euryopsis episinoides female Photo Hannes Mitchell



Euryopsis episinoides male from Irene Photo Peter Webb



Genitalia after Levy (1998)

Euryopsis funebris (Hentz, 1850)

COMMON NAME: Euryopsis Comb-Foot Spiders

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An introduced species described by Menge 1868 as *Theridion funebre*. Originally from USA and Canada. This species has been recorded from seven South African provinces (EOO= 880 495 km²; AOO=80 km²; 1-1444 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

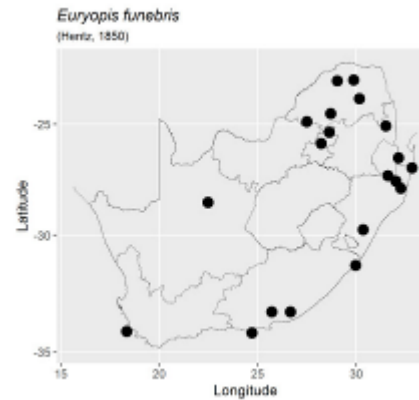
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: USA, Canada, Africa. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Addo Elephant National Park (-33.32, 25.72); Burg Lengeling, 15km SE on R67 to Port Alfred (-33.32, 26.67); Mkhambathi Nature Reserve (-31.32, 29.97); Thyspunt, 12 km WNW, Cape St Francis (-34.206, 24.708). **Gauteng:** Irene Veld field opposite Gem Village (-25.89, 28.23); Leeufontein Nature Reserve, farm Rietfontein (-25.38, 28.64). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Baynesfield Natal Midlands (-29.762, 30.351); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: False Bay Nature Reserve, (-27.92, 32.27); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (-27.00, 32.83); iSimangaliso Wetland Park uMkhuze Game Reserve (-27.6, 32.02); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.544, 32.155); Pongola Nature Reserve (-27.35, 31.61); Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (-29.29, 30.15). **Limpopo:** Naboomspruit (-24.52, 28.70); Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Koedoeskop (-24.89, 27.50); Little Leigh Western Soutpansberg (-22.949, 29.870); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (-23.82, 30.16). **Mpumalanga:** Kruger National Park: Skukuza-Malelane (-25.085, 31.515). **Northern Cape:** Witsand Nature Reserve (-28.55, 22.483). **Western Cape:** Kogelberg Nature Reserve (-34.140, 18.340).

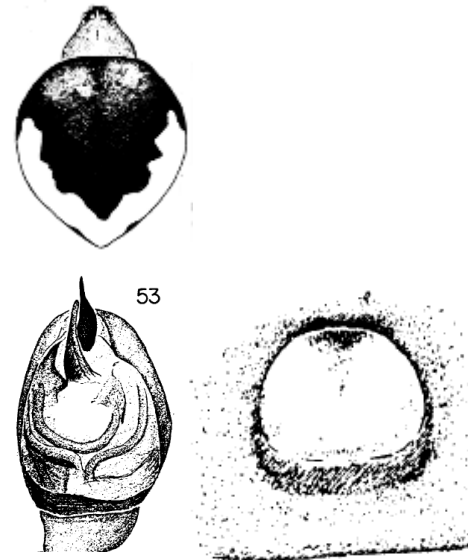
LIFE STYLE: Ground dwellers associated with ants. Sampled in pitfall fall traps from the Fynbos, Grassland, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Savanna and Thicket biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known from both sexes, illustrated.



Euryopsis funebris female Photo ASD



Habitus and genitalia after Levi (1954)



Euryopsis funebris male Photo Rudi

GENUS *EXALBIDION* Wunderlich, 1995 (still to be confirmed)

The genus *Exalbidion* is known only from six species (World Spider Catalog 2021). From Vanuytven (2021) *Exalbidion* was only genus that correspond with this species recorded from South Africa

COMMON NAME: *Exalbidion* Comb-Foot Spiders.

TYPE SPECIES: *Exalbidion sexmaculatum* (Keyserling, 1884)

MORPHOLOGY: Male 1.9-2.7 mm, female 1.8-3 mm. Abdomen oval in males, spherically or slightly wider than long in females. Male epigaster not protruding. Green spiders that lose their colour in alcohol. Legs long and slender. Sequence of the tibia bristles 2/2/1/2, bristles longer than the diameter of the tibia. All metatarsi with trichobothrium.

LIFESTYLE: Found on vegetation.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Only known from South and Central America. Presence in South Africa still need to be confirmed.



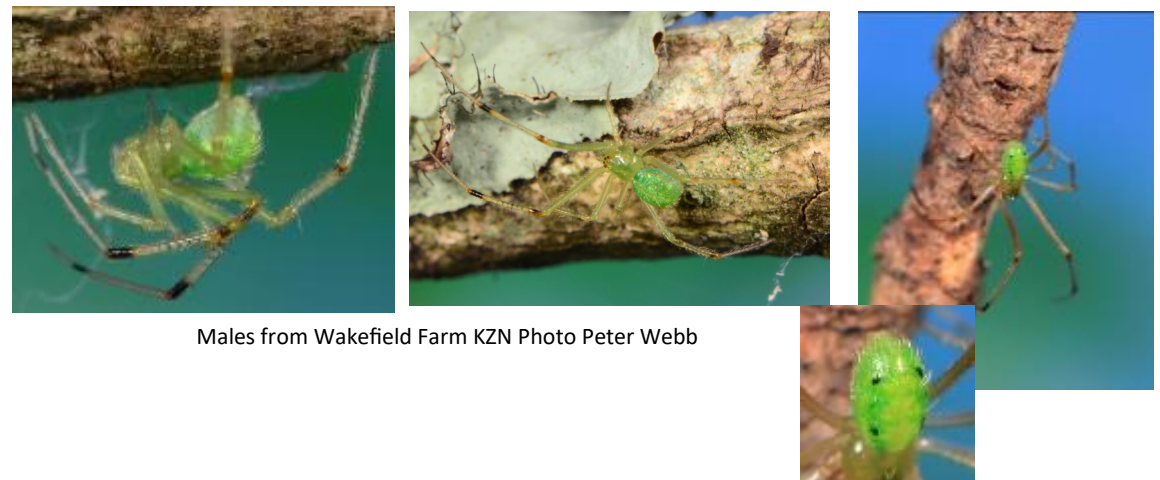
Female from KZN Photo Desiree Pelsner



Female with egg sac from KZN Photo Andrea Sander



After Campuzano et al. 2019



Males from Wakefield Farm KZN Photo Peter Webb

GENUS *HISTAGONIA* Simon, 1895

The genus *Histagonia* Simon, 1895 is known only from one species endemic to South Africa (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Histagonia Comb-Foot Spiders.

TYPE SPECIES: *Histagonia deserticola* Simon, 1895

MORPHOLOGY: Carapace resemble that of *Theridion*; chelicerae small and fangs half the length of basal segment. Abdomen sub-spherical, not modified; colulus probably absent. Legs of medium length; femora of the legs bear numerous short stiff setae. Female with two seminal receptacles. Palpus with series of teeth on tip of cymbium ; cymbium extending beyond alveolus. Embolus with coiled tip, duct coiled, probably no median apophysis.

LIFESTYLE: Unknown.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised.



Histagonia deserticola female Photos ASD

Histagonia deserticola Simon, 1895

COMMON NAME: Desert Histagonia Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African species described by Simon (1895) from Botswana, no exact locality. The species in South Africa has been sampled from three areas in the Northern Cape (EOO= 13 999 km²; AOO=12 km²; 635-1197m a.s.l.). This species is under sampled but is not suspected to be threatened, it is therefore listed as Least Concern.

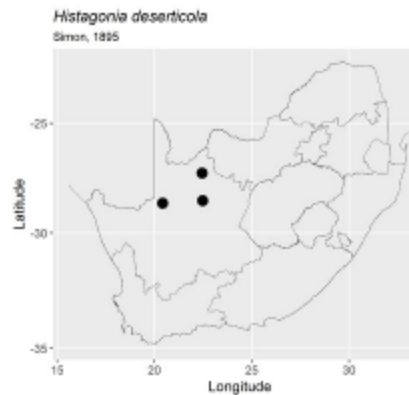
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Botswana, South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Northern Cape*: Augrabies National Park (-28.53, 20.29); Tswalu Game Reserve (-27.30, 22.44); Witsand Nature Reserve (-28.55, 22.483).

LIFE STYLE: Nothing is known about this rare species.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: Moore sampling needed. Presently protected in three protected areas: Augrabies National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2021), Witsand Nature Reserve and Tswalu Game Reserve (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2018)

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised monotypic genus. Species known from both sexes .



Histagonia deserticola female Photos ASD

GENUS *LATRODECTUS* Walckenaer, 1805

The genus *Latrodectus* is represented by 32 species with seven species recorded from South Africa (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Button Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* (Rossi, 1790)

MORPHOLOGY: Size: total length female 10-11 mm; male 4-5 mm. Colour: South African species with abdomen dark with varying colour patterns consisting of transverse bands, to a single longitudinal band in more mature specimens or the colour vary from cream to brown to black in *L. geometricus* with geometrical patterns. Ventrally the abdomen without markings in dark species but with reddish hour glass marking in *L. geometricus*, *L. umbukwane* and *L. rhodesiensis*; legs are dark (Fig. 2). Carapace: longer than wide; eyes eight arranged in two evenly spaced rows; absence of teeth on the chelicerae; lateral eyes that are widely separated from the median eyes. Abdomen globular in shape; a large colulus. Legs moderately long and slender with the third pair being the shortest, with no or few spines; tarsi are usually tapering, and tarsus IV with the typical row of slightly curved, serrated setae forming a comb. There is sexual dimorphism in size with male much smaller and more brightly coloured.

LIFESTYLE: They construct retreat webs under soil debris in a variety of microhabitats. There is a funnel-shaped retreat to the one side with strong supporting lines anchoring the web. Some resistance is felt when one touches them. The spiders make use of the same web over a long period of time and the small male is found on the border of the web of the female. This species can easily be recognized by egg sacs which are smooth and round to spikey. All species are considered to be medically important.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Lotz (1994).



Latrodectus indistinctus Photo Les Oates



Latrodectus geometricus Photo Peter Webb

EGG SACS



Black buttons



L. geometricus



L. rhodesiensis

Latrodectus cinctus Blackwall, 1865

COMMON NAME: East Coast Button Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A species described by Blackwall (1865) from the confluence of Shire and Zambesi Rivers in Mozambique. The species has a wide distribution throughout nine African countries as well as Cape Verde Islands, Kuwait and Iran. In South Africa sampled from four provinces (EOO= 824 786 km²; AOO=124 km²; 10-1513 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

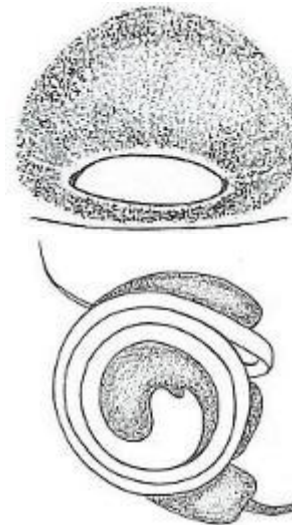
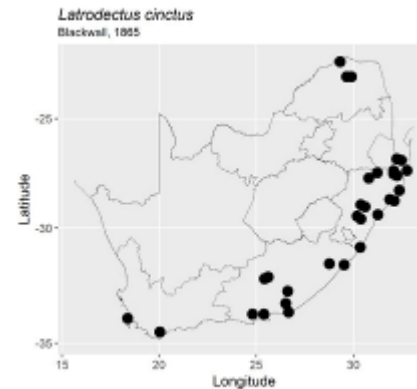
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Cape Verde Is., Kuwait, Iran, Africa: Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Togo, Swaziland and South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Cradock (-32.16, 25.61); Fort Beaufort (-32.78, 26.62); Grahamstown (-33.3, 26.52); Kenton-on-Sea (-33.68, 26.67); Mountain Zebra National Park (-32.24, 25.43); Patensie (-33.76, 24.81); Port St. Johns (-31.63, 29.53); Uitenhage Enon (-33.76, 25.39); Umtata (-31.58, 28.77). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Empangeni (-28.72, 31.88); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Mkuze Game Reserve (-27.63, 32.25); Ithala Nature Reserve (-27.51, 31.23); Greytown (-29.05, 30.6); Jozini to Ndumo (-27.42, 32.07); Margate (-30.85, 30.36); Mhlopheni Nature Reserve (-28.96, 30.39); Richards Bay (-28.78, 32.1); Pietermaritzburg, Town Bush (-29.6, 30.38); Shakaskraal (-29.41, 31.26); Sodwana Bay National Park (-27.4, 32.76); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47); Ubombo (-27.56, 32.08); Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (-29.47, 30.2); Vryheid Nature Reserve (-27.75, 30.79). Dukuduku Forest; -28.3091, 32.3681). **Limpopo:** Louis Trichardt (-23.04, 29.91); Mara (-23.04, 29.6); Venetia Limpopo Valley Reserve (-22.3204, 29.3235). **Mpumalanga:** Burgers Hall (-25.02, 31.08). **Western Cape:** Camps Bay Pipe Track (-33.95, 18.37); Bredasdorp Shaws Pass (-34.53, 20.04).

LIFE STYLE: This species make three-dimensional webs in dark corners in a variety of microhabitats and are more common in the eastern parts of South Africa. Sampled from the Grassland, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Nama Karoo, Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Thicket biomes. Sampled from crops such as citrus and tomatoes (Dipprenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Known from both sexes.



Genitalia after Lotz (1994)



Latrodectus cinctus female from Jozini Photos Peter Webb



Latrodectus cinctus female from Ndumo Photo Charles Haddad

Latrodectus geometricus C.L. Koch, 1841

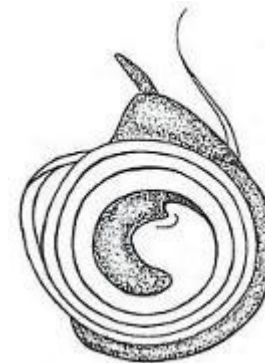
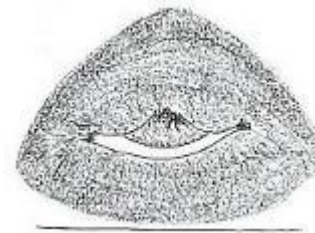
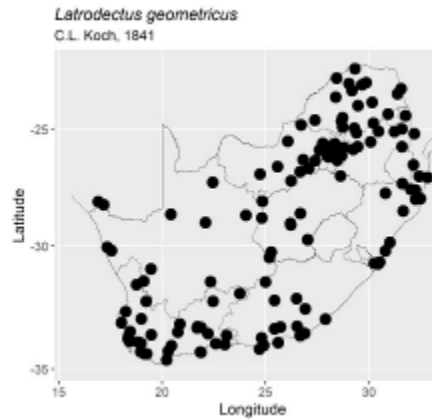
COMMON NAME: Brown Button Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A Cosmopolitan species described by C.L. Koch (1841) from Colombia. Occurs widely throughout Africa. An introduced species and in South Africa recorded from all the provinces (EOO=2 380 265 km²; AOO=548 km²; 0-1941m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Cosmopolitan.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Alicedale (-33.31, 26.08); Aliwal North (-30.69, 26.71); Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve (-33.76, 24.81); Burgersdorp (-30.99, 26.32); Cradock (-32.16, 25.61); East London (-33.01, 27.9); Graaff-Reinet (-32.24, 24.53); Grahamstown Albany(-33.3, 26.52); Grootfontein Agricultural Station (-31.49, 24.99); Jeffrey's Bay (-34.06, 24.91); Kentani (-32.5, 28.32); Kenton-on-Sea (-33.68, 26.67); King William's Town (-32.88, 27.39); Kwandwe Private Game Reserve (-33.09, 26.57); Lady Frere (-31.69, 27.23); Middelburg (-31.49, 24.99); Middledrift (-32.82, 26.98); Mountain Zebra National Park (-32.24, 25.43); Port Alfred (-33.58, 26.89); Port Elizabeth (various locations) (-33.95, 25.61); Port St. Johns (-31.63, 29.53); Somerset East (Boschberg Mountains) (-32.73, 25.6); Umtata (-31.58, 28.77); Willowmore (-33.3, 23.5). **Free State:** Bloemfontein (Glen) (-29.11, 26.22); Boshof, Elliesdal 1062 (-28.53, 25.23); Florisbad Research Station (-28.7, 26.45); Jagersfontein, Klein Preezfontein 28 (-29.74, 25.43); Kroonstad (Farm Lusthof) (-27.65, 27.24); Mpetsane Conservation Estate (-28.8, 27.65); Philippolis (-30.25, 25.27); Tussen die Riviere Nature Reserve (-30.47, 25.19); Villiers (-27.03, 28.62); Virginia (-28.08, 26.85); Wepener (Farm Fairiedale)(-29.73, 27.03). **Gauteng:** Abe Bailey Nature Reserve (-26.36, 27.4); Benoni (-26.19, 28.31); Boksburg (-26.13, 28.15); Bronkhorstspuit (Farm Onverwacht) (-25.8, 28.74); Centurion (-25.85, 28.16); Crocodile River, Marico River (-26, 27.84); Dunnottar (-26.35, 28.47); Edenvale (Dowerglen) (-26.15, 28.14); Groenkloof Nature Reserve (-25.78, 28.2); Hekpoort (-25.9, 27.61); Irene (-25.87, 28.21); Johannesburg (various locations); Midrand (-25.95, 28.14); Parktown North(-26.2, 28.04); Kempton Park (-26.09, 28.23); Melville Koppies (-26.17, 27.99); Pretoria/Tshwane: Akasia (-25.66, 28.11); Brooklyn (-25.77, 28.24); Brumeria (-25.74, 28.19); Eldoraigue (-25.84, 28.15); Garsfontein (-25.79, 28.30); Irene (-25.87, 28.21); Les Marais (-25.74, 28.19); Lynnwood Glen (-25.77, 28.28); Menlo Park (-25.77, 28.25); Meyerton (-25.74, 28.19); Monument Park Golf Course (-25.74, 28.19); Mountain View (-25.70, 28.16); Murrayfield (-25.75, 28.31); Pierneef (-25.74, 28.1); Roodeplaat (-25.74, 28.19); Rooihuiskraal (-25.89, 28.15); Pretoria National Botanical Garden (-25.74, 28.19); Sesmylspruit (-25.74, 28.19); Sino-ville (-25.74, 28.19); Sunnyside (-25.75, 28.21); Uniegebou (-25.74, 28.19); Valhalla, 2528Cd (-25.81, 28.15); Villieria (-25.71, 28.23); Rietondale Research Station (-25.73, 28.23); Wonderboom (-25.68, 28.2); Randburg (-26.07, 27.92); Roodeplaat Research Station (-25.66, 28.35).



Genitalia after Lotz (1994)



Latrodectus geometricus females showing the different colour patterns Photos Peter Webb

Latrodectus geometricus (continued)

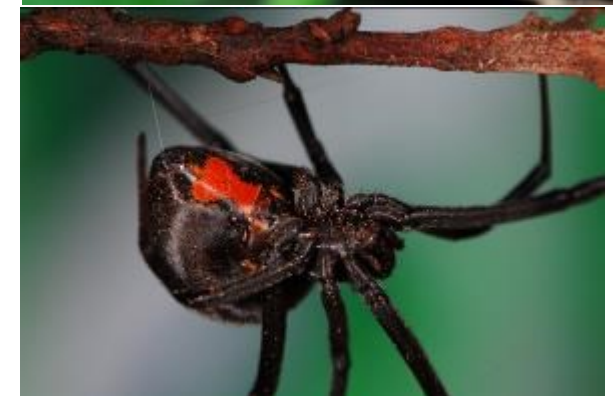
KwaZulu-Natal: Banana Beach (-30.67, 30.52); Durban (-29.85, 31.01); Empangeni (-28.72, 31.88); Hilton (-29.56, 30.3); Hluhluwe Nature Reserve (-28.09, 32.1); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Banga Nek (Kosi Bay) (27.09, 32.84); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Hell's Gate (-28, 32.48); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Lake St. Lucia (-28.36, 32.41); Ixopo (-30.14, 30.06); Kranskloof (-29.55, 30.91); Margate (-30.85, 30.36); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Ophathe Game Reserve (-28.52, 31.66); Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve (-30.71, 30.26); Pietermaritzburg (-29.6, 30.38); Pongola (Farm Vergeval), (-27.35, 31.61); Port Edward, Oribi Gorge (-31.04, 30.21); Port Shepstone (-30.74, 30.44); Richmond (-29.86, 30.26); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47); Umkomaas (-30.2, 30.8); Vryheid (-27.77, 30.79). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Dendron (Farm Amsterdam) (-23.37, 29.32); Hoedspruit (-24.34, 30.93); Kruger National Park (-22.93, 31.02); Lhuvhonda Nature Reserve (-23.03, 29.45); Lekgalameetsi Nature Reserve (-23.82, 30.16); Naboomspruit (Farm London Farm) (-24.5, 28.72); Maasroom (-22.75, 28.43); Marken (-23.59, 28.39); Ngala Game Reserve (-24.47, 31.35); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Pietersburg/Polokwane, Smitsdrift (-23.89, 29.46); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Rust de Winter, Enkeldoorn (-25.19, 28.63); Thabazimbi (-24.6, 27.38); Tzaneen (-23.82, 30.16); Springbok Flats: Tuinplaas (-24.9, 28.73); Tzaneen (-23.82, 30.16); Westphalia (-23.3, 29.18). **Mpumalanga:** Burgers Hall (-25.02, 31.08); Delmas (-26.14, 28.68); Delmas (Farm Rietvallei) (-26.08, 28.57); Groblersdal (-25.16, 29.39); Kruger National Park (-25.00, 31.97); Loskop Research Station (-25.17, 29.4); Lydenburg, Potloodspruit (-25.09, 30.46); Marble Hall (-24.96, 29.29); Middelburg (-25.76, 29.46); Soutpansberg Greefswald 2229Ab (-31.04, 20.04); Steelpoort (-24.73, 30.21); Steenkampsberg (Roger Croall) (-25.55, 30.08); Witbank (-25.88, 29.23). **North West:** Barberspan (-26.62, 25.58); Brits (-25.62, 27.77); Hartebeespoort Experimental Farm (-25.6, 27.82); Klerksdorp (-26.84, 26.67); Leeudoringstad (-27.23, 26.23); Potchefstroom (-26.7, 27.09); Kgaswane Nature Reserve (-25.65, 27.22); Stilfontein (-26.83, 26.76); Vryburg (-26.95, 24.73). **North-eastern Cape:** Augrabies National Park (-28.53, 20.29); Brandvlei (-30.46, 20.48); Calvinia (-31.46, 19.77); Calvinia Loeriesfontein (-31.46, 19.77); De Aar (-30.64, 24.01); Green Valley Nuts Estate (-29.68, 22.74); Kimberley (Hillcrest) (-28.76, 24.74); Loeriesfontein (-30.95, 19.45); Kenilworth (-28.69, 24.8); Kimberley (-28.73, 24.76); Farm Good Hope (-29.68, 22.74); Farm Marydale (-29.68, 22.74); Quagafontein (Farm Soebatsfontein) (-30.19, 17.55); Prieska (Farm Remhoogte) (-29.52, 23); Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park (-28.25, 17.17); Schmidtsdrif (-28.7, 24.05); Steinkopf (-29.25, 17.73); Upington (-28.45, 21.24); Victoria West (-31.4, 23.12); Warrenton (-28.11, 24.85); Witdraai (-26.96, 20.7). **Western Cape:** Anysberg Nature Reserve (-33.53, 20.76); Arniston (-34.64, 20.22); Ashton Robertson Division (-33.83, 20.06); Beaufort West (-32.35, 22.58); Bitterfontein (-31.03, 18.26); Bontebok National Park (-34.07, 20.45); Borrelfontein, 8 km W of Gouritz Mouth (-34.33, 21.85); Botrivier (-34.21, 19.2); Bredasdorp, Waenhuiskraal Road (-34.53, 20.04); Caledon, Rietpoel (-34.24, 19.43); Camps Bay (33.95, 18.37); Cape Town (-33.91, 18.42); Clanwilliam (various locations) (-32.16, 18.89); De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44); Durbanville (-33.83, 18.66); Eendekuil, Kat River (-32.68, 18.88); Elim (34.59, 25.87); Fish Hoek, Peer Hill (-34.05, 18.35); Gamkaberg Nature Reserve (-33.31, 21.71); Gamkaskloof (-33.35, 21.67); Gans Bay, The Kelders (-34.6, 19.35); Hermanus (-34.4, 19.25); Hout Bay, Leeukoppie (-34.04, 18.32); Jakobsbaai, Saldanha Bay (-33.15, 18.03); Karoo National Park (32.28, 22.46); Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (-33.99, 18.43); Kleinmond (-34.33, 19.02);



Latrodectus geometricus males
Photo Rudi Steenkamp



Egg sac



Latrodectus geometricus females showing the different colour patterns
Photos Peter Webb

Latrodectus geometricus (continued)

Knysna Uitzicht Annex (-34.03, 23.03); Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (-34.32, 18.96); Ladismith, Gans Kop 136 (-33.5, 21.26); Laingsburg (-33.2, 20.85); Malmesbury (-33.46, 18.74); Mamre (-33.5, 18.45); Merweville (-32.65, 21.51); Montagu, Kogmanskloof (-33.79, 20.13); Murraysburg (-31.96, 23.75); Paarl (-33.71, 18.98); Philadelphia (-33.66, 18.6); Piketberg (-32.9, 18.75); Piketberg Gut-
verwacht Mission Station (-32.9, 18.75); Porterville (-32.99, 18.99); Riversdale (-34.09, 21.24); Rob-
ertson (-33.8, 19.87); Scarborough (-34.19, 18.38); Simonstown, Red Hill (-34.19, 18.42); St. Helena
Bay (various locations: Steenberg's Cove; Stompneus) (-32.77, 18.03); Stellenbosch (-33.93, 18.85);
Strand (-34.1, 18.82); Table Mountain National Park: Cape Point (-34.41, 18.32), Kloof Nek (-33.82,
18.48), Newlands Forest (-33.91, 18.42), Platteklip Gorge (-33.82, 18.48), Silvertrees (-34.05, 18.45),
Wynberg Caves (-33.98, 18.42); Touws River (-33.44, 21.18); Van Rhynsdorp (-31.6, 18.75); Vreden-
burg, Besters Kraal 38 (-32.9, 17.99); Vredendal, Groot Fontein 105 (-31.66, 18.49); Wellington (-
33.65, 19); Wilderness (-33.99, 22.59); Wolseley, La Plaisante (-33.41, 19.19); Worcester (-33.64,
19.47).

LIFE STYLE: This species makes three-dimensional webs in dark corners in a variety of microhabitats and are commonly found around houses. The egg sac is distinct with spikes. Sampled from all the floral biomes in South Africa. The species is also commonly found in crops such as avocado, citrus cotton, maize, pistachio, prickly pears and vineyards (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013). According to Lamoral (1968) the species build webs with a retreat from which delaying retreats radiate. From the delaying threads to the ground sticky threads are laid down. The retreat could either have one or two openings with the main one opening onto the delaying threads. The webs are built at varying heights above the ground in vegetation and around buildings.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Well protected in >10 reserves and parks.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Lotz (1994) known of both sexes.



Latrodectus geometricus females in retreat Photo Clarissa de Lange



Latrodectus geometricus females in retreat Photo Clarissa de Lange

Latrodectus indistinctus O.P.-Cambridge, 1904

COMMON NAME: West Coast Button Spider

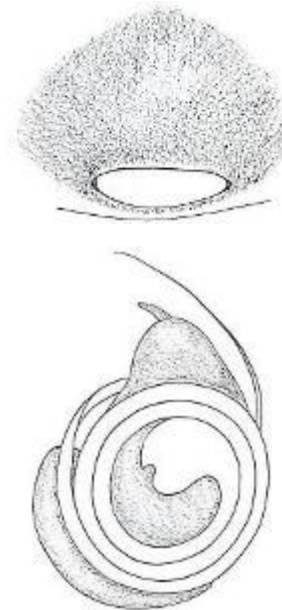
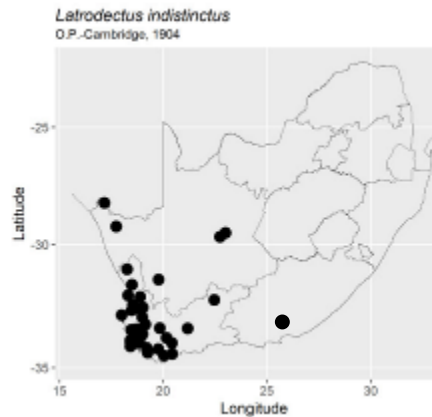
NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African endemic species described by O.P.-Cambridge (1904) from Mamre in the Western Cape. The species is also known from Namibia. In South Africa known from the Northern and Western Cape provinces and (EOO=259 297 km²; AOO=160 km²; 7-1405 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Namibia, South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Port Elizabeth (-33.95, 25.61). **Northern Cape:** Calvinia (Loeriesfontein) (-31.46, 19.77); Green Valley Nuts Estate (-29.68, 22.74); Prieska (Farm Remhoogte) (-29.52, 23); Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park (-28.25, 17.17); Steinkopf (-29.25, 17.73). **Western Cape:** Aurora, Verlorenvlei (-32.7, 18.48); Bitterfontein (-31.03, 18.26); Botrivier (-34.21, 19.2); Bredasdorp (-34.53, 20.04); Cape Town, Joostenbergvlakte (-33.91, 18.42); Citrusdal (-32.59, 19.02); Citrusdal, Keerom (-32.59, 19.02); Clanwilliam Skerpheuwel 232 (-32.16, 18.89); De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44); Durbanville (-33.83, 18.66); Eendekuil (-32.68, 18.88); Faure (-34.02, 18.75); Fish Hoek (-34.15, 18.42); Goodwood (-33.9, 18.54); Swartberg Nature Reserve, Gamkaskloof (-33.35, 21.67); Hermanus, Shaws Pass (-34.4, 19.25); Karoo National Park (-32.28, 22.46); Klapmuts (-33.49, 18.53); Lamberts Bay (-32.1, 18.31); Malmesbury, Mamre Mission Station (-33.46, 18.74); Mamre (-33.5, 18.45); Matroosberg (-33.42, 19.84); Paarl (-33.71, 18.98); Philadelphia, Altona (-33.66, 18.6); Porterville (-32.99, 18.99); Redelinghuys Langfontein (-32.47, 18.54); Rietpoel (-34.26, 19.76); Stellenbosch, Idas Valley (-33.93, 18.85); Swellendam, Tradouw Pass (-34.02, 20.42); Touws River (-33.44, 21.18); Tulbagh (-33.28, 19.14); Vredenburg (-32.9, 17.99); Vredendal (-31.66, 18.49); Table Mountain National Park: Signal Hill (-33.91, 18.42); Table Mountain National Park (-34.05, 18.45); Table Mountain National Park: Wynberg Caves (-33.98, 18.42); Wellington (-33.65, 19); Montagu Les Hauts de Montagu (-33.489, 20.0907).

LIFE STYLE: This species make three-dimensional webs in dark corners in a variety of microhabitats. The females of this species are sedentary by nature. The web consists of three distinct portions: the nest, the tunnel and the delaying threads.



Genitalia after Lotz (1994)



Latrodectus indistinctus from Mamre Photo Les Oates

***Latrodectus indistinctus* (continued)**

The nest is constructed at the base of small bushes tufts of grass or stubble or among heaps of loose debris being situated low down often on the ground and usually in the centre of such cover or at least well concealed. Unlike the species *L. geometricus* no nest of *L. indistinctus* has yet been recorded from the immediate precincts of a building. The species has been sampled from the Desert, Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013) and Fynbos biomes and has also been recorded from pistachio orchards in Prieska (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020b), Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020a); Swartberg National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2005 and Karoo National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 1999).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Lotz (1994) known from both sexes.



Latrodectus indistinctus female from Mamre Photos Les Oates

Latrodectus karrooensis Smithers, 1944

COMMON NAME: Karroo Button Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic that was originally described by Smithers (1944) as a subspecies of *L. indistinctus* in 1944 with type locality only as Karoo. (EOO= 69 123 km²; AOO=28 km²; 648-1358 m a.s.l.). Due to the wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

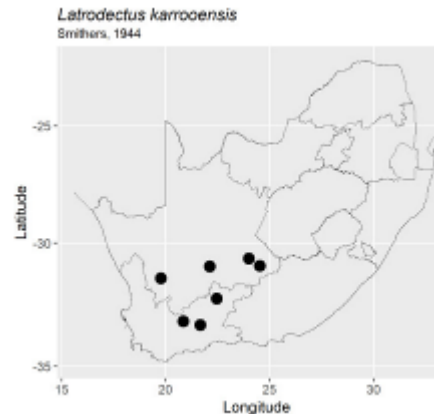
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Northern Cape:** Calvinia, Blaauwkrans (-31.46, 19.77); Carnarvon (-30.97, 22.12); De Aar (-30.64, 24.01); Hanover (-30.94, 24.53); Hanover, Stuurmans Kuilen (-30.94, 24.53). **Western Cape:** Karoo National Park (-32.28, 22.46); Laingsburg (-33.2, 20.85); Swartberg Nature Reserve Gamkaskloof (-33.35, 21.67).

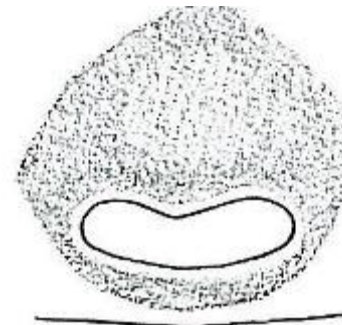
LIFE STYLE: This species makes three-dimensional webs in dark corners in a variety of microhabitats. The web and retreat of the species are distinct with the web an inverted cup-shaped retreat with pebbles incorporated in the dome. The web is suspended in mid-air. It also has the same basic structure of loose interconnected threads leading to the tightly woven retreat. More detail description given by Smithers (1944). Sampled from the Fynbos and Nama Karoo biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It protected in the Karoo National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 1999).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: In his revision Lotz (1994) gave the subspecies species status and elected a new lectotype from Hanover in the Northern Cape.



Latrodectus karrooensis female Photos Les Oates



Genitalia after Lotz (1994)

Latrodectus renivulvatus Dahl, 1902

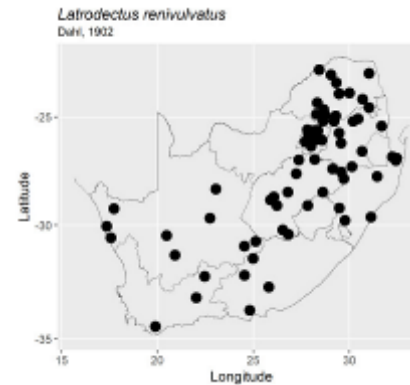
COMMON NAME: Central Button Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described Dahl (1902) from Namibia. The species has been sampled from more than 10 African countries. In South Africa sampled from all the provinces (EOO=1 107 214 km²; AOO=340 km²; 47-2020 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Saudi Arabia, Yemen. In Africa: Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Cookhouse (-32.75, 25.81); Graaff-Reinet (-32.24, 24.53); Middelburg (-31.49, 24.99); Patensie (-33.76, 24.81). **Free State:** Bloemfontein (-29.11, 26.22); Erfenis Dam Nature Reserve (-28.5, 26.8); Golden Gate National Park, Avondrus (-28.5, 28.62); Kroonstad (-27.65, 27.24); Kroonstad (Farm Lusthof) (-27.65, 27.24); Krugerdrif dam (-28.85, 25.89). Oranjeville (-26.99, 28.2); Rouxville, Brakgrond (-30.41, 26.83); Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve (-27.57, 29.58); Smithfield O.R.C. (-30.21, 26.53); Soutpan (-28.71, 26.06); Vrede (-27.43, 29.13); Vredefort (-27, 27.37). **Gauteng:** Alewynspoort (-26.38, 28); Centurion (-25.85, 28.16); Crocodile River (-26, 27.84); Halfway House (-25.99, 28.13); Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve (-26.2, 28.04); Kempton Park (-26.09, 28.23); Midrand (-25.95, 28.14); Pretoria/Tshwane: Brooklyn (-25.77, 28.24), Constantia Park (-25.80, 28.29), Doringkloof (-25.86, 28.21), Elarduspark (-25.74, 28.19), Monument Park (-25.81, 28.24), Murrayfield (-25.75, 28.31), Onderstepoort (-25.65, 28.18), Rietondale (-25.73, 28.23), Rooihuiskraal (-25.89, 28.15), Sinoville (-25.74, 28.19), Villieria (-25.71, 28.23), Waverley (-25.70, 28.26), Wierda park (-25.86, 28.14), Wildebeeshoek, Plot 739 (-25.74, 28.19), Wonderboom (-25.74, 28.19); Randfontein (-26.17, 27.7); Rietveldam Nature Reserve (-25.85, 28.16); Roodeplaat Research Station (-25.66, 28.35), Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (-25.64, 28.36). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Bulwer (-29.79, 29.77); Giant's Castle Nature Reserve (-29.23, 29.48); La Mercy (-29.63, 31.13); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Ngome State Forest (-27.78, 31.45); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Dendron (Farm Amsterdam) (-23.37, 29.32); Klaserie Game Reserve Guernsey Farm (-24.55, 31.02); Kruger National Park (-22.93, 31.02); Maasstroom, Al-te-Ver (-22.75, 28.43); Magoebaskloof (-23.87, 30.01); Mamates (-29.11, 27.83); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67);



Latrodectus renivulvatus male
Photo Koos Geldenhuys



Latrodectus renivulvatus female Photos Peter Webb

Latrodectus renivulvatus (continued)

Makalali Private Nature Reserve (-24.16, 30.69); Pietersburg/ Polokwane (-23.89, 29.46); Pietersburg/Polokwane, Smitsdrift (-23.89, 29.46); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Rust de Winter (-25.19, 28.63); Springbok Flats: Tuinplaas (-24.9, 28.73); Warm-baths/Bela-Bela (-24.88, 28.29); Waterberg Vaalwater, Klipfontein (-24.33, 28.33). **Mpumalanga:** Amsterdam (-26.61, 30.66); Delmas (Farm Rietvallei) (-26.08, 28.57); Hectorspruit (-25.43, 31.68); Lydenburg (-25.09, 30.46); Marble Hall (-24.96, 29.29); Middelburg, Hendrina Power Station (-25.76, 29.46); Middelburg (-25.76, 29.46); Oudestad Experimental Farm (-25.2, 29.2); Oshoek (-25.2, 30.2); Vaalkrantz Farm (-26.23, 29.57); Wakkerstroom (-27.33, 30.14); Rust de Winter (-25.19, 28.63). **North West:** Hartbeespoortdam (-25.73, 27.85); Hartebeespoort Experimental Farm (-25.6, 27.82). **Northern Cape:** Brandvlei (-30.46, 20.48); Colesberg (-30.73, 25.11); Hanover (-30.94, 24.53); Postmasburg, Commissie 649 (-28.36, 23.05); Farm Irene (-29.68, 22.74); Steinkopf (-29.25, 17.73); Williston (-31.34, 20.92). **Western Cape:** Karoo National Park (-32.28, 22.46); Napier (-34.46, 19.89); Prince Albert (-33.22, 22.03).

LIFE STYLE: The web is usually made close to the ground seldom higher than half a meter. The refuge is in a tuft of grass or in a low shrub in an empty burrow or under a loose stone. The species is sometimes also found in houses in Gauteng and the Free State. The species was sampled from the Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013), Nama Karoo, Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Succulent Karoo biomes and also frequently sampled from crops such as: cotton, maize, strawberries, sugarcane and vineyards (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is sampled from >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Lotz (1994) known from both sexes.



Latrodectus renivulvatus female from Ukuwela Photo Rudi Steenkamp



Latrodectus renivulvatus male Photos Rudi Steenkamp



Latrodectus renivulvatus female from Bloemfontein Photos Rudi Steenkamp

Latrodectus rhodesiensis Mackay, 1972

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African endemic species described Mackay (1972) from Zimbabwe. It is known from four southern African countries. In South Africa recorded from four provinces (EOO= 38 092 km²; AOO=48 km²; 982-1651 m a.s.l.). Due to the wide geographical range the species is listed as Least Concern.

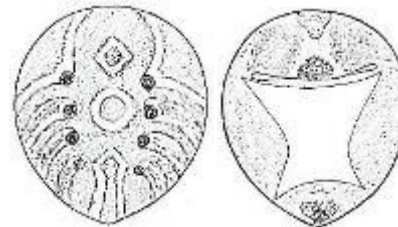
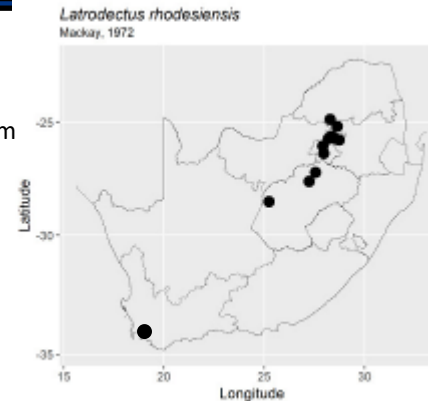
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Free State:** Boshof (-28.53, 25.23); Koppies (-27.24, 27.55); Kroonstad (-27.65, 27.24). **Gauteng:** Bronkhorstspuit (-25.8, 28.74); Kameeldrift (-25.66, 28.32); Pretoria/Tshwane (-25.74, 28.19); Rayton (-25.74, 28.53); Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (-25.64, 28.36); Randburg (-26.07, 27.92); Walkerville (-26.4, 27.96). **Limpo-po:** Rust de Winter (-25.19, 28.63); Warmbaths/BelaBela (-24.88, 28.29). **Western Cape:** Stellenbosch (-33.93, 18.85).

LIFE STYLE: This species lives in a web made in low in vegetation similar to *Latrodectus geometricus*. The egg-sac of *L. rhodesiensis* differ from that of the other African species. It is smooth spherical and dirty white in color pure white when first constructed. The smooth egg sac consist of an inner pear-shaped thin-walled sac approximately half the diameter of the complete structure surrounded by a layer of fluffy threads. The species has been sampled from the Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013) and Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in the Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 1989).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Lotz 1994) known from both sexes.



Abdomen and genitalia after Lotz (1994)



Latrodectus rhodesiensis female Photos Koos Geldenhuys



Latrodectus rhodesiensis female Photos Les Oates

Latrodectus umbukwane M. Wright, C. Wright, Lyle & Engelbrecht, 2019

COMMON NAME: Forest Button Spider

STATUS: DD

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A KwaZulu-Natal endemic species described in 2019. It is known from two areas in the province (EOO= 4963 km²; AOO= 698 km²; 64 m a.s.l.). Additional surveys of nearby coastal forests are required to confirm the assumption that this species is limited to sand forest therefore listed as Data Deficient.

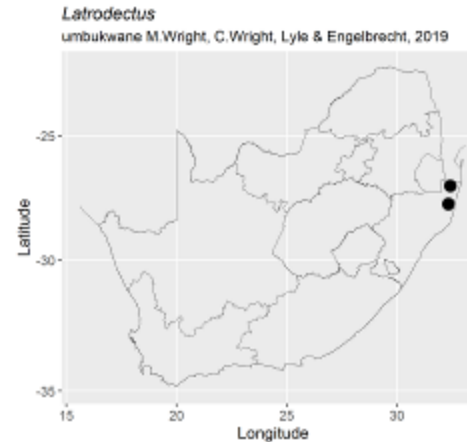
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *KwaZulu-Natal*: Phinda Private Game Reserve (-27.72, 32.38); Tembe Elephant Park (-27.0337, 32.4245).

LIFE STYLE: All known localities for the new species fall within sand forest habitats. Of the seven wild female specimens recorded, six were found in pristine, tall sand forest with predominantly bare ground below the canopy, on Phinda Private Game Reserve, which is part of the larger Mnyawana Conservancy. A single specimen was found in the garden of the manager's house on Tembe Elephant Park, at the edge of disturbed sand forest. The spiders were found more than 50 cm above the ground, with a silk retreat in a tree hollow. Webs were not generally present outside the hollow, but when they were recorded, they were typical hackle webs radiating outward from the hollow, and can be extensive (M.Wright et al. 2019).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known from both sexes .



Latrodectus umbukwane female Photos Rudi Steenkamp

GENUS MEOTIPA Simon, 1894

The genus *Meotipa* Simon, 1894 is represented by 15 species (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Spiny theridiids

TYPE SPECIES: *Meotipa picturata* Simon, 1895

MORPHOLOGY: Females 2.5–6.0 mm long, males 1.1–1.8 mm. Females of *Meotipa* differ from all other theridiids by a combination of the unusual outline of the abdomen, the tip projected upward and backward over the spinnerets similar to some *Argyrodes*, and with apically a rounded knob bearing conspicuous black flattened spines or scales, often also born on the rear face of the abdomen. One or two pairs of lateral abdominal humps is characteristic. Carapace: eyes are relatively large, somewhat variable, uniform in size or middle eyes larger than side eyes; they often have a reddish tinge; anterior median eyes are dark than other eyes that are pearly white. The abdomen is vividly coloured in white and black and often red. The legs often very long with leg I longer than IV.

LIFESTYLE: They have a strange resting behaviour: pivoting the body axis over 90° so that it rests with one side turned towards the leaf-surface, legs wrapped in a semicircle on the leaf surface

TAXONOMIC NOTES: African species not revised.



Meotipa sp. female Photos ASD

Meotipa pulcherrima (Mello-Leitão, 1917)

COMMON NAME: Bushy-tail Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An introduced species described by Mello-Leitão (1917) as *Argyrodes pulcherrimus* from Tropical Africa, it has been introduced into the Americas, Papua, New Guinea, China, Korea, Japan and the Pacific Islands. In South Africa recorded from two provinces (EOO=8 300 km²; AOO=12 km²; 416-496 m a.s.l). Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

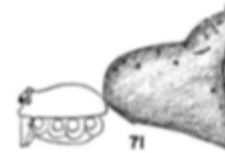
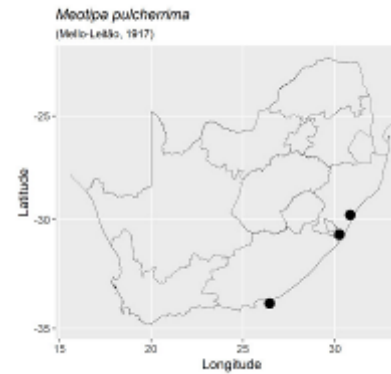
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Tropical Africa. Introduced to the Americas, Papua New Guinea, China, Korea, Japan and the Pacific Islands. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Addo Elephant National Park Woody Cape (-33.88, 26.45); Grahamstown (-33.306, 26.525). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Kloof (-29.78, 30.83); Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve (-30.71, 30.26)

LIFE STYLE: This species may be found in a tangled web associated with vegetation but is so small that it is not easily seen. Sampled from the Savanna and Thicket biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: No significant threats. It is protected in Addo Elephant National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2020) and Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve .

TAXONOMIC NOTES: A species known from both sexes.



After Levi (1962)



Meotipa pulcherrima female Photo Peter Webb

GENUS *PARASTEATODA* Archer, 1946

The genus *Parasteatoda* is represented by 44 species (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: House False Button Spider

TYPE SPECIES: *Parasteatoda tepidariorum* (C. L. Koch, 1841)

MORPHOLOGY: Carapace oval; stridulating apparatus of male present as partial lunate plate either side of pedicel. Abdomen nearly spherical usually with small posterior projection; basic colour greyish brown to blackish brown, some are bright orange; with broad, longitudinal cardiac pattern and some transverse spots. Leg formula 1243 in male, 1423 in female.

LIFESTYLE:

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Cosmopolitan *Parasteatoda* was synonymized with *Achearanea* by Levi (1955). However, the secondary genital organs of these two genera are so different that *Parasteatoda* was revalidated.



Parasteatoda lunata female from Kloof Photo Peter Webb

Parasteatoda lunata (Clerck, 1757)

COMMON NAME: House False Button Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A species with a wide distribution described by Clerck (1757) as *Araneus lunatus* from Sweden. Introduced into South Africa where it is sampled from KwaZulu-Natal. Under reported with more unidentified material in collections. Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

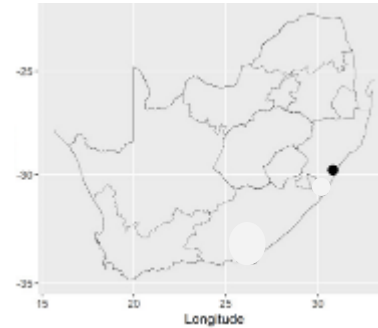
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Europe, Turkey, Israel, Caucasus, Russia (Europe to Far East), Iran

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *KwaZulu-Natal*: Kloof (-29.78, 30.83).

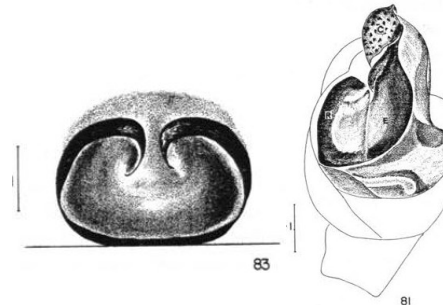
LIFE STYLE: Sampled from bark. Retreat long narrow silk tube.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Introduced species. Both sexes known.



Retreat from Kloof Photo Peter Webb



Genitalia after Levy & Amitai (1982).



Parasteatoda lunata female from Kloof Photo Peter Webb

***Parasteatoda tepidariorum* (C. L. Koch, 1841)**

COMMON NAME: House False Button Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A species with a wide distribution described in 1841 as *Theridion tepidariorum* from South America. Introduced into South Africa where it is sampled from three provinces (EOO=210 807 km²; AOO=12 km²; 1246-1513 m a.s.l.). Under reported with much unidentified material in collections. Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

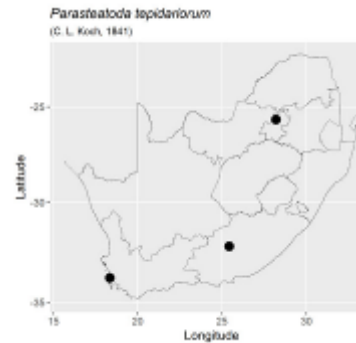
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South America. Introduced to Canada, USA, Europe, Seychelles, China, Japan, New Zealand, Hawaii. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Gauteng:** Wonderboom (-25.68, 28.2). **Eastern Cape:** Mountain Zebra National Park (-32.24, 25.43). **Western Cape:** Robben Island (-33.80, 18.35).

LIFE STYLE: This species makes three-dimensional webs in dark corners. Frequently found around buildings. Sampled from the Fynbos, Nama Karoo and Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Introduced species. Both sexes known.



Epigyne after Saaristo (2006)



Parasteatoda tepidariorum female Photo Peter Webb

GENUS *PHORONCIDIA* Westwood, 1835

The genus *Phoroncidia* Westwoodm 1835 is represented by 79 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). Three species is known from South Africa

COMMON NAME: Mushroom Comb-Foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Phoroncidia aculeata* Westwood, 1835

MORPHOLOGY: Male 1-4.5 mm, female 1.3-8.5 mm. Carapace with eye region projecting above clypeus; chelicerae small, with pair of strong hairs. Abdomen of various shapes, heavily sclerotized, often leathery, with pronounced folds or humps or with strong spines, tubercles or extensions; sclerotized ring surrounding spinnerets. Legs short; fourth leg usually longer than first.

LIFESTYLE: Sampled from Vegetation.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Cosmopolitan.



Phoroncidia sp. female Photo Rudi Steenkamp



Phoroncidia sp. female Photo Peter Webb

***Phoroncidia capensis* (Simon, 1895)**

COMMON NAME: Cape Mushroom Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DD

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South Africa endemic described by Simon (1895) as *Ulesanis capensis* with type locality given only as “Cap Bonae Spei”. The species is known only from an unspecified site. The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to determine the species’ range. Therefore, listed as Data Deficient for unknown provenance reasons.

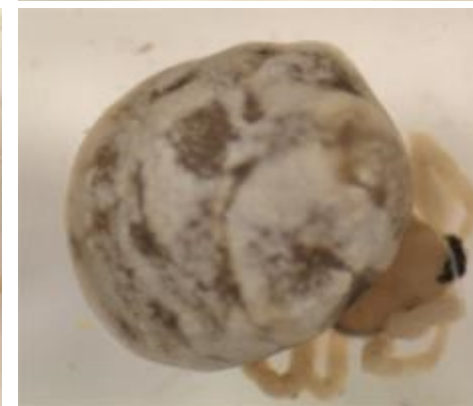
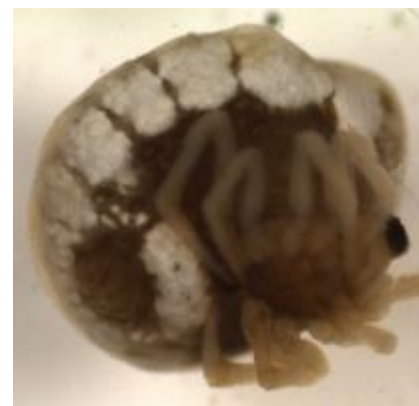
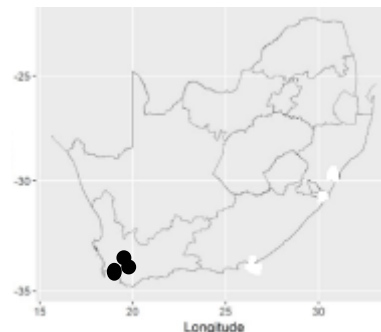
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: type only as Cape. **Western Cape:** De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44); Paarl (-33.71, 18.98); Hout Bay (-34.04, 18.32).

LIFE STYLE: Nothing known about their behaviour.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to determine the species’ range.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised known from both sexes, not illustrated. Cephalothorax yellow, with dark-margin, short. The abdomen great completely covered carapace, winding blunt rounded edge; prominent, but slightly uneven, above all ivory-white, very finely and economical points of the impressed-speckled. TL 3 mm.



Phoroncidia capensis female from Houtbay Photo ASD

Phoroncidia eburnea (Simon, 1895)

COMMON NAME: Transvaal Mushroom Comb-Foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic described by Simon (1895) as *Ulesanis eburnea* with type locality only given as Transvaal. Species sampled from five provinces (EOO=498 401 km²; AOO=92km²; 1-1902 m a.s.l.). Although the species is presently known only from one sex it has a wide geographical range and is therefore listed as Least Concern.

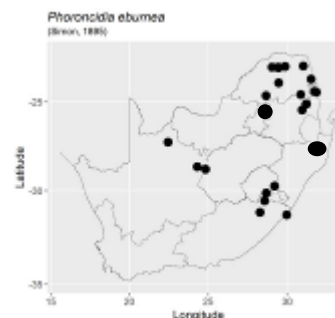
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Ongeluksnek (-30.55, 28.57); Prentjiesberg (-31.18, 28.28); Qachas Nek (-30.12, 28.68); Mkhambathi Nature Reserve (-31.32, 29.97). **Gauteng:** Rayton (-25.74, 28.53). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Garden Castle (-29.75, 29.2) Phinda Game Reserve (-27.72, 32.38). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Kruger National Park (-22.93, 31.02); Lhuvhondo Nature reserve (-23.03, 29.45); Little Leigh (Western Soutpansberg) (-22.95, 29.87); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Goro Game Ranch near Vivo (-22.99, 29.43). **Mpumalanga:** Mariepskop (-24.58, 30.87); Kruger National Park: Mopani Tsendze (-23.685, 31.518); Kruger National Park: Pretoriuskop Numbi (-25.140, 31.208); Kruger National Park: Pretoriuskop Shabeni (-25.12, 31.237); Kruger National Park: Satara (-24.399, 31.736); Kruger National Park: Satara (-24.405, 31.766); Kruger National Park: Satara N'wanetsi (-24.448, 31.865). **Northern Cape:** Rooipoort Nature Reserve (-28.678, 24.304); Benfontein Nature Reserve (-28.82, 24.82); Tswalu Nature Reserve (-27.30, 22.44).

LIFE STYLE: Rare spider sampled when sweeping low vegetation. This species has been sampled from the Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013), Indian Ocean Coastal Belt and Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Sampled from eight protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised. Known only from female, no illustration.



Phoroncidia eburnea female Photo ASD



Phoroncidia eburnea female from Rayton Photo Peter Webb



Phoroncidia eburnea female from Rayton Photo Peter Webb

***Phoroncidia truncatula* (Strand, 1909)**

COMMON NAME: Mushroom Cob-Web Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DDT

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South Africa Western Cape endemic described by Strand (1909) as *Ulesanis truncatula* from Fish Hoek. The species is known only from the type locality. The status of the species remains obscure (EOO<100 km²; AOO=4 km²; 60 m a.s.l. Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species' range. Therefore, listed as Data Deficient for taxonomic reasons.

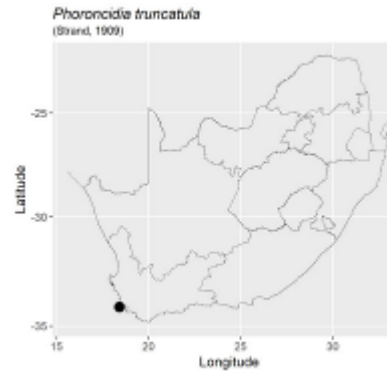
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape*: Fish Hoek (-34.15, 18.42).

LIFE STYLE: This species are rare spiders sampled from vegetation. Nothing is known about their behaviour. Type locality is from the Fynbos biome.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species' range.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Not revised known only from the male, no drawings.



***Phoroncidia* spp.**



KLOOF AND UMHLANGA Photos Peter Webb

KARKLOOF Photos Rudi Steenkamp



UMHLANGA Photos Peter Webb

MIDLANDS Photos Vida van der Walt

TEMBE Photo Rudi Steenkamp



DELMAS Photos Peter Webb

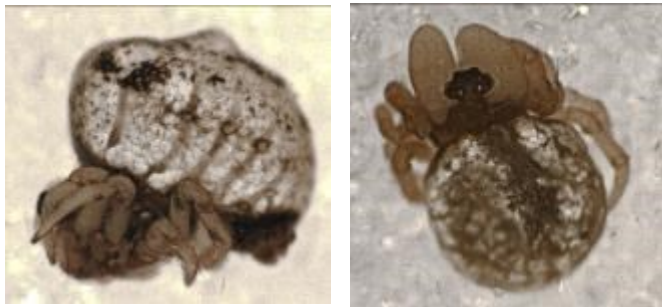
BLYDERIVER Photo Wynand Uys



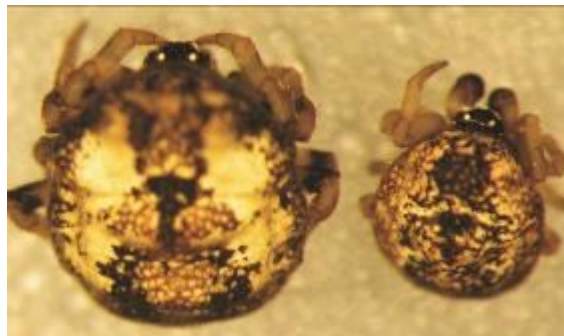
OPATHR NR Photo C. Haddad



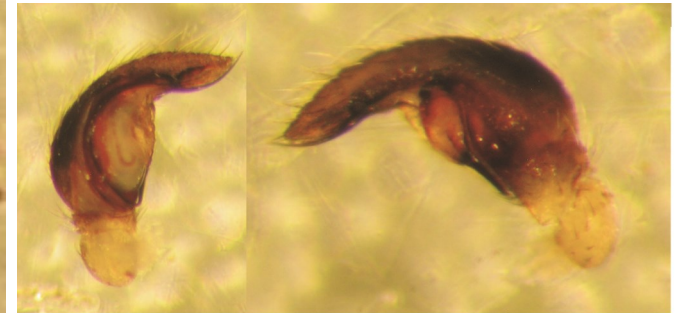
Photo John Roff



LOWVELD BG Photo ASD



OPATHE NR Photo Charles Haddad



Photographs: Charles Haddad

GENUS *PHYCOSOMA* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1879

The genus *Phycosoma* is represented by 26 species (World Spider Catalog 2021). No species have yet been named from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: *Phycosoma* Comb-foot Spider

TYPE SPECIES: *Phycosoma oecobioides* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1880

MORPHOLOGY: Small spiders (< 4 mm). The males are recognized by the very high carapace sometimes as high as long, cylindrical in shape with dorsal grooves and depressions viewed from above. In the female the carapace is low and not modified. Carapace: eye region often projecting above clypeus with the anterior median eyes sometimes larger than the rest; clypeus often concave, with the chelicerae very small without teeth and the fangs long and flat. Abdomen sometimes modified and sometimes sclerotized with dorsal scutum or hump; species also bear numerous short setae originating from a small tubercle; most species without colulus. Leg IV is slightly longer than rest; legs medium to short.

LIFESTYLE: They construct small webs near to the ground where they feed on ants. These spiders are also named gallows-spiders because they hang their prey until it dies.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: No species have yet been named from South Africa. Several species have been sampled from pitfall traps throughout the country still unnamed



Phycosoma martinae from Ukuwena Photos Rudi Steenkamp



Phycosoma martinae from Hoedspruit Photos Wynand Uys

Phycosoma martinae (Roberts, 1983)

COMMON NAME: Large-spots Comb-foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A species described by Roberts (1983) as *Dipoena martinae* from Aldabra Atoll. The species has a wide distribution through India and the East. Also widely distributed in Africa and in South Africa recorded from seven provinces (EOO= 886 313 km²; AOO=176 km²; 6-1556 m a.s.l.). Due to the wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

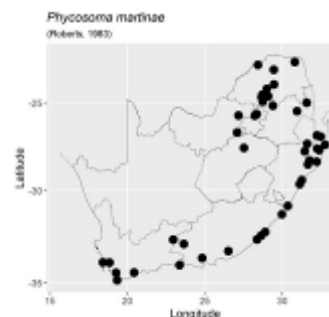
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Seychelles, India, China, Korea, Ryukyu Island, Philippines. In Africa: Angola, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Cwebe Nature Reserve (-32.28, 28.9); Grahamstown (-33.3, 26.52); Kei River Mouth (-32.68, 28.37); Keurkloof Farm Ferndale Baviaanskloof; (-33.68, 24.83); Mazeppa Bay (-32.47, 28.64); Mkambati Nature Reserve (-31.31, 29.97). **Gauteng:** Pretoria/ Rietondale Research Station (-25.73, 28.23); Irene Veld field opposite Gem Village (-25.89, 28.23); Roodeplaatdam Nature Reserve (-25.64, 28.36); Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve (-27.59, 27.53). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Dukuduku Forest Station (-28.37, 32.23); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Mkuzi Game Reserve (-27.63, 32.25); Sodwana Bay National Park (-27.4, 32.76); La Mercy (-29.63, 31.13); Margate (-30.85, 30.36); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Ngome State Forest (-27.78, 31.45); Ophathe Game Reserve (-28.52, 31.66); Phinda Game Reserve (-27.72, 32.38); Pongola Farm Vergeval (-27.35, 31.61); Shakaskraal (-29.41, 31.26); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47); Umfolozi Nature Reserve (-28.3, 31.76). **Limpopo:** Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve (-23.03, 29.45); Maasstroom (-22.75, 28.43); Mosdene Nature Reserve (-24.52, 28.7); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Polokwane Nature Reserve (-23.9, 29.47); Potgietersrus/ Mokopane (-24.17, 29.01); Roedtan (-24.6, 29.08); Tshulu (Venda) (-22.58, 30.81); Springbok Flats: Tuinplaas (-24.9, 28.73). **Mpumalanga:** Groblersdal (-25.16, 29.39); Kruger National Park (-24.98, 31.58); Nelspruit (-25.47, 30.96). **North West:** Potchefstroom (-26.7, 27.09); Kgawane Nature Reserve (-25.72, 27.18). **Western Cape:** Beaufort West: Farm Eerste Water (-32.69, 22.96); Beaufort West: Farm Groot Kraanvogelfontein (-32.92, 23.64); Cape Town (-33.91, 18.42); De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44); Fernkloof Nature Reserve (-34.86, 19.34); Hermanus, Fisherhaven (-34.47, 19.27); Plettenberg Bay (-34.06, 23.36); Stellenbosch (-33.93, 18.85).

LIFE STYLE: Sampled from the Fynbos, Grassland, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Savanna and Thicket biomes. Observed feeding on ants.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. Protected in >10 protected areas.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known from both sexes.



From Irene Photo Peter Webb



From Ukuwena Photo Rudi Sreenkamp



Phycosoma martinae from Tsulu Photos ASD

After Roberts (1983)

Phycosoma spundana (Roberts, 1978)

COMMON NAME: Small-spots Comb-foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An Afrotropical endemic described by Roberts (1978) from Seychelles as *Dipoena spundana*. The species is also recorded from South Africa from KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo (EOO < 1000 km²; AOO = 4 km²; 140 m a.s.l.). This species is under sampled and expected to occur in more African countries. Due to its wide geographic range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

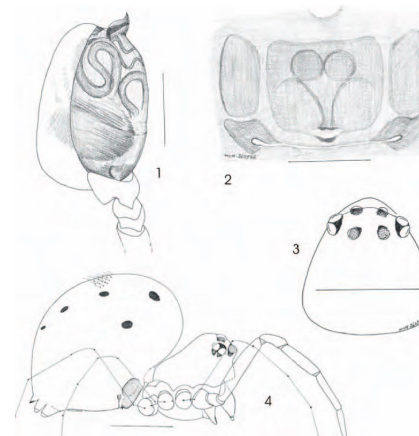
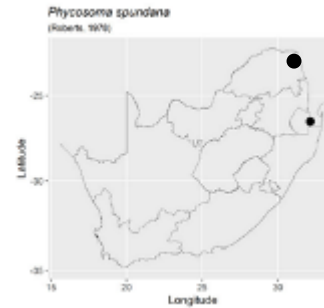
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Seychelles. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *KwaZulu-Natal*: Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.8843, 32.2534). *Limpopo*: Entabeni Forest (-23.02, 30.23).

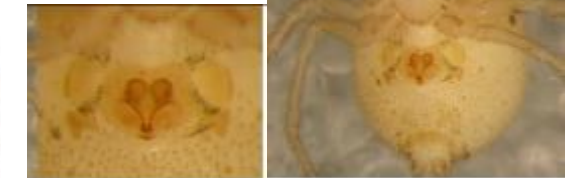
LIFE STYLE: Sampled from the Savanna biome.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. More sampling needed to determine range in South Africa. Protected in the Ndumo Game Reserve.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known from both sexes.



After Roberts (1978)



Phycosoma spundana female from Ndumo Photo Charles Haddad



Phycosoma spundana female from Entebeni Photo ASD

UNDETERMINED

***Phycosoma* spp.**



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE LITTER photos ASD



TABLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK Photos ASD

GENUS *PLATNICKINA* Koçak & Kemal, 2008

The genus *Platnickina* is known from 11 species (World Spider Catalog 2021).

COMMON NAME: Platnickia Comb-foot Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: *Platnickina maculata* (Yoshida, 2001)

MORPHOLOGY: Carapace oval; eye region slightly elevated; median furrow oval. Abdomen spherical, brown with many black flecks and spots; slightly longer than high in female; slender, longer than wide in male. Leg formula, 1,2,4,3 in both sexes. Epigynum with circular depression, openings situated inside the depression; duct of internal genitalia usually with circular base. Male palpus with subtegulum, tegulum, tegular apophysis, median apophysis, conductor, embolus, cymbium and paracymbium: embolus thin and clockwise (left palpus); conductor large and membranous. This genus is easily distinguished from *Theridion* by the coloration of body and female leg formula

LIFESTYLE:

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Only one species known from South Africa.



Platnickina sp. Photo Peter Webb

Platnickina mneon (Bösenberg & Strand, 1906)

COMMON NAME: Platnickia Comb-foot Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A Pantropical species described by Bösenberg & Strand (1906) as *Theridion mneon* from South America. Introduced to several countries including Africa. In South Africa recorded from five provinces (EOO=320 562 km²; AOO=28 km²; 47-1498 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

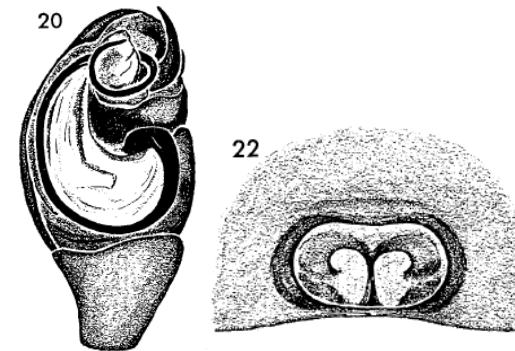
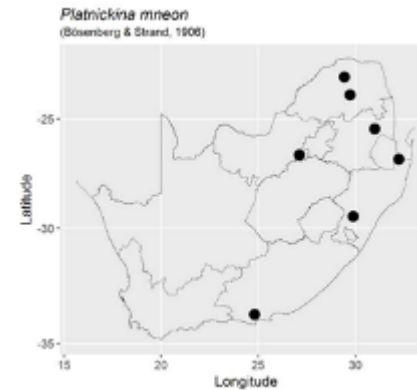
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Pantropical: Introduced to Ghana, Seychelles, China, Japan, and the Pacific Islands. New: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Eastern Cape:** Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve (-33.76, 24.81). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Wakefield farm (-29.473, 29.893). **North West:** Potchefstroom (-26.68, 27.12). **Limpopo:** Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve (-23.038, 29.442); Turfloop (-23.88, 29.73). **Mpumalanga:** Lowveld National Botanical Garden (-25.47, 31.00).

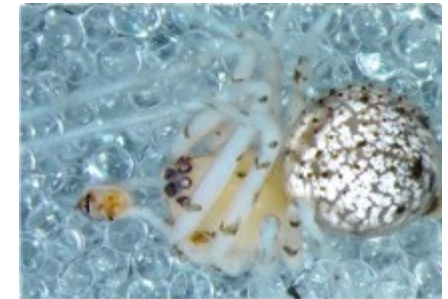
LIFE STYLE: Typical cob-webs are made in different habitats. Sampled from the Savanna and Grassland biomes.

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species.

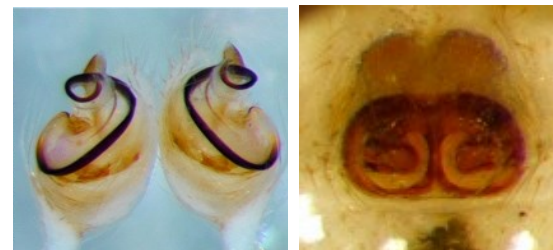
TAXONOMIC NOTES: Pantropical species known from both sexes.



After Levi (1967)



Platnickina mneon male and female Photos Charles Haddad



Male and female genitalia Photos Charles Haddad

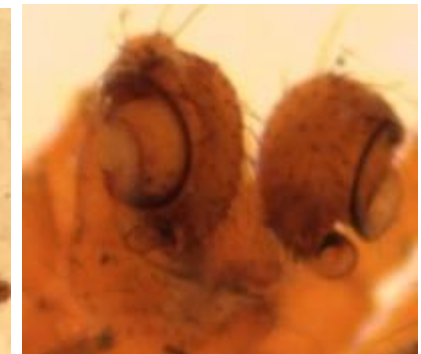
GENUS *PROPOSTIRA* Simon, 1894 still need to be confirmed?

According to Vanuytven (2021) in the genus *Propostira* the carapace is flat, elongated; bright orange-yellow or brown-red. Abdomen with 4 humps. Legs long, first pair longest with long trochanters, at least twice as long as trochanters from other legs; femur and tibia robust, metatarsus and tarsus thin. Male unknown

Not sure the photographs shown here belong to this genus for which two species are known.



FROM ENTEBENI Photo ASD



FROM EZEMVELO NRPhoto ASD

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