THE TROCHANTERIDAE

SOUTH AFRICA

OF

Compiled by: A.S. Dippenaar-Schoeman, C.R. Haddad, S.H. Foord & L.N. Lotz

South African National Survey of Arachnida Photo Identification Guide Trochanteriidae 2022 version 2: 1-18

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THE TROCHANTERIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

The family Trochanteriidae is represented by 6 genera and 51 species. Only one genus *Platyoides* known from 17 African species is represented by ten species from South Africa. Five of the species are South African endemics. Five species have a wide distribution and are listed as Least Concern. The other fives pecies are either known only from one sex or known from a restricted number of localities and are presently listed as Data Deficient.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Platyoides walteri from Wesselsbron Photo S. Willemse

FAMILY TROCHANTERIIDAE Karsch, 1879

The family Trochanteriidae is represented by 6 genera and 51 species. They are mediumsized; two-clawed; eight eyes spiders with a flattened body; laterigrade legs and fourth trochanters elongated. Only one genus *Platyoides* is known from Africa (World Spider Catalog 2022).

GENUS PLATYOIDES O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1891

The genus *Platyoides* is represented by 17 species from Africa with ten species recorded known from South Africa.

COMMON NAME: Scorpion Spiders

TYPE SPECIES: Platyoides walteri (Karsch, 1886)

MORPHOLOGY: Body size male and female 4-9 mm. Colour: bodies dark brown to grey with abdomen uniform or with pale markings, some species with longitudinal bands. Carapace flattened; longer than wide, widest over coxae II-III; eyes 8 in 4 rows (4:4) with both rows almost straight; posterior row wider than the anterior row; posterior median eyes are flattened and irregular; all eyes except posterior median eyes are circled with black pigment; chelicerae enlarged, laterally divergent, projecting forward, with long curved fangs, Abdomen flattened; ovoid. Legs laterigrade; trochanters elongated especially IV, folding over the body.

LIFE STYLE: Free-living wanderers commonly found under bark or stones. They are found in a wide temperature range, from dry arid regions to humid forest areas. Very little is known about their behaviour. Their flattened bodies are an adaptation for life in narrow crevices under the bark or on rocks. *Platyoides walteri*, the most common species in Southern Africa is synantropic and frequently found on walls in buildings or they are common on verandahs where they are found underneath plant containers (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2014).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: The genus was revised by Platnick (1985).

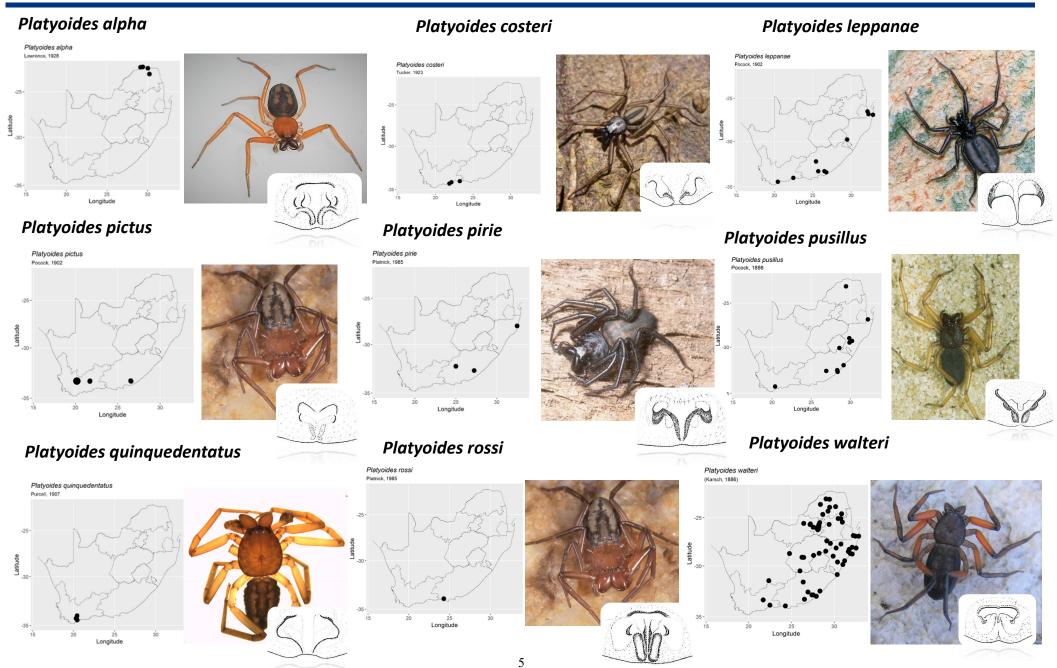


Platyoides walteri from Kemptonpark Photo W. Schmidt



Platyoides spp. showing eye pattern and the long trochantera Photo ASD

QUICK KEY TO SOME SPECIES



na

Platyoides alpha Lawrence, 1928

COMMON NAME: Namibia Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A southern African endemic described by Lawrence (1928) from Namibia. Recorded from four southern African countries. In South Africa known only from Limpopo (EOO=3 647 km²; AOO=16 km²; 514-1360 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is listed as Least Concern.

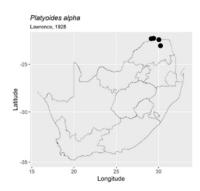
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Forest and Savanna biomes (Foord et al. 2011).

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Angola, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Limpopo: Mussina* (-22.33, 30.03); Entabeni State Forest (-23, 30.23); Ons Eigegrond (-22.19, 29.4); Limpopo Valley Nature Reserve (-22.22, 29.13).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. In South Africa protected in the Limpopo Valley Nature Reserve and Entabeni State Forest.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known from both sexes.

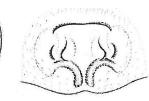




Platyoides alpha female from Namibia Photo Anka Eichhoff







Platyoides alpha female after O. Pickard-Cambridge(1908).

Genitalia after Platnick (1985)

Platyoides costeri Tucker, 1923

COMMON NAME: Mosselbay Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DDT

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A Western Cape endemic described BY Tucker (1923) from Mossel Bay. Known only from the Western Cape (EOO=704 km²; AOO=12 km²; 4-250 m a.s.l.). The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species' range. Therefore, listed as Data Deficient for taxonomic reasons.

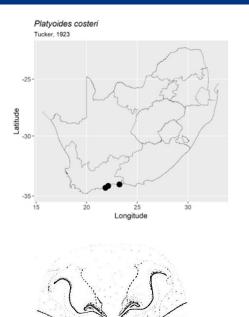
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Fynbos biome.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape*: Mossel Bay (-34.18, 22.12); Robberg Nature Reserve (-34.06, 23.24); Borrelfontein, 8 km W of Gouritz Mouth (-34.33, 21.85).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: The threats to this species are not known but the status of the species remains obscure and more sampling needed to collect the male. Species protected in the Robberg Nature Reserve

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known from only the female. Male collected but still undescribed.



Epigyne after Platnick (1985)



Platyoides costeri from Robberg Photo Eben Lourens

Platyoides leppanae Pocock, 1902

COMMON NAME: Leppan's Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described by Pocock (1902). Recorded from four African countries. From South Africa known from three provinces (EOO=222 135 km²; AOO=40 km²; 15-1551 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is listed as Least Concern.

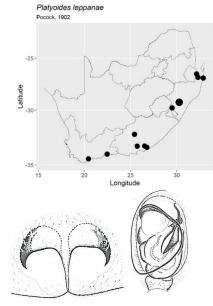
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. At Ndumo Game Reserve it was sampled from the bark of *Vachellia xanthophloea* (Haddad 2016). Sampled from the Fynbos, Grassland, Nama Karoo, Savanna and Thicket biomes (Haddad et al 2013; Foord et al. 2011).

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa.

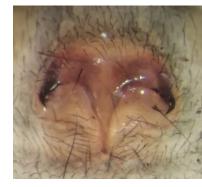
DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Eastern Cape*: Grahamstown (-33.3, 26.52); Mountain Zebra National Park (-32.24, 25.43); Albany (Resolution Farm) (-33.43, 26.77); Addo Elephant National Park (-33.32, 25.72). *KwaZulu-Natal*: iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (-26.93, 32.87); Underberg (-29.79, 29.5); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.544, 32.155); Ndumo Game Reserve, Fishing ladder (-26.52, 32.18)Pietermaritzburg (-29.6, 30.38). *Western Cape*: Pacaltsdorp (-34.03, 22.46); De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in the Mountain Zebra National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2006); Addo Elephant National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2020); Ndumo Game Reserve (Haddad et al. 2006) and De Hoop Nature Reserve (Haddad & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2009).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known from both sexes. Carapace and mandibles deep blackish brown; legs testaceous; abdomen ashy or creamy white in alcohol, with a broad marginal black band and a median, posteriorly narrowing, black stripe (Pocock 1902).



Genitalia after Platnick (1985)



Epigyne Photo Ruan Booysen



Platyoides leppanae female from Pietermaritzburg Photo Rudi Steenkamp



Platyoides leppanae female from Ndumu Game Reserve Photo Charles Haddad

Platyoides pictus Pocock, 1902

COMMON NAME: Grahamstown Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DDT

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South Africa endemic described by Pocock (1902) from Tea Fountain, Grahamstown. Presently known from two provinces (EOO= 2 529 km²; AOO=16km²; 360-1116 m a.s.l.). The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range. Therefore, listed as Data Deficient for taxonomic reasons.

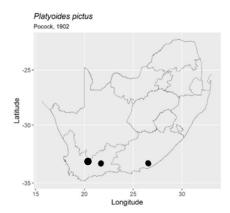
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Fynbos and Thicket biomes.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Eastern Cape*: Tea Fountain Grahamstown (-33.3, 26.52) Grahamstown (-33.35, 26.56). *Western Cape*: Swartberg Nature Reserve (Gamkaskloof) (-33.36, 21.69); Gamkaberg Nature Reserve (-33.31,21.71).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: The threats to this species are not known. Protected in the Swartberg Nature Reserve (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2005) and Gamkaberg Nature Reserve.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known only the female. Carapace and mandibles almost coral-red or pale yellow in the young; legs brownish red or yellow; abdomen ashy white in alcohol; the upper side with a broad marginal black band and a median black, anteriorly bifurcating stripe (Pocock 1902).







Platyoides pictus female from Gamkaberg Photo ASD

Platyoides pictus female Photo Les Oates







Epigyne after Platnick (1985)

Platyoides pirie Platnick, 1985

COMMON NAME: Pirie forest Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A South African endemic described by Platnick (1985) from Pirie Forest in the Eastern Cape. The species has been sampled from two provinces (EOO=66 207 km²; AOO=12 km²; 7-1488 m a.s.l.). Although only known from one sex, this species has a wide geographic distribution and is therefore listed as Least Concern.

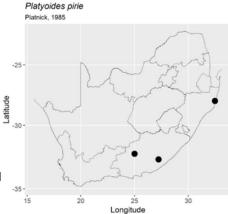
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Fynbos, Forest and Savanna biomes (Foord et al. 2021).

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Eastern Cape*: Pirie Forest (-32.72, 27.24); Asante Sana Private Game Reserve-Zuurkloof (-32.267,25.004). *KwaZulu-Natal*: iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Hell's Gate (-28, 32.48).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and Asante Sana Private Game Reserve.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known only from the female. Abdominal dorsum light grey with cardiac area slightly darkened (Platnick 1985).





Platyoides pirie female Photo Les Oates



Epigyne after Platnick (1985)

Platyoides pusillus Pocock, 1898

COMMON NAME: Estcourt Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described by Pocock (1898) from Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal. Presently recorded from three other African countries. From South Africa known from four provinces (EOO=561 996 km²; AOO=44 km²; 47-1821 m a.s.l.). Due to the wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

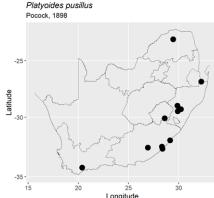
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Forest, Grassland, Savanna and Thicket biomes (Haddad et al. 2013; Foord et al. 2011)..

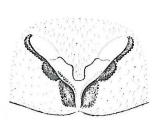
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, South Africa.

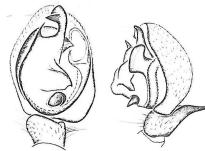
DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Eastern Cape*: Coffee Bay (-31.97, 29.14); Hogsback (-32.59, 26.92), Kei River Mouth (-32.68, 28.37); Kentani (-32.5 28.32). *KwaZulu-Natal*: Estcourt (-29, 29.87); Karkloof (-29.30, 30.21); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Wakefield Farm near Howick (-29.473, 29.893). *Limpopo:* Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve (-23.038, 29.442). *Western Cape:* De Hoop Nature Reserve, Lekkerwater (-34.25, 20.38).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: There are no significant threats to this species. It is protected in the Ndumo Game Reserve (Haddad et al. 2006), Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve and De Hoop Nature Reserve

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known from both sexes. Integument of carapace deep brown, clothed with olive-black hairs, ornamented on each side with a narrow white stripe separated from the margin by a dark band exceeding it in width; cephalic region with a thin median stripe extending from between the posterior median eyes and a curved white line passing from the tubercles over the anterior median eyes; palpi and legs yellowish brown; abdomen blackish above, clothed with dark olive hairs (Pocock 1902)







Genitalia after Platnick (1985)



Platyoides pusillus female Photo Les Oates

Platyoides quinquedentatus Purcell, 1907

COMMON NAME: Swellendam Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DDT

NATIONAL RATIONALE: A Western Cape endemic described Purcell (1907) from Swellendam. The species has only been sampled from a few localities in the province (EOO=321 km²; AOO=12 km²; 15-266 m a.s.l.). The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range. Therefore, listed as Data Deficient for taxonomic reasons.

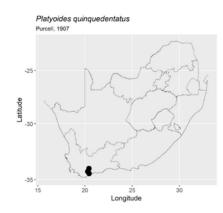
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Fynbos biome.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape*: De Hoop Nature Reserve (-34.45, 20.44); De Hoop Nature Reserve, Koppie Alleen cottage (-34.286, 20.286); Swellendam (-34.02, 20.42).

CONSERVATION MEASURES: The threats to this species are not known. Protected in the De Hoop Nature Reserve (Haddad & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2009).

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known from female only. Colour of carapace and chelicera dark mahogany brown; legs similarly coloured or lighter and more yellowish, the anterior pairs more reddish than the posterior ones, all partially infuscated, the femora not paler than the distal segment; abdomen blackened, with a paler, more or less yellowish, longitudinal dorsal stripe on each side above, the ventral surface pale yellowish ; sternum reddish yellow.

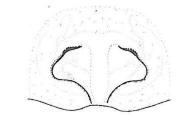




Platyoides quinquedentatus Photo Les Oates



Platyoides quinquedentatus Photo ASD



Epigyne after Platnick (1985)

Platyoides rossi Platnick, 1985

COMMON NAME: Eastern Cape Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DDT

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An Eastern Cape endemic described by Platnick (1985) from the type locality Kareedouw (EOO=4 km²; AOO=4 km²; 321 m a.s.l.). The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range. Therefore listed as Data Deficient for taxonomic reasons.

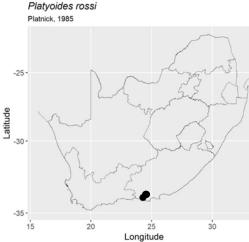
LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. Sampled from the Thicket biome.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Eastern Cape*: Kareedouw (-33.95, 24.29); Joubertina (-33.82, 23.84).

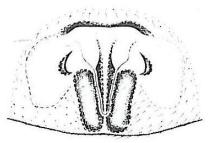
CONSERVATION MEASURES: The threats to this species are not known. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range.

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known only from the female. Abdominal dorsum grey with longitudinal paramedian white stripes on posterior three-quarters (Platnick 1985).





Platyoides rossi from Joubertina Photo: Les Oates



Epigyne after Platnick (1985)

Platyoides robertsi Haddad, 2022

COMMON NAME: Robert's Scorpion Spider

NATIONAL STATUS: DDT

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An Northern Cape endemic described by Haddad (2022) from the , Richtersveld National Park). The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range. Therefore listed as Data Deficient for taxonomic reasons.

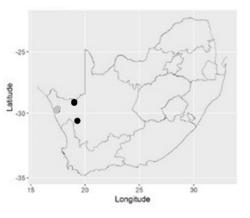
LIFESTYLE: Specimens were collected under rocks on the west-facing slopes of mountains in Succulent Karoo vegetation.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: Northern Cape, Richtersveld National Park, Akkedis Pass (-28.10577, 17.02.069); Calvinia, Akkerendam Nature Reserve (-31.24.453, 19.46.922).,

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

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Known only from the female.







Habitus and epigyne after Haddad (2022)

Platyoides walteri (Karsch, 1886)

COMMON NAME: Walter's Common Scorpion Spider

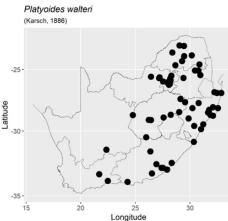
NATIONAL STATUS: LC

NATIONAL RATIONALE: An African endemic described Karsch (1886) as *Hemicloea walteri* from Botsabelo in the Free State. Recorded from four African countries and introduced into Australia. From South Africa known from all the provinces and occurs in more than 10 protected areas (EOO=698 131 km²; AOO=244 km²; 17-1762 m a.s.l.). Due to its wide geographical range, the species is therefore listed as Least Concern.

LIFESTYLE: Free-living wanderers with flattened bodies, an adaptation to life in narrow crevices under bark or under rocks. This is the most common species, found on bark but also frequently around houses under potted plants. The species has been sampled from the Forest, Grassland, Nama Karoo, Savanna and Thicket biomes. It has also been sampled from avocado orchards and commercial pine plantations (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2013). At Sabie State Forest *P. walteri* specimens were sampled from pine trees, using paper traps (Van den Berg & Dippenaar-Schoeman 1988).

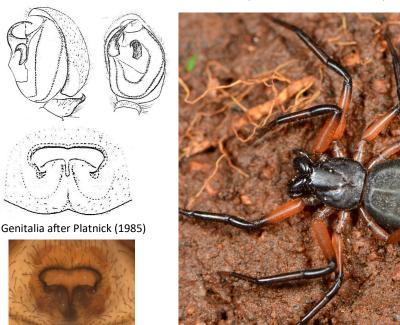
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION: Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, South Africa Introduced into Australia.

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: Eastern Cape: Berlin (-32.88, 27.53); East London (-33.01; 27.9); Grahamstown (-33.3, 26.52); Kareedouw (-33.95, 24.29); Kentani (-32.5, 28.32); King William's Town (-32.88, 27.39); Wilgerskloof Farm, Bamboesberg, W Sterkstroom (-31.6, 26.37); Qulorakwenth (-31.6, 26.37); Kei Mouth (-32.41, 28.22); Hogsback, near Big Tree (-32.36,26.57); Hogsback, Invaded forest (-32.35, 26.56); Hogback (-32.59, 26.92). Free State: Bethulie (-30.49, 25.99); Botshabelo (-29.21, 26.7); Clocolan, Mpetsane Conservation Estate (-28.92, 27.58); Memel (-27.69, 29.56); Sterkfontein Dam Nature Reserve (-28.48, 29.01); Vrede (-27.43, 29.13); Wyndford Guest Farm, Fouriesburg (-28.7, 28.24); Bloemfontein (-29.11, 26.22). Gauteng: Centurion (-25.85, 28.16); Germiston (-26.21, 28.15); Irene (-25.87, 28.22); Johannesburg (-26.2, 28.04); Magaliesburg (-25.99, 27.54); Modderfontein (-26.08, 28.17); Pretoria/Tshwane (-25.74, 28.19); Randburg (-26.07, 27.92); Wallmannsthal (-25.52, 28.3); Kliprivierberg Nature Reserve (-26.27, 28.08. KwaZulu-Natal: Dundee (-28.16, 30.23); Durban (-29.85, 31.01); Empangeni (-28.72, 31.88); Estcourt (-29, 29.87); Hluhluwe Nature Reserve (-28.09, 32.1); iSimangaliso Wetland Park: Cape Vidal (-28.16, 32.56), Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (-26.93, 32.87); Margate (-30.85, 30.36); Ndumo Game Reserve (-26.87, 32.24); Ophathe Game Reserve (-28.52, 31.66); Pietermaritzburg (-29.6, 30.38);





Platyoides walteri from Outeniqua NR Photo P. Meyer



Platyoides walteri from Irene Photo Peter Webb

Platyoides walteri (continued)

Richards Bay (15 km N) (-28.78, 32.1); Tembe Elephant Park (-26.94, 32.47); Umfolozi Nature Reserve (-28.3, 31.76); Umhlali (-29.47, 31.22); Vryheid Nature Reserve (-27.75, 30.79). *Limpopo*: Blouberg Nature Reserve (-22.99, 29.04); Lhuvhodo Nature Reserve (-23.03, 29.45); Marken (-23.59, 28.39); Nylsvley Nature Reserve (-24.65, 28.67); Pietersburg/ Polokwane (-23.89, 29.46); Tzaneen (-23.82, 30.16); Zebediela (-24.31, 29.27). *Mpumalanga*: Bergvliet Forest Station (-25.1, 30.78); Bourke's Luck (-25.09, 30.46); Nelspruit (-25.47, 30.96); Mariepskop (-24.58, 30.87). *North West*: Groot Marico (-25.6, 26.43); Rustenburg (-25.65, 27.22); Rustenburg Nature Reserve (-25.72, 27.18). *Northern Cape*: Kimberley (-28.73, 24.76); Loxton (-31.47, 22.35). *Western Cape*: Outeniqua Nature Reserve (-33.87, 22.48); Swartberg Nature Reserve (-33.36, 21.69).

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

TAXONOMIC NOTES: Revised by Platnick (1985), known from both sexes. Colour of carapace and chelicera brown; sternum and three basal segments of legs orange-yellow, the sternum with a deep blackish-red border all round, the remaining leg-segments (especially the patellae) and the apex of each femur more or less infuscate; abdomen blackened above, with or without a longitudinal row of more yellowish areas on each side of the median line, the underside paler, yellowish, whitish, or more or less infuscate.



Platyoides walteri from Kemptonpark Photo W. Schmidt



Platyoides walteri from Waterkloof Photo N. Mangels

POSSIBLE NEW SPECIES





Western Soutpansberg Altitudinal 2292 S. Foord



Rustenburg ASD

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