



THE  
AMAUROBIIDAE  
OF  
SOUTH AFRICA

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*South African National Survey of Arachnida Photo Identification Guide: Amaurobiidae 2020 version 1: 1-26*

# THE AMAUROBIIDAE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## ABSTRACT

The Amaurobiidae occurs worldwide and is known from 50 genera and 276 species. The family comprises several subfamilies, and one, Macrobuinae, is known from South Africa where it is represented by five genera and 16 species. All of them are South African endemics. In a study by Almeida-Silva (2013) on the rest of the Macrobuinae, seven new genera were proposed but must still be described. Of the sixteen 16 known species three species are listed as Least Concern but for the majority, the status remains obscure and is Data Deficient. Some more sampling is needed to collect both sexes and to determine the species range. Only two species of amaurobiids are of special concern. The numbers of *Chumma inquieta* Jocqué, 2001 are declining due to ongoing loss of its coastal habitat to housing developments and qualifies as Endangered under criterion B. *Chumma striata* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018 known from both sexes, is regarded as Rare due to the species having a small restricted distribution range (< 500 km<sup>2</sup>).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Chresiona* sp. Photo Peter Webb



*Pseudauximus* sp. Photo Ruan Booysen

## FAMILY AMAUROBIIDAE Thorell, 1870

The Amaurobiidae, represented by 50 genera and about 276 species, occurs worldwide (World Spider Catalog 2022). The family comprises several subfamilies. Only one Macrobininae, are known from South Africa where they are represented by five genera. But several new species are expected as a new study by Almeida-Silva (2013) proposed seven new genera for South Africa.

**COMMON NAMES:** Hackled-mesh web Weavers

**MORPHOLOGY:** Most amaurobiids are drab brown or grey, ground-dwelling spiders. They are small to medium-sized; three-clawed; cribellate or ecribellate; entelegyne; eight eyes in two rows; male palp with large distinct sclerotized retrolateral and dorsal tibial apophyses. Carapace sometimes with mediolateral dark stripes; abdomen sometimes with ill-defined chevron or mottled pattern; legs usually with dark annulations; carapace longer than wide, narrower in eye region, with longitudinal fovea.

**LIFE STYLE:** Some genera make hackled-mesh-webs other run around on vegetation or on the soil surface.

**TAXONOMY:** The subfamily was revised by Almeida-Silva (2013) as part of her PhD study. Results still to be published. Seven new genera are proposed for South Africa.



*Chresiona* sp. male Photo Wolf Avni



*Chresiona* sp. female Photo Peter Webb



*Chumma* sp. female Photo J. Miller

## GENUS *CHRESIONA* Simon, 1903

The *Chresiona* is a small genus known from three species all endemic to South Africa (World Spider Catalog 2022).

**COMMON NAMES:** Chresiona Mesh-Web Weavers

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Chresiona nigrosignata* Simon, 1903

**MORPHOLOGY:** Total body size 3-5 mm. Carapace pale brown with darker bands around the border or on both sides of fovea; cephalic region high and widest part; fovea short; eight eyes in two rows. Abdomen usually patterned, sometimes with white reticulation shining through the integument; colulus a transverse plate; ecribellate. Legs banded; three-clawed. Female epigynum has a semi-circular projection and the male palp has a patellar apophysis and distinct retrolateral and dorsal tibial apophyses.

**LIFE STYLE:** Sampled in high density while sweeping and beating low vegetation at Wyndford farm in the Free State. Adults are abundant in May.

**TAXONOMY:** Revised in a PhD study by Almeida-Silva (2013) but results not yet published.



*Chresiona invalida* Photo Peter Webb



*Chresiona* sp. palp Photo ASD



*Chresiona* sp. Photo Peter Webb



*Chresiona* sp. Photo Peter Webb

## *Chresiona convexa* Simon, 1903

**COMMON NAME:** Cape Chresiona Mesh-Web Weaver

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic, described in 1903 with type locality given as “Bonae Spei” (Cape Good Hope) (EEO=4 km<sup>2</sup>, AOO= 4 km<sup>2</sup>, 7 m a.s.l.). Identification of this species is problematic as no drawings were provided and the description is not detailed enough for correct identification. Only one specimen was sampled from the Western Cape prior to 1903. The species is therefore listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

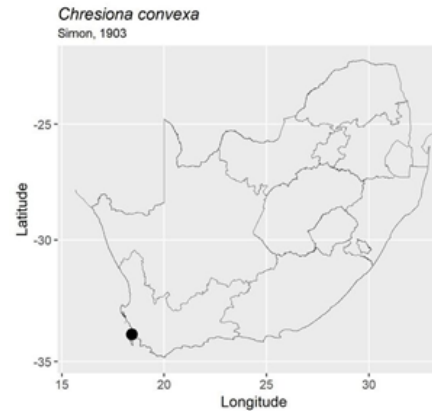
**LIFE STYLE:** Free-living plant dweller. Sampled with sweeping and beating low vegetation in the Fynbos Biome.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape:*** Table Mountain National Park (-33.91, 18.42).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Protected in the Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020). Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species range.

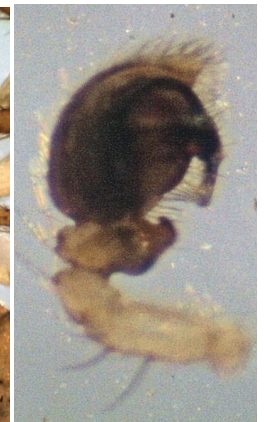
**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Not revised. Known only from the female with no drawings provided. Identification of male is still problematic.



*Chresiona convexa* eyes pattern Photo ASD



*Chresiona convexa* male dorsal and ventral view Photo ASD



*Chresiona convexa* palp Photo ASD

## *Chresiona invalida* (Simon, 1898)

**COMMON NAME:** Common Chresiona Mesh-Web Weaver

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** LC

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Southern African endemic described in 1898 as *Cybaeus invalidus* based on a female from Pretoria. The species was sampled from South Africa and Lesotho and five South African provinces including two protected areas, (EOO= 458 841 km<sup>2</sup>; 32 km<sup>2</sup>; 9-2102 masl). Due to wide geographical range the species listed as being of Least Concern.

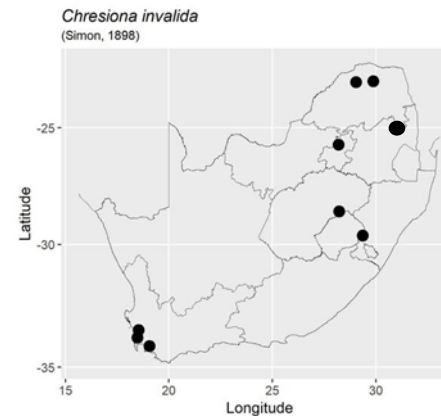
**LIFE STYLE:** *Chresiona invalida* was sampled from pitfall traps as well as beating low vegetation. In the Free State, the species was sampled during the day from plants. It was sampled from the Fynbos, Grassland (Haddad et al. 2013) and Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa, Lesotho.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** **Eastern Cape:** Addo National Park (-33.32, 25.72). **Free State:** Wyndford farm, Fouriesburg (-28.61, 28.23). **Gauteng:** Pretoria National Botanical Garden (-25.74, 28.19). **KwaZulu-Natal:** Sani Pass (-29.62, 29.37). **Limpopo:** Blouberg Nature Reserve(-22.99, 29.04); Little Leigh (Western Soutpansberg)(-22.9485, 29.86961). **Mpumalanga:** Ohrigstad (-24.74, 30.58). **Western Cape:** Elgin (-34.16, 19.06); Greater Simonsberg Conservancy, Delheim (-33.52, 18.53); Table Mountain National Park (-33.82, 18.48).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Protected in the Addo National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2020), Blouberg Nature Reserve (Foord et al. 2019), Pretoria National Botanical Garden, Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020) and Simonsberg Conservancy and no conservation actions are recommended.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Not revised, known only from the female. Identification of the male is still problematic.



*Chresiona invalida* undescribed male from Wyndford Photo P. Webb



*Chresiona invalida* female from Wyndford farm Photo P. Webb



*Chresiona invalida* female epigynum Photo ASD



After Lehtinen (1967)

## *Chresiona nigrosignata* Simon, 1903

**COMMON NAME:** Chresiona Mesh-Web Weaver

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic described in 1903 based on a female, with type locality given only as “Bonae Spei” (Cape of Good Hope). Nothing is known about the species to conduct a full assessment. It is therefore listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

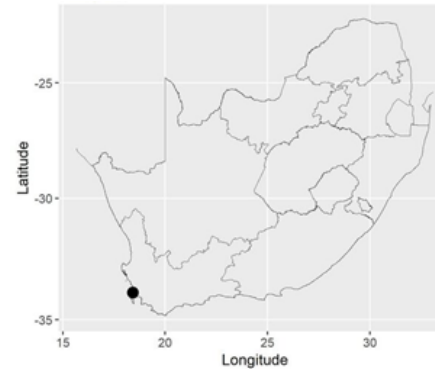
**LIFE STYLE:** Nothing known.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** locality given only as “Bonae Spei” (Cape of Good Hope. **Western Cape:** Table Mountain National Park(-33.91, 18.42).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Protected in the Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020) but more sampling needed to collect the male.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known only from the female with drawing of the female epigynum provided by Lehtinen (1967). Description of male is still problematic.



Epigynum after Lehtinen (1967)



*Chresiona nigrosignata* epigynum  
Photo ASD

*Chresiona nigrosignata* female dorsal and ventral view  
Photo ASD



## GENUS *CHUMMA* Jocqué, 2001

The genus *Chumma* was originally described in the family Chummidae a small family known only from South Africa. The distribution of the genus is remarkable: it is apparently restricted to the temperate climate zone in the southern part of South Africa but occurs not only in the particular habitats that are typical for that zone (Jocqué & Alderweireldt (2018). It was transferred from Chummidae to Amaurobiidae by Wheeler et al. (2017) but transfer was not accepted by Jocqué & Alderweireldt (2018)

**COMMON NAMES:** Spiny-Backed Spiders

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Chumma inquieta* Jocqué, 2001

**LIFE STYLE:** Wandering ground dwellers; free-running on soil surface. During periods of inactivity the spiders sit upside-down under a dead leaf. The spiders have a rapid gait not unlike that of lycosids and they run for fairly long bouts, stop and run again (Jocqué 2001) .

**MORPHOLOGY:** Carapace flat, oval; widest at coxae II, strongly narrowed in front; cephalic area well separated by cervical groove; fovea absent; eyes eight in two rows; chelicerae strong. Sternum as long as wide, with posterior point protruding between coxae IV. Abdomen fairly flat with well-developed structural dorsal scutum in both sexes; in front with field of stiff macrosetae with large sockets; four central sigilla and several smaller lateral ones; spinnerets six in female. Legs short; 4123; only one or two spines on femora or spineless; with row of four trichobothria on tarsi and one trichobothrium on metatarsi and tibiae; three tarsal claws. Male palp with complex lateral tibial apophysis; cymbium with proximal modifications; bulbus with large subtegulum; embolus short, solid, emerging on distal part of tegulum. Epigyne simple with central depression and strong reticulated lateral protrusion either side.

**TAXONOMY:** Revised by Jocqué (2001) and Jocqué & Alderweireldt (2018).



*Chumma inquieta* Photo J. Miller



*Chumma inquieta* from Plettenberg Photo Claire Hamilton

## *Chumma bicolor* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018

**COMMON NAME:** Goukamma Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic described in 2017 from Goukamma in the Western Cape. The species is presently known only from the type locality (EEO= 4 km<sup>2</sup>; 4 km<sup>2</sup>). The status of the male remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species range. Therefore it is listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

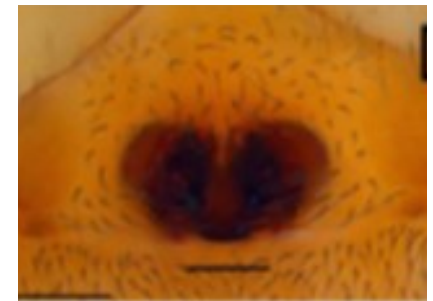
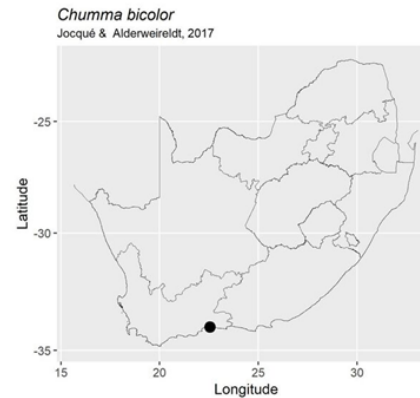
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter and was sampled beating fynbos shrubs.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** *Western Cape:* Goukamma (-34.030, 22.550).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Types recorded from the Goukamma Nature Reserve. More sampling needed to sample the male and to determine the species range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Only known from females (Jocqué & Alderweireldt 2018).



*Chumma bicolor* habitus and epigyne after Jocqué & Alderweireldt (2018).

## *Chumma foliata* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018

**COMMON NAME:** Amatola Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** An Eastern Cape endemic described in 2017 from Hogsback in the Amatola Mountains. The species is presently known only from 16 specimens sampled from the type locality (EOO= 4 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO<8 km<sup>2</sup>; 1272 m a.s.l.). The species has a restricted distribution and the status of their status remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to determine the species' range. Therefore it is listed as Data Deficient.

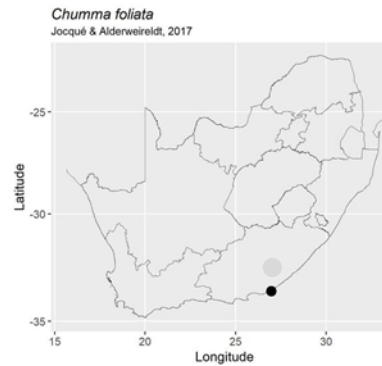
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter and was sampled in high numbers by hand from grass tussocks in alpine Grassland and Fynbos biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Eastern Cape:*** Amatola Mountains, Hogsback (-32.593, 26.930); Amatola Mountains, Hogsback, Amatola Forestry Company (-32.6279, 26.9719).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. More sampling needed to sample the male and to determine the species range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from both sexes.



*Chumma foliata* habitus, male palp and epigyne after Jocqué & Alderweireldt (2018).

## *Chumma gastroperforata* Jocqué, 2001

**COMMON NAME:** Humansdorp Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** LC

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A South African endemic described in 2001 from Humansdorp (Wit Els Bos). The species is known from two provinces (EOO= 9 361 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO=20 km<sup>2</sup>; 284-1003 m a.s.l.). There are no known threats to the species and it is likely to be under sampled. Therefore it is listed as Least Concern.

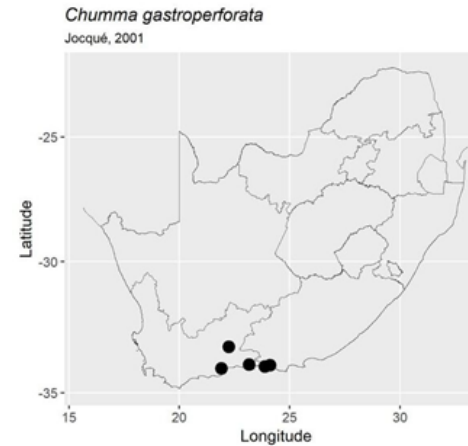
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter frequently collected from pitfall traps. Sampled from the Forest and Fynbos biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** **Eastern Cape:** Tsitsikamma National Park (-34.017, 23.878). **Western Cape:** Diepwalle Forest Station, Van Huysteensbos (-33.951, 23.168); Gondwana Game Reserve, SE Herbertsdale (-34.088, 21.906); Humansdorp Witelsbos (-33.9718, 24.1031); Prince Albert, Rosendal Farm (-33.273, 22.242).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** There are no known threats. Species protected in the Tsitsikamma National Park, Gondwana Game Reserve and Diepwalle Forest Station.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from both sexes (Jocqué 2001).



Male palp Photo  
ASD



*Chumma gastroperforata* male (top) and female (bottom) Photo  
ASD



Epigynum after Jocqué (2001)

## *Chumma inquieta* Jocqué, 2001

**COMMON NAME:** Colchester Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** EN B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A South African endemic described in 2001 from Colchester in the Eastern Cape. Known from two provinces (EOO = 7 073 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO= 16 km<sup>2</sup>; 32-587 m a.s.l.). Known from four locations but likely to occur at between five and 10 locations, this species is declining due to ongoing loss of its coastal habitat to housing developments. It therefore qualifies as Endangered under criterion B.

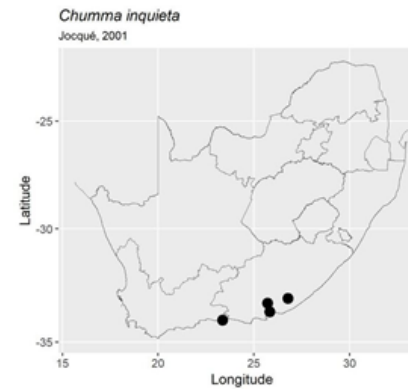
**LIFE STYLE:** A free-living ground spider collected in leaf litter. Some specimens were sampled from back dunes in the litter of *Searsea crenata* in the Thicket and Fynbos biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** **Eastern Cape:** Addo National Park (-33.32, 25.72); Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve (-33.1061, 26.7756); Colchester Pearson Park Nature and Pleasure Resort (-33.6912, 25.8338). **Western Cape:** Plettenberg Bay (-34.0575, 23.3645).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Species protected in the Addo National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2020) and Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve. Threatened by ongoing loss of its back dune habitat to coastal development, the location at Plettenberg Bay is likely to have been lost.

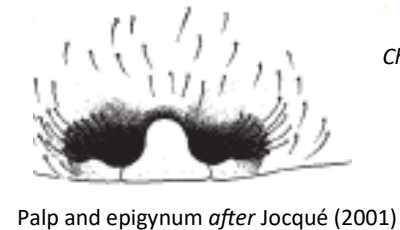
**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from both sexes (Jocqué 2001).



*Chumma inquieta* from Plettenberg Photo Claire Hamilton



*Chumma inquieta* female Photo ASD



Palp and epigynum after Jocqué (2001)



*Chumma inquieta* male Photo ASD

## *Chumma interfluvialis* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018

**COMMON NAME:** Free State Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Free State endemic described in 2017 from Tussen-die-Riviere Nature Reserve. The species is presently known only from eight specimens sampled from the type locality (EOO=4 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO= 4 km<sup>2</sup>; 1235 m a.s.l.). The status of the species remains obscure. Some more sampling is needed to determine the species' range, therefore it is listed as Data Deficient.

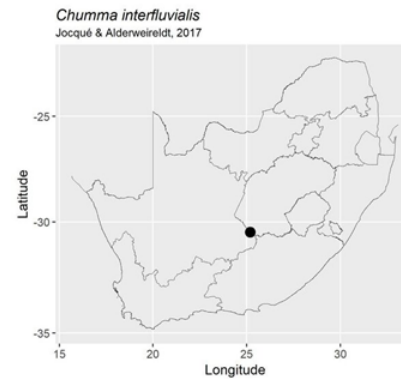
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter and was sampled while sifting leaf litter in *Vachellia karroo* riparian woodland on the banks of the Orange River in the Grassland Biome.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** *Free State:* Tussen-die-Riviere Nature Reserve, Bank of Orange River (-30.47, 25.19).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Species protected in the Tussen-die-Riviere Nature Reserve. Some more sampling is needed to determine the species' range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from both sexes (Jocqué & Alderweireldt 2018).



Palp, ventral view after Jocqué & Alderweireldt,(2018).



*Chumma interfluvialis* habitus and epigyne, Photo sCharles Haddad

## *Chumma striata* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018

**COMMON NAME:** Striped Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** RARE

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic described in 2017 from Rosendal. The species is presently known only from three sites in the Western Cape (EOO= 226 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO=12 km<sup>2</sup>; 232-878 m a.s.l.). Due to the species having a small restricted distribution range (< 500 km<sup>2</sup>) it is regarded as Rare.

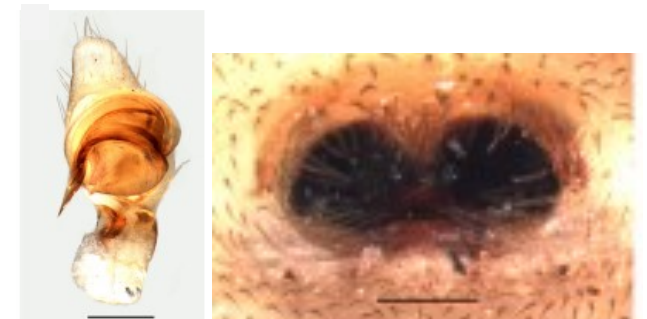
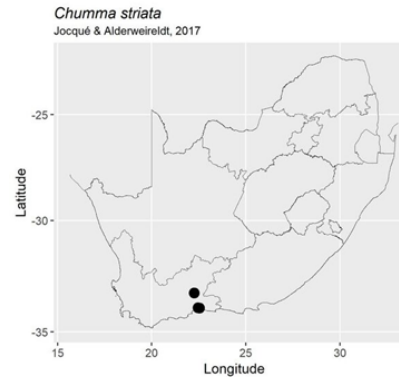
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter and was sampled by sifting litter and from pitfall traps from the Forest and Fynbos biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape:*** Prince Albert Rosendal Farm (-33.28, 22.25); George, Saasveld Forestry Station (-33.95, 22.53); 10 km E of George, Silver River (-33.95, 22.46).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Species protected in the Saasveld Forestry Station but more sampling needed to determine their range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from both sexes (Jocqué & Alderweireldt 2018).



*Chumma striata* habitus, male palp and epigyne after Jocqué & Alderweireldt (2018).

## *Chumma subridens* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018

**COMMON NAME:** Fort Fordyce Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A South African endemic species described in 2017 from Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape. The species is presently known only from six specimens sampled from two widely separated locations on in the Eastern and Western Cape (EOO=2 803 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO=12 km<sup>2</sup>; 9-845 m a.s.l.). More sampling is required to understand this species range, it is thus assessed as Data Deficient.

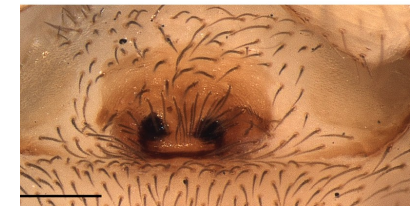
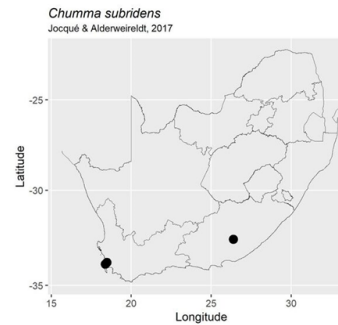
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter and was sampled by sifting leaf litter in Afrotemperate forest and shrub land in the Fynbos Biome.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** *Eastern Cape:* Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve (-32.605, 26.388). *Western Cape:* Cape Town, Table Mountain National Park (-33.82, 18.48); Table Mountain National Park Signal Hill (-33.90, 18.38).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Species protected in the Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve and Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020). More sampling is required to determine this species range,

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from both sexes (Jocqué & Alderweireldt 2018).



*Chumma subridens* habitus male and female, palp and epigyne. (After Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018).



## *Chumma tsitsikamma* Jocqué & Alderweireldt, 2018

**COMMON NAME:** Tsitsikamma Spiny-Backed Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** An Eastern Cape endemic described in 2017 from Tsitsikamma National Park. The species is presently known only from four specimens sampled at the type locality (EOO= 4 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO=4 km<sup>2</sup>; 230 m a.s.l.). Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species range. Therefore it is listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

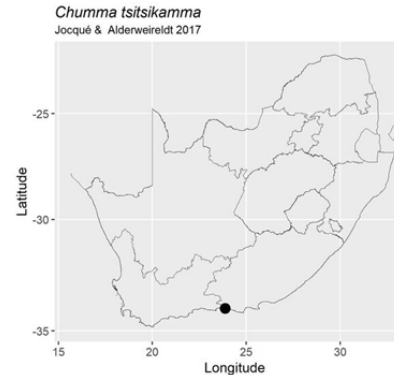
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-living hunter and was sampled from leaf litter in high moisture coastal forest in the Forest Biome.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** *Eastern Cape:* Tsitsikamma National Park (-34.017, 23.878).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Species protected in the Tsitsikamma National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020c). Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Known from only the male (Jocqué & Alderweireldt 2018).



*Chumma tsitsikamma* habitus and palp, dorsal view. (After Jocqué & Alderweireldt 2018).

## GENUS *MACROBUNUS* Tullgren, 1901

The genus *Macrobunus* is described by Tullgren (1901) represented by five species. Only one species is known from South Africa and the rest recorded from South America (World Spider Catalog 2022).

**COMMON NAMES:** *Macrobunus* Mesh-Web Weavers

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Macrobunus backhauseni* (Simon, 1896)

**MORPHOLOGY:** Total body size 3-5 mm. They are small spiders, recognised by the undivided cribellum. Carapace oval; fovea longitudinal; anterior median eyes larger than posterior lateral eyes; anterior eye row is strongly recurved; median ocular triangle narrower anteriorly. Abdomen long oval. Leg with femora I in males with a spur. Epigynum with a central septum.

**LIFE STYLE:** Little is known about their behaviour. They are ground dwellers sampled from pitfall traps.

**TAXONOMY:** Revised in a PhD study by Almeida-Silva (2013) but results not yet published.



*Macrobunus* sp. female Photo ASD



*Macrobunus* sp. carapace Photo ASD

## ***Macrobunus caffer* (Simon, 1898)**

**COMMON NAME:** Macrobunus Mesh-Web Weaver

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic described by Simon (1898) as *Myro caffer* from female with type locality given as Bonae Spei (EOO= 8 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO=8 km<sup>2</sup>; 7-26 m a.s.l.). Only two specimens were taken in Cape Peninsula. Species under sampled and not enough is known about the species for a full assessment. It is therefore listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

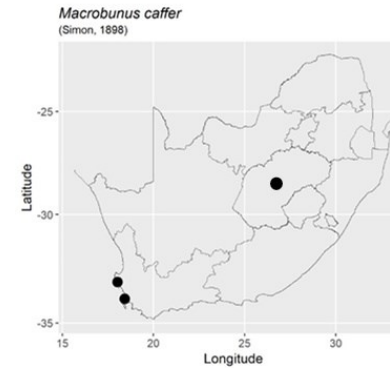
**LIFE STYLE:** The species is a free-running ground dweller sampled from the Fynbos Biome.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape:*** Cape Town (-33.91 18.42); Jakobsbaai, Saldanha Bay district (-33.15, 18.03).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown except urbanization in the Cape Town area. Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Not revised, only known from the female. A drawing of the female epigynum and eyes was provided by Ledoux (1991).



*Macrobunus caffer* Photo N. Josling



*Macrobunus caffer* eyes and epigynum after Ledoux (1991).

## GENUS *OBATALA* Lehtinen, 1967

The genus *Obatala* described by Lehtinen (1967) is a monotypic genus known from only one South Africa endemic species (World Spider Catalog 2022).

**COMMON NAMES:** *Obatala* Mesh-Web Weavers

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Obatala armata* Lehtinen, 1967

**MORPHOLOGY:** Total body size 3-5 mm. Carapace pale yellowish; cephalic region high with a dark border; fovea long, narrow and dark; anterior median eyes smaller than posterior median eyes; five to seven cheliceral teeth; labium as wide as long. Abdomen with white marking; cribellum undivided. Legs are faintly banded. Epigynum has a caudal arched plate.

**LIFE STYLE:** Little is known about their behaviour. They are ground dwellers sampled from pitfall traps.

**TAXONOMY:** Revised in a PhD study by Almeida-Silva (2013) but results not yet published.



*Obatala* sp. female and male Photo ASD

## *Obatala armata* Lehtinen, 1967

**COMMON NAME:** Obatala Mesh-Web Weaver

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic described in 1967 based on a female collected in the Cederberg, Western Cape. The species is known only from three localities (EOO= 1 271 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO= 12 km<sup>2</sup>; 78-600 m a.s.l.). Too little is known about the species for a comprehensive assessment. It is therefore listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

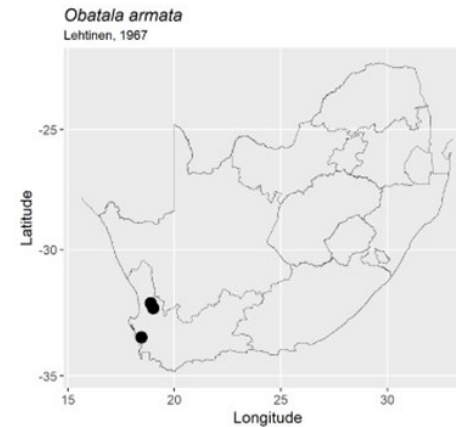
**LIFE STYLE:** The ground-dwelling *Obatala armata* is known from the Fynbos Biome and it was sampled from pitfall traps.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: *Western Cape*:** Cederberg Wilderness Area (-32.16, 18.89); Cederberg Wilderness Area, Niewoudt's Pass (-32.35, 19.01); Mamre (-33.5, 18.45); Clanwilliam. Cederberg (-32.16, 18.89).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Species protected in the Cederberg Wilderness Area (Foord & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2016). More sampling needed to collect the male and determine the range.

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



*Obatala armata* female eye pattern



*Obatala armata* female from Cederberg dorsal and ventral view Photo ASD



Epigynum after Lehtinen (1967).

## GENUS *PSEUDAUXIMUS* Simon, 1902

The African endemic genus *Pseudauximus* was described by Simon (1902). It is represented by three endemic South African species (World Spider Catalog 2022).

**COMMON NAMES:** Pseudauximus Mesh-Web Weavers

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Pseudauximus reticulatus* Simon, 1902

**MORPHOLOGY:** Total body size 4-6 mm. Carapace pale yellowish with black patches on the striae; cephalic region high with a dark border; carapace longer than wide; narrower in the eye region; median ocular quadrangle sub rectangular; fovea is long and narrow and dark; varies from longitudinal to a simple depression. Abdomen yellow with white reticulation shining through integument; abdomen oval, usually with dense layer of short, fine setae; cribellum undivided; colulus transverse plate; spinnerets short. Legs fairly long, especially in males. Epigynum semi-circular projection.

**LIFE STYLE:** Little is known about their behaviour.

**TAXONOMY:** Revised in a PhD study by Almeida-Silva (2013) but results not yet published.



*Pseudauximus* sp. female From Benfontein NR Photos Ruan Booyesen

## *Pseudauximus annulatus* Purcell, 1908

**COMMON NAME:** Pseudauximus Mesh-Web Weaver

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DDT

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A South African endemic described in 1904 from a male collected in Little Namaqualand. The species is known from two localities, but is suspected to occur in more (EOO= 8 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO= 8 km<sup>2</sup>; 231-1341 m a.s.l.). Identification is still problematic; it is therefore listed as Data Deficient for Taxonomic reasons.

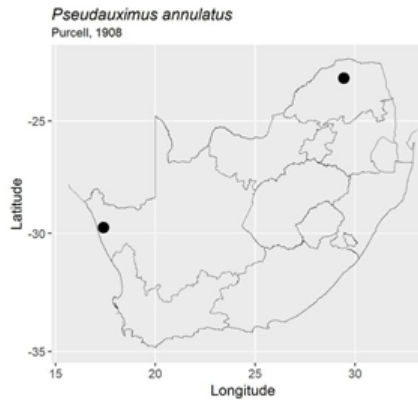
**LIFE STYLE:** The ground-dwelling *Pseudauximus annulatus* was sampled from pitfall traps in the Savanna (Foord et al. 2011) and Succulent Karoo biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** *Limpopo:* Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve (-23.038, 29.442).  
*Northern Cape:* Little Namaqualand (-29.75, 17.4).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown. Species protected in the Lhuvhondo Nature Reserve (Foord et al. 2008). Some more sampling is needed to collect the female and to determine the species range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Not revised, known only from male.



Palp after Purcell



*Pseudauximus annulatus* Photo ASD

## *Pseudauximus pallidus* Purcell, 1903

**COMMON NAME:** Pseudauximus Mesh-Web Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** LC

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A South African endemic described by Purcell (1903) from a female collected in Hanover, Northern Cape in 1902. The species was collected from several localities in three provinces. It is protected in three protected areas (EOO=40 434 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO=32 km<sup>2</sup>; 9-1358 m a.s.l.). There are no significant threats to the species and due to the wide geographical range the species is listed as being of Least Concern.

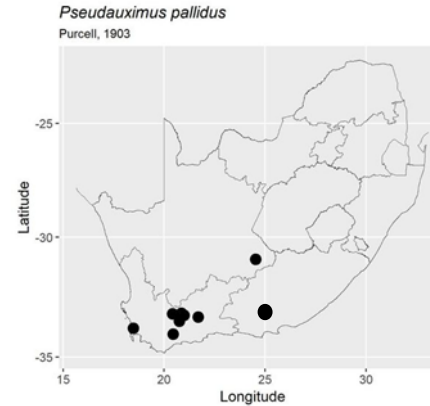
**LIFE STYLE:** *Pseudauximus pallidus* is a ground dwelling spider collected in pitfall traps from the Fynbos and Nama Karoo biomes.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

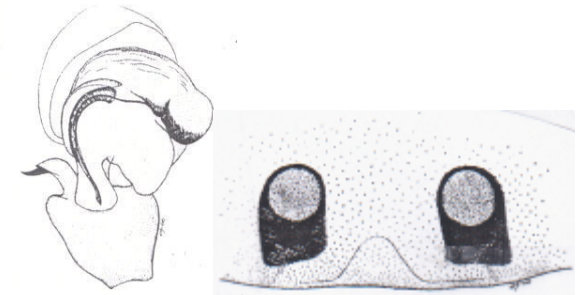
**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** **Eastern Cape:** Addo Elephant National Park (-33.32, 25.72). **Northern Cape:** Hanover (-30.94, 24.53). **Western Cape:** Swartberg Nature Reserve (Gamkaskloof) (-33.36, 21.69); Cape Town (-33.82, 18.48); Bontebok National Park (-34.07, 20.45); Laingsburg, Floriskraal Dam (-33.2925, 20.9922); Laingsburg (-33.20, 20.85); Anysberg Nature Reserve (-33.53, 20.76); Matjiesfontein, Jagerskraal (-33.230, 20.4151).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** No known threats. Species protected in Swartberg Nature Reserve (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2005), Bontebok National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. 2021) and Anysberg Nature Reserve.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Not revised, known from both sexes.



*Pseudauximus pallidus* Photo ASD



Palp and epigynum after Lehtinen (1967)



## *Pseudauximus reticulatus* Simon, 1902

**COMMON NAME:** Pseudauximus Mesh-Web Spider

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD

**NATIONAL RATIONALE:** A Western Cape endemic described from a female by Simon (1902) with the type locality given as "Bonae Spei". In more recent years, the species was recorded from Robben Island and Table Mountain National Park (EEO= 63 km<sup>2</sup>; AOO= 12 km<sup>2</sup>; 7-9 m a.s.l.). Too little is known about the species for a full assessment. It is therefore listed as Data Deficient.

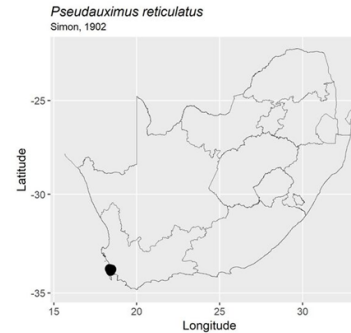
**LIFE STYLE:** *Pseudauximus reticulatus* is free running ground dweller recorded from the Fynbos Biome.

**GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION:** South Africa.

**DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:** *Western Cape*: type locality only as Cape of Good Hope; Robben Island (-33.80, 18.35); Cape Town (-33.91,18.42); Table Mountain National Park (-33.82,18.48).

**CONSERVATION MEASURES:** Threats to the species are unknown but urbanization and fire will have an effect. Presently protected in the Table Mountain National Park (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2020). Some more sampling is needed to collect the male and to determine the species range.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Not revised, known from female. Lehtinen (1967) provided a drawing of the male palp but male still undescribed.



Palp after Lehtinen (1967)

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