

The Spider Club NEWS

June 2022



Vol. 38, No. 2

“The Spider Club provides a fun, responsible, social learning experience, centred on spiders, their relatives, and on nature in general.”



WINTER EDITION

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About the Spider Club

The Spider Club of Southern Africa is a non-profit organisation. Our aim is to encourage an interest in all arachnids and to promote this interest and the study of these animals by all suitable means.

Membership is open to anyone. People interested in joining the club may apply to any committee member for information.

Field outings, day visits, arachnid surveys and demonstrations, workshops, and exhibits are arranged from time to time. A diary of events and outings is published at the end of this newsletter.

Contact us

WEBSITE: <http://www.spiderclub.co.za>

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@spiderclub.co.za



at "The Spider Club of Southern Africa"

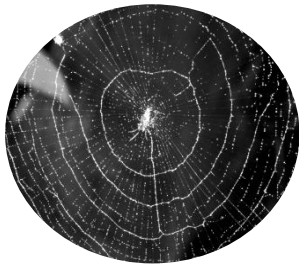
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Acknowledgements:

Our sincere gratitude goes to the following people for this edition of the newsletter:

- All the photographers of the photos used in this edition. Without you, these pages would be very dull.
- Astri Leroy, of course, for all her contributions, and informing me of any new content, as well as the entire SCSA Committee (Roulla, Jarrod, Henning, Desiré, and Ruan) for their contributions.
- Jeanne van Aswegen, my colleague at Grammar Guardians and superior half, for proofreading and editing the newsletter.
- Everyone on SCSA for all the interesting content.
- All the readers of this newsletter, and all the positive feedback we receive. Of course, keep the negative feedback coming, so that we can improve on this newsletter.



FROM THE HUB

Not my usual “hub” but something important for you to know!

We had an awesome day last Sunday, 6 June, at the ARC Roodeplaat campus where Robin Lyle of the ARC ran a beginner’s ID course on identifying spiders using microscopes (see pages 18-20). Before starting, she gave us a presentation on the laws and regulations regarding the collection of biological specimens, such as spiders. It was compiled by Riana Jacobs of the Mycology department and although the presentation focuses on fungi, it is relevant for all biological specimens. She pointed out that South Africa has signed several international protocols and agreements and national, provincial, and local laws and Acts are in place to protect our fauna and flora.

Here are examples:

- The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**: Known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, it has three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. This is an international protocol
- **CITES**: You probably know this one, it’s the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna
- Then there’s the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act of 2004 (**NEMBA**), which is an Act of Parliament
- **TOPS**: Threatened and Protected Species. This lists all fauna and flora in these categories in South Africa. Currently the list of spiders is still under review so best expect there will be a big revision on what is or isn’t threatened or protected
- **AIS**: Alien invasive species
- **NBSAP**: National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
- **NSRSP**: National Scientific Research Collection Platform
- **PIC**; s far as we are concerned, this is the most important regulation to remember and to act on (see point 4 below).

This is all important stuff and provincial departments of nature conservation will apply the TOPS list and issue a permit or not. In reality, the take-away is that if you want to collect, keep the following in mind:

- 1) You have a good and valid reason.
- 2) You have to apply to the provincial nature conservation body for the province in which you plan to collect.
- 3) Western Cape and Mpumalanga provinces don’t issue permits based on the TOPS list but use different criteria.
- 4) It’s best you don’t even think of collecting any living thing, including spiders, in the Western Cape; you might inadvertently omit to fulfil some obscure local, provincial, or national law and land in jail. It has happened before!
- 5) Don’t apply for a provincial permit in the North West province; there is no one in the permits office to issue permits.
- 6) Most important of all is **Prior Informed Consent (PIC)**. This must be in writing from the landowner or the landowner’s official representative before you collect. If you are doing any kind of scientific study that entails collecting of specimens, scientific publishers will throw your study out without

it. Luckily for me and no doubt for others, there is a retrospective cut-off date before this law came into effect.

If you don't like any of this, please don't shoot the messenger!

We have our own guidelines in place that anyone leading a Spider Club event should know and read out on field events such as public spider walks. Anyone leading a Spider Club field event can ask me for a copy.

Here is an example of a form I have used for the PIC from landowners:

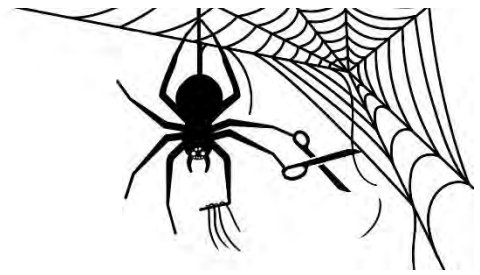
I (FULL NAME OF LANDOWNER OR LANDOWNER'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE):	

RESIDENT AT: _____	
CELL No. _____	E-MAIL: _____
HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO:	

(NAME OF COLLECTOR/S)	
RESIDENT AT: _____	
PERMISSION TO COLLECT SPIDERS, SCORPIONS, FALSE SCORPIONS, WHIP SPIDERS, HARVESTMEN, ROMAN SPIDERS AND PALPIGRADES	
ON THE FARM/S or NATURE RESERVE/S LISTED:	

IN THER DISTRICT OF: _____	
IN RESPECT OF PERMIT No: _____ (IF APPLICABLE)	
SIGNED (LANDOWNER OR REPRESETNTATIVE) _____	
DATE: _____	
SIGNED (PERMIT HOLDER) _____	

Snippets



CALL FOR NEWSLETTER CONTENT

As some of you will notice, this newsletter is much shorter than the previous few, which is not necessarily a bad thing. However, we do need fresh content, even if it's not related to Southern Africa.

Therefore, if anyone has anything related to spiders for the newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor (Rudi Steenkamp) at rudolphsteinkampf@gmail.com. This can include any of the following:

- Something short for the “Snippets” section, such as any short news (future events, taxonomic changes, new species, etc.).
- Interesting observations for the “Observations” section.
- A review of a spider- or arachnid-related book, movie, documentary, etc.
- Any feature article on any spider- or arachnid-related topic, or about recent fieldwork/events. These will be at least two pages long.
- Anything humorous for the “On a lighter note” section. This can include funny cartoons/memes, funny posts on social media, etc.

SPIDER CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE NEARING 50 000 MEMBERS



The Spider Club of Southern Africa (SCSA) Facebook page was created on 19 March 2010. Membership was rather low in the beginning, and included mostly people who were members of the club, and a few people already interested in spiders. It has since grown to be the biggest spider group on Facebook that focuses on

Southern African spiders, and is also the biggest spider group in Africa. Soon after, through events like spider walks, exhibitions at expos, and other educational campaigns, the word spread, and many people who were interested in learning more about spiders or wanted to overcome their fear also joined.

At the time of publishing, membership stood at 49 920. Many of these members are from overseas, and many of them include world-renowned arachnologists, which makes SCSA a wonderful source of information.

Thank you to everyone who makes this group wonderful, and all the admins who keep it growing, and ensure that the group focuses on quality rather than quantity.

CECILE ROUX WRITING FOR NEWSLETTER



Cecile Roux is an amateur naturalist who loves documenting especially spiders and insects. On iNaturalist she has almost 8 000 observations of more than 1 400 species. In the “Spiders of South Africa” project, she has the most observations (2 434), which include 94 spider species. She always posts her finds on The Spider Club of Southern Africa’s Facebook page, and many of her finds sometimes has the experts stumped.

Cecile agreed to write about her finds for the next few newsletters, focusing on different habitats. See pages 26-30 for her first piece about the spiders on the western slope of Kasteelberg near Riebeeck West in the Western Cape. Thank you, Cecile; we are looking forward to your future observations!

NICKY BAY RESPONDS TO FAKE POST



Every now and then this post makes the rounds on Facebook, and we have to nip it in the bud, but it just keeps coming back. Nicky Bay, the photographer of the spider, often gets tagged in these posts, and now finally has created a post to explain. He states:

“My photos of the Cork-Lid Trapdoor Spider [*Cyclocosmia*] have been making their rounds on the internet again this month with yet another entirely untrue caption claiming that the spider kills you within 5 minutes. This post is to address and debunk the nonsensical captions and to share the actual beauty of the spider without using fake captions to spread the irrational fear of spiders.”

The post can be seen here:

<https://www.nickybay.com/fake-news-explained-cork-lid-trapdoor-spiders/?fbclid=IwAR1RjSgmcizMk6SliWK3o0fUcBkoQRIGYmLh7sRQIDTjc8bas5jWERSizLg>

¹ Zhang, J., Mikhailov, K.G., Koponen, S., Long, F., Yu, H. & Li, S. 2022. Forty-two years of scientific research on eight

YURI MARUSIK TURNS 60



Many people will know about Russian arachnologist Yuri Marusik, and some people have even had the privilege to meet him on at least one occasion.

On 13 May 2022, he turned 60 years old; 42 of those years were dedicated to spiders from all around the world. This globetrotting arachnologist has visited 45 countries, including South Africa on a few occasions. He has also published 545 papers, and has described 57 new genera and 718 new species, mostly the Gnaphosidae¹.

Thank you, Yuri, for all your hard work and dedication. From all the spider enthusiasts in South Africa, happy birthday!

SPIDER PHOTOS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK

The International Society of Arachnology (ISA) recently circulated the following email. If you have photos to send, please send them directly to Sara at sara@wildlifetree.com

Hello,

My name is Sara Karnoscak and I'm a writer for Wildlife Tree, a retail company that focuses on teaching children about wildlife conservation and supports wildlife conservation efforts. The company is releasing a series of educational reader books and I'm presently writing a book about spiders.

We are in need of photos for the book and were hoping some members of the arachnology community may be interested in having your photos published. We are looking for photos of at least 300dpi (if you're unsure of the quality of your photos, please send the highest quality you have.) We of course would give you credit in the book and may be able to pay a small fee for some photos depending on

legs— celebrating the 60th birthday of Dr Yuri M. Marusik. *ZooKeys*, 1100: 87-101.

quality/rarity. We do not need exclusive rights to the photos.

If you would be interested in contributing, please see below for a list of the spiders and items we're currently planning to include. The book is still in early drafts, so if you have photos not on the list you would like to share, please feel free to do so! We may be able to use them. Please include a description of all photos, including species name. Larger file sizes are better, as small files may not be usable.

If you're interested or have any questions you can e-mail me at sara@wildlifetree.com.

Thank you so much!

Sara Karnoscak

www.wildlifetree.com

Specific spiders:

- Jumping spider *Salticidae*
- Tarantula (any species)
- Goliath birdeater *Theraphosa blondi*
- *Patu digua* Symphytognathidae
- Happy face spider *Theridion grallator*
- Peacock jumping spider *Maratus* (would be particularly interested in *Maratus jactatus*)
- Cat-faced spider *Araneus gemmoides* (specifically photos that show the "cat face" clearly.)
- Brazilian wandering spider *Phoneutria*
- Ant mimic spider (any species)
- Diving bell spider *Argyroneta aquatica*
- Crab Spider *Thomisidae*
- Bird dropping spider *Celaenia excavate*
- Wolf spider *Lycosidae* spp.
- Ogre-faced spider *Deinopidae*
- Peacock parachute spider *Poecilotheria metallica*
- Any species of endangered spider

Other photos:

- Spider burrow
- Trap door (with and/or without a spider present)
- Ogre-faced spider with net
- Ballooning spider
- Spider eating
- Catching prey
- Spinning web
- Various web types
- Egg sac
- Spider carrying egg sac/and or hatchlings
- Nursery web with hatchlings
- Silk wrapped prey, especially a fly
- Courting male (e.g., "dancing")
- Spider with visible guano pattern
- Spider molting and/or molted exoskeleton
- Close-ups of...
 - Fangs
 - Spinnerets
 - Pedipalps

Observations

A BIG CATCH

Hannes Claassens photographed this stumpy crab spider (Thomisops sp.) with an unusually large meal, even for a crab spider, who are often seen catching prey much larger than themselves.



CANNIBALISM IN TRICHONEPHILA FENESTRATA

Allen Jones has recorded cannibalism in *Trichonephila fenestrata* a few times. He sent this email:

“We have many many many *Trichonephilas* in congregations of anything up to 50 spiders in HUGE web structures. They are scattered all over the place... on the mountain they even mix species. Even have two spiders sharing the same web, otherwise they are literally millimetres apart.

Until recently it has been ‘peaceful’ but just lately I have seen *Trichonephila fenestrata* catching their own species as prey.

The first incident occurred in a shade-netted area of the vegetable garden where prey cannot get in... We assumed that the large *fenestrata* was under “hunger stress” and so she took her sister as a meal.

However, I have now seen a further two records in totally different areas far apart and full of prey items. Also *Trichonephila fenestrata* and they both also took to a bout of cannibalism of their own kind!!!

They are catching crickets, moths butterflies and even dragonflies regularly... so why eat another spider???

It seems that *Trichonephila senegalensis* are better behaved... no such behaviour from them. They tend to gather on the mountain also in a HUGE gathering.

I am writing to tell you this, since I made mention in my newsletter item [Vol. 38, No. 1] that the *Trichonephilas* could teach us humans a lesson in living together in harmony... no longer totally true."



Allen sent a follow-up email, where he saw yet another *T. fenestrata* that seems to target other females of her species. His email stated:

"I mentioned earlier that now I am finding "lady-killers". Sure enough, another femme fatale has surfaced...in a different place. She caught and ate another large neighbour and then the very next day... she did the same thing again!!! [This time the prey was *T. senegalensis*]. These are some pics for you.

I returned the next day... to find she had removed all evidence from her web. In itself this is unusual since they seem to keep the remains in their web for a while (must have got my vibes... if I had not got the pics I would never have known).

Still many spiders around... despite frost and COLD winds here."



POSSIBLE NEW SPECIES OF TREE SHEET-WEB SPIDER

Cecile Roux recently posted photos of some tiny red spiders she found. She stated:

“Just four of the many tiny red spiders I found all over today. Not sure what they are. All of them in small webs under rocks or bark on the ground. Riebeek West.”



Charles Griswold, a world-renowned expert on many different spiders, including the Cyatholipidae (tree sheet-web spiders), responded:

“I think that this is a new species of *Cyatholipus*. Erika Garcia and I have a new one from the Limpopo region, but we’ve never seen this one. The side view shows a somewhat protruding epigynum, which probably has a scape, typical of cyatholipids but not theridiids.”

Spider walk

Spiders of the renosterveld: A wealth of (pleasant) surprises!

by Odette Curtis-Scott



Attendees at the Western Cape spider walk near the Haarwegskloof Renosterveld Reserve.

A couple of years ago, I started to develop an interest in spiders and in my efforts to learn, I joined the Spider Club of Southern Africa. I can already say with confidence that this was a life-changer for me. As an ecologist with a deep love for, and interest in, our local fauna and flora, my focus has moved from raptors to plants, through the development of my career in the critically endangered renosterveld ecosystems of the Overberg, Western Cape. I also love macro photography (but still have much to learn); thus the smallest inhabitants of this uniquely rich floral kingdom have fascinated me for some time. Recently, however, a whole new world opened up for me when I “discovered” the world of spiders. And I want to first and foremost acknowledge the contribution that the Spider Club of Southern Africa has made towards nurturing and growing this passion, in particular Norman Larsen, Jarrod Todd, Rudi Steenkamp, and Astri Leroy.

In April 2022, the Spider Club held a “spider walk” at our renosterveld reserve, known as Haarwegskloof Nature Reserve, which is situated between Bredasdorp and Swellendam, just north of De Hoop Nature Reserve (Overberg, Western Cape). We knew this place was special from a botanical point of view, which is why we were able to convince WWF-SA to purchase it in 2013. The NGO that I established in 2012 is known as the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust and amongst other conservation initiatives across the Overberg wheat belt, we are also responsible for the management of Haarwegskloof. This reserve represents the largest area of protected renosterveld found on the planet (and it is only 500 ha –

which tells you something about the dire status of this veld type, of which there is only 5% remaining) and boasts over 500 plant species (several of which were only “discovered” in the last decade). We also have a research and visitor centre, as well as self-catering accommodation at Haarwegskloof, making it a great place to host groups, such as this one. So, it was with great excitement that we hosted the spider walk here in April, but of course I was also quite nervous... Would the renosterveld “deliver” on spider diversity, as it does with plants? Or would it be dry and dull, as it often appears before the onset of winter rains when it starts to become green and pretty again?

Well, I am delighted to say that, once again, the renosterveld did not disappoint! On Saturday afternoon, Rudi and Jarrod arrived at Haarwegskloof after a long trek from Gauteng (Rudi was picked up in Bloemfontein). It was the first time we had all met in person, but due to the community that the Spider Club has created through its Facebook page, I felt like I was meeting old friends – kindred spirits. We immediately went on a short walk (in the howling, cold wind) and found a few gems to bring back to the research centre to photograph, including a long-jawed water orb weaver (*Tetragnatha* sp.) and several of the undescribed “strawberry theridiids” (cf. *Ruborridion* sp.).



Odette and Jarrod (at left) welcoming attendees and giving an introduction to the area and how to look for spiders.

The next day, we were joined for the main walk by other club members, including spider guru Norman Larsen and enthusiast Wessel Pretorius, and we wandered off with nets, vials, and cameras to see what else the renosterveld had in store. Before we had even left the erf around the centre, many exciting finds were made, with Wessel finding two juvenile female black button spiders (*Latrodectus renivulvatus* and *L. indistinctus*) amongst the aloe hedge, while much rock-lifting ensued around the buildings revealing several spitting spiders (*Scytodes triangulifera*), velvet spiders (*Gandanameno* and *Dresserus* spp.), and some ground sac spiders (Trachelidae). The wonderful walks beyond this led to several jumping spider (Salticidae) finds, some pretty box kite spiders (*Isoxya cicatricosa*) and a diversity of crab spiders (Thomisidae) and grass lynx spiders (*Oxyopes* spp.). Another late night was spent photographing all our

finds – making us all rather tired, but extremely happy. In total, Rudi and Jarrod listed 73 species from 23 families and between the three of us, we must have taken well over 1 000 photos.



Looking for spiders in the renosterveld, equipped with cameras and sweepnets. *Photos: Norman Larsen.*

The next day, my colleagues (Grant Forbes and Nande Notyalwa) and I had some time left with Rudi and Jarrod, so we took them to a farm we work on along the Breede River, north of Malgas. Here, Jarrod found a beautiful old female black button spider, while Rudi found some more gorgeous jumping spiders, in particular some *Thyene* spp. Despite searching thoroughly for baboon spiders (which are usually prevalent in the area), we found only a couple of juveniles and a very large retreat (with the remains of a recently hatched egg sac, but no sign of the female (which we suspect had retreated far into her exceptionally large burrow). I guess we can't win every time – or Jarrod and Rudi would have no reason to come back! I hope there will be a “next time” soon. A truly special and memorable weekend. Thank you, Jarrod and Rudi.



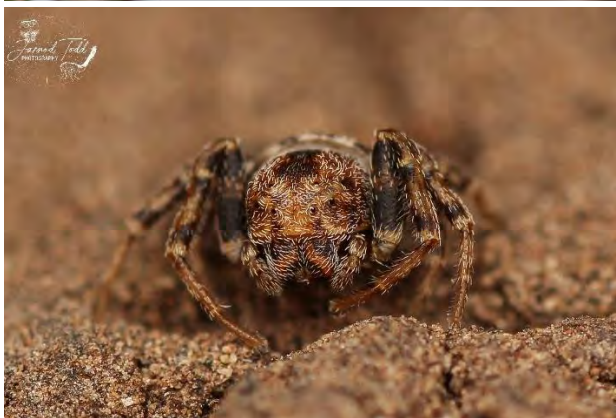
Group photo at the sorting table. Photo: Norman Larsen.

Species list

FAMILY	GENUS/SPECIES
Amaurobiidae	<i>cf. Chresiona</i> sp.
Araneidae	<i>Argiope australis</i> <i>Argiope trifasciata</i> <i>Argiope</i> cf. <i>tapinobata</i> <i>Cyclosa</i> sp. <i>Neoscona</i> spp. <i>Gea</i> cf. <i>infuscata</i> <i>Isoxya cicatricosa</i> <i>Larinia chloris</i> <i>Trichonephila fenestrata</i> Undetermined sp.
Cheiracanthiidae	<i>Cheiracanthium</i> sp.
Clubionidae	<i>Clubiona</i> spp.
Dictynidae	Multiple undetermined spp.
Eresidae	<i>Dresserus collinus</i> <i>Dresserus</i> spp. <i>Gandanameno</i> cf. <i>fumosa</i>
Gnaphosidae	<i>Micaria</i> cf. <i>felix</i> <i>Zelotes</i> sp. Undetermined spp.
Lycosidae	<i>Pardosa crassipalpis</i> Undetermined spp.
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i> sp.
Palpimanidae	<i>Palpimanus</i> cf. <i>capensis</i>
Philodromidae	<i>Philodromus</i> sp. <i>Thanatus</i> sp.

FAMILY	GENUS/SPECIES
Pholcidae	<i>Quamtana</i> sp. <i>Smeringopus</i> sp.
Phyxelididae	cf. <i>Vidole</i> sp. Undetermined spp.
Pisauridae	<i>Euprosthopsis</i> cf. <i>pulchella</i> <i>Rothus</i> sp.
Salticidae	<i>Baryphas ahenus</i> <i>Dendryphantus</i> sp. cf. <i>Evarcha</i> sp. <i>Heliophanus</i> cf. <i>charlesi</i> <i>Heliophanus</i> spp. <i>Massagris</i> sp. <i>Natta</i> sp. cf. <i>Psenuc</i> sp. <i>Pseudicius</i> sp. <i>Thyene inflata</i> <i>Thyene thyenioides</i> <i>Xuriella</i> cf. <i>prima</i>
Scytodidae	<i>Scytodes triangulifera</i>
Selenopidae	<i>Anyphops</i> sp.
Sparassidae	<i>Palystes superciliosus</i>
Tetragnathidae	<i>Tetragnatha</i> spp.
Theraphosidae	<i>Harpactira</i> sp.
Theridiidae	cf. <i>Achaeearanea</i> sp. <i>Argyroides argyroides</i> <i>Argyroides</i> sp. cf. <i>Chrysso</i> sp. <i>Euryopsis</i> cf. <i>episinoidea</i> <i>Latrodectus geometricus</i> <i>Latrodectus indistinctus</i> <i>Latrodectus renivulvatus</i> cf. <i>Rubroridion</i> sp. <i>Steatoda capensis</i> <i>Theridion</i> spp. <i>Tidarren</i> sp. Undetermined sp.
Thomisidae	<i>Diaea</i> cf. <i>rohani</i> <i>Holopelus albibarbis</i> <i>Oxytate</i> sp. <i>Pherecydes</i> sp. <i>Runcinia</i> sp. <i>Synema imitatrix</i> <i>Synema rifense</i> <i>Synema</i> sp. <i>Thomisus</i> sp. <i>Tmarus</i> sp. <i>Xysticus</i> sp.
Trachelidae	<i>Afrocyto africana</i> <i>Thysanina</i> sp.

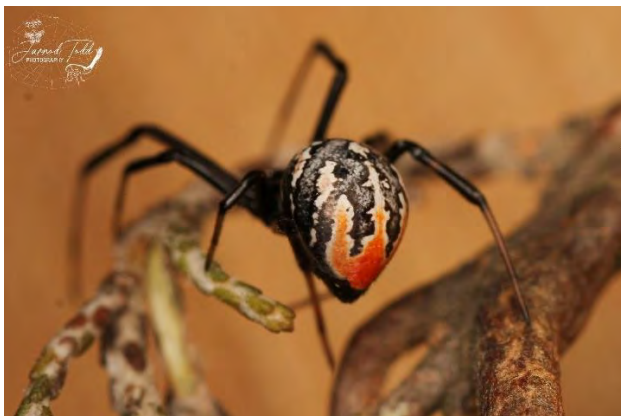
Photos



Top: A “strawberry theridiid” (cf. *Rubroridion* sp.); by far the most common spider found on the spider walk. **Middle left:** Holopelus crab spider (*Holopelus albibarbis*). **Middle right:** Micaria ground spider (*Micaria* cf. *felix*). **Bottom left:** Spotted crab spider (*Diaea* cf. *rohani*). **Bottom right:** Massagris jumping spider (*Massagris* sp.). Photos: Jarrod Todd.



Four different araneids found on the spider walk. **Top left:** Doily orb-web spider (*Gea* cf. *infuscata*). **Top right:** Garden orb-web spider (*Argiope* sp.). **Bottom:** Inkblot box kite spider (*Isoxya cicatricosa*). **Bottom right:** Unknown; possibly juvenile hairy field spider (*Neoscona* sp.). Photos: Rudi Steenkamp.



Two black button spiders. **Left:** *Latrodectus indistinctus* (Photo: Jarrod Todd). **Right:** *L. renivulvatus* (Photo: Rudi Steenkamp).



Four different jumping spiders. **Top left:** *Xuriella* cf. *prima* (Photo: Rudi Steenkamp). **Top right:** *Heliophanus* cf. *charlesi* (Photo: Jarrod Todd). **Bottom left:** *Pseudicius* sp. (Photo: Jarrod Todd). **Bottom right:** cf. *Dendryphantes* sp. (Photo: Rudi Steenkamp).



Top left: Mesh-web spider (cf. *Chresiona* sp.) Photo: Jarrod Todd. **Top right:** Ground sac spider (*Thysanina* sp.) Photo: Rudi Steenkamp. **Bottom left:** Unknown theridiid (Photo: Rudi Steenkamp). **Bottom right:** Wide-eyed crab spider (*Pherecydes* sp.) Photo: Jarrod Todd.

Spider identification course at ARC

by Astri Leroy



One of the microscope stations.

Basic spider identification using microscopes:

Sunday 6 June 2022, hosted by Robin Lyle and Petro Marais at the Arachnology Department of Biosystematics.

After meeting new friends and greeting old ones, sipping coffee, and signing both the ARC (Agricultural Research Council) and the Spider Club indemnity registers in the entrance lobby, we started on time, which may very well be a record for Spider Club events! A bonus was that this time no one got lost finding the place and we had a “full house”. While the socialising was happening, Robin and I, with the help of her sweet daughter, Thea, set up the training room, placing microscopes at each power point, distributing forceps, petri dishes, bottles of ethanol, kitchen paper rolls (to sop up spilled ethanol) at each station, and checking the PowerPoint presentations.



Thea, Robin Lyle's daughter, distributing kitchen paper rolls to each station.

The training room was ideal, with enough power points for microscopes for everyone. Examples of preserved spiders had been sorted by our hostesses that explain useful diagnostic features like tarsal claws, scopulae, cribellums, male and female genitalia, etc.

We kicked off with my slide show compiled over the years to introduce complete beginners to spider systematics in an easy and light-hearted way; then Robin talked about the rather vexing questions and the pitfalls of getting permission to collect biological specimens, including spiders (See “From the Hub” on pages 2-3).

People organised themselves into pairs per station and Robin and Petro handed out the first specimens, which were discussed and checked by the “students”. From here on it became quiet and rather intense

as folks concentrated on the little bits and pieces of small dead animals as seen through a microscope. It is very different from field and photographic identification!



Petro showing attendees the ropes. *Photo: Garrie Wright.*

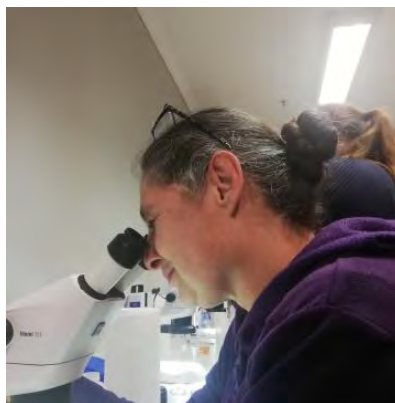
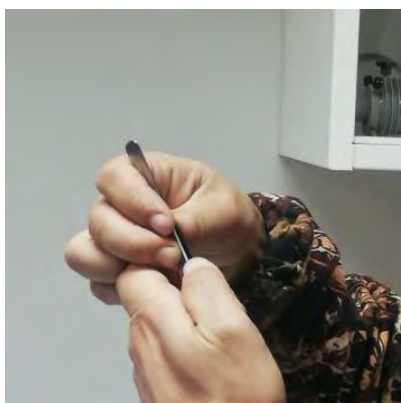
We broke for lunch, sitting on the steps at the entrance in the warm Pretoria sun at about noon and reconvened thereafter.

It was an altogether most successful day and a learning curve for everyone. Robin and I will tweak the programme a bit for 26 June when we will have a repeat identification course and there are plans to do a sorting session using the unidentified specimens from Joan Faiola's Klipriviersberg survey sometime in the near future. This should put your new-found expertise to the test!

Thank you, Robin and Petro, for making the Biosystematics training room available and for making your private time available to the Spider Club members; it is hugely appreciated.

Astri

13 June 2022



Left: It's quite tricky extricating small spiders from vials. **Middle and right:** Paul, Danielle and Roulla concentrating. *Photos: Astri Leroy.*



Left: Jarrod concentrating, with Garrie looking on and Henning and Michelle in the background. **Right:** Paul looking through the microscope with his wife, Danielle, by his side. *Photos: Astri Leroy.*



A small part of the spider collection at the ARC. *Photos: Garrie Wright.*

The Spider Club on Kwêla

by Joanie Beytell



The people on the Kwêla shoot. **From left to right:** Nandus du Plessis, Joanie's dog (Roxy), Glenn Howden (sound), Morne Pelser (cameraman), Jacques Marais (cameraman), Jannie Degenaar, Joanie Beytell, Vanes-Mari du Toit (presenter), and J.P. Pienaar (director). *Photo:* Christiaan de Beer.

Quite a lot of you saw the Kwêla insert about me and spiders. But what you didn't see, which was even more special, was what happened behind the scenes. Let me take you on our adventure...

First of all, let me tell you where it all originated. Our Spider Queen, Astri Leroy, contacted me and asked if I would be interested in doing an interview for Kwêla, KykNet, DStv channel 144, about spiders and my love for them. The producers of the show contacted The Spider Club of Southern Africa (SCSA), and asked for an Afrikaans person with a love for spiders, and maybe a few as pets, to show and tell more about these misunderstood creatures. Of course I agreed to this awesome opportunity. I was contacted by the producer, and I had to complete a questionnaire. They were very much interested in Angel's story and when they heard we have about 70+ spiders, they were super excited to proceed with the interview. For those not familiar with Angel's story, you are welcome to have a look on her Facebook page, titled "Angel: Spider of Hope".

I was sent a few dates to choose from and all the ins and outs were explained of what to expect. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the date to 31 March because I had laryngitis and couldn't speak.

I was so excited, as you can imagine, and may I confess, also nervous! Finally the day arrived. Unfortunately, a lot of SCSA members couldn't make it as it was during the week. The moment the Kwêla

crew arrived and set foot on the farm, we all relaxed. What a wonderful bunch of people. The interviewer, Vanes-Mari, amazed me with her 1.8-m length and warm personality. The rest of the crew helped us all to feel relaxed although surrounded by cameras and lights. They explained the schedule, details, and all we needed to do. Then it was time for action.



The Kwêla film crew setting up.

The first part of the interview was done in our T-room, where I was asked about Angel, my love for spiders, interesting facts, and the different tarantulas. They took a lot of photos and asked many interesting questions because they were not at all familiar with spiders. Vanes-Mari had a bit of fear and part of the interview was for her to handle a spider to show that they are docile and not to be feared. She was shaken a bit but handled the tarantula calmly! I was super proud of her of course and we even named the tarantula after her then. Of course I offered the most docile spider to handle and we made sure beforehand that she was in a good mood. We also fed a few spiders for them to see and explained the differences, enclosures, etc. A funny moment was when a few of the roosters started to crow and they had to stop filming. Jannie then had to try to quiet them down but all hell broke loose with dogs barking and pigs running away on top of the whole chicken chaos...

We then proceeded to Klipdrift Dam where I work, and they did the second part of the interview. This was done outside and at a stage we had to wait for the sun to appear behind the clouds to continue. This part was more about true spiders, the SCSA, spider IDs, facts, myths, and even “boererate”. I was amazed by how many questions they had and it was a privilege to educate them.



The Kwêla crew filming outside Joanie’s place.

We then held a mini spider walk next to the dam. The “we” were me, my partner (Jannie Degenaar), Nandus van der Walt, and Christiaan de Beer, who came all the way to support and join us. This was a lot of fun and, as some of you who have attended a spider walk know, when you find something, everyone runs to check. Here the cameramen had to keep up! We found a lot of spiders as you can see from the photos. The highlights were the tree velvet spiders and the brown button spiders. Over here, the brown button spiders are not seen or found often and it was special to find one with egg sacs. In between us searching and finding spiders, the crew took videos and photos and we had to ID and explain more about each find. This was a huge opportunity to educate!

Jannie, Christiaan, and Nandus were also interviewed and had to answer a few questions. We had lots of laughter as the nerves kicked in, especially for Nandus! But what great answers they provided!



Joanie and Vanes-Mari in front of the Kwêla car. Besides being an award-winning TV presenter, Vanes-Mari was also a professional netball player.

After all the formal interviews, they did a wrap-up and closure. We spent more time talking about spiders in general and I know that we won a few more spider friends. They left late afternoon and to me it was a huge relief that all went so well.

This was a huge honour and privilege to represent SCSA. I know in my own small way I made a difference in the way people look at spiders. We succeeded and convinced the team that spiders are not to be feared. Vanes-Mari especially had a huge fear, but as I told her, you only fear the unknown. She and the crew thanked us and promised to keep on educating themselves to learn more about spiders.

Another highlight was that we could teach and show them the medically important spiders. Christiaan brought a black button spider, a violin spider, and my favourite, the six-eyed sand spider. And then there was the brown button spider we found.

After the interview was broadcasted, a lot of people joined SCSA and our own page, Spiders are not Outcasts, on Facebook, and that showed me that it was all worthwhile. Our whole area watched the episode and of course our friends and family; the more exposure, the more awareness!

Special thanks to Kwêla, KykNet DSTV channel 144, for this very special opportunity and to the SCSA, especially Astri Leroy and Rudi Steenkamp.

Memories to be treasured for sure.

Those who didn't see the episode can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xub7Kevck5o>

Here are a few screenshots from the episode:



Spiders of Kasteelberg (western slope)

by Cecile Roux



The habitat on the western slope of Kasteelberg near Riebeek West. Photo: William Walker (Pictorex).

Kasteelberg is a standalone sandstone mountain guarding the twin villages of Riebeek West and Riebeek-Kasteel in the Western Cape. The lower slopes are mostly covered by vineyards and olive groves, but above those developments, the critically endangered renosterveld harbours untold riches. From afar the veld looks like dull “bossieveld”, but it is one of the world’s most species-diverse Mediterranean-type shrublands. The plant diversity is the subject of much interest, but my main interest lies in the abundance of spiders living on our mountain. I am an amateur naturalist and not an accomplished photographer, but my focus is on recording the diversity of arthropod life in the Renosterveld. I am not on the lookout for special or unusual insects or spiders; I believe every species plays an important part, and even the common spiders are beautiful in my eyes and not to be overlooked!

I am lucky enough to be allowed access to a few farms and private land, and am always fascinated by the diversity and the difference between the slopes. At the “back” of the mountain, the western slope, the veld hasn’t burned in a long while, and is very bushy and somewhat inaccessible. But where I can walk, I have found many stunning spiders. This is where one can see the small spiky *Heriaeus* if you look carefully; they are so well camouflaged. There are also many *Synema*, *Thomisus*, and *Misumenops*.



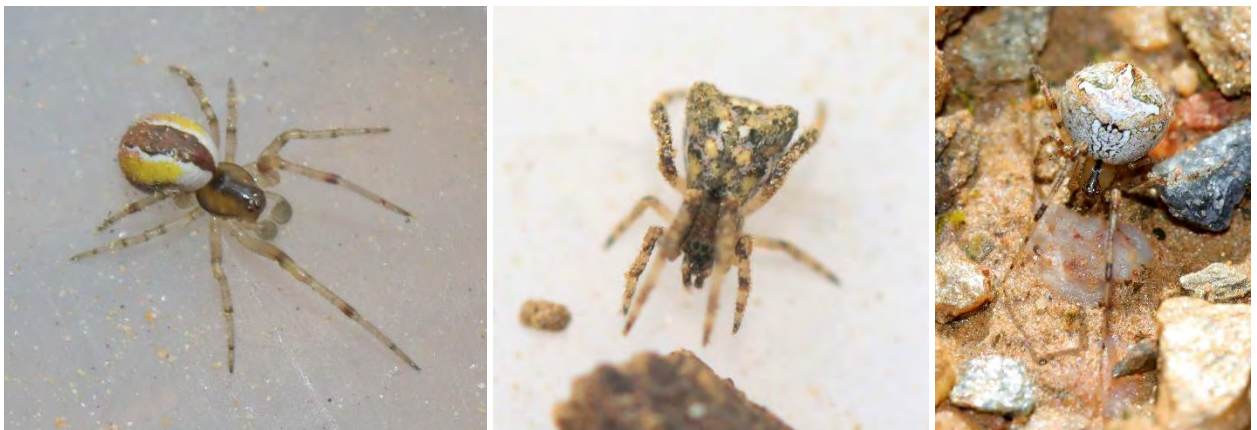
Three crab spiders: *Heriaeus* sp. (left), *Synema imitatrix* (middle), and a male *Misumenops rubrodecoratus* (right).

Oxyopes (grass lynx spiders) are abundant here. A lovely variety of light grey to beige to yellow, and some remarkable almost black and white ones are to be found. There are also fast jumpers, and one sometimes has only one chance to photograph them.



Two different grass lynx spiders (*Oxyopes* sp.; Oxyopidae).

I have found some lovely theridiids on this slope. The smallest surprise was a mushroom theridiid (*Phoroncidia* sp.). Just about 1 mm in body length, I was lucky to spot it! There are some beautiful *Anelosimus* to be found, some with very bright yellow markings. The beautifully marked *Chrysso* surprises one every time. There are also many *Theridion* and the odd *L. geometricus*. I once found a square-ended theridiid (*Episinus* sp.) with lovely lichen-like markings.



Three different comb-footed spiders (Theridiidae). A subadult male *Anelosimus* sp. (left), *Episinus* sp. (middle), and cf. *Chrysso* sp. (right).

Agelenidae and Araneidae are not often seen, although *Argiope* can be found where the veld has been disturbed next to cropland and fencing. There are *Neoscona*, but one would have to arrange a night walk to see more of them, not something I have attempted so far! Linyphiids and phyxelidids are also not that common, but I have noticed some. Segestriids are also scarce, but one does come across one now and then.

There are a wide variety of salticids on the mountain, but interestingly enough, this slope seems to have only *Heliophanus* in abundance, unlike the other areas. The black white-spotted ones are the most common, but there are also lovely “zebra” *Heliophanus* with their characteristic neon green palps.



Two sun jumping spiders (*Heliophanus* spp.; Salticidae).

Clubiona are usually found in springtime when the veld is green and lush; the same with the lovely *Parapostenus* and *Cheiramiona*. I once noticed a very awkward little spider on the ground, struggling to walk; it turned out to be *Miagrammopes* – a lovely find I had not seen before because they are so well camouflaged.



Left: A decorated long-legged sac spider (*Cheiramiona* sp.; Cheiracanthiidae). **Top right:** A prowling sac spider (*Parapostenus* sp.; Miturgidae). **Bottom right:** A single-line-web spider (*Miagrammopes* sp.; Uloboridae).



Sparassids are not that abundant, but I suspect more will show themselves after dark. I did surprise a stunning *Palystes* once when I wanted to pick up a piece of paper to throw away!

The philodromids I find mostly seem to be plant dwellers, and many of them are well adapted to hide in the ubiquitous renosterbos with its grey and dull green foliage. They are known to have a longer second pair of legs, and some of them take that to extremes! In more grassy areas you will also find *Tibellus* hiding.

Left: A rain spider (*Palystes* sp.; Sparassidae).



A running spider (cf. *Thanatus* sp.; Philodromidae).

I never seem to see many wolf spiders here; most are tiny, probably juveniles, but I have found some beautiful *Trabea* with their soulful eyes. Spitting spiders and baboon spiders hide too well, and I have found only a few of each on this slope.



Left: A trabea wolf spider (*Trabea* cf. *purcelli*; Lycosidae). **Right:** A mygalomorph, most likely *Spiroctenus* sp. (Bemmeridae).

The gnaphosids love this place, they can be found under stones and pieces of wood, with *Zelotes* the most active during the day. I do believe gnaphosids are underrated; they are beautiful and interesting, and we know little about their behaviour. They are some of my favourite spiders.



Four different Gnaphosidae: cf. *Drassodes* sp. (**top left**), cf. *Nomisia* sp. (**top right**), *Zelotes* sp. (**bottom left**), and cf. *Xerophaeus* sp. (**bottom right**).

The other slopes of our mountain are equally rich in diversity, with many spiders not found on this western slope. I am looking forward to exploring and sharing more in the future!

Spider of the month

APRIL

1



Desiré Pelser

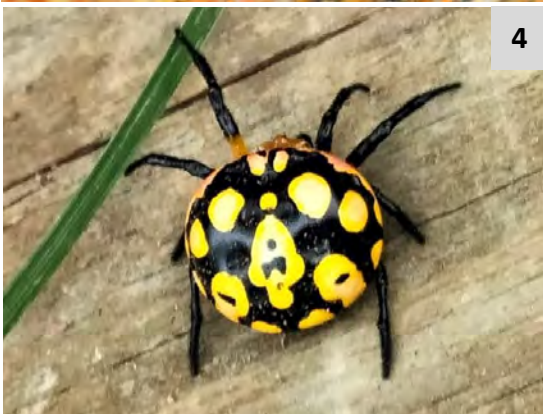
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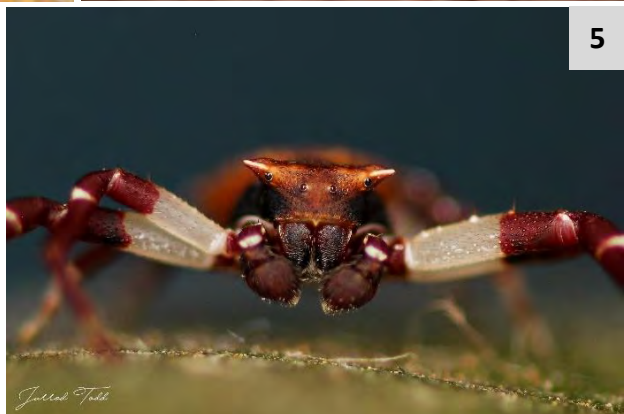
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(1) Camaricus crab spider (*Camaricus nigrotesselatus*), Desiré Pelser. (2) Stump-backed wolf spider (*Zenonina albocaudata*), Rudi Steenkamp. (3) Bushy-legged community-nest spider (*Stegodyphus mimosarum*), Hannes Claassens. (4) Ladybird beetle orb-web spider (*Paraplectana* sp.), Jolandie Botha. (5) Masked flower crab spider (*Thomisus blandus*), Jarrod Todd.

MAY



(1) Horned bark spider (*Caerostris sexcupidata*), Ruan Booysen. (2) West Coast button spider (*Latrodectus indistinctus*), Jarrod Todd. (3) Tree velvet spider (*Gandanameno* sp.), Rudi Steenkamp. (4) Pale velvet spider (*Stegodyphus tentoriicola*), Rudi Steenkamp. (5) Kite spider (*Gasteracantha* sp.), Andrew Baxter. (6) Dandy jumping spider (*Portia schultzi*), Rudi Steenkamp.

Note: The photos in 2nd to 6th places all received the same number of votes.

JUNE



1



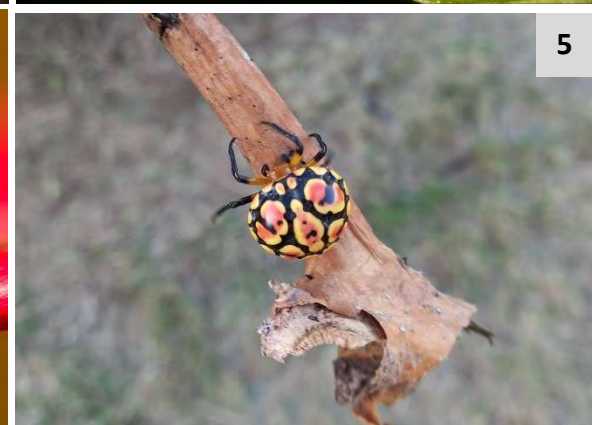
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(1) Inland button spider (*Latrodectus renivulvatus*), Jarrod Todd. (2) Horned bark spider (*Caerostris sexcuspidata*), Hannes Claassens. (3) Green jumping spider (*Asemonea* sp.), Elize Eveleigh. (4) Parajotus jumping spider (*Parajotus refulgens*), Robert Wienand. (5) Ladybird beetle orb-web spider (*Paraplectana* sp.), Mark Bruce.

HONORABLE MENTION

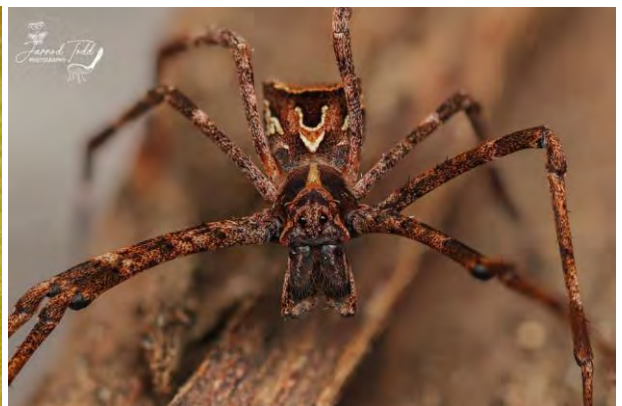
These are a few spiders that didn't win Spider of the Month, but deserve to be showcased.



Left: Unknown orb-web spider (possibly *Pararaneus* sp.), Andrew Basson. **Right:** Feather-legged lace weaver (*Uloborus plumipes*) with egg sac, Rudi Steenkamp.



Two bolas spiders, *Cladomelea akermani* (left) and *Cladomelea debeeri* (right), Suncana Bradley.



Left: Tree huntsman spider (*Olios* sp.), Rudi Steenkamp. **Right:** Cape net-casting spider (*Menneus capensis*), Jarrod Todd.



Left: Bushy-leg harmochirus (*Harmochirus luculentus*), Rudi Steenkamp. **Right:** Unknown hammock-web spider (Linyphiidae), Rudi Steenkamp.



Left: Pirate spider (Mimetidae), Rudi Steenkamp. **Right:** Crab spider (cf. *Tharrhalea* or *Diaea* sp.), Marié Delpont.



Left: Running spider (Philodromidae), possibly a new genus, Cecile Roux. **Right:** Micaria ground spider (*Micaria* cf. *felix*), Jarrod Todd.

Anka se goggastories

deur Anka Eichhoff

Astri het dit goed gedink dat ons weer 'n Afrikaanse stuk of twee in die nuusbrieff insluit, en het my verwys na Anka Eichhoff se *Goggastories*, wat 'n paar stories oor spinnekoppe insluit. Die volgende paar stukke is direk vanaf Anka se blog. Ons sal van haar ander stories in toekomstige nuusbriewe insluit. Om haar stories te lees, besoek haar webwerf by <https://www.kyffhauser.co.za/Goggastories.htm>

Valdeur-Bobbejaanspinnekop en Wesp



As 'n mens laat namiddag in die veld gaan stap, kom jy op die eienaardigste natuurtonele af. So het ek op 'n bobbejaanspinnekop afgekom, wat letterlik op haar agterlyf gesit het. Ietwat bokant voor die spinnekop het 'n swart wesp in die lug "gestaan" en seker maar vir 'n geleentheid gewag om 'n verlammeende steek op die spinnekop te kan plaas, of om te wag, totdat die spinnekop verlam is... My verskyning het die wesp verjaag, en dit het weggevlieg, voordat ek 'n foto daarvan kon neem..

Nou het ek nie geweet, of die steek al toegedien was of nie. Die spinnekop het soos versteen in daardie posisie vertoef.

Met 'n stokkie het ek die spinnekop van agter vorentoe gedruk, dat sy op haar pote te lande kom.



Watter prageksempelaar het daar voor my gesit! Doodstil. Was dit nou al verlam of nie? Ek het gewag. Niks het gebeur nie. Die spinnekop het nie beweeg nie en die wesp het nie teruggekom nie.

Nà 'n tydjie het ek weer my stokkie opgetel en probeer om die spinnekop onder 'n struik in te stoot, maar watter verrassing!

Dit het letterlik "opgespring" en vir my gedreig: 'Kom maar! Ek is gereed vir jou!', het dit laat weet.

Die kaakkloue was sywaarts oopgemaak en ietwat opgetel, die voorste bene omhoog en die rooi mondarea het gevaar signaleer. Dit is verbasend hoe vinnig dit alles plaasvind, te vinnig om werklik te sien, wat gebeur.

Solank as wat ek met die stokkie probeer het, om dit in 'n beskermde plek te stoot, het dit probeer om my af te weer. (Soos ek verneem, is die byt baie SEER, maar nie gevaarlik nie).



Later het dit bedaar en toe ek dit onder die plant ingeskuif het, vinnig in die takke opgeklim om dan bo-op te bly sit.

Op navraag na die identiteit, het ek die volgende inligting gekry:

Dit is 'n **valdeur-bobbejaanspinnekop** (common trapdoor baboon spider) met die wetenskaplike naam *Idiothele nigrofulva*. Hierdie spesie kom algemeen in Suider Afrika voor. Valdeurspinnekoppe woon in redelike diep tunnels wat aan die onderkant

vergroot, dalk soos 'n sokkie. Die tonnelingang is gesluit met 'n baie goed gekamouflêerde deksel, sodat vyande dit nie maklik kan opspoor nie.

In hierdie besondere geval is dit die eerste rekord van 'n wesp wat spesifiek hierdie spesie kon opspoor en uit haar tunnel kry.

Sekere wespes maak algemeen gebruik van bobbejaanspinnekoppe, om as kosvoorraad vir haar larwes te dien. Die wesp spoor die tunnel op, gaan in en steek dit, sodat dit verlam is. Dan sleep sy die verlamde spinnekop uit tot in haar eie tunnel en lê een eiertjie op die spinnekop. As die larf uitgebroei het, vreet dit aan die nog lewende spinnekop totdat die spinnekop vrek (spinnekoppe kan BAIE LANK sonder kos bly lewe). Partykeer sleep die wesp die spinnekop ook weer terug na sy eie tunnel. Die spinnekop gaan aan met sy gewone lewe met die wespeiertjie en dan vretende larf op sy lyf...Die natuur kan partykeer baie gruwelik en wreed wees!

Wat my by die spinnekop opgeval het, was die eienaardige "tone" aan die voerpunt van die pote.



Dit is digte ietwat taai haarkussings, wat klim en klou teen oppervlaktes en/of die gryp en klou van prooi moontlik maak en vergemaklik.

ONTHOU: Bobbejaanspinnekoppe **byt seer**, maar nie dood nie! Moenie met hulle lol nie, moenie probeer om hulle uit te grawe nie!

Inligtingsbronne: Ian Engelbrecht van SANBI (Thanks!)

www.baboonspideratlas.co.za

Teks en foto's: Anka Eichhoff

(Februarie 2019) Bygewerk Junie 2022

**Swart Weduwees *Latrodectus indistinctus* asook
L. renivulvatus is in Namibië
teenwoordig**



Die swart weduwee of knopiespinnekop, die **regtig** giftige een, het ek nou herhaaldelik ook by ons in Namibië opgespoor. Dit kom in Suid Afrika in die Noord- en Weskaap voor, d.w.s. in die droë gebiede, soos dit ook in Namibië die geval is. Daar is nog geen rekords opgeneem van hierdie spinnekop se teenwoordigheid in die direkte (beboude) woonarea van mense nie. Dit verkies die veld in/onder lag groeiende plante, onder droë beesmiskoeke en onder of tussen groterige los klippe. Dit maak sy nes onder die klip ongeveer in die middel of waar dit in 'n holte goed weggesteek is.

Die weduwee- of knopiespinnekoppe behoort aan die familie *Theridiidae* (kamvoetspinnekoppe) en word in twee groepe gedeel, nl. die swart knopiespinnekop-kompleks en die **bruin** knopiespinnekop-kompleks.



Kenmerke **swart** knopiespinnekop-kompleks:

- Die kleur is swart met rooi merke **bo-op die agterlyf**, die onderkant van agterlyf vertoon swart. Dikwels is voor bo-op die agterlyf fyn wit onderbroke lyne.

- Eierkokonne is wit tot roomkleurig, **glad** en rond.



- Die onderkant van die agterlyf is effekleurig swart.

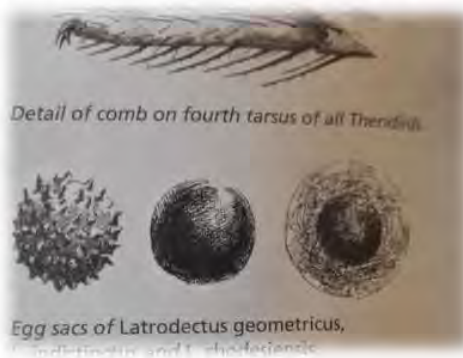
Kenmerke **bruin** knopiespinnekop-kompleks (*Latrodectus geometricus* op fotos):

- Kleur kan tussen roomkleurig oor bruin tot swart enige skakering wees met oranje kolle, wit kringe (geometriese patrone) of 'n kombinasie daarvan.



- Op die onderkant van die agterlyf sit 'n rooi of oranje kleurige uurglas-merk.

- Die eierkokonne van *Latrodectus geometricus* is witterig en rond, maar hulle het **stekels**. Die eierkokonne van *Latrodectus rhodesiensis* is buite-om **wollerig**.



In Namibië kom hoofsaaklik *Latrodectus geometricus* uit die bruin knopies-kompleks voor. (Sien ook GOGGAstorie No 23 Liefste Bruidegom...vir meer inligting daaroor) Afsluitend wil ek net weer beklemtoon: Spinnekoppe wil nie die mense bykom nie, hulle byt net as hulle bedreig voel, (per abuis) gedruk word.

Inligtingsbronne: Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman (BAIE DANKIE), GOGGAstories (Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman, Erik Holm), Spiders of the Kalahari (Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman, Almie v/d Berg) Southern African Spiders (Martin Filmer), Filmer's Spiders (Martin Filmer, Norman Larsen), Spiderwatch in Southern Africa (Astri&John Leroy) Twee Skematiese voorstellings uit GOGGAgids (Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman, Erik Holm)

Teks en foto's: Anka Eichhoff

(April 2019) Bygewerk Junie 2022



Termietvreter Spinnekoppe *Ammoxenus spesies*

Dit is seker van die pragtigste spinnekoppe wat ek al gesien het, dit lyk of dit 'n koninklike pelsjas dra.

Hulle is grondbewoners, **onder** en nie op die grond nie! Aangesien hulle van grasdraer-termiete lewe, bly hulle somer naby en selfs tussen die termiete, waar hulle hulle kos kan uitsoek.

Kenmerkend is die pote wat agtertoe staan. Hierdie spinnekoppie, ongeveer tussen 10 en 15 mm lank, kan **baie vinnig** vorentoe beweeg. As dit in die gedrang kom, trek dit of sy pote heeltemal na die liggaam toe en sit doodstil,.....



...of dit duik blitsvinnig in die los grond in, waarby dit met die bokant ondertoe en kop voor in die grond inwerk. Dit is nogal moeilik om dit dan te sien.



Behalwe die blink rooibruin ene het ek nog 'n ander een gesien, meer vaal dof oranje vuilwit en swartkleurig, feitlik onsigbaar in die sand, baie goed gekamoeifleer.

Ongelukkig is daar nie genoeg van hierdie spinnekoppe om termiete daarmee te kan beheer nie.

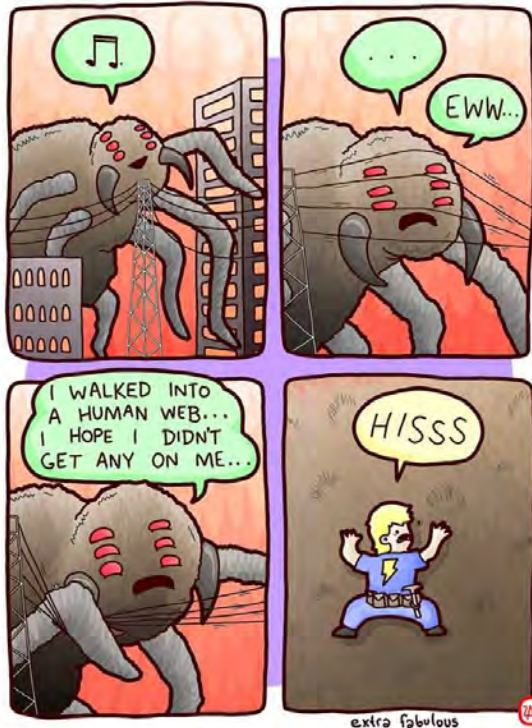
Inligtingsbronne: GOGGAgids (Erik Holm, Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman)
Spiders of the Kalahari (Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman & Almie van den Berg)
Referaatsomming *Termietvretende spinnekoppe van die Cederberg Wildernis Area*
(*Araneidae: Ammoxenidae*) (A. Dippenaar-Schoeman, T. Bird, S. Seshothela)
Spiderwatch (Astri & John Leroy)

Teks en foto's: Anka Eichhoff

(Augustus 2019) Bygewerk Junie 2022

On a lighter note

Like news bulletins on television, we like to conclude the newsletter on a lighter note. There weren't many humorous posts on our Facebook page lately, so here is a bonanza of spider-related cartoons.





The Spider Club of Southern Africa



Joey Badenhorst

38m · 🌐

...

So proud of me, I touched a ddl....ok I know a daddy longleg isn't that scary, but growing up with, any spider is harmful to humans, it was a big step for me. 😊 This ddl was walking around in the tub, think it is a great grandpa/ma daddy long leg. I wanted to pick it up with my hands,(be brave for once) but learned from this group that ddl will only try to avoid your hand, so I took a soft jersey and held it close to him to get on. Great was my admiration for how huge he is, then he was getting close to the edge of the jersey and I was stuck between 'oh wow, he's gonna touch me and I'm gonna die if he touch me.' Then the moment came that one of his legs touch my hand and immediately he did a 360 and again at the edge of the jersey he decided to bungy to savety... Think the daddy's thoughts must have been like mine 🤪 he was walking away thinking, phew, I nearly died 😊



Meg

@megaancar

...

At what age am i supposed to start learning the phonetic alphabet because ive just said d for daddy long legs on a phonecall

Diary of events

17 July 2022

Spider sorting session at ARC Roodeplaat campus

This will not be an identification course but a chance to use your skills to attempt to identify to species level the specimens collected over several years for the survey at Klipriviersberg, or help Petro with sorting the National Collection or or both. Again, numbers will be capped at 16.

20-21 August 2022

Annual General Meeting of the Spider Club of Southern Africa

One of the self-catering guest houses is booked for the night of 20 August and the meeting will be held on Sunday morning. The club can organise and pay for a lunchtime braai on Sunday 21 August. The cost of staying the Saturday night is R280 p.p.n. More details will be sent out to members later.

September 2022

A spider walk is planned for September, but we still have to confirm the date and venue. Details will be sent to members once it is confirmed.

*We ask for a donation for attendance at field and certain other events: **R50 per adult and R10 per child 11 years and under, cash only, with the option of paying R150 PER FAMILY for annual subscription.** Some venues will also require an entrance fee that must be paid by each individual. For field trips we will supply vials, magnifiers, plastic pill bottles, and some other basic collecting equipment, but please bring your own if you have as well as any reference books, a picnic lunch, adequate water, a hat, and good walking shoes. **Book on info@spiderclub.co.za or 067 833 2191 or on our Facebook page.** When booking, please give us your cell phone number and we will set up a WhatsApp group for the event.*



Join our community on Facebook to meet like-minded people and stay updated on upcoming events <https://www.facebook.com/groups/101951926508391/>

Watch this space!

Keep your eyes on your e-mail and our Facebook page as other events may be organised, sometimes at quite short notice. We will attempt to give you fair warning. And remember that Norman Larsen is at the Cape Union Mart Adventure Centre, Canal Walk in Cape Town for the first three Saturdays and the last Sunday of the month between 11 am and 12 pm to demonstrate and talk about SPIDERS!