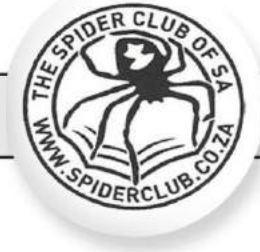


# The Spider Club NEWS

September 2022



Vol. 38, No. 3

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



## SPRING EDITION

[WWW.SPIDERCLUB.CO.ZA](http://WWW.SPIDERCLUB.CO.ZA)

Follow us on Facebook

# CONTENTS

About the Spider Club .....	1
A farewell “From the Hub” .....	2
Snippets .....	4
Observations .....	7
Book review: Fascinating Creatures, by Mike Green .....	11
Spider walk and Annual General Meeting: Deelfontein Guest Farm .....	13
Spider walk: Magaliesburg .....	21
The Spider Club on YFM .....	27
The elusive buckspoor spider .....	28
Spiders of Kasteelberg (southern slope) .....	32
Spider of the month .....	39
Anka se goggastories .....	43
On a lighter note .....	48
Diary of events .....	51

# 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](mailto:info@spiderclub.co.za)



at "The Spider Club of Southern Africa"

## Your committee; always available and ready to help:

Rudi Steenkamp (chairman / newsletter)	064 842 8306	<a href="mailto:rudolphsteinkampf@gmail.com">rudolphsteinkampf@gmail.com</a>
Astri Leroy (member / consultant)	073 168 7187	<a href="mailto:astri@spiderclub.co.za">astri@spiderclub.co.za</a>
Roulla Janse van Rensburg (social secretary)	083 300 9609	<a href="mailto:roulla.jvr@gmail.com">roulla.jvr@gmail.com</a>
Jarrold Michael Todd (events organiser)	067 833 2191	<a href="mailto:jarrod.todd37@gmail.com">jarrod.todd37@gmail.com</a>
Caren Neal (treasurer)	083 753 2946	<a href="mailto:caren@nicholsonsmith.co.za">caren@nicholsonsmith.co.za</a>
Henning Boshoff (archivist)	071 556 7055	<a href="mailto:boshoffhenning@gmail.com">boshoffhenning@gmail.com</a>
Desiré Pelser (web designer)	082 553 0589	<a href="mailto:des@earthandoceans.co.za">des@earthandoceans.co.za</a>
Ruan Booysen (arachnologist)	078 095 6116	<a href="mailto:booyesenr@ufs.ac.za">booyesenr@ufs.ac.za</a>
Joanie Beytell (media liaison)	082 490 2832	<a href="mailto:joaniebeytell@gmail.com">joaniebeytell@gmail.com</a>
Jèan-Pierre Schutte (member)	081 445 1304	<a href="mailto:jeanpierreschutte@gmail.com">jeanpierreschutte@gmail.com</a>

## 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, Ruan, Joanie, Caren, and Jèan-Pierre) for their contributions.
- Jeanne van Aswegen, my colleague at Grammar Guardians and superior half, for proofreading 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.

# A farewell “From the Hub”

by Astri Leroy



I’ve been threatening to resign as chairman of the Spider Club for quite a while and now I’ve gone and done it. Not only have I resigned as chairman but I have opted to no longer have a hand in the running of the club. How many times have we/you/I said or thought “Nee man, it’s time that so-and-so retired”. Think of politicians who hold onto power only to become dictators or has-been singers who are just an embarrassment. So, I hope I have left before people say that about me! I must say I’ve met some amazing people because of the club and my interest in arachnology. Many have become beloved friends. Spiders have also taken me to far corners of the world – and South Africa – but now it is time to regroup and concentrate on family, business, and, God willing, climate and age permitting, travel to new and fascinating destinations.

After a hiatus of more than two years, I called an Annual General Meeting for Sunday 21 July. It was held at

Deelfontein Guest Farm in the Vredefort Dome area of the northern Free State and we made a weekend of it, staying over Saturday night so that we could spend a lot of time looking for spiders. The club’s previous AGM was B.C. – before Covid – on 9 June 2019. Everyone knows how much the world and communication have changed since then and so has the way the club has been run. During and after the pandemic restrictions, a bunch of extraordinary, enthusiastic, and competent people, much younger than I and way more tech savvy, just picked up the ball and ran with it. They need no introduction; you know them all and you’ve seen their names as committee members since early 2020.

For decades attendance at our AGM has been subsidised by the club one way or another. We’ve paid for spit braais, ordinary braais, catered meals, etc. We have arranged speakers, sometimes overseas arachnologists, and sourced and paid for films, videos, or whatever we could find that would interest members, but mostly we partied. We’ve hired a variety of venues but never before paid for accommodation as we did that Deelfontein. This venue was chosen because it is in the Free State. Although it is closer to Johannesburg and Pretoria than it is to Bloemfontein, the Bloemfontein delegation came anyway. Eagle-eyed Ruan organised a permit to collect and as usual he found an amazing variety of spiders despite it being just after mid-winter. For most of us the star find was egg sacs of *Latrodectus rhodesiensis*, the Zimbabwe brown button spider, under an immovable boulder. Try as everyone might, we could not entice the spider out to pose for photos! I took five egg sacs home to see if I could “hatch” them. Holding the huge fluffy egg sacs in front of a powerful light, I began to doubt that they were viable, so decided to carefully snip them open to see if indeed there were either eggs or spiderlings inside. Two contained dried-up dead young, the other three had been parasitised by wasps and contained the remains of parasitoid cocoons.

Deelfontein is a strange place owned by an equally strange (read: interesting) man, Gerhard Benade. He renovates vintage cars, farms goats, and runs courses on Baroque music, so he has a large cob-built



theatre and several pianos and has holiday accommodation. From what I can gather, he does everything himself with no staff visible. We all stayed in Oom Kosie's farm house in double rooms with showers and composting toilets, which seemed to work well in most of the rooms except our one at the far end of the farm house. It was comfortable with a well-appointed kitchen, a covered stoep with tables and chairs where we braaied on the fire for the "donkey" water heater. There was a large dining room where we could hold our meeting and set up microscopes.

With all these amenities and a farm with enough varied landscape to find many spiders, it is just a pity that only one "ordinary member", Johan Heyns, attended the weekend. The rest were committee members and their families.

I know this committee will steer the Spider Club far into the future with more enthusiasm and expertise than I can manage after more than 45 years but it's weird and there will be a big empty hole in my life!



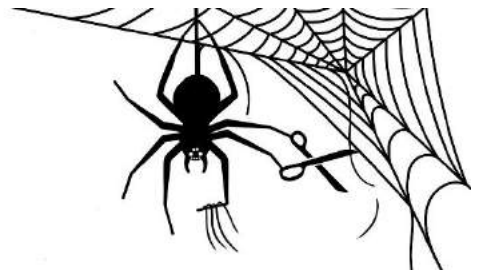
**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Since Astri retired as chairperson, I will take over the "From the Hub" from here on as the new chairperson. I just want to thank Astri for all her hard work through the many years. She has also made my last three years as editor easier by sending me news, updates, etc. I might have met her only once at this year's AGM, but it feels like I've known her forever. I am certain this won't be the last time we've met.

Thank you for everything, Astri, and for taking me under your wing and having trust in me and the other members. With the committee's help, I will try my best to follow your vision for the Spider Club. We all appreciate and love you immensely!

Rudi

# Snippets



## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS



We made a few changes to the Spider Club committee, and welcome back Caren Neal as our Treasurer. We also welcome back Jèan-Pierre Schutte, who used to

be our webmaster before resigning. In addition, we welcome Joanie Beytell, who will be our media liaison, who will try to gain media attention and publicity for the Spider Club events, such as spider walks.

Apart from these three additions to the committee, we also welcome a few new moderators to our Facebook group, namely Garrie Wright, Wessel Pretorius, Susan Kotze Hoy, Deoné Röhrbeck, and Jeanne van Aswegen.

Thank you all for agreeing to help keep the Spider Club on track, especially after our matriarch and chairperson, Astri Leroy, resigned at the latest Annual General Meeting. We are looking forward to working with you.

## INCREASED DONATION FEE

For the first time ever, The Spider Club of Southern Africa is increasing the “donation fee” at field events and certain other events. Since the beginning it has been R50 per adult and R10 per child 11 years and younger. Regretfully, we are doubling that amount to R100 per adult and R20 per child.

We are working on ways to make this fee worthwhile, such as a Spider Club “badge” for every walk attended, and other possible benefits. Until then, please bear with this increase and see it as a small price to pay for meeting likeminded people and finding awesome spiders.

## FIRST RECORD OF “WHITE WIDOW” IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

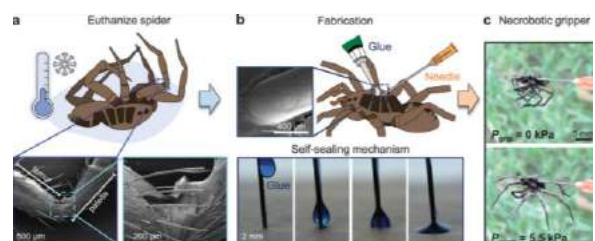


*Latrodectus cf. pallidus*. Photo: Cecile Roux.

In a previous newsletter (Vol. 38, No. 1), we reported on the white button spiders (*Latrodectus* sp.) that Cecile Roux found on Kasteelberg and Koringberg in the Western Cape. Peter Webb has also photographed a similar specimen. Some people believe it to be a variation of *L. geometricus*, while some suggested a new species. Leon Lotz, who specialises in this taxon, is convinced it's *L. pallidus*, otherwise known as the white widow spider, which would be a first record for sub-Saharan Africa.

Cecile has so far found and photographed five specimens, but none were adults. When she finds one again, she will try to raise it to adulthood and send it to a lab to be properly identified. Watch this space...

## NECROBOTIC SPIDERS USED TO PICK UP SMALL OBJECTS



The process of creating a necrobionic spider gripper. Source: Yap et al. (2022).

In a study<sup>1</sup> by Yap et al. (2022) at Rice University, mechanical engineers have found a way to pick up small objects using dead spiders and hydraulics (or in the case of this study, air), which living spiders use to move their legs. This field of using dead animals in technological advancements is called “necrobotics”, and while it may seem macabre, it has various benefits, such as the necrobots being biodegradable, and of course the intricate parts of the “robot” already being “built” through millions of years of evolution.

Spiders were considered for necrobotic grippers because of their ability to lift objects heavier than they are. They used large wolf spiders in this experiment, which are able to lift objects 130% their weight. The smaller the spider, the higher the percentage, and for this reason they are looking to use smaller spiders, which will be able to lift heavier weights.

The results of this experiment are published in *Advanced Science*, an open-access journal.

#### DAVID BOWIE HONOURED WITH 54 NEW SPIDER SPECIES



Peter Jäger with a David Bowie T-shirt. Photo from Facebook.

Peter Jäger, who is known for naming spiders after people he admires, such as Greta Thunberg, Boyan Slat, Malala Yousafzai, Jyoti Kumari, etc. (see Snippets, Vol. 37 No. 1), has named 54 new species of Ctenidae after one of his biggest idols, David Bowie.

Peter has already honoured David Bowie with *Heteropoda davidbowie* in 2008, but took it one step further this time by naming a whole genus after him<sup>2</sup>. The genus Bowie now contains 104 species, of which 54 are new. Many of the species are named after David Bowie’s songs, such as *B. majortom*, *B. ziggy Stardust*, *B. heroes*, *B. hunky dory*, *B. rebelrebel*, *B. scarymonsters*, *B. letsdance*, *B. shakeit*, and *B. blackstar*. Only one of our South African species is affected, namely *B. corniger*, which was moved from *Ctenus corniger*.

#### OCYALE WOLF SPIDERS MOVED TO HIPPASOSA



*Hippasosa* cf. *guttata*. Photo: Lourens Botha.

In a recent revision of the lycosid genus *Ocyale* by Sherwood (2022)<sup>3</sup>, all the spiders in this genus were moved to *Hippasosa*, with one species (*Ocyale atalanta*) declared a *nomen dubium* in the family Pisauridae. This change affects two of our recorded species, namely *H. guttata* and *H. dewinterae*.

<sup>1</sup> Yap, T.F., Liu, Z., Rajappan, A., Shimokusu, T.J. & Preston, D.J. 2022. Necrobotics: Biotic materials as ready-to-use actuators. *Advanced Science*, 2022:2201174, <https://doi.org/10.1002/advs.202201174>

<sup>2</sup> Jäger, P. 2022. *Bowie* gen. nov., a diverse lineage of ground-dwelling spiders occurring from the Himalayas to Papua New

Guinea and northern Australia (Araneae: Ctenidae: Cteninae). *Zootaxa*, 4 August, doi: 10.11646/ZOOTAXA.5170.1.1

<sup>3</sup> Sherwood, D. 2022. On the taxonomic and nomenclatural status of *Ocyale* Audouin, 1826 (Araneae: Pisauridae) and *Hippasosa* Roewer, 1960 (Araneae: Lycosidae), with notes on some other taxa. *Arachnology*, 19(2):582-584.



## DO SPIDERS DREAM?



A jumping spider in a proposed dreaming state. Source: Daniela Rößler.

A recent study suggests that some spiders might in fact dream.

Behavioural ecologist Daniela Rößler from the University of Konstanz in Germany observed jumping spiders in plastic boxes with the intent to observe their reaction towards 3D-printed models of predatory spiders. At night, she noticed that the spiders were hanging motionless by threads from the lids of the boxes. She decided to record them at night with a night-vision camera, and noticed that at times the spiders' legs would twitch, as well as the

abdomen and spinnerets. Like REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, this doesn't occur throughout the night, but rather in phases.

REM sleep has been observed in mammals and birds, as well as some reptile and fish species, but never before in any arthropod. In mammals and birds, REM sleep can be observed where the eyes twitch, but also other movements, like a dreaming dog's legs twitching.

While eye movement cannot be observed in most spiders, in some jumping spiders, the eye tubes behind the retinas are visible, and during these supposed REM phases, these eye tubes were seen to move around. Since jumping spiders are considered "smarter" than the average spider, it doesn't come as much of a surprise that they can dream.

More studies need to be done on this to be sure, but the initial findings have been published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*<sup>4</sup>, where the videos are also available.

---

<sup>4</sup> Rößler, D.C., Kim, K., De Agrò, M. & Shamble, P.S. 2022. Regularly occurring bouts of retinal movements suggest an REM sleep-like

state in jumping spiders. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 119(33):e2204754119, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2204754119>



# Observations

---

## HOW TO FIND A TREE TRAPDOOR SPIDER

John Roff photographed this tree trapdoor spider (Migidae) at Rockwood Karkloof Nature Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. This is what he posted on Facebook:

*"Poecilomigas (abrahami most likely) in mist-belt forest, KZN Midlands. People are asking how I spotted it – find a tree with lots of moss and lichen, find a slight shallow groove, run your finger down the groove pushing gently enough to depress a silk door but not flatten it. We found two quite quickly."*





## SPIDER EATING RICE



Sarah Wartnaby saw this long-legged sac spider (*Cheiracanthium* sp.) eating a grain of rice. She said that it finished at least half a grain:

"A long time ago (5+ years) during dinner, this spider dropped from the ceiling and ate half a piece of rice. I took the photo hoping to ask someone why and when I joined this group I couldn't find the photo. It was definitely eating the rice as it only left half a piece when it left back to the ceiling."

Benjamin Carbuccia replied the following:

"Interestingly, long-legged sac spiders (Cheiracanthiidae) seem to have omnivorous tendencies. They were among the first known examples of spiders feeding on floral and extrafloral nectar, they've also been seen eating (or at least sucking on) fruits and other sugary things."

---

## IGLOO SPIDER'S RETREAT

Debbie Taylor found this igloo spider (*Diores* sp.; Zodariidae), and the igloo retreat that gave them their common name.

"Spider weekend at Cradock: *Diores*, igloo spider, in the family Zodariidae. This was an exciting find for me 🥳 another ticked off my list 🍌 They make an igloo-shaped retreat. Such a stunning spider 🥳 I found quite a few on "Ouklip" in Cradock.





## TRASHLINE ORB WEAVER WEAVES BASKET INSTEAD OF TRASH LINE

Jarrold Todd posted the following observation of two trashline orb-web spiders (*Cyclosa insulana*) from the KZN National Botanical Garden:

"I love finding these spiders, they are so interesting. These spiders get their name by the line of carcasses and debris in their web that they camouflage in between. The reason why I say they're interesting is because look at these two. Both the same species, I suspect the second one to be sub-adult. The first one has collected, well, I'm not entirely sure what she has collected, they're super thin, and I doubt it's grass. Anyways, she has made a rounded 'nest' in the middle of her web, instead of the usual line through it. Then the second one has not started anything yet, but you can see how she has lines of thread where her garbage line will eventually be. So even within the same species, they do their webs in different ways.

I suppose the same can be said for the stabilimentum in some orb weavers, where within a single species there can be many different patterns and sizes of the stabilimentum. For those who don't know what stabilimentum is, it's when an orb weaver weaves thicker webbing in a pattern on their web. No one knows the true purpose of this, but it is suspected to be to possibly strengthen the web, or prevent birds and other larger flying insects from flying straight through it."



Just a cute solifuge being defensive. Also called "romans" in South Africa, which probably originated from one of their many Afrikaans names, "rooi man" (red man).

Spotted on iNaturalist, and posted by observer Rachel Scharf from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in the Northern Cape.

Identified as a burrowing "clawfoot" solifuge (*Chelypus* sp.; Hexisopodidae).

## RAIN SPIDER USES CABLE CLIPS IN EGG SAC



Thea Dahms posted this photo that her friend, Adel Smit, took in Bonnievale, Western Cape, asking what it is. It's one of the many cases where, when a rain spider (*Palystes* sp.) mother-to-be could not find the usual leaves, twigs, and bark to line her nest with, she uses anything else she can find (in this case cable clips and some other kind of plastic).

We previously reported on other such cases, where rain spiders used bolts, toothpicks, toilet paper, a sponge, lint, rubber bands, and even a bird's skull. (see Vol. 36, No. 2 here: <https://www.spiderclub.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Vol-36.2-2020-06.pdf>).

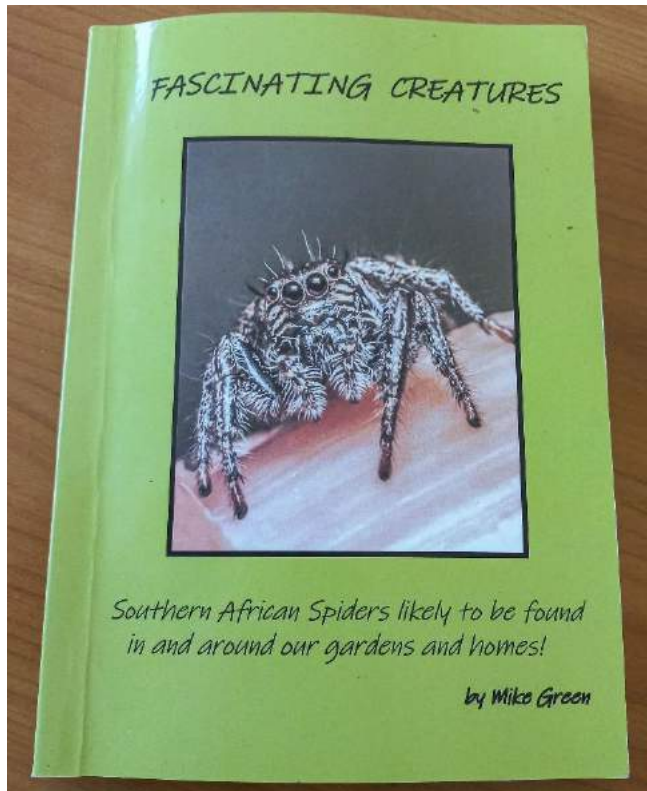
Only two *Palystes* species spin the "bag of leaves" egg sac: *P. superciliosus* and *P. castaneus*. Both these can be found in the Western Cape. We just love to see what these spiders will use to keep their babies safe, and the hard work it must take to drag these items up to the nest.



# Book review:

## Fascinating Creatures, by Mike Green

by Henning Boshoff



### **Fascinating Creatures – by Mike Green**

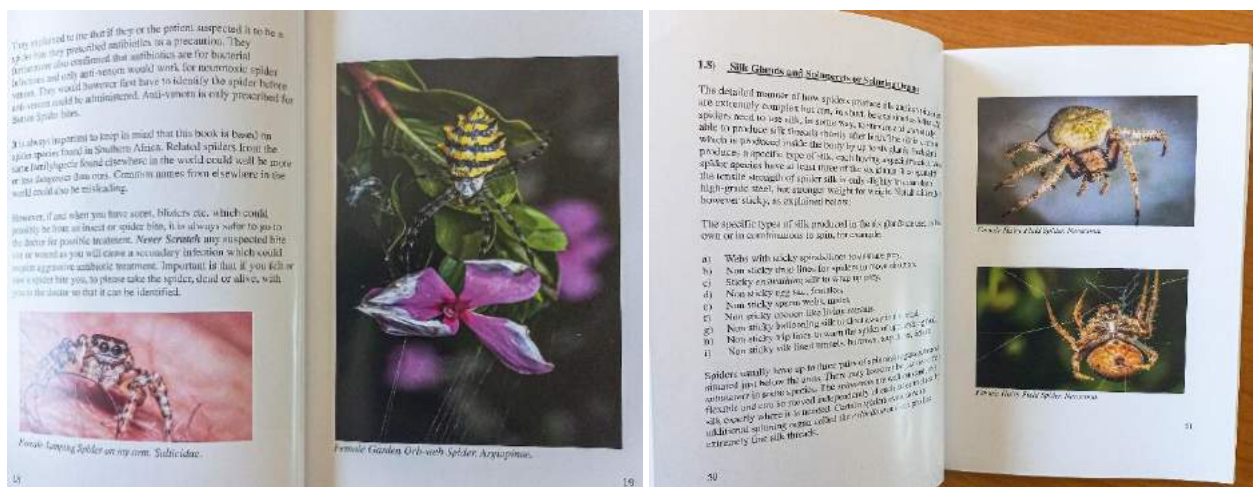
I was pleasantly surprised by the content of this self-published book, *Fascinating Creatures*, by Mike Green.

The author is well known for his striking photography of insects and arachnids, which he frequently shares on social media. Accordingly, I was expecting a book full of pictures, with very little meaningful content and information.

Mike proved me wrong though; the book is definitely not just a nice picture book. It is filled with interesting facts and information, and even the great photography plays second fiddle. It starts off with a short chapter on the fear of spiders. The next chapter is about spider biology, explaining how things like the respiratory and nervous systems work, among others. It is written in basic English, which

makes it a good read for people with none or little knowledge of the subject.

From there it covers spider behaviour and a few commonly found species, with a short description and suitably accompanying photos. The book ends with “medically significant” spiders and a chapter on other arachnids.



The book is a labour of love. It's one person's passion in book form. The only negative I can add to this attractive book is that I came across quite a few instances where the information that was given was at

times somewhat incorrect. Someone starting an interest in spiders would not notice this; however, the book is not intended as a guide and the author suggests that the reader invest in a field guide for more accurate information.

Having said that, I would be happy to recommend the book to most people. It is ideal for the beginner as there are so many fascinating facts and well-photographed pictures. For the same reasons the book should also appeal to the more advanced arachnophile. Leave it in the any reception area or on a coffee table and spark some interest in somebody, or give it as a gift to young or old. It can surely make a difference in how people see these little creatures.

*Fascinating Creatures* definitely has its own place among the more scientifically accurate guides that are available.

The book is well bound and has 201 pages and 198 photos. It is available directly from Mike Green at a cost of R250, excluding postage. Email: [Mike.alana.green@gmail.com](mailto:Mike.alana.green@gmail.com)

## Spider walk and Annual General Meeting: Deelfontein Guest Farm

by Roulla Janse van Rensburg



Attendees at the spider walk and AGM at Deelfontein Guest Farm. **From left to right:** Johan Heyns, Henning Boshoff, Brandon Boshoff, Liezl Whitehead, Ruan Booysen, Astri Leroy, Jarrod Todd, Roulla Janse van Rensburg, Kira Janse van Rensburg, John Leroy, and Rudi Steenkamp.

I had the pleasure of being driven to Deelfontein Guest Farm near Vredefort in the Free State by our very own Henning Boshoff – he’s always such a great travel companion with a constant stream of spider facts and interesting anecdotes to share along the way – accompanied by my daughter, Kira, and Henning’s son, Brandon. It was a fun and relatively easy 1 ½ hour drive from Johannesburg.

We arrived first, not entirely sure if we were in the right place to discover that we were in a very beautiful and charming area with absolutely no cell phone signal! Well, you can imagine us Jo’burg peeps, a little disconcerted but bold! So, we set out on a discovery mission to see if we could find anyone to ask if we were indeed in the right place or if we’d inadvertently taken a wrong turn somewhere along the way.

After some exploring that turned up a delightful structure that housed a number of rooms with pianos and a large hall, then another structure that held some ancient vehicles in various states of disrepair, we decided to head back to what seemed to be the guest house area. Along the way, Gerhard drove past with his gorgeous and super friendly border collie running behind him and let us know we were indeed where we should be! Not long after, the rest of the Spider Club committee and company started to arrive and we settled into the lovely guest house that was to be our home for the night.

Next up was our much-anticipated spider walk! Perhaps a little early in the season and still very dry, we scoured the area for hidden treasures and certainly found a few! A full list of finds is available, so I won’t go into details, but we sure had loads of fun looking for our favourite beasties!

The evening was absolutely wonderful too – we had a good old South African braai and spent hours chatting about the day's finds before we fell into bed for a good night's rest.

Sunday morning and time for a quick breakfast and the reason for our weekend away, the Spider Club AGM!

We ran through our programme of finances, the changes observed over the last few years, the upcoming spider walks, ideas for engaging our members, and the important role the Spider Club of Southern Africa has played in changing how people think about and engage with our wonderful arachnids. We spoke about how the club has grown over the years and we had a look at the very varied origins of our 600 strong members, and then the moment none of us had been looking forward to, our wonderful founder, our mentor, and our matriarch – Astri Leroy – officially announced that she is stepping down as chairperson of the Spider Club and asked us to vote in a new chairperson. Rudi Steenkamp was voted in. We know he has the skill and leadership to fill Astri's proverbial shoes. Rudi, congratulations on your new role – it's well deserved, and I know you'll do us all proud.

Astri, I can't thank you enough for all of the tireless work you've put in to making this club the success that it is today. You are truly an ambassador to our beloved arachnids. You've been a wonderful friend and mentor to me, and it has been an absolute pleasure being part of your team!

All in all, we had a very special weekend doing what we love!

## Species list

Compiled by Ruan Booysen. For a more comprehensive species list, contact the Spider Club.

Family	Genus	Species	Females	Males	Immatures
Agelenidae	<i>Agelena</i>	<i>cf. australis</i>	1		1
Amaurobiidae	<i>cf. Obatala</i>	sp. 1		1	1
Araneidae	<i>Neoscona</i>	sp. 1			1
Araneidae	<i>Neoscona</i>	sp. 2			1
Araneidae	<i>Neoscona</i>	<i>triangula</i>	1		
Caponiidae	<i>Caponia</i>	<i>capensis</i>	1	1	
Cheiracanthiidae	<i>Cheiracanthium</i>	sp. 1			4
Cheiracanthiidae	<i>Cheiracanthium</i>	sp. 2			2
Corinnidae	<i>Castianeira</i>	sp. 1			1
Eresidae	<i>Dresserus</i>	<i>colsoni</i>	2		3
Eresidae	<i>Dresserus</i>	sp. 1			1
Gnaphosidae	<i>Camillina</i>	sp. 1			1
Gnaphosidae	<i>Drassodes</i>	sp. 1		1	
Gnaphosidae	<i>Megamyrmaekion</i>	sp. 1			1
Gnaphosidae	<i>Nomisia</i>	sp. 1			2
Gnaphosidae	<i>Xerophaeus</i>	<i>aurariarum</i>		1	2
Gnaphosidae	<i>Xerophaeus</i>	sp. 1		1	
Gnaphosidae	<i>Zelotes</i>	<i>corrugatus</i>	1		
Gnaphosidae	<i>Zelotes</i>	<i>frenchi</i>	3		5
Gnaphosidae	<i>Zelotes</i>	<i>scrutatus</i>	1		3
Linyphiidae	<i>Agyneta</i>	sp. 1	1		
Linyphiidae	<i>Prinerigone</i>	sp. 1		1	



Family	Genus	Species	Females	Males	Immatures
Liocranidae	<i>Rhaeboctesis</i>	sp. 1			1
Lycosidae	<i>Hogna</i>	cf. <i>bimaculata</i>			1
Lycosidae	<i>Pardosa</i>	<i>crassipalpis</i>		2	3
Lycosidae	<i>Proevippa</i>	sp. 1	1		2
Lycosidae	<i>Trabea</i>	<i>purcelli</i>	1	1	2
Lycosidae	<i>Trochosa</i>	<i>albipilosa</i>	1		1
Oonopidae	<i>Opopaea</i>	<i>speciosa</i>	1		
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i>	<i>jacksoni</i>			1
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i>	sp. 2			1
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i>	sp. 3			1
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i>	sp. 4			1
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i>	sp. 5			6
Palpimanidae	<i>Palpimanus</i>	sp. 1	2		
Philodromidae	<i>Philodromus</i>	sp. 1			6
Pholcidae	<i>Smeringopus</i>	<i>natalensis</i>	2	2	2
Pisauridae	<i>Cispius</i>	sp. 1			3
Prodidomidae	<i>Theuma</i>	<i>capensis</i>	1		1
Salticidae	<i>Afraflacilla</i>	<i>karinae</i>		1	1
Salticidae	<i>Baryphas</i>	<i>ahenus</i>			2
Salticidae	<i>Cyrba</i>	<i>nigrimana</i>			5
Salticidae	<i>Hyllus</i>	sp. 1			1
Salticidae	<i>Icius</i>	cf. <i>insolidus</i>			4
Salticidae	<i>Menemerus</i>	<i>transvaalicus</i>	1		1
Scytodidae	<i>Scytodes</i>	<i>elizabethae</i>		4	
Scytodidae	<i>Scytodes</i>	sp. 1			1
Selenopidae	<i>Anyphops</i>	sp. 1			2
Sparassidae	<i>Pseudomicrommata</i>	<i>longipes</i>			1
Theridiidae	<i>Latrodectus</i>	cf. <i>rhodesiensis</i>			1
Theridiidae	<i>Theridion</i>	sp. 1	2	3	3
Theridiidae	<i>Tidarren</i>	sp. 1			3
Thomisidae	<i>Runcinia</i>	<i>aethiops</i>	1		3
Thomisidae	<i>Synema</i>	cf. <i>imitatrix</i>			4
Thomisidae	<i>Synema</i>	<i>diana</i>		1	7
Thomisidae	<i>Xysticus</i>	<i>urbensis</i>	1		
Trachelidae	<i>Afrocto</i>	sp. 1			1
Trachelidae	New Genus	sp. 1		1	
Uloboridae	<i>Miagrammopes</i>	sp. 1			1
Uloboridae	<i>Uloborus</i>	<i>plumipes</i>			1
Buthidae	<i>Uroplectes</i>	<i>triangulifer</i>		1	

## Photos



Jumping spiders (Salticidae). **1&2:** *Afraflacilla karinae* (Photos: Ruan Booysen). **3:** *Hyllus* sp. **4:** *Icius* sp. **5:** *Baryphas ahenus*. **6:** *Cyrbia nigrimana* (Photos: Rudi Steenkamp). **7&8:** *Rhene* sp. (Photos: Ruan Booysen & Rudi Steenkamp).





Pale ground spider (*Theuma capensis*; Prodidomidae). Photo: Rudi Steenkamp.



Flat-bellied ground spiders (Gnaphosidae). **Left:** *Xerophaeus* cf. *hottentots*. Photo: Ruan Booysen. **Right:** *Zelotes frenchi*. Photo: Rudi Steenkamp.



Female (**left**) and male (**right**) Cape orange lungless spiders (*Caponia capensis*; Caponiidae). Photos: Rudi Steenkamp.





Wolf spiders (Lycosidae). **Top left:** *Trabea purcelli* (photo: Ruan Booysen). **Top right:** *Trabea purcelli* (photo: Rudi Steenkamp). **Bottom left:** *Trachosa albipilosa* (photo: Ruan Booysen). **Bottom right:** *Hogna cf. bimaculata* (photo: Rudi Steenkamp).



Crab spiders (Thomisidae). **Left:** *Runcinia aethiops*. **Right:** *Synema diana*. Photos: Rudi Steenkamp.



Ground sac spider (Trachelidae). New genus. Photo: Ruan Booysen.





**Left:** Possible Zimbabwe brown button spider (*Latrodectus* cf. *rhodesiensis*; Theridiidae). **Right:** Hammock-web spider (*Prinerigone* sp.; Linyphiidae). Photos: Rudi Steenkamp.



**Left:** Grass huntsman (*Pseudomicrommata longipes*; Sparassidae). **Right:** Cispius nursery-web spider (*Cispius* sp.; Pisauridae). Photos: Jarrod Todd.



Spiny-legged sac spider (*Rhaeboctesis* sp.; Liocranidae). Photo: Ruan Booysen.





**Left:** Common daddy longlegs (*Smeringopus natalensis*; Pholcidae). **Top right:** Palp-footed spider (*Palpimanus* sp.; Palpimanidae). **Bottom right:** Spitting spider (*Scytodes* sp.; Scytodidae). Photos: Rudi Steenkamp.



Highveld lesser thicktail scorpion (*Uroplectes triangulifer*; Buthidae). The only other arachnid found on the spider walk. Photo: Ruan Booysen.

# Spider walk: Magaliesburg

by Jarrod Todd



Attendees of the spider walk looking for spiders under rocks. Photo: Jonkelthan Famofan.

This was the first walk of the season where the public joined us. Man, what a day! In all honesty, I wasn't expecting too much, as it was just at the beginning of spring, and we had no rain yet, which is what usually brings everything to life. What is cool about spiders, though, is that they're always around.

We had around 14 people join us on the walk, all super enthusiastic and keen to find some spiders. There were a few children on the walk too, which is always great; seeing them at such a young age being so keen to find creepy crawlies is awesome. Best to start them off young!



Jarrod geared up and ready for the walk, with Caren Neal's two children behind him, next to Astri Leroy. Photo: Caren Neal.

The day went pretty well. The first spider found was a super rare spider that I have never seen before in person, a true lifer right at the beginning of the walk, namely an *Apochinomma* sp. dark sac spider. We walked around the property and just kept finding awesome spiders, from giant jumping spiders, to giant spitting spiders (they were huge!). I was struggling to keep up with everyone calling me to come and see their cool finds.

At the end of the day, when separating the finds, I felt a little tickle on my arm. Without thinking, I brushed it off and then saw it was hanging by a web, so I quickly caught it. Another lifer! This time it was an ant-mimicking jumping spider in the genus *Myrmarachne*, but it was a mature male! The males have these awesome elongated chelicerae that really make epic photos! Man, did I scream like a little girl I was so excited.

The few people who were left learned about the spiders that we found and got to look at them a little closer through eye glasses that magnify the little creatures quite a bit.

Can't wait for the next walk!





Some attendees before the walk, with Jonkelthan Famofan (left photo, at right) visiting all the way from Germany. Photos: Caren Neal.

## Species list

Compiled by Jarrod Todd.

Family	Genus	Species
Agelenidae	Undetermined	sp.
Araneidae	<i>Neoscona</i>	sp.
Cheiracanthidae	<i>Cheiracanthium</i>	sp.
Clubionidae	<i>Clubiona</i>	sp.
Corinnidae	<i>Apochinomma</i>	sp.
Eresidae	<i>Dresserus</i>	sp.
Eresidae	<i>Gandanameno</i>	sp.
Gnaphosidae	<i>Zelotes</i>	sp.
Lycosidae	<i>Hogna</i>	sp.
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes</i>	sp.
Palpimanidae	<i>Palpimanus</i>	cf. <i>transvaalicus</i>
Philodromidae	<i>Gephyrota</i>	sp.
Phyxelididae	Undetermined	spp.
Pisauridae	<i>Euprosthenopsis</i>	sp.
Prodidomidae	<i>Austrodomus</i>	sp.
Scytodidae	<i>Scytodes</i>	cf. <i>caffra</i>
Selenopidae	<i>Anyphops</i>	sp.
Salticidae	<i>Cyrba</i>	<i>nigrimana</i>
Salticidae	<i>Evarcha</i>	sp.
Salticidae	<i>Hyllus</i>	<i>argyrotoxis</i>
Salticidae	<i>Myrmarachne</i>	sp.
Salticidae	<i>Nigorella</i>	<i>hirsuta</i>
Salticidae	<i>Pignus</i>	<i>simoni</i>
Salticidae	<i>Rhene</i>	sp.
Theridiidae	<i>Steatoda</i>	<i>capensis</i>
Theridiidae	<i>Theridion</i>	sp.
Uloboridae	<i>Uloborus</i>	<i>plumipes</i>



## Photos



Pale ground spider (*Austrodomus* sp.; Prodidomidae). Photo: Jarrod Todd.



Two different burrowing wolf spiders (*Hogna* sp.; Lycosidae). Photos: Jarrod Todd.



**Left:** Sheet-web nursery-web spider (*Euprosthenopsis* sp.; Pisauridae). **Right:** Common false button spider (*Steatoda capensis*; Theridiidae). Photos: Jarrod Todd.





Jumping spiders (Salticidae). **Top left:** *Pignus simoni*. **Top right:** *Rhene* sp. **Middle left:** *Hyllus argyrotexus*. **Middle right:** *Cyrba nigrimana*. **Bottom:** *Myrmarachne* sp. Photos: Jarrod Todd.





Ant-like dark sac spider (*Apochinomma* sp.; Corinnidae). Photos: Jarrod Todd.



**Left:** Flattie (*Anyphops* sp.; Selenopidae). **Right:** Palp-footed spider (*Palpimanus* cf. *transvaalicus*; Palpimanidae). Photos: Jarrod Todd.





Spitting spiders (*Scytodes* cf. *caffra*; Scytodidae). Photos: Jarrod Todd.



# The Spider Club on YFM

by Henning Boshoff



It's funny how life takes on a journey to places we never thought we would go. There I was, sitting at the YFM studio in Hyde Park; me and a glass case with a spider. I was going to represent the Spider Club for the second time this year on the radio; the other time being on Groot FM in Afrikaans.

The glass case drew quite a bit of attention and I had few people coming closer to see what was going on.

And then "DJ Supta" arrived. He was the reason that the Spider Club had been invited to the radio interview. This guy was scared. Not "eeeww, there is a spider" scared; he was terrified. The topic was fear, and Supta was going to let the spider walk on his hand during the show.

The studio was small with three stations, two DJs, and me. A few people had wandered in for the spectacle. And then I'm live on air with tens of thousands of people listening. It takes a few minutes to relax and get into the swing of things and, in this time I nearly called a spider poisonous.

Supta then had the opportunity to face his fears and let the spider (a subadult Mexican red rump) walk on his hand! He was genuinely afraid. After a lot of negotiation and holding out his hand, he eventually took the brave step and let the spider crawl on him. He later said, "I just shut off completely to cope."

It's kind of how I felt while I was live on air!

We went back on air for a few minutes and we had the opportunity to tell people about the Spider Club and what we do. They had to cut the interview short, as we spider people will just keep talking... on and on and on and on...

It was a wonderful experience. We made contact with people whom we are not likely to reach through our normal channels. Just maybe, somewhere, it had an impact on people and their negative attitudes towards spiders and other little creatures.



# The elusive buckspoor spider

by Norman Larsen

The genus *Seothyra*, the buckspoor spiders, is often overlooked in the field. The nest is easily mistaken for an animal spoor; hence the common name. It is a Southern African endemic (only known to occur in Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa) and includes 13 described species that occur in sandy, semi- to stabilised dunes or in gritty sand, mainly in arid areas. Five species occur in South Africa. Only six species are known from females as well as males. The female of a new species has been collected in the Richtersveld, while the male still eludes collection. Another new species has also been photographed in the Kalahari. Prince Albert is the southernmost location where specimens have been collected.



Windblown burrows. Photos: Norman Larsen.



*Seothyra fasciata*, female and male. The male is a mutillid wasp mimic. Photo: Norman Larsen.

*Seothyra* is sexually dimorphic (males and females have a different appearance). The bulky, sedentary females are cream, brown, or grey, 6-15 mm in length, and the oval abdomen is plain or banded. The cephalic region (head area) is raised. The males range in size from 4-12 mm. They are cursorial (running) spiders, and are active in the heat of the day. Some species mimic *Camponotus* ants (sugar ants), while others mimic female mutillid wasps (velvet ants) in both appearance and movement. This is to avoid predators that do not like eating ants or wasps due to their unpalatability or painful sting. The raised cephalic region in the male slopes more steeply than that of females and the anterior pair of legs are



thicker than the other legs, especially in the males where the femur, patella, and tibia are markedly thicker. The male carapace is black with yellow, red, brown, or grey markings or may be completely red to brown. The abdomen is black with cream, yellow, or tan setae, which form triangular, oval, or round patches that can be used to identify species.



**Left:** Buckspoor retreat showing cribellate capture silk. **Right:** Trapdoor flipped back, showing burrow and silk lining. Photos: Norman Larsen.

The female constructs her burrow 50-150 mm into the sand, at the top of which is a shallow depression. It appears that the depth is dependent on the moisture content at the time the burrow is constructed. A cribellate silk sheet ingrained with the local sand is constructed, rendering it invisible. The mouth of the burrow is the shape of a butterfly or dumbbell. Repeated opening of the silky flaps creates an impression in the sand, resembling an animal hoof print. The two to four flap edges (described by Purcell as trapdoors) are lined with a narrow band of capture silk. Windblown sand often hides the white silk that entraps prey. The host spider must then expand the web edge, enlarging it, to be able to trap prey. Fossilised sheet webs that closely resemble the modern *Seothyra* webs were found in the southern Namib Desert, dating back some 16 million years.



*Seothyra longipedata*, female and male. The male is a mutilid wasp mimic. Photo: Norman Larsen.



The female waits in her burrow and uses a single strand of silk to detect vibrations of prey caught in the web. She darts up and overpowers the prey caught in her web. The prey will be partly pulled under the flap; the spider will then retreat to cool down and complete the capture. The refuge of *Seothyra* has a temperature of about 35 °C and the spider can tolerate a maximum temperature of 49 °C. *Seothyra* may also hang inverted underneath the sheet web. Both males and females are thermophilous, most active on hot days when the ground temperature is about 65-75 °C. Ants constitute most of the prey captured but beetles and other invertebrates are also caught. No information is available about the biology of males except that they also retreat under the same type of web but do not appear to have a burrow. The males actively run on the surface, but it is not known on what they feed, or whether they only seek out females for mating.



*Seothyra schreineri* female, and the male is a *Camponotus* ant mimic. Photos: Charles Haddad.



*Seothyra henscheli* from the Namib (left) and a new species from the Kalahari (right). Both are *Camponotus* ant mimics. Photos: Joh Henschel and Banna van der Merwe.



Mating occurs and produces a single clutch with extended brood care until they had reached their fourth instar. The juveniles will then consume the mother (matrphagy), and thereafter disperse to within a one metre radius of the parent retreat. Adult males appear to have a short period to mate before they die. Recently, two species were photographed occurring in the same area as *Seothyra fasciata*. It appears that adults of the different species peak at different months to avoid competition. *Seothyra* has a life span of one to two years and is preyed on by araneophagous palpimanid spiders and meercats.



Black-eared sparrow lark (*Eremopterix australis*) with a *Seothyra* silk-lined nest. Photo: Hugh Chittenden.

The black-eared sparrow lark constructs its nest on the sand and covers the edges with numerous sand-encrusted lids of *Seothyra* burrows. When Penn Lloyd placed pebbles around the nest, the bird would collect more lids and cover them to effectively camouflage and recreate the original surroundings. Wasps are known to have a memory to recognise their burrows in the sand and this appears to be the same for the black-eared sparrow lark.

## References

- Dippenaar-Schoeman, A. 1990. A revision of the African spider genus *Seothyra* Purcell (Araneae: Eresidae). *Cimbebasia*, 12:135-160.
- Henschel, J.R. & Lubin Y.D. 1997. A test of habitat selection at two spatial scales in sit-and-wait predators, a web spider in the Namib Desert dunes. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 66:401-413.
- Lloyd, P. 1999. A deadly game of hide and seek: Nesting in the Karoo. *Africa Birds & Birding*, 4(2):30-34.
- Lubin, Y., Henschel, J.R. & Baker, B. 2001. Costs of aggregation shadow competition in a sit-and-wait predator. *Oikos*, 95:59-68.
- Miller, J., Griswold, C., Scharff, N., Rezac, M., Szuts, T. & Marhabaie, M. 2012. The velvet spiders: An atlas of the Eresidae (Arachnida, Araneae). *ZooKeys*, 195:1-144.
- Turner, J.S., Henschel, J.R. & Lubin, Y.D. 1993. Thermal constraints on prey-capture behavior of a burrowing spider in a hot environment. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, 33:35-43.
- Uhl, G. & Rasa, O.A.E. 2000. Notes on moult, courtship behaviour and brood care of the buckspoor spider *Seothyra fasciata* (Eresidae). *Newsletter of the British Arachnological Society*, 88:2-3.



# Spiders of Kasteelberg (southern slope)

by Cecile Roux



The southern slope of Kasteelberg, consisting of fynbos and renosterveld. Photo: Cecile Roux.

The smaller southern slope of our mountain is one of my favourite places to visit. The habitat is a mix of fynbos and renosterveld, ranging from a big protea forest to renosterveld shrubs to deep ravines where you can find moss and soft greenery even during the harshest Swartland summer. It is a lovely place to explore, where I have found quite a few bucket-list spiders over the years. The land here is privately owned by Kloovenburg Wine & Olive Estate, and we are grateful that we are allowed to do surveys of the plants and other life on this special piece of Swartland.



Spotted daddy longlegs (*Quamtana* sp.; Pholcidae). Photos: Cecile Roux.



This is where I saw my first *Quamtana*. These tiny pholcids are hard to spot, with their small webs mostly on the underside of the big leaves of plants like the blood lilies. Interestingly enough, the *Smeringopus* do not seem to like this slope very much, and I have seen them only a few times.

Sometimes one is lucky enough to see the magnificent *Parapalystes* that frequent a stony patch above one of the paths. These stones also provide good hiding places for the many gnaphosids, prodidomids, and the shy *Enoplognatha* that are abundant here. We often see brown button spider nests and egg sacs, but have only once spotted a spider itself! They like to make their retreats in crevices in some of the drier clay walls. *Theridion* and *Steatoda* are less shy. There are some beautifully patterned theridiids that may be *Chryso*, and then of course the small and mysterious white button spider!



Arid rain spider (*Parapalystes* sp.; Sparassidae). Photos: Cecile Roux.



Three flat-bellied ground spiders (Gnaphosidae). **Left:** *Xerophaeus* sp. **Middle:** *Megamyrmaekion* sp. **Right:** cf. *Drassodes* sp. Photos: Cecile Roux.



One of the mystery white button spiders that are believed to be *Latrodectus pallidus*. Photo: Cecile Roux.



When the geophytes flower in springtime, *Thomisus* spp. abound. Thomisids can be found throughout the year; *Synema* are frequently seen, and some rarer ones, like *Pherecydes* and *Monaeses*, also hide in the shrubs. I fondly remember the first *Pherecydes* I ever saw; it was tiny and it took me a while to figure out this weird little creature with its hammer-shaped head!



Crab spiders (Thomisidae). 1: *Synema* sp. 2: *Monaeses* sp. 3: *Pherecydes* sp. 4: Female *Misumenops rubrodecoratus*. 5: Male *Misumenops rubrodecoratus*. Photos: Cecile Roux.



This is also the place I found my first spitting spider years ago. No wonder, because they also love this side of the mountain. Palpimanids are rare, but I have seen a couple of these sturdy beauties. Lynx spiders, on the other hand, are very common, and I mostly see *Oxyopes* spp., with the odd *Peucetia* appearing now and then. Interestingly, the Selenopidae are also scarce on our mountain. I wonder why? I have seen only one, so they do occur here, but they are not nearly as abundant as in many other places in the province. I have found three juvenile theraphosids, but no adults yet. And one *Cheiramiona* – the only sac spider on the list for this slope.

Left: A decorated long-legged sac spider (*Cheiramiona* sp.; Cheiracanthiidae). Photo: Cecile Roux.



The most flamboyant salticid I have seen here is a *Thyene inflata*. Colourful! There are also *Evarcha*, *Rhene*, and numerous *Heliophanus*. Philodromidae are also less common here than on the other slopes, but I have seen quite a few *Tibellus*, and some *Thanatus*.



Jumping spiders (Salticidae). **Top:** *Thyene inflata*. **Bottom left:** *Heliophanus* sp. **Bottom right:** *Evarcha* sp. Photos: Cecile Roux.



Lycosids are everywhere to be seen. Some have lovely yellow or greenish markings. I know identification from photos is not always possible; I am not even trying! There are many burrows made by wolf spiders, and I was lucky enough to be able to lure one out once; *Hogna* I presume.



Wolf spiders (Lycosidae). All unknown. Bottom left might be *Proevippa fascicularis*. Photos: Cecile Roux.

I am not aware of too many Araneidae, but again I have never done a night walk on the slope, and we tend to stick to the areas where a recent burn took place. I am sure more can be found in between the taller shrubs a bit higher up. There are some small *Cyclosa* and *Neoscona* to be seen on the lower slopes though, as well as *Leucauge* tetragnathids.





Orb-web spiders (Araneidae). **Top left and right:** Hairy field spiders (*Neoscona* spp.). **Bottom:** Also probably *Neoscona* sp. Photos: Cecile Roux.





Silver marsh spider (*Leucauge* sp.; Tetragnathidae). Photo: Cecile Roux.



Hackled orb-web spider (*Uloborus walckenaerius*; Uloboridae). Photo: Cecile Roux

I see many phyxelidids, but they are such shy spiders and I seldom get a good photograph. I feel too bad to try to coax them out to uncover their faces! Uloboridae are scarce here, but I have seen a few of the lovely white uloborids that are most likely the introduced *Uloborus walckenaerius*.

Other scarce beauties are the Trachelidae, Zodariidae, and the small red spiders that could possibly be cyatholipids.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this small spider paradise with the Club!

## Spider of the month

JULY



1: Scorpion-tailed orb-web spider (*Arachnura scorpionoides*; Araneidae). Photo: Desiré Pelser.  
For more information on this SOTM, visit: <https://www.spiderclub.co.za/july-2022-spider-of-the-month/>



2: Pear-shaped antlike dark sac spider (*Apochinomma formicaeforme*; Corinnidae) – Robert Wienand. 3: Horned bark spider (*Caerostris sexcupidata*) – Bruce Blake. 4: Flower crab spider (*Thomisus* sp.; Thomisidae) – Andrea Sander. 5: Velvet spider (*Gandanameno* or *Dresserus* sp.; Eresidae) – Desiré Pelser.



## AUGUST

1



1: Hairy hyllus jumping spider (*Hyllus* sp.; Salticidae). Photo: Hannes Claassens.

For more information on this SOTM, visit: <https://www.spiderclub.co.za/august-2022-spider-of-the-month/>

2



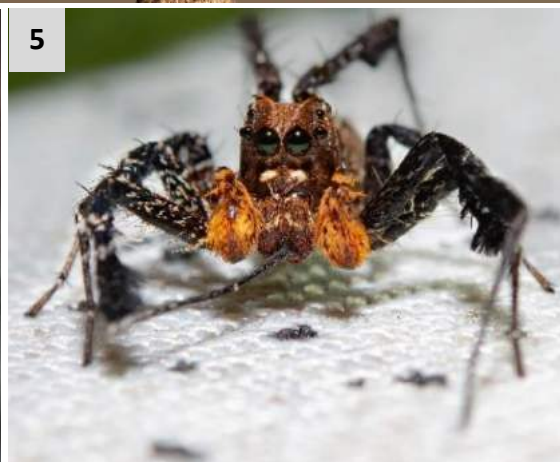
3



4



5



2: Stumpy crab spider (*Thomisops pupa*; Thomisidae) – Hannes Claassens. 3: Twig orb-web spider (*Cyphanolotus larvatus*; Araneidae) – Bruce Blake. 4: Ladybird beetle orb-web spider (*Paraplectana* sp.; Araneidae) – Stephen Smith. 5: Dandy jumping spider (*Portia schultzi*; Salticidae) – Kevin Smith.

*The Spider Club News: September 2022 – Volume 38, No. 3*

## SEPTEMBER

1



1: Beetle-mimic jumping spider (*Pachyballus miniscutulus*; Salticidae). Photo: Ruan Booysen

For more information on this SOTM, visit: <https://www.spiderclub.co.za/september-2022-spider-of-the-month/>

2



3



4



5



6



2: Strawberry theridiid (cf. *Ruborridion* sp.; Theridiidae) – Bruce Blake. 3: Grass lynx spider (*Oxyopes* sp.; Oxyopidae) – Bruce Blake. 4: Wolf spider (cf. *Pardosa* sp.; Lycosidae) – Jarrod Todd. 5: Hairy jumping spider (*Hyllus* cf. *treleaveni*; Salticidae) Ruan Booysen. 6: Palp-footed spider (*Palpimanus* sp.; Palpimanidae) Rudi Steenkamp.

Note: #5 and #6 received the same number of votes.



## HONORABLE MENTION

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



**Left:** Lightfoot's sonoita jumping spider (*Sonoita lightfooti*; Salticidae), found by Robert Wienand outside the Kruger National Park. **Right:** Messapus dark sac spider (*Messapus cf. tigris*; Corinnidae), found by Odette Curtis-Scott in Botswana.



A bird-dropping orb-web spider (cf. *Cyrtarachne* or *Aethriscus*), photographed by Tinus Odendaal in Cameroon. Since only spiders from Southern Africa can run for SOTM, we could not include this spider.

# 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 en ander agtpotiges insluit. Die volgende paar stukke is direk vanaf Anka se blog. Om haar stories te lees, besoek haar webwerf by <https://www.kyffhauser.co.za/Goggastories.htm>



## Tussen Angel en Knypers lê.....

...veel meer as slegs 'n skerpioen se kopborsstuk, lyf en agt pote. Hierdie dier bestaan al vir minstens **450** miljoen jaar in min of meer dieselfde vorm, (as landdier 350 miljoen jaar) op ons planeet Aarde; dis altans die geskatte ouderdom van die oudste skerpioenfossiele. Hulle kom op alle landmassas van die planeet, behalwe Antarktika voor. So is dit dan ook nie snaaks, dat die skerpioen van vroeg af 'n belangerike rol in die kultuur van mense, hul gelowe, mites, fabels en ander stories speel nie. Dit versinbeeld hekserei en die bose. Rede hiervoor is seker maar die uiterlike voorkoms en die giftigheid van die steek.

Die uiterlike voorkoms het die verbeeldingskrag geïnspireer en doen dit nog altyd: So is daar die sterrebeeld *skerpioen* in die astronomie sowel as die astrologie, die benaming van 'n musiekgroep, titel van 'n boek, skuilnaam vir geheime operasies en/of agente in speurverhale, ens., te veel om op te noem.

Een mite, 'n uitgemaakte wolhaarstorie, is, dat 'n skerpioen selfmoord pleeg, as dit in 'n vuurkring geplaas word. Skerpioene is immuun teen hulle eie gif. Wat wel gebeur is, dat hulle die hitte met die stert wil afweer en dit daarom op- en afbeweeg. Dit lyk of hulle hulself in die rug steek. As hulle nie betyds uit die kring verwyder word nie, sterf hulle weens die hitte.



Aangesien hulle nagaktiewe roofdiere is, skuil hulle, afhangende van die soort in tonnells (tussen 'n paar cm en 50 cm diep), klipskeure, onder los boombas by boomlewende spesies, onder klippe, (dus **OPPAS** by houte en klippe optel/omdraai!). Die tonnells is ovaal en dikwels weggesteek onder klip, graspol of enige ander plantbasis; dit verseker beskerming en gunstige klimaatsomstandighede.

Skerpioene bly onaktief en skuil vir die meeste tyd van hulle lewe (tot 90%!); hardloop net rond om prooi te vang of maat te soek. Van die tonnellewende skerpioene kan 30 jaar oud word. Hulle grawe hul tonnel en lewe daarin lewenslank (tensy die tonnel vernietig word). Hulle is baie hittegevoelig en moet hulself teen uitdroging beskerm.



**Snags** kom hulle dan uit die skuiling (as hulle honger is) en soek prooi. Hulle vreet alles wat voorkom, insekte, spinnekop, honderd- en duisendpote, ander skerpioene, selfs klein reptiele en/of paddas. Eugène Marais vertel van 'n mak skerpioen (5 duim lank!!), wat selfs 'n hoenderkuiken verorber het. Die prooi word met die monddele kleingekou en afgesluk. Die verteerde kos word deur die anus uitgeskei, wat tussen die voorlaaste stertsegment en die angel gelê is (die sogenaamde stert is deel van die agterlyf). Skerpioene vreet nie dikwels nie, hulle kan hulle metabolisme so vertraag, dat hulle tot twaalf maande sonder kos kan bly! Hulle drink ook water, in die woestyn die kondenswaterdruppels van plante af.

Die gifangel word gebruik om prooi te verlam eerder as om dit dood te maak. Party skerpioenmannetjies verlam ook die wyfie voor paring om te verseker dat hulle



ongeskonde daarvan afkom. Na paring kom sy weer reg. By die geel punt op die angel (foto links) tree die gif uit, by die geel punt tussen angel en tweedelaaste segment sit die anus. Aangesien die stert gewoonlik omhooggehou word, kan die skerpioen net van **bo na onder** steek.

'n Aanduiding van giftigheid van 'n skerpioen is die volgende reël:

**dik stert** en dun knypers: **baie giftig**, brandende erge pyn, swelling, krampe en spierpyne asook asemnood kan intree

**medium sterddikte** en **dik knypers**: lokale pyn soos bysteek, nie so gevaarlik nie, net ongemaklik

**dun** stert en **dik knypers**: minimaal giftig, voel soos naaldsteek, juk effens

#### Hoe behandel ons?

1. Met yskompresse om swelling en pyn te verlig, by steke deur gevaarlike skerpioene wanneer asemversaking, krampe en spierpyne voorkom; raadpleeg medici (bring skerpioen saam vir identifisering!!)

**MOENIE!!!** enige slang- of spinnekop-antiserum, antihistamine (teenmiddel teen allergie), verdowingsmiddels, en/of steroïede (bv. alkohol, barbiturate) gebruik nie; dit kan serumskok veroorsaak en **help in elk geval nie**.

Moenie sny by die steekplek om 'n middel (boereraat soos sout, kaliumpermanganaat, lampolie, ens.) in te vryf nie.

Skerpioene se gif-samestelling is baie kompleks en daarom moeilik te behandel.. Die gif word natuurlik deur die angel toegedien, maar daar is ook van die baie giftige skerpioene,

wat die gif kan **sput** op die vyand se oë (tot 50 cm ver!) wat baie pynlik is en tydelike blindheid kan veroorsaak. Was dan oë met **skoon** water of melk uit.

Gelukkig kom die giftigste skerpioene nie in Suider Afrika voor nie. Ek niemand wat deur 'n skerpioenstek gesterf het nie, maar BAIE wat wal deur 'n skerpioen gestek is, dit is nogal seer!

Ten spyte van die twee oë in die middel van die kopborsstuk en die vier tot ses enkelogies voor teen die kop kan hulle slegs ligintensiteit en beweging waarneem. die sig op sigself is swak Eienaardig is die liggevoeligheid van die stert! Wat skerpioene nie sien nie, dit kan hulle voel of hoor met borselagtige hare, bv. op die knypers en met 'n meeldoelige orgaan



onder aan die eerste segment van die agterlyf, die **pektines**. Dit lyk soos twee klein gegolfde kammetjies (op foto links van die geel kol elk ene). Daarmee voel, hoor en ruik die dier, en dit neem temperatuur en vogtigheid waar.

Party skerpioensoorte het selle om smaak waar te neem.

Interessant is ook dat skerpioene onder UV-lig fluoriseer, verskillende soorte selfs in

verskillende kleure (geel, groen pers). Hoekom dit so is, is nog nie seker nie, moontlik het dit te doen met die opsporing van 'n maat om te paar. Die opsporing van 'n maat word ook vergemaklik deurdat die wyfie die mannetjie d.m.v. 'n reuksein aanlok, wat bv. neergelê word, waar sy geloop het.

Die paringsdans van skerpioene wat in die 50er jare in die film *The Living Desert* te siene was, het die film wêreldberoemd gemaak. Kyk gerus (google Stingeree from "The Living Desert" 1953.....[youtube.com/watch?v=\\_bNZKu9ic4c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bNZKu9ic4c)). Die doel van hiedie dans is, dat die mannetjie die wyfie so oor die spermatofoor (spermapakkie), wat hy op 'n harde ondergrondoppervlak geplak het, sleep, sodat sy dit in haar geslagsopening kan opneem.

Na  
hy



paring maak die mannetjie dat hy weggom, anders word dalk opgevrete. Die kleintjies ontwikkel in die moederskerpioen en kom lewendig in die wêreld in, een vir een. Ma skerpioen help elkeen op haar rug, waar sy hulle rondra tot hulle eerste vervelling. Dan verlaat hulle die ma en gaan alleen aan. Tot hulle volwasse is, vervel hulle ongeveer sewekeer. Na elke vervelling is hulle BAIE kwesbaar, omdat die nuwe



vel/eksoskelet eers hard moet word. Dit is so sag, dat hulle nie eens hulle stert kan optel nie, so is hulle absoluut weerloos. Die “ou broek” lyk presies soos die skerpioen, ons kan ALLES daarop sien: oë, pektines, boeklonge (asemhalingssplete op die onderkant van die agterlyf), voetkloutjies, net eenvoudig alles.



Skerpioene is so interessant, en daarvoor is al so baie navorsing gedoen oor en met hulle, maar nog steeds kom nuwe verrassende eienskappe van hulle te voorskyn.

By voorbeeld:

As hulle ‘n infeksie opgedoen het, gaan warm hulle in die son sodanig op om ‘n kunsmatige koors van oor die 40 grade Celsius te bewerkstellig en sodoende die infeksie te bekamp.

Aangesien skerpioene alles vreet wat voorkom, het hulle jaggewoontes so ontwikkel, dat verskillende soorte in verskillende tydskofte aktief is. So verminder die moontlikheid, dat hulle mekaar uitroei..

As ‘n manier van selfverdediging speel hulle “dood” (ons noem dit *tanatose*). Jy kan dit draai, optel, laat val, dit reageer nie. Eers na ‘n tydjie kry dit weer lewe.



*Uit hok vrygelaat, stert lê plat,.....dit .roer nie, speel dood.....al dop ek dit om.....en weer om*

Eugène Marais het talle ondersoeke met skerpioene deurgevoer, onder andere die **tanatose**-verskynsel, vreetgewoontes en die verskynsel van **geboortepyne** (en die rede daarvoor) by skerpioenwyfies (BAIE interessant!)

Skerpioene kan klik- of siggeluide maak om vyande af te skrik; dit word gedoen deur verskillende pantserdele teen mekaar te vrywe.

Hulle sorg, dat hulle altyd skoon is en “was” hulleself met die klein mondknypertjies.

Bobbejaanspinnekoppe en ongeveleude miskruiers boots dalk die skerpioen se dreighouding na om vyande af te skrik.

In Asië word in vet uitgebakte skerpioene as snoepery geëet.

Dit is **n**ie skerpioene nie, maar val wel onder die **spinnekopagtiges**, soos skerpioene ook.



Pseudoskerpioene is nie ..egte skerpioene nie, maar. ...'n familie op hulle eie  
(sien GOGGAstorie No 45 Wil graag skerpioen wees.....)



Die **skerpioenspinnekop** (*Platyoides* spesie) lyk ietwat na 'n skerpioen, maar is 'n egte spinnekop. As dit onder 'n klip sit, vou dit sy laaste paar pote netso oor die agterlyf soos die skerpioen ook maar doen.

Daar is by verreweg nog nie alles oor skerpioene gesê nie, en vrae bly onbeantwoord. Hoe is dit moontlik, dat honderde skerpioene helder oor dag uit hulle skuiling gekom het, omdat 'n swerm sprinkane op pad was om daar te land? (Eugène Marais se waarneming en beskrywing amper honderd jaar terug))

Hoekom het honderde skerpioene ( in die somer 2018/'19) skielik een aand na en in die plaashuis gekom (dalk aangetrek deur die lig) en probeer teen die mure uitklim? Wat het hulle besiel?

Wat alles en hoe kan hulle waarneem, dat sulke dinge (eenmalig) gebeur?

### Inligtingsbronne:

SCORPIONS of Southern Africa (Jonathan Leeming)

GOGGAgids die Geleedpotiges Van Suider Afrika (Erik Holm, Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman)

The complete Guide to Fossils and Fossil Collections (Steve Parker)

Bilder aus der Insektenwelt Einmalige Edition der KOSMOS Originalausgaben von 1908 – 1914 von Jean Henri Fabre

Versamelde Werke 1 (Eugène N. Marais)

Teks en fotos: Anka Eichhoff

Augustus 2019



## On a lighter note

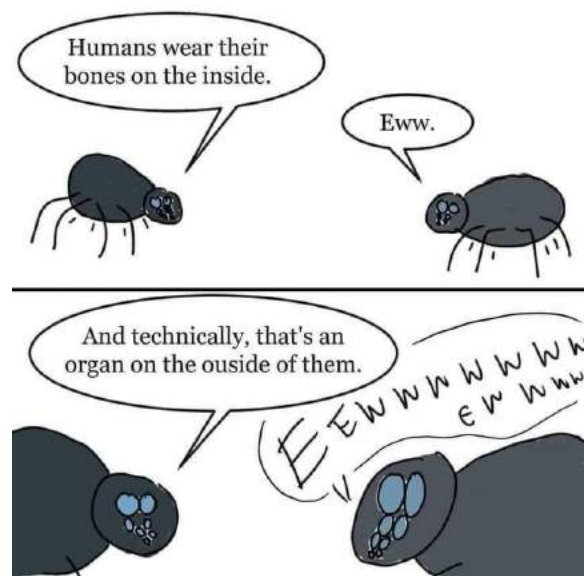
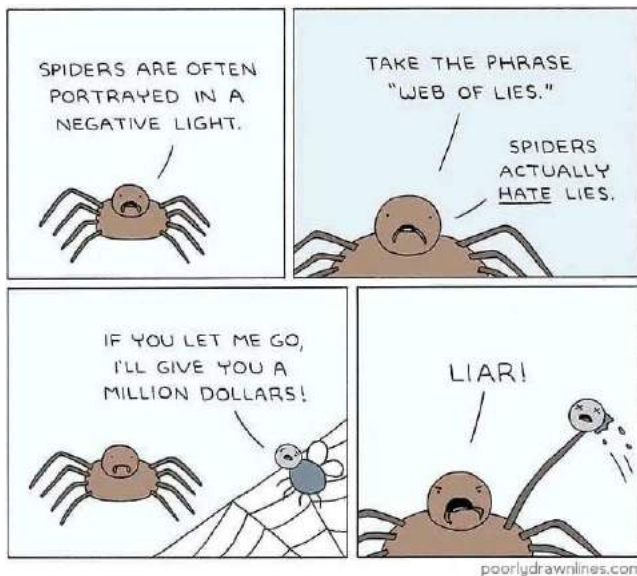
Like news bulletins on television, we like to conclude the newsletter on a lighter note.

Artist Peter Szuscy from Hungary creates “steampunk” spiders (and other animals) from old watches that he collects from flea markets. To view more of his creations, visit his Instagram page at [https://www.instagram.com/peterszucsy/?utm\\_source=ig\\_embed&ig\\_rid=b0b05a54-dad0-49e3-b6e0-3dd153124dbf](https://www.instagram.com/peterszucsy/?utm_source=ig_embed&ig_rid=b0b05a54-dad0-49e3-b6e0-3dd153124dbf)

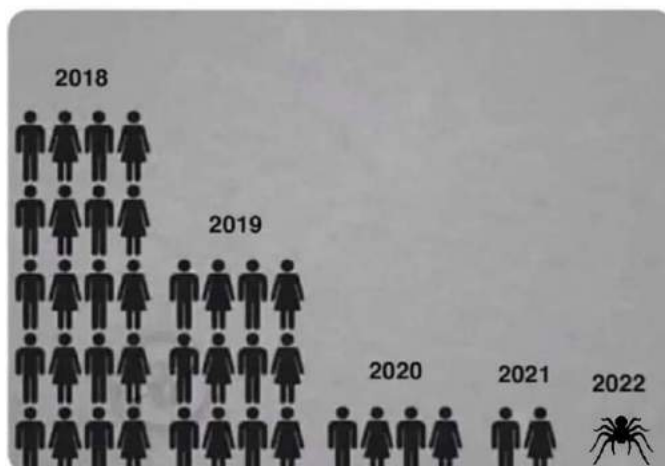


Alicia Rezendes posted some of her “jumping spider cats” on the Facebook group Entomemeology.

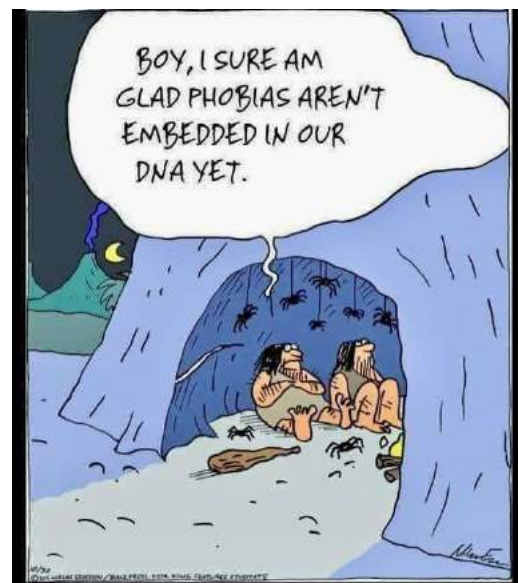




My friendship circle over the years

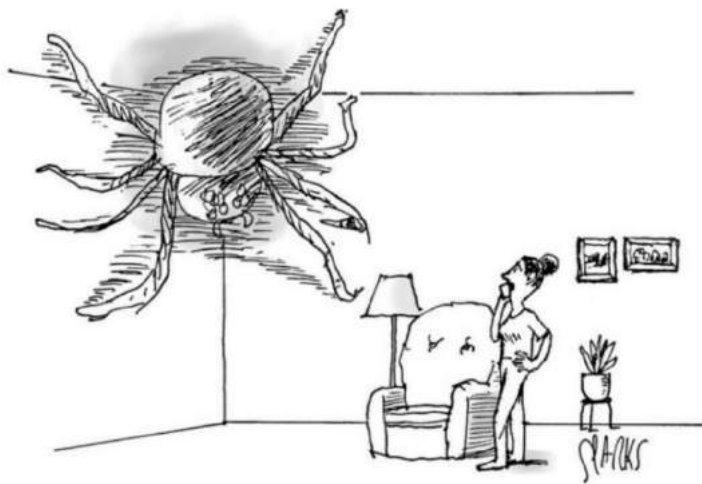


If my friend has \$4 and I have \$40. I'm buying.  
 If my friend has no gas and I do. I'm driving.  
 If my friend has no drink and I do. I'm pourin.  
 If my friend has no spiders and I do. I'm putting spiders in their house.  
 Y'all are so greedy it's sickening.  
 We lift eachother up over here

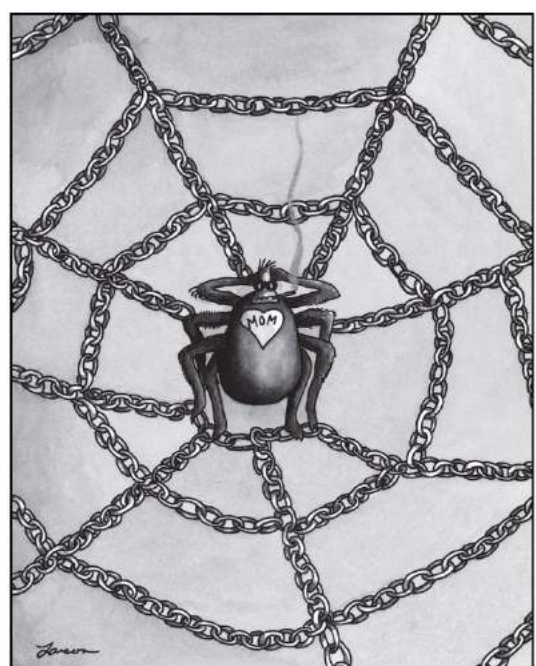
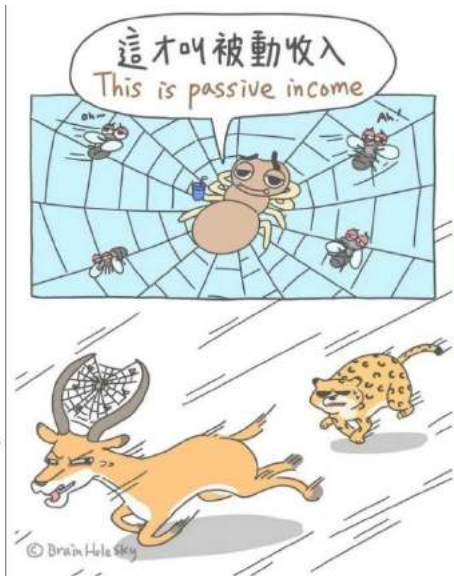




# WHICH ONE ARE YOU?



"I do appreciate that it eats other bugs, but it also ate my husband."



Kim Winder

Tough spiders

# Diary of events

---

**15 October 2022**

**Western Cape Spider Walk**

Klipkoppie Nature Reserve

8:30 am to whenever

**16 October 2022**

**Pretoria Spider Walk**

Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Roodeplaat Campus

8:30 am to whenever

**23 October 2022**

**Mpumalanga Spider Walk**

Sterkspruit Nature Reserve

8:30 am to whenever

**6 November 2022**

**Limpopo Spider Walk**

Leeupoort Vakansiedorp

8:30 am to whenever

**20 November 2022**

**North West Spider Walk**

Klipdrift Dam

8:30 am to whenever

**18 December 2022**

**Western Cape Spider Walk**

Global Village

8:30 am to whenever

*We ask for a donation for attendance at field and certain other events: **R100 per adult and R20 per child 11 years and under, cash only, with the option of paying R200 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](mailto: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.*