The Spider Club NEWS

March 2026 Vol. 42, No. 1

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

AUTUMN EDITION

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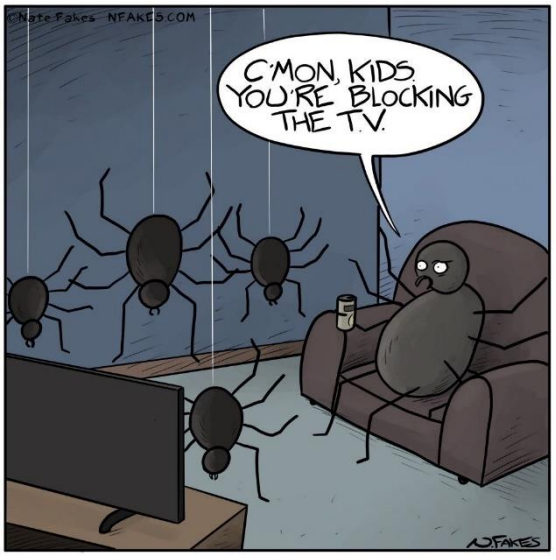

About the Spider Club

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

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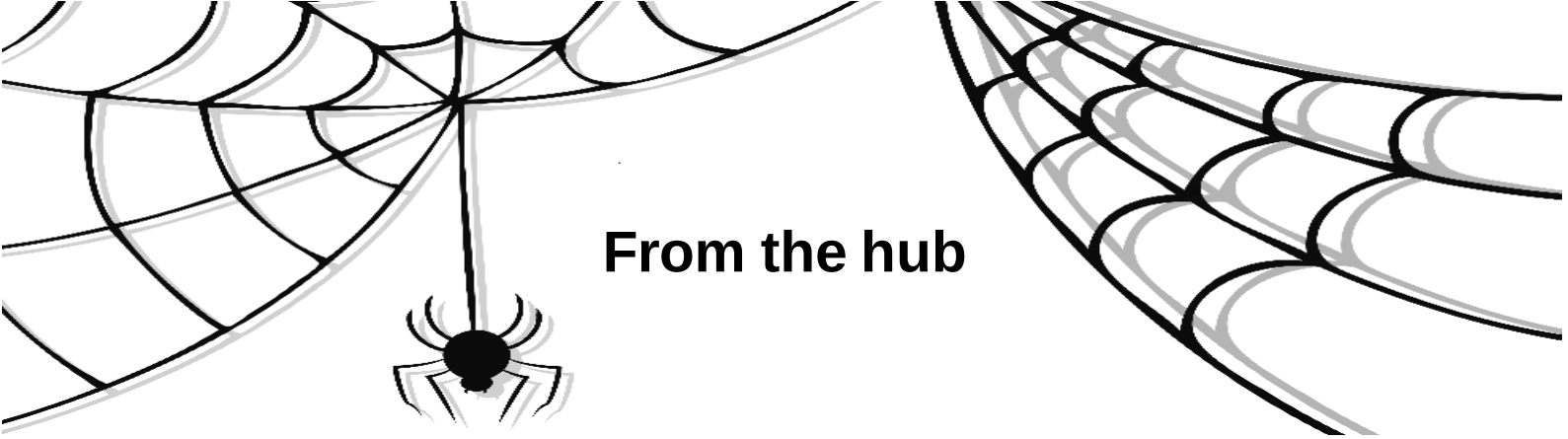
Acknowledgements:

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.
- Jeanne van Aswegen, for proofreading the newsletter.
- The entire Spider Club committee for their contributions.
- Everyone on the Spider Club Facebook page 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. 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

Hi spiderers!

It is incredibly frustrating when we spend so much time and effort educating people about spiders, such as through spider walks and presentations, only for sensationalist-seeking media to wreck it all by posting inaccurate, poorly researched, and ambiguous reports on how someone died of a spider bite, which is, of course, nonsense. We recently had two cases of people who unfortunately passed away; the first was André du Preez, who passed away from a viral infection, and the second was Marietjie Geustyn van Dyk, who passed away from sepsis after contracting tick bite fever. The media reported that they died from a button spider bite and a violin spider bite, respectively. Even after the family of the deceased confirmed that the doctors ruled out spider bites, the story was still reported on as fatalities caused by spider bites. Even if the media attempts to rectify the situation by posting follow-up articles, as Huisgenoot/You did, the damage is already done, and people will for years or even decades claim that these people died from spider bites and that all spiders should be killed and feared. It breaks my heart that it's so incredibly easy for irresponsible journalists to put us back in the dark ages of spider education.

Fortunately, not everyone is so gullible, and they still show up in droves at our spider walks and presentations. During National Gardens Week, hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the Spider Club held spider walks in the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden and a presentation and spider walk in the Free State National Botanical Garden. On the last day of the former, 26 people attended, and 43 people attended the latter, many of whom were children eager to learn and find awesome spiders. Shortly before National Gardens Week, we also hosted a walk in the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, which was attended by 17 people.

In future spider walks, such as the night walk we are planning for the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden on 17 April, we will have card machines available for anyone who wants to donate money to the club or buy books. This comes after we opened a new bank account at Capitec, which was quite an ordeal that took almost four months. Thank you to everyone for finally making this happen, especially our treasurer, Jeanne van Aswegen.

The Spider Club also has new T-shirts that the hosts of our spider walks can wear to promote the club or in public as a conversation starter. These T-shirts are a thank you from me for all those who stuck with the committee, especially after so many committee members resigned last year. We are considering other merchandise options.

I hope you enjoy this edition, and thank you to those who send feedback. It makes it worth the effort to publish these newsletters and know that people read and enjoy them.

Happy reading!

- Rudi Steenkamp -

Snippets

New Spider Club bank account

After a LONG rigmarole, the Spider Club finally has a new bank account at Capitec. Our old Nedbank account is no more. For those who pay annual membership fees, or those WHO simply want to donate to the Spider Club, please note the new details:

Bank name: Capitec Business
Account holder: The Spider Club Of Southern Africa
Account type: Current
Account number: 1055088415
Branch code: 450105

We will also have card machines available at some of the spider walks, such as in the Western Cape and Gauteng, which will make donations easier.

Zebra wandering spider actually a ctenid

Photo: Barbara Stockl

In our previous edition, we reported that these "zebra wandering spiders", which we initially thought were in the family Ctenidae, were declared to be one of the Viridasiidae species. Robert Wienand sent two adult male specimens to Charles Haddad, who then sent them to Rudy Jocqué in Belgium. Rudy confirmed that this is indeed one of the Ctenidae, and possibly Macroctenus sp. It's still an undescribed species, so if anyone finds one of these spiders, especially an adult female, please let us know. They are especially common around Mbombela, but can also be found in the northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal.

Photo: Selfie by Nicky Bay

Nicky Bay visits Angola

World-renowned macro photographer, Nicky Bay, from Singapore, recently visited Angola as part of The Wilderness Project's biodiversity survey. He spent three weeks there to photograph and document arthropods, mostly spiders. He's been uploading these photos to the Spider Club's Facebook page, and of course they're getting many Spider of the Month nominations. We hope to feature an article about the survey in the next edition.

Spider Club responds to spider bites on 702

In response to the recent false reports in the media that two people died of spider bites, which were rather caused by a viral infection and sepsis (caused by tick bite fever), respectively, Tim Neary from 702 FM's *The Nature Diary* contacted the Spider Club to ask us to clear some things up regarding "dangerous" spider bites. Jarrod Todd, our events organiser, agreed to speak to Tim. The focus of the interview was not to hammer the media regarding the articles but rather to set listeners' mind to ease following these reports, which led to some needless fear among the public. The full interview can be found here.

No more *Euryopis* in South Africa

Photo: Rudi Steenkamp

In a recent study by Hu *et al*. (2025)[1], found here, some changes were made to the genus *Euryopis* (Theridiidae), commonly known as ant-eating comb-footed spiders. That includes both of our recorded species (*E. episinoides* and *E. funebris*), and will most likely apply to the few undescribed species in Southern Africa as well, such as the one in the photo above. They are now in the genus *Emertonella*.

Gérard Dupré (1947-2026) passes away

Gérard Dupré. Photo: Le Parisien

French arachnologist, Gérard Dupré, known best for his scorpion research, sadly passed away in March. The International Society of Arachnology (ISA) posted the following:

I am very sorry to have to announce the death of one of our colleagues, Gérard Dupré.

Gérard was best known for his extensive work on scorpions and for compiling, and often contributing to, the bulletin series "Arachnides".

Please note that issues of this publication since 2008 are archived here as part of the Scorpion Files.

Danni Sherwood has also asked me to draw your attention to an obituary for Gérard prepared by Eric Ythier and Jan Ove Rein, which is also available via the Scorpion Files:

https://scorpion-files.blogspot.com/2026/03/in-memoriam-gerard-dupre-1947-2026.html

On behalf of council I would like to offer my condolences to Gérard's family, friends and colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Dunlop

[1] Hu, C., Zhang, H., Jiang, M. & Liu, F. 2026. Re-delimitation of the genus *Emertonella* (Araneae, Theridiidae, Hadrotarsinae) and taxonomic notes on *Euryopis* and *Phycosoma* from China. *ZooKeys*, 1270:285-305.

Ditsong Museum presentation on venom

Astri Leroy wrote the following:

"Only four members of the Spider Club attended, which was a shame because it was a fascinating lecture presented by Prof. Nick Keiser and his colleagues Dr. Tim Colson and Dr. Siera Smith. We were a bit early and were greeted by Dr Tharina Bird, who hosted the event on behalf of the Ditsong Museum of Natural History. When we took our places in the auditorium, my heart sank; it was almost empty! How will we look to the visitors if no one arrives? Amazingly, before the presentations began, it filled to capacity. The audience was young and well-informed, so their questions indicated a clear understanding of the subject of animal venom. Of course, the part that interested us covered arachnids, and to be more precise, the investigation into the differences in venom between solitary and social species of *Stegodyphus* (community-nest spiders). They found no solitary *Stegodyphus* in South Africa; maybe it is just a bad year for *Stegodyphus*, but I haven't seen any, social or solitary, for a very long time. Luckily, the team collected sufficient spiders in Namibia for their work. We were impressed with the participation by the attendees and their questions, most of which answered any queries I had. I hope we eventually find out the results of Prof. Nick Keiser's work."

The Ditsong Museum posted the below, as well as the photos, on Facebook.

Photos supplied by the Ditsong Museum

Highlights: Diving into the World of Animal Venom

What an incredible afternoon of scientific discovery! On 6 February, the DITSONG: National Museum of Natural History hosted Dr. Nick Keiser, Dr. Sierra Smith, and Dr. Tim Colston for a deep dive into one of nature's most lethal innovations.

Our guest speakers captivated the audience with insights into:

- The fascinating evolutionary differences between snake and spider venoms.
- Cutting-edge methods used in modern venomics.
- How the social lives of spiders actually influence their venom complexity.
- The life-saving potential of venom in pharmaceutical discovery.

Thank you to our experts and everyone who attended for making this collaborative presentation such a success. Swipe through to see some of the highlights from the day!

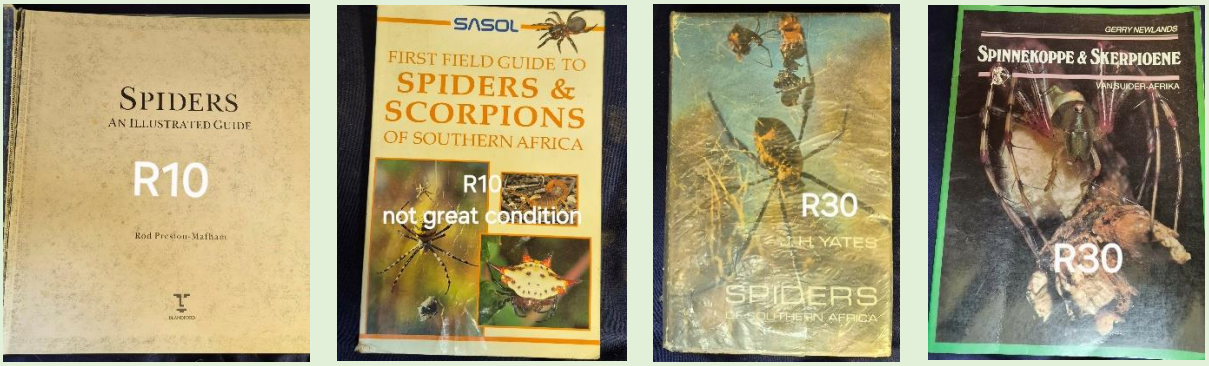
Spider Club T-shirts for committee members

The Spider Club committee, as well as its two lifelong honorary members, Astri and John Leroy, received T-shirts to show off our new logo. For now, these T-shirts aren't available to the public, but we are considering the option if members prepay for their shirts. Unfortunately, it's quite an expensive matter in small batches. If anyone who has a T-shirt printing company or knows someone who does and will give us special rates, please let us know. Here are some photos of committee members showing off their shirts.

Top, from left to right: Susan Kotze (merchandising and social media), Astri Leroy (honorary member), Rudi Steenkamp (chairperson and newsletter editor), Janet and Wessel Pretorius (secretary and webmaster respectively). **Bottom, fltr:** Jarrod Todd (events organiser), Joanie Beytell (media liaison), Ruan Booysen (arachnologist), and Jeanne van Aswegen (treasurer).

Spider books for sale

Juanita Marchant is selling these old spider books (price on the photos). If anyone is interested in buying them, please contact her on 084 764 5395 or juanmarchant.jm@gmail.com



Brown button spider bites pregnant woman

A pregnant woman, who preferred to post anonymously, was bitten by a brown button spider (*Latrodectus geometricus*; Theridiidae). The spider was on her towel when she dried off. She reported that it bit her on the inner thigh. She said: *"It is red around the wound, it burns and kind of feels like burning mixed with growing pains moving a bit down the leg and to my lower back. Also feel a bit nauseous."*

Most brown button spider bites can be self-treated with pain medication, but since she was pregnant, we strongly advised that she seek medical attention, as we don't know what effects that could have on the baby. We also referred her to the Tygerberg Poison Information Centre.

After her visit to the doctor, she reported: *"Thanks all. Went to the doctor. Unfortunately they can't do much for me besides give Panado since I am pregnant. They just said if the bite gets worse then I should come back and they will consult further with the gynea."* After another follow-up, she stated: *"Im feeling okay thanks. Still burns around the bite site and is still red; however, it kind of made a circle border around the bite and has turned a bit blueish inside. No other symptoms remained. Just the burning still."*

First record of stump-backed wolf spider in Zimbabwe

Jan Teede, author of the recently published field guide titled "Hwange National Park: A Field Guide", read about the stump-backed wolf spider (*Zenonina* sp.; Lycosidae) found in Kafue National Park in Zambia in the previous edition of our newsletter. We stated that it seems to be a first record for Zambia. He let us know that he has found these spiders in Zimbabwe as well, so it seems these spiders are more widespread around Southern Africa than previously thought. According to the World Spider Catalog, three species occur in Southern Africa: *Z. albocaudata* (South Africa), *Z. mystacina* (South Africa and Namibia), and *Z. rehfousi* (Angola). According to the SANSA distribution maps[2], both *Z. albocaudata* and *Z. mystacina* are found in northern Limpopo, so it wouldn't be strange if one of these species crossed the river into Zimbabwe.

[2] Dippenaar-Schoeman, A.S., Haddad, C.R., Foord, S.H. & Lotz, L.N. 2021. *The Lycosidae of South Africa Part 2 (L-Z)*. South African National Survey of Arachnida Photo Identification Guide, pp. 77-79.

Trashline orb-web spider uses spiral stabilimentum

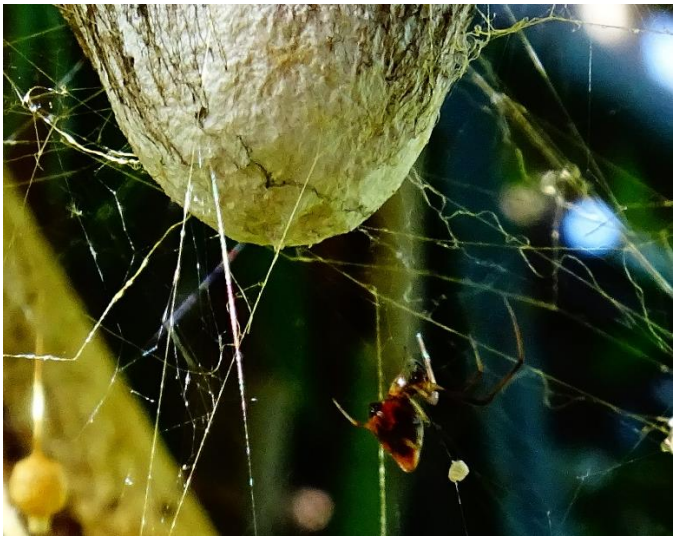
David Siepman from KwaZulu-Natal posted this photo of a trashline orb-web spider's web. These spiders (*Cyclosa* spp.; Araneidae) are known for their unique stabilimentum built out of debris and the carcasses of their prey (hence the "trashline" in the common name), which they use as camouflage in their orb web. This stabilimentum is vertical and in line with the hub of the web. However, every now and then, they will spin a spiral stabilimentum like this, which isn't lined with debris and carcasses. It is likely that when these spiders prefer a stabilised web more than camouflage, such as in stormy weather, they will prefer the spiral stabilimentum above the trashline stabilimentum.

Triangle-web spider's capture web

Kyle Thomas photographed this triangle-web spider (*Hyptiotes* sp.; Uloboridae) in Magoebaskloof, Limpopo. According to Dippenaar-Schoeman et al. (2020)[3], "the web produced resembles a fragment of a complete orb-web but it consists only of four radii. The spider rests on the single thread upon which the four radii converge. This single, resting thread is held under tension and is manipulated by the spider when catching prey". Ruan Booysen noted the following from this photo: "You can even see the coiled-up silk between the legs as a result of the spider pulling on it in order to keep tension on the rest of the capture web."

[3] Dippenaar-Schoeman, A.S., Haddad, C.R., Foord, S.H. & Lotz, L.N. 2020. *The Uloboridae of South Africa*. South African National Survey of Arachnida Photo Identification Guide, p. 7.

Thief spider steals more than just prey



Anka Eichhoff from Namibia has been observing six silver thief spiders (*Argyrodes* sp.; Theridiidae) in the web of a common garden orb-web spider (*Argiope australis*; Araneidae). She observed them stealing prey from the host and also cutting the silk in her web and replacing it with their own. After a while, the host disappeared, and the kleptoparasitic spiders consumed the rest of her web. She also observed one that cut a hole in the host's egg sac (first photo), removing a single egg and hanging it on a thread (second photo).

Spitting spider preys on centipede

Bhs Salvadore from Namibia posted this photo of a spitting spider (*Scytodes* sp.; Scytodidae) feeding on what appears to be a house centipede (Scutigeromorpha). While this is one of the more "harmless" centipedes, they are all carnivorous predators, and this one would most likely have put up a fight if it had not been incapacitated by the spider's silk-spitting. Unfortunately, the OP did not witness the moment the centipede was caught.

Interesting egg sac construction

Andre Harmse posted this photo (and others) on iNaturalist, from Mapungubwe National Park in northern Limpopo. The photos show what appear to be three egg sacs, connected with strands of silk leading to a hole in a small mud structure. We have no idea to whom they belong, but they do seem to be of spider origin. Dr Ruan Booysen suspects Theridiidae. If anyone knows more about this, let us know.

Hairy field spider uses old paper wasp nest as hideout

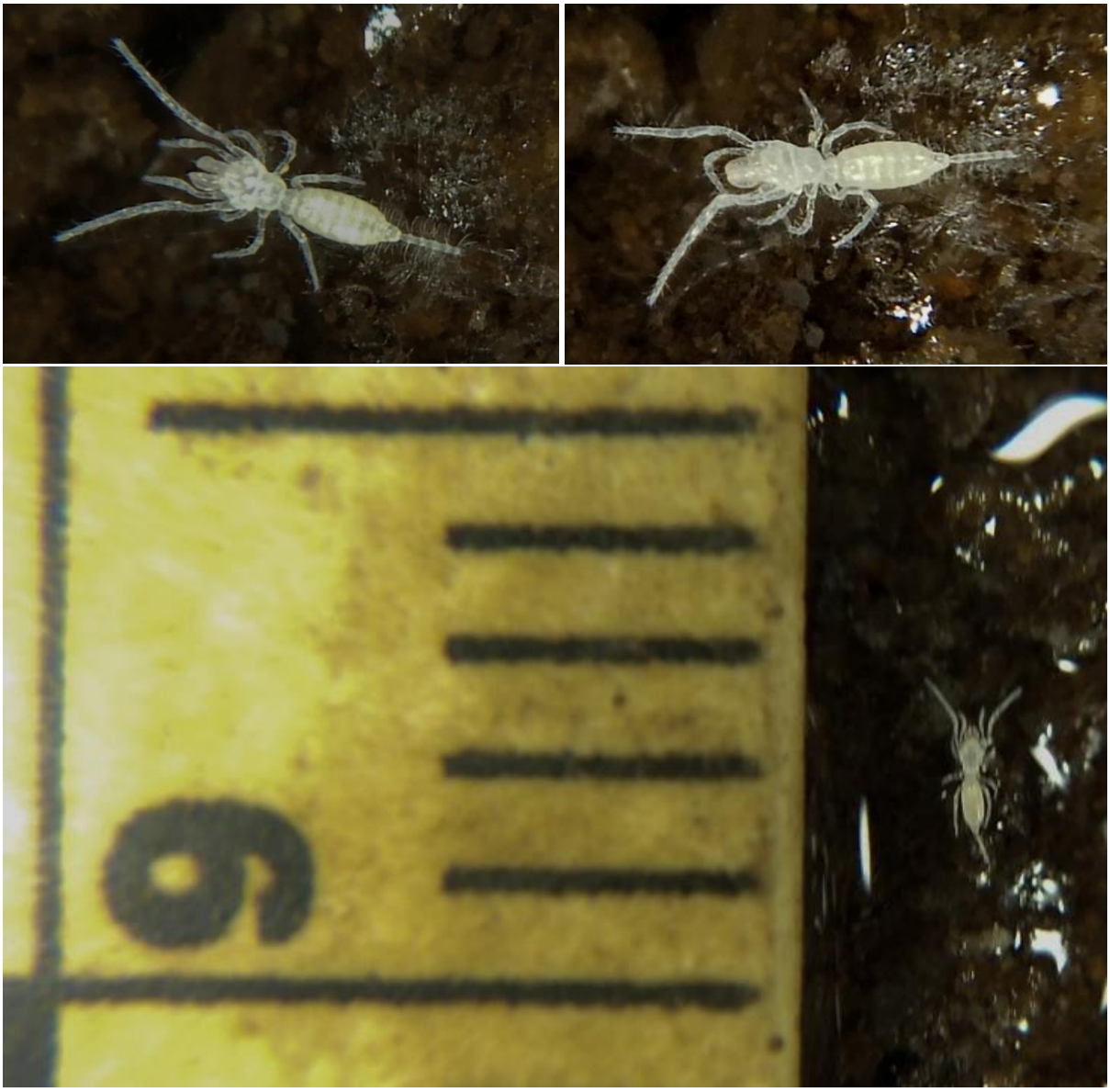
Meg Ehrke from the Western Cape posted this photo of a hairy field spider (*Neoscona* sp.; Araneidae) hanging by an old paper wasp (*Polistes* sp.) nest. From the strands of silk on the wall, it is apparent that the spider chose the corner as her hiding spot during the day. Perhaps, when spotting the wasp nest, she thought it suited her colour better and that it would offer better camouflage.

Very rare arachnid found in Gauteng cave

Arno Oosthuizen, a caver, found this very rare arachnid in a cave in the Cradle of Humankind in Gauteng. It's a palpigrade (Palpigradi), also called microwhip scorpions. As shown in the bottom photo, they are indeed very small, not much bigger than 1 mm.

Arno says his son spotted it in a small (30 cm) water hole rich in calcium carbonate. Dr Ruan Booysen stated: "In South Africa, only two specimens have been recorded since 1959: the first from Champagne Castle in KZN, and another from Potchefstroom. The first, *Eukoenenia lawrencei*, and the second a new species."

Most cavers abide by the rule of not removing or disturbing anything inside caves, so the specimen wasn't collected. This highlights the need for arachnologists to learn some caving skills. Charles Griswold stated: "I certainly hope that some arachnologists will get the permits and learn the caving skills to go and collect some specimens for science. I had to do all of that to study *Trogloraptor* (a new spider family from the Pacific Northwest of North America), which discovery changed our understanding of spider evolution. In spite of proposing cladograms for most major spider taxa and describing 400 species, finding *Trogloraptor* is probably my most important contribution. So might these palpigrades be for South Africa."



Beautiful tube-web spider signal web

Julie Gosling photographed this stunning signal web of a tube-web spider (Ariadna sp.; Segestriidae) in Knysna, Western Cape. Nothing unusual, just a very good example of the signal threads radiating from the hole, which will notify the spider that prey is close when one of these wires is “tripped”.

Crowned crab spider glowing under UV light

Nicky Bay photographed this crowned crab spider (*Smodicinus coroniger*; Thomisidae) in Lunda Sul, Angola, using twin UV flashes. Nicky often uses this UV flash setup to photograph spiders and other arthropods, and it is clear that more organisms than we initially thought reflect UV light.

Two records of brown button spiders feeding on lizards

It's not at all unusual for a brown button spider (*Latrodectus geometricus*; Theridiidae) to catch and feed on larger ground prey like these lizards, but it's interesting enough to include here. These spiders spin "ground traps", also called gumfoot webs, which consist of tightly strung strands of silk glued to the ground. When ground prey like these lizards walk into these threads, they come loose, the tension releases, and the prey (if small enough) is hoisted into the air. In the case of larger prey, the spider will slowly hoist the prey into the air, away from scavengers like ants. This can take a day or two. The photo on the left was taken by Johan du Toit, and the one on the right was taken by Nico Taljaard.

Unknown lynx spiders

Willie Els (left photo) and Cecile Roux (other two photos) photographed these unknown grass lynx spiders (*Oxyopes* spp.; Oxyopidae), both in Gauteng.

Pseudoscorpions hunting

Cecile Roux recently visited Singapore and sent us the following account of pseudoscorpions hunting ants:

“I have always loved pseudoscorpions and find them often. Unfortunately, I have not had the chance to observe much of their behaviour; I mostly find them hiding under stones or other debris, or when sifting through leaf litter. That changed when I travelled to Singapore and saw them hunting for the first time.

I spent the day in Thomson Nature Park, slowly following the paths to see what spiders and other arthropods I could find. The paths are bordered with wood and steel posts linked with sturdy rope. I looked at the posts for signs of arthropod life and soon realised that ants found these ropes an ideal above-ground walkway. I started noticing some dead ants on the posts, looked closer, and saw that another small animal was using these man-made structures to its advantage. The narrow cracks between the steel and wooden parts of the posts are home to numerous pseudoscorpions.

On the stretch I examined, every post was inhabited by them. They sometimes roam over the top of the post but mostly wait just inside the cracks. And when an ant wanders close to the crack or examines it, it is snatched and dragged into the hide at lightning speed. Big ants, small ones – I did not notice a preference during my very brief observation.

I also found an explanation for the dead ants I saw. It seems that after feeding, the pseudoscorpions prefer to carefully carry the remains of the ants out of the hides and leave them on top of the posts. Good housekeeping!”

To view the videos, simply click on each picture.

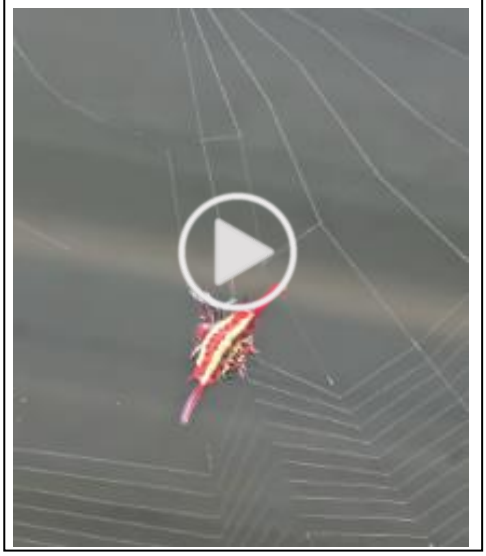
If you know of any videos that we can feature here, please contact us.

Spiders are weird

A 15-minute video about spiders, including their taxonomy, evolution, venom, silk, sight, movement, hunting techniques, etc. Overall, this is a very good introduction to spiders and why they are so interesting. Even people with more knowledge of spiders will learn a thing or two from this video, made by the Mr. Science YouTube channel.

Kite spider spinning web

Karen Jansen van Vuuren filmed this kite spider (*Gasteracantha versicolor*; Araneidae) spinning a web in Richards Bay, KZN.



Spider spun flattie to the floor

Henriëtte Branken filmed this spider, which appears to be one of the flat-bellied ground spiders (Gnaphosidae), with a flattie (Selenopidae) under a sheet of silk.

Fishing spider catches ant

Elize Roets filmed this fishing spider (*Nilus* sp.; Pisauridae) hunting on the water's surface. Instead of going for one of the many tadpoles swimming underneath, it went for a small ant.

EVENTS

Gauteng Spider Walk:

Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve,

14 February 2026

These are some of the spiders found during the Spider Walk at Klipriversberg Nature Reserve, which was held on 14 February 2026. All photos are by Jarrod Michael Todd.

1&2: Eight-eyed orange lungless spider (*Caponia* sp.; Caponiidae). **3&4:** Ant-like dark sac spider (*Castianeira* sp.; Corinnidae). **5&6:** Festive silver marsh spider (*Leucauge festiva*; Tetragnathidae).

7&8: Wolf spider (Lycosidae). **9&10:** Rosy-banded crab spider (*Misumenops rubrodecoratus*; Thomisidae). **11&12:** Ground crab spider (*Xysticus* sp.; Thomisidae). **13:** False button spider (*Steatoda* sp.; Theridiidae). **14:** Daddy longlegs spider (Pholcidae).

15&16: Trashline orb weaver (currently *Nemoscolus elongatus*, which will be moved to *Cyclosa*; Araneidae). **17:** Slender grass running spider (*Tibellus* sp.; Philodromidae). **18:** Diamond-back running spider (*Thanatus* sp.; Philodromidae). **19:** Grass funnel-web spider (Agelenidae). **20:** Unknown orb-web spider (Araneidae).

Western Cape Spider Walk:

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Cape Town

7 March 2026

By Arno van der Vyfer and Mariette Daubenton

Attendees of the Spider Walk in the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. *Photo:* Janet Pretorius.

What a pleasant walk we had on Saturday. It was wonderful seeing everyone with their cameras out, enjoying themselves as well as nature. Although it must have been a strange sight for the "less passionate" day visitors and tourists passing by, seeing all of these people on their knees, hunched over rocks and logs, snapping dozens of photos, it's a small price to pay to be able to appreciate the little things in life. A few of the visitors were brave enough to ask what we were doing, and some even stayed to look at our photos. One group mistook us for researchers and asked who we worked for. I took this as a compliment.

We crawled around the forest at a snail's pace: perfect for finding spiders! And there were lots to be found, with some of the highlights (at least to me) being a strange oblong jumping spider, a net-casting spider, a baby spitting spider, and the yet-to-be-described "jellybean" spiders. Overall, it was a tranquil yet educational outing.

Big thanks to Wessel and Janetta for arranging this walk, and I hope to see you guys again on the next one.

- Arno van der Vyfer -

Attendees exploring the paths of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. *Photos:* Janet Pretorius.

The Kirstenbosch Spider Walk this year was held in fine, slightly cooler weather than the previous time, and it was once again a thrill to be allowed to tag along.

The real spider nerds are easily recognisable – they are the ones lying on their sides, or bent over double, occasionally upright, peering motionless into cameras of all kinds, from basic to ones that cost the price of a holiday, usually with magnifying equipment, always with Ouma-se-kappie [a diffuser] to cut out extraneous light…

They are a very welcoming bunch, and the biggest focus of the group is to educate arachnophobes about the role of spiders in the environment in an effort to increase an interest in and wonder of the arthropods in the class Arachnida. There are about 2 500 spider species in South Africa, and many have yet to be described, such as, according to Wessel Pretorius, "the undescribed jellybean spider that is often found at Kirstenbosch – it's a translucent green and you can actually see the eggs inside of the female if she's pregnant".

Many pictures were taken on Saturday, and a few are shown below. It is difficult to describe the size of the individual spiders as there is no reference to magnification in the pictures, but it strikes me how varied and very beautiful many of them are. I'll be bringing my newly acquired "Kids' Spiders of Southern Africa" by Rudi Steenkamp with me to the next meeting so you can share the wonder with me!

Very generous with their knowledge, one hears forensic-type tales being discussed: "Oh, this was a worm's nest – see the silk holding the leaf closed and all the droppings? It's now inhabited by an 'opportunistic' solitary bee – and a little jumping spider has just skittered across the lower edge."

I heard about net-casting spiders: "large-eyed net-casting spiders, also known as ogre-faced spiders, are largely found in more humid regions in southern Africa, while the smaller-eyed ones are more widespread. They are nocturnal and camouflaged by their stick-like appearance during the day. At night, they hang upside down below a branch or leaf, spin a little net from silk, snip it, and hold the net with their four front legs. When a creature passes below the net, they quickly stretch the net and drop it over the prey, trapping it in the very fine fibres" ("Kids' Spiders of Southern Africa" by Rudi Steenkamp p. 47).

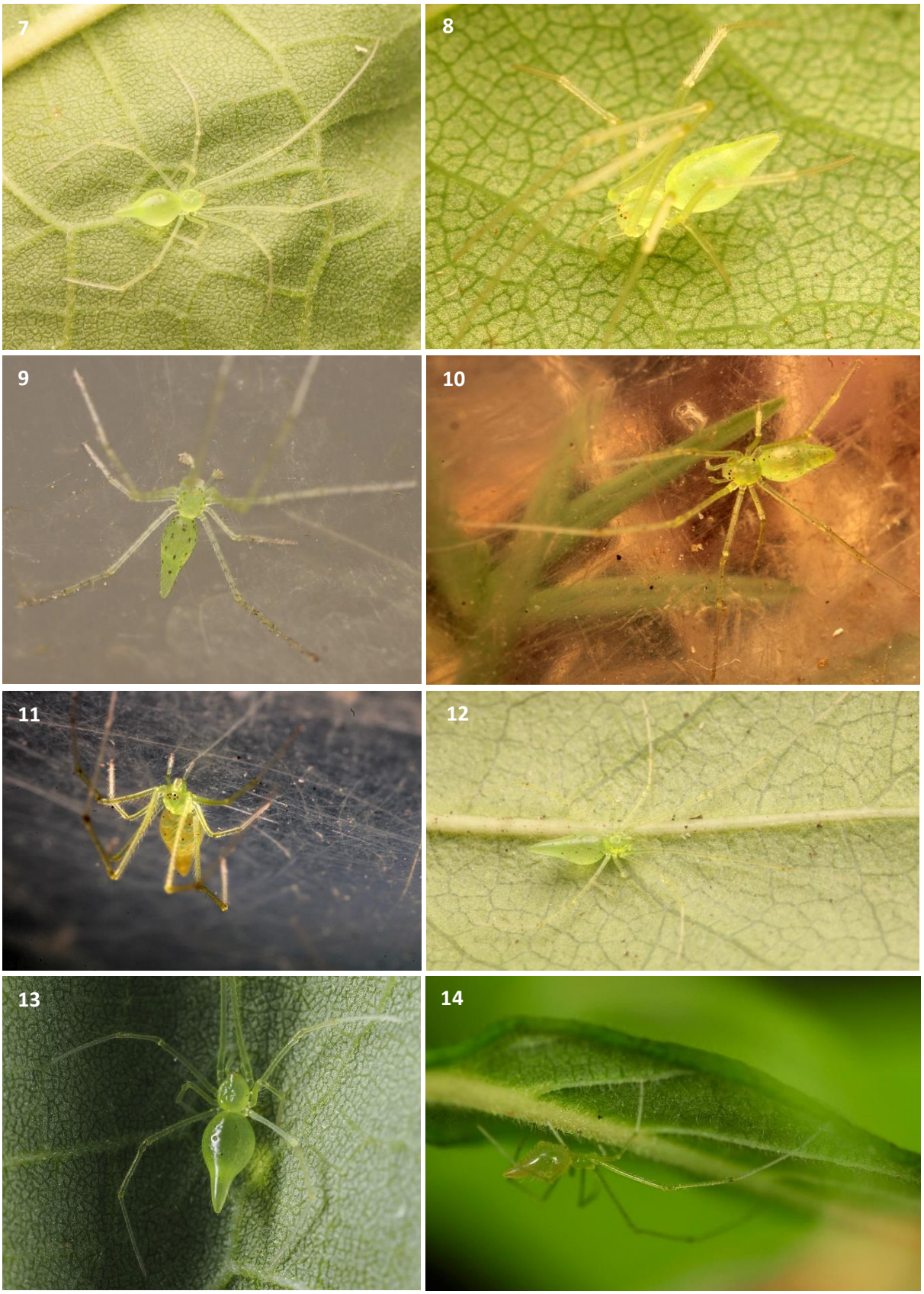
We came across an undisturbed golden orb web, and I learnt from Wessel that "the female is capable of spinning seven types of silk, depending on what she needs to do; for example, travel strands, strands to secure her web, and strands to construct the centre of the web – these last strands are sticky to capture her prey. The web is constructed in a 'corridor' determined by the spider to be a thoroughfare for her insect prey. The one we saw on Saturday 'shared' her corridor with a trashline-web spider. The gold colour is deemed to be for camouflage, particularly at sunset, and the web is angled for a quick release, so that if the spider is threatened, she can drop unhindered out of harm's way. The golden orb-web spider we saw had about seven males camping out in their own, smaller webs behind hers. She stores sperm from different suitors in different spermathecae until she lays her eggs. The male stores his sperm in his pedipalps. The male spermophor is an exact match to the shape of the female's epigyne and is what often distinguishes one species from another".

And from Google: "Male orb spiders (and spiders generally) use a specialized, bulbous structure on the tip of their modified pedipalps called the palpal organ (or palpal bulb) to transfer sperm into the female's epigyne. This organ acts like a pipette, storing sperm in an internal duct (spermophor) and using a tip-structure called the embolus to inject sperm into the female's copulatory duct".

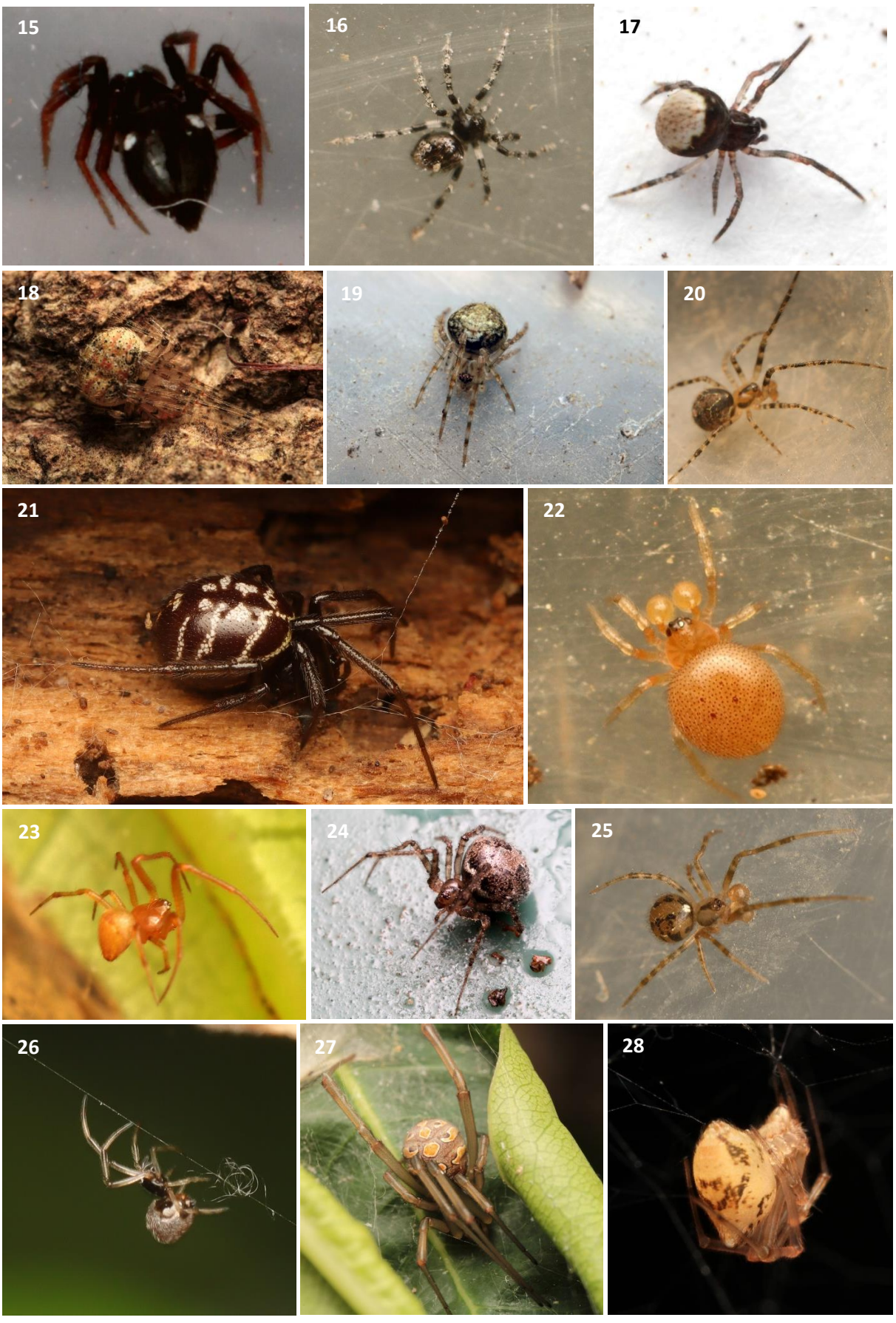
- Mariette Daubenton -

Spider photos

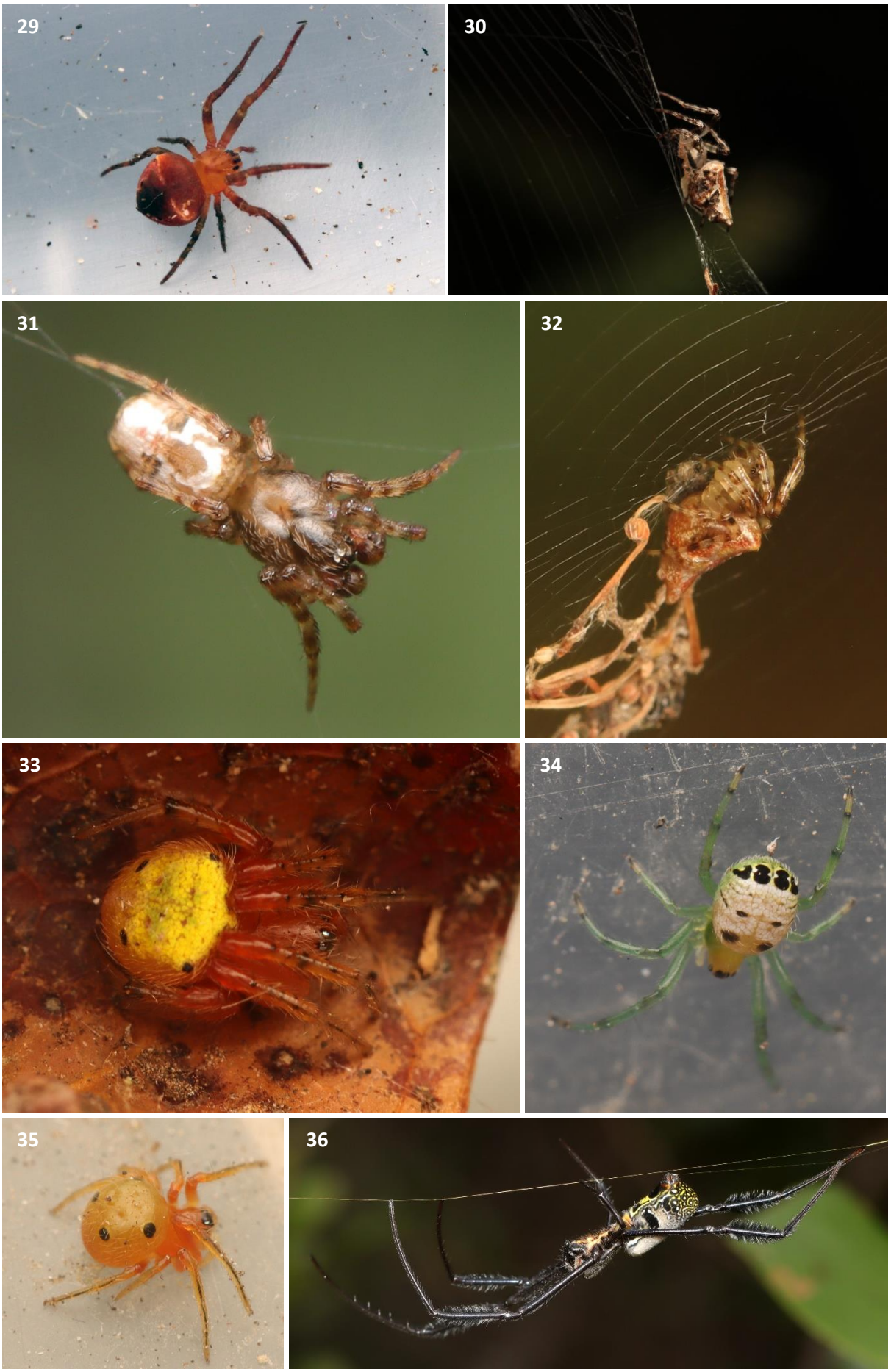
1-6. Jumping spiders (Salticidae). **1-2:** cf. *Afraflacilla* sp. **3-4:** Unknown. **5:** *Thyene coccineovittata*. **6:** *Thyenula* sp. *Photos:* Cecile Roux.



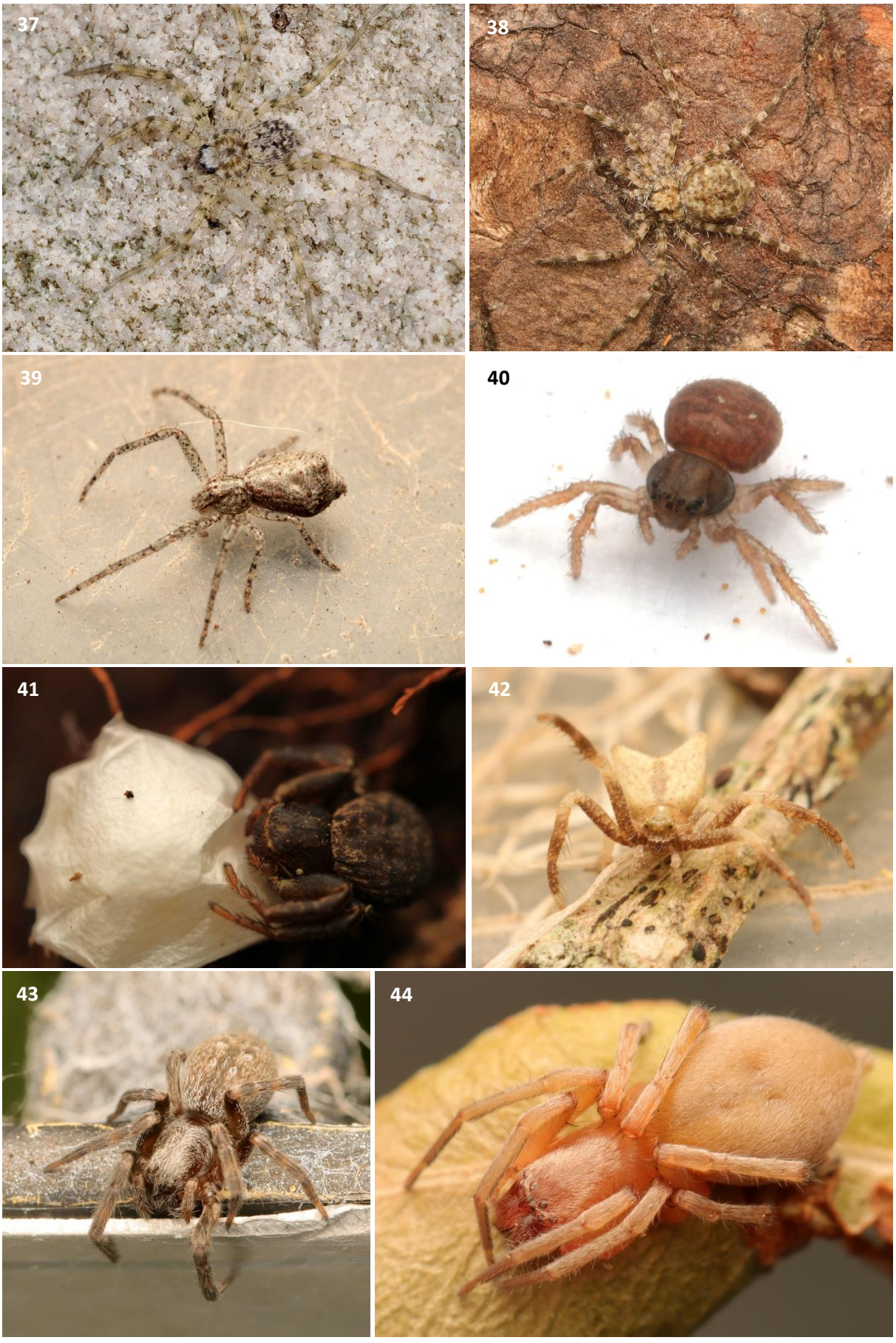
7-14. Jellybean spiders (Synotaxidae). *Photos:* Cecile Roux (7-9), Wessel Pretorius (10-12), Deon Friis (13-14).



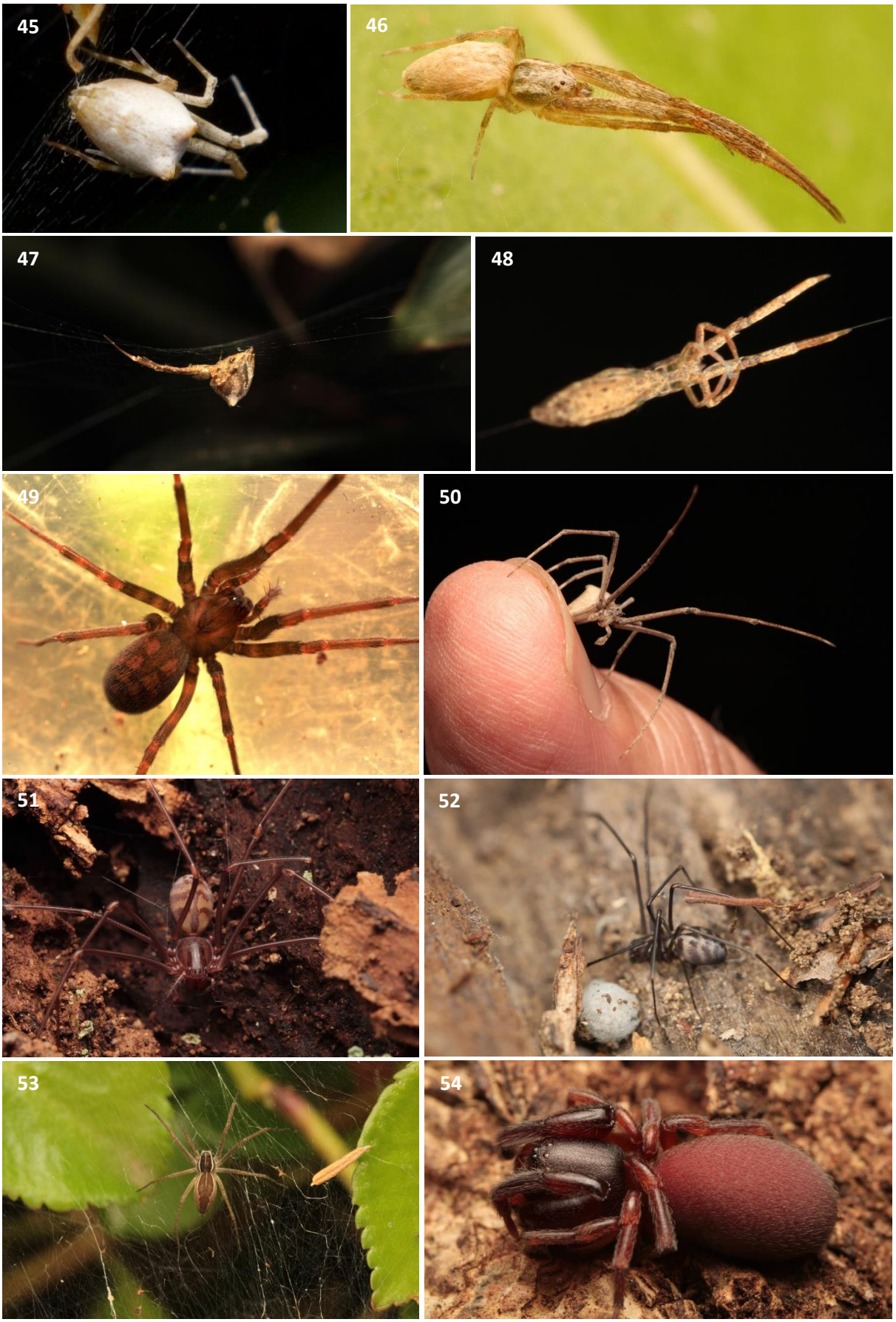
15-28. Comb-footed spiders (Theridiidae). **15-16:** *Emertonella* sp. **17:** *Tidarren* sp. **18-20:** *Platnickina* sp. **21:** *Steatoda capensis*. **22-23:** Unknown. **24-25:** *Theridion* sp. **26:** *Argyrodes argyrodes*. **27:** *Latrodectus geometricus*. **28:** *Tidarren* sp. *Photos:* Wessel Pretorius (15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 27, 28), Cecile Roux (16, 20-23, 25, 26).



29-36. Orb-web spiders (Araneidae). **29:** cf. *Neoscona* sp. **30-32:** *Cyclosa* spp. **33:** cf. *Neoscona rufipalpis*. **34:** *Bijoaraneus legonensis*. **35:** *Hypsosinga* sp. **36:** *Trichonephila fenestrata*. *Photos:* Wessel Pretorius (29-30), Cecile Roux (31-36).



37-38: Flatties (*Anyphops* sp.; Selenopidae). **39-42.** Crab spiders (Thomisidae). **39:** *Tmarus* sp. 40: Unknown. **41:** *Xysticus* sp. **42:** *Phrynarachne melloleitaoi*. **43:** Australian grey house spider (*Badumna longinqua*; Desidae). **44:** Leaf-curling sac spider (*Clubiona* sp.; Clubionidae). *Photos:* Deon Friis (37), Cecile Roux (38, 42-44), Wessel Pretorius (39-41).



45-48. Hackled orb-web spiders (Uloboridae). **45:** *Uloborus plumipes*. **46:** *Uloborus* sp. **47:** *Uloborus plumipes*. **48:** *Miagrammopes* sp. **49:** Hackled mesh-web spider (*Malaika longipes*; Phyxelididae). **50:** Cape net-casting spider (*Menneus capensis*; Deinopidae). **51-52:** Cape false violin spider (*Izithunzi capense*; Drymusidae). **53:** Sheet-web nursery-web spider (*Euprosthenopsis pulchella*; Pisauridae). **54:** Palp-footed spider (*Palpimanus* sp.; Palpimanidae). *Photos*: Deon Friis (45), Cecile Roux (46), Wessel Pretorius (47-54).

Species list

Compiled by Wessel Pretorius

Order	Family	Genus	species
Araneae	Araneidae	*Hypsosinga*	sp.
Araneae	Araneidae	*Neoscona*	sp.
Araneae	Araneidae	unknown	sp.
Araneae	Araneidae	*Trichonephila*	fenestrata
Araneae	Araneidae	*Bijoaraneus*	*legonensis*
Araneae	Araneidae	*Cyclosa*	*occulata*
Araneae	Araneidae	*Caerostris*	sp.
Araneae	Araneidae	*Cyclosa*	*insulata*
Araneae	Cheircamthiidae	*Cheiramiona*	sp.
Araneae	Clubionidae	*Clubiona*	sp.
Araneae	Deinopidae	*Menneus*	*capensis*
Araneae	Desidae	*Badumna*	*longinqua*
Araneae	Drymusidae	*Izithunzi*	*capensis*
Araneae	Gnaphosidae	*Zelotes*	sp.
Araneae	Lycosidae	unknown	sp.
Araneae	Lycosidae	*Pterartoria*	sp.
Araneae	Oxyopidae	*Oxyopes*	sp.
Araneae	Palpimanidae	*Palpimanus*	sp.
Araneae	Philodromidae	*Thanatus*	sp.
Araneae	Phyxelididae	*Malaika*	*longipes*
Araneae	Phyxelididae	unknown	sp.
Araneae	Phyxelididae	*Vidole*	*capensis*
Araneae	Pisauridae	*Euprosthenopsis*	*pulchella*
Araneae	Salticidae	*Thyenula*	sp.
Araneae	Salticidae	*Thyene*	*coccineovittata*
Araneae	Salticidae	unknown	sp.
Araneae	Salticidae	*Euophrys*	sp.
Araneae	Scytodidae	*Scytodes*	sp.
Araneae	Selenopidae	*Anyphops*	sp.
Araneae	Sparassidae	*Palystes*	*castaneus*
Araneae	Synotaxidae	unknown	sp.
Araneae	Tetragnathidae	*Tetragnatha*	sp.
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Latrodectus*	*geometricus*
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Emertonella*	sp.
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Steatoda*	*capensis*
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Theridion*	sp.
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Argyrodes*	*argyrodes*
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Tidarren*	sp.
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Platnickina*	sp.
Araneae	Theridiidae	*Theridion*	*purcelli*
Araneae	Thomisidae	*Tmarus*	sp.
Araneae	Thomisidae	*Monaeses*	sp.
Araneae	Thomisidae	*Phyrnarachne*	*melloleitaoi*
Araneae	Thomisidae	*Xysticus*	sp.
Araneae	Thomisidae	*Xysticus*	*lucifugus*
Araneae	Thomisidae	*Oxytate*	*concolor*
Araneae	Trachelidae	*Afroceto*	sp.
Araneae	Uloboridae	*Uloborus*	sp.
Araneae	Uloboridae	*Uloborus*	*plumipes*
Araneae	Zoropsidae	*Phanotea*	*ceratogyna*
Opiliones	Phalangiidae	*Rhampsinitus*	sp.
Scorpiones	Buthidae	*Uroplectes*	*insignis*

Gauteng Spider Walks:

Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort

10-13 March 2026

By Astri Leroy

A selfie with some attendees, taken by Astri

The week of 9 to 15 March was an "open week" at all the National Botanical Gardens in South Africa with free entry for all. When Rudi alerted me to this and said that they're doing a presentation and walk in Bloemfontein, I contacted the administration of the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden to see if they would like me to conduct a free spider walk for the general public. In fact, they asked me to host spider walks from 9 am to 12 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Sam Hargreaves in the garden office took bookings via their website and Facebook page, so all I had to do was be there before 9 am and lead interested folk around the garden that I know so well. No hardship at all; I love the place, know every nook and cranny, and I really enjoy showing and explaining spiders to anyone who will listen.

Our weather has not been good for spider hunting this summer, one cool, drizzly day after another, and Tuesday 10 March was no exception. Only two people arrived: Robin, a nature conservation student, and her mother; the weather didn't bother them, but spiders were scarce. They were such a delightful pair, interested in everything that grew or moved, and I ended up demonstrating the garden as much as the spiders. I did manage to find flower crab spiders and silver vlei spiders in their webs in the clivia beds, and we walked into many *Eriovixia excelsa* webs (tailed orb-web or hump-backed spiders).

Wednesday was a washout with heavy showers, and no one had booked for Thursday, so I took the morning off! Only two had booked for Wednesday, so Sam Hargreaves asked them to postpone to Friday. I had provisionally capped attendance at 20 people, but Friday was such a lovely day that the garden filled up, and in the end, our group grew to 26 people. As we waited for everyone to gather together, the children, led by a youngster called Connor, started finding (mostly really tiny) spiders. More impressive animals were needed to keep the momentum, so I took the group to my trap No. 4 in the woodland, where I had a tree trap and was pretty sure I'd find a scorpion spider. I did: a big fat female, and she was admired by all and set free, the final and impressive end to a happy spider walk.





Some photos taken during the week. All photos taken by John Brandow, expect last one, which is a selfie taken by Robin (surname unknown).

Free State Presentation and Spider Walk:

Free State National Botanical Garden, Bloemfontein

15 March 2026

By Rudi Steenkamp

Some of the attendees at the spider presentation and spider walk in the Free State National Botanical Garden in Bloemfontein. *Photo:* Rudi Steenkamp.

From 9 to 15 March, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) held National Gardens Week to celebrate the diversity of South Africa's national botanical gardens. Entry to all the national botanical gardens in South Africa is free during this week. The theme for this year was '*Your free passport to nature, celebrate, restore, and protect all life*'. Lufuno Nenungwi from SANBI and the Free State National Botanical Garden asked the Spider Club if we could do a presentation and/or spider walk during the week, and of course we said yes.

Dr Ruan Booysen and I each delivered a presentation. I did a slightly longer presentation on 14 of the most common spider families found in South Africa (and the garden), as well as some of the more unusual spiders, like the spider hunters, mimics, specialist hunters, etc. Ruan did a shorter presentation that focused specifically on the spiders in the garden, as well as their importance in protected green spaces like botanical gardens.

The presentation was very well attended. At one point, we counted 43 people in the audience. Almost one-third of those were children. Some of the kids seemed a little bored with the hour-long presentation, but a handful of them seemed quite interested in the different types of spiders and their unique behaviours.

Top: Attendees walking in to the presentation (*photo:* Rudi Steenkamp). **Middle:** Rudi and Ruan giving their respective presentations (*photos:* Charles Whitehead). **Bottom left:** Rudi giving an orientation on the spider walk that followed the presentation (*photo:* Natasja Lutjens). **Bottom right:** One of the children eagerly waiting to go hunt for spiders (*photo:* Natasja Lutjens).

After the presentation and a quick orientation on where to look for spiders, how to catch them, and how we should leave the garden as we found it, we set off. The kids were quite excited and ran all over the place, looking for spiders. Unfortunately, due to the kids' inexperience and some very small vials, a few spiders were harmed or killed when trying to catch them.

Ruan and Liezl handing out polytops and nets to attendees. *Photos:* Maria Whitehead.

We planned to climb the hill, but we didn't get that far. The spiders were also quite scarce on the day, and we didn't find much besides plenty of wolf spiders, crab spiders, flatties, and jumping spiders. While a few of us found this quite boring, the children clearly loved seeing every spider, no matter how common they were.

Exploring the garden. *Photo:* Maria Whitehead.

Top: Rudi, with net, beating stick, and camera, being followed by attendees (*photo*: Natasja Lutjens). **Middle:** The short grass in the main part of the garden contained some spiders (*photos*: Maria Whitehead). **Bottom:** The longer grass on the trails, however, delivered better results (*photos*: Rudi Steenkamp).

At lunchtime, many of the people started heading back, leaving us with a handful of very enthusiastic children and their parents. One of the children who stayed turned 8 years old that day, so this spider walk was part of his birthday surprise. After the walk, his parents also bought him a tarantula. Another kid walked around with a little microscope (with bunny ears) that takes photos. Surely a future macro photographer in the making!

An unfortunate outcome of the children's enthusiasm was that they took a few of the spiders they found home or set some free before being identified. Fortunately, none of them were very rare but it still means that we couldn't compile an accurate species list.

Since this was part of a free SANBI event, we didn't ask for donations as usual, so the Spider Club made no money on the day. Still, we created a lot of awareness, especially among the young ones, so I consider the day a huge success.

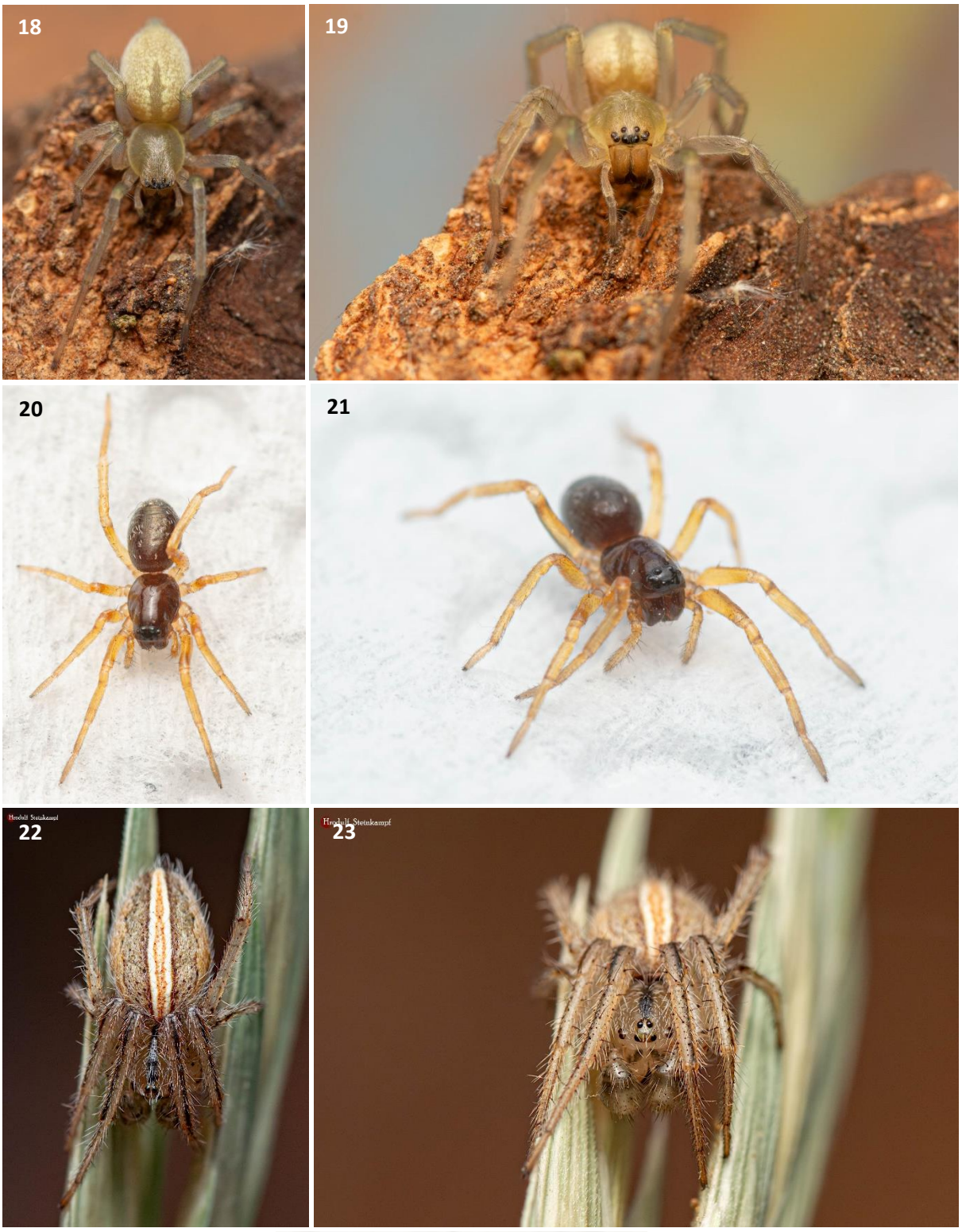
Top: The children were very inquisitive and asked a lot of questions (*photos*: Natasja Lutjens). **Bottom:** More people looking for spiders in the long grass (*photo*: Rudi Steenkamp).

Spider photos

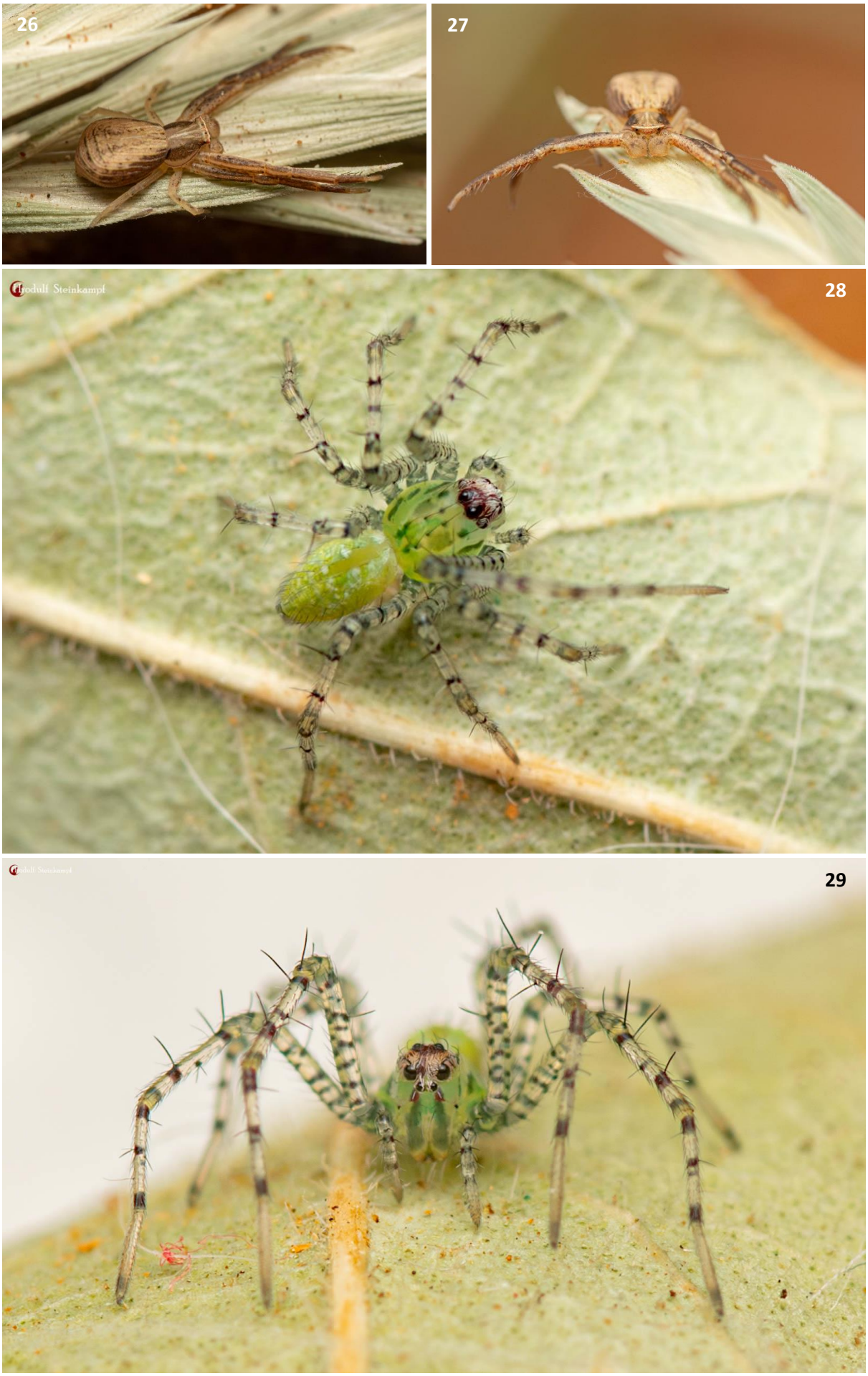
All photos by Rudi Steenkamp

1-6. Jumping spiders (Salticidae). **1-2:** *Rumburak laxus* (female left, male right). **3-4:** *Thyene natalii*. **5-6:** *Pachyballus miniscutulus*. **7:** Dewdrop spider (*Argyrodes* sp.; Theridiidae).

8-13. Wolf spiders (Lycosidae). **8-9:** cf. *Hogna* sp. **10-11:** *Trochosa albipilosa*. **12-13:** cf. *Proevippa* sp. **14-15:** Flatty (*Anyphops* sp.; Selenopidae). **16-17:** Port Elizabeth spitting spider (*Scytodes elizabethae*; Scytodidae).



18-19: Long-legged sac spider (*Cheiracanthium* sp.; Cheiracanthiidae). **20-21:** Dark sac spider (cf. *Cambalida* sp.; Corinnidae). **22-23:** Kilima grass orb-web spider (*Kilima decens*; Araneidae). **24-25:** False house button spider (*Theridion* sp.; Theridiidae).



26-27: Ethiopian grass crab spider (*Runcinia aethiops*; Thomisidae). **28-29:** Green lynx spider (*Peucetia* cf. striata; Oxyopidae).

The A-Z of spiders

by Benjamin Carbuccia

Y is for YIELD (venom yield)

You have probably heard or read somewhere that “black widow venom is 15 times as potent as a rattlesnake’s”. While it sounds scary, this “fact” is actually meaningless for several reasons. One of the main reasons is the extreme difference in venom yield between a black widow and a rattlesnake.

The yield is the amount of venom delivered by the animal in a bite. It is directly influenced by the animal’s body size, the size of its venom glands, and the volume of venom they can produce and store.

Spiders are tiny animals with tiny venom glands, and black widows aren’t particularly large spiders, so their yield is minute: something like 5 to 10 micrograms of venom in a bite.

Rattlesnakes, on the other hand, are much, MUCH larger than a black widow, with much larger glands: on a large specimen, these glands can be several centimetres long. That means that, of course, their venom yield is much larger than any spider’s.

A rattlesnake’s venom yield isn’t measured in micrograms but in milligrams (1000 micrograms): up to 50 milligrams for a Western diamondback rattlesnake’s (*Crotalus atrox*) bite. That’s 5000 to 10 000 times more venom than what a black widow can deliver!

Even if it was actually true (it is not) that black widow venom, drop for drop, was 15 times more potent than a rattlesnake’s, it wouldn’t matter when the difference in yield is so great.

With toxic substances, it’s all about the dose: without knowing how much an animal can inject, venom potency alone says virtually nothing about the possible effects of a bite.

1. Black widows (genus *Latrodectus*) are often rumoured to be armed with a venom 15 times more potent than a rattlesnake’s. Even if it was true, that wouldn’t make them more dangerous than rattlesnakes, as they are very small animals (up to 15 mm in body length), which can only inject tiny amounts of venom when they bite. **2.** The Western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) is a large snake, that commonly reaches over a metre in length, sometimes more than 1.5 m. In a single bite, such an animal can inject up to 10 000 more venom than a black widow. A rattlesnake bite is a much more serious medical emergency than a black widow bite.

Z is for ZOOGEOGRAPHY

Zoogeography is the study of animal groups and species' geographical ranges, their evolution and the factors influencing it (of course, the same thing, phytogeography, exists for plants, and both combined form the science called biogeography).

Not everything lives everywhere; there are places where some species are found and others where they aren't found.

This, of course, has a lot to do with their climate and habitat requirements, but when they started systematically studying species' ranges in detail, scientists quickly realised that more factors than just suitable habitat were involved. An easy example of this is how different Arctic and Antarctic faunas are, despite their very similar conditions: the Arctic has bears and no penguins, while the Antarctic has penguins and no bears.

There are no polar bears in the Antarctic because they evolved in the Arctic from North American or European bears and are separated from the Southern Continent by an entire world they simply cannot cross.

Besides ecological parameters (suitable habitat), ranges are also heavily influenced by the evolution of physical geography.

Animals have their ever-changing borders, modelled by a natural world in constant evolution.

Continental drift, rivers changing course, straits opening or closing, mountain ranges rising and eroding, savannas and forests turning into deserts and back, polar ice caps freezing or thawing, raising or lowering ocean levels…

And, more recently, our human modes of transportation, the habitats we destroy or create, and our impact on global climate influence the ranges of plants and animals over time.

The history of planet Earth and the evolution of living species are therefore deeply intertwined and reflect each other: past geographical borders or connections can be seen in the ranges of groups of related (fossil and/or extant) species.

That's why biologists have these weird terms to describe geographical ranges, such as Gondwanian, Palearctic or Afrotropical, whose outlines are so different from our everyday political geography: they reflect past and present borders that have shaped the distributions of animal groups, which are living testimonials of these ancient changes.

Among these terms, those you will most commonly come across are the seven modern zoogeographical realms:

- Afrotropical, which includes Africa south of the Sahara, Madagascar, and the south of the Arabian Peninsula
- Palearctic, which includes Europe, North Africa, and temperate and subtropical parts of Asia
- Indo-Malayan, which includes the tropical parts of Asia

- Australasian, which includes Australia, Papua New Guinea, the eastern islands of Indonesia, New Zealand, and the many islands within this vast area
- Oceanian, which includes the islands and archipelagos spread out in the Pacific
- Nearctic, which is North America and inland Mexico
- Neotropical, which includes South and Central America, the coastal parts of Mexico, the Caribbean, and the south of Florida.
- The ranges of large and/or ancient groups of animals also often correspond to larger realms, evidence of bygone connections between landmasses that are now isolated, for instance:
- Paleotropical, which includes the Afrotropical and Indo-Malayan realms that used to be connected when the climate was much warmer than today, as the now temperate Europe and western Asia had a tropical climate
- Gondwanian, which corresponds to the former supercontinent Gondwana, which was made up of Africa, South America, Australia, and the Antarctic (although ice has wiped out all Gondwanian lifeforms in the Antarctic)
- Laurasian, which corresponds to the former supercontinent Laurasia, made up of North America and Asia (which were briefly reconnected during the Ice Ages when sea levels dropped, allowing animals to migrate from one continent to the other)
- Finally, some animal groups that travel far and easily, or were unwittingly assisted by human transportation, have spread to entire hemispheres, or even to anywhere with suitable habitat, forming gigantic realms known as:
- Holarctic, which covers the entire temperate and subtropical Northern Hemisphere (Palearctic + Nearctic)
- Pantropical, which describes a species or group found all over the tropical and subtropical parts of the planet
- Austral, which covers the entire Southern Hemisphere
- A species or group found all over the planet will be known as cosmopolitan.

Of course, each of these large realms can be subdivided into countless smaller areas with a more or less specific fauna. A species or group that is only found in one single, restricted place on the planet is known as endemic, and as stenoendemic or even microendemic if that area is very to extremely small (a single mountain, one valley, a small lake…).

1. Drymusidae (false violin spiders) have a Gondwanian range: they are found in Africa and South America, and are living evidence that the two landmasses were once connected. **2.** The genus Caeostris (bark spiders) has a paleotropical distribution: its species are found in mainland Africa, Madagascar, and tropical Asia.





3. The family Phyxelididae (hackled-mesh web weavers) are almost exclusively Afrotropical: they're found in Africa and Madagascar, with only two or three species occurring in Asia. **4.** *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus*, the Mediterranean black widow, has a typical Palearctic range: it is found in southern Europe, North Africa, and dry, temperate parts of Asia, from Turkey to China. **5.** A famous notion of zoogeography regarding spiders is the distinction between New World and Old World tarantulas: New World tarantulas (subfamilies Theraphosinae and Aviculariinae) are a group of related species with a Neotropical range, which share the presence of urticating setae as a trademark feature. **6.** The cross orb-weaver (Araneus diadematus) has a Holarctic range: it is found all over Eurasia and North America. **7.** The brown widow/brown button spider, Latrodectus geometricus, is a pantropical species: probably originating from Africa, it has spread to all tropical and most subtropical parts of the world thanks to human transportation.

8. The cupboard spider, *Steatoda grossa*, has travelled so much alongside humans that its actual point of origin is unknown (probably somewhere in Eurasia). It is now a cosmopolitan species, which can be found all over the planet in human dwellings. **9.** Leipoldt's burrowing scorpion, *Opistophthalmus leipoldti*, is not only an endemic of Western Cape, South Africa, but a microendemic of a few localities in the Cederberg mountains.

Spider of the Month

Here are the spiders of the month for January, February, and March. Members of our Facebook group nominate photos throughout the month, and at the beginning of each month, vote in a poll. Click on each winner to read more.

January

(1) Pajama spider (*Singa albodorsata*; Araneidae), Debbie Taylor. **(2)** Common kite spider (*Gasteracantha versicolor*; Araneidae), Kyle Thomas. **(3)** Silver-bowed hyllus jumping spider (*Hyllus argyrotoxus*; Salticidae), Ian Smith. **(4)** Grass lynx spider (*Oxyopes* sp.; Oxyopidae), Jackie Bell. **(5)** Stumpy crab spider (*Thomisops sulcatus*; Thomisidae), Rudi Steenkamp.

February

(1) Hewitt's crab spider (*Hewittia gracilis*; Thomisidae), Kyle Thomas. **(2)** Propostira comb-footed spider (*Propostira* sp.; Theridiidae), Elmé Coetzer Brand. **(3)** Striated green lynx spider (Peucetia striata; Oxyopidae) Rudi Steenkamp. **(4)** Theridula comb-footed spider (*Theridula* sp.; Theridiidae), Kyle Thomas. **(5)** Trapezoid-head sun jumping spider (*Trapezocephalus* cf. *transvaalicus*; Salticidae), Rudi Steenkamp.

March

(1) Tortoise orb-web spider (*Isoxya kochi*; Araneidae), Nicky Bay. **(2)** Horned baboon spider (*Ceratogyrus attonitifer*; Theraphosidae), Kent Lawrence. **(3)** Grass lynx spider (*Oxyopes* sp.; Oxyopidae), Nicky Bay. **(4)** Bum-eyed orb-web spider (*Bijoaraneus legonensis*; Araneidae), Bradley Raath. **(5)** Festive silver vlei spider (*Leucauge festiva*; Tetragnathidae), Edward Angus Burns.

The wonderful world of spiders

This section showcases spiders from other parts of the world. Click on the photo to go to the Facebook source.

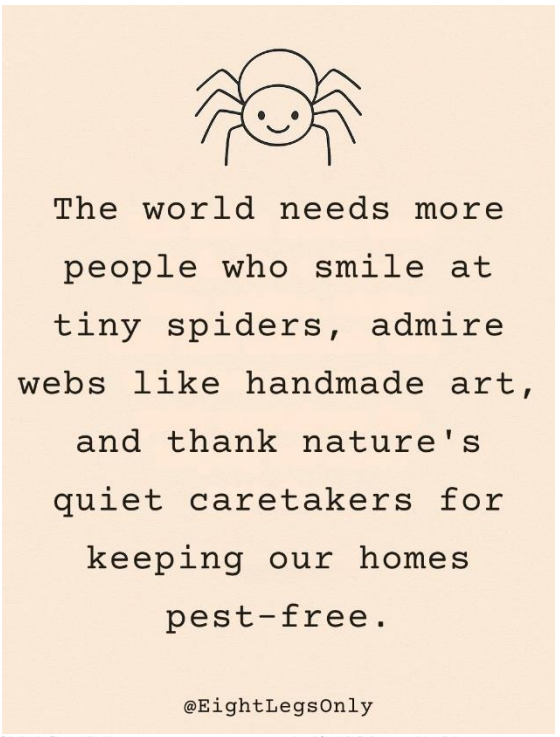
1. *Hamadruas hieroglyphica* (Oxyopidae). **Location:** Thailand. **Photo:** Peter Grob. 2. *Scytodes* cf. *pallida* (Scytodidae). **Location:** Laos. **Photo:** Peter Jaeger. 3. *Arkys bulburinensis* (Arkyidae). **Location:** Australia. **Photo:** Mark Webb.

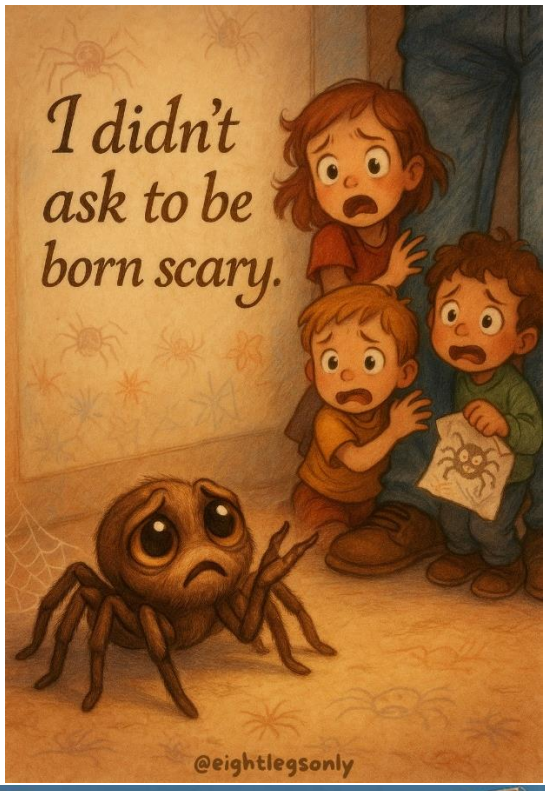
4. *Phrynarachne* cf. *brevis* (Thomisidae). **Location:** Malaysia. **Photo:** Joseph Koh. 5. *Arkys speechleyi* (Arkyidae). **Location:** Australia. **Photo:** Mark Webb. 6. *Ordgarius magnificus* (Araneidae). **Location:** Australia. **Photo:** Michael Doe. 7. *Poltys* sp. (Araneidae). **Location:** China. **Photo:** Christophe Avon. 8. *Micrathena sagittata* (Araneidae). **Location:** USA. **Photo:** Marvus Macro.

9. *Chikunia nigra* (Theridiidae). **Location:** India. **Photo:** Aaditya Chintamani Deodhar. 10. *Aphantochilus rogersi* (Thomisidae). **Location:** Peru. **Photo:** Nick Volpe Wildlife Photography. 11. *Cytaea dispalans* (Salticidae). **Location:** Indonesia. **Photo:** Naiyla Arta Pratama. 12. *Maratus gemmifer* (Salticidae). **Location:** Australia. **Photo:** Michael Lun.

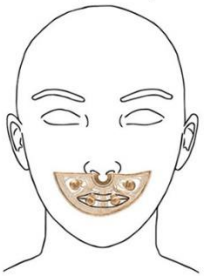
9. *Chikunia nigra* (Theridiidae). **Location:** India. **Photo:** Aaditya Chintamani Deodhar. 10. *Aphantochilus rogersi* (Thomisidae). **Location:** Peru. **Photo:** Nick Volpe Wildlife Photography. 11. *Cytaea dispalans* (Salticidae). **Location:** Indonesia. **Photo:** Naiyla Arta Pratama. 12. *Maratus gemmifer* (Salticidae). **Location:** Australia. **Photo:** Michael Lun.

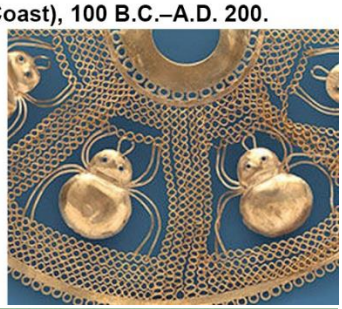
On a lighter note

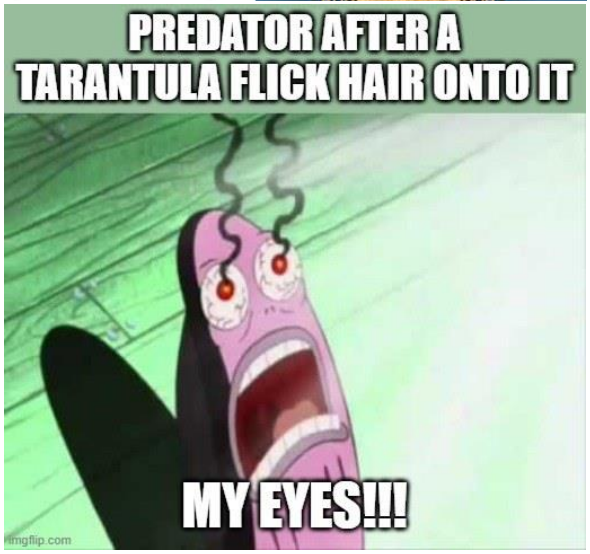




Nose Ornament with Spiders —
Salinar, Peru (North Coast), 100 B.C.–A.D. 200.







r/NoStupidQuestions
u/katdunks • 11h

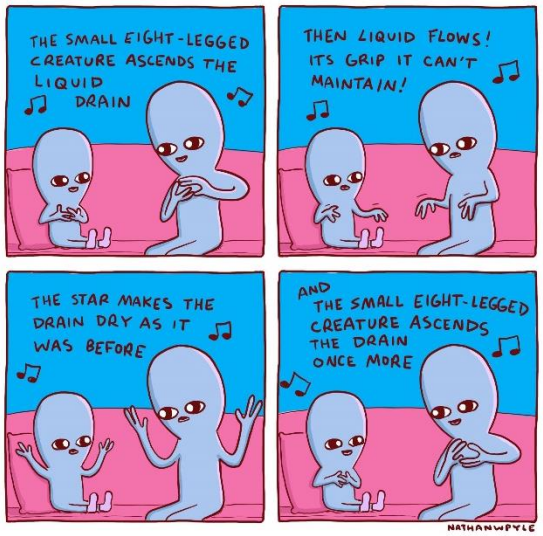
How can I thank a spider who has been in my home for months helping with insects? (Serious)

Pretty much what the title says. I had a severe insect issue until my spider friend came around. It's been a few months and they are still here taking care of insects for me. I used to hate spiders but I've come to appreciate them since I need help with pest control.

Is there a way I could help make it more comfortable or say thank you somehow? I'd also like to learn more about common household spiders from an any educational site but I'm not sure where to start or what is best. Google can be overwhelming. I know this sounds crazy but it's the least I can do for them for helping out.

Thank you.

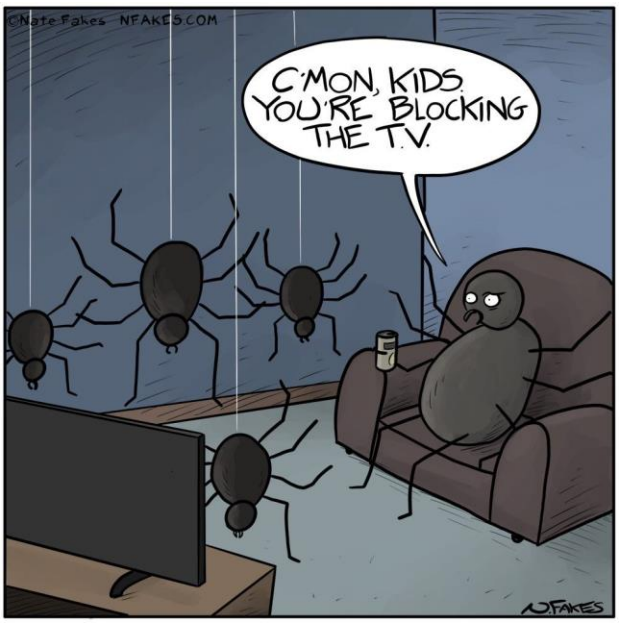
2378 234 Share



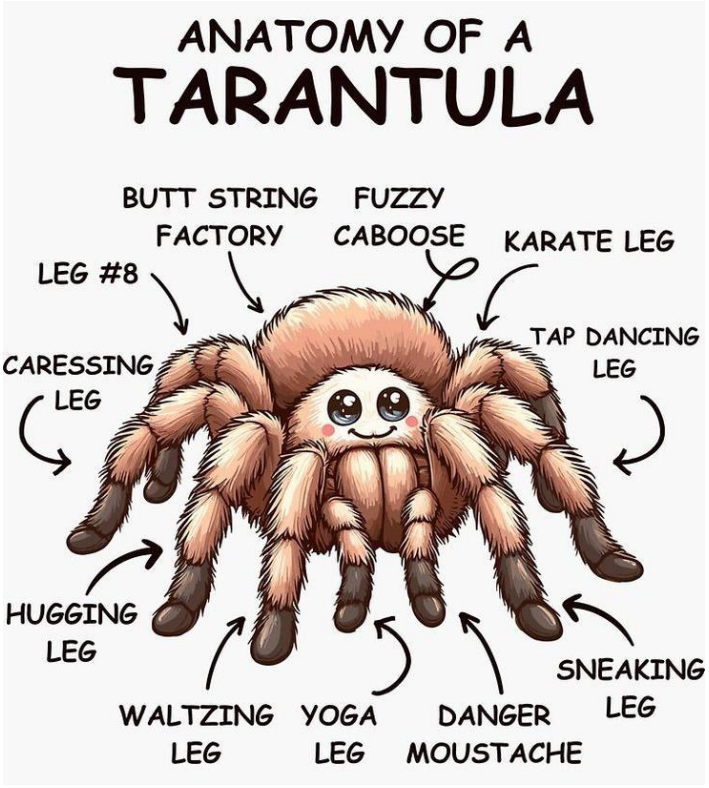
Kat Rosenfield ✓
@katrosenfield

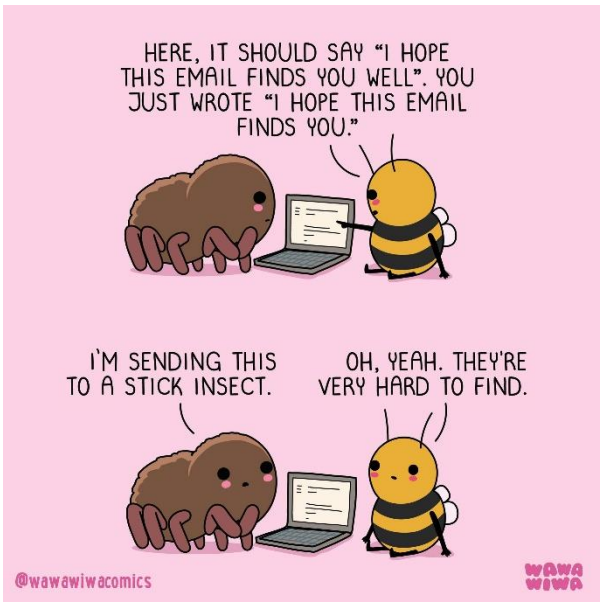
was enthralled to discover the Olympics had introduced a crazy but brilliant new element wherein the luge competitors are pursued down the track by a giant mechanical spider?????! so I screamed at my husband to come see the spider and, well

Reader, it was a drone




AW MAN,
MY CAR WON'T START.
I COULD JUMP IT FOR YOU
I COULD JUMP IT SO
FKN HARD

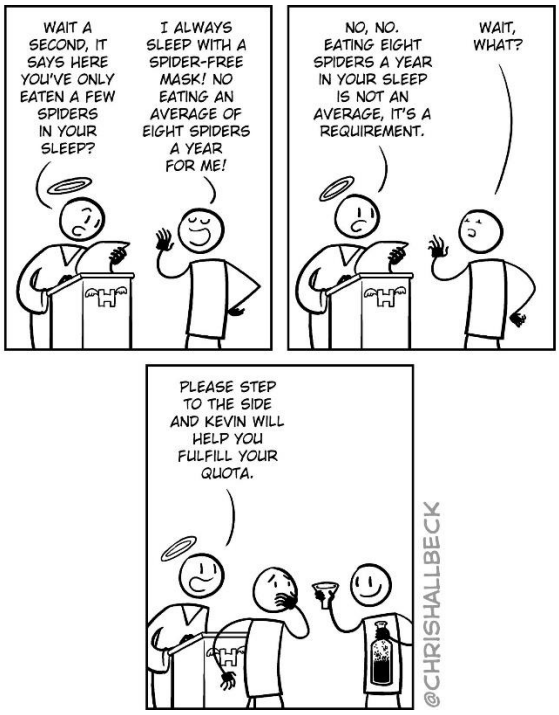

ANATOMY OF A
TARANTULA
BUTT STRING FACTORY
FUZZY CABOOSE
KARATE LEG
LEG #8
TAP DANCING LEG
CARESSING LEG
HUGGING LEG
SNEAKING LEG
WALTZING LEG
YOGA LEG
DANGER MOUSTACHE


HERE, IT SHOULD SAY "I HOPE THIS EMAIL FINDS YOU WELL". YOU JUST WROTE "I HOPE THIS EMAIL FINDS YOU."
I'M SENDING THIS TO A STICK INSECT.
OH, YEAH. THEY'RE VERY HARD TO FIND.
@wawawiwacomics
WAWA WIWA


WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
YOU SAID YOU WERE A PROFESSIONAL WARRIOR. I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.
I SAID WORRIER.
PHEW! THAT SOUNDS MUCH EASIER.
@wawawiwacomics
WAWA WIWA


A SPIDER!!
I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU DESERVE!!
YOU DESERVE TO LIVE...


Entomemeology
Nyn Virgo · 6h ·
i am the house's designated spider relocator and i decided to mark the cups i like to use for it so they don't get thrown out accidentally. i did this so the spiders don't panic and just know their ride is here.
also because i am australian, it also comes in size large
Uber Spider
Uber Spider

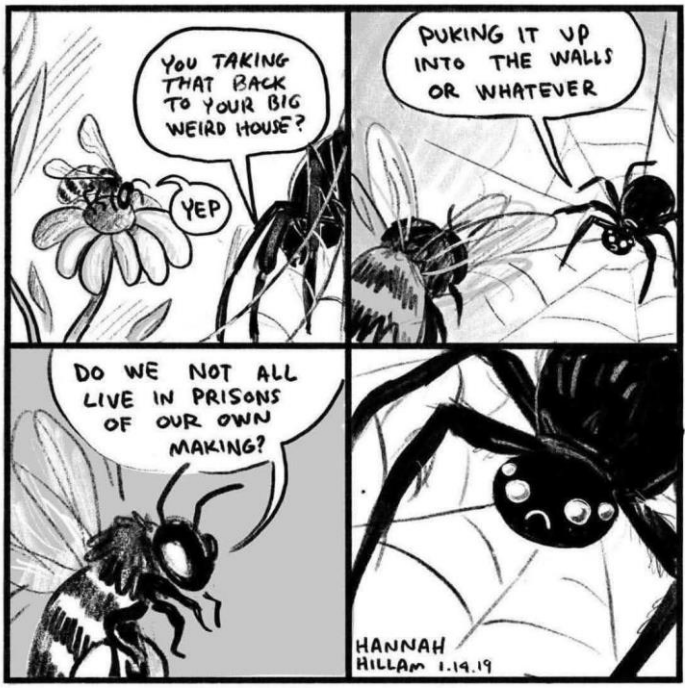


glumshoe Follow

I hate hiking with people who want to reach destinations or travel a certain distance. I LOVE hiking with people who don't mind stopping every thirty feet to look inside rotting logs or photograph spiders or identify salamanders. people who hike for exercise confuse and terrify me.

I joined an outdoors club in college and it fucking sucked because all anyone wanted to do was get to the top of the mountain as quickly as possible and only stopped to drink water and eat trail mix. It was awful.

Ideal hiking companions: botanists, entomologists, mycologists, people with asthma, children with ADHD, easily distractible dogs, people with great butts who walk slightly faster than I do



Oops!...I Dad It Again
@NewDadNotes

Wife: [reading Wikipedia out loud] contrary to popular belief, the female black widow spider does not always murder and eat her mate. If she has recently been fed, the male is often allowed to live.

Me: [frantically boiling spaghetti water].

Upcoming events

DIARY: April to June 2026

www.spiderclub.co.za

Please keep an eye on our Facebook group (https://web.facebook.com/groups/101951926508391/) or on our website (https://www.spiderclub.co.za/events/category/events/). Alternatively, register as a member of The Spider Club of Southern Africa (https://www.spiderclub.co.za/register/) to receive email notifications about any confirmed events.

APRIL
17

SPIDER NIGHT WALK
Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden
Roodepoort

Join Astri Leroy and the Spider Club on a special night walk in the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden to see what spiders come out at night. Please bring your own torch (preferably a headlamp), as well as water and snacks. It is ESSENTIAL that you book your place, otherwise security won't let you through. Only 20 people are allowed, so RSVP soon (before 17 April at 11 am). RSVP to Astri Leroy (073 168 7187) or to info@spiderclub.co.za. We ask a donation of R100 per adult and R20 per child 11 years and younger, but any other donations are welcome. A card machine will be available, as well as copies of *Kids' Spiders of Southern Africa* for sale.

We charge 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 NUCLEAR FAMILY for annual subscription. Members who paid the subscription fee do not have to pay at events.*** *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.