

SPIDERS (ARACHNIDA, ARANEAE) COLLECTED BY BIRDLIFE GEF ISLAND ASSESSMENT PROJECT 1999-2000

BY

MICHAEL I. SAARISTO¹ and MICHAEL J. HILL²

ABSTRACT

During the BirdLife GEF Island Assessment project 1999-2000 a total of 2,725 spider specimens were collected. Of these, 887 were adult specimens and 1,838 juveniles. The great majority of specimens (98%) could be determined down to species level. In all, the collection included 68 species belonging to 23 families. Five species new to science were collected.

METHODS

Spiders were collected by a variety of methods, including pitfall trapping, sweeping and beating, and were occasionally taken in Malaise traps (see Hill, this volume, for more details), on the ten islands described in the above reports, and also on Aride (pitfall trapping only) in 2000. Specimens collected were sorted and stored in 70% ethanol for later identification.

RESULTS

Overall, a total of 2,725 specimens were sorted for identification. Of these, 887 were adult and 1,838 juvenile; 98% of specimens could be determined to species. Sixty-eight species were represented in the collection, belonging to 23 families; at present, a total of 191 spider species (in 39 families) are known on the granitic Seychelles, with further species from the coralline islands (the latter mainly from families Araneidae, Oonopidae, Tetragnathidae and Theridiidae; Roberts 1983, Saaristo 2001b). A summary table showing representation of different spider families in this material is shown below (Table 1). Five previously undescribed taxa were identified, and these will be described at a later date. A checklist of taxa recovered, with their distribution outside the Seychelles, and known distribution within Seychelles, is given below.

¹ Zoological Museum, Centre for Biodiversity, University of Turku, FIN-20014 Turku, Finland. Email: micsaa@utu.fi

² Nature Seychelles, PO Box 1310, Mahé, Seychelles. Email: birdlife@seychelles.net

Table 1. Summary of spider specimens collected.

	Family	No. of species	
		This material	Seychelles
01	Araneidae	6	17
02	Clubionidae	2	3
03	Corinnidae	2	3
04	Cryptothelidae	1	1
05	Gnaphosidae	2	5
06	Linyphiidae	4	4
07	Liocranidae	1	1
08	Lycosidae	2	2
09	Miturgidae	1	1
10	Ochyroceratidae	2	6
11	Oonopidae	7	32
12	Oxyopidae	1	2
13	Pholcidae	2	9
14	Salticidae	10	25
15	Scytodidae	1	6
16	Selenopidae	1	1
17	Sparassidae	2	7
18	Symphytognatidae	1	2
19	Tetragnathidae	5	11
20	Theridiidae	11	24
21	Theridiosomatidae	1	3
22	Thomisidae	2	2
23	Uloboridae	1	2
TOTAL		68	169

CHECKLIST

Abbreviations of island names (islands in **bold** were visited in the course of this project, islands with asterisk are coralline):

Aldabra*	Ald	Frégate	FR
Anonyme	AO	Grande Soeur	GS
Aride	AR	La Digue	LD
Assumption*	Asn	Long Island	LO
Astove*	Ast	Mahé	MH
Bird	BI	Marianne	MA
Cerfs	CF	North	NO
Coetivy*	Coe	Petite Soeur	PS
Conception	CC	Poivre*	Pov
Cousin	CS	Praslin	PR
Cousine	CE	Providence*	Prd
Curieuse	CR	St Pierre	SP
Denis	DE	St Joseph*	StJ
Desroches*	Dsr	Silhouette	SI
Farquhar*	Faq	Thérèse	TE
Félicité	FE	Île aux Vaches	VA

DI = Global distribution according to Platnick (2000)

OR = Old records from Seychelles

BLS = New records (this collection)

(f) = female specimens, (j) = juvenile specimens, (m) = male specimens.

SUBORDER ARANEOMORPHA (true spiders)

01 Family ARANEIDAE Simon, 1895 - orbweb weavers

Cyrtophora Simon, 1864

C. citricola (Forskol, 1775)

DI: Old World

OR: Ald, AR, CF, CR, LD, PR, SI (Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Grasshoff 1980; Roberts 1983; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, FE, MA, NO

Larinia Simon, 1874

L. bifida Tullgren, 1910

DI: Central, Eastern and Southern Africa

OR: AR, CE, MH, SI (Grasshoff 1980; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, CS, DE, FE, MA

Neoscona Simon, 1864

N. morelii (Vinson, 1863)

DI: Cuba to Argentina, Africa to Seychelles

OR: SP (Grasshoff 1980)

BLS: BI

N. subfusca (C. L. Koch, 1837)

DI: Old World

OR: CR, MH, PR, SI (Grasshoff 1980; Saaristo 1999)

BL: CS

Prasonica Simon, 1895

P. seriata (Simon, 1895)

DI: Africa, Madagascar

OR: MH, PR, SI (Grasshoff 1980; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

Thelacantha Hasselt, 1882

T. brevispina (Doleschall, 1875)

DI: Madagascar, India to Philippines, Australia

OR: MH (Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC

02 Family CLUBIONIDAE Wagner, 1887 - sac spiders

Clubiona Latreille, 1804

C. n. sp.

DI: Endemic(?)

OR: CE, SI (Saaristo 1999, as *Clubiona sp. ign.*)

BLS: BI, CC, CS, DE, FE, MA, NO

"Clubiona"

"C." nigrimaculosa Blackwall, 1877

DI: Endemic

OR: AO, AR, CS, MH, SI (Simon 1893; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1995)

BLS: CS

03 Family CORINNIDAE Karsch, 1880 - dark sac spiders**Oedignatha** Thorell, 1881*O. mogamoga* Marples, 1955

DI: Malaysia, Seychelles, Borneo, Samoa

OR: AR, CE, PR, MH, SI (Saaristo 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, all as *O. scrobiculata*).

BLS: AR, BI, CS, CR, DE, MA, NO, TE

Corinna C. L. Koch, 1842*C. gulosa* (Thorell, 1878)

DI: Myanmar

OR: CE, SI (Saaristo 1999, as Corinnidae Genus ign. 2., sp. ign.)

BLS: AR, CS

04 Family CRYPTOTHELIDAE L. Koch, 1872 - litter spiders**Cryptothele** L. Koch, 1872*C. alluaudi* Simon, 1893

DI: Endemic

OR: CE, FR, LD, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1893; Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Benoit 1978d; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC

05 Family GNAPHOSIDAE Banks, 1882 - flat-bellied ground spiders**Camillina** Berland, 1919*C. cordifera* (Tullgren, 1910)

DI: Central and Southern Africa, Seychelles

OR: AR, CE, CR, MH, PR, SI (Saaristo 1978; Platnick 1981; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: AR, BI, CR, CS, CR, DE, MA

Xerophaeus Purcell, 1907*X. espoir* Platnick, 1981

DI: Endemic

OR: CE, MH (Platnick 1981; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS

06 Family LINYPHIIDAE Blackwall, 1859 - dwarf or money spiders**Microbathypantes** van Helsdingen, 1988*M. palmarius* (Marples, 1955)

DI: Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Myanmar, Polynesia

OR: CS, MH, SI (van Helsdingen 1988, as *M. asiaticus*; Saaristo 1995; Saaristo 1999, as *M. spedani*)

BLS: DE

Neonesiotes Millidge, 1991*N. remiformis* Millidge, 1991

DI: Marshall Is., Caroline Is., Cook Is., Fiji, Samoa

OR: CE, MH, SI (Saaristo 1999)

BLS: DE, MA, NO

Nesioneta Millidge, 1991*N. benoiti* (van Helsdingen, 1978)

DI: Sri Lanka, Seychelles

OR: AR, CS, CE, LD, MH, PS, PR, SI (van Helsdingen 1978, as *Meioneta b.*; Saaristo 1995; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: AR, BI

Thoea Saaristo, 1995*T. tricaudata* (Locket, 1982)

DI: Seychelles, Malaysia

OR: CE, MH, SI (Saaristo 1995; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CR, MA

07 Family LIOCRANIDAE Simon, 1897**Othobula** Simon, 1897*O. impressa* Simon, 1896

DI: Sri Lanka

OR: AR, CE, MH, SI (Bowler *et al.* 1999, as Corinnidae: *Genus ign. 1. sp. 1.*; Saaristo 1999, as Corinnidae: *Genus ign. 1. sp. ign.*)

BLS: CS (j)

08 Family LYCOSIDAE Sundevall, 1833 - wolf spiders**Bristowiella** Saaristo, 1980*B. seychellensis* (Bristowe, 1973)

DI: Seychelles, Comoro Is.

OR: AR, CE, LD, PR, MH, SI (Bristowe 1973; Saaristo 1978; Alderweilert 1988; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, NO

Trochosa C. L. Koch, 1848*T. urbana* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1878) CS, DE

DI: Africa to India

OR: AR, Ast, CF, CE, FE, MH, PR, SI, SP (Simon 1898; Hirst 1911, as *Lycosa urbana*; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, DE

09 Family MITURGIDAE Lehtinen, 1967 - forest-floor spiders**Palicanus** Thorell, 1897*P. caudatus* Thorell, 1897

DI: China, Myanmar, Indonesia

OR: SI (Saaristo 1999, as Miturgidae: *Gen. sp. ign.*)

BLS: DE

10 Family OCHYRO CERATIDAE Fage, 1912 - midget ground weavers**Roche** Saaristo, 1998*R. roche* Saaristo, 1998

DI: Endemic

OR: MH (Saaristo 1998)

BLS: CS

Theotima Simon, 1893*T. minutissima* (Petrunkévitch, 1929)

DI: Pantropical

OR: CE, MH, SI (Brignoli 1980, as *Speocera bonaspei*; Saaristo 1998, 1999)

BLS: AR

11 Family OONOPIDAE Simon, 1890 - dwarf hunting spiders

Brignolia Dumitresco & Georgesco, 1983

B. cubana Dumitresco & Georgesco, 1983

DI: Cuba

OR: AR, CE, MH, Pov, SI (Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, 2001b)

BLS: BI

Ischnothyreus Simon, 1892

I. peltifer (Simon, 1891)

DI: USA to Panama, West Indies, St. Helena

OR: AR, CS, CE, MH, NO, SI (Benoit 1979, as *Ischnothyreus sechellorum*, Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, 2001b)

BLS: DE, NO

I. sp. (j)

BLS: BI, CR

Lionneta Benoit, 1979

L. sp. (j)

BLS: MA

Lionneta n. sp.

DI: Endemic

OR: None

BLS: CC(f), CR(m), GS(m)

Lisna Saaristo, 2001

L. trichinalis (Benoit, 1979)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, CE, MH, PS, SI (Benoit 1979, as *Gamasomorpha trichinalis*, Bowler *et al.* 1999 and Saaristo 1999, as "*Gamasomorpha*" *trichinalis*; Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: DE

Opopaea Simon, 1891

O. deserticola Simon, 1891

DI: USA, West Indies

OR: Asn, CS, CE, Faq, Pov (Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: BI

O. lena Suman, 1965

DI: Hawaii

OR: AR, CE, MH, PS, PR, SI (Benoit 1979, as *Gamasomorpha ladigui*; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, as "*Gamasomorpha*" *ladigui*; Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: BI

Orchestina Simon, 1882

O. justini Saaristo, 2001

DI: Endemic

OR: SI (Saaristo 1999, as *Orchestina sp. ign.*; Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: CC, CS, NO

12 Family OXYOPIDAE Thorell, 1878 - lynx spiders

Oxyopes Latreillei, 1804

O. dumontii (Vinson, 1863)

DI: Africa, Madagascar to Seychelles

OR: AR, MH, PR, SI (Benoit 1978b; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, FE, MA

13 Family PHOLCIDAE C. L. Koch, 1851 - daddy-long-legs spiders

Cenemus Saaristo, 2001

C. n. sp.

DI: Endemic

OR: None

BLS: MA

Modissimus Simon, 1893

M. culicinus (Simon, 1893)

DI: North, South America, Congo, Hawaii, Marshal Is.

OR: AR, CS, CE, CR, GS, MH, PS, PR, SI (Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, as *Hedypsilus culicinus*; Saaristo 2001a)

BLS: NO

14 Family SALTICIDAE Blackwall, 1841 - jumping spiders

Baviola Simon, 1898

B. spatulata Wanless, 1984

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, SI (Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CR, FE

15 Family SCYTODIDAE Blackwall, 1864 - spitting spiders

Soeuria Saaristo, 1997

S. soeur Saaristo, 1997

DI: Endemic

OR: CE, PS, SI (Saaristo 1997, 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, DE, MA, NO

16 Family SELENOPIDAE Simon, 1897 - flatters or wall spiders

Selenops Dufour, 1817

S. secretus Hirst, 1911

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, CE, FR, LO, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1898, as *S. radiata*; Hirst 1911; Benoit 1978d; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CR, DE, MA, NO

17 Family SPARASSIDAE Simon, 1874 (= Heteropodidae Thorell, 1874) - giant crab spiders

Heteropoda Latreillei, 1804

H. venatoria (Linnaeus, 1758)

DI: Pantropical

OR: BI, CE, Dsr, MH, Pov, PR, SI (Simon 1898, as *H. regia*; Hirst 1911, as *H. regia*; Benoit 1978c; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, MA, NO

Rhacocnemis Simon, 1898*R. guttata* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: CF, CR, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Sparassus guttata*; Simon 1898; Hirst 1911, as *S. guttatus* & *S. elegans*; Benoit 1978c)

BLS: CC, CR, FE, MA, NO

18 Family SYMPHYTOGNATHIDAE Hickman, 1931 - dwarf orb-weavers**Anapistula** Gertsch, 1941*A. seychellensis* Saaristo, 1996

DI: Endemic

OR: SI (Saaristo 1996)

BLS: CR

19 Family TETRAGNATHIDAE Menge, 1866 - long-jawed orbweavers and golden orbweb and silver marsh spider**Leucauge** Darwin in White, 1839*L. argyrescens* Benoit, 1978

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, PR, SI (Benoit 1978b; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

Nephila Leach, 1815*N. inaurata* (Walckenaer, 1841) [palm spider]

DI: South Africa to Seychelles

OR: Ald, AR, Coe, CE, CR, FR, LD, MH, Pov, PR, SI, StJ (Blackwall 1877, as *N. inaurata* and *N. plumipes*; Simon 1893, as *N. madagascariensis*; Simon 1898, as *N. madagascariensis*; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Benoit 1978b as *N. inaurata* ssp. *Madagascariensis*; Roberts 1983; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)*B. vanmoli* Wanless, 1894

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, SI (Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, FE

Cosmophasis Simon, 1901*Cosmophasis n. sp.*

DI: Endemic(?)

OR: None

BLS: BI

Epocilla Thorell, 1887*Epocilla n. sp.*

DI: Endemic(?)

OR: None

BLS: CC

Goleba Wanless, 1890*G. pallens* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: Ald, DE, MH, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Lyssomanes pallens*; Hirst 1911, Wanless 1980, 1984, all as *Asamonea pallens*; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

Hasarius Simon, 1871*H. adamsonii* (Audouin, 1826)

DI: Cosmopolitan

OR: CE, CR, MH, PR, SI (Saaristo 1978, as *H. albocircumdatus*; Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, CR, DE, FE, TE

Heliophanus C. L. Koch, 1833*H. activus* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, CR, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Salticus a.*; Simon 1893; Saaristo 1978; Wanless 1984; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, GS, MA, NO

Hyllus C. L. Koch, 1846*H. acutus* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, DE, CF, CE, MH, PR, Prd, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Salticus a.*; Saaristo 1978, as "*Salticus*" *a.*; Wanless 1984; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, DE, FE, MA

Myrmarachne MacLeay, 1838*M. constricta* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, DE, LO, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Salticus a.*; Wanless 1984; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

Plexippus C. L. Koch, 1846*P. paykullii* (Audouin, 1826)

DI: Cosmopolitan

OR: BI, Coe, CE, LD, VA, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: FE, MA

Tetragnatha Latreille, 1804*T. demissa* L. Koch, 1872

DI: South Africa, Australia to Tonga

OR: Ald (Roberts 1983, as *T. grenda*)

BLS: CC

T. mandibulata Walckenaer, 1842

DI: West Africa, Bangladesh to Philippines, Australia

OR: Coe, LD, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *T. minax*; Simon 1893, as *T. minax*; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Benoit 1978a; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: NO

T. marginata (Thorell, 1890)

DI: Myanmar to New Caledonia

OR: MH, SI (Saaristo 1978, 1999)

BLS: CS

Tetragnatha sp. (j)

BLS: DE, FE

20 Family THERIDIIDAE Sundevall, 1833 - cobweb spiders**Achearanea** Strand, 1929*A. labarda* Roberts, 1983

DI: Endemic

OR: Ald, AR (Roberts 1983; Bowler *et al.* 1999)

BLS: CS, DE, MA

Argyrodes Simon, 1864*A. argyrodes* (Walckenaer, 1837)

DI: Mediterranean to West Africa, Seychelles

OR: Ald, MH (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1983; Saaristo 1999, 2000)

BLS: FE, TE

A. cognatus (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Epeira cognatus*; Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Saaristo 1999, 2000)

BLS: CC, FE, NO

A. recurvatus Saaristo, 1978

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, SI (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Saaristo 2000)

BLS: DE, MA

A. rostratus Blackwall, 1877

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Epeira rostratus*; Simon 1893; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Saaristo 1999, 2000)

BLS: CC, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

Coleosoma O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882*C. adamsoni* (Berland, 1935)

DI: Pantropical

OR: CE, MH, SI (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978, as *Theridion a.*; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: DE, MA, NO

C. blandum O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882

DI: Cosmopolitan

OR: AR, MH, SI (Saaristo 1978, as *Crysso acrobeles*; Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, DE, FE, MA, NO

C. floridana (Banks, 1900)

DI: Pantropical, greenhouses in Europe

OR: AR, CE, LD, MH, PR, SI (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

Dipoena Thorell, 1869*D. menustya* Roberts, 1983

DI: Endemic

OR: Ald (Roberts 1983)

BLS: MA

D. spundana Roberts, 1978

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, LD, SI (Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: DE, NO

Theridion Walckenaer, 1805*T. clabnum* Roberts, 1978

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, CE, LD, MH, PR, SI (Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CR, DE, NO

21 Family THERIDIOSOMATIDAE Simon, 1881 - ray spiders

Theridiosomatidae sp.

BLS: GS(j.)

Andasta Simon, 1895*A. benoiti* (Roberts, 1978)

DI: Endemic

OR: MH (Roberts 1978)

BLS: CC, DE, FE, MA, NO

22 Family THOMISIDAE Sundevall, 1833 - crab spiders**Firmicus** Simon, 1895*F. insularis* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Thomisus insularis*; Simon 1898, as *F. marginatus*; Hirst 1911; Benoit 1978e)

BLS: DE

Thomisus Walckenaer, 1805*T. stenningi* Pocock, 1900

DI: Africa

OR: AR, CR, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1898 and Benoit 1978e, as *Thomisus citrinellus*; Bowler *et al.* 1999, Saaristo 1999)

BLS: DE, FE, NO

23 Family ULOBORIDAE Thorell, 1869 (3; 20-252) - hackled-orbweb weavers**Uloborus** Latreille, 1806*U. plumipes* Lucas, 1846

DI: Old World

OR: AR, CR, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *U. luteola*; Saaristo 1978, as *Uloborus sp. 1.*; Benoit 1978b; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, GS, MA



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