

Four new species of *Selenops* (Araneae, Selenopidae) and comments on the distribution of Afrotropical species

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Abstract

Additional material of Selenopidae from the Afrotropical region was examined and four new species were found from Madagascar, Southern Africa and the Ivory Coast. *Selenops ivohibe* **sp. nov.** (female only) from Madagascar, *S. tonteldoos* **sp. nov.** (female only) from South Africa, *S. onka* **sp. nov.** (female only) from Namibia and Angola and *S. jocquei* **sp. nov.** (female only) from the Ivory Coast are described and illustrated. The global distribution of the genus *Selenops* from the Afrotropical region is illustrated based on all published data.

Key words: Araneae, Selenopidae, *Selenops*, new species, distribution, Afrotropical region

Introduction

The Selenopidae is a small spider family represented by four genera with 178 species (Platnick 2005), and has a cosmotropical distribution. They are cryptozoic, nocturnal spiders naturally found on or under rocks, on tree trunks and inside houses where their flattened bodies allow them to disappear into narrow crevices (Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué 1997).

The selenopids from the Afrotropical region were mainly studied by Lawrence (1940) and Benoit (1968). Corronca (2001) described three new species from the Afrotropical region and Corronca (2002) revised *Selenops* in this region, describing 11 new species and providing a key for the Afrotropical species. Ten species of *Selenops* have been recorded from South Africa: *S. ansieae* Corronca, *S. brachycephalus* Lawrence, *S. dilon* Corronca, *S. feron* Corronca, *S. ilcuria* Corronca, *S. krugeri* Lawrence, *S. ovambicus* Lawrence, *S. radiatus* Latreille, *S. tenebrosus* Lawrence and *S. zuluanus* Lawrence. Corronca (2002) recorded six species of *Selenops* from Angola: *S. angolaensis* Corronca, *S. annulatus* Simon, *S. florenciae* Corronca, *S. intricatus* Simon, *S. krugeri* and *S. zairensis* Benoit; and