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Description of the males of *Euprosthénops australis* Simon, 1898 and *Euprosthénopsis pulchella* (Pocock, 1902) (Araneae: Pisauridae)

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The spider family Pisauridae, with 333 described species (Platnick 2014), can be considered as a moderately diverse spider family. Together with the worldwide distribution, its members exhibit an exceptionally wide range of foraging and prey capture behavior, from web-based hunters, water surface hunters to ambush hunters in the vegetation (Silva & Sierwald 2013).

Among the African Pisauridae, members of the genera *Euprosthénops* Pocock, 1897 and *Euprosthénopsis* Blandin, 1974, forage on sheet webs (Figs 1, 2), the former moving upside down under the sheet web (Fig. 1), while the latter run on top of the sheet (Fig. 2). In his revisions of African Pisauridae, Blandin (1974) examined the general eye patterns and the structures of male and female genitalia of all the species then assigned to the genus *Euprosthénops*. He identified two species groups; species closely related to the type species, *Euprosthénops bayaonianus* (Brito Capello, 1867), to remain in the genus, and he proposed a new genus *Euprosthénopsis* Blandin, 1974 for the remaining species, which are all close to *Euprosthénopsis armata* (Strand, 1913). Blandin (1974: 946) also proposed the synonymy of the genus *Euprosthénomma* Roewer, 1955 with *Euprosthénops*.

The spider genus *Euprosthénops* was revised by Blandin (1976) and currently the genus comprises nine known species (Platnick 2014).

Blandin (1977) also revised the genus *Euprosthénopsis*, which currently comprises seven species, all endemic to the African continent.

In this work, the males of *Euprosthénops australis* Simon, 1898 and *Euprosthénopsis pulchella* (Pocock, 1902), both from South Africa, are described for the first time. New diagnoses for each genus are provided. Distribution maps for both species are also presented.

The material examined is deposited in the following institutions (curators in parenthesis): **AMNH**, American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (N. I. Platnick), **BMNH**, The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (J. Beccaloni), **FMNH**, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA (P. Sierwald), **NCA**, The National Collection of Arachnida, ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa (A. Dippenaar-Schoeman), **MNHN**, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (C. Rollard) and **MRAC**, Musée Royal Del'Afrique Central, Tervuren, Belgium (R. Jocqué).

The nomenclature of the male palpus follows Sierwald (1990) and Blandin (1974, 1976, 1977). Specimens were examined using a LEICA MZ 7.5 stereomicroscope equipped with a camera lucida. For scanning electron microscopy (SEM), structures were excised, air-dried and mounted on stubs with double-sided adhesive copper tape. Specimens were sputter-coated with gold and examined using a ZEISS EVO 60 electron microscope. Photographs were made using a LEICA DFC 450 camera, model MSV 266 and edited using the program Adobe Photoshop. All measurements are in millimeters. Abbreviations related to eye measurements: OQA = width of ocular quadrangle anteriorly or width of anterior median eyes, OQP = width of ocular quadrangle posteriorly or width of posterior median eyes, OQH = height of ocular quadrangle or height of anterior median eye and posterior median eye, PLE = diameter of posterior lateral eye, PME = diameter of posterior median eye, ALE = diameter of anterior lateral eye, AME = diameter of anterior median eye, PLE-PME = interdistance between posterior lateral eye and posterior median eye, PME-PME = interdistance between posterior median eyes, ALE-AME = interdistance between anterior lateral eye and anterior median eye, AME-AME = interdistances between anterior median eyes.

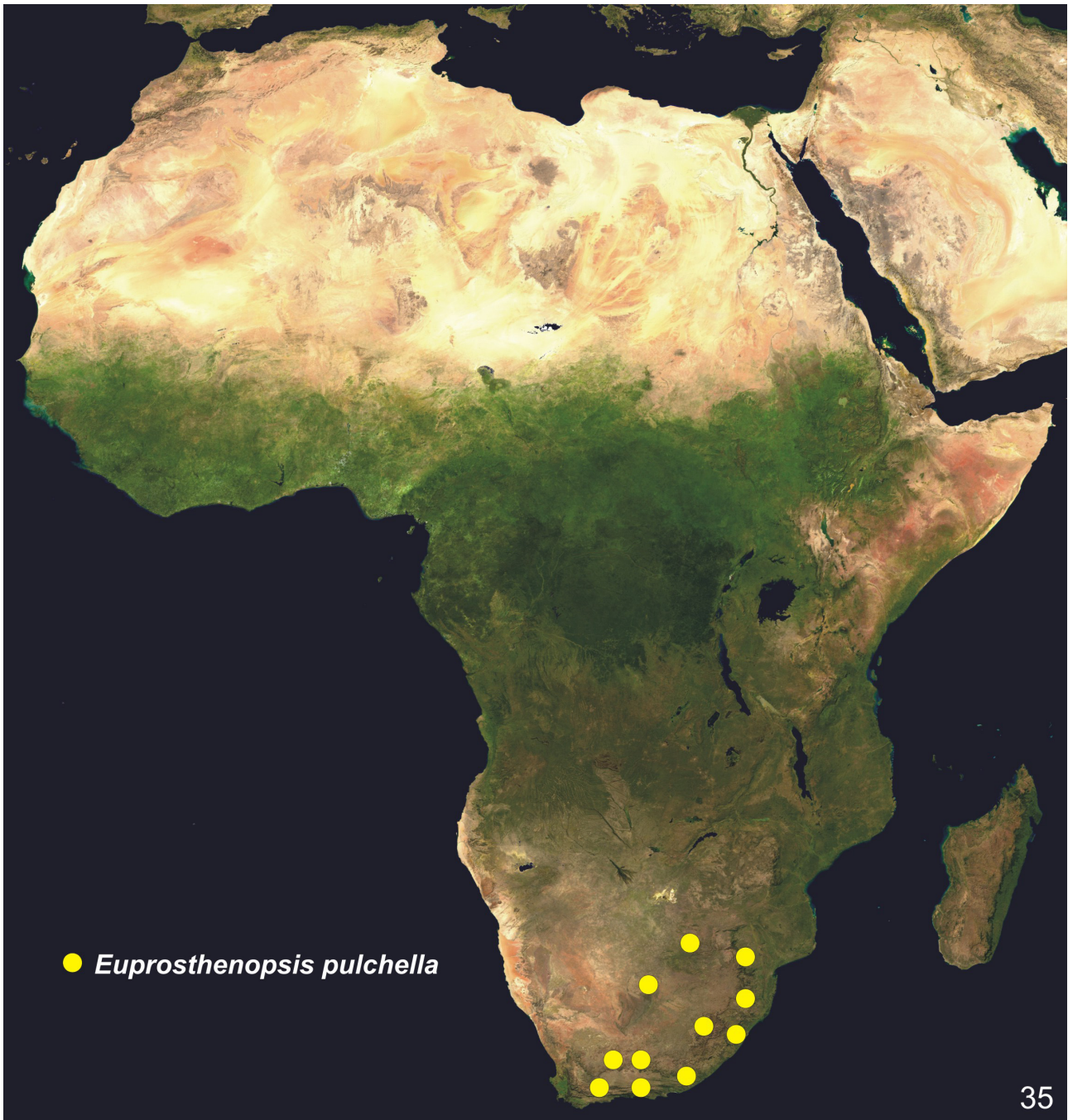


FIGURE 35. Distribution of *Euprosthénopsis pulchella* (Pocock, 1902) in Africa.

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