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**An overview of Afrotropical canopy-dwelling *Orchestina*  
(Araneae, Oonopidae),  
with a wealth of remarkable sexual dimorphic characters**

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**An overview of Afrotropical canopy-dwelling *Orchestina* (Araneae, Oonopidae), with a wealth of remarkable sexual dimorphic characters**

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## Abstract

Eighteen new species of the genus *Orchestina* are described on the basis of specimens obtained from fogging samples in the Afrotropical region. They are *O. acaciae*, *O. ampulla*, *O. clavigera*, *O. communis*, *O. cornuta*, *O. crypta*, *O. debakkeri*, *O. fannesi*, *O. fractipes*, *O. gibbotibialis*, *O. gigabulbus*, *O. intricata*, *O. kasuku*, *O. lanceolata*, *O. macrofoliata*, *O. microfoliata*, *O. probosciformis* and *O. saaristoi*. Excepted for *O. intricata*, they are all known from males and females, although those of *O. debakkeri* and *O. probosciformis* cannot be separated. One species (*O. crypta*) was recognized after DNA-analysis and was found to show morphological differences with *O. communis*. The study revealed a series of remarkable sexually dimorphic characters most of which had not been documented so far: modified leaf shaped setae on the labium in some species arranged asymmetrically, endites with hook shaped excrescences and rows of spectacular flattened setae, remarkable cheliceral setae and outgrowths, a modified clypeus, modified front legs, a preocular carapace swelling and the infra-ocular gutter. Spectacular modifications of the endites were already known from other Oonopidae. The function of the modifications is discussed.