



## New species of the Afrotropical spider genus *Cheiramiona* Lotz & Dippenaar-Schoeman (Araneae: Eutichuridae)

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### Abstract

Twenty-three new species of the Afrotropical sac spider genus *Cheiramiona* Lotz & Dippenaar-Schoeman, 1999 are described: *C. baviaan* sp. nov. (♀, South Africa), *C. boschrandensis* sp. nov. (♀, South Africa), *C. debeeri* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. haddadi* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. hlathikulu* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. hogsbackensis* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, South Africa), *C. ibayaensis* sp. nov. (♂, Tanzania), *C. jakobsbaaiensis* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. kirkspriggsi* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, South Africa), *C. kivuensis* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, Democratic Republic of Congo & Rwanda), *C. lamorali* sp. nov. (♂, Namibia), *C. lindae* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. malawiensis* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, Malawi), *C. mkhambathi* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, South Africa), *C. mohalensis* sp. nov. (♀, Lesotho), *C. musosaensis* sp. nov. (♀, Democratic Republic of Congo), *C. nyungwensis* sp. nov. (♂, Rwanda), *C. plaatbosensis* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, South Africa), *C. qachasneki* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. robiniae* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa), *C. saniensis* sp. nov. (♀, ♂, South Africa), *C. tembensis* sp. nov. (♂, South Africa) and *C. upperbyensis* sp. nov. (♀, South Africa). The females of *C. lajuma* Lotz, 2002 and *C. mlawula* Lotz, 2002 are described for the first time.

**Key words:** Dionycha, Afrotropical region, taxonomy, geographic distribution

### Introduction

The genus *Cheiramiona* was described by Lotz & Dippenaar-Schoeman (1999) and then revised by Lotz (2002). A new species was added by Lotz (2005), with notes on the distribution and habitat preference of several species. The genus was previously listed in Miturgidae, but moved with 11 other genera to the newly elevated family Eutichuridae by Ramírez (2014). Until now, 26 species were known for this genus. Very little is known about the biology and behavior of these spiders, other than an association primarily with grasses and woody vegetation. Their distribution is restricted to continental Africa (World Spider Catalogue 2015), and the genus has not been recorded from Madagascar or any of the smaller Afrotropical islands. The present study adds a further 23 new species, mostly from South Africa (16 species). Furthermore, the females of *C. lajuma* Lotz, 2002 and *C. mlawula* Lotz, 2002 are described for the first time.

### Material and methods

Descriptions and methodology follows Lotz (2002). External and internal female genitalia, ventral and retrolateral views of male palps and cheliceral dentition were illustrated from photographs. An ocular micrometer was used for the measurements, given in mm. Specimen label data are given as: sex, country, locality, map reference, date collected, collector and collection number. Colour mentioned in the text is of alcohol preserved specimens and live specimens may differ from this, as the colour of these specimens seem to fade in alcohol. Colour and patterns on carapace, around spinnerets and on legs are relatively similar for all *Cheiramiona* species and is a generic character, and is therefore not mentioned in the species descriptions. Adult specimens from, the following collections, were examined: AMGS: Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa (J. Midgley); MRAC: Musée royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium (R. Jocqué); NCAP: National Collection of Arachnida, ARC-Plant