## 14th African Arachnology Society Colloquium









## 28<sup>th</sup> January - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Hosted by the Arachnology Unit of the Agricultural Research Council – Plant Health and Protection at ATKV Buffelspoort Resort, Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa.







## **20. POSTER PRESENTATION**

**Theme: Morphology and Systematics** 

## The current status of the taxonomy of the family Entypesidae (Araneae, *Mygalomorphae*) in South Africa

D. Ríos-Tamayo<sup>1</sup>, <u>R. Lyle<sup>2</sup></u> & C.L. Sole <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Unidad Ejecutora Lillo (Fundación Miguel Lillo–CONICET), Tucumán, Argentina Email: duniesky1979@gmail.com <sup>2</sup>Agricultural Research Council, Plant Health and Protection, Biosistematic, Private Bag X134, Queenswood, Pretoria, 0121, South Africa <sup>3</sup>Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20, Hatfield, 0028 South Africa

An update of the completed and future work on the family Entypesidae Bond, Opatova, Hedin, 2019 is presented. The family is composed of seven genera, all of which are endemic to Southern Africa. Some genera of this family have been studied by Ríos-Tamayo et al. offering new contributions in its taxonomic diversity for the region. The genera Hermacha and Lepthercus were reviewed and Brachytheliscus Pocock, 1902 and Hermachola Hewitt, 1915 re-established. The revision of the genus Entypesa Simon, 1889 brought the separation of the Madagascar's members from the continental's members resulting in the creation of the new genus Afropesa Zonstein & Ríos-Tamayo, 2021. On the other side, the genus Ekapa Ríos-Tamayo, Lyle & Sole, 2023 was established to hold the species Hermacha curvipes Purcell, 1902 and Hermacha nigra Tucker, 1917 proposed as "incertae sedis" by Ríos-Tamayo et al., 2021 both species were synonymized leaving Ekapa curvipes (Purcell, 1902) as the only species in the genus. Future work is planned to further investigate the taxonomy and phylogeny of the family. It will include regular field trips to collect of specimens. Aassociated data will be entered into local and international databases (locality, coordinates, collection date and habitat data). Specimens collected will be used for studies based on morphology and for the generation of interactive keys, for the ease of identification. In addition to this molecular phylogenetic studies will be performed using a number of gene regions, these (with the morphological data) will be used to infer evolutionary relationships of taxa and their biogeographic history. Several new species of the genera Afropesa, Ekapa and Hermachola are being described and a morphological matrix is being constructed.