

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

five species from Namibia: *S. cristis* Corronca, *S. feron* Corronca, *S. krugeri*, *S. ovambicus* and *S. radiatus*. Corronca (2000) recorded *Selenops vigilans* Pocock, and recently Wunderlich (2004) described the subfossil species *Selenops benoiti* from Madagascar while *S. pygmaeus* Benoit, *S. radiatus* and *S. zairensis* are known from the Ivory Coast (Corronca 2002). Currently, the Afrotropical species of *Selenops* are well known but new material of this genus was examined and four new species were found and are here described. Maps showing the distribution of all *Selenops* species known from the Afrotropical region are provided.

Material and methods

The specimens used during this study were made available by the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgique (MRAC), the State Museum, Windhoek, Namibia (SMN) and the ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, National Collection of Arachnida, Pretoria, South Africa (NCA).

The epigyna were dissected and cleared in lactic acid as in Corronca (1998a). The format of abbreviations and the terminology used for the female genitalia follows Corronca (1998a). Measurements are in millimetres. A Nikon digital camera was mounted on a Wild binocular microscope to obtain pictures of the genitalia. The pictures were printed and the epigyna and vulvae were re-drawn with pencil over the printed images. The resulting images were digitalized to obtain the final figures. The maps are based on all the published Afrotropical distribution records of *Selenops*.

Results

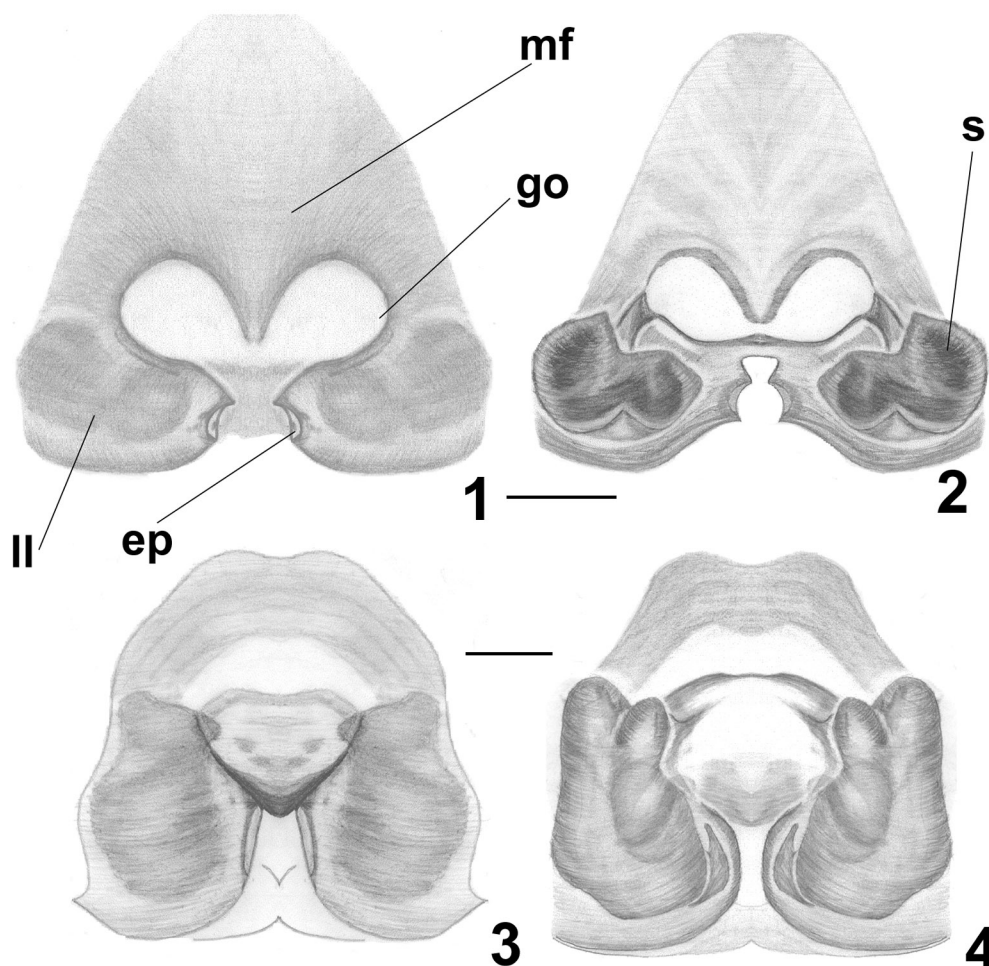
Currently, 33 species of *Selenops* spider genus are recorded from the Afrotropical region. Table I shows the *Selenops* species from this area including the type locality and all the countries where each species was recorded. The distribution of the Afrotropical species of *Selenops* is shown on Figs 9–10.

Note: Wunderlich (2004:1844–1845, Figs. 26–28) described *S. benoiti* (male only) in copal from N-Madagascar. I revised the original description of this species, and for the presence of AME bigger than PME, the general shape of the tibial apophysis with three branches, the form and type of the conductor and the short embolus make me remember described species and unpublished ones I revised of *Hovops* Benoit, endemic of Madagascar, more than *Selenops* species. Because of this, I do not consider this species as *Selenops* in the table of the Afrotropical species I proposed here.

Selenops tonteldoos sp. nov. (Figs. 1–2, Fig. 9-Map 1)

Type. Female holotype from South Africa, Dullstroom District, Tonteldoos (25°19'S 29°58'E), 22/VII/1994, Mr. Papenfuss Col., deposited in NCA 95/132.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the type locality.



FIGURES 1–4. 1–2. *Selenops tonteldoos* sp. n., female holotype, epigynum, Fig. 1. ventral view, Fig. 2. dorsal view. 3–4. *Selenops jocquei* sp. n., epigynum, Fig. 3. ventral view, Fig. 4. dorsal view. Abbreviations: cd=copulatory duct, ep=epigynal pockets, fd=fertilization duct, go=genital opening, ll=lateral lobes, mf=middle field, s=spermathecae. Scale bars=0.20mm

Diagnosis. *S. tonteldoos* shares a similar opisthosoma colour pattern with *S. feron* Corronca (Corronca 2002:15, Fig. 24), but the general form of the epigynum with the middle field not reaching the posterior margin (Fig. 1), the genital openings posterior to the median portion of the epigynum and the globular spermathecae (Fig. 2) differ this species with *S. feron*. The fertilization ducts of *S. tonteldoos* are shorter and not coiled as in *S.*

feron and the copulatory ducts are narrower than in *S. feron*. *S. tonteldoos* has tufts of white hairs on the posterior portion of the opisthosoma which are absent in *S. feron*.

Female (holotype). Total length 14.30. Prosoma 5.10 long, 6.14 wide. Opisthosoma 9.15 long, 7.59 wide. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.21, ALE 0.16, PME 0.26, PLE 0.53, AME–AME 0.33, AME–ALE 0.63, AME–PME 0.19, PME–PME 1.10, PME–PLE 0.70, PLE–PLE 2.63, ALE–ALE 2.17. Leg formula 2431. Leg measurements: I Fe 5.38, Pat+Tib 6.16, Mt 3.39, Ta 1.39, total 16.32; II 7.34, 8.32, 4.47, 1.54, total 21.67; III 7.55, 8.00, 4.47, 1.38, total 21.40; IV 7.70, 7.75, 4.62, 1.38, total 21.45. Leg spination: Fe I–IV pr1.0.0, d1.1.1, rt0.0.1; Tib I–II v2.2.2, III–IV v2.2.0; Mt I–IV v2.2. Prosoma brown-reddish; chelicerae dark brown-reddish and legs dark brown with dorsal portion of the femora light brown, terminal portion of all tibiae and metatarsi with whitish hairs. Opisthosoma pale yellow with a central, longitudinal dark band with lateral branches and lateral dark spots; terminal portion of the opisthosoma with tufts of white hairs. Venter of the opisthosoma yellowish. Epigynum and spermathecae as in Figs 1–2.

Male: Unknown.

Known distribution: Known only from the type locality.

***Selenops jocquei* sp. nov. (Figs. 3–4, Fig. 9-Map 1)**

Type. Female holotype from the Ivory Coast, Bettié (6°4'N 3°24'W), 20km S. FC Mabi near Comoé river, rainforest, R. Jocqué & L. Baert Cols., MRAC 205.464.

Etymology. The specific epithet is a patronym in honour of Dr. Rudy Jocqué for his contribution to the knowledge of African spiders.

Diagnosis. The particular form of the middle field of the epigynum (Fig. 3) and the spermathecae with two lobes (Fig. 4) are typical for this species and differ from other known selenopids.

Female (holotype). Total length 7.35. Prosoma 3.32 long, 4.48 wide. Opisthosoma 4.10 long, 3.00 wide. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.19, ALE 0.12, PME 0.21, PLE 0.23, AME–AME 0.16, AME–ALE 0.37, AME–PME 0.12, PME–PME 0.63, PME–PLE 0.35, PLE–PLE 1.56, ALE–ALE 1.30. Leg formula 24?31. Leg measurements: I Fe 3.00, Pat+Tib 4.43, Mt 2.18, Ta 1.13, total 10.74; II 3.45, 3.90, 2.40, 1.20, total 10.95; III 3.45, 3.53, 2.33, 1.10, total 10.41. Leg spination: Fe I pr1.1.0, d1.1.1; II–IV d1.1.1; Tib I–II v2.2.2, III v1.0.0; Mt I–II v2.2, III v1.1. Prosoma brown-orange; chelicerae brown-red and legs pale yellow; Fe I with a narrow, light grey prolateral band. Opisthosoma pale grey without markings. Venter of the opisthosoma light grey. Epigynum and spermathecae as in Figs. 3–4. Leg IV loose in the vial.

Male: Unknown

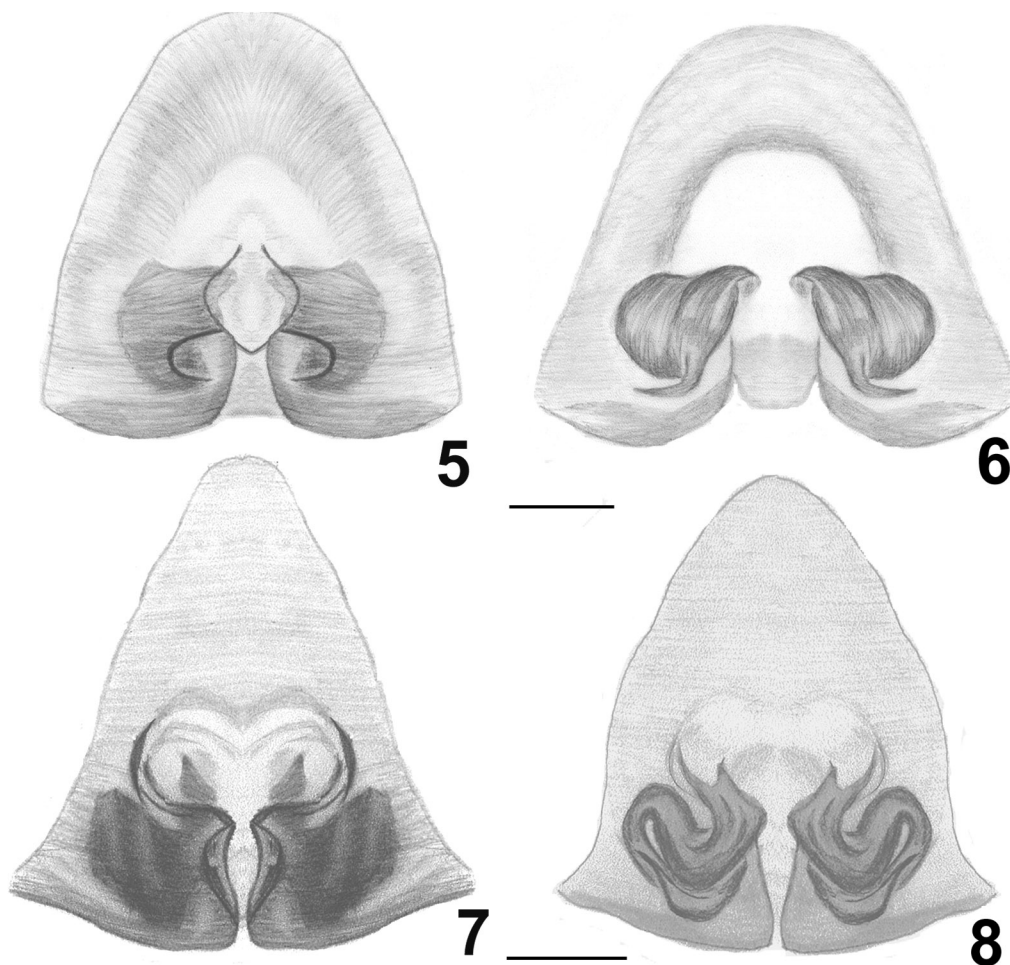
Known distribution: Known only from the type locality

Selenops ivohibe sp. nov. (Figs. 5–6, Fig. 9-Map 1)

Type. Female holotype and two female paratypes from Madagascar, Ivohibe, 16°06'S 49°08'E, VII/1970, A. Lambillon Col., deposited in MRAC 142.781.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the type locality.

Diagnosis. The form of the middle field of the epigynum (Fig. 5) of *S. ivohibe* sp. nov., is almost similar to that of *S. annulatus* Simon (Corronca 2002:8, Fig. 4), but the form of the big epigynal pockets (Fig. 5) and the separation between the lateral lobes of the epigynum are characteristic, as are the particular form of the spermathecae (Fig. 6).



FIGURES 5–8. 5–6. *Selenops ivohibe* sp. n., female holotype, epigynum, Fig. 5. ventral view, Fig. 6. dorsal view. 7–8. *Selenops onka* sp. n., female holotype, epigynum, Fig. 7. ventral view, Fig. 8. dorsal view. Scale bar=0.20mm

Female (holotype). Total length 7.80. Prosoma 3.38 long, 3.00 wide. Opisthosoma 4.43 long, 2.63 wide. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.14, ALE 0.09, PME 0.19,

PLE 0.23, AME–AME 0.20, AME–ALE 0.42, AME–PME 0.12, PME–PME 0.65, PME–PLE 0.39, PLE–PLE 1.54, ALE–ALE 1.31. Leg formula 2431. Leg measurements: I Fe 3.54, Pat+Tib 4.37, Mt 3.00, Ta 1.14, total 12.05; II 4.26, 4.88, 3.00, 1.14, total 13.28; III 4.26, 4.58, 2.91, 1.14, total 12.89; IV 4.26, 4.78, 2.81, 1.14, total 12.99. Leg spination: Fe I pr1.1.0, d1.1.1, rt0.1.1, II–IV pr1.0.0, d1.1.1, rt0.1.1; Tib I–II v2.2.2, III v2.2.0, IV v2.1.0, rt1.01; Mt I–II v2.2, III–IV v2.1, rt1.0. Prosoma light brown-reddish and chelicerae orange. Legs brown-orange with three incomplete rings on all femora; terminal portion of patellae, tibiae and metatarsi with whitish hairs. Opisthosoma without spot, only with a narrow white band in the posterior portion, lateral sides of the opisthosoma and terminal portion with a wide, pale black band. Venter of the opisthosoma yellowish. Epigynum and spermathecae as in Figs. 5–6.

Male: Unknown.

Known distribution: Known only from the type locality.

***Selenops onka* sp. nov. (Figs. 7–8, Fig. 9-Map 1)**

Type. Female holotype and three immature paratypes from Namibia, Orokatuwo, 17°27'S 12°42'E, in rocks, 10/V/91, C. Eyre Col., deposited in SMN 42578.

Etymology. The specific epithet is an arbitrary combination of letters.

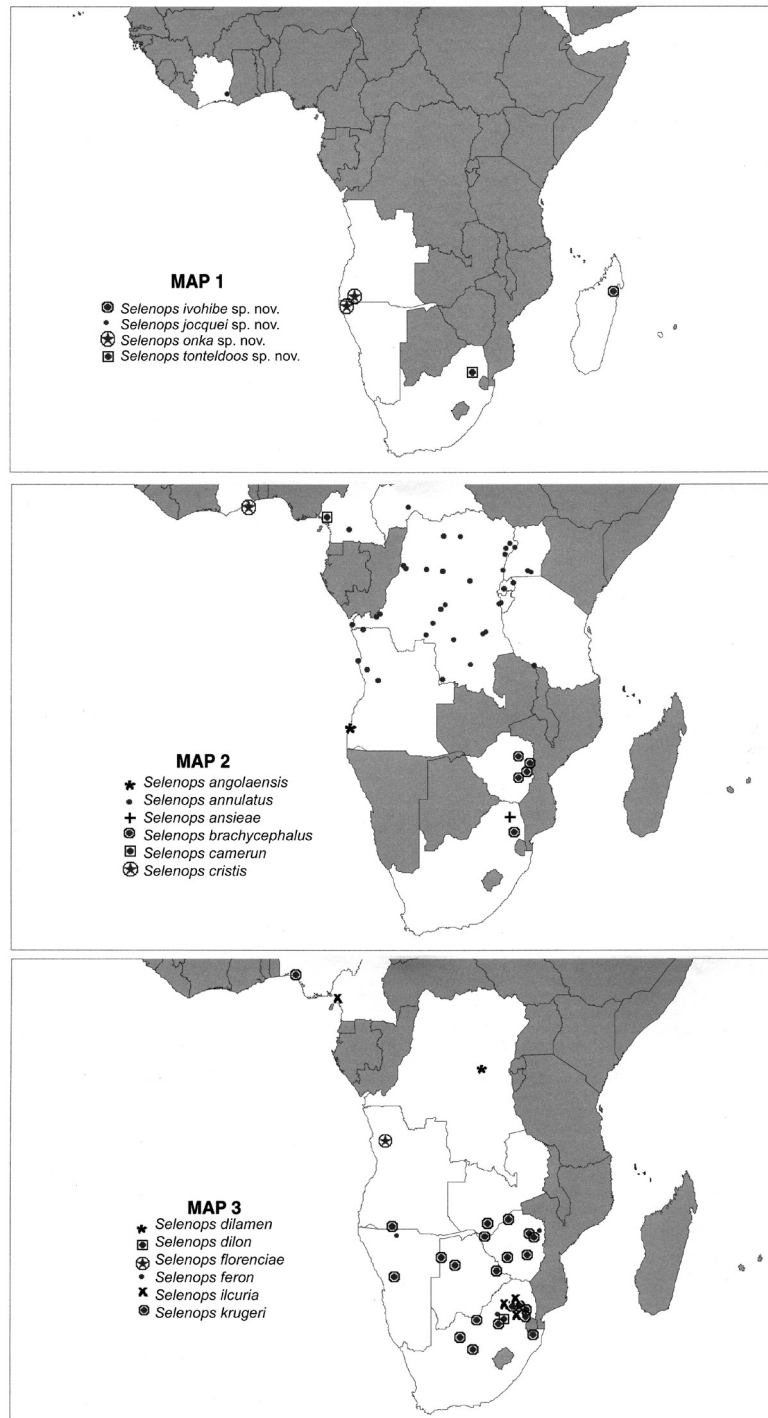
Diagnosis. *S. onka* sp. nov. resembles *S. cristis* (Corronca 2002:12, Figs. 14–15) in the general shape of the epigynum but differs in the shape of the lateral lobes of the epigynum, close to the median line of the secondary epigynal pockets and spermathecae. This new species does not have tufts of white hairs on the posterior portion of the opisthosoma, whereas *S. cristis* does.

Female (holotype). Total length 15.50. Prosoma 5.40 long, 6.10 wide. Opisthosoma 4.90 long, 4.50 wide. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.28, ALE 0.20, PME 0.45, PLE 0.68, AME–AME 0.20, AME–ALE 0.55, AME–PME 0.10, PME–PME 0.68, PME–PLE 0.53, PLE–PLE 2.33, ALE–ALE 1.88. Leg formula 2341. Leg measurements: I Fe 6.90, Pat+Tib 8.80, Mt 4.60, Ta 1.90, total 22.20; II 8.00, 10.00, 5.30, 1.90, total 25.20; III 8.20, 9.20, 5.30, 1.90, total 24.60, IV 8.00, 8.70, 5.50, 1.90, total 24.10. Leg spination: Fe I–IV pr1.1.0, d1.1.1, rt1.1.0; Tib I–II v2.2.2, Tib III–IV v2.2.0; Mt I–III v2.2.0, IV v2.1.0. Prosoma brown-orange with cephalic portion reddish. Chelicerae reddish without markings. Legs pale orange-yellow with markings: femora and tibiae I–IV with two incomplete dark grey rings and metatarsi I–IV with a proximal, incomplete grey ring. Dorsum of opisthosoma pale yellow variegated with dark grey markings; venter light yellow. Epigynum and vulva as in Figs. 7–8.

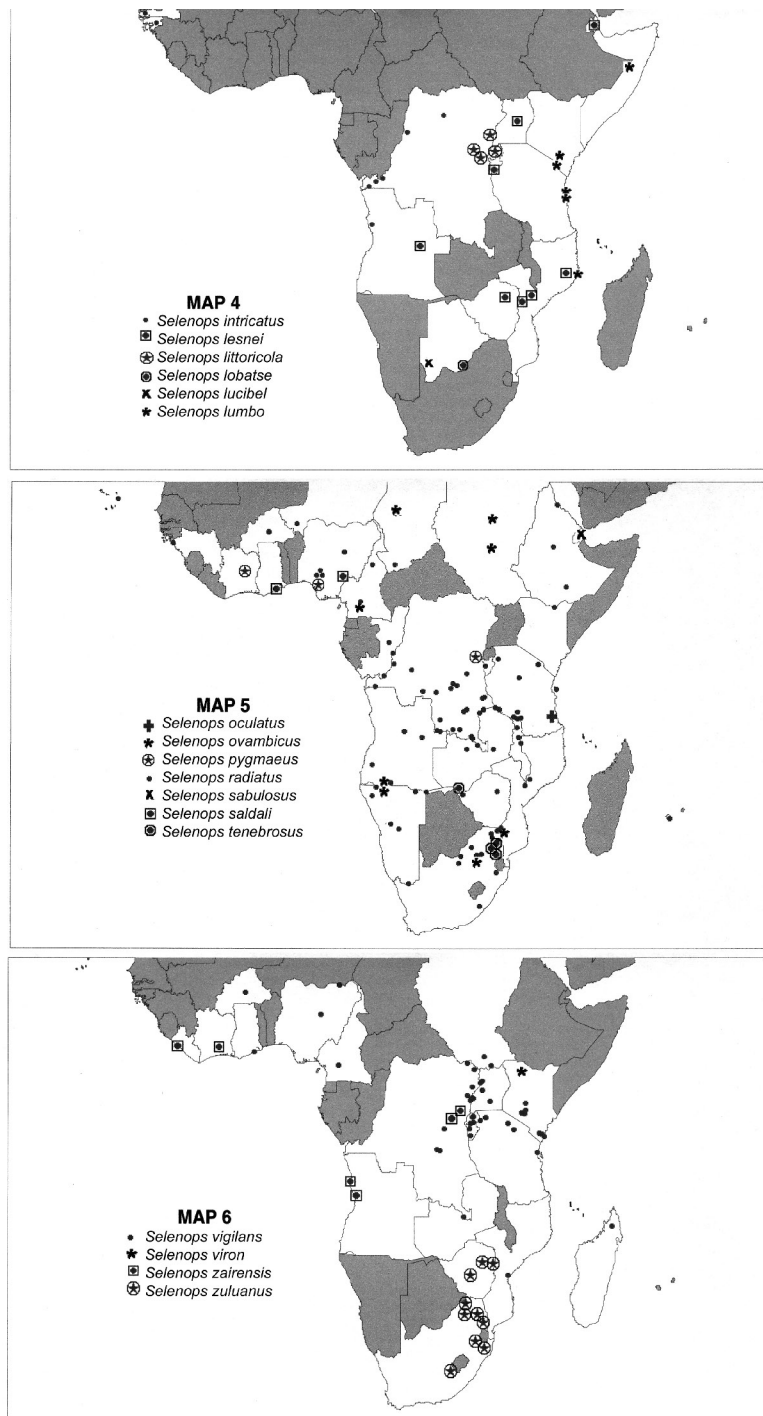
Male: Unknown

Other material examined: ANGOLA: 23Km W. Oncócuá, 1 female (together with a female of *S. radiatus*), 5/X/69, B. K. Mop Col., SMN 35114.

Known distribution: Namibia and Angola.



FIGURES 9. Maps 1–3. Distribution of the Afrotropical species of *Selenops*. **Map 1.** Distribution of new species. **Map 2.** Distribution of *Selenops angolaensis*, *S. annulatus*, *S. ansieae*, *S. brachycephalus*, *S. camerun* and *S. cristis*. **Map 3.** Distribution of *Selenops dilamen*, *S. dilon*, *S. florenciae*, *S. feron*, *S. ilcuria* and *S. krugeri*. S. The countries in grey colour imply no records for the mentioned species.



FIGURES 10. Maps 4–6. Distribution of the Afrotropical species of *Selenops*. **Map 4.** Distribution of *Selenops intricatus*, *S. lesnei*, *S. littorcola*, *S. lobatse*, *S. lucibel* and *S. lumbo*. **Map 5.** Distribution of *Selenops oculus*, *S. ovambicus*, *S. pygmaeus*, *S. radiatus*, *S. sabulosus*, *S. saldali* and *S. tenebrosus*. **Map 6.** Distribution of *Selenops vigilans*, *S. viron*, *S. zairensis* and *Z. zuluanus*. The countries in grey colour imply no records for the mentioned species.

TABLE 1. List of Afrotropical *Selenops* species showing type locality and countries where each species was recorded.

Afrotropical <i>Selenops</i> species	Type locality	Other countries with records
1. <i>S. angolaensis</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 2)	NAMIBIA: 36 miles NE Moçamedes, Reserva Parcial de Namibe	No other known record
2. <i>S. annulatus</i> Simon, 1876 (Fig. 9-Map 2)	ANGOLA: Chinchoxo, L'Esclave de Cabinda	Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Cameroon, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda
3. <i>S. ansieae</i> Corronca, 2003 (Fig. 9-Map 2)	SOUTH AFRICA: Northern Province, Vygeboompoort	No other known record
4. <i>S. brachycephalus</i> Lawrence, 1940 (Fig. 9-Map 2)	ZIMBABWE: Salisbury	South Africa
5. <i>S. camerun</i> Corronca, 2001 (Fig. 9-Map 2)	CAMEROON: Southwest Prov.: Fako Div., Limbe Sub-div., 1.4km NE of Etome	No other known record
6. <i>S. cristis</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 2)	NAMIBIA: Acara or GHANA: Accra?	No other known record
7. <i>S. dilamen</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 3)	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Tabora	No other known record
8. <i>S. dilon</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 3)	SOUTH AFRICA: Nelspruit	No other known record
9. <i>S. feron</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 3)	SOUTH AFRICA: Gauteng, Baviaanspoort	Zimbabwe and Namibia
10. <i>S. florenciae</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 3)	ANGOLA: Vilha Salazar	No other known record
11. <i>S. ilcuria</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 9-Map 3)	SOUTH AFRICA: Northern Province, Marken near Ellissaras	Cameroon
12. <i>S. intricatus</i> Simon, 1910 (Fig. 10-Map 4)	GUINEA-BISSAU: Bolama	Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Angola
13. <i>S. ivohibe</i> sp. nov. (Fig. 9-Map 1)	MADAGASCAR: Ivohibe	No other known record
14. <i>S. jocquei</i> sp. nov. (Fig. 9-Map 1)	IVORY COAST: Bettié, 20 km S., FC Mabi near Comoé river	No other known record
15. <i>S. krugeri</i> Lawrence, 1940 (Fig. 9-Map 3)	SOUTH AFRICA: Sabie Reserve	Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and Angola
16. <i>S. lesnei</i> Lessert, 1936 (Fig. 10-Map 4)	MOZAMBIQUE: Zambeze, Mouvia-Sare and Inhafoune	Eritrea, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Zimbabwe
17. <i>S. littoricola</i> Strand, 1913 (Fig. 10-Map 4)	RWANDA: Kissenyi (Kivu Lake)	Democratic Republic of Congo

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TABLE 1 (continued).

Afrotropical <i>Selenops</i> species	Type locality	Other countries with records
18. <i>S. lobatse</i> Corronca, 2001 (Fig. 10-Map 4)	BOTSWANA: 15km S. of Lobatse	No other known record
19. <i>S. lucibel</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 10-Map 4)	NAMIBIA: Kalahari desert	No other known record
20. <i>S. lumbo</i> Corronca, 2001 (Fig. 10-Map 4)	MOZAMBIQUE: Lumbo	Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania
21. <i>S. oculatus</i> Pocock, 1901 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	ARABIA: Hadramaut	Tanzania
22. <i>S. onka</i> sp. nov. (Fig. 9-Map 1)	NAMIBIA: Orokatuwo	Angola
23. <i>S. ovambicus</i> Lawrence, 1940 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	NAMIBIA: Ongandjera	Cameroon, Senegal, Sudan, Chad, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa
24. <i>S. pygmaeus</i> Benoit, 1976 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Kivu, Kanyamavono	Ivory Coast
25. <i>S. radiatus</i> Latreille, 1819 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	SPAIN	Only in Afrotropical Region: Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Cabo Verde, Sierra Leone, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Angola, Rwanda, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Île de la Reunion and South Africa
26. <i>S. sabulosus</i> Benoit, 1968 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	DJIBOUTI: Obock	No other known record
27. <i>S. saldali</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	GHANA: Achimota	Nigeria
28. <i>S. tenebrosus</i> Lawrence, 1940 (Fig. 10-Map 5)	SOUTH AFRICA: Gravelotte	Zimbabwe
29. <i>S. tonteldoos</i> sp. nov. (Fig. 9-Map 1)	SOUTH AFRICA: Dullstroom District, Tonteldoos	No other known record
30. <i>S. vigilans</i> Pocock, 1898 (Fig. 10-Map 6)	KENYA: Giriama near Fuladoya	Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Zambia and Madagascar
31. <i>S. viron</i> Corronca, 2002 (Fig. 10-Map 6)	KENYA: Turkana	No other known record
32. <i>S. zairensis</i> Benoit, 1968 (Fig. 10-Map 6)	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Ile Biawa	Liberia, Ivory Coast and Angola
33. <i>S. zuluanus</i> Lawrence, 1940 (Fig. 10-Map 6)	SOUTH AFRICA: Ingwavuma	Zimbabwe

Comments on the distribution of *Selenops* in the Afrotropical region

Benoit (1968) mentioned that *Selenops* is an Afrotropical genus and the American Selenopidae species described and included in it belong to another genus maybe relationship with *Anyphops*. Corronca (1998a) revised the South American species of *Selenops* and could not corroborate Benoit's statement. At the present, *Selenops* is the only Selenopidae genus with a widespread distribution in all tropical and subtropical areas and consists of 107 known species (Platnick, 2005). It shows its highest diversity in the Neotropical region (61% of known species), and in the Afrotropical region (31%). *S. radiatus* is the only species recorded from the Palearctic region, *S. australiensis* Koch the single Australian one and few species are known from the Oriental region.

Few South American and Afrotropical *Selenops* species share the presence of tufts of white hairs on the posterior portion of the opisthosoma (plesiomorphic character). This character described by Benoit (1968) for a particular group of species (*S. annulatus*, *S. intricatus*, *S. pygmaeus* and *S. zairensis*) that inhabits West-African forest, was observed by Corronca (2002) in *S. saldali*, *S. cristis* and *S. angolaensis*; and now also in *S. tonteldoos* sp. nov. The last two species are not a forest species and they are recorded very far from the West African forest.

In the Afrotropical region, *Selenops* is distributed from 22°N to 31°S, its southern limit situated at the northern part of the KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa (Corronca 2000). The Transvaal Plateau (South Africa) represents the area with the highest biodiversity of Afrotropical *Selenops* species (about 33%). None species of *Selenops* is recorded for the western part of South Africa where *Anyphops*, represented by several species there, is their ecological equivalent (Corronca 1998b).

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