

New distribution records for African whip spiders (Arachnida: Amblypygi)

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During a biodiversity survey of Monts Doudou in southwestern Gabon in February and March 2000 (Fisher 2004), a female whip spider (Amblypygi), *Phrynichus exophthalmus* Whittick, 1940, carrying her offspring (Fig. 1) was collected. It is the first record of this species from Gabon. The species is widespread in central Africa and has been recorded from Cameroon (type locality), the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Tanzania (Weygoldt 1998; Harvey 2003). A juvenile male, deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences (CASC), was

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collected from Angola (Caconda). This new record indicates that the distribution of this species extends farther south. However, a single record from South Africa, deposited in the collection of the South African Museum (SAMC) remains dubious (Weygoldt 1998).

The other species known from Gabon, *Damon johnstonii*, is a common central African species. It is known from Cameroon (type locality), the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea (including Bioko Island), Gabon, southern Nigeria, and the Republic of Congo (Weygoldt 1999; Harvey 2003; Prendini *et al.* 2005). It is newly



Fig. 1. *Phrynichus exophthalmus* female carrying offspring, from the Réserve des Monts Doudou, Ogooué-Maritime Province, Gabon. (Photograph: S. van Noort.)

reported from the Central African Republic based on a specimen collected during an expedition to the Parc National Dzanga-Ndoki in the Sangha-Mbaéré Prefecture.

Material examined

Phrynychus exophthalmus Whittick, 1940. ANGOLA: Caconda, 2 mi. N, 7.XII.1966, 1650 m, E.S. Ross & K. Lorenzen, 1 juv. ♂ (CASC CASENT 9057869). GABON: Province de l'Ogooué-Maritime: Réserve des Monts Doudou: Monts Doudou, 24.3 km 307° NW Doussala, 02°13.35'S 10°24.35'E, 350 m, 05/03/2000, M. Burger, lowland rainforest next to stream on tree trunk at night, 1♀ (SAMC C6596). DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Walikale, 39 km S, 25.XII.1957, 700 m, E.S. Ross & R.E. Leech, 1♂ (CASC CASENT 9057879).

Damon johnstonii (Pocock, 1894). CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Prefecture Sangha-Mbaéré: Bayanga, 02°54'42"N 16°15'36"E, 20.V.2001, B.L. Fisher, 340 m, disturbed rainforest, ECD34 on low vegetation, 1♂ (CASC CASENT 9057889); Réserve Spéciale de Forêt Dense de Dzanga-Sangha: 12.7 km 326° NW Bayanga, 03°00.27'N 16°11.55'E, 420 m, 10–11.V.2001, B.L. Fisher, lowland rainforest, 1♀, 44 first instars (CASC CASENT 9057873); EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Bioko, 8 km W Luba,

03°27'56"N 08°29'42"E, 14.X.1998, M. Boko, D.K. Dabney, R.W. Tomos, D. Ubick & J.V. Vindum, at night, 1♀ (CASC CASENT 9057985). GABON: Province du haut Ogooué: Ranch de la Lekabi, Grotte de Djibilong, 01°21'45"S 13°27'46"E, 5♂, 2♀ (F. Réveillon personal collection). REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Parc National d'Odzala: Domaine de chasse de Mbomo, Campement M'Boko, 00°36'N 14°54'E, 15.XII.1996, P. Deleporte, caught in toilets, 1♀ (P. Deleporte personal collection).

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