

NEW RECORDS AND AN UPDATED CHECKLIST OF THE SPIDERS OF BONAIRE (ARANEAE)

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Based on material collected during the Bonaire Estafette Expeditie, a checklist of the spiders of Bonaire is provided. In total 47 species are now known from Bonaire, of which 20 species have been added during the recent research. In addition, 26 species could not yet be identified to the species level, some of which are new to science. *Papiamenta bonay* was described in 2024 based on material from the Bonaire expedition.

INTRODUCTION

The spider fauna of Bonaire is poorly known and only four papers mention records from the island (Crews et al. 2019, Van Hasselt 1887a, 1887b, Werner 1925). The first papers on spiders from Bonaire are by van Hasselt who lists seven species for Bonaire in a paper on spiders from Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, based on specimens collected by Neervoort van de Poll (Van Hasselt 1887a, 1887b). Two of these were described as new to science. The first is *Nops glaucus* (as *Nops glauca*), based on a subadult female (Van Hasselt 1887a). The holotype of this species is deposited in Naturalis Biodiversity Center (RMNH.ARA.5882) and was regarded as species inquirenda by Sánchez-Ruiz & Brescovit (2018). The second species described by Van Hasselt (1887b) is *Attus bonai-rensensis* Van Hasselt, 1887 which is transferred to the genus *Corythalia*. Of the remaining five species, *Selenops celer* (MacLeay, 1839) was regarded as a species inquirenda by Alayón García (2005) and included as nomen dubium in the World Spider Catalog (2024).

The next contribution to the spiders of Bonaire is by Werner (1925) who reported six additional species including a species of *Freya*, which is mentioned as being new to science, although it is not described. The last and most important contribution to the spiders of Bonaire is by Crews et al. (2019) in which 33 species from 32 genera of 16 families are mentioned from Bonaire, several of

which are probably undescribed. In the current paper we review previously published records of spiders of Bonaire and list numerous new species based on material collected during the Bonaire Estafette Expeditie (2022-2023).

METHODS

From October 2022 to March 2023 Naturalis Biodiversity Center organised the Bonaire Estafette Expeditie (BEE), a survey to assess the biodiversity of the invertebrate fauna of Bonaire, in collaboration with STINAPA (Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire) (Kalkman et al. 2025). The main focus of the expedition was on insects and molluscs and no specific effort was made to investigate spider diversity. However, many of the participants opportunistically collected spiders, either by hand, with malaise traps or in pitfalls. The material was sent to the authors for identification. The records on which this paper is based are available in a dataset on GBIF (doi.org/10.15468/rh72yp). The material is currently in the collections of the authors but will in time be placed in the collections of Naturalis.

RESULTS

The material collected in 2022 and 2023 contained 47 taxa of which 31 could be identified to species level. Table 1 lists all described species known from Bonaire. Table 2 lists the species which are either undescribed or with no certain

identification. Comments are given on the new species and species that could not be identified by us.

Araneidae

Four species of Araneidae were found during the BEE, one of which was new to the island.

Cyclosa turbinata (Walckenaer, 1841)

One male specimen was collected, this species was not yet known from Bonaire. Known from a wide range across the Americas, introduced to Hawaii (World Spider Catalog 2024).

Dictynidae

Three species of Dictynidae were collected during the BEE, one was new for the Caribbean islands (and thus also for Bonaire). One species could not be identified to species level, but is not a species known from Bonaire.

Thallumetus simoni Gertsch, 1945

One male specimen was collected, which matched perfectly with the description and illustrations in Gertsch (1945). This species was previously only known from Guyana and is new to Bonaire and the Caribbean region.

Dictyna spec.

Among the samples, one adult male specimen of the genus *Dictyna* was found which could not be identified to species level. Several species from South America are poorly described with only some very schematic drawings. We were unable to identify this specimen without having access to all the type specimens.

Gnaphosidae

This family was not yet recorded from Bonaire.

During the BEE two species of Gnaphosidae were collected.

Apopyllus *nov* Platnick & Shadab, 1984

Previously only known from Curaçao, the type locality (Azevedo et al. 2016). New to Bonaire.

Camillina spec.

Specimens collected in Bonaire resemble *Camillina pedestris* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898), but seem to differ marginally in the embolus and other structures in the palp compared with the description in Platnick & Shadab (1982). Therefore, we chose not to identify it until reference material is studied.

Linyphiidae

The family Linyphiidae was previously not known to occur on Bonaire. During the BEE four species were collected, of which two could be identified to species level.

Erigone barrowsi Crosby & Bishop, 1928

New for the Caribbean. Known from Florida and Mexico.

Tennesseellum formica (Emerton, 1882)

New for the Caribbean. Known from Canada and USA (Alaska to Newfoundland, south to Florida and west to California) (Dupérré 2013).

Moyosi spec.

Several males and females were collected from a species close to or belonging to the genus *Moyosi* Miller, 2007. *Moyosi* was erected by Miller (2007) to accommodate three spiders close to *Sphecozone*. We assign the specimens provisionally to *Moyosi*,

although it does not completely fit the diagnosis of the genus, nor the diagnosis of any other genera close to *Sphecozone*. For the moment however, *Moyasi* seems to be the most appropriate genus.

***Tutaibo* spec.**

Males and females of a species belonging to *Tutaibo* Chamberlin, 1916 were collected. These do not seem to belong to any of the known species and the species is most likely undescribed.

Lycosidae

The family Lycosidae was collected on Bonaire before, but without certain identification to species level.

***Trochosa* spec.**

Females of a *Trochosa* species were collected, which could not be identified. Crews et al. (2019) report a *Trochosa* species for Bonaire as cf. *Trochosa arctosina* Caporiacco, 1947, and their specimens might well be conspecific with our species.

Mimetidae

The family Mimetidae was not yet recorded from the island Bonaire, during the BEE one species was found.

***Mimetus variegatus* Chickering, 1956**

No Mimetidae were recorded from Bonaire as yet, here *Mimetus variegatus* is reported from Bonaire for the first time. So far, this species was only known from several sites in Panama (Chickering 1956). On Bonaire it has been collected at numerous locations and seems fairly common.

Oonopidae

The family Oonopidae was not yet recorded from Bonaire, here we present the only species which

was found during the BEE.

***Escaphiella itys* (Simon, 1893)**

This species is recorded from numerous locations across the Caribbean and is also known from the neighbouring island Curaçao (Platnick & Dupérré 2009). This is the first record for Bonaire.

Oxyopidae

The family Oxyopidae was not yet recorded from Bonaire, here we present the only species which was found during the BEE.

***Oxyopes salticus* Hentz, 1845**

Recorded for the first time from Bonaire. This is a common species throughout the Americas and the Caribbean area and was expected to occur on Bonaire (Santos 2017).

Pholcidae

Only an unidentified *Papiamenta* record was mentioned from Bonaire. During the BEE three species of Pholcidae were found.

***Modisimus repens* Huber, 2020**

New for Bonaire. So far, this species was only known from the type locality in Venezuela (Huber & Villareal 2020). In Bonaire it has been found at multiple locations, suggesting that it is relatively common.

***Modisimus culicinus* (Simon, 1893)**

This species has a pantropical distribution, where it mostly inhabits buildings and disturbed areas. Its original distribution is probably Central America or the Caribbean (Huber et al. 2017). It was already recorded from Aruba and Curaçao, but is new for Bonaire.

Papiamenta bonay Huber, 2024

Crews et al. (2009) already recorded an unidentified *Papiamenta* species and in 2022–2023 several male *Papiamenta* specimens were collected. Specimens were sent to Bernhard Huber for identification, and he confirmed that this was an as yet undescribed species. Based on this material the species was recently formally described as *Papiamenta bonay* (Huber et al. 2024). The holotype is deposited in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center (RMNH.ARA.19904).

Salticidae

Several males and females were collected belonging to the tribe Amycini. These could not yet be assigned to species or even genus.

Corythalia bonairensis (Van Hasselt, 1887) stat. nov & comb. nov.

Only three described salticid species were reported from Bonaire. One of these is *Attus bonairensis* which was described by Van Hasselt (1887b) based on material from Bonaire. In his catalogue of Araneae Roewer (1955) listed *Attus bonairensis* as “nicht zu deuten” and since then it has been regarded as nomen dubium. Van Hasselt described the species accurately in Latin based on a single male specimen collected by the entomologist J.R.H. Neervoort van de Poll (Van Hasselt 1887b). Unfortunately, no figures were provided, and Roewer probably decided no species could be unambiguously assigned based on the description alone.

The genus *Attus* has since been synonymised with *Salticus*, but the species described by Van Hasselt (1887b) definitely does not belong to this genus, as it is clearly a euophryine. The collection of Van Hasselt, including the specimen on which the description of *Attus bonairensis* is based, is present in the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, the Netherlands). The specimen is in good condition and study revealed that it most likely belongs to the genus *Corythalia* C.L. Koch,

1850. We therefore conclude that *Attus* (*Salticus*) *bonairensis* is a valid species and transfer it to *Corythalia*: *Corythalia bonairensis* (Van Hasselt, 1887) stat. nov. As far as we know the species has not been described under any other name since the description of Van Hasselt. Pictures of the pedipalp and habitus of the holotype are provided in figure 2 and 3 and will facilitate future identification.

Van Hasselt did not explicitly designate his specimen as type, as this was not customary at the time. However, since the label (fig. 1) states it is collected by Neervoort van de Poll and a single male is present in the tube, it is clear this is the holotype, following article 73 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 2024). The holotype is deposited in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center (RMNH.ARA.5983). *Corythalia* belongs to the subfamily Euophryinae. Zhang & Maddison (2015) tried to clarify generic limits of this subfamily using both molecular and morphological data. Unfortunately, they could not always find clear morphological characters to justify generic limits and some taxonomic decisions depended solely on molecular data (Zhang & Maddison 2015). Further study of *Corythalia bonairensis* might show that our provisional placement in *Corythalia* is incorrect and that it should be moved to another genus.

Hentzia antillana Bryant, 1940

New for Bonaire. Caribbean species (Richman 1989), recently found on the island Ascension

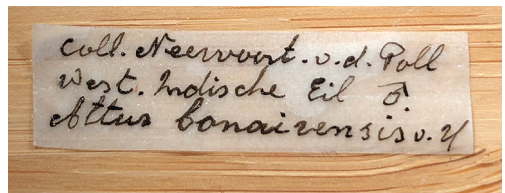


Figure 1. Label of holotype of *Attus bonairensis* Van Hasselt, 1887, currently *Corythalia bonairensis* (Van Hasselt, 1887). Photo Steven IJland.

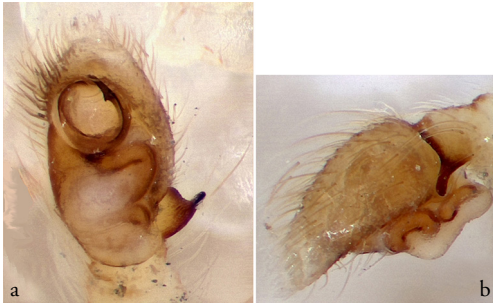


Figure 2. *Corythalia bonairensis* (Van Hasselt, 1887) comb. nov. (holotype, RMNH.ARA.5983), male, palp, a. dorsal, b. retrolateral. Photo Steven IJland.

(Sherwood & Sharp 2023), probably transported by ship. It might be that this species arrived at Bonaire by ship too.

Menemerus bivittatus (Dufour, 1831)

An African species, introduced to North, Central and South America, southern Europe, Turkey, India, China, Taiwan, Japan, Australia and Pacific Islands (World Spider Catalog 2023). New for Bonaire.

cf. *Chapoda* spec.

One male of a euophryine spider has been collected which is tentatively assigned to the genus *Chapoda* G.W. Peckham & E.G. Peckham, 1896.



Figure 3. *Corythalia bonairensis* (Van Hasselt, 1887) comb. nov. (holotype, RMNH.ARA.5983), male, habitus, a. dorsal, b. ventral. Photo Steven IJland.

Segestriidae

No Segestriidae species were found on Bonaire previously. During the BEE two different species were found which could not be identified.

Ariadna spec. 1 and spec. 2

The genus *Ariadna* is a very species rich genus in the Neotropics and recently numerous new species have been described (Grismado 2008, Giroti & Brescovit 2018). On Bonaire no species of the genus *Ariadna* were found previously. In 2022 and 2023 several specimens of *Ariadna* were found using pitfall traps. Most specimens were juvenile, but two were adults belonging to different species. None of them matched with known species and it seems likely that both are undescribed.

Tetragnathidae

Two species of Tetragnathidae were known from Bonaire, one of these is removed from the checklist in this paper. Three species of Tetragnathidae were found during the BEE.

Leucauge argyrobapta (White, 1841)

Crews et al. (2019) reported *Leucauge venusta* (Walckenaer, 1841) from Bonaire. Its sister species *Leucauge argyrobapta* (White, 1841) was recently removed from synonymy with *L. venusta* (Ballesteros & Hormiga 2018). They showed *L. venusta* to be a northern species, occurring in the USA, and *L. argyrobapta* to be a southern species, occurring from Florida to Brazil, with very little geographic overlap. The conclusions were based on sequences from one nuclear (ITS2) and one mitochondrial marker (COI). Although there is a considerable genetic distance between the two species, they are very similar morphologically. Ballesteros & Hormiga (2018) state that *L. argyrobapta* and *L. venusta* can be distinguished based on the shape of the conductor. Several males were collected on Bonaire which, judged on the shape of the conductor, belong to *L. venusta*. As Bonaire is well outside the geographical range of *L. venusta*,

we had the marker COI barcoded for one male and one female to verify if the identification was correct. We found a clear match with *L. argyrobapta* in the database of BOLD systems, with 99.85 % match for the female and 100 % match for the male. We therefore conclude that *L. argyrobapta* occurs on Bonaire, and that previous records of *L. venusta* are misidentifications. *Leucauge venusta* should be removed from the checklists of Bonaire and Curaçao until occurrence is confirmed by barcodes. This also shows that the morphological character mentioned in Ballesteros & Hormiga (2018) easily leads to misidentifications. The male palp of the barcoded specimen is given in figure 4.

Tetragnatha nitens (Audouin, 1826)

A species from tropical and subtropical Asia. It has been introduced to the Americas, Macaronesia, the mediterranean area, South Africa, Madagascar, Pacific islands and New Zealand (World Spider Catalog 2024). It is also known from Curaçao. This species is new to Bonaire.

Tetragnatha spec.

A female *Tetragnatha* was collected that could not be assigned to any of the described species from the region.



Figure 4. *Leucauge argyrobapta*, male, palp, retrolateral, Bonaire. Photo Steven IJland.

Thomisidae

Before the BEE, one species of Thomisidae was known from Bonaire. In total, three species were found during the BEE, of which one could not be identified.

Tmarus ineptus Pickard-Cambridge, 1892

This species is known from the South American mainland (Colombia and Panama) and from Curaçao (Crews et al. 2019, Roqueme 2020). This is the first record for Bonaire.

Xysticus spec.

No *Xysticus* species are known from Bonaire. During the BEE, several juvenile specimens were collected across the island. No adults were collected. Hence, the specimens could not be identified to species level.

Xenoctenidae

No species of this family were known from Bonaire. During the BEE, one species was collected.

Odo spec.

The genus *Odo* is a species rich genus in the Americas. During recent decades several new species have been described and redescribed from South America (Garcia 1995, 2002, Baert 2009, Taucare-Rios & Brescovit 2012), but a full revision of the genus is not available. Nevertheless, it is clear that the specimen collected in Bonaire does not match with any of the described species and it is probably an undescribed species.

DISCUSSION

This paper adds 20 species to the list of spiders occurring on Bonaire, increasing the number of described species known from Bonaire to 47. In addition, 26 taxa that could not reliably be identified to species or even genus level are

known from Bonaire, several of which are likely species new to science. No systemic survey efforts have been undertaken to assess the spider diversity of Bonaire. It is likely that dedicated fieldwork could result in a species number well above 100.

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Table 1. Checklist of identified spiders of Bonaire, a. Van Hasselt (1887b), b. Werner (1925), c. Crews et al. (2019), d. this paper.

Family	Species	Reference
Anyphaenidae	<i>Anyphaenoides irusa</i> Brescovit, 1992	c, d
Araneidae	<i>Argiope argentata</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	a, c, d
Araneidae	<i>Cyclosa turbinata</i> (Walckenaer, 1841)	d
Araneidae	<i>Eriophora edax</i> (Blackwall, 1863)	c
Araneidae	<i>Eustala guttata</i> Pickard-Cambridge, 1904	c, d
Araneidae	<i>Larinia directa</i> (Hentz, 1847)	c
Araneidae	<i>Metepeira compsa</i> (Chamberlin, 1916)	c, d
Araneidae	<i>Nephila clavipes</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	b
Corinnidae	<i>Creugas gulosus</i> Thorell, 1878	c, d
Corinnidae	<i>Falconina melloi</i> (Schenkel, 1953)	c, d
Dictynidae	<i>Dictyna meditata</i> Gertsch, 1936	c, d
Dictynidae	<i>Thallumetus simoni</i> Gertsch, 1945	d
Filistatidae	<i>Kukulcania hibernalis</i> (Hentz, 1842)	b
Gnaphosidae	<i>Apopyllus now</i> Platnick & Shadab, 1984	d
Linyphiidae	<i>Erigone barrowsi</i> Crosby & Bishop, 1928	d
Linyphiidae	<i>Tennesseellum formica</i> (Emerton, 1882)	d
Mimetidae	<i>Mimetus variegatus</i> Chickering, 1956	d
Oonopidae	<i>Escaphiella itys</i> (Simon, 1893)	d
Oxyopidae	<i>Oxyopes salticus</i> Hentz, 1845	d
Philodromidae	<i>Philodromus traviatus</i> Banks, 1929	c
Pholcidae	<i>Modisimus repens</i> Huber, 2020	d
Pholcidae	<i>Modisimus culicinus</i> (Simon, 1893)	d
Salticidae	<i>Corythalia bonairensis</i> (Van Hasselt, 1887)	a
Salticidae	<i>Hentzia antillana</i> Bryant, 1940	d
Salticidae	<i>Menemerus bivittatus</i> (Dufour, 1831)	d
Salticidae	<i>Metacryba taeniola</i> (Hentz, 1846)	a
Salticidae	<i>Plexippus paykulli</i> (Audouin, 1826)	b
Scytodidae	<i>Scytodes fusca</i> Walckenaer, 1837	b
Scytodidae	<i>Scytodes lineatipes</i> Taczanowski, 1874	c
Selenopidae	<i>Selenops curazao</i> Alayón-García, 2001	c, d
Sparassidae	<i>Heteropoda venatoria</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	b
Tetragnathidae	<i>Leucauge argyra</i> (Walckenaer, 1841)	c
Tetragnathidae	<i>Leucauge argyrobapta</i> (White, 1841)	d
Tetragnathidae	<i>Tetragnatha nitens</i> (Audouin, 1826)	d
Theridiidae	<i>Anelosimus studiosus</i> (Hentz, 1850)	c
Theridiidae	<i>Coleosoma floridanum</i> Banks, 1900	d
Theridiidae	<i>Cryptachaea hirta</i> (Taczanowski, 1873)	c, d
Theridiidae	<i>Faiditus caudatus</i> (Taczanowski, 1874)	c
Theridiidae	<i>Latrodectus curacaviensis</i> (Müller, 1776)	a, c
Theridiidae	<i>Latrodectus geometricus</i> Koch, 1841	d
Theridiidae	<i>Latrodectus mactans</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	b
Theridiidae	<i>Platnickina adamsoni</i> (Berland, 1934)	d
Theridiidae	<i>Theridion dilucidum</i> Simon, 1898	d
Theridiidae	<i>Wamba crispulus</i> (Simon, 1895)	d
Thomisidae	<i>Misumenops maculisparsus</i> (Keyserling, 1891)	c, d
Thomisidae	<i>Tmarus ineptus</i> Pickard-Cambridge, 1892	d
Zodariidae	<i>Antillorena polli</i> (Simon, 1887)	a, d

Table 2. List of unidentified spiders from Bonaire. b. Werner (1925), c. Crews et al. (2019), d. this paper.

Family	Species	Reference
Dictynidae	<i>Dictyna</i> spec.	d
Gnaphosidae	<i>Camillina</i> spec.	d
Gnaphosidae	Echeminae spec.	c
Linyphiidae	<i>Moyosi</i> spec.	c
Linyphiidae	<i>Tutaibo</i> spec.	d
Linyphiidae	spec.	d
Lycosidae	<i>Allocosa</i> spec.	d
Lycosidae	<i>Trochosa</i> spec.	d
Lycosidae	cf. <i>Trochosa arctosina</i>	c
Pholcidae	<i>Papiamenta</i> spec. nov.	c, d
Salticidae	Amycini spec. 1	d
Salticidae	cf. <i>Chapoda</i>	d
Salticidae	Dendryphantinae <i>Gastromicans</i> group spec. 1	c
Salticidae	Dendryphantinae <i>Gastromicans</i> group spec. 2	c
Salticidae	Dendryphantinae <i>Gastromicans</i> group spec. 3	c
Salticidae	Euophryinae spec.	c
Salticidae	<i>Freyia</i> spec.	b
Salticidae	cf. <i>Triggella</i> spec. 1	c
Salticidae	<i>Hentzia</i> spec.	c
Salticidae	<i>Tomis</i> spec. (as <i>Pseudattulus</i>)	c
Segestriidae	<i>Ariadna</i> spec. 1	d
Segestriidae	<i>Ariadna</i> spec. 2	d
Sicariidae	<i>Loxosceles</i> spec.	d
Tetragnathidae	<i>Tetragnatha</i> spec.	d
Thomisidae	<i>Xysticus</i> spec.	d
Xenoctenidae	<i>Odo</i> spec.	c, d

SAMENVATTING

Nieuwe naamlijst van de spinnen van Bonaire (Araneae)

Gebaseerd op materiaal dat werd verzameld tijdens de Bonaire Estafette Expeditie (2022-2023) worden 20 spinnensoorten vastgesteld en besproken als nieuw voor Bonaire. Gecombineerd met eerdere gepubliceerde gegevens wordt hier een nieuwe checklist van de spinnenfauna van Bonaire gepresenteerd. Deze omvat 47 soorten en 26 taxa die niet tot op soort of zelfs niet tot op genus konden worden gedetermineerd. *Attus bonairensis* nom. dub. wordt in ere hersteld als *Corythalia bonairensis* comb. nov. Het voorkomen van *Leucauge argyrobapta* op Bonaire wordt bevestigd en meldingen van *L. venusta* (Walckenaer, 1841) worden beschouwd als misidentificaties.

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