

FAMILIAR FACE, NEW DESTINATION: FIRST RECORDS OF THE INVASIVE SPIDER *CREUGAS GULOSUS* THORELL, 1878 ON ASCENSION ISLAND (ARANEAE: CORINNIDAE)

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Abstract : *Creugas gulosus* Thorell, 1878 is formally recorded from Ascension Island for the first time. Previously, this species had been recorded, misidentified under two other generic names, in two published works. Its true identity is established herein.

Key words: Araneae, Corinnidae, non-native, records, South Atlantic Ocean, Ascension Island.

Rostro familiar, nuevo destino: primeros registros de la araña invasora *Creugas gulosus* Thorell, 1878 en la Isla de Ascensión (Araneae: Corinnidae)

Resumen: *Creugas gulosus* Thorell, 1878 se registra formalmente por primera vez en la isla de Ascensión. Previamente, esta especie había sido registrada, mal identificada bajo otros dos nombres genéricos, en dos trabajos publicados. Los verdadera identidad se establece aquí.

Palabras clave: Araneae, Corinnidae, introducida, registros, Océano Atlántico Sur, Isla de Ascensión.

Introduction

Creugas gulosus Thorell, 1878 is a widespread cosmopolitan corinnid spider, initially described from Senegal (Thorell, 1878). Outside of the Afrotropical region it has been recorded from 25 countries (Bonaldo, 2000; World Spider Catalog, 2023), namely: Australia, the Bahamas, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Japan, Marquesas Islands, Mexico, Myanmar, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Samoa, St John, St Maarten, St Thomas, St Kitts, US Virgin Islands and Venezuela. Within the Afrotropical region, *C. gulosus* is known from Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Nigeria, Réunion Island, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and the Seychelles (Haddad, 2020).

Duffey (1964) recorded the family Corinnidae Karsch, 1880 from Ascension Island, citing one species: '*Corinna* sp.' without precise details of its locality on the island. Hitherto, this precise identity of this species has not been established. The senior author recently examined and recurated the Duffey collection of spiders from Ascension Island housed at the Natural History Museum, London in its entirety. Furthermore, recent samples collected and held on Ascension Island were also sent to the author and contained corinnids, including a specimen from Spoon Crater previously identified as a possible species of *Brachyphaea* Simon 1895 by the late John Murphy, reported in Ashmole & Ashmole (1997).

In this work, we establish that the corinnid species on Ascension Island is *C. gulosus*, a new locality record, provide illustrations of an adult female, and map the distribution of this species in the Afrotropical region.

Material and methods

Specimens were examined under a binocular stereomicroscope. Images were made by the senior author using a Canon EOS 6D Mark II attached to a Leica MZ12.5 stereomicroscope, with images stacked using Helicon Focus software. Abbreviations: ASC = Ascension Island Conservation collection, Georgetown, Ascension Island (it is intended in the future that the ASC invertebrate collection will be donated and moved to the Saint Helena National Trust, Jamestown, Saint Helena); BMNH = Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom; coll. = collector; colln. = collection; det. = determined by; MMUE = Manchester Museum, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Results

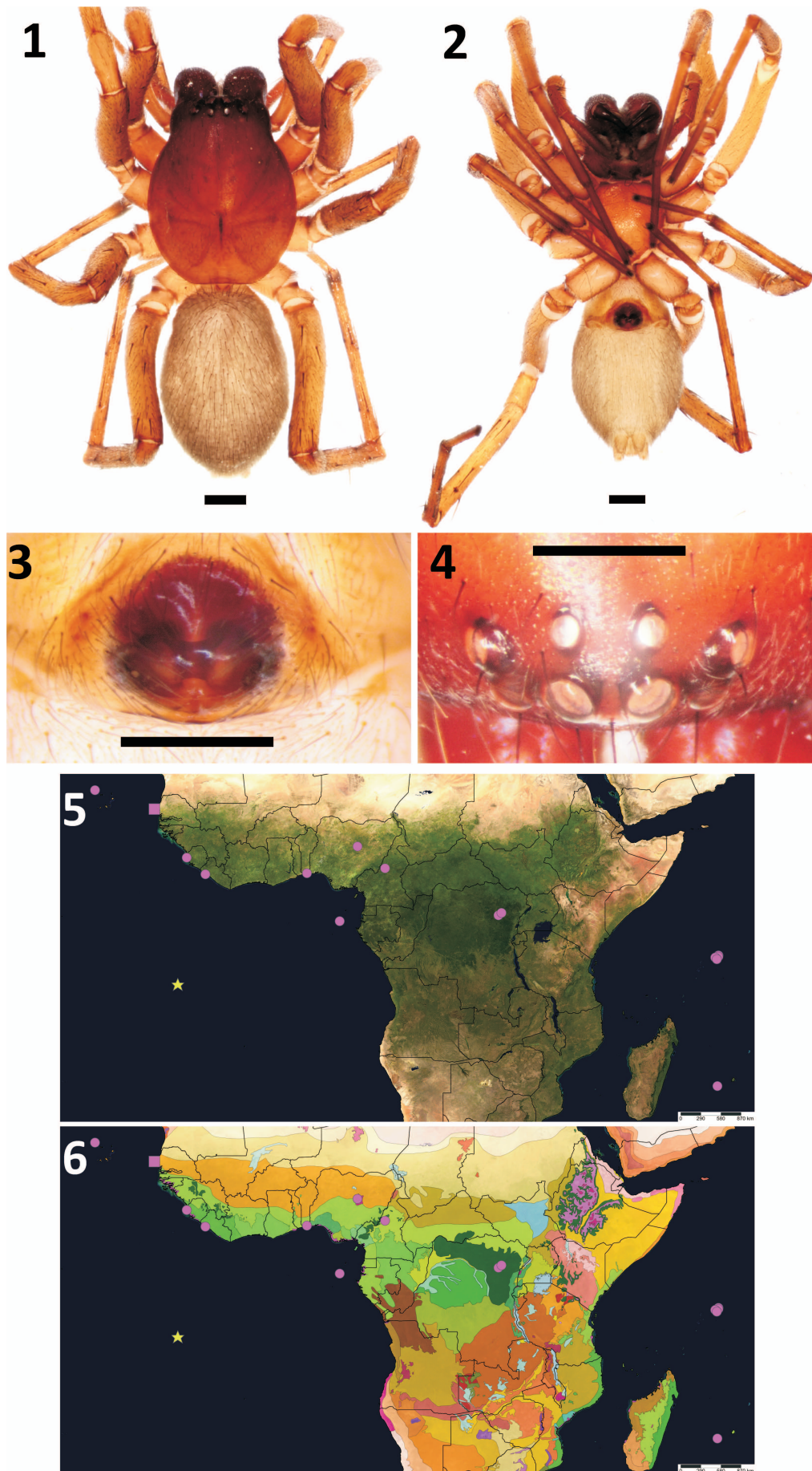
Creugas gulosus Thorell, 1878

Creugas gulosus Thorell, 1878: 175.

For full synonymy list, see WSC (2023).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 1 ♀ (BMNH), Ascension Island, collected between August–November 1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, *Creugas gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 09/07/23; 1 imm. ♂ (BMNH), Ascension Island, collected between August–November 1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, *Creugas gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 09/07/23; 1 imm. (BMNH), Ascension Island, collected between August–November 1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, *Creugas gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 09/07/23; 1 imm. ♂, 1 ♀ (ASC CG CAVE PF), Chapel Grotto Cave [-7.955755, -14.40235], Intermediate Zr/Nb mafic flow with abundant invasive Mexican Thorn (*Prosopis juliflora*), 114 m a.s.l., pitfall trap filled with Turquin's liquid, in dark zone of cave, 31/03/2023, coll. A. Sharp, *Creugas gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 09/07/23; 1 imm. ♂ (ASC CH CAVE PF), Command Hill Cave [-7.96052, -14.39495], Intermediate Zr/Nb mafic flow with abundant invasive Mexican Thorn (*Prosopis juliflora*), 136 m a.s.l., pitfall trap filled with Turquin's liquid, in dark zone of cave, 24/03/2023, coll. A. Sharp, *Creugas gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 09/07/23; 1 ♀ (MMUE G7572.13474), Spoon Crater, Ascension Island, 03/06/1995, coll. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole, ASC 1121, J. Murphy and F. Murphy colln., 23862, 'Corinnidae epig. near *Brachyphaea* sp.', det. J.A.M. [= John A. Murphy], 1996, *C. gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 14/07/23; 1 ♀ (ASC CH CAVE OPP1), Command Hill Cave [-7.96052, -14.39495], collected by hand, 08/07/2020, coll. A. Sharp, *Creugas gulosus* det. D. Sherwood 11/09/23; 1 imm. ♀ (ASC L16 1 PFM), Ascension Island [-7.94, -14.33] pitfall trap baited with meat, habitat: trachyte and rhyolite flows and domes, 24/02/2022, coll. A Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC L16 1 PFF), [same data except baited with fish].

REMARKS: The correct identification of *C. gulosus* specimens in the collections of ASC (Figs. 1–4) and BMNH allows us to confirm that *C. gulosus* reached this extremely isolated island in the South Atlantic Ocean (Figs. 5–6). This is not unsurprising, given its presence in Sao Tomé and Príncipe, but it is interesting to note this species has not been recorded from its closest island neighbour, Saint Helena (Ashmole & Ashmole, 2000; DS pers. obs.).



Figs. 1–4: *Creguas gulosus* Thorell, 1878 female from Ascension Island, 1 habitus, dorsal view, 2 habitus, ventral view, 3 epigyne, ventral view, 4 eyes, dorsal view. Scale bars = 1mm. **Figs. 5–6:** Map showing the distribution of *Creguas gulosus* Thorell, 1870. 5 blue marble, 6 ecoregional overlay (*sensu* Dinerstein *et al.*, 2017). Pink square = type locality, pink circles = previous records from other localities, yellow star = new record, reported herein.

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