Fundación Miguel Lillo
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Annotated checklist of the spiders of Ascension Island with new faunistic records, including three newly recorded non-native species (Araneae: Araneomorphae)

Lista anotada de las arañas de la Isla Ascensión con nuevos registros faunísticos, incluidas tres especies no nativas recientemente registradas (Araneae: Araneomorphae)

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Abstract

A checklist of the spiders of Ascension Island is given, with new faunistic records for one family, five genera, and three species-level taxa. For the latter, *Oecobius marathaus* Tikader, 1962 (Oecobiidae), and *Scytodes velutina* Heineken & Lowe, 1832 and *S. univittata* Simon, 1882 (both Scytodidae) are recorded. Seven genera recorded from the island by prior workers based on indeterminable immature material are expunged from the list due to lack of evidence. In total, 38 genera and 41 species,

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accommodated in 22 families, are recognised as valid taxa on Ascension. Of these, only 1 genus and 5 species are considered possibly or probably endemic, meaning 99.97% of genera and 87.81% of species are non-endemic.

Keywords: Atlantic Ocean, distribution, museums, spider.

Resumen

Se presenta una lista de las arañas de la Isla Ascensión, con nuevos registros faunísticos para una familia, cinco géneros y tres taxones a nivel de especie. Para estos últimos, se registran *Oecobius marathaus* Tikader, 1962 (Oecobiidae), y *Scytodes velutina* Heineken & Lowe, 1832 y *S. univittata* Simon, 1882 (ambos Scytodidae). Siete géneros registrados en la isla por investigadores anteriores basados en material inmaduro indeterminable se eliminan de la lista debido a la falta de evidencia. En total, 38 géneros y 41 especies, acomodadas en 22 familias, se reconocen como taxones válidos en Ascensión. De estos, solo 1 género y 5 especies se consideran posible o probablemente endémicos, lo que significa que el 99,97% de los géneros y el 87,81% de las especies no son endémicas.

Palabras clave: Océano Atlántico, distribución, museos, araña.

INTRODUCTION

The spiders of Ascension Island have received renewed attention (Sherwood and Sharp, 2023a-c; Sherwood et al., 2023a–d, 2024a–d) after an initial period of attention in the 1990s (Millidge and Ashmole, 1994; Merrett and Ashmole, 1997; Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997). Spiders were also recorded by Dahl (1892), Banks (1893), Strand (1909), Cooke (1964), and Duffey (1964), although all of these works except Cooke (1964) dealt only briefly with this order. Cooke (1964) produced a world revision of the Prodidomidae, including two new species from Ascension. Prior to 2023, only Strand (1909) and Millidge and Ashmole (1994) had also described new species. The latter work described *Catonetria caeca* Millidge and Ashmole, 1994 from both sexes but unfortunately the female they described was immature, with the adult being described by Merrett and Ashmole (1997). One of the two species described from Ascension by Strand (1907) namely *Zelotes ascensionensis* Strand, 1907 was treated as a *nomen dubium* by Fitzpatrick (2007). Thus, by 2022, only four valid local species were recognised: *C. caeca* (Linyphiidae), *Opopaea euphorbicola* Strand, 1909 (Oonopidae), and *Prodidomus clarki* Cooke, 1964 and *P. duffeyi* Cooke, 1964 (Prodidiomidae).

In this work, we present our completed checklist of spiders from Ascension, publishing the remaining faunistic data that was not relevant to previous papers which were focused primarily on clarifying the taxonomic status of dubious and new species. Following the recent checklists of the scorpions (Sherwood et al., 2024e) and pseudoscorpions (Sherwood et al., 2024f) of Ascension, the current contribution leaves the Acari as the single arachnid group without up-to-date inventory on Ascension Island.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Synonymy lists contain Ascension references only; citations therein of Duffey (1964) and Ashmole and Ashmole (1997) refer to the checklists at the end of their works, for some salticids and other spiders they also provide brief ecological notes in their respective main texts. Only names found in published papers are considered in synonymy lists, unpublished names in electronic databases and written correspondence are not available under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999) and are entirely omitted. Immature specimens not identifiable below the genus or family levels are not included here, their data can be obtained upon request to the senior author. Where GPS data is available, it is given; almost all material of Duffey (1964) except that known to have been collected on Boatswain Bird Island, is unlocalised and has the simple locality of "Ascension Island". Photographs 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. Specimen numbers are given where known. Abbreviations of institutions: ASC = Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate, Georgetown, Ascension Island; MMUE = Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, United Kingdom; NHMUK = Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom. Authors' emphases in [ ].

RESULTS

Agelenidae C. L. Koch, 1837

Tegenaria domestica (Clerck, 1757)

Tegenaria domestica: Duffey, 1964: 250.

Tegenaria domestica: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC), GMSH, 02.VIII.19, no other data; 1♀ (ASC), GM, 16.VIII.19, no other data; 1 imm. (ASC WR EPS NAT), Ascension Island, -7.95208, -14.34007, 758 m, 25/04/2023, coll. A. Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC EP3 CTRL 1B), Ascension Island, -7.95566, -14.34507, 559 m, 28/06/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC EP3 PTE 2Y), Ascension Island, -7.95566, -14.34507, 559 m, 28/06/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂, 2♀ (NHMUK)

Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 112; 1 imm. ♂, 1♀, 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 76; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 72; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 2; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 133; 1 imm. ♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 102; 2 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 106; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 44; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 25; 4 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 129; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 4; 2 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 87; 1 imm. ♂, 1♀, 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 84.

Anyphaenidae Bertkau, 1878
***Hibana ascensionensis* Sherwood, Marusik, Sharp and Wilkins, 2024**
Hibana ascensionensis Sherwood et al., 2024d: 1139, figs. 1A–F, 2A–H, 3A–G, 4A–D, 5A–D (mf).

New material examined.— 1♂, 2♀, 3 imm. (ASC S500), War Path, Ascension Island, -7.957918, -14.343908, elevation 500m, Bermuda pine, 26/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀, 1 imm. (ASC NE550), Scouts Campsite, Ascension Island, -7.945305, -14.339148, elevation 550m, Bermuda pine, 02/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC NE600), North East Cottage, Ascension Island, -7.946701, -14.341985, elevation 600m, mixed woodland, eucalyptus, 16/08/2022, coll. A Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC NW450), Mountain Road, Ascension Island, -7.944658,-14.357569, elevation 450m, mixed woodland, 09/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 2 imm. (ASC mth600), Green Mountain, Ascension Island, elevation 600m, collected by hand, coll. N. Williams; 1 imm. (ASC SEWHH11/12), White Horse Hill, Ascension Island, -7.9481, -14.3118, November 2012, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. (ASC NW500), Mountain Road, Ascension Island, -7.945132, -14.356845, elevation 500m, mixed woodland, 09/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— For full diagnosis, description, and details of previously examined specimens, see Sherwood et al. (2024b). Only newly examined specimens are given above.

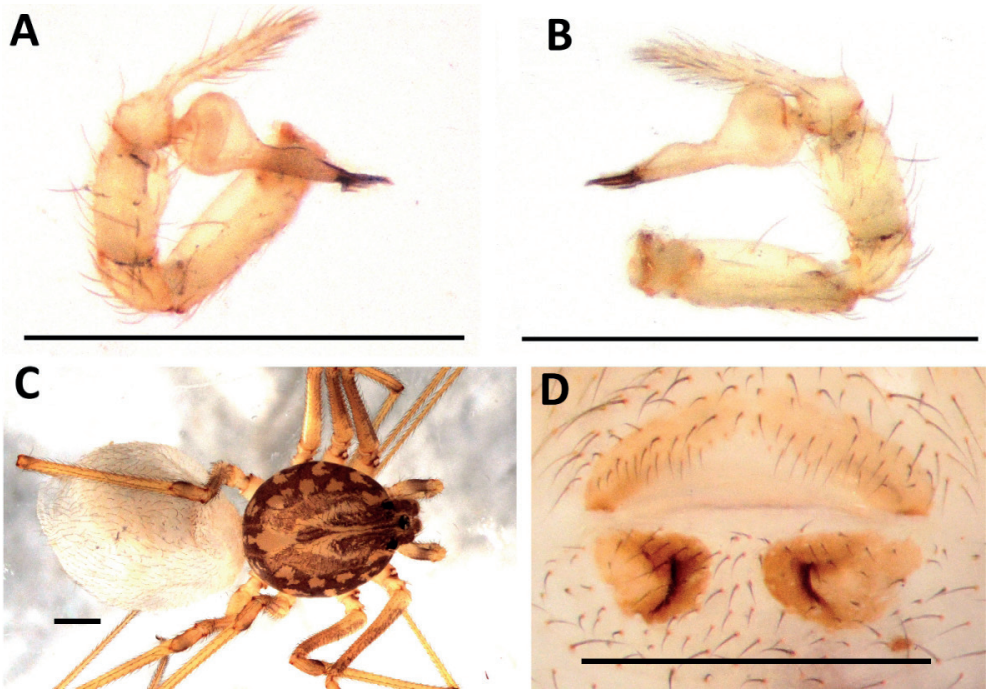

Figure 1. *Scytodes velutina* Heineken & Lowe, 1832 male (ASC H12 1 PFM) and *Scytodes univittata* Simon, 1882 female (ASC H12 1 PFM), from Ascension Island. A) Male palp, prolateral view, B) Idem, retrolateral view, C) Female habitus, dorsal view, D) Female epigyne (undissected), ventral view. Scale bars = 1 mm. Both specimens are found in the same tube.

Araneidae Clerck, 1757

***Neoscona moreli* (Vinson, 1863)**

Epeira [sp. *adianta*-group, aff. *moreli*]: Dahl, 1892: 206.

Araneus theisi: Duffey, 1964: 250 (misidentification).

Araneus theisi: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC I17 3 HPF), Ascension Island, -7.950638, -14.35274, 659 m, 28/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂, 1 imm. ♂ (ASC I17 3 SN), Ascension Island, -7.950638, -14.35274, 659 m, 25/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC), Elliots Path, 1.IV.20, no other data; 1♀ (ASC), GMSH, 03.VII.20, no other data; 1♀ (ASC), Zigzag, 16.IV.20, no other data; 1 imm. (ASC 0507), Comfortless Cove, -7.912300761130076, -14.401603363984522, 01/08/2012, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. (ASC), GMSH, 01.VIII.19, no other data; 3 imm. (ASC), Ascension Island, -7.949012, -14.354728, 540 m, 25/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 2 imm. (ASC), Ascension Island, -7.950638, -14.35274, 659 m, 25/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC), Ascension Island, -7.949012, -14.354728, 540 m, 25/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1 imm. (ASC), Ascension Island, -7.950638, -14.35274, 659 m, 28/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— Dahl (1892: 206) discusses this species quite astutely, noting it was allied to *N. moreli* [then *Epeira moreli*] but not going so far as to provide a robust species-level identification: "Sie gehort zur *Epeira adianta*-Gruppe und scheint mit der afrikanischen *E. moreli* Vinson nahe verwandt zu sein." Duffey (1964) reported *Neoscona theisi* (Walckenaer, 1841) [as *Araneus theisi*] from Ascension Island but we found no specimens in NHMUK; we have examined a variety of specimens from across the island and only *N. moreli* was found, thus it seems safe to assume Duffey's specimens were misidentified, and perhaps that Duffey only identified his specimens visually. In addition to the material listed here, we also examined other immature specimens likely of this species, but which are too young to be certain of the identification (i.e. not having attained the distinctive colour pattern of adults). These *Neoscona* sp. indet. are not included here.

Clubionidae Simon, 1878

***Clubiona hitchinsi* (Saaristo, 2002)**

Clubiona [sp.]: Dahl, 1892: 207.

Clubiona sp. aff. *vachoni*: Duffey, 1964: 250 (misidentification).

Clubiona spp. (2): Duffey, 1964: 250 (misidentification).

Clubiona spp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).

Clubiona hitchinsi: Sherwood et al., 2023a: 834, figs. 1A-F, 2A-C, 3A-B, 4A-C, 5A–D (mf).

New material examined.— 1♂, 1♀, 1 imm. (ASC S500), War Path, Ascension Island, -7.957918, -14.343908, elevation 500m, Bermuda pine, 26/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂, 1 imm. (ASC NW550), Mountain Road, Ascension Island, -7.948184, -14.355038, elevation 550m, mixed woodland, 09/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC NE550), Scouts Campsite, Ascension Island, -7.945305, -14.339148, elevation 550m, Bermuda pine, 02/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC NE450), Slimey Wall, Ascension Island -7.941365, -14.336895, elevation 450m, habitat: algae, guava, 09/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— For full diagnosis, description, and details of previously examined specimens, see Sherwood et al. (2023a, 2024d). Only newly examined specimens are given above. Two additional clubionid immatures were examined in NHMUK and are likely this species, but are too young to be sure of the identification and are thus not included in the previously cited work nor here.

Corinnidae Karsch, 1880
***Creugas gulosus* Thorell, 1878**
Corinna sp.: Duffey, 1964: 251 (misidentification).
Corinna sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).
?*Nodocion* sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).
Creugas gulosus: Sherwood and Sharp, 2023c: 30, figs. 1–4 (♀).

Remarks.— See Sherwood and Sharp (2023b). We also examined two immature corinnids in NHMUK from the Duffey collection which are not included in that work nor here, as they are too immature to be morphologically sure of the identification. Nonetheless, they probably do correspond to this species.

Dictynidae O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871
***Thallumetus ascensionensis* Sherwood, Marusik, Peñaherrera-R., Calderón-C. and Sharp, 2024**
Thallumetus ascensionensis Sherwood et al., 2024c: 1052, figs. 1A–I, 2A–G, 3A–D, 4A–H (mf).

Remarks.— For full diagnosis, description, and details, see Sherwood et al. (2024c).

Dysderidae C. L. Koch, 1837
***Dysdera crocata* C. L. Koch, 1838**
Dysdera crocata: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Dysdera crocata: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 577.

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC WR EPS NAT), Ascension Island, -7.95208, -14.34007, 758 m, 25/04/2023, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC G MIN SH PTE 2B), Green Mountain shade house, base of *Pteris adscensionis* plants, 2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1 imm.♀ (ASC), Scouts Path, 28.I.20, no other data; 1♀ (NHMUK), Boatswain Bird Island, Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube 62; 1 imm ♂, 2♀ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube 44; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube 76; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube 70; 2♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube 86; 2♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube 95; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube 2018; 3♂, 1♀, 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube 106; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube 25; 2♀, 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube 1; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube 3; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube 84; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube 102; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube 4.

Filistatidae Ausserer, 1867

***Kukulcania hibernalis* (Hentz, 1842)**

Kukulcania hibernalis: Sherwood et al., 2023b: 206, figs. 1–5 (♂).

Remarks.— Recorded from the island by Sherwood et al. (2023b) who also discussed the spread of this non-native species across the globe.

Gnaphosidae Banks, 1892

The Gnaphosidae of Ascension Island were revised by Sherwood et al. (2023d) to which readers are referred for full details of specimens examined. The "... noch zwei andere Drassiden gefunden" of Dahl (1892: 207) could refer to any of the gnaphosids on Ascension Island. Five species are recorded:

***Australoechemus vickyae* Sherwood, Marusik, Sharp and Ashmole, 2023**

Drassus [sp.]: Dahl, 1892: 207 (misidentification).
Drassodes sp.: Duffey, 1964: 250 (misidentification).
Drassodinae indet.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).
Australoechemus vickyae Sherwood et al., 2023d: 293, figs. 1A–D, 2A–D, 3A–C, 4A–D (mf).

***Marinarozelotes jaxartensis* (Kroneberg, 1875)**

Camillina acanthognathus: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Trachyzelotes jaxartensis: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.
Marinarozelotes jaxartensis: Sherwood et al., 2023d: 298.

***Synaphosus syntheticus* (Chamberlin, 1924)**

Synaphosus syntheticus: Sherwood et al., 2023d: 298, figs. 5A–D (mf).

***Urozelotes rusticus* (L. Koch, 1872)**

Zelotes rusticus: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Urozelotes rusticus: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.
Urozelotes rusticus: Sherwood et al., 2023d: 300.

***Zelotes laetus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)**

Zelotes laetus: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.
Zelotes laetus: Sherwood et al., 2023d: 300.

Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859
***Agyneta* sp. indet.**

Material examined.— 1♀ (ASC 117 2 SN), Ascension Island, -7.941495, -14.368996, 246 m, 08/03/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— The only well-preserved adult linyphiid known from the island. Females of this genus are impossible to identify to species level based on morphology alone (A. Tanasevitch pers. comm.) and presenting figures of the epigyne would thus be of no value. The identity of this species can be confirmed upon collection of conspecific males.

***Catonetria caeca* Millidge and Ashmole 1994**
Catonetria caeca: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Remarks.— First recorded by Millidge and Ashmole (1994) but the adult female was undescribed until the work of Merrett and Ashmole (1997). No new specimens have been collected.

***Lepthyphantes* sp. indet.**
Lepthyphantes sp.: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Lepthyphantes sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC), Ascension Island, -7.939099, -14.365941, 315 m, 08/03/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— A single badly preserved male was collected on a sticky trap, with almost all appendages missing. The palp present indicates it belongs to *Lepthyphantes s.l.* (A. Tanasevitch pers. comm.) but is badly damaged, and thus of little value to figure here. The identity of this species can be confirmed upon collection of a better-preserved male and conspecific females. Duffey (1964) also recorded "*Lepthyphantes* sp." (see also Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997) which is presumably specimen(s) of the same morphospecies, no specimens were found in the Duffey collection at NHMUK during this work.

Sicariidae Keyserling, 1880
***Loxosceles rufescens* (Dufour, 1820)**
Loxosceles rufescens: Duffey, 1964: 250.

Loxosceles rufescens: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1 imm (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 93; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except

tube number 92; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 128; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 131.

Remarks.— We only examined juveniles of this species, but it is common on nearby Saint Helena where we have examined adult specimens.

Lycosidae Sundevall, 1833
***Pardosa clavipalpis* Purcell, 1903**
Lycosa sp.?: Banks, 1893: 586 (misidentification).
Pardosa inopina clavipalpis: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Pardosa inopina: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).

Material examined.— 1♀ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 53; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 87; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 126; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 108; 1♂, 1 imm. ♂, 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 19; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 64; 3♂, 2 imm. ♂, 3♀, 3 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 34; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 12; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 26; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 16; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 22; 1 imm. ♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 63.

Remarks.— *Pardosa clavipalpis* is presumed extinct on Ascension Island, having not been seen again since the end of the 1950s. It was likely introduced on boats from South Africa, although it is notable that this species did not establish on neighbouring Saint Helena, despite frequent shipping activity. This species is still present in South Africa (DS pers. obs.) and will be redescribed in an upcoming revision of African pardosines (Russell-Smith and Sherwood in prep.).

Oecobiidae Blackwall, 1862
***Oecobius navus* Blackwall, 1859**
Oecobius annulipes: Duffey, 1964: 250 (misidentification).
Oecobius annulipes: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC 00827), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 18/10/12, coll. L. F. White; 6♂ (ASC 01047, 01055, 01060, and 01067), White Horse Hill, Ascension Island -7.9481, -14.3118, 11/12/2013, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00902), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 21/11/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00114), Ascension Island, -7.978102948, -14.3947483, 25/05/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00490), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 26/07/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♀ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 85.

Remarks.— In the tube containing numbers ASC 01047, ASC 01055, ASC 01060, and ASC 01067, there are six specimens so two either two accession numbers are missing or assigned wrongly elsewhere. This is noted here for completeness but will be resolved at a later point when the collection undergoes accession numbering at an undetermined future date.

Oecobius marathaus Tikader, 1962

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC 01505), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 25/04/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂, 1 imm. ♂ (ASC 01698 and 01709), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 29/05/13, coll. L. F. White; 2♂ (ASC 01214 and 01219), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 28/02/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00602), Ascension Island, -7.912300761, -14.40160336, 30/08/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00465), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 19/07/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 01868), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 27/06/13, coll. L. F. White; 2♂ (ASC 00214 and 00223), Ascension Island, -7.978102948, -14.3947483, 07/06/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 01147), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 08/02/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00490), Ascension Island, -7.948188528,-14.31186706, 26/07/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 01005), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 06/12/12, coll. L. F. White; 2♂ (ASC 01357 and 01370), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 28/03/13, coll. L. F. White; 2♂ (ASC 01234 and 01257), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 08/03/13, coll. L. F. White; 3♂ (ASC 01638, 01647 and 01675), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 23/05/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00750), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 11/10/12, coll. L. F. White.

Remarks.— New to Ascension, although its presence is unsurprising since it was recently newly recorded and illustrated from both sexes from Saint Helena (Sherwood et al., 2024d).

Oonopidae Simon, 1890

Brignolia dasysterna Platnick, Dupérré, Ott and Kranz-Baltensperger, 2011

Brignolia dasysterna: Sherwood et al., 2024a: 128, figs. 1H–J (♂).

Remarks.— For full details and specimens examined, Sherwood et al. (2024a).

Dysderina sp.

Material examined.— 1♂ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 89.

Remarks.— One exceptionally damaged specimen in NHMUK has been examined, the species-level identity of this species remains unclear for this reason unless more material can be collected. Nonetheless, it represents a new genus record for the island, as this specimen was not available for study by Sherwood et al. (2024a).

***Heteroonops spinimanus* (Simon, 1892)**

Heteroonops spinimanus: Sherwood et al., 2024a: 128, figs. 2A–B (♀).

New material examined.— 1♀ (ASC NE600), North East Cottage, Ascension Island, -7.946701, -14.341985, elevation 600m, mixed woodland, eucalyptus, 16/08/2022, coll. A Sharp; 1 imm. ♂ (ASC NW700), Garden Cottage, Ascension Island, -7.94992, -14.351353, elevation 700m, pines, 09/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— Only specimens newly examined are given here. For full details of prior specimens examined, Sherwood et al. (2024a).

***Ischnothyreus peltifer* (Simon, 1892)**

Ischnothyreus peltifer: Sherwood et al., 2024a: 128, figs. 2C–D (♀).

Remarks.— For full details and specimens examined, Sherwood et al. (2024a).

***Opopaea deserticola* Simon, 1892**

Opopaea euphorbicola Strand, 1909: 549 (♀).
Opopaea euphorbicola: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Opopaea euphorbicola: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 577.
Opopaea deserticola: Sherwood et al., 2024a: 126, figs. 1A–G (♂♀; syn. of *Opopaea euphorbicola*).

Remarks.— Ascension Island was previously thought to host the endemic species *Opopaea deserticola* Strand, 1909, but this species proved synonymous with the widespread *O. deserticola* Simon, 1892. For full details on specimens from the island, including the neotype of *O. deserticola*, see Sherwood et al. (2024a).

Philodromidae Thorell, 1869

***Philodromus* sp. indet.**

Material examined.— 1♀ (ASC), Dead Mans Beach, 14.XI.19, no other data.

Remarks.— As with *Agyneta* sp. indet., this female specimen is impossible to determine at the species-level based on morphology, as the morphology of the epigyne is often homogenous interspecifically. It is nonetheless a new genus and family record for Ascension Island. The taxonomic identity of this species can only be confirmed if males are collected.

Pholcidae C. L. Koch, 1850

***Artema atlanta* Walckenaer, 1837**

Artema mauritiana: Duffey, 1964: 250 (incorrect subsequent spelling).
Artema mauriciana: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC), Pierhead, 03.III.20, no other data; 1♂ (ASC), Ariane Site, 08.VIII.19, no other data; 1♀ (ASC), Env. Health, 01.VII.19, no other data; 1♂ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube 104; 1 imm. ♂ (NHMUK), same data except number 121; 1 imm. ♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 118.

***Micropholcus fauroti* (Simon, 1887)**

Pholcus chavanei: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Micropholcus chavanei: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 3♂, 7♀, 8 imm. (ASC 0475), Porpoise Point Lava, 30 March-2 April 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 7♂, 3 imm. (ASC 0054), from pitfall 6, Letterbox, 18–22 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 2♀, 1 imm. (ASC 0720), Letterbox B, search, 22 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 4♀, 3 imm. (ASC 0239), Lava Lake, 27–30 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 1 imm. (ASC 0503), Packers Hole Boca, search, M. J. A., 26 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole.

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

Hedypsilus lawrencei: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Modisimus sp.: Duffey, 1964: 250 (misidentification).
Hedypsilus lawrencei: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.
Modisimus sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578 (misidentification).

Material examined.— 1♀ (ASC 00812), Ascension Island, -7.95208, -14.34007, 758 m, 25/04/2023, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC INTL 100A), Ascension Island, -7.978768, -14.39205, 90 m, 12/04/2023, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC 0536), Spoon Crater, Ravine Caves, 25–30 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 1♂ (ASC 0504), Packers Hole Boca, lava, search, M. J. A., 26 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 1♂ (ASC 01798), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617,

20/06/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 01413), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 04/04/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 00028), Ascension Island, -7.912300761, -14.40160336, 21/05/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 01609), Ascension Island, -7.978102948, -14.3947483, 17/05/13, coll. L. F. White; 5♂ (ASC00914, 00918, 00938, 00943, and 00948), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 21/11/12, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC 01140), Ascension Island, -7.948188528, -14.31186706, 08/02/13, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. (ASC 00139), Ascension Island, -7.912300761, -14.40160336, 29/05/12, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. (ASC 0290), Lava Lake, 27–30 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 1 imm. (ASC 00958), Ascension Island, -7.912300761, -14.40160336, 22/11/12, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. (ASC 01301), Ascension Island, -7.912300761, -14.40160336, 14/03/13, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. (ASC 01749), Ascension Island, -7.912300761, -14.40160336, 06/06/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂, 1♀ (MMUE G7572.13357), Letterbox A, 22 March 1990, coll. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole, 21816 J. A. Murphy and F. M. Murphy colln.; 1♂ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 3.

***Smeringopus pallidus* (Blackwall, 1858)**

Smeringopus elongatus: Duffey, 1964: 250.

Smeringopus elongatus: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

"Pholcid sp. indet.": Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♀ (ASC), Mountain Road, 26.VI.19, no other data; 1 imm. (MMUE G7572.13473), Ascension Island, Ravine Cave, 3 June 1990, coll. P Ashmole and M. Ashmole, 23861 J. A. Murphy and F. M. Murphy colln.; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 30; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 124; 3♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 97; 6♂, 7♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 98; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 25; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 57; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 117; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 88.

Remarks.— A non-binomial name was also used by Ashmole and Ashmole (1997: 578) for one examined specimen: "Pholcid indet., found by us in Ravine Cave in 1990. The sole specimen, which is in poor condition, appears to have reduced eyes. Doubtful.". The specimen in question was a juvenile of this species.

Prodidomidae Simon, 1884

***Prodidomus duffeyi* Cooke, 1964**

Prodidomus duffeyi Cooke, 1964: 286, fig. 10 (♀).
Prodidomus duffeyi: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Prodidomus duffeyi: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.
Prodidomus duffeyi: Sherwood et al., 2023c: 88, figs. 2A–D (♀).

Remarks.— Likely a valid species (see Sherwood et al., 2023c) but the collection of additional females and the undescribed male are required to fully elucidate its status.

***Prodidomus rufus* Hentz, 1847**

Prodidomus clarki Cooke, 1964: 284, fig. 19 (♀).
Prodidomus clarki: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Prodidomus clarki: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.
Prodidomus rufus: Sherwood et al., 2023c: 86, figs. 1A-D (f; syn. of *Prodidomus clarki*).

Remarks.— It was previously thought that a second local congener, *Prodidomus duffeyi* Cooke, 1964, occurred on the island. Sherwood et al. (2023c) synonymised it with the global *P. rufus* Hentz, 1847 based on epigyne morphology.

***Zimiris doriae* Simon, 1882**

Zimiris doriae: Sherwood et al., 2023c: 88, figs. 3A–B (♂♀).

Remarks.— For full details of specimens examined, see Sherwood et al. (2023c).

Salticidae Blackwall, 1841

A full study of the salticids of Ascension Island has been published recently. For full details, including specimens examined, see Sherwood and Sharp (2023c). The following four species are listed:

***Hasarius adansoni* (Audouin, 1826)**

Hasarius adsonii?: Banks, 1893: 586 (tentative identification and incorrect subsequent spelling).
Hasarius adansoni: Duffey, 1964: 251.
Hasarius adansonii: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 579.
Hasarius adansoni: Sherwood and Sharp, 2023b: 2–3.

New material examined.— 1♂ (ASC NW650), Mountain Road, Ascension Island, -7.949339, -14.349745, elevation 650m, mixed woodland, 18/07/2022,

coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC S700), Breakneck, Ascension Island, -7.951986, -14.349814, elevation 700m, ginger, 16/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC SEWHH11/12), White Horse Hill, Ascension Island, -7.9481, -14.3118, November 2012, coll. L. F. White; 1 imm. ♂ (ASC S750), Queen Elizabeth Garden, Ascension Island, -7.95251, -14.35115, elevation 750m, mixed woodland, 25/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp.

Remarks.— Only newly examined material is listed here.

***Hentzia antillana* Bryant, 1940**

Hentzia antillana: Sherwood and Sharp, 2023b: 3, figs. 1A–F, 2A–D (mf).

***Menemerus bivittatus* (Dufour, 1831)**

Menemerus [sp.]: Dahl, 1892: 206.
Menemerus sp. (?) [aff. *bivittatus*]: Strand, 1909: 591.
Menemerus bivittatus: Duffey, 1964: 251.
Menemerus bivittatus: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 579.
Menemerus bivittatus: Sherwood and Sharp, 2023b: 5.

***Plexippus paykulli* (Audouin, 1826)**

Plexippus paykulli: Duffey, 1964: 251.
Plexippus paykulli: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 579.
Plexippus paykulli: Sherwood and Sharp, 2023b: 6.

Scytodidae Blackwall, 1864

***Scytodes velutina* Heineken and Lowe, 1832**

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC 01771), Ascension Island, -7.978102948, -14.3947483, 13/06/13, coll. L. F. White.

Remarks.— New to Ascension Island, since the habitus of male *Scytodes* is not useful for identification in many species, we present only figures of the palp (Figs. 1A–B). Ashmole and Ashmole (1997: 578) state "A species close to *Scytodes tenerifensis* Wunderlich was obtained by us in 1990 at several lava sites (Table I) and in 1995 in a pipe trap at Lower Valley Crater." but we have been unable to examine these specimens which may be lost as they were not received by the senior author when she received Philip Ashmole's entire collection of UKOT spiders. The specimens in question were either *S. velutina* or *S. univittata* and it is impossible to be sure which without reviewing material. We also examined several juveniles of this genus in ASC (in two cases mixed in tubes with adult females of *S. univittata*), which may belong to either species, and these *Scytodes* sp. indet. are therefore not included here given they cannot be securely identified with morphology. An adult female of this genus, determined based on body

Table 1. Summary of the total number of genera and species of valid spiders on Ascension Island, along with indication of those currently known as endemic. Taxa unidentifiable at the species-level are included where applicable in genus counts and total species counts but not in endemic species counts. Species expunged from the checklist in this work or maintained after having been expunged by previous workers are not considered in the table.

N°	Family	Total genera	Total species	Endemic genera	Endemic species
1	Agelenidae	1	1	0	0
2	Anyphaenidae	1	1	0	1
3	Araneidae	1	1	0	0
4	Clubionidae	1	1	0	0
5	Corinnidae	1	1	0	0
6	Dictynidae	1	1	0	1
7	Dysderidae	1	1	0	0
8	Filistatidae	1	1	0	0
9	Gnaphosidae	5	5	0	1
10	Linyphiidae	3	3	1	1
11	Sicariidae	1	1	0	0
12	Lycosidae	1	1	0	0
13	Oecobiidae	1	2	0	0
14	Oonopidae	5	5	0	0
15	Philodromidae	1	1	0	0
16	Pholcidae	4	4	0	0
17	Prodidomidae	2	3	0	1
18	Salticidae	4	4	0	0
19	Scytodidae	1	2	0	0
20	Selenopidae	1	1	0	0
21	Tetragnathidae	1	1	0	0
22	Theridiidae	5	5	0	0
-	**Total**	**38**	**41**	**1**	**5**

size in conjunction with correspondingly unmodified palpi, also has to be identified as *Scytodes* sp. indet. as it was received without the abdomen (full data: 1♀ (ASC H12 2 PFJ), Ascension Island, -7.900045, -14.357383, 13 m, 10/03/2022, coll. A. Sharp).

Scytodes univittata Simon, 1882

Material examined.— 1♀ (ASC H12 1 PFM), Ascension Island, -7.903623, -14.358961, 20 m, 10/03/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC CEREV BTM), Comfortless Crevices, 2023, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC CA IKANS HC), Ascension Island, -7.96052, -14.39495, 136 m, 25/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC CH CAVE HC), Ascension Island, -7.96052, -14.39495, 136 m, 25/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀, 3 imm. (ASC 0472), Lava Lake, 27–30 March 1990, coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole.

Remarks.— New to Ascension Island (Figs. 1C–D). The carapace markings are similar to that of *S. fusca* Walckenaer, 1837, but the epigyne of that species is very much different.

Selenopidae Simon, 1897

***Anyphops stauntoni* (Pocock, 1902)**

Selonops nemorensis: Duffey, 1964: 250 (incorrect subsequent spelling).

Anyphops stauntoni: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♂ (ASC G MIN SH PTE 2B), Green Mountain shade house, base of Pteris adscensionis plants, 2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC I17 HC 3), Ascension Island, -7.950638, -14.35274, 659 m, 25/01/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♀ (ASC S650), Ascension Island, -7.952607, -14.348196, 650 m, 23/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC NE600), North East Cottage, Ascension Island, -7.946701, -14.341985, elevation 600m, mixed woodland, eucalyptus, 16/08/2022, coll. A Sharp; 1♂ (ASC NW750), Victoria Peak, Ascension Island, -7.950129, -14.349143, elevation 750m, ginger, 25/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC S600), Breakneck, Ascension Island, -7.954002, -14.346027, elevation 600m, mixed woodland, 11/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC S550), Breakneck, Ascension Island, -7.955946, -14.345414, elevation 550m, pines, 26/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp;1 imm. ♂, 1 imm. (ASC NW650), Mountain Road, Ascension Island, -7.949339, -14.349745, elevation 650m, mixed woodland, 18/07/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 7 imm. (ASC S650), Breakneck, Ascension Island, -7.952607, -14.348196, elevation 650m, mixed woodland, 16/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 49; 1♂, 1♀, 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 72; 1 imm. ♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 2014; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 86; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number Bou 47; 1♂, 3♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 133; 2♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 120; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 106; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 14; 1♂ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 96; 1♂, 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 4; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 45; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 76; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 1; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 129.

Tetragnathidae Menge, 1866

***Glenognatha argyrostilba* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876)**

Dysichirognathus argyrostibia: Duffey, 1964: 250
(incorrect subsequent spelling).

Dysichirognathus argyrostilba: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♂ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube 111; 4 ♂, 2♀ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 125.

Theridiidae Sundevall, 1833
***Latrodectus geometricus* C. L. Koch, 1841**
Latrodectus geometricus: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Latrodectus geometricus: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1 imm. (ASC 0719), 688189, Bird Cave, c. 380ft., coll. and colln. P. Ashmole and M. Ashmole; 1♀, 1 imm. (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 115; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 20; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 41; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 38; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 79; 3 imm.♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 83; 1 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 105.

***Nesticodes rufipes* (Lucas, 1846)**
Theridion rufipes: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Theridion rufipes: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♂ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 59.

***Parasteatoda tepidariorum* (C. L. Koch, 1841)**
Theridion tepidariorum: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Theridion tepidariorum: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 2♂ (ASC NW450), Ascension Island, -7.922906985, -14.3392617, 28/03/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC S750), Ascension Island, -7.948188528,-14.31186706, 29/05/13, coll. L. F. White; 1♂ (ASC NE550), Scouts Campsite, Ascension Island, -7.945305, -14.339148, elevation 550m, Bermuda pine, 02/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 1♂ (ASC NE650), Nature Trail, Ascension Island, -7.94935, -14.34268, elevation 650m, mixed woodland, 02/08/2022, coll. A. Sharp; 5♀ (NHMUK), Ascension Island, 12–31/09/1957, coll. E. A. Duffey, tube number 74; 1♀, 4 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 2; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 47; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 21; 1♂, 1♀, 3 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 120; 1♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 106; 3♀ (NHMUK), same data except tube number 67; 2 imm. (NHMUK), same data except tube number 55.

***Platnickina adamsoni* (Berland, 1934)**
Platnickina adamsoni: Sherwood and Sharp, 2023a: 356, figs. 1a–d (♀).

Remarks.— Recorded by Sherwood and Sharp (2023a), see that work for full details of the sole adult female examined.

***Steatoda grossa* (C. L. Koch, 1838)**
Teutana grossa: Duffey, 1964: 250.
Teutana grossa: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Material examined.— 1♀ (ASC), Red Lion, 25.X.19, no other data;1♀ (ASC), Ascension Island, no other data;1♂ (ASC), Elliots Path, 10.VII.19, no other data;1♀ (ASC) Green Mountain, 2023, coll. A. Sharp.

SPECIES EXPUNGED FROM THE LIST

Gnaphosidae
***Gnaphosa funerea* (Dalmas, 1921)**
Pterochroa lugubris: Duffey, 1964: 250
(preoccupied name, see Sherwood et al., 2024d).
Pterochroa funerea: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Remarks.— Sherwood et al. (2023d: 301) already expunged *Gnaphosa funerea* (Dalmas, 1921) from the list of Ascension Island's spider as the specimens reported by Duffey (1964) [as *Pterochroa lugubris*; see also Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.] were indeterminable juveniles which could belong to a variety of gnaphosid taxa. Sherwood et al. (2024d) also demonstrated that *Gnaphosa lugubris* (C. L. Koch, 1839) also occurred on Saint Helena and that one previous worker had fundamentally confused specimens – including types – of this European species and of the Saint Helenian endemic. Thus, more evidence showed why the expunging of Duffey's records was justified. Without specimens, it is impossible to reconcile what was assigned under this name on Ascension Island to a modern delimited species.

***Zelotes ascensionis* (Strand, 1909)**
Prosthesima ascensionis Strand, 1909g: 553 (imm. ♂).
Zelotes ascensionis: FitzPatrick, 2007: 98 (*nomen dubium*).

Remarks.— This species was described from an immature male already declared a *nomen dubium* by Fitzpatrick (2007) as the holotype is lost, and was therefore not considered by Sherwood et al. (2023d); it is mentioned here only for completeness. There is no way to know which of the five species (or a sixth species) the name-bearing type may have belonged to, and thus this name is useless for the purposes of modern study on the island.

Linyphiidae

***Bathyphantes* sp.**

Bathyphantes sp.: Duffey, 1964: 250.

Bathyphantes sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Remarks.— The material identified as this genus by Duffey (1964) was examined by the senior author, and is undeterminable below the family level, thus this genus must be expunged until such time as adult material can confirm if it is truly present.

Oonopidae

***Gamasomorpha* sp.**

Gamasomorpha sp.?: Duffey, 1964: 250.

?*Gamasomorpha*: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 577.

Remarks.— As for *Bathyphantes* sp.

***Oonops* sp.**

Oonops sp.: Duffey, 1964: 250.

Oonops sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 577.

Remarks.— As for *Bathyphantes* sp.

***Orchestina* sp.**

?*Orchestina* sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 577.

Remarks.— As for *Bathyphantes* sp., except specimen in Ashmole collection (NHMUK).

Prodidomidae

***Zimiris* sp.**

Zimiris sp.: Duffey, 1964: 250.

Zimiris sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Remarks.— As for *Bathyphantes* sp.

***Zimirina* sp.**

?*Zimirina* sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 578.

Remarks.— As for *Zimirina* sp., except specimen in Ashmole colection (NHMUK).

Salticidae

***Dendryphantes* sp.**

Dendryphantes [sp.]: Dahl, 1892: 208.

Dendryphantes sp.: Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997: 579.

Remarks.— No material of this genus was able to be examined for this work, it could be that Dahl (1892) saw immatures of another genus and misidentified them. Until adults are collected, the genus must be expunged. If found to have actually been present, it would likely be *Dendryphantes purcelli* G. W. Peckham and E. G. Peckham, 1903 which is recorded from nearby Saint Helena (Sherwood et al., 2024d).

DISCUSSION

In total, 38 genera and 41 species of spiders are now recognised from Ascension Island, housed in 22 families (Table 1). Of these only 1 genus (0.03% of percentage share of total genera) is endemic and only 12.19% (5/41) of the species we consider to be probably or possibly endemic. As discussed above, prior to 2022 four endemic species were recognized. Subsequent work showed two of them to be junior synonyms non-native species. Sherwood et al. (2023c) confirmed *P. clarki* was a junior synonym of the widespread *Prodidomus rufus* Hentz, 1847, reducing the number of valid endemic species to three. This was balanced by Sherwood et al. (2023d) who described the first new species on Ascension Island since 1964: the gnaphosid *Australoechemus vickyae* Sherwood, Marusik, Sharp and Ashmole, 2023. Sherwood et al. (2024a) confirmed that *O. euphorbicola* was a junior synonym of the widespread *Opopaea deserticola* Simon, 1892, reducing the number of valid endemics to three. Sherwood et al. (2024b–c) described two new possibly endemic species: the anyphaenid *Hibana ascensionensis* Sherwood, Marusik, Sharp and Wilkins, 2024 and the dictynid *Thallumetus ascensionensis* Sherwood, Marusik Penaherrera-R. Calderón-C. and Sharp, 2024, respectively, which brought the number of presumed endemics to five.

Sherwood et al. (2024b) expressed doubt as to whether *H. ascensionensis* was truly indigenous to the island, considering it may have been introduced from the Americas, regardless of the fact it was an undescribed species at the time of the introduction. However, Antonio Brescovit (pers. comm.), the world expert on the family Anyphaenidae, considers it equally likely it was a natural colonisation and that its endemicity is not just an artefact of under-recording in the New World. Sherwood et al. (2024c) demonstrate that *T. ascensionensis* is widespread in areas of human habitation on the island, which combined with the biogeography of other congeners, might suggest it was introduced from the New World (again regardless of the fact it was an undoubtedly distinct new species when described) and not constitute a true endemic. We consider both species as possibly endemic until/if such time as it can be demonstrated that there are popula-

tions off-island. The endemicity of *A. vickyae* is more certain, as this genus was previously endemic to the islands of Cape Verde and thus could have reached Ascension via South Atlantic sea surface currents. Similarly, no evidence exists at present that *C. caeca* is anything other than an endemic element, highly specialised to the cave environment it inhabits (Millidge and Ashmole, 1994). Sherwood et al. (2023c) maintained *P. duffeyi* as a valid species, again we consider this species to be probably endemic unless it is detected elsewhere.

Ascension is a small and isolated volcanic island of just one million years in age (Jicha et al., 2013), and these factors indicate low native species diversity according to island biogeography theory (MacArthur and Wilson, 1967). Indeed, the number of arthropod species endemic to the island is low, and many described endemic species are limited to either tiny (Sharp and Gray, 2025) or barren (Ashmole and Ashmole, 1997) habitats. Non-native vegetation is spreading rapidly on Ascension (Sharp et al., 2025), as are invasive animals including ants (Sharp and Tawatao, 2023) and rats (Chin, Wilkins and Sharp, 2024). With such extensive landscape modification, it is likely that populations of Ascension-native spiders are declining. The detection of previously undocumented non-native spiders on Ascension may be because of high recent search effort, increasing long-term established populations or recent species introductions via airplane or ship. Some of those non-native spiders may exert detrimental predation pressure on native arthropods and could thus be attributed 'invasive' status. However, further data collection with local government and analysis of interspecific interactions is needed to fully understand the ecological dynamics of the spiders of Ascension Island.

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