

Arachnological biosecurity on one of the world's most remote inhabited islands: a checklist of stowaway spiders found on Saint Helena, South Atlantic Ocean

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Abstract: An annotated checklist of non-native spiders intercepted by biosecurity staff of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD) of the Saint Helena Government is presented, along with a complete list of all other known stowaway specimens examined by us in other collections. As a consequence, *Araneus quadratus* Clerck, 1757 and *Neoscona rapta* (Thorell, 1899) and four generic-level taxa are newly recorded for the list of Saint Helenian spiders. Five morphospecies, including one that constituted a new genus record, are newly reported (*Clubiona* sp., *Crossopriza* sp., *Palystes* sp., *Physocyclus* sp., and *Zenodorus* sp.). *Palystes* sp. also represents the first record of the family Sparassidae Bertkau, 1872 for Saint Helena. One further record of a previously known species, *Steatoda nobilis* (Thorell, 1875), is made from a specimen recently intercepted in an inbound parcel in 2024. Finally, a list of additional immature specimens, unidentifiable below the family level but nonetheless examined for this work, are presented to complete the catalogue of specimens in the ANRD collections. The total number of spider families recognised on the island raises to 33 and valid genera and species (i.e. excluding undetermined morphospecies) to 92 and 116, respectively.

Keywords: arachnid, interception, non-native, United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

Introduction

The spiders of Saint Helena have been studied since the late 19th Century (SHERWOOD & FOWLER 2023). Over 158 years later, the araneofauna of the island underwent a complete revision and an annotated checklist of all spiders established on the island (SHERWOOD et al. 2024). However, that work did not consider any recent species known definitively to be stowaways to the island, except to note that two had been discussed by

KEY et al. (2021) as being imported contemporaneously: *Steatoda nobilis* (Thorell, 1875) and *Zygiella x-notata* (Clerck, 1757). SHERWOOD et al. (2024) newly recorded *Latrodectus renivulvatus* Dahl, 1903 from Saint Helena based on specimens from Jamestown in the 1950s, but which they presumed were likely stowaways, as no specimens have since been found.

Non-native species have significant impacts on ecosystems, particularly those on islands (HOUGHTON et al. 2019, DAWSON et al. 2023). In this work, we catalogue the non-native spiders intercepted thanks to biosecurity efforts on Saint Helena, and two further taxa found by us in the historical collections of the Natural History Museum, London, many of which are new records at varying levels of taxonomy.

Material and methods

All specimens reported in this paper are deposited in either the Saint Helena Government Agriculture & Natural Resources Division, Scotland, Saint Helena (ANRD), Natural History Museum, London, UK (NHMUK), or Saint Helena National Trust, Jamestown, Saint Helena (SHNT). Photographs were made using a Canon EOS 6D Mark II attached to a Leica MZ12.5 stereomicroscope, with images stacked using Helicon Focus software. Authors' emphases in [].

Results

Araneus quadratus Clerck, 1757 (Araneidae)

Material examined: 1 ♀ (NHMUK), St. Helena Island, coll. A. Loveridge, no other data.

Remarks: A single female with a damaged epigyne, missing the scape, was examined (Figs. 1A–F). It is one of two samples from Saint Helena with such scanty data in the NHMUK collection, the other tube containing non-native salticids (see below). We considered the possibility that the specimens were mislabelled by Arthur Loveridge and came from Asia or Oceania, but no strong evidence exists to confirm this, and the possibility is equal that they were stowaway specimens found at the port and given to the famous naturalist Loveridge, who was well known and beloved by Saints. Prior to twenty first century, the only access to Saint Helena – an island whose history is defined by extensive and global maritime trade – was by boat, meaning non-native species were likely frequently to be encountered in the busy port area of the island. Given this, and the fact no *Araneus* Clerck, 1757 s.s. have been observed on Saint Helena despite our years of combined fieldwork, we have concluded this specimen represents a stowaway from the United Kingdom. It is the first confirmed record of the genus for Saint Helena, previous grey literature using this genus corresponded to immature araneids unidentifiable below the family level but assigned to *Araneus* by John Murphy (DS pers. obs.). It is also therefore a newly reported species.

***Clubiona* sp. (Clubionidae)**

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 563), intercepted from personal shipping container via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V230N, collected 29/08/2015.

Remarks: The epigyne (Fig. 1J) of the female (Figs. 1G–H) is not immediately recognisable to any of the known species from Europe or Southern Africa, but since a revision of African Clubionidae is underway in South Africa (Charles Haddad pers. comm. to DS) we are not yet able to assign this specimen at the species-level. It may represent a new species but cannot be described without a verified country of origin. This tube also contains two other specimens, an adult male of *Zygiella x-notata* and an immature pholcid (see below). This morphospecies corresponds to *Clubiona sensu lato*, becoming the second known island record (both at genus-level and as a morphospecies) from this group. The first record of *Clubiona* was made over 150 years ago: the endemic, non-stowaway, species now placed as *Bucliona dubia* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1870) (see SHERWOOD et al. 2024).

***Crossopriza* sp. (Pholcidae)**

Material examined: 2 imm. (ANRD 554(a)), intercepted from container imported from Australia via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V228N, 14/07/2015.

Remarks: These specimens are desiccated and in bad condition. They likely belong to *Crossopriza lyoni* (Blackwall, 1867) but their immaturity and condition means this cannot be stated for certain. Regardless, this genus constitutes a new record for the island. The sample also includes an immature specimen of *Steatoda* sp. (see below) and an adult male of the theridiid *L. geometricus* (see above).

***Latrodectus geometricus* C. L. Koch, 1841 (Theridiidae)**

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 857), intercepted from black grapes (Alphonse Lavallée) imported from Cape Town South Africa via MV Helena, V001 07/03/2018, collected 08/03/2018; 1♀ (ANRD 575), intercepted from container via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V231N, collected 21/09/2015, leg. Biosecurity officers; 1♂ (ANRD 554(a)), intercepted from container imported from Australia via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V228N, 14/07/2015.

Remarks: This species is established on Saint Helena in arid areas such as Prosperous Bay Plain and Horse Point Plain (SHERWOOD et al. 2024; pers. obs.). It is unsurprising to see this species continuing to be a stowaway in produce in Saint Helena, as this also occurs across other parts of the world, including the mainland United Kingdom (SHERWOOD 2025). Sample ANRD 554(a) also contains an immature *Crossopriza* sp. and an immature female of *Steatoda* sp. (see below).

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

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 784), intercepted [with eggs] from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V251SH, collected 10/01/2017, leg. N. Stevens.

Remarks: This species was recently recorded new to Saint Helena by SHERWOOD et al. (2024) based on a male examined by the senior author collected from Ruperts by Edward Thorpe in the early 2000s. The discovery of an adult female with eggs intercepted at the

port in Jamestown is the first stowaway record and provides further evidence that this species, as suspected, is invasive to the island, and indeed continues to be a species for which authorities must remain vigilant. Searches should be conducted to see if this species has established around urban areas of Jamestown and Ruperts. A brief preliminary survey in November 2022 by the senior author yielded only specimens of *Pholcus phalangoides* (Fuesslin, 1775) which has been common on the island for hundreds of years (see SHERWOOD et al. 2024).

***Neoscona rapta* (Thorell, 1899) (Araneidae)**

Material examined: 1♂ (ANRD 924), intercepted from imported seed potatoes (Sifra) from Cape Town, South Africa via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V28N, 21/05/2019, collected 26/05/2019.

Remarks: It can be challenging to identify males (Figs. 1J–N) of this genus, especially as the shape of the median apophysis changes radically with only small movements in orientation of the palp, such as those it naturally rests in when placed on a flat surface (Figs. 1L–N). When moved to an angle replicating GRASHOFF (1986) (not figured) the shape of the median apophysis alters from the form shown in our figures to a shape and curvature consistent with the figure of *N. rapta* (Grashoff, 1986: 101: fig. 146). The examined male also has tibial spination consistent with Grashoff (1986) and a similar habitus; *N. rapta* occurs in Cape Town (DIPPENAAR-SCHOEMAN et al. 2022). Thus, we tentatively assign it to this species but stress a modern revision of the genus is very much warranted. It is a new species-level record for Saint Helena, which has had a convoluted history of records of the genus prior (SHERWOOD et al. 2024).

***Palystes* sp. (Sparassidae)**

Material examined: 1 imm. ♀ (ANRD 830), intercepted from RMS Saint Helena whilst in port, Jamestown, V261N 30/07/2017, collected 01/08/2017, ‘*Palystes superciliosus*’.

Remarks: This immature female was previously identified at the time of collection as *P. superciliosus* L. Koch, 1875 as indicated on the label. However, as the specimen is not yet adult and the pre-epigyne is not informative or reliable for species identification within this genus due to ontogeny, it can only be reliably identified at the genus-level. Nonetheless, this previously unpublished specimen represents the first record of the genus *Palystes* L. Koch, 1875 on Saint Helena and indeed the family Sparassidae as a whole.

***Physocyclus globosus* (Taczanowski, 1874) (Pholcidae)**

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 667), intercepted from container leav [sic] 2518034 via RMS Saint Helena, V243SH 07/07/2016, collected 08/07/2016, leg. N. Stevens.

Remarks: This constitutes the first published record of this non-native species on Saint Helena, also adding a new genus record for the island. The epigyne (Fig. 1O) is figured.

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

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 789), intercepted via biosecurity check of hold baggage container, CRSU 1489926, collected 05/02/2017, leg. N. Stevens.

Remarks: This species is already widespread on Saint Helena (SHERWOOD et al. 2024; pers. obs.) and is non-native.

***Smeringopus* sp. (Pholcidae)**

Material examined: 2♀ (ANRD 681), intercepted from lowest deck of RMS Saint Helena during survey, 15/09/2016, leg. N. Stevens and D. Pryce; 2 imm. (ANRD 431), intercepted from pallets imported from [importer name redacted, origin of imported goods was Southern Africa], collected 11/07/2013.

Remarks: It is not possible to be sure of the species-level identification solely from morphology, but it is very likely these specimens are *S. pallidus* (Blackwall, 1858) which is known from the island (SHERWOOD et al. 2024). *Smeringopus pallidus* was most recently seen *in situ* under pallets at the Millenium Forest in November 2022 (DS and LF pers. obs.). One sample (ANRD 431) also contains an adult female of the theridiid *T. proximum* (see below).

***Steatoda capensis* Hahn, 1990 (Theridiidae)**

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 416), intercepted from imported seed potatoes (BP1) via RMS Saint Helena, V176N, collected 22/06/2012, leg. A. Leo (Levelwood), stored in alcohol 02/07/2012.

Remarks: This species is widespread in arid areas on Saint Helena (SHERWOOD et al. 2024). Its discovery as a stowaway in produce from only a decade ago reinforce the conclusion that this species established on the island by human-mediated means. The female examined (ANRD 416; Figs. 1P–R) presented with an epigynal plug (Fig. 1R). We provide a figure of the plugged epigyne for reference to biosecurity officers, to complement the Scanning Electron Microscope image of HAHN (1994: 228, fig. 4) which also shows an epigynal plug in *S. capensis*. HAHN (1994) also provides a photograph of a regular (unplugged) epigyne and a drawing of the vulva, and SHERWOOD et al. (2024: 1276, fig. 71) present a photograph of a slide-mounted epigyne which had been prepared by the Belgian arachnologist P. L. G. Benoit in the 1970s.

***Steatoda nobilis* (Thorell, 1895) (Theridiidae)**

Material examined: 1♀ (ANRD 965), intercepted from container imported from UK, date not given; 1♀ (ANRD 646), imported with wooden cable reels in shipping container from UK [importer name redacted], collected 08/04/2016, leg. M. Buckley; 1 imm. ♂ (ANRD 977), intercepted from container imported from the UK via MV Helena, V053N 03/06/2022, collected 23/06/2022, found by biosecurity assistant; 1 imm. (ANRD 836), intercepted from vehicle imported from Ascension via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], Mini Cooper, V262SH 21/09/2017, collected 22/09/2016; 1 imm. (ANRD 747), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V247SH, collected 11/10/2016; 1♂ (SHNT), Jamestown, Saint Helena, found in Amazon parcel imported from United Kingdom by boat, voyage 16, 13/08/2024, leg. D. Joshua.

Remarks: This species was listed by SHERWOOD et al. (2024) who referred to the present work when it was in preparation. All but one current records are of intercepted specimens found in cargo arriving from the United Kingdom.

***Theridion proximum* Lawrence, 1964 (Theridiidae)**

Material examined: 1 ♀ (ANRD 431), intercepted from pallets imported from [importer name redacted, origin of imported goods was Southern Africa], collected 11/07/2013.

Remarks: This species was recorded from the island by SHERWOOD et al. (2024), who found it to be established on the island. This record confirms suspicions that it was introduced to the island through produce from South Africa. The sample also contains two immature *Smeringopus* sp. (see above).

***Zenodorus* sp. (Salticidae)**

Material examined: 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (NHMUK), St. Helena Island, coll. A. Loveridge, no other data.

Remarks: This species (Figs. 1S–Z) is clearly non-native to the island and was never recorded by any historical author nor observed by us (see SHERWOOD et al. 2024). If such a conspicuous and large salticid was established on the island, it would be easily detected. Considering its unusually vague locality data (see remarks for *A. quadratus*), this material must be considered as a stowaway. A revision of *Zenodorus* is underway (Tamás Szűts pers. comm. to DS) and at this stage we cannot assign the specimens to species-level as the diversity of the genus is still being evaluated. Furthermore, the smaller females (not figured) have a different shape to the genitalia to the large female depicted here but it is unclear if this is just ontogenetic morphology of the pre-epigyne or whether a second (adult) species is involved. Nonetheless, the females are much smaller than the one depicted here and do not have the incrassate leg I, leading us to believe they are merely immature. We thus conservatively maintain them as the same morphospecies, noting the genus clearly requires a modern revision. The specimens constitute the first genus-level and morphospecies records for *Zenodorus* on Saint Helena.

***Zygiella x-notata* (Clerck, 1757) (Araneidae)**

Material examined: 2 ♀♀, 2 imm. (ANRD 676), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V245SH, collected 01/09/2016; 2 imm. (ANRD 748), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V247SH, collected 11/10/2016; 1 imm. (ANRD 660), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016; 1 ♀, 2 imm. ♀♀ (ANRD 580), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V231S, collected 24/09/2015, leg. PCBO and PCO; 1 imm. (ANRD 657), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016; 1 imm. (ANRD 673), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V245SH, collected 01/09/2016; 1 ♀, 1 imm. (ANRD 598), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], blue CRV Honda, collected 07/11/2015, leg. PCBO and BO; 1 ♀, 1 imm. (ANRD 593), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], Ford Fusion Zetec, V233N, collected 31/10/2015; 1 imm. (ANRD 644), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer name redacted here], V239SH, collected 17/03/2016, leg. J. Balchin and N. Stevens; 1 imm. (ANRD 595), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V233N, collected 31/10/2015, leg. PCBO and BO; 5 ♀♀ (ANRD 579), intercepted from number plate from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer name redacted here], Mitsubishi, collected 24/09/2015, leg. PCBO and PCO; 1 imm. (ANRD 797), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V253SH, collected 25/02/2017, leg. N. Stevens; 1 imm. (ANRD 602), intercepted from

vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], Toyota surf, collected 07/11/2015, leg. PCBO and BO; 1 ♀ (ANRD 597), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], white Transit Van, V233N, collected 31/10/2015, leg. PCBO and BO; 1 imm. (ANRD 601), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], red Ford Focus, V233S, collected 07/11/2015, leg. PCBO and BO; 1 imm. (ANRD 656), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016; 3 imm. (ANRD 497), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V206, collected 04/04/2014, leg. A. Rowe; 1 imm. (ANRD 661), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016; 13 imm. (ANRD 798), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer name redacted here], V253SH, collected 25/02/2017, leg. N. Stevens; 1 imm. (ANRD 659), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ANRD 578), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V231S, collected 24/09/2015, leg. PCBO and PCO; 1 imm. (ANRD 606), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer names redacted here], Land Rover Defender, V234N 21/11/2015, includes egg sac, collected 30/11/2015; 1 ♂ (ANRD 563), intercepted from personal shipping container via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V230N, collected 29/08/2015; 1 ♂ (ANRD 837), intercepted from vehicle imported from Ascension via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], Jeep, V262SH 21/09/2017, collected 22/09/2017; 1 ♀♀, 2 imm. (ANRD 675), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V245SH, collected 01/09/2016; 1 imm. (ANRD 658), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016; 1 ♀, 3 imm. (ANRD 599), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], vehicle RAV4 V233S, 07/11/2015, collected 07/11/2015.

Remarks: Despite being the most commonly intercepted stowaway arachnid on Saint Helena, this species still appears not to have established (SHERWOOD et al. 2024) although this situation must be closely monitored. One sample (ANRD 563) also contains a female clubionid (see above) and an immature pholcid (see below).

Indeterminate material

The following samples could only be identified to family or genus level, owing to the immaturity of the samples, damage and/or and lack of required diagnostic features. Those at the genus level cannot be said with certainty to be new morphospecies records, as they may correspond to known species recognised in SHERWOOD et al. (2024) or above in this work. However, for one of the aforementioned reasons, we could not confidently assign them to the respective species-level taxa. Nonetheless, they are listed to show that stowaways intercepted span a large number of spider families and often comprise of immature specimens.

Araneidae gen. et sp. indet.

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 662), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V243S, collected 28/06/2016.

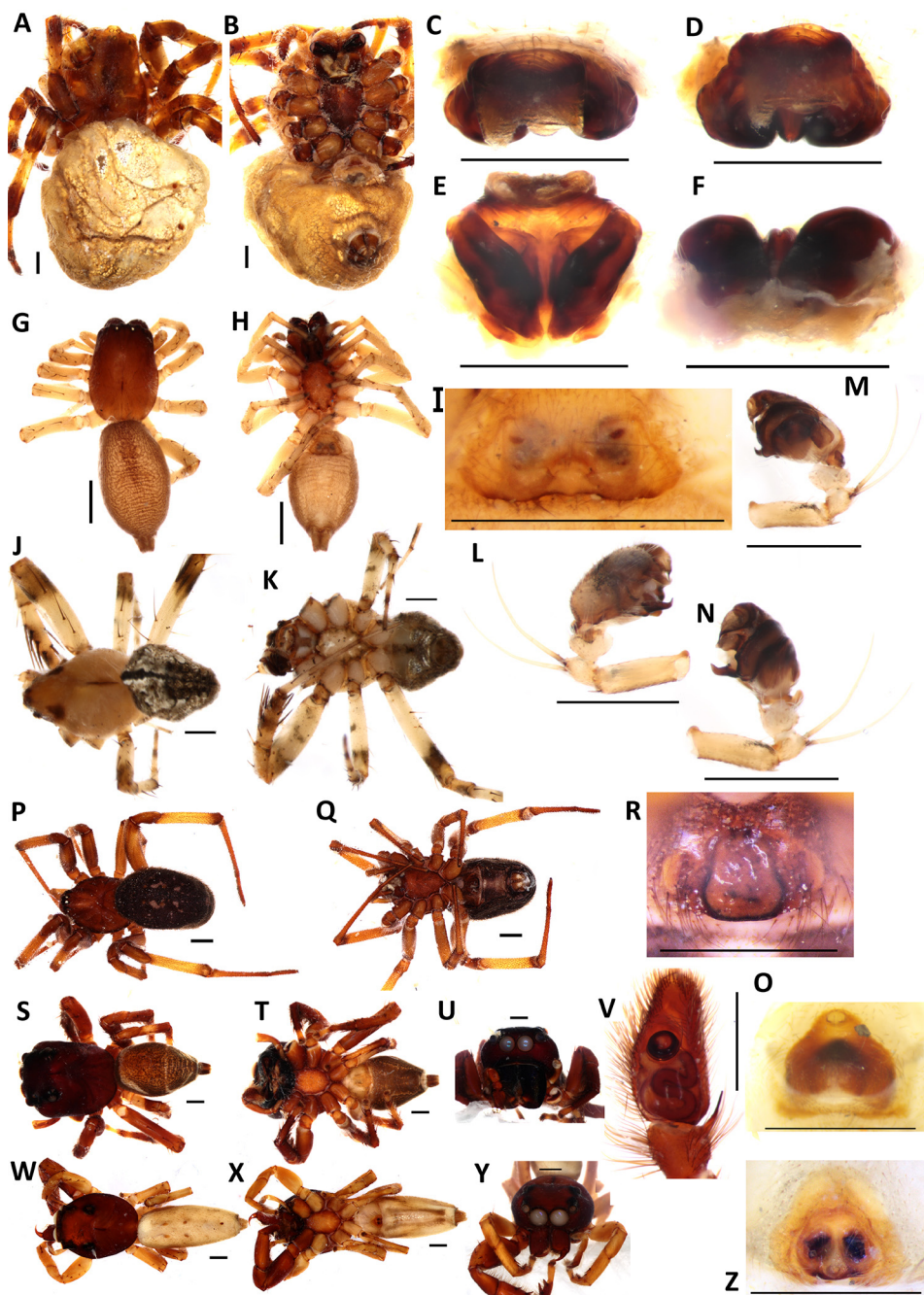


Fig. 1: A–F *Araneus quadratus* Clerck, 1757 female (NHMUK), G–I *Clubiona* sp. female (ANRD 563), J–N *Neoscona rapta* (Thorell, 1899) male (ANRD 924), O *Physocyclus globosus* (Taczanowski, 1874) female (ANRD 667), P–R *Steatoda capensis* Hahn, 1990 female (ANRD 416), S–V *Zenodorus* sp. male (NHMUK), W–Z *Zenodorus* sp. female (NHMUK). A habitus, dorsal view; B *Idem*, ventral view; C epigyne (dissected, scape missing), ventral view; D *Idem*, dorso-ventral view; E *Idem*, posterior view; F vulva, dorsal view; G habitus, dorsal view; H *Idem*, ventral view; I epigyne (undissected), ventral view; J habitus, dorsal view; K *Idem*, ventral view; L palp, prolateral view; M *Idem*, retrolateral view; N *Idem*, retro-ventral view; O epigyne (undissected), P habitus, dorsal view; Q *Idem*, ventral view; R epigyne (undissected, completely filled by epigynal plug), ventral view; S habitus, dorsal view; T *Idem*, ventral view; U cephalothorax, frontal view; V palp, ventral view; W habitus, dorsal view; X *Idem*, ventral view; Y cephalothorax, frontal view; Z epigyne (undissected), ventral view. Scale bars = 1mm.

Clubionidae gen. et sp. indet.

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 648), intercepted from Barlinka grapes imported from Cape Town, South Africa via RMS Saint Helena, V241N, collected 25/06/2016.

Remarks: It is unclear if this specimen is congeneric/conspecific with *Clubiona* sp. due to its immaturity.

Gnaphosidae gen. et sp. indet.

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 801), intercepted with imported pineapples (queen) from Cape Town, South Africa via RMS Saint Helena, V254N, collected 12/03/2016, leg. N. Stevens.

Philodromidae gen. et sp. indet.

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 747), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], V247SH, collected 11/10/2016.

Pholcus sp. indet. (Pholcidae)

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 563), intercepted from personal shipping container via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V230N, collected 29/08/2015; 1 imm. (ANRD 582), intercepted from container TITU 352 5428 via RMS Saint Helena, V231S, collected 24/09/2015, leg. PCBO and PCO.

Remarks: This specimen is probably *P. phalangioides* which is established on Saint Helena (SHERWOOD et al. 2024) but we cannot be sure from a morphological point of view due to its immaturity. The sample also contains an adult male of the theridiid *Z. x-notata* (see above). Sample ANRD 582 was initially determined in Saint Helena as Pholcidae sp. indet. by the senior author, although we later found it congruent with this genus after having seen the other sample.

Salticidae gen. et sp. indet.

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 883), spice imported by Thai passenger via South Africa Airlink, collected 15/01/2019.

Remarks: A juvenile of this size cannot be distinguished at the genus-level, a huge myriad of salticid spiders occur in Thailand (World Spider Catalog 2025).

***Scytodes* sp. indet. (Scytodidae)**

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 792), intercepted on Wharf from imported pineapples, V253N, collected 19/02/2016.

Remarks: This specimen may refer to the known species on Saint Helena, *Scytodes fusca* Walckenaer, 1837, (SHERWOOD et al. 2024) which coincidentally has also recently been recorded as a stowaway in the UK (SHERWOOD 2025), yet could equally represent a different species.

***Steatoda* sp. indet. (Theridiidae)**

Material examined: 1 imm. (ANRD 798), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer name redacted here], V253SH, collected 25/02/2017, leg. N. Stevens; 1 imm. ♀ (ANRD 554(a)), intercepted from container imported from Australia via RMS Saint Helena [importer name redacted], V228N, 14/07/2015.

Remarks: Sample ANRD 798 is probably *S. nobilis*, but it is too small to be absolutely sure based on morphological analysis alone, and thus it is cautiously identified at the genus level. Sample ANRD 554(a) could be either *S. grossa* or *S. nobilis*, both known on-island, and the tube also contains an immature *Crossopriza* sp. and an adult male of the theridiid *L. geometricus* (see above).

Theridiidae gen. et spp. indet.

Material examined: 1 imm. ♂ (ANRD 672), imported in dog's box via RMS Saint Helena, V245SH, collected 01/06/2016; 1 imm. (ANRD 605), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number redacted here], silver Ford Focus, V233S, collected 07/11/2015, leg. PCBO and BO; 1 imm. ♀ (ANRD 798), , intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer name redacted here], V253SH, collected 25/02/2017, leg. N. Stevens; 1 imm. (ANRD 606), intercepted from vehicle imported from the UK via RMS Saint Helena [car registration number and importer names redacted here], Land Rover Defender, V234N 21/11/2015, includes egg sac, collected 30/11/2015.

Discussion

In this work, two new species and four new genera are newly added to the list of Saint Helenian spiders as stowaway taxa, that is, spiders which have been intercepted at least once on Saint Helena but have not established. Only three species-level taxa had been recorded as stowaways previously (see SHERWOOD et al. 2024). Furthermore, inclusive two of the new generic-level records, five morphospecies are recorded for the first time, one of which also represents a new family for Saint Helena. It is important to recall these are taxa which cannot be identified to the species-level and thus cannot be included in the official count of [valid] species known for the island at this time. This is equally true for the further new records in the section indeterminate material, which may or may not correspond to genera/species already definitively confirmed for the island. However, the family and genus-level records of these specimens is included on the list of officially recognised family and genera respectively.

In addition to new records, further records of species already in the normal checklist (sensu SHERWOOD et al. 2024) of species which are established on the island gives further evidence to support the non-native status of six species: *L. geometricus*, *M. fauroti*, *P. paykulli*, *S. capensis*, *S. nobilis*, and *T. proximum*. Most if not all of these were likely introduced as stowaways but, unlike other stowaway taxa recognised here and in SHERWOOD et al. (2024), have managed to establish on the island. The count of endemic genera and species remains unchanged from SHERWOOD et al. (2024): 12 and 45, respectively. When non-established and established taxa are considered together, the data presented here raises the total number of genera and species ever recorded from Saint Helena (regardless of whether they are established species or intercepted stowaways, and excluding morphospecies as discussed above) from 88 and 114 (SHERWOOD et al. 2024) to 92 and 116 (this work). The number of recognised families raises from 32 (SHERWOOD et al. 2024) to 33 (this work). Saint Helena's history as a globally important shipping port and its continued role in world commerce means that biosecurity remains critically important, and it is likely that further species of spider may be intercepted in the future. It is our hope to continue to publish new records, if or when they arise.

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