



Oonops erinaceus Benoit, 1977, a junior synonym of *Triaeris stenaspis* Simon, 1892 (Araneae: Oonopidae)

DANNIELLA SHERWOOD^{1,2,3,*}, ANTONIO D. BRESCOVIT⁴, ARNAUD HENRARD⁵, RUDY JOCQUÉ⁵ & LIZA FOWLER^{3,6}

¹Arachnology Research Association, London, United Kingdom; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8170-9529>

²Fundación Ariguanabo, San Antonio de Los Baños, Cuba

³IUCN Species Survival Commission, Mid-Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group

⁴Laboratório de Coleções Zoológicas, Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brazil; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1511-5324>

⁵Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium

Arnaud Henrard: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3270-7193>; Rudy Jocqué: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1776-0121>

⁶Saint Helena National Trust, Jamestown, Saint Helena; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4893-2267>

*Corresponding author: danni.sherwood@hotmail.com

Recently, the Saint Helenian oonopids have been discussed by Sherwood & Fowler (2022) who indicated all but one species was non-endemic. The sole remaining endemic species, *Oonops erinaceus* Benoit, 1977, was described based on the female and the type material has not been reconsidered in the taxonomic literature since its original description. Sherwood & Fowler (2022) did not make changes to the taxonomy of this species, stating the types had to be examined in order to resolve its systematic placement.

In this work, following a visit to the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) by the senior author in early 2023, where the types were examined, we can finally resolve the identity of *Oonops erinaceus* forty-five years after its original description. Photographs of the habitus and epigyne of the holotype were taken by DS at the RMCA using a Leica DMC500 digital camera mounted on a Leica MZ16A and stacked using the Leica Application Suite (LAS) v. 4.13. Photographs of the RMCA specimens are accessible through the RMCA Virtual Collection website (<https://virtualcol.africanmuseum.be>). A non-type from Brazil deposited at the Instituto Butantan, São Paulo (IBSP) was used here for comparison to show a more recently preserved specimen. It is thus now the fact that the Saint Helenian Oonopidae taxa consist solely of invasive species, this information is important as the synonymy established here will allow for the future removal of *O. erinaceus* from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List and demonstrates that oonopids should not be considered a priority concern for conservation on the island unless any true endemic (novel) species are discovered in the future.

Taxonomy

Oonopidae Simon, 1890

Triaeris stenaspis Simon, 1892 (Figs 1–9)

Triaeris stenaspis Simon, 1892: 561.

Triaeris patellaris Bryant, 1940: 268, fig. 4.

Triaeris berlandi Lawrence, 1952: 5, figs. 3a–f.

Triaeris lepus Suman, 1965: 235, figs. 27–31.

Triaeris lacandona Brignoli, 1974: 208, figs. 4A–F.

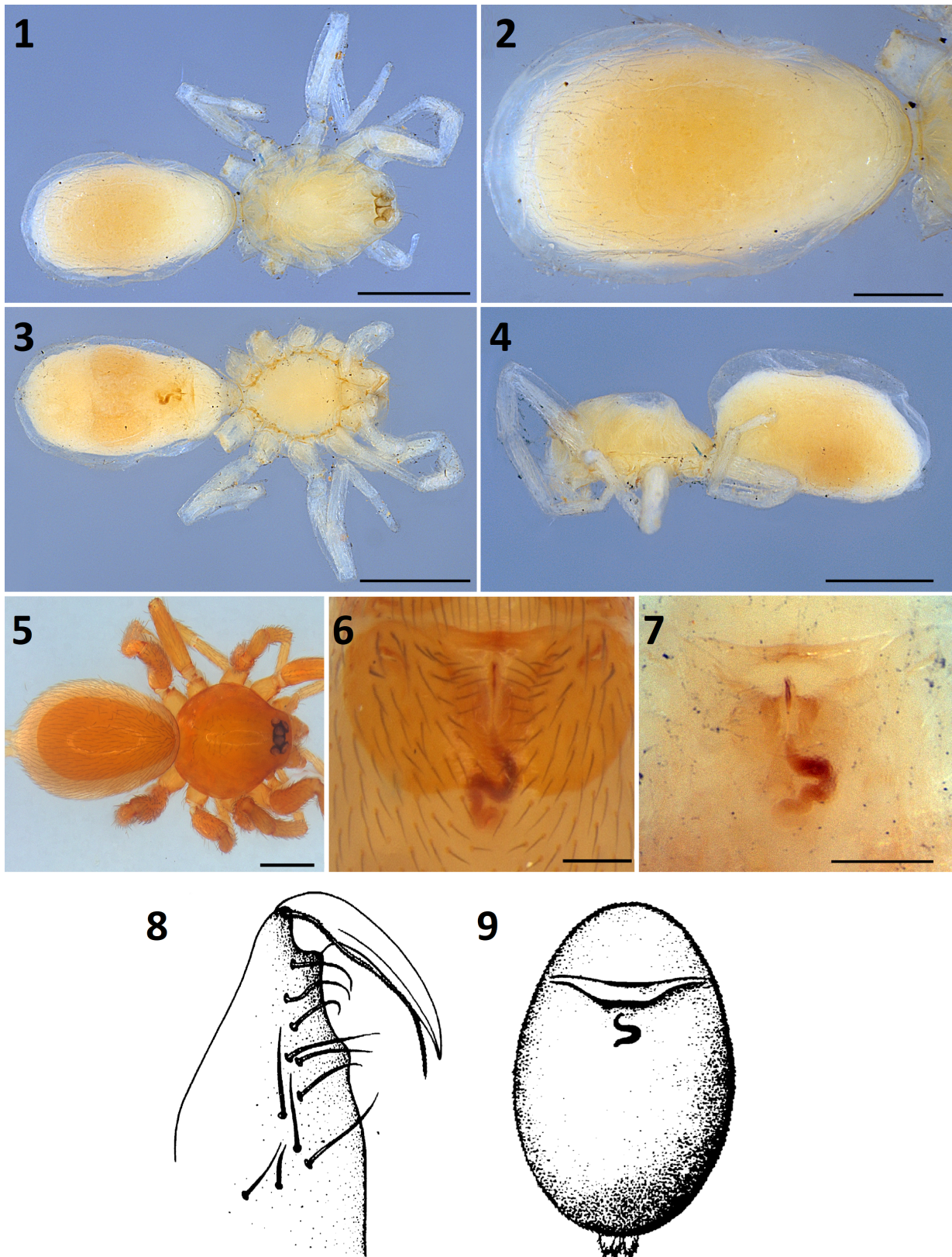
Oonops erinaceus Benoit, 1977: 31, figs. 11a–d. syn. nov.

For complete synonymy list, see World Spider Catalog (2023)

Type material examined. Holotype ♀ *Oonops erinaceus* (BE_RMCA_ARA.Ara.133326), Flagstaff hill, Saint Helena, 2000–2200m, 7.V.1967, J. Decelle and N. Leleup coll.; paratype imm. ♀ *Oonops erinaceus* (BE_RMCA_ARA.Ara.133347), Prosperous Bay Plain, Saint Helena, 15°57'S, 05°39'W, 1000–1100ft, 5–6.V.1967, J. Decelle & N. Leleup coll.

Other material examined. 1 ♀ (IBSP 61400), Brazil: Reservatório Guarapiranga, Jardim Ângela, Ilha dos Eucaliptos (23°45'9.5286"S - 46°44'23.3082"W), 07-13.X.2003, I. Cizauskas & C. R. M. Garcia coll.

Diagnosis. See Platnick *et al.* (2012).



FIGURES 1–9. *Triaeris stenaspis* Simon, 1892, 1–4 *Oonops erinaceus* Benoit, 1977 holotype female (BE_RMCA_ARA.Ara.133326) [= *Triaeris stenaspis*] 1 habitus, dorsal view, 2 opisthosoma, dorsal view, 3 habitus, ventral view, 4 habitus, lateral view (left hand side), 5–6 *T. stenaspis* non-type female from Reservatório Guarapiranga, Jardim Ângela, Ilha dos Eucaliptos, Brazil (IBSP 61400), 5 habitus, dorsal view (photograph adapted from Brescovit *et al.*, 2019), 6 epigyne, ventral view (photograph adapted from Brescovit *et al.*, 2019), 7–9 *Oonops erinaceus* Benoit, 1977 holotype female (BE_RMCA_ARA.Ara.133326) [= *Triaeris stenaspis*], 7 epigyne, ventral view, 8 chelicera, lateral view (illustration adapted from Benoit, 1977), 9 opisthosoma, ventral view (illustration adapted from Benoit, 1977). Scale bars = 0.5 mm (1, 3–5), 0.2 mm (2), 0.1 mm (6–7).

Description. For a detailed description, see Platnick *et al.* (2012).

Remarks. Simon (1892) described *Triaeris stenaspis* based on a female from Saint Vincent Island, and this now pantropical and introduced species has never had a male documented. Thus, it is likely this species is wholly parthenogenic (Brescovit *et al.*, 2019). The long seta on the chelicera and the female genitalia (Figs 8–9) illustrated in the original description of *Oonops erinaceus* by Benoit (1977) are typical of *T. stenaspis* material from multiple continents examined by DS, ADB, AH and RJ (pers. obs.). Indeed, the epigyne of the holotype, with distinctive morphology of the receptacle, is almost indistinguishable from specimens from other regions (cf. Figs 6, 7) and differences in the habitus to fresh specimens are simply the result of long-term preservation in ethanol (Figs 1–5). Although the type specimen of *O. erinaceus* is almost completely bleached and appears at first to lack scuta, we can still faintly observe the border of the dorsal scutum (Figs 2, 4). Therefore, we propose, based on near-identical cheliceral setae and epigynal morphology, that *O. erinaceus* be considered a junior synonym of *T. stenaspis* syn. nov.

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