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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cheiramiona* was described by Lotz & Dippenaar-Schoeman 1999 and revised by Lotz (2002). Very little is known about its biology, behaviour and distribution. The distribution of the genus in the Afrotropical region can be seen in Figure 1a. The species can roughly be grouped on the basis of habitat. The majority of species seem to favour habitats or the ecotone between forest and grassland. The species *C. fontanus*, *C. jocquei*, *C. regis* and *C. simplicitarise* seem to prefer grassland and the species *C. amarifontis*, *C. ansiae*, *C. ferrumfontis* and *C. stellenboschiensis* prefer fynbos or mixed vegetation. The only generalist species, *C. florisbadensis* and *C. paradises*, occurs over the whole range of habitats. The new species described here, *C. brandbergensis* n. sp., can be grouped with the grassland group. These groupings are not fixed, as habitat data is in some cases, inferred from the locality data. The distribution and habitat preference of the genus is further elaborated in Table 1.

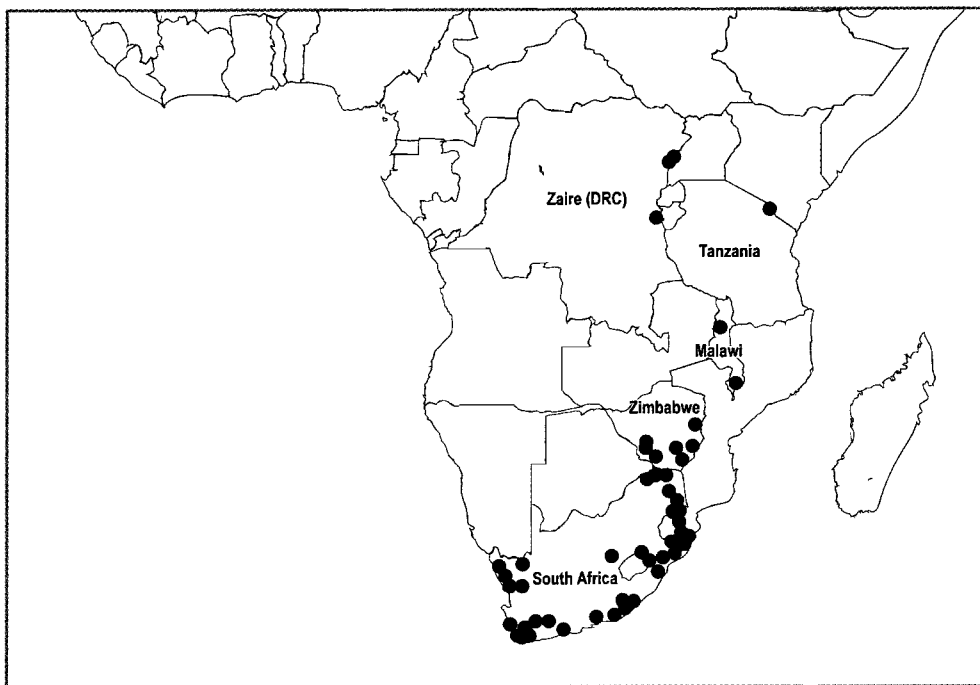


Figure 1a: Distribution of the genus *Cheiramiona*.

Table 1: Distribution and habitat preference of the *Cheiramiona* species. F = forest, G = grassland, F/G = forest/grassland ecotone, F/MV = fynbos or mixed vegetation.

Species	Distribution	Habitat
<i>C. akermani</i> (Lawrence, 1942)	South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal	F, G ?
<i>C. amarifontis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Western & Eastern Cape	F/MV
<i>C. ansiae</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Western & Eastern Cape	F/MV
<i>Cheiramiona</i> n. sp.	Namibia, Brandberg	G
<i>C. clavigerum</i> (Simon, 1897)	South Africa, Western Cape to KwaZulu-Natal	F/MV, F
<i>C. collinita</i> (Lawrence, 1938)	South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal	F/G
<i>C. ferrumfontis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Western & Northern Cape	F//MV
<i>C. filipes</i> (Simon, 1898)	South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal to Zimbabwe	F/G
<i>C. florisbadensis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa	F, G, F/MV
<i>C. fontanus</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Free State	G
<i>C. hewitti</i> (Lessert, 1921)	Tanzania, Kilimanjaro	F/G
<i>C. jocquei</i> Lotz, 2002	Malawi, Mulanje Mountains	G
<i>C. kalongensis</i> Lotz, 2002	Zaire, Kalongè	F/G
<i>C. kentaniensis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Eastern Cape	F/G
<i>C. krugerensis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Eastern Cape to Mpumalanga	F/G
<i>C. lajuma</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Western Cape to Limpopo	F/G
<i>C. langi</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Limpopo to Zimbabwe	F/G
<i>C. lejeunei</i> Lotz, 2002	Zaire to Malawi	F/G
<i>C. mlawula</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal to Swaziland	F/G
<i>C. muvalensis</i> Lotz, 2002	Zaire	F/G
<i>C. paradisis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa to Zimbabwe	F, G, F/MV
<i>C. regis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal	G
<i>C. ruwenzoricola</i> (Strand, 1915)	Zaire, Ruwenzori Mountains	F/G
<i>C. silvicolum</i> (Lawrence, 1938)	South Africa, Eastern Cape to KwaZulu-Natal	F/G
<i>C. simplicitarse</i> (Simon, 1910)	South Africa, Northern Cape	G
<i>C. stellenboschiensis</i> Lotz, 2002	South Africa, Western Cape	F//MV

The species described in this publication were collected at Brandberg in the central western part of Namibia (Fig. 1b) and is the first record from Namibia. The Brandberg Massif is a prominent and isolated mountain situated in a transition area between the gravel desert to the west and arid savanna to the east (Irish 1994).

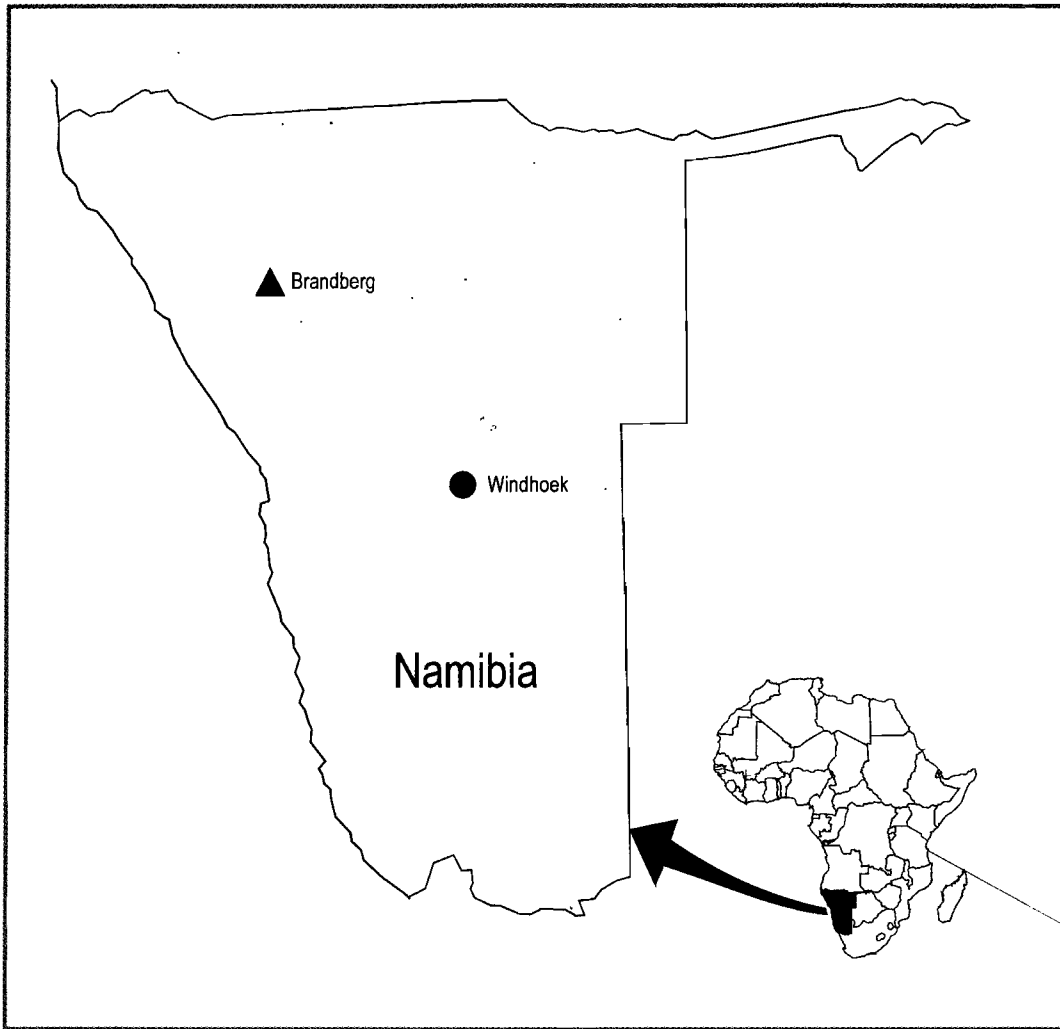
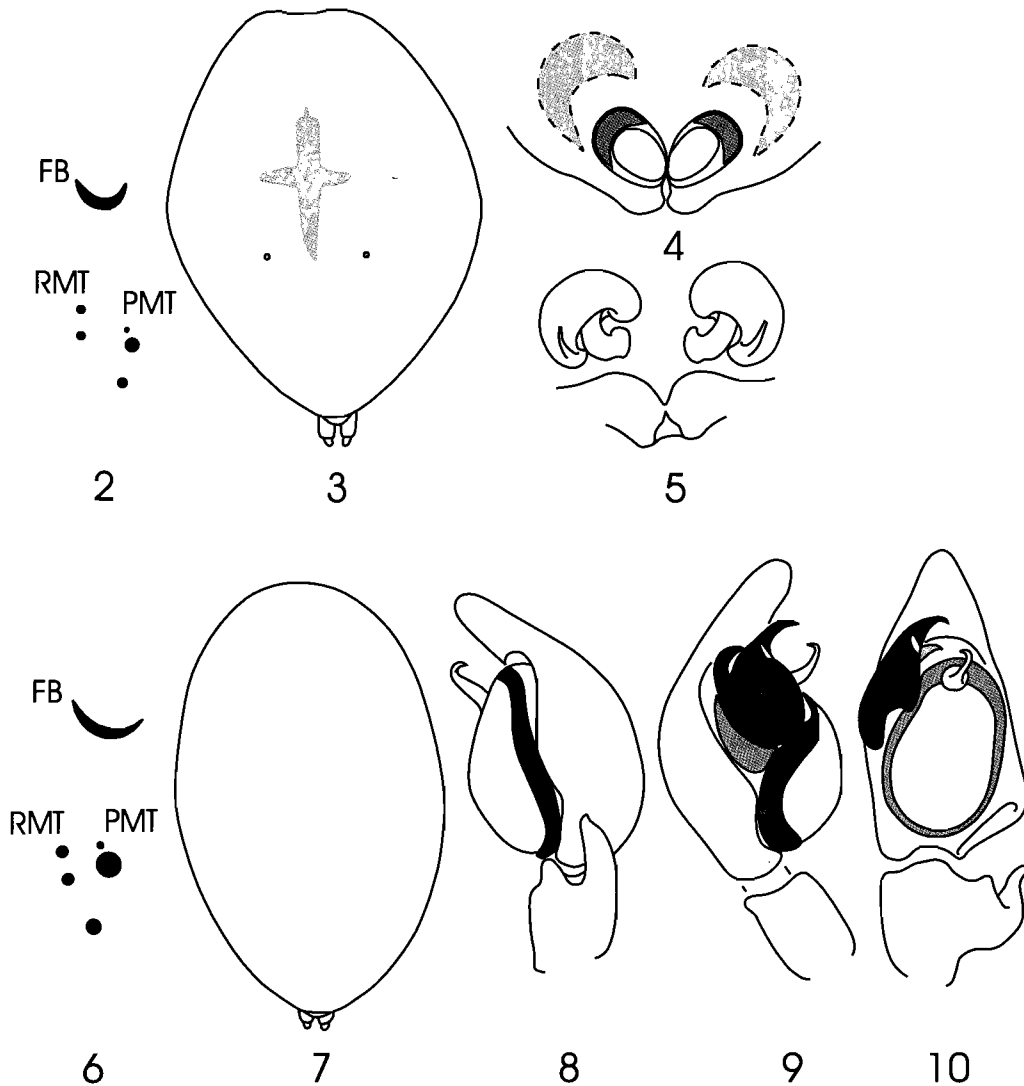


Figure 1b: Distribution of *Cheiramiona brandbergensis*.

Abbreviations - AER = Anterior eye row; ALE = Anterior lateral eyes; AME = Anterior median eyes; CI = Carapace index; CL = Carapace length; CLL = Clypeal length; CW = Carapace width; FB = Fang base; LL = Total length of leg I; LL:CL = Leg I / carapace index; MOQ = Median ocular quadrangle; MOQAW = MOQ anterior width; MOQPW = MOQ posterior width; OAL = Ocular area length; OAW = Ocular area width; PER = Posterior eye row; PLE = Posterior lateral eyes; PME = Posterior median eyes; PMT = Promarginal teeth; RMT = Retromarginal teeth; RTA = Retrolateral tibial apophysis; STL = Sternum length; STW = Sternum width; TL = Total length.

Cheiramiona brandbergensis, sp. n.

Figures 2-10: *Cheiramiona brandbergensis* female. 2. teeth on cheliceral fang furrow showing fang base (FB), retromarginal (RMT) and promarginal (PMT) teeth; 3. dorsal abdomen; 4. external epigynum; 5. internal epigynum. *Cheiramiona brandbergensis* male; 6. teeth on cheliceral fang furrow showing fang base (FB), retromarginal (RMT) and promarginal (PMT) teeth; 7. dorsal abdomen; 8-10. palp, prolateral (8), retrolateral (9) and ventral (10) views.

Type: *Holotype*: ♀, NAMIBIA: Brandberg, Longipoolis Ravine Pan, 21°11'33"S/14°33'30"E, 1820m a.s.l., 26 May 2000, K. Meakin (SMW 45375).

Allotype: ♂, NAMIBIA: Brandberg, Falls Rock Ravine, 21°10'42"S/14°32'52"E, 1920m, 10 August 2000, K. Meakin (SMW 45377).

Paratypes: NAMIBIA: Brandberg: 1♀, Gravel Plain West, 21°10'30"S/14°33'40"E, 2120m, 12 April 2000, K. Meakin (SMW 45368); ♂ Falls Rock Ravine, 21°10'42"S/14°32'52"E, 1920m, April 2000, K. Meakin (SMW 45322); ♂ Konigstein Pan, 21°08'48"S/14°34'17"E, 2340m, 27 July 2000, K. Meakin (SMW 45366); ♂ Brandberg, 2000, no other data, (SMW 45378).

Etymology: The name is derived from the type locality (Brandberg).

Diagnosis: *C. brandbergensis* is differentiated by the shape of the spermathecae and the copulatory tubes (Fig. 5), the shape of the embolus, the shape and position of the median apophysis and the absence of a small tubercle on the RTA (Fig. 9).

With the description of this new species there are now 26 species in the genus *Cheiramiona*. On the basis of the female genitalia and the male palp the species seem to be closely related to *C. florisbadensis* Lotz, 2002, which has a relatively wide distribution in the southern and eastern part of South Africa. Geographically, and also based on the fang furrow teeth, it is closest to *C. simplicitarse* (Simon, 1910). To a certain extent this is also reflected in the morphology of the male palp.

In the key to species (Lotz 2002), the female *C. brandbergensis* n.sp. would fit in at couplet four, with *C. jocquei* Lotz, 2002 and *C. simplicitarse* (Simon, 1910), with the copulatory ducts opening into a lipped area, but differing from both in opening into separate lipped areas. The male would fit in at couplet 29 with the tegulum not extending past the cymbial base, but differing from *C. stellenboschiensis* Lotz, 2002 in the RTA being lobed and the embolus being broader near the apex.

Body in general uniformly yellowish in color, with darker chelicerae. Dark areas present at leg joints and around the base of the spinnerets in some cases. Heart mark an indistinct to a grayish longitudinal mark.

Female. (n = 2): TL = 6.30 (5.50 – 7.10); CL = 2.70 (2.50 – 2.90); CW = 2.05 (1.90 – 2.20); OAL = 0.40 (0.40 – 0.40); OAW = 1.25 (1.20 – 1.30); CLL = 0.10 (0.10 – 0.10).

Chelicerae: robust with long fangs; cheliceral fang furrow with five teeth of unequal size (Fig. 2) (PMT: RMT = 3:2); PMT2 largest, PMT1 smallest, RMT of equal size; RMT closer to fang base with PMT1 in line with RMT2.

Measurements: AME-AME 0.15; AME-ALE 0.20; AME diameter 0.20; PME-PME 0.30; PME-PLA 0.30; PME diameter 0.20; MOQAW 0.50; MOQPW 0.60; CI (CL/CW) 1.32; LL:CL 4.66; STL 1.30; STW 1.30.

Leg measurements:

	I	II	III	IV	Palp
Femur	4.00	2.50	2.00	2.90	1.10
Patella	1.10	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50
Tibia	3.40	2.00	1.50	2.40	0.60
Metatarsus	3.90	2.40	1.60	2.80	---
Tarsus	1.10	0.80	0.70	0.80	1.10
Total	13.50	8.70	6.60	9.90	3.30

Leg setae (v = ventral; p = prolateral; r = retrolateral):

	Femur	Tibia	Metatarsus
I	0	0	2v-1v-1v
II	0	0	0-0-1v
III	0	0	0-2v1plr-3v1plr
IV	0	0-0-1r	2v-2v1plr-3v1plr

Abdomen (Fig. 3): Heart mark an indistinct medial band.

Epigynum (Figs. 4-5): sclerotised around copulatory openings and along epigastric fold; copulatory ducts open separately in two slightly enclosed central hollows, short tubes extend laterally from openings to end in central part of large kidney-shaped spermathecae.

Male. (n = 4): TL = 5.33 (4.90 – 5.70); CL = 2.33 (2.10 – 2.50); CW = 1.80 (1.70 – 1.90); OAL = 0.39 (0.35 – 0.40); OAW = 0.98 (0.90 – 1.00); CLL = 0.10 (0.10 – 0.10).

Chelicerae: similar to female (Fig. 6) (PMT:RMT = 3:2), PMT2 largest and PMT1 almost in line with RMT1.

Measurements: AME-AME 0.15; AME-ALE 0.15; AME diameter 0.15; PME-PME 0.20; PME-PLA 0.20; PME diameter 0.15; MOQAW 0.40; MOQPW 0.45; CI (CL/CW) 1.21; LL:CL 7.17; STL 1.00; STW 1.00.

Leg measurements:

	I	II	III	IV	Palp
Femur	4.60	3.00	2.00	3.30	1.00
Patella	1.00	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.40
Tibia	4.50	2.60	1.90	2.80	0.40
Metatarsus	4.90	3.10	2.40	3.50	---
Tarsus	1.50	1.00	0.70	1.00	1.20
Total	16.50	10.70	7.80	11.60	3.00

Leg setae: (v = ventral; p = prolateral; r = retrolateral).

	Femur	Tibia	Metatarsus
I	0-0-1plr	1v-2v-1p	2v-2v-2v-1v
II	0	0-2v-1plr	2v-2v1plr-3v1plr
III	0	1plr-1v-1plr	2v-2v-3v1plr
IV	0	1r 2v-1plr	2v-2v1plr-3v1plr

Abdomen (Fig. 7): similar to female, except hart mark less distinct.

Palp (Figs. 8-10): cymbium elongate, longer than patella and tibia combined; RTA lobed without small tubercle; median apophysis of medium length, bent towards embolus and apical on tegulum; tegulum large, rounded, not overlapping cymbial edge; embolus short, thick, two lobed, both lobes curved inward; conductor small, indistinct.

Other material examined: None.

Distribution: Known only from type locality in Namibia (Fig. 1).

Habitat: Collected in Malaise traps and at light traps in the Brandberg Massif in the Namib Desert, between 1 820 – 2 340 m.