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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

Species of the Day: Baboon Spider

The **Baboon Spider**, *Ceratogyrus paulseni*, has not yet been officially evaluated for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, but a provisional assessment of its status is thought to be 'Least Concern'. This species was discovered in 2004 during a survey undertaken in the Kruger National Park in South Africa. It is endemic to South Africa, and found exclusively in a small part of the Letaba area of the park associated with Mopani-Acacia woodland.

The Baboon Spider is a ground-dweller that constructs relatively permanent silk-lined burrows in the ground. They are predominantly sit-and-wait hunters. Although this species is presently found in a conserved area, its future is threatened by illegal exploitation for national and international trade. Other threats include the effects of predatory species, drought and field fires.

The area where the spiders are found was extensively surveyed over a two-year period and only 20 burrows were located. Baboon Spiders are nationally protected in South Africa, and keeping or selling them without a permit is prohibited. Further research into their ecology, taxonomy and distribution has been recommended to help in their conservation.

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