

# New spider species named after Greta

June 12 2020

---



A male specimen of the newly discovered "Thunberg spider." Credit: Rémy Eudeline, Lyon

Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg can add to her list of

personal accolades, including TIME magazine's Person of the Year, a group of spiders named after her.

*Thunberga* gen. nov. is a new genus of huntsman spiders from Madagascar, described by German arachnologist Peter Jager, and named after the wunderkind in honour of her commitment to tackling climate change.

"The rising temperatures affect all areas of nature -- including the endemic diversity and spider fauna of Madagascar," said Jager, who has participated in several protests inspired by Thunberg's School Strike for Climate.

In a study printed in the scientific journal *Zootaxa*, Jager explained that the new genus differed from other huntsmans in their eye arrangement and unique dotted patterns on their backs.

Jager, who has discovered several new spider species in a career spanning 20 years, said he hoped that by naming the creepy crawlies after Thunberg he could draw attention to the issue of biodiversity loss in Madagascar.

He named a previous discovery of Southeast Asian huntsman spider *Heteropoda davidbowie*.



*Thunberga nossibeensis* – the type and by far the largest species of the entire genus. Credit: Rémy Eudeline, Lyon

Unlike most spiders, huntsman don't spin webs and hunt and forage instead for their food.

During his latest expedition, Jager also discovered a heretofore unknown species of huntsman on the island.

Its name? *Thunberga greta*.

**More information:** PETER JÄGER. *Thunberga* gen. nov., a new

genus of huntsman spiders from Madagascar (Araneae: Sparassidae: Heteropodinae), *Zootaxa* (2020). [DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.4790.2.3](https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4790.2.3)

© 2020 AFP

Citation: New spider species named after Greta (2020, June 12) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-06-species-spiders-honour-swedish-climate.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.