

Oonopidae: *Heteroonops*

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*Heteroonops* is a circum-Caribbean genus, although its type species is synanthropic and has attained a pantropical distribution. Recently revised (<http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/handle/2246/6024>), the genus currently includes 14 species, including these endemics:

Bahama Islands (Andros, one species)

Cuba (probably at least three species, but no certain endemics yet)

Jamaica (one endemic)

Hispaniola (Dominican Republic, four endemic species)

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands (one shared species)

Puerto Rico (one endemic)

Virgin Island (St. Croix, one endemic)

Leeward Islands (one species on Saba and Montserrat, one endemic to Dominica)

Unlike the other targeted oonopid groups, neither the carapace nor the abdomen are heavily sclerotized; there are no hard scuta and the bodies are basically entirely white (this is also true of juveniles of the harder groups). There are other white, soft-bodied genera in the Caribbean, including genera that are described (*Oonopoides*, known with certainty only from Cuba, and at least two genera whose members are currently misplaced in *Oonops*). Female of *Heteroonops* are relatively easy to recognize from the long spines found on the pedipalps; males have distinctive, posteriorly directed projections on their endites, but they are unlikely to be visible except with a research-quality microscope.

Search strategy: as with most oonopids, these animals are collected efficiently only by concentrating leaf litter through a sifter. The concentrated litter can be sorted by hand, or run through portable Berlese funnels or Winkler traps. Note that for all oonopids, it is best to collect any spiders that are under 3 mm in total length, and have six or fewer eyes. Do not attempt to discriminate adults from juveniles in the field; best to collect all the small spiders with six or fewer eyes. These will include some ochyroceratids, tetrablemmids, and caponiids, but all those groups are of interest.

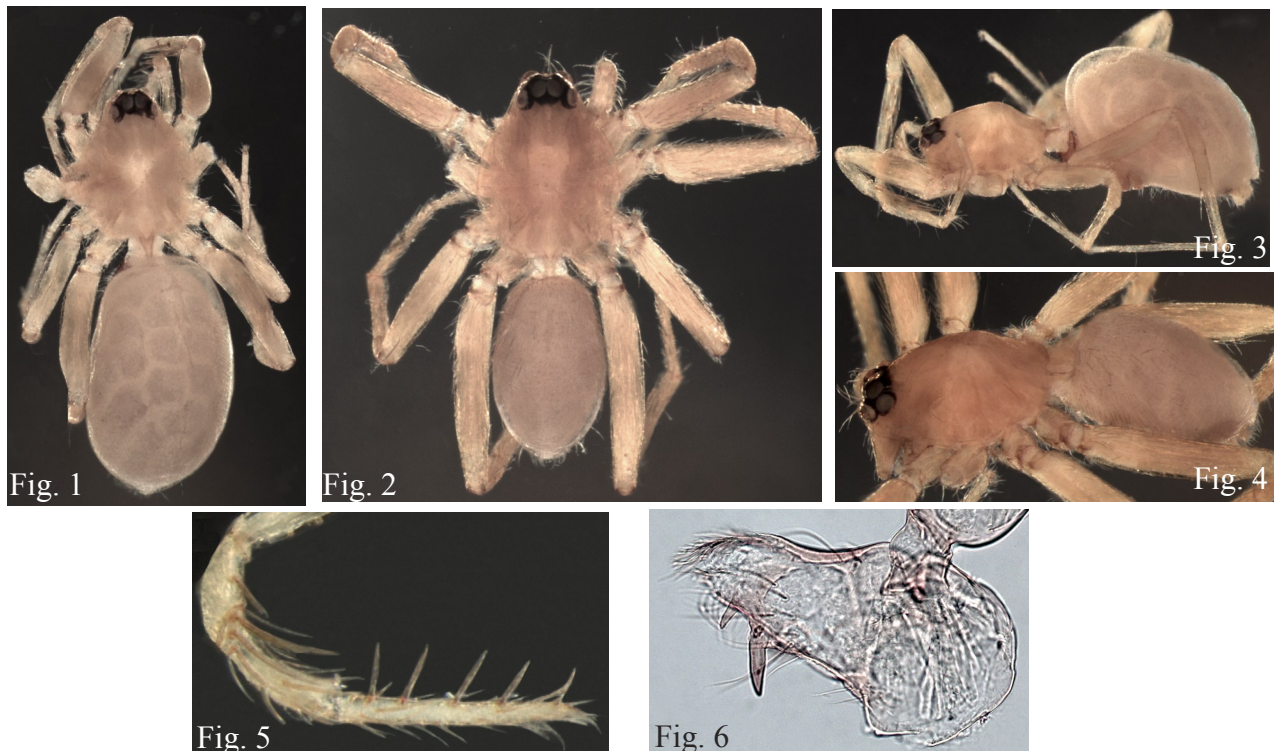


Fig. 1-3. Female *Heteroonops croix*. 1. Dorsal view. 3. Lateral view. Fig. 2-4. Male *Heteroonops macaque*. 2. Dorsal view. 4. Lateral view. Fig. 5. *Heteroonops spinigata* female palp prolateral. Fig. 6. Male endite, lateral.