

# Araneofauna (Arachnida Araneae) of Mount Pellegrino (Sicily, Italy). Fourth contribution to knowledge of the Sicilian spider fauna

Antonino Dentici

via Enrico Cialdini 2, 90124 Palermo, Italy; e-mail: [antonino.dentici.1991@gmail.com](mailto:antonino.dentici.1991@gmail.com) Orcid: 0000-0003-0632-1633

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## ABSTRACT

In this work I report on the presence of some Araneae species new or interesting for Sicily and a preliminary checklist of the Araneofauna of the mountain massif “Monte Pellegrino” located in the territory of Palermo (Sicily, Italy) including: *Altella lucida* (Simon, 1874) (Dictnyidae), *Agyneta saxatilis* (Blackwall, 1844) (Linyphiidae), *Anatolidion gentile* (Simon, 1881) (Theridiidae) and *Heliophanus auratus* C.L. Koch, 1835 (Salticidae). Additional biological, literature, chorotype and distribution are indicated.

## KEY WORDS

Araneae; new data; Sicily; Monte Pellegrino.

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## INTRODUCTION

The knowledge of the spider fauna in Sicily has been inconstant and almost never examined in depth over time, despite the peculiarities of the territory and the geographical position in the Mediterranean area.

The lack of knowledge of many of the different natural aspects that concern the island often leads to making ineffective choices on a protectionist level with the consequent disappearance of important natural environments and the nature connected to them.

From these considerations the desire to observe the araneofauna of the mountain massif “Monte Pellegrino” (zona A of the “Riserva Naturale Orientata Monte Pellegrino”, Palermo, Sicily, Italy) was born, trying, albeit modest, to contribute to an ever-greater awareness of the nature that surrounds us, in order to preserve the most naturalness possible.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### *Study area*

The “Riserva Naturale Orientata Monte Pellegrino”, established in October 1995 and managed by the national association “Ranger d’Italia”, extends for about 1,050 hectares, includes the entire Mount Pellegrino massif (reserve area A) and the Parco della Favorita (zone B or pre-reserve), excluding sports infrastructures.

This area is inserted in the site of community interest ITA020014.

Mount Pellegrino (Fig. 1) known in ancient times as Heirkte (Εἰρκτή), was called by the Arabs *Bel Grin* or *Gebel Grin* or “nearby mountain”. It is a mountain massif of carbonate rocks with a prevalence of limestone, which reaches its highest point at 606 meters above sea level, and which extends into the Tyrrhenian Sea to close the western end of the Gulf of Palermo.

The mountain has a varied orography with steep sides, even very large plains, fractures, an abundance of karst phenomena and the presence of 137 known caves of marine and / or karst origin.

Biodiversity is very abundant due to the different plant environments.

The steep ridges of the promontory host botanical species typical of coastal cliffs such as the dwarf palm *Chamaerops umilis* L., the prickly pear *Opuntia ficus-indica* (L.) Mill. and the caper *Capparis spinosa* L., while the area of slopes is characterized by large areas of garrigue and Mediterranean scrub and sporadic holm oak residues.

The undergrowth hosts several species of orchids, such as the endemic *Ophrys lunulata* Parl., a priority species according to the European Union Habitats Directive (code 1905)

On the contrary, part of the area of the “Real Tenuta della Favorita” (Zone B) is occupied by cultivated areas (citrus orchards, orchards, experimental agricultural fields) and areas afforested with conifers.

There are several animal species, among them: about 40 bird species, including the peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall, 1771, the scops owl *Otus scops* Linnaeus, 1758 and the owl *Athene noctua* Scopoli, 1769; several species of mammals such as the weasel *Mustela nivalis* Linnaeus, 1758, the vole of the Savi *Microtus savii* de Selys-Longchamps, 1838 and in the caves it is reported the presence of the bat *Rhinolophus ferrumenquinum* Schreber, 1774; among the reptiles

we find in the reserve the leopard colubro *Zamenis situla* (Linnaeus, 1758), and the asp *Vipera aspis hugyi* (Schinz, 1833), also there are many specimens of the Sicilian lizard *Podarcis waglerianus* Gistel, 1868; among the amphibians the presence of two endemisms deserves to be mentioned: the painted discoglossus *Discoglossus pictus* Otth, 1837 and the Sicilian emerald toad, *Bufoetes boulengeri siculus* (Stöck, Sicilia, Belfiore, Buckley, Lo Brutto, Lo Valvo et Arculeo, 2018) (see also Stöck et al., 2008), a species that breeds on Monte Pellegrino in the Gorgo di Santa Rosalia, a natural pool that rises not far from the homonymous Sanctuary. Among the rich invertebrate fauna, some endemisms must be remembered: the land snails *Siciliaria grohmanniana* (Rossmässler, 1836) (Gastropoda Clausilidae), *Murella sicana* (Férussac, 1822) and *Ercetella mazzullii* (De Cristofori & Jan, 1832) (Gastropoda Helicidae) and two Ground beetles sympatric on Mount Pellegrino: *Typhloreicheia susanna* Magrini & Paladini, 2014 and *T. colacurcioi* Magrini & Paladini, 2014 (Coleoptera Carabidae).

### Sampling methods

Samples were taken during different periods of the year and in different areas of the mountain, but concentrated in three areas: the Sanctuary of Santa Rosalia, at 429 meters above sea level, the “Grotte dell’Addaura”, located on the north-eastern side of Mount Pellegrino and the “Gorgo di Santa Rosalia”, a pond, fed by the autumn rains and dry in the summer period. All samples were collected on sight on plants, under rocks or in their web. Some samples were photographed in nature with a Nikon D300s and a macro lens of 100 mm.

Of almost all the species mentioned, at least one adult specimen per species has been observed under a stereomicroscope for the correct determination of the species, of those not found, during the hikes so far carried out, the bibliography that refers to their observation at Monte Pellegrino is reported.

All the samples were stored in centrifuge tubes of different sizes, depending on the size of the sample, and were fixed in 75% ethanol.

The samples are stored in the collection of the author. For new reports “legit” and collection data are indicated, each locality and/or collection site is in the original language (Italian).

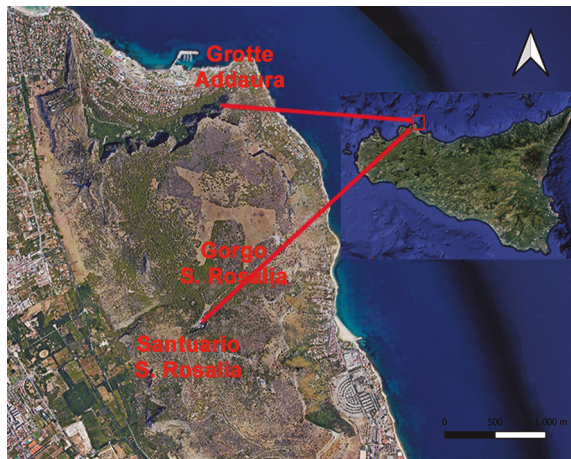


Figure 1. Study area: Mount Pellegrino (Sicily, Italy).

The classification, taxonomic order, nomenclatural arrangement, and presence in the Sicilian territory follow Roberts (1995), Trotta (2004), Pantini & Isaia (2019) and World Spider Catalog (2020).

## RESULTS

In total, up to date, 112 species of 97 genera and 34 families are listed, among these 4 new species and 3 genera are observed for the first time in Sicily, marked by (\*) in the checklist below, for the latter, the collection data will be shown.

The species observed and/or sampled directly by the author will be marked with “X” in the checklist. For the species already observed in the past for Monte Pellegrino, the first author, who reported them, will be marked, and following the posthumous observations, in case there were any. Many of these observations appear to be unpublished data on the regional distribution of species.

### Checklist of spiders of Monte Pellegrino

Ordo ARANEAE Clerck, 1757

Familia AGELENIDAE C.L. Koch, 1837

*Agelena* Walckenaer, 1806

*Agelena labyrinthica* (Clerck, 1757) - X

*Eratigena* Bolzern, Burckhardt & Hänggi, 2013

*Eratigena sicana* (Brignoli, 1976) - first observation: Bolzern et al., 2008

*Lycosoides* Lucas, 1846

*Lycosoides coarctata* (Dufour, 1831) - X

*Tegenaria* Latreille, 1804

*Tegenaria domestica* (Clerck, 1757) - X

*Tegenaria pagana* C.L. Koch, 1840 - X / first observation: Roewer, 1960

*Tegenaria parietina* (Fourcroy, 1785) - X

*Textrix* Sundevall, 1833

*Textrix caudata* C.L. Koch, 1872 - X

Familia AMAUROBIIDAE Thorell, 1870

*Amaurobius* C.L. Koch, 1837

*Amaurobius erberi* (Keyserling, 1863) - X

Familia ANYPHAENIDAE Bertkau, 1878

*Anyphaena* Sundevall, 1833

*Anyphaena sabina* C.L. Koch, 1866 - X

Familia ARANEIDAE Clerck, 1757

*Aculepeira* Chamberlin & Ivie, 1942

*Aculepeira armida* (Audouin, 1826) - first observation: Brignoli P.M., 1968

*Agalenatea* Archer, 1951

*Agalenatea redii* (Scopoli, 1763) - X

*Araneus* Clerck, 1757

*Araneus angulatus* Clerck, 1757 - X

*Araneus diadematus* Clerck, 1757 - X

*Araniella* Chamberlin et Ivie, 1942

*Araniella cucurbitina* (Clerck, 1757) - X

*Argiope* Audouin, 1826

*Argiope bruennichi* (Scopoli, 1772) - X

*Cyclosa* Menge, 1866

*Cyclosa conica* Pallas, 1772 - X

*Cyclosa insulana* (Costa, 1834) - X

*Cyrtophora* Simon, 1864

*Cyrtophora citricola* (Forsskål, 1775) - X

*Gibbaranea* Archer, 1951

*Gibbaranea bituberculata* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X

*Larinioides* Caporiacco, 1934

*Larinioides sclopetarius* (Clerck, 1757) - X

*Mangora* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1889

*Mangora acalypha* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X

*Neoscona* Simon, 1864

*Neoscona adianta* (Walckenaer, 1802) - first observation: Brignoli P.M., 1968

*Neoscona subfusca* (C.L. Koch, 1837) - X

*Zilla* C.L. Koch, 1836

*Zilla diodia* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X

*Zygiella* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1902

- Zygiella x-notata* (Clerck, 1757) - X  
 Familia CHEIRACANTHIIDAE Wagner, 1887  
*Cheiracanthium* C.L. Koch, 1839  
*Cheiracanthium mildei* L. Koch, 1864 - X  
 Familia CLUBIONIDAE Wagner, 1887  
*Clubiona* Latreille, 1804  
*Clubiona brevipes* Blackwall, 1841 - X  
*Porrhoclubiona* Lohmander, 1944  
*Porrhoclubiona leucaspis* (Simon, 1932) - X  
*Porrhoclubiona vegeta* (Simon, 1918) - X  
 Familia CTENIZIDAE Thorell, 1887  
*Cteniza* Latreille, 1829  
*Cteniza sauvagesi* (Rossi, 1788) - X  
 Familia CYRTAUCHENIIDAE Simon, 1889  
*Amblyocarenum* Simon, 1892  
*Amblyocarenum walckenaeri* (Lucas, 1846) - X  
 Familia DICTYNIDAE O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871  
 \**Altella* Simon, 1884  
 \**Altella lucida* (Simon, 1874) - X  
*Nigma* Lehtinen, 1967  
*Nigma walckenaeri* (Roewer, 1951) - X  
 Familia DYSDERIDAE C.L. Koch, 1837  
*Dysdera* Latreille, 1804  
*Dysdera crocata* C.L. Koch, 1838 - X  
*Harpactea* Bristowe, 1939  
*Harpactea carusoi* Alicata, 1974 - X  
 Familia FILISTATIDAE Ausserer, 1867  
*Filistata* Latreille, 1810  
*Filistata insidiatrix* (Forsskål, 1775) - X  
*Pritha* Lehtinen, 1967  
*Pritha nana* (Simon, 1868) - X  
 Familia GNAPHOSIDAE Pocock, 1898  
*Drassodes* Westring, 1851  
*Drassodes lapidosus* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X  
*Gnaphosa* Latreille, 1804  
*Gnaphosa lucifuga* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X  
*Nomisia* Dalmas, 1921  
*Nomisia aussereri* (C.L. Koch, 1872) - X  
*Nomisia exornata* (C.L. Koch, 1839) - X  
*Zelotes* Gistel, 1848  
*Zelotes petrensis* (C.L. Koch, 1839) - X  
 Familia LEPTONETIDAE Simon, 1890  
*Paraleptoneta* Fage, 1913  
*Paraleptoneta spinimana* (Simon, 1884) - first observation: Denis J., 1959  
 Familia LINYPHIIDAE Blackwall, 1859  
*Agyneta* Hull, 1911  
 \**Agyneta saxatilis* (Blackwall, 1844) - X  
*Centromerus* Dahl, 1886  
*Centromerus serratus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1875) - X  
*Frontinellina* van Helsdingen, 1969  
*Frontinellina frutetorum* (C.L. Koch, 1835) - X (Fig. 2)  
*Microlinyphia* Gerhardt, 1928  
*Microlinyphia pusilla* Sundevall, 1830 - X  
*Linyphia* Latreille, 1804  
*Linyphia triangularis* (Clerck, 1758) - X  
*Pelecopsis* Simon, 1864  
*Pelecopsis bucephala* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875) - X  
 Familia LYCOSIDAE Sundevall, 1833  
*Alopecosa* Simon, 1885  
*Alopecosa albofasciata* (Brullé, 1832) - X  
*Arctosa* C.L. Koch, 1847  
*Arctosa lacustris* (Simon, 1876) - X





Figure 2. *Frontinellina frutetorum* in courtship rituals.

*Hogna* Simon, 1885

*Hogna radiata* (Latreille, 1817) - X

*Lycosa* Latreille, 1804

*Lycosa tarantula* (Linnaeus, 1758) - X

*Trochosa* C.L. Koch, 1847

*Trochosa terricola* Thorell, 1856 - X

Familia MIMETIDAE Simon, 1881

*Ero* C.L. Koch, 1837

*Ero aphana* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X

Familia NEMESIIDAE Simon, 1889

*Nemesia* Audouin, 1826

*Nemesia* sp. - X

Familia OXYOPIDAE Thorell, 1870

*Oxyopes* Latreille, 1804

*Oxyopes heterophthalmus* (Latreille, 1804) - X

*Oxyopes nigripalpis* Kulczyński, 1891 - X

Familia PALPIMANIDAE Thorell, 1870

*Palpimanus* Dufour, 1820

*Palpimanus gibbulus* Dufour, 1820 - X

Familia PHILODROMIDAE Thorell, 1870

*Philodromus* Walckenaer, 1826

*Philodromus aureolus* (Clerck, 1757) - X

*Philodromus rufus* Walckenaer, 1826 - X

*Pulchellodromus* Wunderlich, 2012

*Pulchellodromus bistigma* (Simon, 1870) - X

*Tibellus* Simon, 1875

*Tibellus* sp. - X

Familia PHOLCIDAE C. L. Koch, 1850

*Holocnemus* Simon, 1875

*Holocnemus pluchei* (Scopoli, 1763) - X

*Pholcus* Walckenaer, 1805

*Pholcus phalangioides* (Fuesslin, 1775) - X - first observation by Dresco (1963).

*Spermophorides* Wunderlich, 1992

*Spermophorides elevata* (Simon, 1873) - X

Familia PISAURIDAE Simon, 1890

*Pisaura* Simon, 1886

***Pisaura mirabilis*** (Clerck, 1757) - X

Familia SALTICIDAE Blackwall, 1841

*Cyrba* Simon, 1876

***Cyrba algerina*** (Lucas, 1846) - X

*Evarcha* Simon, 1902

***Evarcha jucunda*** (Lucas, 1846) - X

*Hasarius* Simon, 1871

***Hasarius adansoni*** (Audouin, 1826) - X

*Heliophanus* C.L. Koch, 1833

\****Heliophanus auratus*** C.L. Koch, 1835 - X

***Heliophanus lineiventris*** Simon, 1868 - X

*Icius* Simon, 1876

***Icius hamatus*** (C.L. Koch, 1846) - X

*Mendoza* Peckham & Peckham, 1894

***Mendoza canestrinii*** (Ninni, 1868) - X

*Menemerus* Simon, 1868

***Menemerus semilimbatus*** (Hahn, 1829) - X

*Pellenes* Simon, 1876

***Pellenes geniculatus*** (Simon, 1868) - X

*Phlegra* Simon, 1876

***Phlegra fasciata*** (Hahn, 1826) - X

*Thyene* Simon, 1885

***Thyene imperialis*** (Rossi, 1846) - X

Familia SCYTODIDAE Blackwall, 1864

*Scytodes* Latreille, 1804

***Scytodes thoracica*** (Latreille, 1802) - X

Familia SEGESTRIIDAE Simon, 1893

*Segestria* Latreille, 1804

***Segestria bavarica*** C.L. Koch, 1843 - X - first observation by Dentici & Amata (2018).

***Segestria florentina*** (Rossi, 1790) - X

Familia SICARIIDAE Keyserling, 1880

*Loxosceles* Heineken & Lowe, 1832

***Loxosceles rufescens*** (Dufour, 1820) - X

Familia SPARASSIDAE Bertkau, 1872

*Olios* Walckenaer, 1837

***Olios argelasius*** (Walckenaer, 1806) -X

Familia TETRAGNATHIDAE Menge, 1866

*Meta* C.L. Koch, 1836

***Meta bourneti*** Simon, 1922 -X

*Metellina* Chamberlin et Ivie, 1941

***Metellina merianae*** (Scopoli, 1763) -X

*Tetragnatha* Latreille, 1804

***Tetragnatha extensa*** (Linnaeus, 1758) -X

***Tetragnatha nitens*** (Audouin, 1826) -X

Familia THERAPHOSIDAE Thorell, 1869

*Ischnocolus* Ausserer, 1871

***Ischnocolus valentinus*** (Dufour, 1820) - X

Familia THERIDIIDAE Sundevall, 1833

*Anatolidion* Wunderlich, 2008

***Anatolidion gentile*** (Simon, 1881)

*Anelosimus* Simon, 1891

***Anelosimus vittatus*** (C.L. Koch, 1836) - X

*Argyrodes* Simon, 1864

***Argyrodes argyrodes*** (Walckenaer, 1841) - X

*Asagena* Sundevall, 1833

***Asagena phalerata*** (Panzer, 1801) - X

*Episinus* Walckenaer, 1809

***Episinus algericus*** Lucas, 1846 - X - first observation by Dentici & Amata (2018).

***Episinus maculipes*** Cavanna, 1876 - X

*Euryopsis* Menge, 1868

***Euryopsis episinoides*** (Walckenaer, 1847) - X

*Kochiura* Archer, 1950

*Kochiura aulica* (C.L. Koch, 1838) - X

*Parasteatoda* Archer, 1946

*Parasteatoda lunata* (Clerck, 1757) - X (Fig. 3)

*Steatoda* Sundevall, 1833

*Steatoda grossa* (C.L. Koch, 1838) - X

*Steatoda paykulliana* (Walckenaer, 1806) - X

*Steatoda triangulosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) - X

*Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805

*Theridion varians* Hahn, 1833 - X

Familia THOMISIDAE Sundevall, 1833

*Misumena* Latreille, 1804

*Misumena vatia* (Clerck, 1757) - X

*Monaeses* Thorell, 1869

*Monaeses paradoxus* (Lucas, 1846) - X - first observation by (Dentici & Amata (2018).

*Ozyptila* Simon, 1864

*Ozyptila confluens* (C.L. Koch, 1845) - X

*Synema* Simon, 1864

*Synema globosum* (Fabricius, 1775) - X

*Thomisus* Walckenaer, 1805

*Thomisus onustus* Walckenaer, 1805 - X

*Xysticus* C.L. Koch, 1835

*Xysticus* sp. - X

Familia ULOBORIDAE Thorell, 1869

*Hyptiotes* Walckenaer, 1837

*Hyptiotes paradoxus* (C.L. Koch, 1834) - X

*Uloborus* Latreille, 1806

*Uloborus plumipes* Lucas, 1846 - X

ZODARIIDAE Thorell, 1881

*Zodarion* Walckenaer, 1826

*Zodarion elegans* (Simon, 1873) - X

Familia ZOROPSIDAE Bertkau, 1882

*Zoropsis* Simon, 1878

*Zoropsis spinimana* (Dufour, 1820)- X

### Observations

*Eratigena sicana* (Brignoli, 1976)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Species not found during sampling carried out on the date of publication.

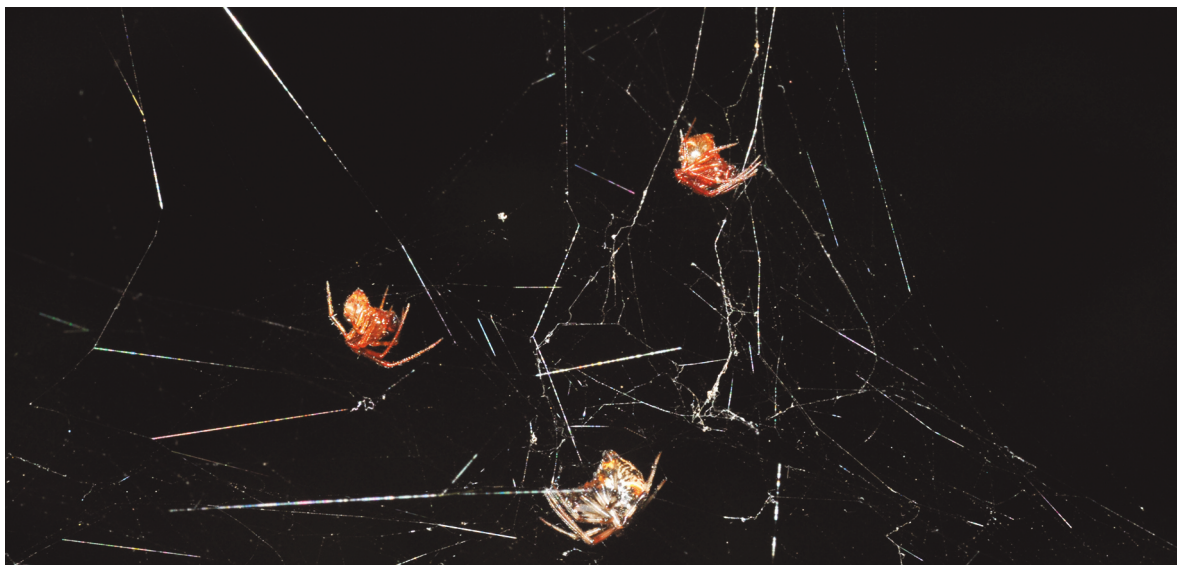


Figure 3. *Parasteatoda lunata* in courtship rituals.



DISTRIBUTION. Italy (Sicily, Sardinia).

REMARKS. The presence of the species for Mount Pellegrino is reported as “*1 female Mte. Pellegrino, at the W-slope*”, Palermo, Sicily, IT (38°11’14”N 13°20’40”E, altitude: 114 m); leg. A. Bolzern & R. Mühlethaler, 23.5.2007 (juv.) “*under stones*”; det. A. Bolzern” (Bolzern A. et al., 2008).

*Tegenaria pagana* C.L. Koch, 1840

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Species not found during sampling carried out on the date of publication.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe to Central Asia. Introduced to USA, Mexico, Brazil, Chile.

REMARKS. Species well distributed at European level, especially in warm localities, it is often found in buildings. Troglophile species (Mammola et al. 2018) observed for the first time in the cave “Addaura III”, from Roewer (1960a), data taken from Brignoli (1972) who also reports the species for the cave “Grotta dei Bovidi” (located near the cave mentioned above) and still Dresco (1963) also for the “Grotta dei Bovidi”.

*Aculepeira armida* (Audouin, 1826)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Species not found during sampling carried out on the date of publication.

DISTRIBUTION. North Africa, Southern Europe, Turkey, Israel, Russia (Europe to Far East), Iran, Central Asia to China.

REMARKS. Species reported for “Monte Pellegrino” only from Brignoli (1968a).

*Neoscona adianta* (Walckenaer, 1802)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Species not found during sampling carried out on the date of publication.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, North Africa to Central Asia, Russia (Europe to Far East), China, Korea, Japan.

REMARKS. Species reported for “Monte Pellegrino” only from Brignoli (1968).

*Altella lucida* (Simon, 1874)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Sicily (Italy), Palermo,

Monte Pellegrino, 38°10’48” N 13°20’24.5” E, 375 m above s.l., 18.XI.2019, 1 male, legit R.Viviano.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey.

REMARKS. New genus and new species for Sicily. The specimen was sampled under a small rock, on a prairie of *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus* (Poir.) T. Durand & Schinz, 1894 and *Hyparrhenia hirta* (L.) Stapf.

*Paraleptoneta spinimana* (Simon, 1884)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Species not found during sampling carried out on the date of publication.

DISTRIBUTION. Algeria, Italy.

REMARKS. Species linked to caves, occasionally found under large stones. Troglophile species (Mammola et al., 2018). Species reported for “Grotta Addaura III” (Denis, 1959; Roewer, 1960; Strinati, 1962; Brignoli, 1972) and for “Grotta Caprara” (Brignoli, 1972).

*Agyneta saxatilis* (Blackwall, 1844)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Sicily (Italy), Palermo, Monte Pellegrino, 38°10’52.5” N 13°20’25” E, 420 m a.s.l., 18.XI.2019, 1 female, legit R.Viviano.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe.

REMARKS. New species for Sicily. The specimen was sampled amongst grass.

*Pholcus phalangioides* (Fuesslin, 1775)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Sicily (Italy), Palermo, Monte Pellegrino, 38°09’06.7” N 13°21’41.3” E, 17.I.2018, 2 female and 1 male, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Western Asia. Introduced to both Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and numerous islands.

REMARKS. Species of Asian origin and now widespread practically everywhere (alien species), linked to the caves probably originally, and today decidedly synanthropic, easily found in homes.

Troglophile species (Mammola et al., 2018) reported for “Grotta Caprara” or “Antro nero” from Dresco (1963) and Brignoli (1972).



***Heliophanus auratus*** C.L. Koch, 1835

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Sicily (Italy), Palermo, Monte Pellegrino, 38°10'41"N 13°29'28"E, 18.XI.19, 1 female, legit R. Viviano; Sicily (Italy), Palermo, Monte Pellegrino, 38°09'18"N 13°21'40"E, 16.XI.18, 1 female, legit R. Viviano.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, Caucasus, Russia (Europe to South Siberia), Kazakhstan, Central Asia, China.

REMARKS. New species for Sicily. The first specimen was sampled on Mediterranean scrub debris, the second inside a cow skull, inside which it had probably formed a den.

***Segestria bavarica*** C.L. Koch, 1843

MATERIAL EXAMINED. The same reported in Dentici & Amata (2018).

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, Caucasus.

REMARKS. *Segestria bavarica* was observed in the same areas where there is another similar species, *S. florentina* (Rossi, 1790). The peculiarity of the observation lies in the fact that the silks of the two species were built on the same tree barks or on the same rocks, but with the constant that those belonging to *S. bavarica* were always positioned lower down than those of *S. florentina*, and this has been observed on 12 different trees and rocks. This curious phenomenon, not yet observed in other environments in which both species have been found together, in my opinion deserves more in-depth ethological studies.

***Anatolidion gentile*** (Simon, 1881)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Sicily (Italy), Palermo, Monte Pellegrino, Torre del Rotolo, 38°10'38"N - 13°21'50"E, 2.IV.2021, 1 female, legit R. Viviano.

DISTRIBUTION. Morocco, Algeria, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Greece, Turkey.

REMARKS. Specimen found wandering on *Euphorbia dendroides* L.

***Episinus algericus*** Lucas, 1846

MATERIAL EXAMINED. See Dentici & Amata (2018).

DISTRIBUTION. Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Northwest Africa, Malta?

REMARKS. The first data of this species for Sicily comes from the discovery of some specimens in Monte Pellegrino, Dentici & Amata (2018), the species was subsequently observed also in other locations in the province of Palermo.

***Monaeses paradoxus*** (Lucas, 1846)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. The same reported in Dentici & Amata (2018).

DISTRIBUTION. Southern Europe, Caucasus, Iran, Africa.

REMARKS. The first data of this species for Sicily comes from the discovery of some specimens in Monte Pellegrino Dentici & Amata (2018), the species was subsequently observed also in other locations in the province of Palermo.

**CONCLUSIONS**

This article is only a first approach to the knowledge of the Mount Pellegrino araneofauna. Certainly, the study will be continued in a more systematic and in-depth way. The data collected so far have enriched a little more the knowledge of the araneofauna of my region and the data that I found by immersing myself in this work push me to continue this research. Furthermore, the samplings also involved other Orders of the great Class of Arachnidae, and therefore this will be a first step towards future studies aimed at a greater knowledge of the Arachnofauna of the Sicily itself.

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