

**NOVEMBER 2023**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**JANUARY 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## VELVET SPIDER

*Gandanameno* sp.

Araneae: Eresidae

Velvet spiders in the genus *Gandanameno* occur in eastern and southern Africa. Often with fine black or dark brown hair on the abdomen, adults are 2 to 2.5 centimeters in length, and they build unkempt, tube-style webs. *Gandanameno* sp. and others in the family Eresidae are notable for "matriphagy," in which the mother becomes the first food source for her young. After laying her egg sac, the mother's internal organs begin to liquify, which she then regurgitates to feed her babies when they hatch. Eventually, the young consume the mother almost entirely, leaving behind just an exoskeleton.

■ PHOTO ABOVE BY DENNIS BOTTERBUSCH | BIELEFELD, NORTH-RHINE WESTFALIA, GERMANY

## DECEMBER 2023



Velvet spider nymph  
by Alfred Daniel J. Midreshet Ben-Gurion, Israel



Grasshopper  
by Alexandre Andes Gascon, Florida, USA

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 THIRD QUARTER MOON	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 NEW MOON	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 FIRST QUARTER MOON	20	21	22	23
24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 FULL MOON	27	28	29	30
31						

entsoc.org

 ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
SHARING INSECT SCIENCE GLOBALLY