

## VIOLIN SPIDER CONFIRMED AT OLIFANTS NORTH

Hi everyone

This spider was caught in the shower at the office during March 2010. Due to the spider's body being almost the same size as a 'Daddy long legs' spider, Joe used a magnifying glass in order to get close-up photographs of the markings on its body and legs. I sent an email to Johan Smit, who runs articles in the Marula Gazette newspaper and who is a fundi with spiders especially. See his reply to my email below:



Dear Kari,

Sorry that I am only answering your E-Mail now, but I was away over the long weekend and consequently all my correspondence and other work got way behind. But enough excuses now and thank-you for the nice words about the article, it is always nice to hear that people are enjoying it.

The photos you send me are extremely good and that makes it quite easy to identify the spider. From the photos it would seem to be a male Violin spider by the quite long and swollen pedipalps and this one was probably out looking for a female when it landed up where you found it. I trust you know about this spider and its venom? If you want more information, just let me know and I will send it to you.

If I remember correctly, an article on this subject was already published in the Marula Gazette. I get quite a lot of queries about this spider and I think there are a lot of misconceptions about it. Just for your information, I am in the process of starting a Spider club in Phalaborwa and the inauguration meeting will be on April 21 at 18H30 in the KNP lapa at Phalaborwa Gate Personal village. If any of you guys are in town at that time, you are more than welcome to attend.

I intent to have a monthly meeting with talks and outings into the bush, like we are currently doing with the Herpetological Society. The Chairlady of the SA Spider Club, Astri Leroy said that she and some members intent to visit us in the summer.

All the best to you people out there in the bush and any photos of spiders or snakes will be welcome.  
Hope to hear from you again.

Johan Smit.