

# Araneidae: *Cyclosa*

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*Cyclosa* is found worldwide and is species rich in N. C. and S. America, with a few known endemics in the Caribbean, including one in the Netherland Antilles, plus seven 'widespread species' occurring throughout most of the Americas including the Caribbean. Taxonomy is based on Levi (1999) and is probably conservative in terms of species richness, and widespread species may represent species groups, or if not, opportunities for parallel studies of phylogeography. *Cyclosa* currently counts a little over 50 extant species in the Americas. There is no fossil record, but some putatively related genera do have representation in Dominican amber.

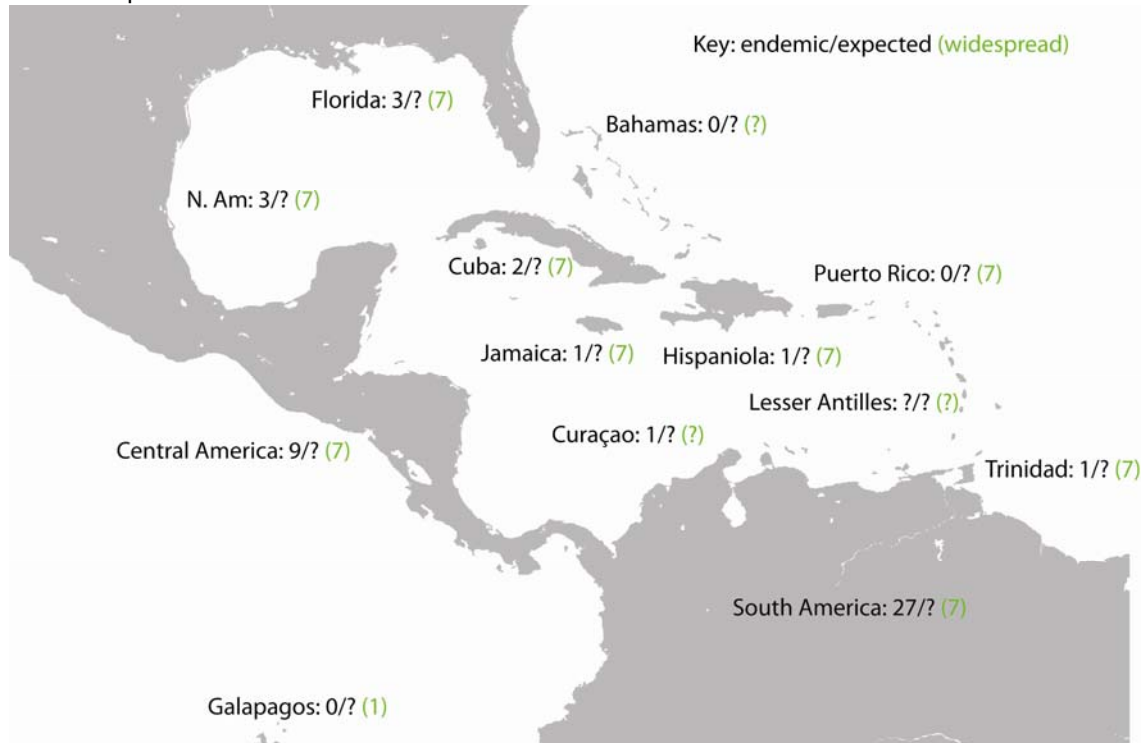


Fig. 1. Distribution of the *Cyclosa*, extracted from Platnick (2011).

**Monophyly.** The monophyly of *Cyclosa* has never been tested, but *Cyclosa* species are so characteristic as to suggest likely monophyly.

**Amber species.** No records.

**Dispersal.** *Cyclosa* probably are good dispersers. They are known from some isolated islands, are documented ballooning, and several species may be widespread.

**Search strategy.** Most species are fairly small (2-6 mm body length) but build characteristic **WORWEEBS** typically with web decorations near or in the center of the web camouflaging the spider (see Figs 2A, C, E), or sometimes the webs contain a leaf (Fig.2B). Best collected by visual search at day or night. Beating during day is also useful. **AERIAL SEARCH, BEATING**

**Similar genera.** Easily recognized due to habitus and web characteristics.

**Needed collecting.** All areas are in need of new collecting, especially for DNA-ready material. Sampling from continents is necessary for biogeographical questions.

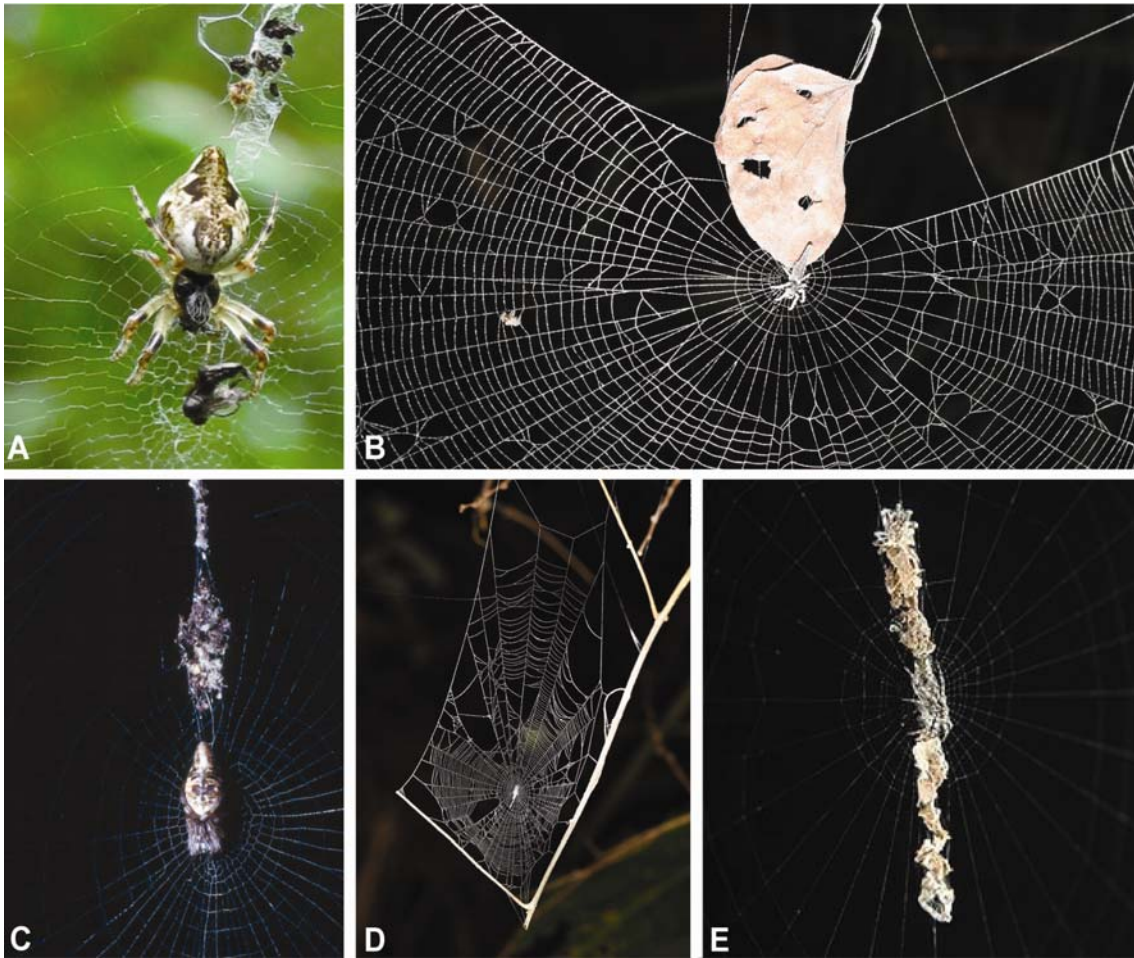


Fig. 2. A-E *Cyclosa* spp. A, *C. conica* female in web; B, *Cyclosa* sp. in web with leaf 'decoration'. C, *C. conica* showing detritus decorations. D, an atypically asymmetric *Cyclosa* sp. web. F, *Cyclosa* sp. with commonly seen line of decorations running through the hub, where the spider sits.

### References

- Alayón G., G. 1993. Notas sobre el género *Cyclosa* (Araneae: Araneidae) en Cuba. *Poeyana* **439**: 1-8  
 Levi, H. W. 1999. The Neotropical and Mexican Orb Weavers of the genera *Cyclosa* and *Allocyclosa* (Araneae: Araneidae). *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool. Harv.* **155**: 299-379.