

ARACHNIDA FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

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(Figs. 1-6.)

The present paper contains notes of previously recorded forms and descriptions of a new genus and new species from the Solomon Islands.

To the Museum Collection there has been accumulating for some time material collected by missionaries stationed in the Solomon Island group, as well as by occasional visitors. Recently Mr. W. W. Froggatt paid a flying visit to this interesting archipelago, and while there collected such Arachnida as came his way, and these specimens he has been good enough to present to the Trustees. Specimens collected by Mr. Froggatt had been carefully handled, but much of the old collection in our stores had been more or less roughly treated. Species, such as *Nephila maculata*, Walck., *Argiope leopardina*, Poc., *Gasteracantha signifer*, Poc., and *G. metallica*, Poc., are evidently very abundant on the islands.

It is remarkable how little is known of the Arachnid fauna of the Solomons. In 1898, Pocock published a list of the "Scorpions, Pedipalpi, and Spiders of the Solomon Islands" ¹ in which he recorded two Scorpions, one Pedipalp, and twenty-eight species of Araneidæ. Some of the species recorded by Pocock are not included in our collection, but most of them are, and to these I now add twenty-three additional forms. Since Pocock's paper, just quoted (*supra*) the same author published another:—"Scorpions, Pedipalpi, and Spiders collected by Dr. Willey in New Britain, the Solomon Islands, Loyalty Islands, etc." ² and in this he includes two Scorpions recorded in his previous contribution, and one other (*Archisometrus perfidus*, Keys.), one Pedipalp (then new to science) and one Spider which was also new. Thus we now know of fifty-six Arachnids from the Solomons. Doubtless when the fauna of these islands shall have been more thoroughly collected the number of species recorded will be much greater. Those species marked with an asterisk are now recorded for the first time.

¹ Pocock—Ann. Mag. Nat Hist., (7), i, 1898, p. 457, pl. xix.

² Pocock—Willey's Zool. Results, 1898, p. 95.