



**Citizen Science and the
Spider Club of Zimbabwe**
13th November 2021



Spider Club of Zimbabwe members from around the country gathered at Mukuvisi Woodlands, Harare on the 13th of November for a reflection on the achievements for 2021 and a presentation the GBIF/BID 2021-2022 project and the importance of Citizen Science. Members are encouraged to post their photographic records from around the country on either the Spider Club of Zimbabwe Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/spiderclubzw>) or INaturalist.

This was followed by a spider walk. Pictures from this event are postposted on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.4834496246602281&type=3>) and INaturalist. It was great to meet like-minded folk and spend an evening appreciating the amazing insect and spider diversity around us.

It's been a great year for Arachnid citizen science in Zimbabwe as the number of observations of Zimbabwean Arachnids has grown tremendously this year. On INaturalist there is an Annual Southern Hemisphere Bioblitz, an event hosted over 4 days where everyone is encouraged to record the biodiversity in their area. Participation in this year's Bioblitz was organised by the Spider club committee and ran from 22-25th October. There were 18 participants and a total of 1419 observations (500 up from last year) of which 8%, (52 species) were arachnids. At the end of the bioblitz in September 2020 there were 687 Arachnid records for Zimbabwe and we logged over 2,000 spiders on iNaturalist during 2021, bringing the total number of observations to 3,285. There is still much we don't know about Zimbabwe's arachnofauna but our knowledge is rapidly expanding thanks to the group efforts of everyone involved. Dan Raucheckbach, member of the Spider Club Committee has been added to the ADU Virtual Museum SpiderMAP expert panel to work on our baboon spiders.

