

Presumptive habitat of the African arboreal theraphosid spider
Encyocratella olivacea STRAND, 1907 (Araneae, Theraphosidae,
Stromatopelminae)

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Encyocratella olivacea STRAND, 1907 - juvenile

Special thanks to Ulrich Sauer for permission to use those fantastic habitat photos.
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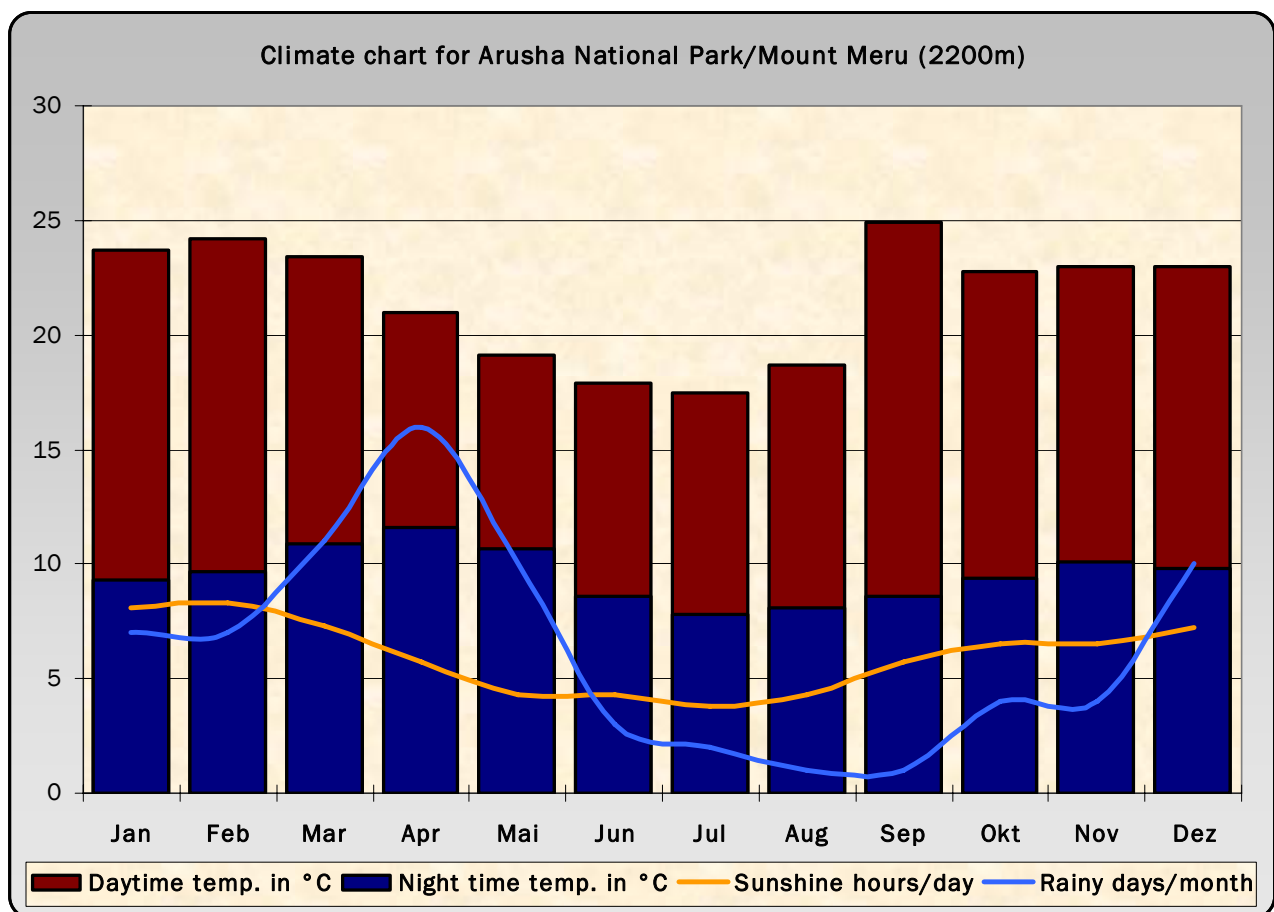
General information:

Subfamily: Stromatopelminae (SCHMIDT, 1993)
Genus: Encyocratella STRAND, 1907
Type Species: olivacea STRAND, 1907
Holotype: ♀ total length, including chelicerae but excluding spinnerets, 34mm.
Country of origin: northern Tanzania, southern slopes of Mount Meru region near Arusha town.
Habitat: found living arboreal beneath peeling tree bark.

Mount Meru forest zone is between 2000m and 2700m. 2200m as a rough estimate where *Encyocratella olivacea* seems to live. Lapse rate for tropical mountains is - 0,5°C every 100m of altitude. Mount Meru rainforest is situated about 800m higher than Arusha town, so the below lapse rate makes a 4°C temperature difference to the climate chart of Arusha town.

Two wet seasons a year (inferred from Mount Kilimanjaro data - nearby):

November-December (increasing humidity after dry season)
March-May (further increasing humidity until April, then humidity falling to dry season)
July-September (driest months in the year)



Arusha National Park	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mai	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dez
Daytime temp. in °C	24°	24°	23°	21°	19°	18°	18°	19°	25°	23°	23°	23°
Night time temp. in °C	9°	9°	11°	12°	11°	8°	7°	8°	8°	9°	10°	9°
Sunshine hours/day	8,1	8,3	7,3	5,7	4,3	4,3	3,8	4,3	5,7	6,5	6,5	7,2
Rainy days/month	7	7	11	16	10	3	2	1	1	4	4	10
Average rainfalls in CM	5	8	17	36	21	3	1	1	2	3	11	10



Left with cloud the main crest “Socialist Peak”, 4566m. In front the secondary crest “Ash Cone”, 3667m. On the right side “Little Meru“, 3801m. The “Saddle Hut” is on the elevated plain on the left feet of “Little Meru”.



Main entrance to the Arusha National Park



“Momella Gate”



Rainforest – Mountain laurel forest



Rainforest – The trees are covered with lichens.



Rainforest



Rainforest



Rainforest



View from the Viewpoint “Mgongo ya Tembo” (Elephant back) on 3200m to the crater ridge of Mt. Meru.



Rainforest



Mount Meru

Reference:

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