

Medically Important



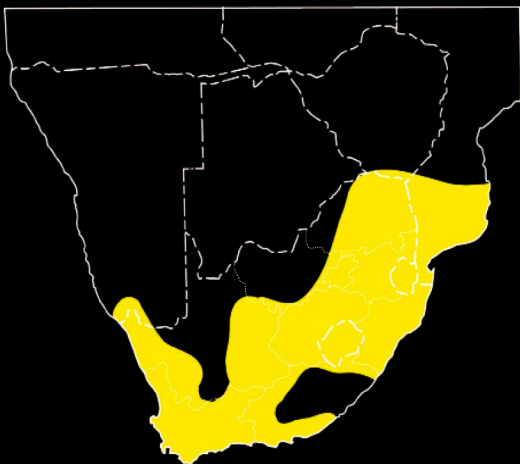
Peter Webb

# Black Button Spider

(*Latrodectus sp.*)



Maximum size  
20 - 40 mm



A widespread spider across much of South Africa. These spiders are usually found under rocks, in logs and bushes. They build a messy web with one or two large white egg sacs. The egg sacs are smooth and about the size of a pea. These spiders are pitch black, often with red or purple on the top of the abdomen. The Abdomen is large and has red infusion above the spinneret – not under like the Brown Button Spider. They are in-offensive and when disturbed, drop to the floor in a tight ball. Bites are rare. The venom is highly neurotoxic and causes pain, sweating, nausea, and shortness of breath. A bite is treatable and antivenom is available. No deaths have been recorded from bites of this species.

