

## Mission Statement

We protect nature  
and inspire people  
to care for our world.



## Indianapolis Zoo

1200 W. Washington St. P.O. Box 22309 Indianapolis, IN 46222.0309 317.630.2001 ph

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 09, 2022

## Global Center For Species Survival Conservation Biologist Leading Search for Elusive Invertebrate

*Last seen in 1931, spider is now on Re:wild's top 25 most wanted species list.*

INDIANAPOLIS — Overlooked and understudied, a small spider from a small village in Portugal has been waiting for nearly a century for scientists to notice it. Fagilde's trapdoor spider was last seen in 1931. Now, it is the first spider to be included in Re:wild's [top 25 most wanted Lost Species list](#), and a conservation biologist at the Indianapolis Zoo's Global Center for Species Survival is leading the search for the elusive invertebrate.

"Having Fagilde's trapdoor spider join the 25 most wanted Lost Species fills me with hope," said Dr. Sérgio Henriques, Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center. "Because attention is often drawn towards large, charismatic species, showing how invested the international community is in finding and protecting some of the world's most remarkable—but humble—species, like trapdoor spiders, feels like a tremendously important precedent to set for future conservationists."

On Feb. 9, 2022, Re:wild added eight new species to its most wanted list, including Fagilde's trapdoor spider, to replace species that have been rediscovered because of the [Lost Species](#) program. Species become "lost" for a variety of reasons. In the case of Fagilde's trapdoor spider, it starts with the species being elusive. You could be standing right on top of their underground burrows and never know it. Additionally, the preserved animal that was used in the original description of the species was lost in a museum fire.

Finding a lost species requires detective work and passion, and Dr. Henriques is certainly qualified. Not only is the Indianapolis resident an arachnologist with endless enthusiasm for spiders, but he was born and raised in Portugal.

"Rural communities rarely get the attention they deserve. They may have incredible biodiversity, but few biologists focus their efforts on such regions," said Dr. Henriques. "Most scientists are employed by universities in big cities, and we tend to study what's in our backyard. For me, my backyard was Portugal."

###

### **About the Global Center for Species Survival**

The Indianapolis Zoo's Global Center for Species Survival is a partnership with the [Species Survival Commission](#) of the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#). The Global Center supports and connects thousands of conservation experts working to secure a future for animals, fungi and plants in more than 160 countries.

### **About the Indianapolis Zoo**

The Indianapolis Zoo protects nature and inspires people to care for our world. Located in White River State Park downtown, the Indianapolis Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the American Alliance of Museums as a zoo, aquarium and botanical garden. Visit [IndianapolisZoo.com](#)

## Media Contacts

### **Judy Palermo**

Director of Public Relations  
317-630-2010

[jpalermo@indyzoo.com](mailto:jpalermo@indyzoo.com)

### **Carla Knapp**

PR Specialist  
317-630-3257

[cknapp@indyzoo.com](mailto:cknapp@indyzoo.com)

### **Alie Pflum**

Conservation PR Specialist  
317-630-3265

[apflum@indyzoo.com](mailto:apflum@indyzoo.com)

### **Kelly Griese**

PR Specialist for Global  
Center for Species Survival  
317-735-6381

[kgriese@indyzoo.com](mailto:kgriese@indyzoo.com)