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NOTES ON MOUNTAIN SPIDERS FROM WALESII. Spiders caught in pitfall traps on the Cwm IdwalNational Nature Reserve, Caernarvonshire.

by R.GOODIER.

Introduction: Following the completion of pitfall trapping on a south facing slope of the Snowdon Reserve previously described (Goodier 1970), it was decided to undertake trapping on the contrasting north-east facing slopes of the Cwm Idwal Nature Reserve. The pitfall traps used were of the plastic container type as used in the Snowdon work. Twenty traps were installed at each of two stations and emptied weekly. Trapping was commenced at the beginning of January 1967. Because of the restrictions on movement in the mountains, necessitated by the foot and mouth disease epidemic later in the year, the trapping was discontinued at the beginning of November 1967 but was recommenced at the same time of the following year and concluded at the beginning of January 1969. I am indebted to Mr. W.D.Martin, the Reserve Warden, for collecting the material from the traps and to Dr. P.Merrett for help in identifying some of the spiders caught.

The Trapping Sites: The two trapping sites were close together on the north-east facing slopes of Y Garn (Grid ref. SH 641595). Site 1 was established at about 1,500 ft. (450 m) in an open herb rich Festuca ovina - Agrostis tenuis sward among scattered boulders on shallow soil overlying scree. Site 2 was established higher on the same slope on a rocky ledge at about 1,700 ft. (518 m) in a dwarf shrub community dominated by Calluna vulgaris but including Empetrum nigrum, E.hermaphroditum, Vaccinium myrtillus and Carex binervis. The habitat structure of the two sites was thus very different and this is reflected by the marked difference in the composition of the catch.

The Catch: The catch of spiders, harvestmen and false scorpions for the two stations are shown in Table 3, grouped in four-week periods between January and November 1967 and November 1968 to January 1969. Operation of the traps during October 1968, the results of which are not shown in Table 3, led to the capture, at Site 1, of a single specimen of Jacksonella falconeri (Jackson), a species not taken during the other trapping periods and a new record for Wales.

