

III. Spiders caught in pitfall traps on the Rhinog Mountains,
Merionethshire.

Pitfall traps were maintained over an eight week period in September and October 1966 on two summits in the Rhinog Mountain group in Merionethshire. Although the trapping period was too short to enable a full comparison to be made with the data obtained from the Snowdon and Cwm Idwal Reserves, the results are presented here as some interesting features are evident and fuller data from this relatively inaccessible area are likely to prove hard to obtain.

The Trapping Sites: Site 1 was established at 2,200 ft. (670 m) on the north-west slopes of the summit plateau of Rhinog Fach within the Rhinog National Nature Reserve (Grid ref. SH 665274). The vegetation is a wind pruned dwarf shrub heath, dominated by Calluna vulgaris with Vaccinium myrtillus, V. vitis idaea, Juncus squarrosus and Deschampsia flexuosa.

Site 2 was established at 2,300 ft. (700 m) on the north-west slopes of Y Llethr (Grid ref. SH 663262). The vegetation is a montane grassland community dominated by Festuca ovina but containing much Vaccinium myrtillus, Juncus squarrosus and Galium hercynicum. The ground surface bears small scale 'non-sorted stripe' features, characteristic of frost heave processes.

The contrast between the two sites, which are of similar altitude and aspect, is primarily related to a difference in soils resulting from different parent materials. The summit of Rhinog Fach is composed of Lower Cambrian Rhinog grit, a hard and typically coarse grained sandstone, whereas that of Y Llethr is composed of shales of the Lower Manganese Group, which follows the Rhinog grits in the Cambrian succession.

Twenty pitfall traps, of the plastic container type, were established at each site and the contents recovered weekly. I am indebted to Mr. P. Hope Jones, Assistant Regional Officer of the Nature Conservancy, for collecting the material from the traps.

The Catch: The catch of spiders and harvestmen for the two sites are shown in Table 4 (page 100). As the trapping only covers a short period, the full weekly recovery data are given.

References:

- GOODIER, R. 1970: Notes on Mountain Spiders from Wales. I. Spiders caught in pitfall traps on the Snowdon National Nature Reserve. Bull. Brit. Arach. Soc. 1 (6): 85-87.

Table 4.

SPECIES	WEEKLY CATCH AT THE TRAPPING STATIONS				FOUR WEEK TOTAL				FOUR WEEK TOTAL							
	2. 9.66	9. 9.66	16. 9.66	23. 9.66	2. 9.66	9. 9.66	14. 10.66	22. 10.66	2. 9.66	9. 9.66	16. 9.66	23. 9.66	2. 9.66	9. 9.66	14. 10.66	22. 10.66
ARANEIDA																
<i>Xysticus cristatus</i> (Clerck)					2	2			2			1				1
<i>Lycosa pullata</i> (Clerck) (Clerck)	2				7	4	2	1	9			1				3
<i>Tarentula pulverulenta</i> (Clerck)		3	2	2	1	1	1	2	3							
<i>Amurobius atropos</i> (Walck.)					1				1							
<i>Robertus lividus</i> (Blk.)					1				1							
<i>Walckenaera acuminata</i> (Blk.)					1				1							
<i>Cornicularia clavicornis</i> Emerton					1				1							
<i>Gonathium rubens</i> (Blk.)	2	3	5	1	11				10							
<i>Oedothorax apicatus</i> (Blk.)																
<i>Tiso vagans</i> (Blk.)																
<i>Monocephalus castaneipes</i> (Simon)																
<i>Erigone atra</i> (Blk.)																
<i>Phaulothrix hardyi</i> (Blk.)																
<i>Centromerus prudens</i> (O.P.-C.)					1				1							
<i>Centromerita bicolor</i> (Blk.)					1				1							
<i>C-concinna</i> (Thor.)																
<i>Oreonetides abnormis</i> (Blk.)					1	1	2	2	5							
<i>Belyphantas luteolus</i> (Blk.)					2	1	1	1	3							
PHALANGIDA																
<i>Nesastoma bimaculatum</i> (Fab.)			5	2	7	2	5	6	14							
<i>N.chrysomelas</i> (Hermann)					1	1			1							
<i>Mitopus morio</i> (Fab.)	12	20	36	41	109	15	27	43	46	131						

Site 1. Rhinog Fach

Site 2. Y Llethr