

The occurrence of *Apostenus fuscus* Westring (Clubionidae) in Britain

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Introduction

It is curious that *Apostenus fuscus* Westring has not hitherto been found in Britain considering its distribution over almost all of Europe. The discovery of a male and a female in pitfall traps (S. A. W.) at Dungeness (Kent) in 1981 is therefore of interest.

Description

The species has been described by Chyzer & Kulczynski (1897: 249), de Lessert (1910: 423), Simon (1932: 934), Reimoser (1937: 77) and Tullgren (1946:43). The following notes apply to the British specimens, which are coloured nearly uniformly a very light sepia. *Carapace length*: ♂♀ 1.4 mm. *Total length*: ♂♀ 3.1 mm. *Eyes*: Anterior row procurved, the medians much the smallest. Posteriors slightly procurved, the medians further apart than they are from adjacent laterals. *Legs* (Fig. 6): Tibiae I and II with 5 pairs of ventral spines, metatarsi I and II with 3 pairs. *Male palp* (Figs. 1-4): Tibia bears a very distinct apophysis (Figs. 1, 4). Embolus short and stout, and furnished with a fine spine (associated with a small membrane) (Figs. 2, 3) which must check the insertion of the embolus beyond this point. In the single British specimen so far available the palp has become slightly expanded in the trap. *Epigyne* (Fig. 5): Very heavily sclerotised.

Affinities

The genus *Apostenus* Westring, 1851, of which there are four European species, *A. fuscus* Westring, *A. humilis* Simon and *A. saxatilis* (Ausserer) (Bonnet,

1955: 363) and *A. ochraceus* Hadjissarantos (Hadjissarantos, 1940), belongs to the subfamily Liocraninae (which includes *Agroeca*, *Scotina* and *Liocranum*) and is closest to *Scotina*, from which it differs in the number of ventral spines on the anterior tibiae and metatarsi, and in the form of the embolus which in *Scotina* is long and fine.

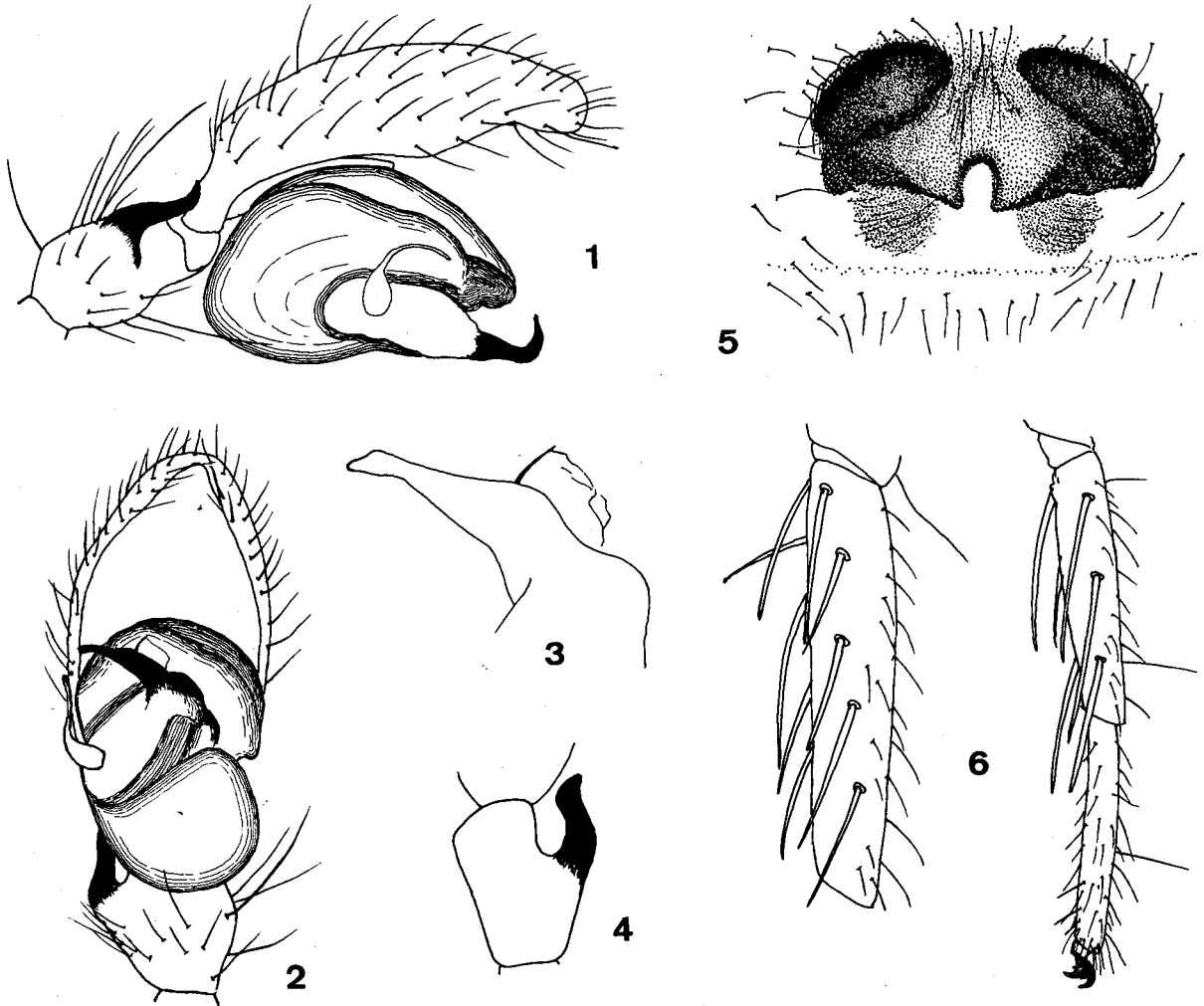
Occurrence

Sixteen pitfall traps were placed about 1 km from the shore at Dungeness in three basic types of habitat: (a) bare shingle, (b) shingle with a thin layer of soil covered with lichen, mosses and spring ephemerals, and (c) shingle with a thin layer of soil bearing mixed grasses including *Anthoxanthum odoratum* L. and *Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) J. & C. Presl. The common Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia* L.) was present in all three habitats. A single male *Apostenus fuscus* occurred on (b) in November, and a female on (c) in July; so far no specimens have been taken from the bare shingle.

The following species of spiders were also taken in the same series of traps: *Zelotes electus* (C. L. Koch), *Z. apricorum* (L. Koch), *Agroeca proxima* (O. P.-Cambridge), *Hahnina montana* (Blackwall), *Robertus arundineti* (O.P.-Cambridge), *Walckenaera capito* (Westring), *W. monoceros* (Wider), *Dismodicus bifrons* (Blackwall), *Metopobactrus prominulus* (O. P.-Cambridge), *Micrargus laudatus* (O. P.-Cambridge), *Centromerita concinna* (Thorell) and *Lepthyphantes tenuis* (Blackwall).

References

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Figs. 1-6: *Apostenus fuscus* Westring. 1 Right male palp (ectal); 2 Ditto (ventral); 3 Ditto, outline of embolus (antero-ventral); 4 Right palpal tibia, with apophysis (dorsal); 5 Epigyne; 6 Tibia, metatarsus and tarsus of left leg I, female.
