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Attulus caricis. © James Chisnall.

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On another non-native jumping spider (Araneae: Salticidae) from the United Kingdom

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According to the latest count (Logunov, 2024: Table 1), to date 18 species of jumping spiders (Salticidae) have been imported to the UK as stowaways, of which two – *Hasarius adansoni* (Audoin, 1826) and *Anasaitis milesae* Logunov, 2024 – have been able to establish in the country. The present short note is devoted to one more non-native salticid species found recently by Nadine Cordell in Therfield, Royston. In order to justify my identification, the specimens collected are provided with illustrations of their general appearances and copulatory organs (Figs 1–8). The voucher specimens have been deposited in the Manchester Museum (MMUE). Finally, I wish to cordially thank Nadine Cordell (Therfield, UK) for collecting the specimens and Geoff Oxford (York, UK) for sending them to me for identification.

Frigga crocuta (Taczanowski, 1878) (Figs 1–8)

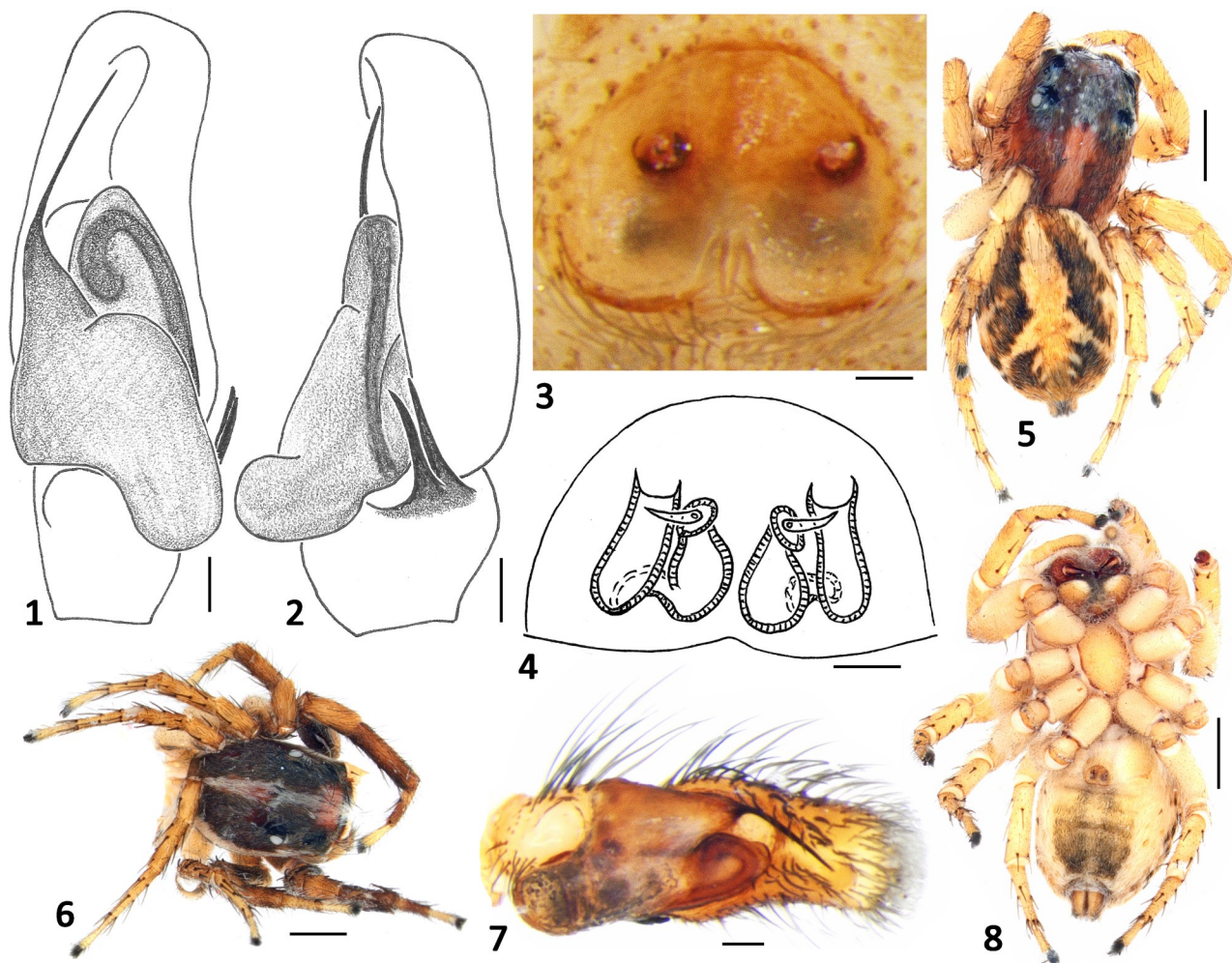
Material examined: 1♂ [without abdomen], 1♀ (MMUE), UK, Royston, Therfield, in a bunch of grapes imported from Peru, 6 November 2023, col. N. Cordell.

Remarks: A new species record of a non-native spider for Britain and continental Europe (see Wilson, 2022; Logunov, 2024; Nentwig *et al.*, 2024); not established. The species was described from Peru, and then has been repeatedly reported from Central and South Americas and the Galapagos Islands (Galiano, 1979a,b; Edwards & Baert, 2018; World Spider Catalog, 2024); also

introduced to Australia (Queensland) and Pacific Islands (Davies & Żabka, 1989; Metzner, 2024).

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Figs. 1–8: *Frigga crocuta* (Taczanowski, 1878), male (1–2, 6–7) and female (3–5, 8); 1, 7. palp, ventral view, 2. same, lateral view, 3. epigyne, ventral view, 4. vulva, dorsal view, 5. Body, dorsal view, 6. carapace, dorsal view, 8. body, ventral view. Scale bars: 0.1 mm (1–4, 7), 1 mm (5–6, 8). © D. V. Logunov.

Additions to the list of scorpions (Arachnida: Scorpiones) intercepted as stowaways in the United Kingdom

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Sherwood & Armas (2023) provided a comprehensive and up-to-date list of scorpions detected as stowaways in the United Kingdom. Since that work, the senior author has received further enquiries which contribute a number of new records for the literature. Furthermore, it came to our attention through correspondence with colleagues that we ought to examine the press media for examples of further cases, although these of course are not part of the scientific literature and have not passed peer-review. Nonetheless, we have evaluated these records and found a number with photographs and other information which allow us to provide a family or genus-level identification, at the very least, and in some cases even a species-level identification.

New formal record

Centruroides ochraceus (Pocock, 1898)

Remarks: An adult female was discovered in Enfield, London in February 2024 by Tina Plewes, who had returned three weeks prior from a holiday in the Yucatán peninsula, México. The scorpion evidently was a stowaway in luggage and had remained in the property undetected for a considerable amount of time. This specimen was received dead for identification. It is now preserved (Fig. 1) and deposited in the Manchester Museum (MMUE G7714.3).

Records from the non-scientific literature

We examined a total of 34 media stories which mentioned scorpions as stowaways in the United Kingdom. Of these, we

eliminated 10 which had no photographic evidence, and thus which could not be identified below the order level with any certainty. For completeness we cite them here (The Herald, 1997; Oxford Mail, 2000; The Argus, 2002; Jersey Evening Post, 2006; Daily Post, 2008; East Anglian Daily Times, 2008; Gazette News, 2009; Benvironment, 2011; Digital Spy, 2013; Glasgow Live, 2017) but will not consider them further in this contribution. The remaining 24 reports are summarised in Table 1. In this table is a single new record from 2024 which was widely shared on social media, but which we learnt of through correspondence from Chinese arachnologist Victoria Tang (pers. comm., 22nd April 2024). A major downside of reports from the non-scientific literature is that often details are scanty and specimens are not preserved for subsequent examination by arachnologists. Nonetheless, it would be foolish to ignore the fact they all represent cases of scorpions being accidentally imported into the United Kingdom.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank Tina Plewes for bringing the stowaway she discovered in Enfield to our attention and Martin Hinchcliffe (Middlesex, UK) for assisting with transport of the dead specimen to the senior author. Victoria Tang (Shanghai, China) is thanked for sending us the record of a scorpion from Heathrow Airport. František Kovařík (Prague, Czech Republic) is thanked for a second opinion on some identifications, and for comments on a draft of the manuscript.

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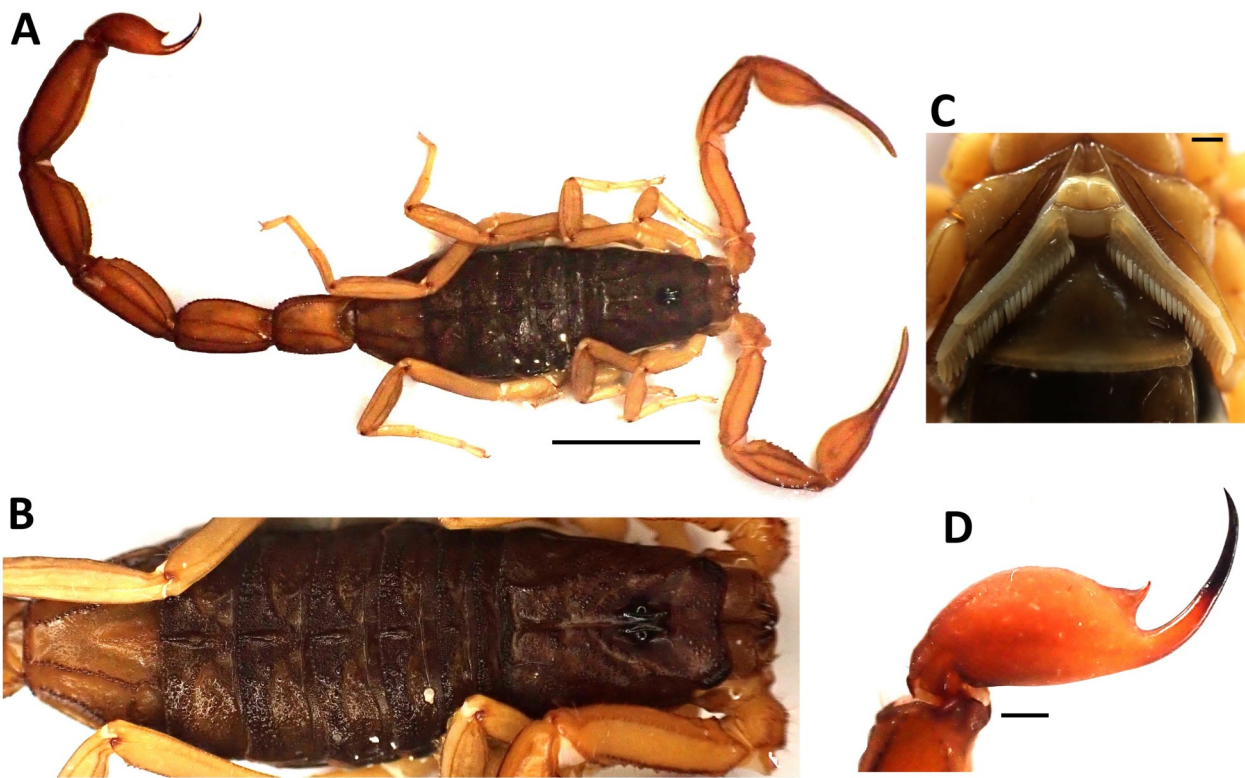


Fig. 1: *Centruroides ochraceus* (Pocock, 1898) adult female (MMUE G7714.3), found in Enfield, London in February 2024 by tourists who had returned from a trip to Yucatán, México. Scale bars = 10mm (A–B) and 1mm (C–D). © Danniella Sherwood.

Table 1: Records of scorpions in the media which were intercepted in the last two decades in the United Kingdom. Stories of cases repeated in other outlets are not considered here. Records lacking photographs, which cannot be taxonomically verified, are also not included as is The Guardian (2015).

Identification	Origin	Citation	Notes
Buthidae gen. et sp. indet.	Unknown	Coventry Live, 2003	Given its unknown origin and the poor quality of the photograph, we can only confidently identify this specimen at the family level.
<i>Centruroides</i> aff. <i>gracilis</i>	Colombia	BBC, 2008	Subadult.
<i>Centruroides</i> sp.	Unknown, almost certainly New World	Chronicle Live, 2009	Male.
<i>Centruroides</i> aff. <i>edwardsii</i>	Colombia	BBC, 2011	Subadult.
<i>Buthus</i> sp.	Santa Peta, Andalucia, Spain	Daily Mail, 2012a	Female.
<i>Centruroides griseus</i>	British Virgin Islands	Daily Mail, 2012b	Female.
<i>Centruroides limbatus</i>	Costa Rica	Daily Mail, 2014	Female, "pale morph".
<i>Centruroides</i> sp. (<i>thorelli</i> species group)	Mexico	Metro, 2016	Female.
<i>Centruroides</i> sp.	Spain (likely erroneous)	Mirror, 2016	
Buthidae gen. et sp. indet.	Likely Asia	The Sun, 2017	Photograph not of sufficient quality to identify to genus level, part of telson missing.
Vaejovidae gen. et sp. indet.	Mexico	Buck Free Press, 2017	Photograph not of sufficient quality to identify to genus level.
<i>Centruroides</i> aff. <i>margaritatus</i>	Costa Rica	BBC, 2018	Subadult.
Euscorpiidae gen. et sp. indet.	Unknown, likely Palearctic	Belfast Telegraph, 2018	Characters to identify genera not interpretable in photograph.
<i>Centruroides gracilis</i> (Latreille, 1804)	Belize	Leicestershire Live, 2018	Subadult.
Euscorpiidae gen. et sp. indet.	Unknown, likely Palearctic	Reddit, 2018	Female.
<i>Uroplectes</i> sp.	South Africa	BBC, 2019	
<i>Euscorpius</i> sp.	Greece, Kardamyli	The Sun, 2019	
Euscorpiidae gen. et sp. indet.	Unknown, likely Palearctic	Deeside, 2020	Characters to identify genera not interpretable in photograph.
<i>Centruroides</i> aff. <i>edwardsii</i>	Costa Rica	Mirror, 2022	Female.
Vaejovidae gen. et sp. indet.	Unknown	Reddit, 2022	Photograph not of sufficient quality to identify to genus level.
<i>Heteroctenus junceus</i>	Cuba	Daily Star, 2023	Female.
<i>Centruroides</i> sp.	Unknown, almost certainly New World	Reddit, 2023	Female.
<i>Centruroides gracilis</i> (Latreille, 1804)	Unknown, almost certainly New World	Victoria Tang (pers. comm., 22nd April 2024)	A subadult or adult specimen was discovered in the baggage claim area at Heathrow Airport, it was filmed by members of the public running around on the floor. It was supposedly secured by authorities but its whereabouts are unknown to us. Identification confirmed based on photographs sent to us.
<i>Lychas</i> sp.	Kenya	Mirror, 2023	

BBC (2019). Scorpion stowaway in Gillingham student's suitcase. Available online at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-47777692>

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Book Review: *Small Game Hunter* by Peter Smithers

This is a delightful account of one person's life-long fascination and engagement with creatures 'with more than five legs'. Originating as a set of notes for his children, Peter explores his encounters with a variety of invertebrate groups while employed as an entomologist at Plymouth University (formerly Plymouth Polytechnic). The style is engaging and enthusiastic and conveys vividly some of the wonder naturalists feel when witnessing what are often common phenomena. For example, describing dawn on Dartmoor, he writes: "The gorse would be laden with diamond-studded webs that sparkled in the early morning light, tiny hammocks strung between the spiny branches or broad silken platforms that vanished into sinister funnels ... Once the sun had crept into the moorland sky, the field of jewels evaporated leaving



only hints of their former glory.” (p.31).

The book is structured as two interwoven parts. The first five chapters cover, respectively: moths and butterflies; dragon, damsel and river flies; spiders; Diptera; beetles, grasshoppers and crickets. To give a flavour of these sections, consider the spider chapter. Peter explains that his interest in this group arose in the early 1980s after taking students into the field to sample invertebrates. The staff were able to help identify most of what they found but no one knew the spiders. He attended a Field Studies Council spider identification course at Box Hill, led by the late Francis Murphy, ‘the ‘godmother’ of British arachnology’ who was a ‘cross between your favourite aunt and a truly terrifying headmistress’ – and was hooked! After a brief discussion of aspects of spider biology, mostly through the prism of his own experiences, he describes how in the late 1980s he came to start an, accidentally runaway, Citizen science project on spiders in houses, his intensive study of the food and feeding habits of the Cave spider *Meta menardi* and his part in the recognition and subsequent surveying of the Horrid Ground Weaver (*Nothophantes horridus*), Britain’s only endemic spider.

The remaining chapters delve into Peter’s interests and involvement in outreach – particularly making a persuasive case for eating insects as an important protein source, his drive to enthuse all ages with the wonders of invertebrates *via* workshops, publications and exhibitions, and the melding of science with art, a long-term interest. An understated thread running through this book is the current biodiversity crisis and the increasing realization of just how much we rely on invertebrates to support our existence (and, indeed, that of everything else). Peter ends with a plea for a better understanding of this astonishing and beautiful natural world. The book should appeal to a wide range of readers from young teens upwards and its infectious enthusiasm will surely persuade at least some to head out and investigate the wonder of invertebrates for themselves.

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ISBN: 9781908241702. 171 pp. Softback, price: £9.99.

Geoff Oxford
BAS Honorary Secretary

In memory of Italo Berdondini (Faenza, 24 May 1931 – Florence, 12 October 2022) – remembrances

Sarah Whitman, Malayka S. Picchi & Luca Bartolozzi

This article is a translation of Whitman *et al.* (2024): ‘In ricordo di Italo Berdondini’ published 31 August 2024 in *Onychium* 17(3): 107–111. The remembrances of Dr Berdondini are shared in English by each coauthor below.

Sarah Whitman

Italo Berdondini, a doctor by profession and arachnologist by passion, was an important and appreciated external collaborator of the Entomology Department at the Florence University La Specola Museum in Italy from 1993 to 2013. His imprint on the department is evident in his complete reorganization of the Araneae collection, in the impulse given to cataloging the entire spider collection and in the publication of a catalogue of the Araneae types (Berdondini & Whitman, 2002) in the museum.

Italo was born in Faenza (Ravenna) on 24 May 1931, his brother Franco in 1937, the sons of Domenico and Anita. The brothers were essentially raised by just Anita who, among all the other difficulties of that time, had to manage the household on her own because Domenico was often absent, first because of WWII and then because of his travelling far and wide to provide for his family. Domenico was, in fact, a soldier, a prisoner of war, a clerk, a factory worker, a mechanic and even a traffic policeman – a life that took him from



Fig. 1: A young Italo in a class photo at Liceo Torricelli in Faenza, 1950.
© Berdondini family private archive.

Australia to Romagna, Sardinia and, finally, to Tuscany.

Italo graduated from the Classical Lyceum E. Torricelli in Faenza in 1950 (Fig. 1). At the time, children from families with very few means, like his, were able to study only on merit, and it was this that allowed the Berdondini brothers to continue their studies. That same year, the Berdondini family moved to Florence where, in 1956, Italo graduated in Medicine and immediately began working as a microbiologist for the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.

The premature death of Domenico in 1958, at just 54, placed the entire responsibility of supporting the Berdondini family – including Franco who had just enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine – on Italo’s shoulders.

In 1961, Italo married Adriana Ghinassi and together they had three daughters: Elisabetta in 1962, Angela in 1965 (who unfortunately died shortly after birth) and Lucia in 1966.

In the meantime, he left CNR for a job – again as a microbiologist – in the Provincial Hygiene Laboratory, and then to one in the Tuscan Orthopedic Institute (now Piero Palagi Hospital) as a laboratory doctor, becoming the laboratory’s director at just 39: he worked there until retiring in 1991.

In 1991, at the age of 60, Italo decided to dedicate himself to arachnology. The speed with which he gained authority in the discipline is remarkable, the result of many hours at the microscope, much reading, study and experiments. In the same year, he started his own spider



Fig. 2: Italo in Faenza. © Berdondini family private archive.



Fig. 3: Photos of Linyphiidae taken by Italo Berdondini, *Oedothorax apicatus* (left), *Primerigone vagans* (right). © M. S. Picchi private archive.

collection with specimens from the countryside above Bagno a Ripoli (Florence), where he lived, enriched by material that his daughter Lucia, a tireless traveler, brought him from the countries she visited. He also became a member of the British Arachnological Society and remained a member until 2010; in 2021 the Society gave him a one-year honorary membership on the occasion of his 90th birthday. His daughter Elisabetta, who graduated in Natural Sciences in 1987, thinks she inspired Italo's interest in spiders because, during her studies, she shared what she was learning with Italo who found the various subjects fascinating.

From the time he first set foot in La Specola in 1993 Italo said he felt like he was "at home", because greeting him at the entrance to the Museum was the statue of Evangelista Torricelli, a copy of the one in the Evangelista Torricelli Public Garden in Faenza. Italo would come to the Museum once or twice a month, return the specimens he had studied at

home, select the next lot to take with him, update the catalog with the data acquired on the collection and guide Entomology students in recognizing spider families and species. Perhaps one of his regrets was that none of the latter were infected by his same passion for these fascinating creatures and thus did not succeed in creating a new arachnologist as a legacy to the Museum.

In 2004, he published an informative article dealing with the effects of spider venom on human health (Berdondini, 2004). After 2010, having concluded his reorganization of the Araneae collection, Italo limited his visits to La Specola to when he was asked to determine new material. In 2013, he donated his spider collection to the Faenza Civic Museum of Natural Sciences, a collection of 716 specimens belonging to 34 families, coming mainly from Florence, but also from other Italian provinces as well as from Spain and Great Britain.

Italo died in Florence on 12 October 2022 following complications from a fall which caused multiple fractures: he was 91. A photo of him at age 90 is shown in Fig. 2.

Paul Selden, President of the British Arachnological Society from 1997 to 2000, whom I thank for the data on Italo's membership, shared his memories of the visit he and Mrs. Selden made to Florence, years ago: "Years ago, we used to arrange to see British Arachnological Society members if we were passing through their town on our travels. One year, we arranged to see Italo when we were in Florence. He was very kind and showed us around the city, including the amazing La Specola museum. He took us to a lovely restaurant in Fiesole, the village with wonderful views overlooking the city, where I remember we had Osso Buco while watching the light fade and the lights come on in Firenze. We then went to his favourite ice cream parlour!"

I am indebted to Elisabetta and Lucia for their invaluable information on Italo's life, without which this article would have been much shorter.

Malayka S. Picchi

I met Italo Berdondini many years ago, when I was a young university student. At the time I was fascinated by spiders and, as a volunteer at La Specola, was able to spend an enjoyable few days examining specimens of local species. In 2012, at the suggestion of the Curator of the Entomology Department, Luca Bartolozzi, I contacted Italo to ask him for help in identifying some spiders sampled in tomato plots in the Grosseto area. I had just received a grant from the Sant'Anna Research University to identify these specimens but, with so little experience, I needed expert help and Italo was the perfect person for me. Among the samples collected were some Linyphiidae. Those who know this Family know that every spider specialist has a love-hate relationship with them. They are tiny, just a few millimeters in size, with genital structures as small as they are complex; working on them requires an incredible amount of training and patience. At first Italo seemed a little perplexed at the idea of returning to his old love but nonetheless accepted and we worked together a few times. To do so, I faced an hour by train and about forty minutes on two different buses to reach him in his beautiful home in the Florentine countryside where he had a small laboratory with an old stereoscope.

He cautioned me, saying "I'm a little old and can't see very well" but it was an invaluable opportunity for me to learn from an expert, to absorb some of his wisdom and make it my own. Italo was incredibly precise and with his stereoscope showed me the details of the bulbs and epigynes of my specimens. He returned some of these to me, and I still have them today, along with a letter describing his conclusions and doubts; others he kept for further observations. He subsequently let me know that he had donated some of these to the Faenza Civic Museum of Natural Sciences and asked me I could provide him with more material. I would have liked to, but never had another

chance to do so.

In his letter, Italo included two images on white cardboard, a little out of focus, which are shown here as a tribute to his memory (Fig. 3). Although our meetings were few, he taught me a few tricks for determining spiders and, above all, that doubts are an essential part of the life of an arachnologist. The memory I will keep of Italo is that of a kind and always courteous person, who defined the Linyphiidae as “diabolical”. And on this last point, how can you blame him?

Luca Bartolozzi

I fondly remember Italo Berdondini's first appearance at La Specola in 1993, an entrance characterized by extreme shyness and fear of being a disturbance. Instead, the doors of the Entomology Department have always been open and welcoming to scholars and enthusiasts, so Italo was immediately received with warmth and sympathy. One of his traits that immediately struck me was his great modesty and – perhaps – even an underestimation of his own arachnological skills, which were anything but trivial. At first I think Italo was a bit surprised and taken aback by my direct and joking nature, perhaps because he came from a more formal medical environment. Little by little, however, he got used to the very informal manner that is normal among entomologists and I think he appreciated it, even if in person he always remained rather reserved and shy. However, his joking side was revealed in the emails he wrote to me, in which he returned the affectionate irony that I showed towards him (so much so that without hesitation I called him “Spiderman”!): his emails always began with “to the Most Excellent Curator” which was obviously a polite mockery of the undersigned!

Italo did a great job during the years he frequented La Specola, checking and reorganizing the entire arachnological collection together with my colleague Sarah Whitman. Their very useful catalogue of the Araneae types in our spider collection (Berdondini & Whitman, 2002) has allowed many foreign specialists to locate the types described by Di Caporiacco in our museum. As Sarah mentioned in her contribution, I also think that one of Italo's regrets was that he was unable to infuse any of the young Florentine entomologists attending the department at the time with his passion for arachnology. I do not know whether this was partly due to Italo's great shyness and modesty, which tended to downplay his skills, or to the fact that spiders are a very complex and difficult group. What happened to Italo unfortunately happens all too often – the failure of specialists to transmit the knowledge and skills accumulated over a lifetime of study to students who will then continue their research.

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A report of the 34th European Congress of Arachnology – Rennes, France.

Yoram Zvik

“Is there anything in the universe more beautiful and protective than the simple complexity of a spider's web?” (E.B. White). To that, I'd like to add: “or the intricate web woven by a group of dedicated arachnologists...”

I spent five full days with a prestigious group of arachnologists, officially part of the European Society of

Arachnology but, in reality, comprising students and researchers from around the globe. These were long and joyful days, filled not only with insightful lectures and talks but also with meaningful personal connections and discussions during the breaks.

The plenary lectures

Stano Pekar discussed the different defence strategies in arachnids and the key questions that still need to be explored. One particularly interesting point he raised was the idea that, among myrmecophilous spiders, agility might compensate for lower levels of mimicry.

Next, the legendary Rainer Foelix shared his deep knowledge of spider biology and anatomy, highlighting some gaps in our current understanding. We were also pleased to hear that a new and updated edition of his renowned book, *Biology of Spiders*, will be available soon.

On Thursday, Rosemary Gillespie took us on a journey to the Hawaiian Islands, unveiling some of the principles of spider diversification, including species well-known for their unique morphology, such as the Hawaiian happy-face spider (*Theridion grallator*).

Finally, the renowned arachnid taxonomist Nadine Dupérré discussed the crucial importance of integrating various scientific disciplines, such as biodiversity, taxonomy, and phylogenetics, into systematics.

Prizes for oral contributions

Among the many captivating student presentations, three were recognized as the best talks. First, Yuri Simone was awarded for his remarkable PhD presentation on the evolutionary trade-offs and functional integration of scorpion chela mechanical and structural diversity in relation to two opposing functions. Next, Hsiang-Yun Lin delivered an impressive talk on the species delimitation of leaf-litter-dwelling pseudoscorpions in Taiwan. Finally, Carolina Ortiz-Movliav presented her work on the physiological mechanisms and gene expression patterns in a spider species expanding its latitudinal range.

My personal presentation - *Springtime Hitchhikers: First Record of Pseudoscorpion Phoresy on a Scorpion Host*

I had the honour of giving a talk about what I consider the most unique scorpion in the world—the only known myrmecophilous scorpion, *Birulatus israelensis*, which I've had the privilege of studying for several years now. Here are the main points of my talk:

“Today, I want to share another fascinating aspect of this scorpion's story. Previously, I conducted my field observations during the dry season, as it was easier then to spot this tiny scorpion. However, during an unusual field trip on May 7, 2018, I observed a single instance of a pseudoscorpion hitching a ride (phoresy) on a *Birulatus* scorpion. Although I collected and preserved the specimen, it mysteriously disappeared, leaving the story unresolved.

In my follow-up PhD research, I shifted my fieldwork to March through to May. Once I changed the timing, new observations emerged. During a single preliminary visit in spring 2023, I found 11 *Birulatus* individuals, seven of which were carrying pseudoscorpions. One even had six pseudoscorpions on its body. Remarkably, three of the seven were found on the same ant trail where the 2018 specimen was discovered.

Sharon Warburg, an Israeli expert, identified the pseudoscorpion as *Nannowithius wahrmani*, an endemic species known from only two previous collections in Israel. Only once was it collected from an ant nest, but from a different species: *Messor semirufus*. Sharon believes it's possible that all species of this genus are myrmecophiles.

This spring, from March to May 2024, I observed



Fig. 1: Two *Nannowithius wahrmani* exhibit phoresy on *Birulatus israelensis*. © Sharon Aharon.



Fig. 2: 34th European Congress of Arachnology, group photo. © Maëlys Alletrut.

about 60 out of 180 *Birulatus* individuals carrying pseudoscorpions. They were found everywhere—on ant trails, inside ant nests, and moving between nests.

To understand this phenomenon, we propose that, as obligate myrmecophiles in *Messor ebeninus* colonies, both the scorpion and the pseudoscorpion need to move between ant nests, possibly for dispersal and reproduction. Spring provides ideal conditions for this: abundant vegetation offers shelter and food, and the weather is suitable for surface activity.

Pseudoscorpions, due to their small size, often engage in phoresy on other animals. Our observation of a scorpion as a carrier is unique and offers several advantages for the

passengers. The scorpion's relatively slow movement and large, coarse body provide a secure surface for multiple pseudoscorpions to climb and hold onto. Unlike ants, which typically return to the same nest, the scorpion may enter a different nest, making it an effective means of transportation. Additionally, attaching to an ant could provoke aggression or trigger the release of repellent chemicals—risks that the scorpion helps avoid.

It remains unclear what induces the pseudoscorpion to climb onto or dismount from the scorpion. In the laboratory, pseudoscorpions stayed on the scorpions for up to three weeks, sometimes even remaining on dead scorpions. The triggers may involve changes in the scorpion's cuticular

hydrocarbon composition, environmental cues, or ant-related signals.

Overall, this unique relationship between a myrmecophilic pseudoscorpion and a scorpion is fascinating, shedding light on evolutionary processes and the complexity of ecological systems. It also underscores the importance of preserving ecosystems and natural environments."

The formal paper publishing the results was Warburg *et al.* (2023).

Congress takeaway messages

To conclude my congress report, I'd like to highlight three key takeaways:

- 1) The "web" of professional scientific arachnologists is essential for any researcher in the field to engage with and connect to in order to grow and succeed in their studies.
- 2) The existence of such a "web" relies on the collaborative efforts of many individuals, both from the core scientific community and the enthusiastic amateur scholars and organizations that surround it.
- 3) The people are simply amazing! To paraphrase John Lennon: Imagine all the people living in this world were like arachnologists...

I extend my gratitude to the British Arachnological Society for a Ted Locket Fund grant, which enabled my participation in the 34th ECA.

Reference

Warburg, S., Zvik, Y. & Gavish-Regev, E. (2023). Hitching a ride on a scorpion: the first record of phoresy of a myrmecophile pseudoscorpion on a myrmecophile scorpion. *Arachnologische Mitteilungen* 66: 34–37.

Spider Species Profile – *Agroeca proxima*

Tylan Berry

Agroeca proxima is one of the little golden liocranids that are collectively referred to as Lantern Spiders (Fig. 1). They get this name from the odd-looking egg sacs (Fig. 2) they create that dangle from field layer vegetation, looking like miniature streetlamps. Despite seeing the spiders themselves on countless occasions, I have never actually managed to find a little 'lantern' out in the field! I always think the liocranids are quite obscure spiders, a small family with a lot of local and scarce species that are not seen too often. This one is the commonest, but to the untrained eye it isn't easy to ID – it looks remarkably like a cross between a small *Tegenaria* and a lycosid as it runs around a sorting tray. It is a nocturnal hunter so needs a bit of searching for to locate, they don't often appear in large numbers during surveys. Nevertheless, finding any liocranid during a spider outing out always makes the day just that little bit better.

Where does it live?

A. proxima is a species of open habitats, mainly dry grasslands, sand dunes and heathlands, where it is found in the ground layer at the base of grasses and heather. It can also pop up in leaf litter in woodlands and at the base of drier vegetation at wetland sites. It is widespread across the whole of the United Kingdom, but generally localised to well established habitats.

When is the best time to look for them?

Like quite a lot of the family, *A. proxima* matures in the late summer and autumn, and adults can be found well into the winter months. It's a good one to keep your eye out for should you find yourself out on a heathland on a dry winter's day.

What is the best way to find them?

As an animal that is nocturnal and ground dwelling, these spiders are normally tucked away well out of sight during the daytime. Grubbing around at the base of tussocky grasses and heather, sieving some of the base litter over a tray as you go can be a good way to locate them. As always, a vacuum sampler comes into its own for these sorts of spiders and they can be easily collected via this method in heathlands and grasslands. As before though, it's not a hugely numerous species so don't expect to be seeing it in vacuum samples in numbers like you would *Pardosa pullata*!



Fig. 1: *Agroeca proxima*. © Tylan Berry.

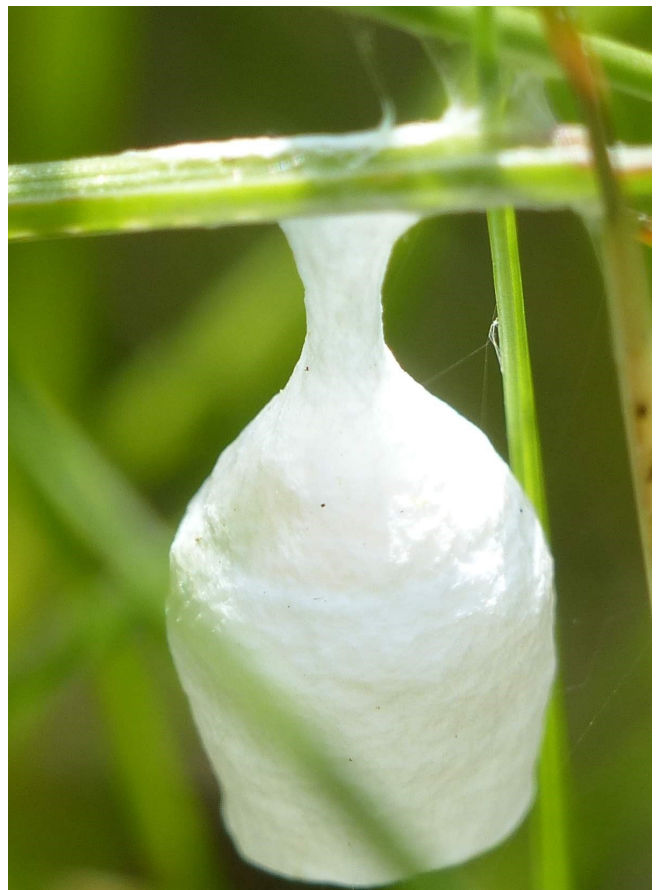


Fig. 2: *Agroeca proxima* egg sac. © Chris Court.

Arachnid photographs galore: a new *Newsletter* feature

Please submit images, at 300dpi, to the Editor for consideration at: newsletter@britishspiders.org.uk



Amaurobius fenestralis guarding egg sac. © Glyn Knapton.



Amaurobius ferox. © Alice Bennett-West.



Araniella displicata. © Esmond Brown.



Argiope bruennichi. © Alice Bennett-West.



Argiope bruennichi. © Catherine Turner.



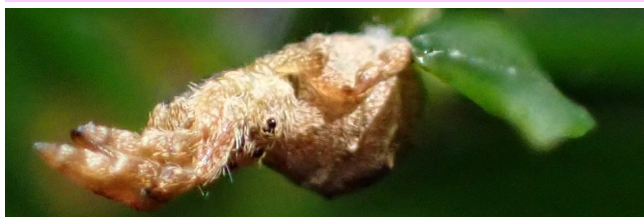
Asagena phalerata. © Esmond Brown.



Dipoena torva. © Esmond Brown.



Eratigena sp. © Catherine Turner.



Hyptiotes paradoxus. © Catherine Turner.



Leviellus stroemi. © Esmond Brown.



Phlegra bresnieri. © Craig McEwan.



Euophrys frontalis. © Catherine Turner.



Mastigusa macrophthalma. © Esmond Brown.



Misumena vatia. © Catherine Turner.



Uloborus plumipes. © Craig McEwan.



Nigma walckenaeri. © Catherine Turner.



Theridion hannoniae. © Esmond Brown.



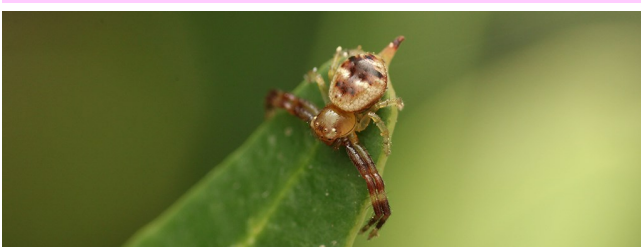
Phlegra fasciata. © Esmond Brown.



Xerolycosa miniata. © Alice Bennett-West.



Rhysodromus fallax. © Esmond Brown.



Synema globosum. © Craig McEwan.



Xysticus erraticus. © Esmond Brown.



Pisaura mirabilis with egg sac. © Geoff Oxford.



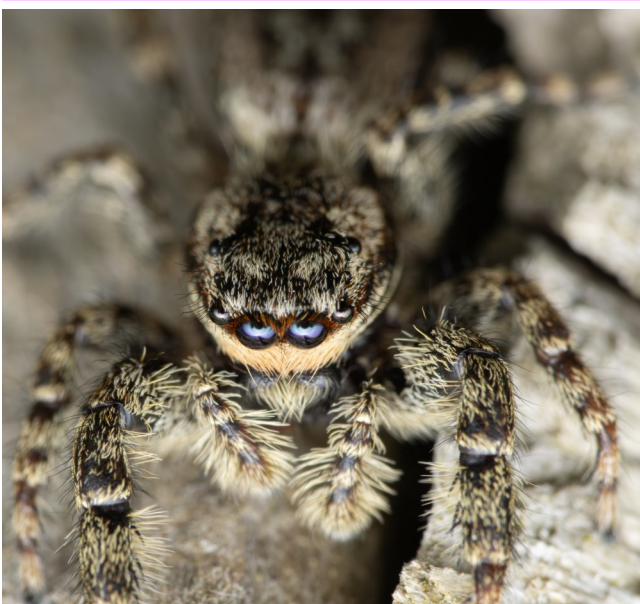
Xysticus acerbus. © Shreyas Kuchibhotla.



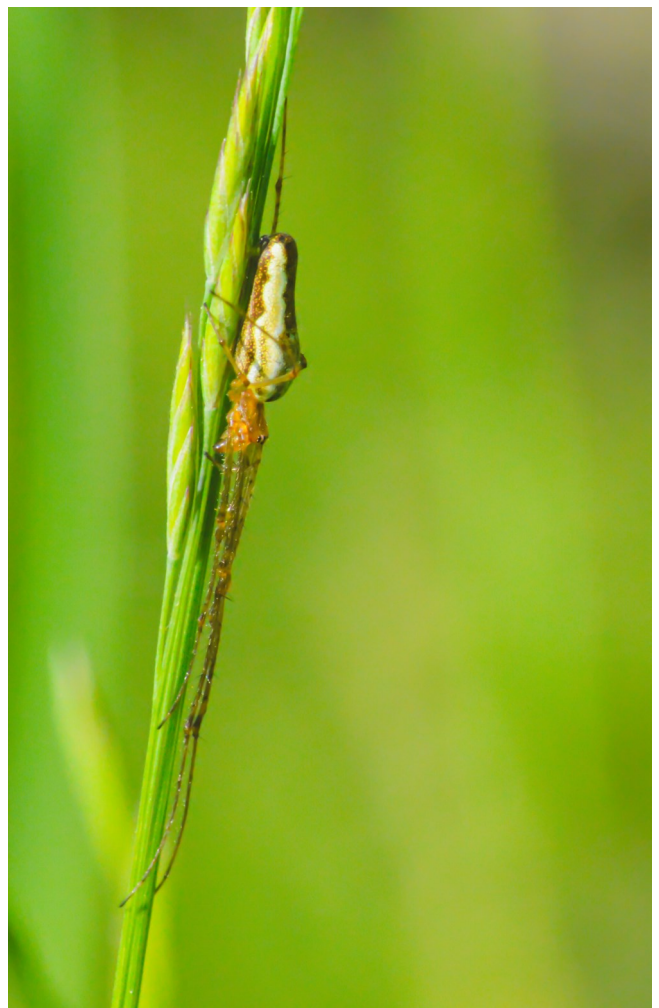
Pisaura mirabilis. © Stephen Munt.



Sibirionor lae. © Shreyas Kuchibhotla.



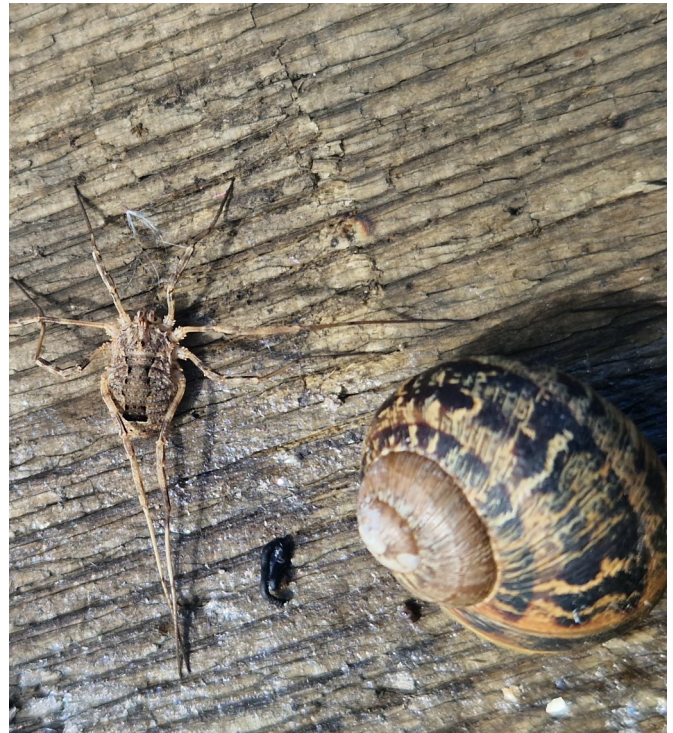
Marpissa muscosa. © Shreyas Kuchibhotla.



Tetragnatha sp. © Stephen Munt.



Euophrys frontalis. © James Chisnall.



Odiellus spinosus. © Meg Skinner.



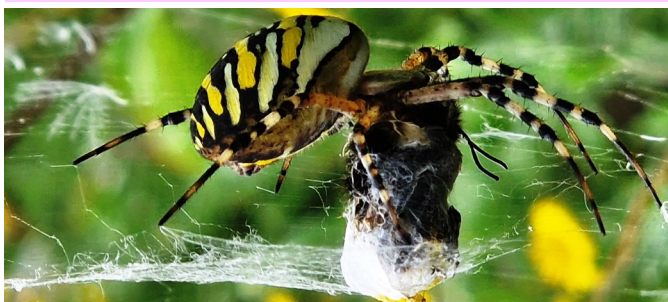
Sibianor aurocinctus. © James Chisnall.



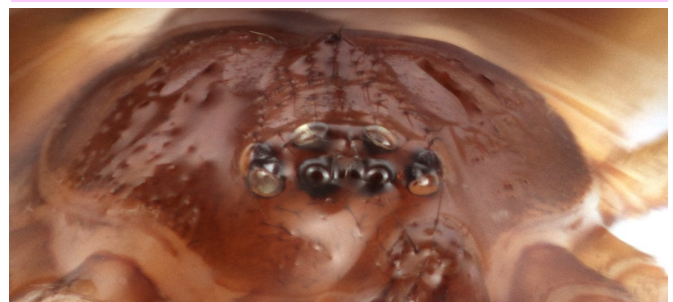
Ballus chalybeius. © James Chisnall.



Argiope bruennichi. © Meg Skinner.



Argiope bruennichi. © Meg Skinner.



Steatoda triangulosa eyes. © University of Texas at Austin, CC0 licence.

President's Letter

Bill Parker

BAS President; e-mail: president@britishspiders.org.uk

As we approach the end of the year, it's a good time for personal reflection, to assess what one has achieved in the last 12 months and to think about where our energies will be focused in the year ahead. It's particularly relevant to me as I approach the halfway point of my BAS Presidency and important for the Society, almost 2 years after we agreed on the priorities in our Strategic Plan. I am pleased to report that we now have four active sub-groups (within Council), which are developing and starting to implement plans:

- 1) to modernise and enhance our recording schemes for spiders and harvestmen,
- 2) to improve our engagement with members at a national and local level, such as regional meetings, individual mentoring, field meetings,
- 3) to develop a structured training programme with face-to-face and online delivery covering species ID, field techniques, microscopy and, perhaps, photography,
- 4) to expand and improve our range of printed publications, including the *BAS Newsletter* and *Arachnology*.

In recent editions of the *BAS Newsletter*, Richard Gallon has explained how the BAS has worked with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) to introduce a new recording form for arachnological records in iRecord and in the last few months, hundreds of records are being received from recorders that might not have engaged with the Spider Recording Scheme (SRS) previously and many of our existing Area Organisers are working hard to verify all of these new records. Richard and his sub-group have some exciting plans for the SRS website, which we are confident will come to fruition next year.

The Publications sub-group has been active too and I'm excited to see what the membership makes of the 2025 (Spring) edition of the *Newsletter*! At the same time, we're about to begin a complete rewriting of the *Arachnologist's Handbook*, which should be published towards the end of 2025.

One of the Constitutional objectives of the Society is to "promote the study of and encourage interest in arachnology for people of all ages". Although the Society attends events such as the Staffordshire Invertebrate Fair, the Amateur Entomological Society Fair at Kempton Park racecourse and, until recently, the Bird Fair at Rutland Water, we are only reaching relatively small numbers of the public, most of whom are likely to be positively inclined towards spiders and other arachnids. We reach a larger audience through social media – our @britishspiders account on Twitter / X has almost 11,000 followers – but the long-term future is far from certain ... so we must continue to look for ways to engage positively with a wider cross-section of the population.

Although we can claim no credit, although the artist Richard Lewington is a member of the Society, the new Spiders special postage stamp issue (released on 26th September, see page 19 of this issue) from the Royal Mail will certainly help to present our British spider fauna in a positive light to a very large audience. The ten stamps portray the rich diversity and the beauty of our spiders and so, for our British members at least, an opportunity to open conversations with family and friends on why spiders are so fascinating and important in our natural environment. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, there will probably be few stamps left to purchase but I know that some members have already made bulk purchases to service their Christmas card needs! Well done! Thank you for your support this year, and I hope that you will all be wanting to renew your membership in 2025.



Tetragnatha. © Forest Service Alaska Region, USDA, CC0.

Amateur Entomologists' Society (AES) Annual Exhibition and Trade Fair 2024

Meg Skinner

This year the Amateur Entomologists' Society hosted its Annual Exhibition on Saturday 28th September 2024, at Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury-on-Thames. The BAS attended (Figs. 1–4) and was represented by Lawrence Bee, Martin Frost and myself. Our tables included a display of posters showcasing who we are and what we do, information about arachnids in general and projects such as the conservation efforts for the Fen Raft Spider. The event was a mix of traders and invertebrate organisations, with an emphasis on businesses selling live invertebrate pets, books, and field and study equipment.

We almost sold out of copies of the 2nd edition *Britain's Spiders* book, many of which Lawrence happily signed. This edition includes more information about spider families with features such as eye arrangements, as well as up-to-date distribution maps, information about imported spiders and individual species accounts.

Lawrence showcased the Royal Mail spider stamps, illustrated by Richard Lewington who also attended the event. The display also included FSC charts for spiders and harvestmen, BAS information leaflets, hand lenses and excavated glass blocks for sale. The proceeds will allow the BAS to pursue our charity goals, such as producing further publications and contributing towards event costs and grants schemes.

I also brought along one of our six new microscopes, which we will be using for future training workshops and events. Attendees were able to view a selection of arachnid specimens and features such as spider epigynes and harvestman tridents, with a new flexible lighting system – offering illumination from each light independently. The microscope was very popular amongst children and their accompanying adults.

The event turned out to be popular amongst those interested in arachnids and brought our organisation to a new audience – exotic pet owners. We spoke to several spider enthusiasts who had not been aware of the BAS or our work but were keen to find out more. Events such as this fair will be a valuable way to spread awareness of our organisation.

We also met several invertebrate enthusiasts involved in local conservation or biological recording groups, many of whom expressed a lack of knowledge of arachnids in favour of other invertebrate groups. Several of these asked how to begin recording arachnids and where to start with identification. I hope to see more local groups getting involved with arachnid recording so please check out our online and printed resources and do get in touch with any queries.

I would like to thank Lawrence and Martin for volunteering their time and equipment for this event, and the AES for hosting. We hope to attend again next year!



Fig. 1: The display. © Meg Skinner.



Fig. 2: Lawrence Bee setting up for the exhibition. © Meg Skinner.



Fig. 3: Royal Mail Spiders stamp set and books display. © Meg Skinner.

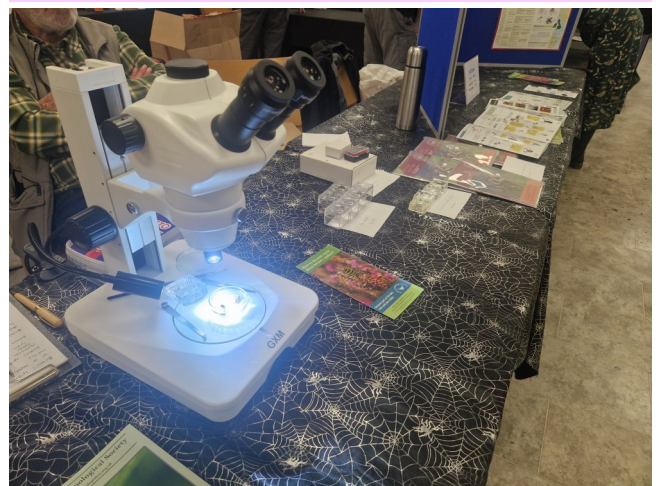


Fig. 4: The new microscope set up for viewing specimens. © Meg Skinner.

Focus on... *Lacinius ephippiatus*

Meg Skinner

Lacinius ephippiatus is a native phalangiid harvestman and our only member of the genus. This species is widespread in Britain and occupies the leaf litter and low shrub level of primarily woodland, with other records from near hedgerows, gardens and quarries. They seem to be associated with damper environments, often found under logs, stones and other debris. They are most abundant in late spring to early autumn, with most records from June to August.

From my personal observations, this is a species that is often found in large numbers but in localised areas – I don't often come across them but tend to find a whole population when I do! A few years ago, I worked on a newt translocation project using live pitfalls and was finding around 30 individuals in the pitfalls almost daily (these were promptly released just outside of the boundary fencing).

This harvestman is quite distinctive when you learn to recognise them, with large tubercles around the leg bases and joints, showing an overall 'spiky' appearance. They have a very rectangular, parallel-sided saddle (Fig. 1) which may lead to confusion with *Oligolophus tridens*. However, the trident of *L. ephippiatus* is formed of three prominent and widely spaced tubercles. These are described as 'spine-tipped', appearing to have a sharp and dark tip to each tubercle (compare the blunter tubercles in the trident of *Oligolophus tridens*).

Lacinius ephippiatus has regular rows of dark tubercles on their angular legs, perhaps resembling the stem of a cleavers plant (*Galium aparine*). These tubercles are most prominent on their femora (Fig. 2). This species is also somewhat dimorphic, with males of the species having a much darker saddle (Fig. 3). Many records of *L. ephippiatus* that have been submitted to the scheme mention vacuum sampling or leaf litter sieving as the sampling method, as well as ground-level grubbing and turning over debris. I would be interested to know if this species is more active at night.

If you have any observations that you would like to share, please submit your records via the iRecord website, using the "Spiders, Harvestmen and Pseudoscorpions" species group form. This form enables us to gather additional information about habitat types, sampling methods and land management relating specifically to arachnids. Thank you for those already submitting records and sightings.



Fig. 1: Close-up dorsal view showing the trident and ocularium of *Lacinius ephippiatus*. © Meg Skinner.

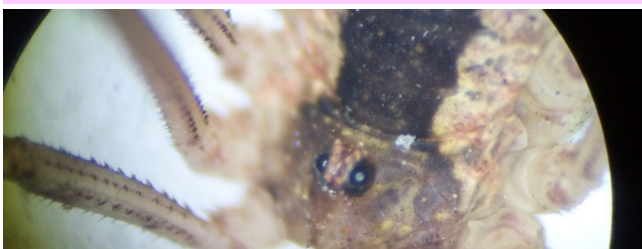


Fig. 2: Male showing rows of tubercles on femora. © Meg Skinner.



Fig. 3: Male with dark saddle. © Meg Skinner.

BAS Press Updates

Meg Skinner

BAS Press Officer; e-mail: press@britishspiders.org.uk

This year I was elected as Press Officer for the BAS, following my term as an Ordinary Member. For many years, the BAS have offered their time and expertise to address queries from enthusiasts, journalists and hosts of platforms such as social media accounts and podcasts.

Conscious of the large shoes I will be stepping into, I'm very excited to continue spreading information about arachnids into the mainstream media, with emphasis on Britain's diverse fauna and conservation projects. The media requests have so far been somewhat mixed, with many journalists asking for information about house spiders and ways to repel spiders from the home! This narrative is an understandably catchy headline, but I have consciously tried to steer the requests away from the "rat-sized spiders invading Britain" narrative we so commonly see. The following examples are from some more positive interactions we have had this year:

1) BBC Radio 4: Student and BAS Ordinary Member Anna Maka kindly volunteered to be interviewed live on BBC Radio 4 PM show in August. Anna spoke about spiders in Britain and particularly house spiders, dispelling some popular myths and offering advice to arachnophobes.

2) Crop Production Magazine - *Agricultural spiders: Wonders of the web* (Janine Adamson): This article covered why spiders can be beneficial in an agricultural setting, with facts about behaviour, the use of insecticides and recovering populations. This article can be accessed and downloaded in PDF format from their website (<https://www.cpm-magazine.co.uk/technical/agricultural-spiders-wonders-of-the-web/>). A section of text about the BAS was also included in the downloadable PDF.

3) French Morning London - *Why do we see so many spiders in the UK in autumn?* (Julia Gaulon): This article was written for a news website for French communities living in London. The reporter was interested to find out about "spider season" but was very open to report on both common and rarer British spiders. The article can be found on their website (<https://london.frenchmorning.com/pourquoi-voit-on-autant-d'araignees-a-l'automne-au-royaume-uni/>; English translation available from web browser).

I would like to offer a huge thank you for those that have contributed to all press queries, by providing their time, photographs, text and interviews. Please get in touch with any questions or interview requests by email.





World Spider Catalog

The World Spider Catalog (<https://wsc.nmbe.ch>), maintained by the Natural History Museum, Bern, Switzerland is the definitive taxonomic catalogue of spiders. It is an indispensable resource for arachnologists and other academics who seek to information on all aspects of spider taxonomy, from original literature to synonymy lists. For more information, please contact the United Kingdom Coordinator: Danniella Sherwood, e-mail: danni.sherwood@hotmail.com

Issue of set of Spider Stamps by Royal Mail

On September 26th 2024 Royal Mail issued a Special Stamp set on Spiders – the latest in their long-running series of special stamp issues on British wildlife. Using original paintings by Richard Lewington the ten stamps celebrate the remarkable variety of colour and pattern in British spiders. Richard had previously illustrated three Special Stamps issues for Royal Mail – Butterflies, Bees and Brilliant Bugs.

Featured on the stamps are the: Sand Bear Spider (*Arctosa perita*); Cucumber Spider (*Araniella cucurbitina*); Woodland Jumping Spider (*Evarcha falcata*); Four-spotted Orbweb Spider (*Araneus quadratus*); Nurseryweb Spider (*Pisaura mirabilis*); Ladybird Spider (*Eresus sandaliatus*); Candy-striped Spider (*Enoplognatha ovata*); Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*); Zebra Spider (*Salticus scenicus*); and Heather Crab Spider (*Thomisus onustus*).

The stamps, as well as a presentation pack, postcards of each stamp and first day covers are available from <http://www.royalmail.com/spiders>

Lawrence Bee, September 2024



B.A.S YouTube Channel

We now have a video channel on the YouTube website/app. This channel features a range of arachnid videos including talks and demonstrations. Anyone can watch for free and subscribe to be notified of new videos.



<https://youtube.com/c/BritishArachnologicalSociety>

The British Arachnological Society on Twitter

Keep up to date with the Society on our Twitter page: @BritishSpiders



Newsletter Article Submission

Please send articles as Microsoft Word files to the Editor: Danniella Sherwood; e-mail: newsletter@britishspiders.org.uk

Images (if applicable) should be shared via email or by transfer services such as Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive if they are large.

Newsletter Article Deadlines

Spring: 1st February
Summer: 1st June
Autumn: 1st October

Please send *Newsletter* submissions to the Editor by the dates indicated above. However, please note that she reserves the right to hold material back for future issues. It is at the Editor's discretion how much of the text and how many of the figures of a submitted manuscript are included in the final typeset article.

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Far from Home – *Kochiura aulica* (Theridiidae) and the Bleeding Heart Spider *Nigma puella* (Dictynidae) in North Yorkshire

by Geoff Oxford

Kochiura aulica is a scarce species confined to southern England. According to the SRS database, the most northerly specimen reported so far was a male collect by the late David Nellist in June 2007 from Amwell Quarry Reserve, Ware, Hertfordshire (TL373133, VC20). On 27th October 2023, I photographed a web, beautifully bedecked with water droplets, on a low Yew hedge at Vertigrow Plant Centre, Stockton-on-the-Forest, York (SE647566, VC62) (Fig. 1). Inside were two apparently entire white egg-sacs and a female I assumed to be *Anelosimus vittatus*. The egg-sacs were left *in situ* and the female retained for a secure identification. It was, in fact, *Kochiura aulica*, a very long way from home (Fig. 2). Of course, it was found in a Plant Centre and the spider had almost certainly been imported from further south with horticultural goods. The SRS phenology chart shows that male and female adults are very rarely observed in October, let alone with egg-sacs. It is possible that the egg-sacs were sterile and produced earlier in the season. Certainly, no theridiid webs were found when the hedge was re-examined during September 2024.

On 1st February 2023, I received an email from Koki Imada with an image of what looked very much like an immature Bleeding Heart Spider *Nigma puella*, which was spotted on 30th January on vegetation on a churchyard wall in Heslington, York (SE627505, VC61). The specimen was retrieved with the intention of rearing it to maturity. Sadly the 2 mm long spiderling died but its abdominal pattern was very clear (confirmed by Richard Wilson). As far as I am aware, this was the first record from Yorkshire and, indeed, the furthest north, except for



Figure 2. Female *Kochiura aulica*. © Geoff Oxford.

a female reported by Chris Cathrine on 15th July 2018 from Flanders Moss SSSI, West Perthshire (NS649980, VC87) (Cathrine, 2019). To the south, the closest record was from Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire (Annette Binding, 10th June 2008, SK623743, VC56).

Just like buses coming along together, on 10th August 2023 I was spidering around the church in Thorganby (SE689416, VC61) and, searching a large Ivy hedge nearby, discovered to my great surprise a female *Nigma puella*. She was sitting within a partly rolled Ivy leaf with four white, flattened egg-sacs, each 3 mm in diameter and slightly overlapping. The female and egg-sacs were covered with a typical *Nigma* veil of silk. The leaf was brought home to be photographed (Fig. 3) and the next day young started to emerge from one of the egg-sacs. Over the next month, the female produced another four clutches of eggs but died on 16th September. It turned out that rearing spiderlings so small (1 mm or so) was a challenge too far and the remaining broods were returned



Figure 1. The web of *Kochiura aulica* *in situ*. © Geoff Oxford.



Figure 3. *Nigma puella* female with egg-sacs. © Geoff Oxford.



Figure 4. Second spiderling instar of *Nigma puella* showing red pigmentation – 7th September 2023.
© Geoff Oxford.

to the Thorganby hedge on 18th September to take their chances in the wild. While there, I found two more females with egg-sacs and a couple more unaccompanied egg-sacs that could have been *Nigma*.

Although my attempt to rear young in captivity failed, it did demonstrate that even 2nd instar spiderlings develop the tell-tale red markings on the abdomen (Fig. 4), which differentiates this species from *N. walckenaeri*. This was useful when I revisited the site on 3rd October 2024 because, although adults were absent, I found eight spiderlings (1–1.5 mm long), all sporting definite red pigmentation and distributed along about 45 m of hedge. Clearly there is now at least one thriving population of this species established in central Yorkshire – the Heslington location needs to be re-examined.

Reference

Cathrine, C. 2019. First record of *Nigma puella* (Araneae: Dictynidae) from Scotland, found at Flanders Moss lowland raised bog (VC87 West Perthshire). *SRS News* 93: 30–31 In: *Newsl. Br. arachnol. Soc.* 144.

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***Megalepthyphantes* sp. near *collinus* in Lincolnshire**

by Jon Daws

Over the winter period I've been going out one night a week to visit three and occasionally four churchyards by torchlight. The initial target species was *Steatoda nobilis* which turned out to be very common and widespread being found in over 95% of places visited. As one would expect, other species were also collected including local rarities and some individuals that seemed to have hung on long beyond their usual season, probably due to the relatively warm winter we have had.

The highlight was finding *Megalepthyphantes* sp. near *collinus* in three churchyards. Initially I was unsure of the first spider I collected (a female) so I put it to one side and consulted the European arachnological websites and looked through the SRS newsletters online. There were

several impressive photographs of this species' genitalia and in one article a mention that Peter Harvey had provided them with some drawings, done by Peter Merrett, of this species' genitalia from British specimens. I contacted Peter Harvey who emailed the drawings to me and offered to look at the specimen for confirmation.

Meanwhile a few weeks had passed and my tally of specimens had reached five, with a further two males and females from two new sites. The spiders were all found below two feet above the ground, collected from their webs, which hung either across corners or between the church wall and other stone debris. All of the churchyards, although relatively well vegetated, had a fairly open aspect. I believe that most of these specimens would have been missed if I had visited these churches during daylight hours when they would have been hiding away in some little crevice.

- 1 female, Sibsey Churchyard, TF354505, 16/12/2023, from walls by torchlight.
- 1 male & 1 female, Burgh le Marsh Churchyard, TF501650, 20/02/2024, from walls by torchlight.
- 1 male & 1 female, Holton le Clay Churchyard, TA286027, 08/03/2024, from walls by torchlight.

The fact this species is fairly well distributed in north Lincolnshire would indicate that it is probably present in England from Yorkshire southwards, in small numbers. I would like to thank Peter Harvey for all his help and for confirming the identification of all five specimens.

Just as I finished this article another specimen has been found at a further churchyard, this time from inside a large, old, overturned plant pot adjacent to the church wall:

- 1 female, Sutton on Sea churchyard, TF519817, 23/03/2024, from plant pot by torchlight.

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***Centromerus brevipalpus* (Menge, 1866) New to Oxfordshire**

by Richard Gallon

On the 22nd March 2024 I arrived in Oxford in readiness for the British Entomological & Natural History Society's Annual Members' Day the following day. I'd arrived in good time, so rather than heading straight to the hotel, I decided to visit Bagley Wood to stretch my legs after the long drive.

Scrutinising aerial images, I headed straight to a part of the wood that seemed to have the oldest deciduous trees (SP51260184). I found myself in an area of tall Oak standards, with an isolated Holly understory (Fig. 1). The woodland floor here was largely devoid of plants, but had a thick, continuous layer of leaf litter.

Sieving this litter yielded the usual suite of woodland spiders including *Walckenaeria acuminata*, *Microneta viaria* and *Diplocephalus picinus*. I then grabbed a few handfuls of 10 cm deep litter adjacent to a decomposing tree stump, partly shaded by Holly coppice regrowth. This sieved leaf litter was much wetter than that found out in the open, and my eye was drawn to a small, pale linyphiid on the tray that was covered in parasitic mites (Fig. 2).

To my delight this parasitised linyphiid was an adult



Figure 1. Bagley Wood, Oxfordshire.
© Richard Gallon.



Figure 2. *Centromerus brevipalpus* adult male with parasitic mites. Bagley Wood, Oxfordshire.
© Richard Gallon.

male *Centromerus brevipalpus*, an Endangered and Nationally Rare species. This find represents a new Vice County record for Oxfordshire.

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***Oryphantes angulatus* (O. P. - Cambridge, 1881) New to Cheshire**

by Richard Gallon

On the 19th September 2024 I stopped at Holme Moss (SE09680358) to break a long car journey from North Wales to Lincolnshire.

A few minutes of vacuum sampling in a wet blanket bog gully yielded 20 spider species, *Paroligolophus agrestis* and *Neobisium carcinoides*. At 523 m in altitude this is one of the highest points in Cheshire. The sample contained three adult female *Oryphantes angulatus* new to Cheshire. There were also three female *Agyneta saxatilis sensu lato* which, given the habitat, are likely to be *Agyneta mossica*, but in the absence of a mature male I won't claim that one as a new Vice County record just yet.

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Cornwall Conifer Woods – A Mossy Deep Dive

by Tylan Berry

Back in the winter of 2019, spurred on by the spider year listing that we were participating in, I met up with Graeme Lyons at Cardinham Woods (Fig. 1) in Cornwall to look for some of the damp-loving western things that are scarcer further east. We easily found *Cryphoea silvicola* and *Tegenaria silvestris* that we were looking for on the trees, but it was a dark, damp and rather cold patch of mossy understory beneath a spruce plantation that particularly caught our attention.

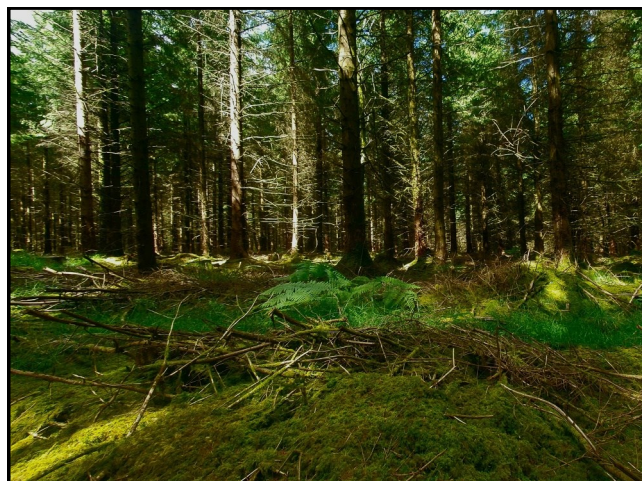


Figure 1. Dense *Thuidium* growth at Cardinham Woods. © Tylan Berry.

By sieving handfuls of litter and moss over a white tray we were turning up an incredible number of linyphiids, far more than you'd generally expect from a conifer plantation. It was very difficult to get a bead on what we were looking at due to it being very dark (head torches would have been helpful!), but we were both rather excited by seeing things that appeared unusual. As it turned out, our excitement was justified. We had come across a hoard of rather scarce and local Linys, especially for down here in the southwest – things like *Monocephalus castaneipes*, *Gongyliidiellum latebricola*, *Porrhomma pallidum* and, what was the star of the show, *Centromerus serratus*. The latter two species were new to Cornwall for the SRS.



Figure 2. A mossy carpet at Hustyn Wood.
© Tylan Berry.



Figure 3. *Centromerus serratus* male. © Tylan Berry.

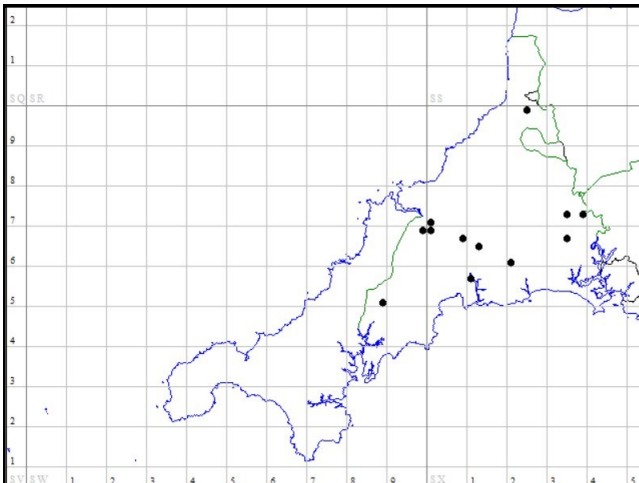


Figure 4. *Centromerus serratus* Cornwall distribution.



Figure 5. *Gongyliidiellum latebricola* male. © T.B.

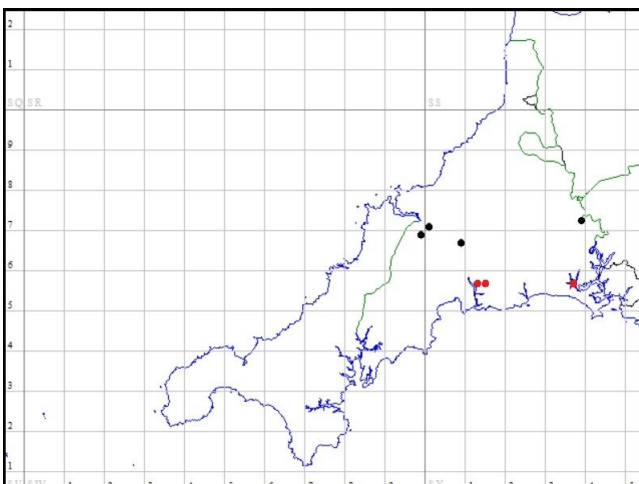


Figure 6. *Gongyliidiellum latebricola* Cornwall distribution. Red dots historic records.

It was this enlightenment that really kick started my decent into the world of linyphiids with a violent shove, and also set the seed for a bit of an obsession with moss and conifer woods. Return visits to Cardinham Woods have produced many other new species to Cornwall, including *Parasteatoda lunata*, *Hyptiotes paradoxus*, *Scotina celans* and *Hahnia helveola*, but it is hunting for the Linyx that has been truly fascinating. Indeed, in replicating the habitat and technique over the last five years, I have found many of these scarcer linyphiids to be widespread and relatively common across Cornwall, all in very similar conifer plantations, notably in dense clumps of *Thuidium tamariscinum* that occurs in shaded areas under spruce. What is interesting is that there seems to be a distinct assemblage of localised species that occur in this habitat, often collected together in the same sample. Whilst there are many more ubiquitous species, such as *Monocephalus fuscipes* and *Centromerus dilutus*, that are found in this niche, the five species listed below seem to be pretty much limited to it here in Cornwall.

Centromerus serratus (Figs. 3–4)

This was the one that really kicked it all off and is always the key target when I'm out in conifer woods. When Graeme and I found *C. serratus* in 2019, it had only been seen a couple of times previously in the UK over a 20 year period and had always been considered a real rarity. After five years of very targeted searching, it is now known from pretty much all of the larger conifer plantations in east Cornwall – the exceptions seeming to be those on Bodmin Moor that are above a 250-metre elevation. In those, it appears to be completely replaced by *C. prudens* and, interestingly, these are the only sites where I have ever found *C. prudens* in Cornwall. Of the ten different sites *C. serratus* is now known from in the county, only two are deciduous woodland. However, in every single place it has been located, it was found in *Thuidium* moss – never a different species and never in the leaf litter. It is definitely a species that prefers the darker, damper, mossy conifer plantations here in Cornwall.

Gongyliidiellum latebricola (Figs. 5–6)

Interestingly, this one seems to be much scarcer than *C. serratus* and I've only found it at three woodland sites in Cornwall (although square bashing has led me to finding it across the Hustyn/Bishop's wood complex that straddles three hectads!). Again, this one has only ever come from *Thuidium* in deep shade under spruce, until very recently when it came from soaking wet litter under heather right at the edge of a Cypress plantation in east Cornwall. For some reason the Cypress plantations don't seem to lead to the same development of damp, moss growth that Spruce does. Everywhere I know this spider from in the county, *C. serratus* is found at the same woodland site.

Porrhomma pallidum (Figs. 7–8)

When I see *Porrhomma pallidum*, I know I'm on the right track. Like *C. serratus*, this one is always in deep, dark mossy places but it's not quite as fussy about the species or location – so long as it is conifer. For some reason I've never found this species in a deciduous woodland. It is a bit more frequent than *G. latebricola*, but less so than *C. serratus*, and tends to turn up in much lower numbers. It is one that doesn't seem to mind the altitude of the Bodmin Moor plantations where I normally pick it up every time I visit. I wonder if this is an indication of it being a cold-loving species, especially given its mainly northern distribution in the UK. This is a similar pattern to *Centromerus arcanus* and *C. prudens*, two species that are incredibly scarce in Cornwall, but ones that I find in abundance in conifer plantations in Wales and Northern



Figure 7. *Porrhomma pallidum* female. © T. Berry.

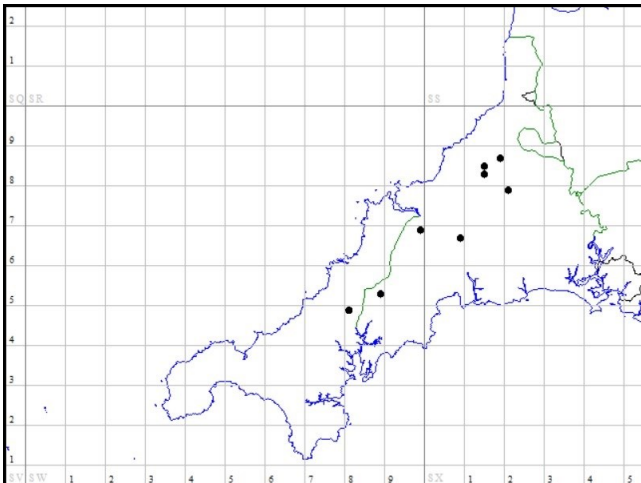


Figure 8. *Porrhomma pallidum* Cornwall distribution.



Figure 9. *Saaristoa firma* male. © Tylan Berry.

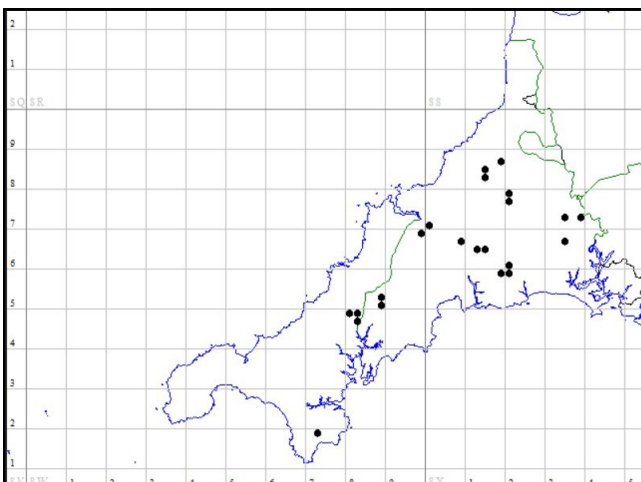


Figure 10. *Saaristoa firma* Cornwall distribution.



Figure 11. *Sintula corniger* females. © T. Berry.

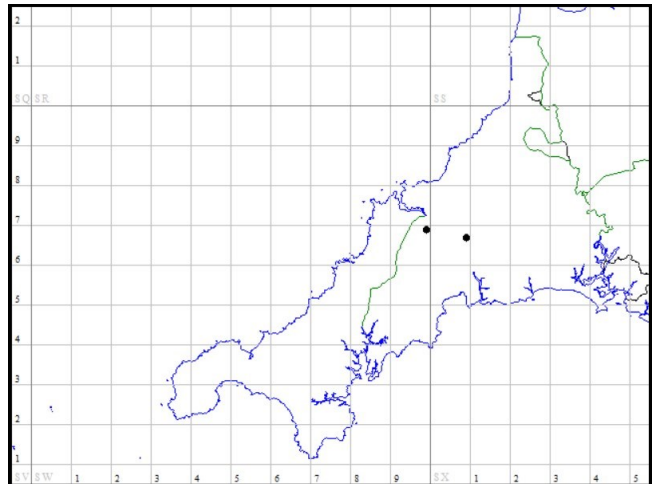


Figure 12. *Sintula corniger* Cornwall distribution.

England. I have never found these two species together, or at the same site as *C. serratus*.

Saaristoa firma (Figs. 9–10)

In moss under conifers – check. In pretty much every conifer plantation I've looked in – check! Yep, this one is ubiquitous across Cornwall, quite amazing considering it was new to the county in 2020. I have managed to find it in damp moss at all but one of the conifer plantations I have visited in Cornwall, even right down on the Lizard Peninsula. Despite its relative abundance, much like the above species, it doesn't really seem to occur in deciduous woods, nor any of the vast amount of mossy willow carr that is present here. The latter is a very productive habitat for a huge number of other linyphiid species, especially in mid-Cornwall, but this suite of spiders seem to shun it entirely.

Sintula corniger (Figs. 11–12)

An interesting one as this species is found in a variety of wet habitats across Britain, yet in Cornwall it is still only known from two conifer plantations where it occurs with all of the above in deep *Thuidium* moss. I have seen it in open mires and blanket bogs further north in the UK and I am always perplexed by its apparent absence from similar habitats on Bodmin Moor. Like *P. pallidum*, where I find it in Cornwall, it is always in very low numbers and is the species listed here that I encounter the least. I can pretty much guarantee to locate the others at certain sites, but not this one, it seems very difficult to target.

There is a host of other species that occur alongside this assemblage but are also much more widespread and less particular in their choice of habitat. An honourable mention should go to *Monocephalus castaneipes*, a spider

that is always found with the above species in moss in conifer woods. *Monocephalus castaneipes*, however is also found in moss pretty much anywhere slightly shaded and damp in Cornwall – it can be common in willow carr and at the edges of mires where there is small tree cover. I've found it in moss shaded by rocks on tors in open moorland and even in aerial litter in a small Hawthorn copse on the cliffs! It really doesn't seem to be that fussy here. Take a vacuum sampler to pretty much any shaded mossy tree trunk and you're normally quids in! Another similar associate is *Agyneta ramosa*, a species that was new to Cornwall in 2020 from some wet *Sphagnum* under willow at Breney Common. This species is also often found alongside the above assemblage in conifer woods, but turns up very frequently in wet willow car in mid-Cornwall and Bodmin Moor. There are also some strange anomalies, like the odd appearance of *Walckenaeria cucullata* here in 2020. This is a scarce spider in the southwest and, for some reason, has only turned up at one conifer wood in Cornwall where it is rather abundant – Idless Woods, just north of Truro. It seems very strange that it appears to be completely absent from all of the other similar plantations here, and what is even more odd is that Idless is the only large, lowland conifer plantation that I've completely failed to find *Centromerus serratus* in. Are they completely mutually exclusive, or is it just that step too far west for the *Centromerus*? I highly doubt that, but I really don't understand why it seems to be absent given that the habitat feels perfect for it.

And this really is the crux of the situation – as that old adage says, “the more you learn, the more you realise you don't know”. Looking for, and finding, these species certainly answers some questions, but it also opens up so many more. Like why does *C. serratus* shun the more upland plantations? Do *C. serratus* and *W. cucullata* really not get on well? And what on earth is so special about *Thuidium*!? It will be great to start to get to the bottom of these, as well as continuing to understand the true distribution and habitat preference of some of these spiders, hopefully continuing to add further conifer specialist species to the county list along the way (here's looking at you *Asthenargus paganus*!).

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Spider Stamp Quiz

BAS members will have seen and enjoyed the recent batch of Royal Mail postage stamps. We've heard that many of you have already purchased supplies of these for future use! Why not have a go at this spider stamp quiz?

<https://gbstampshub.com/games/spiders-thematic>



Exciting and Necessary Improvements to the BAS Spider and Harvestmen Recording Schemes

by Richard Gallon (on behalf of BAS Council)

I fondly remember the postal correspondence I had with David Nellist about identifying and recording British spiders back in the mid-90s. At the time, David was the National Spider Recording Scheme Organiser for the BAS. Back then I was studying at Manchester and would regularly pop into the Museum to see Stan Dobson, who kindly offered to mentor me on the complexities of UK spider identification. Peter Merrett, Paul Selden and Jason Dunlop, together with David and Stan, were all instrumental in forging my involvement with the BAS and the UK spider scene.

In those days spider records were submitted to the SRS on A5 recording cards. You would fill in location, date and grid reference, and then proceed to cross through in black biro the species on the card's list that you'd recorded. You needed special permission from the SRS National Organiser to request batches of these blank cards from BRC (Biological Records Centre) at Monk's Wood. Completed cards were then sent back to David who would send them on for digitisation at BRC's former headquarters at Monks Wood.

David passed the SRS role on to Peter Harvey, and it was at the 2006 Annual Meeting at Malham Tarn that Peter introduced the BAS and SRS to a radical new computer-based recording system called MapMate. I remember sitting in the audience and being impressed with Peter's comprehensive presentation. I'll never know what some of the older recorders in the audience thought on that day, but they were polite enough to listen despite not owning computers themselves.

Under Peter Harvey's tenure, MapMate was rolled out across the SRS with a separate SRS atlas-generating website. This online atlas was updated from the SRS's MapMate top-copy held by Peter, as and when new record batches came in. Those vice-county recorders who had adopted MapMate would synchronise (sync) their copies with Peter's to ensure the SRS dataset was up-to-date. However, not all vice-county recorders adopted MapMate, and their regional datasets were sent to Peter on Excel spreadsheets for incorporation into MapMate.

After a long and fruitful tenure as SRS National Organiser, Peter passed the role on to Matt Prince in 2021. However, with Matt's emigration to continental Europe, he felt he was unable to continue in his post for very long. The BAS Council needed another volunteer.

Plied with a free pint of bitter at the Lockkeeper Inn during the Clumber Park BAS annual meeting in 2021, I discovered I'd taken the King's shilling, and Council persuaded me to take on the vacant role of SRS National Organiser. As an active and committed spider recorder, the future of the SRS is extremely important to me. I also work at Cofnod, a very forward-thinking Local Environmental Records Centre in North Wales. I guess Council identified me as somebody with a good understanding of the needs of modern-day species recording in the UK, and somebody who could help ensure the SRS remains relevant in the rapidly evolving world of modern biological recording. Yikes – what a responsibility!

MapMate

I've seen the SRS evolve from using paper record cards to adopting MapMate many years ago. MapMate has served us well for many years but now has an uncertain future as legacy software.

MapMate, developed by Mark Yeates and run as a one-man-band, has made a very major contribution to biological recording for a quarter of a century. However, the small, remaining number of active SRS MapMate users will be aware that Mark issued an important announcement on the software's future on 28th October 2024. Mark stated that he'll be retiring shortly and will be closing MapMate Ltd on the 31st December 2024; no new MapMate licences will be issued beyond 30th November 2024. Mark will support the software privately until the last annual user's licence expires. Thereafter MapMate becomes legacy software and as such is vulnerable to future Windows updates.

Many people no longer own a PC, and instead conduct their online activities using a smartphone. This growing demographic trend means that forward-thinking Recording Schemes can no longer rely on PC-based software to recruit a new generation of recorders and the closure of MapMate Ltd and lack of new licenses means this software can not be used by new recorders. Recording Schemes that don't appreciate this will rapidly be marginalised and bypassed in favour of more user-friendly recording alternatives, like iRecord or iNaturalist. Fortunately, the BAS had already taken steps to address this.

BAS iRecord Form

Most SRS/HRS Recorders should be well-aware that we now have a popular and functional iRecord data entry form (see *BAS Newsletter 159* Spring 2024) which captures records directly into our own SRS/HRS dataset. This has been running successfully for just under a year and has been used by over 160 different recorders to submit over 2000 high-quality records to our dataset. Many of the records are supported by high-resolution images, including stacked photos of epigynes, palps and even dissected spermathecae. This associated evidence vastly improves confidence in the verification and quality of records submitted to us by iRecord.

Working with CEH (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)/BRC and using the iRecord platform has enabled many new recorders to submit spider and harvestmen records whilst ensuring appropriate verification and maintaining the quality and the future of our 1.3 million-record SRS/HRS dataset.

The BAS iRecord Form is intuitive and allows users to rapidly enter records in a tabular form from a single site. It also gives the option to include ecological information and attach photographs to each record. Existing users will be relieved to know that we are also able to receive/upload records in to our BAS iRecord SRS/HRS dataset from an MS Excel spreadsheet.

New BAS SRS/HRS Atlas

The current SRS web-based atlas can only be maintained using a separate specialist piece of MapMate software. Consequently, the old atlas will need to be replaced at some point, which will provide us with an opportunity to modernise, enhance and update our valuable atlas resource.

We are working closely with CEH on this and I have already seen an early functional version of the new SRS/HRS Atlas. For the first time, users will be able to selectively map verified records from three different datasets (in any combination): BAS SRS/HRS, native iRecord and iNaturalist on iRecord. It is important to stress that only records verified by BAS vice-county recorders will be mapped. The mapping will draw results directly from the live databases, ensuring continually up-to-date maps; you will even be able to choose your own

date ranges to map. We hope that it will look amazing, just like the current website, and will be viewed with envy by other Recording Schemes.

So what next – how do I now submit records to the SRS/HRS?

- **Existing MapMate User.** If you haven't already done so, please sync the arachnid records in your MapMate database with the Recording Schemes (CUK: fah) as soon as possible. The cut-off date to do this is **28th February 2025**. This will give the Scheme organisers time to import and check data before the BAS-funded MapMate licenses expire at the end of April, and to integrate these new records into our main top-copy database.
- **Mapmate Users who intend to continue to use MapMate after 28th February 2025.** We will still welcome your records but after the cut-off date, you will need to extract and send just your **new** records to the SRS/HRS National Scheme Organisers in .csv format (Harvestmen to Meg Skinner and Spiders to Richard Gallon).
- **Non-MapMate Users.** Keep submitting your records directly to the SRS/HRS using the BAS iRecord Form or to your local Area Organiser. Those who wish to submit records in Excel can send them directly to SRS/HRS National Scheme Organisers or their Area Organisers. These records will then be added to the BAS iRecord database top-copy.

Change has the potential to be unsettling. However, it is necessary if our much-cherished National Schemes are to develop, to grow and to have continued relevance to recorders, academics and conservation bodies in the future.

Now where do I file this in my card index?

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East Anglian Spider Survey 2024

by Richard Gallon

This year I decided to undertake some spider surveying in East Anglia to familiarise myself with some of the region's specialities. My two visits were from 10th–18th May, and between 20th–28th September, chosen to maximise the potential of recording a wide variety of species. I was particularly keen to visit nature reserves to update old species records of Nationally Rare & Scarce species. The record highlights from this survey are summarised here.

Atypus affinis

Found on dry sandy heathland.

Dersingham Bog (21st September): 2 detached tube webs, TF669285.

Clubiona frisia

Found by grubbing within clumps of Marram on frontal yellow dunes (Fig. 1).

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 2 males, 2 females, TG49682039.



Figure 1. *Clubiona frisia* and *Baryphma maritimum* habitat at Winterton Dunes. © Richard Gallon.

Clubiona rosserae (Fig. 2)

Found by vacuum sampling fen vegetation, including pure stands of *Schoenus nigricans* and mixed areas of *Cladium/Carex/Phragmites*.

Chippenham Fen (17th May): 1 male, 2 immatures, TL65036937; 1 female, 8 immatures, TL65056938; 1 male, 1 female, 1 immature male, TL65186940. The following Chippenham Fen records are based on immatures only and are pending confirmation by DNA barcoding: 5 immature females, TL65006943 (17th May); 5 immatures, TL65006940 (17th May); 1 immature female, TL65146937 (17th May); 4 immatures, TL65046937 (24th September).



Figure 2. *Clubiona rosserae* adult female at Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Argenna patula

Vacuumed from saltmarsh.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 male, 1 female, 4 immatures, TM43234860; 1 male, TM44354919.

Drassyllus lutetianus

Found by sieving strandline litter on saltmarsh.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 male, Orford Ness, TM43274863.

Gnaphosa lugubris

Amongst coastal shingle.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 male, 3 immatures, TM44354919; 1 female, 2 immatures, TM44944886.

Haplodrassus dalmatensis

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 immature, TG49682039.

Phaeocedus braccatus

Found by sieving strandline litter on saltmarsh.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 immature, TM43234861 (Coll. Emily Swan).

Zelotes electus

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 3 males, TG49362059.

Agyneta fuscipalpa (Fig. 3)

Vacuumed from Breckland plots that had been subjected to management work to break-up the soil surface for Stone Curlews (Fig. 18). No specimens were recovered from unmodified areas of Breckland adjacent to these plots.

Weeting Heath (26th September): 1 male, 1 female, TL75668770; 12 males, 24 females, TL75728789; 2 females, Washboard, TL75858930.



Figure 3. *Agyneta fuscipalpa* adult female at Weeting Heath. © Richard Gallon.

Baryphma gowerense

Sub-adults (readily identified by size, colouration, leg chaetotaxy and elongated pin-cushion abdominal setae) were vacuumed from every sample point, with higher numbers associated with freshly-cut, open, fen with small mossy tussocks standing in 10 cm deep water.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 18 immature males, 26 immature females, TG37112359; 20 immature males, 21 immature female, 1 immature gynandromorph, TG37162359; 1 immature male, 2 immature females, TG37322352; 1 immature male, 3 immature females, TG37412357; 1 immature male, 4 immature females, TG37282355; 1 immature male, 1 immature female, Little Bog, TG36982326.

Baryphma maritimum (Fig. 4)

Found by grubbing within clumps of Marram on frontal yellow dunes (Fig. 1).

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 male, 3 females, TG49192097; 6 males, 8 females, TG49682039.



Figure 4. *Baryphma maritimum* adult female at Winterton Dunes. © Richard Gallon.

Centromerus semiater

Vacuumed from cut *Cladium* fen with sub-dominant *Phragmites*, and also in dense uncut *Phragmites/Cladium/Myrica* fen.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 3 males, TG37112359; 1 male, 2 females, TG37162359; 1 female, Little Bog, TG36982326.

Donacochara speciosa (Fig. 5)

Vacuumed from a dense stand of fenland *Phragmites*.

Botany Bay, Lakenheath Fen (27th September): 1 female, TL67448527.



Figure 5. *Donacochara speciosa* adult female at Lakenheath Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Entelecara omissa

Foulden Common: 2 males, TF76200002 (10th May); 2 females, TF76450015 (15th May). **Chippenham Fen**: 21 males, 17 females, TL65056938 (17th May); 2 males, TL65006943 (17th May); 16 males, 8 females, TL65006940 (17th May); 2 males, TL65186940 (17th May); 2 males, 1 female, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 female, TL64206935 (24th September); 1 female, TL64796953 (24th September). **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 4 males, 1 female, TL56187035; 1 male, TL55557011.

Glyptesis servulus

Chippenham Fen (17th May): 1 male, 2 females, TL65036937. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 2 females, TL56047028.

Gongylidiellum murcidum

Little Fen (14th May): 2 males, 1 female, TM04077914; 1 male, TM04007907. **Great Fen** (14th May): 1 male, TM05468011. **Foulden Common** (15th May): 1 male, 1 female, TF76450015. **Roydon Fen**: 1 male, TM10417972 (14th May); 5 females, TM10227970 (22nd September). **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 2 males, 3 females, TL56187035; 1 male, 1 female, TL56187037; 5 males, 1 female, TL55186994; 1 male, 1 female, TL55557011.

Karita paludosa

At Sutton it was vacuumed from cut *Cladium* fen with sub-dominant *Phragmites*. At Lakenheath it was vacuumed from 50 cm tall *Carex* fen.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 1 male, 5 females, TG37112359; 2 females, TG37162359. **Botany Bay, Lakenheath Fen** (27th September): 1 male, TL67428535.

Maso gallicus

Chippenham Fen: 2 males, 5 females, TL65036937 (17th May); 12 males, 3 females, TL65006943 (17th May); 2 females, TL65186940 (17th May); 2 males, 3 females, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 female, TL64386958 (24th September); 3 females, TL65046937 (24th September). **Foulden Common**: 1 female, TF76450015 (15th May); 1 male, TF76069981 (15th May); 1 female, TL75979958 (25th September); 1 female, TL76019953 (25th September). **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 male,

TL56047028; 2 females, TL56187037; 2 males, TL55357028; 3 males, 1 female, TL55186994; 1 male, TL55557011.

Notioscopus sarcinatus

Roydon Common (25th September): 5 males, 3 females, TF68562191.

Porrhomma oblitum

Chippenham Fen (17th May): 1 female, TL65036937. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 male, TL56047028; 1 male, 1 female, TL56187037.

Styloctetor romanus

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 female, TG49362059; 1 female, TG49682039.

Trichoncus affinis

Found amongst lightly vegetated coastal shingle.

Orford Ness (16th May): 3 males, 11 females, TM44354919; 1 female, TM44944886 (col. Emily Swan).

Liocranoeca striata

Wicken Fen (18th May): 1 immature, TL56187037.

Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata (Fig. 6)

Specimens were recovered from beneath patches of dry, long-cut (i.e. not mulched) *Cladium* leaves laying on top of open, low-mid height cut fen, often at the drier edges of high-quality fens (Fig. 7). Immatures were readily identified from those of other lycosids by their orangey colour and a small pale triangular marking on the posterior of their carapaces.

Chippenham Fen: 2 females (with egg-sacs), 1 immature, TL65036937 (17th May); 1 immature, TL65056938 (17th May); 1 female, 2 immatures, TL65006943 (17th May); 2 females (with egg-sacs), 3 immatures, TL65016935 (17th May); 1 immature, TL64326929 (24th September); 1 male, 9 immatures, TL64386958 (24th September); 1 male, 2 females, 18 immatures, TL65046937 (24th September). **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 male, 3 immatures, TL75979958; 1 male, 4 immatures, TL76049949; 1 female, 2 immatures, TL76059977.



Figure 6. *Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata* adult female at Foulden Common. © Richard Gallon.

Zora armillata (Fig. 8)

This rarity was vacuumed from several parts of Wicken Fen also in the company of *Zora spinimana* (contrary to previously published assertions).

Wicken Fen (18th May): 1 female, TL56047028; 1 male, TL56187035; 1 female, TL56187037; 1 male, 2 females, TL55357028; 1 male, TL55186994; 2 females, TL55557011.

Attulus caricis

Great Fen (14th May): 1 male, TM05468011.



Figure 7. Small piles of cut, dry, long-stem *Cladium* on the fen. A favoured microhabitat for *Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata* which hide beneath these piles. Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Attulus saltator

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 female, TG49042107.

Marpissa nivoyi

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 female, TG49362059; 1 female, TG49682039.

Marpissa radiata (Fig. 9)

In May adult females with egg-sacs were readily found in silk-cells weaved within the previous season's dry *Phragmites* heads (Fig. 10). Immatures were recovered by vacuuming the fenland



Figure 8. *Zora armillata* adult female at Wicken Fen. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 9. *Marpissa radiata* adult female at Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 10. *Marpissa radiata* silk-cell retreat (arrowed) within previous season's dry *Phragmites* head at Chippenham Fen © Richard Gallon.

vegetation at ground level. No occupied *Phragmites* cells were encountered in September.

Chippenham Fen: 2 females, 2 immatures, TL65036937 (17th May); 2 immatures, TL65056938 (17th May); 1 immature, TL65006943 (17th May); 1 immature, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 immature, TL64326929 (24th September); 2 immature males, TL64326928 (24th September); 1 immature, TL64206935 (24th September); 1 immature male, TL65046937 (24th September). **Sutton Fen** (23rd September): 1 immature, TG37162359; 1 immature, TG37412357; 2 immatures, TG36982326. **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 immature, TL76019953. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 immature, TL56047028; 2 females, TL56187035; 1 female, TL56187037; 1 female, TL55357028; 1 male, 1 female, TL55186994; 1 female, TL55557011.

Myrmarachne formicaria (Fig. 11)

This species is recorded as new to both Chippenham Fen and Foulden Common. It has only been recorded in East Anglia once before.

Chippenham Fen (24th September): 1 male, TL64386958; 1 male, TL64796953. **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 immature male, TL75979958.

Neon pictus (Fig. 12)

The single immature was found clinging under a rock on coastal shingle. This find received considerable media attention, although it has been recorded from the site once before.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 immature female, TM44944886.

Neon valentulus (Fig. 14)

Found sometimes in the company of *Neon reticulatus*, generally at the drier edges of high quality fens (Fig. 15).

Foulden Common: 2 males, 2 females, TF76069981 (15th



Figure 11. *Myrmarachne formicaria* adult male at Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

May); 2 females, TF76059982; 1 female, TL76059977 (25th September). **Chippenham Fen** (17th May): 1 male, 1 female, TL65036937.

Pseudeuophrys obsoleta (Fig. 16)

First within an old Whelk shell on coastal shingle, the other under a metal sheet on coastal shingle.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 female, TM44454888; 1 female, TM44944889.



Figure 12. *Neon pictus* sub-adult female from Orford Ness. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 16. *Pseudeuophrys obsoleta* adult female from Orford Ness. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 13. Extensive coastal shingle at Orford Ness supports many rare spiders. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 14. *Neon valentulus* adult female from Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Coleosoma floridanum

Found clinging to the undersides of logs within the zoo's tropical -house.

Banham Zoo (12th May): 2 males, 2 females, 1 immature female, TM05648736.

Crustulina sticta

Chippenham Fen: 2 males, 2 females, 1 immature, TL65036937 (17th May); 1 female, 1 immature, TL65006943 (17th May); 2 females, TL65186940 (17th May); 1 male, 1

female, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 female, TL65016935 (17th May); 1 female, TL65046937 (24th September). **Dersingham Bog** (21st September): 1 female, TF67262863. **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 female, TL76049949. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 female, TL55357028; 2 females, TL55186994.

Enoplognatha caricis

This is a new site record and represents only the second East Anglian find.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 1 immature female, TG37112359.

Enoplognatha mordax

Orford Ness (16th May): 2 males, 1 immature, TM43234861.

Steatoda albomaculata (Fig. 17)

At Roydon it was found under mature heather on sandy heathland. The Weeting specimens were all from soil-disturbed management plots on open Breckland (Fig. 18). Some specimens were found clinging to the underside of flint stones laying loosely on the soil surface.

Roydon Common (25th September): 1 immature, TF67882196.

Weeting Heath (26th September): 1 immature, TL75668770; 18 immatures, TL75728789; 28 immatures, Washboard, TL75858930.

Theridion hemerobium

Vacuumed from inundated, lakeside fen vegetation. This represents a new site record.

Redgrave Fen (14th May): 1 female, TM04177895.



Figure 17. *Steatoda albomaculata* sub-adult at Weeting Heath. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 15. Mature *Schoenus nigricans* tussocks yielded both *Neon valentulus* and *Neon reticulatus* on the drier fen margin at Foulde Common. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 18. Management plot with broken soil in the foreground supporting large populations of *Agyneta fuscipalpa* and *Steatoda albomaculata* at Weeting Heath. © Richard Gallon.

Ozyptila scabricula

Weeting Heath (26th September): 1 male, TL75668770; 1 male, TL75858930.

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