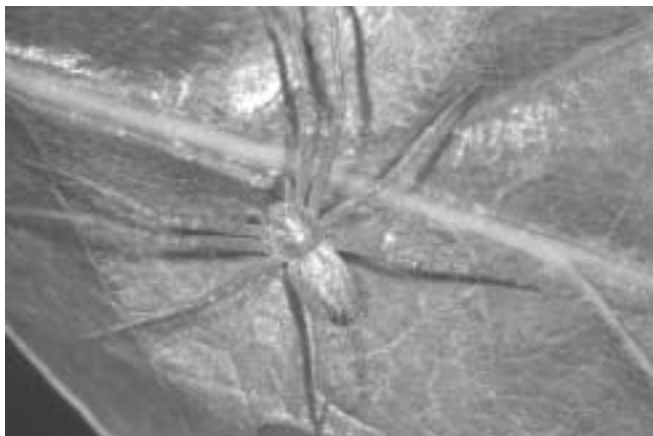


took it to Tom Faulds, Nottinghamshire County Recorder, and he confirmed my identification. Later Peter Harvey confirmed that this was the most northerly record of this species.



Philodromus albidus male photograph Peter Harvey

We made further visits to the site but found no more *Philodromus albidus*. We did, however, find *Tetragnatha nigrita* (Lendl 1886), a species which is very uncommon in Lincolnshire, this being only the 5th record. It was also confirmed by Tom Faulds.

I am grateful to Tom Faulds and Peter Harvey for their help with identification and information about these spiders.

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Argiope bruennichi new to Lincolnshire 2004

by Annette Binding

On 26th August this year, I received a phone call from Phil Porter, the warden at Whisby Nature Park near Lincoln. He told me he had received a photograph via an e-mail of a spider which looked like a female *Argiope bruennichi*. Phil gave me the telephone number of the person who had sent the e-mail, Jane Paterson, who is a member of the volunteer wildlife survey team at Whisby Nature Park. The spider had been found by Paul Skelton, one of Jane's work colleagues, in the middle of a sugar beet field amongst trial plants near Navenby in Lincolnshire (SK998577).

The spider was collected by John Maddison, another work colleague, but had been released back at the field on the previous evening, after the photograph had been taken. Luckily someone had spotted the same spider earlier on the 26th August and John was dispatched to find it, which he did. Needless to say, Allan and I wasted no time in getting over to Navenby to collect the specimen not least because the previous week a spider which was described over the phone as being very large with yellow-orange and black stripes, had turned out to be a female *Araneus diadematus*. This time, though, it was indeed a female *Argiope bruennichi*. Jane then took us out to see the area where the spider had been found and we found some remnants of web but no other spiders. At this stage we thought the spider had probably come into the area via the beet seed boxes as the seed is grown in France and packed in Holland, both places where, according to my books, the species occurs on the

continent.

The following day, I spoke to Peter Harvey on the telephone and he said it was more likely to be result of the species' spread northwards. Peter was able to give me much more information about the spiders' habitat preferences. It was only after I put the phone down that we remembered that the site where the spider was found is very close to an old Roman Road alongside of which some of the grass verges are left uncut. Part of the old Roman Road is now just a farm track and so vegetation there has been allowed to grow long. Since Peter told me that the spiders need rough, unmanaged areas of long grass it would seem that these places would provide a more suitable habitat than the sugar beet field. Peter also told me that the spiders are often in large numbers but difficult to spot owing to their cryptic colouring. We went back to the area two days later and explored the road verges and part of the Roman Road farm track but found no more *Argiope bruennichi*. The day was quite breezy and it was difficult to spot any webs amongst the grass although there were good numbers of *Araneus diadematus* present.

Argiope bruennichi is a spider species I had wanted to see but I never thought that one would be found in Lincolnshire. This is probably the most northerly record for this species.

I am grateful to Peter Harvey for information about *Argiope bruennichi* and to Paul Skelton for finding the spider, John Maddison for capturing it and to Jane Paterson and Phil Porter for passing the information on to me.

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Pardosa lugubris sensu stricto in Britain

by Peter Harvey

This year I was identifying spiders and aculeate Hymenoptera for the RSPB from pitfall traps set in sample locations at the RSPB reserve at Abernethy as part of an experimental study into the use of burning or cutting management in the forest field layer. *Pardosa lugubris/saltans* was present in a number of the samples and after various attempts to compare the palps to the drawings in Töpfer-Hofmann *et al.* (2000) I still could not make up my mind whether they were *P. saltans* or *P. lugubris* since there always seemed to be some variation and no certain match to the figures. It was only when I went to Essex specimens of *P. saltans* that the difference was obvious. I sent several specimens to Dr Peter Merrett for his opinion and he agrees that they are *P. lugubris* sensu stricto. It is embarrassing to report that when working through similar samples in 2003 I had identified the spider as *Pardosa saltans* despite checking against the figures in Töpfer-Hofmann *et al.*

Ian Dawson has checked about half a dozen each of male and female *P. saltans* in his own collection and a single male and two assumed females of *P. lugubris* from Abernethy in 1999. He also has two females that may well be *P. lugubris* from Corrimony which are a little bigger than those from Abernethy, but otherwise matching them (Ian Dawson, pers. comm.). I am very grateful to Ian for the following provisional summary of apparent differences to *P. saltans* and accompanying photographs:

***P. lugubris* males**

Apparent differences from *P. saltans*:

Palps

- strong tooth at tip of cymbium in *lugubris*.
- shorter cymbium relative to longer, finer median apophysis.
- less strongly bristled, especially on palpal femur and tibia.
- cymbium more convex basally, with outer half of cymbium straight (almost all straight or slightly concave in outer half in *P. saltans*).
- outer half of cymbium paler brown.

Certainly the most obvious feature that I noticed was the strong tooth, compared to a very small or almost absent tooth in my Essex specimens of *P. saltans*. The shorter cymbium is obvious when compared directly with specimens of *P. saltans*, but was not obvious to me from the figures in Töpfer-Hofmann *et al.* Ian notes in particular the strong dark bristles on the palpal femur and tibia, especially anterolaterally, in *P. saltans*. He reports that these seem to be obvious in life with a handlens, suggesting that males may be separable in the field (but voucher specimens of both species will be essential).

Upperside

- the central pale carapace band is wider, with less straight sides, and more strongly tapering at rear.

Underside

- the contrastingly darker anterior spinnerets are very obvious.

***P. lugubris* females**

Tentative differences from *P. saltans*:

Upperside

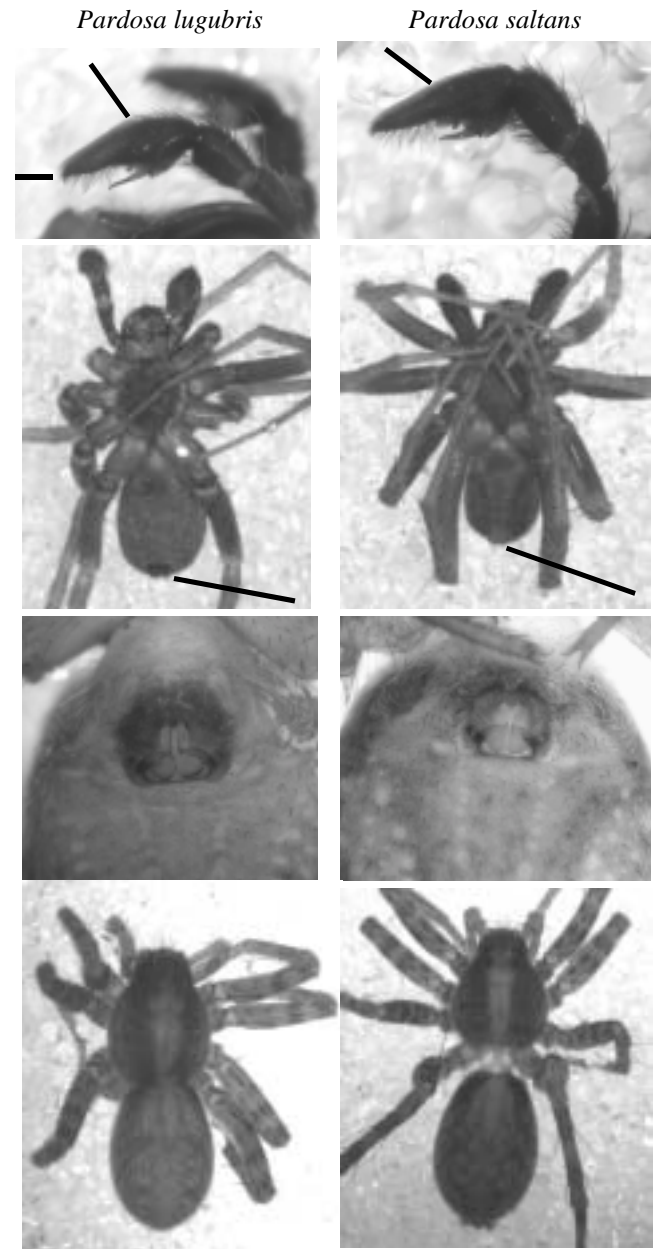
- as in the male the central pale carapace band is a little wider, with less straight sides, and more strongly tapering at rear (though one of Ian's *P. saltans* females tapers similarly). The central band is pinched in about a third back from posterior eyes with a 'tooth' of darker pigment.
- indistinct but complete narrow paler lateral carapace bands which are lacking, irregular or broken in *P. saltans*. (Increasing the brightness and contrast of the photos brings this out). Ian assumes this feature, if constant, is visible only in preserved specimens.

Underside

- strongly contrasting dark area to sides and front of epigyne (any dark pigment more diffuse in *P. saltans*).
- contrastingly darker anterior spinnerets.

The underside features are perhaps more promising, especially as Töpfer-Hofmann *et al.* note that females from the Netherlands show darker spinnerets.

It is obviously unwise to draw firm conclusions until more specimens are available, and pigmentation may bleach in old specimens making identification of females impossible. However Ian has provided an excellent starting point to encourage people to check their specimens and provide feedback confirming or refuting these suggestions.



I am very grateful to Mark Hancock (RSPB) for permission to report the identification of *Pardosa lugubris*. The sampling work was supported by the EU Life programme, BP (through the Scottish Forest Alliance) and Scottish Natural Heritage.

References

Töpfer-Hofmann, G., Cordes, D. & Helversen, O.v. (2000) Cryptic species and behavioural isolation in the *Pardosa lugubris* group (Araneae, Lycosidae), with description of two new species. *Bull. Br. arachnol. Soc.* 11 (7), 257-274.

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