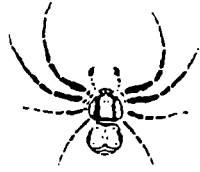


# British Arachnological Society



NEWSLETTER No. 10

JUNE 1991

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## SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

Each year the S.R.S. presents a report at the Annual General Meeting of the B.A.S., summarising the activities and plans during the previous twelve months. The following notes are based on the substance of this year's Report.

There are now 134 Recorders in the Scheme, including 42 who are Area Organisers. Just over 8,000 completed RA65 cards had been received and approved on April 1st continuing the annual input of around two thousand. More than two hundred cards have now been received for: North Essex (Peter Harvey & Ray Ruffell), Hertford (David Nellist), Stafford (Craig Slawson), South Lancashire (Chris Felton), South-East, North-East, South-West and Mid-West Yorkshire (Clifford Smith) and South Northumberland (Steve Rushton). Less than 10 cards have been received for North Wiltshire, Isle of Wight, East Gloucester, Monmouth, Hereford, Radnor and Mid Ebudes (Mull). Have you any thoughts of visiting one of these vice-counties during the year?

AREA ORGANISERS The following have kindly agreed to act as Area Organisers for 'unoccupied' vice-counties:

Steve Hopkins : Berkshire                      Ian Morgan : Carmarthen                      Stan Dobson : Pembroke  
Adrian Fowles : Cardigan                      Don Roscoe : Anglesey                      Alan Scott : Cheshire  
James Wright : Isle of Man.

Colin Butler expects soon to be moving from Cornwall and hopes that someone will come forward to take over from him in that county. Any offers?

Mike Fulton has been AO for Cheshire since 1987 but now hands over to Alan Scott.

RECORDS IN LITERATURE During the year a start has been made on the transcription of data from the extensive literature on spiders. Sometimes it is possible to use the RA65 format when the records refer to a single site over a limited time-span, but normally the use of GEN7 or GEN13 cards is more appropriate.

The following SRS Recorders have already submitted sets of GEN7 cards:  
Channel Islands (181) - Alex Williams: Cornwall (102) - Colin Butler:  
Dundee (Museum) (50) - Jim Stewart: Northants (102) - Tony White:  
Staffs (123) - Craig Slawson: Yorkshire (171) - Clifford Smith.

If you have already started a set of GEN7 or GEN13 cards it will be good to know that things are under way, but there is no need to send them in until much later. Geoff Oxford who is working on Thoplognatha ovata and E. latimana has submitted cards for the former species with records from all over Britain (see later note).

Overleaf there is a list of items of literature from which data have been taken. Although it includes something like 50 sources, they represent only a small portion of suitable information for extraction: they are quoted so that SRS Recorders are not wasting their time and efforts by unnecessary duplication. However, Recorders are encouraged to hunt out other sources of information and set up a set of GEN7 cards, or sent me the appropriate journal/source for me to undertake the necessary extraction, or - better still - send me a photocopy of the item and I will take the action required.

There is also a list of some major sources of information that have not yet been abstracted. If you have access to one or more of these, would you consider sending me appropriate photocopies, or making your own set of GEN7s. Any help you can provide will be most welcome.

NEW SRS MEMBERS (since Newsletter No 9)

- 131 Mr P J Marshall "Bwlch Melyn", Bridell, CARDIGAN, Dyfed SA43 3DQ  
132 Dr A M Hampton Trefelwy, Mount Road, ST. ASAPH, Clwyd LLL7 ODF  
133 Mr John R Padley Yew Tree Bungalow, Bromesberrow Heath, nr LEDBURY  
Hereford HR8 1NX  
134 Dr J A Gibson Foremount House, KILBARCHAN, Renfrewshire PA10 2EZ  
135 Mr G Fenwick Dept. of Microbiology, Royal Victoria Infirmary,  
Queen Victoria Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 4LP

THE NATIONAL HOUSE SPIDER SURVEY

The National House Spider Survey grew out of a smaller project carried out in the Plymouth area in 1987 (see BAS Newsletter No 59). I initially envisaged a low-key affair, being run with the help of other BAS members who would monitor the spiders found in their homes. This however was not to be, as once the media caught wind of the project, the entire operation slipped inexorably from my grasp and careered into the public eye.

In the avalanche of minor articles that followed, journalistic licence often obscured the aim of the survey which ranged from a search for an ideal home for spiders to the provision of a spider-sexing service. To clear away any misconceptions that may have arisen, the aim of the survey is to investigate the possibility of regional variations in house spider faunas, and also to look at the effect of various house parameters such as age, location and heating.

Although often a bit wide of the mark, the publicity generated nearly six hundred volunteers from the general public. These brave souls are collecting any spiders they encounter in their house over a twelve month period and preserving them in 70% meths. The year's catch will then be sent to me for identification along with a completed questionnaire regarding the house.

Several SRS recorders and BAS members have already offered their assistance for which I am extremely grateful. They are recording the spiders they find in their houses on a monthly basis over a period of one year. Any further SRS recorders who would like to participate can obtain recording sheets from me at the address given below.

If any AO would like a list of volunteers from their county, I would be happy to provide one.

(Peter Smithers, Dept of Biological Science, Polytechnic SW, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon.)

MICROMMATA VIRESCENS in Scotland

David Beaumont, Area Organiser for the mid-west Scottish islands, has just sent in an RA65 for Coille Mor woodland on Colonsay including the record of *Micrommata virescens*. He says "I find it hard to believe that such a conspicuous spider has been overlooked - if indeed it does occur elsewhere in Scotland." To the best of our knowledge, this is the first Scottish record for the species.

David has just moved to: Flat 2/2, 20 Annette Street, Govanhill, Glasgow.

S R S WEEKEND COURSE : SEPTEMBER 1991

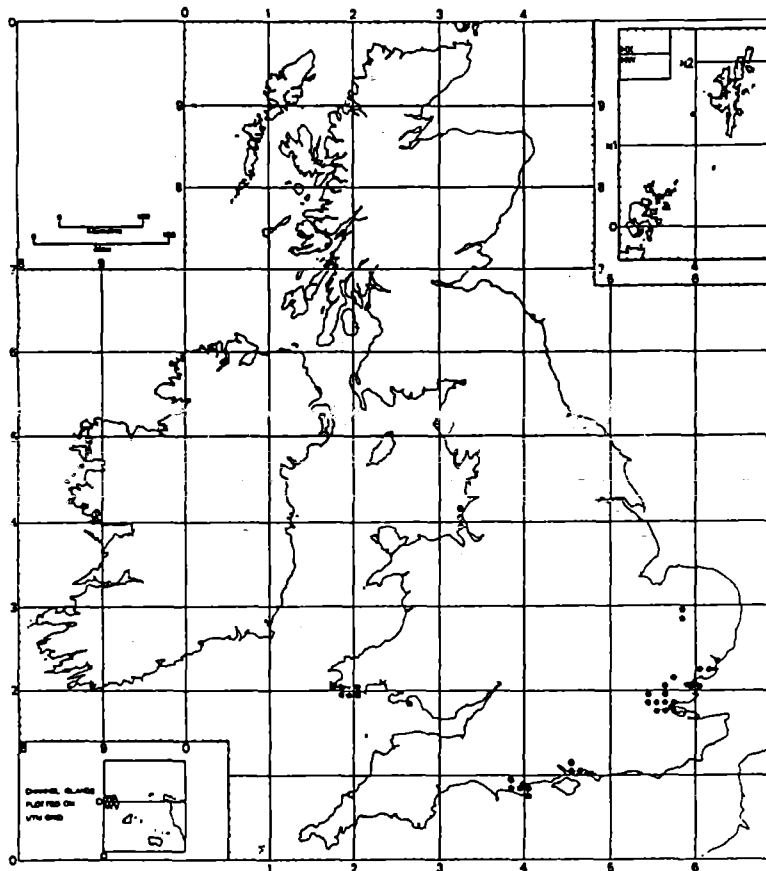
Members of the Spider Recording Scheme are warmly invited to attend a weekend course in Norfolk during the weekend of September 13, 14 and 15. Accommodation has been reserved at the University of East Anglia over the Friday and Saturday nights at a charge of £17.12 per night b & b (incl. VAT). Packed lunches and evening meals will be available on the university campus, if required. These charges include the use of a large room over the weekend, with tables and power points for practical work.

Bookings should be made through Ms Deborah Procter (English Nature, 60 Bracondale, Norwich. NR1 2BE) to whom cheques should be made payable. UEA needs notification of bookings before the end of July, including a deposit of £5.00 per night. Provisional bookings have been made of 10 people in the first place, but numbers are not limited.

The programme for the weekend is being left open, but permission will be obtained in advance to visit various sites in the Norwich area including wetland and coastal habitats. Fuller details will be provided to those who wish to come, by post during August. We look forward to a highly successful weekend.

The Distribution & Ecology of ENOPIOGNATHA OVATA and E. LATIMANA

E. ovata and E. latimana are sibling species which have been separated by taxonomists only since the early 1980s. Both species occur on the British mainland. E. ovata is very widespread and is found in a variety of habitats,



whereas E. latimana appears to have a much more limited distribution. To my knowledge E. latimana has been recorded from only 36 10km squares, as shown on the map.

Interestingly, most are fairly near the coast which, in itself, suggests ecological differences between the species. My own work in Norfolk, Dorset and Pembrokeshire indicates that, within a area, E. latimana is more likely to be found in drier habitats with more open vegetation.

I would be most grateful if SRS recorders could keep me informed of new records of E. latimana on their patches and, if possible, record the broad habitat/vegetation type in which the species

is found (e.g. open bramble on sand dunes). Any information will be acknowledged and postage refunded.

(Dr Geoff Oxford, Department of Biology, University of York, YORK YO1 5DD.)

SPIDER RECORDS EXTRACTED FROM LITERATURE : ENTERED ON GEN7 CARDS

Name of Article where applicable	Author & Date	Name of Journal
'British Spiders' vols 1,2 & 3	Locket, Mullidge and Herrett	
B A S Bulletins & Newsletters	various	
B R C cards (old style)	various	
Flatford Mill Spider Study Group	various	
'Comity of Spiders'	Bristowe	
<u>Biological Record Centres</u>		
Berkshire B R C		
<u>Scotland</u>		
Black Wood of Rannoch (pitfalls)	Horsfield 1983	Cleveland County Leisure C.
Terra Warren SSSI	Crowsons 1974	NCC SW Scotland Region
Inchcailloch & Gartocharn	Ourtis	..
Upland Spiders (Scotland)	.. 1979	..
Lowland Bogs in SW Scotland	.. 1979	..
Sp. collected in neighbourhood of Edinburgh	1895	Proc. Royal Phys. Soc.
..	Carpenter 1896	..
..	& Evans 1899	..
..	1904	..
<u>North East England</u>		
Cleveland Spiders	Horsfield 1978	Cleveland County Leisure C.
List of Sp. in the Derwent Valley	Edgnall & Turner	1913 Trans. Vale of Derwent
Sp. of Northumberland & Durham	Hall 1896	Trans. North & Durh
Sp. of the Tyne Valley	Jackson 1906	Trans. NRS Northumberland
Sp. of Berwick & Northumberland	Hardy 1874	Proc. Berwick N C
List of Berwickshire Sp.	Hardy 1858	..
Northumbrian Coast Sp.	Hall 1909	The Naturalist
Sp. of Middlesborough District	Harrison 1909	Proc. Cleveland N F C
Rare Sp. from Derwent Valley	Jackson 1908	Trans. Vale of Derwent N F C
Articles in 'Vasculum'	various 1910 - 40	Vasculum
Articles in 'The Naturalist'	various 1860 - 1980	Yorks. Nat. Unions
<u>North West England</u>		
Ingleborough	Corkhill 1989	NCC
William Falconer's notebooks	Falconer	Liverpool Museum
Arachnida	..	Liverpool Museum
Arachnids of Cumberland	Britten 1912	Trans. Carlisle N F S
Spiders	Dunlop 1915	Lancs & Ches. Fauna Cttee
..	Jackson 1915	..
..	various 1917	..
..	Falconer 1917	..
..	.. 1924	..
..	.. 1925	..
..	.. 1929	..
..	Jackson 1932	..
<u>East Anglia</u>		
Some Rare Breckland Spiders	Duffey 1964	Trans. Suffolk Nat.
Sp. of Suffolk	Russell-Smith 1981	..
<u>Central England</u>		
N E Leics. Coalfield Biol Survey	Evans 1978	
Loughborough N C Bradgate Park	Crocker 1962	
Sp records	Evans	Leics. Biol Rec Centre
<u>Wales</u>		
Arachnid Fauna of Mid Wales	Falconer 1927	The Naturalist (NW)
Sp. Fauna of County of Glamorgan	Jackson 1906	Cardiff Nat. Soc.
Contrib. to Sp Fauna of S. Wales	Jackson 1922	..
Sp. Fauna of S. Wales	Wild 1940-50	..
<u>South England</u>		
Leckford Survey	Locket et al 1982	John Spedan Lewis Trust
<u>Personal Items</u>		
Extracts from A A D la Touche's Notebooks		
Extracts from J R Parker's Notebooks		

SOURCES OF SPIDER DATA STILL TO BE EXTRACTED FROM LITERATURE

National Publications

Annals & Magazine of Natural History  
 Entomologists Monthly Magazine  
 Journal of the British Society of Entomology  
 Field Studies  
 Journal of Zoology  
 Scottish Naturalist  
 Oikos  
 Proceedings of the Linnean Society  
 Proceedings of the Zoology Society of London

Regional Publications

Natural History Society of Norwich & Norfolk  
 Glasgow Naturalist  
 South London Entomology & Natural History Society  
 Proc. & Trans. Manchester Entomological Society  
 Trans. Essex Field Club  
 Proc. Dorset Field Club  
 Guernsey Society of Natural Sciences  
 London Naturalist  
 Ann Scottish Natural History  
 Sp. in Warwick Area

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### CALLILEPIS NOCTURNA

Keith Alexander writes: My fieldwork for the National Trust took me into South Devon last summer, so I kept a special eye out for the local speciality. I failed to find it at the two known spots along the cliffs west of East Prawle, but did find some further east towards Prawle Point at Signalhouse Point (SX 770353) on June 27th. Three individuals were seen running over bare rock in hot sunshine in the mid afternoon: when chased, they dashed down crevices. The site is a very typical section of this coast, with rocky outcrops amongst flowery maritime grassland.

(Keith Alexander, National Trust, Spitalgate Lane, CIRENCESTER, Glos. GL7 2DE)

### LOCAL NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to Craig Slawson, Staffordshire Area Organiser for the S R S on the printing of "Salticus" Newsletter No.2., dated 1991. It includes a map of the vice-county, divided into 10km squares, and indicating a commendable increase in the number of records since the first such map was published.

### BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS IN BRITAIN

The number of live Black Widow Spiders being taken to museums in various parts of the country continues to increase. Most are found in consignments of tropical fruits such as bananas that are delivered to supermarkets, and they are naturally concerned about bad publicity. There is no indication at present that these spiders can successfully breed and overwinter in this country.

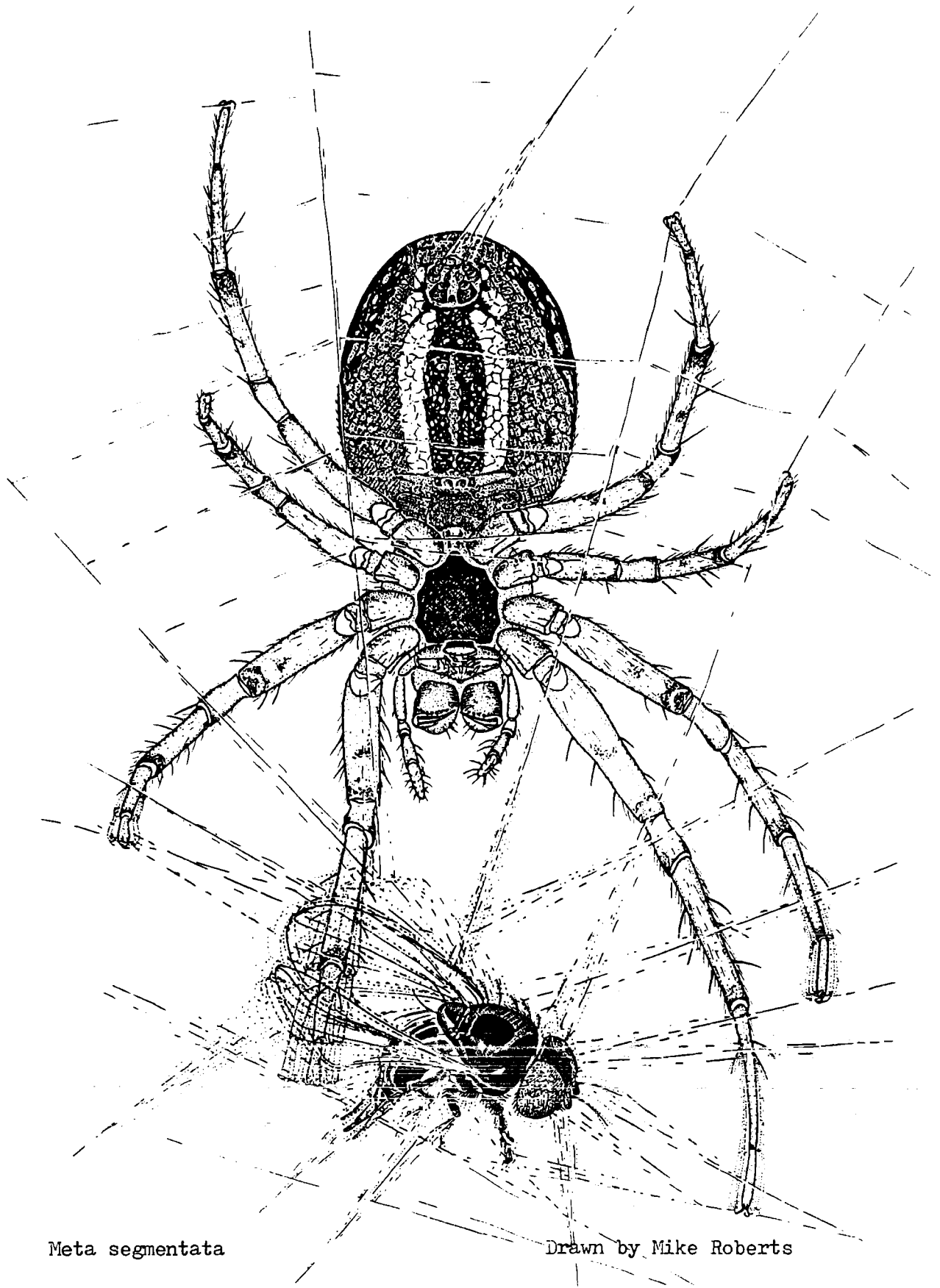
### SPIDERS OF ESSEX : PROVISIONAL MAPS (1990 Update)

We have been pleased to receive a copy of the recent update to this excellent publication, and congratulate Peter Harvey, Ray Ruffell, David Carr, Ken Hill and many others for so worthy a production. Over 400 species of spider are at present reliably recorded for the county and the updated maps show the records for 389 species, together with 4 varieties or forms.

### CHANNEL ISLANDS SPIDER RECORDS

We are beginning to accumulate spider data from the Channel Islands, largely through the fieldwork of Mr Alex Williams. Others who have similar records for these islands are encouraged to fill in appropriate SRS cards.

Contributions for S R S Newsletter No 11 (September 1991) should be in the hands of the Editor (Clifford J Smith, 7 Malton Way, Clifton, York. YO3 6SG) by the middle of August.



Meta segmentata

Drawn by Mike Roberts