

# Spider Recording Scheme News

## March 2008, No. 60

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My thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. S.R.S. News No. 61 will be published in July 2008. Please send contributions by the end of May at the latest to Peter Harvey, 32 Lodge Lane, GRAYS, Essex, RM16 2YP; e-mail: grays@peterharvey.freeserve.co.uk

### Editorial

A UK status review of spiders has now progressed to a draft stage, and hopefully will be published before the end of the year. Information and guidance on the identification of difficult species is still making slow progress.

I am very grateful to John Partridge and John Stanney for computerising a large number of new RA65 cards; the resultant data have now been added to our dataset.

Together with other records received, we now have an ever increasingly valuable dataset comprising not only distributional data but also a great deal of detailed ecological information.

If you have data, especially computerised data, which you have not yet submitted to the recording scheme please make a special effort to do so. If your data are not submitted then they cannot be used to help in the UKBAP review, national status review or other work undertaken by the Society on your behalf. If you don't yet use MapMate for your spider records, please seriously consider changing to this to aid exchange of data. As a MapMate user registered with the BAS MapMate group, not only is your software support cost supported entirely by the BAS, but you can regularly submit your records very easily indeed.

management.

The Trust wishes to hear from naturalists visiting its gardens, particularly specialists in the less widely recorded wildlife groups. Entrance to gardens is free to members. Some care will need to be taken over recording methods, such as using nets publicly and entering garden ponds: do please contact the Trust property in advance should your recording techniques necessitate such disturbance (see NT web site or Members Handbook). Many properties will welcome detailed surveys by specialists and can enable free entrance, including on days when gardens are not open to the public.

Full details of existing survey knowledge, garden by garden, and information for surveyors are on the Trust web site. See [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wildlifeingardens](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wildlifeingardens). Records of interest are welcome via a special email address: [gardenswildlifesurvey@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:gardenswildlifesurvey@nationaltrust.org.uk)

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### Wildlife Surveys in National Trust Gardens

by Matthew Oates

The National Trust needs to learn more about the wildlife occurring in its 130 formal gardens, attached to historic mansions. Recent surveys of a small sample of gardens discovered four species of invertebrate new to Britain: a Mediterranean whorl snail, a bug on mistletoe, an obscure leaf litter fly and a paper wasp. Also, grassland fungi surveys identified several National Trust lawns as being of national importance, particularly for wax cap fungi. It is likely that many Trust gardens are of importance for rare or declining species, perhaps especially invertebrates (e.g. mining bees and dragonflies). Clearly, it is the resident and regularly visiting species that count, rather than odd vagrants.

Obviously, these places are gardens, rather than nature reserves, but the Trust will do whatever it can to encourage wildlife in its gardens, especially rare species, so long as this does not unduly compromise garden

### A second record of *Steatoda triangulosa* for Leicestershire

by Jon Daws

A female specimen of *Steatoda triangulosa* was found at the ADC1 (formally SAC1) Asda warehouse, Lutterworth, south Leicestershire (SP508844); on the 17/04/2007. It was discovered in its web in a stack of blue Chepstow pallets, within the warehouse. These pallets come and go from the warehouse in their thousands every day; either as singletons with product on them or in stacks of ten to exchange for pallets delivered. At least once a day a lorry takes away a load (360) of excess pallets back to the Chepstow company which own the pallets and leases them out to distribution companies. Some of these pallets travel vast distances even within the Asda network with the ADC1 depot supplying other depots and stores in Scotland and Northern Ireland on a daily basis.

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## Go beat a Spruce tree!

by Jon Daws

Although these non-native evergreens may not have done you any harm, they may be holding a county record for many of the counties in southern Britain! In Leicestershire three of the four records of *Pityohyantes phrygianus* have come from this species of tree, the fourth record was from Yew trees. These records are:

26/06/1994	Pickworth Great Wood	SK985148	1 female
03/05/1997	Evington Park, Leicester	SK624036	1 male
16/06/2003	Coleorton Churchyard	SK391172	3 females
19/05/2007	Launde Big Wood	SK787037	1 female

Two of the three records from beating spruce were from trees planted within ancient woodland. The third came from a shelter belt of trees planted along the edge of a public city park within Leicester. The churchyard record of three female specimens came from beating mature yew trees. This churchyard lies adjacent to an estate that has had a lot of tree planting activity over the last few decades.

Although *P. phrygianus* has not been particularly sought within the county. I have taken the opportunity when presented to beat spruce trees in a bid to find this species. At Launde Big Wood I only had to beat a single tree to find this species! So next late spring/early summer go and beat some Spruce trees!

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## Is *Hybocoptus decollatus* common in southern England?

by A. Russell-Smith

*Hybocoptus decollatus* (Simon, 1881) is currently listed as Notable B and has been recorded from some 20 sites in Britain, almost all of which lie south of a line between the Thames and the Severn Eastuary.

At the BAS Council meeting in spring 2007, Rowley Snazell mentioned that, while collecting in early April in his garden at Swanage in Dorset, he beat *H. decollatus* from ornamental conifers in some numbers. He suggested that it might have been widely overlooked as it matures relatively early in the year.

Having discussed these findings, I decided to investigate the presence of *H. decollatus* in various locations in East Kent. I collected principally from yew and mainly in country churchyards over two days on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April. The churchyards were located across East Kent, from Milstead near Sittingbourne in the north to Postling near Hythe in the South. I visited nine churchyards in five 10 km squares and two woodland sites on chalk where yews occur. In this short survey, *H. decollatus* was collected by beating yew trees in eight out of nine churchyards, in several cases in large numbers. The largest numbers were taken at Waltham Church (TR113485) where 60 specimens were collected in the space of 15 minutes. Only on very shaded yews at Lower

Hardres Church (TR151332) was this species completely absent. Likewise, in the two woodland sites, no *H. decollatus* were taken where the yews were in full or partial shade. A single female was beaten from a box tree in Doddington Church (TQ940576) but no attempt was otherwise made to investigate its presence on other trees or shrubs.

Previous to this, *H. decollatus* had been recorded from only one site in Kent. This was on yews around an old chalk quarry at Hollingbourne (TQ 848558) where again it occurred in considerable numbers in May 2001 and 2002. This brief survey thus increased the number of sites it is known from in Kent almost 10-fold and the number of 10km squares 5-fold. It seems likely that this small species may well have been widely overlooked in southern England, perhaps because not many people collect by beating trees this early in the year. It would be well worthwhile for BAS members to investigate yews and other fine-leaved species in April to establish whether indeed this species is actually more common in the southern counties than is currently realised.

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## Shedding some northern light on *Larinioides sclopetarius*

by Mike Davidson

During October, while with my partner on a reunion of her university marine biology class, we went for a very enjoyable group walk along the River Tweed from the Scottish border town of Kelso. Having enjoyed the good company, fresh air, fine views and glimpses of kingfishers, we returned to the town near the ruined Abbey.

While inspecting the local architecture, as you do, I noticed a lamp-post festooned with conjoined orb-webs and a number of spiders “hanging-out” in the webs. Undeterred by the shouts of; “you can’t do that!” and “the bobbies are coming!” I shinned up said lamp-post to retrieve a male specimen for later identification – surprisingly the marine biologists seemed rather hesitant when it came to getting up close to an invertebrate that wasn’t in a tank of sea water or already pickled!

When I eventually I got round to putting it under the microscope, shortly after reading Howard Williams’ article in the November 2007 newsletter (no. 59), I realised it was a species I had not seen before: *Larinioides sclopetarius*. Looking at the SRS atlas, this would appear to be a new record for Roxburghshire (VC80) and only the 4<sup>th</sup> Scottish record.

According to the species profile in the Provisional Atlas (Harvey *et al.*, 2002), its natural habitat appears to be tree trunks adjacent to water, but is usually found on fences and bridges. I imagine that the colony of spiders viewed the cast-iron lamp-post very much as a surrogate tree, possibly accessing the hollow inside through various holes and enjoying the additional prey attracted to their community partnership web by the light. Being near the river, presumably there was abundant prey to support this high density living.

Thinking about Howard's bird-hide full of *L. scolopetarius* and their egg sacs I wondered whether the spiders weren't just seeing the hide as a giant hollow tree – providing a sheltered and warm environment for raising their young – with their normal prey catching orb-webs on the outside. Perhaps if I had been able to view the lamp-post endoscopically, I might have found a similar tangle of webs with egg sacs.

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### *Pholcus phalangioides* in N.E. Scotland

by Mike Davidson

16<sup>th</sup> January 2008 brought my first spider record of the year. A male *Pholcus phalangioides* was discovered in the ladies "powder room" in the laboratories of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). As far as I know this is the first record of this species in Aberdeen – a surprising fact given the human migration caused by the oil industry. Perhaps a visit to one of the local removal firms' warehouses would be in order. It will be interesting to see what the recent influx of Eastern Europeans brings to Aberdeen, in addition to improved dental services.

The record from the SEPA building is almost certainly linked to the arrival of a large number of packing crates from Livingston, west of Edinburgh. It will be interesting to see if any other specimens turn up and whether *Pholcus* becomes established in the building.

During 2007, *Pholcus* was recorded in a cottage at Migvie near Tarland (NJ434067) and some years ago a thriving colony was recorded in the warden's house at Dinnet National Nature Reserve (NO448999) – lovingly tended by his wife through a minimal dusting management strategy. The NBN also lists an imprecise record for Speyside (NH80) from Scottish Natural Heritage. However, one record which seems to have been missed is on Roland Richter's list for Moray (Richter, 1953), from Gordonstoun House (Gordonstoun School) near Elgin in Moray (NJ1868), where Mr Richter was a teacher.

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### *Nigma puella* (Simon) (Dictynidae) in Surrey

by Dr Jonty Denton

I found three female *N. puella* on willow bushes at the margins of a damp grassy glade on Brentmoor Heath (SU9461), 11.vii.2007. Just a few days before on the 8.vii., I found a female on a hazel bush at Zions Copse South Hampshire, Vc11 (SU4220). Its association with counties with a coast was so clear (Harvey *et al.*, 2002) that I had not included it on my provisional near miss species to look out for in Surrey!



*Nigma puella* female  
photograph © Jonty Denton

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- Harvey, P.R., Nellist, D.R. & Telfer, M.G. (eds) 2002. *Provisional Atlas of British Spiders (Arachnida, Araneae) Volumes 1 & 2*. Huntingdon: BRC.

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## More on *Metellina*

by Phil Taylor

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007 I was observing a large female *Metellina segmentata* on her web at my local Harefield Place nature reserve (this species is very common hereabouts during late summer and early autumn). The female in question was sitting under a leaf at the edge of the web when a tiny, white caterpillar dropped onto the web from above. The spider rushed out and examined the prey item, but made no attempt to bite or wrap it. As I watched, a previously un-noticed male spider appeared from another corner of the web. The male approached the female, who backed off, away from the prey item, allowing her suitor to quickly wrap the catch.

After the caterpillar had been secured, both spiders began circling each other. Several brief bouts of 'sparring' and 'jousting' then took place before the female violently grabbed her mate. Such was the ferocity of her embrace that I feared the male had met his end; but, after being locked together for well over a minute, the spiders separated.

The female then again stood guard over the prey item, whilst the male, to my surprise, then proceeded to make a circuit of the web and repaired several damaged areas! His chores completed, the male then retreated back under a leaf at the edge of the web, whilst the female continued her vigil with the food item, but still made no attempt to consume it. I then left, but re-visited the web some twenty minutes later and found the situation had not changed.

My limited collection of spider books all state that male *Metellina* spiders will not attempt to mate until the female's jaws are busy feeding on prey. On this occasion the male acted accordingly, but the female showed no interest in eating. Is the post-mating behaviour of this particular male often observed?

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## Out with the Old and in with the New – *Tegenaria silvestris* in Aberdeen

by Mike Davidson

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007 I arrived at work to find a spider in a tube on my desk – a not unusual occurrence. A colleague had moved some equipment in one of our laboratories and had been just quick enough to catch a fast-moving spider. It was obviously a *Tegenaria* – but not a species I had seen before – our building, which is due for demolition in 2009 has previously yielded up living and dead specimens of *T. gigantea*, *T. saeva* and *T. atrica*.

The large palp of this species seemed fairly distinctive – even in life – and with reference to Roberts (1985, 1995) and the illustrations on the *Spinnen*

*Mittleuropas* web site (Nentwig *et al.*, 2003) I was fairly confident that it was *T. silvestris*.

I had also looked up the provisional atlas (Harvey *et al.*, 2002) and found, to my disappointment, that apparently this was not a new record for the area, but that it had been discovered in Aberdeen by Prof. J.W.H. Trail of Aberdeen University in 1872. The only other Scottish records for this species were also attributed to Trail in Perthshire (Dunkeld) and Angus (Lintrathen) in the same year.

I was interested to find out where exactly Trail had found this species in Aberdeen and consulted his publications on Scottish spiders (Trail, 1873; 1878) but found no reference to *T. silvestris*. It quickly became obvious that all the Scottish records related to what Trail called *T. sylvicola* – what we now know as *Cryphoeca silvicola*. So all Trail's Scottish records for *T. silvestris* appear to result from a taxonomic translation error – which probably also applies to at least some of the older English records – which would be worth checking.

According to the Atlas, *T. silvestris* is a species found in damp situations in woodland, in caves, under bark, logs and stones and sometimes on scrubby waste ground and along railway lines. Apparently it occasionally enters houses. So why was it in a laboratory building in Aberdeen? I suppose there are two plausible possibilities, as it is unlikely to be resident. It may have been brought in with some equipment, used on a landfill site near Fraserburgh the day before the spider was found. Alternatively, it may have arrived with a delivery of laboratory supplies from within its normal range. We may never know how it got here, but it is an interesting new Scottish Record.

Thanks to Peter Harvey for taking the time to verify this ID for me and for providing details of the historical records from the B.A.S. database.

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## A rare observation of *Micrommata virescens* mating in Gloucestershire

by David Haigh

*Micrommata virescens* is the only British representative of the mainly tropical family of spiders, the Sparassidae (Heteropodidae). Spiders of this family are hunters with excellent eyesight and very rapid in their movements. If a British spider could be said to be spectacular then this species is that spider. The female is up to 15mm, bright green with its central abdominal mark outlined in yellow. The male is smaller, around 10mm, with a green carapace and an abdomen with a central red stripe edged with broad yellow bands.

*M. virescens* is nationally very local, though in Gloucestershire there are 12 sites from which records exist. Woodland on the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean provide records and favoured habitats are woodland clearings or along woodland rides, especially where sapling trees are colonising.

On two occasions Roger Gaunt, County Moth Recorder has found *M. virescens* in his moth trap at East Wood, Forest of Dean. Undoubtedly the spiders were preying on moths and other insects attracted to the light. To find *M. virescens* is always exciting but this year in May Roger photographed a mating pair. This is so rarely seen and Roger did not feel he did the pair photographic justice. However the male is well defined and uppermost with the female's abdomen below.



*Micrommata virescens* mating photograph © Roger Gaunt

The following description of mating was summarised from W.S. Bristowe's account in *The World of Spiders* (New Naturalist series). There is no preliminary courtship, the male simply jumping on to the much larger female and seizing her abdomen or a leg with his chelicerae (jaws). The female makes no resistance while he climbs on to her back and leans over, allowing him to insert one of his palps. Mating may last 6 or 7 hours with each palp being inserted only once. At the end he retires rapidly. The males have a very short season, March-June, soon dying off after mating. The mated female constructs a silk lined nursery close to the ground, less than 0.5m, by fastening 3

or 4 oak leaves together and guarding her package of green eggs. During this time she does not feed and becomes emaciated.

Of the 15 county records since 1930 only 3 have been of the adult male and Roger's record is the first to be photographed. He was fortunate that the male was uppermost and more or less stationary. I have personal experience of the male when in 1989 at Pinchley Wood I noticed one on my trouser leg and before I could get a better look it had run up my jacket front, over my left shoulder and away never to be seen again.

Since *M. virescens* is well camouflaged, visually aware and fast, it is probably under-recorded in the county. I would greatly appreciate further records of this species.

I thank Roger Gaunt for his records and should other moth enthusiasts find spiders in their traps I would welcome records or specimens.

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## *Araneus alsine* in Lincolnshire

by Annette Binding

In late 2007 Colin Smith (Lincolnshire County Moth Recorder) gave me a number of spiders, some of which had been caught at mercury vapour light. Among those caught at light was a male *Araneus alsine* which was caught on the 13 September in a damp clearing near the banks of the River Rase in Willingham Forest TF131893.

This is only the second time this species has been recorded in Lincolnshire. It was last recorded in June 1919 at Stainton Wood near Langworth by L.A. Carr when a male and female were found 'low in ditches'. I contacted Peter Harvey about the current national distribution of this spider and he informed me that it had very few recent records.

Peter also told me that the habitat seemed right for the species. There are many such damp clearings in Lincolnshire Woods including the Lincolnshire Limewoods, and more clearings are being created by ongoing coppicing work within the woods, so it is possible that the species might be more widespread in the county.

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## *Neon reticulatus* - an occasional mountaineer?

by Dave Holloway and Dave Blackledge

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007, DH spent a short time looking under stones near the summit of Grisedale Pike near Keswick in Cumbria. A very dark adult female salticid spider was found in a silk cell on the underside of a flat piece of slate and brought home for identification. Single sub-adult individuals were found in the same vicinity in similar circumstances on 9<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> September and left in situ. Several other visits to the

summit during the summer months and since these dates have not produced other comparable findings. All the searches have been very brief during fellrunning visits and were not specifically spider field trips.

It was expected that the spider would turn out to be *Neon robustus* which has been recorded in Cumbria (Blackledge and Newton, 2002) from rocky fellside situations since the species was first discovered in Britain in 1997 (Snazell *et al.*, 1999). Examination with a lens clarified that it was a member of the genus *Neon*.

The spider was passed to DB for identification to species level. Dave suggested that it was *Neon reticulatus* and identification was subsequently confirmed by Ian Dawson. This record seems to be of interest because of the dark coloration and the montane habitat.



**A line shows the exact location where the *Neon* adult was found. In this shot the larger middle one of the 3 small snow patches at the top is the area where subadult *Neon* were found on 9th and 22nd Sept 2007. To give an idea of scale the path at the top right is 1-2 metres wide © David Holloway**

### Dark coloration

One of the initial reasons for suspecting *robustus* was because of the very dark colours on this spider. Adult females of *robustus* are generally thought to be darker than those of *reticulatus* (Snazell *et al.*, 1999). When Ian Dawson confirmed the identification as *reticulatus* he commented

*“While the epigyne and carapace measurements pointed to this species I checked it directly against three specimens of Neon robustus to be absolutely certain as the rather dark colouration as well as the habitat looked better for the latter. Indeed my three (reference specimens of) female robustus are all paler than this, but they are all noticeably larger, especially the carapace, and the epigyne is very obviously distinct. The central septum is much thinner in robustus and the internal structures that are visible are also different.”*

It is interesting that this exceptionally dark specimen was found at such an extreme altitude. Perhaps the two could be linked, in that selection for darker individuals occurs in this stony montane habitat - indeed the usual inhabitant of these patches, *robustus*, is generally darker than the largely lowland *reticulatus*.

### Montane habitat

In Britain, the Provisional Atlas (Harvey *et al.* 2002) tells us that *Neon reticulatus* is usually taken from leaf litter in woodland and from moss in open boggy areas. It has also been recorded in bracken litter, stones in grassland and on beaches. In terms of altitude, the atlas mentions records to 350m in mid-west Yorkshire.

Grisedale Pike occurs in the part of the Lake District where Skiddaw Slates are the underlying rock. Its top is a narrow lofty windswept promenade which is the meeting point of various ridges and its height is given as 790m. The summit region where the spider was found is a mixture of very short vegetation and scattered stony areas. The stony areas comprise numerous flattish slates of various sizes, the majority being no bigger than an open hand. It was in one of these stony patches that the *Neon* was found.



**A view from ridge (below Sleet How on OS map) looking approx WSW © David Holloway**

Peter Harvey kindly supplied some additional information from the existing SRS database. There are only 2 records which are higher; one from Ben Hope (927m) in July 1967 and one from Coniston Old Man (800m) in May 1982. The next highest is from Bannau Sir Gar (671m) in August 1991 and nothing else until one drops a further 150m. The dates of these records are significant as they pre-date the discovery of *N. robustus* in Britain and there remains the possibility that some of them are in fact that species and not *N. reticulatus*. Snazell *et al.* (1999) report that in Sweden *N. robustus* and *N. reticulatus* are rarely found in the same biotopes. However, it seems that in Britain there remains much to be discovered about their respective ecological niches. Peter relates that during an AGM field trip in 2006 to the Malham area, he collected *Neon* from limestone pavement expecting it to be *N. robustus* - but it was *reticulatus*, whilst Rowley Snazell collected *robustus* from nearby Malham Tarn Cliffs.

It seems that there are a few possible explanations for finding *N. reticulatus* in this unexpected location on Grisedale Pike:

1. Opportunism. There are many examples (e.g. Williams, 2007) of spiders turning up in unusual places and surviving for a period of time. It may be that *N. reticulatus* ended up here accidentally and was able to take temporary advantage of the locality.
2. Edge of range. Perhaps a montane environment represents the limits to the range of *N. reticulatus* but this range is an altitudinal rather than a latitudinal one. Russell-Smith (2007) gives other examples of spiders on the edge of their known limits utilising habitats that are not typical over the majority of that range.
3. Typical habitat but under-recorded. Mountain summits are a relatively under-recorded habitat because of the difficulties of collecting in less accessible places and the lower density of recorders in the more upland parts of Britain. As more records accumulate it might reveal that *N. reticulatus* occurs routinely at such altitudes in montane environments; these places will then become considered to be part of its usual habitat.
4. Stones in grassland. Perhaps this record should be seen as just a further example (albeit a high one) of occurrence in a habitat that it is already occasionally known from. The use of the label "montane" is ours. To the spider, it may be just another place with suitable short vegetation and stones.

#### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Ian Dawson for confirming the identification of the specimen, and Peter Harvey for further information relating to *Neon* in Britain.

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## Priority Species for Biodiversity Action Plans - an Update

Peter Harvey & Tony Russell-Smith

We last wrote on this topic in Newsletter 103 for July 2005. Since then, the original proposed list of 50 species has been subjected to intensive scrutiny to ensure that all of them fully comply with all the criteria listed in that article. As a result, the list has now been reduced to a total of 31 species (see Table 1). This list was submitted to ministers earlier this year and has recently been approved.

This means that the government have committed to the conservation of these species, although no formal targets have, as yet, been set, something that will probably occur during the production of individual action plans for each species and/or habitat.

Production of BAP documents is the next step in the process. At present, the species are being arranged into what is hoped will be logical groupings for the purpose of delivery of action plans. Such groupings could be based, for example, on shared habitat requirements, shared geographical distribution or shared threats to the species concerned. At some stage, hopefully in the near future, the Society will be consulted on the groupings to ensure that they make sense in terms of what is already known about the species. However, it has also been agreed that species will need an individual written Biodiversity Action Plan because there are specific requirements that cannot be properly accounted for if they were included in a group plan. This will be the next important step in the BAP process in which the Society will be involved, very likely in collaboration with BugLife.

To date, the input from the BAS to the BAP process has been through a very small *ad hoc* committee of five members. Production of BAP documents would be well beyond the capacity of this group and we hope that there will be much wider participation by membership in both this stage of the process and in subsequent delivery of the action plans (see article by Jan Beccaloni). We envisage that production of the draft BAP documents would involve a group of perhaps 10-15 members but that there would be wide consultation with membership so that these drafts can be modified in the light of their knowledge and experience. Clearly, the BAS web-site could play an important role in this, being used to post draft plans as well as a way of allowing membership to comment on them.

Looking through the list of species, it is evident that for most, not surprisingly, there has been no real attempt at systematic recording. The distribution maps in the Provisional Atlas and the 2005 updates on the BAS website are therefore influenced by recorder distribution and activity and may not be an accurate reflection of actual distribution. Among the actions that will certainly be included in many of the BAPs will be further recording to establish more comprehensive and up to date knowledge on the distribution of the species, a role that BAS members can obviously take an active part in. There

will also be a requirement for field monitoring at least some of the species to establish trends in populations. This is likely to prove particularly challenging for the smaller species since, contrary to some reports, many cannot currently be reliably identified in the field. Developing techniques for non-destructive monitoring of populations of such species will be a challenge requiring considerable lateral thought and experimentation.

However, there is one type of activity that is much more important in developing species conservation strategies but which has not figured sufficiently in the invertebrate BAPs to date. This is developing an understanding of the autecology of each species – how that species interacts with its environment and other

species within it. An excellent example drawn from another group is the work that Butterfly Conservation has done on conservation of the large blue butterfly (*Maculinea arion*). It was the work carried out by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in the 1980's that demonstrated the reliance of the larvae of the butterfly on a species of ant that allowed suitable management of the chalk grassland habitat for re-introduction of the species to this country. There is no reason to suppose that the life cycles and requirements of many spiders are any less complex than those of butterflies and other insects, and understanding them will be crucial to conservation efforts. The Society is making every effort to ensure that adequate ecological studies are included in each BAP statement.

Family	Species	Author & date	Listing criteria	Existing BAP
Clubionidae	<i>Clubiona rosserae</i>	Lockett, 1953	3,4	Yes
Dictynidae	<i>Altella lucida</i>	(Simon, 1874)	4	
Dictynidae	<i>Dictyna pusilla</i>	Thorell, 1856	3	
Eresidae	<i>Eresus sandaliatus</i>	(Martini & Goeze, 1778)	4	Yes
Gnaphosidae	<i>Haplodrassus dalmatensis</i>	(L. Koch, 1866)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Baryphyma duffeyi</i>	(Millidge, 1954)	3,4	
Linyphiidae	<i>Centromerus serratus</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1875)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Erigone welchi</i>	Jackson, 1911	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Glyphesis cottonae</i>	(La Touche, 1945)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Mecopisthes peusi</i>	Wunderlich, 1972	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Meioneta mollis</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1871)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Midia midas</i>	(Simon, 1884)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Monocephalus castaneipes</i>	(Simon, 1884)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Nothopantes horridus</i>	Merrett & Stevens, 1995	4	
Linyphiidae	<i>Notioscopus sarcinatus</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1872)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Saaristoa firma</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1905)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Semljicola caliginosus</i>	(Falconer, 1910)	1,2,3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Silometopus incurvatus</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1873)	3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Tapinocyba mitis</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1882)	1,2,3	
Linyphiidae	<i>Walckenaeria corniculans</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1875)	3	
Liocranidae	<i>Agroeca cuprea</i>	Menge, 1873	3	
Lycosidae	<i>Alopecosa fabrilis</i>	(Clerck, 1757)	4	
Lycosidae	<i>Arctosa fulvolineata</i>	(Lucas, 1846)	4	
Philodromidae	<i>Philodromus fallax</i>	Sundevall, 1833	3	
Philodromidae	<i>Philodromus margaritatus</i>	(Clerck, 1757)	3	
Pisauridae	<i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	(Clerck, 1757)	4	Yes
Salticidae	<i>Pseudeuophrys obsoleta</i>	(Simon, 1868)	4	Omitted in error?
Salticidae	<i>Sitticus caricis</i>	(Westring, 1861)	3	
Salticidae	<i>Sitticus distinguendus</i>	(Simon, 1868)	2,3	
Theridiidae	<i>Dipoena inornata</i>	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1861)	3	
Thomisidae	<i>Ozyptila nigrita</i>	(Thorell, 1875)	3	

**Table 1. List of spider species approved for Biodiversity Action Plans, 2007**

#### Selection criteria summary

- 1: International threat
- 2: International responsibility + decline in the UK
- 3: Marked decline in the UK
- 4: Other important factor(s). Even if a species does not qualify under Criteria 1, 2 or 3 there may still be a case for listing it as priority. However, evidence of extreme threat is required.

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