

Spider Recording Scheme News

November 2009, No. 65

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My thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. S.R.S. News No. 66 will be published in March 2010. Please send contributions by the end of January at the latest to Peter Harvey, 32 Lodge Lane, GRAYS, Essex, RM16 2YP; e-mail: srs@britishspiders.org.uk or grays@peterharvey.freemove.co.uk

Editorial

I am very grateful to all the contributors who have provided articles for this issue. We all depend on your efforts!

As described in the last newsletter, the Society has agreed to develop a Recording Scheme website which will provide the latest up-to-date distribution maps at national and regional/county level, dynamically generated from website database tables containing data uploaded directly from a master SRS dataset held in MapMate. The Society applied to OPAL and heard in September that it had been successful in gaining funding to support this development. After several hiccups, we are now just awaiting final confirmation before the project can start. However there should be major progress and an active website by early next year, so keep a look out for links on the BAS website and then get involved.

The main aim of the website will be to provide the data collected by you and collated by the Area Organisers and Recording Scheme, in various ways that help everyone increase our understanding of the autecology and phenology of all British spiders and help in their identification. The website will be interactive and encourage your input as a registered user, so a lot depends on you. Please register and get involved as soon as the website gets up and running.

Can I make a plea for MapMate users to check their phase 2 SRS habitat and site-related data. This will be uploaded and used on the new website to provide summary information on each species, and will include structural habitat information, relating to whereabouts in a broad habitat the spider has been found. The existing dataset certainly contains errors, for example where the structural habitat is recorded as "Shrub/low canopy to 5m", but the collecting method is given as grubbing, or the species in question is virtually never found except at ground level. Can I make a special plea then, for MapMate users to check their data for inconsistencies such as these, to correct them and then submit updated data through their Area Organiser or directly to me through the MapMate synchronisation process, so that we keep these errors to an absolute minimum when the website goes live.

Many thanks are due to Jon Daws for providing over 8000 new Leicestershire records, to Stan Dobson for extracting these from SPIREC into text files and to Jon then checking them for errors. Also as usual, many thanks go to those MapMate users and Area Organisers who regularly provide their records through MapMate. All these data should soon be available to all BAS members and SRS recorders through the new website.

David Nellist has provided me with a correction to his article in the last SRS News on rehydrating desiccated specimens, where he accidentally referred to the use of di-sodium phosphate (page, 12, para. 4, line 1), but this should of course have been tri-sodium phosphate.

Opiliones Recording Scheme

by Peter Nicholson, National ORS Organiser

I felt a short note would be in order, to keep all those interested in harvestmen up to date with progress since the BAS AGM on the 20th June 2009.

Thanks should go to John Partridge our Hon. Secretary for arranging for the transfer of BRC records to me. These records are temporarily held in an MS Access database, and it is proposed over the winter period to format the records for loading into MapMate, this being the database used for the SRS and also now adopted by the ORS. I am aware from your previous emails that a number of you hold records which will be of great value but please keep these until the transfer to MapMate is complete. If for some reason you feel it necessary to pass them over now, then I will hold them until they can be downloaded.

Do keep recording Opiliones. If identification is a problem I can probably arrange for someone to act as a mentor in your region if needed. I have a number of volunteers in different areas that can help, or send them to me.

A special plea has gone out from Paul Richards, as most of you on the circulation list will know, to find his nemesis *Paroligolophus meadii*, which has evaded him for his FSC identification guide. Please let me know or Paul direct if you think you know of a source of live specimens.

I have been getting reports of *Dicranopalpus ramosus* being in unusual numbers from Kent to the Scottish Borders. Is this the case in your area?

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Worcestershire spiders

by John Partridge

In common with almost all other invertebrates this year, spiders have not been around in large numbers in Worcestershire, but a few records are worth mentioning.

In a group surveying day on the Malvern Hills on 30th July 2009, SO757440, close to the Herefordshire border, my attention was drawn to a spider consuming a bee, in the top of a thistle. The spider looked like *Enoplognatha ovata*, and I nearly dismissed it as such, but it didn't seem quite right, either in appearance or habitat, so I collected



Fig. 1. *Enoplognatha ovata* (left) *E. latimana* (right)
Photograph © Geoff Oxford

it, and later identified it as *Enoplognatha latimana* – as far as I know a first for Worcestershire. For those of you familiar with *E. ovata*, apart from its occurrence in a habitat where I do not usually find *E. ovata*, *E. latimana* seems to lack the characteristic black spots on the abdomen.

Fig. 1 from Geoff Oxford shows the three colour varieties of *E. ovata* on the left, and two of the colour varieties of *E. latimana* on the right. Geoff informs me that the third colour variety of *E. latimana* has only been found once in Britain, but Peter Harvey tells me that he has collected this variety in Essex on several occasions.

The next species - *Nigma walckenaeri* - was first recorded in Worcestershire at Elmley Castle SO984410 in October 2003, and then in Little Comberton SO966431 in 2007. David Stratford, a local amateur photographer, photographed a pair in his garden in Droitwich, Worcestershire, SO906625 on 26th September 2009, and the female with hoverfly on 14th September 2009 (See Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. *Nigma walckenaeri* female with hoverfly prey (top) male and female (bottom). Photograph © David Stratford

It is also worth recording that Mick Blythe collected two of Wyre Forest's 'specials' in The Great Bog SO743763 on 8th July 2009. These were *Araneus alsine* and *Neriene radiata*.

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***Enoplognatha tecta* in Suffolk**

by Pip Collyer

Together with other volunteers I have accompanied Helen Smith this summer on a number of visits to sites in various parts of the country, as part of the ongoing search for overlooked populations of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius* and suitable sites for its possible translocation. On 9th July we visited the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Castle Marshes Reserve at Barnby between Beccles and Oulton Broad, about 4 miles from the coast.

The Wildlife Trusts like us to report back on any spiders found, to add to their species lists and we therefore make a note of species seen and obtain consent to take those spiders which we can't immediately identify, for later examination under the microscope. So it was that a few days after our visit I was sorting through the Castle Marshes spiders and identified a female *Enoplognatha* but struggled to be more specific than that. At first, I thought it might be *E. mordax* although this is found on salt marshes, the ventral abdominal markings did not fit the description and the epigyne was not right. In fact the epigyne looked more like that of *E. tecta*, but that didn't seem likely because there had been only two records in Britain, a female found by O. Pickard-Cambridge in May 1888 and a male recorded by Rowley Snazell from a pitfall trap in July 1974. Both of these records were from neighbouring localities in Dorset.

I therefore sent the spider to Peter Harvey with a note to the effect that it didn't seem likely to be *E. tecta*, and he replied that he couldn't see that it was anything else, but would send it to Peter Merrett for his opinion. Peter confirmed the identification.

Castle Marshes are traditional grazing marshes drained by 2-4 metre wide dykes, adjoining the, embanked, tidal reaches of the River Waveney. Because our primary purpose was to find *D. plantarius*, our search was almost exclusively confined to the dyke margins and this is where the spider was found. The margins are fairly well poached by cattle grazing and the vegetation comprises a varied and species-rich mosaic of rushes, sedges and broad-leaved species under a metre high. The dykes themselves have a rich flora and invertebrate fauna. Many, including the one on which *E. tecta* was found (see Fig. 1), are densely covered by water soldier *Stratiotes aloides* and Frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*.

I would like to thank Peter Harvey for his help not just with this spider but for assisting me on numerous occasions with difficult species. My thanks also go to Peter Merrett for confirming the identification and for directing me to his and Rowley Snazell's publication (*Bull. Br. arachnol. Soc.* 1975. **3** (4): 106-112) on new and rare British spiders including *E. tecta*. Peter



Fig. 1. *Enoplognatha tecta* ditch at Castle Marshes, Suffolk. Photograph © Helen Smith

Nicholson kindly photographed the spider and Helen Smith provided photographs of the dyke in which it was found. I am grateful to them both for this.

Finally, I would particularly like to thank Helen Smith for an interesting and informative summer, giving me the opportunity to visit sites I would not otherwise have access to. She remains focused on the search for new populations of *D. plantarius*, in spite of the lack of success so far, deals firmly with inquisitive cows (and the odd bull) and, in all likelihood was the one who picked up *E. tecta* in the first place.

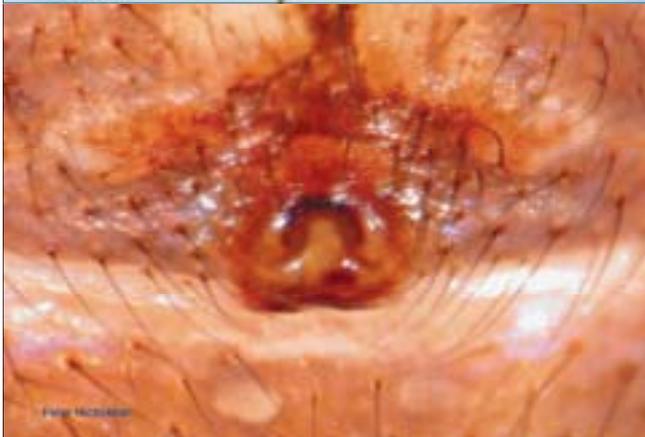


Fig. 2. *Enoplognatha tecta*, whole female above, epigyne below. Photographs © Peter Nicholson

Parasites of tetragnathids

by Peter Nicholson

As SRS Organiser for Norfolk I receive occasional requests to help answer various spider related queries. In this case I thought the information would be of general interest to members. The query arose from a photo sent in by a member of the RSPB staff enquiring whether I had any idea what the parasite might be in the photo shown in Fig. 1. As I was unable to help directly, I requested help, and Dmitri Logunov of Manchester Museum (University of Manchester) once again came to my assistance. Dmitri thought it the larva of an Ichneumonidae, Hymenoptera but knew of a contact, a Finnish colleague who was interested in spider parasites. His colleague was able to confirm the parasitoid was either *Acrodactyla quadrisculpta* or *A. carinator*, Ichneumonidae, Pimplinae; both species occur in the UK and attack tetragnathid species.



Fig. 1. *Tetragnatha* with parasitoid larva. Photograph © Matthew Wilkinson

Many thanks to Dmitri and his Finnish colleague Niclas Fritzen for their help in answering this tricky question. I have often found *Tetragnatha* immatures with this form of parasite, but have not previously taken it further.

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Pseudeuophrys lanigera (Simon, 1871) in Cumbria

by Dave Holloway

Believing at the time that *Pseudeuophrys lanigera* had only occurred in the county before at Carlisle Museum (Clarke, 1972), I was excited to find an adult female on the wall of my office at work in Distington on 28th February 2008. An immature was later found in the same room on 2nd April 2008, again on an interior wall.

I tried unsuccessfully to find the species by looking on the underside of the slates in the roofspace of the house I lived in at the time, 4 miles away in Workington. Later (5th May) I was delighted to find it on the outside of the roof by looking out of a skylight window. Several individuals of different ages were seen and on the following day one came close enough to be temporarily caught and its identification confirmed (an adult female). The spiders seemed pretty distinctive with the long white stripe on their upper surface standing out. Despite warm sunny weather periods of up to 20 minutes would pass without seeing one, then one would break cover from its hiding place under the slates. After a few minutes of short dashes of several inches the spider would again disappear under the slates.

I was later informed that Dave Blackledge had twice recorded the spider from his (slate-roofed) house at Port Carlisle on the Solway on 20th September 2007 and 14th April 2008 and that Simon Warmingham had found it on a south facing wall at his father's house in Wetheral on 4th June 2008. This is a 19th century property with very old slates in the roof.

I was also aware that on the Virtual Fauna of Lakeland website (<http://www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk/> last accessed 29th May 2009) there was reference to the species occurring in 2000. This led me to some other records in Carlisle at John Strutt's house. John has recorded the spider over an extended period from 1999 to 2009. Interestingly his house has a tiled roof and the property was not built until 1984. Many of his sightings were away from the roof itself (but nearby), e.g. vehicle, shed, brick stack and wheelie bin.

I should point out that I have drawn on the sources mentioned already and that not all of these records currently exist in the SRS database.

As is often the case the limited amount of evidence permits further speculation and enquiry whilst only hinting at the eventual answers! Some interesting questions arise about this species' distribution in Cumbria, its progress northwards and its preferred habitat.

Distribution in Cumbria

It seems that *Pseudeuophrys lanigera* has been established in the county for some time, the earliest record dating from 1971. John Strutt's records span a period of ten years (from 1999 to the present) demonstrating the ability of the species to establish itself at a site. The increase in recent records wherever arachnologists have been suggests that

the species is likely to be seriously under-recorded in the county and the true extent of its colonisation remains unknown. So far, apart from the two records of mine in West Cumbria the other sightings are all from the north of the county in or near Carlisle. It must remain possible, therefore, that the species does have a patchy distribution and may not exist in houses throughout the county.



Fig. 1. *Pseudeuophrys lanigera*.
Photograph © Simon Munnery

Progress northwards

The atlas (Harvey *et al.*, 2002) describes how the species is moving northwards but the map shows very few records north of Lancashire/Yorkshire. Once established in Cumbria it is interesting to surmise how the problem of travelling northwards across the relatively sparsely populated Border regions would be achieved. Wallace (2007) and Davidson (2009) have reported its occurrence in recent years in Northumberland and Scotland respectively. The provisional atlas (Harvey *et al.*, 2002) suggests that airborne dispersal is the most likely method but states that assistance by man is also probable. Certainly slates are reused by roofers and it would seem feasible for spiders existing in roof spaces and attics to move northwards with people's belongings.

The current Scottish records are from Aberdeen and Edinburgh, with the earliest Aberdeen records from 1984 (Davidson, 2009). As with Cumbria it will be interesting as time passes to see whether these are isolated pockets or whether the species has become widely spread but is much under-recorded. The species may also be extending its range elsewhere in Europe with the first record for Poland being reported by Wesolowska & Rozwalka (2008).

Preferred habitat

Although the spider has been found generally around houses its primary location appears to be on roofs and walls (Harvey *et al.*, 2002). When I first found my *Pseudeuophrys lanigera* I was struck by the similarities between the slate roofed buildings where I had found it and areas of scree in Cumbria where I had found its near relative *Pseudeuophrys erratica*. Both habitats offer

hunting surfaces, the slate retains heat well affecting the microclimate and there are opportunities beneath the surface layer for deep shelter and hiding from predators. Jones (2002) lists the species as one of a number of key tecticolous invertebrate species that appear to benefit from green roofs in urban London. Roofs would appear to be critical but many of the Cumbrian records originate from walls and other sites in and around houses. Perhaps these other sites bring the spider to the attention of observers. Surveying roofs would be a difficult but revealing project!

Sadly I have so far been unable to find *Pseudeuophrys lanigera* on the slate roof at my current address.

Acknowledgements

My thanks as always to Dave Blackledge, without whose encouragement my “spidering” would have faltered long ago. Dave provided details of Cumbrian records for the species and confirmed the identification of the first adult female that I found. I would also like to thank Simon Warmingham and John Strutt, who supplied further details from their own records. Steven Hewitt (at Tullie House; formerly Carlisle Museum) also helped by providing details from the Virtual Fauna of Lakeland database. I am also indebted to Simon Munnery for permission to use his wonderful photograph of this species.

Grid References

Tullie House, Carlisle	NY398559
Port Carlisle	NY241621
Wetheral	NY468546
John Strutt’s House, Carlisle	NY403580
Distington	NY005235
Workington	NY218264

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Salticidae: *Hasarius adansoni* at the Eden Project Cornwall

by Peter Nicholson

I had the pleasure of being invited to the Eden Project, Cornwall to participate in an Invertebrate Survey arranged by the British Myriapod and Isopod Group on the 21st April 2009, where photos were taken of two immature salticids (see Figs. 1 & 2 below).



Figs. 1 & 2. *Hasarius adansoni* (immature male above, immature female below). Photographs © Peter Nicholson

I took the specimens in the Rain Forest Biome at one of its highest points where the ground layer was dry to the touch and there was only a sparse covering of litter. As would be expected the humidity and temperature were high. The specimens were active and in the process of chasing each other over the litter surface.

On examining the two specimens it became apparent

that they were sub-adult and considering their location, form and coloration it was thought they might be male and female *Hasarius adansoni* but there were differences from the adults. It was necessary to have their identification confirmed. I was advised to contact Dmitri Logunov of Manchester Museum (University of Manchester). Dmitri was able to take the two specimens and rear them through to maturity, when he was able to confirm them as both male and female *H. adansoni*. I was unfortunately unable to photograph the pair as adults for comparison.

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Spiders near not far

by Howard Williams

An advantage of pursuing spiders rather than, say, birds (unless you live in a coastal bird hotspot) is that you never truly know what you may find on any given outing, nor do you have to travel far to find even rare or uncommon species. This is no doubt due to the small number of active spiderers and the small size and hidden nature of most spiders. Be that as it may, the excitement that goes with the chase (“the game’s afoot”) need never be far distant for the keen arachnologist.

No farther, for instance, than your own house. The wretched spring weather we have suffered now for two or three years again put me off from any ambitious spider projects in the earlier part of the year. So it was with some satisfaction that I found in the kitchen in early May what looked like a linyphiid, but what the microscope showed to be an uncommon little theridiid: a male *Theridion blackwalli*. It apparently enjoys the indoor life as I have occasionally found it here previously. I do not find it every year, however; but because it is tiny and I’m not always on the lookout, I suspect it is a resident. Both sexes turn up every few years in kitchen or bathroom and once on the outside of the patio door – 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006 and the current year; any time between January and August. It does also live outdoors in the adjacent 40 acre Carlton Wood, where I once took it in a pitfall trap.

Early in February this year I went out to place a plastic cloche from our garage-cum-shed over the rhubarb in the back garden. A week or so later I lifted this cloche, and happening to glance inside it, saw a tiny spider in the dome. I almost didn’t bother with it but had second thoughts, fetched the pooter and later had a look at it. Just as well, as it turned out to be a species I had never found before, a female *Porrhomma errans*, a Notable B spider, pretty rare and as far as I know a first Nottinghamshire record. According to Peter Harvey in the Provisional Atlas, bare ground may be a factor in its habitat requirements. It is true that the cloche was placed on bare earth, but equally possibly the spider may already have been in the cloche on the garage shelf. With Carlton Wood adjacent to the garden it may also have originated there. Not knowing which is another of life’s little frustrations.

Having small grandchildren with keen minds but short legs and attention span can also be an incentive to keep close to home territory. Knowing my interests, my two

granddaughters urged me one day in July to find some creepy crawlies – spiders would be a bonus but anything would do – so out came the umbrella and stick and we beat the lower parts of a tall Cupressus in the front garden. Out tumbled nothing of great arachnological interest except several immature *Diaea dorsata*, which in our county is not common and is always a pretty spider to find with its cream, brown and green colours. It occurs plentifully in the wood behind us in yews, but I had actually found it in the garden here only last year. Also in this Cupressus was a young harvestman, *Dicranopalpus ramosus*, which in the last twenty or so years has been rapidly on the move northwards from its previous haunts below a line from Cardigan Bay to the Orwell in Suffolk. I first recorded it in Nottinghamshire in 2003 in Sherwood Forest, and it has turned up in other localities here in 2004 and 2008. Its smooth body and ocularium and the conspicuous pedipalps make it striking and unmistakable.

Two days later the 4-year-old granddaughter and I went into the wood for a very brief expedition. There was indeed time to beat only one tree, a rather unpromising-looking yew with those thin, sparse, straggly lower branches that some develop as they grow taller. As expected nothing but some small immatures showed up – except for one oddly shaped gingery spider. I knew immediately what it was, as I had found it in 2003 and 2006, also in yews. *Hyptiotes paradoxus* again, a female subadult. It is exciting to me for two reasons: firstly I found it this time in a quite different part of the wood from previously, which is good news - it has either always been widespread here or is increasing its range within the wood; secondly the location here is, as far as I know, the only one on the eastern side of the UK north of Buckinghamshire for this rare RDB3 spider.

I had to travel 15 miles east (not too far) in June to find my final spider of note at the Lound sand and gravel pits. I had found it here once before in September 2004, immature, on a hawthorn hedge. On maturity it proved to be a female *Larinioides patagiatus*, another quite rare spider. Successive attempts to refind it had all failed. This year, however, when I was not particularly looking for it, some general sweeping of vegetation and lower oak branches produced a male and female. Later, in a different section of the site, a gorse beat produced another female of a striking reddish hue, though the other two were more like variants of *Larinioides cornutus*. So success at last! It was pleasing to find it still survives at Lound.

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The comb-footed spider *Anelosimus aulicus*, a modern record for Essex

by Peter Harvey

On 8th June 2009 a single female *Anelosimus aulicus* was beaten at a site in Thurrock threatened with housing development. Adults of *A. aulicus* do not have much of a visible epigyne, and a return trip several days later to try and locate a male (which has an extremely distinctive palp) was unsuccessful, so although I had reference material from a site in Berkshire, I thought the identification should be verified, and I am very grateful to Peter Merrett for confirming the identification.

A. aulicus is restricted to heathland and coastal grasslands in southern England between Devon and Hertfordshire, with (old) records shown for Kent, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk in the county distribution maps provided in Locket *et al.* (1974). Other than a 1981 record described in Philp (2005) as the only recent record for Kent from Lydden, and the new record for Essex here, there are no modern records in the south-east of the country and the spider is very rare north of the Thames. The basis for *A. aulicus* being recorded for Essex in Locket *et al.*, (1974) is unknown, since it was not recorded by the earlier arachnologists who worked in the county (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1883-86; F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1899-1900; F.P. Smith, 1901-2; 1903-4; J.E. Hull, 1935; 1947-51), or the Flatford Mill Spider Group, who undertook survey at sites in both Suffolk and North Essex between 1953-1962 (Cooke, 1962).

This species is typically found on gorse *Ulex* on lowland heathland and coastal grasslands, where it spins a small web near the end of gorse branches. The spider is often resistant to beating, but easily found by searching the ends of gorse branches (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). The author has also swept the species in some numbers from low vegetation on post industrial land in Berkshire supporting habitat with heathland characteristics. There is no gorse at the Essex site where the spider was found, and the spider would probably either have been beaten from scrub or from mature oaks, two of which were sampled during the visit. Unfortunately, at the time of collection the spider was assumed to be *A. vittatus*, a common spider of these habitats, and precise details were not noted.

The site is part of the grounds of a former London borough of Newham reform school, now owned by the Four Acre Trust, a grant-making charitable trust supporting charities. It has been identified as a Potential Local (County) Wildlife Site in a review of nature conservation sites in the local authority (Thurrock Biodiversity Study 2006-11. Thurrock Greengrid Strategy, EECOS 2007). The footprint of the old school has already been developed for housing, with the remaining open land now open to the general public, and used by local residents for walking and exercising dogs. The habitats consist of unimproved acid grassland on Thames Terrace sands and gravels with some scrub, hedgerows and several old oaks above the Mardyke valley, an ancient route of the Thames. Two planning applications to develop the main and best part of these old grounds have been refused, with the basis for refusal including the lack of an adequate Transport Assessment, insufficient survey information to establish the presence of protected species or habitats on the site and formulate appropriate mitigation measures, and the absence of a Flood Risk Assessment. However the Four Acre Trust has appealed, and the appeal will be subject to a public inquiry early in 2010. The Four Acre

Trust website summarises its funding criteria as "Supporting charities that give individuals – mainly children and young people – help in making the most of their lives". One might have hoped that such a charitable Trust would have a more enlightened view to sustainability and nature conservation than indicated by its actions here.



Fig. 1. *Anelosimus aulicus* female.
Photograph © Peter Harvey

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Identification of *Clubiona neglecta* and *Clubiona pseudoneglecta*

Clubiona pseudoneglecta Wunderlich, 1994 was first recorded from Britain on the basis of 4 females from Tresco (Isles of Scilly) collected in 1959 (Merrett, 2001). It has also been recorded from two other localities, St. Ouen (Jersey) and Sandwich Bay NNR (Kent). The species appears to be well established at the last site where specimens were first collected by S.A. Williams in 1975 but where it has been collected since by the present author in 2002 and by D. Carr, P. Harvey and the author in 2007. The species is very closely related to *C. neglecta* and requires careful examination to distinguish it.

Identification

Males of *C. pseudoneglecta* may be distinguished from those of *C. neglecta* by the form of the palpal embolus which is shorter and less curved distally seen in ventral view (Fig. 1).

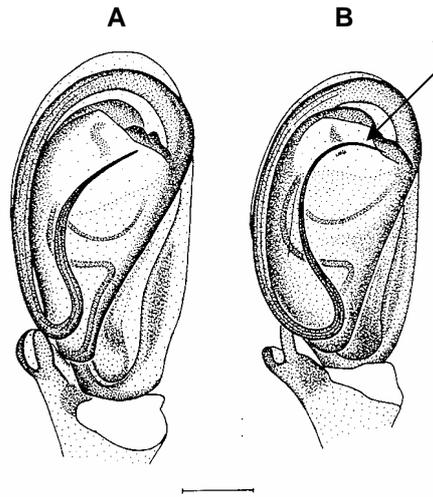


Figure 1. Male palps of A) *Clubiona pseudoneglecta* and B) *C. neglecta* in ventral view. Arrow shows longer and more curving tip of embolus in *C. neglecta*.

Additionally, the distal, unsclerotised portion of the tegulum seen in lateral view is much broader and slightly more pointed than that of *C. neglecta*, the distal end of the cymbium extends further beyond the tip of the tegulum than in *C. neglecta* and the ventral extension of the tibial apophysis is differently shaped, being slightly broader and “knobbed” at the tip (Fig. 2).

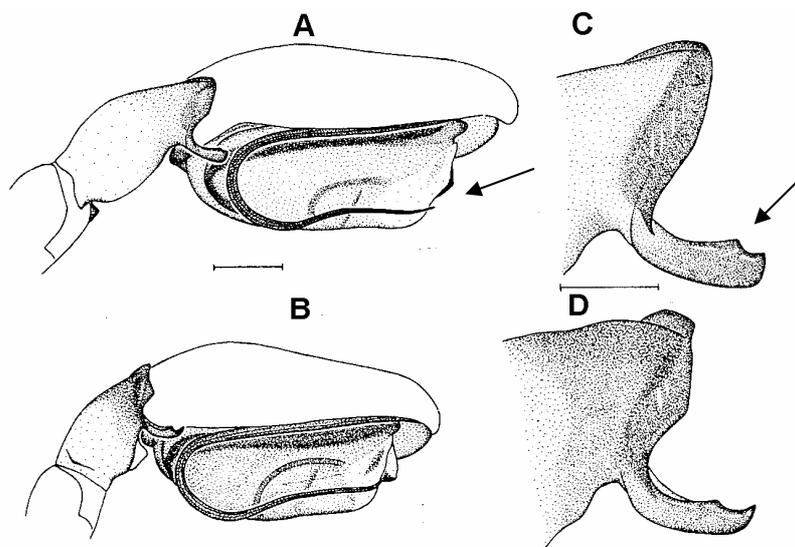


Figure 2. Male palps of A) *Clubiona pseudoneglecta* and B) *C. neglecta* in lateral view. Arrow indicates wider and more pointed distal portion of tegulum in *C. pseudoneglecta*. C) Detail of tibial apophysis of *C. pseudoneglecta*. D) Ditto for *C. neglecta*. Arrow indicates broader more knobbed end of ventral extension in *C. pseudoneglecta*.

However, all of these characters are fairly subtle and, certainly in the case of the tibial apophysis, difficult to discern. The most obvious difference between males of the two species lies in the length of the basal elements of the chelicerae which in *C. pseudoneglecta* are almost twice as long as those of *C. neglecta* (Fig. 3).

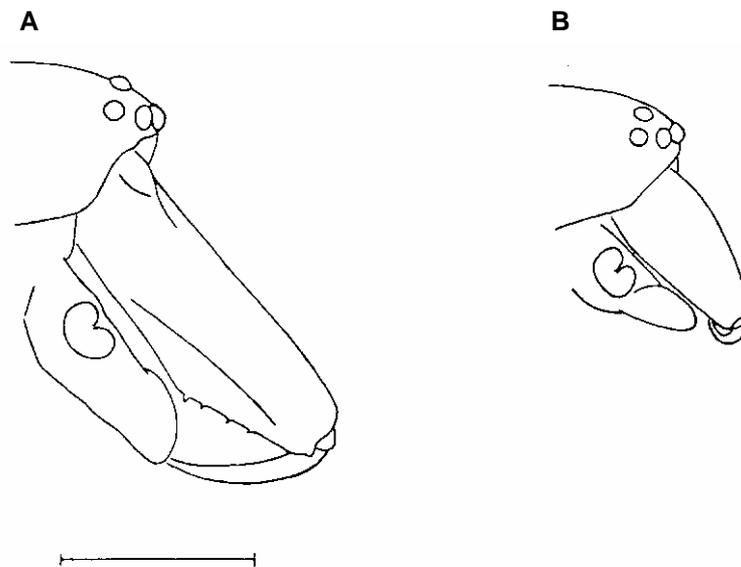


Figure 3. Male chelicerae of A) *Clubiona pseudoneglecta* and B) *C. neglecta* in lateral view.

Females of *C. pseudoneglecta* are distinguished from those of *C. neglecta* by details of the internal structure of the epigyne. The anterior primary seminal receptacles, normally partially visible through the cuticle overlying them, are always smaller in *C. pseudoneglecta* than in *C. neglecta* (Fig. 4). In the cleared epigynes (Figs. 4C and 4D), it can be seen that the posterior secondary receptacles are thinner and more elongate in *C. pseudoneglecta* and appear more irregularly shaped when seen through the cuticle covering them. The posterior secondary receptacles of *C. neglecta* are large and appear almost perfectly spherical through the cuticle. In addition, the lateral copulatory ducts are thinner and more abruptly curved towards the mid-line of the epigyne in *C. pseudoneglecta* than in *C. neglecta*. As in all spiders, there is some variation in the form and arrangement of internal structures of the epigyne and it is essential to compare specimens with properly identified reference material.

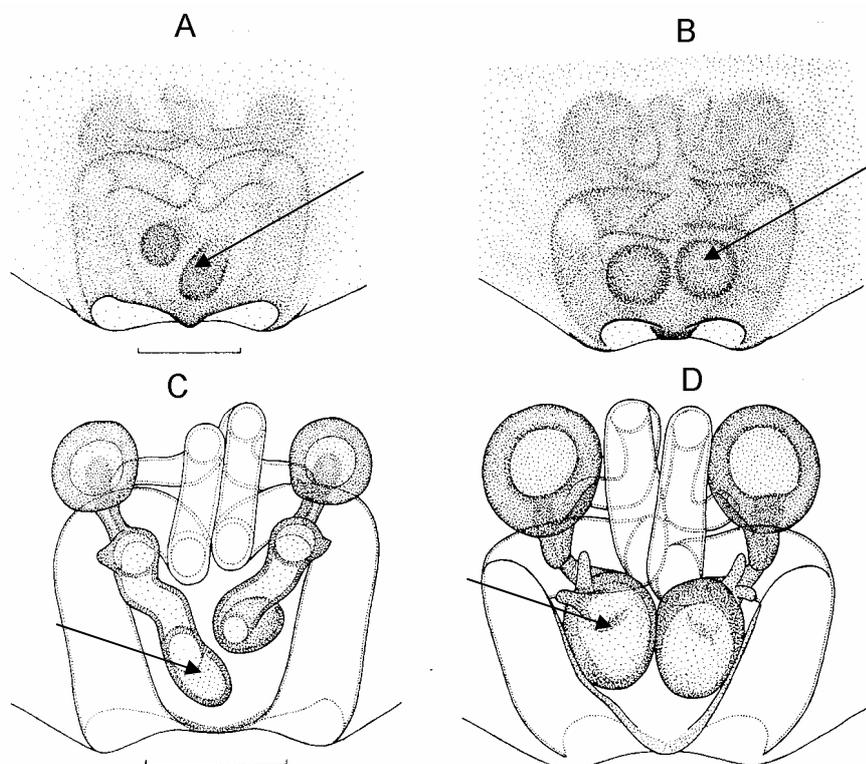


Figure 4. Epigynes of A) *Clubiona pseudoneglecta* and B) *C. neglecta* in ventral view. C) and D) show cleared epigynes of the same species in dorsal view. Arrows indicate posterior secondary receptacles.

Habitats

In Britain, this species has been recorded on sand dunes at Sandwich Bay NNR in Kent where it has been found both in sparse vegetation on fore-dunes and dense grassland on stabilised dunes. In Scilly, the habitat was not recorded but is likely to have been either coastal grassland or dunes. It has been recorded from sand dunes in Belgium and the Netherlands but further south in Europe has been collected in oak forest in France (Le Peru, 2007) and relatively dry grassland habitats in Germany and Hungary. The author has also collected it in sycamore woodland near the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Changes in preference from relatively shady habitats in warmer areas of Europe to more exposed habitats in the cooler regions of northern Europe are seen in other species that in Britain are confined or nearly confined to sand dunes or shingle habitats. It seems likely therefore that *C. pseudoneglecta* may in future be found on sand dunes and perhaps in dry coastal grassland at other sites in southern England.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Dr. Peter Merrett for allowing me to use his original figures of *Clubiona neglecta* and *C. pseudoneglecta* in this account and commenting on the first draft.

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Author Tony Russell-Smith

Identification of *Neon robustus* and *Neon reticulatus*

Neon robustus Lohmander, 1945 was first discovered in Britain in Edinburgh in 1997 (Snazell *et al.*, 1999). Subsequently it has been found to be quite widespread in Britain, from the Isle of Skye in the north to Portland on the south coast but with a majority of records from the western half of Britain. *Neon robustus* is very closely related to *N. reticulatus* and particular care is needed in distinguishing the two species.

Identification

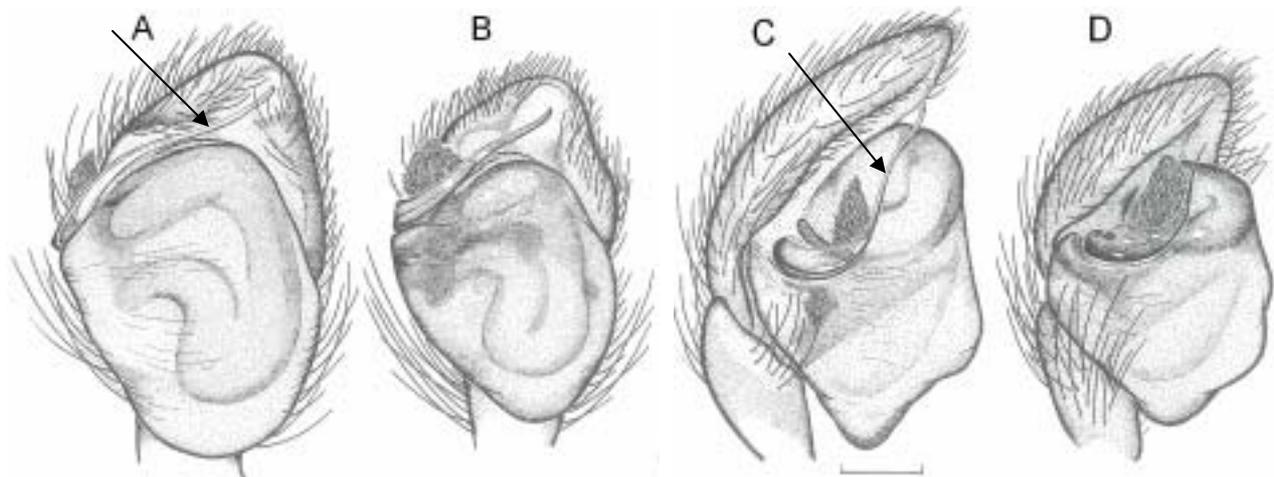


Figure 1. Male palp of A) *Neon robustus* in ventral view and C) in mesal view. Male palp of B) *N. reticulatus* in ventral view and D) in mesal view. Arrows indicate longer embolus in *Neon robustus*.

Both sexes of *Neon robustus* are larger than those of *N. reticulatus*. Snazell *et al.* provide a table of carapace lengths for the two species which suggests that both males and females of *N. robustus* are on average 13% longer than those of *N. reticulatus*. In coloration, *N. robustus* tends to be significantly darker than *N. reticulatus* and the abdomen of males is less hairy in the former species.

Males of *Neon robustus* have a longer embolus than that of *N. reticulatus* when the palp is viewed either ventrally or mesally (Figs. 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D). The spiculate lobe, which lies between the embolus and the margin of the cymbium, is also significantly smaller in *N. robustus* than in *N. reticulatus*.

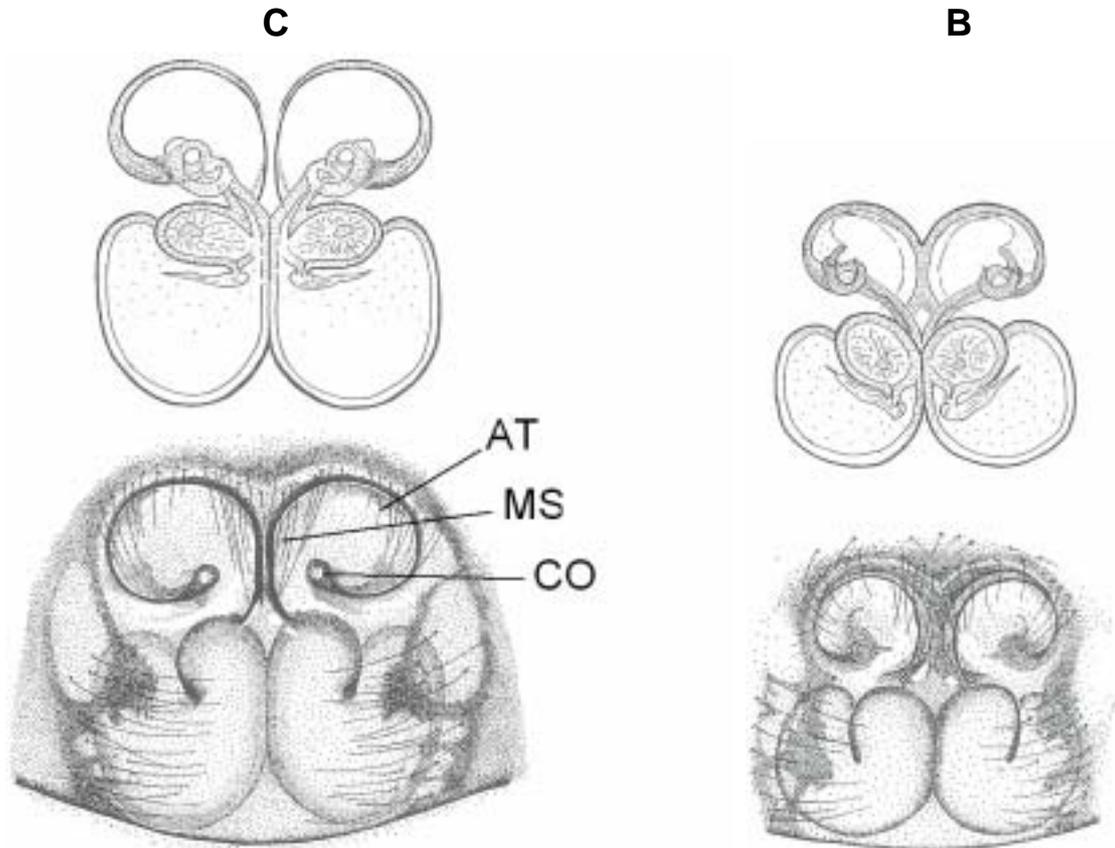


Figure 2. Epigynes of A) *Neon robustus* and B) *N. reticulatus* viewed dorsally (above) and ventrally (below). Key: AT = atrium, MS = median septum, CO = copulatory opening.

Females of *Neon robustus* differ from those *N. reticulatus* in that the median septum between the two atria is much narrower, the atria are larger and more circular and the copulatory openings are broader and more apparent (Fig. 2A). In *Neon reticulatus* there are hook-shaped projections of the vulva visible in the centre of the atria and the band of sclerotisation around the anterior margin of the atria is much broader than in *N. robustus* (Fig. 2B).

Habitats

Neon robustus is described as a thermophilous species, occurring in open rocky situations, often south facing. In Britain it has been found on rocky scree inland and on rocky cliffs and shingle on the coast. In Sweden it is quite common on stone walls. By contrast, the much more widespread *N. reticulatus* occurs both in leaf litter in woodland and in moss in open, damp boggy ground. It has also been recorded from beneath bracken, in grassland and on a beach (Harvey *et al.*, 2002). Although *N. robustus* currently appear to be very much less common and with a more restricted distribution than *N. reticulatus*, the possibility of the two species being confused in the past may mean that it has been under-recorded.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Rowley Snazell for allowing me to use his original figures of *Neon robustus* and *N. reticulatus* in this account.

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Author Tony Russell-Smith

***Nigma puella* (Simon) (Dictynidae) in Middlesex**

by Jonty Denton

On 17.viii.2009 I beat a female *Nigma puella* from hazel at edge of open parkland in Regents Park (TQ2783); this appears to be the first for VC21. A few metres away I also beat over 30 adult female *N. walckenaeri* (Roewer) from a single ivy covered post. *N. puella* may well be expanding its range inland as along with my own recent records from Surrey, Edward Milner found it in Woolwich Park in Kent, the first for Greater London.

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***Heliophanus auratus* C.L.Koch (Salticidae) in Hampshire**

by Jonty Denton

On 11.viii.2009, whilst surveying the saltmarsh Hayling Billyuat on Hayling Island, I picked up a female of the RDB2 jumping spider *Heliophanus auratus* (kindly confirmed by Peter Harvey) with several *Sitticus inexpectus*, on a small area of open shingle at foot of a small linear island created to enclose oyster beds. This is the first record for Hampshire, and VC11.

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Some Scottish spider records

by Jonty Denton

An adult female *Cyclosa conica* (Pallas) was beaten from small wych elm in deep shade in ghyll woodland at Milton Lockhart SSSI, Lanarkshire (NS8149) on 1.ix.2009. New for VC77.

Several *Oonops pulcher* Templeton were found under bark with *Amaurobius fenestralis* both at Bankhead of Tinwald, Dumfriesshire (NY0583) 30.viii.2009, and Milton Lockhart SSSI, Lanarkshire (NS8149) on 1.ix.2009. This appears to be the first record for VC72.

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SPIDER LOAN REQUEST

Systematic revision of the genus *Mastigusa* (Dictynidae)

I am working on a new master thesis project under the supervision of Nikolaj Scharff (Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark), and I am requesting material (fresh as well as old) of the genus *Mastigusa* from collections. The genus holds three living species (and 8 fossils) and is currently placed within the family Dictynidae. It was formerly assigned to the genus *Tetrilus* and has been placed in the family Agelenidae. I am looking for material of the followings species (as well as any undetermined material in your collection):

Mastigusa arietina (Thorell, 1871)

Mastigusa lucifuga (Simon, 1898)

Mastigusa macrophthalma (Kulczynski, 1897)

If I can obtain fresh material of the three species, the project will also include a molecular component. Therefore, I particularly welcome any recently fixed specimens for DNA work (spiders fixed in 95% ethanol work best) or live animals.

Please forward material to either myself or my *supervisor*, Nikolaj Scharff at the following address:

Rasmus Aagaard Jensen/Nikolaj Scharff
The Natural History Museum of Denmark
Zoological Museum
Department of Entomology
Universitetsparken 15
DK-2100 Copenhagen
Denmark

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