Spider Recording Scheme News November 2012, No. 74

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My thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. S.R.S. News No. 75 will be published in March 2013. 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.freeserve.co.uk. The newsletter depends on your contributions!

Editorial

As always, thank you to the contributors who have provided articles for this issue. Please help future issues by providing articles, short or longer, on interesting discoveries and observations.

We now have 914,845 SRS records in total to date in MapMate, 394,874 of which have SRS Phase 2 site-related information on broad habitat and other site-related data.

You will see from two articles in this issue that two new species have been found established in Britain. There is no doubt more will continue to be discovered at regular intervals, and that the critical examination of vouchers is often essential for these to be recognised.

Area Organiser changes

David Horsfield has resigned as Area Organiser for Highland Scotland so that someone more active can take over. I give my thanks to David for all his past efforts in the role and hope that someone will come forward to take over at least some of the vacant vice counties, Ebudes North (VC104), Ross West (VC105), Ross East (VC106), Sutherland East (VC107), Sutherland West (VC108), Caithness (VC109) and Hebrides (VC110). Please contact me if you can help.

An afternoon at the Glasgow Necropolis and a new British/European Spider *Rugathodes sexpunctatus* (Emerton, 1882) (Theridiidae)

by Mike Davidson

I was tempted down to Glasgow to examine some harvestmen in the museum collections and had made some time for a little sightseeing. My attempt to gain access to Glasgow Cathedral was thwarted by HRH QEII on her jubilee tour, so I decided to investigate the delights of the Necropolis – a steep-sided hill covered in enormous memorials and mausoleums and the second largest green-space in central Glasgow.

The day was overcast but I was unprepared for the torrential downpour which found me sheltering in the doorway of someone's tomb with a Canadian holiday maker, who had overcome her initial apprehension at the sight of a length of pooter tubing. She decided I looked too healthy to be a druggie and we had a pleasant chat while the water rose rapidly around our feet.

I had seen relatively few arachnids on the way up the hill, but the graveyard livened up considerably after the deluge had stopped. My main focus was on the revetment walls adjacent to the paths, cut into the hillside, and which in places were overhung by ivy. *Nesticus cellulanus* was abundant, hanging below the ivy, along with small pale theridiids (*c*.2.2mm) carrying their egg sacs between their hind legs.

The mystery theridiid appeared to be a *Rugathodes* – but a species I had not seen. The usual consultations with P. Harvey and P. Merrett failed to produce an identification and the specimens (all female) were sent to Barbara Thaler-Knoflach (at Innsbruck University). Barbara had not seen this species either, but confidently identified it as *R. sexpunctatus*, a North American species and new to the European fauna (possible occurrence in Russia). It was only now that the significance of the date of collection (the 4th of July) was realised.

According to Levi (1957) this is a species usually found on coniferous trees and is widely distributed in North America, especially along the western and eastern states of the USA and Canada. Illustrations are given by Levi (1957 and Paquin & Dupérré (2003). Further information is given by http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rugathodes_sexpunctatus.

A return visit on the 31st of July produced some more females (still with egg sacs) and three males. A full list of species found during the two visits to the Necropolis is given below.

There is a very large breeding population of *R. sexpunctatus* at the Necropolis and it seems likely that it has been there for many years. There has been trade between the Clyde ports and North America for centuries with timber being a major import. Or did they did they get here on a strong following wind?

Following some publicity for the discovery in "The Herald" newspaper (www.**herald**scotland.com), Andy Macgregor got in touch to say he had reviewed some theridiid specimens he had collected in 2009-10, in his house and garden in Bearsden, also in Glasgow (NS550730). These have now been confirmed as *R. sexpunctatus* and the earliest records so far. This supports the view that the species has been established in the area for some years. Further survey work is planned to determine the current extent of its distribution. I would be pleased to hear from anyone else who may have specimens of this species languishing in their collections from Glasgow or elsewhere.

Thanks to Peter Harvey, Peter Merrett and Barbara Thaler-Knoflach for their help in identifying *Rugathodes sexpunctatus* and Andy Macgregor for sight of his specimens and details of their location.

Figures 1 & 2. *Rugathodes sexpunctatus* at Glasgow Necropolis. Photographs © Mike Davidson

Spiders and Harvestmen recorded on 4th & 31st July 2012 at the Glasgow Necropolis NS604655

Spiders
Oonops pulcher
Nesticus cellulanus
Theridion mystaceum
Neottiura bimaculata
Rugathodes sexpunctatus
Enoplognatha ovata sens. str.
Entelecara erythropus
Gongylidium rufipes
Maso sundevalli
Erigone dentipalpis
Lepthyphantes zimmermanni
Araneus diadematus
Zygiella x-notata
Tegenaria gigantea
Clubiona lutescens
Clubiona comta
Philodromus aureolus
Salticus scenicus
Harvestmen
Oligolophus hanseni
Paroligolophus agrestis
Phalangium opilio
Leiobunum rotundum

References

Levi, H.W. 1957. The spider genera *Enoplognatha*, *Theridion* and *Paidisca* in America north of Mexico (Araneae, Theridiidae). *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist*. **112**: 5-123.

Paquin, P. & Dupérré, N. 2003. *Guide d'identification des Araignées du Québec.*

Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rugathodes_sexpunctatus.

Nentwig *et al*. (online) *Spiders of Europe* (http://www.araneae.unibe.ch/speclist-Rugathodes-283.html).

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Zoropsis spinimana (Dufour, 1820) established indoors in Britain

by Peter Harvey

On 21st September 2012 Heather Ticheli found a large spider in her clothes and left the beast to die on a pavement in Islington, London (Fig. 1). She wondered whether an unidentified bite she had received the previous week was from a similar spider that may be living in her house, and she sent the picture to Pip Collyer in an effort to find out what spider was involved. Pip forwarded this to me for my opinion and all we could suggest from the picture was that it looked rather like a lycosid, and a specimen was needed.

Figure 1. *Zoropsis spinimana* on London pavement. Photograph © Heather Ticheli

Heather then captured another of the spiders in her home in London WC1, which was apparently nowhere near as big, but with the same violin-shape mark, and she was able to send this to me. It was an adult female *Zoropsis spinimana* (Zoropsidae), a family not previously represented in Britain. *Zoropsis spinimana* is a Mediterranean species, which although harmless to humans, is one of the very few spiders in Europe which can penetrate the human skin with its chelicerae and produce a painful bite. The Spiders of Europe website at http://www.araneae.unibe.ch (Nentwig, *et al*.) lists seven species of *Zoropsis* with distribution information by Platnick (2012), *Zoropsis beccarii* Caporiacco, 1935 from Turkey, *Zoropsis bilineata* Dahl, 1901 from Mallorca, Morocco, Algeria, *Zoropsis lutea* (Thorell, 1875) from Eastern Mediterranean, Ukraine, *Zoropsis media* Simon, 1878 from Western Mediterranean, *Zoropsis oertzeni* Dahl, 1901 from Italy, Greece, Balkans, *Zoropsis spinimana* from Mediterranean to Russia (USA, introduced) and *Zoropsis thaleri* Levy, 2007 from Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Israel. Griswold & Ubick (2001) document the establishment of *Z. spinimana* in the San Francisco Bay area in the USA since at least 1995.

Heather says the first *Zoropsis* she can document appeared in her home in February 2012 (Fig. 2)) and she did see a few more from February to September but did not photograph them. However, in October in the past few weeks she has seen the one trapped in her clothing, another near the ceiling (a photo provided) and another in the bathroom (an adult male, Fig. 3). These photos include what is clearly an adult male and a juvenile, as well as other probable females.

Figure 2. *Zoropsis spinimana* taken in February 2012. Photograph © Heather Ticheli

In April 2011 Stuart Hines at the Natural History Musuem had emailed me about a *Zoropsis spinimana* found in South Kensington locally by a gentleman in his garden. He wondered if this was just an individual or perhaps one of a small population and the spearhead of the establishment of this species in the UK, although he said he had no evidence of the latter other than this single record. Although aware that the spider had been introduced and was well established in the USA in California, I replied that I would be amazed if such a southern European spider currently became established in Britain unless our climate really did change far beyond the present. However it is now beginning to look as though it

might already be well established in parts of London, and is certainly established in Heather Ticheli's home with at least an adult female, adult male, juvenile and other adults or subadults. I will clearly have to eat my words, and it looks as though it is another species to be added to the British checklist.

Figure 3. Male *Zoropsis spinimana* taken in February 2012. Photograph © Heather Ticheli

Peter Merrett (pers. comm.) thinks it seems unlikely that it could survive long-term outdoors here, but he supposes it could live indoors and occasionally venture into gardens in the summer. He says it is not really all that much more surprising than say *Steatoda nobilis* or even *Segestria florentina*. There is some evidence that *Zoropsis spinimana* may be spreading in Europe. In Oct. 1997 a female *Z. spinimana* was found on the wall of a house in Innsbruck, N. Tyrol, and since non-adult specimens had also been observed in S. Tyrol, Thaler & Knoflach (1998) suppose that *Z. spinimana* may be an expansive species and a recent addition to the urban fauna of Austria. Wittenberg (2005) describes the first record in Switzerland of an individual caught in 1994 in a residential house in Basel, with other records since reported from houses in the south of Switzerland. Hänggi & Bolzern (2006) report the first two records of *Zoropsis spinimana* in Germany, together with a further discovery of the species in Central Switzerland. A spreading of the species from South to North along traffic routes is supposed and climate change is suggested as a possible reason for the species establishing itself in Central Europe.

Wittenberg (2005) suggests that monitoring of some selected species (e.g. *Oecobius maculatus* Simon and *Zoropsis spinimana*) to document their spread would be both worthwhile and manageable. In the USA the California Academy of Sciences has been doing this very successfully on the *Bay Area's Most Wanted Spider* website. The website states that the first California reports of *Zoropsis spinimana* were from the Sunnyvale area of Santa Clara County in 1992, since when the spider has mostly spread north and east around the San Francisco Bay area with specimens found throughout Santa Clara, San Mateo and Alameda Counties. It seems that we should probably undertake a similar exercise in Britain, to monitor the spider's spread in and beyond London. This would not be difficult to set up on the Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme Website at http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk - watch this space!

References

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Wittenberg, R. (ed.). 2005. An inventory of alien species and their threat to biodiversity and economy in Switzerland. CABI Bioscience Switzerland Centre report to the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape. The environment in practice no. 0629. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. 155 pp.

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Xysticus acerbus Thorell, 1872 (Thomisidae) in Surrey

by Jonty Denton

On 26.7.2011 I swept a large, very dark *Xysticus* from herbage at the edge of deciduous woodland on the chalk, at Silent Pool, Surrey (TQ0648). I had thought it may be *X. luctuosus*, but Peter Harvey kindly offered to check the specimen and determined it as *X. acerbus*. (Unfortunately this record had gone to press and was published in Denton (2011). This appears to be the first record of this enigmatic species from VC17. Amazingly the same sweep

captured a female *Nigma walckenaeri*, a spider which appears to spreading into the centre and south of the county from the London suburbs (where it can be very abundant in gardens and parks).

On 10th September Don Tagg rang to tell me of a mystery dark *Xysticus* in his garden at Upper Hale near Farnham (SU8449). It was sitting *Misumena*-like in the centre of a Japanese Anemone flower 1m off the ground. I later identified this as the second *X. acerbus* for Surrey. The spider was present in a large garden surrounded by others, but not far from open heathland. Both records are in habitats unlike those from which previous captures of this enigmatic species have been made.

Reference

Denton, J. 2011. *Xysticus luctuosus* (Blackwall) (Thomisidae) in Surrey. S.R.S. News. No. 71. In *Newsl. Br. arachnol. Soc*. **122**: 22.

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Argiope in Wales

by Mike Kilner

I am the voluntary warden for Coed Cefn Ila, a Woodland Trust nature reserve near Usk, in VC35, Monmouthshire. The site was purchased about 5-6 years ago by the Woodland trust, as improved agricultural land, but has been heavily planted with native broadleaf species. It also includes a pinetum, and ancient orchard. These two areas apart, the oldest trees are no more than 5 years old, so the site is currently unmanaged grassland with saplings. This habitat has proven to be excellent for Orthoptera, with Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii* being abundant throughout. Steve Williams, county Orthoptera Recorder, tells me this is the third county record of this cricket, which is now spreading into Wales.

On Saturday 1st September I was joined by Roger James and Martin Anthony of Monmouthshire Moth Recording Group for a walk around the site prior to some moth trapping. Site manager Barry Embling also accompanied us. In the course of this walk Roger James spotted a spider that turned out to be *Argiope bruennichi*, the Wasp Spider. As far as I am aware this is the first official record of this species in Wales, although I am aware of a previous unpublished record from the Gwent levels some years ago. At the time, our group located five adult female spiders, although I returned to the site later in the day and counted 18 adult females, and 2 males, one of which was on the periphery of the web of a female.

Later counts have taken the total number of adult females to at least 25, but the spiders are very restricted within the reserve to a small area. Nonetheless, the presence of males must indicate the first breeding population of this species in Wales. I would be very interested to learn of any other records from the South Wales area.

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A new site for *Pardosa trailli* (O.P. - Cambridge, 1873)

by Dave Holloway

There are currently only 30 records in 17 hectads submitted to the SRS database for *Pardosa trailli*. There are only three locations with records since 1992 and the last of these was in 2003.

Figure 1. *Pardosa trailli*; female with egg sac. Photograph © Dave Holloway

I have been enjoying time in the British hills for most of my adult life. When I began identifying spiders a few years ago I was able to combine both interests. This has usually involved turning over stones near or at the summit after a walk or run up a hill. I was puzzled why I had never come close to finding *P. trailli* despite searching under thousands of stones in a variety of circumstances. The closest had been a glimpse of a dark lycosid scuttling deeper into the recesses amongst large boulder scree in Ennerdale, Cumbria. Could that have been *P. trailli* I had wondered?

Earlier this year whilst below the hills near Achnashellach, Ross-shire I was struck by an area of largely quartzite scree high on the side of Fuar Tholl. It looked "different" from areas I had previously searched. I resolved to make a special effort to investigate, so waited for good weather to arrive towards the end of May.

On 26th May 2012 I approached the scree area from the north and within minutes had excitedly potted a male and female. The female was carrying a blue egg sac. Even with a 10x lens I could see enough of the palp and epigyne to reassure me that these were indeed *P. trailli*. Both spiders had been near the surface and I had disturbed them when turning stones. About 50 minutes later I was making my way through small crags to gain the summit ridge and I found another male running on the ground in sunshine near the narrow path I was on. I returned again on 4th June 2012 but this time approached the scree area from above after gaining the summit of Fuar Tholl by a route that was new for me. I collected another male and female just over a hundred metres south of the previous location. Both were running amongst stones in bright sunshine.

The spider is rather more colourful and attractive in life than would be expected from the descriptions of preserved specimens in the main identification books.

Figure 2. Sgurr Ruadh from Fuar Tholl; *Pardosa trailli* habitat in the foreground. Photograph © Dave Holloway

The site on Fuar Tholl is about 10km from the nearest previous record on Beinn Eighe. I am unable to provide an answer as to what is characteristic of the scree area other than it being dominated by quartzite. I would be interested in visiting some of the other sites where the species has previously been found to see if that sheds any further light on its requirements.

References:

Spider Recording Scheme. (2012) http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Pardosa+trailli (Accessed 15th September 2012).

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Nigma walckenaeri new to Lincolnshire

by Annette Binding

I read with interest Geoff Oxford's report in the August 2012 issue of 'British Wildlife' in which he mentions that Ian Dawson had found *Nigma walckenaeri* in Lincolnshire. A look at the SRS website revealed that a female *Nigma walckenaeri* was found by Ian in Stamford in October 2011. I had seen the report in SRS News Number 123 March 2012 on the spread of *Nigma walckenaeri* but had completely missed the reference to Lincolnshire. The species is new to the county. I shall certainly be looking for *Nigma walckenaeri* on ivy this coming autumn.

References

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Oxford, Geoff, 2012. Spiders, British Wildlife Vol **23** No 6 August: 438 – 439

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Spiders in houses (2012 Update)

by Howard Williams

Back in March 1999 I wrote a short article for the BAS Newsletter of that month about spiders which may occur in houses and which seem happy enough to stay there awhile, although the literature tells us they should be in grass, trees, bushes or some other natural environment. At that time I counted 37 species recorded by me inside or on the outside of my house over a period of nine years. Some were predictably found in such a place, others were surprising. Many were recorded here only the once. Some no doubt originated in the garden or the wood behind the house. Suburban streets lie in front of it.

In the 13 years that have passed, the wood, the garden and I have matured (the trees have certainly grown taller while I have gone rather the other way). I thought I would review the records made in that interval to see what additions had been made to the list. I found that from the 37 spiders in 1999, by 2012 the total number of species had increased to 52 – another 15 species.

The first nine years saw 4.1 species a year recorded on average; the 13 years since then 1.2 species; the overall 22 years 2.3 species. There seems to have been a decline in rate of recorded presence, but it is hard to tell, as some fall off in numbers is bound to occur as time goes on. If it *is* a real decline, it would be in line with my observations of insects here. Up to some seven years ago the house at night was invaded by moths macro and micro, flies of various sorts including laceflies, craneflies and ichneumons, some beetles and even a cricket species, all drawn by the light. Nowadays, the night windows are black and bare and few creatures find their way indoors compared with previous times. This dismal fact seems to support reports of declines nationwide in insect numbers generally, especially perhaps moths and butterflies.

In 1999 I excluded any spiders recorded in the garden but included the integral garage. In the Table below I have indicated when the 'indoor' spiders also have a known presence in the garden, which would perhaps explain their occurring indoors.

The source of *Porrhomma errans*, a rare spider, is problematic. It was found in February under a plastic cloche over rhubarb in the garden; but the cloche had only recently been placed there after spending the winter in the garage. The spider may well have been sheltering there all winter but went unnoticed when the cloche was put outside.

Finally *Nesticus cellulanus* was recorded beneath a manhole cover in the patio almost against the house wall. That rather resembles a built-up environment and so I have taken the liberty of including it here as an indoor spider.

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Species found in/on the house	**Added since 1999**	**Where found here**
Amaurobius similis †		indoors and out
Amaurobius fenestralis †		indoors and out
Anyphaena accentuata *	yes	indoors & garden
Araneus diadematus †		indoors & garden
Bathyphantes gracilis	yes	indoors & garden
Clubiona comta *		indoors
Clubiona corticalis †		indoors
Clubiona stagnatilis *		indoors
Clubiona terrestris		indoors & garden
Dicymbium brevisetosum *	yes	kitchen
Enoplognatha ovata sens. str.		indoors and garden
Entelecara acuminata	yes	indoors & garden
Erigone atra	yes	indoors & garden
Erigone dentipalpis *		indoors & garden
Lepthyphantes leprosus * †	yes	indoors and garden
Lepthyphantes mengei *	yes	indoors
Lepthyphantes minutus *		indoors & garden
Lepthyphantes tenuis †		indoors & garden
Lepthyphantes zimmermanni *		indoors
Monocephalus fuscipes *	yes	indoors upstairs
Neottiura bimaculata *	yes	in/on building
Neriene montana *		indoors & garden
Nesticus cellulanus * †	yes	under manhole cover on patio
Nuctenea umbratica †		indoors and out
Oedothorax apicatus *		indoors
Oedothorax fuscus *		indoors
Oonops domesticus †		indoors
Ostearius melanopygius †	yes	indoors
Paidiscura pallens *		indoors upstairs
Philodromus aureolus		indoors & garden
Philodromus cespitum *		indoors
Philodromus dispar		indoors and out
Philodromus praedatus *		indoors upstairs
Pisaura mirabilis		indoors downstairs
Porrhomma errans *	yes	garage or garden
Pseudeuophrys lanigera †		indoors and out
Salticus scenicus †		indoors and out
Scotophaeus blackwalli †		indoors
Sitticus pubescens †	yes	indoors upstairs
Steatoda bipunctata †		indoors and out
Tegenaria domestica †		indoors
Tegenaria gigantea †		indoors & garden
Tegenaria saeva * †		indoors
Tetragnatha montana *		indoors living room
Tetragnatha obtusa *		indoors upstairs
Theridion blackwalli †		indoors
Theridion melanurum †		outdoor wall
Theridion mystaceum	yes	indoors & garden
Theridion tinctum		indoors & garden
Trochosa ruricola *	yes	indoors downstairs
Zygiella atrica *		indoors downstairs
Zygiella x-notata †		indoors and out

* = found once only indoors † = often in/on buildings

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A jumping spider

by Howard Williams

In the article 'Spiders in Houses (Update 2012)' I mention the presence of the salticid *Sitticus pubescens* in the house here. In fact it made its first appearance only this year despite being described in the texts as common in and around houses. It had been recorded in Worksop only a few miles from here on an exterior wall of a house and in the garden there, and I have awaited its appearance here for years. One finally showed up on 5th April on the bathroom ceiling. At distance I assumed it was *Pseudoeuophrys lanigera*, recorded here most years since 1992; but I decided to have a closer look.

Having pooted it into a glass tube, I inspected it under a x20 lens. It was indeed not *Pseudoeuophrys lanigera*, but a fine mature male *Sitticus pubescens* with distinctive pattern and palps. I set it free again indoors, hoping it would be one of a number; and so I was very pleased on 16th April to find, in the bath itself this time, a mature female which I again set free to roam. A month later, near the bathroom window, there was the same or another male. The last sightings were a female in a bedroom on August 26th and a male on September 6th above the bathroom window.

I have high hopes that some mating will have taken place and that next year will see a good number establishing themselves here. *Pseudoeuophrys lanigera*, as stated above, has been recorded here since 1992 and *Salticus scenicus* since 1991. In view of that it is a mystery why it has taken about 20 years for this third salticid favouring buildings to appear; and where precisely it must have come from. Had it been here some time, I'm sure I should have spotted it – only another arachnologist's house can be better watched than this one!

Reference

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A Harvestmen Recording Scheme update

by Peter Nicholson, Harvestman Scheme Organiser

Following the general agreement that the ORS become the HRS there are still some outstanding items to be changed on the BAS and SRS websites, and there are some minor changes to wording. It is also intended shortly to update the species list, which will include *Platybunus pinetorum, Opilio canestrinii* and *Leiobunum tisciae*. At present there is evidence of a possible new species but data are being collected by Paul Richards.

Records are being received in small but steady numbers after the initial increase in records since I took over, the total number now stands at 40,278. This increase was a result of a backlog of spread sheets recorders were holding onto. Many of these records have come from individuals who are not members of BAS but to whom I am very grateful for their efforts and awareness of their value to the scheme. I am hopeful that all recorders are making the best of our prime time, this autumn, and that I will be receiving records over the winter.

There has been some significant work put in by Mike Davidson to secure a loan from Opal to aid in the translation of the Dutch book '*De Nederlandse hooiwagens (Opiliones)*' by Hay Wijnhoven. This is a particularly useful book for identification of most British species but will also help with those species not covered by our own literature which are now being discovered in Britain. The proposal is to provide a pdf file which will provide the text in English supported by the diagrams in the book but will not have the photos. The pdf file will be made available for download, further information will be published in the SRS /HRS newsletter, watch this space.

Mike is also hoping to piece together some ID notes he has gathered together from feedback gained through his successful workshops in Scotland.

With the increasing interest in Harvestmen especially from outside the BAS there are plans to produce an up to date Atlas.

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Platybunus pinetorum (C. L. Koch 1839) in Edinburgh, a new Scottish Record

by Mike Davidson

A beautiful spring day (27th March 2012), in Edinburgh, saw me striding over Arthurs Seat on to the Salisbury Crags, where there is a disused quarry (NT269730). In truth I was looking for myriapods but, while struggling to capture a "giant" centipede, I noticed what I assumed to be an unusually large and dark coloured *Platybunus triangularis*. This was popped in a tube for later examination.

The harvestman turned out to be a female *Platybunus pinetorum*, a spring maturing species, which was first recorded in Britain by Paul Richards, in the Sheffield area in June 2010. Using the Linnean Society key (Hillyard, 2005) this species falls out readily at *Platybunus triangularis* - but can be easily separated from the native species using Richards (2010a) and referring to the Field Studies Council photo guide (Richards, 2010b).

The specimen was found on the ground, amongst rank grass, adjacent to large boulders at the base of basalt cliffs. A further visit during October 2012 failed to produce any more specimens (juvenile at this time) but *Dicranopalpus ramosus*, *Nelima gothica* and *Leiobunum rotundum* were all found at the base of the cliff. It would be surprising if I had collected the only specimen of *P. pinetorum* in Edinburgh, so worth looking out for it.

References

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The identification of *Centromerita bicolor* (Blackwall, 1833) and *Centromerita concinna* (Thorell, 1875)

by Richard Gallon

Two species of *Centromerita* are known from Britain: *C. bicolor* (Blackwall, 1833) and *C. concinna* (Thorell, 1875). Although both species are widespread in a wide range of habitats and may occur together, *C. concinna* is much more restricted to old and undisturbed situations than *C. bicolor*, which often occurs in improved and disturbed grasslands and other places with areas of open ground, often in taller grass than *C. concinna*. They can be difficult to distinguish due to their superficial similarities.

It is helpful to consider both specimen size and leg spination, in addition to palp and epigyne morphology, particularly with female specimens.

Distinguishing males

Males of *C. bicolor* and *C. concinna* are readily distinguished by the examination of the paracymbium alone. In *C. bicolor* the proximal heel of the paracymbium has a darkened squared-off protrusion (Fig. 1), whereas in *C. concinna* this darkened protrusion is a simple spike (Fig. 2).

The lateral process of the paracymbium is also useful for identification: *C. bicolor* possesses a distinct darkened spike (Fig. 1), which is absent in *C. concinna* (Fig. 2). In dark specimens it may be helpful to view the paracymbium dorsally in order to see this feature.

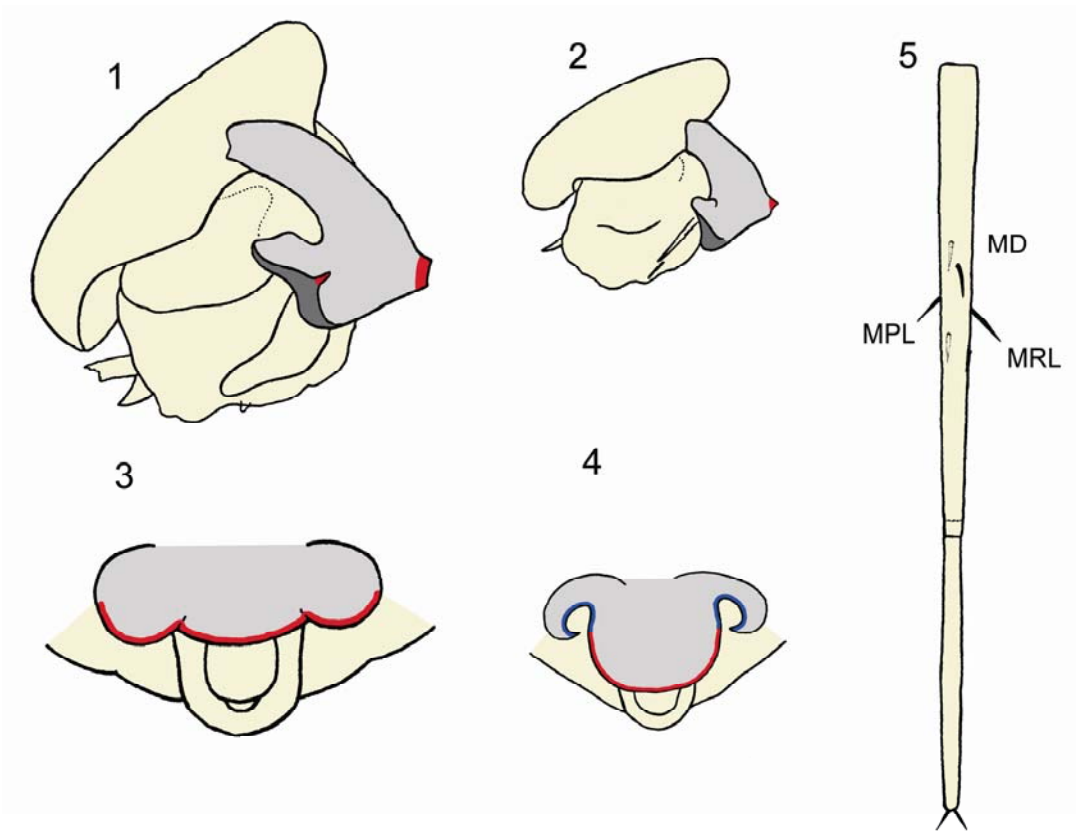
Distinguishing females

The epigyne of both species can be variable, but most specimens are readily distinguished by considering the shape of the epigynal fold margin. In *C. bicolor* this margin typically comprises three bulges (Fig. 3), but only a single bulge in *C. concinna* (Fig. 4). The curved lateral ends of this margin are also more distinct in *C. concinna* than in *C. bicolor*.

Spines on metatarsus IV

Both sexes of *Centromerita bicolor* typically possess midlateral (retrolateral and/or prolateral) spines on metatarsus IV (Fig. 5, Table 1), but these are absent in *C. concinna*. Ventral spines on metatarsus IV are often (although not always) present in both sexes of *C. bicolor*, but almost always absent in *C. concinna*. Both species usually possess a mid dorsal spine on metatarsus IV.

It is useful to check left and right legs IV to ascertain the presence or absence of spines, since broken-off spines are common. Care must also be taken when considering aberrant specimens with duplicated spines; the spine position is important rather than a total spine count in these examples.



Figures 1–5. *Centromerita* species. 1 *C. bicolor* left male palp with paracymbium (grey) showing squared-off protrusion and spike (both highlighted in red), retrolateral view; 2 *C. concinna* left male palp with paracymbium (grey) showing spike (red), retrolateral view; 3 *C. bicolor* epigyne showing tri-lobed fold margin (red), ventral view; 4 *C. concinna* epigyne showing mono-lobed fold margin (red) and lateral margins (blue), ventral view; 5 *Centromerita* left tarsus and metatarsus IV showing positions of leg spines (ventral spines stippled), dorsal view. Illustrations not to scale.

Specimen size

Male and female specimens of *Centromerita bicolor* are consistently larger than those of *C. concinna*. This is obvious in mixed samples (Fig. 6), but difficult to appreciate when only one species is present in a sample. Measuring the length of metatarsus IV will aid separation (Tables 1–2): between 1.05–1.37 mm for *C. bicolor* and between 0.69–1.00 mm for *C. concinna*.

Figure 6. *Centromerita* size comparison from pitfall material. *C. bicolor* top row, *C. concinna* below (males left, females right). © Richard Gallon.

	Males	**Females**
bicolor	1.05–1.37 (mean 1.25, *n*10)	1.08–1.26 (mean 1.16, *n*10)
concinna	0.73–1.00 (mean 0.85, *n*12)	0.69–0.77 (mean 0.73, *n*8)

Table 1. Metatarsus IV lengths (mm) of *Centromerita bicolor* and *C. concinna* (collected in Snowdonia).

Species	Sex	Mt IV length mm	MD spine	MRL spine	MPL spine	MV spine
bicolor	F	1.08	1	0	1	0
bicolor	F	1.08	1	0	1	1
bicolor	F	1.09	1	0	1	0
bicolor	F	1.13	1	1	1	1
bicolor	F	1.15	1	0	1	2
bicolor	F	1.18	0	0	0	0
bicolor	F	1.21	1	1	1	2
bicolor	F	1.23	1	0	0	1
bicolor	F	1.24	1	0	0	0
bicolor	F	1.26	1	0	0	1
bicolor	M	1.05	1	1	1	0
bicolor	M	1.21	1	1	1	2
bicolor	M	1.21	1	1	0	1
bicolor	M	1.23	1	1	0	1
bicolor	M	1.23	1	1	1	0
bicolor	M	1.23	1	1	1	0
bicolor	M	1.26	1	1	0	0
bicolor	M	1.26	1	1	1	1
bicolor	M	1.31	1	0	1	2
bicolor	M	1.36	1	1	0	1
bicolor	M	1.37	1	0	1	0
concinna	F	0.69	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.71	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.72	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.72	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.74	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.74	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.74	1	0	0	0
concinna	F	0.77	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.73	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.77	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.82	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.82	1	0	0	1
concinna	M	0.83	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.83	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.85	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.86	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.87	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.87	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	0.97	1	0	0	0
concinna	M	1.00	1	0	0	0

Table 2. *Centromerita* spp. measurements and metatarsus IV spination
(MT = metatarsus, MD = mid dorsal, MRL = mid retrolateral, MPL = mid prolateral, MV = mid ventral).

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