British Arachnological Society



SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

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Following its launch in April 1987, the Spider Recording Scheme has got off to a good start. Over 70 arachnologists have been registered, including the Area Organizers, and a list of these is included; but there must be many other British members of the BAS who can contribute to the success of the scheme. We hope that they will join us before long.

Plans for the coming year

In January a letter will be sent to the Area Organizers enquiring about progress in their region, both in activating the recording scheme and also in following up some of the suggestions from the BAS Council. Not all recorders are BAS members but the two groups are essentially inter-dependent.

At the end of March a spring newsletter will be sent to all recorders in which we hope to report the beginning of a flood of completed record cards being sent to Area Organizers.

The weekend of 20-22 May 1988 has been reserved for us at Monks Wood. All Area Organizers and recorders are invited to attend. The programme for this weekend is being planned on the following lines:

Friday 20 May: evening meal and accommodation for those wanting them

Saturday 21:

10.30 Coffee

11.00-12.45 First session

1.00 Lunch

2.00-4.00 Fieldwork at Monks Wood NNR

4.30-6.00 Second session

7.00 Dinner

7.45-9.00 Third session

Sunday 22: Excursion to a local site (Castor Hanglands, Holme Fen,

Barnack Hills and Holes or Woodwalton Fen)

Friday and Sunday are optional, but it is hoped that all who come will try to attend all of the Saturday programme. Subjects for discussion in the three planned sessions will be decided later, but could include items such as:

- a. problems experienced in working with SRS
- b. identification of commonly confused species (not necessarily rare)
- c. microscopes, lighting units, laboratory methods, collecting apparatus etc.

A booking form will be included with the spring newsletter and should be returned by the end of April.

Filling in the record cards

A number of queries have arisen that are inadequately covered in the sheets of instructions already circulated to recorders. The following comments may help to clear up some of the problems you may have experienced:

a. Errors in filling in a record card should be crossed out with black ink or ball point pen, and the correct data filled in in an adjacent space. Avoid using correcting fluid, such as 'Tippex', 'Liquid paper' etc because it has been found that it is not permanent enough.

If you cross out a species in error, put a wavy line through the crossing out and follow it with the word 'No' to reinstate the specific name.

- b. Site description: this information will be of use to investigators using BRC cards and should complement data included in the Structured Habitat section at the end of the card.
- c. Habitat: if more than one type of habitat is being recorded on a single record card, leave this section blank.
- d. Rarity cards: in addition to species that are rare throughout Britain, these cards should be used for species that are rare in the part of Britain where the record has been made, even if the species is more common elsewhere in the country.

A few other points:

- a. Record cards are available from BRC, Monks Wood. Pre-paid address labels for communications with Monks Wood are available free of charge, and a few are included with this newsletter.
- b. Vice-county maps of Great Britain, showing the detailed boundaries, are being sent free of charge to each Area Organizer. If a recorder would like to receive a free set of these maps, he should make a request to Monks Wood enclosing an addressed envelope 12½ x 14 and 37p to cover postage.
- c. If your name and/or address is incorrect on the envelope bringing you this newsletter, please let Monks Wood know the necessary corrections.
- d. Your registered number is included on the following list. (Please note that this number is for use <u>only</u> with the Spider Recording Scheme; if you participate in other BRC schemes, your code number for them will be different.)

Now that the evenings are longer and the short winter days limit your fieldwork, perhaps you will be able to find some time to complete a good batch of record cards. There is no hurry to send them to the Area Organizer, but I am sure that he will be pleased to receive any that you have completed before he gets involved with his own fieldwork next spring.

If you know of any arachnologist who has not yet joined the scheme, I hope you will encourage him or her to do so and increase our coverage of the country.

Since the first list of Area Organizers reached you, there have been a number of changes and additions. These are:

Bedfordshire: Mr Tom J Thomas, 142 Selbourne Road, Luton, Beds

South Scotland: Dr Chris Topping, Department of Agricultural Biology, The

University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU

Isle of Man: Dr John Dalingwater, Department of Environmental Biology,

Williamson Building, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Cambridgeshire: Dr Eric Duffey, Cergne House, Church Lane, Wadenhoe,

Peterborough PE8 5ST

There are, as yet, no Area Organizers for Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands and Warwick, the Scilly Isles and the Isle of Wight. Offers to take on these areas would be most welcome. We are in the process of appointing the AO for Essex.

We are grateful to all those who have made the launch of the Spider Recording Scheme so successful, and we are now ready to build on such a secure foundation. At the same time, we are encouraged to know that the Council of the British Arachnological Society, under the enthusiastic guidance of Dr Mike Roberts, has recently taken steps to help and encourage the Society's members living in Britain.

Spider Recording Scheme mailing list

(The registered number on the left is for use solely with spider recording cards; code numbers for other BRC schemes will be different.)

Registered number

110,110,	,01	
4 0	ABERNETHY, Mr D C	North Beeches, Bluehouse Lane, Limpsfield, Surrey RH8 OAP
76	*ALEXANDER. Dr K N A	National Trust, Spitalgate Lane, Cirencester, Glos GL7 2DE
10	ALLISON, Mr R	The Laurels, Manchester Road, Sway, Lymington, Hants SO4 OAS
41	ASKINS, Mr M	47D Upper Court Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8RE
42	AXWORTHY, Mr D	51 Stormont Road, Garston, Liverpool L19 1QG
43	BEAUMONT, Mr D	Department of Geography and History, Forster Building, Sunderland Polytechnic, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear
21	BEE, Mr L	1 Charnwood Grove, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 7NT
44	BLAKE, Mr R F	94 Beamish Road, Canford Heath, Poole, Dorset BH17 7SJ
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5	BUTLER, Dr C G	Silver Birches, Lower Porthpean, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6AU
26	CATLEY, Mr K	Brynteg, Mount Walk, Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7DB
47	CHERRETT, Dr J M	University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2UW
48	COCKERILL, Mr R F	4 Castlewood Cottages, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powis, South Glamorgan CF6 4AN
9	COLEMAN, Mr R B	44 Roman Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire
17	COWDEN, Dr D R	29 Constance Road, Worcester WR3 7NF
19	CROCKER, Mr J	34 Bramcote Road, Loughborough, Leics LE11 2SA
26	DALINGWATER, Dr J	Department of Environmental Biology, Williamson Building, Manchester M13 9PL
20	DOBSON, Mr S	Moor Edge, Birch Vale, Via Stockport SK12 5BX
18	DUFFEY, Dr E	Cergne House, Church Street, Wadenhoe, Peterborough PE8 5ST
49	EMMETT, Mr E E	Beck House, Hornby Road, Caton, Lancaster LA2 9QR
8	FARR-COX, Mr F	1 Winchester Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1HY
23	FELTON, Mr C	c/o Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museums on Merseyside, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN
25	FULTON, Mr M J	26 Peregrine Road, Bosdenfold Estate, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire

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2	MERRETT, Dr P	Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Furzebrook
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		CO1 2EG
24	RUSHTON, Dr S P	Department of Agricultural Zoology, The University,
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66	SELDEN, Dr P A	Staff Tutor in Earth Sciences, University of
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^{*} New since previous list sent to recorders and Area Organizers

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