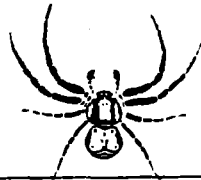


British Arachnological Society



NEWSLETTER No 6

MAY 1990

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SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

Thank you to all the Members of the Spider Recording Scheme for their continuing support and activity. An indication of progress during the past year is contained in the numbers of completed SRS cards that have been sent in:

	April 1989	April 1990
RA65 cards	3675	6029
GEN7 cards	-	302
GEN13 cards	-	130
GEN14 cards	100	184

The enclosed map shows the uneven distribution of RA65 submissions throughout Britain. If a further analysis of records is made, it is clear that in each vice-county there are considerable areas that are practically unrecorded. Vice-county maps, indicating coverage on a 10Km square basis, have been sent to each Area Organiser this year, and they are in a position to tell individual Recorders where there is greatest need for active recording.

UNDER-RECORDED 10Km SQUARES

For the next year or so, S.R.S. Recorders are asked if they will help in the task of making records in under-recorded 10Km squares in their area. The following suggestions might help in planning:

- a. Get in touch with your Area Organiser, who can tell you the areas that require attention. Alternatively, the National Organiser can supply you with vice-county maps indicating the current RA65 coverage - please include a stamped, addressed envelope for your reply.
- b. Refer to O.S. maps (1:50,000) Landranger Series, to determine the variety of probable habitat in the selected 10Km square(s), and note in particular areas of woodland, heath, bog, coast, quarry, etc.
- c. Record spiders in each habitat in your selected square in spring, summer and autumn/winter, perhaps using a variety of collecting techniques.
- d. If your Area Organiser is working along these lines, please help him all you can. If you are tackling the problem independently, it might be wise to inform your area organiser so as to avoid duplication.

Last year, the national organiser tried out this technique in a square in East Yorkshire for which no previous records existed; by the end of the year, just over 150 species of spider had been recorded.

AREA ORGANISERS

An up-to-date list of Area Organisers, with their areas of responsibility and their addresses is included in this Newsletter. Please note the considerable number of changes that have occurred since the S.R.S. was founded in 1987. Completed cards should normally be sent to the appropriate Area Organiser, but in the case of scattered records (as you might obtain while on holiday) the cards may be sent direct to the national organiser.

The S.R.S. and the B.A.S.

The British Arachnological Society can be regarded as the parent body of the Spider Recording Scheme, while the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood plays a complementary and equally important role in the activities of the S.R.S. At a Council Meeting of the B.A.S. held at Losehill in Derbyshire in April 1990, a brief discussion developed on the role of the S.R.S. in the context of the over-all activities of the B.A.S. and the following points are among those that arose from the discussion:

- a. On the assumption that the proposed Atlas of British Spiders (in 1997) is to be associated with the B.A.S. it was agreed that the latter should pay a more positive role in forwarding the work of the S.R.S. Of the 250 British members of the B.A.S., only 85 are S.R.S. recorders, and there must be a lot of information held by B.A.S. members that is not at present available to the S.R.S. It was agreed to publicise the S.R.S. more widely in B.A.S. Newsletters and in other information outlets.
- b. Dr Steve Rushton, a B.A.S. Council Member, agreed to help with the production of the S.R.S. Newsletter.
- c. Mr Craig Slawson agreed to act as adviser on computer recording by S.R.S. members. He will develop a policy in conjunction with Mr Brian Eversham of the B.R.C. Monks Wood, so that computer records submitted by recorders can be checked for accuracy of identification, completeness of data, etc. Attention will also be paid to the compatibility of computer systems.
- d. The B.A.S. agreed to make a small annual grant towards postal and other expenses incurred by the S.R.S. At present, the B.R.C. meets all expenses concerned with the production and distribution of the S.R.S. Newsletter, the printing and distribution of record cards etc.
- e. Consideration is to be given to the possibility of producing four Newsletters a year, with the contents more widely based than previously. Recorders are therefore invited to send short contributions for future Newsletters on matters directly concerned with spider recording in its broadest sense.

S.R.S. WEEKEND COURSE IN THE FOREST OF DEAN.

After the successful weekend course last summer in Northumbria, this year's course is being held on the weekend of September 14th to 16th at Littledean House Hotel, Littledean, Forest of Dean, Gloucs. GL14 3JT (tel. Dean (0594) 22106). Already 20 people have booked and there is still room for more. Full board and lodging from Friday dinner to Sunday afternoon will cost about £40 per person.

Gloucestershire is a county where little spider recording has been undertaken and it is planned to divide the S.R.S. party into small groups to cover as many sites as possible on the Saturday and Sunday morning, but on Saturday evening there will be an opportunity to discuss S.R.S. matters or to exchange views on collecting techniques, identification problems, etc. Please book through Mr Francis Farr-Cox of 1 Winchester Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1HY (with a deposit of £10.00 per person) as soon as possible, or direct to the hotel mentioning that you will form part of the S.R.S. party.

THE USE OF GEN7 CARDS

An increasing number of recorders are using GEN7 card (each card records a single species, taken from a number of sites on a number of occasions). These cards should not replace the use of RA65 that are concerned with recording all species taken at a single site on a single occasion. GEN7 cards are most useful to record isolated observations, and can be cumulative over a number of years. They are often used for extracting historical records from journals, or recording specimens in a museum collection.

Why not start a set of GEN7 cards and send them in when data for the proposed Atlas is to be sent to Monks Wood? Cards for this purpose should be ordered direct from Mr Brian Eversham, Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 2LS.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New S.R.S. Members:

105 Mr M N Pugh, 204 Bills Lane, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands. B90 1PJ

106 Ms Isobel Howe, 8 Laurel Bank, Lower Wyke, Bradford. BD12 9AQ

Changes of address:

32 Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters, 13 Adelaid Street, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 2EN

79 Dr Chris J Topping, Institute of Horticultural Research, Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex. BN17 6LP

84 Mr M B Davidson, 25 Rutherford Folds, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. AB5 9JH.

Changes in Area Organisers:

Dr Eric Duffey, Mr Clive Hambler and Mr Dick Jones have resigned as Area organisers and merit our thanks for the work that they have done. The following have become Area Organisers:

Miss Isobel Baldwin is now AO for South-East Scotland

Dr Chris Topping is now AO for Sussex

Mr David J R Haigh has taken over as AO for Gloucestershire

Mr Mike Taylor is now AO for Worcestershire and Shropshire

Mr Roy Kent is now responsible for Lincolnshire

Mr David Beaumont is AO for a large part of S.W. Scotland

Mr Mike Davidson is AO for an area including Aberdeen.

Congratulations and thanks go to:

Mr Martin Askins (AO Surrey) for a big increase in RA65s for his area -
from 94 in 1989 to 162 this year so far.

Mr Peter Harvey (AO Essex) and Mr R Ruffel for boosting the numbers of RA65
as follows S. Essex (136 to 193), N. Essex (102 to 206)
and E. Suffolk (29 to 94)

Mr Tony White (AO Northants) for an increase of RA65s this year from 44 to
111.

Mr Craig Slawson (AO Staffs) for an increase from 155 to 265 RA65s, and a
set of 123 GEN13 involving county records.

Mr Mike Davidson (AO Aberdeen area) for big RA65 increases.

Mr Jim Stewart (AO E Central Scotland) for extracting Dundee Museum data.

Mr David Beaumont for recording a ♂ Pardosa sp. while collecting on Islay:
so far it has defeated recognition by British
arachnologists and is now being studied by Scandinavian
experts.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF S.R.S. AREA ORGANISERS : January 1990

<u>Vice-County Number and Name</u>	<u>Name and address of Area Organiser</u>
1 & 2 Cornwall	Dr Colin G Butler, Silver Birches, Lower Porthpean, St. Austell, Cornwall PL26 6AU
Scilly Isles	Dr Trevor Hughes, Rimes House, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxon OX13 5AY
3 & 4 Devon	Mr Peter Smithers, 40 Copperfields, Horrabridge, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7UB
5 & 6 Somerset	Mr Francis Farr-Cox, 1 Winchester Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1HY
7 & 8 Wiltshire	Mr Richard B Coleman, 44 Roman Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
9 Dorset	Mr Rowley Snazell, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Furzebrook Research Station, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AS
10, 11 & 12 Hampshire & Isle of Wight	Mr Rod Allison, The Laurels, Manchester Road, Sway, Lymington, Hants SO4 OAS
13 & 14 Sussex	Dr Chris Topping, Institute of Hort. Research, Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6LP
15 & 16 Kent	Mr E G Philp, 6 Vicarage Close, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BB
17 Surrey	Mr Martin Askins, 47D Upper Court Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8RE
18 & 19 Essex	Mr Peter Harvey, 9 Kent Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6DE
20 Herts	Mr David R Nellist, 198A Park Street Lane, Park Street, St Albans, Herts AL2 2AQ
21 Middlesex	Mr J Edward D Milner, 80 Weston Park, London N8 9TB
22, 23 & 24 Berks, Oxon, Bucks	
25 & 26 Suffolk	
27 & 28 Norfolk	Ms Deborah Procter, NCC, 60 Bracondale, Norwich NR1 2BE
29 Cambridge	

30 & 31 Bedford & Huntingdon	Mr T J Thomas, 142 Selbourne Road, Luton, Beds.
32 Northampton	Mr A J White, 25 Shelsley Drive, Parklands, Northampton NN3 1ET
33 & 34 Gloucester	Mr David J R Haigh, Merrivale, 27 St Luke's Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7SF
35 Monmouth	Ms Cynthia Merrett, Dept of Zoology, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP
36 Hereford	
37 Worcester	Mr Mike Taylor, The Willows, Lye Head, Rock, Bewdley, Worcs
38 Warwick	
39 Stafford	Mr G Craig Slawson, 20 Queens Road, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7LJ
40 Shropshire	Mr Mike Taylor (as for 37, Worcs)
41 Glamorgan	Ms Cynthia Merrett (as for 35, Monmouth)
42, 43, 44, 45, 46 & 47 South & Central Wales	Mr Kefyn Catley, Brynteg, Mount Walk, Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7DB
48, 49, 50, 51 & 52 North Wales	Mr Mike Fulton, 26 Peregrine Road, Bosdenfold Estate, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire
53 & 54 Lincs	Mr Roy Kent, 'Stonehaven', Station Road, Sturton, Brigg, South Humberside DN20 9DJ
55 Leics & Rutland	Mr John Crocker, 34 Bramcote Road, Loughborough, Leics LE11 2SA
56 Nottingham	Mr Lawrence Bee, 1 Charnwood Grove, West Bridgeford, Notts NG2 7NT
57 Derby	Mr Stanley Dobson, Moor Edge, Birch Vale, via Stockport SK12 5BX
58 Cheshire	Mr Mike Fulton (as for 48 etc., North Wales)
59 & 60 Lancashire	Mr Chris Felton, c/o Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN
61, 62, 63, 64 & 65 Yorkshire	Mr Clifford J Smith, 7 Malton Way, Clifton, York YO3 6SG

66, 67 & 68 Durham & Northumberland	Dr Steve Rushton, Dept of Agricultural Zoology, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU
69 & 70 Westmorland & Cumberland	Mr John R Parker, Stone Raise, 42 Lakeland Park, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4AT
71 Isle of Man	Dr John Dalingwater, Dept. of Environmental Biology, Williamson Building, Manchester M13 9PL
 SCOTLAND	
72, 78, 79, 80 & 81 South-East Scotland	Miss Isobel Baldwin, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF
82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87 88, 89, 90, 98 & 102 East Central Scotland	Mr Jim A Stewart, 109 Greenbank Crescent, Edinburgh EH10 5TA
73, 74, 75, 76, 77 99, 100 & 101 South-West Scotland	Mr David Beaumont, Flat 8, 9 Lorraine Road, Dowanhill, Glasgow G12 9NZ
91, 92, 93, 94 & 95	Mr M B Davidson, 25 Rutherford Folds, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB5 9JH
96, 97 and 103	Mrs Claire Geddes, 1 Groom Farm Cottages, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7PB
104, 105, 106, 107, 108 109, 110, 111 & 112	Mr David Horsfield, c/o Nature Conservancy Council, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS

In cases where there is no Area Organiser named, correspondence should be sent to Clifford J. Smith of 7 Malton Way, Clifton, York YO3 6SG (Tel. 0904 625928)

