

Spider Recording Scheme News

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Editorial

by Richard Gallon

Spider recording in Britain is always interesting. As a species-rich group there's always the potential to make exciting, new regional finds. This is no better illustrated than by the recent discoveries of *Erigone dentosa*, *Evarcha jucunda* and *Leptorchestes berlinensis* reported in this issue of the SRS News – new species to Britain.

Given the circumstances of these recent discoveries, it might well inspire recorders to visit garden centres and other synanthropic sites. Will these species establish and become widespread in Britain? These are questions that you as a spider recorder can help to answer.

I guess many of us have backlogs of species records to send to the SRS. Winter evenings provide an excellent opportunity to catch up on digitising and submitting your records to the SRS, whether this is by Excel or MapMate synchs.

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***Erigone dentosa* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1894 – First Records for the United Kingdom from Cornwall, Middlesex and Wiltshire**

by Tylan Berry

In May 2020 a small vacuum sample of *Erigone* was taken from a portion of undercliff at St. Anthony Head opposite Falmouth, Cornwall. The majority of specimens collected were the expected *E. atra* and *E. dentipalpis*, however one of the females in the sample proved problematic in its identification; the epigyne not matching any of the illustrations for currently known British species. The best match appeared to be *E. longipalpis*, though the unknown spider was distinctly smaller than vouchers of *E. longipalpis*, and the spermathecae were positioned differently (Figure 1). Further reading revealed *E. dentosa*, an alien species to Europe that originates from the Americas and has now been recorded from a handful of countries in Northern Europe (Arco *et al.*, 2019; Unruh, 2020). After much deliberation and consultation with linyphiid experts from the UK and the USA, it was agreed that the specimen was indeed *E. dentosa*.

Fast-forward to June 2021 and another potential sighting had come to light, this time a male, at a garden centre in Middlesex where the spider was found on a trolley loaded with potted plants. Photos certainly indicated a different palpal morphology to any UK species and upon receipt of the specimen for identification, it was a clear match for *E. dentosa*. Two further males have subsequently come to light at this location and, in April 2022, a male and female were both collected from two separate packets of strawberries that were purchased at a

supermarket in Devizes, Wiltshire. The strawberries originated from Spain where the spider is known to be established (Gomez *et al.*, 2021).

It is likely that the Middlesex specimens have been transported to the country via imported plants, which is often the case for non-native spider records (Nentwig, 2015; Hänggi & Straub, 2016). This particular garden centre is already known for producing a large assemblage of non-native or glasshouse related species, many newly recorded to the country and even the continent (Logunov & Popovici, 2021). Further searches both inside and outside the centre should be undertaken to ascertain whether *E. dentosa* has managed to establish itself as a breeding species at this location.

As for the original Cornish female, it is difficult to determine the origin of the spider. A possible explanation is that it was a stowaway on a cargo ship because, at the time of finding, there was a large backlog of immobile ships waiting for dock space at Falmouth, an issue caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequent visits to the site have failed to find further specimens, though it is suggested that searches be carried out in and around Falmouth itself. If there is an extant population locally, this is likely to be its location.

Notes on Identification

The epigyne of the female is visually similar to that of *E. longipalpis*, with an epigynal plate that appears to taper to a smooth point posteriorly rather than having an indentation in the posterior margin, as seen in many species of *Erigone*. The anteriorly protruding spermathecae are widely spaced, more so than in *E. longipalpis*, and set more obliquely to one another; their outer edges meeting or exceeding the plane of the lateral margins of the epigynal plate (Figure 2).

The palp of the male is distinctive amongst other species of *Erigone* currently known from the UK as there is a curved ventral spine medially on the patella. There is



Figure 1. The epigyne of a female *Erigone dentosa* from Cornwall. The widely spaced spermathecae are visible through the cuticle. © Tylan Berry.

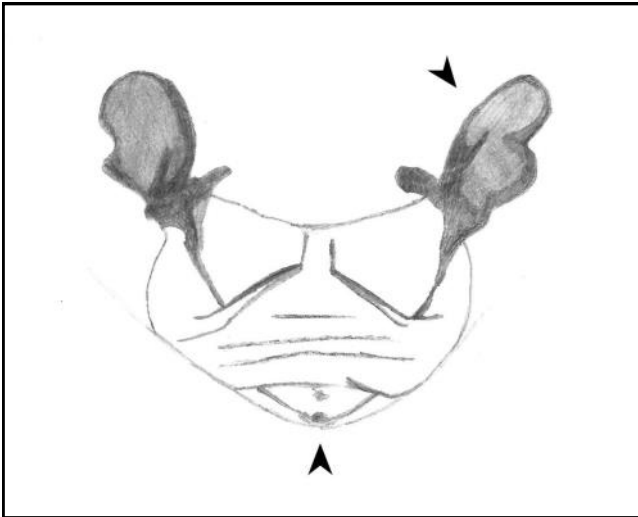


Figure 2. Dissected female vulva of *Erigone dentosa*, indicating the position of the spermathecae and the shape of the posterior margin (arrowed). © T. Berry.

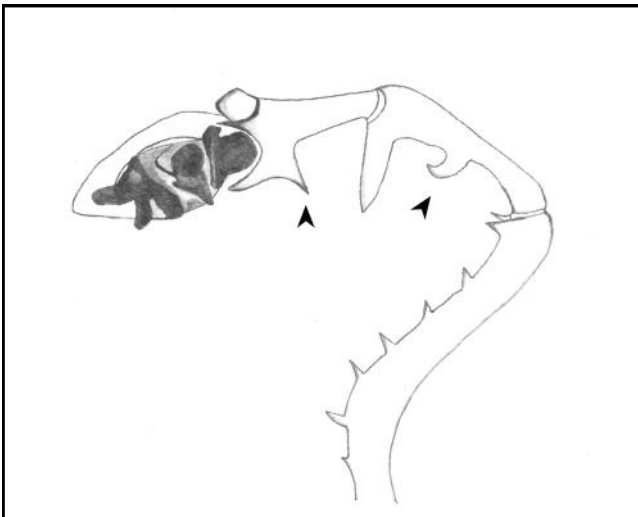


Figure 3. *Erigone dentosa* palp indicating the ventral teeth on the patella and tibia (arrowed). © Tylan Berry.

also a tooth ventrally on the tibia which, in the specimens studied, is noticeably longer than in *E. dentipalpis* and *E. promiscua* (Figure 3). However, as with all male species of *Erigone*, the form of the tibia combined with the morphology of the palpal bulb is key to confident identification (Roberts, 1987).

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Peter Merrett, Peter Harvey, Matt Prince and Marc Milne for helping to confirm the identification of the initial female specimen. Many thanks to Gen Popovici for swiftly sending male specimens from Middlesex for confirmation and for keeping me informed of any further individuals that have appeared, and to Mariska Hattenberger for holding the Wiltshire specimens safe for me until I was able to receive them for confirmation.

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A New Site for *Calositticus inexpectus*

by Alice Bennett-West

On 14th February this year, I was on one of my regular dog walks and stopped to search for spiders on the shingle beach at Clevedon where the river Blind Yeo meets the Bristol Channel (Fig. 1).

I find lots of different species here: *Stemonyphantes lineatus*, *Dysdera crocata*, *Clubiona* spp., *Eratigena* spp., *Heliophanus* spp., *Salticus scenicus*, *Drassodes* spp. and so many more. I am always amazed at the variety of life under the stones. Then, on 14th February, I found an unusual jumping spider that looked similar to *Attulus pubescens*, but didn't seem quite right to me. It was quite a bit bigger than *A. pubescens* and the white, spot-like

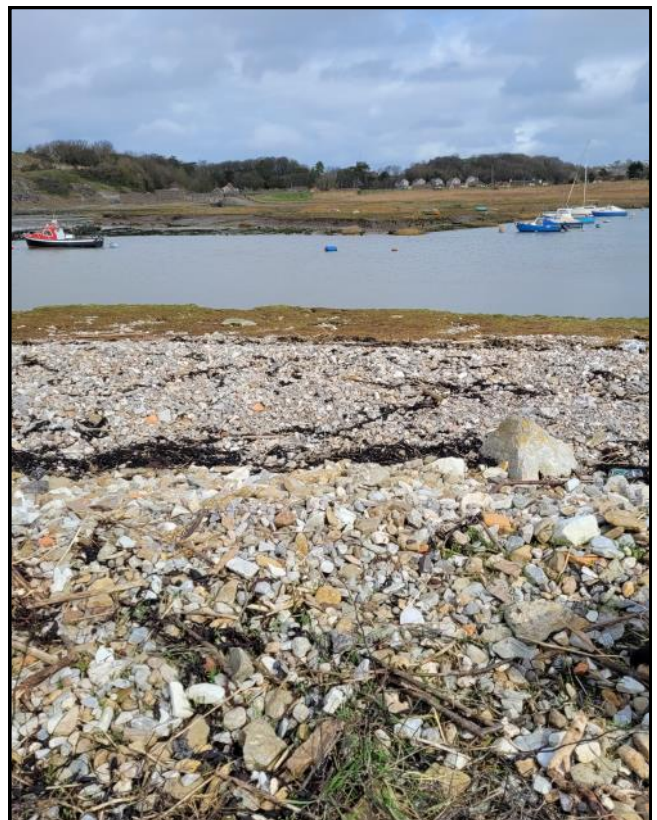


Figure 1. *Calositticus inexpectus* beach habitat. © Alice Bennett-West.



Figure 2. Original, deceased *Calositticus inexpectus*. © Alice Bennett-West.

markings on its back weren't as obvious. It was sadly deceased, so I put it in a pot and brought it home for closer inspection (Fig. 2). Looking in my copy of *Britain's Spiders* it seemed to most closely resemble *Calositticus inexpectus*, a Nationally Scarce species. My equipment and 'gen det' abilities are still pretty basic, so I contacted Tylan Berry and he agreed to look at the specimen for me. Unfortunately he discovered it was a sub-adult so couldn't identify the specimen with certainty, but he thought the developing epigyne was consistent with that of *C. inexpectus*. I made it my mission to find more specimens and to secure an adult for confirmation.

Two more were found on 9th March, three on 12th March and a further three on 17th March. The beach isn't very big but, given its size, it seemed possible that there might be a fair number of them. As it was on a regular walk, I would stop and search for ten minutes and each time would find more. I began to learn the best places to look for them, as they weren't out in the open like other Salticidae I find there, such as *Salticus scenicus* and *Heliophanus* spp.. *Calositticus inexpectus* were always hidden away, some better than others! They would generally create retreats in gaps in stones, shells and twigs, although some were just on the underside of stones (Fig. 3). I also found that they would share retreats (Fig. 4).

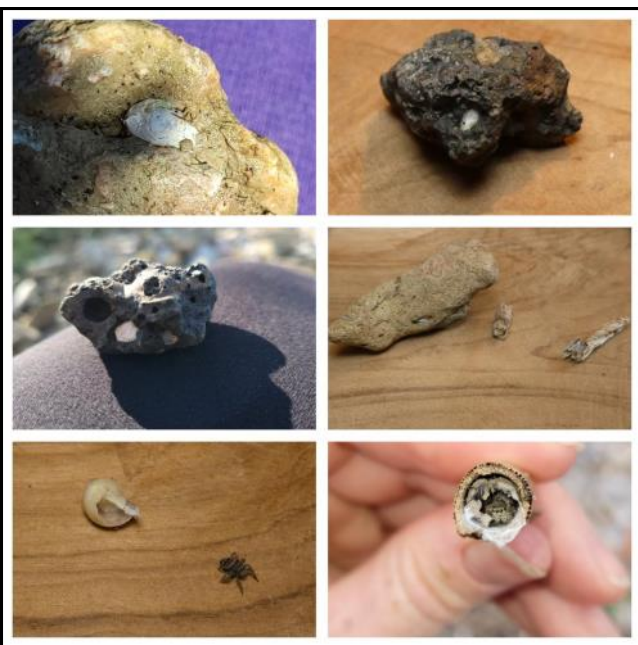


Figure 3. *Calositticus inexpectus* silk retreats on rocks, in shells and within hollow twigs. © A. Bennett-West.



Figure 4. Two female *Calositticus inexpectus* sharing a shell. © Alice Bennett-West.



Figure 5. Gravid female *Calositticus inexpectus* in retreat within twig. © Alice Bennett-West.



Figure 6. Gravid female *Calositticus inexpectus*. © Alice Bennett-West.

Then, in the second half of April, I suddenly found a lot more, several being females with egg-sacs. These were all inside hollow sticks, of which there are many on the beach, especially in the tidal litter. It has still been tricky finding adult males, although I did find a couple that had been partially eaten on the outside of the egg-sac retreats, so perhaps the female eats the male after copulation.

I found a female inside one of the sticks and was impressed by the thickness of the silk she had used to seal the entrance (Fig. 5). This silk seal is very dense, strong and waterproof. She looked gravid and was a very good size. The ruler I use to measure spiders used to be my

dad's (Fig. 6). He passed away a couple of years ago and learning about spiders helped me come to terms with his death, so I always feel connected to him by using his old wooden ruler.

I also found two deceased females, but this turned out to be a good thing as they were both adults, so I sent them to Tylan. On 29th April, Tylan messaged me to confirm what I had hoped, these spiders were indeed *Calositticus inexpectus*. I am so excited to know that there is a thriving population here and that I've had the opportunity to learn a bit more about them. Hopefully this will also be brilliant in terms of their conservation and further visits may uncover additional interesting species at the site. Watch this space!

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A Record of the Jumping Spider *Evarcha jucunda* (Lucas, 1846) from Hampstead, Middlesex (VC 21) (Araneae: Salticidae)

by David Carr

Since February 2022, I have been undertaking spider surveys at University College School (UCS), Frognal, Hampstead, Middlesex (TQ2655) during the school holidays. The site consists of the school buildings, walled gardens with terraced shrubberies and several fruit trees. Branches of some mature Yew trees in a neighbouring property overhang the garden walls on the northern side of the site. It was by beating these branches on the 31st August 2022, that I collected an adult female salticid. I did not pay much attention to it, as due to its general size, shape and coloration, I presumed it to be *Macaroeis nidicolens* (Walckenaer, 1802), a species that I have encountered on several occasions at Wanstead Flats (TQ4086) in Essex.

Looking at the spider later, under a microscope, it was apparent that this was a species unfamiliar to me. Reference was made to the *Araneae, Spiders of Europe* website (Nentwig *et al.*, 2022) which led to me identifying this spider as *Evarcha jucunda*. The text on the page for this species describes it as Mediterranean and states that occurrences in Belgium and Germany relate to introductions with transported fruit from the Mediterranean region. Peter Harvey kindly checked and confirmed my identification.

I contacted Olivier Villepoux requesting information regarding the current distribution status of this species in France. He informed me that *Evarcha jucunda* remains a strictly southern species in France and he was of the opinion that this record related to an import (O. Villepoux, pers. comm.). A return visit on 10th September 2022 failed to produce any further specimens. At the time of writing, this species is not included on the list of non-native British Arachnids, available on the Spider Recording Scheme website (SRS, 2022).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Peter Harvey for checking and confirming my identification, Olivier Villepoux for providing very useful information relating to the current distribution status of *Evarcha jucunda* in France and Noel Brock of Frognal Gardens Ltd. for facilitating the surveys at UCS and the staff at UCS for granting permission to survey there during the school holidays. Thanks also to Noel Brock for allowing the use of his photograph.



Figure 2. *Evarcha jucunda* adult female. UCS, Frognal, Hampstead, Middlesex. © Noel Brock.

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Some Recent New Spider Vice-county Records for Dorset, Hertfordshire and Middlesex (VCs 9, 20 and 21)

by David Carr

Dorset (VC 9)

*Zodarion italicum** (Canestrini, 1868). On 3rd July 2022, I visited Perryfield Quarry, Portland, with the intention of photographing butterflies. Next to the steps from the car park, leading up to the top level of the quarry (SY696712), my sister (who was accompanying me) drew my attention to a spider that was running on some dry, compacted leaf litter. My initial impression, from a distance, was that it was a species of the genus *Micaria*. After pooting and transferring it to a glass tube, examination with a hand lens revealed it to be an adult male *Zodarion* species. I later identified it as *Zodarion italicum*. This record appears currently to be the furthest west in the UK.

Hertfordshire (VC 20)

*Diplocephalus graecus** (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872). Sweeping the ground flora in a narrow strip of deciduous woodland along Notley Lane, Sandon Bury (TL3334) on 13th April 2022 produced a female of this species. The site is a sunken lane between mature hedgerows and small patches of deciduous woodland. The lane runs between extensive arable fields.

Mermessus trilobatus (Emerton, 1882). Cockrobin Lane, Gilston (TL4313) is a similar site to that described above where *D. graecus* was recorded, however, here a stream runs next to the lane. Sieving litter and moss on the bank of this stream on 17th November 2021 produced several linyphiids, among them, a male* of this species. A male and female were subsequently found by grubbing among grass stems on 17th April 2022 at High Leigh, near Hoddesdon (TL3608), a parkland site.

Allomengea vidua (L. Koch, 1879). During the early 1990s, I found this species to be fairly numerous at two small sedge marshes next to the River Stort in Harlow, N. Essex (VC 19). On 5th August 2022, I decided to see whether it was present at Hollingson Meads (TL4512),

another sedge marsh on the Hertfordshire side of the river, approximately 1 km, in a straight line, from the closest Harlow site. Hopes were not high as the “status” section of the account for this species on the Spider Recording Scheme website mentions that it appears to have suffered major decline. A random area of the marsh was chosen to start searching and very quickly, three males and a female were found.

***Clubiona subtilis* L. Koch, 1867.** A male* was sieved from moss in a small area of Hawthorn and Blackthorn scrub along Hare Street Road, near Buntingford (TL3829) on 25th March 2022. Subsequently, a female was collected from litter in a very small *Phragmites* bed at Spitalbrook, a Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) brownfield site (TL3706) (there is no public access to this site) near Broxbourne on 19th May 2022, and a male and two females from sedge beds at Purwell Ninesprings Nature Reserve (TL2029) on 21st August 2022.

***Sibianor aurocinctus* (Ohlert, 1865).** A male was found on an area of lichen heath at the above Spitalbrook, LVRPA site on 26th May 2022.

Middlesex (VC 21)

***Phycosoma inornatum* (O. P. -Cambridge, 1861).** I have been undertaking spider surveys during the school holidays, at University College School (UCS), Frognal, Hampstead (TQ2655) since February 2022. The school building, grounds and walled garden have a history dating back to 1907, in which year the construction of the school was completed. Brushing some ivy, growing on a low retaining wall, over my sweep net produced an adult female of this species on 27th July 2022.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Peter Harvey for confirming my identifications of the species marked with an asterisk, Dawn Richardson of LVRPA for granting me permission to survey at the Spitalbrook site, Noel Brock of Frognal Gardens Ltd. for facilitating the surveys at UCS and the staff at UCS for granting permission to survey there during the school holidays.

Reference

Spider Recording Scheme 2022. *Spider Recording Scheme*, online at: srs.britishspiders.org.uk

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***Marpissa nivoyi* Musings**

by Tone Killick

I found *Marpissa nivoyi* for the first time on 16th April 2022 at Berrow Dunes, Somerset ST292534. I remember the first one I found and lost as I was on my hands and knees with my head buried in a clump of Marram grass. It was instantly recognisable with its flattened, elongated abdomen and large robust front legs. I cannot lie, my excitement was palpable when I saw the tiny spider at the base of the Marram and I scrambled about trying to suck it up with my pooter, but the spider proved to be a far superior opponent and my defeat was ignominious! Guttered would, at that time, have been the understatement of the year. After licking my wounds, I continued my search with little hope of finding any more specimens.



Figure 1. Adult female *Marpissa nivoyi*.
© Tone Killick.



Figure 2. Adult female *Marpissa nivoyi*.
© Tone Killick.

However, it seemed the Fates were with me and I did find two more of these wonderful little spiders. In April, all the specimens were tiny and obviously juveniles and I planned to return to Berrow later in the year.

Fast forward to 27th August 2022. The day was scorching hot at Berrow and my first port of call was the ubiquitous Marram grass, home to a whole wealth of invertebrates. Choosing a huge clump of grass that was overhanging a sand dune, I gave it a vigorous shake over my collecting tray and hit the jackpot! There in my tray was an adult male, albeit minus one of those robust front legs, and if there was a photo of my face at that time, it would have shown a very happy chappy indeed. By the end of the day I had found several adult females (Figs. 1 & 2) and countless juveniles and could be forgiven for my little celebratory dance amongst the dunes, however manic it may have seemed to anyone passing by.

So what do we know about these little jumping spiders? The spider was first recorded in 1846 by the wonderfully named French entomologist Peirre-Hippolyte Lucas (Fig. 3) and first recorded in Britain in 1906 by Dr Arthur Randell Jackson at Aberavon. *Marpissa nivoyi* is a Nationally Scarce species that is presently Amber listed because of its apparent decline (Harvey *et al.*, 2017). Being pretty much exclusively restricted to coastal dune systems, their hunting grounds are amongst the slender stems of Marram grass which, as mentioned previously, contain a wealth of invertebrate prey to sustain the spider throughout its life. They are small, with females around 6 mm tops and the males at 5 mm (Fig. 4). Now to discover the etymology behind the spider’s specific name, a

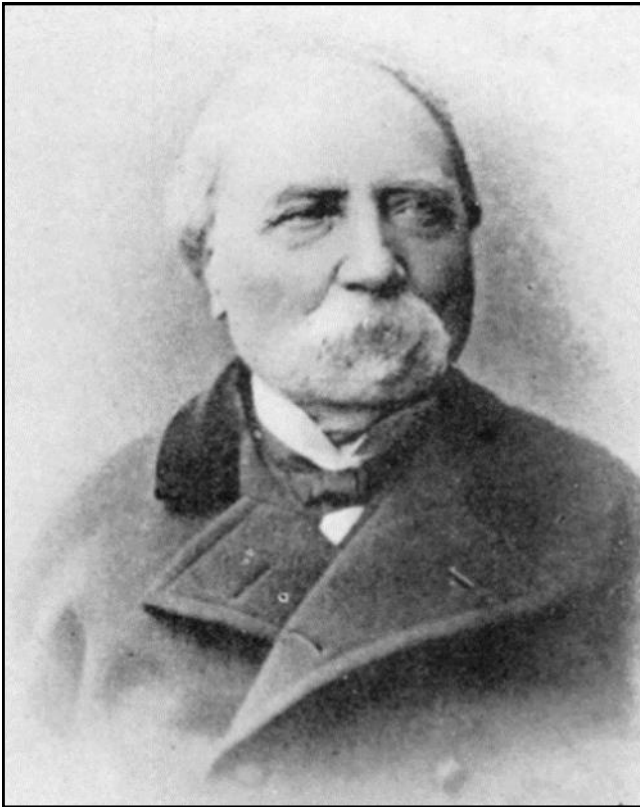


Figure 3. Peirre-Hippolyte Lucus.



Figure 4. Typical size of an adult female *Marpissa nivoyi*. © Tone Killick.

process which I find fulfilling and frustrating in equal parts. I knew that *nivoyi* was likely a patronym, but who was Nivoy? I found Pierre-Hippolyte Lucus's original paper that mentioned the species but it was proving to be a gruelling affair trying to translate it from French. I then posted a call for help on Twitter and within a very short time was sent a paper by Tim Jonas (thanks Tim!) and the mystery was solved. Between 1840 and 1843, Peirre-Hippolyte Lucus was part of a scientific exploration to Algiers and *Marpissa nivoyi* was found for the first time on the land of a Franco-Algerian, Monsieur de Nivoy (Breitling *et al.*, 2020). Interestingly, in the UK, the species is commonly known as the Dune Jumping spider but in Germany the species is known as Nivoy's Stretch Jumping spider/Nivoy's Jumping spider. Personally, I think I prefer the latter name myself.

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Levitating *Agelena labyrinthica*

by Tone Killick

Back on the 10th July 2022 I was grubbing around the local balancing pond when I came across a thick silken tube that stood out like a sore thumb on the spear thistle it was attached to. As I took a closer look, out dashed a Labyrinth spider *Agelena labyrinthica* and, as if by magic, it appeared to be running in mid air! It was only after closer scrutiny that I noticed that rather than a levitating spider, in the vein of David Copperfield, the spider was running on a sheet of extremely fine silk; it was so fine that it was barely discernible (Fig. 1).

This was unusual as *Agelena labyrinthica* are known for their impressive and extensive sheet webs, which can extend to a couple of feet in length in the right habitat and have numerous anchor and barrage threads. Those barrage threads are a wonderful design and aid in capturing flying insects that inadvertently crash into them, sending the hapless victim plummeting into the spider's web. There is then a small problem as the sheet web is of a non-sticky silk, so the Labyrinth spider must act fast once prey makes contact lest its dinner flies away. This leads us to another challenge, the Labyrinth spider is a short sighted creature and, although it would feel the vibrations once its prey hit the sheet web, facing the correct direction is paramount to a successful capture.

Let's go through a sequence of events: the Labyrinth spider is on its web applying copious amounts of silk to the already expansive white sheet, a full time industry for this species; a fly smacks into one of the barrage threads and lands haphazardly on the Labyrinth spider's 'bed', but what happens if the spider is facing the wrong way? Even though the spider would feel the vibrations, the fly could have ample time to escape due to the silk being non adhesive, but this rarely happens because the spider never actually has its back to the fly and why is that?

To compensate for its poor vision, *A. labyrinthica* has a remarkable radar system. Adorned upon each of its legs are around 25 fine hair-like structures called trichobothria which can pick up the tiniest sound waves and thus are rightly classed as auditory hairs or even ears (Barth, 2002). It was believed at one time that the trichobothria reacted in unison, but we now know that each hair reacts independently, giving the spider a full 360° soundbite of its world. So why doesn't the spider ever have its back to the fly? You see, the trichobothria are working well before the fly ever hits the web, or even the barrage thread for that matter, giving the spider ample time to sense its potential prey and orientate itself ready to attack. Those 200 remarkable ears make the Labyrinth spider's life a success, be it capturing prey or fleeing predators.

As per usual with me, I merely began with an image of a levitating Labyrinth spider, but then ended up spending many hours looking through the literature and learning about this remarkable creature. I'll end with my all time favourite quote from the Reverend Octavius Pickard-Cambridge (1828–1917) which I've learnt off by heart



Figure 1. Labyrinth spider *Agelena labyrinthica*. © Tone Killick.

and pretty much describes my deep fascination with spiders:

“Where is the object that does not become beautiful, when seen through the lens of intelligent enquiry.”

Reference

Barth, F. G. 2002. *A Spider's World: Senses and Behavior*. Springer.

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***Leptorchestes berolinensis* New to Britain**

by Jon Daws

At the end of November 2021 my family and I moved to a small village called Hogsthorpe about seven miles north of Skegness, Lincolnshire (TF535717) and just under a couple of miles inland. On the 14th May 2022, whilst gardening, a movement from a pile of plant pots and saucers caught my eye. Initially I thought it was an ichneumon wasp because of the way it moved along the lip of a plant pot, but when it jumped I realised I was looking at a jumping spider. I knew I couldn't catch the spider by hand so I shot off to the garage to get my pooter and a couple of glass tubes. On returning to the back yard it took several minutes of searching and emptying the plant pots to rediscover the spider, then a game of cat and mouse began as a very agile spider made its bid for freedom.

Once potted up, the specimen was put to one side and Roberts' spider book consulted. There were only two spiders that matched the description for an ant mimic jumping spider in Roberts', with only one of them (on consulting the SRS website) being found in the surrounding counties. With the probability of a new

county record the specimen was put to one side for several months whilst I created an area for my microscope and paraphernalia in the garage.

By the end of August most of the garden had been put right and nearly all of the packing boxes had been emptied, freeing up enough space in the garage to create an area to look at the spiders that had been collected. To my surprise the spider didn't match the genitalia illustrations for *Synageles venator*, which only left *Myrmarachne formicaria*. With an initial identification of the later species I contacted Richard Gallon and asked for his help (which he readily agreed to). The specimen was posted to North Wales and the wait began, about a week later (due to post office strikes and Richard Gallon's diligence) Richard emailed to give the identification of *Leptorchestes berolinensis*.

Once the spider had been properly identified the internet and literature was consulted for further information. *Leptorchestes berolinensis* is adult from early summer to autumn and found throughout Europe (except in the far north) and as far east as Turkistan, with some websites even suggesting that it is an invasive species. Its usual habitat preferences of fences, walls, wood piles and on buildings fits well with where it was found. *Leptorchestes berolinensis* is written up and illustrated in the *Collins Field Guide Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe* by Michael Roberts.



Figure 1. Adult female *Leptorchestes berolinensis*, dorsal view. Scale 1 mm. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 2. Adult female *Leptorchestes berolinensis* carapace, dorsal view. Scale 1 mm. © R. Gallon.



Figure 3. Adult female *Leptorchestes berolinensis*, ventral view. Note distinctive white markings on underside of abdomen. Scale 1 mm. © R. Gallon.



Figure 4. *Leptorchestes berolinensis* abdomen, ventral view. Scale 1 mm. © Richard Gallon.

I do not know whether this is an isolated specimen or if there is a thriving population in the area, but what does seem clear from reading online is that *L. berolinensis* has probably established itself in other areas of the UK, and is just waiting to be found.

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Four Spider Species New to Wales

by Richard C. Gallon* & James McGill

In 2021–22 we have been involved with surveying spiders at SSSIs across Wales, primarily to update old records. To this end we have visited and recorded at many interesting nature reserves, and this has added four new species to the Welsh list.

Centromerus serratus (O. P. -Cambridge, 1875) & *Centromerus cavernarum* (L. Koch, 1872)

On the 20th March 2022, accompanied by Nicola Bacciu, we visited two sites on the Welsh side of the Wye Valley, with the intention of looking for rare *Centromerus* species. At Wyndcliff Wood we found females of both *C. serratus* and *C. cavernarum*, living together under large limestone scree boulders surrounded by deep Beech leaf litter (Fig. 1). These small, pallid spiders constructing diminutive dew-encrusted webs on the underside of large embedded rocks. On the same day we visited Lady Park Woods, finding both *Centromerus* spp. together under a large embedded rock (Figs. 2–3).

Minicia marginella (Wider, 1834)

In late August 2022 we spent two days surveying the Welsh parts of Bettisfield (21st) and Fenn's (22nd) Mosses. A key aim here was to find *Minicia marginella* in Wales, given that only a single immature male was

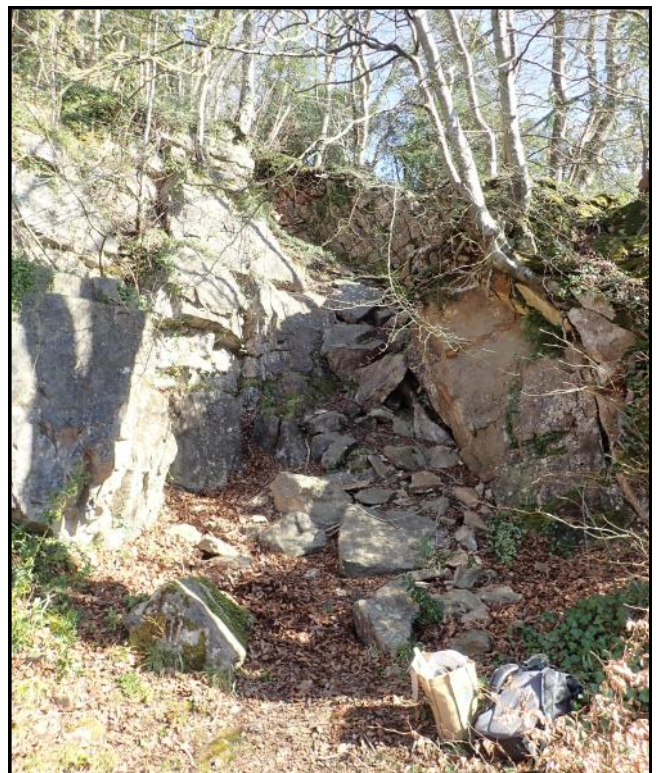


Figure 1. Limestone boulder scree at Wyndcliff Wood, Wye Valley. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 2. *Centromerus* habitat at Lady Park Woods, Wye Valley. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 3. *Centromerus cavernarum* adult female Lady Park Woods, Wye Valley. © Richard Gallon.

previously known from this raised bog complex, but from the English side. We found the species at Bettisfield (both English and Welsh sections) and numerous specimens at Fenn's Moss on an area of uncut bog called the Tumps (Fig. 4), thereby confirming that the species occurs in Wales. Our previous surveys on the Solway Mosses in November 2021 had demonstrated how numerous *M. marginella* can be on uncut raised bog, and this had successfully helped us with site selection at Fenn's Moss.



Figure 4. Uncut raised bog surface at Tumps, Fenn's Moss. Habitat of *Minicia marginella*. © R. Gallon.



Figure 5. Coastal heath on Ramsey Island where *Trichoncus saxicola* was found. © Richard Gallon.

Trichoncus saxicola (O.P.-Cambridge, 1861)

RG visited Ramsey Island on the 27th August 2022, to re-record *Lathys stigmatisata*. A vacuum sample from rocky coastal Heather heath (SM70552309) produced four adult female *Trichoncus saxicola* new to Wales (Fig. 5).

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HARVESTMAN RECORDING SCHEME NEWS

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Platybunus pinetorum (C. L. Koch, 1839) New to Wales

by Meg Skinner

The distinctive and charismatic harvestman *Platybunus pinetorum* (C. L. Koch, 1839) is a recent arrival to Britain and can be found in scattered areas of Central to Northern England and Scotland. *Platybunus pinetorum* has been frequently recorded around buildings and gardens but has also been observed in woodland and quarries. At the beginning of March this year, Chris Passer and Paul Parsons were searching for moths by torchlight in Llangynwyd, South Wales. They came across an adult *P. pinetorum* on a nearby wall and the record was submitted to the Harvestman Recording Scheme. It is the first Welsh record for this species and the furthest south, making this very notable. Many thanks to Chris and Paul for sharing their record and offering some valuable insight into the distribution and ecology of this species. This is definitely one to look out for at light traps or by night-time searching.

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