

# Spider Recording Scheme News

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SRS website: <http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk>

CUK: fah



## Editorial

by Richard Gallon

At the recent BAS Field Weekend in Northumbria the SRS tagged a few additional recording days on to the main event. Richard Wilson, John Wilkie, Jeremy Poole and I were able to visit several interesting Nature Reserves there. This was particularly useful given that this area of Britain is very poorly recorded for spiders.

Although the weather wasn't particularly good we managed to visit all the sites that Richard Wilson had kindly arranged survey permission for. Perhaps one of the highlights of this survey was finding *Pisaura mirabilis* which, although common in lowland England, is only the second Vice-county record for Northumberland North (VC68), with the previous record there having been made in 1929! Records from this event are currently being compiled and will be reported on in more detail in a future Newsletter article.

A very productive online meeting was held recently with Biological Records Centre (BRC) staff to develop a bespoke BAS Recording Schemes record entry page. Richard Burkmar at BRC has already produced a evaluation version of this data entry page which is currently being tested by Council (it isn't available yet for use). The exciting thing about this is that recorders will have the ability to enter SRS Phase-2 ecological data with their records, as well as benefiting from existing iRecord functionality such as adding photographic evidence to records and online verification.

To this end I would strongly urge all SRS Area Organisers to register themselves on iRecord (it is free), since we would like you to become iRecord spider verifiers for your own Vice-counties. Once the new iRecord form is live we will of course have online video guidance on how to use and verify records for your area. The new iRecord form will make it much easier for both experienced arachnid recorders and members of the public to submit their records to the BAS Recording Schemes.

Please visit: <https://irecord.org.uk/> to register your account.

New BAS Recording Schemes iRecord data entry form under development.

## A Review of the Scottish Records of *Tegenaria silvestris* C. L. Koch, 1872

by Mike Davidson

Pitfall trapping (30/5–5/6/2023) at the Dundee University Botanic Gardens (NO374296, VC90) produced an adult male *Tegenaria silvestris*. The trap had been set in a patch of simulated rock scree in an area dedicated to Australian/New Zealand plants.

This is only the second time I have seen this species in Scotland – the first (also a male) was found, by a colleague, in a building adjacent to Aberdeen harbour, in 2007. Peter Harvey kindly verified the specimen, which was assumed to have been accidentally imported to the building. There was no evidence of this species being present in the vicinity outdoors.

However the recording scheme map shows that there are three other Scottish records, from Dunkeld, Lintrathen and Aberdeen, all attributed to Professor J. W. H. Traill of Aberdeen University. These records all originate from his publication in *The Scottish Naturalist*: "Captures of Spiders in Scotland During 1872". He largely adopted the nomenclature of Blackwall but sent specimens for confirmation to O. P. -Cambridge, who includes several of Traill's spiders in his 1873 publication "On New and Rare British Spiders". New species included *Pardosa trilli* and *Silometopus incurvatus*.

*Tegenaria silvestris* seems an unlikely species to be in Scotland in a time before any significant climate warming. Digging back through the synonyms it appears that, when the literature record was captured for the recording scheme, Traill's records for *Tegenaria sylvicola* "near Aberdeen, Lintrathen and Dunkeld" was taken as relating to *T. silvestris*. This should in fact have been interpreted as *Cryphoea silvicola*. Traill clarified this in his 1878 paper "List of Araneidae (Spiders) of Dee" from 1878. This includes his Aberdeen record, from Hazelhead woods, and gives its identity as *Cryphoea silvicola* C. Koch (= *Tegenaria sylvicola* Bl.), a much more likely species for Traill's list.

The most northerly "modern" records (1997–2007) in England are from Southern Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Further north there are old records from J.E. Hull (1900, 1924), A. R. Jackson (1906, 1912) and O. P. -Cambridge (1912). Perhaps it is also worth verifying these records?

The Dundee Botanic Gardens specimen would appear to be the first outdoor record for this species in Scotland. The gardens are adjacent to the main rail line and it will be interesting if we can confirm an established population.

## ***Heliophanus apiatus* Simon, 1868 (Salticidae) in North Yorkshire**

by Geoff Oxford

During a visit to Vertigrow Plant Nursery on the outskirts of York (SE646566) on 24th June 2023, I extracted a Jumping spider from a cleft in a wooden stake in an area of potted perennial plants. It was clearly a *Heliophanus* species (Fig. 1). In North Yorkshire, *H. cupreus* has very few records while *H. flavipes* is somewhat more common but scattered (SRS, 2023). However, the Vertigrow specimen, a mature female, fitted neither of these species. Using continental websites (Nentwig *et al.*, 2023; Oger, 2023) it was identified as *Heliophanus apiatus* (Figs. 2 & 3), recorded for the first time in Britain. This species is native to Portugal, Spain, France and Italy (Nentwig *et al.*, 2023; World Spider catalog, 2023), introduced to Poland (Rozwałka *et al.*, 2013) and is now established in the San Francisco region of California (Cutler *et al.*, 2021). The Vertigrow specimen was presumably originally imported with plants from the continent, but whether it was a one-off or part of an established population remains to be seen.



Figure 1. *Heliophanus apiatus* female from Vertigrow. Body length = 5 mm.  
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### References

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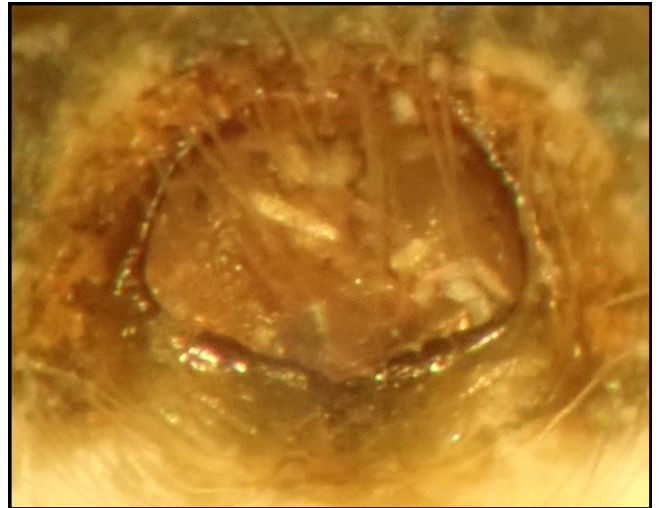


Figure 2. *Heliophanus apiatus* epigyne.  
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Figure 3. *Heliophanus apiatus* vulva (dorsal view).  
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BAS recorders braving the weather in Northumbria to record arachnids. Records are currently being collated for the field report to be published in a forthcoming Newsletter.