Spider Recording Scheme News Autumn 2014, No. 80

Editor: Peter Harvey; srs@britishspiders.org.uk **SRS website:** http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk

My thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. S.R.S. News No. 81 will be published in Spring 2015. 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 continue to receive records for a number of 'easily recognisable' species, but the vast majority of records now result from the SRS "contact us" link which replaced the BAS website SRS link last year during the major 'false widow' media scare. A very large number of emails from the public, often 6-8 a day, are generated by this contact us link, generally seeking identification help. Needless to say the vast majority of these are from people worried about dangerous spiders and the ludicrous idea which has been embedded very successfully in their minds by the media that Britain has dangerous spiders. Also needless to say, almost all of these are garden spiders, house spiders or other entirely harmless spiders. Although we often get useful records from these queries, a constant fear of dangerous spiders is hardly a beneficial way of raising awareness of spiders.

Spider records

We now have 970,922 spider records in total in MapMate. About 411,767 have at least some site-based phase 2 habitat information. All these data are uploaded and summarised on the Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website. As soon as time allows an updated taxon database for spiders will be provided to MapMate Ltd to bring the MapMate taxon library in line with the published 2014 checklist.

Website visitors

Since the Spider Recording Scheme website went live in August 2010 until the website moved to a new server in early April 2014 we had 156,746 visits from 104,781 users, with 868,879 page views from 169 countries/ territories. In the 7 months since the move to a new server, we have had to date 58,569 visits from 44,447 users, with 251,648 page views from 148 countries/ territories.

Species pdf report generation

The website Summary page for spider species now provides a link which will generate a species report as a pdf. This is date-stamped for the date created and provides the national distribution map, species text, adult season chart, summary charts of recorded broad and sub-habitats, structural habitat, habitat detail and method, management, substrate and hydrology, all derived from the data held in the SRS database. Clearly this updates in line with the data available in the database, which is continually updated as records are uploaded after submission to the recording scheme.

Area Organiser changes

Richard Wilson has taken over as Area Organiser for the two previously vacant VCs 67 & 68 (Northumberland South and Northumberland North). His details are: 61 Burley Wood Crescent, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS4 2QJP; email riwspider@yahoo.co.uk

Chris Cathrine has moved and his new address is 61 Main Street, Doune, Perth & Kinross, FK16 6BW. He stays covering the same VCs 72-81, 83, 84, 86 & 98-102 and his email remains the same as chris.cathrine@caledonianconservation.co.uk

All Area Organiser details are available to logged-on members on the Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website

Philodromus rufus sens. str. confirmed in Britain

by Peter Harvey

Philodromus rufus sens. str. is confirmed in South Essex VC18 from several female individuals collected by the author on a number of occasions during summer 2014 from a small south-facing ancient wood remnant in Thurrock above the Thames on sand above chalk, where it occurred together with P. *albidus*, a frequent spider in the region. The *P. rufus* has been seen by Peter Merrett, who agrees with the identification.

As with specimens collected by the author many years ago in Brittany, during a 1992 BAS trip organised by John and the late Frances Murphy, these were noticeable at the time by their pronounced reddish coloration, which seems to be retained at least for a time in alcohol. *P. albidus* individuals can also have some reddish coloration, but this is generally confined to the edges of the carapace and abdomen. Confirmation requires excision and removal of the epigyne so that it can be examined dorsally to look at the characters given in Dondale (1972) and Segers (1989). Females are distinguished by the form of the spermathecal organ which is elongated and projects laterally in *P. rufus* and is curled over in *P. albidus* (Segers, 1989).

What has become clear by examining a range of material available is that the external epigyne differences given in Roberts (1995) for distinguishing the two species are not reliable and cannot be used for separating the two species. Males are likely to be difficult and require reliable reference material for separation.

It is interesting that the *P. rufus* specimens were collected at a later date than the *P. albidus* present in the same wood, possibly the result of this being a more southern European spider requiring more warmth and a slightly longer season in this country to reach maturity. In Brittany in 1992 *P. albidus* was collected by the author inside a shaded woodland, whereas the *P. rufus* was always taken in open scrub habitats, possibly an indication that *P. rufus* is a spider of warmer habitats.

It is perhaps not surprising that *P. rufus* should turn up in Britain on the south-facing side of the east Thames corridor, which has a unique climate in Britain, more continental than the rest of the country. South-east Essex is the driest part of the country, with frequent soil water deficit in the months of May through to August (Jermyn, 1974). In summer the corridor is one of the warmest parts of the country with high sunshine levels. In winter the influence of the Thames ensures mild temperatures, which although not as warm as Cornwall, result in a greater range of temperature. The climate is a key factor in the importance of the region. The very low rainfall, especially in south Essex, and the frequent summer drought curtails the development of extensive scrub on poor substrates and maintains over long periods the open areas favoured by warmth loving invertebrates. The Thames corridor here may also act as a conduit for species newly colonising the country. However, Dondale (1972) states that Pickard-Cambridge (1895) described and figured a male from Britain that matched the real *P. rufus*, so there is every possibility that it could also turn up in warm locations near the south coast and may have been present in especially favourable locations all the time.

P. albidus used to be a scarce spider in most counties in southern England where it occurred, often only found in a few locations. The Essex Spider Group has always found it to be relatively widespread in Essex since we started recording spiders in the county in 1986-87, but more recent years have clearly seen a massive increase in the extent of its occurrence and frequency. Presumably this is also climate-related, so we could now perhaps start to see *P. rufus* beginning to follow *P. albidus*, as yet another sign of our changing climate. Please do not record *P. rufus* though without getting confirmation of a voucher by dissection of females and from the BAS Verification Panel or myself .

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Pickard-Cambridge, O. 1895. On new and rare British spiders. *Proc. Dorset nat. Hist. Antiq. Fld. Club* **16**: 92-128.

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Segers, H. 1989. A redescription of *Philodromus albidus* Kulczynski, 1911 (Araneae, Philodromidae). *Bull. Br. arachnol. Soc.* **8** (2): 38-40.

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Micaria subopaca, new to Hertfordshire

by David Carr

On the 26th April 2014, I was on a shopping trip at Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. My route between the John Lewis and Waitrose shops in the town centre took me past a large oak on the side of the pavement, one side of which was exposed to direct sunlight. I could not resist stopping to see if any spiders were present (a legacy of the many years spent recording with the Essex Spider Group).

My attention was immediately drawn towards several *Micaria* sp. actively running on the bark. After observing for a few minutes, it was apparent that there were approximately ten individuals present with numbers of both sexes being about equal. I presumed these to be *Micaria subopaca*, but unfortunately I did not have a pooter and tube with me to collect a specimen. I returned on 5th May 2014 and collected a specimen which I later confirmed as a male *Micaria subopaca*.

Figure 1. *Micaria subopaca* on tree trunk. Photograph © Peter Harvey

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Cave spider distributions in Derbyshire

by William Burn

Whilst it is a widespread species, *Meta menardi* (Latreille) has relatively few species records from Derbyshire, and the closely related species *Meta bourneti* (Simon) has none. (The most northerly record nationally for *M. bourneti* is currently in Nottinghamshire). The aim of my most recent survey was to look for *M. bourneti*, and, if other *Meta* or *Metellina* species were found, to compile records for them also. Because of the similarity between *M. menardi* and *M. bourneti*, a voucher sample was taken from each location surveyed, examined, and the identification confirmed by Peter Harvey before a species record was made.

A concerted effort was made in the valley west of Stoney Middleton, an area that contains 439 known mines within a three mile radius of the town of Eyam, and several more natural cave entrances (Nash, 2005). The survey selected 43 of these cave or mine entrances that were situated in the Stoney Middleton valley, of which 41 were safely and legally accessible. A voucher was taken from each cave entrance, as well as noting the temperature at the time of collection and the number of spiders in the cave.

The survey found no examples of *M. bourneti*. Of the 41 caves surveyed, 22 of them were occupied by spider species of either *Metellina* or *Meta*. Of these 22 occupied caves, nine did not contain sufficient adult spiders to allow a voucher collection. 11 caves had voucher samples taken and were identified as *M. menardi*, and two further caves, surveyed outside of the confines of the Stoney Middleton area, found only *Metellina merianae* (Scopoli).

Interestingly, despite it being well documented that *M. merianae* and *M. menardi* often co-habit (Novak *et al.*, 2010), they were never found together. The two locations for *Metellina* are approximately 11 miles from the main survey area, and this local separation of species is interesting to note. The only easily discernible difference between the locations for these species records is the tree cover outside of the cave; the records for *M. merianae* are from cave entrances in high, regularly grazed open pasture land, whereas the records for *M. menardi* are from the Stoney Middleton SSSI, which is never grazed and has extensive tree cover. Further records from caves of either exterior environment will confirm whether this trend is real.

Many thanks to Jit Thacker for GIS maps and advice.

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Sheffield University Speleological Society

Figure 1. Distribution map of occupied caves in Stoney Middleton. Occupied caves in red, unoccupied in white, with white crosses denoting unsurveyed caves. Note that the two locations containing *Metellina merianae* are not included. Map © OpenStreetMap contributors

Steatoda nobilis, the first record from Lincolnshire

by Annette Binding

On the 25th August I received an email and attached photographs of a spider found in a house at Addlethorpe near Skegness by Karen and Sarah Hand, who thought it was *Steatoda nobilis.* Their photograph looked exactly like the online web photographs of *Steatoda nobilis*. I requested the specimen which had been accidentally trapped in a window and was dead. Although it got lost in the post and took eight days to get to me, I was able to identify the specimen as a female *Steatoda nobilis*.

According to SRS Maps the most northerly record up to now was from Hunstanton in Norfolk. Addlethorpe, Lincolnshire is on the opposite side of The Wash to Hunstanton.

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A spider foray into the (almost) unknown

by Richard Wilson

The 2014 British Arachnological Society field meeting was being held at the Field Studies Centre in Kindrogan, near Pitlochry in central Scotland. Living in Leeds, this would obviously necessitate a drive through the Scottish Borders and I was fully aware, having recently noted the lack of records in some of the southern Scottish vice-counties (see Table 1 in the Spring 2014 *Spider Recording Scheme Newsletter* (**No. 78:** pp 12 to 14) that VC 80 (Roxburghshire) and VC 81 (Berwickshire) had virtually no records submitted to the SRS since 2000. Realising this, I explored the Scottish Wildlife Trust's website to identify any potential nature reserves. Two sites were identified, one in each VC that would make a suitable lunch break, so I obtained permission from the Wildlife Trust to record there. I stopped off at Hare and Dunhog Mosses Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (NT 466 246), near Selkirk (VC 80) on the way north; and Gordon Moss SSSI (NT 635 427), near the village of Gordon, *c.* 10 km north of Kelso (VC 81), on the way back south.

Hare and Dunhog Mosses SSSI

The small tarn of Hare Moss is surrounded by willow and birch carr woodland and fen vegetation (see Fig. 1), located immediately adjacent to the busy A7. It is an example of an upland basin fen; more information is available here: http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserve/hare-and-dunhog-mosses/. Given the time constraints, I only managed to survey close to Hare Moss and took two vacuum samples, one within wetland carr vegetation and the other within wetland fen. Whilst none of the spiders recorded were notable, *Latithorax faustus* is considered to be a noteworthy record as it is the first record for the VC since 1991 (previously recorded at this site). A reasonable total of 25 species were collected within the space of approximately 90 minutes.

Gordon Moss SSSI

Gordon Moss (see fig. 2) consists of a tall grass-dominated fen and dense willow-carr with large tussocks of tussock sedge as an understorey. Again, more information is available here: http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserve/gordon-moss/. The timing of the survey coincided with some wet weather so most of the survey effort concentrated within the relative shelter of the carr woodland and tussock sedge understorey. Nevertheless, a total of 21 species were recorded, all widespread.

Commentary

The brief foray into a very under-recorded area for spiders at two sites, yielded a total of 37 species of spider from two very under-recorded vice-counties (see Table 1). The first comment that I would like to make is the reasonable list of species one can collect from a brief foray using a vacuum sampler. I would estimate that the combined total survey time was approximately three hours; i.e. 90 minutes per site (including accessing habitats). Each vacuum sample was approximately 180 seconds in duration and two locations were surveyed at each site. So for just six minutes of sampling at each site, more than 20 species were recorded. If the weather had been more clement, I would have collected using other methods (e.g. beating the lower branches of shrubs), which would have inevitably increased the lists.

Such brief forays may on first appraisal yield very little important data. However, the record of *L. faustus* is noteworthy, it being a scarce species in southern Scotland and not all that common elsewhere. Brief forays can have the advantage of identifying sites that may be worth more detailed and prolonged investigation when time allows, especially if travel times are not too great from where one lives. But I also think it highlights the value of timing a lunch-break with potentially suitable locations in otherwise under-recorded areas. Southern Scotland is inevitably passed through by English naturalists heading north to the more attractive Highlands (e.g. Cairngorms) so such forays may be the only attention these areas get. Combining brief forays with using a vacuum sampler can therefore potentially yield a reasonable total in a brief period of time and has the added interest of visiting areas no of few other arachnologists have been to.

All records have been submitted to the SRS and Scottish Wildlife Trust. I would like to thank Julian Warman (Scottish Wildlife Trust) for giving me permission to survey at both the sites and providing the photos to illustrate the article.

Table 1. Spider species recorded from a brief foray at two sites in southern Scotland

Family	**Taxon**	**Authority**	**VC 80**	**VC 81**
Theridiidae	*Enoplognatha ovata sens. str.*	(Clerck, 1757)		X
Linyphiidae	*Dismodicus bifrons*	(Blackwall, 1841)	X	
	Hypomma cornutum	(Blackwall, 1833)		X
	Metopobactrus prominulus	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1872)	X	
	Pocadicnemis pumila sens. str.	(Blackwall, 1841)	X	X
	Oedothorax gibbosus	(Blackwall, 1841)	X	X
	Oedothorax retusus	(Westring, 1851)	X	
	Cnephalocotes obscurus	(Blackwall, 1834)		X
	Tiso vagans	(Blackwall, 1834)	X	
	Gongylidiellum vivum	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1875)	X	
	Erigonella hiemalis	(Blackwall, 1841)		X
	Latithorax faustus	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1900)	X	
	Agyneta decora	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1871)	X	
	Meioneta saxatilis sens. str.	(Blackwall, 1844)	X	
	Meioneta beata	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1906)	X	X
	Microneta viaria	(Blackwall, 1841)	X	
	Macrargus rufus	(Wider, 1834)		X
	Bathyphantes approximatus	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1871)	X	
	Bathyphantes nigrinus	(Westring, 1851)		X
	Kaestneria pullata	(O.P.-Cambridge, 1863)	X	
	Tenuiphantes alacris	(Blackwall, 1853)	X	
	Tenuiphantes tenuis	(Blackwall, 1852)	X	
	Tenuiphantes zimmermanni	(Bertkau, 1890)	X	X
	Tenuiphantes cristatus	(Menge, 1866)	X	X
	Tenuiphantes tenebricola	(Wider, 1834)	X	X
	Palliduphantes ericaeus	(Blackwall, 1853)	X	
	Linyphia triangularis	(Clerck, 1757)		X
	Linyphia hortensis	Sundevall, 1830		X
	Neriene clathrata	(Sundevall, 1830)	X	X
Tetragnathidae	*Tetragnatha montana*	Simon, 1874		X
	Metellina mengei	(Blackwall, 1869)		X
	Metellina merianae	(Scopoli, 1763)		X
Lycosidae	*Pardosa pullata*	(Clerck, 1757)	X	X
	Pardosa amentata	(Clerck, 1757)	X	X
Clubionidae	*Clubiona reclusa*	O.P.-Cambridge, 1863	X	
	Clubiona stagnatilis	Kulczynski, 1897		X
	Clubiona lutescens	Westring, 1851	X	
Number of Species	**37**		**25**	**21**

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Figure 1. Hare Moss, copyright Scottish Wildlife Trust

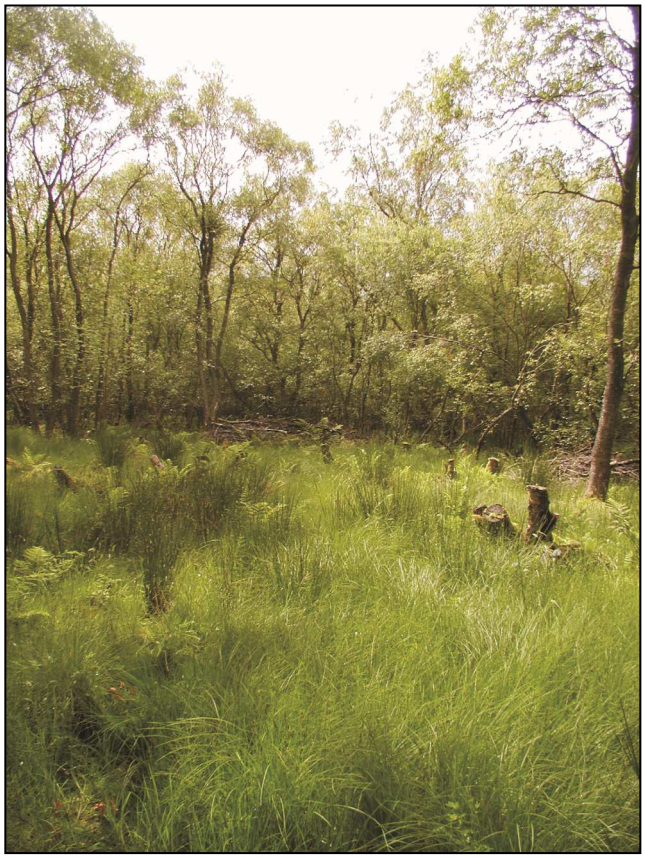

Figure 2. Gordon Moss (Glade), copyright Scottish Wildlife Trust

Larinioides sclopetarius - a new location in Lincolnshire

by Annette Binding

In early July I was contacted by Tom Beardwell, a fifteen -year old who had been given my details by Froglife, with whom he had been on work experience. Tom told me that he was very interested in spiders, particularly the family Agelenidae and was rearing *Tegenaria gigantea* in order to study the life cycle and behaviour. Tom was also interested in other species and at the end of July he sent me a photograph of the underside of a spider which he thought was a member of the Araneidae. He said it was not *Araneus diadematus* as it had no 'cross' marking. I asked Tom to send me a dorsal view of the spider, which he did and I was able to identify it as *Larinioides sclopetarius*.

As the species is found on buildings and similar structures near water I asked Tom where he had found his spider and was it near water. He told me that he had collected it by torchlight from a wheelie bin on his driveway which is about 25 metres from the River Glenn at Surfleet, South Lincolnshire. *Larinioides sclopetarius* is known from only two other locations in Lincolnshire.

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Nigma walckenaeri, a new record from Lincolnshire

by Annette Binding

Nigma walckenaeri was new to Lincolnshire in 2011 when Ian Dawson found it at Stamford (Binding, 2012). It appears to be associated mainly with ivy, so since then I have looked for it on ivy wherever I could, but without success.

However on the 31st August this year, my husband Allan having read about these spiders went to look for them on a large ivy hedge growing at the back of our Court near to the garage block. He returned with a number of containers in which were ivy leaves which all had webbing across the curled leaves. One leaf had five white egg sacs with some webbing on the mid-vein of the leaf but no sign of a spider. Further leaves had webbing, egg sacs or exuviae but again no spider present so impossible to say what species these were from. Then in one of the last tubes I noticed a slight movement in the small retreat inside the curled leaf, followed by a fleeting glimpse of a green body. Eventually we managed to coax the spider out and were able to get a good look at it and it proved to be a male *Nigma walckenaeri*.

Allan had managed to find *Nigma walckenaeri* on his first search for it. This is the second record for Lincolnshire and, according to the SRS maps one of the most northerly in the country.

Reference

Binding, A. 2012. *Nigma walckenaeri* new to Lincolnshire. SRS News No. 74 **In** *Newsl. Br. Arachnol.Soc.* **125**: 23**.**

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Marpissa nivoyi and *Cercidia prominens* - first Lincolnshire records for decades

by Annette Binding

On 24th July a friend of ours, Richard Davidson, phoned to tell me that he had found an unusual arachnid on his car door while visiting friends who were staying at a holiday bungalow on the sea bank at Chapel St Leonards. His car was parked in the garden of the bungalow near the dunes where there was lots of Marram grass and other seaside plants. Richard thought the arachnid would be the usual zebra spider but could see that it wasn't. He thought it looked a bit scorpionish so he caught it and brought it to me and I identified it as a female *Marpissa nivoyi*.

There are only six previous Lincolnshire records, all from Gibraltar Point between 1950 and 1975 making this a new site record and the first record for thirty-nine years.

Since finding *Marpissa nivoyi*, Richard has become more interested in arachnids and has started to bring me a few from places he has visited in the county. Most of these are new site records or from under-recorded 10km squares.

On the 13th August he visited Scotton Common LWT Reserve and brought me four spiders. Among them was a female *Cercidia prominens*. There are only four previous Lincolnshire records of this species, one from Market Rasen in 1960 and three from Linwood Warren LWT Reserve 1964 and 1965, all by George W. Whatmough. This is another new site record and the first for forty-nine years.

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Harvestman Update

By Peter Nicholson

I am pleased to have received a report by Prof. Michael Usher (2013) in response to my request for information on the distribution of *Dicranopalpus ramosus* in the SRS /HRS Newsletter. He has generously allowed me to print the following article about this species in Scotland.

In an effort to provide the latest *Dicranopalpus ramosus* records for Scotland alongside Michael Usher's article and how this relates to the United Kingdom (UK) as a whole I have provided two distribution maps. The map key colour codes the records up into arbitrary values of the first 53 years, the following 10 years and the last three years to give some historical context.

It is noticeable that records in Scotland have increased in the last three years as has the known range of the species in the last three years for the UK. The problem of drawing further conclusion is that presently there are not enough records to draw accurate conclusions apart from the fact that this species is well distributed throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland.

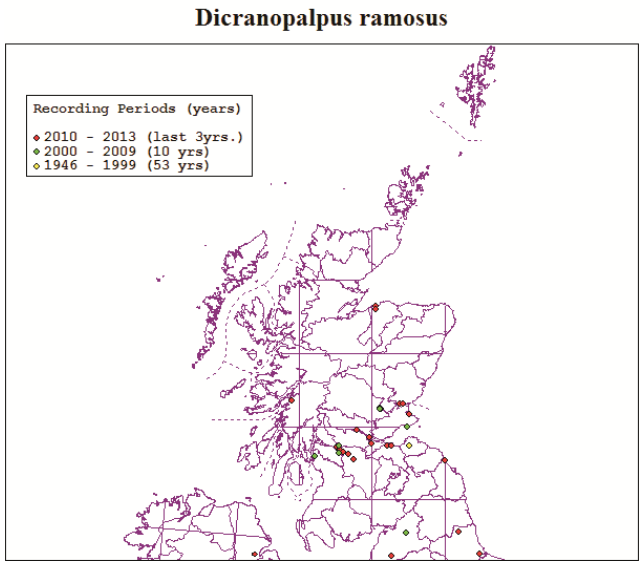

Figure 1. *Dicranopalpus ramosus* distribution in Scotland

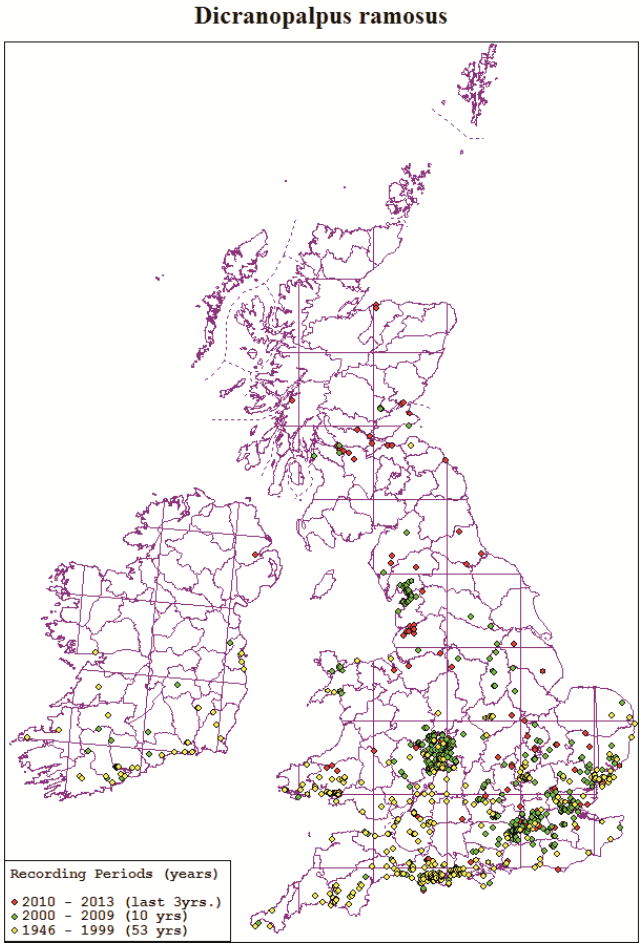

Figure 2. *Dicranopalpus ramosus* distribution in Britain

The fact that there are aggregations is most likely due to recorder bias. The males of this species are easily identifiable due to the habit when at rest of holding their very long legs out to their sides in such a manner that the legs are held very closely together, the angle being very acute. The result of this is habit is that it provides a useful character in identification. On closer examination it will be seen that the pedipalps are generally held out in front and are equal in length to the body. The patella has a long apophysis giving the effect of having a forked or bifurcated pedipalp. This character is diagnostic of the species and with some knowledge can indicate the gender. With these guidelines I hope that more records will be collected in the next few months when the male of the species is most often seen.

One of the species that is most easily identified and also under recorded is *Opilio canestrinii* (Fig. 3). I would very much like to draw recorders attention to this species as I hope they will search their local patch, their own gardens and in local parks. They are easily found, if present, by beating ornamental shrubs / small trees and privet. I think their distribution is possibly through Garden Centres and they are well established in Holland. I am sure this is another well distributed harvestman, overlooked possibly due to the fact that it has not been described in any of the British keys, so I give a brief description here.

It could be taken as a female *Leiobunum rotundum* at first glance due to its shape and coloration but does not have a dark saddle. It is usually a light buff colour with a tendency to a brown or orangey coloration. In the darker areas there can be a green tinge. Closer inspection shows characteristically a series of paired dark and light stripes/ bars (could be described as black and white) which run down the dorsum of the abdomen. The very long legs are often dark with annulations but sometimes almost completely brown or black. The trochanters are pale. The ocularium is small, the crown tending to be flat, light coloured with 4 to 6 acute tubercles tipped with black spines. There is no trident but there are a few small spine tipped tubercles, two of which are situated at the anterior margin of the cephalothorax. If unsure about a species always send me a photo as the first step. A useful publication showing this species is the FSC guide by Paul Richards.

Figure 3. *Opilio canestrinii* female.
Photograph Peter Nicholson

Finally I have had a specimen of *Sabacon viscayanum ramblaianum* sent to me which was found near Buckfastleigh, Devon. The records for this species have been more or less confined to South Wales, with a record recently reported from the Wyre Forest, Worcestershire. So this is good news and may encourage recorders down in Devon and Cornwall to start looking. I hope to include a report at a later time.

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Forth Naturalist and Historian, volume 36 (pp. 41 & 42)

DICRANOPALPUS RAMOSUS: A DISTINCTIVE NON-NATIVE HARVESTMAN INVADING SCOTLAND

Michael B. Usher

Dicranopalpus ramosus is a harvestman which has an interesting, albeit short, history in Great Britain. A specimen was collected in Bournemouth in 1957, given the name *Dicranopalpus insignipalpus,* and deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (Sankey and Savory, 1974). A similar harvestman was collected in 1966 in Hove, Sussex, but this time it was allocated to the species *D. caudatus.* Subsequently, further harvestmen were recorded using this name from Essex and Cornwall (Sankey and Savory, 1974).

By 1988 this apparently introduced species had spread northwards through many southern English counties, as well as along the south coast of Wales as far as Cardigan (distribution map 22 in Hillyard and Sankey, 1989). By this time it had been identified as *D. ramosus,* a species originally described in 1909 from Morocco. Subsequently, the species was recorded from Portugal in 1948, from Spain in 1965 and from France in 1969. It is completely unknown how this harvestman reached British shores, or how long it had been present before it was discovered on the south coast of England in 1957.

Hillyard (1999) referred to its spread in Britain as "quite amazing". He mentioned that it had been found that year in Thorpe Arch, Yorkshire, and Forton, Lancashire. A year later, Hillyard (2000) noted that the species had now been found in a garden in Edinburgh as well as in a number of sites in North Wales. However, the distribution map in Hillyard (2005) only shows one 10 km grid square with this species north of Yorkshire and Lancashire, and that is on the Cumbrian coast. *D. ramosus* was by then also widely recorded in the southern half of Ireland.

The species is now spreading into Scotland. Davidson (2010) referred to recent records in Fife and Perth. It is now known to occur in the Stirling District, having been discovered on a church wall in Bridge of Allan (grid reference NS793974). Adults have been found in each of the months September, October and November 2012.

D. ramosus is a very easily recognised species of harvestman. The useful indicators are the way that it rests, with its very long legs and its pedipalps, which almost appear as a fifth pairs of legs in front of the animal. The species tends to rest flat against a wall, face down, with the four legs on each side of its body stretched out at an acute angle (less than 40°). Figure 1, which shows only the proximal part of its very long legs, demonstrates its characteristic resting position. Other species of harvestmen rest with their legs spread out in a much wider, usually obtuse, angle. However, confirmation of the species' identity can be sought from the pedipalps. The patella has an apophysis which is more than half as long as the tibia. The female illustrated in Figure 1 shows this apophysis to be nearly as long as the tibia, making the pedipalp look almost like a 'lop-sided claw'! This is a character which separates *D. ramosus* from any other harvestman in the British Isles. The markings on the body (the prosoma and opisthosoma) are very variable (Hillyard and Sankey, 1989) and hence are not useful in the identification of this species. The area of the raised eyes, the ocularium, is rounded in lateral view and has no ornamentation of spines or spicules, unlike many of the other British harvestmen species.

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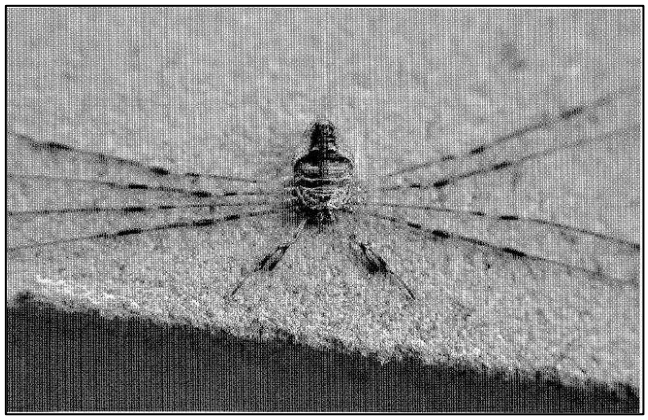

Figure 1. The characteristic pose of *Dicranopalpus ramosus*, resting face-down on a wall at Bridge of Allan, September 2012.

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