

Spider Recording Scheme News

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

CUK: fah



Editorial

by Richard Gallon

Spider records continue to flow into the SRS database. Our combined efforts have so far added 2,950 new spider records to the SRS database for 2022 alone. I'd like to thank those of you who've already submitted data to the Scheme and to encourage further submissions.

Please send your MapMate synch files, or Excel spreadsheets, in to me so that they can be added to our database. I'm sure we can easily surpass ten thousand new records this year, as I'm aware of some significant record holding which have yet to be sent to the Scheme.

I would also welcome more article contributions for the SRS News. Unfortunately I've not had enough contributions to stretch this current issue to 5 pages, and as a result have had to limit this issue to just a single page to harmonise with the pagination of the main Newsletter. So, if you have any interesting finds this year, please write them up and send them in to me for publication.

I've been busy undertaking and writing up several large British spider surveys recently. One such project was on the Sefton Coast looking for *Rhysodromus fallax* and involved hours of hand-searching frontal dune marram. Thankfully this rare spider was still found to be occupying a 2 km stretch of dunes at Formby. You can download this 203-page report from the Tanyptera Trust website:

www.northwestinvertebrates.org.uk/publications/survey-reports/

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Civizelotes civicus (Simon, 1878) – 'New' to the UK – Part I

by Matt Prince

On 5th May 2020 having exhausted the local parks my wife and I decided to bend the lockdown rules and visit Dunsford DWT which was a few miles from home, I was hoping to look for *Atypus* webs as they had been recorded in that area. Dunsford was blissfully deserted and I was delighted to find what was clearly an adult *Dipoena s.l.* (later confirmed as *Lasaeola tristis*) and a *Neon* that I hoped to be *N. robustus* (it wasn't). There was no sign of *Atypus* webs, but on lifting a stone on a steep, warm, sparsely vegetated rocky outcrop, a small 'Zelotes' shot out, and gave me the usual run around. I was only half-heartedly trying to catch it, as it looked small and I didn't expect it to be mature.

Luckily I managed to pot it and was surprised to see it was an adult male. Thinking it was probably a small specimen of something common, I thought nothing more of it and went home to check the more exciting finds.

When I got to this gnaphosid specimen I continued in a cavalier fashion, detaching the palp for a quick identification, and was then rather perplexed as it didn't look like anything I'd seen previously. I couldn't find it in the big Roberts, despite it clearly being *Zelotes* in the broader sense. On my second attempt at identification I still couldn't find it, so I made some very rough sketches and turned to Araneae.nmbe.ch to investigate the Continental European fauna. I rapidly zeroed in on *Civizelotes civicus* due to the distinctive keel shaped palp apophysis.

I tweeted about my find (Fig. 1), nicknaming it 'Commando Zipper' as I could see the nearest known colony was in the Channel Islands, and Dunsford is under the flightpath of the Flybe Channel Islands flights!



Figure 1. Initial Tweet reporting the UK find of *Civizelotes civicus*. © Matt Prince.

Your spider records are extremely important for UK spider conservation. They help identify long-term trends in distribution, and also allow us to better understand the ecology and conservation requirements of rare and common spiders.

Don't let your records languish unused in a notebook – please send them in to your National Scheme.