

Spider Recording Scheme News

Autumn 2024, No. 110

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

CUK: fah



Far from Home – *Kochiura aulica* (Theridiidae) and the Bleeding Heart Spider *Nigma puella* (Dictynidae) in North Yorkshire

by Geoff Oxford

Kochiura aulica is a scarce species confined to southern England. According to the SRS database, the most northerly specimen reported so far was a male collect by the late David Nellist in June 2007 from Amwell Quarry Reserve, Ware, Hertfordshire (TL373133, VC20). On 27th October 2023, I photographed a web, beautifully bedecked with water droplets, on a low Yew hedge at Vertigrow Plant Centre, Stockton-on-the-Forest, York (SE647566, VC62) (Fig. 1). Inside were two apparently entire white egg-sacs and a female I assumed to be *Anelosimus vittatus*. The egg-sacs were left *in situ* and the female retained for a secure identification. It was, in fact, *Kochiura aulica*, a very long way from home (Fig. 2). Of course, it was found in a Plant Centre and the spider had almost certainly been imported from further south with horticultural goods. The SRS phenology chart shows that male and female adults are very rarely observed in October, let alone with egg-sacs. It is possible that the egg-sacs were sterile and produced earlier in the season. Certainly, no theridiid webs were found when the hedge was re-examined during September 2024.

On 1st February 2023, I received an email from Koki Imada with an image of what looked very much like an immature Bleeding Heart Spider *Nigma puella*, which was spotted on 30th January on vegetation on a churchyard wall in Heslington, York (SE627505, VC61). The specimen was retrieved with the intention of rearing it to maturity. Sadly the 2 mm long spiderling died but its abdominal pattern was very clear (confirmed by Richard Wilson). As far as I am aware, this was the first record from Yorkshire and, indeed, the furthest north, except for



Figure 2. Female *Kochiura aulica*. © Geoff Oxford.

a female reported by Chris Cathrine on 15th July 2018 from Flanders Moss SSSI, West Perthshire (NS649980, VC87) (Cathrine, 2019). To the south, the closest record was from Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire (Annette Binding, 10th June 2008, SK623743, VC56).

Just like buses coming along together, on 10th August 2023 I was spidering around the church in Thorganby (SE689416, VC61) and, searching a large Ivy hedge nearby, discovered to my great surprise a female *Nigma puella*. She was sitting within a partly rolled Ivy leaf with four white, flattened egg-sacs, each 3 mm in diameter and slightly overlapping. The female and egg-sacs were covered with a typical *Nigma* veil of silk. The leaf was brought home to be photographed (Fig. 3) and the next day young started to emerge from one of the egg-sacs. Over the next month, the female produced another four clutches of eggs but died on 16th September. It turned out that rearing spiderlings so small (1 mm or so) was a challenge too far and the remaining broods were returned



Figure 1. The web of *Kochiura aulica* *in situ*. © Geoff Oxford.



Figure 3. *Nigma puella* female with egg-sacs. © Geoff Oxford.



Figure 4. Second spiderling instar of *Nigma puella* showing red pigmentation – 7th September 2023.
© Geoff Oxford.

to the Thorganby hedge on 18th September to take their chances in the wild. While there, I found two more females with egg-sacs and a couple more unaccompanied egg-sacs that could have been *Nigma*.

Although my attempt to rear young in captivity failed, it did demonstrate that even 2nd instar spiderlings develop the tell-tale red markings on the abdomen (Fig. 4), which differentiates this species from *N. walckenaeri*. This was useful when I revisited the site on 3rd October 2024 because, although adults were absent, I found eight spiderlings (1–1.5 mm long), all sporting definite red pigmentation and distributed along about 45 m of hedge. Clearly there is now at least one thriving population of this species established in central Yorkshire – the Heslington location needs to be re-examined.

Reference

Cathrine, C. 2019. First record of *Nigma puella* (Araneae: Dictynidae) from Scotland, found at Flanders Moss lowland raised bog (VC87 West Perthshire). *SRS News* 93: 30–31 In: *Newsl. Br. arachnol. Soc.* 144.

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***Megalephyphantes* sp. near *collinus* in Lincolnshire**

by Jon Daws

Over the winter period I've been going out one night a week to visit three and occasionally four churchyards by torchlight. The initial target species was *Steatoda nobilis* which turned out to be very common and widespread being found in over 95% of places visited. As one would expect, other species were also collected including local rarities and some individuals that seemed to have hung on long beyond their usual season, probably due to the relatively warm winter we have had.

The highlight was finding *Megalephyphantes* sp. near *collinus* in three churchyards. Initially I was unsure of the first spider I collected (a female) so I put it to one side and consulted the European arachnological websites and looked through the SRS newsletters online. There were

several impressive photographs of this species' genitalia and in one article a mention that Peter Harvey had provided them with some drawings, done by Peter Merrett, of this species' genitalia from British specimens. I contacted Peter Harvey who emailed the drawings to me and offered to look at the specimen for confirmation.

Meanwhile a few weeks had passed and my tally of specimens had reached five, with a further two males and females from two new sites. The spiders were all found below two feet above the ground, collected from their webs, which hung either across corners or between the church wall and other stone debris. All of the churchyards, although relatively well vegetated, had a fairly open aspect. I believe that most of these specimens would have been missed if I had visited these churches during daylight hours when they would have been hiding away in some little crevice.

- 1 female, Sibsey Churchyard, TF354505, 16/12/2023, from walls by torchlight.
- 1 male & 1 female, Burgh le Marsh Churchyard, TF501650, 20/02/2024, from walls by torchlight.
- 1 male & 1 female, Holton le Clay Churchyard, TA286027, 08/03/2024, from walls by torchlight.

The fact this species is fairly well distributed in north Lincolnshire would indicate that it is probably present in England from Yorkshire southwards, in small numbers. I would like to thank Peter Harvey for all his help and for confirming the identification of all five specimens.

Just as I finished this article another specimen has been found at a further churchyard, this time from inside a large, old, overturned plant pot adjacent to the church wall:

- 1 female, Sutton on Sea churchyard, TF519817, 23/03/2024, from plant pot by torchlight.

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***Centromerus brevipalpus* (Menge, 1866) New to Oxfordshire**

by Richard Gallon

On the 22nd March 2024 I arrived in Oxford in readiness for the British Entomological & Natural History Society's Annual Members' Day the following day. I'd arrived in good time, so rather than heading straight to the hotel, I decided to visit Bagley Wood to stretch my legs after the long drive.

Scrutinising aerial images, I headed straight to a part of the wood that seemed to have the oldest deciduous trees (SP51260184). I found myself in an area of tall Oak standards, with an isolated Holly understory (Fig. 1). The woodland floor here was largely devoid of plants, but had a thick, continuous layer of leaf litter.

Sieving this litter yielded the usual suite of woodland spiders including *Walckenaeria acuminata*, *Microneta viaria* and *Diplocephalus picinus*. I then grabbed a few handfuls of 10 cm deep litter adjacent to a decomposing tree stump, partly shaded by Holly coppice regrowth. This sieved leaf litter was much wetter than that found out in the open, and my eye was drawn to a small, pale linyphiid on the tray that was covered in parasitic mites (Fig. 2).

To my delight this parasitised linyphiid was an adult



Figure 1. Bagley Wood, Oxfordshire.
© Richard Gallon.



Figure 2. *Centromerus brevivalpus* adult male with parasitic mites. Bagley Wood, Oxfordshire.
© Richard Gallon.

male *Centromerus brevivalpus*, an Endangered and Nationally Rare species. This find represents a new Vice County record for Oxfordshire.

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***Oryphantes angulatus* (O. P. - Cambridge, 1881) New to Cheshire**

by Richard Gallon

On the 19th September 2024 I stopped at Holme Moss (SE09680358) to break a long car journey from North Wales to Lincolnshire.

A few minutes of vacuum sampling in a wet blanket bog gully yielded 20 spider species, *Paroligolophus agrestis* and *Neobisium carcinoides*. At 523 m in altitude this is one of the highest points in Cheshire. The sample contained three adult female *Oryphantes angulatus* new to Cheshire. There were also three female *Agyreta saxatilis sensu lato* which, given the habitat, are likely to be *Agyreta mossica*, but in the absence of a mature male I won't claim that one as a new Vice County record just yet.

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Cornwall Conifer Woods – A Mossy Deep Dive

by Tylan Berry

Back in the winter of 2019, spurred on by the spider year listing that we were participating in, I met up with Graeme Lyons at Cardinham Woods (Fig. 1) in Cornwall to look for some of the damp-loving western things that are scarcer further east. We easily found *Cryphoeca silvicola* and *Tegenaria silvestris* that we were looking for on the trees, but it was a dark, damp and rather cold patch of mossy understory beneath a spruce plantation that particularly caught our attention.



Figure 1. Dense *Thuidium* growth at Cardinham Woods. © Tylan Berry.

By sieving handfuls of litter and moss over a white tray we were turning up an incredible number of linyphiids, far more than you'd generally expect from a conifer plantation. It was very difficult to get a bead on what we were looking at due to it being very dark (head torches would have been helpful!), but we were both rather excited by seeing things that appeared unusual. As it turned out, our excitement was justified. We had come across a hoard of rather scarce and local Liny, especially for down here in the southwest – things like *Monocephalus castaneipes*, *Gongyliellum latebricola*, *Porrhomma pallidum* and, what was the star of the show, *Centromerus serratus*. The latter two species were new to Cornwall for the SRS.

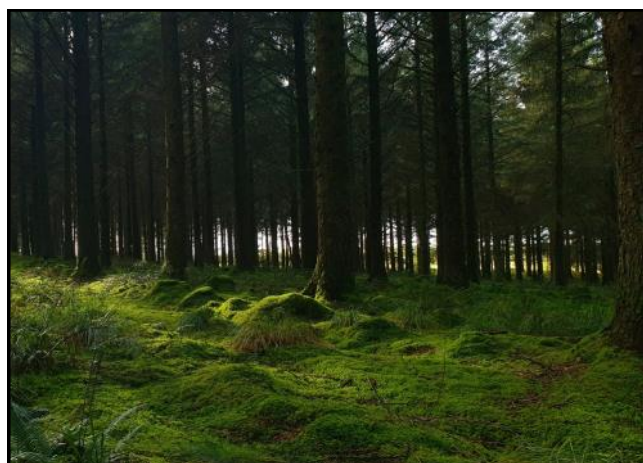


Figure 2. A mossy carpet at Hustyn Wood.
© Tylan Berry.



Figure 3. *Centromerus serratus* male. © Tylan Berry.

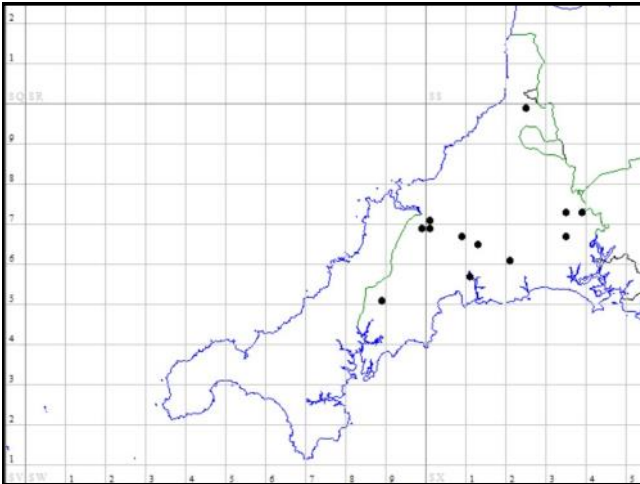


Figure 4. *Centromerus serratus* Cornwall distribution.



Figure 5. *Gongyliidiellum latebricola* male. © T.B.

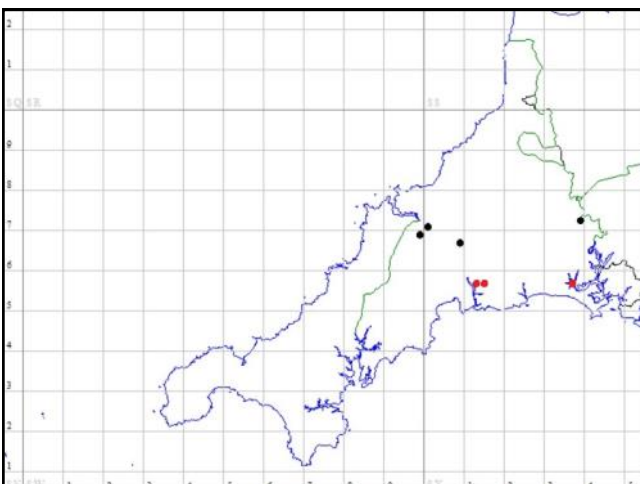


Figure 6. *Gongyliidiellum latebricola* Cornwall distribution. Red dots historic records.

It was this enlightenment that really kick started my decent into the world of linyphiids with a violent shove, and also set the seed for a bit of an obsession with moss and conifer woods. Return visits to Cardinham Woods have produced many other new species to Cornwall, including *Parasteatoda lunata*, *Hyptiotes paradoxus*, *Scotina celans* and *Hahnia helveola*, but it is hunting for the Linyx that has been truly fascinating. Indeed, in replicating the habitat and technique over the last five years, I have found many of these scarcer linyphiids to be widespread and relatively common across Cornwall, all in very similar conifer plantations, notably in dense clumps of *Thuidium tamariscinum* that occurs in shaded areas under spruce. What is interesting is that there seems to be a distinct assemblage of localised species that occur in this habitat, often collected together in the same sample. Whilst there are many more ubiquitous species, such as *Monocephalus fuscipes* and *Centromerus dilutus*, that are found in this niche, the five species listed below seem to be pretty much limited to it here in Cornwall.

Centromerus serratus (Figs. 3–4)

This was the one that really kicked it all off and is always the key target when I'm out in conifer woods. When Graeme and I found *C. serratus* in 2019, it had only been seen a couple of times previously in the UK over a 20 year period and had always been considered a real rarity. After five years of very targeted searching, it is now known from pretty much all of the larger conifer plantations in east Cornwall – the exceptions seeming to be those on Bodmin Moor that are above a 250-metre elevation. In those, it appears to be completely replaced by *C. prudens* and, interestingly, these are the only sites where I have ever found *C. prudens* in Cornwall. Of the ten different sites *C. serratus* is now known from in the county, only two are deciduous woodland. However, in every single place it has been located, it was found in *Thuidium* moss – never a different species and never in the leaf litter. It is definitely a species that prefers the darker, damper, mossy conifer plantations here in Cornwall.

Gongyliidiellum latebricola (Figs. 5–6)

Interestingly, this one seems to be much scarcer than *C. serratus* and I've only found it at three woodland sites in Cornwall (although square bashing has led me to finding it across the Hustyn/Bishop's wood complex that straddles three hectads!). Again, this one has only ever come from *Thuidium* in deep shade under spruce, until very recently when it came from soaking wet litter under heather right at the edge of a Cypress plantation in east Cornwall. For some reason the Cypress plantations don't seem to lead to the same development of damp, moss growth that Spruce does. Everywhere I know this spider from in the county, *C. serratus* is found at the same woodland site.

Porrhomma pallidum (Figs. 7–8)

When I see *Porrhomma pallidum*, I know I'm on the right track. Like *C. serratus*, this one is always in deep, dark mossy places but it's not quite as fussy about the species or location – so long as it is conifer. For some reason I've never found this species in a deciduous woodland. It is a bit more frequent than *G. latebricola*, but less so than *C. serratus*, and tends to turn up in much lower numbers. It is one that doesn't seem to mind the altitude of the Bodmin Moor plantations where I normally pick it up every time I visit. I wonder if this is an indication of it being a cold-loving species, especially given its mainly northern distribution in the UK. This is a similar pattern to *Centromerus arcanus* and *C. prudens*, two species that are incredibly scarce in Cornwall, but ones that I find in abundance in conifer plantations in Wales and Northern



Figure 7. *Porrhomma pallidum* female. © T. Berry.

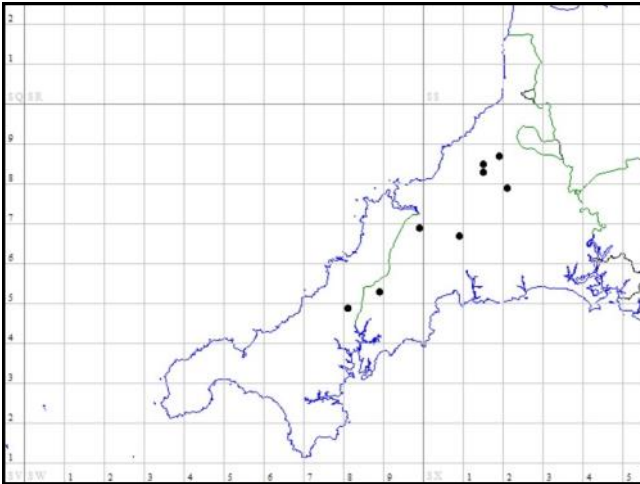


Figure 8. *Porrhomma pallidum* Cornwall distribution.



Figure 9. *Saaristoa firma* male. © Tylan Berry.

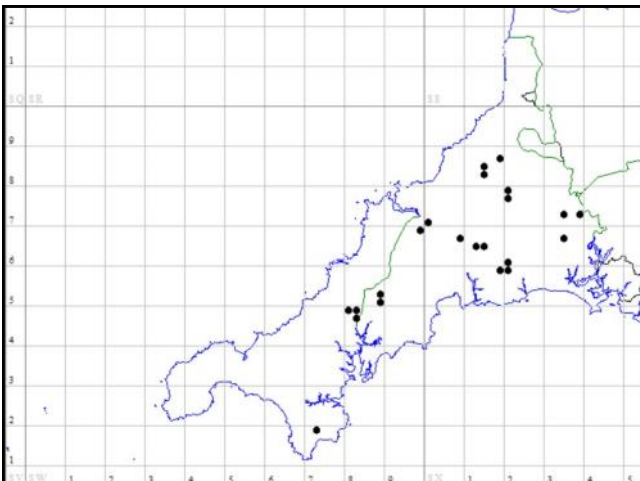


Figure 10. *Saaristoa firma* Cornwall distribution.



Figure 11. *Sintula corniger* females. © T. Berry.

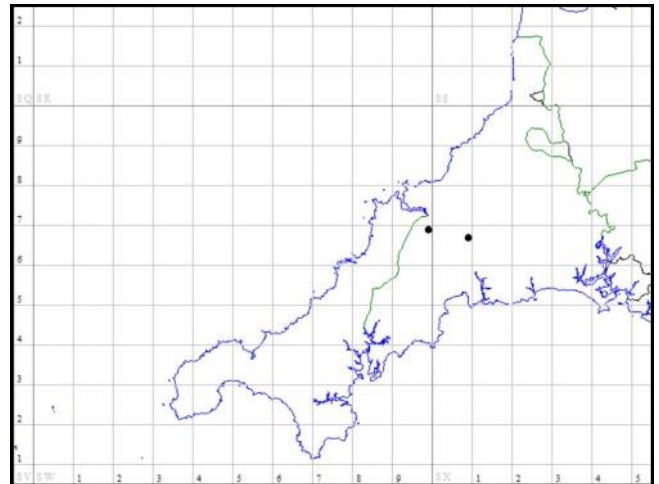


Figure 12. *Sintula corniger* Cornwall distribution.

England. I have never found these two species together, or at the same site as *C. serratus*.

Saaristoa firma (Figs. 9–10)

In moss under conifers – check. In pretty much every conifer plantation I've looked in – check! Yep, this one is ubiquitous across Cornwall, quite amazing considering it was new to the county in 2020. I have managed to find it in damp moss at all but one of the conifer plantations I have visited in Cornwall, even right down on the Lizard Peninsula. Despite its relative abundance, much like the above species, it doesn't really seem to occur in deciduous woods, nor any of the vast amount of mossy willow carr that is present here. The latter is a very productive habitat for a huge number of other linyphiid species, especially in mid-Cornwall, but this suite of spiders seem to shun it entirely.

Sintula corniger (Figs. 11–12)

An interesting one as this species is found in a variety of wet habitats across Britain, yet in Cornwall it is still only known from two conifer plantations where it occurs with all of the above in deep *Thuidium* moss. I have seen it in open mires and blanket bogs further north in the UK and I am always perplexed by its apparent absence from similar habitats on Bodmin Moor. Like *P. pallidum*, where I find it in Cornwall, it is always in very low numbers and is the species listed here that I encounter the least. I can pretty much guarantee to locate the others at certain sites, but not this one, it seems very difficult to target.

There is a host of other species that occur alongside this assemblage but are also much more widespread and less particular in their choice of habitat. An honourable mention should go to *Monocephalus castaneipes*, a spider

that is always found with the above species in moss in conifer woods. *Monocephalus castaneipes*, however is also found in moss pretty much anywhere slightly shaded and damp in Cornwall – it can be common in willow carr and at the edges of mires where there is small tree cover. I've found it in moss shaded by rocks on tors in open moorland and even in aerial litter in a small Hawthorn copse on the cliffs! It really doesn't seem to be that fussy here. Take a vacuum sampler to pretty much any shaded mossy tree trunk and you're normally quids in! Another similar associate is *Agyreta ramosa*, a species that was new to Cornwall in 2020 from some wet *Sphagnum* under willow at Breney Common. This species is also often found alongside the above assemblage in conifer woods, but turns up very frequently in wet willow car in mid-Cornwall and Bodmin Moor. There are also some strange anomalies, like the odd appearance of *Walckenaeria cucullata* here in 2020. This is a scarce spider in the southwest and, for some reason, has only turned up at one conifer wood in Cornwall where it is rather abundant – Idless Woods, just north of Truro. It seems very strange that it appears to be completely absent from all of the other similar plantations here, and what is even more odd is that Idless is the only large, lowland conifer plantation that I've completely failed to find *Centromerus serratus* in. Are they completely mutually exclusive, or is it just that step too far west for the *Centromerus*? I highly doubt that, but I really don't understand why it seems to be absent given that the habitat feels perfect for it.

And this really is the crux of the situation – as that old adage says, “the more you learn, the more you realise you don't know”. Looking for, and finding, these species certainly answers some questions, but it also opens up so many more. Like why does *C. serratus* shun the more upland plantations? Do *C. serratus* and *W. cucullata* really not get on well? And what on earth is so special about *Thuidium*!? It will be great to start to get to the bottom of these, as well as continuing to understand the true distribution and habitat preference of some of these spiders, hopefully continuing to add further conifer specialist species to the county list along the way (here's looking at you *Asthenargus paganus*!).

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Spider Stamp Quiz

BAS members will have seen and enjoyed the recent batch of Royal Mail postage stamps. We've heard that many of you have already purchased supplies of these for future use! Why not have a go at this spider stamp quiz?

<https://gbstampshub.com/games/spiders-thematic>



Exciting and Necessary Improvements to the BAS Spider and Harvestmen Recording Schemes

by Richard Gallon (on behalf of BAS Council)

I fondly remember the postal correspondence I had with David Nellist about identifying and recording British spiders back in the mid-90s. At the time, David was the National Spider Recording Scheme Organiser for the BAS. Back then I was studying at Manchester and would regularly pop into the Museum to see Stan Dobson, who kindly offered to mentor me on the complexities of UK spider identification. Peter Merrett, Paul Selden and Jason Dunlop, together with David and Stan, were all instrumental in forging my involvement with the BAS and the UK spider scene.

In those days spider records were submitted to the SRS on A5 recording cards. You would fill in location, date and grid reference, and then proceed to cross through in black biro the species on the card's list that you'd recorded. You needed special permission from the SRS National Organiser to request batches of these blank cards from BRC (Biological Records Centre) at Monk's Wood. Completed cards were then sent back to David who would send them on for digitisation at BRC's former headquarters at Monks Wood.

David passed the SRS role on to Peter Harvey, and it was at the 2006 Annual Meeting at Malham Tarn that Peter introduced the BAS and SRS to a radical new computer-based recording system called MapMate. I remember sitting in the audience and being impressed with Peter's comprehensive presentation. I'll never know what some of the older recorders in the audience thought on that day, but they were polite enough to listen despite not owning computers themselves.

Under Peter Harvey's tenure, MapMate was rolled out across the SRS with a separate SRS atlas-generating website. This online atlas was updated from the SRS's MapMate top-copy held by Peter, as and when new record batches came in. Those vice-county recorders who had adopted MapMate would synchronise (sync) their copies with Peter's to ensure the SRS dataset was up-to-date. However, not all vice-county recorders adopted MapMate, and their regional datasets were sent to Peter on Excel spreadsheets for incorporation into MapMate.

After a long and fruitful tenure as SRS National Organiser, Peter passed the role on to Matt Prince in 2021. However, with Matt's emigration to continental Europe, he felt he was unable to continue in his post for very long. The BAS Council needed another volunteer.

Plied with a free pint of bitter at the Lockkeeper Inn during the Clumber Park BAS annual meeting in 2021, I discovered I'd taken the King's shilling, and Council persuaded me to take on the vacant role of SRS National Organiser. As an active and committed spider recorder, the future of the SRS is extremely important to me. I also work at Cofnod, a very forward-thinking Local Environmental Records Centre in North Wales. I guess Council identified me as somebody with a good understanding of the needs of modern-day species recording in the UK, and somebody who could help ensure the SRS remains relevant in the rapidly evolving world of modern biological recording. Yikes – what a responsibility!

MapMate

I've seen the SRS evolve from using paper record cards to adopting MapMate many years ago. MapMate has served us well for many years but now has an uncertain future as legacy software.

MapMate, developed by Mark Yeates and run as a one-man-band, has made a very major contribution to biological recording for a quarter of a century. However, the small, remaining number of active SRS MapMate users will be aware that Mark issued an important announcement on the software's future on 28th October 2024. Mark stated that he'll be retiring shortly and will be closing MapMate Ltd on the 31st December 2024; no new MapMate licences will be issued beyond 30th November 2024. Mark will support the software privately until the last annual user's licence expires. Thereafter MapMate becomes legacy software and as such is vulnerable to future Windows updates.

Many people no longer own a PC, and instead conduct their online activities using a smartphone. This growing demographic trend means that forward-thinking Recording Schemes can no longer rely on PC-based software to recruit a new generation of recorders and the closure of MapMate Ltd and lack of new licenses means this software can not be used by new recorders. Recording Schemes that don't appreciate this will rapidly be marginalised and bypassed in favour of more user-friendly recording alternatives, like iRecord or iNaturalist. Fortunately, the BAS had already taken steps to address this.

BAS iRecord Form

Most SRS/HRS Recorders should be well-aware that we now have a popular and functional iRecord data entry form (see *BAS Newsletter 159* Spring 2024) which captures records directly into our own SRS/HRS dataset. This has been running successfully for just under a year and has been used by over 160 different recorders to submit over 2000 high-quality records to our dataset. Many of the records are supported by high-resolution images, including stacked photos of epigynes, palps and even dissected spermathecae. This associated evidence vastly improves confidence in the verification and quality of records submitted to us by iRecord.

Working with CEH (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)/BRC and using the iRecord platform has enabled many new recorders to submit spider and harvestmen records whilst ensuring appropriate verification and maintaining the quality and the future of our 1.3 million-record SRS/HRS dataset.

The BAS iRecord Form is intuitive and allows users to rapidly enter records in a tabular form from a single site. It also gives the option to include ecological information and attach photographs to each record. Existing users will be relieved to know that we are also able to receive/upload records in to our BAS iRecord SRS/HRS dataset from an MS Excel spreadsheet.

New BAS SRS/HRS Atlas

The current SRS web-based atlas can only be maintained using a separate specialist piece of MapMate software. Consequently, the old atlas will need to be replaced at some point, which will provide us with an opportunity to modernise, enhance and update our valuable atlas resource.

We are working closely with CEH on this and I have already seen an early functional version of the new SRS/HRS Atlas. For the first time, users will be able to selectively map verified records from three different datasets (in any combination): BAS SRS/HRS, native iRecord and iNaturalist on iRecord;. It is important to stress that only records verified by BAS vice-county recorders will be mapped. The mapping will draw results directly from the live databases, ensuring continually up-to-date maps; you will even be able to choose your own

date ranges to map. We hope that it will look amazing, just like the current website, and will be viewed with envy by other Recording Schemes.

So what next – how do I now submit records to the SRS/HRS?

- **Existing MapMate User.** If you haven't already done so, please sync the arachnid records in your MapMate database with the Recording Schemes (CUK: fah) as soon as possible. The cut-off date to do this is **28th February 2025**. This will give the Scheme organisers time to import and check data before the BAS-funded MapMate licenses expire at the end of April, and to integrate these new records into our main top-copy database.
- **Mapmate Users who intend to continue to use MapMate after 28th February 2025.** We will still welcome your records but after the cut-off date, you will need to extract and send just your **new** records to the SRS/HRS National Scheme Organisers in .csv format (Harvestmen to Meg Skinner and Spiders to Richard Gallon).
- **Non-MapMate Users.** Keep submitting your records directly to the SRS/HRS using the BAS iRecord Form or to your local Area Organiser. Those who wish to submit records in Excel can send them directly to SRS/HRS National Scheme Organisers or their Area Organisers. These records will then be added to the BAS iRecord database top-copy.

Change has the potential to be unsettling. However, it is necessary if our much-cherished National Schemes are to develop, to grow and to have continued relevance to recorders, academics and conservation bodies in the future .

Now where do I file this in my card index?

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East Anglian Spider Survey 2024

by Richard Gallon

This year I decided to undertake some spider surveying in East Anglia to familiarise myself with some of the region's specialities. My two visits were from 10th–18th May, and between 20th–28th September, chosen to maximise the potential of recording a wide variety of species. I was particularly keen to visit nature reserves to update old species records of Nationally Rare & Scarce species. The record highlights from this survey are summarised here.

Atypus affinis

Found on dry sandy heathland.

Dersingham Bog (21st September): 2 detached tube webs, TF669285.

Clubiona frisia

Found by grubbing within clumps of Marram on frontal yellow dunes (Fig. 1).

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 2 males, 2 females, TG49682039.



Figure 1. *Clubiona frisia* and *Baryphyma maritimum* habitat at Winterton Dunes. © Richard Gallon.

Clubiona rosserae (Fig. 2)

Found by vacuum sampling fen vegetation, including pure stands of *Schoenus nigricans* and mixed areas of *Cladium/Carex/Phragmites*.

Chippenham Fen (17th May): 1 male, 2 immatures, TL65036937; 1 female, 8 immatures, TL65056938; 1 male, 1 female, 1 immature male, TL65186940. The following Chippenham Fen records are based on immatures only and are pending confirmation by DNA barcoding: 5 immature females, TL65006943 (17th May); 5 immatures, TL65006940 (17th May); 1 immature female, TL65146937 (17th May); 4 immatures, TL65046937 (24th September).



Figure 2. *Clubiona rosserae* adult female at Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Argenna patula

Vacuumed from saltmarsh.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 male, 1 female, 4 immatures, TM43234860; 1 male, TM44354919.

Drassyllus lutetianus

Found by sieving strandline litter on saltmarsh.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 male, Orford Ness, TM43274863.

Gnaphosa lugubris

Amongst coastal shingle.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 male, 3 immatures, TM44354919; 1 female, 2 immatures, TM44944886.

Haplodrassus dalmatensis

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 immature, TG49682039.

Phaeoedus braccatus

Found by sieving strandline litter on saltmarsh.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 immature, TM43234861 (Coll. Emily Swan).

Zelotes electus

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 3 males, TG49362059.

Agyneta fuscipalpa (Fig. 3)

Vacuumed from Breckland plots that had been subjected to management work to break-up the soil surface for Stone Curlews (Fig. 18). No specimens were recovered from unmodified areas of Breckland adjacent to these plots.

Weeting Heath (26th September): 1 male, 1 female, TL75668770; 12 males, 24 females, TL75728789; 2 females, Washboard, TL75858930.



Figure 3. *Agyneta fuscipalpa* adult female at Weeting Heath. © Richard Gallon.

Baryphyma gowerense

Sub-adults (readily identified by size, colouration, leg chaetotaxy and elongated pin-cushion abdominal setae) were vacuumed from every sample point, with higher numbers associated with freshly-cut, open, fen with small mossy tussocks standing in 10 cm deep water.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 18 immature males, 26 immature females, TG37112359; 20 immature males, 21 immature female, 1 immature gynandromorph, TG37162359; 1 immature male, 2 immature females, TG37322352; 1 immature male, 3 immature females, TG37412357; 1 immature male, 4 immature females, TG37282355; 1 immature male, 1 immature female, Little Bog, TG36982326.

Baryphyma maritimum (Fig. 4)

Found by grubbing within clumps of Marram on frontal yellow dunes (Fig. 1).

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 male, 3 females, TG49192097; 6 males, 8 females, TG49682039.



Figure 4. *Baryphyma maritimum* adult female at Winterton Dunes. © Richard Gallon.

Centromerus semiater

Vacuumed from cut *Cladium* fen with sub-dominant *Phragmites*, and also in dense uncut *Phragmites/Cladium/Myrica* fen.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 3 males, TG37112359; 1 male, 2 females, TG37162359; 1 female, Little Bog, TG36982326.

Donacochara speciosa (Fig. 5)

Vacuumed from a dense stand of fenland *Phragmites*.

Botany Bay, Lakenheath Fen (27th September): 1 female, TL67448527.



Figure 5. *Donacochara speciosa* adult female at Lakenheath Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Entelecara omissa

Foulden Common: 2 males, TF76200002 (10th May); 2 females, TF76450015 (15th May). **Chippenham Fen**: 21 males, 17 females, TL65056938 (17th May); 2 males, TL65006943 (17th May); 16 males, 8 females, TL65006940 (17th May); 2 males, TL65186940 (17th May); 2 males, 1 female, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 female, TL64206935 (24th September); 1 female, TL64796953 (24th September). **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 4 males, 1 female, TL56187035; 1 male, TL55557011.

Glyphesis servulus

Chippenham Fen (17th May): 1 male, 2 females, TL65036937. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 2 females, TL56047028.

Gongylidiellum murcidum

Little Fen (14th May): 2 males, 1 female, TM04077914; 1 male, TM04007907. **Great Fen** (14th May): 1 male, TM05468011. **Foulden Common** (15th May): 1 male, 1 female, TF76450015. **Roydon Fen**: 1 male, TM10417972 (14th May); 5 females, TM10227970 (22nd September). **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 2 males, 3 females, TL56187035; 1 male, 1 female, TL56187037; 5 males, 1 female, TL55186994; 1 male, 1 female, TL55557011.

Karita paludosa

At Sutton it was vacuumed from cut *Cladium* fen with sub-dominant *Phragmites*. At Lakenheath it was vacuumed from 50 cm tall *Carex* fen.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 1 male, 5 females, TG37112359; 2 females, TG37162359. **Botany Bay, Lakenheath Fen** (27th September): 1 male, TL67428535.

Maso gallicus

Chippenham Fen: 2 males, 5 females, TL65036937 (17th May); 12 males, 3 females, TL65006943 (17th May); 2 females, TL65186940 (17th May); 2 males, 3 females, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 female, TL64386958 (24th September); 3 females, TL65046937 (24th September). **Foulden Common**: 1 female, TF76450015 (15th May); 1 male, TF76069981 (15th May); 1 female, TL75979958 (25th September); 1 female, TL76019953 (25th September). **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 male,

TL56047028; 2 females, TL56187037; 2 males, TL55357028; 3 males, 1 female, TL55186994; 1 male, TL55557011.

Notioscopus sarcinatus

Roydon Common (25th September): 5 males, 3 females, TF68562191.

Porrhomma oblitum

Chippenham Fen (17th May): 1 female, TL65036937. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 male, TL56047028; 1 male, 1 female, TL56187037.

Styloctetor romanus

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 female, TG49362059; 1 female, TG49682039.

Trichoncus affinis

Found amongst lightly vegetated coastal shingle.

Orford Ness (16th May): 3 males, 11 females, TM44354919; 1 female, TM44944886 (col. Emily Swan).

Liocranoeca striata

Wicken Fen (18th May): 1 immature, TL56187037.

Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata (Fig. 6)

Specimens were recovered from beneath patches of dry, long-cut (i.e. not mulched) *Cladium* leaves laying on top of open, low-mid high cut fen, often at the drier edges of high-quality fens (Fig. 7). Immatures were readily identified from those of other lycosids by their orangey colour and a small pale triangular marking on the posterior of their carapaces.

Chippenham Fen: 2 females (with egg-sacs), 1 immature, TL65036937 (17th May); 1 immature, TL65056938 (17th May); 1 female, 2 immatures, TL65006943 (17th May); 2 females (with egg-sacs), 3 immatures, TL65016935 (17th May); 1 immature, TL64326929 (24th September); 1 male, 9 immatures, TL64386958 (24th September); 1 male, 2 females, 18 immatures, TL65046937 (24th September). **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 male, 3 immatures, TL75979958; 1 male, 4 immatures, TL76049949; 1 female, 2 immatures, TL76059977.



Figure 6. *Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata* adult female at Foulden Common. © Richard Gallon.

Zora armillata (Fig. 8)

This rarity was vacuumed from several parts of Wicken Fen also in the company of *Zora spinimana* (contrary to previously published assertions).

Wicken Fen (18th May): 1 female, TL56047028; 1 male, TL56187035; 1 female, TL56187037; 1 male, 2 females, TL55357028; 1 male, TL55186994; 2 females, TL55557011.

Attulus caricis

Great Fen (14th May): 1 male, TM05468011.



Figure 7. Small piles of cut, dry, long-stem *Cladium* on the fen. A favoured microhabitat for *Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata* which hide beneath these piles. Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Attulus saltator

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 female, TG49042107.

Marpissa nivoyi

Winterton Dunes (13th May): 1 female, TG49362059; 1 female, TG49682039.

Marpissa radiata (Fig. 9)

In May adult females with egg-sacs were readily found in silk-cells weaved within the previous season's dry *Phragmites* heads (Fig. 10). Immatures were recovered by vacuuming the fenland



Figure 8. *Zora armillata* adult female at Wicken Fen. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 9. *Marpissa radiata* adult female at Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 10. *Marpissa radiata* silk-cell retreat (arrowed) within previous season's dry *Phragmites* head at Chippenham Fen © Richard Gallon.

vegetation at ground level. No occupied *Phragmites* cells were encountered in September.

Chippenham Fen: 2 females, 2 immatures, TL65036937 (17th May); 2 immatures, TL65056938 (17th May); 1 immature, TL65006943 (17th May); 1 immature, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 immature, TL64326929 (24th September); 2 immature males, TL64326928 (24th September); 1 immature, TL64206935 (24th September); 1 immature male, TL65046937 (24th September). **Sutton Fen** (23rd September): 1 immature, TG37162359; 1 immature, TG37412357; 2 immatures, TG36982326. **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 immature, TL76019953. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 immature, TL56047028; 2 females, TL56187035; 1 female, TL56187037; 1 female, TL55357028; 1 male, 1 female, TL55186994; 1 female, TL55557011.

Myrmarachne formicaria (Fig. 11)

This species is recorded as new to both Chippenham Fen and Foulden Common. It has only been recorded in East Anglia once before.

Chippenham Fen (24th September): 1 male, TL64386958; 1 male, TL64796953. **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 immature male, TL75979958.

Neon pictus (Fig. 12)

The single immature was found clinging under a rock on coastal shingle. This find received considerable media attention, although it has been recorded from the site once before.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 immature female, TM44944886.

Neon valentulus (Fig. 14)

Found sometimes in the company of *Neon reticulatus*, generally at the drier edges of high quality fens (Fig. 15).

Foulden Common: 2 males, 2 females, TF76069981 (15th



Figure 11. *Myrmarachne formicaria* adult male at Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

May); 2 females, TF76059982; 1 female, TL76059977 (25th September). **Chippenham Fen** (17th May): 1 male, 1 female, TL65036937.

Pseudeuophrys obsoleta (Fig. 16)

First within an old Whelk shell on coastal shingle, the other under a metal sheet on coastal shingle.

Orford Ness (16th May): 1 female, TM44454888; 1 female, TM44944889.



Figure 12. *Neon pictus* sub-adult female from Orford Ness. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 13. Extensive coastal shingle at Orford Ness supports many rare spiders. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 14. *Neon valentulus* adult female from Chippenham Fen. © Richard Gallon.

Coleosoma floridanum

Found clinging to the undersides of logs within the zoo's tropical -house.

Banham Zoo (12th May): 2 males, 2 females, 1 immature female, TM05648736.

Crustulina sticta

Chippenham Fen: 2 males, 2 females, 1 immature, TL65036937 (17th May); 1 female, 1 immature, TL65006943 (17th May); 2 females, TL65186940 (17th May); 1 male, 1



Figure 16. *Pseudeuophrys obsoleta* adult female from Orford Ness. © Richard Gallon.

female, TL65146937 (17th May); 1 female, TL65016935 (17th May); 1 female, TL65046937 (24th September). **Dersingham Bog** (21st September): 1 female, TF67262863. **Foulden Common** (25th September): 1 female, TL76049949. **Wicken Fen** (18th May): 1 female, TL55357028; 2 females, TL55186994.

Enoplognatha caricis

This is a new site record and represents only the second East Anglian find.

Sutton Fen (23rd September): 1 immature female, TG37112359.

Enoplognatha mordax

Orford Ness (16th May): 2 males, 1 immature, TM43234861.

Steatoda albomaculata (Fig. 17)

At Roydon it was found under mature heather on sandy heathland. The Weeting specimens were all from soil-disturbed management plots on open Breckland (Fig. 18). Some specimens were found clinging to the underside of flint stones laying loosely on the soil surface.

Roydon Common (25th September): 1 immature, TF67882196.

Weeting Heath (26th September): 1 immature, TL75668770; 18 immatures, TL75728789; 28 immatures, Washboard, TL75858930.

Theridion hemerobium

Vacuumed from inundated, lakeside fen vegetation. This represents a new site record.

Redgrave Fen (14th May): 1 female, TM04177895.



Figure 17. *Steatoda albomaculata* sub-adult at Weeting Heath. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 15. Mature *Schoenus nigricans* tussocks yielded both *Neon valentulus* and *Neon reticulatus* on the drier fen margin at Foulden Common. © Richard Gallon.



Figure 18. Management plot with broken soil in the foreground supporting large populations of *Agyneta fuscipalpa* and *Steatoda albomaculata* at Weeting Heath. © Richard Gallon.

Ozyptila scabricula

Weeting Heath (26th September): 1 male, TL75668770; 1 male, TL75858930.

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