

# British Arachnological Society



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## SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 31.  
July, 1998.

### 1. EDITORIAL.

#### 1.1 Record Cards and the Publication of the Provisional Distribution Maps.

I was pleased to receive over 500 RA65 cards during the first five months of 1998, but I hope they will be arriving in ever greater numbers during the next few months as we move towards the publication of the provisional maps. Please do commit to cards all your outstanding records and send them in without delay so that they can be checked and sent on to the Biological Records Centre. A reminder that if you store records on computer then please read Stan Dobson's document "Submission of Computer Records" for guidance on formats etc. Copies are available from Stan or myself.

When the scheme began in 1987 it was decided that the provisional maps would appear without any accompanying text. It had been intended that text, giving a very brief description of the species and its habitat requirements etc., would be included in the subsequent Atlas, tentatively scheduled for publication two years after the provisional maps. However, I now understand that each of the provisional maps could be accompanied by some text. This would of course greatly improve their value but, unfortunately, little work has been done on preparing text and it is highly unlikely that it could be completed for 630+ species in the short time now available.

#### 1.2. The Newsletter.

The November issue of this Newsletter, number 32, will be a little larger than usual to accommodate contributions from the Pseudoscorpion and Harvestmen Recording Schemes. These will be provided by the National Organisers of these schemes, Gerald Legg and Paul Hillyard and will, hopefully, become a regular feature of the November issues.

#### 1.3. News of Members.

##### a). We welcome the following Area Organisers:

Stan Dobson, Moor Edge, Birch Vale, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 1BX, who takes over S.W. Yorks (VC 63).

Richard Gallon, 23 Roumania Crescent, Craig-Y-Don, Llandudno, Co. Conwy, LL30 1UP, who takes over Denbigh (VC 50) and Flint (VC 51).

##### b). We welcome the following new Recorders:

John Hunnisett, 9 High Street, Winfrith, Dorset, DT2 8JW.

Bob Merritt, 2 Ravenscroft Cottages, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 0JP.

John Partridge, 31 Duxford Close, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5BY.

##### c). Change of Address:

Michael Kilner to 58 Llangeydd Way, New Inn, Pontypool, Gwent, NT4 0RG.

Tom Faulds to The Cottage, 14 South View, Worksop, Notts,

### 2. SRS WORKING LIST - David Nellist.

The last check list of the species on the British list was produced in March 1992 and issued to BAS members as a section of the Members Handbook (section 2.3, pages 1 to 11). The list was based on

Merrett, Locket and Millidge (*"A check list of British Spiders"*, *Bull. Br. arachnol. Soc.*, 6(9), 1985) with the amendments listed in Merrett and Millidge (*"Amendments to the check list of British species"*, *Bull. Br. arachnol. Soc.*, 9(1), 1992). However, during the last six years there has been a considerable number of changes. New species have been added, either because of their recent discovery in Britain, or by the splitting of existing species, and recent taxonomic work has led to changes of name or classification.

With the continuing progress towards publication of the provisional maps in 1999 it has been necessary to prepare an up-to-date list for the Biological Records Centre to ensure, firstly, that when they appear the individual maps will be labelled with the correct names and, secondly, that maps are included for species added to the list since 1992. It has been called the "SRS Working List" to distinguish it from a formal, published check list. Clearly the full list cannot be included in this Newsletter, but I have listed below the species for which there has been a change since 1992, with a short explanatory comment. Maps for species recorded in the Channel Islands (VC113) will also be included but a separate working list for that vice-county is being prepared since it will contain a good number of species not found on the mainland.

I am most grateful to Peter Merrett for his help and advice during the compilation of this list, and he tells me that a full, updated check list will be published in the BAS Bulletin.

<u>Family.</u>	<u>Species.</u>	<u>BRC Number.</u>	<u>Comment.</u>
Dictynidae			
	<u>Nigma flavescens (Walckenaer, 1830)</u>	[00501]	Now deleted from the British list.
Uloboridae			
	<u>Uloborus plumipes Lucas, 1846</u>		Established in glass-houses in several areas. A BRC number not yet assigned.
Dysderidae			
	<u>Harpactea rubicunda (C.L. Koch, 1839)</u>	[01302]	Now assigned a BRC number.
Zodariidae			
	<u>Zodarion italicum (Canestrini, 1868)</u>	[22701]	Now assigned a BRC number.
	<u>Zodarion vicinum Denis, 1935</u>		Previously listed as <u>Zodarion</u> sp. BRC number not yet assigned.
	<u>Zodarion fuscum (Simon, 1870)</u>		New to the list. BRC number not yet assigned.
Gnaphosidae			
	<u>Scotophaeus scutulatus (L. Koch, 1866)</u>	[02002]	Now assigned a BRC number.
	<u>Zelotes subterraneus (C.L. Koch, 1833)</u>	[02006]	Now assigned a BRC number.
	<u>Gnaphosa nigerrima L. Koch, 1877</u>	[02604]	New to the list.
Clubionidae			
	<u>Clubiona frisia Wunderlich &amp; Schuett, 1995</u>	02915	British specimens were formerly known as <u>C. similis</u> .
Philodromidae			
	<u>Philodromus longipalpis Simon, 1870</u>	[04513]	New to the list.
	<u>Philodromus rufus Walckenaer, 1826</u>	04511	Now deleted from the British list.
	<u>Philodromus albidus Kulczynski, 1911</u>	[04512]	Now assigned a BRC number.
	<u>Thanatus vulgaris Simon, 1870</u>		New to the list. BRC number not yet assigned.
Salticidae			
	<u>Heliophanus dampfi Schenkel, 1923</u>	[04905]	Now assigned a BRC number.

<u>Neon robustus</u> Lohmander, 1945		New to the list. BRC number not yet assigned.
<u>Euophrys thorelli</u> Kulczynski, 1891	[05408]	Now assigned a BRC number.
<u>Sitticus inexpectus</u> Logunov & Kronstedt, 1997	05504	British specimens were formerly known as <u>S. rupicola</u> .
<u>Attulus saltator</u> (O.P.-Cambridge, 1868)	05601	Change of author.
<b>Lycosidae</b>		
<u>Pardosa silvicultrix</u> (C.L. Koch, 1836)	06406	British specimens were formerly known as <u>P. lugubris</u> .
<b>Theridiidae</b>		
<u>Theridion hemerobium</u> Simon, 1914	[09416]	New to the list.
<b>Tetragnathidae</b>		
<u>Metellina segmentata</u> (Clerck, 1757)	10203	} All transferred from <u>Metidae</u> to <u>Tetragnathidae</u> .
<u>Metellina mengei</u> (Blackwall, 1869)	10201	
<u>Metellina merianae</u> (Scopoli, 1763)	10202	
<u>Meta menardi</u> (Latreille, 1804)	10302	
<u>Meta bourneti</u> Simon, 1922	[10301]	
<u>Zygiella x-notata</u> (Clerck, 1757)	10403	
<u>Zygiella atrica</u> (C.L. Koch, 1845)	10401	
<u>Zygiella stroemi</u> (Thorell, 1870)	10402	
<b>Araneidae</b>		
<u>Araneus sturmi</u> (Hahn, 1831)	11201	} Transferred from <u>Atea</u> to <u>Araneus</u> .
<u>Araneus triguttatus</u> (Fabricius, 1775)	11202	
<u>Araniella opisthographa</u> (Kulczynski, 1905)	11305	Correction to spelling of <u>opisthographa</u> .
<b>Linyphiidae</b>		
<u>Minicia marginella</u> (Wider, 1834)	[22731]	Now assigned a BRC number.
<u>Porrhomma cambridgei</u> Merrett, 1994	[19711]	Previously listed as <u>Porrhomma</u> sp. Now assigned a BRC number.
<u>Meioneta mossica</u> Schikora, 1993	[19909]	New to the list.
<u>Centromerus semiater</u> (L. Koch, 1879)	[20308]	British specimens were formerly known as <u>C. incultus</u> .
<u>Centromerus minutissimus</u> Merrett & Powell, 1993	[20315]	Previously listed as <u>Centromerus</u> sp. Now assigned a BRC number.
<u>Lepthyphantes beckeri</u> Wunderlich, 1973	[22122]	New to the list.
<u>Midia midas</u> (Simon, 1884)	[22122]	Transferred from <u>Lepthyphantes</u> to <u>Midia</u> .
<u>Nothophantes horridus</u> Merrett & Stevens, 1995	[22741]	Previously listed as <u>Lepthyphantes</u> sp. Now assigned a BRC number.

Notes:

- (a). [.....] indicates that the species name, and its BRC number, are not listed on the RA65 record card. Records for these species should be captured on a GEN14 rare species card.
- (b). There is no convincing evidence that Philodromus rufus occurs in Britain and specimens attributed to P. rufus appear to be P. albidus. Records for P. albidus should be captured on a GEN14 card.
- (c). Meioneta mossica was not recognised as a species distinct from M. saxatilis until 1993. Again, records for M. mossica should be captured on a GEN14 card.

3. NOTES ON SOME NEW AND INTERESTING RECORDS IN HERTFORDSHIRE -  
David Carr.

40, The Maples, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4QZ.

During 1997 I started collecting at some of the woodland sites of the Broxbourne Woods complex to

the west of Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire. My first visit, on 13th. April, was to Broxbourne Wood where I concentrated on a small area of heathland. Beating the low branches of a Scots Pine yielded a single female Araniella displicata. The early date of this record, and those for Araniella inconspicua that I have collected in Essex and Cambridgeshire, suggest that these species mature several weeks earlier than Araniella cucurbitina and Araniella opisthographa. I have beaten adult specimens of Araniella inconspicua from the branches of trees and bushes before they are fully foliated. Two male Drassodes pubescens were found amongst Juncus stems in a damp area of the heath, and this species was later found to be fairly common under fallen bark and logs at the edges of some of the rides in this area of the wood. I suspected that some immature Lycosids that were running amongst the pine litter and fallen bark to be Xerolycosa nemoralis and this was confirmed when an adult female was collected on the 1st. May. These three species were new county records.

A male Salticus zebraneus was found on the trunk of a large isolated oak on some parkland type habitat at Spring Mead near Hoddesdon on the 13th. May. This proved to be new county record. There were numerous Marpissa muscosa on an old, lichen-covered fence that encloses the Park. Three other new county records were Haplodrassus silvestris from deep leaf litter in an open area of Bencroft Wood on 24th. May, Zelotes apicorum from under logs on a clear felled area of Broxbourne Wood on 29th. May, and Tapinopa longidens under fallen bark at Danesmead Wood on 27th. September.

Other interesting records included Philodromus praedatus, Philodromus albidus, Cercidia prominens, Porrhomma oblitum and Agyneta ramosa. I am certain that further field work would be rewarded with many other interesting records.

*Addendum.* On the 26th. April, 1998, I collected a single female Araniella inconspicua in Bencroft Wood. The spider was beaten from a low branch of an oak, the buds of which were in the early stages of opening. This highlights the value of beating partially foliated tress which may not look very promising for spider collecting. A male Atea triguttatus was also recorded, which seems to have a local distribution in the Herts./Essex area.

#### 4. RECENT NOTABLE RECORDS - David Nellist.

A very important record of male and female Dipoena melanogaster, was made by Janet Boyd whilst attending Dick Jones' course at Juniper Hall in June last year. The female was found at Chobham Common (Surrey) and the male at Happy Valley, Box Hill (Surrey). D. melanogaster is a Red Data Book species (RDB2, Vulnerable) and the very few specimens recorded in Britain have been from Bloxworth Heath (Dorset), Lyndhurst (South Hants.), Mickleham Down (Surrey) and Hackhurst Downs (Surrey). Prior to Janet's captures the last record of this species was by John Murphy at Hackhurst Downs way back in 1976.

Back in February of this year John McKee of the Shetland Field Studies Trust sent me a specimen, tentatively identified as Euophrys frontalis, which had been found in a house near Lerwick. But it was clearly not E. frontalis and I identified it as a male Hasarius adansoni, later confirmed by Peter Merrett. A description appears in *British Spiders* (Locket and Millidge, Vol.1), where it is noted that it is "*Not a true British species but established in some hot-houses throughout the country*". To my surprise, I heard in early April that Jim Stewart had been sent a second specimen, also a male and also from Lerwick. I understand that a note on these captures appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*.

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My thanks go to those who have supplied notes and information for this issue. Newsletter No. 32 will be published in November and I do need contributions for that. So, please send in your articles and notes as soon as possible. Thank you.

David R. Nellist.  
National Organiser

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