

British Arachnological Society



SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

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NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 42

March 2002

Many thanks to Richard Gallon for his contribution in this issue. Newsletter No. 43 will be published in July 2002. Please send contributions by the end of May at the latest to Peter Harvey, 32 Lodge Lane, Grays, Essex, RM16 2YP
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The provisional atlas and onwards.....

By the time you get this newsletter, the two volumes of the provisional atlas of British spiders should finally have been published.

Inevitably perhaps, it has taken longer than planned, but I hope the you will find the results worth the wait.

In the end a total of over 517,000 records were received from 2,470 different 10km squares. Phase 1 of the scheme has thus received at least one record from over 86% of the 2,862 10-km squares in Britain which contain some land, and the maps for many common and widespread species certainly show better coverage than I ever expected.

I have written in previous newsletters about some of the ways I hope to see the scheme move forward after publication of the atlas. For me, one of the most interesting aspects to come out of the work towards publication has been the value of male/female data provided by arachnologists who kept this data even though it had not been a part of phase one of the scheme. I would ask that if at all possible you record and submit these data in future - we are working on an updated RA65 recording card, and on ways you can submit data via the internet, as well as providing data in the computerised format described by Stan Dobson in the last newsletter.

The atlas frequently raises many more questions than answers, and there is still much to do. As well as the collection of male/female data, we need to concentrate on recording sites of high nature conservation interest, threatened sites, under-recorded parts of the country and under-recorded parts of each county, as well as under-recorded habitats.

**PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK! KEEP THE RECORDS
COMING INTO THE SCHEME**

Argiope bruennichi - a request for new records

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This species has now been found in Suffolk (P. Lee, pers. comm.) and Shropshire (P. Smithers, pers. comm.). I hope to run an update on its spread in the November newsletter. Please keep a look out during late summer and autumn and send me details of any new records.

Uloborus plumipes joins the Welsh list

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Foot & mouth restrictions had seriously affected my spidering activity in 2001, so after reading Ian Dawson's piece (SRS newsletter, July 2001 (40): 2-3) on locating *Uloborus plumipes*, I decided that this would be a worthwhile exercise.

On the 3rd September 2001 I called into Batty's Nurseries, Penrhyn Bay (SH816816; vc. 49) to see if I could locate any *Uloborus*. Mr. Neville - the owner - kindly allowed me to search the greenhouses for spiders. As I walked into the house-plant section, a large orb-web suspended in a corner caught my eye. In the web was what appeared to be a small, brown dried leaf. The 'leaf' soon came to life when I captured it, and it was indeed a mature female *Uloborus plumipes*. This spider had also secured an elongated, white, spiky egg sac to one of the greenhouse's wooden roof beams. No other specimens were seen, but this record appears to be the first for Wales.

I also heeded Ian's advice to look out for *Achaearanea tepidariorum*. Beneath the greenhouse staging were hundreds of female specimens of this theridiid, accompanied by their pear-shaped egg sacs. This spider was in every greenhouse I looked in, and several specimens were also observed under the outdoor plant staging.

This unorthodox collecting trip was well worth the effort as both species were new to me.