

Spider Recording Scheme News

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My thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. S.R.S. News No. 69 will be published in March 2011. 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.freemove.co.uk. The newsletter depends on your contributions!

Editorial

As always I am very grateful to the contributors who have provided articles for this issue. I make a plea to all recorders to write something on what you have been doing and what you have found in your spider recording.

Many thanks are due to those Area Organisers, MapMate users and other recorders who have provided their records to the scheme. Since the spring I have received MapMate records from Allan and Annette Binding, Robert Cumming, Mike Davidson, Dave Holloway, Alastair Lavery, Doug Marriott, Jennifer Newton, Ray Ruffell and Tony Russell-Smith, and these records include ones made by other recorders as well, to whom we are also very grateful. All these data have all been easily uploaded to the new SRS website using the software developed by Teknica Ltd for us. I am also grateful to Edward Milner for providing records he has made in VC18 (S. Essex) metropolitan London and to Dr Eric Duffey for records he has recently made at several sites in Norfolk. A special thanks are due to Ray Symonds for providing records from the Cecil Warburton Collection of spiders held at the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge. The Museum has recently computerised its catalogue of spirit preserved invertebrates and published the records online, including the Warburton material. Ray has curated the Warburton Collection, checking determinations of the British material and updating the nomenclature so that it is compatible with the S.R.S.

As publicised in the July SRS News, the **Spider Recording Scheme website** is up and running and provides the absolutely latest maps for all British spiders and their associated summary autecological information. The website is open to anyone to register, upload images and contribute to the forum, species notes and add or edit information on sites of interest for spiders and other wildlife. This will allow us to build up a resource on sites which recorders know have spider interest.

Members of the BAS and the recording scheme can also interrogate the regional maps to access details of the records behind the tetrads and to view the locations using google maps.

Although planned for later anyway, work was undertaken at very short notice to put in place a facility for members of the public to register and record several 'easily recognisable spiders', supported by uploaded images. This was done in time for a BBC Autumnwatch programme broadcast on 14th October which was to feature raft spiders (*Dolomedes* spp.), 4 spot orb-weavers (*Araneus quadratus*) and wasp spiders (*Argiope bruennichi*).

More developments are planned and many more are possible - please make suggestions for improvements either directly to myself or through the website contact facility.

Islandiana falsifica (Keyserling, 1886), Linyphiidae. New to Wales... and the rest of Britain

by Mike Davidson

During a British Myriapod and Isopod Group outing to North Wales in April 2010, I visited a rather bleak salt-marsh at Point of Ayr (SJ1284) near Prestatyn. The invertebrate catch was very poor, but in addition to a pill woodlouse and centipede, one small female linyphiid was retrieved from below a large embedded boulder near the sea wall. The spider defied identification by me (and Peter Harvey) but Peter Merrett, as always, came up with the goods. This was *Islandiana falsifica*, recorded from Sweden, Finland, Siberia, Canada and Alaska. Its apparent absence from Iceland hasn't prevented speculation, in some quarters, that it arrived in Wales with the volcanic dust!

Marusik (2004), in a study of petrophilous spiders, describes it as being found on pebbly beaches and scree. This doesn't quite fit the Point of Ayr site but widens the options for finding further specimens on the north Wales coast, if you fancy a seaside holiday.

Of course it now needs a suitable common name to commemorate it and your suggestions are sought. Bearing in mind the implication in its specific name and its generic connection with Iceland, I thought "The Iceland Bank Money Spider" would fit the bill. I doubt if we would get any sponsorship from them though.

A more considered paper, featuring Peter Merrett's drawings of the epigyne, will appear in due course.

My thanks to Peter Harvey and Peter Merrett for their assistance in identifying this species.

References

- IVIE, W. 1965. The spiders of the genus *Islandiana*. *Am. Mus. Novit.* **2221**: 1-25
- MARUSIK, YU. M. 2004. Fauna and populations of the petrophilous spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) of north-east Siberia and north-west Canada. In D.V. Logunov & D. Renney (eds), *European Arachnology 2003*, pp.185-200.

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