of the subfamily level. Similarly, a spiderling (previously labelled as an endosternite) with the locality data "America" could not be identified below the family level due to its immaturity.

Acknowledgements
I especially thank Tannis Davidson and Hannah Cornish (both LDUCZ) for allowing access to the museum collection and allowing examination of material. Jan Beccaloni (Natural History Museum, London) and Tannis Davidson (LDUCZ) are thanked for comments on an early draft of the manuscript.

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Triaeris stenaspis Simon, 1892 (Oonopidae) at Whipsnade Butterfly House

by Mark G. Telfer

Several oonopid spiders were noticed in the litter layer beneath shrubs within the Butterfly House at Whipsnade Zoo (TL005176; Bedfordshire VC 30) by MGT and Graeme Lyons on 13th January 2020. Two adult females collected by MGT proved to be *Triaeris stenaspis* Simon, 1892 (Figs. 1–2). On a return visit on 29th February 2020, four more adult females were collected by MGT by sieving leaf-litter and the loose, surface layer of soil.

Whipsnade specimens were keyed to *T. stenaspis* in Locket and Millidge (1951). Dissection revealed the widely triangular posterior receptaculum illustrated by Platnick *et al.* (2012) which is diagnostic of *T. stenaspis*.

Jackson (1909) identified *T. stenaspis* from 'a hothouse at the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin near Dublin' from specimens sent to him in November 1908, an identification confirmed by M. E. Simon. Bristowe (1939) gives the distribution of *T. stenaspis* as 'England: Cumberland (Penrith). Ireland: Dublin (Glasnevin Botanic Gardens)'. Locket and Millidge (1951) give the following line on its occurrence: 'Established in hot-houses at Dublin and, at one time, at Nunwick Hall, near Penrith'. To the best of this author's knowledge, there has been only one subsequent British record, by Snazell and Smithers (2007) from the Humid Tropics Biome (subsequently rebranded as the Rainforest Biome) of the Eden Project, Bodelva (SX0454 & 0455, East Cornwall VC 2).

Figure 1. Adult female *Triaeris stenaspis* from Whipsnade Butterfly House in dorsal view. The specimen measures 1.8 mm. © Mark Telfer.

Figure 2. Adult female *Triaeris stenaspis* from Whipsnade Butterfly House in ventral view. The specimen measures 1.8 mm. © Mark Telfer.

Triaeris stenaspis was described from Saint Vincent in the Lesser Antilles but has a pan-tropical range and has also long been known from European greenhouses (Platnick *et al.*, 2012). Though it has usually been assumed to have a native origin in the New World, Platnick *et al.* (2012) showed that its probable native origin is West Africa. No male of *T. stenaspis* has ever been found and it is one of very few spiders thought to be parthenogenetic.

Other spiders present in the leaf-litter layer of the Butterfly House include the oonopid *Ischnothyreus velox* Jackson, 1908 (1 male, 18 January 2020, collected by MGT), the theridiid *Coleosoma floridanum* Banks, 1900 (common) and other as yet unidentified species.

The Butterfly House at Whipsnade Zoo was opened in 2015 and houses an impressive range of spectacular tropical butterflies which fly in a heated, humidified environment. It was planted with a range of exotic trees and shrubs, all imported from a supplier in The Netherlands, which is presumed also to be the origin of much of its invertebrate fauna (e.g., the woodlouse *Anchiphiloscia pilosa* (Budde-Lund) discovered here and new to Britain (Telfer and Gregory, 2018)).

Acknowledgements
I am very grateful to the following: Graeme Lyons for stimulating an attempt to identify the spiders of the Whipsnade Butterfly House; Tyrone Capel and the Zoological Society of London for access to this interesting environment; and Richard Wilson, Ian Dawson, Peter Harvey and Norm Platnick for generous provision of advice and information.

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A Summary of a Recent Survey of Spiders in the New Forest National Park, Southern England

by Richard Wilson

Background

This article reports on a detailed study of spiders at various locations within the eastern sector of the New Forest National Park, undertaken during 2018. The work was done on behalf of Forestry Commission England and Natural England and represents the first study of the Park's spider fauna for several decades. A detailed report was submitted to Forestry Commission England (Wilson, 2019); this article presents a detailed summary of the survey's findings.

Study Area

The New Forest National Park is located in southern England within the administrative county of Hampshire (vice-county 11, South Hampshire). It comprises an extensive area of open heath and grasslands, pasture and ancient woodlands interspersed with valley mires that form the largest area of natural vegetation anywhere in lowland England, justifying its statutory protections at national and international level. Since the advent of the railways in the latter half of the 19th century, naturalists have been able to visit and record the flora and fauna, which includes a smorgasbord of nationally rare and scarce taxa, as well as species-rich communities known only, or most frequently recorded, from the New Forest.

The New Forest: summary of previous spider recording

Based on the national Spider Recording Scheme (S.R.S.) database, and considering the two main hectads covering the New Forest (SU20 and SU30), a total of 352 spider species have been recorded between 1858 and 2018. Recording effort, based on the published last records, has been variable, but nevertheless continuous in every decade since the 1940s.

The first period of what might be considered a more persistent effort are the species collected during the mid-1940s when the Yorkshire-born Alexander Arthur Digges La Touche surveyed some of the heaths whilst stationed at Portsmouth during World War II. He recorded 133 species in Hampshire (not just the New Forest) of which one species of money-spider, *Glyphesis cottonae*, he described as new to science (as *Diplocephalus cottoni*) and named after his wife. These were specimens collected between October 1943 and April 1944 (La Touche, 1946) from a '…swamp near the Beaulieu Road Station.'. This is presumably the mire identified on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map as Shatterford Bottom. Examples of other species he mentioned which are not commonplace included *Uloborus walckenarius* (Matley Passage and Beaulieu Road Station), *Zelotes serotinus*, *Gnaphosa leporina*, *Philodromus emarginatus*, *Sitticus caricis*, *Dolomedes fimbriatus* and *Aphileta misera* (all Beaulieu Road Station).

A second period of survey in the late 1960s and early 1970s is reported by Merrett (1972) from an area of dry heathland around Vale Moor (SU1905), about 2 km east of Ringwood. A total of 82 species were recorded, including a new species for Britain, *Haplodrassus umbratilis*, recorded in summer 1968 and again in summer 1971. This is a Nationally Rare spider which is only known from the western edge of the New Forest and

Figure 1. Matley Bog, New Forest. © Richard Wilson.