

Three species of spiders (Araneae) new to Norway

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Aakra, K., Hansen, L.O. & Rinden, H. 2002. Three species of spiders (Araneae) new to Norway. *Norw. J. Entomol.* 49, 59–61.

Three species of spiders are reported from Norway for the first time; *Arctobius agelenoides* (Amaurobiidae) from Finnmark, *Agroeca cuprea* (Liocranidae) from Buskerud and *Talavera thorelli* (Salticidae) from Østfold. Ecological and distributional data are provided for each species.

Key words: Araneae, new species, Norway

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INTRODUCTION

Despite recent advances the spider fauna of Norway is still incompletely known and new species are found at regular intervals. The three species presented in the current paper originate from two different sources; the large insect inventory carried out in the Oslofjord region some years ago (Hanssen & Hansen 1998) and an investigation carried out by the second and third authors in Alta, Finnmark in 1996.

Abbreviations of faunal provinces follow Økland (1981). Nomenclature is according to Platnick (2001). The material is currently in the collection of Midt-Troms Museum.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

AMAUROBIIDAE

Arctobius agelenoides Emerton, 1919

Material: FV Alta: Detsika, Buolamalia (EIS 173), Malaisetrap in sandy slope, 6 Aug. - 25 Sept. 1996, 1 ♂ (leg. L. O. Hansen & H. Rinden).

This apparently rare and overlooked species has only been recorded once from Sweden (Koponen 1974) and a couple of times from Finland (Palmgren 1977). The species is otherwise known from Western parts of Canada, Alaska, the whole of Siberia south to Mongolia and westwards to the Kola Peninsula (Leech 1972, Marusik et al. 2000).

The paucity of records from Fennoscandia could lead to the conclusion that *A. agelenoides* is a rare species in the region. This is probably not true. The species is in all likelihood overlooked and often missed by collectors because of its specialised habitat, described variously as «under rocks in talus slopes, under stones in dense coniferous woods and under stones at limestone outcrops on mountains otherwise covered with much glacial moraine» (Leech 1972) and «moss-covered lower slopes of cliffs in Lapland» (Lethinen, cited in Lindquist 1964). The Norwegian specimen was taken near a gentle slope covered with fine sand, located in a pine forest (Figure 1). The fact that the specimen was a male and was taken in a Malaisetrap suggests some vertical movement, possibly in connection with mate search. The spider usually

resides at the bottom end of a long silklined chamber enclosed by moss or detritus (Lethinen 1967).

Given previous habitat descriptions and the current record it would seem that *A. agelenoides* is to be associated with various types of habitats where any loose material (sand, gravel, stones) can be found. The most important factor is probably a suitable medium in which the characteristic silk tube can be constructed which also includes moss carpets. Having a largely sedentary mode of life and possibly a vertical rather than horizontal migration the species is not likely to be taken by pitfall traps and has consequently been overlooked in north Fennoscandian studies. *A. agelenoides* is probably widespread and locally common in the region.

LIOCRANIDAE

Agroeca cuprea Menge, 1873

Material: BØ Hole: Røysehalvøya, Søhol (EIS 36), pitfall-trap, 14 May - 14 June 1998, 1 ♀ (leg. L.O. Hansen).

This species is widespread in Sweden, having been found north to Västerbotten (Jonsson pers. comm.), it is not known from Finland (Palmgren 1977). *A. cuprea* is widespread throughout Europe and extends into central Asia (Grim 1986, Platnick 2001). It is likely the species is present in larger parts of southeastern Norway.

The species is commonly associated with dry sites, both in forests and various semi-open to open biotopes (Grimm 1986).

SALTICIDAE

Talavera thorelli (Kulczynski, 1893)

Material: Ø Råde: Tasken N (EIS 20), pitfall-trap, 2 - 24 June 1995, 1 ♀ (leg. J. I. I. Båtvik & O. Hanssen).

This small salticid is known north to Värmland in Sweden (Jonsson pers. comm.) and from the southern coast of Finland (Palmgren 1977). It is therefore likely that *T. thorelli* reaches its north-westernmost limit of distribution in Europe in the



Figure 1. The collection site of *Arctobius agelenoides* near Alta, Finnmark. The arrow indicates the malaise-trap. Photo: Lars Ove Hansen.

Oslofjord region, in common with many other evertebrates (Hanssen & Hansen 1998). *T. thorelli* is mainly a species of dry open areas.

Acknowledgements. Thanks to Lauritz Sømme for comments on the manuscript.

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*Received 10 February 2002,
accepted 6 March 2002*