

will be alerted to the possibility of finding *Dolomedes* – identification guidance cards will be distributed to ecologists, those involved in water course maintenance, fishing clubs etc. – and (2) specifically targeted survey work will be undertaken, much of it by expert volunteers. The most exciting potential outcome of this work would be the discovery of new populations of *D. plantarius*. If this happens, the need for translocation will be reconsidered. If no new populations are found, the survey work will both help with the identification of suitable sites for new populations and give an opportunity to record other spider species in some of England's best remaining lowland wetlands.

The B.A.S. is working in partnership with Natural England to support this critical survey and evaluation phase of the project. **We are appealing for volunteers to help with the survey work this summer.** Volunteers will need to register with Natural England to allow travel costs to be met, and there is a small amount of capacity to support overnight stays if it can result in a better field survey effort. Readers interested in this should e-mail Anne-Marie Fraser, as well as contacting Helen Smith (below) so that the appropriate paperwork can be processed. Anne-Marie.Fraser@naturalengland.org.uk

In Southern England, survey visits will include the fens along the Hampshire chalk streams and areas of grazing marsh in Kent and Sussex. B.A.S. survey meetings in these areas are planned on the following weekends : 4–5 July; 8–9 August; 15–16 August; 5–6 September and 19–20 September.

Please contact Helen Smith if you would be interested in joining us on any of these dates – either for all or part of the weekend – or if you would prefer to do survey work on weekdays.

In East Anglia surveys will be arranged to suit potential volunteers on weekdays as well as at weekends. Familiarisation sessions, to acquaint surveyors with the spiders, will be arranged as required at Redgrave and Lopham Fen. Again, please contact Helen Smith if you would like to help.

We will report back at the end of the year on the outcomes of the survey season and the future of the translocation project. If it goes ahead in 2010 there will be many more opportunities for volunteer involvement in monitoring the newly established populations. For more information on *Dolomedes plantarius* and its conservation in the UK, please visit www.dolomedes.org.uk.

References

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Dolomedes plantarius female drying out after heavy rain on the Tennant Canal, S. Wales. © R. Gallon.

A Brief Note on Gambian Jumping Spiders (Araneae, Salticidae)

by Galina N. Azarkina

The material presented in this note was collected by Yuri M. Marusik (Magadan, Russia), accompanied by David Penney (Manchester, UK), during a six day fieldtrip to the western part of The Gambia in October 2008. The jumping spiders collected during that trip were first sent to Dmitri Logunov (Manchester, UK), who partly treated them, then passed them over to me.

The Gambia is one of the smallest countries in Africa. In the literature, I have found only four references to Salticidae from The Gambia. The first one by Szűts & Scharff (2005) included a record of *Stenaelurillus nigricaudus* Simon, 1885. Two further works were published by David Penney (2008, 2009): the first in the Newsletter of AFRAS, where he mentioned 24 species of Salticidae he had observed in The Gambia (no species names were mentioned), and the second was his recent book (Penney, 2009), in which twelve attractive colour photos of Gambian Salticidae were published with four species identified: *Portia africana* (Simon, 1885), *Meleon solitaria* (Lessert, 1927), *Holcolaetis vellerea* Simon, 1910 and *Menemerus bivittatus* (Dufour, 1831). Feeding behaviour of two trunk-dwelling salticids from The Gambia (*H. vellerea* and *M. bivittatus*) was reported by Penney and Gabriel (2009).

The collection studied consists of 13 species and is kept at the Siberian Zoological Museum (curator G. N. Azarkina). The material was collected from nine localities: Banjul env., Abuko Natural Reserve, 13°23'N, 16°39'W, primary gallery forest, litter [1]; Banjul, 13°27'N, 16°34'W, on wall [2]; Bijilo Forest Park, 13°26'N, 16°43'W, coastal forest with Rhun Palm (*Borassus aethiopicum*), litter, chiefly under palms [3]; same locality, sweeping bushy vegetation along edge of reserve [4]; Kololi, 13°27'N, 16°42'W, Palma Rima Hotel, *Casuarina equisetifolia* litter [5]; same locality, shaking mangrove branches [6]; same locality, yard [7]; Tanji Bird Reserve, 13°22'N, 16°47'W, tree and bush branch beating, coastal swamp [8]; same locality, sifting litter under *Neocarya macrophylla*, coastal swamp [9]. Three species, viz.

Myrmarachne giltayi, *Phlegra pusilla* and *Stenaelurillus cristatus* represent new records for West Africa. One female of *Thyene* remains undetermined, as it is in poor condition and almost without coloration.

Species list:

Cyba simoni Wijesinghe, 1993: 2♀ [1]; 1♂3♀ [3].
Hasarius adansoni (Audouin, 1826): 1♂ [3].
Hyllus dotatus (Peckham & Peckham, 1903): 1♂1♀ [8]; 1♀ [9].
Langelurillus nigrilus (Berland & Millot, 1941): 1♀ [3].
Menemerus bivittatus (Dufour, 1831): 2♂1♀ [7]; 1♂ [4].
Mogrus mathisi (Berland & Millot, 1941): 1♀ [8].
Myrmarachne giltayi Roewer, 1965: 2♂ [6].
Natta horizontalis Karsch, 1879: 1♂ [1].
Phlegra pusilla Wesolowska & van Harten, 1994: 1♂1♀ [5].
Plexippus paykulli (Audouin, 1826): 1♂ [2].
Stenaelurillus cristatus Wesolowska & Russell-Smith, 2000: 1♂ [1].
Thyene inflata (Gerstaecker, 1873): 1♂1♀ [4]; 1♀ [8].
Thyene sp.: 1♀ [4].

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OPILIONES RECORDING SCHEME

At the recent October 2008 B.A.S. Council meeting the 'Opiliones Recoding Scheme' (O.R.S.) was discussed. John Partridge our Secretary drew attention to correspondence raised over the future of recording British Harvestmen. It appears that Paul Hillyard, both an author on British Harvestmen and recognised as the National Organiser for Harvestmen during his role with the Biological Recording Centre (B.R.C.), has now retired and does not wish to continue as National Recorder. It was considered by the B.A.S. that the recording scheme was part of their remit and in order to support this aim I have volunteered to help re-launch the scheme.

It is my intention to gather a number of keen professionals and amateurs with knowledge of British Opiliones to support this project in any way they feel able. This could be an article for inclusion in the B.A.S. Newsletter or S.R.S. newsletter to raise the profile of the O.R.S., or answering identification or other issues arising from queries. So if you can or wish to support the O.R.S. please get in touch.

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