

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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Editor: B. R. Vogel, Texas Memorial Museum, 24th & Trinity, Austin, Tx 78705

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY Number 7 is a fat volume, and a special thanks to all who contributed. I trust that no letters got lost in the shuffle, and that all news received is included. Number 7 contains a recapitulation of arachnology courses offered in North America (however, Canada is strangely absent. If your course is not included, its your fault for not writing us); several book reviews; names and addresses of new subscribers; much news; and information about the formation of a Society of American Arachnology.

The newsletter, American Arachnology, is beginning its 4th year as the organ of communication of arachnologists on the American continent (s). It is written by YOU, edited by B. R. Vogel, duplicated and distributed by John D. McCrone. While the Editor will forward requests for back numbers to McCrone who presumably has a stockpile, your requests for back numbers will be answered more rapidly by writing directly to: John D. McCrone, Director of Research, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

For AA No. 8 we would like to have reports of summer field work, attendance at meetings, book reports and progress reports. Some of you who haven't written for a year or two, make a special effort to send a page or two of your work. The cut off date for items to be included in AA No. 8 is 30 September 1972.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY
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In January, I mailed a letter to nearly 180 arachnologists, listed in American Arachnology and in C.I.D.A. to determine the interest in forming our own society. I wish to thank all who responded, somewhat more than half, for your very enthusiastic response. Therefore I propose an organizational meeting at Portal, Arizona on the weekend of August 12-13, 1972.

I realize that the time and place does not suit all who were interested in attending such a meeting, but, is it ever possible to find an ideal meeting place? It seems that half of us are involved in summer school, thus not free earlier, and half of us are involved with schools who begin fall semester in August, thus not free later. The weekend of August 12th was the best for the most by a slim majority.

Almost any place on the North American continent is too far away for at least half the people who would attend a meeting. Portal was suggested for this meeting because some of us enjoy going there for arachnid field

work; because it is convenient for the Arachnologists of the Southwest, and they have been interested in initiating a Journal; and also because of the numerous camping facilities in the Chiricahua Mountains which will make the meeting cheap for many of us. The meeting will be strictly an open air meeting. Persons attending should plan either to camp or to commute 75 miles. There are few accommodations in Portal, and they prefer guests who stay weeks in midsummer, and the Southwestern Research Station is already booked up for the season. Probably the nearest adequate motels would be in Douglas, Arizona, about 60 miles from Portal.

Some who responded favorably to the idea of an Arachnological Society said they thought the organization could be achieved by a small few who could set up the society. While this may indeed be what happens, I am opposed, in philosophy, to an organization established by an in-group, or an elite of some sort. In practice, only a few of us may get to the Chiricahuas, but I feel more comfortable with an arrangement in which most everyone interested in this organization has been informed, or invited, to the participation in organization of the society. I am most sorry that the time and place will not be convenient for all, and will likely preclude attendance of some who are most keenly interested in the formation of this society. My sincerest apologies to those who will be prevented from attending this meeting and my hopes are that future meetings will be held in various places sometime convenient for everyone.

I do not see this summer meeting as just a social hour. I think there is much important business to discuss: The scope and structure of the Society; The finances of the organization and the sponsorship of a Journal; The setting of future meetings and presentation of symposia.

A few suggested that this sort of organization could be handled by mail. I disagree. If someone whose institution provided any financial support had initiated this meeting it might barely have been possible. However, since I happened to suggest an organizational meeting, I had to pay for my own postage and stationery, nearly \$20 for one mailing. I cannot afford that many times a year. I think correspondence is too cumbersome for democratic process. About half the responses to my letter arrived the first 3 weeks (surely a record) and the 2nd half within 6 weeks. It would take a year to carry on a 15 minute conversation.

Others suggested several regional organizational meetings. I think this is a good idea. Why doesn't someone set them up? For example, why not have a separate meeting in the Eastern United States? Jon Reiskind in Gainesville, Florida and Clarence Goodnight in Kalamazoo Michigan said they might host a meeting, but at a later date than August 12. Robert Snetsinger at University Park, Pennsylvania suggested a telephone conference, but I don't know how many institutions have funds for that. I know it won't be possible with the Portal meeting, since we will be miles from a phone. However, I leave these arrangements to others. Look in American Arachnology Number 6 for the names and addresses of arachnologists in your region, and write them.

As for the Portal meeting, here is a list of Forest Service campgrounds in Cave Creek Canyon [the canyon which contains Portal and the Southwestern Research Station.]

Campgrounds in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Cochise Co., Arizona

IDLEWILD, 10 campsites, trailers and campers permitted
 STEWART, 6 campsites, trailers and campers
 SUNNY FLAT, 4 campsites, trailers and campers
 SOUTH FORK, 4 campsites, trailers and campers
 HERB MARTYR, 8 campsites, campers but no trailers
 JOHN HANDS, 3 campsites, campers but no trailers
 RUSTLER PARK, 27 campsites, trailers but no campers
 PINERY CANYON (over Onion Saddle), 5 campsites, trailers but no campers.

Except for John Hands all have water and wood. John Hands does not have water. Some parking slots are too small for a trailer and car, others are not level enough for a camper (trailers have levelers). All campgrounds are excellent for tent camping, and are the spacious camps of the Forest Service. Portal has a store but no restaurant.

In addition to the above campgrounds in Cave Creek Canyon, there are approximately as many in Rucker Canyon, south of Cave Creek Canyon, accessible from both the east and west sides of the Chiricahua Mountains. Those of you not familiar with the Chiricahua Mountains, and planning to come to the meeting would be well advised to write to

S. R. Albert, District Ranger
 USDA Forest Service
 Drawer Y
 Douglas Ariz 85607

Ask him for maps of the Chiricahua Mountains and information about the campgrounds. He has been extremely helpful in supplying information about the facilities and possible meeting places.

As for the exact place of the meeting, I suggest Rustler Park. This is at the top of the Chiricahua Mountains, about a 45 minute drive from Portal, unless the road has been paved in the past 2 years, and in the cool Pines. There is a group picnic area there, which means a bunch of concrete Forest Service picnic tables. While we cannot reserve them, I will be camping there a week or so in advance, and should have no trouble securing a spot for an open air meeting. I imagine there will also be others who have arrived in the Chiricahuas a few days in advance of the weekend. Since Rustler Park is at the top of the mountains, not so many people drive up there and it is not likely to be crowded. The meeting will start on Saturday, August 12 when enough of us get together, but maybe if we suggest 10 AM we will know when there are "enough" of us. It is advisable to bring lunch because of the distance from the Portal store, and I think a "social" late in the afternoon would be enjoyable, if we can work out a cooperative wiener roast and bring-your-own-beer sort of party.

I will send another letter early in summer to everyone who expressed interest in meeting in Portal to find out how many actually will come for the weekend selected. Others who change their minds, just come. Advanced regis-

tration is not required.

Bea Vogel

ACAROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
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The Aracological Society of America (with "America" intended to represent North and South America) was founded 28 November 1971 in Los Angeles, California at the Annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America. The ASA has a governing board with H. Bruce Boudreaux of Louisiana State University as chairman. Membership dues are \$1.00 US per year. The new society has asked ESA to form an Acarology subsection for the 1970 meeting in Montreal and will have a symposium on the Biology of Acarines.

C. I. D. A.
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Centre de Documentation Arachnologique, 61, rue de Buffon, Paris V^e, France. For those who may not have heard of CIDA, a brief review. CIDA serves the arachnological community of the entire world. They document, record and publish each year arachnological works and papers which have been published. The list is sent to all subscribers. In addition, there is an "Annuaire des Arachnologists Mondiaux", which seems to be published about every 3 years. the "Annuaire" is a list of names and addresses for each country classified and cross referenced as to the special interests of each individual. CIDA also arranges an International Congress on Arachnology held once every 3 years in a different host country. The 6th International Congress on Arachnology will be held in Amsterdam in 1974.

The subscription to CIDA is \$ 5.00 US (25 FF). A bank check or international money order should be sent directly to Professor Max Vachon at the above address. It is not now too early to send your 1972 contribution. Why wait until the year end and get money confused with bibliographic items?

New officers elected at the 5th Congress in Czechoslovakia last summer for the period 1971-1974 are

E. Duffey (Great Britain) President
W. J. Gertsch (U.S.A.)
H. Homann (Germany) Vice-presidents
T. Yaginuma (Japan)

CIDA Correspondents for the Americas were listed in the last newsletter, AA.No. 6. Anyone who does not have this information may obtain it from your editor. Since then, C. C. Hoff has retired, and the new American correspond-

ent for pseudoscorpions is

W. B. Muchmore
 Dept of Biology
 Univ of Rochester
 Rochester, N. Y. 14627

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION / SPECIMENS
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Robert B. ROSE, -Dept of Biology, Concord College, Athens, W. Va. 24712, would appreciate any observations or unpublished data on dormancy in spiders, and also any obscure post-1938 references to this subject. Rose, a student of William SHEAR, is attempting to determine if local populations of Araneus diadematus show a dormant period or diapause.

Bob MESIBOV, 240 Cabrini Blvd, New York N. Y. 10033, wants to know if anyone has live specimens of Argyroneta on the North American continent, or is studying them in the lab.

B. R. VOGEL, Editor of American Arachnology would like information for AA Number 8 or 9 on persons who are willing to identify spiders with or without a fee. Those interested in identifying specimens for others, please return the questionnaire which is the last page of this newsletter.

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THE FATE OF THE "COMMON SPIDERS"

J. H. Emerton described many North American spiders between 1880 and 1930. His careful drawings and observations remain unsurpassed. The Emerton collections are at the MCZ, but many specimens cited, often the syntypes, were missing. What happened to them was a mystery, although we expected that they had been exchanged. We have an inquiry about every month for one of these missing specimens.

A telephone call from Boston University in November made me aware that they had a small New England spider collection. To my great surprise they were the missing Emerton specimens. All are New England spiders collected between 1857 and 1929, some later. They had been deposited in the now defunct Boston Society of Natural History. In the early 1950's, the MCZ, so the story goes, was not interested in spiders, and the specimens were given to Boston University where they were thought to be worthless material for student use. Dr. Robert L. Jeanne, a recent Harvard PhD, rediscovered the collection. There were about 3-4000 vials, perhaps 10,000 specimens, many in poor condition encrusted with debris or sulfur from vulcanized rubber stoppers, others dried out. All are being carefully reconditioned.

Included in the collection are some which Count Keyserling examined for his *Spinnen Amerikas* (1880-1893), but although mentioned as being in Cambridge, could not be located. Others had been collected by former MCZ director Henshaw.

Looking through the collections one is surprised at some changes in fauna, the cross spider (Araneus diadematus) introduced from Europe was found first early in this century in Boston; earlier records were from Newfoundland and Wisconsin. The only widows (Latrodectus) are all the northern species and all collected in the 1930's when they must have been very abundant. They were added to the collection by later collectors. There is only one black widow collected from grapes in a Boston market in the 1930's.

Herb Levi

A NOMENCLATORIAL PROBLEM

What with the U. S. Congress passing an equal rights amendment for sexes, and the formation of the Association of Women in Science, maybe we should consider the question "How do you address a women scientist?" How do you address any colleague you haven't met? If you know he is a student do you address him as "Mr."? Or if you know only that he has a University address, do you use "Mr." or "Dr."? What difference is there anyhow? A matter of status? When addressing women, an additional complication arises. Do you use Dr., Mrs., or Miss? Many of us (women) are schizophrenic, using one name professionally, and another in our private lives. Actresses have always enjoyed this double life - Miss Helen Hayes, Miss Jane Russell, etc. even though they are married. What are their husbands' names? Why is this usage not common in Science? Because "Miss Scientist" is an old maid with horn rim glasses who couldn't catch a man? Do we use the "Mrs." to indicate that although we are smart, we can also do the woman thing and hold a man? A form of address, which is increasing rapidly in usage, is "Ms." (pronounced "miz"), avoids either of the above connotations, and also circumvents the status difference between "Mrs." and "Miss". It is appropriate to use Ms. as the counterpart of Mr. At times when "Dr." is applied to men, it is also appropriate to apply it to women. Think of groups you have met as "Dr. Alpha, Dr. Beta, Dr. Gamma, MRS. Epsilon, Dr. Zeta". After all, is SHE there because she is a woman, or because she is a scientist?

Myself, I don't care much for the use of titles, because of the connotations of status. I like the French form of address "Chère Collègue" or the Russian "Comrade Arachnologist", except for the political overtones. Barring this, I like to be on first name terms with my colleagues.

For those of you who still might think this is a joke, let me call to your attention a case of accidental or unintentional slighting of a woman scientist. Pierre Bonnet is a dear, gracious gentleman, and I know he meant no malice, but look up various salticid species in *Bibliographia Araneorum*, which were described by the Peckhams. See how the authorship is cited therein. Do you think that this reference would have been made in this way if G. W. Packham and E. G. Peckham had been brothers?

ARACHNOLOGY COURSES IN NORTH AMERICA
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California State College at Los Angeles, D. C. Lowrie [? he is
 retiring]

California State College at Long Beach, W. D. Stockton

College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691 A. A. Weaver

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston R. C. Funk

Harvard University H. W. Levi

Henderson State College, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, P. R. Dorris

Hope College, Holland, Michigan, A. R. Brady

Ohio University, Athens, J. S. Rovner

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, W. A. Drew

San Diego State College, B. J. Kaston

San Francisco State College, S. C. Williams

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, J. Beatty

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, R. W. Mitchell

University of Dayton, Ohio, J. A. MacMahon

University of Florida, Gainesville, J. Reiskind

University of Kansas, Lawrence, R. E. Beer

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, R. Schmoller

University of Wisconsin, Madison, S. E. Riecher [Arachnid ecology,
 spring, 1973]

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C., F. Coyle

If there are still courses not included in this list, let us know. It is never too late to publish information. Many of the courses listed are offered alternate years. For information about any specific course, it is suggested that you write the instructor.

NEWS ABOUT ARACHNOLOGISTS
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Wayne ASPEY (new to AA) is a student of Jerome ROVNER at Ohio University. Aspey is interested in social behavior of wolf spiders, and will perhaps concentrate on agonistic display in Schizocosa saltatrix, correlated with acoustic and chemical communication in several species of lycosids as related to agonistic display.

Michael BENTZIEN, a student of Evert SCHLINGER at Berkeley, is writing his doctorate including a revision of the diplurid genus Brachythele and concurrent field studies of natural history, centering on dispersal and mating

systems of these spiders. Bentzen includes news of Schlinger's research. Schlinger is interested in acrocerid parasites of spiders, especially on mygalomorphs; and in the importance of spiders in forest and salt-marsh ecosystems.

Ruth BUSKIRK (new to AA) is completing her doctoral thesis at the University of California at Davis on the behavioral and ecological study of a colonial spider species [name not given] in Costa Rica.

Fred COYLE is busy at several projects: a survey of a virgin Appalachian cove forest with quantitative emphasis on leaf litter spiders; observations on the behavior and population biology of Antrodiaetus unicolor; and a long term survey of the spiders of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. Coyle's greatest desire is to pursue the revision of Allatypus but says he cannot make satisfactory progress without field work funding and release time that only a grant can provide. We hope that he has heard from NSF by now.

Charles DONDALE, as a result of a decision by Canada Agriculture's Research Branch to close out its Research Institute at Belleville Ontario, as of September, 1972, is relocating in Ottawa. He will be responsible for the non-acarine Arachnida in the Canadian National Collection of Insects, and will undertake to identify submitted material and to conduct research in taxonomy, biosystematics and faunistics. Jim REDNER, spider identifier and artist, also goes to Ottawa.

Frank ENDERS expects to receive a PhD from North Carolina State University in May 1972 with his thesis "Experimental investigations of web site selection by the spider Argiope aurantia Lucas (Araneidae)". This summer he will examine web site selection of certain woodland araneids, and continue work on spider communities of soybean fields. For the academic year, August 1972 to August 1973, Enders has taken a post-doctoral position with IBP to work on convergent evolution of the spider faunas of scrub desert at Silverbell Bahada, Arizona, and Andalgalá, Catamarca State, Argentina, under Dr. W. Frank Blair. His work will emphasize feeding manner and station, and include quantitative estimates of the number of spiders, observations of feeding behavior in the field and experiments in habitat selection. Since he is not primarily a taxonomist, Enders is quite willing and eager to provide specimens and collections to individuals and museums in exchange for identifications. [Since most grants now have provisions to cover page costs of publications, I hope that some of them also have funds for taxonomic determinations. I fear many biologists are losing sight of the fact that naming specimens, especially foreign ones, if not actually impossible, is difficult and extremely time consuming.]

Frank ENNIK (new to AA) is at the California Dept of Public Health, Bureau of Vector Control (El Cerrito, Bay Area) and is concerned with the biology, distribution and taxonomy of arachnids (excluding acarines); and with hymenoptera such as Vespula, Polistes and other large wasps. His other interests include biology and taxonomy of loxocelid spiders and scorpiones.

Ian FERGUSSON, a graduate student of Coyle's, recently received his M.A. in Biology. His thesis dealt with the ecology and behavior of Hypochoilus thorelli. He is now at the University of Montana working on a PhD in population ecology.

Ann MORETON has recently moved to Mississippi. Her exhibit of spider photographs, live spiders, webs and artifacts hung at the Smithsonian Institute during September and October. Visitors showed great interest in the live spiders and in a free leaflet "How to Capture Spider Webs on Paper." The exhibit has now moved to Newport News, Virginia where it will hang until September. Moreton is now enjoying observing silk spiders in her porch and yard.

John NELSON has recently moved to Oral Roberts University in Tulsa [see address changes]. Nelson became interested in terrestrial arthropods while in graduate school at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He was assigned to an office with Joe Beatty for 3 years and during that time collected extensively in the southern part of Illinois, and added over 100 species to the check list of the state, although the records have never been published. [Which is a great pity] Nelson's thesis was on paper wasps, but he frequently found spiders hiding in the nests.

Andrew PENNIMAN (new to AA), a graduate student at Ohio State University, is interested in systematics and ecology of spiders. Penniman is currently looking for a suitable thesis problem.

Susan RIECHERT has one more year of field work to finish on her dissertation research at the University of Wisconsin. She is trying to apply the methods of vertebrate and plant ecologists to the invertebrate world. Her dissertation research involves a study of the niche space of Agelenopsis aperta Gertsch in south central New Mexico. Riechert chose Agelenopsis because of its relative success as a grassland occupant: members of the genus are found throughout North America and are locally abundant. Her observations on Agelenopsis funnel use suggested thermoregulatory behavior, so the New Mexican study area was chosen as a desert environment to determine whether the funnel serves such a function. The presence of Agelenopsis on a recent lava bed and surrounding range land provided for comparisons between habitats; and desert vegetation is less complex than temperate counterpart.

In 1971, Riechert mapped web locations and habitat characteristics of 3 habitats, and measured orientation of funnels. Preferred habitat of Agelenopsis was found to be the dense grassland located along the margin of the lava flow, with range land and lava bed habitats less favored. Spiders used shrubs on the flow for web sites, while on the grass land they were associated predominantly with depressions and mammal burrows. The orientation of web funnels built in unprotected sites was found to be significantly non-random, their direction being away from the prevailing winds and maximum incident radiation from the sun.

Fifty individual spiders were also paint marked to observe daily movements. In addition to studying the spatial habitat, Riechert attempted to determine the functional niche by assessing the energy used by the population and the source of the energy. Vacuum field sampling to determine prey species was used, and finally Riechert fed weighed individuals of known prey species to Agelenopsis captives in the field, and measured biomass of spiders and weight of prey discarded.

Susan will return to the field in March (has returned) to spend most of her time observing the spiders, and studying the change of distribution with season and state of maturity.

In relation to the request for information on arachnology courses, Andrew WEAVER writes:

" I am writing primarily to let you know of a course I have taught for some time, that is possibly one of the first undergraduate courses in arachnology that was taught. Since 1958 I have taught on alternate years a course called the BIOLOGY OF ARTHROPODS. The emphasis in the course has always been on the non-insectan arthropods, and in particular the spiders. Drs. Joseph Beatty, William Shear and Fred Coyie (all of whom earned their doctorates at Harvard under Herb Levi), all started their careers in arachnology as undergraduates in this course. In addition to this course I have taught a course called FIELD ENTOMOLOGY for Ohio State University at Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, Ohio, since about 1960. Although this course deals primarily with insects, we also learn to recognize the common spider families and many other widely distributed arachnid groups. Dr. Ted Suman (presently at the Bishop Museum, Hawaii, first became interested in the spiders in this course and has published in the field.)

"My own current interests center on taxonomy and distribution of North American centipedes. Over the past five years I have determined many collections of chilopods sent to me from all over the U. S. and Canada, often by members of the American Arachnology group."

Geraldine WHITE (new to AA) is planning a morphometric study of the tarantulas of the Shandon, California region for a master's thesis. [Name of school not given.].

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IN MEMORIAM Lothar Glatz 2 Sept. 1940 - 1 Sept. 1971

Glatz was born in Offenburg, Baden. His early interest in nature led to studies in 1959 at the University of Freiburg in biology and chemistry. After a summer's stay in Kiel in 1961 and a short return to Freiburg he decided to move to Göttingen in 1963 to work with Prof. P. Ax. His dissertation problem was to study the diversity of spinning apparatus in the hopes of resolving the cribellate phylogeny problem. The studies, encompassing anatomy, histology and development, were left incomplete by his early death. In most of these studies he was aided by Dr. H. Homann. In the course of their field trips together in the Göttingen surroundings they found Atypus, previously unknown. Glatz used the opportunities provided by various congresses to become well acquainted with his colleagues. We lived in the same hotel during the Paris meetings, and I will not soon forget the stimulating breakfast discussions on phylogeny, some together with Prof. Peter Weygoldt. Glatz was missed in Brno, and after the Congress I heard that he had died after a short illness. One of the most promising younger students of spiders, he left several incomplete manuscripts, which are being published

by his friends and colleagues.

Publications

Glatz, L. 1967. Zur Biologie und Morphologie of Oecobius annulipes Lucas (Araneae; Oecobiidae). Z. Morphol. Tiere 61: 185-214.

1969. Corrélations entre la capture de la proie et les structures des pièces buccales chez les Uloboridae (Arachnida, Araneae). Bull. Mus. Hist. Natur. Paris 41: 65-69.

(in press). Der Spinnapparat haplogyner Spinnen. Z. Morphol. Tiere.

(in press). Die Evolution des Spinnapparates der Webspinnen. Z. Morphol. Tiere.

Herbert W. Levi

BOOK REVIEW

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YATES, J. H. 1968 Spiders of Southern Africa. 200p., 12mo. Books of Africa, Cape Town. \$4.97. CHILD, J. 1968 Australian Spiders, rev. ed. 104 p., 12mo. Landsdowne Press, Melbourne. \$1.50. MASCORD, R. 1970 Australian Spiders in Colour. 112 p., 12mo. C. E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt. (printed in Japan). \$ 6.75.

These three small volumes intended for the non-specialists "down under" have in recent years come from the pen of new writers. YATES' book is presumably the first popular book about South African spiders. It has 19 text-figures, 12 plates of black and white photos, and 14 colored photos, although of the colored, four are of Nephila and four of Argiope, one of the latter, unfortunately, being shown upside down. Some of the others are dead specimens, with the legs in the characteristicly curled position.

The author apparently tried to copy the style of KcKeown (Australian Spiders) from which several lengthy excerpts are taken. But there is no comparison as to quality of product. One good point is the narrating of his own field observations, and this will undoubtedly stimulate interest in spiders among his readers. But the serious student will find many statements that are disturbing. The author lacks appreciation of the names of taxa, at different levels, and of the necessity of being careful with scientific terms. Thus one will find the following (to list but a few): Melargiope, aranea, latrodectus, agelena, Gasteracanthus, uloboridae, Arachnidae, Scorpidae, and for two genera of insect parasites of spiders Braconia and Chalcid. There is also "a family which boasts the name Mygalomorpha", and while on page 79 Pholcus is the "daddy longlegs", on page 149 the latter name is given to Tegenaria. A number of common names are invented, including: "Pinky, Brooch, Wedding-cake, and China". Shades of Duncan's "Webs in the Wind" of two decades ago!

The bibliography includes works by "Savoury" [sic] as well as "American Spiders by Comstock". The tyro may not know whether this was meant for J.H.

Comstock's "Spider Book" or W. J. Gertsch's "American Spiders". No dates, names of publishers, or places, are supplied for any of the books listed, nor pages or volume numbers for any of the journals. Figure 6, entitled palpal organ is a lateral view of an entire pedipalp so that no palpal organ can be seen. The drawing is poor and quite small, as are all the others in the book. Throughout the book Yates suggests explanations for phenomena in a teleological or anthropomorphic manner. For example, if a male after mating does not run from a female it is because "having achieved the purpose for which he was created he had no further worries or ambitions." Nevertheless some males have "legs thickly armed with spines" the function of which is to "prevent the female from getting too firm and fatal a grip." (Parenthetically, one may ask why the male should have this protection if he has fulfilled his "purpose", and can now serve as a morsel of food for the female who will carry on the species when she lays her eggs?) And if the author finds two webs that are close together he considers that the spiders must be "friendly".

CHILD's book has 36 groups of line drawings as text-figures, and 31 plates of photos, some in color. These color plates are from photographs taken by Mascord, and in the opinion of this reviewer, are, for the most part, superior to what Mascord used in his own book. Unfortunately many are printed on the page so as to show the spider in an unnatural position. On plate 13 although the legend reads "with egg sac" there is no egg sac present with this spider. There are also collections of drawings, e.g., seven on page 7, and four on page 48, where the legends appear beneath in a group, and without any clue as to which legend goes with which figure. On page 83 the legends for Dysdera and Segestria are reversed, and on page 43 it is stated that agelenids have only two tarsal claws. Of course, I object to the use of the word "cunningly" as applied to a spider's actions. I cannot agree with the suggested pronunciations given for Scytodidae, Pholcidae and Tetragnathidae. For the latter the author indicates that the letter "g" is silent, and for the other two that the "c" is pronounced as a "k". In the reviewer's opinion the "g" is pronounced (as in the word prognathous and similar), and the "c" has the "s" sound (as in scythe and incident respectively). [Editor's Note: Pronunciation seems to be a cultural thing. In Newsletter No. 2 of the British Arachnological Society, T. H. Savory writes "The 'g' of 'gnathos' should be silent: e.g. Tetra-natha, not Tetrag-natha."] After a brief section devoted to structure and habits in general the author takes up 25 of the more common families, with brief descriptions of a few representative species. Their distribution in the Australian States is given, and where known some notes on their biology are supplied. Generally speaking the book is relatively free of errors and is interestingly written.

In MASCORD's Book the first nine pages are given over to a brief discussion of the structure and biology of spiders in general, and a glossary. The rest of the book is arranged so that there is descriptive matter on the left hand (even-numbered) page, and a set of four color photos on the right hand (odd-numbered) page, applying to the spiders discussed on the left. There is a total of 198 photos. On page 5 is a set of five labelled line drawings which are only very slightly modified from a set used in two well known works of another author but regrettably Mascord gives no credit to the source. The fifth drawing is original, of a pedipalp from a male spider with the distalmost portion labelled "tarsal bulb". In the author's glossary

we are informed that the "bulb" is the "tarsus of the male palpal". Apparently the author does not distinguish between a cymbium and the palpal organ borne by it.

Many of the photos are excellent, particularly that of Dinopis holding its net. There is no question but that "the book will be useful to those planning to work outdoors in Australia" as one reviewer put it. Since the chief purpose intended by the author is to enable recognition it is a shame that so many of the photos are poor. Some are of dead specimens with their legs curled up, some are out of focus, some are shown upside down, and very many are either too dark or show dark shadows alongside the specimen. This makes it impossible to see where the edge of the spider itself is, and where the background begins. This reviewer, speaking from his experience of having taken thousands of the same kind of close-up photo for the past 20 years, as well as having served as a judge and/or commentator in many contests and exhibitions, would say that the photos could have been improved by showing more "separation" between specimen and background, either by the use of a fill-in light, or the use of a reflector on the "off" side of the specimen being photographed.

For each species the author gives a common name (if one is known), the Latin name, and a brief description. For some, the name of the original describer and the date are supplied, but no explanations are supplied for the omission of these for most of the species. Then follow comments on: 1) Color; 2) Identification; 3) Dimorphism; and 4) Food. But these data hardly seem needed, when one considers that in almost every case the author supplies them as follows: 1) "as in photograph"; or "as illustrated"; 2) "by photograph"; 3) "male smaller"; and 4) "small insects" respectively. It should be mentioned that body lengths are virtually always supplied, making it easy to note that males are almost always smaller than females! On page 62 for one species he states that the male is unknown, yet for Dimorphism, "males probably smaller". But for the next species on the page, also with the male unknown the Dimorphism is stated as "unknown". This sort of discrepancy appears in a number of places. On page 72 for Nephila maculata, although a male may not have been seen by the author one cannot say that the Dimorphism is unknown, for Yaginuma, in his excellent volume on Japanese spiders gives colored pictures and dimensions of both sexes.

In many places the author's language is insufficiently precise, e.g., referring to "chitinized" when what is meant is "sclerotized". Or in referring to an ant having three "segments" to its body, and a spider only two, when of course what is meant is "divisions" (or tagmata). There is the implication that only mygalomorphs "rely on digestive fluid to dissolve their food." Just how do araneomorphs manage? Is the epigynum really "above" the epigastric furrow as stated, or is it not anterior to it? And do we supply a new name to a taxon because that name "had already been taken by an insect"? Does the genus Rebilus really show "only four spinnerets" or are not the medians merely modified in shape?

In several places the author reveals his lack of knowledge of the literature and of taxonomic principles. Regarding Diaea pilula the author states that "this species has been known as Xysticus pilula since L. Koch described it in 1874". In 1966 Dondale "placed the species in the genus Diaea" and the author agrees with him "in his decision to alter it" [sic].

Now what are the facts? L. Koch described the species in 1867 and himself transferred it to Diaea in 1876, and this information is supplied by Dondale himself in his paper! Again, for Phonognatha graeffi the author makes it appear that Dondale in 1966 cleared up the synonymy, when as a matter of fact this was done by Dalmas in 1917. Regarding Nicodamus bicolor he indicates that various workers had considered it a theridiid, an agelenid, and a zodariid; the "present author prefers to leave it in the family Theridiidae". The reason for this (in part) is the fact that two species also in this genus "were described as Theridion by prominent arachnologists". Now it is true that Walckenaer and L. Koch had described two species in Theridion, but the latter workers, Karsch and Thorell described other species which they did not place in Theridion. It has been placed in the Agelenidae by Simon and by Hickman, and Forster suggested first that it be placed in the Zodariidae, then later removed it to a family of its own. Does Mascord imply that the last six named workers are not prominent enough? Finally, there is the case of Ariamnes, considered a synonym of Argyrodes by Levi. "The author agrees but will not alter it [sic] until authoritatively informed of such a move." How does Mascord expect to be authoritatively informed considering that Levi's paper appeared in 1962? In the matter of Drassidae vs. Gnaphosidae I would suppose that there are as many or more who prefer Gnaphosidae, despite his remark that the "modern trend is toward Drassidae".

For all three of these volumes, in this review more emphasis has been placed on the faults, since they are more likely to escape casual or uncritical reading, than are the creditable features.

B. J. Kaston

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Several have moved since the Directory was published in the last newsletter. Names in capital letters are new listings.

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE WILLING TO IDENTIFY ARACHNID SPECIMENS

Name:

Address:

Taxonomic groups

Geographic restrictions:

Other restrictions
(Sorting, labels, etc)

Cost: \$/hour
\$/specimen
Taxonomists "tax", number or %
of specimens retained
Rights to new species descriptions

Time necessary for identifications (weeks, months, years, decades?)

Return to:
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