AN IRREGULAR ORB-LIKE WEB BUILT BY AN ADULT MALE OF METEPEIRA SP. A (ARANEAE, ARANEIDAE)

According to Bristowe (1941), Millot (1949) and Foelix (1982) most males of araneid spiders do not build orb webs after their last molt. However, adult males of *Eriophora fuliginea* build orb webs (Robinson et al. 1971; Robinson and Robinson 1981). Laboratory studies corroborated that most males of *Metepeira* sp. A (name suggested by H. W. Levi, in lit.) do not build orb webs (Viera and Costa 1985). The objective of this paper is to report an unusual, irregular web built by an adult male of *Metepeira* sp. A.

In the laboratory, 34 adult males were put into individual glass cages (30 X 30 X 9 cm) with a frame and a water container for 48 h. The temperature averaged 23 ± 2°C, and the photoperiod was 12 h light/ 12 h dark. A specimen of *Metepeira* sp. A was deposited in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Montevideo (number 305a).

Only one male built one web within this structure: the web was planar, with a vertical diameter of 22.5 cm, a horizontal diameter of 13 cm, several incomplete sticky lines.
possible radii, and 18 more or less circular sticky lines. Many lines were lax (Fig. 1). One ant (Acromyrmex sp.) was placed onto the sticky lines. The prey stuck but the male failed in its capture. However, this male captured another ant in a female web (Viera and Costa 1985) and also mated normally.

This irregular orb-like web resembles webs constructed by young Zygiella x-notata (Witt 1956, in Foelix 1982:141) and drugged adult females of Araneus diadematus (Witt 1971). Both drugs and sexual maturity in males modify the expression of the innate program of orb web building.

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LITERATURE CITED


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NORTHERN RECORDS OF MICROBISIUM BRUNNEUM
(PSEUDOSCORPIONIDA, NEOBISIIDAE)
FROM EASTERN CANADA

The range of pseudoscorpion species in Canada is poorly known (e.g., Hoff 1958; Dondale 1979; Sharkey 1987). When collecting invertebrates with pitfall traps and by sieving Sphagnum moss in bogs in eastern parts of Canada, 1978 and 1985, the senior author captured the pseudoscorpion Microbisium brunneum (Hagen) both in the boreal forest zone and in northern forestline, forest tundra, areas.

M. brunneum was found in samples of Sphagnum moss at the following sites in eastern Canada:

1. Ontario; Copetown (43°14'N, 80°04'W), Summit Hill muskeg, 11 July-26 September 1978, 2 exx.