

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

Issue No. 2

February 1969

Editor: C. D. Dondale, Canada Dept. of Agriculture,
Research Institute, Box 367, Belleville, Ontario.

The backbone of our second issue of American Arachnology is a roster of more than 70 American arachnologists with their positions, mailing addresses, and current research interests. Other items include brief sketches of the three known arachnological organizations in the world, a review of the Levis' new Golden Guide, and a tribute to the late Harriet Exline Frizzell and a bibliography of her published works, ably composed by Wm. B. Peck and checked by Harriet's husband Don Frizzell.

ARACHNOLOGISTS OF THE SOUTHWEST

This is the name chosen by a group of professional and amateur arachnologists in southwestern U.S.A. in April 1968. The core of the group consists of about 10 to 20 enthusiastic workers in California who live near enough to each other to meet monthly during the collecting season. Some meetings take the form of collecting trips, but often a speaker or discussion leader focuses attention on a particular subject. At one meeting Dr. B. J. Kaston described his black-widow work; at another, Don Van Dyke presented his data on Pardosa sierra on part of the actual site at which the work was done, a 6,000-ft.-altitude spot in the San Bernardino National Forest. Dr. Kaston is President of the society, Bob Schick Vice-President, and Mel Thompson the Secretary-Treasurer (Eaton Canyon Nature Study Center, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, California 91107). Membership is open to anyone interested in the group's activities. Annual dues are one dollar.

BRITISH ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This society grew out of the Flatford Mill Spider Group and the British Spider Study Group, started in 1959 with a membership of ten. At the beginning of 1968 membership stood at 100, including 17 overseas workers. The aim of the society is "to promote the study of arachnids, especially spiders, pseudoscorpions, and harvestmen (Opiliones), and to encourage the exchange of information by all suitable means." Field trips are an important activity. A mimeographed, copywrite bulletin is prepared quarterly and includes technical contributions of high quality as well as literature reviews, short notes, and news. Non-members may purchase current individual bulletins, of which 40 have now appeared, for ten shillings each. Membership costs one pound per calendar year, and is open to anyone interested in the society's aims, subject to approval of the governing council. The honorary secretary is Mr. D. W. Mackie, 11 Ashmore Ave., Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire, England. Dr. Eric Duffey is President, Mr. G. H. Locket Vice-President, and Mr. John Crocker (66 Outwoods Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire, England) bulletin editor.

ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF EAST ASIA

This is our oldest existing arachnological organization, having been founded by a small number of Japanese enthusiasts in Tokyo in 1936. The society claims a membership now of 250, with Dr. Tamao Fukui as President. It publishes annually, or semi-annually, Acta Arachnologica, of which the first 13 volumes were published in Japanese, and subsequent volumes in English, or in Japanese with English summaries. Subscriptions are included in the annual membership dues of \$2.00, though foreign members are exempted from payment of dues if, during the year, they offer a paper on arachnid research for publication

in the journal. Director of the society and chief editor of the journal is Prof. Takeo Yaginuma, Biological Laboratory, Ohtemon-Gakuin University, 230, Ai, Ibaraki, Osaka, Japan.

FOURTH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF ARACHNOLOGY, Paris, April 1968

More than a hundred arachnologists attended this six-day congress last spring. The presence of only three North Americans was not a reflection of flagging interest, but was due to lack of Government travel support. Highlights of the Congress, which was judged very successful, were published in Science 161: 1033 (1968). The papers given are to be published as the proceedings of the congress.

BOOK REVIEW

SPIDERS and their kin. Herbert W. Levi and Lorna R. Levi, under the editorship of Herbert S. Zim. A Golden Nature Guide, Golden Press, New York, 1968. 1-160 pp., illus. \$1.00. Reviewed by Beatrice R. Vogel.

American nature libraries have been greatly enriched by the publication of this little pocket book on arachnids. It is illustrated with hundreds of beautiful colored drawings of spiders and their webs, of a quality excelled only, perhaps, by Yaginuma's Spiders of JAPAN. This book is particularly attractive because all the animals illustrated are in color, with only a few black and white diagrams of structure. It is by far one of the best books to be published in the Golden Nature Guide series.

The authors have done a very good job of packing such a vast subject into so few pages in the face of numerous difficulties, especially with illustrations. The first 16 pages contain a general account of phylogeny, structure, biology, arachnidism, and making collections. The next 95 pages

describe and illustrate 48 spider families with most families characterized in "25 words or less", no easy task. Then 38 pages are devoted to other arachnids, myriapods, and terrestrial crustaceans. These groups, which are usually skimmed over, here are given almost the same coverage as the spiders.

Most of the faults one finds with this book could not be corrected within the limitations of space and material. There are, however, three points which I feel could have been handled better. The main character given to distinguish between mygalomorph and true spiders is difficult to use. "Chelicerae attached in front of head" for the former, and "chelicerae attached below head" for the latter is ambiguous and cannot be used by someone who doesn't know the difference. Besides, arachnids possess no true heads. While fang articulation may be a bit more technical, it is a less confusing character when understood. Mention of the term "haplogyne" (pp. 8, 30, 31) without fuller explanation is probably too obscure for this book, and would have been better omitted. Common names are used for many spiders in this book; the layman's various uses of "tarantula" are not explained, and while many of us may not wish to use the word, it is one of the first uttered by many people wanting to know something about spiders.

However, most of the families are fairly treated, and this book should be the introduction for many, many people to the beauty and intricacy of the arachnid world.

BOOK NOTICE

The Instituto Butantan has published a three volume work, International Symposium On Animal Venoms, which totals 1020 pp. and covers all venomous animals, but chiefly snakes, spiders and scorpions. It covers many aspects

of these animals including their systematics, ecology, biochemistry, and pharmacology of the venoms, treatment, etc. All three volumes may be purchased from the Instituto Butantan, Caixa Postal 65, São Paulo, Brazil, for U.S. \$35.00 including shipping charges.

ARACHNOLOGISTS OF THE AMERICAS

The purpose of this list is to put us in touch with each other. You are urged to read it and to note the people working in your field. Another possibility is that workers of particular regions will contact others near them and perhaps form local groups for field trips and discussions. One of the most exciting results of this effort is the discovery that no less than four universities are offering (or will offer soon) formal courses in general arachnology (see McCrone and Reiskind, Drew, Lowrie, Williams). In addition we find that staff at a number of other universities are both able and willing to supervise graduate students working on arachnids as subjects for thesis research. Some administer grants as well. Further entries for this list are wanted for a future newsletter issue.

ANDERSON, John F., Instructor, Department of Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32601. Received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in December, 1968. His dissertation was a study of the comparative rates of metabolism in several species of spiders. This is now being prepared for publication.

✓ BAYER, Lutz J., Curator, Entomology Museum and graduate student, Russell Labs, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Official duties mainly curatorial relating to the insect fauna of Wisconsin, but also collecting arachnids, particularly Thomisidae.

✓ BEATTY, Joseph A., Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901. Current research: (1) Microhabitats of spiders on Gibraltar Island, Lake Erie. Begun 1959. (2) Distributions of spiders on the islands of Lake Erie. Begun 1968. (3) List of the spiders of Eniwetok, Kwajalein, and Majuro Atolls, central Pacific (jointly with J. W. Berry, Dept. of Biology, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana 46207). Begun 1968, and hoped to expand into a broad study of the ranges and ecology of Pacific spiders. Curator of large collections (up to 20,000 vials) of spiders from northeastern Ohio and the Lake Erie islands, southern Illinois, North Carolina, Tallahassee and Everglades areas of Florida, southern Arizona, and Mexico, and will lend to workers doing revisions.

✓ not listed in C.I.P.A.

- BIXLER, David E., Assistant in Medical Entomology, Dept. of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, California 92502. Current research: (1) Ecology of arachnids of medical importance (mainly scorpions) in California. (2) Revision of North American Haploetrassus (Gnaphosidae), begun in 1968. (3) Ecology of Lycosidae and Gnaphosidae in alpine habitats, begun in 1963. Has quantity of unworked spiders in several families to lend, mainly from Michigan, Arizona, California, and western Canada. Papers in press: "Atypical Tarantulas in Michigan," Michigan Ent. and "Wolf Spider Ecology of Grand County, Utah," Southwestern Nat. M. Sc. thesis submitted to Michigan State University, 1967: "Spiders on Isle Royale, Michigan."
- BRADY, Allen R., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423. Current research: (1) Taxonomy of North American lynx spiders (Oxyopidae). Paper in press: "The Lynx Spider Genus Hamataliwa in Mexico and Central America," (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.). (2) Identification of large collection of the genus Sossipus from southeastern United States (with a student). (3) Identification of Michigan populations of Latrodectus (with second student). Would be very interested in getting together informally with other arachnologists in the midwestern region, particularly Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin. Other workers in this region please note. How about some competition for the Southwestern Arachnologists? (Editor).
- BRIGGS, Thomas S., Science Teacher at Galileo High School, and Field Associate to the California Academy of Sciences. Home address: 845 Corbett Ave., San Francisco, California 94131. Current research: Systematics of laniatorid Phalangida, particularly the Triaenonychidae and various cave-dwelling groups. Recently published on the genus Sitalcina (family Phalangodidae) (Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.).
- BROOKHART, Jack, Teacher of High School Biology. 53 Drake, Pueblo, Colorado 81005. Current research: Distribution, ecology, and taxonomy of North American Solpugida. Wishes to receive solpugids from Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico. Currently working out a species problem in Colorado material.
- BUCHERL, Wolfgang, Instituto Butantan, Caixa Postal 65, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Current research: (1) Revision of the chilopods of South America. Would very much like to receive any papers about South American chilopods written by North American specialists, chiefly the last papers of R. Chamberlin. (2) A study of the interpopulation variations of the female receptacula and male bulbi in the common Brazilian species of Loxosceles.
- CARICO, James E., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia 24504. Current research: (1) Taxonomy, evolution, and ecology of Dolomedes of North America. (2) List of the spiders of Virginia.
- CHICKERING, A. M., Associate in Arachnology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Current research: Revision of the genera of Gonopidae in Florida (paper nearly completed), Central America (particularly Panama), and the West Indies. Three papers on this family appeared in print in 1968 (Psyche, Breviora), and one on Migrammopes (Uloboridae) (Breviora).

- COYLE, Frederick, Graduate Student, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Current research: Systematics, behavior, life histories, and ecology of the mygalomorph family Antrodiaetidae. Begun 1966. Recent publication: "The Mygalomorph Spider genus Atypoides," Psyche 75: 157-194.
- CRAIG, Patrick R., Senior Scientific Data Analyst, Lawrence Radiation Lab., University of California (home address: 2337 Grant St., Berkeley, California 94703). Current research: (1) Lists of the spiders of (a) Baja California, (b) Colombia, (c) the Galapagos Islands. (2) Stereophotography as an aid to spider family identification. (3) Computer analysis of stereophotographs.
- CUTLER, Bruce, Graduate Student, Department of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. Current research: (1) Revision of the Peckhaminae. (2) Revision of Neonella. (3) Biology and potential toxicity of Loxosceles arizonica (with D. B. Richman). (4) Revision of Semiopyla. (5) Description of a fossil Coriarachne from Wyoming. (6) Prey-capture behavior in Coleosoma floridanum. Holds a Predoctoral Fellowship from the U. S. National Institutes of Health.
- DEVOE, Robert D., Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland 21205. Current research: Electrophysiology of spider vision, particularly in the Lycosidae.
- DONDALE, Charles D., Research Scientist, Canada Department of Agriculture, Research Institute, Box 367, Belleville, Ontario. Current research: (1) Role of spiders in the control of grassland insects (with A. L. Turnbull). Commenced 1965. Includes work on life histories, mobility, fecundity, activity periodicities, sexual behavior, population dynamics, and feeding behavior of grassland spiders (mainly Lycosidae). Paper in press: "Wandering of Hunting Spiders in a Meadow" (co-authored with 4 others), Proc. 4th Eur. Congress of Arachnology, Paris, 1968. (2) Sex pheromones in Lycosidae. Commenced 1968 in collaboration with B. M. Hegdekar, insect biochemist at Belleville. Paper in press: "A Contact Sex Pheromone and Some Response Parameters in Lycosid Spiders" (co-authored with B. M. Hegdekar). Can. J. Zool. (3) Revision of Philodromus (Thomisidae) and related genera in North America. Commenced 1959 and continuing.
- DORRIS, Peggy R., Assistant Professor, Henderson State College, Orkadelphia, Arkansas 71923. Current research: (1) Spiders found in mud-dauber nests in Arkansas and Mississippi. (2) Effects of insecticides on spiders. Received Ph.D. 1967 from University of Mississippi (thesis on the spiders of Mississippi). Papers in press: "Spiders of the Family Salticidae in Mississippi," Jour. Miss. Acad. Sci. (with Y. J. McGaha); "A Preliminary Study of the Spiders of Clark County, Arkansas, Compared with a Five Year Study of Mississippi Spiders," Jour. Ark. Acad. Sci.