



American Arachnology

Number 12

Winter, 1974-75

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AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY is a newsletter for arachnologists of the Western Hemisphere. It is sponsored by the American Arachnological Society and normally is issued twice a year, in April and October. Both 1974 numbers (11 and 12) were several months late. The April 1975 number may not be issued, unless the editor receives enough contributions to warrant it; we hope to be back on regular publishing schedule with October 1975.

The production of AA is undergoing some changes. The first 10 numbers were printed and distributed by John McCrone without cost to the Society. We would like to give John a big THANK YOU for this invaluable service. Without it we would never have had a (semi) regular newsletter, nor probably an arachnological society. In serving arachnology in this capacity, John has probably not received proper credit for his contribution, and we would like to acknowledge its importance. Thanks again, John.

It should not be too surprising that this would not last forever, and now the society will partially underwrite the newsletter. Nan Lawler at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will help with production now, and the Department of Invertebrate Zoology there has offered to help with the distribution. AA # 11 was printed and mailed by Charles Dondale. We wish to give Charles a big THANK YOU also. He was the founder of AA and edited the first 2 issues, and as such could probably be called the "father of the AAS." Bea Vogel took over editing the newsletter in 1969, when Charles spent a sabbatical in France. (Bea is too modest--that's all she says. But I believe we are all fully aware of how much we owe her, and how totally inadequate "THANK YOU" is.--N.L.)

Back issues are still (so far) a bargain at \$4.00 for Numbers 1-10, 50¢ for #11 or other single back issues. Orders should be sent to Nan Lawler, 1753 Grand Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

The Journal of Arachnology

As the American Arachnological Society and its official organ, the Journal of Arachnology, enter their 3rd year of existence, the Journal has completed publication of Volume 1 and is well into Vol. 2. Though it is apparently a few months behind schedule, we are pleased with the quality of the Journal and, considering the vast amount of work necessary to initiate such a production, feel that the Editor, Bob Mitchell, has done a fine job in producing 4 numbers already. Bob complains that address changes, requests for back numbers, and lost mailings erode into his Journal time. All efforts are being made to iron out these problems, which surely beset all new publications. We wish to give Bob a hearty shout of THANKS for giving us a publication that the Society can be proud of.

C. I. D. A.

The CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE DOCUMENTATION ARACHNOLOGIQUE, 61, Rue de Buffon, Paris V, publishes an annual list of arachnological works of the world, fully referenced and cross-indexed. This valuable bibliography is available to anyone interested upon subscription. Formerly, the bibliography was distributed to anyone interested, whether or not they paid. Rising costs have forced C.I.D.A. to discontinue this practice, and it will now be sent only to those who pay.

Every 3rd year CIDA publishes a list of the Arachnologists of the world, and cross-indexes their interests/research. CIDA also sponsors the international arachnological congress every 3rd year (see also "Meetings").

CIDA subscription is \$5 (US dollars) and may be paid by members of the American Arachnological Society to the secretary when they pay AAS dues, or sent directly to CIDA in Paris. 1975 subscription is payable now.

Editorial Comment

On Being a Naturalist in the United States

why would you want to study taxonomy? that's 19th century science
i really dig bugs--we learned all about them in the 5th grade
what are they good for?

we don't give a degree in taxonomy--it's not experimental
i found a spider in my house last week so i smashed it
you're rather overspecialized--we're interested in an economic entomologist
this thesis is poorly written--it reads like a nature study report
how can you be interested in bugs when people are starving to death?
how many times have you been bitten?
taxonomy is all right for amateurs but we expect our students to engage in
serious research
but what are they good for?

what was the amount of your grant last year?
we have a systematist--he has just published the Expected Phylogenetic
Relationships of the Coleoptera Based on an Electrophoretic Analysis
of Serum Proteins
who cares about the sex life of spiders--tell me something interesting like
how do whales copulate?
bug collecting is for pansies--give me a casting rod and i'll show a
real man's sport
if you are not a limnologist how can you write environmental impact statements?
how many poisonous spiders are there?
yes we're looking for an invertebrate zoologist, but we need a behavioral
physiologist
how can you study spiders--they give me the creeps
what are they good for?

we don't offer entomology--you have to go to ag school for that
i really dig the nature trip--ever try peyote?
we are sorry we cannot support your research--you failed to demonstrate its economic
importance
have you ever been bitten?
what are they good for?

the trouble with your work is that it's descriptive
if a tarantula bites you you'll die won't you?
who ever heard of spider watching--primates that's where its at
that's very interesting--how much footage did you shoot?
if we don't control them they'll take over
but what are they good for?

BVogel

Past Meetings

In 1974, the American Arachnological Society held 2 regional meetings, as reported below:

EASTERN MEETING

The eastern Section of the American Arachnological Society met in Lynchburg, Virginia, on July 31 and August 1, 1974.

The Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce billed it as a meeting of the American Archaeological Society, but admitted that Jim Carico, our host, collects spiders as a hobby. When we turned up with nets and bottles instead of pans and shovels they ignored us anyway, which is what we wanted. About 36 arachnologists attended, and the general feeling was that the site, the facilities, and the discussions were excellent.

Lynchburg College provided cafeteria, dorms, and campsites, plus the gymnasium for physical activities (those grad students play a mean game of volleyball!), and transportation up to a mountain gorge in the George Washington National Forest for an afternoon of collecting. Our host provided a delicious watermelon feast on Wednesday evening.

Seven papers were presented on systematics, including new work on Cnaphosa by Norm Platnick, phylogeny of orb-weavers by Herb Levi, New World Pisauridae by Jim Carico, Pacific Island spiders by Joe Beatty, leg setae as indicators of instar in Peucetia by John Randall, family identification in the Pseudoscorpionida by Bill Muchmore, and the separation of two similar species of Leiobonum by Charles McGhee. Also, Norm set up a neat demonstration of representatives of 13 unusual spider families.

The half-day session on ecology and behavior featured Ben Moulder's energetics study on forest-floor spiders at Oak Ridge. Jim Berry discussed the spiders of the Florida Everglades, Karen Menders compared the spider fauna from two areas of an alkaline bog in Ohio, and George Uetz tackled the problem of coexistence in a guild of hunting spiders in a deciduous wood. Wayne Tolbert described mortality factors in Argione trifasciata and A. aurantia, and some of the spiders' defences, in Tennessee. G. B. Edwards showed us how to identify some eastern species of Phidippus by color and habitat. Jerry Rovner brought us up-to-date on the behavior of Lycosa rabida, an acrobat that ties its prey to the waving foliage that is its habitat. William Tietjen solidly challenged the hypothesis that male Lycosids react only to non-airborne chemical sex stimuli. Peter Witt and two of his students covered new work on web structure, drag studies, the performance by the Skylab Araneus, and the beginnings of sociality in web builders.--CHARLES DONDALE

WESTERN MEETING

The western Section met August 13-15 in "the other Las Vegas"--Las Vegas, New Mexico, a small, old town full of old brick buildings with tall chimneys (a marvel to those of us from Earthquake Country). The local newspaper, however, did manage to bill us as the Arachnological Society. The meeting was hosted by Don Lowrie and held at New Mexico Highlands University, where Don was teaching a summer course.

There were 39 people attending, though only 3 members of the executive committee, so not much of a formal business meeting was held. Mel Thompson did present a finance report. A symposium on spider ecology was held and seven papers presented. There was also a very popular photo salon featuring in particular many 10 x 14" color photos of spiders by Murray Cragin.

Despite uncertain weather, a field trip to Gallinas Canyon was held on the afternoon of 13 August. The banquet, held in a Las Vegas restaurant, pretty much closed the meeting, as many wished to get an early start the following morning. A "hard core" of perhaps a dozen met for more informal talks on the morning of the 15th.



1974 was also the year of the 6th International Arachnological Congress sponsored by CTDA and hosted by Dr. Vlijm in Amsterdam.

INTERNATIONAL ARACHNOLOGICAL CONGRESS, April 22-30, 1974

An international arachnological congress has to be one of the most fabulous of scientific meetings held in this world. The experience was doubly enjoyable for me since it was also my first visit to Europe. Primary was the thrill of meeting colleagues with whom one has corresponded for a number of years, and being able to spend hours discussing one's research. About 100 arachnologists from all parts of the world attended and the Dutch were superb hosts. The meeting in Amsterdam, which lasted 4½ days, was wonderfully planned and organized; presentation of papers, coffee breaks, meals, conversations, and entertainment--resulting in the usual grumbles from the insatiable that there wasn't enough free time to visit. The organizing committee placed a "resting room" for the convenience of the congress adjacent to the meeting rooms in the Vrije (Free) University. Here coffee, orange pop, beer, and gin were some of the conveniences available from 9 am until midnight when the University closed. Most of the arachnology was discussed in the "resting room."

I was housed in a family hotel some distance from the University. The hotel was a converted house and very comfortable. Breakfast included. By my usual luck with public transport, there was no direct way from the hotel to the University, and after one or 2 transfers, depending on route chosen, the journey lasted half an hour, just about 2 minutes less than it took to walk. However, the route crossed 2 canals, and I discovered one other arachnologist staying in the same hotel. Despite a relatively small number of attendees, and 4 days of papers, there were double sessions the last two days, bringing the inevitable problem of the 2 papers you wanted most to hear being presented simultaneously. This problem was minimized, however, by the superb organization, and absolute adherence to time schedule. Well, it didn't solve the problem of simultaneous papers, but it made it possible to slip from one session to another between papers. Papers were given in 3 languages: English, French, and German. This presented a slight difficulty for some of the more chauvanistic--the English-speaking and French-speaking participants. I don't mean to imply that there was any real language barrier, but did happen to note that persons tended to group during coffee break according to language preference.

Thursday, April 25, was the social highlight of the meeting. At the end of the afternoon session we walked a short distance to a waiting canal boat and were taken on a tour of Amsterdam and harbor, complete with refreshment. At the end of the canal ride we had again to walk to the student union for the banquet. For some of us who had been refreshed with Dutch beer, the walk seemed endless. The banquet was all a banquet should be--speeches, wine, several courses, and much good fellowship.

Following the Congress was a 4-day excursion, which left the university steps at 8 am promptly. We crossed Holland by bus, for the most part on back roads, visiting some of the more interesting tourist places--the town of Kampen: cigar factories, buildings 6 or 7 centuries old, and coffee at the city tavern complete

with stuffed head of wild boar. We also stopped at some ancient burial sites, hunebeds, marked by huge stones. By the time we reached Groeningen we had time only to circle the market twice by bus, and then on for the rendezvous with the ferry to the Fresian Island of Schiermonnikoog.

The ferry ride across the Waddenzee took nearly an hour, and then we were again carried by bus to our lodgings. Some of us were lodged in the hotel van der Werff, a 200-year-old frame building decorated with tiles, blue willow china, and mariners' charts left over from an extinct navigation school. The island is a large sand dune, 3 x 16 km, and on the lee side, of course a polder (land enclosed by a dike). The ecology department of the Vrije University operates a field station on the island. For the next two days we studied the island, learned about its ecology, and of course collected spiders.

Much time was devoted to discussions and conversations of arachnology. The final day of the excursion we boarded a chartered boat, crossed the Waddenzee, passed through the locks of the dike which forms the Lauwerzee, crossed the Lauwerzee and visited the polder. Here Vlijm's group has been studying colonization of new land, because the polder is only 5 years old. We returned early that evening to Amsterdam, just in time to celebrate the queen's birthday. May 1st, labor day, is a holiday throughout Europe. In Holland, either they celebrate it on April 30th because it is the queen's birthday, or celebrate for 2 days; I wasn't quite sure which because I left Holland on May 1st and went to places where labor day was celebrated as such.--BEA VOGEL

Future Meetings

1975

The American Arachnological Society will hold its first international meeting in 1975, June 24-26 at Warrensburg, Missouri, close to the geographic center of North America (well, calculate it by population density if it doesn't work out topographically). A special invitation is extended to members living outside the U.S., and to non-member arachnologists. There will also be a section of myriapodologists attending the meeting. Central Missouri State College will make available moderately priced food and lodging. While the deadline for submitting papers to be presented passed 1 January, those who have not committed themselves to attending the meeting may still do so if they hurry. It should be an exciting meeting, since it will be the first of the Society as a whole. Inquiries may be addressed to Dr. W. B. Peck, Dept. of Biology, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

1976

The eastern Section of the AAS will meet at Carbondale, Illinois, Joe Beatty host. Details and date to be announced later.

The 1976 meeting place and date of the Western section have not been decided on. The choice is between Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Portal, Arizona.

1977

The 7th International Congress of Arachnology will meet in Exeter, England.

