

## BOOK REVIEWS

### HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR INVERTEBRATES A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK

By Peter Kirby

150 pages, with 174 text-figures and 6 black-and-white photographs. 21 x 30 cm. Softback. RSPB, Sandy, Beds. 2001. £17.45 plus £2.60 p.+ p. ISBN 0-901-930-300.

This useful text is effectively a reprint of the 1992 book of the same name. However, it is no less welcome for that, since the earlier volume has been out of print for some time. The author acknowledges that much has happened in the period since the book was first published, but quite rightly states that the general principles of habitat management for invertebrates are similar now to then and hence the book has altered very little in this new reprint. Some more recent references and a short section on abandoned grasslands have been added. There are also minor amendments to other sections, for example, those on ancient trees and river shingle.

This text is a valuable contribution to habitat management in general and invertebrate conservation in particular. It covers most British habitats and is illustrated with many drawings showing the changes resulting from management, as well as examples of the invertebrates (mainly insects) found in different habitats. The book begins with a brief introduction to the British invertebrate fauna and the general effects that habitat types and vegetation structure have on invertebrate populations and communities. Especially valuable is the discussion of site size and the broad management needs of invertebrates. This chapter ends with a section on recording and monitoring invertebrates, including a very useful series of annotated drawings of types of nets, traps and other monitoring techniques. Subsequent chapters deal with the specific habitat types of woodlands, grasslands, lowland heaths, freshwater wetlands and coastlands. Each gives some details of the important management techniques used in the habitat under consideration and suggests methods of maintaining and/or enhancing a rich and varied invertebrate fauna.

No one invertebrate group is covered in particular detail; spiders are no exception. Although the techniques suggested will be useful for invertebrates in general, there are often conflicts in managing habitats for particular groups of invertebrates, not least for spiders (see Bell *et al.*, 2001). Some of these conflicts are examined, for example, those associated with hay meadows—less suitable for invertebrate conservation than they are for plants. However, detailed discussion of such issues is beyond the scope of this text. A related feature of value is the, albeit brief, coverage of management issues associated with some of the illustrated invertebrate species. These give a flavour of the breadth of this topic in a format that prevents the bulk of the book becoming too detailed.

Amongst the many illustrations of invertebrates are ten spiders, although they are often used as examples of the invertebrate fauna associated with certain plants (e.g. *Theridion sisyphium* and *Dipoena tristis* on gorse, and *Hypsosinga pygmaea* and *Neoscona adianta* on heather), or with habitat types (e.g. *Arctosa cinerea* on shingle beds, *Philodromus fallax* on dunes, and *Enoplognatha oelandica* and *Eresus cinnaberinus* in bare areas of sandy heathland and mature heath, respectively).

In a text otherwise remarkably clear of errors, it is unfortunate that one picture of grassland invertebrates which includes *Pardosa monticola* is labelled as 'Some insects using bare ground', while another labelled 'Some uncommon insects associated with Scots pine on heathlands' includes *Salticus zebraneus*. The spiders

chosen are interesting because many of them are quite rare in Britain.

In general this book is a welcome addition to the literature on habitat management and invertebrate conservation. It is accessible, comprehensive and should provide a source of information to land managers and others for many years. The lack of detail on particular groups of invertebrates does not detract from its general appeal and presumably helps to keep its price at a reasonable level. The first printing had a major role in educating students and countryside managers alike to the importance of thinking about invertebrates when planning and implementing management, and so it is a pleasure to see this book back in print. The author and sponsors are to be congratulated on reprinting this valuable resource.

### Reference

Bell, J. R., Wheeler, C. P. & Cullen, W. R. (2001) The conservation of spider communities and the implications for grassland management: A review. *J. Zool.* (in press).

C. Philip Wheeler

### DIE SPRINGSPINNEN (ARANEAE, SALTICIDAE) GRIECHENLANDS

By Heiko Metzner

279 pages, 124 maps, 118 tables. 17 x 24 cm. Paperback. Andrias, 14, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe, Germany. 1999. DM 70. ISBN 0721-6513.

This volume is a summary of current knowledge of the jumping spiders of Greece. It is particularly remarkable that this is the first serious introduction since Simon's time to the Salticidae of the whole Mediterranean Region, whose diverse and peculiar salticid fauna has been little studied compared with other Palaeartic faunas such as those of Northern or Central Asia. The book provides very useful taxonomic information, including distribution maps and excellent black-and-white illustrations, on 121 salticid species of 39 genera, with 13 species being described as new to science.

The introductory chapters of this book (4–6) contain, along with a comprehensive review of current problems, a number of original data/ideas to be used/discussed by anybody interested in salticid taxonomy, e.g. original summary data on 32 somatic characters of all the genera involved (table 3), an original key to all the genera included, and the ecological characteristics (habitats and ecological preferences) of all treated species (table 4).

As the suprageneric taxonomy of Salticidae is often a matter of controversies still requiring further resolution, a number of ingenious solutions by the author attract the most attention. New interpretations of the subfamilies Plexippinae and Hyllinae are the best examples of this. The author has made extensive use of ultrastructural characters such as body scales (up to now rarely used in salticid taxonomy) to support his conclusions. For instance, assigning *Menemerus* and *Mogrus* to the Hyllinae (p. 140) and *Marpissa* to the Plexippinae (p. 132) is, to my mind, well justified. However, the positioning of some other genera seems rather odd: e.g. the genus *Neon* is included in the subfamily Euophryinae only on the basis of the spirally twisted embolus (p. 44). I consider that the author, following Maddison (1995), gives too much significance to the spirally twisted embolus as a suprageneric criterion. The *Euophrys*-shaped embolus occurs in at least 60 salticid genera and is surely one of the most homoplastic characters of the copulatory organs in Salticidae.

The Bibliographic Index (pp. 28–34) of 267 sources (counted by D.L.) is well prepared, although some works are listed twice, e.g. Simon (1868), whereas others are mentioned in the text, but are absent from the reference list, e.g. Strand (1908) and Zabka (1997).

Chapter 9 (pp. 35–279) contains detailed diagnoses, descriptions, comments and tables of diagnostic figures (118 in all) for each species, and therefore provides a complete up-to-date synopsis of the Salticidae of Greece. For me, the most interesting sections of this chapter are the regional reviews of poorly known genera such as *Leptorchestes*, *Salticus* and *Saitis*, and the detailed taxonomic data on poorly known species of *Aelurillus*, *Phlegra* and *Habrocestum*. The advantages of this chapter as a reliable source of particular taxonomic information cannot be overemphasized. At the end of the chapter is a list (pp. 273–279) of the Greek jumping spiders identified by the author and deposited in the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Karlsruhe, Germany.

Clearly, Metzner's book will be used as a reliable guide to Mediterranean salticids. Therefore a few comments on problems of species taxonomy seem relevant here.

Two species, *Bianor albobimaculatus* (pp. 118–119, table 83) and *B. aurocinctus* (pp. 119–120, table 84), are incorrectly identified (and/or their illustrations have been interchanged). *B. albobimaculatus* should actually be referred to *B. tantulus*, while *B. aurocinctus* is to be considered *B. albobimaculatus* (for other details see Logunov, 2001).

The females of *Sitticus floricola* (table 46d,e) are without doubt those of *S. inexpectus* (cf. Logunov & Kronstedt, 1997, figs 13–17, 21–26), while the illustrations of the females of *S. inexpectus* (table 47d,e) actually seem to belong to *S. caricis* (cf. Logunov & Kronstedt, 1997, figs 19–20, 28, 33).

A new species, *Chalcoscirtus helverseni* (p. 46, table 12), is likely to prove synonymous with *C. parvulus* (cf. Logunov & Marusik, 1999, figs 91–93), a widespread Turanian species distributed to the west as far as Turkey (Izmir).

Sections of Metzner's book devoted to the genus *Pellenes* (pp. 121–131) have attracted my particular attention because of the existence of a number of interesting ideas and unresolved problems. Unfortunately, the author did not examine the type material for the most problematic species, e.g. *P. flavipalpis*, *P. geniculatus*, *P. nigrociliatus*, and hence his conclusions cannot be fully accepted. Only a few comments are necessary: (1) if the identification of *P. flavipalpis* is correct, this species' name is to be considered a senior synonym of *P. geniculatus* (*sensu* Logunov *et al.*, 1999; these authors re-examined the syntypes of *P. geniculatus*); (2) a species mentioned by Logunov *et al.* (1999) as *P. nigrociliatus* (p. 131, table 96), to my mind, belongs elsewhere and its taxonomic status is to be tackled in the future.

Generic assignment of some species causes some doubt; for instance, *Asianellus leiopoldae* seems to be a member of *Aelurillus*; *Pseudeuophrys sengleti* is almost certainly a member of *Saitis*; *Neon rayi* actually belongs to the subgenus *Dicroneon* (see Gertsch & Ivie, 1955).

The above-mentioned small mistakes do not influence my generally very high assessment of Metzner's work. It is the best monograph on jumping spiders I have had in my hands for the last decade. Undoubtedly, the author is to be congratulated on producing a book of such a high standard: a comprehensive and reliable source of information about the Salticidae of Greece (and the Mediterranean as a whole). In addition, this volume is very good value for money: a compulsory buy for both amateur and professional arachnologists.

## References

- Gertsch, W. J. & Ivie, W. (1955) The spider genus *Neon* in North America. *Am. Mus. Novit.* **1743**: 1–17.
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- Logunov, D. V. & Marusik, Yu. M. (1999) A brief review of the genus *Chalcoscirtus* Bertkau, 1880 in the faunas of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Aranei: Salticidae). *Arthropoda Selecta*, **7**(3): 205–226.
- Logunov, D. V., Marusik, Yu. M. & Rakov, S. Yu. (1999) A review of the genus *Pellenes* in the fauna of Central Asia and the Caucasus. *J. nat. Hist.* **33**: 89–148.
- Maddison, W. (1995) Salticidae Homepage: <http://spiders.arizona.edu/salticidae.html>.

Dmitri V. Logunov

## THE SPIDERS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND: MILLENNIUM ATLAS By John Crocker and Jonathan Daws

120 pages, with 341 distribution maps and 36 line drawings. 21 x 29 cm. Softback. Kairos Press. 2001. £14.00. ISBN 1-87-1344-26-3.

In 1996, Loughborough Naturalists' Club published *The Spiders of Leicestershire and Rutland* by John Crocker and Jonathan Daws. This new work, although identical in format to the 1996 publication, in no way replaces it, but stands on its own as a point of reference at the Millennium. Chapters One to Three explain the geographic area covered, include an up-to-date check-list of spider species, followed by a distribution map (usually six to a page) for each species, with a 2 km square grid within a framework of 10 km squares. Here and there, spaces in the maps are filled with line illustrations of relevant spider species, expertly drawn by Mike Roberts. The maps incorporate 12,000 records added since 1996.

Chapter Four lists new county records, with notes for each, and includes details of some rare species found in areas of much-disturbed countryside and in man-made habitats, as well as in relict patches of original topography. The two counties are bordered by Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. It is often difficult to determine on which side of a boundary a specimen has been collected. This is probably not of great significance for Leicestershire and Rutland because the topography of the counties of Middle England is similar, with only small pockets of countryside remaining comparatively undisturbed by man. Here is a landscape shaped and dominated by farming, coal-mining, railways, motorways and housing estates. This book reveals the extent to which spiders can adapt to a changing environment. For example, fifty years ago, within the arachnological lifetime of the present reviewer, the tiny *Theridion blackwalli* O. P.-Cambridge, 1871 was considered to be a very rare spider in Britain, sometimes to be found amongst grasses and low plants. Later came unexpected records of the species on the window frames of certain field study centres. Within the last six years, the authors of this book have discovered no less than 34 sites for it within their area from external walls to inside telephone boxes. As part of their survey, the second author visited 185 telephone boxes twice a week: this provided records for 85 species. The 1996 volume included a gazetteer describing just over 100 collecting sites. The

## SPECIAL OFFER

B.A.S. members may purchase both of the books reviewed on the previous page for the special price of £12.00 UK, inclusive of p.+ p.; £13.00 Overseas, by surface mail. Please send your orders, with a sterling cheque or credit card details to: Fitzgerald Publishing, P.O. Box 804, LONDON, SE13 5JF, UK.

## FIELD MEETINGS 2002

### A.G.M. AND FIELD WEEKEND: REMINDER

The Society's A.G.M. and Field Weekend will be held at the **Snowdonia National Park's Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch over the weekend of 14th–16th June**. Full details were given in the last Newsletter (92: 8). The Meetings Secretary, Mr Martin Askins, would like to remind members who have booked places for the weekend that full payment should reach him by **7th April**.

### RESIDENTIAL FIELD STUDY COURSE

**20th to 22nd September, 2002** (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) at FLATFORD MILL FIELD STUDY CENTRE, EAST BERGHOLT, SUFFOLK, CO7 6UL (Tel.: 01206 298892). **Identifying Spiders. Course Tutor: Paul Lee.** Course fee: £125 Resident, £97 Non-resident. For further details, please contact the Centre directly.

## GRANTS

Grants are available from the Ted Locket Memorial Fund and other funds of the Society to promote arachnology in a wide variety of ways. Grants are available to both members and non-members. Awards are unlikely to exceed £100 but additional funding will be considered in the case of applications of particular merit.

Applications should be made before 1st April each year to the Honorary Secretary of the British Arachnological Society: Dr Helen Read, 2, Egypt Wood Cottages, Egypt Lane, Farnham Common, Bucks, SL2 3LE, and should include full details of the purpose for which the award is required and also any other funds available or applied for in connection with the intended purpose.

The Society's grant policy and details of the awards made will be published in the Society's Annual Report. It is expected that a report on the work undertaken or meeting attended will be prepared by successful applicants for publication in the Society's Bulletin or Newsletter.

## SPIDER SURVEY OF WHEATFEN BROAD

Wheatfen Broad, some six miles east of Norwich, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and one of the few remaining areas of the Yare Valley Swamp. It has over 100 acres of reed beds, tidal channels and carr; several miles of pathways; and the small broads of Wheatfen and Broadwaters. It was the home of Ted Ellis, the well-known writer and broadcaster on natural history topics, for forty years until his death in 1986; his widow still lives in *Wheatfen Cottage*. The Ted Ellis Trust was formed in 1986 to protect Wheatfen and its rich but fragile ecology in his memory, and to promote the continuing study of its natural history.

The Society has been asked by the Trust to survey the spiders of Wheatfen Broad as part of a broader programme to increase our knowledge of the flora and fauna of the site. Very little is known of the spider fauna. Notably, A. R. Jackson recorded 82 species during visits in the middle 1930s, and a small party led by Dr Eric Duffey recorded 38 species during a visit in 1971. Ted Ellis himself recorded a few species over the years, and with one or two additional records the total now stands at 118, including *Carorita paludosa* and *Centromerus semiatet*, both RDB2, and a number of Nationally Notable species.

The intention is to hold two weekend meetings during 2002, one at the end of May and one later in the year; the date for the latter meeting has yet to be confirmed. In the intervening period the Warden at Wheatfen, David Nobbs, has volunteered to operate pitfall traps which will provide additional specimens. The first meeting will be held on Saturday/Sunday, 25th/26th May. Members can, of course, attend on either or both days, as they wish, but will those interested in joining the party please let me know so that I can keep them up-to-date on the arrangements: Tel.: 01727 872981; e-mail: davidnellist@compuserve.com. For those wishing to stay over on the Saturday night the Norwich Tourist Information Centre will supply, free of charge, a glossy, illustrated book listing accommodation in the area to suit all pockets: Tel.: 01603 727927; e-mail: tourism@norwich.gov.uk.

David R. Nellist, Roundwood, 198A, Park Street Lane, Park Street, ST ALBANS, Hertfordshire, AL2 2AQ

## ERRATUM

A crucial section was omitted from Dmitri Logunov's review of Metzner (1999) which was published in the last Newsletter (92: 6–7). We offer our sincere apologies to Dmitri for this unfortunate error. Below is the latter part of paragraph 7, page 7, column 1, with the missing section in bold. Below this again is an 'erratum slip' which can be photocopied and inserted in the appropriate place.

Only a few comments are necessary: (1) if the identification of *P. flavipalpis* is correct, this species' name is to be considered a senior synonym of *P. geniculatus* (*sensu* Logunov *et al.*, 1999: these authors re-examined the syntypes of *P. geniculatus*); (2) a species mentioned by Logunov *et al.* (1999) as *P. nigrociliatus* (**these authors re-examined the syntypes of *P. nigrociliatus* from 'Silesia'**) is given under the name *P. geniculatus* (table 94); (3) the species named as *P. nigrociliatus* (p. 131, table 96), to my mind, belongs elsewhere and its taxonomic status is to be tackled in the future.

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