



After another 10 years as a high-school teacher he retired in 1983, but retirement and inactivity did not suit him well and after some time he visited me at the Museum of Zoology in Lund. This visit turned out to be very important for him (and for me!): he now decided to describe and illustrate the entire Swedish spider fauna! This would be a large task for any biologist but to Sven, with his scrupulous attitude and fascination for spiders, it became an almost full-time hobby for the next 24 years. From his own collecting trips, by personal visits to and loans from public collections and from literature sources he compiled up-to-date information on distribution and ecology of all the c.725 known Swedish spider species. He also described the species and drew about 2,700 figures in Indian ink to illustrate their morphology; to make the description of the colours as correct as possible he used freshly collected specimens kept in a refrigerator, material he also used for the drawings.

When almost 89 years old Sven Almquist was happy to see the second volume of his work on Swedish spiders in print.

Lennart Cederholm

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- 1994: Four species of spiders (Araneae) new to Sweden. *Ent. Tidskr.* **115**: 113–117.
- 2005: Swedish Araneae, part 1 – families Atypidae to Hahniidae (Linyphiidae excluded). *Insect Syst. Evol. Suppl.* **62**: 1–284.
- 2006: Swedish Araneae, part 2 – families Dictynidae to Salticidae. *Insect Syst. Evol. Suppl.* **63**: 285–601.

## BOOK REVIEW: SWEDISH ARANEAE, PART 2, FAMILIES DICTYNIDAE TO SALTICIDAE

by Sven Almquist

317 pages, 482 plates of grey-scale figures, 219 maps, 24.2 x 20.5 cm. Soft-cover.

*Insect Systematics & Evolution*, Supplement no 63, 2006: 285–603; in English.

Obtainable from Scandinavian Entomology Ltd., Pärönvägen 19, S-224 56 Lund, Sweden; phone & fax +46/(0)46-51823; e-mail: contact@scanentom.se; cost 455 SEK (€49.30 or £33.60) plus postage. Further details online at [www.scanentom.se](http://www.scanentom.se).

International arachnological communities can welcome the second volume of *Swedish Araneae* by Sven Almquist, published as a supplement to the journal *Insect Systematics & Evolution*. The first volume, which appeared in 2005, was reviewed in the Newsletter of the British Arachnological Society, 2006, **105**: 11.

Like the first volume, the second combines the highest standards of classical arachnological publications, with most of the recent nomenclatorial updates included. This book considers 219 spider species from 66 genera and 12 families (Dictynidae, Amaurobiidae, Titanocidae, Anyphaenidae, Liocranidae, Clubionidae, Gnaphosidae, Zoridae, Sparassidae, Philodromidae, Thomisidae and Salticidae), and also contains the references for volumes 1 and 2. The third volume, devoted to Linyphiidae was to be published originally in 2007. However, the fate of the last volume is now uncertain. Following the death of the author, it is hoped that another author can be found to complete the volume, but it remains to be seen how much work has already been done on the linyphiid volume.

The book reviewed here is a direct continuation of volume 1 with continuous pagination (beginning at 285) and no 'Introduction.' The first few pages (pp. 285–296) contain a checklist of Swedish spiders with no comments. Only the species covered in the two published volumes are numbered, 419 altogether. Pages 297–298 contain details of Swedish landscapes used in the text to show the distribution of all the treated species in Sweden (219 small text maps altogether), abbreviations of the morphological terms used for taxonomic descriptions and a list of depositories.

Subsequent chapters (pp. 299–576) are prepared in the same mode as in the previous volume and give a detailed taxonomic account of all the species included. Every family is provided with a detailed family ‘Diagnosis’ followed by a ‘Key to genera’; similarly, every genus (and each species group where necessary) is also diagnosed and accompanied by a ‘Key to the species’. Every species is treated according to the following plan: reference list; brief descriptions of both sexes; distribution (general and within Sweden, with a map); habitat; and available biological data (mostly restricted to a species’ phenology). Every species is well illustrated by grey-scale figures of the copulatory organs (right palps) and general appearance. All the author’s illustrations are of high quality and original, except for those of *Talavera esyunini*, which were borrowed from Logunov (1992). All taxonomic descriptions and keys are clear and concise, and, as in the previous volume, well-earned credit should be given to Dr Peter Merrett, who corrected the English and checked figures (this fact is acknowledged on page 595).

The volume ends with a comprehensive list of ‘References’ (pp. 577–594; 730 works, counted by DL), ‘Acknowledgements’ (p. 595) and an ‘Alphabetic list of taxa in volumes 1 and 2 (pp. 596–601). As a Russian, I have been pleasantly surprised by the high number of relevant Russian works cited by the author, who did not just refer to the poorly detailed catalogue by Mikhailov (1996), as many European authors often do. Furthermore, the latter catalogue is not mentioned at all.

A few critical comments can be given here with regard, for instance, to the general distribution of some species: *Arctella lapponica* (p. 303) is not restricted to Scandinavia and Russia, as stated, but has a Holarctic range; *Pistiis truncatus* (p. 495) is not a Palaeartic but a European species; *Sitticus inexpectus* (p. 564) is not restricted to Southern Sweden but is a Euro-Central Asian species; *Sitticus ranieri* (p. 566) is not a Palaeartic but a Holarctic species; etc. Besides that, the reference to Snazell & Jones (1993) given on page 590 is incomplete, as it does not contain the title or reference to a journal.

However, these are quite minor mistakes and shortcomings; the second volume has made as good an impression on me as the first one, and I wish to congratulate the author, Sven Almquist, once more for such fine work. The volume is a must-have manual for every practicing arachnologist; yet it is good value for money. I highly recommend this book to both amateur and professional arachnologists alike.

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#### ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please send B.A.S. Newsletter articles to the Editor: Richard Gallon, 23A Roumania Crescent, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 1UP, United Kingdom; e-mail: newsletter@britishspiders.org.uk

Whenever possible, please submit articles by e-mail.

#### NEWSLETTER CD-ROM

The publication of the Society’s Newsletter archive on CD-ROM is imminent. The CD contains the Society’s Newsletter nos. 1 to 100 and the Spider Recording Scheme Newsletter nos. 1 to 49 and, as with the Bulletin CD-ROM, is a fully searchable database.

System requirement is for a Pentium PIII I GHz (or equivalent) or better, running Windows XP/2000/Vista, with a minimum of 256Mb RAM 16 bit colour display, running at 1024 x 768. The CD will also run on a MAC with a PC emulator.

The CD-ROM is available to members at £15 (P&P £2.00) – total £17.00. If you would like a copy immediately on publication, please send your cheque for £17.00 (payable to ‘British Arachnological Society’) to Rod Allison, Walnut Barn, Gussage St Michael, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 5HX. If you have any queries, please e-mail him at treasurer@britishspiders.org.uk.

#### B.A.S. 50th Anniversary Meeting and A.G.M. 2008

In 2008 the B.A.S. celebrates its 50th year. The anniversary meeting and A.G.M. will be held on the weekend of 6th–8th June (Friday to Sunday afternoons) at the Field Studies Council’s centre at Preston Montford. As well as field trips over the weekend, a series of talks is planned for the Saturday morning. Speakers and their topics include: James Bell (The mechanics of spider ballooning and the importance of wind, silk and ecology), Si Creer (Spider molecular phylogeny), Dmitri Logunov (The current state of knowledge of the European Salticidae), Peter Merrett (History of the Society) and Paul Selden (Fossil Arachnids).

If anyone wishes to extend their stay outside the duration of the A.G.M. weekend, then it may be possible (depending on how busy the centre is) for them to arrive early or leave late and stay at the centre. To arrange this, individuals should contact the centre directly.

The cost of the weekend will be of the order of £140 (£120 if you’re willing to share a room). Early booking (£30 deposit) would be appreciated. To book your place contact the Meetings Secretary: B.A.S. Meetings Secretary, Martin Askins, 69 Savill Crescent, Wroughton, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN4 9JG; e-mail: martin@askins.fsnet.co.uk

#### GRANT APPLICATIONS

Small bursaries are available from the Ted Locket Memorial Fund to help support those wishing to attend arachnological study courses, symposia or field courses. These small grants are specifically, although not exclusively, aimed at students and those with a relatively new interest in arachnids.

Additionally, grants may be available from Society funds to undertake specific research projects. Such funds are limited and it is suggested that, before application, an initial enquiry is made of the possibility of such funding. Potential applicants should be able to supply a brief outline of the project, its objectives and the anticipated level of funding required.

If you are interested in applying for a bursary or research grant, please contact the B.A.S. Secretary, Ian Dawson, 100 Hayling Avenue, Little Paxton, ST NEOTS, Cambridgeshire, PE19 6HQ; e-mail: secretary@britishspiders.org.uk