

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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Austin, Texas 78705

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AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY was initiated last year as a newsletter so that widely distributed American arachnologists would be able to know what others were working on. Many of us are relatively isolated and rely chiefly on correspondence and rare visits to have any contact with other workers. Now there seem to be enough arachnologists (more than 100 are receiving A.A.) to form local groups, The Arachnologists of the Southwest probably the most active. There is interest in forming such a group in the mid-west, Ohio-Michigan-Illinois region. However, American Arachnology is still not functioning as effectively as it might. There are still many American arachnologists who have not sent us their biographical sketches. The List of American Arachnologists that is being compiled (see A.A. Nos. 2 & 3) should be as inclusive as possible, not restricted to "professionals" but include "amateurs" as well. We especially invite acarologists to send their names and interests.

If American Arachnology is to function as a professional grapevine, more news will have to be sent in. The news sent for this issue was almost exclusively solicited - information about arachnology courses offered. Issue No. 5, tentatively scheduled to come out in November, 1970, should contain news about field work, requests for specimens or exchange, major publications for 1970, etc. This newsletter cannot function without active participation from all subscribers. We must hear from all of you this fall, for a fat No. 5.

This issue (No. 4) was scheduled to come out mid-April, or at latest, early May, to reach academic colleagues before summer dispersal. We had Earth Day, April 22, then severe campus disturbances and strikes, and finally Finals. Then for a few blissful weeks we tried to catch up on a semester's research. Now we are off for the field.

We have suspected for some years that population and pollution were real American problems, and now the growing awareness and publicity these problems are receiving make us wonder whether we have any right as citizens and scientists to carry on "business as usual," or if we should pour our entire energies into making more people understand the ecological aspects of overpopulation, and assisting in alleviating these conditions. It is all too easy to think the situation, or become so alarmed that we cannot justify any occupation other than total concentration on environmental problems. How can studying spiders be relevant if we are all going to starve to death, die of pestilence or bomb in the next decade or two? Even in our most pessimistic moments we cannot give up faith in the future. If the world is going to blow up, we do not seem to be able to ignore the possibility of some of our species surviving. With so little general scientific interest, at present, in documenting our environment, we feel, that whatever happens, we owe future generations whatever we can contribute toward environmental documentation. It is a bit hard for us to imagine a situation in which Homo sapiens survives and Arachnida do not, but if it would happen, then a historical evidence of their past existence would be more valuable than mere fossil evidence. So we try to divide our time between our first interest, arachnids, and secondly, what we feel we must do as citizens.

American Arachnology is not the only late publication these days. We received the first number of a quarterly journal date June 1, 1969 on February 16, 1970, and just this week we received the Coleopterists Newsletter dated April 1970.

### Credits

We have received many compliments for A.A. No. 3 and would like to thank all who wrote. The appearance is due to John McCrone who publishes.

American Arachnology. B. R. Vogel, who has been acting editor for the past year, has accepted the job for another year or two. The editor gathers and organizes the news, McCrone reproduces and distributes it, so far without cost to subscribers. Persons wishing to be included on the mailing list of A.A. or back numbers, would get faster service by addressing their requests directly to Dr. John D. McCrone, Associate Dean and Director of Research, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California 95204. News items should be sent to the Editor.

Due to an accidental oversight, not an intentional omission in A.A. No. 3, R.X. SCHICK was not given credit for writing the book review to Levi & Levi's translation of Kaestner's Invertebrate Zoology.

#### Future Meeting

Vince Roth would like American Arachnologists to consider another symposium on spiders at the 1971 meeting of the Entomology Society of America. The 1971 annual meeting will be in Los Angeles from November 30 to December 4. Persons interested in participating, or with suggestions for topics might write Vince Roth; Mel Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Arachnologists of the Southwest, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, California 91107; or your Editor, Bea Vogel. If we are interested in a spider symposium, we should be able to publish proposed topics in the next issue of A.A., in November.

#### News Items

C.I.D.A.; Centre International de Documentation Arachnologique, has issued its annual call for Financial Participation. They ask a minimum of 15F (about \$2.60). Think of what fraction \$2.60 would buy of a North American publication before you write your check. You can

write a personal check to:

Prof. Max Vachon, Paris 546-88

and mail it to:

Prof. Max Vachon  
 Secrétaire général du C.I.D.A.  
 61, rue de Buffon, PARIS, 5ème  
 France.

For this small amount you will receive a world bibliography of the year's arachnid publications.

The Arachnologists of the Southwest have initiated a new Journal "Notes of the A. of the SW Number One was published May 9, 1970. While it seems to be primarily spider notes, it includes news about members, therefore overlaps American Arachnology somewhat. However, since it serves a regional group, we think redundancy is preferable to lack of continental communication. The cover of the new journal is handsome, and while the body of the paper is mimeographed, the information contained makes a subscription well worth while. The \$1.00 annual membership in the organization includes quarterly issue of the Notes. Correspondence regarding membership, papers for the Notes and other editorial matters should be sent to M.E. Thompson, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, California 91107.

Another new journal has been started, "The Armadillo Papers," published by B.R. Vogel and C.J. Durden, 2505 Ashdale Drive, Austin, Texas, 78758. It is of irregular issue, for publication of any papers on Natural History subjects, authors have difficulty publishing in regular journals. There are no regular editorial policies, except that the article should be of a quality that the author desires. The journal size is 5 1/2 x 8" photo-offset reduction from a standard 8 1/2 x 11" page. Manuscripts must be camera ready and all costs

born by the author. There is almost no delay in publication, and the cost is about the same as buying reprints (2-300) from other journals. Published so far:

- Number 1: Ecological aspects of the species concept, C.J. Durden, November 1, 1969, \$.75
- Number 2: (Mimeograph) Bibliography of Texas spiders, B.R. Vogel, March 23, 1970.
- Number 3: Taxonomy and morphology of the sternalis and falcifera species groups of Pardosa, B.R. Vogel, June 19, 1970.

The book "A spider's web: problems in regulatory biology" was published last year. It is a collection of five studies by Peter N. Witt, David B. Peakall and Charles F. Reed. Published by Springer-Verlag, 109 pages, 47 figures, it retails for \$9.00. We would like a volunteer to review it for A.A. No.5 (or we will appoint one in the fall).

Vince Roth would like to submit the following proposal for consideration by arachnologists of the continent: That American Arachnologists propose that the Zoological Society of London split up the Arachnid section of Zoological Record into 2 parts, "Acarina" and "remaining Arachnida and related groups." "The Arachnida section of the Zoological Record is growing in size each year, taking more of our time to peruse the literature. This past year there were 106 pages, compared with 74 just 8 years ago, and of this amount 55-60% of the total was devoted to Acarina. By the separation of the tick and mite literature, both acarologists and others would benefit by having half as many pages to thumb through each year. The two parts could still be published under the same cover and at the same price but would be more useful. Are there any objections to the proposal?" Remarks should be addressed to Vince Roth, Director, Southwest Research Station, Portal, Arizona 85632.

John COOKE, after getting settled in New York last winter, went on a two-week tour of the southwest, stopping in Austin to visit us, then joining Bob MITCHELL on his class field trip to Mexico. Cooke writes: "The trip to Mexico lived up fully to its expectations and we collected 10 out of 11 orders on one day. Shortly afterwards we added Palpigrades, which turned up, to our surprise, in some quantity in the Sotano de Tinaja, San Luis Potosi near Valles. They really are most difficult animals to collect and even if you succeed in getting them into alcohol they almost invariably shed their tail." After the Mexico trip, John drove on to Portal to talk spiders and related problems with Willis GERTSCH.

Charles DONDALE returned in April to Ontario after a year's stay in Montpellier France in the laboratory of Roland Legendre on a Canadian National Research Council fellowship. Dondale's research was in the area of eco-physiology (diapause in relation to seasonal development, in which a true diapause was demonstrated for the first time in spiders), ethology (sex pheromones of spiders) and taxonomy and faunistics of a local Mediterranean arachnid population. Four manuscripts are in preparation describing this work. While Charles was in France his Canadian field project was handled by Jim REDNER and two able assistant technicians who "kept the data rolling in."

Willis J. GERTSCH is finding Portal a place to catch up on his spider work. Much of the winter was spent working on other people's Loxosceles problems, as well as his own. He writes: "I have uncovered about twenty new species of the genus from northern Mexico and southwestern United States and now look forward to a revision of my 1958 paper to bring the genus up to date. The addition of such a number, giving nearly forty species in North and Central America will be a

nightmare even for the arachnologist." His revision of the scorpion genus Uroctonus is nearly complete, and the work on ctenizids is progressing.

Dr. Ossi LINDQUIST from the University of Turku, Finland, will join the Department of Biology, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Lindquist has worked with spider physiology.

Vince ROTH and family broke their "Baja" tradition this year, and took their "station break" in Florida instead. We have not yet had a report on the collecting there, but would be very surprised if it weren't good.

Jerome ROVNER at Ohio University is currently interested in acoustic communication in spiders and mechanisms regulating copulatory behavior in spiders.

Bea VOGEL and Chris Durden attempted to conduct a Texas Tarantula Tournament in order to get specimens of some often reported "swarms." After quite a round of "hoo-haw" treatment by the press and several tarantula tales, specimens actually began to trickle in. They range in quality from one and parts of others in shoe boxes to a couple dozen collected from the Rio Grande Valley by a snake hunter. One problem is convincing people that where the spider lived is at least as important as where the collector lived. By the way, the U.S. Mail is a disaster for live specimens. Bea tried to send 8 local tarantulas to Russell GABEL (see new listings) by AIR-MAIL First Class, and four arrived smashed, two dead and only two survived, although each had been shipped in small mailing tubes packed in a larger box, and the box unsmashed. They had been shaken to bits. Does anyone know if Air-Freight is a better way to send live material? The local Post Office



advised us (afterwards) that the airlines might give better handling than the U.S. Government Post Office.

Colleagues: This news covers only a few people. Let's hear from everyone for the fall number.

### Arachnology Courses

Interest has been expressed in compiling a list of universities in America which offer formal courses in arachnology. We have a list of seven, and two more which are planned, as well as names of a few people who direct graduate students in spider research. We have a strong feeling that this list is incomplete, but we have included all the information we received from our last request and a little prior knowledge. If anyone has been excluded, we extend our apologies, but urge you to send us pertinent information.

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, Los Angeles, California 90032: Dr. D. C. Lowrie teaches a graduate course in Araneology, has graduate teaching assistantships, and limited funds for technical assistants.

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074: Dr. William A. Drew teaches a course in Araneology. There are several people in the Department of Entomology engaged in research in arachnids: (For some odd reason none are yet included in the List of American Arachnologists.) Harvy CHADA, life history of spiders; Jackie HAIR, life history, control and ecology of ticks; D. E. HOWELL, research on spider venom, tick ecology, and tick control; George ODELL, spider venom; Richard PRICE, brown spider control; John SAUR, tick physiology; Kenneth STARKS, spider life history; Jerry YOUNG, mite morphology. There were also 10 students completing their degrees this year: 3 with a Ph.D. in spiders, 3 with a Ph.D.

in ticks, and 4 with an M.S. in ticks. This certainly must be the largest arachnid department on the continent.

SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE, San Diego, California 92115: Dr. B. J. Kaston offers a course in Arachnology, with about 2/3 of it devoted to spiders. The course has 1 lecture and 2 labs a week covering most aspects of the biology of spiders. The remainder of the time will cover lesser groups.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE COLLEGE, San Francisco, California 94132: Dr. Stanley C. Williams offers a 3-unit course in Arachnology with a weekly lab covering most aspects of arachnid biology. Acarines are included, but not emphasized since a separate course in acarology is also offered. The course has formally been accepted by the Entomology Department and is permanently being entered in the catalog. Williams had 7 graduate students in the Spring semester, 1970. The arachnid program is strengthened by a cooperative agreement between San Francisco State and the California Academy of Sciences. "Through this agreement significant arachnid collections are being accumulated at the Academy, and graduate students are being encouraged to use the research facilities of the Academy as well as those offered on our campus."

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, Lubbock, Texas 79409: Dr. Robert W. Mitchell taught an arachnology course this year. A special feature of the course is a week long field trip during spring break to Mexican caves with the possibility of collecting all 11 arachnid orders during that week!

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, Gainesville, Florida 32601: Dr. J. Reiskind teaches a graduate course in Arachnology.

### Proposed Courses

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON, Dayton, Ohio 45409: Dr. James A. MacMahon is planning a seminar course in Arachnology for 1970-71. The Department of Biology offers both M.S. and Ph.D. programs and Dr. MacMahon directs research in arachnology, mainly in population and physiological ecology of spiders.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723: Dr. Fred Coyle plans to initiate an arachnology course in the next two years. The University has only an M.A. degree program. Dr. Coyle welcomes applicants from graduate students in arachnids. He says they are particularly well situated for field studies.

### Graduate Student Supervisors

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138: Dr. H. W. Levi usually has several students in spiders and has been able to offer financial aid in the past. (This is not to sound pessimistic, we have just not had recent confirmation about this.)

HENDERSON STATE COLLEGE, Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923: Dr. P. R. Dorris.

HOPE COLLEGE, Holland, Michigan 49423: Dr. A. R. Brady.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY-NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602: Dr. Peter N. Witt has three persons working on arachnological problems: a post-doctoral fellow, a senior research fellow and a graduate student.

OHIO UNIVERSITY, Athens, Ohio 45701: Dr. Jerome S. Rovner is directing an M.S. thesis of Elaine E. WRIGHT entitled "An analysis of palpal insertion patterns during copulation in the lycosid spider Schizocosa saltatrix (Hentz)."

Dr. E. I. SCHLINGER at the University of California, Riverside, last year had a couple of graduate students in spiders. Rumor is that he has moved to Berkeley, but we have no direct news.

Arachnologists of the Americas: New Listings

BARE, Rex O., Graduate Student, Department of Entomology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Current research: an ecophysiological study of Loxosceles reclusa, with major emphasis on water balance (thesis -- should be completed by June 1970). Also, work in progress on temperature tolerance, activity patterns and phenotypic color variations on L. reclusa. Joint work in progress on the distribution of L. reclusa in Kansas. Plans to continue research in arachnid ecophysiology.

BERRY, James W., Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208. Research: (1) spiders of the old-field succession in North Carolina, (2) spiders of the Florida everglades, (3) zoogeography of Micronesian spiders (with J. A. BEATTY),

GABEL, Russell J., Associate Professor, Department of Biology, San Francisco State College, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, California 94132. Received Ph.D. in 1953 from the University of Pennsylvania in parasitic protozoa. Current interest: taxonomy, behavior and natural history of theraphosid tarantulas.

The following have asked to be placed on the mailing list, but have not sent a biographic sketch or an account of current arachnid interests:

MORETON, Ann, Route 2, Box 112, Powhatan, Virginia 23139.

PARKER, J. R., Peare Tree House, The Green, Blennerhasset,  
Carlisle, Cumberland, England.

SNETSINGER, R. J., Professor, Pennsylvania State University,  
203 Armsly Building, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.