Proceedings

of the

Dorset Natural History

and

Antiquarian Field Club.

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Volume XVIII.

Dorchester:

Printed at the "Dorset County Chronicle" Office.

1897
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Observed and Captured in 1896.


(Read February 17th, 1897, at a Meeting of the Dorset N.H. and A.F. Club.)

[With Plate.]

THE year just ended (1896) will be long remembered by Entomologists as a remarkable one. This is chiefly owing to the almost unchecked period of drought from the end of March until the beginning of September! With some exceptions the effect of this was to upset the usual times of appearance, as well as the size of specimens and abundance of many insects; indeed, of the most ordinary diurnal Lepidoptera the numbers were in my own district few, and some scarcely appeared at all. The general report was disappointment; and the same may be said also of the spider tribes. Among these we have to record a similar lack both of species and individuals; still there have been met with some few of both interest and rarity, among the Araneidea or true spiders, and especially one of the Phalangidea (or Harvestmen) hitherto unrecorded as British, and, in fact, when first received it was undescribed. This Phalangid was sent to me from Scotland through Mr. G. H. Carpenter (of the
BRITISH ARACHNIDA.

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Science and Art Museum, Dublin) in June last as Oligolophus ephippiiger, Simon. A very slight inspection convinced me of the incorrectness of this determination, in which Professor Kraepelin (who had also received examples of it from Mr. Carpenter) agreed with me. It appeared to me to be nearly allied to Oligolophus tridens, C. L. Koch, as well as to our very abundant British species, Oligolophus agrestis, Meade, but quite distinct from both. Professor Kraepelin, who meets with the species pretty abundantly near Hamburg, has since described it as a new species, under the name Oligolophus Hansenii. The Professor has also very kindly sent me the specimens he received from Mr. Carpenter as well as some of those found near Hamburg, with which last the Scotch examples quite agree. More recently Mr. Wm. Evans (of Edinburgh), by whom Mr. Carpenter's specimens were found, has sent me several others, well marked and in good condition, from the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. The addition of this species to our British list is of considerable interest and importance, as the group is, in its extent, very limited everywhere, and in Britain only numbers hitherto 24 species; the number of those as yet recorded in "Europe" being not much more than 50.

Of the true spiders met with by myself or received in the past year I may particularly mention Lithyphantes corollatus Linn., of which immature examples were recorded in our last year's Proceedings (Vol. XVII., p. 56, and p. 58) from Bloxworth Heath. Adults of both sexes of this handsome spider were found pretty abundantly by myself and my nephew, F. O. P.-Cambridge, from the 2nd of April to the 4th of May, 1896, in the same locality as that in which the immature examples had before occurred.

Two adults of our largest Lycosid (or, popularly, wolf spiders), Trochosa robusta, Sim. were kindly sent to me by our Secretary, Mr. Richardson, by whom they were found under stones below high-water mark on the shore of the "Fleet," at the "Herbary," Langton Herring, on the 7th of May. This is only the third
record of its occurrence in Great Britain. In June, 1896, and again in August, I received from Mr. Linnaeus Greening, of Warrington, adults of both sexes of a fine salticid spider which I am pretty sure is *Attus floricola*, C. L. Koch. It was found in tolerable abundance by sweeping among rank herbage, and also by beating stunted birch bushes, in a swampy spot, at Hartford, near Warrington. This is its first record as an English species. From Ireland it has been previously recorded (see Proc. Dors. N.H. and A.F. Club, Vol. XVII, p. 62, 1896). Early in July, 1896, I had several days’ spider-hunting near Worthing, in Sussex, where my special object was to try and turn up again a pretty salticid which I had found close to Shoreham in some abundance in 1871, and thought then to be *Attus floricola*, C. L. Koch. The weather was unfortunately dark, gloomy, cold, and wet each day, so that, although I did meet with the species I was in search of, the examples—only three—were immature or not well marked. The spot on which I had found them in 1871 was no longer ascertainable; the whole locality had been cut up into roadways, and rows of houses had been built upon it, so that the place was quite irrecognisable. There is little doubt, however, but that this spider occurs at intervals all along the coast from Shoreham to Worthing. The spot where I found the three examples mentioned was nearer to the latter place, but a genial sunny day is needed to bring them out of their hiding-places. Several other rare spiders were found here, the most remarkable being *Agroeca littoralis*, F. O. P. Cambr., of which examples had only before occurred at Swanage. *Euophrys equipes* Cambr., *Gnaphosa lugubris* C. L. Koch, *Drassus macer* Thor., *Steatoda sticta* Cambr., and *Erigone promiscua* Cambr., all rare and local spiders, were also found on the coast near Worthing. I received also from Mr. Gulliver (by whom they were found in the New Forest, near Brockenhurst) an adult female of the fine and rare *Pistius truncatus* Pall, as well as one of *Hyptiotes paradoxus* C. L. Koch (see Proc. Dors. N.H. and A.F. Club, XVII, p. 61) and an adult of each sex of *Epeira angulata* Clerck, and *Epeira scalaris* Walck.
ORDER ARANEIDEA.

FAM. DRASSIDÆ.

Drassus macer.


An adult male among shingle near Shoreham. It seems hardly yet certain whether this form is a true species or only a variety of Drassus lapidicolens Walck. The chief distinction at present seems to be in the less developed falces and differently dentated fangs of D. macer.

Gnaphosa lugubris.


Among stones and shingle near Worthing, but none adult.

Agroeca littoralis.


An adult female among stones on the coast between Worthing and Shoreham. Only previously found at Swanage.

FAM. THERIDIIDÆ.

Steatoda sticta.


An adult female of the black variety found near Worthing.

Lithyphantes corollatus.


Adults of both sexes tolerably abundant beneath small, flat, finely-woven webs, spun among very short heather and dwarf-stunted furze close to the ground, and over small depressions in the surface. The earliest adult was taken on April 21, the latest on May 4th. Its chief food appears to be a beetle, which is rather
common on the heath, the wing cases and other remains being found in most of the snares.

**Erigone promiscua.**


An adult male, under a stone near Worthing.

**FAM. EPEIRIDÆ.**

**Epeira angulata.**


An adult example of both sexes as well as many immature ones were sent to me from Brockenhurst by Mr. Gulliver at the end of the past summer.

**Epeira scalaris.**


Adult females were sent to me from near Brockenhurst by Mr. Gulliver.

**FAM. ULOBORIDÆ.**

**Hyptiotes paradoxus.**


An adult female, sent to me from near Brockenhurst by Mr. Gulliver.

**FAM. THOMISIDÆ.**

**Pistius truncatus.**


A fine and well-marked adult female of this rare spider, sent to me by Mr. Gulliver, from Brockenhurst.

**FAM. LYCOSIDÆ.**

**Trochosa robusta.**

Two adult females were found under stones below high water mark at the Herbary, Langton Herring, by Mr. N. M. Richardson, in May, 1896. I had in the previous year found one near Chickerell under dried seaweed.

FAM. SALTICIDÆ.

Euophrys æquipes.  
Adult females among stones and on bare spots on the coast near Worthing.

Attus floricola.  
Both sexes rather abundant and in the adult state in June, July, and August, 1896, received from Mr. Linnaeus Greening, by whom they were found in a swampy locality at Hartford, near Warrington, by sweeping and beating among rank herbage and low stunted birch bushes.

Attus mancus.  
Three adult and immature females between Worthing and Shoreham, July 2, 1896.  

After a long and careful comparison of an adult male (found between Brighton and Shoreham in 1871) with the Hartford spiders (_A. floricola_, see _supra_) received from Mr. L. Greening, I think that the two are decidedly distinct from each other, though very nearly allied. The Brighton species is smaller (though of course absolute size alone is not to be relied upon), the legs of the 1st pair in the adult male are shorter, the radial joint of the palpus has the apophysis rather longer, less robust, and more uniformly tapering to its point, the digital joint is altogether smaller and narrower, and the palpal organs are less prominent, and differ, though slightly, in structure. From its habitat (among stones and
short herbage on the seashore) I fancied that the Brighton spider might be *Attus rupicola*, C. L. Koch, but it differs from that species also in the same respects and quite as distinctly as from the Hartford species, and from types of both *A. floricola*, C. L. Koch, and *A. rupicola*, ibid., received from Dr. L. Koch himself. It appears to agree well with *A. mancus*, Thor, and I am inclined to consider it a good species, though M. Simon thinks that *A. mancus*, Thor., is only a variety of *A. floricola*, C. L. Koch. In the females of the Hartford species, the Brighton one and *Attus rupicola*, C. L. K. (German type), the epigyne differs slightly in form.

**ORDER PHALANGIDEA.**

**FAM. PHALANGIIDÆ.**

**Oligolophus, Sim.**

**Oligolophus Hansenii.**


This species is very nearly allied to *Oligolophus tridens*, C. L. Koch, but may be at once distinguished by a difference in the three prominent spines at the fore-margin of the caput. These in *O. Hansenii* are placed close together, their bases contiguous, and are stouter. The spinous tubercles on the palpi also differ, and the hinder part of the abdomen is shorter and rounder. The general colouring is darker, and the spines on the eye-eminence are stronger. On the abdomen the dark, central dorsal band (which is truncate at its posterior extremity) has (in fine specimens) its margins marked with a broken white line or spots. The femora of the legs are cylindrical, whereas in *O. tridens* they are angular. *O. Hansenii* is also very nearly allied to *O. agrestis*, Meade (*O. ephippiger*), Sim., but may easily be distinguished, not only by difference of colouring, but by the genital plate in *O. agrestis* being distinctly emarginate
EXPLANATION OF PLATE A.

Fig. 1. *Oligolophus Hansenii*, Kraep., much enlarged.

2. Ditto, in profile, without legs or palpi.

3. Ditto, caput from in front.

4. Ditto, caput in profile.

5. Ditto, underside of thorax.

8. Ditto, spines on fore part of caput, from behind.


   Spines on fore part of caput, from behind.


   Egg cocoon, found, near Bloxworth, June, 1892. (*Vide L. industrie des Araneina,* Par., W. Wagner, St. Petersbourg, 1894, p. 146, pl. iv., fig. 210.)

7. Egg cocoon of spider unknown, probably of the Genus *Agroeca*; found near Bournemouth on heather.
Oligolophus Hansenii, (Kraepelin)
at its fore-extremity, where a small semi-circular piece appears as if bitten out; the femora of *O. agrestis* are similarly cylindric.

An example of this species (new to me) was sent to me in June, 1896, by Mr. J. H. Carpenter, of Dublin, as *O. ephippiger*, Sim., on the determination of Professor Kraepelin, of Hamburg. This example, with several others, Mr. Carpenter had received from Mr. W. Evans, from Edinburgh. On my calling attention to the distinguishing characters of *O. ephippiger*, Sim., Professor Kraepelin agreed with me as to its distinctness, and has since described it as new under the name *Acantholophus Hansenii*. I have recently received several examples in fine condition from Mr. Evans, who obtained them from the neighbourhood of Edinburgh last autumn.