and that 'bunch-backed toad'! Beth (IV.iv) each refer to the King as 'that bottled spider' a spider in a drinking glass in The Winter's Tale (II.i) and, Queen Margaret (I.iii) and Queen Eliza-
ders, scorpions and snails—all listed in a book on the fauna (Dent, 1972). There is a quite horrendous figure of eagles, ospreys, buzzards, hawks and falcons; also lap-
difference between ravens, rooks and choughs; vultures, which has warranted the publication of a volume of refer-
tance to them (Ellercombe, 1878). He knew the fauna
William Shakespeare, who had a greater knowledge of natural history than any other English poet or playwright.
He refers to about 160 plant species by name in his works
natural history than any other English poet or playwright.

THE SPIDER FAMILY THERIDIIDAE

By Hajime Yoshida

222 pages, 538 line drawings, 68 colour photographs. 21 x 28 cm. Paperback. Arachnological Society of Japan, Otemon Gakuin University, Ibaraki, Osaka, 2003. US $40 plus p.+ p. (US $8 by surface mail and US $15 by air mail). Orders should be sent to the author, Dr H. Yoshida: araneae@mb.infoweb.ne.jp; 7-16, Kagota 2 Chome, Yamagata-shi, Yamagata, 990-2484 Japan. ISBN 4-9901449-8-8 C3645.

Although the study area covered by this taxonomic synop-
sis is Japan, this book will undoubtedly be a useful tool in treating the theridiid faunas of the Russian Far East, NW China and Korea. A total of 122 valid species belonging to 35 genera are considered, including identification keys to the subfamilies, genera, species-groups and all species.

The book is organised traditionally: a few introductory chapters about the higher taxonomy of Theridiidae, fol-
lowed by a brief history of the study of this family in Japan, a glossary of the terminology used, and an analysis of the position of the theridiids in the order Araneae. The following chapters, forming the bulk of the book (pp. 21–188), present a detailed taxonomic account of all Japanese genera and species, with most of the genera being treated sensu stricto (e.g. Rhymphomphae and Argyrodus are sepa-
trated; Trigonobothrys is removed from synonymy with Dipoena, etc.). The taxonomic part of the monograph thus provides a lot of opportunities for further analysis and discussion of the taxonomic issues of the family. The main text is followed by 68 beautiful colour photos giving further impressions on most of the described species. Relevant comments on invalid species names are given on pages 196–197. The reference list (pp. 210–217) is impressive and contains 290 sources. An index to genera and species is given in both Japanese and Latin. I am surprised that most of the theridiid species have common Japanese names (not the case in Russian, my native lan-
guage, nor in many other languages).

It is a pity that, apart from a very brief English summary, this substantial volume is entirely written in Japanese, which is unknown to many European arachnologists, including myself. Therefore, I was unable to get a real impression of some, I am sure, interesting discussions, like those on distributional patterns of the theridiids (pp. 198–204), or on the position and relationships of the Synotaxidae (pp. 19–21). However, the book contains 538 excellent line drawings, making it a really useful tool for identification of the Theridiidae.

The author and the Arachnological Society of Japan should be congratulated for producing a further landmark publication for the study of Japanese spiders. For all who are interested in the comb-footed spiders of Far East Asia, this comprehensive volume is good value—a real must-buy.

Dmitri V. Logunov