On a small spider collection from the lower reaches of the River Ob', western Siberia (Russia)
by Dmitri Logunov

Some time ago, a small, opportunistically collected sample of spiders brought recently from western Siberia was sent to me for identification. The spiders originated from various boggy-forest habitats from the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area of western Siberia: Yugra, Berezovsky District, the middle reaches of the River Tol’ya (between 63°09’N/60°05’E and 63°12’N/60°14’E), 28th July-14th August 2007; collected by A. Rezvyi, Y. Skuchas and S. Ivanov. This area is rather remote and lies in the lower reaches of the River Ob’, the main river of western Siberia.

The collection comprises 23 species from 10 families and is now kept in the Manchester Museum (accession number G7487). The following is a list of the species recorded.

Araneidae
Araneus marmoreus Clerck, 1757 - 1♀
Araneus saevus (L. Koch, 1872) - 1♂
Larinioides cornarius (Clerck, 1757) - 1♀
Larinioides patagiatus (Clerck, 1757) - 1♂

Clubionidae
Clubiona stagnatilis Kulczyński, 1897 - 1♀

Gnaphosidae
Gnaphosa muscorum (L. Koch, 1866) - 1♂
Haplodrausis cognatus (Wustring, 1861) - 1♂
Haplodrausis moderatus (Kulczyński, 1897) - 1♀

Linyphiidae
(♂)Porhomma pygmaeum (Blackwall, 1834) - 1♀

Lycosidae
Pardosa amentata (Clerck, 1757) - 4♀
Pardosa jeniseica Eskov et Marusik, 1995 - 2♀
Pardosa plumipes (Thorell, 1875) - 1♀
Xerolycosa nemoralis (Westring, 1861) - 1♀

Philodromidae
Philodromus cespitum (Walckenaer, 1802) - 1♀
Philodromus marginalis (Clerck, 1757) - 1♀
Tibellus martinius (Menge, 1875) - 1♂

Salticidae
Evarcha falcata (Clerck, 1757) - 1♂3♀

Tetragnathidae
Pachygnatha listeri Sundevall, 1830 - 1♀
Tetragnatha extensa (Linnaeus, 1758) - 1♀

Theridiidae
(♂)Robertus lyrifer Holm, 1939 - 1♀
Steatoda bipunctata (Linnaeus, 1758) - 1♂

Thomisidae
Xysticus audax (Schrank, 1803) - 1♀
Xysticus ulmi (Hahn, 1831) - 1♀

The majority of these species are rather common and widespread. However, it is worth mentioning Pardosa jeniseica, which although widespread in Siberia, is rare where it occurs. The typical habitats of P. jeniseica are sandy and pebble banks of Siberian rivers (e.g., Marusik et al., 2000; Rybalov et al., 2002). The current record in Khanty-Mansi lies at the north-westernmost limit of its range. The discovery of Araneus saevus represents the northernmost record of the species in Asia. This species was reported from Yakutia (Marusik et al., 1993), but without precise locality data.

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References

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The Checklist of British Spiders According to Microsoft
by Greg Hitchcock

Ever run the Checklist of British Spiders through the spellchecker on a word-processor and accepted all the suggested changes? This is what happens (along with some suggested ecological notes):

Savaging frittatas – a ferocious linyphiid that predates Italian omelettes.
(Savignina frontata)
Vegetarian sieve – the sheet webs of this ageilenid are often used to drain lentils and pulses.
(Tegenaria saeva)
Euphoric herbaria – a jumping spider often found on cannabis plants.
(Euphorbus herbigrada)
Enigma pella – this species’ penchant for Spanish food is a mystery to arachnologists.
(Nigma pella)
Mystics locator – this crab spider, in the family Homicide, sits on flowers catching passing occultists.
(Xysticus lactator (Thomisidae))
Controvers verrucinos – after being used to test the effect of caffeine on web construction, this money spider really doesn’t like coffee.
(Centromerus capicinus)