

## THE SPIDERS OF LUNDY

By

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### INTRODUCTION

W.S.Bristowe appears to have been the first arachnologist to carry out a survey of the spiders of Lundy. He made two visits: 16 - 22 July 1928 (Bristowe 1929) and June 1938 (Bristowe 1946). The only earlier spider records known to him were of 10 specimens collected by Charles Elton during a visit to the island in 1927, and of a record for the rare *Acartauchenius scurrilis* in Donisthorpe's book on 'ant guests' also in 1927. C.A.Howes visited the island from 30 August - 14 September 1966 and added a number of species (Howes 1968). Lockett, Millidge and Merrett (1974) include distribution maps for all British spiders and clearly show those recorded from Lundy. Interestingly this includes only one additional species, but omits a few of the records published by both Bristowe and Howes. There are two further, more recent, lists by A.J.Parsons (1985) and R.G.Loxton (1988).

I visited the island from 12 - 17 May 1986 to carry out some zoological recording as part of the National Trust's programme of biological survey of its properties. The spider specimens which I collected were identified for me by P.Merrett, and include three species new to Lundy. These bring Lundy's spider list to a total of 114 species.

### SPECIES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

The present list includes eight species which are of particular interest. Two of these, *Acartauchenius scurrilis* and *Lathys stigmatisata*, are sufficiently rare to be included in the Nature Conservancy Council's forthcoming Red Data Book (J.Bratton pers.comm.). The details of the eight more interesting species are as follows:

*Atypus affinis* — found on Rat Island in 1928 by Bristowe (1929), who notes "a colony amongst the rough grass on the north-eastern slopes". This species is confined to southern Britain, where it is known from a wide scatter of localities and is often regarded as not uncommon. It is however difficult to find unless the recorder is experienced. It lives in a closed thick tubular web, mostly below the soil surface. The aerial section lies on the ground surface, usually beneath vegetation, and is camouflaged with soil particles making it difficult to spot. When a small animal crawls over the tube, the spider rushes up and grasps it through the web. The web is then cut open and the prey dragged inside. The spiders live in colonies, with many webs clustered within suitable areas. Well-vegetated banks seem to be preferred.

*Lathys stigmatisata* — "one female amongst heather in an exposed situation up the north end of the island" in 1928 (Bristowe 1929). At the time, this was only the second recorded locality in Britain, and still only five or six localities are known, all in the south. The few records refer to sparsely vegetated ground in exposed coastal situations, mostly heathland but also shingle.

*Segestria bavarica* — "a few specimens from the wall of Marisco Castle" (Bristowe 1929). This is a south-western species, known from a number of localities from the Isle of Wight around the coast to Somerset. It lives in nooks and crannies in rocks, usually near the sea.

*Scytodes thoracica* — "one example of this rather delicate indoor spider was collected from the Games Room of the Hotel" (Howes 1968). The so-called spitting spider: it 'spits' gum at its prey, which is then cemented to the spot and the spider closes in for the kill. It appears to be widespread in buildings across southern Britain, but to be usually rather local.

*Gnaphosa leporina* — “one female in exposed position up north end of the island under a stone” (Bristowe 1929). A species of damp heathlands, usually in sparsely-vegetated areas, and is known from a scatter of localities in the north and west of Britain, and also from the southern heaths of Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex.

*Aelurillus v-insignitus* — “I found females and immature specimens in abundance hopping about in the sun on the scorching hot cliff-face on Rat Island and below Benjamin’s Cave” (Bristowe 1929) and “common on rock faces in the south of the island” (Howes 1968). One of the jumping spiders, and like many others of the family prefers hot sunny places. It is mainly a southern heathland species, and generally uncommon.

*Acartauchenius scurrilis* — “H. St. J. K. Donisthorpe took two specimens in the nest of the ant *Tetramorium caespitum*” (Bristowe 1929). At the time it was only known elsewhere in Cornwall and the New Forset, but has subsequently been found in Dorset. The host ant is widespread on dry rocky seaciffs around southern Britain, and also occurs on the heaths of south-east England. It is likely that the spider is more widespread than the few records suggest. I found the ant on the cliffs at Quarry Beach and to the north, above Needles Rock, near Mousehole and Trap, at Lametry, and above The Rattles, but didn’t spot any spiders in the nests.

*Halorates reprobus* — found by myself, and new to Lundy, amongst strandline seaweed on The Landing Beach, 16th May 1986. This is a sparsely distributed coastal species, occurring on salt-marshes and the sea-shore, along much of the British coast.

The other two species found by me and new to Lundy are *Neon reticulatus*, a common jumping spider, and *Metellina mengei*, also a common and widespread species. These suggest that the island is still under-recorded for spiders. I only recorded twelve species in my early season visit, but 25% of these were new species for the island.

#### SYSTEMATIC LIST

The following list follows the nomenclature of the revised check list of Merrett, Locket and Millidge (1985). The sources are coded as follows:

1. Bristowe (1929)
2. Bristowe (1946)
3. Locket & Millidge (1951)
4. Locket & Millidge (1953)
5. Howes (1968)
6. Locket, Millidge & Merrett (1974)
7. Parsons (1985)
8. Loxton (1988)
9. National Trust Biological Survey, May 1986.

#### Family Atypidae

*Atypus affinis* Eichwald 1, 2, 6

#### Family Amaurobiidae

*Amaurobius fenestralis* (Stroem) 1, 2, 5, 6

*A. similis* (Blackwall) 2, 5, 6

*A. ferox* (Walckenaer) 1, 2, 5, 6, 8

#### Family Dictynidae

*Lathys stigmatisata* (Menge) 1, 2, 3, 6

#### Family Oonopidae

*Oonops pulcher* Templeton 1, 2, 6

#### Family Dysderidae

*Dysdera erythrina* (Walckenaer) 6

*D. crocata* C.L.Koch 1, 2, 5, 6

*Harpactea hombergi* (Scopoli) 1, 2, 5, 6, 9

#### Family Segestriidae

*Segestria senoculata* (Linnaeus) 1, 2, 5, 6, 8

*S. bavarica* C.L.Koch 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

|  |                  |
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| Family Scytodidae                            |                  |
| <i>Scytodes thoracica</i> Latreille          | 5, 6             |
| Family Pholcidae                             |                  |
| <i>Pholcus phalangioides</i> (Fuesslin)      | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7    |
| Family Gnaphosidae                           |                  |
| <i>Drassodes lapidosus</i> (Walckenaer)      | 1, 2, 5          |
| <i>Haplodrassus signifer</i> (C.L.Koch)      | 2, 5, 6          |
| <i>Zelotes latreillei</i> (Simon)            | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Gnaphosa leporina</i> (C.L.Koch)          | 1, 2, 6          |
| Family Clubionidae                           |                  |
| <i>Clubiona reclusa</i> O.P.-Cambridge       | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>C. terrestris</i> Westring                | 2, 5, 6          |
| <i>C. neglecta</i> O.P.-Cambridge            | 2, 6             |
| <i>C. lutescens</i> Westring                 | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>C. compta</i> C.L.Koch                    | 2, 6             |
| <i>C. diversa</i> O.P.-Cambridge             | 1, 2, 6          |
| <i>Cheiracanthium erraticum</i> (Walckenaer) | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Liocranidae                           |                  |
| <i>Agroeca proxima</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)      | 5                |
| Family Zoridae                               |                  |
| <i>Zora spinimana</i> (Sundevall)            | 2, 5, 6          |
| Family Thomisidae - crab spiders             |                  |
| <i>Misumena vatia</i> (Clerck)               | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Xysticus cristatus</i> (Clerck)           | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>X. audax</i> (Schrank)                    | 2, 6             |
| <i>X. kochi</i> Thorell                      | 2, 6, 9          |
| <i>X. erraticus</i> (Blackwall)              | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Oxyptila trux</i> (Blackwall)             | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>O. atomaria</i> (Panzer)                  | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Philodromidae                         |                  |
| <i>Philodromus dispar</i> Walckenaer         | 5                |
| <i>P. aureolus</i> (Clerck)                  | 2, 6, 8          |
| <i>P. cespitum</i> (Walckenaer)              | 1                |
| <i>Tibellus oblongus</i> (Walckenaer)        | 5                |
| Family Salticidae - jumping spiders          |                  |
| <i>Salticus scenicus</i> (Clerck)            | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Heliophanus cupreus</i> (Walckenaer)      | 1, 2, 6, 9       |
| <i>Neon reticulatus</i> (Blackwall)          | 9                |
| <i>Euophrys frontalis</i> (Walckenaer)       | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Sitticus pubescens</i> (Fabricius)        | 5                |
| <i>Aelurillus v-insignitus</i> (Clerck)      | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Lycosidae - wolf spiders              |                  |
| <i>Pardosa monticola</i> (Clerck)            | 1, 2, 6          |
| <i>P. palustris</i> (Linnaeus)               | 2, 5             |
| <i>P. pullata</i> (Clerck)                   | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9 |
| <i>P. nigriceps</i> (Thorell)                | 1, 2, 5, 6, 9    |
| <i>Alopecosa pulverulenta</i> (Clerck)       | 1, 2, 6          |
| <i>Trochosa terricola</i> Thorell            | 1, 2, 9          |
| <i>Pirata piraticus</i> (Clerck)             | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Pisauridae                            |                  |
| <i>Pisaura mirabilis</i> (Clerck)            | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Argyronetidae                         |                  |
| <i>Argyroneta aquatica</i> (Clerck)          | 5                |
| Family Agelenidae                            |                  |
| <i>Textrix denticulata</i> (Olivier)         | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9 |
| <i>Tegenaria domestica</i> (Clerck)          | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Hahniidae                             |                  |
| <i>Hahnina montana</i> (Blackwall)           | 1, 2, 6          |

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| Family Mimetidae                                 |                  |
| <i>Ero furcata</i> (Villers)                     | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Theridiidae                               |                  |
| <i>Theridion melanurum</i> (Hahn)                | 1, 2, 5          |
| <i>T. bimaculatum</i> (Linnaeus)                 | 2, 5, 6          |
| <i>T. pallens</i> Blackwall                      | 2, 5, 6          |
| <i>Enoplognatha ovata</i> (Clerck)               | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>E. thoracica</i> (Hahn)                       | 2, 6             |
| <i>Robertus lividus</i> (Blackwall)              | 1, 2, 5, 6, 8    |
| <i>Pholcomma gibbum</i> (Westring)               | 2, 6             |
| Family Tetragnathidae                            |                  |
| <i>Tetragnatha extensa</i> (Linnaeus)            | 1, 2, 5, 6, 9    |
| <i>Pachygnatha degeeri</i> Sundevall             | 1, 2, 5, 6, 8    |
| Family Metidae                                   |                  |
| <i>Metellina segmentata</i> (Clerck)             | 1, 2, 5, 8       |
| <i>M. mengei</i> (Blackwall)                     | 9                |
| <i>M. merianae</i> (Scopoli)                     | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Meta menardi</i> (Latreille)                  | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Zygiella x-notata</i> (Clerck)                | 1, 2, 6          |
| <i>Z. atrica</i> (C.L.Koch)                      | 7                |
| Family Araneidae                                 |                  |
| <i>Araneus diadematus</i> Clerck                 | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Nuctenea umbratica</i> (Clerck)               | 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 |
| <i>Araniella cucurbitina</i> (Clerck)            | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| Family Linyphiidae - money spiders               |                  |
| <i>Ceratinella brevipes</i> (Westring)           | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>C. brevis</i> (Wider)                         | 2, 5, 6, 8       |
| <i>Walckenaera antica</i> (Wider)                | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>W. monoceros</i> (Wider)                      | 8                |
| <i>W. cuspidata</i> (Blackwall)                  | 8                |
| <i>Dicymbium nigrum</i> (Blackwall)              | 2, 8             |
| <i>Entelecara erythropus</i> (Westring)          | 2, 6             |
| <i>Metopobactrus prominulus</i> (O.P.-Cambridge) | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Gonatum rubens</i> (Blackwall)                | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Peponocranium ludicrum</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)   | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Pocadicnemis pumila</i> (Blackwall)           | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Oedothorax fuscus</i> (Blackwall)             | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Pelecopsis parallela</i> (Wider)              | 2, 5, 6          |
| <i>P. mediocris</i> (Kulczynski)                 | 2                |
| <i>Tiso vagans</i> (Blackwall)                   | 8                |
| <i>Acartauchenius scurrilis</i> (O.P.-Cambridge) | 1, 2, 4, 6       |
| <i>Monocephalus fuscipes</i> (Blackwall)         | 7, 8             |
| <i>Lophomma punctatum</i> (Blackwall)            | 2, 6             |
| <i>Micrargus subaequalis</i> (Westring)          | 2, 5, 6          |
| <i>Erigonella hiemalis</i> (Blackwall)           | 7                |
| <i>Milleriana inerrans</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)      | 8                |
| <i>Erigone dentipalpis</i> (Wider)               | 2, 5, 6, 8       |
| <i>E. atra</i> (Blackwall)                       | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>E. promiscua</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)             | 8                |
| <i>Halorates reprobus</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)       | 9                |
| <i>Meioneta saxatilis</i> (Blackwall)            | 2, 6             |
| <i>Centromerus prudens</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)      | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Tallusia experta</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)         | 8                |
| <i>Centromerita concinna</i> (Thorell)           | 1, 2, 5, 6, 8    |
| <i>Bathyphanes gracilis</i> (Blackwall)          | 1, 2, 5, 8       |
| <i>Kaestneria pullata</i> (O.P.-Cambridge)       | 1, 2, 5, 6       |
| <i>Diplostyla concolor</i> (Wider)               | 8                |

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| <i>Poecilonea globosa</i> (Wider)       | 2, 6          |
| <i>Lepthyphantes tenuis</i> (Blackwall) | 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 |
| <i>L. zimmermanni</i> Bertkau           | 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 |
| <i>L. menzei</i> Kulczynski             | 1, 2, 6       |
| <i>L. ericaeus</i> (Blackwall)          | 1, 2, 5, 6    |
| <i>Linyphia triangularis</i> (Clerck)   | 1, 6          |
| <i>L. montana</i> (Clerck)              | 2, 5          |
| <i>L. clathrata</i> Sundevall           | 2, 5, 6, 7    |

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