

## BOOK REVIEW CATALOGUE OF THE SMALLER ARACHNID ORDERS OF THE WORLD

by Mark S. Harvey

(xi) + 385 pages (no illustrations). 25.5 x 18.0 cm. Hardback. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria, Australia. 2003. AUS\$220.00. ISBN 0-643-06805-8.

Bible-black with gold lettering, this robust hardback oozes authority. Do its contents live up to first impressions? Following in the established model of the Platnick (and previous) catalogues of spiders, the scorpion catalogue by Fet *et al.* and Harvey's *Catalogue of the Pseudoscorpionida* by the same author (still available at a knock-down price from the Sales Manager!), this new book covers all the remaining non-acarine arachnid orders: Amblypygi, Uropygi, Schizomida, Palpigradi, Ricinulei and Solifugae. Like the pseudoscorpion and scorpion catalogues, but unlike Platnick's spider catalogues, the new volume includes fossil taxa, though not the wholly extinct orders (e.g. Trigonotarbida).

Following a brief Introduction, each chapter starts with a succinct review of the order, giving such information as numbers of extant genera and species, and the current state of higher classification of the order. There then follows the Catalogue of the order, which helpfully gives authorship and synonymy of the order, and any suborders, superfamilies, families and subfamilies, as well as genera and species. References for each order are given at the end of each chapter, which is much more convenient than mixing them together at the end of the book. The Index lists valid and invalid species-group names, handily including the original generic name in parentheses, where this is different from the current placement. Genus-, family-group and higher-taxon names are also indexed.

It is difficult to explain the importance of these catalogues. Certainly not bed-time reading for any but the most nerdy arachnologist, they nevertheless are invaluable tools for anyone involved in arachnid systematics, and that includes ecologists, behaviourists, etc. just to check the correct names for their model taxa. As well as the synonymy, the catalogue also provides us with quantitative data on biodiversity: 1,665 valid species are catalogued in the book, of which Solifugae form 65%, Schizomida 13%, Amblypygi 8%, Uropygi 6%, Palpigradi 5%, Ricinulei 3%. Dedicated data-crunchers could plot the growth of knowledge in a particular order over time, or distribution maps, for example.

Of course, with its limited potential market and stout binding, this book is not a cheap buy (£90 by my reckoning). Nevertheless, it is an essential purchase for systematists in these groups, as well as for any well-stocked zoological library.

Paul Selden

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## RESIDENTIAL FIELD STUDY COURSES 2004

**21st–23rd May** (Friday–Sunday) at JUNIPER HALL FIELD STUDY CENTRE, OLD LONDON ROAD, MICKLEHAM, DORKING, SURREY, RH5 6DA (Tel. 0845 4583507). **An Introduction to Spiders.** Course Tutor: **Tony Russell-Smith.** Course fee: £156 residential, £117 non-residential.

**6th–10th September** (Monday–Friday) at KINDROGAN FIELD STUDY CENTRE, ENOCHDHU, BLAIRGOWRIE, PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND, PH10 7PG (Tel. 01250 870150). **Identifying Spiders.** Course Tutor: **Paul Lee.** Course fee: £250 residential, £188 non-residential.

**17th–20th September** (Friday–Monday) at FLATFORD MILL FIELD STUDY CENTRE, EAST BERGHOLT, SUFFOLK, CO7 6UL (Tel. 01206 298892). **Identifying Spiders.** Course Tutor: **Paul Lee.** Course fee: £195 residential, £152 non-residential.

All these courses are designed to cater for beginners and are also flexible enough to cater for those who already have some experience of the group. For further details, please contact the Centres directly.

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## FIELD MEETINGS 2004

**Saturday 8th May** at HOLME PARK FELL, LANCA-SHIRE. Meet 10.30 a.m. at SD550787.

**Saturday 17th July** at HEYSHAM NATURE RE-SERVE, LANCA-SHIRE. Meet 10.30 a.m. at SD407599.

For further details please contact **Dr Jennifer Newton** Tel. 015242 21569; [jennifer@hollyh.demon.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@hollyh.demon.co.uk).

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**EDITORIAL.** First, congratulations to **Dr Frank Milledge** on his 90th birthday, celebrated on 7th January. Frank was a founder member of the B.A.S. and his outstanding contribution to arachnology was recognised by election as an Honorary Member in 1971. A tribute to his achievements by **Peter Merrett** and **Eric Duffey** appeared in Newsletter 68.

Second, my grateful thanks to **Richard Gallon** who has taken over the typesetting of this edition. Richard uses a different system from mine and so you will notice some slight alterations in the appearance of this edition. Contributions from *S.R.S. News*, *Galea* and *Ocularium* are different by intention—to retain their integrity within, but not incorporated into, the Newsletter.

Richard will be happy to receive Newsletter contributions by e-mail at [postmaster@zezz.demon.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@zezz.demon.co.uk). Text should be submitted in rich-text-format or as a Word-doc, with minimal formatting and no tabs. Where species lists are included, these should be produced as a single column, rather than attempting to replicate the double-column format of the Newsletter.

Figures and plates can also be submitted electronically—preferably in TIFF format at a resolution no less than 400 dpi (plates are also acceptable as jpeg files). There is no need to re-size figures and plates, since this is easily done by the editorial team. Please mark your contributions 'for B.A.S. NL'. Please continue to send hard-copy submissions to John Dalingwater at 50, Westgate, Hale, ALTRINCHAM, Cheshire, WA15 9AZ.

J.E.D.

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