
Fourteen Additions to the Known Spider Fauna of Oklahoma¹

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As evidenced by a survey of the literature, the Araneida of Oklahoma have nearly been ignored. Illustrative of this is the fact that I was able, in random samples taken while in pursuit of other interests, to collect 14 forms heretofore unreported for this state. The only work of any consequence that has come to attention is that of Banks, Newport, and Bird (1932). This list, in which 160 spider species, seven phalangids, one solpugid and one scorpion were reported, is now badly in need of revision. Many of the species listed have since been reduced to synonymy. The 14 new records are listed below with a few notations. All species reported were either identified or verified by Dr. William J. Gertsch of the American Museum of Natural History.

CTENIZIDAE

Myrmecophilus species. One female taken on Aug. 7, 1956, near a swamp 5 mi. south of Eagletown, McCurtain Co. The members of this family are commonly called "trapdoor spiders" and, as is obvious from the above generic name, this genus is fond of ants. This specimen represents a new species which is being studied by Dr. Gertsch.

AGELENIDAE

Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik. One female taken on Apr. 8, 1956, under a decaying log near Tallihina City Lake, LeFlore Co. A sedentary form which spins a funnel web similar to, but much more fragile than, that of the common species, *Agelenopsis emertoni* Chamberlin and Ivie, reported by Banks *et al.* (1932).

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GNAPHOSIDAE

Callilepis munda Chamberlin. One female collected on Aug. 17, 1957, under lights near Alabaster Cavern, Woodward Co. A rather common form, in this county, living in a silken retreat under stones.

Geodrassus species. A single female taken on July 24, 1956, at the base of grass roots, Stillwater, Payne Co. Specific identification was rendered impossible because the specimen was immature. Members of this genus are rather uncommon wherever found.

CLUBIONIDAE

Syrisca species. A single female taken on July 24, 1956, at Veteran's Village, Stillwater, Payne Co. This species, another form new to science under consideration by Dr. Gertsch, builds a nest in rolled, living leaves of plants such as *Jussieae repens* Linnaeus.

Clubiona abboti Hentz. One female taken on July 30, 1956, on the banks of Horse Creek, Afton, Ottawa Co. This species was discovered in silken retreats between basal leaves of *Typha*.

Phurotimpus borealis Emerton. A single male collected on Jan. 14, 1956, at Veteran's Village, Stillwater, Payne Co. In contrast to a great many sedentary clubionids, this very active species is found wandering around in grasses or under stones.

THERIDIIDAE

Dipoena abdita Gertsch and Mulaik. One female taken on Aug. 18, 1957, at Vickery Ranch, Major County. *D. Abdita* and the next species are very interesting members of the same family as *Latrodectus mactans* Fabricius, the black widow. It inhabits the walls and ledges of caves and, like most other members of the family, builds a nondescript web, in which it hangs upside down. Competing forms are apparently limited to two species of spiders (see below). The prey consists mostly of *Ceuthophilus* (cave crickets), some type of small dipteran fly and perhaps on occasional streblid from a passing bat.

Achaearanea porteri Banks. A single female taken at Alabaster Cavern, Woodward Co., and 3 males and 15 females in a cave on the Vickery Ranch, Major Co. This species, a consort of *Dipoena*, is apparently encountered wherever caves exist in the Southwest.

TETRAGNATHIDAE

Tetragnatha barrodi Levi. Two females taken on July 7, 1956, near a swamp 5 mi. south of Eagletown, McCurtain Co. Like most of the tetragnathids, this species is found near water, where it hangs upside-down in an orb web.

Tetragnatha banksi McCook. A single female taken on July 7, 1956. Data are the same as for the above species.

ARGIOPIDAE

Meta species. Six sub-adults of each sex taken on Aug. 18, 1957, from Alabaster Cavern, Woodward Co., and one female and several immature specimens from a cave, Vickery Ranch, Major Co. This is the third species alluded to as being an inhabitant of caves. This genus has been, until the discovery of this species, represented in the U. S. by a single species, *Meta menardi* Latreille, which occurs in California caves

and similar localities. The web is similar to that of other orb-weaving spiders. All of the material is being studied by Dr. Gertsch.

Neoscona eximia Gertsch. A single immature female collected on Oct. 24, 1955, Veteran's Village, Stillwater, Payne Co. The specimen was found busily weaving a web in a corner of my apartment.

LYCOSIDAE

Pardosa delicatula Gertsch and Wallace. One female collected on July 24, 1956, Veteran's Village, Stillwater, Payne Co. As is characteristic of the family (wolf spiders), this species is a very active vagrant. It is found mostly near water, usually under vegetative materials and litter. Females are frequently found bearing a bluish-colored egg sac attached to the spinnerets.

LITERATURE CITED

- Banks, N., N. M. Newport and R. D. Bird. 1932. Oklahoma Spiders. Univ. Okla. Biol. Surv. 4: 1-34.
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