

## ***Syedra myrmicarum*: a new species record for the UK**

by Pip Collyer

During 2014, at the request of Natural England, the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society carried out a survey of Winterton Dunes NNR on the east coast of the county. Whilst the spiders of the site have been well recorded in past years with visits by John Murphy, Eric Duffey, John Parker and Peter Merrett to name but a few, I took the opportunity presented to visit the dunes in all seasons. In order to supplement hand methods of collection, the county beetle recorder and I took it in turns to set and service pitfall traps, the locations of which were selected to try to cover the different habitats offered by the site.

The Dunes extend to 109 hectares and provide good coastal habitat succession from open sand and shingle beach through embryo and fixed dunes to acid heathland and low lying wet dune slacks, with areas of scattered scrub.

By late September with the onset of colder weather I was ready to call it a day at servicing the traps but my namesake, Martin Collier the county beetle recorder is made of sterner stuff and carried on until the end of December. It is therefore thanks to him that a small male linyphiid was collected which I could not find in Roberts. It was sent to Peter Harvey and duly ended up with Peter Merrett who identified it as *Syedra myrmicarum*, a rare spider recorded from central Europe which, as the name implies, is associated with ant nests. The trap in question was located on a westerly facing slope of a large dune, supporting relatively short vegetation, about 100 metres back from the beach.

Despite continuing to set the traps in the immediate area into February this year and carrying out further hand searching and vacuum sampling, no further specimens were found so I shall be re-visiting the site in the hope of finding a female.

A total of 90 species were recorded during the year which included a number of new records for the site. One interesting one is *Micaria silesiaca*, a small ant mimic which is present in good numbers particularly on the short rabbit grazed areas. According to the SRS map for the species, it would appear to be the most northerly record for this spider in the UK. Other new records included *Araeoncus humilis*, *Pelecopsis nemoralioides* (both forms *locketi* and *mediocris* in the males), *Porrhomma micropthalmum*, *Walckenaeria alticeps* and *Centromerus dilutus*.

I am grateful to Peter Merrett for identifying *Syedra myrmicarum* and Peter Harvey for his advice and research into the species.

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## ***Clubiona leucaspis* Simon established in Surrey**

by Jonty Denton

On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 I visited Cathedral Hill Industrial Park, Guildford (SU9850), to look for exotic bugs on the screening/amenity planting here which include numerous Black pines *Pinus nigra*, having found the first Surrey colony of the mirid bug *Phytocoris pini*, and the second Surrey site for *Macaroesis nidicolens* (Walckenaer) (Salticidae) in 2013.

I beat a pale unfamiliar looking clubionid with a distinctive pale pattern on the abdomen. A quick search on the internet ([http://www.araneae.unibe.ch/data/705/Clubiona leucaspis](http://www.araneae.unibe.ch/data/705/Clubiona_leucaspis)) yielded a perfect match for the palps with *C. leucaspis*. I revisited the site the next day to try to find more and caught 3 adult females. Thus the spiders are established and breeding, and at first glance could be passed over as immature *Anyphaena accentuata*, but the pale spot on the dorsal surface of the abdomen is very distinctive.

The habitat is manicured shrubberies (mostly *Ceanothus*) beneath pines, and other exotic bushes including Red-Osier Dogwood, and surrounded by extensive hard surfaces (car parks, roads). The community is diverse with *C. comta*, *C. terrestris*, *Theridion blackwalli*, *Zilla diodia*, *Gibbaranea gibbosa*, *Araneus sturmi*, *Philodromus albidus* etc. *C. leucaspis* is widespread in Western Europe, and the above website gives 'common in citrus groves'.

Given the presence of other exotics, it seems likely that *C. leucaspis* was also accidentally imported amongst the amenity plantings.

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## ***Trachyzelotes pedestris* (C.L.Koch) breeding on a manure heap**

by Jonty Denton

As part of an extensive survey of Langley Vale near Epsom, Surrey (TQ2156), I sieved the margins of a large manure/spoil heap surrounded by extensive arable fields. Amongst loose drying remains of old rotten straw bales I found adults of what turned out to be *Trachyzelotes pedestris*, and associated immatures. The heaps were due to be removed in summer of 2015, so the Woodland Trust supported a rescue effort for the spiders. I revisited the site on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May and on both occasions found more than 40 adult *T. pedestris* (mostly females), and other juveniles which were probably of that species. They were commonest around exposed lumps of drying baled straw, where several could be disturbed at a time. By May the ground was being covered over by large clumps of chickweed, cleavers and hemlock, and spiders were scarce or absent from the larger basal rosettes. The more extensive areas of open fine gravel chipping were