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DISTRIBUTION RECORDS FOR UNCOMMON SPIDERS (ARANEAE) INCLUDING FIVE SPECIES NEW TO IRELAND

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Introduction

The appearance of van Helsdingen (1996a) has allowed easy access for anyone wishing to study the distribution of spiders in Ireland. The current list, including additions by van Helsdingen (1996b, 1997), Smith (1999), Snazell *et al.* (1999), and Nolan (2000a, b) stands at 387 species. This may seem like a large number, however comparison with the British spider list of 645 species, growing at an annual 1.5 species, and with an exceptional seven additions in 1999, would suggest that a considerable amount of work remains to be done. Few sites in Ireland have been thoroughly surveyed for spiders. The following note comprises records for uncommon spiders which, according to van Helsdingen (1996a) and more recent publications, have been recorded from four or fewer Irish counties. Five of the species involved, *Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. P. – Cambridge), *Araneus sturmi* (Hahn), *Tegenaria agrestis* (Walckenaer), *Nigma puella* (Simon) and *Diaea dorsata* (Fabr.) have not previously been reported from Ireland. Nomenclature and sequence follows Merrett and Murphy (2000). Where names differ from those given by van Helsdingen (1996a), synonyms are also given, in brackets. The author has retained voucher specimens and these will eventually be deposited at the National Museum of Ireland. New county records are denoted by an asterisk (*).

Oonops domesticus Dalmis, 1916

CORK: Douglas Street, Cork City, W6771, 28 September 1999. Single female on the inside wall of an apartment. Occasional individuals subsequently noted at this site.

*SLIGO: Sligo Docks, G6836, 2 October 1994, sieved from debris collected in an old building.

Hyptiotes paradoxus (C. L. Koch, 1834)

*KERRY: Reenadinna Yew Wood, V955858, 23 August 2001. A small number of specimens, mostly immature, but including one adult male beaten from yew *Taxus*.

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This fascinating spider, which is usually associated with yew, is otherwise known in Ireland only from Glengarriff, Co. Cork. Because of the scarcity of preferred habit, it is likely to be very rare in Ireland. Listed as rare in Britain by Bratton (1991).

Steatoda grossa (C. L. Koch, 1838)

CORK: Cork Docks, W6871, 12 September 1999, under rubbish adjacent to old stone buildings.

*DUBLIN: Trinity College, Dublin City, O1634, 29 October 1999. Mature male on a wall.

*SLIGO: Sligo, G6935, 25 August 1999. Specimens noted on a number of subsequent occasions at this site, on the inside and outside walls of a house.

Steatoda nobilis (Thorell, 1875)

*CORK: Eglinton Street, Cork City, W6871, 29 August 2000. One male on a low wall. A mature female noted on a house wall in a nearby street, July 2001.

Recently added to the Irish fauna by Nolan (2000a). The species has the potential to inflict a painful bite, as described by Warren *et al.* (1991).

Theridion mystaceum L. Koch, 1870

*WEXFORD: Ballyhack, S7010, 20 May 2001. Male beaten from gorse *Ulex* on dry, heathy, hillside.

*SLIGO: Curry village, G4906, 29 May 2000. Single male on a house wall.

Theridiosoma gemmosum (L. Koch, 1877)

*SLIGO: Doonweelin Lake, G6440, 28 May 2000. Single female in a lakeshore marsh.

*KILKENNY: Fiddown Island, S4619, 29 July 2001. Two females collected from the base of marsh vegetation, among willow *Salix*.

Hylyphantes graminicola (Sundevall, 1830)

KILKENNY: Fiddown Island, S4619, 23 May 2001, beaten from marsh vegetation among willow *Salix*.

WATERFORD: Cheekpoint, S6713, 20 June 2001. Beaten from oak *Quercus* at the edge of mixed woodland, adjoining a saltmarsh.

Hypomma fulvum Bösenberg, 1902

*SLIGO: Doonweelin Lake, G6440, 28 May 2000. One female under pieces of plastic in a lakeshore marsh; Feenagh Lake, G6912, 14 June 2000. One female beaten from rough

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lakeshore grassland.

***Metopobactrus prominulus* (O. P. – Cambridge, 1872)**

*WATERFORD: Ballyvoyle Bridge, X3394, 13 July 2000. One male beaten from rough vegetation on an eroding sea cliff.

***Pelecopsis parallela* (Wider, 1834)**

*CORK: Redbarn, Youghal, X0874, 14 September 2000. Males and females frequent under pieces of wood on a sandy foreshore.

*WATERFORD: Ferry Point, X1177, 8 November 2000, in moss on vegetated coastal shingle.

***Tapinocyba pallens* (O. P. – Cambridge, 1872)**

*SLIGO: Carns, G7034, 5 January 2001, sieved from beech *Fagus* leaf litter in a mixed woodland.

*WATERFORD: Carricknabrone, S2421, 25 October 2000. One male sieved from leaf litter in a mixed deciduous/coniferous hillside woodland.

***Tapinocyba insecta* (L. Koch, 1869)**

*SLIGO: Carns, G7034, 5 January 2001, sieved from beech *Fagus* leaf litter in mixed woodland.

***Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. P. Cambridge, 1875)**

CORK: Cobh, W7867, 12 August 2001. Single male sieved from debris collected in a cowshed.

New to Ireland. This small linyphiid is mostly confined to the south in Britain, where it is usually collected from hayshed debris.

***Thyreosthenius parasiticus* (Westring, 1851)**

*WATERFORD: Loughaniska, X2996, 7 November 2000. Collected from wet, dead wood in mixed deciduous woodland.

*LEITRIM: Cornagillagh, N0687, 1 October 2000. Single female collected from dead pine *Pinus* on blanket bog.

***Mecynargus morulus* (O. P. – Cambridge, 1873) (= *Rhaebothorax morulus*)**

*SLIGO: Slievemore, Ben Bulben, G7144, 20 August 2000. One male beaten from low vegetation on the mountain summit.

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***Hilaira frigida* (Thorell, 1872)**

*SLIGO: Kings Mountain, G7044, 20 August 2000. One male under a stone, gravel exposure on the mountain summit.

***Asthenargus paganus* (Simon, 1884)**

*WATERFORD: Carricknabrone, S2421, 25 October 2000. Single female sieved from leaf litter in mixed woodland.

***Ostearius melanopygius* (O. P. – Cambridge, 1879)**

*CORK: Churchtown, W9173, 6 October 1999, sieved from debris collected in stone cowshed; Redbarn, Youghal, X0874, 24 June 2000. Single mature female among vegetation on a sandy foreshore.

*WEXFORD: The Raven, T1123, 28 July 1999. One specimen collected under a stone on a sandy foreshore.

*SLIGO: Grange, G6549, 11 October 1993, sieved from debris collected in an old cowshed / stable.

A comparatively recent addition to the Irish list, but now recorded from seven counties, and clearly widespread here. This is a very distinctive spider which must surely be a relatively recent arrival in Ireland.

***Aphileta misera* (O. P. – Cambridge, 1882)**

*SLIGO: Doonweelin Lake, G6440, 28 May 2000. Single male sieved from damp moss at the edge of a common reed *Phragmites* swamp.

The presence of this species, together with *T. gemmosum* and *H. fulvum* suggests that Doonweelin supports an interesting community of wetland spiders. This site is already known to be of considerable zoological and botanical importance.

***Taranucnus setosus* (O. P. – Cambridge, 1863)**

*CORK: Father Matthew Street, Cork City, W6771, 13 June 2001. Single male climbing on a house wall; Kennel, Ballyvergan, X0776, 25 June 2001. Female collected from among debris in a marsh.

***Allomengea scopigera* (Grube, 1859)**

*WATERFORD: Ballynamuck, X2494, 26 September 1999. One female in a clump of rushes *Juncus* on the banks of the Colligan River.

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***Araneus sturmi* (Hahn, 1831)**

Kerry: Reenadonna Yew Wood, V955858, 23 August 2001. Numerous near adult specimens beaten from yew *Taxus*. A second visit in late September revealed one female and numerous males, again all subadults. One male collected alive however reached maturity within a few days, allowing the species to be readily identified.

New to Ireland. Similar in general appearance to *Araneus triguttatus* (Fabr.), but unlike that species normally associated with evergreen trees. Said to be widely but locally distributed in Britain.

***Larinioides sclopetarius* (Clerck, 1757) (synonym *L. sericatus* (Clerck, 1757))**

*TIPPERARY: Clonmel, S1922, 16 October 2000. One male and one female, on the inside wall of a public house toilet. Also numerous immatures, one of which was raised to maturity, on railings along the River Suir.

***Neoscona adianta* (Walckenaer, 1802)**

WATERFORD: Muggorts Bay, X3087, 10 August 1999. Subadults beaten from gorse *Ulex* on coastal heath; Ballyvoyle Bridge, X3394, 13 July 2000. Subadults beaten from rough vegetation on sea bank.

***Mangora acalypha* (Walckenaer, 1802)**

CORK: Halfway, W5961, 22 May 2001. Females beaten from gorse *Ulex* on a dry hillside.

***Pardosa purbeckensis* F. O. P. – Cambridge, 1895**

*CORK: Belvelly, W7970, 17 June 2001. Frequent on bare ground and low vegetation in a saltmarsh.

*WATERFORD: Cheekpoint, S6713, 20 June 2001, frequent at the edge of a saltmarsh.

Treated as a variety of *P. agrestis* (Westring) by Roberts (1985) but retained as a separate species by Merrett and Murphy (2000), and this latter approach is followed here.

***Tegenaria saeva* Blackwall, 1844**

CORK: Bandon, W4954, 27 August 1995, under a stone on waste ground; Inchydoney, W4038, 16 May 2000, a small population present in a sand dune trench; Douglas Street, Cork City, W6771, 28 September 1999, wandering male trapped in a bath.

*WATERFORD: Mountcongreve, S5309, 5 October 1999. One specimen among grass growing on a dry stone wall. This record, and that from Inchydoney, suggest that *T. saeva* can survive

away from the immediate vicinity of human habitations in the southern parts of Ireland.

***Tegenaria parietina* (Fourcroy, 1785)**

*CORK: Cork Docks, W6871, 12 September 1999. Single female under rubbish adjacent to an old stone building.

***Tegenaria agrestis* (Walckenaer, 1802)**

CORK: Ballyvolane, Cork City, W6873, 15 October 2000, under stones on an area of open waste ground. A fair number of females noted at this site, many with egg sacs.

New to Ireland. A typical site for this species which, unlike most *Tegenaria*, is usually found away from houses. Known to be increasing its range in Britain, and likely to turn up with increased frequency in Ireland, especially in urban waste ground sites.

***Hahnia helveola* Simon, 1875**

*WATERFORD: Carricknabrone, S2421, 25 October 2000. One female sieved from leaf litter in a mixed deciduous/coniferous hillside woodland.

***Nigma puella* (Simon, 1870)**

TIPPERARY: Caher Park Wood, S055224, 2 July 2000. Male beaten from rank vegetation on the east bank of River Suir. A second male was collected here in July 2001.

WEXFORD: Ballyhack, S7010, 16 July 2000. Female, with eggs, under a dead leaf on sloe *Prunus spinosa* L. in a hedgerow.

New to Ireland. This small but distinctive spider is said to be very local in Britain, and with a southern distribution.

***Scotina celans* (Blackwall, 1841)**

*CORK: Carrigshane Hill, W8973, 13 June 2001. Immatures sieved from moss collected from among exposed limestone.

***Liocranum rupicola* (Walckenaer, 1830)**

*WEXFORD: Ballyhack, S7010, 20 May 2001. Immatures among dry rubble and rock fragments on a low sea cliff.

***Clubiona subtilis* L. Koch, 1867**

*CORK: The Long Strand, Rosscarbery, W3234, 9 May 2001. Males and females under pieces of wood in the sand dunes.

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***Philodromus dispar* Walckenaer, 1826**

CORK: Cook Street, Cork City, W6771, 8 May 2001. Single male noted on a shop wall; Douglas Street, Cork City, W6771, 10 May 2001. Occasional males and females on the inside walls of an apartment; Belvelly, W7970, 17 June 2001. Male swept from vegetation adjacent to saltmarsh.

***Diaea dorsata* (Fabricius, 1777)**

KERRY: Reenadonna Yew Wood, V955858, 23 August 2001. Numerous subadult specimens beaten from yew *Taxus*.

New to Ireland. This very distinctive crab-spider is usually associated with yew *Taxus* and oak *Quercus*. An uncommon spider with a southern distribution in Britain.

The presence of this species, together with *H. paradoxus* and *A. sturmi* suggests that Reenadonna is a site of considerable arachnological interest. The author is hoping to carry out a more thorough study of the spiders of this fascinating and unique site, which represents the only native coniferous woodland of any size in Ireland.

***Oxyptila sanctuaria* (O. P. - Cambridge, 1871) (= *Oxyptila sanctuaria*)**

*KILKENNY: Lough Macask, S4957, 10 March 2001. Single female collected from moss on an old stone wall at the edge of a field.

***Marpissa nivoyi* (Lucas, 1846)**

WATERFORD: Tramore Burrow, S6100, 16 August 2001. Females frequent in sand dunes, on marram *Ammophila* and under stones etc.

A single male collected by J. N. Halbert at this site constituted the first Irish record for this distinctive jumping spider (Pack-Beresford, 1909). *M. nivoyi* is regarded as being a rare spider, so I have included it in this account although recorded from five Irish counties.

***Pseudeuophrys lanigera* (Simon, 1871) (= *Euophrys lanigera*)**

*CORK: Douglas Street, Cork City, W6771, 13 August 1999, and subsequently. Individuals noted on the inside and outside walls of an apartment.

DUBLIN: Dominic Street, Dublin City Centre, O1534, 31 March 2000. One specimen on the inside wall of an apartment.

*SLIGO: St Patrick's Terrace, Sligo, G6935, 1 January 2000. Mature male climbing on the ceiling of an inside room. Noted during the course of New Year's Eve celebrations (!).

Only previously reported from Dublin, but clearly widespread in Ireland. Apparently associated with the upper echelons of buildings, including roofs.

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