

SOME CURSORIAL SPIDERS PRESENT IN TWO FOREST TYPES IN TASMANIA

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INTRODUCTION

Pitfall traps were established to monitor ground beetle populations at a callidendrous rainforest site and a dry eucalypt site, both in southern Tasmania. Several spiders were incidentally collected in the traps and these records are presented here.

SITES

Rainforest A *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (myrtle)/*Atherosperma moschatum* (sassafras) dominated forest situated 23kms west of Maydena on the Gordon River Road. Elevation 480m with an annual rainfall of 1944mm.

Dry eucalypt forest Dominated by *Eucalyptus obliqua*/E. *amygdalina* over a dense low understorey of grasses, prickly shrubs and young *Acacia dealbata* regeneration. Situated 12kms north of Buckland. Elevation 240m with an annual rainfall of 710mm.

Pitfall trap establishment Each site carried 20 pitfall traps set up in two rows of 10 traps. Each trap consists of a 500ml waxed cup with a wide lip buried in the soil and sheltered with a black plastic flower pot base supported by three wooden pegs. A solution of 35% Ethanol/50% Glycerol was used as a preservative and to prevent evaporation loss. The traps were emptied every fourteen days for twelve months. The pattern of trap establishment followed that of Greenslade (1973).

RESULTS

Rainforest site A total of 22 species from 10 families were captured. In all 123 individuals were trapped. The most common species was '*Rubrius' miltvina* (Agelenidae) contributing 27% of the total individuals captured. The families Desidae and Amaurobiidae were the most diverse in species. The numbers of individuals of each species are listed in Table 1

Dry eucalypt site A total of 40 species from 18 families were captured. In all 351 individuals were trapped. The Agelenidae was the dominant family in numbers of individuals whilst the Zodariidae was the most species diverse. Table 2.

COMMENTS

14% of species were common to both forest types. It is of interest that casual

| Family and species | Number of individuals | |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| | Males | Females |
| Agelenidae (Platform Spiders) | | |
| ' <i>Rubrius' milivoina</i> | 23 | 10 |
| Sp. A | 2 | 0 |
| Sp. B | 0 | 10 |
| Amaurobiidae (Lace-Web Spiders) | | |
| <i>Badumna insignis</i> | 1 | 3 |
| <i>Stiphidium facetum</i> | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Storenosma</i> sp. | 8 | 3 |
| Sp. A | 0 | 5 |
| Sp. B | 1 | 0 |
| Clubionidae (Sac Spiders) | | |
| <i>Clubiona</i> sp. | 0 | 1 |
| Ctenizidae (Trapdoor Spiders) | | |
| <i>Arbanitis annulipes</i> | 4 | 4 |
| Cyclotenidae | | |
| <i>Cycloctenus infrequens</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Cycloctenus</i> sp. | 1 | 1 |
| Desidae | | |
| <i>Ommatauxesia macrops</i> | 6 | 6 |
| <i>Tuakana</i> sp. | 8 | 3 |
| <i>Gasparia</i> sp. 1 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Gasparia</i> sp. 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Sp. A. | 1 | 0 |
| Ginyphiidae | | |
| <i>Erigone</i> sp. | 1 | 0 |
| Linyphiidae (Money Spiders) | | |
| Sp. A | 1 | 6 |
| Nicodamidae | | |
| <i>Nicodamus bicolor</i> | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Nicodamus</i> sp. prob. <i>bicolor</i> | 1 | 0 |
| Thomisidae (Crab Spiders) | | |
| <i>Sidymella lonqipes</i> | 1 | 0 |

Table 1 Cursorial spiders collected in callidendrous rainforest

| Family and species | Number of individuals | |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| | Males | Females |
| Agelenidae (Platform Spiders) | | |
| <i>'Rubrius' miltvina</i> | 0 | 1 |
| Sp. A | 48 | 12 |
| Sp. B | 2 | 4 |
| Amaurobiidae (Lace-Web Spiders) | | |
| <i>Stiphidium facetum</i> | 2 | 0 |
| Sp. A | 4 | 1 |
| Sp. B | 3 | 0 |
| Araneidae (Orb Weavers) | | |
| <i>Arcys clavatus</i> | 0 | 1 |
| Clubionidae (Sac Spiders) | | |
| <i>Clubiona elephines</i> | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Supunna</i> sp. | 12 | 2 |
| Sp. A | 1 | 0 |
| Ctenizidae (Trapdoor Spiders) | | |
| Sp. A | 24 | 1 |
| Sp. B | 1 | 0 |
| Dipluridae | | |
| <i>Aname trevallynia</i> | 1 | 0 |
| Gnaphosidae | | |
| Sp. A | 0 | 4 |
| Sp. B | 9 | 0 |
| Linyphidae (Money Spiders) | | |
| Sp. A | 12 | 1 |
| Sp. B | 1 | 0 |
| Sp. C | 1 | 0 |
| Lycosidae (Wolf Spiders) | | |
| <i>Lycosa</i> sp. A | 44 | 10 |
| <i>Lycosa</i> sp. B | 1 | 0 |
| Miturgidae | | |
| <i>Miturga agelenina</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Miturga velox</i> | 0 | 2 |
| Nicodamidae | | |
| <i>Nicodamus bicolor</i> | 4 | 0 |
| <i>Nicodamus</i> ? prob. <i>bicolor</i> | 33 | 1 |
| Sp. A | 0 | 1 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|
| Salticidae (Jumping Spiders) | | |
| Sp. A | 5 | 3 |
| Sparassidae (Huntsman Spiders) | | |
| <i>Olios</i> sp. | 1 | 0 |
| Theridiidae (Comb-footed Spiders) | | |
| Sp. A | 1 | 0 |
| Thomisidae (Crab Spiders) | | |
| <i>Stephanopsis cambridgei</i> | 0 | 1 |
| Toxopidae | | |
| Sp. A) | 30 | 11 |
| Sp. B) combined | | |
| Sp. C) | | |
| Zodariidae | | |
| <i>Storena flavipedes</i> | 25 | 7 |
| <i>Castianiera</i> sp. A | 2 | 0 |
| <i>Castianiera</i> sp. B | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Castianiera</i> sp. C | 2 | 0 |
| <i>Castianiera</i> sp. D | 0 | 1 |
| Zoridae | | |
| Sp. A | 6 | 3 |
| Sp. B | 1 | 2 |

Table 2 Cursorial spiders collected in dry eucalypt forest

collecting has obtained specimens of the rare and endemic family Toxopidae, the uncommon genus *Erigone*, and a total of six Tasmanian endemic species.

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Common names of spider families are from Davies(1986) and Main(1976).

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