



Sussex Spider Group Field Visit to Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Friston Forest Project Area, East Sussex. 2nd June 2007

Introduction

A group of eight turned up for the first Sussex Spider Group field visit to Lullington Heath NNR on Saturday 2nd June 2007. Lullington Heath NNR was chosen as very few records exist for this important chalk heath site within the British Arachnological Society national spider recording scheme. We also surveyed the adjacent Friston Forest Project Area to get some records before the area is restored to chalk heath.

Habitat to survey was chosen at the discretion of the individual surveyors. A combination of sweeping, beating, and hand searching was used to survey the site. Other invertebrate taxonomic groups were recorded and are listed after the spider list that follows.

Results Summary

In total 54 spider species were recorded throughout the day with 48 species recorded from Lullington Heath and 27 recorded from the Friston Forest Project Area.

The undoubted highlight of the day was the discovery of a large female *Atypus affinis*, measuring 22mm in length, amongst short heather and grass. Two webs were found in a small area of habitat searched and as large patches of this short heather habitat exist it was considered that a sizeable population of *Atypus* could occur at the site. This species is local and restricted in Britain. It requires free draining soil such as is found on chalk grassland and sandy heathland, so it is no surprise that Lullington Heath is good for the species.

Other scarce species recorded that are found on dry free draining chalk grassland and sandy heathland soils were *Steatoda phalerata*, *Xysticus erraticus*, *Xysticus bifasciatus* and *Drassyllus pusillus*.

Other highlights included a *Philodromus albidus* found amongst woodland edge vegetation within the Friston Forest Project Area. This is a Nationally Scarce (Category B) species but is increasing and becoming more common in recent years. Other Nationally Scarce (Category B) species recorded were *Zilla diodia* amongst tall vegetation, *Araneus angulatus* on gorse and *Entelecara congenera* on gorse.

An interesting feature of Lullington Heath was the richness of the Araneidae fauna with 12 species recorded including two nationally scarce species.

Species Lists

Lullington Heath NNR (Site centroid TQ545017)

ARANEAE

ATYPIDAE

Atypus affinis - 2 webs amongst short heather and grass, TQ54820171

DYSDERIDAE

Dysdera sp.

THERIDIIDAE

Steatoda phalerata - 1 female at base of short heather and grass, TQ548018

Anelosimus vittatus

Theridion sisyphium

Theridion varians

Theridion mystaceum

Theridion tinctum

Simitidion simile

Neottiura bimaculata

Enoplognatha ovata

LINYPHIIDAE

Walckenaeria acuminata

Entelecara congenera - Nationally Scarce (Category B), 1 female & 1 male on gorse, TQ545016

Lepthyphantes tenuis

Lepthyphantes cristatus

TETRAGNATHIDAE

Tetragnatha montana

Metallina menzei

ARANEIDAE

Gibbaranea gibbosa

Araneus angulatus - Nationally Scarce (Category B), 1 immature female on gorse, TQ548018

Araneus diadematus

Larinioides cornutus

Agalenatea redii

Neoscona adianta

Araniella cucurbitina

Araniella opisthographa



▲ Female *Atypus affinis* (22mm in length) extracted from web.



▲ Immature female *Araneus angulatus*.

Zilla diodia - Nationally Scarce (Category B), many females seen amongst tall vegetation.

Zygiella atrica

Cyclosa conica

Mangora acalypha

LYCOSIDAE

Pardosa palustris

Pardosa nigriceps

PISAURIDAE

Pisaura mirabilis

DICTYNIDAE

Dictyna arundinacea

Dictyna latens

CLUBIONIDAE

Clubiona comta

Clubiona trivialis

GNAPHOSIDAE

Drassodes lapidosus

Drassyllus pusillus

PHILODROMIDAE

Philodromus aureolus

Philodromus cespitum

THOMISIDAE

Misumena vatia

Xysticus cristatus

Xysticus audax - many females on a large block of gorse, TQ545016

Xysticus erraticus - 1 female at base of short heather, TQ54820171

Xysticus bifasciatus - 1 female at base of short heather TQ54820171

Ozyptila atomaria

SALTICIDAE

Salticus scenicus

Heliophanus flavipes

Euophrys frontalis

Friston Forest Project Area (Site centroid TQ545010)

ARANEAE

THERIDIIDAE

Anelosimus vittatus

Theridion sisyphium
Theridion mystaceum
Paidiscura pallens
Enoplognatha ovata

LINYPHIIDAE

Lepthyphantes tenuis
Lepthyphantes cristatus
Linyphia hortensis

TETRAGNATHIDAE

Tetragnatha montana
Metallina menzei

ARANEIDAE

Araneus diadematus
Larinioides cornutus
Araniella opisthographa
Zilla diodia - Nationally Scarce (Category B), many females seen amongst tall woodland edge vegetation.
Mangora acalypha

LYCOSIDAE

Pardosa saltans

PISAURIDAE

Pisaura mirabilis

DICTYNIDAE

Dictyna arundinacea
Dictyna latens

CLUBIONIDAE

Clubiona reclusa
Clubiona terrestris

PHILODROMIDAE

Philodromus aureolus
Philodromus cespitum
Philodromus albidus - Nationally Scarce (Category B), 1 female on tall vegetation, TQ544012

THOMISIDAE

Misumena vatia



▲ Female *Zilla diodia* on web amongst woodland edge bramble.

Xysticus cristatus

SALTICIDAE

Heliophanus flavipes

Other invertebrate groups

Lullington Heath NNR (Site centroid TQ545017)

LEPIDOPTERA

PIERIDAE

Pieris brassicae Large White

LYCAENIDAE

Callophrys rubi Green Hairstreak

NYMPHALIDAE

Vanessa atalanta Red Admiral

Coenonympha pamphilus Small Heath

ARCTIIDAE

Diacrisia sannio Clouded Buff

Tyria jacobaeae Cinnabar

GEOMETRIDAE

Pseudopanthera macularia Speckled Yellow

SPHINGIDAE

Deilephila porcellus Small Elephant Hawkmoth

COLEOPTERA

BUPRESTIDAE

Agilus sinuatus Hawthorn Jewel Beetle - Nationally Scarce (Category A), 1 adult on hawthorn, TQ548017

ELATERIDAE

Prosternon tesellatum

OEDEMERIDAE

Oedemera nobilis

Oedemera lurida

APIONIDAE

Exapion ulicis

HYMENOPTERA ACULEATA

APIDAE

Bombus jonellus

Bombus lapidarius

Bombus pratorum

Friston Forest Project Area (Site centroid TQ545010)

LEPIDOPTERA

PIERIDAE

Pieris brassicae Large White

LYCAENIDAE

Polyommatus icarus Common Blue

Celastrina argiolus Holly Blue

NYMPHALIDAE

Vanessa atalanta Red Admiral

Aglais urticae Small Tortoiseshell

Pararge aegeria Speckled Wood

ARCTIIDAE

Tyria jacobaeae Cinnabar

GEOMETRIDAE

Camptogramma bilineata Yellow Shell

Pseudopanthera macularia Speckled Yellow

NOCTUIDAE

Panemeria tenebrata Small Yellow Underwing

COLEOPTERA

MALACHIIDAE

Malachius bipustulatus

ELATERIDAE

Prosternon tesellatum

Denticollis linearis

OEDEMERIDAE

Oedemera nobilis

COCCINELLIDAE

Adalia bipunctata

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Chrysolina polita

ANTHRIBIDAE

Platystomos albinus - Nationally Scarce
(Category B), 1 adult on low vegetation,
TQ549010

APIONIDAE

Exapion ulicis

HYMENOPTERA ACULEATA

APIDAE

Bombus lapidarius

Bombus pascuorum

Bombus pratorum



▲ Adult *Platystomos albinus*.

Text & photos ©Andy Phillips, 2007

**Next Sussex Spider Group Field Visit - 8th September, Hastings Country
Park Nature Reserve. For more information contact Andy Phillips, email
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