

- which may not be so dangerous as one would think, as the usual reaction of a spider confronted by a pompilid wasp is one of terror, often total collapse, or at most a half-hearted resistance.

The answers to these questions must inevitably await future investigations, which, I fear, may well be difficult, due to the apparent rarity of the wasp, coupled with the retiring nature of Atypus, a combination which has undoubtedly prevented, until now, the discovery, albeit very incomplete, of their habits.

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REPORT ON THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BRITISH ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WITH THE LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

by R.ALLISON.

A joint meeting between the two Societies was held on Tuesday, 25th March 1969, when Dr. John Cooke gave an illustrated talk entitled 'An Introduction to the World of Spiders'. The meeting was a great success, being attended by some 60 people, including 15 B.A.S. members.

Dr. Cooke gave an excellent account of the anatomical differences between spiders and insects, and went on to describe aspects of the spider's life, ecology, courtship and reproductive methods, etc.

The introductory talk was followed by four excellent spider films made at Oxford by Messrs. Thompson and Skinner. The films exhibited a remarkable degree of technical ingenuity, particularly one sequence showing the prey-catching techniques of Atypus, with views of the action inside the silken tube. Other sequences showed courtship and mating of a number of species, and all these insights into the spider's behaviour must have required a great deal of skill and patience to capture on film.

After the films Dr. Cooke answered questions and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr.B.Byerley. It will be a sad loss to British arachnology when Dr. Cooke departs to take up his new post in America, but I am sure we all wish him well in his new appointment.