

Carorita paludosa n.sp., a new Linyphiid spider from Ireland and eastern England

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During an ecological survey of the Burren, Co. Clare, Ireland in 1969 a visit was made to a series of Loughs (shallow freshwater lakes) in the eastern part of this remarkable limestone karst country. On 27 September 1969 in company with Dr. M. G. Morris I collected on a small marsh on the west side of Lough George and close to a small unnamed lake (Irish Grid Ref. R 335 913). Spiders were shaken from a thin layer of wet moss growing over the floor of an old peat cutting being invaded by cotton-grass (*Eriophorum* sp.) and a male and female of an unknown erigonid species were taken. A further four females were taken in the same locality on 5 June 1970.

These spiders were found to be very close to *Carorita limnaea* (Crosby & Bishop) described in Duffey & Merrett (1963), particularly in chaetotaxy, position of the trichobothria, large paracymbium, to some extent in the form of the male papal tibia, the long tarsi, presence of a prolateral spine on tibia I and in the arrangement and relative sizes of the eyes. Differences also occur, especially in the shape and structure of the embolic division, although dissection has not been possible because only one male has so far been taken. The epigyne in the available females of the new species is variable, particularly in the details of the vulva which can be seen through the epigynal plate. The spermathecae may be almost invisible in some specimens. As the differences are not great enough to create a new genus it has been decided to describe this spider as a new species of the genus *Carorita* Duffey & Merrett 1963.

Two females of this species were also taken on 20 and 22 September 1970 in the fens of the Norfolk Broads, East Anglia, England. The first was taken near the How Hill Field Centre (N.G.R. TG/368191) in *Sphagnum* tussocks of an open *Betula/Alnus* carr,

in a sedge marsh on the west side of the River Ant. The second female was taken in leaf litter and cut grass and sedge in a long-abandoned grazing marsh adjacent to a fairly extensive growth of *Cladium mariscus* (L) on one side and *Phragmites* on the other, on the Hickling Broad National Nature Reserve (N.G.R. TG/426214).

Carorita paludosa n.sp

Carapace length: ♂, 0.6 mm., ♀, 0.7 mm. Total length ♂, 1.4 mm., ♀, 1.7 mm. CARAPACE: ♂ not elevated. Pale yellow-brown with several hairs along the midline and in the ocular region. EYES: ♂♀ anterior medians significantly smaller than posterior medians, about 0.5 diam. apart and nearly 1.0 diam. from laterals. All eyes on dark spots (Fig. 1). CHELICERAE: ♂♀ well defined stridulatory ridges, 4 teeth on outer row; 5 small teeth of, more or less, equal size on inner row, rather like a serrated ridge (Fig. 2). LEGS: Pale yellow-brown. Metatarsus IV without a trichobothrium; Tm I 0.3. Tibiae I-II with 2 dorsal spines, tibiae III-IV with one dorsal spine. Tibia I with a pro-lateral spine, position about 0.75. MALE PALP: Figs. 3-6. Tibia expanded distally bearing 2 conspicuous black teeth, one dorsal and the other lateral. Paracymbium large. ABDOMEN: pale grey. STERNUM: pale grey. EPIGYNE: Figs. 7 & 8. A broad rounded plate with a chitinised edge. Spermathecae visible as round dark patches either side of epigynal plate. Oviducts faint but taking form of 2 "question marks".

The holotype ♂ and allotype ♀ from the Burren, Co. Clare, Ireland will be deposited at the British Museum (Natural History).

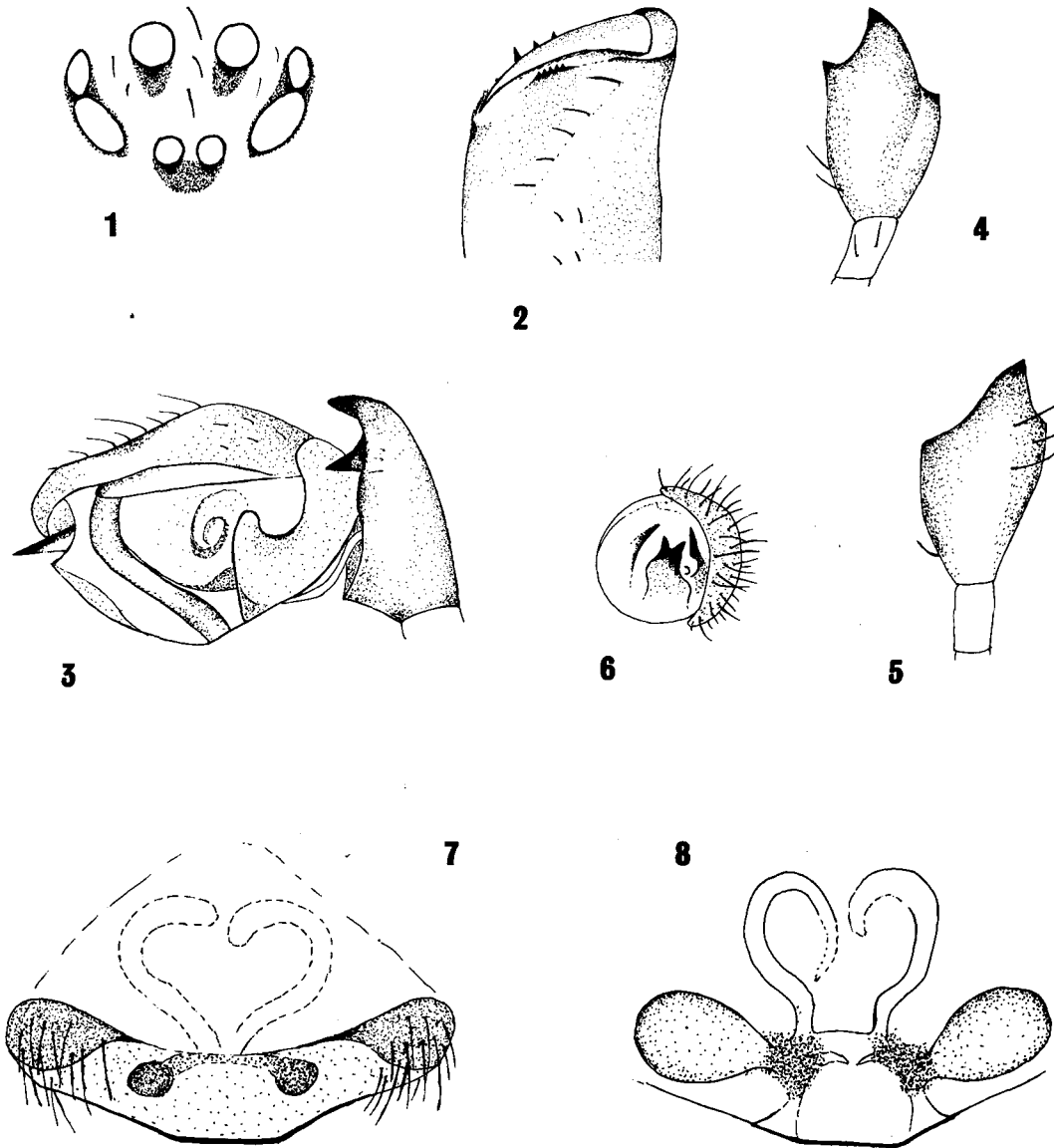
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References

DUFFEY, E. & MERRETT, P. 1963: *Carorita limnaea* (Crosby & Bishop), a linyphiid spider new to Britain, from Wybunbury Moss, Cheshire. *Annals & Mag. Nat. Hist. Ser. 13.6*: 573-6.



Figs 1-8: *Carorita paludosa* n.sp. All specimens from the Burren, except Fig. 7 (How Hill specimen).

1, ♀ eyes seen from in front; 2, ♀ left chelicera from underside; 3, ♂ left palp, outerside; 4, ♂ left palp, upperside; 5, ♂ right palp seen from above and slightly on innerside; 6, ♂ right palp, seen from below and in front, showing conspicuous bifid process; 7, ♀ epigyne; 8, ♀ vulva.