

The rediscovery of *Centromerus incultus* Falc. (*C. alnicola* Schenkel) (Araneae: Linyphiidae), in Britain

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Centromerus incultus was described by Falconer (1915) from a female taken in Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire. This specimen has since been lost and the epigyne illustrated in Locket and Millidge (1953) was redrawn from Falconer's paper. The male palp, which also figured in this volume from a specimen taken at a different locality in Cambridgeshire, is now known to be that of *Centromerus capucinus* (Simon) (Dr. A.F. Millidge pers. com.). Dr. Millidge also informs me that *Centromerus alnicola*, first described by Schenkel (1936) is a synonym of *C. incultus* Falc., there being little doubt that Falconer's drawings are of this species in spite of the absence of the type. *C. alnicola* has been recorded from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Estonian SSR, Finland and from a number of localities in Sweden (Kronstedt, 1968).

Further British specimens of *C. incultus*, males and females, have now been obtained from the Woodbastwick fens of the Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve in Norfolk during an ecological survey by members of the British Arachnological Society. Drawings of these specimens will be included in the forthcoming vol. III of *British Spiders* by G.H. Locket, A.F. Millidge and P. Merrett.

The Woodbastwick fens form one of the largest areas of marshland in the valley of the River Bure. Although the greater part is now covered by bush growth, mainly alder (*Alnus*) and sallow (*Salix*), in the mid 19th century there were extensive reed (*Phragmites*) and sedge (*Cladium mariscus* (L.)) beds and grazing marshes. The few open areas which survive today were visited by our survey party on 21 September 1970 when we collected in the following habitats: (a) in litter layer of *Calamagrostis canescens* (Weber) and *Thelypteris palustris* Schott. growing by the edge of fen waterways, (b) in heaps of cut sedge

on the edge of pathways adjacent to sedge beds, (c) in moss on waterlogged ground in open area of sedge bed close to thick *Alnus/Salix* carr and in (d) leaf litter on heavily shaded, wet peat under closed canopy of *Alnus/Salix* carr. Specimens of *C. incultus* were taken as follows: 2 ♂, 4 ♀ in (a), 1 ♀ in (b), 1 ♀ in (c), none in (d).

Although it is not known where, in Wicken Fen, Falconer took the type female, the vegetation of this nature reserve is very similar in many aspects to the collecting sites at Woodbastwick and it is perhaps surprising that no further specimens have been taken at the original locality.

Neotypes, ♂ and ♀, will be deposited at the British Museum (Natural History).

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