

The occurrence of *Tegenaria gigantea* Chamberlin and Ivie (1935) in North America and Western Europe

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In a recent paper (Locket 1975) a distinction was made between Blackwall's *Tegenaria saeva* and the commoner very similar British species, which was named *Tegenaria propinqua* sp. n. One of us (R.C.), however, concluded from drawings of the latter species that it was identical with *Tegenaria gigantea* Chamberlin and Ivie (1935), described from western North America. This conclusion has now been verified by the examination of specimens. Chamberlin and Ivie's type material is in the American Museum of Natural History (New York) and comprises the male holotype from Vancouver Island, B.C. (1929) and male and female paratypes from Sydney, B.C. (1935). We are very grateful to Dr N. Platnick for the loan of a pair of these, which are undoubtedly conspecific with *T. propinqua*. In addition a male from Seattle (Washington), collected in a house, and a female have been compared with British specimens of *T. propinqua* with which they are also conspecific. The latter name is therefore a junior synonym of *Tegenaria gigantea*.

The known distribution of the species in North America is as follows: *British Columbia*: Vancouver Island and Sydney (Chamberlin and Ivie, 1935); Wellington (V. D. Roth, 1968); Nanaimo and Victoria (E. Thorn, 1967). *Washington, U.S.A.*: Pierce County; Tacoma. King County; Bellevue, Des Moines, Mercer Island, Seattle (many specimens from throughout the city (R. Crawford), mostly collected indoors, but several, including females in webs, found out of doors).

In Europe it is common in England and Wales and occurs in France and Germany.

Roth (1968) made *T. gigantea* a synonym of *T. saeva* Blackwall, but his drawings agree with *T. propinqua* (as is confirmed *in litt.*).

There would seem to be little doubt that the species has spread from Europe to America in recent times, rather than the other way about, because of the evidence that it has been, and still is, expanding its range in America. To judge from collection records, the probable dates of introduction were in the mid-1920s on Vancouver Island and about 1960 in Seattle.

References

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