

Notes on two collections of spiders from Baffin Island and Greenland

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Summary

Twenty species of spiders belonging to six families were collected on two separate expeditions to the arctic. New distributional data include *Pardosa albomaculata* Emerton (Lycosidae) and *Hilaira herniosa* (Thorell) (Linyphiidae) both new to Greenland, and *Micaria eltoni* Jackson (Gnaphosidae) which is recorded for the first time from the Nearctic region (Baffin Island).

Introduction

The first collection was made by Andrew Barber on the Leicester Polytechnic Students' Greenland expedition in 1972 to the Kugssautsiaq Valley (Søndre Sermilik Fjord) in the extreme south of Greenland. The second was by Andrew Chubb on the 1975 Westminster School expedition to Baffin Island, in the Canadian arctic archipelago, based at Pangnirtung Fjord (Cumberland Sound).

Both collections were made by hand without the use of pitfall traps or Berlese Funnel extractors. The species found totalled twenty, none of the eight taken on Baffin Island being conspecific with any of the twelve collected in Greenland.

Results

Greenland

Kugssautsiaq Valley (Søndre Sermilik Fjord) at 60° 41' N, 44° 50' W, August 1972. Altitudes from 145 to 970 metres.

The vegetation at collecting sites from 145 to 290 m was mainly of dwarf willow and birch on a bed of moss and lichen with an undergrowth of smaller shrubs (crowberry (*Empetrum*), juniper and grasses).

The following species were found below 300 m:

Dictyna major Menge 2♀, 145 m (Holarctic species).
Haplodrassus signifer (C. L. Koch) 2♂, 145 m (Holarctic).

Xysticus durus (Soerensen) 1♀ 1♂, 145 m (Nearctic).
Pardosa furcifera (Thorell) 6♀ 3♂, 145 m & 230 m (northern Nearctic).

P. hyperborea (Thorell) 8♀ 31♂, 145 m to 290 m (northern Nearctic).

P. albomaculata Emerton 1♀, 145 m, 1♂, 560 m. A northern Nearctic species new to Greenland. The epigyne corresponds with figure 5A (from Mt Washington) in Kronstedt (1975). The palp differs from his figure 2A in the disposition of the tegular apophysis, but this distortion may be due to copulatory pressures. The size and general colouration of both specimens compares well with descriptions of examples from Canada and the U.S.A.

Oronotides vaginatus (Thorell) 1♀, 145 m (Holarctic).

Dismodicus bifrons decemoculatus (Emerton) 1♂, 145 m (Nearctic).

Meioneta rurestris (C. L. Koch) 1♀ 2♂, 145 m (Palaeartic).

Pocadicnemis pumila (Blackwall) 1♀ 1♂, 145 m Nearctic and western Palaeartic).

Hilaira herniosa (Thorell) 1♂, 145 m. Known to occur in Canada, Newfoundland, Siberia and Scandinavia and is recorded here for the first time from Greenland.

Bare rock and soil was predominant at sites from 560 to 970 m, the sparse vegetation being mainly composed of lichens.

One additional species was found at these higher altitudes:

Pardosa groenlandica (Thorell) 3♀ 3♂, 560 to 970 m (northern Nearctic).

Baffin Island

Pangnirtung Fjord at 66° 21' N, 65° 22' W, late July 1975. Collecting areas were below 100 m, where the habitats varied from sandy beach to dry or moist, grassy, lichenous tundra, and at approximately 470 m where the terrain was dry, lichenous and boulder strewn.

Micaria eltoni Jackson 1♀, dry, grassy, lichenous tundra near sea level; 2♂, 470 m. First described from Spitzbergen in 1922 and subsequently found on nearby Bear Island, this spider seems to be new to the Nearctic. Good figures are contained in Holm (1958).

- Xysticus deichmanni* Soerensen 1♀ 4♂, dry, grassy, lichenous tundra near sea level (Nearctic).
- Pardosa glacialis* (Thorell) 12♀ 2♂, all habitats from sea level to 470 m. Great numbers of immatures present, in all stages from spiderlings to subadults (northern Nearctic).
- Alopecosa asivak* (Emerton) numerous subadult ♀♀ ♂♂, all habitats from sea level to 470 m, probably this species (northern Nearctic).
- Collinsia thulensis* (Jackson) 1♀ 1♂, dry river bed at sea level (Holarctic).
- Erigone arctica arctica* (White) 1♂, sandy beach (Nearctic).
- Hilaira vexatrix* (O. P.-C.) 1♂, moist, grassy, lichenous tundra at 100 m (Nearctic).
- Meioneta nigripes jacksoni* Braendegaard 10♀ 4♂, dry and moist, grassy, lichenous tundra near sea level (eastern Nearctic).

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References

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