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Spiders (Araneae) from the Faroes

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Summary

A list of 47 species of spiders from the Faroes is presented together with localities and notes on habitats. The number of spider species known from these islands now amounts to 66. The methods of dispersal of the spiders to the Faroes and the biogeographical character of the Faroe spider fauna are discussed.

Introduction

The Faroes comprise 17 inhabited islands and several uninhabited islets and rocks, together 1399 km^2. They are situated in the northern Atlantic between 61°24′ and 62°24′ N and between 6°15′ and 7°41′ W. Nearest land is the Shetland Islands (300 km), Scotland (350 km), Iceland (400 km) and Norway (600 km). The islands are mountainous, most of them with peaks reaching above 500 m; the highest is Slaettaratindur, 882 m.

Because of their isolated position, moist and rather cool climate and treeless vegetation the Faroes have a very poor terrestrial fauna. To a great degree this applies to the spider fauna.

Spiders have been reported from the Faroes by Simon (1898), Sørensen (1904), de Lessert (1913), Schenkel (1925) and Braendegård (1928). The latter author summarized the records and gave a list of 43 species. To these a further 16 species (in the following list marked*) are now added.

In his paper on the fauna of the Shetlands Ashmole (1979) has referred to the present list of Faroe spiders. In a recent paper Bengtson & Hauge (1980) have considerably increased our knowledge of the spider fauna of the Faroes and added 7 more species. The number of spider species known from the Faroes thus now amounts to 66.

Material

The species list presented below is based upon the following collections of spiders:

(1) 72 specimens collected by Axel v. Klinckowström at Trongisvágur, Suduroy, 1915; all the records below from this locality are of species in this material, which belongs to the Entomological Section of the Swedish Natural History Museum, Stockholm. Some spiders collected by v. Klinckowström at the same locality in 1910 were determined by de Lessert (1913).

(2) 1472 specimens which I collected between 25 June and 20 July, 1966, on the islands Suduroy, Nólsoy, Streymoy, Eysturoy and Bordoy. The collection is deposited in the Institute of Zoology, Uppsala.

List of the species

Under the heading "Other records" and in the list of Faroe species not found in the present material the figures in parentheses after the island names refer to the following papers: (1) Simon, 1889; (2) Sørensen, 1904; (3) de Lessert, 1913; (4) Schenkel, 1925; (5) Braendegård, 1928. (The records given by Bengtson & Hauge (1980) could not be included.) The main islands and localities mentioned in the text are shown in Fig. 1.

Fam. Clubionidae

(1) *Clubiona trivialis* C. L. Koch. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, Planteringen, 1 ♂ subad. on heather, 25 June. Previously this species was only found in this locality and at Hoyvík, N of Tórshavn.

Fam. Thomisidae

(2) *Xysticus cristatus* (Clerck). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur; N of Tvöroyri, 100 m. –*Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Kirkjuböreyn, 180 m. – *Bordoy:* E of Klaksvík, 160-270 m. – Total 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 8 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (4), Vágar (4), Eysturoy (4). Amongst moss and grass in dry and moist localities.

Fam. Lycosidae

(3) **Alopecosa pulverulenta* (Clerck). – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 360 m. – *Bordoy:* N slope of Uppsalir,

250-270 m. – Total 4 ♂♂. In *Carex-Eriophorum* bogs and mountain heaths.

(4) *Pardosa palustris* (Linné). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Kirkjubøreyn, 180 m. – Total 21 ♂♂, 23 ♀♀, 9 juv. – *Other records:* Eysturoy (4). Around Tórshavn this species was common in grassy heaths, *Sphagnum* bogs and moist meadows. On Kirkjubøreyn some juvenile specimens were collected on moss-covered rocks. According to Braendegård (1928) this species is fairly common on Suduroy and Schenkel (1925) reports it as very common at Eidi, Eysturoy. In v. Klinckowström's collection there are 16 ♀♀ of *P. palustris* from Suduroy, but I could not find a single specimen on my visit to that island.

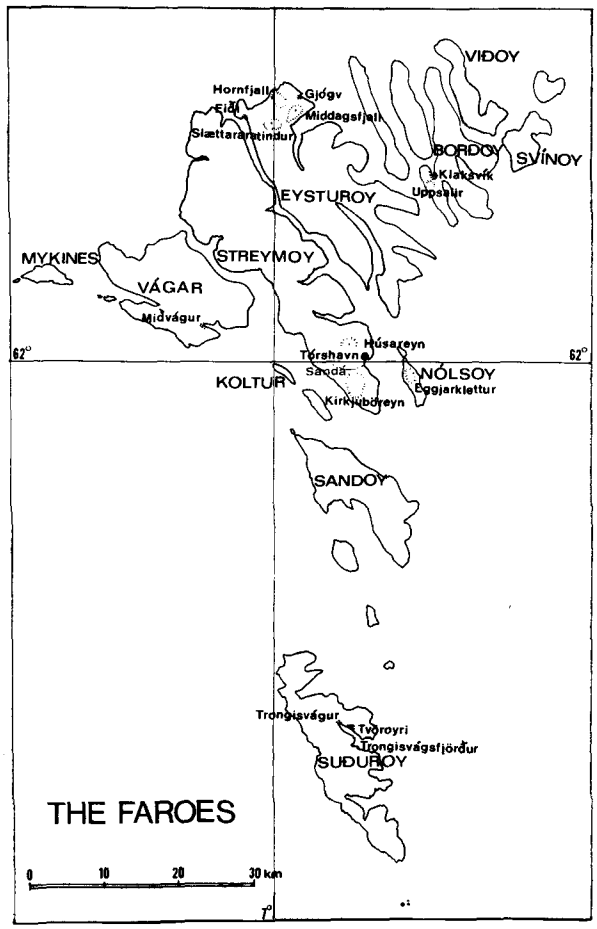


Fig. 1: The Faroes, showing the main islands and localities where spiders were collected.

(5) *Pirata piraticus* (Clerck). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 250 m. – Total 46 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, 3 juv. All the specimens from Streymoy and Bordoy were caught in pitfall traps in *Sphagnum* bogs. Previously only 5 specimens of this species were recorded from the Faroes, "all probably taken on Suduroy" (Sørensen, 1904).

(6) *Trochosa terricola* (Thorell). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur, 8 juv., 15 June-14 July, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, 10-28 Aug., 1915. – *Other records:* Sandoy (4), Streymoy (4). It is noteworthy that I did not find this species on any of the islands which I visited.

Fam. Agelenidae

(7) *Tegenaria domestica* (Clerck). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur, 2 ♂♂, 15-28 June and 1 ♀, 3 Aug., 1915 (A. v. K.). – *Other records:* Eysturoy (4), Streymoy (4).

Fam Theridiidae

(8) *Robertus lividus* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Tvöroyri, 100-260 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Hoyvík; Húsareyn, 210-340 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 120 m. – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 300 m; E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 2 ♂♂, 35 ♀♀, 10 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (4), Vidoy (5). Adult males were caught on 28 June and 17 July. Braendegård (1928) records males from April and early May. The species occurs frequently under stones, both on dry slopes and in moist meadows. Some young specimens were obtained by sifting moss in meadows. Only 2 ♀♀ and 1 juv. were caught in pitfall traps.

Fam. Linyphiidae, subfam. Erigoninae

(9) **Caledonia evansi* O. P.–Cambridge. – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 470 m, 2 ♂♂ subad., 2 ♀♀ ad., on a dry slope with scattered vegetation, 17 July.

(10) *Ceratinella brevipes* (Westring). – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, Planteringen; Húsareyn, 280 m. – Total 5 ♀♀, 13 juv. – *Other record:* Sandoy (4). In Planteringen, Tórshavn, this species was taken by sweeping heather whereas on Húsareyn a single ♀ was obtained by sifting moss amongst grass on a slope.

(11) *Collinsia holmgreni* (Thorell). – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 470-750 m, 2 ♂♂, 23 ♀♀ under stones, 17 July. Previously this species has been recorded from Slaettaratindur, Eysturoy, and a locality near

Tórshavn, Streymoy (Schenkel, 1925). The latter locality seems somewhat doubtful.

(12) **Diplocentria bidentata* (Emerton). – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 180 m. – *Bordoy:* S slope E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀. This species was found amongst moss in moist meadows.

(13) *Diplocephalus cristatus* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Tvöroyri, the inner end of Trongisvágsfjördur. – *Bordoy:* Bordoyarvik. – Total 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀, 3 juv. – *Other record:* Eysturoy (4). Under stones on sandy sea shores.

(14) **Diplocephalus permixtus* (O. P.-Cambridge) – *Streymoy:* Húsareyn, 210 m, 1 ♀ under a stone on gravelly ground with sparse vegetation, 10 July.

(15) **Entelecara errata* O. P.-Cambridge. – *Streymoy:* Húsareyn, 340 m, 5 ♀♀ under stones in *Empetrum* heath, 28 June. *E. errata* is closely related to *E. media* Kulcz. from the central European mountains. The males of these species are separated by small differences in the palpal tibiae (Locket, Millidge & Merrett, 1974) but the females seem not to be distinguishable. However, a female syntype of *E. media* in the Zoological Institute of Warsaw is larger, its carapace length being 0.73 mm, and its epigyne (Fig. 3) is broader, 0.22 mm, than the present specimens of *E. errata* having a carapace length of 0.67-0.69 mm and an epigyne breadth of 0.20 mm (Fig. 2). Another species closely allied to *E. errata* is *E. erythropus* (Westr.). In this species the median groove of the epigyne is broader and the lateral borders narrower (Fig. 4) than in *E. errata* (Fig. 2) and *E. media* (Fig. 3), and the posterior margin of the epigyne is more or less angulate at either side of the median indentation.

(16) *Erigone arctica maritima* Kulczyński. – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágsfjördur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – *Eysturoy:* Gjógv. – *Bordoy:* Klaksvík. – Total 20 ♂♂, 89 ♀♀. – *Other records:* Sandoy (4), Vágar (4). Under stones and amongst seaweed on the sea shore.

(17) *Erigone atra* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur; Trongisvágsfjördur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – Total 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀. – *Other records:* Eysturoy (5), Bordoy (5). Single specimens amongst grass, in a bog and under stone on the seashore.

(18) *Erigone promiscua* O. P.-Cambridge. – *Suduroy:* N of Tvöroyi, 100 m. – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 90-150 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Hoyvík; Húsareyn, 340 m. – Total 32 ♂♂, 19 ♀♀. – *Other record:* Mykines (5). Under stones and amongst moss in moist meadows and bogs; in pitfall traps in meadows.

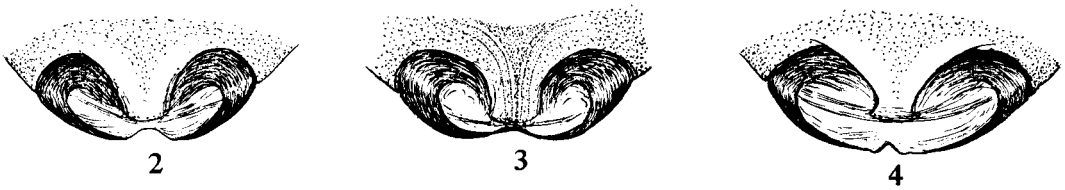
(19) *Erigone psychrophila* Thorell. – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 100 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 270 m. – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 270 m. – Total 5 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀, 4 juv. – *Other record:* Suduroy (4, determination doubtful). Amongst moss in bogs and by brooks.

(20) **Erigone tirolensis* L. Koch. – *Streymoy:* Húsareyn, 210 m. – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 470-750 m. – Total 1 ♂, 7 ♀♀. Under stones on stony ground with sparse vegetation.

(21) *Gonatium rubens* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Húsareyn; Kirkjuböreyn. – Total 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 16 juv. At Tórshavn (Planteringen) this species was collected on heather, in the mountains amongst moss.

(22) **Gongylidiellum vivum* (O. P.-Cambridge). – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, 1 ♀ amongst moss in heath, 24 June.

(23) *Hilaira frigida* (Thorell). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur; N of Tvöroyri, 260 m. – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 150 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Húsareyn, 300-340 m; Kirkjuböreyn, 290 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 120 m; Hornfjall, 470-750 m. – *Bordoy:* Bordoyarvík. – Total 4 ♂♂, 47 ♀♀, 41 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (5), Vágar (5). Under stones in meadows and heaths.



Figs. 2-4: Epigynes. **2** *Entelecara errata* O. P.-Cambridge (Faroes); **3** *E. media* Kulczynski (♀ syntype, Tyrol); **4** *E. erythropus* (Westring) (Abisko, Swedish-Lapland). x 140.

(24) **Hilaira nubigena* Hull. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 270 m, 3 ♀♀ in a *Sphagnum* bog, 15-18 July.

(25) **Latithorax faustus* (O. P.-Cambridge). – *Suduroy:* N of Tvöroyri, 280 m, 1 ♂ in dry meadow, 5-7 July. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, Planteringen, 6 ♀♀ amongst *Sphagnum* in a bog in pine forest and on heather, 5-19 July.

(26) **Monocephalus fuscipes* (Blackwall). – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 300 m, 3 ♀♀ under stones on a dry grassy slope with heather and herbs, 30 June.

(27) *Rhaebothorax morulus* (O. P.-Cambridge) (*Trichopterna globipes* (non L. Koch) Braendegård, 1928). – *Suduroy:* N of Tvöroyri, 260 m. – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 90 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Húsareyn, 280-340 m; Kirkjuböreyn, 180-290 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, N slope, 180 m; Hornfjall, 600-750 m. – Total 13 ♂♂, 44 ♀♀. Amongst moss in meadows and heaths.

(28) *Savignia frontata* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 200 m; Gjógv. – Total 2 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀. Under stones on the seashore and in meadows.

(29) **Tiso aestivus* (L. Koch). – *Streymoy:* Húsareyn, 340 m. – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 750 m. – Total 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Under stones in alpine heath.

(30) **Walckenaera (Wideria) antica* (Wider). – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 180 m. – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 160-300 m. – Total 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀. Under stones and amongst moss.

(31) **Walckenaera (Cornicularia) clavicornis* (Emerton). – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 600 m, 1 ♀ amongst moss in meadow, 17 July.

(32) *Walckenaera (Cornicularia) cuspidata* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* N of Tvöroyri, 260 m. – *Eysturoy:* Valley between Middagsfjall and Múlin, 290 m. – Total 2 ♀♀, 1 juv. – *Other record:* Streymoy (5). Amongst moss in moist meadows.

(33) *Walckenaera (Trachynella) nudipalpis* (Westring). – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Húsareyn, 300 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 120 m. – *Bordoy:* E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 11 ♀♀. Only 2 specimens were found under stones, one on a grassy slope on Húsareyn, the other on a slope with solifluction and scattered vegetation. The remaining specimens were obtained by sifting moss in moist meadows and bogs.

Fam. Linyphiidae, subfam. Linyphiinae

(34) **Agyneta decora* (O. P.-Cambridge). – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 90-150 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 270 m. – Total 12 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Amongst moss and grass in meadows and bogs.

(35) *Bolyphantes luteolus* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – Total 1 ♀ 5 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (4), Koltur (5), Vágar (4), Eysturoy (5). The female was taken on heather in Planteringen, Tórshavn.

(36) *Centromerita concinna* (Thorell). – *Suduroy:* N of Tvöroyri, 100-280 m. – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 100-150 m. – *Streymoy:* Torshavn; Húsareyn, 210-340 m; Kirkjuböreyn, 180-290 m. – *Eysturoy:* Gjógv; Middagsfjall, 120-360 m; Hornfjall, 430-470 m. – *Bordoy:* E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 19 ♀♀, 237 juv. – *Other records:* Vágar (4), Mykines (5), Vidoy (5), Svinoy (5). Apparently it is this species which Schenkel (1925) and Braendegård (1928) recorded from seven of the islands as *C. bicolor* (Blackwall). *C. concinna* has its breeding season in the autumn. Adult females were found between 26 June and 16 July, evidently the males reach maturity later. This species occurs abundantly in most habitats and was collected in 48 localities.

(37) **Centromerus arcanus* (O. P.-Cambridge). – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 180-200 m, 2 ♀♀ amongst moss in meadow, 15-18 July.

(38) **Lepthyphantes complicatus* (Emerton) (=L. *umbraticola* Keyserling). – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 700 m, 1 ♀ under a stone on a slope with scattered vegetation of moss and herbs, 17 July.

(39) *Lepthyphantes ericaeus* (Blackwall). – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Kirkjuböreyn, 180 m. – *Bordoy:* E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 9 ♀♀. Braendegård (1928) states that this species occurs amongst grass and heather. The present specimens were obtained by sifting moss, mostly *Hylocomium,* in moist meadows and heaths.

(40) *Lepthyphantes zimmermanni* Bertkau. – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur; N of Tvöroyri, 100 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn; Húsareyn, 240-340 m; Kirkjuböreyn, 180-290 m. – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 120-150 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 120-360 m; Hornfjall, 170-470 m; Gjogv. – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 160-300 m; inner end of Bordoyarvík. – Total 95 ♂♂, 58 ♀♀, 44 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (4), Vágar (4), Mykines (5), Vidoy (5). This species is one of the commonest spiders of the Faroes and is

met with everywhere: under stones, amongst moss and grass, on heather, on the seashore as well as at high levels in the mountains. Braendegård (1928) found adult males and females from April until October.

(41) *Leptorhoptrum robustum* (Westring). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, Planteringen; Hoyvík; at the mouth of the river Sandá. – *Eysturoy:* Gjógv. – Total 116 ♂♂, 31 ♀♀, 44 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (5), Bordoy (5), Vidoy (5). This species is common amongst moss and under stones in Planteringen, Tórshavn; in all the other localities it was collected under stones on the seashore.

(42) *Meioneta nigripes* (Simon). – *Suduroy:* N of Tvöroyri, 260 m. – *Streymoy:* Húsareyn, 340 m. – *Eysturoy:* Hornfjall, 750 m. – Total 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Under stones in a meadow and on gravelly ground in the mountains.

(43) *Oreonetides abnormis* (Blackwall). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – *Eysturoy:* Gjógv. – *Bordoy:* Uppsalir, 300 m; N of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 5 ♂♂, 21 ♀♀, 1 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (5), Vágar (4), Vidoy (5). This species occurs both under stones and amongst moss *(Hylocomium, Sphagnum).* Adult males were found from 25 June to 19 July, females from 24 June to 21 July. Braendegård (1928) found in his material one male collected in Sept. and females in April-May and Aug.-Sept. and supposed a mating period in the autumn. However, the occurrence of adult males and females also in June and July indicates mating also in the summer.

(44) *Oreonetides vaginatus* (Thorell). – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 150 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 120 m; Hornfjall, 470-750 m. – Total 6 ♀♀ 2 juv. – *Other record:* Streymoy (4). Under stones on mountain slopes.

(45) **Poeciloneta globosa* (Wider). – *Nólsoy:* Eggjarklettur, 150 m. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, Planteringen; Húsareyn, 210 m. – *Eysturoy:* Middagsfjall, 120-360 m. – *Bordoy:* E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 3 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀, 10 juv. – *Other records:* Suduroy (4), Sandoy (4), Mykines (5). Under stones on mountain slopes and in moist meadows. One juvenile specimen on heather (in Planteringen, Tórshavn). In the Faroes, according to Braendegård (1928), adult males and females are found in April, August and September, adult females also in July. The males of the present material were collected on 9 and 16 July. Subadult males and females were obtained on 9 and 10 July, whereas no determinable specimens were found in June. As pointed out by Braendegård both sexes seem to hibernate in the adult stage and survive probably until April.

(46) *Porrhomma convexum* (Westring) (=*P. thorelli* (Herman)). – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn, at the mouth of the river Sandá. – *Eysturoy:* Gjógv. – Total 2 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀. – *Other record:* Sandoy (4). Under stones on gravelly seashore.

Fam. Araneidae

(47) *Meta merianae* (Scopoli). – *Suduroy:* Trongisvágur. – *Streymoy:* Tórshavn. – *Bordoy:* E of Klaksvík, 160 m. – Total 6 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀, 49 juv. – *Other records:* Sandoy (2), Vágar (4), Eysturoy (4), Bordoy (5). According to Braendegård this species occurs in the Faroes "pretty nearly everywhere". The present specimens were taken under stones and on heather.

The following species, which were not found in the present collections, have previously been recorded from the Faroes:

Haplodrassus signifer (C. L. Koch) (*H. soerenseni* Strand?): Eysturoy (4).

Pardosa eiseni (Thorell) *(P. trailli* O. P.-Cambr.?) Streymoy (4).

Pardosa sphagnicola (Dahl): Streymoy (5, "*Lycosa riparia* C. L. Koch").

Hahnia montana (Bl.): Suduroy (4).

Robertus arundineti (O. P.-Cambr.): Vágar (4, *R. clarki* (O. P.-Cambr.)).

Tiso vagans (Bl.): Streymoy (5).

Tmeticus affinis (Bl.): Streymoy (1).

Walckenaera (Trachynella) obtusa (Bl.): Streymoy (4).

Bolyphantes index (Thorell): Suduroy (1).

Lepthyphantes leprosus (Ohlert): Streymoy (4).

Lepthyphantes tenuis (Bl.): Streymoy (5).

Porrhomma montanum Jacks.: Streymoy (5).

Bengtson & Hauge (1980) have added the following species: *Oxyptila trux* (Bl.), *Drepanotylus uncatus* (O. P.-Cambr.), *Walckenaera nodosa* (O. P.-Cambr.), *Bathyphantes gracilis* (Bl.), *Centromerus dilutus* (O. P.-Cambr.), *Lepthyphantes mengei* Kulcz., *Porrhomma egeria* Sim.

Discussion

The spider fauna of the Faroes is now rather well known, but only the two central islands, Eysturoy and Streymoy, have been extensively investigated. From these islands 61 species have been recorded, out of the total of 66 species known from the Faroes. Altogether 12 of the species have been recorded from only one of the islands. Most of these species are represented by only a single specimen. Apparently many of the Faroe spiders are rare and local, whereas rather few occur in greater numbers. The commonest and most widespread species are *Centromerita concinna* and *Lepthyphantes zimmermanni,* each being recorded from most of the islands. Common also are *Xysticus cristatus, Robertus lividus, Bolyphantes luteolus, Leptorhoptrum robustum, Poecilioneta globosa* and *Meta merianae* which are known from 6-9 of the islands. *Erigone arctica maritima* was found abundantly on the seashore and *Hilaira frigida* and *Rhaebothorax morulus* are common in the mountains from about 100m to the highest levels.

The dispersal of spiders seems to occur mainly by air, whereas the long-range transport of spiders and their egg-cocoons on water or with driftwood etc. is less plausible. Braendegård (1928) certainly is right when he considers that most of the spiders of the Faroes reached the islands by air. A large proportion of the linyphiid spiders which disperse by air are adults and females predominate (Duffey, 1956), which of course facilitates their colonization of new areas. On the other hand larger species, e.g. members of the families Gnaphosidae, Clubionidae, Thomisidae and Lycosidae make longer flights only as juveniles. This makes the establishment of a new population in a locality at longer distance more accidental as it postulates the arrival of several individuals at about the same time. This may explain the lack of e.g. *Gnaphosa* species and some *Pardosa* species, which might be expected to occur on the Faroes, and also be the reason why the six species of Lycosidae known from the Faroes seem to have rather limited distributions, none having been recorded from more than six of the islands.

As the Faroes are supposed to have been inhabited by man since about 725 A.D. many species of plants and animals introduced by ships and with imported goods must have managed to settle on the islands. Of the 363 species of vascular plants of the Faroes Hansen (1966) designated about 17% as introduced and naturalized or established. Also some of the spiders of the Faroes might have been introduced by man. This is most certainly the case with the house-living species *Tegenaria domestica* and *Lepthyphantes leprosus.* Also some other species which were found only within or in the vicinity of human settlements might have been introduced in the same way: *Lepthyphantes tenuis,* a single specimen of which was found in a garden in Tórshavn (Braendegård, 1928), and in meadows (Bengtson & Hauge, 1980), while *Clubiona trivialis* has been recorded only from the vicinity of Tórshavn.

Obviously the spider fauna of the Faroes is of west European origin. Only two species, *Pardosa sphagnicola* and *Bolyphantes index* do not belong to the British fauna but occur in Scandinavia, whereas *Entelecara errata, Erigone promiscua, Gongylidiellum vivum* and *Monocephalus fuscipes* have not been found in the latter area. Schenkel (1925) recorded as *Pardosa eiseni* a single female specimen from Kirkjuböreyn, Streymoy, but more probably it belongs to *P. trailli* (O. P.-Cambridge), a species which occurs in the mountains of England and Scotland and, at about the same latitude as the Faroes, in Norway and Sweden (T. Kronestedt, pers. comm.).

Because of the geographical position and upland character of the islands the northern elements constitute a large part of the spider fauna of the Faroes. *Collinsia holmgreni, Erigone psychrophila, Erigone tirolensis* and *Walckenaera clavicornis* all belong to the arctic (alpine) zone of the British and Scandinavian mountains and, except *E. tirolensis,* have a circumpolar arctic distribution. *E. tirolensis* and *W. clavicornis* also occur in the central European mountains. Other species with northern distributions are: *Caledonia evansi, Hilaira frigida, Hilaira nubigena, Tiso aestivus, Lepthyphantes complicatus* and *Meioneta nigripes,* which all occur in the mountains of England and Scotland and have an arctic-northboreal distribution in Fennoscandia. Except for the two *Hilaira* species they are also found in the central European mountains.

The climate of the Faroes is extremely oceanic and as a consequence several exclusively or predominantly west European species occur there. In this category

belong the two commonest of the Faroe species, *Centromerita concinna* and *Lepthyphantes zimmermanni,* and further *Entelecara errata, Erigone promiscua, Gongylidiellum vivum* and *Monocephalus fuscipes.* The moist climate especially favours pronouncedly hygrophilic species like *Leptorhoptrum robustum* and *Meta merianae,* which are among the commonest species.

However, the climate shows considerable differences concerning temperature and especially precipitation in different parts of the Faroes. In spite of the fact that this group of islands extends only 112 km in a north-south direction the annual precipitation is much lower on the southern and western islands than in the northern islands. Thus on Suduroy in the south the average annual precipitation is 825 mm, on Mykines in the west 847 mm, whereas on Bordoy in the north it exceeds 2700 mm (Hansen, 1966). Most probably these differences have an influence on the composition of the spider fauna on the different islands, but until more extensive investigations have been done no certain conclusions can be drawn concerning the relation between the climate and the spider fauna of the Faroes.

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