

## GEORGE HAZELWOOD LOCKET, 1900-1991

George Hazelwood Locket (known to his friends as "Ted"), the acknowledged doyen of British arachnologists for the past decade, died on 27 January 1991, in his 91st year. By his work and publications, extending over more than 60 years, he has left his mark on the arachnological scene, and his death is a sad loss.

He was born on 12 August 1900, during the reign of Queen Victoria, and spent a happy childhood in the countryside of Kent and Surrey. At school (Gresham's, Norfolk) he discovered an interest in natural history, and kept specimens of *Agelena labyrinthica* (amongst other animals) in his study. While confined to bed with German measles in 1916, he acquired a small book on "Crustacea and Spiders" (price one shilling), and the information given on spiders, though sparse, encouraged him to start on his life-long study of arachnids. Soon afterwards, still in his teens, he acquired Blackwall's *Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland* and Pickard-Cambridge's *Spiders of Dorset*. At this stage, his interests lay more in the study of behaviour than in collecting and taxonomy. On his 18th birthday he was called up for military service in the Royal Engineers (which in 1918 necessitated learning to ride a horse!), and was faced (in his view) with the virtual certainty of annihilation in the carnage of Flanders. Fortunately, for arachnology as well as for Ted, the war ended before this could happen.

Soon afterwards he won a place at Lincoln College, Oxford; in those far-off days acceptance at Oxford (even for a science degree) demanded a certain ability in classical Greek, which he successfully acquired, from scratch, by a crash course. His knowledge of Latin and Greek proved of great value later on for dealing with, and advising on, problems of arachnid nomenclature. His main subject at university was chemistry, but he found time to observe and study lycosid courtship; as a result of the latter work he was almost persuaded by Julian Huxley to switch from chemistry to zoology.

After university, he spent his working life teaching science (chiefly chemistry) at high school level, latterly (1931-1958) at Harrow School, and developed a profound interest in teaching the young. He was kept very busy during the early years of his teaching career, but spent as much as possible of his spare time, as he put it, "watching spiders". In 1935, after he had settled in at Harrow, he began the "serious" study of spiders, and under the willing tutelage of A. R. Jackson began to form a reference collection of spiders and to develop his interest in spider taxonomy.

Arachnologists in Britain today may find it difficult to appreciate that a mere 40-50 years ago there were no easy or reliable means for identifying British spiders, apart from some of the larger and more spectacular species. Until Bristowe's publication in 1939 (*Comity of Spiders*, Vol. I), there was indeed no up-to-date list of the species known to be present in Britain. The only practical method of identification available to an aspiring beginner was to send his specimens to one or other of the three extant British spider taxonomists, A. R. Jackson, J. E. Hull and W. Falconer (all of whom were amateurs who had learned their craft in the first place from O. and



F. O. Pickard-Cambridge). By mid-1944, Falconer and Jackson were dead, and Hull's eyesight was beginning to fail. It rapidly became clear to the few remaining active arachnologists here that it would be difficult to keep arachnology alive in Britain, and to encourage younger people into the field, unless some sort of handbook for the identification of British spiders could be produced. In August 1944, with occasional thuds from exploding V1 flying bombs in the background, a meeting was held at Harrow, on the outskirts of London, between Bristowe, Locket, Millidge and Savory to discuss this situation. It was agreed that the aim should be to produce, as quickly as possible, a book containing brief, but adequate, descriptions (i.e. omitting wordy descriptions of colour, eyes, etc., so common in earlier spider descriptions), with good figures of the genitalia, for all the known British species; and that the authors would be Bristowe, Locket and Millidge. It is perhaps worth emphasising that when the work on *British Spiders* was initiated it had the somewhat limited (but, at the time, very important) objective of producing, for the first time since Blackwall (1861-64), a handbook to enable the spiders found in *Britain* to be identified; the task involved in describing and figuring nearly 600 species was considered to be ambitious enough at that time without attempting to include comparisons with the spider fauna of other countries. Ted played an important part in the launching of the project, and when Bristowe found it necessary to withdraw, Ted became the enthusiastic senior author. Both the remaining authors were amateurs, and the production of *British Spiders* (based to a large extent on Jackson's spider collection in the British Museum (Natural History)) was carried out entirely in their leisure time; the figures were all drawn using a low-power monocular microscope, under somewhat poor (by modern standards) illumination. After much sweat and toil, the work finally appeared in two

volumes, in 1951 and 1953. Subsequently (1974) a further volume, which contained amendments, additions and distribution maps, was produced, under Ted's direction, with P. Merrett as an additional author.

Ted's early papers (1920–1946) dealt with non-taxonomic topics (e.g. mating procedures, allometric growth). During that period he also published several short papers on ecological subjects, and two books on school chemistry. From 1947 onwards he published, as sole or joint author, more than 20 papers on taxonomic matters, including valuable accounts of spiders from Britain, Angola, Nigeria, Comoro Is. and Malaysia. He also published a paper on his revision and cataloguing of the British material in the Pickard-Cambridge collection at Oxford.

His interest in teaching led to the setting-up of field courses on spiders, directed towards newcomers to the field, and in 1954 he ran the first of these at Malham, Yorkshire; it is worth recording that amongst those attending this first course were a future president of CIDA (P. J. van Helsdingen) and another well-known CIDA member and future president of the British Arachnological Society (P. D. Gabbutt). Ted was also one of the prime movers in the formation of the Flatford Mill Spider Group (1958), which later (1964) became the British Spider Study Group and finally in 1969 evolved into the British Arachnological Society. He served as Chairman and President of the first two groups throughout their ten-year development, and as the first Vice-President of BAS.

In 1974 he received the Stamford Raffles Award of the Zoological Society of London for conspicuous amateur contributions to arachnology (Bristowe was the only arachnologist previously so honoured), and in the same year he also received the Bloomer Award of the Linnean Society for his work on spiders. He was elected an honorary member of the British Arachnological Society, of the American Arachnological Society, and of CIDA. He was also an honorary Vice-President of the Ray Society.

Ted retired from the teaching profession in 1958, and moved first to Stockbridge, Hampshire, and finally, after the death of his wife, to the small village of Stone Allerton, Somerset. In Hampshire he enjoyed exercising his piscatorial skills on the River Test, and played a leading role in the Leckford Survey, a study carried out over some twelve years of invertebrate distributions on the Leckford Estate.

In his later years, in Somerset, Ted gained much pleasure and relaxation from gentle gardening; but he never lost his deep interest in spiders, and was always pleased to welcome arachnological visitors; he was still to be found at his microscope in his 90th year. Spiders were, for him, not just a passionate interest, but a source of abiding pleasure. He was a happy man, always good natured, always generous with help and advice, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

His son Adam, well known for his work on the coelacanth eye, is continuing the arachnological tradition by his work on scorpions.

A.F.M.

#### List of arachnological publications

1920: Mating dances of spiders. *Nature, Lond.* **106**: 345.

- 1922: The mating habits of spiders. *Trans.Oxf. Univ. jr. scient. Club* (N.S. 3) **7**: 200–204.
- 1923: Tactile vision of insects and Arachnida. *Nature, Lond.* **111**: 570–571, 848.
- 1923: Mating habits of Lycosidae. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (9) **12**: 493–502.
- 1926: Observations on the mating habits of some web-spinning spiders, with some corroborative notes by W. S. Bristowe. *Proc.zool.Soc. Lond.* **1926**: 1125–1146.
- 1926: (with W. S. Bristowe): The courtship of British lycosid spiders, and its probable significance. *Proc.zool.Soc.Lond.* **1926**(2): 317–347.
- 1927: On the mating of some spiders of the family Theridiidae. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (9) **20**: 91–99.
- 1930: Note on the life-history of *Oncodes pallipes* Latr. (Dipt.). *Entomologist* **63**: 241.
- 1932: Some cases of heterogonic growth in spiders. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (10) **9**: 407–419.
- 1936: Regeneration in Arachnida. *Nature, Lond.* **138**: 885–886.
- 1938: (with P. C. Gardiner): Further examples of allometric growth in spiders. *Proc.zool.Soc.Lond.* (B) **107**: 487–498.
- 1939: A case of crossing in spiders. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (11) **3**: 629–631.
- 1939: Parasites of spiders. *Lond.Nat.* **1938**: 51–52.
- 1947: (with A. F. Millidge): On new and rare British spiders. *Proc.Linn. Soc.Lond.* **158**: 110–118.
- 1950: Review — W. J. Gertsch, American spiders. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **86**: 39.
- 1951: (with A. F. Millidge): *British spiders* Vol. I: 1–310. Ray Society, London.
- 1952: (with A. F. Millidge): New and rare British spiders. *Proc.Linn. Soc.Lond.* **163**: 59–78.
- 1953: (with A. F. Millidge): *British spiders* Vol. II: 1–449. Ray Society, London.
- 1954: (with E. Duffey & A. F. Millidge): On some spiders collected in East Suffolk and Essex. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (12) **7**: 474–478.
- 1955: (with A. F. Millidge): New and rare British spiders. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (12) **8**: 161–173.
- 1956: An effective top-light for use with a microscope. *Entomologist's mon.Mag.* **92**: 131.
- 1957: (with M. D. Marsh): Two cases of lycosid spiders carrying snail shells instead of egg cocoons. *Entomologist's mon.Mag.* **92**: 139.
- 1957: (with A. F. Millidge): On new and rare British spiders. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (12) **10**: 481–492.
- 1958: (with E. Duffey & A. F. Millidge): The spider fauna of the heaths and fens in West Suffolk. *Trans.Suffolk Nat.Soc.* **10**: 199–209.
- 1958: (with A. F. Millidge & A. A. D. La Touche): On new and rare British spiders. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (13) **1**: 137–146.
- 1959: *Antistea elegans* (Bl.). *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **1**: 1.
- 1959: Dried-up specimens. *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **1**: 1.
- 1959: Clearing spiders to show the vulva. *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **2**: 1.
- 1960: Spiders subjected to inundation. *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **5**: 1–2.
- 1960: Review — H. Wiehle, Tierwelt Deutschlands Teil 47. Micryphantidae. *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **7**: 1–2 and *Entomologist's mon.Mag.* **96**: 3.
- 1961: (with A. F. Millidge): Notes on spiders collected in Invernessshire and Morayshire. *Entomologist's mon.Mag.* **97**: 22–24.
- 1961: *Dicymbium nigrum* (Blackwall). *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **12**: 6.
- 1962: Miscellaneous notes on linyphiid spiders. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (13) **5**: 7–15.
- 1962: (with A. F. Millidge): The identity of *Entelecara erythropus* (Westring) and *E. media* Kulcz. (Araneae). *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (13) **5**: 433–434.
- 1962: Some notes on nomenclature. *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **14**: 3–4.
- 1962: Some notes on nomenclature. II. *Bull.Flatford Mill Spider Group* **15**: 1.
- 1963: The use of the name *Robertus* and *Theonoe* in Theridiidae. *Bull. Flatford Mill Spider Group* **18**: 3.
- 1963: Recent work on the reclassification of the Theridiidae. *Bull. Flatford Mill Spider Group* **19**: 1–2.
- 1964: (with D. J. Clark): *Cheiracanthium pennyi* O. P.—Cambridge. *Bull. Br.Spider Study Group* **22**: 1–2.

- 1964: Type material of British spiders in the O. Pickard-Cambridge Collection at Oxford. *Ann.Mag.nat.Hist.* (13) **7**: 257-278.
- 1965: A new British species of linyphiid spider. *Entomologist's mon.Mag.* **101**: 48-50.
- 1965: (with P. Merrett): *Centromerita bicolor* (Bl.) and *Centromerita concinna* (Thor.). *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **27**: 3.
- 1965: *Zygiella stroemi* (Thorell) in Hants. *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **27**: 3.
- 1965: *Achaearanea tepidariorum simulans* (Thorell). *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **28**: 6-7.
- 1965: Third conference of European arachnologists. *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **28**: 7-9.
- 1966: Dr Hermann Wiehle (1884-1966). *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **32**: 9.
- 1967: (with A. F. Millidge): New and rare British spiders. *J.nat.Hist.* **1**: 177-184.
- 1967: A species of *Meioneta* new to Britain. *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **33**: 1-2.
- 1967: *Lasiargus gowerensis* n. sp. (Linyphiidae, Erigoninae). *Bull.Br. Spider Study Group* **33**: 2.
- 1967: Recent work on the *Philodromus aureolus* group. *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **36**: 1.
- 1968: (with A. F. Millidge): A note on *Cornicularia karpinskii* (O. P.-C.). *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **37**: 6.
- 1968: Spiders of the family Linyphiidae from Angola. *Publções cult.Co. Diam.Angola* **71**: 61-144.
- 1968: Notes on some interesting recent papers. *Bull.Br.Spider Study Group* **40**: 9-10.
- 1969: A short history of our society. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **1**: 1-3.
- 1970: (with A. F. Millidge & P. J. van Helsdingen): An observation on the type material of *Lepthyphantes tenebricola* (Wider) (*Linyphia tenebricola* Wider 1834). *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **1**: 90-91.
- 1971: Review — R. R. Forster & C. L. Wilton, The spiders of New Zealand, Parts 1-3. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **2**: 28-29.
- 1972: A fossil crab spider from Pliocene sediments in Western Alaska. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **2**: 57.
- 1973: Two spiders of the genus *Erigone* Audouin from New Zealand. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **2**: 158-165.
- 1974: (with J. Ijczak): *Achaearanea simulans* (Thorell) and its relationship to *A. tepidariorum* (C. L. Koch) (Araneae, Theridiidae). *Polskie Pismo ent.* **44**: 267-285.
- 1974: Notes on some African linyphiid spiders. *Publções cult.Co.Diam. Angola* **88**: 167-176.
- 1974: (with A. F. Millidge & P. Merrett): *British spiders* Vol. III: 1-314. Ray Society, London.
- 1974: Have we another species of *Tegenaria* in Britain? *Newsl.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **11**: 3-4.
- 1975: *Achaearanea simulans* (Thorell), its distribution, life and relationship to *A. tepidariorum* (C. L. Koch). *Proc. 6th int.Congr. Arachnol.* (Amsterdam): 227-228.
- 1975: The identity of Blackwall's *Tegenaria saeva* (Araneae, Agelenidae). *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **3**: 85-90.
- 1975: A note on the structure of the male palp of *Callilepis nocturna* (Linnaeus) (Araneae, Gnaphosidae). *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **3**: 159.
- 1976: (with R. Crawford): The occurrence of *Tegenaria gigantea* Chamberlin and Ivie (1935) in North America and Western Europe. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **3**: 199.
- 1978: A note on the type of *Dicymbium brevisetosum* (Araneae: Linyphiidae). *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **4**: 131.
- 1978: (with N. P. Ashmole, A. Q. K. Lodhi, C. J. Smith & J. H. Sudd): *Pityohyphantes phrygianus* (C. L. Koch), a possible recent colonist of Britain (Araneae: Linyphiidae). *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **4**: 279-284.
- 1978: Spiders in towns and cities. *Newsl.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **21**: 9-10 and **22**: 5.
- 1978: (with A. F. Millidge & P. J. van Helsdingen): Proposed use of the plenary powers to preserve the specific name *tenebricola*, as published in *Linyphia* by Wider, 1834, but in the sense of Kulczyński, 1887 (Arachnida). *Bull.zool.Nom.* **35**: 44-46.
- 1979: Some notes on the life history of *Steatoda nobilis* (Thorell). *Newsl.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **25**: 8-10.
- 1979: (with A. F. Millidge): William Syer Bristowe, 1901-1979. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **4**: 361-365.
- 1980: (with A. Russell-Smith): Spiders of the family Linyphiidae from Nigeria. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **5**: 54-90.
- 1980: Some spiders from the Comoro Islands. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **5**: 117-128.
- 1981: (with A. Russell-Smith): Synonymy of the names of two species of *Tybaertiella* Jocqué (Araneae: Linyphiidae). *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **5**: 174.
- 1982: Some linyphiid spiders from western Malaysia. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **5**: 361-384.
- 1982: (with S. A. Williams): The occurrence of *Apostenus fuscus* Westring (Clubionidae) in Britain. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **5**: 408-409.
- 1983: *Panorpa* and *Meta segmentata* as commensals. *Newsl.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **36**: 6.
- 1985: (with L. M. Jones-Walters): Scorpionflies stealing prey from web-spinning spiders. *Newsl.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **43**: 2-3.
- 1985: David Watson Mackie, 1902-1984. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **6**: 320.
- 1985: (with P. Merrett & A. F. Millidge): A check list of British spiders. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **6**: 381-403.
- 1986: (with A. F. Millidge): The type material of *Microneta beata* O. P.-Cambridge, 1906. *Bull.Br.arachnol.Soc.* **7**: 68.