

This is a PDF version of PECKHAMIA 2(6): 91-92, December 1990. Pagination of the original document has been retained. Editor's note (64.1): *Euophrys erratica* is now known as *Pseudeuophrys erratica* (Zabka, M., 1997, Fauna Polski 19: 5-187), *Habrocestum pulex* as *Naphrys pulex* (Edwards, G. B., 2002, Insecta Mundi 16(1-3): 65-74). and *Metaphidippus canadensis* as *Ghelna canadensis* (Maddison, W. P., 1996, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 154(4): 215-368).

SYNANTHROPIC SALTICIDAE OF THE NORTHEAST UNITED STATES

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This paper is based on my collecting experience primarily in New York, New Jersey, northern Illinois, and Minnesota, with lesser collecting in Wisconsin and Michigan. There is some input from the observations of others, and from the literature. Kaston (1983) has a useful summary of other observations. I have divided the synanthropic species into different categories based on mode of occurrence and probable area of origin.

The first group of species is what are considered to be the classic examples of synanthropic species. That is, nonnative species exclusively associated with human structures. There are two widespread species in this region. *Salticus scenicus* (Clerck) was undoubtedly introduced from western Europe, and occurs in every metropolitan area in the northeast United States, and in many small towns as well. In some places, it has spread to non-synanthropic habitats. Except for scattered records from trees (i. e. Jennings and Collins 1987), the rest are from bare rock areas—rocky shores of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, limestone cliffs in the Twin cities of Minnesota, and on a quartzite ridge in southwest Minnesota. This may indicate a trend towards a loss of strict synanthropic status.

Sitticus fasciger (Simon) is a more recent introduction. Extremely common locally from New York to Minnesota, it was not recorded until 1959 (Prószyński, 1968). Even in places where it is now abundant, it was not recorded in the mid-1950's (Woodring 1955). Originally described by Cutler (1965) under the synonym *S. barnesi*, from New York City and Minnesota, it has since been found in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Unlike *S. scenicus*, it has never been found in "natural" settings in North America. Interestingly, the original description by Simon in 1880 (in Prószyński 1968) refers to its synanthropic habitat, the walls of the palace in Beijing.

Two other Palearctic species have become established in more restricted areas. *Sitticus pubescens* (Fabricius) has been known for over 50 years in the Boston area where it is common, for example, in the Harvard Yard. I collected it once in New Jersey in the 1960's. *Euophrys erratica* (Walck.) was taken several years apart in the 1980's in the same part of Oradell, New Jersey (Cutler 1982 and later records). Probably a very recent introduction, it has for the moment established a colony in a restricted area. While it occurs in a suburban site, the records are from woodpiles and fences, not buildings.

A few native species have been able to establish themselves in man-made structures, most often these are found on outbuildings or structures, such as fences, rather than in permanently inhabited houses. The species that are found to fit this pattern are *Eris militaris* (Hentz), *Habrocestum pulex* (Hentz), *Maevia inclemens* (Walck.), *Marpissa lineata* (C. L. Koch), *Phidippus audax* (Hentz) and *Platycryptus undatus* (Dufour). There are ground-dwelling native species which occupy naturally disturbed and grassland sites which appear to thrive in the early successional stages of highly disturbed human influenced environments. Such environments include vacant city lots, railroad yards and the weedy margins of industrial areas. Often found under rusting cans, detrital wood, cardboard and newspaper, these species include those of the previous category (except the more arboreal *E. militaris* and *P. undatus*) plus *Habronattus borealis* (Banks), *Habronattus decorus* (Blackwall), *Habronattus viridipes* (Hentz), *Metaphidippus canadensis* (Banks), *Neon* spp., and *Talavera minuta* (Banks).

Sooner or later one would expect many native salticids to turn up on or in structures. I have collected about 15 native Minnesota species on houses that are not normally associated with human influenced environments. No importance should be attached to these occurrences.

Finally there are those species that are accidentally introduced from other regions. These are akin to the "tarantula in a shipment of bananas." Most are cosmopolitan or southern U.S. species spread by commercial activities. I have single specimens of *Menemerus bivittatus* (Dufour) and *Phidippus otiosus* (Hentz) from Minnesota. *Hasarius adansonii* (Audouin) has been collected in New York City several times. Undoubtedly species such as *Plexippus paykulli* (Audouin) will also turn up.

Introduction and establishment of synanthropic salticid species is a dynamic process. Changes in distribution are continually taking place. The recent spread of *Sitticus fasciger* is one example. Range contractions also take place. *Salticus scenicus* was established in Greenland during Viking times, only to become extinct presumably during the Little Ice Age (Sorensen 1898). It would be very interesting to monitor the population of *Euophrys erratica* in northern New Jersey to follow the dynamics of a newly invasive species.

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