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Progress Report on a Survey of the Spiders of Iowa

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PROGRESS REPORT ON A SURVEY OF THE SPIDERS
OF IOWA

KARL A. STILES AND BEULAH DETWILER

The senior author began a study of Iowa spiders in the fall of 1936 when a black widow (*Latrodectus mactaus texanus*) was collected in Linn County. This was reported in *Science* (Stiles, 1937) and constituted the first official record of the black widow for Iowa. This record was of special interest because Minnesota and Iowa had been listed as the only states from which this spider had not been reported officially.

It was discovered at that time that the spider was one of Iowa's most neglected animals. Only three papers on our spider fauna have been reported to the Iowa Academy of Science in the past fifty years; and there are no good collections of spiders in the State at the present time.

In view of the incompleteness of our knowledge concerning Iowa's spiders, it was thought worthwhile to begin a systematic study of them. It is the ambition of the Coe College Biology Department to make a study of the Araneae similar to that which Jaques (1932) is making on insects, thereby rounding out, somewhat, our knowledge of Iowa animal life. This is being undertaken with a full realization of the tremendous size of the task and the improbability that it will ever be wholly finished. It has been estimated that the Arachnida include some 30,000 species, known and described; and that in all, there are at least 100,000, if not more. Banks (1910) states that a little over 1,300 species of spiders have been catalogued, and estimates that there will be at least 2,000 species in the United States when the West and South are explored as thoroughly as New England has been. How many of these may occur in Iowa is not known, but certainly enough to make a complete survey an undertaking of large proportions. We are convinced, however, that such a survey of spiders will be of much value, and hope that, though very incomplete, it may form the nucleus for a permanent record of Iowa's spiders.

Since the fall of 1936 there has been a constant effort on the part of our Biology Department to build up a collection of spiders. Among several students who have assisted in this work, the junior

author was most active during the summer of 1937. While some specimens were collected outside of Linn County, this report will be limited to those from the vicinity of Cedar Rapids collected during the summer of 1937. From this collection, twenty-seven species have been determined representing eleven families. Though the list of identified species is small, as compared with the lists from some parts of the country where collections have been made more or less continuously for long periods of time, nevertheless, it represents a beginning. The intention is to continue this work, and year by year add to our knowledge of Iowa spiders. The families of spiders are listed in the same sequence as is followed in the most recent catalogue of North American spiders, that of Petrunkevitch (1911).

SUB-ORDER ARACHNOMORPHAE

<i>Family Dictynidae</i>	<i>Xysticus luctans</i> (C. Koch)
<i>Amaurobius ferox</i> (Walck)	<i>Misumenops asperatus</i> (Hentz)
<i>Dictyna foliacea</i> (Hentz)	<i>Philodromus praelustris</i> Keyserling
<i>Family Pholcidae</i>	<i>Tibellus duttoni</i> Hentz
<i>Pholcus phalangoides</i> (Fuesslin)	<i>Family Clubionidae</i>
<i>Family Theridiidae</i>	<i>Clubiona abboti</i> L. Koch
<i>Theridion tepidariorum</i> C. Koch	<i>Family Agelenidae</i>
<i>Teutana triangulosa</i> (Walckenaer)	<i>Agelena naevia</i> Walckenaer
<i>Steatoda borealis</i> (Hentz)	<i>Family Pisauridae</i>
<i>Family Linyphiidae</i>	<i>Dolomedes tenebrosus</i> (Hentz)
<i>Linyphia phrygiana</i> C. Koch	<i>Family Lycosidae</i>
<i>Family Argiopidae</i>	<i>Lycosa carolinensis</i> Walck
<i>Araneus thaddeus</i> (Hentz)	<i>Family Attidae</i>
<i>Araneus marmoreus</i> Clerck	<i>Phidippus audax</i> (Hentz)
<i>Araneus sericatus</i> Clerck	<i>Salticus scenicus</i> (Clerck)
<i>Argiope aurantia</i> Lucas	<i>Dendryphantes marginatus</i>
<i>Argiope trifasciata</i> (Forskol)	(Walckenaer)
<i>Micrathena rediviana</i> (Walck)	<i>Wala palmarum</i> (Hentz)
<i>Family Thomisidae</i>	
<i>Xysticus ferox</i> (Hentz)	

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