

Brief report

Triaeris stenaspis Simon (Araneae, Oonopidae) found in the Botanical Garden of the University of Turku, Finland

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A female of the oonopid spider *Triaeris stenaspis* Simon was found in a hothouse in the Botanical Garden of the University of Turku, on the island of Ruissalo (671: 23). The specimen is deposited in the Zoological Museum, University of Turku. The specimen was caught using a pitfall-trap on the ground below a variety of tropical plants in a hothouse (the so-called cacao room, temperature + 25°C and relative humidity near 100%), June–July 1996.

This small-sized (< 2 mm) red-yellowish, characteristically chitinized (dorsal and ventral scuta), six-eyed oonopid species is probably parthenogenetic (no males known). For illustrations, see e.g. Locket and Millidge (1951: figs. 33–37) or Heimer and Nentwig (1991: figs. 111.4–111.7).

Triaeris stenaspis originates from America, and has been described on the island of St. Vincent, West Indies. The range is, according to Platnick (1993), "USA to Venezuela, West Indies; Europe (introduced)". The species is known from hothouses in Europe at least in Great Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium and Slovakia (Locket & Millidge 1951, Miller & Zitnanska 1976, Heimer & Nentwig 1991). There are no earlier records in Fennoscandia or other parts of northern Europe.

In the same hothouse another tropical spider, the theridiid *Coleosoma floridatum* Banks had been found earlier,

together with e.g. *Steatoda grossa* (C. L. Koch) (see Koponen 1990). It is worth mentioning that all the hothouses in Ruissalo, which were built in 1956–72, were torn down during the autumn of 1996 in order to build new ones, and thus the habitat of *Triaeris stenaspis* has been destroyed.

References

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