

subdivide the pile into lots of potential retreats and may create such a screening effect.

Therefore, adults of *L. gaucho* and probably those of other brown spiders can stay close together for long periods within piles of bricks and similar man-made microhabitats. Moreover, since adults of some brown spider species display behaviours that minimise aggressiveness among conspecifics (Rinaldi & Stropa, 1998; Fischer & Vasconcellos-Neto, 2000; Fischer & Marques-da-Silva, 2001; Stropa & Rinaldi, 2001), this aggregative phenomenon may be increased in such a way (these gregarious populations are maintained even when food is not abundant). The screening effect provided by the architecture of some habitats may also help to explain brown spider infestations in man-made environments, such as those found by Bücherl (1961) and Levi & Spielman (1964).

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Updated European Arachnid Checklists by the Arachnologische Gesellschaft (Arachnida: Araneae, Opiliones, Pseudoscorpiones, Scorpiones, Palpigradi)

by Theo Blick

At the end of 2004, after two and a half years, the previous internet checklists of the AraGes (Arachnologische Gesellschaft) have been updated and enlarged. Texts are written in both German and English. Comments and notes in the species tables are exclusively in English. These updated checklists can be accessed at www.arages.de/checklist.html and are available in both html and PDF formats.

The arachnid orders (excluding Acari) of Central Europe (partly including northern and western Europe) are presented separately in this new version.

The ground rules for list preparation are as follows:

- Lists must be based exclusively on published work, preferably checklists or other comprehensive works.
- Unpublished papers and new records (or cancellations) in press are not included (even if we already know about these).
- Valid subspecies are listed and counted as separate species.
- Future enlargement to encompass other surrounding countries is possible and welcome.

- Updating is expected to take place at least every two years (previously: 2000 [see Blick & Hänggi, 2000], 2002, 2004).

The checklists

- Blick, T., Bosmans, R., Buchar, J., Gajdoš, P., Hänggi, A., Van Helsdingen, P., Růžička, V., Staręga, W. & Thaler, K. (2004) Checkliste der Spinnen Mitteleuropas. Checklist of the spiders of Central Europe. (Arachnida: Araneae). Version 1. Dezember 2004. www.arages.de/checklist.html#2004_Araneae
- Blick, T. & Komposch, C. (2004) Checkliste der Weberknechte Mittel- und Nordeuropas. Checklist of the harvestmen of Central and Northern Europe. (Arachnida: Opiliones). Version 27. Dezember 2004. www.arages.de/checklist.html#2004_Opiliones
- Blick, T., Muster, C. & Duchac, V. (2004) Checkliste der Pseudoskorpione Mitteleuropas. Checklist of the pseudoscorpions of Central Europe. (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones). Version 1. Oktober 2004. www.arages.de/checklist.html#2004_Pseudoscorpiones
- Blick, T. & Komposch, C. (2004) Checkliste der Skorpione Mittel- und Westeuropas. Checklist of the scorpions of Central and Western Europe. (Arachnida: Scorpiones). Version 27. Dezember 2004. www.arages.de/checklist.html#2004_Scorpiones
- Blick, T. & Christian, E. (2004) Checkliste der Tasterläufer Mitteleuropas. Checklist of the palpigrades of Central Europe. (Arachnida: Palpigradi). Version 1. Oktober 2004. www.arages.de/checklist.html#2004_Palpigradi

As expected, the largest number of families and species is amongst the spiders, followed by the pseudoscorpions and harvestmen, both at similar levels. A clear increase in species richness occurs from north to south, quite independent of the size of the countries (compare for example the harvestmen of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland and Germany, or the spiders of Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Slovakia).

A few additional countries could also be included within the next version e.g. IR Ireland, FO Faroe Islands, IS Iceland, LI Liechtenstein, LU Luxembourg, EE Estonia, LV Latvia, LT Lithuania. None of these countries possess scorpions or palpigrades. Incorporation of additional counties is not ruled out in the future.

We are aware of some parallels this project has with Fauna Europaea (www.faunaeur.org/). However, we feel it is still useful to maintain and update these arachnid lists in the future.

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| Arachnida | total | UK | BE | NL | DK | NO | SE | FI | PL | DE | CH | AT | CZ | SK | HU | SI |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Number of families | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Araneae/spiders | 43 | - | 38 | 40 | - | - | - | - | 37 | 38 | 41 | 40 | 38 | 38 | - | - |
| Opiliones/harvestmen | 9 | - | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Pseudoscorpiones/ pseudoscorpions | 10 | - | 5 | 7 | 7 | - | - | - | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 7 | - | - | - |
| Scorpiones/scorpions | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Palpigradi/palpigrades | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Number of species | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Araneae/spiders | 1313 | - | 701 | 621 | - | - | - | - | 792 | 1004 | 945 | 984 | 841 | 906 | - | - |
| Opiliones/harvestmen | 94 | - | 27 | 27 | 19 | 17 | 20 | 12 | 36 | 49 | 49 | 61 | 33 | 32 | 33 | 58 |
| Pseudoscorpiones/ pseudoscorpions | 102 | - | 23 | 19 | 19 | - | - | - | 38 | 49 | 63 | 69 | 32 | - | - | - |
| Scorpiones/scorpions | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 4 |
| Palpigradi/palpigrades | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Size of the countries in 1000 km ² (Baratta 2003) | | 243 | 33 | 42 | 43 | 324 | 450 | 338 | 313 | 357 | 41 | 84 | 79 | 49 | 93 | 21 |

Table 1: Overview of the AraGes-checklists. Version December 2004. Dashes indicate a particular order within a country has not be incorporated yet; blanks indicate a particular order is not recorded in the country; UK/ United Kingdom, BE/Belgium, NL/Netherlands, DK/Denmark, NO/Norway, SE/Sweden, FI/Finland, PL/Poland, DE/Germany, CH/Switzerland, AT/Austria, CZ/Czech Republic, SK/Slovakia, HU/Hungary, SI/Slovenia.