

Spider parasitised by *Acrodactyla degener* (Haliday, 1839), Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae.

John & Denise Bingham

A spider with an attached parasite was beaten from a Yew tree in Wyre Forest on 23rd March 2019 by Denise Bingham. It was collected and the parasite reared through by DB over a few weeks to emerge as an Ichneumon wasp. JB managed to get a sequence of images to show the development to adult. Many thanks to Mark Shaw who identified the species. He wrote:

‘The spider is a species of Linyphiidae, and the parasitoid is *Acrodactyla* either *A. degener* or *A. similis*, both of which are quite common and use linyphiids (*A. similis* was only rather recently recognised as a different species). These external parasitoids of spiders (“polysphinctines”) are a fairly small, but worldwide, very specialised group of the ichneumonid subfamily Pimplinae, usually with very narrow host ranges’.



04. *Acrodactyla degener*, the adult wasp. John Bingham

Images.

- 01. Linyphiidae spider with *Acrodactyla* parasite. John Bingham
- 02. *Acrodactyla degener* spinning cocoon. John Bingham
- 03. *Acrodactyla degener* cocoon. John Bingham.
- 04. *Acrodactyla degener*, the adult wasp. John Bingham



01. Linyphiidae spider with *Acrodactyla* parasite. John Bingham.



02. *Acrodactyla degener* spinning cocoon. John Bingham



03. *Acrodactyla degener* cocoon. John Bingham.