

Selected spiders of interest at Shakenhurst.

Kevin McGee.
Gardeners Cottage, Shakenhurst, Nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire.
DY14 9AR. kevinmcgeeandrena@live.co.uk

Arctosa leopardus (Araneae; Lycosidae). (01)

This somewhat localised species is found in small numbers beneath large stones and logs at the edges of shingle beds along the River Rea, and can occasionally be found running across the muddy margins of a shallow pond in Wissett's Wood.



01. *Arctosa leopardus* (female) at Wissett's Wood on 29.07.2020. K.McGee.

Pardosa amentata (Araneae; Lycosidae). (02)..

The exposed shingle beds following long periods of dry weather are worth searching for a wide variety of invertebrates generally, but especially spiders and beetles. In my (limited) experience, the most abundant spider species on the shingles during spring/early summer is *Pardosa amentata*.



02. *Pardosa amentata* (female) with a crane fly species at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 23.04.2020. K.McGee.

Pirata hygrophilus (Araneae; Lycosidae). (030).

Boldly marked mature adults with their reddish abdomens are easily recognised beneath river shingles alongside the River Rea.



03. *Pirata hygrophilus* (female) at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 21.05.2020. K.McGee.

Pirata latitans (Araneae; Lycosidae). (04)

This species is found less regularly on the shingle beds at the River Rea. It is noticeably smaller and darker than *P. hygrophilus*, and fully mature adults have fine white hairs forming white bands on the edges of the carapace, and at the front edges of the abdomen.



04. *Pirata latitans* at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 23.04.2020. K.McGee.

Trochosa ruricola (Araneae; Lycosidae). (05).

This is another generally common species associated with wetland habitats occasionally found beneath washed up logs alongside the River Rea.



05. *Trochosa ruricola* (female) at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 21.05.2020. K.McGee.

Philodromus aureolus (Araneae: Philodromidae). (06).

There are many fine specimens of open-grown mature and veteran broad-leaved trees scattered across the Shakenhurst Estate; most noticeably pedunculate oak, but also common lime, ash, and sweet chestnut. *Philodromus* species are easily beaten from the foliage of these impressive trees during early summer, but photographing individuals in natural poses on their chosen habitats on the upper-surfaces of leaves is more challenging. Fully mature males of this generally common species may have an overall somewhat metallic iridescence in certain lights.



06. *Philodromus aureolus* (male) on lime foliage at Shakenhurst on 18.05.2020. K.McGee.

Philodromus praedatus (Araneae: Philodromidae). (07).

This species is found more commonly on the open-grown veteran oaks at the Shakenhurst Estate.



07. *Philodromus praedatus* (female) on oak foliage at Shakenhurst on 10.05.2020. K.McGee.

Eratigena saeva (Araneae: Agelenidae). (08).

I was surprised to find this specimen behind loose bark of a large old Douglas Fir stump in Wissett's Wood nowhere near any human habitation. Spiders in the genus *Eratigena* (recently changed from *Tegenaria*) are collectively known as the large house spiders and are normally found inside buildings. This record remains the only one I have found within Wissett's Wood to date.



08. *Eratigena saeva* (female) at Wissett's Wood on 27.05.2020. K.McGee.

Diaea dorsata (Araneae: Thomisidae). (09).

This distinctive crab spider species seems to be rare at Shakenhurst and Wissett's Wood. One immature female was beaten from dense hawthorn foliage on 07.06.2020. Several other tree species (including conifers) were very close by. The fully mature female photographed was found on bramble foliage alongside a ride in Wissett's Wood on 05.07.2020.



09. *Diaea dorsata* (female) at Wissett's Wood on 05.07.2020. K.McGee

Euophrys frontalis (Araneae: Salticidae). (10).

My only record of this diminutive little jumping spider at Shakenhurst was made whilst observing a favoured steep bank of bare ground in Wissett's Wood for aculeate hymenoptera activity. This male was photographed as it moved erratically across the steep bank.



10. *Euophrys frontalis* (male) at Wissett's Wood on 22.06.2020. K.McGee

Heliophanus cupreus (Araneae: Salticidae). (11).

This jumping spider species seems to be rare at the Shakenhurst Estate. The only record I have is of a male collected from the base of a veteran open-grown oak trunk on 24.06.2020. The spider was not photographed. The image used to illustrate this species was taken at Penny Hill Bank on 22.03.2020.



11. *Heliophanus cupreus* (female) at Penny Hill Bank on 22.03.2020. K.McGee.

Pseudeuophrys lanigera (Araneae: Salticidae). (12).

My only record to date of this small jumping spider species at Shakenhurst strongly associated with buildings.



12. *Pseudeuophrys lanigera* on the door of an outbuilding at Shakenhurst on 09.04.2020. K.McGee.

Sitticus pubescens (Araneae: Salticidae). (13).

Another of the small jumping spider species often found near human habitation. This species can be found quite commonly on brick walls and old farm buildings during warm sunny weather throughout the Shakenhurst Estate.



13. *Sitticus pubescens* (male) on our garden wall, Shakenhurst, on 22.04.2020. K.McGee.

References

Bee, L., Oxford, G. and Smith, H. (2017). *Britain's Spiders, a Field Guide*. Princeton University Press, Woodstock.
 Roberts, M. J. (1996). *Field Guide to the Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe*. HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, London.

Images

01. *Arctosa leopardus* (female) at Wissett's Wood on 29.07.2020. K.McGee.
02. *Pardosa amentata* (female) with a cranefly species at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 23.04.2020. K.McGee.
03. *Pirata hygrophilus* (female) at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 21.05.2020. K.McGee.
04. *Pirata latitans* at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 23.04.2020. K.McGee.
05. *Trochosa ruricola* (female) at the River Rea, Shakenhurst, on 21.05.2020. K.McGee.
06. *Philodromus aureolus* (male) on lime foliage at Shakenhurst on 18.05.2020. K.McGee.
07. *Philodromus praedatus* (female) on oak foliage at Shakenhurst on 10.05.2020. K.McGee.
08. *Eratigena saeva* (female) at Wissett's Wood on 27.05.2020. K.McGee.
09. *Diaea dorsata* (female) at Wissett's Wood on 05.07.2020. K.McGee
10. *Euophrys frontalis* (male) at Wissett's Wood on 22.06.2020. K.McGee
11. *Heliophanus cupreus* (female) at Penny Hill Bank on 22.03.2020. K.McGee
12. *Pseudeuophrys lanigera* on the door of an outbuilding at Shakenhurst on 09.04.2020. K.McGee.
13. *Sitticus pubescens* (male) on our garden wall, Shakenhurst, on 22.04.2020. K.McGee.