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ON THE HABITS OF A WOLFSPIDER

BY

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(With three figures)

ウツキドクグモの習性に就いて

齋藤三郎

Lycosa T-insignita, thus far recorded from Japan proper, is also very common in Hokkaido. This is one of the hunting spiders belonging to *Lycosidae* of moderate size, measuring about 7-8 mm. in body length. The description of the spiders is as follows: The cephalothorax is light ashy-gray in colour; a blackish brown stripe on each side of it runs anteriorly to join before the eye; a wide blackish line borders the margin of the thorax; the median band which is narrower than the dark bands just referred to has an anterior termination of reddish brown colour at the cephalic portion. The abdomen has the same colouration as the cephalothorax and it is marked with a series of spots of light colour arranged in pairs on both sides of the median line (Fig. 1).

The spider appears in the field in early May of the year and runs about actively chasing its prey in sunny places. Last season I collected it even as early as the 8th of May, several days after the last snow-fall.

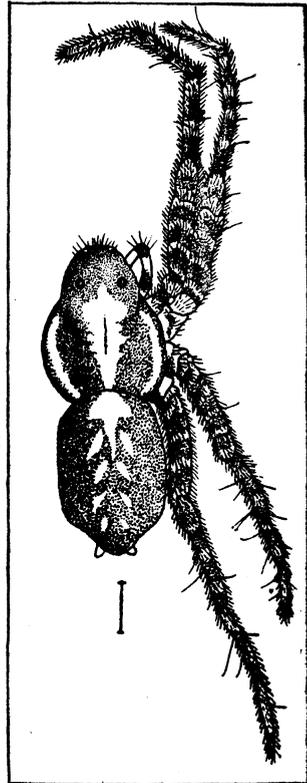


Fig. 1.

The breeding seasons of the spider lasts from the end of June to the end of September. At this period we see the female carrying a round egg-sac (cocoon) of gray colour with their spinnerets. The copulation takes place mainly in



Fig. 2.

the evening. First, the male runs around the female, then comes near to the female and at another moment he quickly leaves the female. The motion is repeated several times until the female stops moving. The male still runs around the female for a while and finally catches hold of the female. At this time the injection of the sperm into the epigyna occurs by aid of the palpus (Fig. 2). The manner differs greatly from the copulation of the other spiders as it was already noted by T. H. SAVORY (1928).

The egg-sac which is made by the female for the egg-laying is spherical in shape consisting of two valves which are connected by a delicate suture. After depositing the eggs, the number of which varies from 30 to 60, the female carries the sac with her until the hatching of the young. After hatching, the young in turn attach to the body of the mother and are carried about for a considerable time.

I. ONO (1913) and H. NIWA (1928) also observed the same fact.

This species never digs tunnels in the ground for nests as many other species of Lycosidae do but it lives in the natural cracks in the field, making poor irregular nets at the entrance (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3.

Whatsoever, the web, as it seems, it would serve just to protect the nest.

Different from the common spiders, which shun the sun-light except some species of Misumeninae, this kind of spider catches its prey mostly in the

daytime. The prey consists of small animals of various kinds. Last July in my laboratory a male and female of this spider were raised in a glass-bottle. As prey, nine flies were given and observed. One fly was killed in the evening of the day of the experiment. Two days later two flies were caught in the evening. On the morning of the next day the fourth fly was eaten. In the afternoon of the same day two more flies were captured. In the following day three flies were found killed also in the afternoon. In the evening of the 7th day the male spider was killed by the female. From the above experiment I ascertained that most of the flies were killed in the daytime excepting two in the evening of the third day. However, the spider could not hunt the grouse locust, *Tettix japonicus*, the cricket or other kinds of spiders given as the prey in the experiment.

The active period of this spider is relatively longer than that of the other spiders. Therefore it is not infrequent that in Hokkaido we see the spider hunting prey in the field even at the end of October.

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摘 要

Lycosa T-insignita BOESENBERG et STRAND は廣く本邦に分布し、札幌近郊に最も普通なドクゲモの一種にして、五月上旬残雪中に活動を初め、他の蜘蛛殊に黄金蜘蛛科に於けると異り、日光を嫌はず、殆んど日中活動す。生殖は六月下旬より九月下旬に互り行はれ、交尾は雄の腮鬚によつて精液を雌の生殖門に注射す。卵囊は雌虫の紡績突起に附着されて運搬され、孵化するに及び、仔虫は暫時母虫の背に止り、行動を共にす。故に一名子守蜘蛛の名あり。ドクゲモ科の多くの者と異り、隧道を掘らざるも、秋季龜裂中に生活し、貧弱な不規則な網を張る。活動期間一般の蜘蛛に比して長く、北海道に於て十月末にも尙採集さる。