A.G.M. and Field Weekend, 2007

The Society’s A.G.M. and Field Weekend for 2007 will be held at the FSC’s field centre at Orielton, Pembroke, over the weekend of 18–20th May (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon). The weekend will include field excursions, talks and any displays that members might provide. Field meetings will be held on the Saturday and Sunday. In order to allow a full day’s field work on the Sunday, the A.G.M. will be held on the Saturday evening.

The cost of the weekend (from dinner Friday evening to lunch on Sunday) will be £90 for a shared room and £98 for a single room, if available. To book your place, contact the Meetings Secretary (address below). A deposit of £30 is required and full payment should be made by 15th April 2007 (cheques made payable to “British Arachnological Society”).

Martin Askins, 69 Savill Crescent, Wroughton, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN4 9JG; e-mail: martin@askins.fsnet.co.uk

Course Announcement: Biology and Identification of Spiders

The Society will be running this residential course for the third time with the Field Studies Council, from Friday 25th May to Friday 1st June 2007. The course is designed to appeal to both amateur naturalists and undergraduates, and will involve lectures, fieldwork and laboratory study, linking the structure and function of spiders to their classification and identification.

Topics to be covered will include morphology, behaviour, silk and webs, systematics and evolution, habitats and habitat selection, pest management and conservation. Practical work will comprise field techniques for collecting spiders and laboratory methods relevant to their identification. The course tutors will be Dr Tony Russell-Smith and Dr Paul Selden. A number of guest lecturers will talk on their specialist subjects.

The course will be held at Preston Montford FSC centre, near Shrewsbury. Full-board cost for the course will be £350 and bursaries to aid student participation in the course are available from the Society. Further details will be announced on the B.A.S. website early in 2007.

Those interested in attending the course should contact Dr A. Russell-Smith, 1 Bailiffs Cottage, Doddington, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent, ME9 0JU; e-mail: mruvellsmith@btinternet.com (by 31st January 2007). Places are limited and will be granted on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

Schizomida, Short-tailed Whipscorpions (Arachnida) Introduced into Europe – Request for Specimens, References & Information

Quite recently (2004–2006) undetermined schizomids have been collected from two greenhouses in Germany (Bellmann and Schrameyer leg.). Since such observations appear to be very rare (the last published record from Europe, Canary Isles excepted, was by Cloudsley-Thompson, 1949), we wish to catalogue such records and ask for information, references and additional specimens to be sent to Cokendolpher (postal address below). Of special interest are those references not covered by Harvey (2003) or Reddell & Cokendolpher (1995). Blick (2006) lists the three species known to be introduced into Europe up to now.

References


James C. Cokendolpher, Invertebrates, NSRL, Museum of Texas Tech University, LUBBOCK, Texas 79409, USA; e-mail: Cokendolpher@aol.com

Theo Blick; e-mail: Theo.Blick@t-online.de

Heiko Bellmann; e-mail: Heiko.Bellmann@uni-ulm.de

Klaus Schrameyerm; e-mail: Schrameyer-KM@t-online.de

This request is also published in German in the Arachnol. Mitt. (2006) 31: 58.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please send B.A.S. Newsletter articles to the Editor: Richard Gallon, 23A Roumania Crescent, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 1UP, United Kingdom; e-mail: newsletter@britishspiders.org.uk

Whenever possible, please submit articles by e-mail.