

# Epigeic spider (Arachnida, Araneae) communities in exploited peatbogs of Lithuania

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Epigeic spider communities were studied in four exploited peatbogs by the means of pitfall traps in eastern and southwestern Lithuania during 1999. Comparison between the communities showed no large differences in the similarity of species making up more than 2% of the individuals in each community, but there were distinct differences in the abundance of species. Nine species had a relative abundance of above 5%. Only *Xerolycosa nemoralis* dominated in all spider communities. Eight spider species which were caught in exploited peatlands seemed to be typical for Lithuanian peatbog spider communities. Most of them were found only as single individuals except *Antistea elegans* which was a dominant (6.6% of all individuals) species in peatlands overgrown with *Eriophorum* sp. 28 spider species are new to Lithuania.

Key words: Araneae, exploited peatbogs, communities, Lithuania

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