

The wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi* (Scopoli, 1772) (Araneae, Araneidae) observed in Norway

Harald Bratli & Lars Ove Hansen

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The wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi* (Scopoli, 1772) is reported from Norway for the first time. A specimen was photographed by the senior author in a fallow field at Ringshaug, Tønsberg municipality in Vestfold [VE], primo September 2004. The picture was taken when the spider was sitting in its orb web and packing in a grasshopper, most probably a *Chorthippus* sp. (Orthoptera, Agrididae). *A. bruennichi* has been spreading from the Mediterranean area and northwards in Europe during the 20th century. It was recorded from Sweden for the first time in 1989, and Denmark in 1992, and seems well established in both countries now. It is, thus, not surprising that the species now is found in Norway. The Norwegian vernacular name «vepseedderkopp» is suggested.

Key words: Araneae, Araneidae, *Argiope bruennichi*, Norway.

Harald Bratli, Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory, PO Box 115, NO-1431 Ås, Norway.

Lars Ove Hansen, Natural History Museum, Dept. of Zoology, University of Oslo, PO Box 1172 Blindern, NO-0318 Oslo, Norway.