

Oxyopes ramosus (Martini & Goeze, 1778) (Araneae, Oxyopidae) rediscovered in Norway

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The rediscovery of the sole oxyopid spider of the Norwegian fauna, *Oxyopes ramosus* (Martini & Goeze, 1778), is reported and comments are given on habitat, distribution and conservation status. The species is apparently very rare in Norway as it is almost 130 years since the last specimen was found.

Kew Words: *Oxyopes ramosus*, Oxyopidae, Norway

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INTRODUCTION

The only representative of the family Oxyopidae in Norway, *Oxyopes ramosus* (Martini & Goeze, 1778), was for the first time reported by Collett (1877), according to him from «vicinity of Christiania, numerous specimens – Drammen 1871, 2 specimens». He suggested that the species was scarce, but found on bushes and taller vegetation in the southern parts of the country without giving further localities. Collett's records remained the only ones of this species in Norway for almost 130 years!

MATERIAL

The present specimen was collected by the second author by sweep netting from a bog near Kristiansand (Figure 1). VAY Kristiansand: Grostøl (EIS 2, UTM 32V MK 415-522, N 64 52 29 9, E 44 16 91), June 2006, 1 ♂. The habitus of the specimen is illustrated in Figure 2.

DISCUSSION

O. ramosus is widely distributed in Europe, but seems to be uncommon. In Sweden there are records from most counties in the southern areas north to Värmland, as well as Lycksele Lappmark and Västerbotten (Almquist 2005). In Finland the species has also been reported fairly far to the North (Palmgren 1943). There are only few records from Denmark (DMU 2004). The species is absent from Great Britain (Roberts 1995) but there are numerous scattered records from continental Europe and east to South Siberia (Esyunin & Efimik 1996).

The species is redlisted in Denmark (DMU 2004) as Critically Endangered and has also been included in a German Red List (Platen et al. 1996). The large time interval between the first and second records in Norway as reported here is also indicative of the species' apparent rarity, especially since the habitat (see below) has been surveyed several times. The species was recently



Figure 1. The new locality for *Oxyopes ramosus* in Norway (black circle, arrow) and the two previously known localities (white circles).



Figure 2. *O. ramosus* – habitus. Drawing: Kjetil Aakra.

redlisted in Norway as VU (vulnerable), based on current IUCN criteria (Kålås et al. 2006).

The main habitat of *O. ramosus* consists of open, sunny localities preferably dominated by *Calluna*-heaths and low bushes and shrubs, often in connection with bogs (e.g. Holm 1947, Roberts 1995, DMU 2004, Almquist 2005). The current habitat is in accordance with these reports, being a grass- and *Calluna*-dominated eutrophic bog (Figure 3), close to a small lake.

It may be possible to rate the disturbance-level of the habitat on the presence of *O. ramosus*. It is certainly not common and the species may be vulnerable to trampling and changes in the vegetation of its habitat. Drainage of the bogs would also constitute a threat to this species.

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