

The spiders of Robert Collett; a revision of the first Norwegian spider collection. Part I. Families Araneidae, Gnaphosidae, Sparassidae, Anyphaenidae, Thomisidae, Zoridae and Philodromidae

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The oldest extant Norwegian spider material published by Robert Collett in 1876–77 (families Araneidae, Gnaphosidae, Sparassidae, Anyphaenidae, Thomisidae, Zoridae and Philodromidae) has been reviewed. Valid and invalid records are listed. One new synonymy is established, *Gnaphosa pseudolapponica* Strand, 1904 = *Gnaphosa lapponum* (L. Koch, 1866). Even if a relatively large number of the records published by Collett must be invalidated due to the inclusion of juvenile/subadult material, the collection remains important for Norwegian araneofaunistics.

Keywords: Araneae, revision, Norwegian spiders material, Araneidae, Gnaphosidae, Anyphaenidae, Philodromidae

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Introduction

In addition to his many other zoological publications, Robert Collett (1842–1913) also published the first Norwegian checklists for spiders (Collett 1876, 1877). In these papers he described several new species, some of which are still valid (Platnick 2009). These papers are therefore of great importance to Norwegian araneology, more so since the known distribution of many species are based on his records, even today (Hauge 1989). Additionally, for several species Collett's records are the only ones known from Norway.

Collett dealt with the families Lycosidae, Sparassidae, Oxyopidae, Araneidae, Thomisidae, Philodromidae, Salticidae and Pisauridae in his two papers. His collection, consisting of material collected by Siebke, Hvoslef and other contemporary zoologists, as well as by Collett himself, also included representatives of most

other Norwegian families. These, however, were published by Strand (1904a,b) almost thirty years later. Strand described several new gnaphosids from this material, one of which, *Gnaphosa pseudolapponica* Strand, 1904, is still valid (Platnick 2009).

This material has long been in need of revision, especially in light of recent advances in taxonomy and systematics, but also because of its importance in understanding the distribution of spiders in Norway. The original labels on material from the Collett collection is in good condition, but, sadly, the localities given are usually only approximate and sorely lacking in detail. In some cases the localities are difficult to understand in a modern context, but the author's recent discovery of Collett's original handwritten locality notes goes some way in rectifying this situation, although not all localities were included in that list.