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FIRST RECORDS OF A HOLARCTIC ORB-WEAVING SPIDER (*ARANEUS SAEVUS* [L.KOCH]) IN VIRGINIA. — A large, dark-colored species of its genus, *Araneus saevus* is widespread but uncommon in the western Palearctic region, in fact it was not described until 1872, from specimens taken in the Dolomites near Bolzano, Italy. The species also occurs in North America from Newfoundland to Alaska, and was described by J. H. Emerton under two new species names: *Epeira solitaria* (from Massachusetts) and *Epeira nigra* (from Alberta), and under the former name was treated in Kaston's "Spiders of Connecticut" (1948). That these names might apply to *saevus* was first suggested by Wiehle (1963) and more recently confirmed by Levi (1971).

That author's treatment of the species as it occurs in North America provided numerous excellent illustrations and a spot map based on material examined by him. This map portrayed a classical "boreal" range extending entirely across Canada and southward into New England and down the Rocky Mountains into Utah and Colorado. The southernmost locality plotted for eastern United States appears to be in extreme eastern Pennsylvania.

By contrast with other members of its genus, *saevus* seems to be much less frequently collected, perhaps it is more arboreal than its close relatives. It is therefore not surprising that it has not been recorded from farther south in the Appalachians, nor that in fact it does occur in these mountains. Recently pitfall trapping for terrestrial arthropods in the Blue Ridge physiographic province in Virginia has obtained *saevus* at two localities: **Warren Co.**; Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center, 4 miles southeast of Front Royal, from pitfall open all winter and cleared 15 March 1994, rich mesic woods near small stream (VMNH 2). **Amherst Co.**: pitfall site on east side Tarjacket Ridge, off FS 1167, 21 October 1997, rich oak woods with fern understory at 3500 ft. (VMNH 1).

VMNH also has an immature female, determined as *saevus* by H. W. Levi (after publication of his monograph) from West Virginia: **Raleigh Co.** Grandview State Park, 21 May 1966, W. A. Shear leg. et don. This locality is almost exactly due west of that in Amherst Co., Va. Collectively these records extend the known range of *saevus* about 330 mi./530 km southwest of Levi's southernmost station, and permit the assumption that the species may occur as far as western North Carolina and/or eastern Kentucky at higher elevations.

The three adults from Virginia are piceous black, without evident banding on the carapace or white

ventral abdominal markings. The tibiae and metatarsi of legs 3 and 4 have a well-defined broad basal orange band. The largest specimen is 18.5 mm in length, and was obviously larger prior to the abdomen being shrunken by preservation. This is distinctly larger than the maximum of 17 mm cited by Levi, and may indicate a trend for size increase southward.

Literature Cited

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PHLOEOXENA SIGNATA (DEJEAN), ANOTHER SOUTHERN GROUND BEETLE DISCOVERED IN VIRGINIA (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE). — The recent catalogue of North American ground beetles (Bousquet & Laroche, 1993) accounted a total of 446 species of Carabidae for Virginia, some of them on the basis of unpublished data from museum specimens. Papers by Davidson (1995) and Anderson et al. (1995) added seven and five more species respectively, giving a current total of 458. That an approach to closure of the list may be near cannot be asserted, however, since a substantial number of still unlisted species are at hand in the VMNH collection, and the presence of still others - known from nearby states - cannot be doubted. A total of near 500 resident species seems entirely probable.

On 3 July 1997, in company with C. S. Hobson (VDNH/DCR), I collected insects in the densely wooded floodplain of the Hyco River, just downstream from the US 501 bridge in southern Halifax County. During this activity, removal of loose bark from a standing tree disclosed a very agile small beetle which was captured as much by its apparent complicity as by any skill on my part. Inspection on the site suggested it