

Grants Committee
Center for Systematic Entomology
P. O. Box 141874
Gainesville FL

February 6, 2024

Dear CSE Grants Committee,

This letter serves as a report to the Center for Systematic Entomology for a Stewart and Jarmila Peck Collection Enhancement Endowment for the project, “A taxonomic revision of the wetland-adapted dwarf spider genus, *Floricomus* (Araneae: Linyphiidae)” at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA).

I traveled to Gainesville, FL on January 7th and worked at FSCA in the collection from February 8th – February 12th, leaving on the 13th. Although my original proposal was to study spiders within *Floricomus* at FSCA, upon examining the collection, it became quickly evident that the spiders within the Linyphiidae were not well organized nor well identified. In an hour, I had examined and identified the *Floricomus* that was catalogued in the collection. I used some of my time to examine spiders in various other genera that were interesting to my research and that reside in wetlands. But largely, I used this week to, as proposed, help curate and organize the spider collection, particularly for the family Linyphiidae.

Over the two weeks, I examined and identified 614 spiders, the vast majority of which were from the unidentified section. Because I largely concentrated on the taxonomically difficult Linyphiidae and the unidentified specimens within the Linyphiidae, only five of the 614 (0.8%) already contained correct identification labels in the vials. 135 of the 614 (22%) were misidentified and 474/614 (77%) were unidentified. After examining these specimens, I was able to properly identify 91% of the spiders and provided ID labels for those. The other 9% were either too immature or too damaged to determine an identification past family.

Among the spiders examined were nine *Floricomus* spiders, four of which were found among the “undetermined” vials. Additionally, I discovered seven species that were new distribution records for various states. For Florida, these were *Agyneta evadens*, *Ceraticelus paludigena*, *Goneatara platyrhinus*, *Grammonota vittata*, and *Idionella anomala*, all within Linyphiidae. For Georgia, the new state record was *Erigone dentigera* (Linyphiidae) and for Virginia, the new state record was *Thymoites pallidus* (Theridiidae).

I also discovered within the collection a spider, *Ostearius melanopygius*, that was collected in a residential neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia. This spider is an introduced species and has never been recorded from Georgia. It is known to be introduced on the west coast of North America and the New England region. Unfortunately, this introduced was not detected when it occurred as this specimen was within the “undetermined” vials in the collection. This specimen was collected in 2003.

Finally, within the collection I discovered multiple specimens that very likely represent undescribed species. These include *Agyneta* n. sp. 1 (male), *Agyneta* n. sp. 2 (males and females), *Centromerus* n. sp. (both males and females), *Linyphia* n. sp. (female), *Masoncus* n. sp. (males and females), and *Spirembolus* n. sp. (female).

Please reference the attached Excel spreadsheet for specific specimens within the collection that were examined.

Thank you for providing me with these funds that allowed me the opportunity to examine the collection at FSCA. It certainly helped me gain important insights to further my arachnological research within the state and nationally.

Sincerely,



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