The male of Thanatus striatus C. L. Koch (Aran. Philodrom.) found for the first time.

By

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On May 10th 1915 I found 2 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀ of a spider belonging to the Genus *Thanatus* C. L. Koch. The animals were found creeping in the sunburnt sand near a tuft of grass in the downs near Hornbæk on the northern coast of Sjælland (Sealand). The females were easily recognized as *Th. striatus* C. L. Koch, the male of which species has as far as I have been able to ascertain never been found before. The males evidently could be determined as *Th. ursus* E. Simon, the female of which has not till now been found.

Being however relatively sure that these five spiders must belong to the same species, I sent one male and one female to Mr. E. Simon, Paris, who kindly informed me that he could discover no difference between my male and his own, *Th. ursus* E. Simon. Still because he had found his *ursus*-♂ on an alpin meadow at a height of m 2000, while mine was found on a down near the sea he didn't feel convinced that these two males really belong to the same species.

On May 17th, 1919 I revisited the spot and caught three *Th. striatus*-♀♀, but in spite of close examination of the neighbourhood not a single ♂. Continuing my

investigations on April 6th, 1920 I found only young animals. Taking three of them home I found that one was ♀ and the two ♂♂.

In spite of most energetic research on the said locality I never found any other species of the genus *Thanatus*. This, I think, is sufficient proof that the animals found there by me are males and females of the same species (*striatus* C. L. Koch). Moreover it seems very probable, that the animals hibernate as nearly full grown. The last casting of the skin must take place early, i. e. in this country in late April or early May. Immediately upon this the matching follows, after which the males die, probably eaten by the females. This is the simplest explanation of the fact that no males have been found before.

The male answers, as said above, the description of *Th. ursus* E. S. very close. The tibia of the palp is very characteristic [see fig.], and in addition to the dark point of the distal end of the bulb this point being bent at a right angle there is on the distal inner rim of the lower side of the bulb a small light brown processus, straight, pointed and pointing forward (which the illustration does not show, as seen from above).

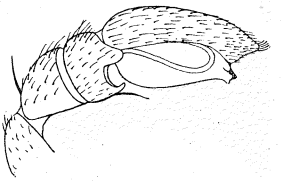

Fig. 1. Male palp of Thanatus striatus C. L. Koch.

C. L. Koch writes, that the species *striatus* is found on moist meadows. This seems to correspond with the locality mentioned by Simon for *ursus* E. S. — In northern France, England and Denmark however the *Th. striatus* seems to have been found in downs only, and of course there is a chance that a very minute examination may lead to the conclusion that this is a question of two very closely related species or possibly two varieties of one species. Surely yet *Th. ursus* Simon is identic with the otherwise unknown male of *striatus* Koch, both

species living in meadows according to the two autors; and most likely it also is quite identic with the down-living *striatus* Koch about which the fact remains that I have found the male. Then the synonymy would be the following:

♀ *Thanatus striatus* C. L. Koch. Die Arachniden T. XII, p. 92.
♀ „ *hirsutus* (Cambr.) E. Simon. Arachnides de France. T. II, p. 329.
♂ „ *ursus* E. Simon ibid. p. 312.

Copenhagen, June 18th, 1920.