Dick Coleman (left) at B.A.S.'s 40th anniversary, with Paul Selden (middle) and Clive Carter. © D. Nellist.

Always a passionate naturalist and member of the Kent Natural History Society he gained a wide-ranging knowledge of wildlife that ensured family excursions were entertaining and, ultimately, educational.

A facet of that wildlife, spiders, became his principal interest. In 1958, he attended a Field Studies course on spiders held at Flatford Mill, Suffolk, run by Ted Locket. From this select group of enthusiasts the Flatford Mill Spider Group (F.M.S.G.) emerged, the origin of what was to become the British Arachnological Society. In 1959 Richard published a note on *Cicurina cicur* in No. 3 of the F.M.S.G. Bulletin, the first of a gentle trickle of reports. These mainly covered observations on specific species, but he also wrote on the aerial dispersal of spiders and, more recently, produced several articles on his long-term study of the spiders of calcareous grasslands at Porton Down, on the Wiltshire/Hampshire border. The last of these was published in 2016. Richard was also active in the running of the B.A.S., serving on Council between 1976 and 1978 and again from 1982 to 1985.

During the past decade Richard enjoyed involvement in current research, providing specialist advice and identifications on studies including the UK Environmental Change Network project. In 2017 he decided that it was time to collate all the Porton Down spider data and to produce an Atlas of the 300 species, including many rarities, he had discovered at the site. Sadly, he did not live to complete this, but staff at Porton Down will continue with its production.

Richard's expertise and friendly manner made him a brilliant mentor. It was always a joy to visit him to converse about spiders, contemplate the world (past and present) and consume chocolate biscuits. Food was another of his passions and dining with him required a previous period of fasting as he produced meals of legendary proportions and content. This proficiency expanded beyond his own kitchen and he was a knowledgeable guide to the best gastronomic outlets in the area.

A void will be left in many people's lives with the loss of someone who was a sociable and erudite father and companion.

Richard is survived by his son and two daughters to whom he bequeathed a zest for life, an appreciation of the world around them and an example of how to live a fruitful existence.

Kryptonesticus eremita (Simon, 1880), a Nesticidae Spider New to Britain from Flat Holm Island

by Richard C. Gallon* & Gareth Farr°

Last year SEWBReC, the Local Environmental Record Centre covering southeast Wales organised a BioBlitz to Flat Holm Island in the Bristol Channel.

Flat Holm is a small (0.23 km²), roughly circular, Carboniferous Limestone island sitting approximately 4.5 km from the south Wales mainland in the Bristol Channel. It is also the southern-most point of Wales. The island has had a long history of fortification and human occupation, but has received little attention from arachnologists (20 species recorded previously compared with England's adjacent Steep Holm Island, approximately 4 km to the south, with 60 species (Chase, 1969; Spider Recording Scheme)).

To help address the poorly known spider fauna of Flat Holm RG joined the BioBlitz, armed with an arsenal of spider sampling gear. The 'army' of recorders perhaps represented the most unusual invaders since the Vikings, several centuries earlier, as they approached the island through driving rain, choppy sea and twilight in two high-speed RIBs (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Recorders heading to Flat Holm in poor weather on the evening of 11th August 2018. © Alan Reeve.

On the 12th August 2017 a full day of sampling yielded 32 species of spiders (Table 1), of which 21 were apparently new island records (bringing the island total to 41). GF had previously seen and photographed what had been assumed to be *Nesticus cellulanus* in a mine adit on a previous visit to the island (ST22306502). The adit is located above the high tide line on the northeast side of the island and has been driven into the Carboniferous Limestone 'Gully Oolite Formation' (Fig. 2). It is the lower-most of two small adits related to local efforts to speculate for lead. In the late afternoon GF and RG revisited this adit and a number of these nesticids, including a mature male and females carrying egg-sacs were observed on the walls and ceiling, a voucher sample was also collected.

Examining the specimens, several days later under the microscope, it was clear that the adult female and sub-adult male were not *N. cellulanus*, although the thickened anterior margin to the labium and characteristic way these spiders carried their egg-sacs clearly placed them within the Nesticidae. The large and distinctive epigyne was located quickly in Le Peru (2011) and the specimens identified as *Kryptonesticus eremita* (Simon, 1880), a species not recorded previously in Britain.

Figure 2. Adit supporting a population of *Kryptonesticus eremita* on Flat Holm, with Gareth Farr for scale. © Richard Gallon.

There are nine *Kryptonesticus* species recorded from Europe, but only *K. eremita* is recorded from northwest Europe, the other species being centred on the Balkans, Greece and Turkey (Pavlek & Ribera, 2017; Nae *et al*., 2018; Nentwig *et al*., 2018). *Kryptonesticus eremita* has been recorded from France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Austria Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Turkey, and it has been noted that its range is expanding within Europe (Nentwig *et al*., 2018). It has also established as a non-native species in New Zealand (Vink & Dupérré, 2011).

Many of the *Kryptonesticus* species are limited to a small number of natural cave systems, with some species exhibiting troglobite adaptions such as pallid coloration, eye reduction and limb elongation (Nae *et al*., 2018). *Kryptonesticus eremita* is less specialised and can occur in man-made underground structures such as sewers, tunnels and cellars etc. (Vink & Dupérré, 2011).

In light of the discovery of *K. eremita* on Flat Holm island, it would be worth critically examining all nesticids encountered in the UK, since it cannot now be assumed they are just *N. cellulanus* (previously our only representative of this family). The two species look superficially similar, particularly when encountered in their dark habitats, but are readily distinguished

Figure 3. *Kryptonesticus eremita* adult female. Carapace length 1.77 mm. © Richard Gallon.

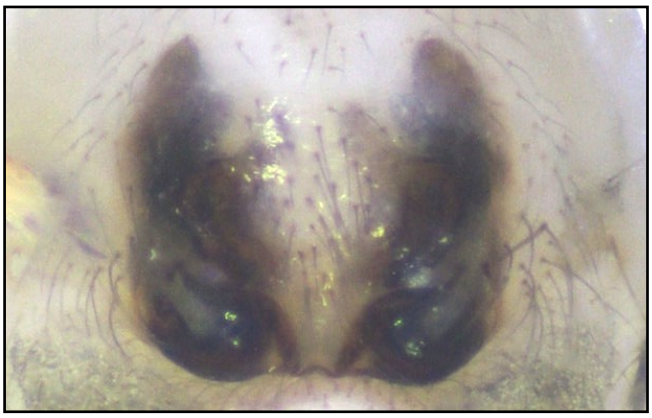

Figure 4. *Kryptonesticus eremita* epigyne, sclerotised width 0.69 mm. © Richard Gallon.

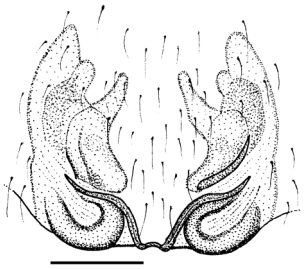

Figure 5. *Kryptonesticus eremita* epigyne. Scale 0.25 mm. © Richard Gallon.

microscopically by their palps and epigynes. The Flat Holm *K. eremita* female is illustrated here (Figs. 3–5) and will be deposited in the Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford University. The mature male will be illustrated once a specimen has been secured from this population.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to SEWBReC (particularly Amy Hicks) and the Flat Holm Society for arranging and accommodating us during the successful BioBlitz. Natalie Taylor, David James and the Cardiff Harbour Authority are also thanked for their help, and Alan Reeve for allowing us to use his boat photograph.

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Table 1. Spiders recorded from Flat Holm Island before and during the 12th August 2017 Bioblitz.

Family	Species	Pre-2017	12/08/2017	New to Island
Agelenidae	*Eratigena saeva*	*		
	Textrix denticulata	*	*	
Amaurobiidae	*Amaurobius ferox*	*		
Araneidae	*Araneus diadematus*	*	*	
	Larinioides cornutus	*		
	Zygiella x-notata	*	*	
Clubionidae	*Cheiracanthium erraticum*		*	*
	Clubiona terrestris	*		
Dysderidae	*Dysdera erythrina*	*	*	
	Harpactea hombergi	*	*	
Gnaphosidae	*Drassodes lapidosus*	*	*	
Linyphiidae	*Agyneta decora*		*	*
	Bathyphantes gracilis		*	*
	Erigone atra	*		
	Erigone dentipalpis		*	*
	Halorates reprobus		*	*
	Micrargus subaequalis		*	*
	Panamomops sulcifrons		*	*
	Tenuiphantes tenuis		*	*
	Tiso vagans		*	*
Lycosidae	*Alopecosa pulverulenta*		*	*
	Pardosa palustris		*	*
	Pardosa pullata	*	*	
	Pardosa purbeckensis	*		
	Trochosa terricola	*	*	
Nesticidae	*Kryptonesticus eremita*		*	*
Pholcidae	*Pholcus phalangioides*		*	*
Salticidae	*Heliophanus cupreus*		*	*
	Salticus scenicus		*	*
Segestriidae	*Segestria bavarica*		*	*
	Segestria florentina	*		
	Segestria senoculata	*	*	
Tetragnathidae	*Meta menardi*	*	*	
	Metellina mengei	*		
	Metellina segmentata	*		
	Pachygnatha degeeri		*	*
Theridiidae	*Enoplognatha latimana*		*	*
	Enoplognatha ovata	*	*	
	Steatoda grossa		*	*
	Steatoda nobilis		*	*
Thomisidae	*Xysticus cristatus*		*	*
Totals	**41**	**20**	**32**	**21**