

train to his office and home again at the end of the day, two hours a single trip, four hours each day. Of course it all depends on the flow of publications, but since that is growing all the time Norman doesn't have to stare out of the window very much.

This is the present situation and as long as Norman continues commuting between home and institute it will last. Of course he also looks forwards and thinks about how the catalog can be kept in shape in the future. When asked about his ideas about this he told me that he expects that the ISA will eventually become responsible for the project which will remain housed at the American Museum of Natural History as it is now. There probably will be more editors and the growing amount of data and the intended use in the future ask for another, interactive database. Whatever form it will get we - the spoiled arachnologists - hope that we will be served as well in the future as we are now.

Peter van Helsdingen



## THE DISTRIBUTION OF *SEGESTRIA FLORENTINA* (ARANEAE, SEGESTRIIDAE) IN THE NETHERLANDS

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### ABSTRACT

[The distribution of *Segestria florentina* (Araneae, Segestriidae) in the Netherlands.]

The distribution of *Segestria florentina* up to now was restricted to the province Zeeland in the south-western part of the Netherlands with temporary populations in some cities. Recent finds come from smaller villages in the western part of the country. The observed range extension is suggested to be caused by climatic change.

Key words: distribution, Netherlands, *Segestria florentina*

The first record of *Segestria florentina* (Rossi, 1790) ("Florentijnse muurspin") from the Netherlands dates from the 19th century and came from Zeeland (Becker, 1879). Subsequent country records nearly all came from that province, the south-western-most province of our country (Van Helsdingen 2008), where it was found in nearly every village or town. There are some stray records from the bigger cities in the West, such as Rotterdam, The Hague, and Amsterdam where temporary populations seem to survive for some time and then disappear again. Recently I received specimens from other places and I wonder if this again is an example of extension of range under the influence of climatic change. The new records come from Hilversum (Prov. Noord-Holland), Hazerswoude-Rijndijk and Woubrugge (both in the Prov. Zuid-Holland). At the latter locality the species appeared to be quite common. It occupied most of the available ventilation slits in the walls of houses in a housing area developed in the seventies of last century. In Hilversum a male specimen was found on the outside of a house and in Hazerswoude-Rijndijk a female specimen in a shed next to a house.

*S. florentina* is supposed to be restricted to the south-western corner of our country because the local climate there is milder than in other parts of the country because of the tempering influence from the sea. Part of the province Zeeland consists of islands surrounded by wide branches of the larger rivers Scheldt, Meuse and Rhine which flow into the sea in this estuarine region. Some of these sea-arms have been closed off from the sea by dams after the big flooding of 1953. The southern-most part of the province, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, bounds on the Belgian region Flanders while the wide river Scheldt separates it from the other parts of the province. The sea-arms with their comparatively warm water therefore surround the islands causing the mean winter temperature to be a bit higher than in the rest of the country. In cities the mean temperature in winter is also known to be just a bit higher than in the surrounding land, probably because of the breaking of the wind by buildings and the general heating of the air by houses and cars. Thus the spider can survive far from the mediterranean or southern European regions. The species probably is transported easily by man (e.g. with building-materials) and is able to establish if it meets the above climatic conditions. Of course the habitat requirements also play a role. There have to be cracks in walls of buildings or fissures between wall and window-frame or narrow spaces behind the boards of a fence. Modern building techniques generally are not favourable for this spider, but the ventilation slits present opportunities. In Belgium this species is still rare. We will keep monitoring the distribution of this species.

### Literatuur

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