

George and Elizabeth Peckham's historic observations on Wisconsin spiders

Joan P. Jass¹

¹ Curator, Non-insect Invertebrates, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233, email jass@mpm.edu

Introduction

George and Elizabeth Peckham, acknowledged pioneering experts on the Salticidae (jumping spiders), were also meticulous and enthusiastic recorders of Wisconsin natural history observations on a number of other topics, from limnological phenomena (Gifford & Peckham 1882) to the behavior of solitary wasps (Peckham & Peckham 1898). Since my introduction to their work in 1978 with the return of the Milwaukee Public Museum's (MPM) Peckham Spider Collection from its long-term loan to Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, I have sought a source of the field notes I felt certain they must have kept. Along with the original donation of their spider collection to MPM in 1911, the Peckhams had also donated their arachnological library of several hundred reprints and books. Consulting one of these volumes, I came upon some records of their observations on Wisconsin spiders. The Peckhams' volume of Hentz' *Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History II* (Hentz 1875) is bound with blank pages, on which expanded notes have been written, interleaved between the pages of Hentz' work. At the time Hentz communicated his list entitled *Descriptions and Figures of the Araneides of the United States* to the Boston Society of Natural History in the years 1842–50, it totaled only 249 species for the entire United States. The Peckhams' notes cover taxonomic and natural history observations, most dated between 1880 and 1885 at their summer home at Pine Lake in Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

The Peckhams' notes do not explicitly state the criteria they used for identification; presumably the Hentz descriptions and figures were their primary source. Only two of the twenty-one Hentz plates include detailed drawings of male palps, so the epigynal configuration of the female and, for many species, the expanded view of the male palps were not available to users of this reference, essential as today's arachnologist considers them for reliable determinations. Though inadequate for identification by present day standards, the Hentz volume must have represented a major step forward to the Peckhams since it was the altered copy of this work which they used to record their own additional notes on the appearance and behavior of the spiders they were observing.

To further put these notes in their proper context, we should also note that the Peckhams were avid animal behaviorists; they were intent on observing and recording the behavior of the living spiders in the garden and surrounding countryside of their summer home. It appears to me that the identifications they made, outside of the extensive taxonomic work they produced on the salticids, were done primarily as a corollary to these behavioral observations. While they did make a modest collection of local specimens, they did not appear to treat this as a research project (no publication on the topic from these otherwise prolific authors). What this means for those of us attempting to evaluate the worth of these observations today is that we will never be able to verify exactly what species the Peckhams were referring to in these notes. The collection and maintenance of voucher samples, by which a researcher explicitly ties specific representative specimens to the observations made during a particular research project, is rare enough today but was certainly not common practice in the 1800's. The verification of species identification and many other issues which we modern students would be eager to raise in response to the Peckhams' abbreviated notes in this essentially private arachnological journal must unfortunately remain unknown.

I have presented their statements unaltered, without trying to second-guess what may have been their intent on some puzzling points.

The University of Wisconsin Ph.D. thesis of Howard M. Field which appeared in 1938 has been considered the earliest compilation of records of Wisconsin's spider fauna. Field cited the pioneering contribution of the Peckhams, not only for the 25 salticid species which they list from Wisconsin (Peckham & Peckham 1909), but for others as well (Field 1938): "McCook in the third volume of 'American Spiders and their Spinning Work' [McCook 1883] names Wisconsin in the distribution of one uloborid and about twenty-four argiopids and his remarks on the distribution of four others imply that he had specimens of these from the state. Most of his Wisconsin specimens were collected and sent to him by the Peckhams."

The Peckhams' Notes

I have presented the information from the Peckhams' copy of the Hentz volume (Hentz 1875) here in tabular form (Table 1) for brevity. Column two is the Hentz species name, the sequence *within* each family (shown as *currently* recognized by Platnick 2009, not according to Hentz) following that of the Hentz list. The current name for each of Hentz' species is shown in column 3, based on Platnick's recent compilation (Platnick 2009). Column four contains the Peckham notes, with only those pertaining to Wisconsin observations being transcribed here. Some clarifications, not part of the original notes, have been added in brackets. As stated above, I have transcribed their notes, not interpreted them, so any inconsistencies, such as the format used for reporting dates, or possible slips of the pen will be included here with no correction attempted. The final column identifies localities that could be associated with respective species. In a few cases, Hentz names have been synonymized by subsequent researchers and more than one of his names now refer to a single species. Also, in a few cases, a Hentz species has been split and now refers to more than one. In either circumstance, the treatment here adheres to the Hentz name, since that reference is the one which the Peckhams were using to organize their records. Because Hentz did not give family names, these have been added in respective header rows.

Table 1. Notes added to a copy of Hentz (1875) by the Peckhams. Locality records for Wisconsin are shown at right, and a tally of Wisconsin species listed here is given in parentheses after each family name.

Page	Hentz species (Hentz 1875)	Current species (Platnick 2009)	Peckhams' notes — } indicates separation of lines	Locality record
FAMILY AGELENIDAE (1)				
101-102	<i>Tegenaria ? flavens</i>	nomen dubium	Taken on window sill. inside web was a tube in corner	
102-103	<i>Agelena naevia ?</i>	<i>Agelenopsis naevia</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Wis <u>Agalenopsis</u> (Giebel) } Wis Aug80 Pine Lake	Waukesha County
FAMILY ARANEIDAE (16)				
106-107	<i>Epeira riparia</i>	<i>Argiope aurantia</i> Lucas 1833	<u>Argiope</u> . Wis.P.L.Aug.1880 } Found in low bushes at the edge of a swamp, in strengthened webs. Also a half grown one in a similar web. In August x the ♀, (in a low meadow, webs in grass.) abdomen very large. July 31—Half grown individuals, legs barred with black and red throughout length.	Waukesha County
107-108	<i>Epeira fasciata ?</i>	<i>Argiope trifasciata</i> (Forsskål 1775)	<u>Argiope</u> Wis Sept.1880	Wisconsin
108	<i>Epeira vulgaris</i>	nomen dubium	Wis	

109-110	<i>Epeira insularis</i>	<i>Araneus marmoreus</i> Clerck 1757	Wis Aug/80 PL } P.L. July '82	Waukesha County
110	<i>Epeira obesa</i>	<i>Araneus marmoreus</i> Clerck 1757	Wis 1880 ♀ [Additional description on the interleaf.]	duplicate record for <i>E. insularis</i>
110-111	<i>Epeira trifolium</i>	<i>Araneus t.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis 1880	Wisconsin
111	<i>Epeira aureola</i>	<i>Araneus trifolium</i> (Hentz 1847)	Hoy. Racine ♀	Racine County, duplicate record for <i>E. trifolium</i>
111-112	<i>Epeira labyrinthea</i>	<i>Metepeira l.</i> (Hentz 1847)	P.L. Aug. '82 [Additional description on the interleaf.]	Waukesha County
112	<i>Epeira prompta</i>	<i>Eustala anastera</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Wis. Aug.80 P.Lake [Additional description on the interleaf.]	Waukesha County
112-113	<i>Epeira strix</i>	<i>Larinioides cornutus</i> (Clerck 1757)	Wis July 80 Pine Lake	Waukesha County
113	<i>Epeira Thaddeus</i>	<i>Araneus thaddeus</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis PL. Aug/80	Waukesha County
113-114	<i>Epeira hebes</i>	<i>Eustala anastera</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Wis P.L. 80 } ♀ 13/8 [Detailed description of ♀ follows.]	duplicate record for <i>E. prompta</i>
114-115	<i>Epeira ? hamata</i>	<i>Acacesia hamata</i> (Hentz 1847)	♀ 19/8 is hamata or new } Wis Aug 80 P.L.	Waukesha County, would be new state record
116	<i>Epeira spiculata</i>	<i>Mangora s.</i> (Hentz 1847)	July 80/Wis, Pine Lake	Waukesha County
116	<i>Epeira foliata</i>	<i>Acacesia hamata</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis P.L.80	duplicate record for <i>E. hamata</i>
117	<i>Epeira bombycinaria</i>	<i>Eustala anastera</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	23/8 P.Lake	duplicate record for <i>E. prompta</i>
117	<i>Epeira displicata</i>	<i>Araniella d.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Pine Lake July 11-'82 ♂	Waukesha County
118	<i>Epeira rubens</i>	<i>Hyposinga r.</i> (Hentz 1847)	P.L. July 1882	Waukesha County, would be new state record
119	<i>Epeira gibberosa</i>	<i>Mangora g.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Pine Lake	Waukesha County
120	<i>Epeira sutrix</i>	<i>Argiope aurantia</i> Lucas 1833	Wis P.L. Aug/80 } A great many <i>E.sutrix</i> were found along with <i>E.riparia</i> , in a low hummocky meadow. Both <i>sutrix</i> and <i>riparia</i> make a regular Epeira web, strengthened with the darning, and in front of it a beautiful snare.	duplicate record for <i>E. riparia</i>
122	<i>Epeira infumata</i>	<i>Ocrepeira ectypa</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	P.L. July 1882 ♂	Waukesha County, would be a new state record
123-124	<i>Epeira spinea</i>	<i>Micrathena sagittata</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	P.L. July 1882 ♀ July 26. ♂ Aug 4 } ♀ 5/8 7.8 mm ♂ 5/8 5 mm	Waukesha County
126-127	<i>Epeira caudata</i>	<i>Cyclosa turbinata</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Pine Lake ♀ Aug 13/ [McCook (1888) is the Wisconsin record; his description was based on specimens from the Peckhams.]	Waukesha County

FAMILY ATYPIDAE (1)				
19	<i>Atypus niger</i>	<i>Sphodros n.</i> (Hentz 1842)	Wisconsin identified by Simon May 1885	Wisconsin
FAMILY CLUBIONIDAE ()				
83-84	<i>Clubiona pallens</i>	<i>Elaver excepta</i> (L. Koch 1866)	Wis P.Lake July.80	Waukesha County, would be a new state record
FAMILY CORINNIDAE (5)				
85	<i>Clubiona tranquilla</i>	<i>Trachelas tranquillus</i> (Hentz 1847)	July 1882 Pine Lake no marked dots	Waukesha County
92-93	<i>Herpyllus descriptus</i>	<i>Castianeira d.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Pine Lake 26/8 ♀	Waukesha County
93-94	<i>Herpyllus longipalpus</i>	<i>Castianeira longipalpa</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis	Wisconsin
97	<i>Herpyllus trilineatus</i>	<i>Castianeira trilineata</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis Aug P.L./80	Waukesha County
97	<i>Herpyllus zonarius</i>	<i>Castianeira cingulata</i> (C. L. Koch 1841)	P.L. July '82	Waukesha County
FAMILY DICTYNIDAE (1)				
147	<i>Theridion sublatum</i>	<i>Emblyna sublata</i> (Hentz 1850)	P. L. July 11- '82	Waukesha County
FAMILY GNAPHOSIDAE (3)				
90-91	<i>Herpyllus ecclesiasticus</i>	<i>H. e.</i> Hentz 1832	Wis.Pine Lake July 80 } Frequently found running on wall or floor of rooms	Waukesha County
91	<i>Herpyllus ater</i>	nomen dubium ("Zelotes a.")	Wis P.Lake 1880	
91-92	<i>Herpyllus bicolor</i>	nomen dubium ("Gnaphosa b.")	July 14th 1882 ♂ July 21st 1882 ♀	
92	<i>Herpyllus bilineatus</i>	<i>Cesonia bilineata</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis. July 80 P.Lake	Waukesha County
94-95	<i>Herpyllus variegatus</i>	<i>Sergiolus capulatus</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	♂ 4/8 Pine Lake Abdomen with only two bands but being 5 mm long may have been immature	Waukesha County
FAMILY HAHNIIDAE (1)				
101	<i>Tegenaria persica</i>	<i>Calymmaria p.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis. ♂ ♀ web on brick wall Jul	Wisconsin
FAMILY LINYPHIIDAE (4)				
132-133	<i>Linyphia communis</i>	<i>Frontinella c.</i> (Hentz 1850)	Wis Aug 8 P.Lake ♀	Waukesha County
133-134	<i>Linyphia marmorata</i>	<i>Neriene radiata</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Wis P.Lake Aug/80 ♂ ♀ in same web } ♂ found in web with ♀ July } ♂ Length 5.6 mm Cephalothorax 2.6 mm } Legs 16, 13, 8.6, 12.1	Waukesha County
135-136	<i>Linyphia ? autumnalis</i>	<i>Megalephyphantes nebulosus</i> (Sundevall 1830)	Wis P.L. Aug/80	Waukesha County
136-137	<i>Linyphia ? costata</i>	<i>Pityohyphantes costatus</i> (Hentz 1850)	Wis.= <u>L. phrygiana</u> . Emerton } Wis Aug.80. P.Lake	Waukesha County

FAMILY LYCOSIDAE (4)				
26	<i>Lycosa fatifera</i>	<i>Geolycosa f.</i> (Hentz 1842)	Pine Lake July ♂ young } 7/8 [July 8] with cocoon } 1. <i>L. fatifera</i> 1/7–7/8 ♀ } Length 20 mm Cephalothorax 11.5. Legs 28.5, 26.5, 24.4, 4th leg 32.9 } Found wandering, near house, in July with young on abdomen, in Aug. with cocoon. Cephalothorax with a yellow longitudinal line between eyes, and sometimes two white dots at base of abdomen. Cocoon round. Diameter 12 mm. Dark greenish. } The tibia in 1/7, is furnished with a hook.	Waukesha County
27-28	<i>Lycosa lenta</i>	<i>Hogna l.</i> (Hentz 1844)	P. L. [Pine Lake] Wis	Waukesha County
30-31	<i>Lycosa aspersa</i>	<i>Hogna a.</i> (Hentz 1844)	P. L. July '82	Waukesha County
31	<i>Lycosa riparia</i>	<i>Allocosa georgicola</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	P. L. July '82 } 10 <i>Lycosa riparia</i> . (see vital measurements) } Length 7 mm Cephalothorax 3.8 mm } Legs 9.8, 9.1, 9, 12.5. } Found under old log, on shore of lake, carrying cocoons [SIC].	Because this is a FL, GA species, not used as a record
33	<i>Lycosa ocreata</i>	<i>Schizocosa o.</i> (Hentz 1844)	<i>L. ocreata</i> ♂. July 18. Dr. Hoy Racine } Length 7.1 mm. Cephalothorax 4 mm } Legs 12.11.10.1.15 not 4.1.2.3. } { Apex of cephalothorax with white hairs except at ant. end.	Racine County
FAMILY MIMETIDAE (1)				
139-140	<i>Mimetus tuberosus</i>	<i>M. syllepsicus</i> Hentz 1832	Wis	Wisconsin
FAMILY MITURGIDAE ()				
85-86	<i>Clubiona inclusa</i>	<i>Cheiracanthium inclusum</i> (Hentz, 1847)	P.L. July 1882. Under bark of a dead tree. ♀	Waukesha County
FAMILY PHILODROMIDAE (2)				
76-77	<i>Thomisus vulgaris</i>	<i>Philodromus v.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis. July.80 P.Lake	Waukesha County
81-82	<i>Thomisus ? Duttoni</i>	<i>Tibellus duttoni</i> (Hentz 1847)	P. L. July '82 [A detailed description is also added on the interleaf.]	Waukesha County
FAMILY PISAURIDAE (4)				
37	<i>Dolomedes hastulatus</i>	nomen dubium	P. L. July '82 } 2. <i>Dolomedes hastulatus</i> . } Length body 5 mm } " cephalothorax 2.2 mm } Legs 1st 6.9 3rd 6.1 mm } 2nd 7.1 4th 7. mm } Legs arranged 2413 not 2413 } Cephalothorax—upper row of eyes on black fascia. } Margin black. Venter pale brownish. } Found on leaf of bush with its legs spread like Thomisus. } { [Note added to Hentz' description "abdomen with a blackish band, with rounded edges near the base":] *In center of band near base v shaped notch. apex pointing toward base: posterior to this and conforming to it another v.-	

38	<i>Dolomedes tenebrosus</i>	<i>D. t.</i> Hentz 1844	Wood spider common near Pine Lake } Wisconsin July. (&young) } Found bright spot on the external side at base of cheliceres. Is it specific? [One word was also replaced in Hentz' description: "It can be readily distinguished from <i>D. albineus</i> , by having no yellowish spot under the abdomen, and by the no white hairs on its legs."]	Waukesha County
38-39	<i>Dolomedes scriptus</i>	<i>D. s.</i> Hentz 1845	Wis. July 80.	Wisconsin
40-41	<i>Dolomedes lanceolatus</i>	<i>D. vittatus</i> Walckenaer 1837	Wis.	Wisconsin, would be a new state record
42-43	<i>Micrommata undata</i>	<i>Pisaurina mira</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	Pine Lake Sept 1881 } Middle eyes with several long white hairs } Wis – 1880	Waukesha County
FAMILY SALTICIDAE (12)				
50-51	<i>Attus audax</i>	<i>Phidippus a.</i> (Hentz 1845)	is a <i>tripunctatus</i> Wis	Wisconsin
51	<i>Attus cardinalis</i>	<i>Phidippus c.</i> (Hentz 1845)	<u><i>Attus cardinalis</i></u> ? ♂ 4/8	
51-52	<i>Attus capitatus</i>	<i>Pelegrina proterva</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	♂ Wis = <u><i>aestivalis</i></u> P. } One male that no doubt was in the dress of the female [<i>A. aestivalis</i> Peckham & Peckham 1883 is also a synonym of <i>P. proterva</i> . However, spiders identified as <i>Dendryphantus capitatus</i> by the Peckhams (1909) were actually <i>P. galathea</i> (Platnick 2009), so the species associated with this note cannot be decided.]	
52-53	<i>Attus militaris</i>	<i>Eris m.</i> (Hentz 1845)	Wis cocoons Aug 1st young Aug 6th } Female July 27.in T. swamp with cocoons } Length 5.6 mm Cephalothorax 2.7 } Legs 5.9, 4.3, 4.4, 5.2 } Palpi pale. last joint enlarged } Legs pale rufous with black rings.	Wisconsin
56	<i>Attus elegans</i>	<i>Tutelina e.</i> (Hentz 1846)	Pine Lake Sept 1881	Waukesha County
56-58	<i>Attus familiaris</i>	<i>Platycryptus undatus</i> (De Geer 1778)	Wis P. L. Aug/80	Waukesha County
58	<i>Attus tripunctatus</i>	<i>Phidippus audax</i> (Hentz 1845)	P. L. Wis Aug. 80	Waukesha County, duplicate record for <i>A. audax</i>
59-60	<i>Attus otiosus</i>	<i>Phidippus o.</i> (Hentz 1846)	Wis [This is well outside the known range of this species (Edwards 2004).]	Wisconsin
60	<i>Attus rufus</i>	<i>Phidippus cardinalis</i> (Hentz 1845)	mature male & female July 1st [This may have been a <i>P. whitmani</i> Peckham & Peckham 1909, as the Peckhams misidentified these as <i>P. rufus</i> in 1888 (Platnick 2009).]	
62	<i>Attus parvus</i>	<i>Pelegrina galathea</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	Wis 1883	Wisconsin
63	<i>Attus niger</i>	<i>Maevia inclemens</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	Pine Lake August 4 female	Waukesha County
64	<i>Attus vittatus</i>	<i>Maevia inclemens</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	Wis. Aug./July /80 Pine lake female } Young in cocoon Aug 12th in dry leaf [duplicate of <i>A. niger</i> record]	
65-66	<i>Attus pulex</i>	<i>Naphrys p.</i> (Hentz 1846)	Wis Aug.80 P.Lake common } male pulex mature May 25 quite common through June. female several days later. male during height of season little if any more common than female.	Waukesha County

66	<i>Attus viridipes</i>	<i>Habronattus v.</i> (Hentz 1846)	Wis	Wisconsin
68	<i>Attus mitratus</i>	<i>Hentzia mitrata</i> (Hentz 1846)	Wis ♂ of <u>morigerus</u> ♂ mature May 25. Many more ♂ than ♀. Have not seen a ♂ after June 21st although in sweep over the same ground when before they were so common. ♂ mature several days before ♀.	Wisconsin
69	<i>Attus morigerus</i>	<i>Hentzia mitrata</i> (Hentz 1846)	Wis <u>mitratus</u> is the ♂	duplicate record for <i>A. mitratus</i>
70	<i>Attus octavus</i>	<i>Pelegrina proterva</i> (Walckenaer 1837)	PLake 1883	Waukesha County
71-72	<i>Epiblemum faustum</i>	<i>Salticus scenicus</i> (Clerck 1757)	In town. Oct. common	
161-162	<i>Synemosyna noxiosa</i>	<i>Synageles noxiosus</i> (Hentz 1850)	Wisc ♂ 1887. Aug	Wisconsin
FAMILY TETRAGNATHIDAE (3)				
118	<i>Epeira hortorum</i>	<i>Leucauge venusta</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Wis. Pine Lake July 80	Waukesha County
131	<i>Tetragnatha grallator</i>	<i>Tetragnatha elongata</i> Walckenaer 1842	Wis Aug./80 P.L. ♂ Wisconsin July 7th 1882. Pine Lake. Copulating. Found near house far from water	Waukesha County
131-132	<i>Tetragnatha laboriosa</i>	<i>T. l.</i> Hentz 1850	♂ ♀ ♂ very common near Pine Lake	Waukesha County
FAMILY THERIDIIDAE (7)				
[New <i>Theridion</i> species are described on the interleaf, including a <i>Theridion Hoyi</i> , but locality data is not given.]				
144-145	<i>Theridion marmoratum</i>	<i>Enoplognatha marmorata</i> (Hentz 1850)	= <u>S.marmorata</u> Emerton ♂ P.L. July.1882 ♂ ♀ length 5.5 mm. Cephalothorax 2.3. legs 8.8 7. 6. 8.1.	Waukesha County
145	<i>Theridion boreale</i>	<i>Steatoda borealis</i> (Hentz 1850)	<u>S.borealis</u> Emerton ♂ Wis Pine Lake July.80 & young	Waukesha County
147	<i>Theridion cruciatum</i>	nomen dubium	<u>T. cruciatum</u> var. <u>Wisconsinii</u> ♂ Pale with central black line & lateral lines ♂ abdomen obscure piceous, sides greenish, with scalloped whitish band edged with black running from base to apex. feet with blackish rings excepting 3rd wh. has but few rings. ♂ Orbs on bushes, cocoons round.dirty white.	
150	<i>Theridion intentum</i>	nomen dubium	Aug 2 1882 ♂ Found in tamarack swamp in <i>Epeira</i> web; anterior legs extended as in <u>Tetragnatha</u> . Moved slowly and apparently with difficulty in web.	
150	<i>Theridion blandum</i>	nomen dubium	Wis Aug 80 P.L.	
150-151	<i>Theridion lyra</i>	<i>Yunohamella lyrica</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Wis 1882. July PLake	Waukesha County
151	<i>Theridion sphaerula</i>	<i>Theridula opulenta</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	<u>Theridula s.</u> P.L. July 1882	Waukesha County
151	<i>Theridion globosum</i>	<i>Hentziectypus globosus</i> (Hentz 1850)	P.L. 7/8 ♂ ♀ 7/8 Found in very light web, near ground, on branch. White area was turned up making spider look like cocoon. Illustration of mimicry. 3 cocoons in web. (3 usual number)	Waukesha County
152	<i>Theridion trigonum</i>	<i>Neospintharus t.</i> (Hentz 1850)	= <u>Argyrodes trigonum</u> , Emerton ♂ Wis Aug P.L./80 ♂ ♀ 1/8 found in center of <i>Epeira</i> web.	Waukesha County

153	<i>Theridion verecundum</i>	<i>Latrodectus mactans</i> (Fabricius 1775)	Pine Lake Wis June 27 1882; ♂ on low branch. I caught it in my hands & although it bit me it was neither painful nor poisonous.	Waukesha County
FAMILY THOMISIDAE (3)				
77-78	<i>Thomisus ferox</i>	<i>Xysticus f.</i> (Hentz 1847)	common. 4 ant. legs largest	
78	<i>Thomisus fartus</i>	<i>Misumena vatia</i> (Clerck 1757)	P.L. Aug. [Interleaf gives additional description of the female and a possible new species.]	Waukesha County
78-79	<i>Thomisus celer</i>	<i>Mecaphesa c.</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis. Aug/80 P.L.	Waukesha County, would be a new state record
79	<i>Thomisus piger</i>	nomen dubium	Wis. P.L. Aug.80	
79-80	<i>Thomisus asperatus</i>	<i>Mecaphesa asperata</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis, P.L. Aug/80	Waukesha County
FAMILY ULOBORIDAE (2)				
104-105	<i>Cylopodia cavata</i>	<i>Hyptiotes cavatus</i> (Hentz 1847)	Wis Aug80 P.L. young in webs 1/8	Waukesha County
129-130	<i>Phillyra mammeata</i>	<i>Uloborus glomosus</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	♀ Pine Lake July 14 1882 ♂ ♀ 22/8 with <u>six</u> cocoons in a line ♂ length 5 cephalothorax 1.2. legs, 7.1, 4.4, 3.1, 5.6	Waukesha County, would be a new state record
130	<i>Phillyra riparia</i>	<i>Uloborus glomosus</i> (Walckenaer 1842)	Pine Lake 20/8 ♀ Length 4.8 C 2. ♂ legs 7, 4.2, 3.5, 5.4	duplicate record for <i>P. mammeata</i>

Discussion

If it were possible to be sure of the identities of the spiders the Peckhams observed, a number of state species records could be extracted from these notes. The Peckhams' locality data specify Racine County in two cases and Waukesha County in 57 cases, but sixteen have the locality given only as Wisconsin. In all but four of these, the Peckhams' county records would even now be the first listings. In several cases a verifiable record would represent the first for the state. However, in the absence of verifying voucher specimens, it is no doubt best to treat these notes as merely suggestive and interesting historically as a first ever compilation of observations on the state's spider fauna, rather than actual species records.

The Hentz publication enabled the Peckhams to compare the spiders they had been observing with a compilation of the nation's species and identify a significant proportion of them as being Wisconsin residents. However, it was not used merely as a checklist. By rebinding their Hentz volume with blank pages interleaved, the Peckhams created an arachnological journal in which they recorded dates of finding mature males, females, and cocoons--giving the beginnings of a study of the phenology of Wisconsin spiders. Recognition of their pioneering role as early compilers of information on a regional spider fauna renews appreciation of the stature of these keenly observant natural historians, George and Elizabeth Peckham.

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