

Lars J. JONSSON: The distribution and habitat of *Pocadicnemis pumila* and *P. juncea* (Araneae, Linyphiidae) in Sweden

Two species of the genus *Pocadicnemis* (Araneae, Linyphiidae), *P. pumila* (BLACKWALL) and *P. juncea* (LOCKET & MILLIDGE) have been reported from Scandinavia. Prior to the article of MILLIDGE (1975) the two species were believed to be only one, i. e. *P. pumila*. The habitat and distribution of the two species are insufficiently known. *P. pumila* has been reported several times from Sweden (e. g. TULLGREN 1955), but *P. juncea* only from the southernmost part (HOLM 1977, ALMQUIST 1982).

In order to find out the distribution and differences in the habitat, all specimen of *Pocadicnemis* from my own collection, the collection of Sven ALMQUIST, the Swedish Museum of Natural History (including the collection of TULLGREN), and the Zoological Museum of Lund has been checked.

Surprisingly, *Pocadicnemis juncea* has been found only in southernmost Sweden, i. e. Skåne (Scania), where it is common.

In Skåne nearly all findings of *P. juncea* are from open to semiopen ground, with at least some herbs or grasses. It has been found on ground in biotops of different humidity, but it seems to be most common in wetlands. In Skåne on localities with a closed canopy, or with wet and acidic *Sphagnum*, or on dry sandy ground, *P. pumila* is normally the only species of the genus to be found.

Of special interest are two collections made by Sven ALMQUIST. In the National Park Area of Stenshuvud he collected *P. juncea* among grasses and mosses in a wet meadow, and *P. pumila* nearby among litter on ground in woodland. In Holmeja he collected on a meadow and in spruce plantations of different ages (ALMQUIST 1982). On the ground in meadow and spruce plantations (4 and 8 years old) all *Pocadicnemis* turned out to be *P. juncea*.

P. pumila is a common species that has been found in most provinces throughout Sweden. North of 56°N it has been found in many different

biotops, including marshes and other more or less sunexposed places with grasses and herbs.

Males of both species are normally found early in summer. A clear difference in seasonal activity of different years is probably due to different weather, e. g. in 1991, when the early summer was very cold, males did not appear until July in Skåne.

Reports of the habitat of *Pocadicnemis* are scarce, also from Central Europe and the British Isles. In HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991) *P. juncea* is reported living "meist auf freien Flächen, feuchtlebend" and *P. pumila* as "ähnlich *juncea*, auch in Wäldern". MARTIN (1991), who worked with a huge material from the former GDR (DDR), has proposed so called "ökograms". By looking at those, one can conclude that *P. juncea* lives on open and moist to wet habitats, and that it has been recorded from meadows and mires: usually it is found among mosses, but also among grasses, herbs, and litter. *P. pumila* on the other hand seems to be a more eurytopic and common species. PLATEN (1984) in Berlin found *P. juncea* only in wetlands, but *P. pumila* occurred in several different biotops, both wet and dry ones. MAURER & HÄNGGI (1990) reported *P. juncea* as photo- and hygrophil, found in meadows with a rich herb layer, on ground under thickets, in moist meadows, and among vegetation on banks. HARVEY (1990) reported *P. juncea* as "common in a variety of situations such as grassland, marsh and saltmarsh", and *P. pumila* only from "relic wet heath habitats".

Probably *P. pumila* is restricted in the southern part of its distribution area to biotops with a canopy, or those which are more or less acidic or dry. *P. pumila* seems to be the species that can withstand less favourable conditions, and thus being more eurytopic and more adapted to a northern habitat.

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