

## SHORT NOTES

**Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi* (SCOPOLI, 1772)  
(Aranea, Araneidae) in Latvia**

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In Latvia, the Wasp (Zebra, Wasp-like) Spider *Argiope bruennichi* (SCOPOLI, 1772) was observed for the first time in the summer of 2004 near the Ornithological Station in Pape (Liepāja district, coordinates: 50°11' N, 21°01' E) at the coast of the Baltic Sea. V.Vintulis presented photographs and the species was identified as *A. bruennichi*. Later, two females were collected (25.09.2004, leg. A.Laubergs), identified (Roberts 1995). And thus the presence of this species was approved. The spiders were found in unmanaged moderately wet and dry coastal meadows. The density of the local population has not been estimated. Possibly it was low.

*A. bruennichi* has a Palaearctic distribution. In Europe the species is distributed mostly in the South, Central and West Europe (Roberts 1995, Fauna Europae 2004). The species is gradually expanding over the past tens years in UK, Denmark, Czech Republic, Poland, Norway, South Sweden, including Gotland (Radkiewicz 1991, Kurka 1994, Roberts 1995, Scharff, Langemark 1997, Jonsson, Wilander 1999, Fauna Europaea). Recently L.J.Jonsson (2004) reported the species from the locality only 70 km South of Stockholm in Sweden.

In Latvia, this species, most probably, immigrated from the South. In Poland, *A. bruennichi* is widely distributed, but becomes rare in the eastern part of the country (Barabasz, Górz 1998). In Lithuania, *A. bruennichi* has been recorded in 2002 in the Klaipeda district situated at the coast of the Baltic Sea and in the Lazdijai district situated in the South of Lithuania (Ivinskis, Rimšaitė 2002). The species, obviously, has immigrated to Latvia from the locality in the Klaipeda district, which is situated ca. 60 km from the known locality in Latvia.

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Received: November 13, 2004.