III. An Interesting Spider found in Thailand.

In 1844 'Dr. Cantor's Malayan Sketches' in the Zoological Society's library included an unmistakable painting of *Liphistius desultor* under the name of *Mygale chiton* but as his sketches were never published it was the former name by SCHIODTE (1849) which takes priority.[2]

Examination of later specimens of this and other species of Liphistiidae convinced many authorities that their segmented bodies and other primitive characters justified a special sub-Order, Liphistiomorphae, for their inclusion and spiders apparently resembling them were found as fossil forms in Carboniferous rocks. Doubt, however, exists as to whether they should be included in the sub-Order Mygalomorphae to which they are certainly more closely related than to the Araneomorphae.

A monograph on the nine known species of Liphistiid was published by the present writer in 1933.[1] This examined their external and internal structure (the latter carried out by Mons. J. Millot) together with their habits and distribution. The distribution was confined to Burma, Malaysia, Sumatra, Vietnam, northern Chaina and Japan. Since that date one more species *Heptathela bristowei* Gertsch has been described from Szechuan, China.[3]

Extensive search in the Philippines and Ceylon, and preliminary search in Thailand, had convinced the writer that Liphistiids were not to be found there. In 1973, however, when accompanied by Miss C. Faltermeier she found the trapdoor of one in the hills at Doi Suthep, close to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Together we found fifteen others in the same bank close to the house of Kraisri Nimmanhaeminda whose guests we were. All, unfortunately, were immature specimens but they can be attributed provisionally to the Burmese species, *Liphistius birmanicus* Thor.

The burrows were in a more or less vertical bank of red decomposing granite facing a north-westerly direction. None were found in other banks with different aspects. This avoidance of the midday sun is as also noted when searching for *L. desultor* in Penang in January, 1973.

The nearly horizontal burrows were up to a foot in length. The lid hinge was at the top or side. As usual there were about eight long stout threads from the rim.

LITERTURE

1. BRISTOWE, W.S., 1932. The Liphistiid Spiders. Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.

2. BRISTOWE, W.S., 1938. A Supplementary Note on the Liphitiid Spiders. Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.

3. GERTSCH, J., 1967. J. New York Ent. Soc. 25-90.

W.S. Bristowe

The Mill House, Whatlington,
Battle, Sussex, TN 33 OND
England.

IV. Unusual Aerial Bathing Behaviour by a Drongo, *Dicrurus annectans*, (Aves : Dicruridae).

The highly aerial, and short legged, drongos (Dicruridae) are known to bathe from the air, dropping repeatedly into the water for brief moments only, as do members of other aerial groups such as swallows (Hirundinidae) swifts (Apodidae) and terns (Sterninae) (SIMMONS, 1964). ALI and RIPLEY (1972) record this kind of bathing as performed by both the King Crow, *Dicrurus adsimilis*, and Spangled Drongo, *D. hottentottus*.

A peculiar unrecorded form of aerial bathing was observed to be performed by the drongo *D. annectans* on Phuket Island, Thailand on 13 April 1975. Large numbers of this species (confirmed by examination of one specimen) were observed to arrive in the area of the author's house during the first week of April 1974 and 1975 and remained for approximately four weeks on both occasions, being noisy and conspicuous in foliaged and bare tree branches. Presumably these birds were moving north, the species being known to migrate from southern winter quarters