

Characteristic spider species of peat bog fenlands in the Netherlands (Araneae)

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Abstract: Peat bogs in the Netherlands passed through a dynamic history over the centuries from developing in the wet river delta, exploitation by man for energy purposes, filling-in again by natural forces and vegetation succession, and recent dragging for nature management purposes in the remaining larger reserves. Seepage of mineral-rich water from deep underground water layers is a prerequisite. For the present semi-natural habitat condition the term “peat bog fenland” is used. The spider fauna composition of the ecotone land–water, usually the margins of quaking bogs, was investigated. The typical fauna comprises relatively rare species on the international scale often in large numbers, such as *Dolomedes plantarius* (CLERCK), *Tetragnatha striata* L. KOCH, *Enoplognatha caricis* (FICKERT), *Theridion hemerobium* SIMON, *Entelecara omissa* O.P.-CAMBRIDGE, and *Clubiona juvenis* SIMON. The microhabitats of the different species was described. Environmental threats are numerous and very strict management measures are necessary to keep the ecological conditions and the populations in good condition.

Key words: ecotone land-water, filling-in, habitat restoration, peat bog fenland, quaking bogs, water management