

***THERIDION BIMACULATUM* (LINNÉ) IN VERMONT
(ARANEAE : THERIDIIDAE)**

In 1975, six specimens of the European spider *Theridion bimaculatum* (Linné) were collected by Mark E. Whalon in the Meserole Apple Orchard, Colchester, Vermont, U.S.A. These specimens were collected by sweep-netting in grass and other low vegetation immediately beneath apple trees. Deposited in the University of Vermont Museum of Zoology are one male 5 June 1975, and two males and one female 9 June 1975. Deposited in the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology are one male and one female 19 June 1975. This species was previously known in North America only from Washington and British Colombia (Levi and Randolph 1975:43).

When *Theridion* was revised for North America (Levi 1957, 1963), *bimaculatum* was not included in the genus. A good description of this species is found in Levi (1956:407-412). The male can be easily recognized by the spur at the base of femur IV, the central tubercle on the sternum, and the shape of the palpal cymbium. The female has a distinctly protruding epigynum, similar to that of *Theridion neomexicanum* Banks (Levi 1957:76, fig. 269) and *Thymoites unimaculatus* (Emerton) (Levi 1957:108, fig. 409; Levi and Randolph 1975:47). The female of *T. bimaculatum* could easily be misidentified as either of these two species, but differs from both of them in having a small depression in the anterior facing surface of the epigynum. The color patterns and the shape of the clypeus are also useful characters for distinguishing these species from each other.

There is a typographical error in Levi (1956:409). Where it says, "The male, however, lacks the . . .", it should say, "The female, . . .". In Levi and Randolph (1975:43) the name of *T. bimaculatum* is misspelled, "*bimaculata*".

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LITERATURE CITED

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