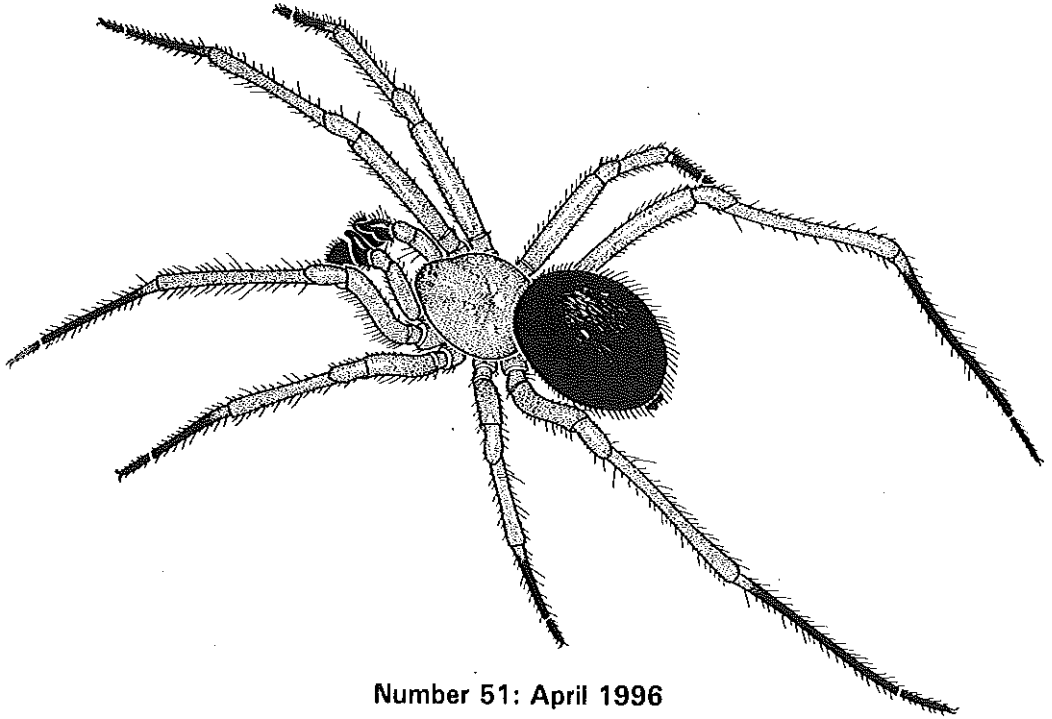


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THE AUSTRALASIAN ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to foster interest in arachnids in the Australasian region.

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Richard J. Faulder
Agricultural Institute
Yanco, New South Wales 2703,
Australia
Email faulder@agric.nsw.gov.au

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Membership fees for residents in Australia, \$3; in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, \$4; other members \$5 (surface mail) (airmail rates: \$10). Fees for Australian institutions, \$4; overseas institutions, \$8 (surface mail). Cheques should be made payable to "The Australasian Arachnological Society", and should be in Australian dollars. More than one year's subscription may be paid for at a time.

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Australia

He has a large number of reference books, scientific journals and scientific papers available, either for loan or as photocopies. He also asks our professional members to send him a copy of any reprints they might have.

ARTICLES

Articles should be sent to the editor:

Mark S. Harvey
Western Australian Museum
Francis Street
Perth, Western Australia 6000,
Australia
Email harvey@muswa.dialix.oz.au

and should be typed or legibly written on one side of A4 paper. Submission via email or on computer disk would vastly simplify publication. Don't forget to indicate the word-processing language used (e.g. WordPerfect 6.0, Word for Windows, MacWrite). The disk will be returned only upon request.

XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARACHNOLOGY

by Cor Vink

Department of Entomology, Lincoln
University, P.O. Box 84, Canterbury,
New Zealand

20,000 kilometres is a long way to travel to get to a conference but the XIII International Congress of Arachnology in Switzerland was well worth the trip. A dozen Australasians joined their 190 or so colleagues to become part of the largest congress yet.

I arrived at the airport only being able to say 'hello', 'thank you' and 'do you speak in English?' in French. After a wee while and some help from some friendly English speaking Genevites I managed to get to the Muséum d'histoire naturelle for registration. I registered and eventually made my way by bus to the hostel of the University of Geneva (there are very few signs or instructions in Switzerland, it is just assumed that you know how everything works). Things kicked off with an unofficial welcome in the Museum on the first night. It was great to be able to catch up with other ANZACs (Australian and New Zealand Arachnological Colleagues) and other people that I hadn't seen for three years.

Over the entire congress the talks were well organised (in fact they ran almost as well as a Swiss watch). The talks on Monday were centred around behaviour and physiology. We got to hear and see some of the vibratory communications that go on between lycosids thanks to Torbjörn Kronestedt and Detlev Cordes. Daiqin Li presented his work on prey preference behaviours in specialised salticids. Monday night was the official reception by the City of Geneva; I arrived after the speech making (and food and drink) was finished.

Tuesday's themes were prey, predators and

venoms and ecology. Barbara York Main was one of the first speakers asking the question are Australian Funnelweb Spider bites overkill or a result of co-evolution? Mary Whitehouse was supposed to speak on Tuesday but a nasty tummy bug had other ideas, so her talk was postponed. Tuesday night was the night of the poster session and Donna Rayner's poster was on the effects of pesticides on spiders in Queensland mango orchards; people also got a chance to see my preliminary results on the taxonomy and systematics of New Zealand lycosids.

Wednesday we turned up bright and early, hopped on a few large buses and headed off to the Parc naturel jurassique. We first stopped at the south-western end of the Lac de Joux and spiderised around a patch of Swiss native bush and "one of the best preserved natural shore-lines." We then travelled to an inn and had a pleasant lunch. After lunch we drove into the middle of the Parc jurassien vaudois. The thin road and wide bus made for a ride that would rival any found in Disneyland. We all clambered out of the buses and wandered through meadows to the gentle clanging of cow bells. Eventually the delegates reached a ridge where we could see Geneva at the foot of Lake Geneva; unfortunately Mount Blanc was only barely visible through the clouds that day. We then walked down the other side to the waiting buses that took us back to the city.

By Thursday Mary Whitehouse had fought off the tummy bug and gave her talk on the behaviour of the kleptoparasite *Argyrodes antipodiana*. The morning talks continued the ecological theme. Jan Green talked about spiders in Australian citrus ecosystems. The afternoon sessions were on palaeontology and systematics. Charles Griswold showed us the latest on the phylogeny of the cyatholipids and Robert Raven presented the phylogeny of the Theraphosidina.

The congress dinner was held on Thursday evening. It was originally to be held at the Musée d'art et d'histoire but a last minute cancellation meant that Volker Mahnert and his helpers had to change the venue to the Museum itself. Full credit to Volker and the gang as the evening went very smoothly despite the last minute organisations.

The final day's themes were taxonomy, systematics and biogeography. Val Davies presented a paper on a new amaurobiid genus from Australia. Glenn Hunt gave a preliminary look at phylogenetics of Australian Triaenonychidae along with his own version of the song 'Trees'. Mark Harvey presented the last of the Australasian talks as he explained the biogeography of Gondwanan pseudoscorpions.

In a flash it was all over and I was catching a 5 am taxi to the airport with Glenn Hunt. The Congress was full of interesting and informative papers, however, it would be nice not to have to sit through talks consisting of species lists in future congresses. Geneva is now a memory of countless valuable discussions, being able to walk through parks at night in the safest city I've ever been in and all the exciting sneak previews of spider phylogenies. Keep your eyes peeled for the special edition of *Revue suisse de Zoologie* early next year.

NEW RECORDS OF SALT LAKE LYCOSIDS IN AUSTRALIA

By Peter Hudson

School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide, South Australia 5001, Australia

To date three species of salt lake inhabiting wolf spiders have been described; *Lycosa eyrei* (Hickman, 1944), *Lycosa alteripa* McKay, 1976 and *Lycosa salifodina* McKay, 1976. Hudson and Adams (in prep.) have conducted an allozyme study of these spiders from southern Australia and several new and interesting records have come to light as a result of extensive collecting.

L. eyrei, which up until recently was only known from S.A., was collected by the author in July 1992 from Lake Tyrrell. This is the first record of *L. eyrei* from Victoria and the closest known locality is near Port Augusta thus representing a considerable range extension.

In April, 1994 *L. salifodina* was collected by the author from Wyola Lakes in S.A. This species was previously known only to occur in W.A.

In addition to the above new records the author is currently describing a new species of salt lake wolf spider from the Lake Lefroy region in W.A.

Whilst few people tend to spend time on the surface of salt lakes the author would be most interested to see any spiders, or for that matter any invertebrate that others may happen to find living on salt lakes.

The author acknowledges the support of the South Australian Museum and The Western Mining Corporation in enabling collections to be made from the Great Victoria Desert and the Lake Lefroy region respectively. The

Maralinga Tjarutja Aboriginal Land Trust is also acknowledged for their permission to collect from the Wyola Lakes.

References

Hickman, V.V. (1944). The Simpson Desert expedition, 1939. Scientific Reports No. 1, Biology - Scorpions and spiders. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 68: 18-48.

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to *Aname*. Main (1982) redescribed the species and likewise transferred *D. diversicolor* to the genus *Aname* and designated a neotype in order to preserve nomenclatural stability. Raven (1981) and Main (1982) explained that neither "Deka Station" or "Blackhall" could be traced, and Main (1982) explained that a "Delta Station" is located near "Blackall" in western Queensland. Raven (1981, p. 338) suggested that "Blackhall" could have been a misnomer for "Blackhill" which could have referred to several sites in South Australia. Finally, Main (1982, p. 26) ventured that the original type locality was "Colona station, Blackhill", situated in South Australia. She then designated a neotype male from 26 km NW of Elliston, South Australia (lodged in the South Australian Museum, registration number N1980196), to replace the missing holotype.

A NOTE ON THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *DEKANA DIVERSICOLOR* HOGG

by Mark S. Harvey¹ and
Barbara York Main²

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Western Australia 6005, Australia

In his original description of the mygalomorph *Dekana diversicolor* (Nemesiidae), Hogg (1902) gave the type locality as "Deka Station, near Blackhall" without any further locality data. The single specimen, a male, has not been subsequently found in any museum collection including the Natural History Museum, London (Main, 1982) where much of Hogg's material is lodged, or the South Australian Museum, the institution that had sent Hogg material for his paper of 1902 (David Hirst, pers. comm.).

Raven (1981) synonymised *Dekana* with *Aname* thereby transferring *D. diversicolor*

In a thorough revision of the northern Australian members of the *Aname pallida* species-group, Raven (1985) suggested that Hogg's original description of *D. diversicolor* was sufficient to recognise that Main's *A. diversicolor* was in fact a different species, and that the neotype designation was unnecessary and invalid. Furthermore, Raven (1985) described *Aname camara* Raven from Aramac, Queensland (22°58'S, 145°14'E) which greatly resembled Hogg's description of *D. diversicolor*.

While inspecting the South Australian Museum collection of golden orb-weaving spiders, one of us (MSH) found a vial containing two specimens of *Nephila edulis* (Labillardière) which had been identified as *N. eremiana* by H.R. Hogg. These specimens were accompanied by a label in a handwriting other than Hogg's which reads "R Mall / Deka Station / nr Blackhall Qu" (Fig. 1). The locality label appears to be torn after the "Qu".

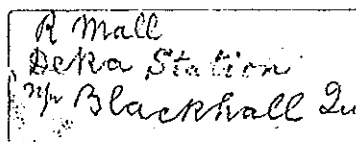


Fig. 1. Locality label associated with *Nephila edulis* in South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

It seems reasonable to speculate that Hogg had examined one or more vials of spiders dispatched from the South Australian Museum labelled "Delta Station nr Blackhall". Indeed, it is possible that the holotype of *D. diversicolor* may have been returned by Hogg to the South Australian Museum but for some reason is now either unrecognisable (i.e. Hogg's identification label has been lost) or was never received by that institution.

This new information appears to confirm that the type locality of *D. diversicolor* was indeed Delta Station, near Blackall (23°29'S, 145°30'E), as speculated by Main (1976, 1982) and Raven (1985).

While this does not affect the neotype designation made by Main (1982), there is now compelling evidence based upon new knowledge of the original type locality that the species currently known as *A. diversicolor* (sensu Main 1982) is not conspecific with the specimen described by Hogg (1902). Further collections from western Queensland are needed to firmly establish the identity of the original *D. diversicolor*.

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BOOK NEWS

Ray and Lyn Forster (Dunedin, New Zealand) write that Ray's volumes (1-6) on New Zealand spiders are still available from:

The Otago Museum
P.O. Box 6202
Dunedin
NEW ZEALAND

Prices are available on request from the Otago Museum.

Their general books, *Spiders of New Zealand - an Introduction and Small Land Animals of New Zealand*, are both out of print, but they hope to get them republished (and updated) next year. Stay tuned.

**BOOK REVIEW:
'SOME COMMON SPIDERS IN
AUSTRALIA'**

by Julianne M. Waldoek

Western Australian Museum
Francis Street, Perth,
Western Australia 6000, Australia

Gray, M.R. (1993). *Some Common Spiders in Australia*. Bayer Australia: Sydney. 17 pp.

This rather slim volume has been produced for the general public as a basic handbook covering some common Australian spiders. Within the 17 pages it covers 15 species of spiders ranging from the highly venomous such as the funnel-web spiders and redback spider to other common species that are known to bite humans. In fact, all spiders discussed in this booklet are either large spiders or are known to bite on occasion.

Each entry consists of a double page spread or a single page with colour photographs of the spider. Both male and female are represented for the funnel-web spiders, mouse spiders, trapdoor spiders, golden orb-weaving spider, and white-tailed spider. Included with each entry is a paragraph on Distribution; Identification and Habits; Bite; and First Aid.

Unfortunately, the title of this booklet is too wide ranging. The spiders mentioned are common in southern and south-eastern Australia but the booklet would be of little use in northern Australia. Under the section on the black house spider, *Badumna insignis* is mentioned in the heading but the text discusses these spiders as more than a single species; perhaps it would be less confusing to say *Badumna* species instead. Funnel-web spiders do not occur in Western Australia.

Another suggestion for increased clarity

would be to have a map showing the distribution of the funnel web spiders around Australia (this would emphasise that these spiders are restricted to eastern Australia).

The photographs of the trapdoor and funnel web spiders have been superimposed on a white background, that is, the image of the spider has been excised from the original background which makes the result too contrasty and it is difficult to distinguish fine details (particularly the photograph of the male Sydney funnel-web on page 3). Some other photographs are much clearer because the spiders were photographed from directly above with each leg more evenly depicted.

On the whole, this small booklet would be a useful addition to the family library as a guide to the spiders the majority of Australians have queries about or have contact with in and around their homes. At around \$7 a copy it would not be an expensive addition to public libraries except that it may be difficult to find on the shelf because of its small size.

**BOOK REVIEW:
'INVERTEBRATES IN HOT AND
COLD ARID ENVIRONMENTS'**

by Donald S. Horning

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Loomberah via Tamworth, New South Wales
2340, Australia

Sømme, L. (1995). *Invertebrates in Hot and Cold Arid Environments*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin. 275 pp. ISBN 3-540-58985-6. DM 248.00 (about A\$240.00).

This excellent volume forms part of a series 'Adaptations of Desert Organisms' edited by the highly respected J.L. Cloudsley-Thompson. There are 12 chapters in this

book and the first two provide a comprehensive background to the climate of arid environments and the fauna of hot and cold deserts. One strong point of this work, illustrated in these first two chapters, is that attention is given to polar deserts as well as hot temperate and subtropical deserts. There are many works on hot deserts but not so much on polar deserts. Professor Somme has even compared similarities to these two seemingly opposite environments. Other chapters include 'Tolerance to Arid Conditions in Terrestrial Arthropods', 'Physiology of Tolerance to Desiccation', 'Anhydrobiosis in Terrestrial Invertebrates', 'Behavioural Adaptations', 'Phenological Adaptations', 'Water Balance During Overwintering', 'Cold Hardiness in Terrestrial Arthropods', 'Hot Desert Arthropods at Low Temperatures', 'Cold Tolerance in 'Lower' Invertebrates (nematodes, tardigrades, rotifers and lumbricid earthworms)' and 'Summary and Conclusions'.

Although the list of references is extensive and impressive, the subject index is not comprehensive. For instance, tardigrades or Tardigrada are not listed in this index and one would have to search through it for pertinent generic names, yet would still miss general references. As the table of contents does not list all places where tardigrades are covered either, the only way to have a complete index of this group would be to read the entire book and make one's own index. Although this argument applies to the general references to various groups of arachnids as well, acarinologists would be able to find references to their specific groups of mites, even though the general index for mites is not complete. There are some typographical errors, failure to put scientific names in italics (page 143 shows this particularly). Sometimes a scientific name is given without any reference as to what phylum it may belong and this inhibits browsing. It is possible to identify most of

these 'non-entities' eventually by reading the entire book. These are minor points and should not really worry the reader but they do provide delights to book reviewers.

The covers, binding, illustrations, print style and general presentation of the book are excellent. It is very sturdy and should last a long time, even with heavy use, such as in libraries. The publishers, Springer-Verlag, and their associates are environmentally friendly and the pages in the book are low- or no-chlorine pulp and are acid free.

This is an excellent reference on the adaptation of invertebrates from both hot and cold arid environments. It specially would be suitable for invertebrate behaviourists, ecologists and physiologists. For arachnidologists, this is a good general reference to adaptations of invertebrates in hot and cold arid environments. It should provide many ideas where research could be pursued. The very high price for the book (about A\$240.00) may exclude it from the bookshelves of non-sponsored research scientists.

ARACHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

The Internet has become a very useful place to find information on various subjects. At the moment however you can hardly find anything about spiders and their relatives.

In cooperation with Mark Stowe and Al Cady from the AAS, a new mailing list is started named 'arachnology'. In the near future we envision that the discussion list's primary focus will be the creation of arachnological databases on the Internet. Discussion on the list will however cover many other topics that are of interest to arachnologists and their societies. Everyone with E-mail access can join the list by

sending a message to:

Majordomo@ufsia.ac.be

and typing within the body of the message:

subscribe arachnology

end

R. Raven

J. Rienks

D. Rowell

P. Sirvid

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C. Vink

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You then receive a message with a short description of the list. After you have subscribed, you can post a message to the entire group by sending it to:

arachnology@ufsia.ac.be

More information on this mailing list can be obtained from the list owner:

Herman VANUYTVEN

E-mail: dse.vanuytven.h@alpha.ufsia.ac.be

Vekestraat 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

EMAIL ADDRESSES

As promised in *Australasian Arachnology* 49, I have compiled a list of email addresses for those Australasian arachnologists known to be connected to the net. Please end any updates, errors or omissions to the Editor for inclusion in future newsletters.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON AUSTRALASIAN ARACHNOLOGY

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LIBRARY NEWS

by Jean-Claude Herremans

P.O. Box 291, Manly,
New South Wales 2095, Australia

The arachnological continues to grow at a great rate, with reprint donations by Drs David M. Rowell and Mark S. Harvey (Australia), Dr Ray Forster (New Zealand), Dr Volker Mahnert (Switzerland), Dr Sandor Mahunka (Hungary), Drs Léon Baert and Jean Kekenbosch (Belgium), who went out of their way to obtain hard to get publications. Many thanks also to Dr Donald S. Horning (Australia) who donated seven

boxes of reprints, all concerning Macquarie Island.

We also have a substantial collection of serials, which are listed below and are available to members for loan.

Acta arachnologica. Vol. 28, 1978+
Acta zoologica cracoviensis. Vol. 32, 1989+
American Arachnology. Newsletter. #20, 1979+
Annales historico-naturales Musei nationalis hungarici. Vol. 60, 1968+
Annales zoologici, Warszawa. Vol. 43, 1989+
Arabel. Vol. 1, 1986+
Arachnologia, CIDA. No. 1, 1984+
Aracnologia, Montevideo. #1, 1983+ [wanting: #4]
Aracnologia, Suplemento. #2, 1981+ [wanting: #1]
Arachnologische Mitteilungen. Vol. 1, 1991+
Arthropoda Selecta. Vol. 1, 1992+
Australasian Arachnology. #1, 1979+
Australian entomological Society. Journal. Vol. 1, 1962+
British arachnological Society. Bulletin. Vol. 1, 1969+
British arachnological Society. Secretary News letters. #1, 1971 - #30, 1981
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British arachnological Society. British Spider Study Group. Bulletin. #21, 1964 - #40, 1968
Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie. Vol. 69 (1990)+
Fauna of Australia. Volume 1, 1987+
Fauna of New Zealand. #1, 1982+
Folia entomologica hungarica. Vol. 30, 1977+
Invertebrate Taxonomy. Vol. 1, 1987+
Journal of Arachnology. Vol. 1, 1973+
Korean Arachnology. Vol. 1, 1985+
Miscellanea zoologica hungarica. Vol. 1, 1982+

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris. Bulletin. Vol. 28 (1922)+
Myrmecia (AES Newsletter). #1, 1965+
National Science Museum Tokyo. Bulletin. Vol. 1, 1954 - Vol. 17, 1974
National Science Museum Tokyo. Bulletin. Ser. A, Zoology. Vol. 1, 1975+
National Science Museum Tokyo. Memoirs. #1, 1968+
Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg. Verhandlungen. (NF). #23, 1979+
Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg. Abhandlungen. (NF). #24, 1982+
New Zealand Entomologist. Vol. 1, 1951; Vol. 4, 1968+ [wanting: vol. 2 & 3]
New Zealand Journal of Zoology. Vol. 1, 1974+
Pénélope. #10, 1993 ; 12 ; 16+
Research Group for the study of African arachnids. Newsletter. #1, 1986
Revue arachnologique. Vol. 1, 1977+
Serket. Vol. 1, 1987+
Société royale belge d'Entomologie. Bulletin & Annales. Vol. 109, 1973+
Société zoologique de France. Bulletin. Vol. 64, 1939 - Vol. 66, 1941
 Vol. 71, 1946 - Vol. 80, 1955
 Vol. 84, 1959 - Vol. 91, 1966
 Vol. 97, 1972+
Spider Club News. Vol. 4, 1989+
Spixiana. Vol. 1, 1977+
Spixiana. Supplement. #1, 1978+ [wanting: #2]
Steenstrupia. Vol. 1, 1976+
Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Vol. 1, 1983+
Zoological Scripta. Vol. 1, 1971+
Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden. Vol. 60, 1986+
Zoologische Verhandelingen, Leiden. #233, 1986+

**SUMMARY OF SOCIETY FINANCES
FOR THE YEAR FROM
9 DECEMBER 1993**

Initial amount in savings
bank cheque account 590.55

CREDITS

Total subscriptions and back issues	274.00	
Bank interest	8.72	

Total credits	282.72	873.27

DEBITS

Printing of newsletter	26.50	
Postage of newsletter	142.85	
Miscellaneous postage	10.95	
Extra storage for newsletter	33.85	

Total Debits	214.15	

Final savings bank balance 659.12

Term deposit at end of November 1995
stands at \$1347.13.

The last statement date should have read
1993, not 1992.

MEMBERSHIP

Changes of Address

Esther Cullen, 113 Petersen St, Freshwater,
Queensland 4870

Anne Mahomed, U2/15 Harrison Court,
Mitcham, Victoria 3132

Tingkui Qin, Systematics Group, Landcare
Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland,
New Zealand

New members

Lyn and Ray Forster, McMasters Road,
R.D. 1, Saddle Hill, Dunedin, New Zealand

Judy Thompson, 22 Warrnambool St, Trinity
Park, Queensland 4879

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE:

**XTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF ACAROLOGY**

The Xth International Congress of Acarology
will be held in Canberra, Australia, from the
6-10 July 1998. For further details contact:

Bruce Halliday,
CSIRO Division of Entomology,
GPO Box 1700, Canberra,
A.C.T. 2601, Australia
