First record of the Opilione
Dicranopalpus ramosus (Simon, 1909) in Glasgow

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In September 2007 an unusual harvestman was found on the garage wall of MR in Mosspark, Glasgow. It was soon identified as a female *Dicranopalpus ramosus* (Simon, 1909); identification is fairly easy due to the forked pedipalps and unusual resting posture of having its long legs stretched out perpendicular to its body. No further specimens were found over the subsequent weeks. There had been no recent new plantings or new fixtures in the garden so there was no obvious origin.

It has been said that it prefers woody plants and damp areas; the adults are generally active in autumn and into early winter. In many areas where it has been observed further south it has been in quite high numbers (Hillyard, 1999).

*D. ramosus* is a southern species that has been slowly making its way north over the last few decades. First described from Morocco in 1909 as *Dicranochirus ramosus* (Hillyard, 1999) the species was first recorded in the UK in Bournemouth in 1957 (Sankey & Savory, 1974) and through the 1960s was only found on the south coast. In the 1970s and 1980s it spread over the south of England reaching as far north as Leicester by 1989. It reached south-east Ireland in 1994 and spread to north Wales and north-west England throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s (NBN Gateway, 2008). The first Scottish record was from Edinburgh in 2000 (Hillyard, 2000) and now it has been found in Glasgow in 2007.

The specimen is in Glasgow Museum collections numbered Z.2007.67.

REFERENCES


