In October 1956, a sample from Tennessee River mile 296.6, Wheeler Reservoir, Alabama, revealed six specimens of *Clamucus avoulius* Hauen. The largest specimen was 4 mm in length. The specimens were deposited at the University of Tennessee. On November 13, 1957, a specimen of *Clamucus avoulius* was collected at Clinch River, mile 44.3, Tennessee. These are the only locality records known for Secudactyl in the Tennessee River drainage.

**LITERATURE CITED**


**ABSTRACT**

Five specimens of the brown recluse spider *Loxosceles reclusa* were collected in Tennessee from July 21 through September 30. Of these, the female was investigated. The species was recorded in Tennessee for the first time.

**INTRODUCTION**

The medical importance of certain spiders of the genus *Loxosceles* has attracted attention since 1934 when MacMillan (in Gertsch 1947) demonstrated that a South American species, *L. laeta*, causes a severe cutaneous necrosis in man. Currently three additional species (*L. naucla, L. reclusa* and *L. rupicaenis*) are known to be venomous and it seems probable that all species of the genus are toxic (Gertsch 1967). Descriptions of the syndrome are given by Lesseure and Zimmer (1960) and Dallhaas et al. (1964). Desney et al. (1964) have made live and in vitro studies of the hemotoxic effect of the venom. Taylor and Desney (1966) give a case report of hemolysis, renal failure and death, presumed secondary to the bite of *Loxosceles reclusa*. Five deaths from apparent *Loxosceles* have been reported in the United States (Lessey 1956, Lesseure and Zimmer 1960, Nicholson and Nicholson 1962, Taylor and Denny 1966). Known toxic species possess six eyes, in three diads, in contrast to the total of eight eyes possessed by most spiders. Gertsch (1955, 1967) has reviewed the taxonomy and biology of the American species of the genus. Of the five species which occur in the United States, three are known from Tennessee. *Loxosceles reclusa* is a recent discovery in Tennessee. Adult specimens are approximately 5 to 9 mm in length. The most distinguishing mark is the dark v-shaped band on the anterior portion of the carapace.

The Brown Recluse Spider and Loxoscelism in Tennessee

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**RESULTS**

Of the twenty adults of *Loxosceles reclusa* collected, 13 were females and 7 were males (13:7). The adult females averaged 8.9 mm long and the adult males 9.3 mm long. The carapace showed little variation in color among the large number examined of both sexes. The carapace of the adults in all cases had waxy gloss, appearing to be translucent for a slight depth and, except for the darker markings, was generally of a light pinkish tan color. Gertsch (1955), referring to specimens collected in a variety of areas, describes the integument of the carapace as being pale yellowish to quite dark orange or reddish brown and marked with darker patterns.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Fifty-two specimens of *Loxosceles reclusa* were examined: fifty from Rutherford County; one from Marshall County; and one from Lewis County. All but one of the specimens were collected during the interval from July 31 through September 24, 1967. Specimens were preserved in an ethyl alcohol solution at room temperature until the time of examination. The specimens were mounted on glass slides and studied with a low-power microscope (10X) and a high-power microscope (60X). Distinctive characteristics were photographed with a high-speed camera and compared with other species of *Loxosceles*.
The information on this page is about the distribution and habits of the Brown Moth (Graphosoma lineatum) in Missouri. The text explains that the species has been found in various locations across the state, with specific data provided for different counties. The Brown Moth is known for its distinctive black and orange markings and is commonly found in wooded areas. The text also notes the moth's flight period and habitat preferences, emphasizing its importance in the ecosystem. The page includes a table listing counties and the dates of observation, along with a map illustrating the distribution of the moth across Missouri. The text concludes with a note on the moth's role in pollination and its significance in the state's biodiversity.
of the spiderlings or, in two instances, the spiderlings themselves.

During the late summer of 1967 several specimens were found in and under cabinets, book cases and boxes in the Old Science Building at Middle Tennessee State University. Shed cuticles and webs were found in protected areas within and under such objects. In my own home I found several specimens hidden under articles in the attic and in rooms; one specimen was found under the carpet and one on the front porch.

LOXOSCELM IN TENNESSEE

Brief data concerning one confirmed and a number of suspected cases of loxoscelism in Tennessee are given in Table III. This table probably lists only a small proportion of the total number of cases which have occurred within recent years.

![Table III: Some Confirmed and Suspected Cases of Loxoscelism in Tennessee](image)

Dr. Garrison's patient, a 39 year old woman living in a rural area of Rutherford County, was bitten on the back during the night of July 16, 1958. When the patient was first seen by the physician two days later on a blister 1 cm in diameter was present, surrounded by a zone of erythema. The patient had experienced a flushed feeling of the face on the previous day and complained of headache and malaise. She was slightly nauseous. By July 19 a hemorrhagic spot was present, which by July 25 had developed into an ecchymotic area about 2 x 4 cm. The ecchymotic area was interrupted by numerous small vesicles and there was a zone of induration 3-4 cm wide surrounding this area. On August 8 the lesion was healing. Treatment included seven intramuscular injections of 40 units each of repository adrenocorticotropic hormone given over a period of ten days. The spider was captured by the patient and given to the physician. It was subsequently identified as a penultimate female of Loxosceles recluse.

**DISCUSSION**

In previous years in the United States most curricula incorporating some instruction concerning venomous arthropods have devoted little attention to the genus Loxosceles. Of the widely used textbooks in the field only those more recently published include discussions of any species of the genus. There has been little effort to promote widespread alertness to presence of the brown recluse in Tennessee.

Its nocturnal habits, reclusiveness, innocuous appearance and the small likelihood that it will be seen after having bitten a person have caused it to attract very little attention. The last of these attributes has doubtless hindered specific diagnoses in the past.

Possibly as further reports of the spider are received from various parts of the state, more reports of its occurrence outdoors will be received. Apparently the spider occurs less frequently outdoors in most parts of Tennessee than it does in Arkansas and southern Missouri. If this is true, it would seem that the determining factors would be other than climatic since the climates of the areas in question are not greatly different (see U.S. Department of Agriculture 1941 and Vischer 1954). Possibly the spider originally spread into Tennessee by way of domestic introductions and exhibits inability to invade rapidly the outdoor habitat.

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**LITERATURE CITED**


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