

LOXOSCELES RUFESCENS FOUND IN COLUMBUS, OHIO.¹—On March 20, 1969, a large female *Loxosceles* spider was found by us in the sub-basement of the Botany and Zoology Building, The Ohio State University, Columbus. The specimen was identified as *Loxosceles* and examination of the female's seminal receptacles (figured in Gertsch, 1958) revealed that it was *Loxosceles rufescens* Dufour. This determination was confirmed by Dr. Willis J. Gertsch. In further searches throughout the sub-basement and adjoining greenhouse, three additional mature females, a mature male, and three immature specimens were found. There was evidence of a long-standing infestation in the area inspected; cast skins and webs were found under desks, in dark corners, behind cabinets, and in other similar undisturbed and neglected sites.

Loxosceles rufescens apparently has not been associated with cases of human loxoscelism, but in experiments done on mice and rabbits, the venom of *L. rufescens* has been found to have effects similar to those of *Loxosceles reclusa* (Smith and Micks, 1968; Shulov *et al.*, 1962). In the future, persons identifying *Loxosceles* from Ohio and adjacent states should not assume it to be *L. reclusa* merely because it has six eyes and the characteristic fiddle-shaped marking on the cephalothorax, because *L. rufescens* also has these characteristics. The occurrence of *Loxosceles reclusa* Gertsch and Mulaik in Ohio has been announced in releases from the Ohio Department of Health and The Ohio State University. Margaret A. Parsons of the Ohio Department of Health and the authors of this note are presently preparing a detailed report on the distribution and biology of these two species of *Loxosceles* in Ohio. We are happy to acknowledge the kindness of Dr. Willis J. Gertsch in examining some of our specimens, submitted by Frank Moore of the Entomology Museum of The Ohio State University.—RICHARD LEE BERRY and CARL E. VENARD; *Faculty of Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.*

¹Manuscript received May 9, 1969.

REFERENCES

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