days. Autogamy does not occur in the Albany population (Fig. 2b & c). Plants from Ruabon (near Busselton), however, are self fertile when manually selfed by their own pollen, (they are not autogamous).

VEGETATIVE REPRODUCTION

Spread is via a fire resistant rhizome, but it is very slow. The extent of vegetative reproduction is unknown but it is probably low.

SEED DISPERSAL

After pollination the flower remains intact. The tepals being held erect by the large amount of sclerenchyma, are further strengthened by the attached anther filaments (Fig. 1d). Once dried the flower forms what could be termed a "botanical cannon". The base remains attached to the ovary, which swells as the three seeds are formed.

When the seeds are mature the fruit begins to dehisce at six places, i.e. both at the septa (the septa remaining attached to the axis) and in the middle of the locules (Fig. 2e - 6 of these or 2 per carpel). The mature seed rests upon two carpel wall plates (Fig. 2g) held in place by the central ovary wall. As drying and opening of the fruit proceeds, the tension on these plates increases until it is suddenly released as they are pulled from under the edge of the persistent septa and central axis of the ovary. The seed is catapulted up to a metre out of the clump by this method (Fig. 2h).

Western Australian Liliaceae and Xanthorrhoeaceae have a wide variety of mechanisms of seed dispersal. Several are wind dispersed (*Calectasia, Borya* and to a degree *Xanthorrhoea, Kingia* and *Dasypogon*), many by gravity (*Agrostocrinum, Arthropodium, Bulbine, Burchardia, Chamaescilla, Chamaexeros, Laxmannia, Lomandra, Sowerbaea, Tricoryne* and Wurmbea) or by a combination of ants (they produce an elaisome) and gravity (*Hensmania, Johnsonia* and *Stawellia*). Rarely succulent fruits are produced (*Dianella, Stypandra*) which are eaten by animals and the seeds dispersed in their droppings.

Probably, other dispersal syndromes occur (e.g.: *Acanthocarpus* has spiny fruits which may attach to fur, but observations are lacking) and studies are needed on dispersal of **any** Australian plant by interested naturalists. However, *Baxteria* is unique in the Western Australian Liliaceae and Xanthorrhoeaceae in having active ballistochory (as defined by Pijl, 1972) as it's sole means of seed dispersal.

This observation adds another character to the already unique and isolated position of *Baxteria*, within the Liliflorae.

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NOTES ON A RARE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPIDER *CERYERDA* SYMON (GNAPHOSIDAE)

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In September 1974 I noticed a small spider about 2 mm long on my bedroom wall in Darlington. Although quite small, this spider was very conspicuous due to its rapid movements and spectacular colouration. During September, October and November 1974 several more of these spiders were seen. Their size gradually increased until a maximum body length of about 4 mm was reached in mid November. In November a male specimen was seen.

One or more of these spiders was seen at the same period of the year in 1975, 1976 and 1977. In 1977 they appeared in the laundry at the back of the house and in 1978 in the out buildings at the rear. During mid 1978 the premises were treated for white ants and since that date I have seen no more of these spiders. They were never common, not more than three or four were seen each year. Preserved specimens have been presented to the Western Australian Museum.

The spiders have been identified as a species of *Ceryerda*. This monotypic genus was described by Simon (1909). He described *C. cursitans* from Daydawn near Cue. Only one specimen, a juvenile, was collected by the Michaelson and Hartmeyer expedition to south-western Australia in 1905. The Darlington specimens possibly belong to an undescribed species. Since there are no references to the genus in the literature subsequent to Simon's description this record of the spiders occurrence at Darlington is of interest.

The upper surface of the spider is jet black with a large white patch covering about two thirds of the upper surface of the cephelothorax, starting just behind the posterior row if eyes. On the abdomen there is a large oak leaf shaped rose coloured patch, extending over most of its length which readily distinguishes it from other local Gnaphosidae. The legs have wide, white annulations. The posterior median eyes are bright green and shine like tiny emeralds. In general configuration these spiders resemble *Lampona* species. (Fig. 1).

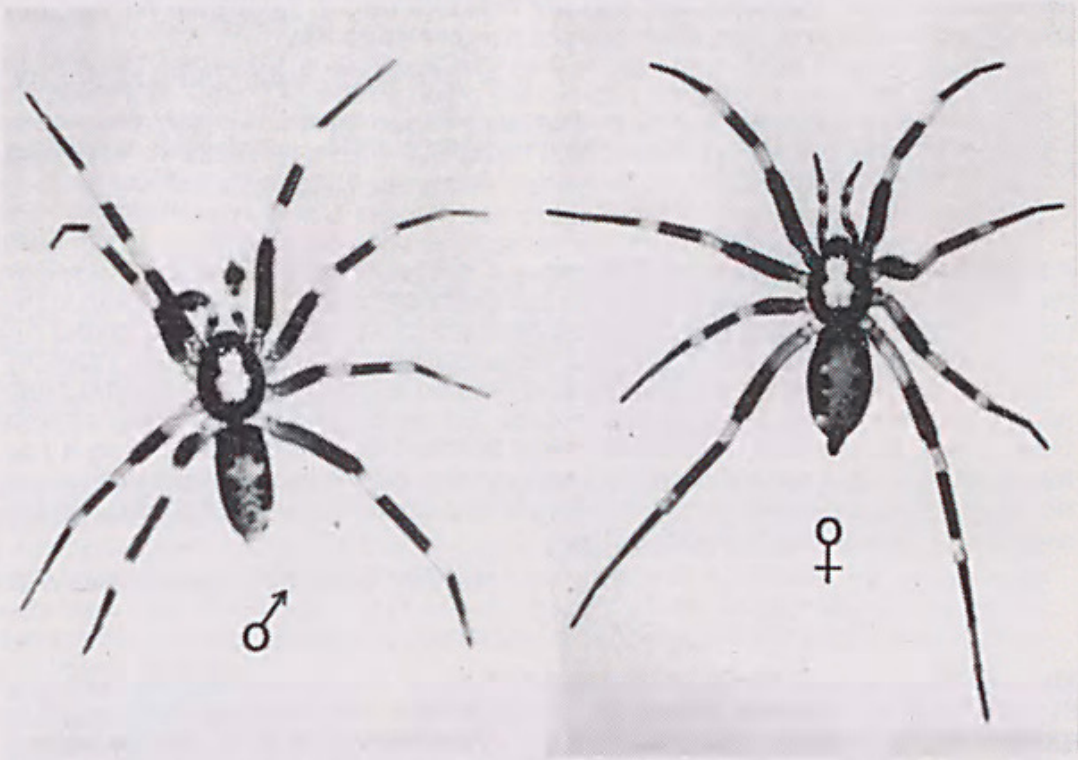

Figure 1. Male and female spiders of *Ceryerda* species, (photographs by G.H. Lowe).

Adult males are slightly smaller than females, about 3.5 mm as against 4 mm, but their legs are a little longer. The colours of the males are a little paler than those of the female, more white on the legs and the red patch on the abdomen is pale pink rather than rose red. The posterior median eyes are larger and more brilliant. Both male and female spiders are dove grey on the under side.

These spiders run very rapidly, Simon's name for them was well chosen. They appear to be able to see large objects at some distance, if they are moving, a distinct advantage for a spider which does at least part of its hunting in day light. When closely pursued, by the mouth of an open jar for instance, they begin to progress in a series of three or four jumps about 5-6 mm in length. The second or third jump often includes a change of direction so that the spider not only jumps, but also jinks. They are quite hard to catch.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. V. Davies, Queensland Museum, kindly identified the spiders for me.

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