

OBSERVATIONS ON *DOLOMEDES ALBINEUS* HentzJON L. HERRING and HERNDON DOWLING, JR.<sup>1</sup>

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The spiders of the Genus *Dolomedes* in Florida are most often observed at the water's edge or running across its surface. The following observations, however, are concerned with a species that is an inhabitant of tree-trunks in the vicinity of water.

On the night of July 2, 1947, an aggregation of *D. albineus* was seen in a tree near the edge of Payne's Prairie, Alachua County, Florida. The group was discovered at about 9:30 P. M. as we were hunting with headlamps near the water's edge. A single large individual was observed near the base of a sugarberry tree (*Celtis laevigata* Willd.) which was about twenty feet from the water. When first seen, the spider appeared to be alone, but closer examination of the tree showed the presence of several others of the same species.

Two large-bodied individuals, both within eight feet of the ground, proved to be females. In the higher branches many smaller and more slender spiders were seen. These were quite agile and more difficult to capture than the others, but upon examination we found them to be the males of the same species. Three spiders, about twenty feet from the ground, were positively identified as this sex and several other spiders, some feet higher, could not be seen clearly but were thought to be males because of their quick movements when disturbed.

Other trees in the vicinity were investigated, including several other sugarberry trees in the same grove and willows (*Salix longipes* Shuttl.) at the water's edge. However, no other spiders of this species were found. The tree containing the spiders was the largest in the group (about 75 feet tall). The other trees were much smaller, being only about one-half as high.

All of the spiders examined were fully adult and, since all of them were found in the same tree, although other trees of the same type were nearby, it is thought that this group had assembled for breeding purposes.

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