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Spiders of Switzerland
Supplement to the Catalogue of 1990 and the attempt to build up a
"Reference center"

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The "Katalog der schweizerischen Spinnen" of 1990 includes 877 species (uncertain citations not counted). Although this is a remarkable number for a small country like Switzerland, every year there are records of species new to Switzerland. In the three years since the "Catalogue" 17 species have been recorded as new to Switzerland and are reported here. 6 of them are new to science. 10 were recorded from the canton Tessin, indicating that this probably is the faunistically most interesting and actually best investigated region of Switzerland. But every somewhat larger investigation in any region still provides species new to Switzerland. Taking into account this steady increase of the number of species known, it seems reasonable to estimate the real number of spider species in Switzerland beyond of 1000.

In the "Catalogue" of 1990 and at the Congress at Neuchâtel the proposal was made to collect all the faunistic data concerning spiders of Switzerland at the Natural History Museum of Basle. There, already SCHENKEL built up quite a large collection. Today the collection is well preserved under controlled conditions in the 5th floor underground. There are more than 7000 tubes for more than 2000 species world wide. For central Europe about 800 species are represented. The aim for the future will be to reorganise the collection after 40 years of absence of an arachnologist and to complete it mainly for central european species. To do this, we will try to get hand on **reference collections** from ecological and faunistic studies. We hope so to be able to provide anyone interested in a special group of (central european) spiders not only with one or two individuals of a species, but with several individuals of different localities from different regions of Europe.