Field Notes 2003/04 for Tennant Canal and Crymlyn Bog – *Dolomedes plantarius*
Personal observations by Michael J Clark

Tennant Canal observations
It is noted that on the south facing linear habitat, sloping bank-side marginal plants are of extreme importance to juveniles for basking during March and April. The pale leaves of last years Sweet Reed Grass seem to be important for basking as its pale reflective value increases warmth. Over three quarters of spiders seen were basking on this.

It is of my opinion that this species requires or seeks an unbroken corridor of aquatic plant communities on such a habitat as a canal, lake or pond, to enable males to encounter females safely. The actual minimal area required to support a healthy population for foraging and mating might become clear at Crymlyn Bog, where pockets of the species are beginning to show. 5/5/04

It is noted that the type of vegetational structure is important and the hydrology is playing a big part in that; standing water and light penetration in the occupied areas up to July-August when females would have mated and strung egg sacs. On the 4th August 2004, the web count was 36 and 4 individuals carrying egg sacs, 2 gravid females, one male seen displaying to a gravid female. I was surprised to see a male in August displaying; I believe this to be an advanced juvenile from last year.

Web Construction – Three webs appear to have been constructed overnight (4th August 2004). As I have yet to witness web construction I have a strong feeling that all webs are constructed overnight.

Crymlyn Bog observations
Juveniles were found basking on the light brown stems of last year's Juncus sp in April and May 2004. Year round freestanding water is one of the most important factors at Crymlyn. It must be borne in mind that every management decision/plan may have considerable implications to other rare and scarce species. A small experimental dig in 2003 has proved to be a success, with several juveniles, one adult with egg sac, which later strung a web in the margins of the pool. It is my belief that it would be of benefit to dig an experimental trench approximately 5m x 1m with south facing bank on the outer edge of the colonised area – eg at Borehole 7, sub site 1.

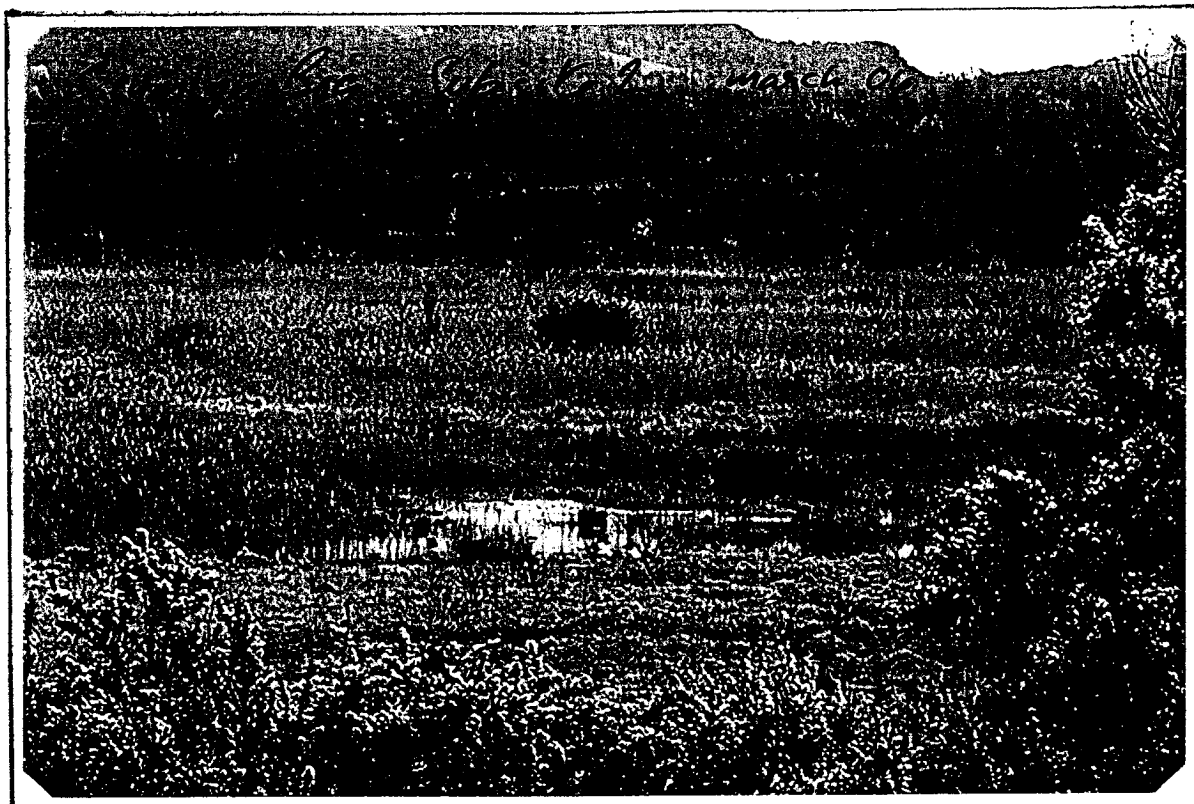
Addional Points
At the present time there are 4 sub sites at Crymlyn with an adult carrying egg sac out side of the bridge perimeters at Tennant Canal along with 2 juveniles. There has been a large amount of weed movement through the bridges, which may account for the juveniles but regarding the adult with egg ball I believe this may be a case of translocation by means unknown. One juvenile was found at Red Jacket Fen on 12/5/04, approx size 5-6mm - **no adultshave been seen**.

PTO

Web Support Notes 5th August 04
Number of webs 38.

Plants used for web support	
Sweet Reed Grass	24 (4 suspended over water)
Greater Tussock Sedge	5
Sweet Reed Grass/Bindweed	2
Sweet Reed Grass/Greater Tussock Sedge	2
Bramble	2
Devil's bit Scabious	2
Fern sp.	1

The reason I believe that there are increased numbers of specimens this year is that the Tennant Canal Company are beginning to look more sympathetically at their clearance work. However at least three individuals were lost early in the year through weed being dumped on the banks and destruction of bank side vegetation next to the road bridge.



SS 699 959 Recorded footage from Video Camera

South West boundary showing Y.C. 65990 94244 Sub-site 1
Recorded from Video Camera.
This maybe the minimal area required to support a healthy population

Is a Hibernaculum constructed? (during the winter months)
March 30th 2004 showing winter dyellack on Tennant Canal.

Iris — Luteosa

2004

12/4 - 5

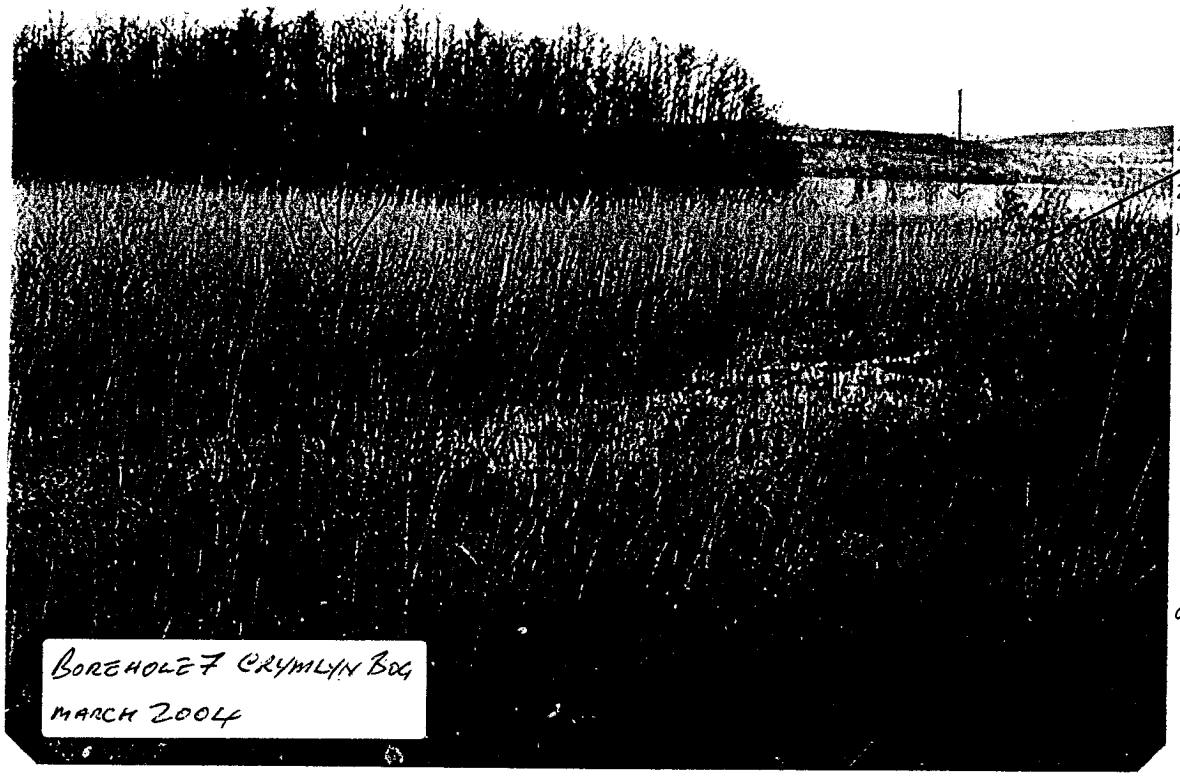
23/4 - 9 + 2 EX.

25/4 - 15

12/5 - 12

Sub-site 1

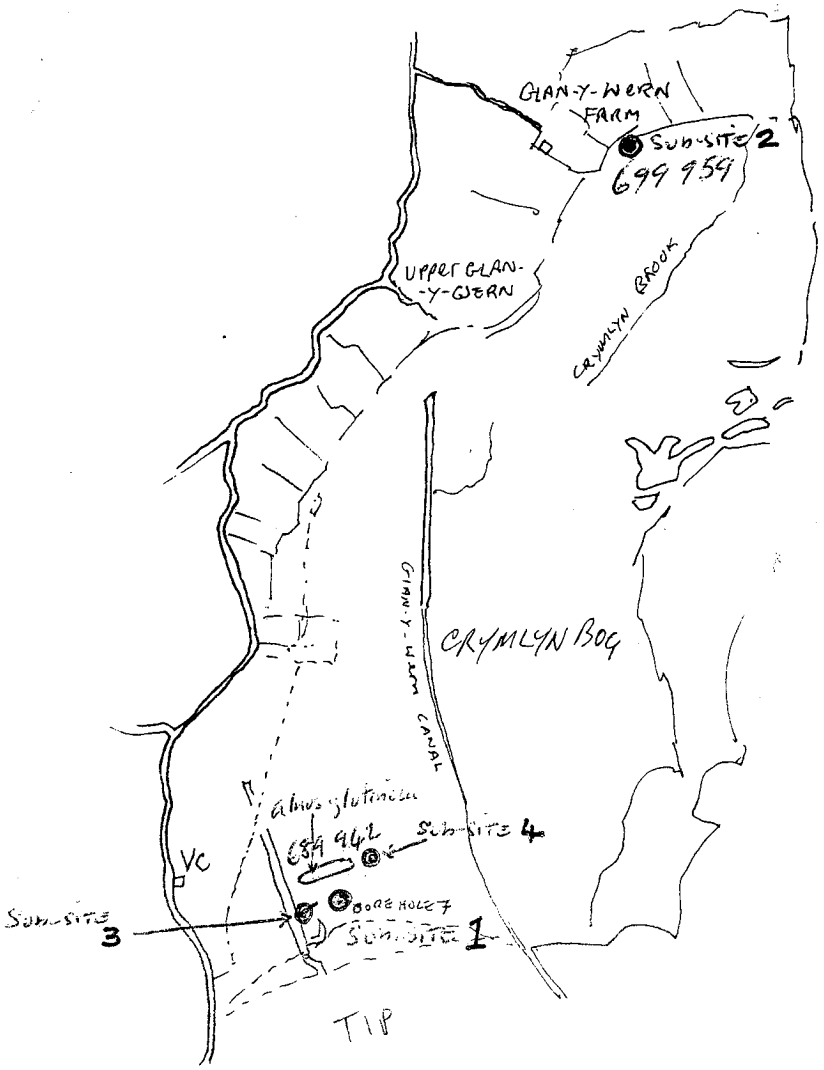
* Juncus found basking on the Cyperaceae stems of last years Juncus ssp. in April. May. 2004



Mtz — Strong Colony of C. pulchellum

Aquatic Vegetation of Borehole 7 68990 94244

Phragmites australis approx 5% Juncus spp.* Iris pseudacorus. Salix spp. 1% Equisetum spp 60% Sphagnum spp. Spirogyra. Mentha aquatica. Potamogeton spp. Ranunculus sp. Schoenoplectus lacustris



TENNANT CANAL 2004

16/3	8 JUV.	overcast sum Sun.
22/3	1 JUV	overcast
30/3	15 JUV.	Sunny
31/3	21	Sunny
12/4	20	"
19/4	23	"
22/4	25	"
2/5	30	"
12/5	13	"
7/6	14	" Very Hot
5/7	8 + 3 JUV	"

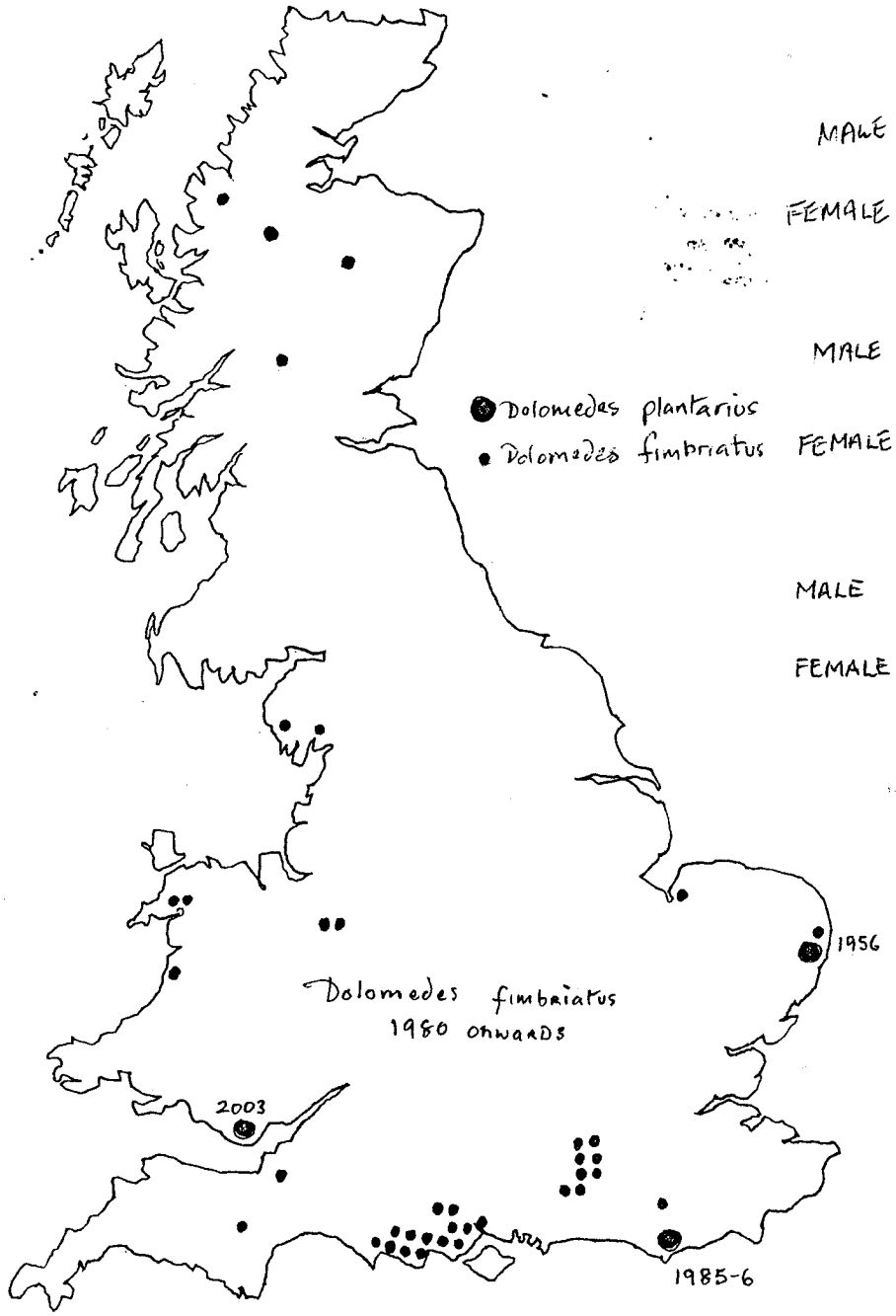
Stopped counting veg to higher

28th June 04 Webs 21 with 9 individuals with Egg Sacs up on bankside Vegetation

The favoured plants used for webs support :— Sweet Reed Grass 15
Greater Tussock Sedge 4
Sweet Reed / Bindweed 1
Sweet Reed / Greater Tussock 1
Two on Bramble

30th June 04 Webs 23
one juvenile + one female with egg Sac above
The Two Bridges NT pumping station

4th Aug 04 Webs 36 plants used for Webs support :— Sweet Reed Grass 23 — five suspended over water
2 Brown Juvenils Greater Tussock Sedge 4
one male displaying ♂♀ Sweet Reed / Bindweed 2
Sweet Reed / Greater Tussock 2
Bramble 2
Senecio paramensis 2



YEAR 1

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MALE							FIRST - YEAR JUVENILES					
FEMALE												

YEAR 2 LIFE-CYCLE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MALE			SECOND - YEAR JUVENILES									
FEMALE												

YEAR 3 LIFE-CYCLE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MALE								FIRST	YEAR	JUV -	OFFSPRING	
FEMALE								FIRST	YEAR	JUV -	OFFSPRING	

MJC

alnus glutinosa

Dolomedes plantarius

2004

— " —

4/5 - 5 Juv on sub-site 2

2/4 - 2 Juv

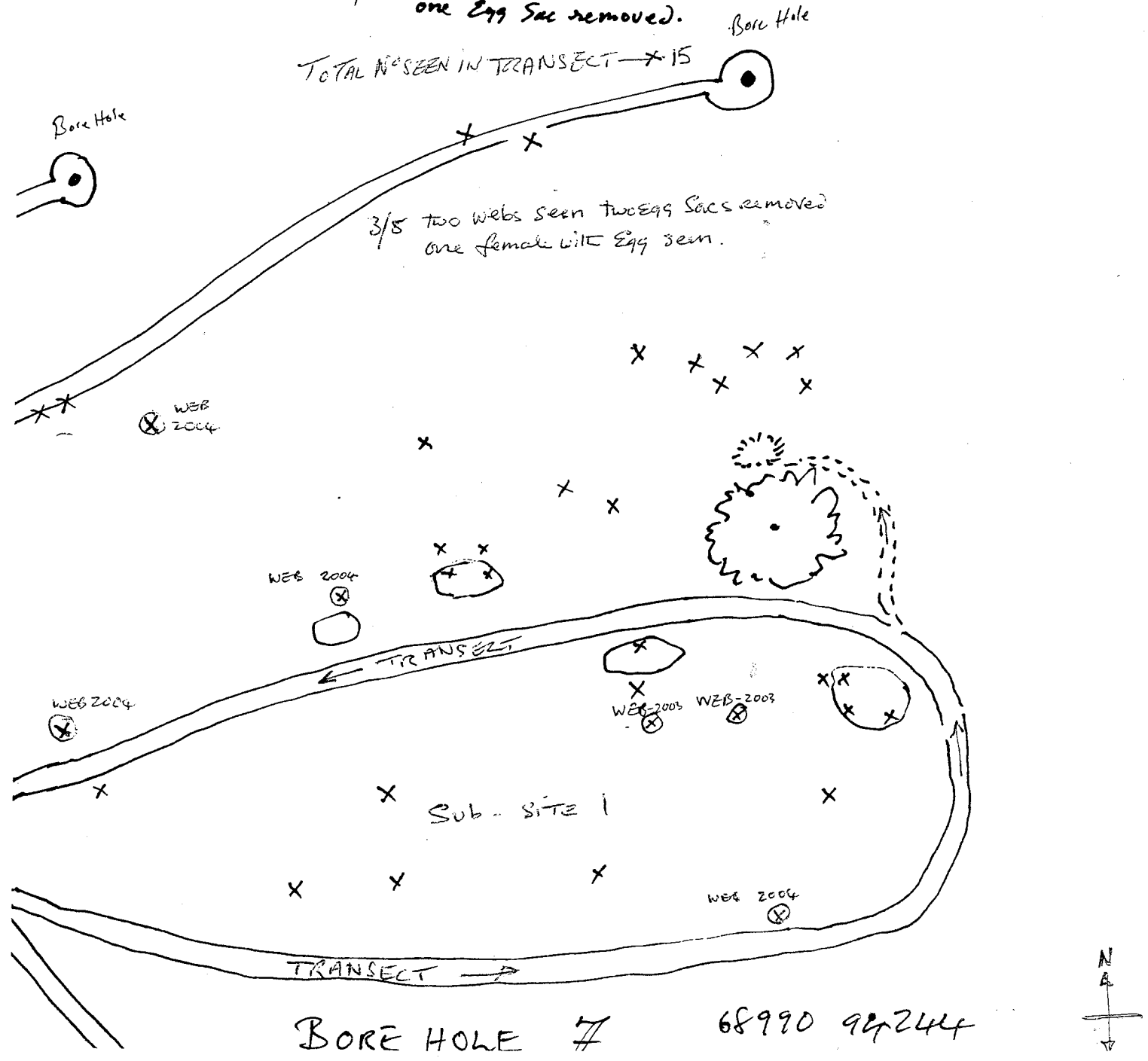
23/4 - 8 " + two Exuvial

25/4 - 15 upto 16mm

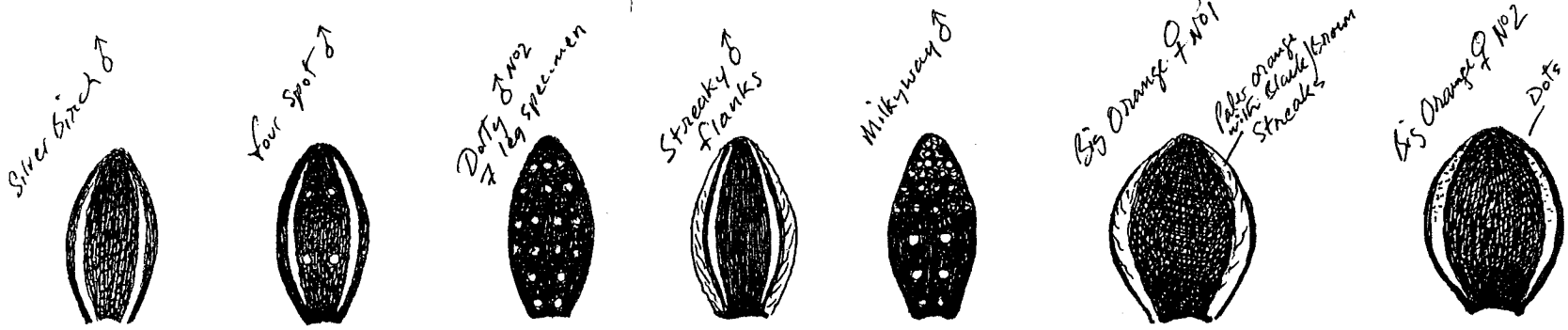
12/5 - 13

7/6 - 14

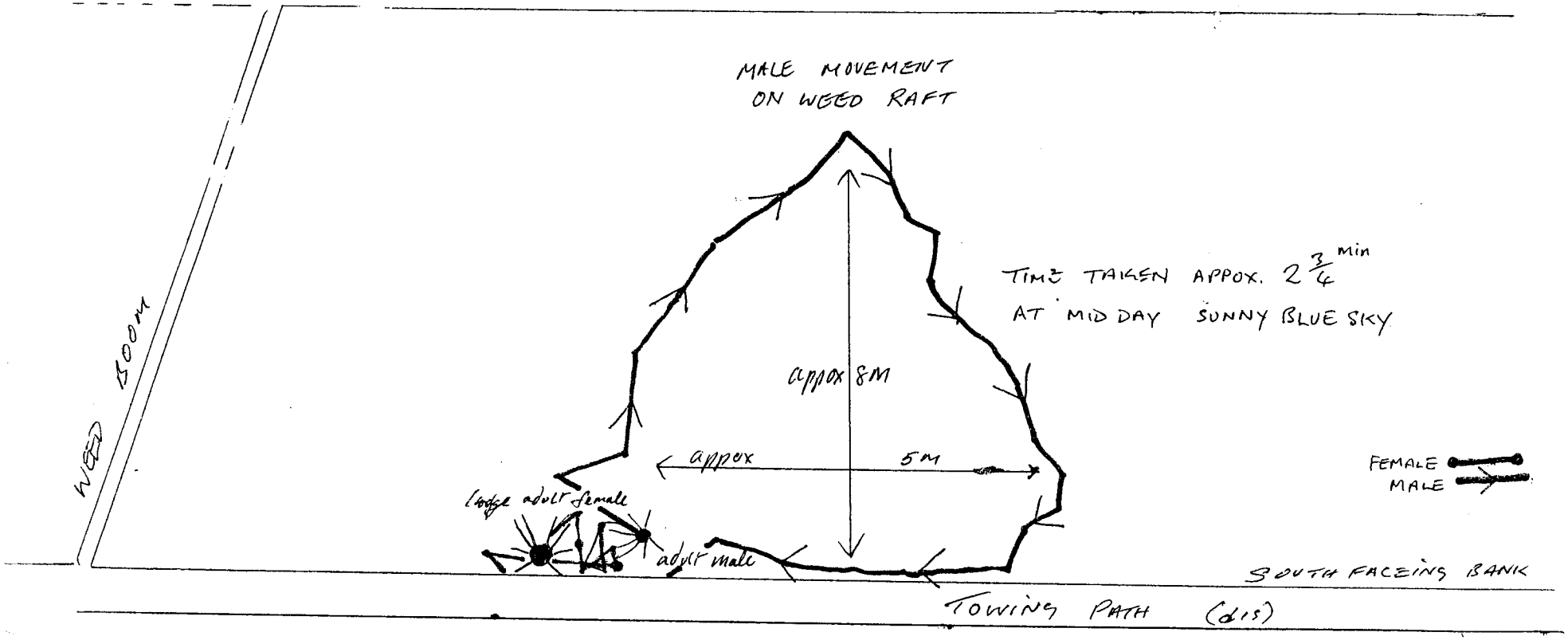
7/7 2 Webs one AD. with Egg Sac one Egg Sac removed.

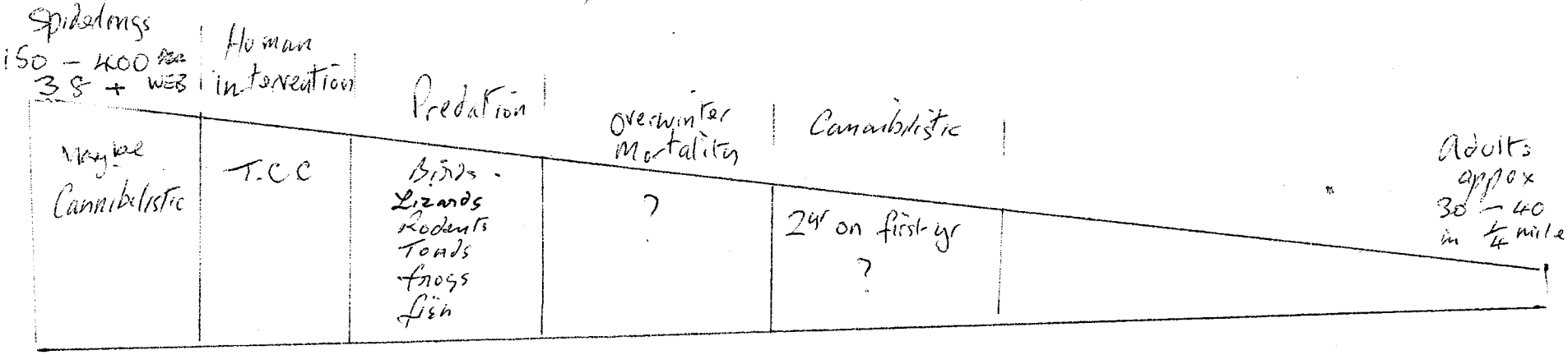


BORE HOLE 7 68990 98244



Tennant Canal Survey showing Sum of the Abdominal Patterns of Dolomedes plantarius 2003





There is a unidentified species of spidr found either in the web with the spiderlings or in the Egg Sac ! Contacted Mr Peter Merrett and he would like me to send a specimen down to him. 9/8/04