

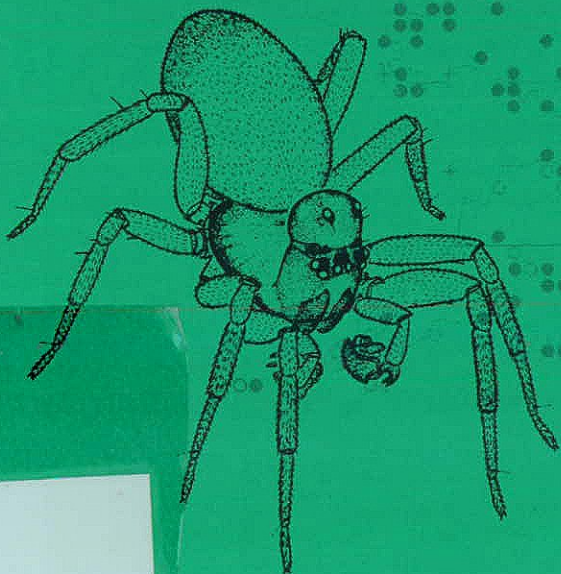


Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

*Provisional Atlas of
British spiders
(Arachnida, Araneae),
Volume 1*

Peter R. Harvey, David R. Nellist & Mark G. Telfer



JOINT
NATURE
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE

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Volume 1***

Compiled and edited by

Peter R. Harvey, David R. Nellist & Mark G. Telfer

Desk-top publishing by Peter R. Harvey

**To Clifford Smith, without whom the Spider Recording Scheme
and this Provisional Atlas would not have reached fruition.**

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FOREWORD

Spiders are among the most easily recognizable invertebrates and there must be few people in Britain who have not encountered evidence of them: a hairy spider in the bath, a cobweb in the cornice or the bejewelled webs of a dewy morning in autumn. Despite the abundant evidence of spiders, only a few specialists are familiar with all the British species and their ecological requirements. To identify most spiders requires skill and a microscope, so they are unlikely to gain the popularity of groups such as dragonflies or the larger moths, but that is no reason for ecologists and conservationists to overlook them. As with any group, the ability to identify species, to define their habitat preferences and to document their geographical occurrence are the three crucial elements in being able to decide priorities in nature conservation and ecological and biogeographic research. With this Atlas, the last two elements fall into place.

British naturalists have a long tradition of interest in spiders, with several landmark publications on the identification of species, for example by Blackwall (1861-4), O. Pickard-Cambridge (1879-81), Locket and Millidge (1951, 1953), Locket, Millidge and Merrett (1974) and Roberts (1985, 1987, 1995). Understanding of the behaviour of spiders, and their ecology and distribution in Britain has been less well documented although Bristowe made memorable contributions with *The Comity of Spiders* (1939, 1941) and *The World of Spiders* (1958). The only previous attempts to summarize the national distribution of species have been at a county scale, first by Bristowe in Volume 1 of *The Comity of Spiders*, and updated by Locket, Millidge and Merrett (1974). Bristowe (1939) was the first to give a dot distribution map, for *Pholcus phalangioides*, but based on localities rather than grid squares. As with many groups of invertebrates, information about the geographical distribution, habitat preferences and ecology of spiders in Britain has been acquired by long experience in the field and by sharing experience informally with others.

By describing the ecology and distribution of British spiders, this *Atlas*, despite its 'provisional' title, fills two important gaps in the literature. I particularly welcome this publication because I have long felt that the ecological information about spiders could be, and should be, summarized to accompany the excellent guides to identification. To be able to achieve this through an *Atlas* published by the Biological Records Centre (BRC) is all the more pleasing.

I am certain that this atlas will lead to more and better spider recording. BRC will be working with the British Arachnological Society and the Spider Recording Scheme to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). Indeed, together we have already pioneered use of the NBN's internet Gateway to validate the maps and species accounts for this *Atlas*. The compilers, authors and editors deserve all credit for what they have achieved with this publication, but they would be the first to admit that it is not complete. When new species are found, species ranges are discovered to be different or changing, and more is found out about the habitat preferences of species, they will welcome this new knowledge. We are all reconciled to the fact that the study of organisms is dynamic and never complete; perhaps this is a contributory factor in the legendary longevity of arachnologists!

Paul T Harding MBE
BRC, October 2001

INTRODUCTION

Spiders are a fascinating group of invertebrates which have always been studied by a small group of people. However, the publication of *British Spiders* (Locket & Millidge 1951, 1953; Locket et al. 1974), the formation of the Flatford Mill Spider Group and The British Spider Study Group and the subsequent development of the British Arachnological Society provided the first firm basis for the study of arachnology in the latter half of the twentieth century. The publication of a photographic field guide by Dick Jones (Jones 1983) and then the massively important modern comprehensive identification work by Mike Roberts (Roberts 1985; 1987) provided budding arachnologists with the tools to reliably identify most species of spider to be found in Britain. Dr Peter Merrett initiated the mapping of the distribution of British spiders on an administrative county basis in Locket et al. (1974) and has periodically published New County Record updates in the British Arachnological Society bulletin. The new Spider Recording Scheme was formed in 1987, and the remarkable enthusiasm and work of the late Clifford Smith was instrumental in encouraging active support from arachnologists and in increasing the numbers of recorders.

THE SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

The scheme is administered jointly by the British Arachnological Society and the Biological Records Centre. Its objectives have been to define the geographical distribution of each species of spider found in Britain; to record the arachnofauna of selected sites of particular concern to nature conservation, and other areas whose habitat potential might be threatened; and to provide opportunities to extend our knowledge of the biology of spiders, with special consideration of their habitats, seasonal occurrence and population dynamics.

There is a National Organiser who is supported by a number of Area Organisers, each of whom is responsible for one or more vice-counties. Records from an area covered by an Area Organiser are sent to him/her on a spider recording card (RA65) or rare species card (GEN14). After checking, the cards are forwarded to the National Organiser who, in turn, forwards them to the Biological Records Centre after further checking. For any area not covered by the network of Area Organisers, records are sent directly to the National Organiser. Data are increasingly being provided in electronic format, and a system is being developed for the next phase of the recording scheme to encourage this. However, it will still be essential to retain the system of Area Organisers to help co-ordinate, check and collate data at a local level and to provide help to local arachnologists.

Clifford Smith, who died in 1995, will long be remembered by British arachnologists for the warmth, patience and encouragement he extended to those beginning the study of spiders, as well as to more

experienced workers. In 1982 he privately produced *An Atlas of Yorkshire Spiders*, the first county atlas of spider distributions. The Atlas, with all the maps generated by hand, represented a monumental amount of work for a very large county. He became the National Organiser at the establishment of the National Spider Recording Scheme (SRS) in April 1987, and continued until ill health forced his retirement from this important function in 1993. Clifford cajoled and encouraged us into collecting more spiders and feeding our records into the system. David Nellist took over from Clifford and carried on until 1999 when he decided it was time to enjoy his retirement! Peter Harvey took over as National Organiser at that time, although David has continued to be greatly involved in the production of the Provisional Atlas.

The Provisional Atlas provides a great amount of information not previously available to arachnologists. It provides a baseline from which further advances in the conservation and knowledge of British spiders can be made. We can identify gaps in the recording coverage of the country and try to address these. Progress can be made towards a better understanding of the distribution and ecology of each species. A revision of the conservation status of some species is evidently necessary. All these things can now come about because of the widespread efforts of arachnologists across the country to record spiders. We hope that arachnologists will be stimulated to continue their efforts, albeit in a more focused way with more clearly defined goals.

Although the intention is to try to keep card data up-to-date in the future on at least a yearly basis, we would like to encourage the submission of data that are already computerised. The system for submission of electronic data as prescribed in the 1998 document 'Submission of computer records' has worked quite well, and, for the most part, will be retained; but it has become apparent that there are shortcomings in the data requirements which were based on the RA65 cards. These will have to be revised, but for the time being, data can be sent in more or less the same format as before. When the updated specification is finalised, a revised document will be produced. For those interested in submitting electronic data for the first time, a document is available from Stan Dobson, Moor Edge, Birch Vale, High Peak, Derbyshire SK22 1BX.

The intention is that the published dataset and maps will be accessible via the NBN Gateway www.searchnbn.net or via the SRS pages of the BAS website www.britishspiders.org.uk at some stage after publication. There will be different levels of access to registered users for use to aid conservation, management and research into spiders and invertebrate habitats. The intention is also to keep the maps and associated information regularly updated.

NOTES ON THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS AND MAPS

The first draft distribution map and species account was produced by Craig Slawson in July 1999 for '*Homo arachnophilus* Slawson', 1999 in *SRS Newsletter* 34: 3. This remains an interesting and ground-breaking advance in the history of recording, examining, as it does, the characteristics of a rare and threatened human species together with its provision of a distribution map of the British Arachnological Society membership. A similar map of the SRS membership is included in this

atlas (Fig. 1) to help indicate the home distribution of active recorders during the recording scheme since its inception in 1987. A comparison with the coverage maps (Figs. 4 and 5) clearly indicates the enormous amount of work that relatively few people have freely put into ensuring that these provisional maps go as far as possible in providing up-to-date and comprehensive maps for all species of British spider.

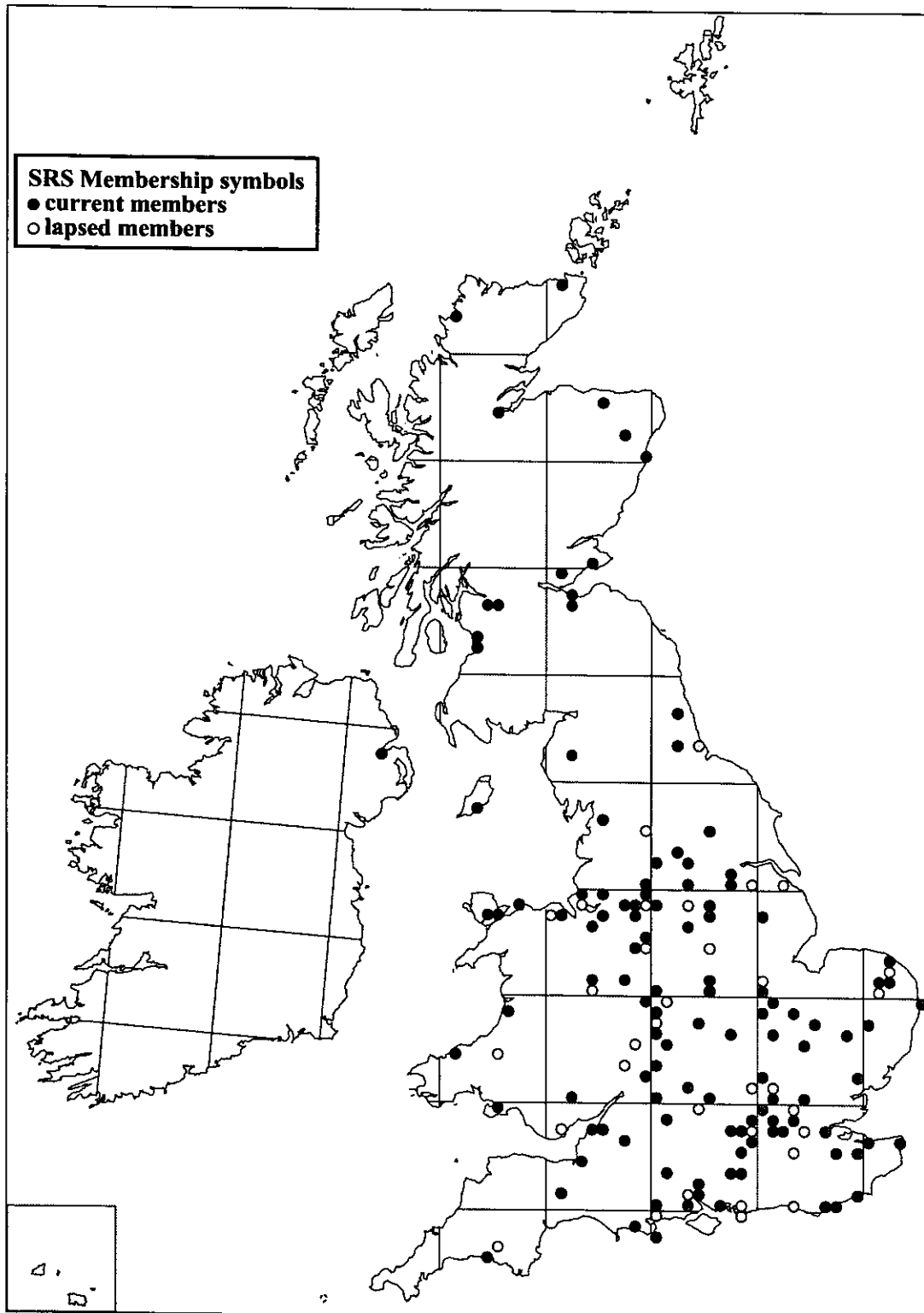


Fig. 1: The distribution of members of the Spider Recording Scheme, by home address, plotted on a 10-km square grid.

Species accounts

Each species account is headed by the BRC number, family and name of the species, followed by sections on status, distribution, and habitat and ecology. Where appropriate the species accounts also include sections on threats and management. A British distribution map accompanies every species account. For most species, a chart showing the occurrence of adult males and females has also been included, though data were not available for every species.

The species accounts have been written by volunteer authors, without whom the text could not have been produced in the timescale available. In many cases authors have consulted standard spider texts such as Locket and Millidge (1951, 1953), Locket et al. (1974), Roberts (1985, 1987), Jones (1983) and Crocker and Daws (1996) for general information, but this has been supplemented by data available from the recording scheme and the knowledge and experience of both the authors and other arachnologists. The accounts have been read by Dr Peter Merrett who has also given his invaluable experience where necessary, and by John Partridge who picked up many typographical errors. Draft text has been available to any other arachnologists who have requested it or who have registered to access the draft accounts and maps available on the NBN Gateway. Many have contributed to this process, and it is hoped that this has improved the accuracy and completeness of the text.

Where counties are mentioned in the text, as far as possible this refers to Watsonian vice-counties. However, mention is also made of the counties which existed before the boundary revisions of April 1974. These are the counties used for the distribution maps in Locket et al. (1974) and for subsequent new county record updates in Merrett (1975, 1982, 1989, 1995a, 2000). Original draft text has in most cases been modified by the National Organiser and co-editors to take account of the new information that became available from feedback, the male/female date data and examination of European checklists. The editors are therefore responsible for any errors or misunderstandings that are contained in the published text.

European distribution

At a late stage in the development of the text, it was decided to try and include up to date information on the European distribution of each species. Checklists for many European countries were consulted and most accounts contain a summary of the distribution in western and central Europe based on the information available.

Male/female date charts

Unfortunately the recording scheme set out only to record species presence, and therefore the dataset provided to the scheme on record cards and in digital form does not provide information on whether records were based on males, females, sub-adults and/or juveniles (although very few spider species can be reliably identified in their juvenile state) or of the numbers recorded. However at a late stage, when working through draft accounts, it became apparent to the National Organiser that published information on the adult season of species did not always agree with the large amount of date data held on his own database, consisting of about 65,000 spider records: 44,500 Essex records held on behalf of the Essex Field Club and mostly made by the Essex Spider Group in the period 1986 - 2000, and over 20,000 records for various other parts of Britain. Male/female date data was subsequently provided at very short notice by Martin Askins, John Crocker, Francis Farr-Cox, Richard Gallon, Paul Lee, John Murphy, Robert Merritt, Jennifer Newton and John Partridge to considerably improve the comprehensiveness of available date data, so that a total of over 130,000 records have become available covering many areas of Britain. Doug Marriott also provided useful information on the numbers of males and females of *Meioneta massica* in recently identified pitfall material trapped in 1965 from Bog End Moor in Cumbria. All these data were worked into a usable form and graphed with the help of Martin Askins, and the results have been used to inform the phenology descriptions in the majority of the species accounts.

Adult date data are potentially even more interesting when looked at on the basis of their northings and eastings on the Ordnance Survey grid (corresponding approximately to latitude and longitude respectively). The limited data available indicate that for some species

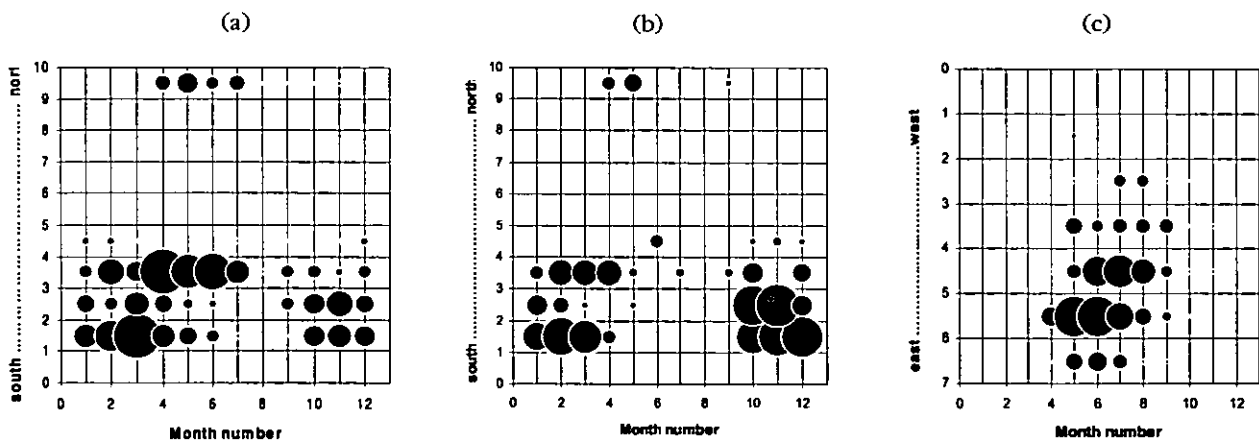


Fig. 2. Spider 'phenograms' showing the number of records, by month (January to December).

(a) *Centromerus dilutus* adult females, showing variation in phenology with OS northing (units 100 km),

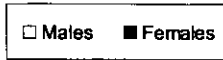
(b) *Centromerus dilutus* adult males, showing variation in phenology with OS northing,

(c) *Pardosa nigripes* adult females showing variation in phenology with OS easting (units 100 km).

The size of the dots is proportional to the number of spiders recorded in that position at that month.

The north coast of Scotland lies between northing 9 and 10 and the east coast of Kent and East Anglia between easting 6 and 7. There are no phenology data available from between northing 5 and 9.

the maturity period changes from south to north (Fig. 2ab) and from east to west (Fig. 2c), and the collection of more wide-ranging and comprehensive data would be a valuable advance for the recording scheme. For most species, the numbers of males and females recorded each month are shown by bar charts with male and female data differentiated according to the following key:



Maps

A distribution map has been provided for each species, showing the British distribution by 10-km squares of the national grid. The following mapping symbols have been used throughout for grid cells of 10 × 10 km:

- × pre-1900
- + 1900 – 1949
- o 1950 – 1979
- 1980 onwards

The date categories have been chosen partly for convenience and partly to mark significant events in the history of spider recording in Britain. In 1951 and 1953 respectively, volumes 1 and 2 of *British Spiders* by Locket & Millidge were published, opening up the study of spiders to a wider audience. The 1980s saw the publication of a photographic field guide to the spiders of Britain and northern Europe by Dick Jones (1983) and *The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland* by Michael Roberts (1985, 1987) as well as the initiation of the Spider Recording Scheme under Clifford Smith in 1987. All this activity helped to make arachnology more accessible to naturalists and helped spider recording to proceed at a rate to make the production of this atlas a reality. The effects of these events can be assessed in Fig. 3.

COVERAGE

The maps in this Atlas are based on over 517,000 records from 2,470 different 10-km squares. The scheme has thus received at least one record from over 86% of the 2,862 10-km squares in Britain which contain some land (Fig. 4). A few records have also been received for Ireland and the Channel Islands, though these areas are outside the scope of this atlas. Figure 5 indicates the number of species recorded from each square. These maps give a good impression of the coverage which has been achieved so far. Coverage is patchy with some counties intensively recorded, whilst other areas remain poorly covered. Records submitted are overwhelmingly from dates after the inception of the Spider Recording Scheme in 1987. Older records have been included where these have been submitted to the scheme and where literature records have been extracted or museum collections examined. A considerable amount of effort, mainly by Clifford Smith in the early days of the scheme and by various Area Organisers, has gone into the inclusion of literature records, but these data are far from complete.

Some records are mentioned in the text, but have not been mapped because the relevant data have not been provided to the recording scheme. The maps can only be as good as the data received. If you know of records, especially for rare species or which help clarify British distributions, that are not included on the maps, please forward the relevant data to the appropriate Area Organiser or the National Organiser so that the dataset can be updated. There will always be a lot more work to do. There are also nomenclature and verification problems that may arise, especially from old data. For this reason, old and literature records may need to be treated with caution.

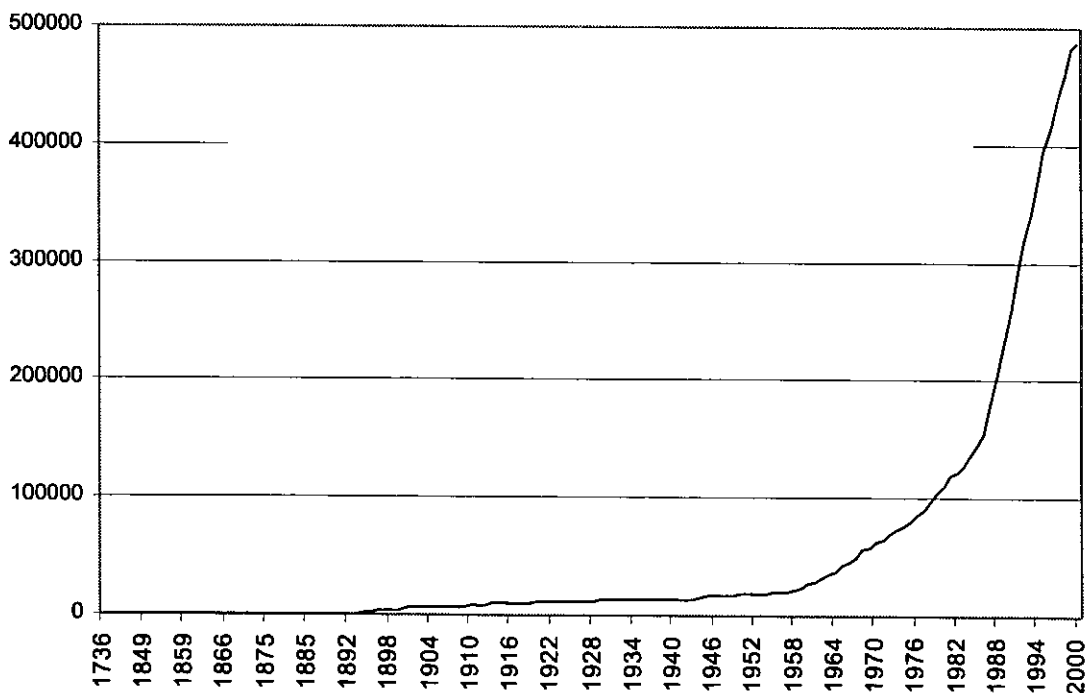


Fig. 3. Graph showing the accumulation of spider records from 1736 to the present.

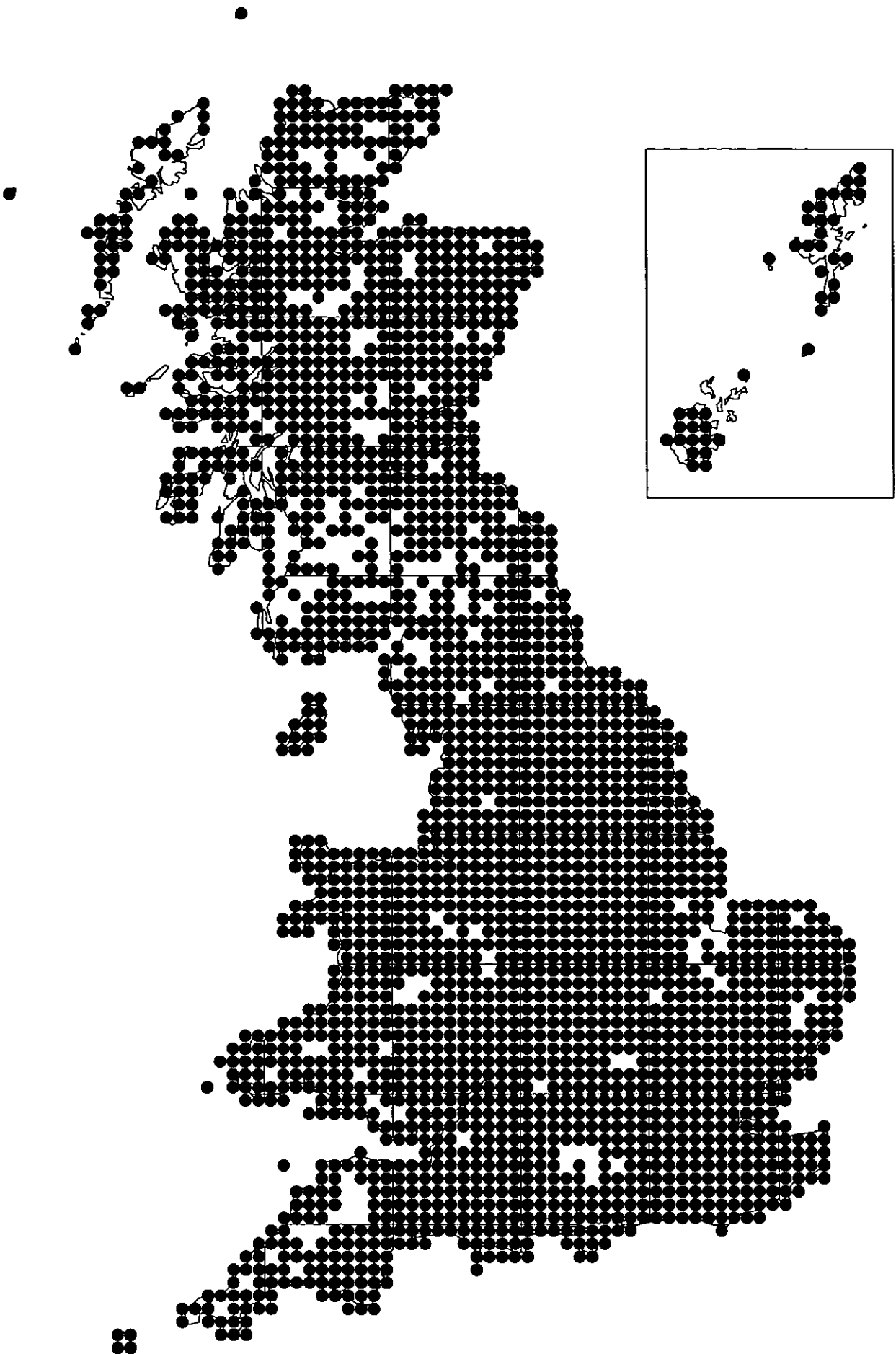


Fig. 4: Coverage map, showing each 10-km square from which at least one spider record has been received.

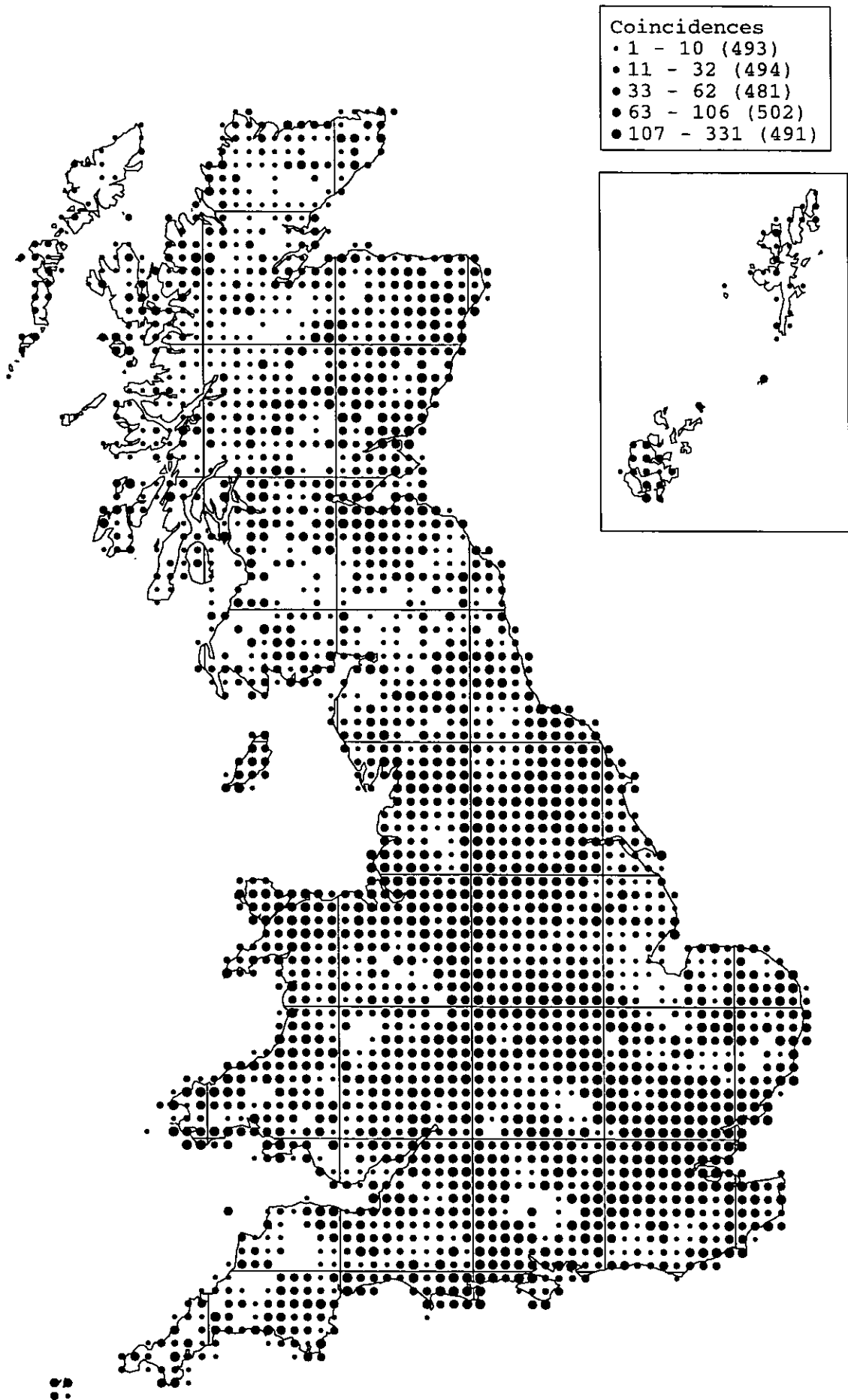


Fig. 5: Species richness map, indicating the number of species recorded from each square ('coincidences'). More intensive recording results in longer species lists, so this map indicates partly where the true species richness of spiders is greatest, and partly where spider recorders have concentrated their efforts.

VALIDATION

A process of checking and validation, involving punching checking, the editing of punching corrections, loading to a holding table, running automatic validations, resolving auto-validation problems and final loading to the main database has been completed by the Biological Records Centre and the arduous efforts of volunteers. Draft maps were scrutinised by Peter Harvey, David Nellist, Peter Merrett and arachnologists who used the NBN Gateway for on-line validation of the draft maps. Records were identified which did not seem to match the known distributions of the species, and in all cases the accuracy of computerisation of those records was double-checked. In the case of records which had been computerised accurately, they were referred to the original recorder where possible, as well as to the relevant Area Organiser, the National Organiser, Dr Peter Merrett and the other members of the SRS Subcommittee of the British Arachnological Society. Where no definitive verdict could be reached, inclusion in the updates of new county records published at regular intervals by Merrett (1975, 1982, 1989, 1995, 2000) has been used as the main criterion for acceptance.

In difficult cases, we (the editors) have had to decide whether or not to map individual records, and the responsibility for all decisions ultimately rests with us.

HABITAT DATA

Nearly half of the records in the spider database have coded information on habitat, corresponding to the 23 categories on the reverse of the RA65 recording card. This varies from 40,950 records from deciduous woodland to 161 records from machair. Only five habitats account for over half of all records: deciduous woodland; grassland, other; heath/moor, heather;

woodland, mixed; and wetland vegetation, other. A summary chart showing a breakdown of the records with habitat data is given below (Fig. 6).

The number of records per coded habitat varies over a very wide range, and of course it is often difficult to assign one collecting area to a single coded habitat. The number of species recorded in each habitat (Fig. 7) is therefore unlikely to be an accurate or complete indication of habitat richness. Plotting the relationship between the number of records and the recorded species diversity (Fig. 8) indicates a reasonably close relationship between number of records and number of recorded species. This suggests that for many habitats more records would result in more species being recorded. There is also some evidence, not unreasonably, that buildings, cave/tunnel/well and cultivated land have fewer species than other habitats. It seems that a lot more data are required before more detailed conclusions can be drawn.

Individual species habitat data has not been available for use in the text during the production of this atlas, and its analysis will become a future aim of the Spider Recording Scheme. Another aim for the second phase of the recording scheme should also be to increase the number of records from poorly recorded habitats.

CONSERVATION

Interest in the long-neglected issue of invertebrate conservation has been growing in recent years following the recognition of the vital role played in ecological systems by insects, arachnids and other invertebrate groups. Previously it was often considered that such groups were too poorly understood, too numerous, too diverse and just too insignificant to demand attention. Fortunately this situation is gradually changing and the

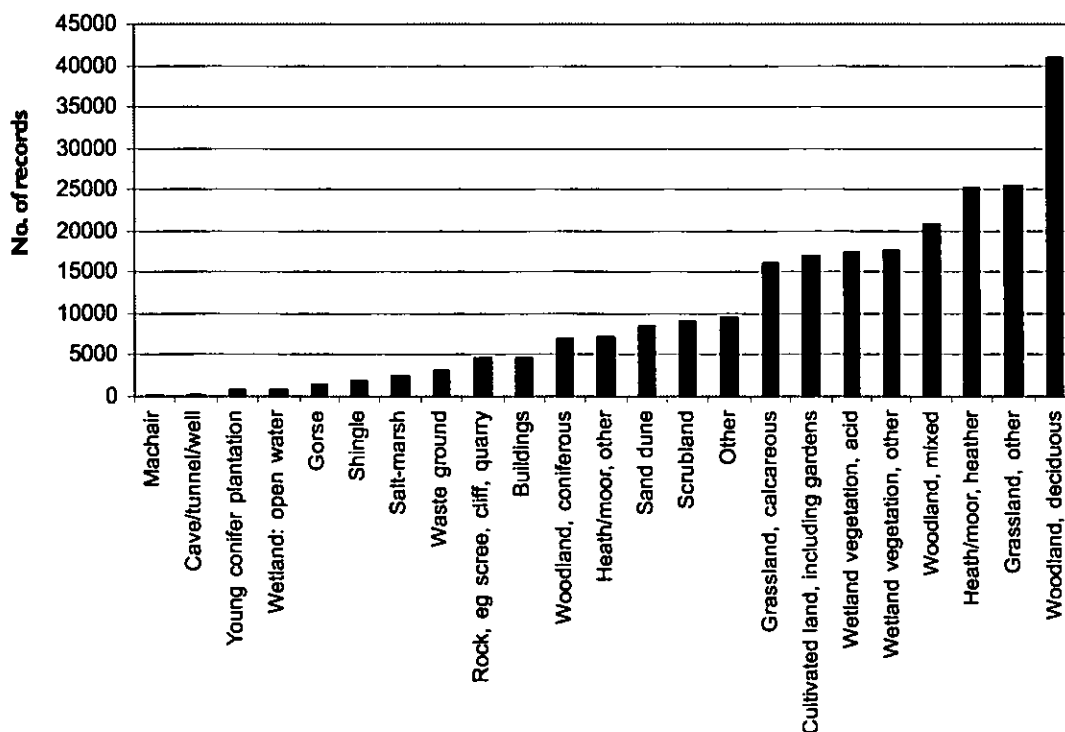


Fig. 6: Number of records from each coded habitat type.

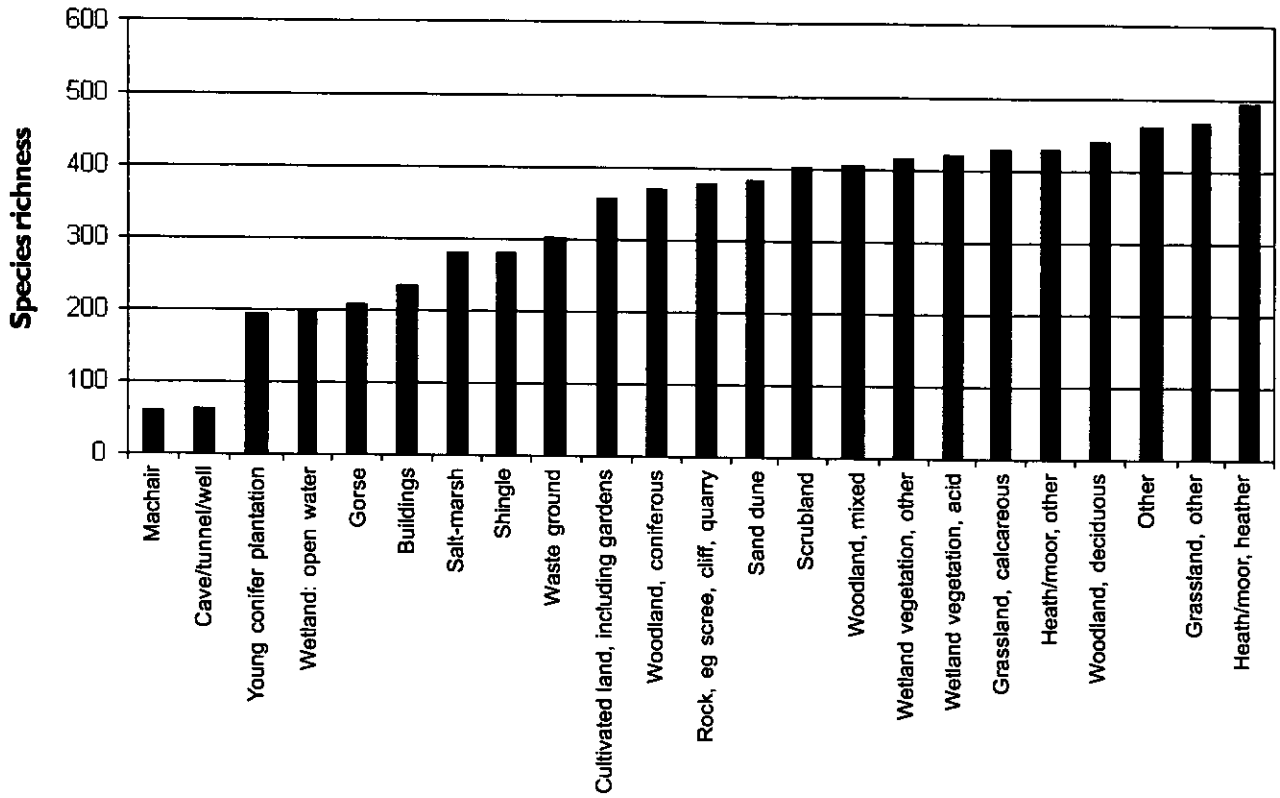


Fig. 7: Species richness for each coded habitat type.

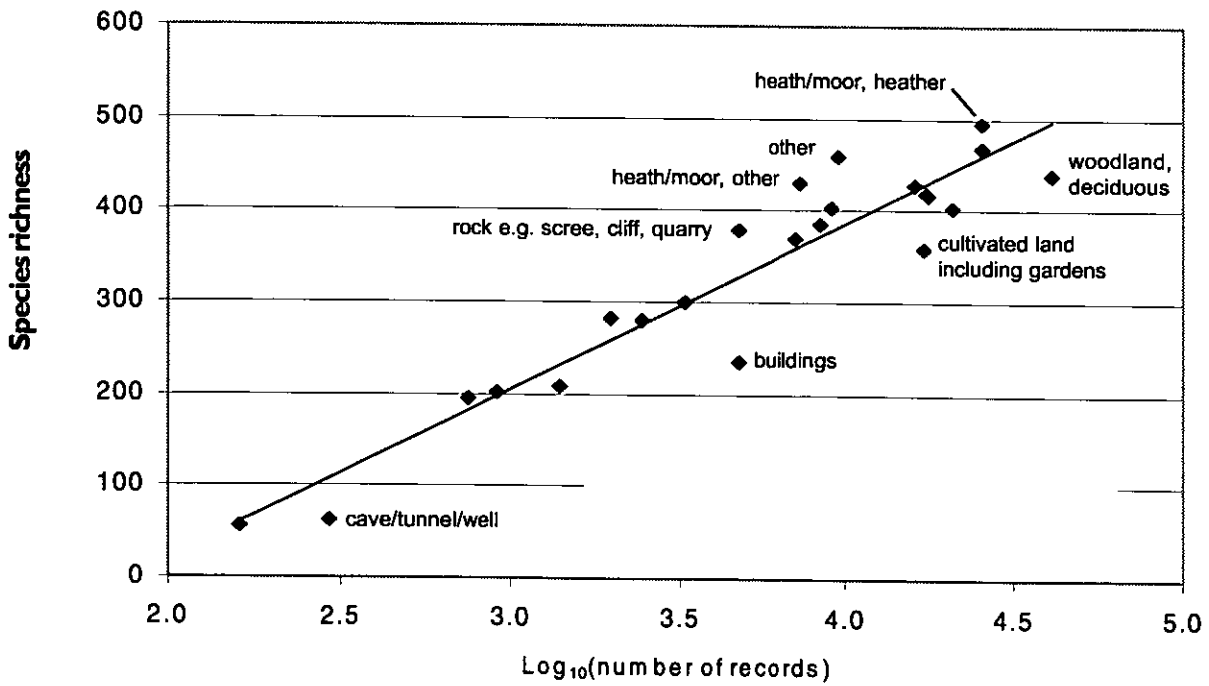


Fig. 8: Relationship between species richness and number of records from each coded habitat.

importance of invertebrates is increasingly being recognised in nature conservation and management. Spiders can provide valuable evidence for the health of our countryside both locally and nationally.

The complex structural mosaic of a habitat and its diversity are very important to many invertebrates. Spiders are no exception, although their general lack of prey specialism means that floral and faunal diversity is unlikely to affect their success as much as the structural spaces presented by the ground topography and vegetation, affecting features such as web construction and microclimate. These are the very factors likely to be most influenced by different management regimes, and spiders should therefore be valuable indicators of the success or otherwise of such management. Spiders, like most invertebrates, are potentially mobile, but a good number of species appear to be restricted to old or unimproved habitats, and hence can indicate changes to our countryside.

The publication of the British Red Data Book for insects (Shirt 1987) was a major step forward and was followed, four years later, by the companion volume for invertebrates other than insects (Bratton 1991). In this latter volume Peter Merrett assessed the status of 86 species of spider whose survival in Britain was considered to be under threat. Based on the information available at that time the species were assigned to a number of categories defined to help in setting priorities for conservation: RDB1 Endangered (22 species), RDB2 Vulnerable (31 species), RDB3 Rare (26 species) and RDBK Insufficiently Known (7 species). What was known of the habitats and ecology, the threats and proposed or actual management actions was also summarised. In 1990 Merrett prepared a report for the Nature Conservancy Council identifying 139 Nationally Notable species, of which 42 were defined as Notable A (Na). Notable species are those which are estimated to occur within the range of 16-100 post-1970 10-km squares. In the case of spiders, sufficiently detailed data were not available to assess this except by reference to Eversham (1983), who concluded that 20 vice-counties should be used as the cut-off point, being roughly equivalent to 100 10-km squares. Since vice-county information was also not available on spiders, Merrett considered 16 administrative counties to be the upper limit for inclusion as Notable, and in general those recorded from 5 or fewer counties as Notable category Na. Since publication, both these volumes have proved invaluable to arachnologists and other nature conservation workers. These official statuses are provided in the systematic list.

More recently the Biodiversity Steering Group, made up of representatives from government departments and a wide range of other organisations with conservation interests, such as The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Wildlife Trusts, and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, issued a report in which species requiring conservation action were identified using different criteria (UK Steering Group Report 1995). The criteria were more international in character taking account of such factors as endemism and whether the UK held a significant proportion of the population of a species within an appropriate biogeographical region. Species were included on one of three lists. A 'short' list, of species having the highest conservation priority did

not, in fact, include any spiders! A 'middle' list, of species considered to be declining in the UK, or threatened globally, and for which species action plans were to be written, included just two species *Centromerus albidus* (RDB2) and *Dipoena melanogaster* (RDB2). The 'long' list was not claimed to be comprehensive and is to be reviewed as more information becomes available, or in response to changes in UK and international legislation. This listed 44 species of spider: 18 RDB1, 13 RDB2, 9 RDB3 and 4 RDBK. Following a subsequent review a second report (UK Biodiversity Group Report 1999) included the Species Action Plans (SAPs) for *Clubiona rosseae*, *Dolomedes plantarius* and *Eresus sandaliatus*. Species Statements were included for *Clubiona subsultans* and *Uloborus walckenaerius* where a full SAP was considered unnecessary as proposed conservation actions were covered by SAPs written for other organisms. A species statement was also written for *Pseudeuopbrys obsoleta* but this was not included in the 1999 report. Conservation activity had, of course, been ongoing for *Dolomedes plantarius* and *Eresus sandaliatus* for some years before the appearance of the SAPs, but practical action has yet to be initiated for the other four species.

The criteria used for the selection of species for the Red Data Book had been in use for many years but subject to criticism. For example, the categories Endangered, Vulnerable and Rare, were sometimes applied in a very subjective manner. In 1989 the IUCN began a process aimed at producing a scheme to classify organisms according to their extinction risk. The criteria were finally approved and published in 1994 (IUCN 1994). These criteria were endorsed by the JNCC and have been in use since 1995. In 2001 the IUCN published a further revision of the red list categories (IUCN 2001); these have also been endorsed by the JNCC and form the basis of a rolling programme of species status review in Great Britain (details available on the JNCC website www.jncc.gov.uk/species). The considerable increase in our knowledge of the abundance, habitats and distribution of British spiders, as revealed in this provisional atlas, will now allow a timely and more objective re-assessment of their conservation status to be made using the most recent IUCN criteria.

HYMENOPTERA AND DIPTERA AS NATURAL ENEMIES OF BRITISH SPIDERS

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Although a certain amount is known about some groups of Hymenoptera and Diptera that parasitise or prey on spiders or their eggs in Britain (see literature cited by Fitton et al. (1987), Day (1988) and Irwin (1979)), there is a great deal more to be learnt. Both field observations and reared specimens can contribute vital knowledge, and the best hope that hymenopterists and dipterists can have is that arachnologists will continue to play a major role in obtaining the initial data and material. Thus this short account of the groups of Hymenoptera and Diptera known to have obligatory relationships with spiders in Britain is an overview aimed chiefly at helping arachnologists to build further knowledge. Rather than attempt to collate predator or parasitoid records from the

spiders' end (for which our present knowledge is far insufficient), pointers are given to the biological information available for the various groups of predators and parasitoids. Also, rather than critically reviewing the older literature (including such classics as Bristowe (1941)), with all its problems of nomenclature and identification, I have tried merely to summarise more recent sources through which earlier literature can be traced. Inevitably I will have overlooked some, for which I apologise.

Hymenoptera

Some species of social wasps (Vespidae) and ants (Formicidae) prey on spiders to feed their brood in an unspecialised and haphazard way, but several groups of Hymenoptera have developed obligate relationships with them. Among the Aculeata, two genera of Sphecidae (see Richards (1980)) – *Trypoxylon*, with 5 British species, and *Miscophus* with 2 – provision their nest cells exclusively with spiders, normally providing several smallish spiders such as Linyphiidae for each cell, though some *Miscophus* species, which are very small, are believed sometimes to use only a single spider. Almost all sphecids select or construct the nest site before starting to look for prey, and then carry prey items to the cell on the wing.

The entire family Pompilidae, with about 40 British species (see Day (1988), who gives a summary of their biology) is the only other group of Aculeata that obligatorily uses spiders as prey – but in this case each egg is always laid on a single spider. Most species hunt predominantly by foot, and seek prey before selecting a nest site. The prey is stung and usually dragged away to be concealed, either in a pre-existing cavity (e.g. beetle holes in dead wood, hollow stems, etc.) or often in a cell dug in sandy soil. Some pompilids (e.g. *Auplopus* species) amputate the spider's legs before transporting it. In a few cases (e.g. some *Arachnospila* species – cf. Field (1992)), however, the egg is laid on a spider which is not moved by the pompilid and makes at least a partial recovery, resulting in the larva developing as an ectoparasitoid, and some (in Britain the rare *Homonotus sanguinolentus* (Fabricius), which is essentially an ectoparasitoid of *Cheiracanthium*) seek the spider in its nest, where it is subsequently consumed. Two genera – *Evagetes* with 3 British species and *Ceropales* with 2 – are obligate cleptoparasitoids. The female *Evagetes* simply detects provisioned pompilid cells in which she destroys the original egg and substitutes her own. Females of *Ceropales*, on the other hand, intercept paralysed prey being transported by other pompilids and insert an egg in the spider's lung-book, leaving the original captor to complete the nesting process. Once in the cell the *Ceropales* egg hatches quickly and its larva destroys the other pompilid's egg to take sole possession of the spider. As pompilids develop on a one-to-one basis in relation to their prey they tend to use rather large spiders, completely ignoring families such as Linyphiidae comprising only small species. The most extensively used spiders are more or less ground active species, and some pompilids are adapted to flush spiders from retreats of various kinds: only a very few (*Caliadurgus fasciatus* (Spinola) and *Episyron rufipes* (Linnaeus)) specialise in orb-web spiders. Prey records for pompilids are not very extensive, and many of those that have been published historically are subject to various kinds of uncertainty: thus if pompilids are encountered with

prey it is well worth collecting, preserving and recording identifications of both organisms.

The only other Hymenoptera which attack the mobile stages of spiders are a specialised group of Ichneumonidae in the subfamily Pimplinae. Formerly regarded as a tribe "Polysphinctini", this group is now usually referred to as "the *Polysphincta* group of genera" to reflect the fact that, although it is holophyletic, to recognise it as a tribe would leave the group from which it originated (Ephialtini) paraphyletic. Nevertheless, for brevity I shall call them "polysphinctines" here. There are about 20 British species in 7 genera, and their host associations are now reasonably clear (Fitton et al. 1988; Shaw 1994, 1998) except that no host records exist for the genus *Piogaster*, which has two rare British species. Polysphinctines are all solitary, and their eggs or larvae are often seen by arachnologists on sub-mature (less often mature) spiders. Egg placement is characteristic within a genus – either particular positions on the abdomen or, in two British genera (*Dreisbachia* and *Schizopyga*, both attacking Clubionidae), in different places on the cephalothorax. The spider is stung and temporarily paralysed by the female polysphinctine during the oviposition process, but recovers and behaves normally afterwards until just before the polysphinctine larva finally consumes it. This may be months later, as all the British species, except usually *Acrodactyla madida* (Haliday), over-winter as first instar larvae on the host. The host associations of European species are discussed by Shaw (1998). Although for most species the overall host associations are clear, the number of host records in which the host was positively identified to species is often very small, and there remain quite a number of species which have only been reared on a very few occasions. Thus whenever an opportunity to rear a polysphinctine arises it is worth taking, particularly if the host can be identified at species level. (An exception would be Linyphiidae not certainly identifiable even at generic level – I have seen over 120 rearings of *Acrodactyla degener* (Haliday) from that family, and nothing else is associated with it). Advice on rearing polysphinctines is given by Shaw (1990).

Polysphinctines are believed to be the extreme development of a series of pimpline genera that originally attacked insect cocoons, with one genus (*Tromatobia* – 5 British species) attacking large exposed spider egg sacs, especially of Araneidae; another (*Clistopyga* – 3 in Britain) attacking more concealed egg sacs (e.g. Segestriidae, Clubionidae); and a third (*Zaglyptus* – 2 in Britain) attacking the egg nests of Clubionidae, able to develop on the adult female spider and its eggs whether or not she has laid them (cf. Fitton et al. 1988). British species of these three genera are all more or less gregarious, in contrast to polysphinctines.

The habit of consuming successive eggs and developing spiderlings in an egg sac is – strictly – outside the definition of "parasitoid", but can be pragmatically restored by viewing the egg sac as the host unit. This applies not only to the above 3 pimpline genera, but also to all non-polysphinctine Ichneumonidae associated with spiders, of which several groups parasitise spiders' egg sacs. In Britain, these belong to the subfamilies Pimplinae (as above) and Cryptinae (= Phygadeuontinae auct.), and total around 50 species. Cryptinae are particularly associated with cocooned hosts, and this

large subfamily has an extremely diverse overall host range, though many species are highly specialised. Fitton et al. (1987) give a key to most of the genera associated with spiders (but a few are lacking), and biological references. Some species-level distributional and host information on the Cryptinae associated with spider egg sacs can be found as follows: *Hidryta*, *Idiolispa* and *Trybosis* (Schwarz & Shaw 1998); *Gelis* (Schwarz & Shaw 1999); *Eudelus*, (? *Diaglyptellana*, which possibly will turn out to be a parasitoid of egg sacs), *Hemiteles*, *Aclastus*, *Gnyptomorpha*, *Polyaulon*, *Tbaumatogelis* and *Agastbenes* (Schwarz & Shaw 2000). Further, a species of *Bathytrix* (correctly known as *B. formosa* (Desvignes)) is a specialist parasitoid of *Agroeca* egg sacs (cf. Horstmann 1998).

Parasitism of exposed egg sacs usually by Cryptinae, or especially in the case of Araneidae by *Tromatobia*, is often quite heavy, and it seems to make little difference whether or not the female spider habitually stays in attendance. It is well worth the small effort of tubing spiders' egg sacs (individually) to rear parasitoids, as many species believed, by analogy with congeners, to develop in egg sacs have not yet in fact been reared. It is even more worthwhile if some level of identification can be given to the sac with confidence – even if only to family – as very many of the available host records are no better than “egg sac of spider”. Obviously, the sacs from which parasitoids are reared should be preserved, too, and an indication of the microhabitat from which the sac was collected is an important part of the data (as also are dates of both collection and emergence). It would be very beneficial if the means for identifying egg sacs – some of which seem extremely distinctive – were to be improved.

There remain a few so-called “microhymenoptera” that parasitise spiders' egg sacs. In the Chalcidoidea, *Pteromalus platyphylus* Walker (Pteromalidae) commonly develops in the egg sacs of *Dictyna* species, feeding on eggs successively in the same way as the above Cryptinae, but otherwise among British species the relationships that appear to be obligatory have the chalcidoid in the role of hyperparasitoid. Thus I have reared the pteromalid *Trichomalopsis submarginatus* (Thomson), locally frequently, solitarily from the puparia of the fly *Speccafrons halophila* (Duda) (Chloropidae) that develops, often in large numbers, in egg sacs of *Larinioides cornutus* (Clerck), and the eulophid *Pediobius brachycerus* (Thomson) is a common gregarious parasitoid of a wide range of the Cryptinae and Pimplinae cocoons constructed by larvae that have fed in egg sacs or egg nests.

The other “microhymenoptera” that are obligatorily associated with spiders eggs are a very few species in the fairly large family Scelionidae (Platygastroidea). They have a quite different biology, as they are tiny insects that develop solitarily inside the spider's egg. They can be gregarious with respect to an egg sac, of course, but they are always solitary with respect to the egg. Only one species, *Baeus seminulum* (Haliday), has been found in Britain, but it is probable that species of *Idris* occur here too (see Fitton et al. (1987) for further details).

Diptera

Bristow (1941) and Irwin (1979) review the rather broad ways in which flies make use of spiders: here I will mention only parasitism of mobile stages and egg sacs.

Stubbs and Drake (2001) give an excellent summary of our knowledge of the only flies whose larvae are obligatory parasitoids of spiders in Britain, the Acroceridae (= Cyrtidae), which develop as solitary endoparasitoids in the abdomens of moderately large spiders, especially but not exclusively those that are ground-active (see also Jong et al. 2000). The adult female lays a large number of tiny eggs, and the first instar larva is a “planidium”, adapted to resisting desiccation and seeking its host. Acroceridae occasionally occur in numbers extremely locally, but our three species are generally considered uncommon or rare in Britain. Any ground-active spider that appears to be retarded, or with an abdomen that looks abnormal, would be worth collecting and feeding in case an acrocerid could be reared from it. However, note that as the time for the acrocerid to kill the host approaches the spider will probably have retreated into a silken chamber like that in which ecdysis takes place. Records of Phoridae developing as parasitoids of spiders require confirmation as it seems probable that only moribund spiders are involved.

Otherwise, at least four families (Phoridae, Ephydriidae, Chloropidae and Sarcophagidae) contain a tiny minority of species whose larvae develop in spiders' egg sacs by consuming successive eggs (cf. Irwin 1979), but the associations that seem to be most easily seen (or rather, the only ones I have come across, but repeatedly) both involve the large sacs of *Larinioides cornutus*, in which the chloropid *Speccafrons* (formerly *Contioscinnella*) *halophila* is often present in broods of up to 40 or so in wet habitats, while the sarcophagid *Sarcophaga* (*Mebria*) *sexpunctata* (Fabricius) (= *clathrata* Meigen) develops in broods of one to two and seems commonest in drier places.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

The sequence and nomenclature of this atlas follows the checklist by Merrett and Murphy (2000), with selected synonyms included [in square brackets]. *Philodromus buxi*, *Uloborus plumipes* and *Coleosoma floridanum* are included in this atlas, but were not included in Merrett and Murphy (2000); the source of the only specimen of *P. buxi* recorded in Britain could have been confused, and *U. plumipes* and *C. floridanum* are unlikely to form part of our natural fauna. National statuses are as published in the Red Data Book (Bratton 1991) and the Review of Nationally Notable Spiders of Great Britain (Merrett 1990). However, as a result of the work done for this Provisional Atlas, it is clear that the statuses of some species are in need of revision. There are also a number of species which have recently been discovered new to Britain that deserve conservation status.

Family ATYPIDAE

Atypus affinis Eichwald, 1830

Family SCYTODIDAE

Scytodes thoracica (Latreille, 1802)

Family PHOLCIDAE

Pholcus phalangoides (Fuesslin, 1775)

Psilochorus simoni (Berland, 1911)

Family SEGESTRIIDAE

Segestria senoculata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Segestria bavarica C.L. Koch, 1843

Segestria florentina (Rossi, 1790)

Na

Family DYSDERIDAE

Dysdera erythrina (Walckenaer, 1802)

Dysdera crocata C.L. Koch, 1838

Harpactea hombergi (Scopoli, 1763)

Harpactea rubicunda (C.L. Koch, 1838)

Family OONOPIDAE

Oonops pulcher Templeton, 1835

Oonops domesticus Dalmas, 1916

Orchestina sp.?

Family MIMETIDAE

Ero cambridgei Kulczyński, 1911

Ero furcata (Villers, 1789)

Ero aphana (Walckenaer, 1802)

Ero tuberculata (De Geer, 1778)

RDB2

Nb

Family ERESIDAE

Eresus sandaliatus (Martini & Goeze, 1778)

[*Eresus cinnaberinus* (Olivier, 1789)]

RDB1

Family ULOBORIDAE

Uloborus walckenaerius Latreille, 1806

Uloborus plumipes Lucas, 1846

Hyptiotes paradoxus (C.L. Koch, 1834)

RDB3

RDB3

Family NESTICIDAE

Nesticus cellulanus (Clerck, 1757)

Family THERIDIIDAE

Episinus angulatus (Blackwall, 1836)

Episinus truncatus Latreille, 1809

Episinus maculipes Cavanna, 1876

Euryopsis flavomaculata (C.L. Koch, 1836)

Dipoena erythropus (Simon, 1881)

Dipoena prona (Menge, 1868)

Dipoena inornata (O. P.-Cambridge, 1861)

Dipoena tristis (Hahn, 1833)

Dipoena coracina (C.L. Koch, 1837)

Dipoena melanogaster (C.L. Koch, 1837)

Dipoena torva (Thorell, 1875)

Crustulina guttata (Wider, 1834)

Crustulina sticta (O. P.-Cambridge, 1861)

Steatoda pbalerata (Panzer, 1801)

Steatoda albomaculata (De Geer, 1778)

Steatoda bipunctata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Steatoda grossa (C.L. Koch, 1838)

Steatoda nobilis (Thorell, 1875)

Steatoda triangulosa (Walckenaer, 1802)

Anelosimus vittatus (C.L. Koch, 1836)

Anelosimus aulicus (C.L. Koch, 1838)

Achaearanea lunata (Clerck, 1757)

Achaearanea riparia (Blackwall, 1834)

Achaearanea tepidariorum (C.L. Koch, 1841)

Achaearanea simulans (Thorell, 1875)

Achaearanea veruculata (Urquhart, 1885)

Theridion sisyphium (Clerck, 1757)

Theridion impressum L. Koch, 1881

Theridion pictum (Walckenaer, 1802)

Theridion hemerobium Simon, 1914

Theridion varians Hahn, 1833

Theridion pinastri L. Koch, 1872

Theridion familiare O. P.-Cambridge, 1871

Theridion melanurum Hahn, 1831

Theridion mystaceum L. Koch, 1870

Theridion blackwalli O. P.-Cambridge, 1871

Theridion tinctum (Walckenaer, 1802)

Simitidion simile (C.L. Koch, 1836)

[*Theridion simile* C.L. Koch, 1836]

Neottiura bimaculata (Linnaeus, 1767)

[*Theridion bimaculatum* (Linnaeus, 1767)]

Paidiscura pallens (Blackwall, 1834)

[*Theridion pallens* Blackwall, 1834]

Rugathodes instabilis (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)

Rugathodes bellicosus (Simon, 1873)

Enoplognatha ovata (Clerck, 1757)

Enoplognatha latimana Hippa & Oksala, 1982

Enoplognatha thoracica (Hahn, 1833)

Enoplognatha mordax (Thorell, 1875)

Enoplognatha tecta (Keyserling, 1884)

Enoplognatha oelandica (Thorell, 1875)

Robertus lividus (Blackwall, 1836)

Robertus arundineti (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)

Robertus neglectus (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)

Robertus scoticus Jackson, 1914

Robertus insignis O. P.-Cambridge, 1907

Pholcomma gibbum (Westring, 1851)

Theonoe minutissima (O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)

Coleosoma floridanum Banks, 1900

Nb

RDB3

RDB2

Nb

Nb

Na

RDB1

RDB2

RDB2

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

RDBK

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Nb

Na

RDB1

RDB3

RDB1

RDB1

RDB1

RDB1

RDB1

RDB1

RDB1

RDB3

RDB3

RDB1

Family THERIDIOSOMATIDAE

Theridiosoma gemmosum (L. Koch, 1877)

Nb

Family LINYPHIIDAE

Ceratinella brevipes (Westring, 1851)

Ceratinella brevis (Wider, 1834)

Ceratinella scabrosa (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)

Walckenaeria acuminata Blackwall, 1833

Walckenaeria mitrata (Menge, 1868)

RDB1

<i>Walckenaeria antica</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Pelecopsis radicolica</i> (L. Koch, 1872)	RDB3
<i>Walckenaeria alticeps</i> (Denis, 1952)		<i>Silometopus elegans</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	
<i>Walckenaeria cucullata</i> (C.L. Koch, 1836)		<i>Silometopus ambiguus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1905)	
<i>Walckenaeria nodosa</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1873		<i>Silometopus reussi</i> (Thorell, 1871)	
<i>Walckenaeria atrotibialis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1878)		<i>Silometopus incurvatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)	Na
<i>Walckenaeria capito</i> (Westring, 1861)		<i>Mecopisthes peusi</i> Wunderlich, 1972	Nb
<i>Walckenaeria incisa</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	Nb	<i>Cnephalocotes obscurus</i> (Blackwall, 1834)	
<i>Walckenaeria dysderoides</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Acartauchenius scurrilis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	Na
<i>Walckenaeria stylifrons</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	RDB1	<i>Trichoncus saxicola</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1861)	Nb
<i>Walckenaeria nudipalpis</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Trichoncus hackmani</i> Millidge, 1955	RDB2
<i>Walckenaeria obtusa</i> Blackwall, 1836		<i>Trichoncus affinis</i> Kulczyński, 1894	RDB2
<i>Walckenaeria monoceros</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Ceratinopsis romana</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	Nb
<i>Walckenaeria corniculans</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	Na	<i>Ceratinopsis stativa</i> (Simon, 1881)	
<i>Walckenaeria furcillata</i> (Menge, 1869)		<i>Evansia merens</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1900	
<i>Walckenaeria unicornis</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1861		<i>Tiso vagans</i> (Blackwall, 1834)	
<i>Walckenaeria kochi</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)		<i>Tiso aestivus</i> (L. Koch, 1872)	Nb
<i>Walckenaeria clavicornis</i> (Emerton, 1882)		<i>Troxochrus scabriculus</i> (Westring, 1851)	
<i>Walckenaeria cuspidata</i> Blackwall, 1833		<i>Minyriolus pusillus</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Walckenaeria vigilax</i> (Blackwall, 1853)		<i>Tapinocyba praecox</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)	
<i>Dicymbium nigrum</i> (Blackwall, 1834)		<i>Tapinocyba pallens</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	
<i>Dicymbium brevisetosum</i> Locket, 1962		<i>Tapinocyba insecta</i> (L. Koch, 1869)	
<i>Dicymbium tibiale</i> (Blackwall, 1836)		<i>Tapinocyba mitis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1882)	Nb
<i>Entelecara acuminata</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Tapinocyboides pygmaeus</i> (Menge, 1869)	RDB3
<i>Entelecara congenera</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)	Nb	<i>Microctenonyx subitaneus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	
<i>Entelecara erythropus</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Satillalax britteni</i> (Jackson, 1913)	Nb
<i>Entelecara flavipes</i> (Blackwall, 1834)		<i>Thyreosthenius parasiticus</i> (Westring, 1851)	
<i>Entelecara omissa</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1902	Na	<i>Thyreosthenius biovatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	
<i>Entelecara errata</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1913	Nb	<i>Monocephalus fuscipes</i> (Blackwall, 1836)	
<i>Moebelia penicillata</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Monocephalus castaneipes</i> (Simon, 1884)	
<i>Hyllyphantes graminicola</i> (Sundevall, 1830)		<i>Lophomma punctatum</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Gnathbonarium dentatum</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Saloca diceros</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	Nb
<i>Trematocephalus cristatus</i> (Wider, 1834)	Na	<i>Gongyliidiellum vivum</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	
<i>Tmeticus affinis</i> (Blackwall, 1855)		<i>Gongyliidiellum latebricola</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Gongyliidium rufipes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		<i>Gongyliidiellum murcidum</i> Simon, 1884	Nb
<i>Dismodicus bifrons</i> (Blackwall, 1841)		<i>Micrargus herbigradus</i> (Blackwall, 1854)	
<i>Dismodicus elevatus</i> (C.L. Koch, 1838)	Na	<i>Micrargus apertus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Hypomma bituberculatum</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Micrargus subaequalis</i> (Westring, 1851)	
<i>Hypomma fulvum</i> (Bösenberg, 1902)	Na	<i>Micrargus laudatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1881)	Nb
<i>Hypomma cornutum</i> (Blackwall, 1833)		<i>Notioscopus sarcinatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	Nb
<i>Metopobactrus prominulus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)		<i>Glyphesis cottonae</i> (La Touche, 1945)	Na
<i>Hybocoptus decollatus</i> (Simon, 1881)	Nb	<i>Glyphesis servulus</i> (Simon, 1881)	RDB status was withdrawn before publication of the Red Data Book, leaving the species in limbo. It should have been given Na status.
<i>Baryphyma pratense</i> (Blackwall, 1861)		<i>Erigonella hiemalis</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Baryphyma duffeyi</i> (Millidge, 1954)	RDB3	<i>Erigonella ignobilis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Baryphyma gowerense</i> (Locket, 1965)	RDBK	<i>Savignia frontata</i> Blackwall, 1833	
<i>Baryphyma trifrons</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)		<i>Diplocephalus cristatus</i> (Blackwall, 1833)	
<i>Baryphyma maritimum</i> (Crocker & Parker, 1970)	Nb	<i>Diplocephalus permixtus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Gonatium rubens</i> (Blackwall, 1833)		<i>Diplocephalus latifrons</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)	
<i>Gonatium rubellum</i> (Blackwall, 1841)		<i>Diplocephalus connatus</i> Bertkau, 1889	RDB2
<i>Gonatium paradoxum</i> (L. Koch, 1869)	RDB2	<i>Diplocephalus picinus</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Maso sundevalli</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Diplocephalus protuberans</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	Nb
<i>Maso gallicus</i> Simon, 1894	Na	<i>Araeoncus humilis</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Minicia marginella</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Araeoncus crassiceps</i> (Westring, 1861)	
<i>Peponocranium ludicrum</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1861)		<i>Panamomops sulcifrons</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Pocadicnemis pumila</i> (Blackwall, 1841)		<i>Lessertia denticbelis</i> (Simon, 1884)	
<i>Pocadicnemis juncea</i> Locket & Millidge, 1953		<i>Scotinotylus evansi</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1894)	
<i>Hypselistes jacksoni</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1902)		<i>Typhochrestus digitatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	
<i>Oedothorax gibbosus</i> (Blackwall, 1841)		<i>Typhochrestus simoni</i> Lessert, 1907	RDB2
<i>Oedothorax fuscus</i> (Blackwall, 1834)		<i>Milleriana inerrans</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1885)	
<i>Oedothorax agrestis</i> (Blackwall, 1853)		<i>Diplocentria bidentata</i> (Emerton, 1882)	
<i>Oedothorax retusus</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Wabasso quaestio replicatus</i> (Holm, 1950)	
<i>Oedothorax apicatus</i> (Blackwall, 1850)		<i>Erigone dentipalpis</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Trichopterna thorelli</i> (Westring, 1861)		<i>Erigone atra</i> Blackwall, 1833	
<i>Trichopterna cito</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	RDB2	<i>Erigone promiscua</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872)	
<i>Pelecopsis mengei</i> (Simon, 1884)		<i>Erigone arctica</i> (White, 1852)	
<i>Pelecopsis parallela</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Erigone longipalpis</i> (Sundevall, 1830)	
<i>Pelecopsis nemoralis</i> (Blackwall, 1841)			
<i>Pelecopsis nemoralioides</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1884)			
<i>Pelecopsis elongata</i> (Wider, 1834)	RDB2		

<i>Erigone tirolensis</i> L. Koch, 1872	Nb	<i>Centromerus levitarsis</i> (Simon, 1884)	RDB2
<i>Erigone capra</i> Simon, 1884	Nb	<i>Centromerus dilutus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	
<i>Erigone welchi</i> Jackson, 1911	Na	<i>Centromerus capucinus</i> (Simon, 1884)	
<i>Erigone psychrophila</i> Thorell, 1871	Na	<i>Centromerus incilium</i> (L. Koch, 1881)	Nb
<i>Erigone alettris</i> Crosby & Bishop, 1928		<i>Centromerus semiatet</i> (L. Koch, 1879)	RDB2
<i>Prinerigone vagans</i> (Audouin, 1826)		[<i>Centromerus incultus</i> Falconer, 1915]	
<i>Mecynargus morulus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)		<i>Centromerus brevivulvatus</i> Dahl, 1912	RDB3
[<i>Rhaebothorax morulus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)]		[<i>Centromerus aequalis</i> (Westring, 1851)]	
<i>Mecynargus paetulus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	RDB2	<i>Centromerus serratus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	Nb
[<i>Rhaebothorax paetulus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)]		<i>Centromerus albidus</i> Simon, 1929	RDB2
<i>Latitborax faustus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1900)		<i>Centromerus cavernarum</i> (L. Koch, 1872)	RDB3
<i>Semljicola caliginosus</i> (Falconer, 1910)	Nb	<i>Centromerus persimilis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1912)	RDBK
<i>Donacochara speciosa</i> (Thorell, 1875)	Na	<i>Centromerus minutissimus</i> Merrett & Powell, 1993	
<i>Leptorhoptrum robustum</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Tallusia experta</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Drepanotylus uncaius</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)		<i>Centromerita bicolor</i> (Blackwall, 1833)	
<i>Leptothrix bardyi</i> (Blackwall, 1850)		<i>Centromerita concinna</i> (Thorell, 1875)	
<i>Hilaira excisa</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)		<i>Sintula corniger</i> (Blackwall, 1856)	
<i>Hilaira frigida</i> (Thorell, 1872)		<i>Oreonetides vaginatus</i> (Thorell, 1872)	
<i>Hilaira nubigena</i> Hull, 1911	Na	<i>Saaristoa abnormis</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Hilaira pervicax</i> Hull, 1908	Nb	<i>Saaristoa firma</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1905)	
<i>Halorates reprobis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)		<i>Macrargus rufus</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Halorates distinctus</i> (Simon, 1884)		<i>Macrargus carpenteri</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1894)	Na
<i>Halorates holmgreni</i> (Thorell, 1871)	Nb	<i>Bathyphantes approximatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Caronita limnaea</i> (Crosby & Bishop, 1927)	RDB1	<i>Bathyphantes gracilis</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Caronita paludosa</i> Duffey, 1971	RDB2	<i>Bathyphantes parvulus</i> (Westring, 1851)	
<i>Wieblea calcarifera</i> (Simon, 1884)	Na	<i>Bathyphantes nigrinus</i> (Westring, 1851)	
<i>Mioxena blanda</i> (Simon, 1884)	Nb	<i>Bathyphantes setiger</i> F. O. P.-Cambridge, 1894	
<i>Caviphantes saxetorum</i> (Hull, 1916)	Na	<i>Kaestneria dorsalis</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Asthenargus paganus</i> (Simon, 1884)		<i>Kaestneria pullata</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)	
<i>Jacksonella falconeri</i> (Jackson, 1908)		<i>Diplostyla concolor</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Pseudomaro aenigmaticus</i> Denis, 1966	RDBK	<i>Poecilonea variegata</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Ostearius melanopygius</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)		<i>Drapetisca socialis</i> (Sundevall, 1833)	
<i>Apbileta misera</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1882)		<i>Tapinopa longidens</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Porrhomma pygmaeum</i> (Blackwall, 1834)		<i>Floronia bucculenta</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Porrhomma convexum</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Taranucus setosus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)	
<i>Porrhomma rosenbaueri</i> (L. Koch, 1872)	RDB2	<i>Labulla thoracica</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Porrhomma pallidum</i> Jackson, 1913		<i>Stemonyphantes lineatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	
<i>Porrhomma campbelli</i> F. O. P.-Cambridge, 1894		<i>Bolyphantes luteolus</i> (Blackwall, 1833)	
<i>Porrhomma microphthalmum</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)		<i>Bolyphantes alticeps</i> (Sundevall, 1833)	
<i>Porrhomma errans</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	Nb	<i>Nothophantes horridus</i> Merrett & Stevens, 1995	
<i>Porrhomma egeria</i> Simon, 1884		<i>Megalepthyphantes nebulosus</i> (Sundevall, 1830)	
<i>Porrhomma oblitum</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	Nb	[<i>Leptyphantes nebulosus</i> (Sundevall, 1830)]	
<i>Porrhomma cambridgei</i> Merrett, 1994		<i>Megalepthyphantes collinus occidentalis</i> (Machado, 1949)?	
<i>Porrhomma montanum</i> Jackson, 1913		<i>Leptyphantes leprosus</i> (Ohlert, 1865)	
<i>Agyneta subtilis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)		<i>Leptyphantes minutus</i> (Blackwall, 1833)	
<i>Agyneta conigera</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)		<i>Leptyphantes alacris</i> (Blackwall, 1853)	
<i>Agyneta decora</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)		<i>Leptyphantes whympersi</i> F. O. P.-Cambridge, 1894	Nb
<i>Agyneta cauta</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1902)		<i>Leptyphantes obscurus</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Agyneta olivacea</i> (Emerton, 1882)		<i>Leptyphantes tenuis</i> (Blackwall, 1852)	
<i>Agyneta ramosa</i> Jackson, 1912		<i>Leptyphantes zimmermanni</i> Bertkau, 1890	
<i>Meioneta innotabilis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)		<i>Leptyphantes cristatus</i> (Menge, 1866)	
<i>Meioneta rurestris</i> (C.L. Koch, 1836)		<i>Leptyphantes mengei</i> Kulczyński, 1887	
<i>Meioneta mollis</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)		<i>Leptyphantes flavipes</i> (Blackwall, 1854)	
<i>Meioneta saxatilis</i> (Blackwall, 1844)		<i>Leptyphantes tenebricola</i> (Wider, 1834)	
<i>Meioneta mossica</i> Schikora, 1993		<i>Leptyphantes beckeri</i> Wunderlich, 1973	
<i>Meioneta simplicitarsis</i> (Simon, 1884)	Na	<i>Leptyphantes ericaeus</i> (Blackwall, 1853)	
<i>Meioneta beata</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1906)		<i>Leptyphantes pallidus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	
<i>Meioneta fuscipalpa</i> (C.L. Koch, 1836)		<i>Leptyphantes pinicola</i> Simon, 1884	Nb
<i>Meioneta gulosa</i> (L. Koch, 1869)		<i>Leptyphantes insignis</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1913	Nb
<i>Meioneta nigripes</i> (Simon, 1884)	Nb	<i>Leptyphantes angulatus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1881)	
<i>Microneta viaria</i> (Blackwall, 1841)		<i>Leptyphantes antroniensis</i> Schenkel, 1933	RDB1
<i>Maro minutus</i> O. P.-Cambridge, 1906		<i>Leptyphantes complicatus</i> (Emerton, 1882)	Nb
<i>Maro sublestus</i> Falconer, 1915	Na	<i>Leptyphantes expunctus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875)	
<i>Maro lepidus</i> Casemir, 1961	RDB3	<i>Midia midas</i> (Simon, 1884)	RDB2
<i>Syedra gracilis</i> (Menge, 1869)	Nb	[<i>Leptyphantes midas</i> Simon, 1884]	
<i>Centromerus sylvaticus</i> (Blackwall, 1841)		<i>Helophora insignis</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Centromerus prudens</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)		<i>Pityohyphantes phrygianus</i> (C.L. Koch, 1836)	Na
<i>Centromerus arcanus</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)		<i>Linyphia triangularis</i> (Clerck, 1757)	

<i>Linyphia hortensis</i> Sundevall, 1830		<i>Pardosa purbeckensis</i> F.O. P.-Cambridge, 1895	
<i>Nerienne montana</i> (Clerck, 1757)		<i>Pardosa monticola</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Nerienne clathrata</i> (Sundevall, 1830)		<i>Pardosa palustris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	
<i>Nerienne peltata</i> (Wider, 1834)		<i>Pardosa pullata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Nerienne emphana</i> (Walckenaer, 1841)		<i>Pardosa prativaga</i> (L. Koch, 1870)	
<i>Nerienne furtiva</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)	Nb	<i>Pardosa amentata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Nerienne radiata</i> (Walckenaer, 1841)	Nb	<i>Pardosa nigriceps</i> (Thorell, 1856)	
<i>Microlinyphia pusilla</i> (Sundevall, 1830)		<i>Pardosa saltans</i> Töpfer-Hofmann, 2000	
<i>Microlinyphia impigra</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)		[<i>Pardosa lugubris</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)]	
<i>Allomengea scopigera</i> (Grube, 1859)		<i>Pardosa hortensis</i> (Thorell, 1872)	
<i>Allomengea vidua</i> (L. Koch, 1879)		<i>Pardosa proxima</i> (C.L. Koch, 1847)	
Family TETRAGNATHIDAE		<i>Pardosa trailli</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)	Nb
<i>Tetragnatha extensa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		<i>Pardosa paludicola</i> (Clerck, 1757)	RDB3
<i>Tetragnatha pinicola</i> L. Koch, 1870	Nb	<i>Hygrolycosa rubrofasciata</i> (Ohlert, 1865)	Na
<i>Tetragnatha montana</i> Simon, 1874		<i>Xerolycosa nemoralis</i> (Westring, 1861)	Nb
<i>Tetragnatha obtusa</i> C.L. Koch, 1837		<i>Xerolycosa miniata</i> (C.L. Koch, 1834)	
<i>Tetragnatha nigrita</i> Lendl, 1886		<i>Alopecosa pulverulenta</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Tetragnatha striata</i> L. Koch, 1862	Nb	<i>Alopecosa cuneata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Pachygnatha clercki</i> Sundevall, 1823		<i>Alopecosa barbipes</i> (Sundevall, 1833)	
<i>Pachygnatha listeri</i> Sundevall, 1830		<i>Alopecosa fabrilis</i> (Clerck, 1757)	RDB1
<i>Pachygnatha degeeri</i> Sundevall, 1830		<i>Trochosa ruricola</i> (De Geer, 1778)	
<i>Metellina segmentata</i> (Clerck, 1757)		<i>Trochosa robusta</i> (Simon, 1876)	Nb
<i>Metellina mengei</i> (Blackwall, 1869)		<i>Trochosa terricola</i> Thorell, 1856	
<i>Metellina merianae</i> (Scopoli, 1763)		<i>Trochosa spinipalpis</i> (F.O. P.-Cambridge, 1895)	
<i>Meta menardi</i> (Latreille, 1804)		<i>Arctosa fulvolineata</i> (Lucas, 1846)	RDB3
<i>Meta bourneti</i> Simon, 1922	Nb	<i>Arctosa perita</i> (Latreille, 1799)	
		<i>Arctosa leopardus</i> (Sundevall, 1833)	
		<i>Arctosa cinerea</i> (Fabricius, 1777)	Nb
		<i>Arctosa alpigena</i> (Doleschall, 1852)	RDB3
Family ARANEIDAE		<i>Pirata piraticus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Gibbaranea bituberculata</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	RDB1	<i>Pirata tenuitarsis</i> Simon, 1876	
<i>Gibbaranea gibbosa</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)		<i>Pirata hygrophilus</i> Thorell, 1872	
<i>Araneus angulatus</i> Clerck, 1757	Nb	<i>Pirata uliginosus</i> (Thorell, 1856)	
<i>Araneus diadematus</i> Clerck, 1757		<i>Pirata latitans</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Araneus quadratus</i> Clerck, 1757		<i>Pirata piscatorius</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Araneus marmoreus</i> Clerck, 1757		<i>Aulonia albimana</i> (Walckenaer, 1805)	RDB1
<i>Araneus alsine</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	Nb		
<i>Araneus sturmi</i> (Hahn, 1831)		Family PISAURIDAE	
[<i>Atea sturmi</i> (Hahn, 1831)]		<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Araneus triguttatus</i> (Fabricius, 1775)		<i>Dolomedes fimbriatus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
[<i>Atea triguttata</i> (Fabricius, 1775)]		<i>Dolomedes plantarius</i> (Clerck, 1757)	RDB1
<i>Larinioides cornutus</i> (Clerck, 1757)			
<i>Larinioides sclopetarius</i> (Clerck, 1757)		Family OXYOPIDAE	
<i>Larinioides patagiatus</i> (Clerck, 1757)		<i>Oxyopes heterophthalmus</i> Latreille, 1804	RDB2
<i>Nuctenea umbratica</i> (Clerck, 1757)			
<i>Agalenatea redii</i> (Scopoli, 1763)		Family AGELENIDAE	
<i>Neoscona adianta</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)		<i>Agelena labyrinthica</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Araniella cucurbitina</i> (Clerck, 1757)		<i>Textrix denticulata</i> (Olivier, 1789)	
<i>Araniella opisthographa</i> (Kulczyński, 1905)		<i>Tegenaria gigantea</i> Chamberlin & Ivie, 1935	
<i>Araniella inconspicua</i> (Simon, 1874)	Nb	<i>Tegenaria saeva</i> Blackwall, 1844	
<i>Araniella alpica</i> (L. Koch, 1869)	RDB3	<i>Tegenaria atrica</i> C.L. Koch, 1843	
<i>Araniella displicata</i> (Hentz, 1847)	Na	<i>Tegenaria parietina</i> (Fourcroy, 1785)	
<i>Zilla diodia</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	Nb	<i>Tegenaria ferruginea</i> (Panzer, 1804)	
<i>Hypsosinga albobittata</i> (Westring, 1851)		<i>Tegenaria agrestis</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	
<i>Hypsosinga pygmaea</i> (Sundevall, 1831)		<i>Tegenaria domestica</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Hypsosinga sanguinea</i> (C.L. Koch, 1844)	Nb	<i>Tegenaria silvestris</i> L. Koch, 1872	
<i>Hypsosinga heri</i> (Hahn, 1831)	RDB1	<i>Tegenaria picta</i> Simon, 1870	RDBK
<i>Singa hamata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	Nb		
<i>Cercidia prominens</i> (Westring, 1851)		Family CYBAEIDAE	
<i>Zygiella x-notata</i> (Clerck, 1757)		<i>Argyroneta aquatica</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Zygiella atrica</i> (C.L. Koch, 1845)			
<i>Zygiella stroemi</i> (Thorell, 1870)	Nb	Family HAHNIIDAE	
<i>Mangora acalypha</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)		<i>Antistea elegans</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Cyclosa conica</i> (Pallas, 1772)		<i>Habnia montana</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Argiope bruennichi</i> (Scopoli, 1772)	Na	<i>Habnia candida</i> Simon, 1875	RDB2
		<i>Habnia microphthalmia</i> Snazell & Duffey, 1980	RDBK
Family LYCOSIDAE		<i>Habnia nava</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	
<i>Pardosa agricola</i> (Thorell, 1856)		<i>Habnia belueola</i> Simon, 1875	
<i>Pardosa agrestis</i> (Westring, 1861)	Nb		

Habnia pusilla C.L. Koch, 1841

Family DICTYNIDAE

Dictyna arundinacea (Linnaeus, 1758)

Dictyna pusilla Thorell, 1856

Dictyna major Menge, 1869

RDB2

Dictyna uncinata Thorell, 1856

Dictyna latens (Fabricius, 1775)

Nigma puella (Simon, 1870)

Nb

Nigma walckenaeri (Roewer, 1951)

Na

Cicurina cicur (Fabricius, 1793)

Crypboeca silvicola (C.L. Koch, 1834)

Tuberta maerens (O. P.-Cambridge, 1863)

RDB3

Mastigusa arietina (Thorell, 1871)

RDB2

Mastigusa macrophthalma (Kulczyński, 1897)

RDB3

Lathys humilis (Blackwall, 1855)

Lathys nielseni (Schenkel, 1932)

Na

Lathys stigmatisata (Menge, 1869)

RDB3

Argenna subnigra (O. P.-Cambridge, 1861)

Argenna patula (Simon, 1874)

Nb

Altella lucida (Simon, 1874)

RDB1

Family AMAUROBIIDAE

Amaurobius fenestralis (Stroem, 1768)

Amaurobius similis (Blackwall, 1861)

Amaurobius ferox (Walckenaer, 1830)

Coelotes atropos (Walckenaer, 1830)

Coelotes terrestris (Wider, 1834)

Nb

Family ANYPHAENIDAE

Anyphaena accentuata (Walckenaer, 1802)

Family LIOCRANIDAE

Agroeca brunnea (Blackwall, 1833)

Agroeca proxima (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)

Agroeca inopina O. P.-Cambridge, 1886

Agroeca lusatica (L. Koch, 1875)

RDB1

Agroeca cuprea Menge, 1873

Na

Agraecina striata (Kulczyński, 1882)

Nb

Apostenus fuscus Westring, 1851

RDB1

Scotina celans (Blackwall, 1841)

Scotina gracilipes (Blackwall, 1859)

Scotina palliardii (L. Koch, 1881)

Na

Liocranum rupicola (Walckenaer, 1830)

Nb

Phrurolithus festivus (C.L. Koch, 1835)

Phrurolithus minimus C.L. Koch, 1839

Na

Family CLUBIONIDAE

Clubiona corticalis (Walckenaer, 1802)

Clubiona reclusa O. P.-Cambridge, 1863

Clubiona subsultans Thorell, 1875

RDB2

Clubiona stagnatilis Kulczyński, 1897

Clubiona rosserae Locket, 1953

RDB1

Clubiona norvegica Strand, 1900

Nb

Clubiona caerulescens L. Koch, 1867

Nb

Clubiona pallidula (Clerck, 1757)

Clubiona phragmitis C.L. Koch, 1843

Clubiona terrestris Westring, 1851

Clubiona neglecta O. P.-Cambridge, 1862

Clubiona pseudoneglecta Wunderlich, 1994

Clubiona frisia Wunderlich & Schütt, 1995

RDB3

[*Clubiona similis* L. Koch, 1867]

Clubiona lutescens Westring, 1851

Clubiona comta C.L. Koch, 1839

Clubiona brevipes Blackwall, 1841

Clubiona trivialis C.L. Koch, 1843

Clubiona juvenis Simon, 1878

RDB2

Clubiona genevensis L. Koch, 1866

RDB3

Clubiona diversa O. P.-Cambridge, 1862

Clubiona subtilis L. Koch, 1867

Cbeiracantbium erraticum (Walckenaer, 1802)

Cbeiracantbium pennyi O. P.-Cambridge, 1873

RDB2

Cbeiracantbium virescens (Sundevall, 1833)

Family ZODARIIDAE

Zodarion italicum (Canestrini, 1868)

Zodarion vicinum Denis, 1935

Zodarion rubidum Simon, 1914

Zodarion fuscum (Simon, 1870)

Family GNAPHOSIDAE

Drassodes lapidosus (Walckenaer, 1802)

Drassodes cupreus (Blackwall, 1834)

Drassodes pubescens (Thorell, 1856)

Haplodrassus signifer (C.L. Koch, 1839)

Haplodrassus dalmatensis (L. Koch, 1866)

Nb

Haplodrassus umbratilis (L. Koch, 1866)

RDB3

Haplodrassus soerenseni (Strand, 1900)

RDB2

Haplodrassus silvestris (Blackwall, 1833)

Nb

Haplodrassus minor (O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)

RDB3

Scotophaeus blackwalli (Thorell, 1871)

Scotophaeus scutulatus (L. Koch, 1866)

Phaeoecedes braccatus (L. Koch, 1866)

Nb

Zelotes electus (C.L. Koch, 1839)

Zelotes latreillei (Simon, 1878)

Zelotes apricorum (L. Koch, 1876)

Zelotes subterraneus (C.L. Koch, 1833)

Zelotes longipes (L. Koch, 1866)

Na

Zelotes petrensis (C.L. Koch, 1839)

Na

Trachyzelotes pedestris (C.L. Koch, 1837)

Nb

Urozelotes rusticus (L. Koch, 1872)

Drassyllus lutetianus (L. Koch, 1866)

Na

Drassyllus pusillus (C.L. Koch, 1833)

Drassyllus praeficus (L. Koch, 1866)

Nb

Gnaphosa lugubris (C.L. Koch, 1839)

Na

Gnaphosa occidentalis Simon, 1878

RDB1

Gnaphosa nigerrima L. Koch, 1877

Gnaphosa leporina (L. Koch, 1866)

Callilepis nocturna (Linnaeus, 1758)

RDB1

Micaria pulicaria (Sundevall, 1831)

Micaria romana L. Koch, 1866

Nb

Micaria alpina L. Koch, 1872

RDB3

Micaria subopaca Westring, 1861

Nb

Micaria silesiaca L. Koch, 1875

Nb

Family ZORIDAE

Zora spinimana (Sundevall, 1833)

Zora armillata Simon, 1878

RDB3

Zora nemoralis (Blackwall, 1861)

Nb

Zora silvestris Kulczyński, 1897

RDB2

Family SPARASSIDAE

Micrommata virescens (Clerck, 1757)

Family PHILODROMIDAE

Philodromus dispar Walckenaer, 1826

Philodromus aureolus (Clerck, 1757)

Philodromus praedatus O. P.-Cambridge, 1871

Nb

Philodromus cespitum (Walckenaer, 1802)

Philodromus longipalpis Simon, 1870

Philodromus buxi Simon, 1884

Philodromus collinus C.L. Koch, 1835

Nb

Philodromus fallax Sundevall, 1833

Nb

Philodromus bistrio (Latreille, 1819)

Philodromus emarginatus (Schrank, 1803)

Nb

Philodromus albidus Kulczyński, 1911

Nb

<i>Philodromus margaritatus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	Nb	<i>Sitticus saltator</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1868)	Nb
<i>Thanatus striatus</i> C.L. Koch, 1845		[<i>Attulus saltator</i> (Simon, 1868)]	
<i>Thanatus formicinus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	RDB2	<i>Evarcha falcata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	
<i>Tibellus maritimus</i> (Menge, 1875)		<i>Evarcha arcuata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	Nb
<i>Tibellus oblongus</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)		<i>Aelurillus v-insignitus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	Nb
Family THOMISIDAE		<i>Pblegra fasciata</i> (Hahn, 1826)	RDB3
<i>Thomisus onustus</i> Walckenaer, 1806	Nb	<i>Synageles venator</i> (Lucas, 1836)	Na
<i>Diaea dorsata</i> (Fabricius, 1777)		<i>Myrmarachne formicaria</i> (De Geer, 1778)	Nb
<i>Misumena vatia</i> (Clerck, 1757)		<i>Pellenes tripunctatus</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	RDB1
<i>Pistius truncatus</i> (Pallas, 1772)	RDB1		
<i>Xysticus cristatus</i> (Clerck, 1757)			
<i>Xysticus audax</i> (Schrank, 1803)			
<i>Xysticus kochi</i> Thorell, 1872			
<i>Xysticus erraticus</i> (Blackwall, 1834)			
<i>Xysticus lanio</i> C.L. Koch, 1835			
<i>Xysticus ulmi</i> (Hahn, 1831)			
<i>Xysticus bifasciatus</i> C.L. Koch, 1837			
<i>Xysticus luctator</i> L. Koch, 1870	RDB2		
<i>Xysticus sabulosus</i> (Hahn, 1832)	Nb		
<i>Xysticus luctuosus</i> (Blackwall, 1836)	Na		
<i>Xysticus acerbus</i> Thorell, 1872	Na		
<i>Xysticus robustus</i> (Hahn, 1832)	Nb		
<i>Ozyptila blackwalli</i> Simon, 1875	Nb		
<i>Ozyptila scabricula</i> (Westring, 1851)	Nb		
<i>Ozyptila nigrita</i> (Thorell, 1875)	Nb		
<i>Ozyptila pullata</i> (Thorell, 1875)			
<i>Ozyptila sanctuaria</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)			
<i>Ozyptila praticola</i> (C.L. Koch, 1837)			
<i>Ozyptila trux</i> (Blackwall, 1846)			
<i>Ozyptila simplex</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1862)			
<i>Ozyptila atomaria</i> (Panzer, 1801)			
<i>Ozyptila brevipes</i> (Hahn, 1826)			
Family SALTICIDAE			
<i>Salticus scenicus</i> (Clerck, 1757)			
<i>Salticus cingulatus</i> (Panzer, 1797)			
<i>Salticus zebraneus</i> (C.L. Koch, 1837)	Na		
<i>Heliophanus cupreus</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)			
<i>Heliophanus flavipes</i> (Hahn, 1832)			
<i>Heliophanus auratus</i> C.L. Koch, 1835	RDB2		
<i>Heliophanus dampfi</i> Schenkel, 1923	RDBK		
<i>Marpissa muscosa</i> (Clerck, 1757)	Nb		
<i>Marpissa radiata</i> (Grube, 1859)	Na		
<i>Marpissa nivoyi</i> (Lucas, 1846)	Nb		
<i>Bianor aurocinctus</i> (Ohlert, 1865)	Na		
<i>Ballus chalybeius</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)			
<i>Neon reticulatus</i> (Blackwall, 1853)			
<i>Neon robustus</i> Lohmander, 1945			
<i>Neon valentulus</i> Falconer, 1912	RDB2		
<i>Neon pictus</i> Kulczyński, 1891 ?			
<i>Euophrys frontalis</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)			
<i>Euophrys herbigrada</i> (Simon, 1871)	Na		
<i>Pseudeuophrys erratica</i> (Walckenaer, 1826)			
<i>Pseudeuophrys lanigera</i> (Simon, 1871)			
<i>Pseudeuophrys obsoleta</i> (Simon, 1868)	RDB3		
[<i>Euophrys browningi</i> Millidge & Locket, 1955]			
<i>Talavera petrensis</i> (C.L. Koch, 1837)	Nb		
[<i>Euophrys petrensis</i> C.L. Koch, 1837]			
<i>Talavera aequipes</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)			
[<i>Euophrys aequipes</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871)]			
<i>Talavera thorelli</i> (Kulczyński, 1891)			
[<i>Euophrys thorelli</i> Kulczyński, 1891]			
<i>Sitticus pubescens</i> (Fabricius, 1775)			
<i>Sitticus caricis</i> (Westring, 1861)	Nb		
<i>Sitticus floricola</i> (C.L. Koch, 1837)	RDB3		
<i>Sitticus inexpectus</i> Logunov & Kronstedt, 1997	Na		
[<i>Sitticus rupicola</i> (C.L. Koch, 1837)]			

SPECIES ACCOUNTS AND MAPS: *Atypidae* to *Linyphiidae*

[101] *Atypidae: Atypus affinis*

Status

The spider is generally scarce and very local. Large populations have been recorded but it is likely that much of our modern landscape supports only small isolated colonies.

Distribution

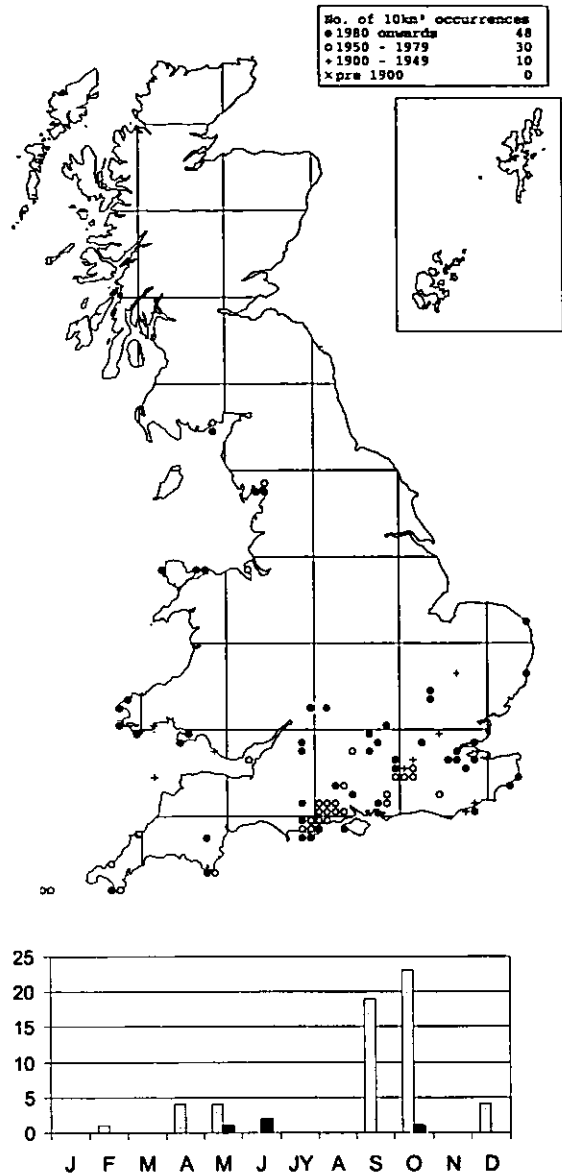
The species is widely distributed in southern Britain but there are scattered coastal records as far north as south-west Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Denmark and Sweden where it is listed in the Red List (Gårdenfors 2000).

Habitat and ecology

Atypus is typically found in unimproved open habitats such as heathland, chalk grassland or other old grasslands. Most of its tubular web is underground and a friable substrate will aid burrowing. In heathland the spider prefers loose sand with young heather hanging loosely over it, and fairly free from moss and other close vegetation (Dallas 1938), and gravel banks covered with tufts of heather (Main 1921-23). In grassland the spider often makes its tubes in the ground in undisturbed areas around the edge of scrub and at the base of ant hills. The silk tube is well camouflaged with bits of earth and debris and the spider can be difficult to find. In coastal areas the webs may be found along the edges of large rocks (P. Merrett, pers. comm.) and sites on the west coast are often associated with rock outcrops, the webs at the base protected by the rocks from grazing, trampling and the weather (J. Newton, pers. comm.). The discovery on a slope by the side of a footpath of scattered detached tubes and small mounds of soil particles above silk-lined burrows is described by Gallon (2001a). He suggests the behaviour is probably the result of concerted burrow excavation and enlargement. The life of the spider is long, possibly up to 7 or even 8 years (Bristowe 1958) and it spends almost all this time inside its purse-web. The main prey seems to comprise beetles, bees, flies, earwigs and woodlice. Males can be trapped in pitfalls and may be numerous at favourable sites. The presence of grazing may be a factor explaining an association with the edge of scrub. There are presumably significant resource implications for the rebuilding of purse-webs after trampling. *Atypus* must therefore require relatively undisturbed habitats. Dallas (1938) had already identified 'wear and tear' due to increased trampling, as the probable cause of the loss of some colonies in the London district. Females are adult all year. Bristowe (1958) states that during the winter months from about November to early February *Atypus* is in a state of hibernation at the bottom of the tube, and the aerial portion remains in a collapsed condition. At one site with a large population, occasional males have been trapped in the winter, but there is a main peak for September-October with smaller numbers in April and May. The Nationally Scarce (Notable A) spider hunting wasp *Aporus unicolor* uses *Atypus* as its host, which it locates and paralyzes within the spider's silken burrow (Edwards 1997).

Threats

The association with old and undisturbed habitats and the dramatic loss of heathland and unimproved grasslands in much of southern England mean that many colonies are isolated and



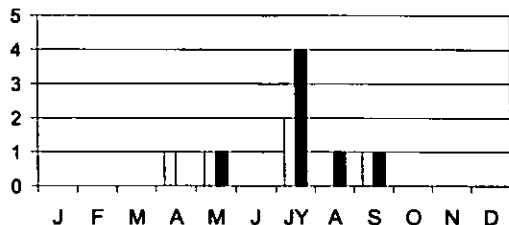
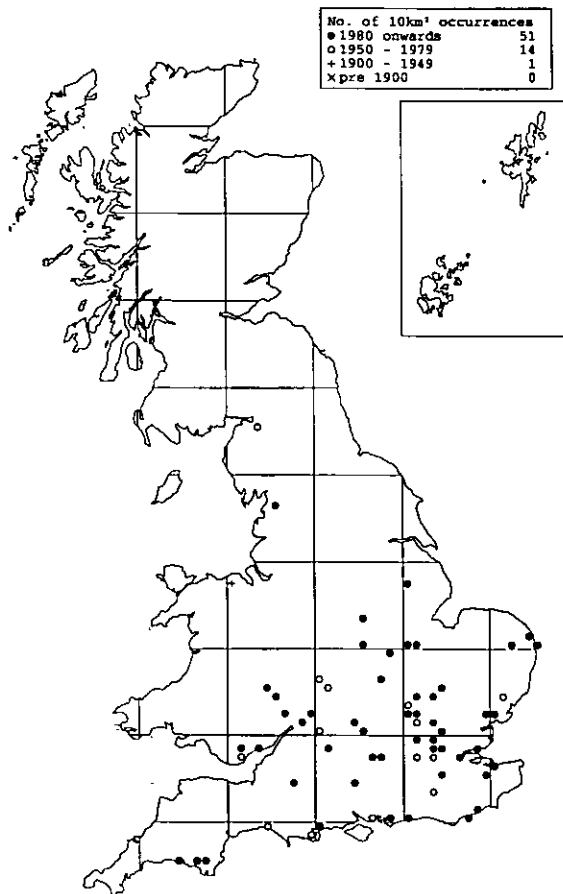
liable to local extinction. Intensive grazing and public amenity pressure will threaten the survival of colonies through the effects of trampling.

Management

The spider is vulnerable to inappropriate management. Without management to control scrub, open habitat and open sandy or gravel banks will disappear. On the other hand, trampling, intensive grazing and the cutting of grasslands is also likely to destroy colonies. Occasional management to control scrub would seem to be most appropriate.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[1501] Scytodidae: *Scytodes thoracica*



Status

Synanthropic

Distribution

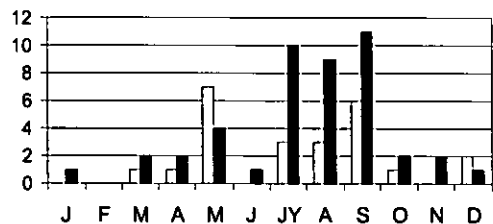
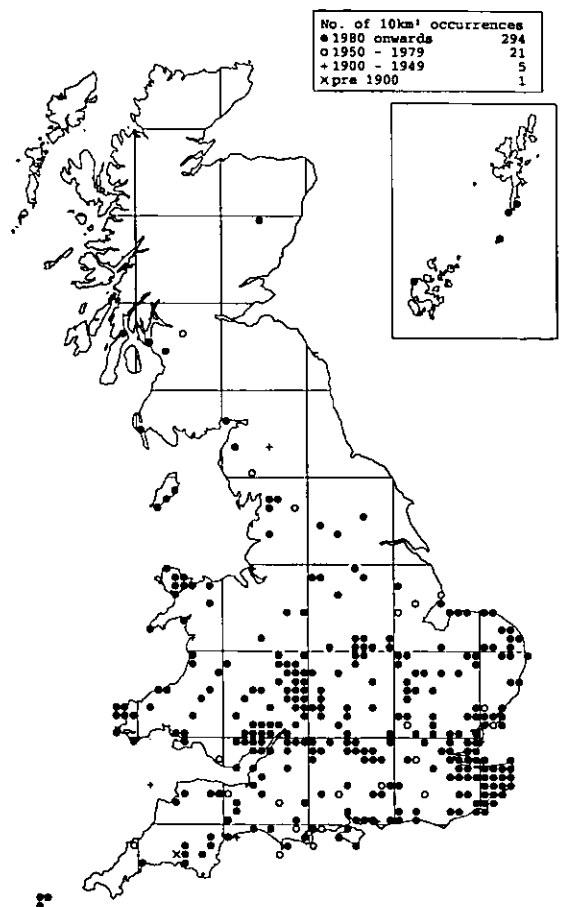
The species is widespread in Britain south of a line between the Humber and Glamorgan, but very rare further north and absent from Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

This slow moving species acquired the common name of spitting spider from its method of capturing prey. A sticky substance is squirted from the chelicerae in an oscillating movement onto the prey from a distance of as much as 10 mm or more, sticking it to the surface before it is despatched with a bite on the leg and removed from the gum before consumption. The squirting of gum is also used as a defensive measure against other spiders. *S. thoracica* is limited within Britain to houses and other heated buildings where it may take as long as two or three years for the female to reach maturity. Adults can probably be found throughout the year though our very limited phenology data suggest a peak in July.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell

[1601] Pholcidae: *Pholcus phalangioides*



Status

Synanthropic

Distribution.

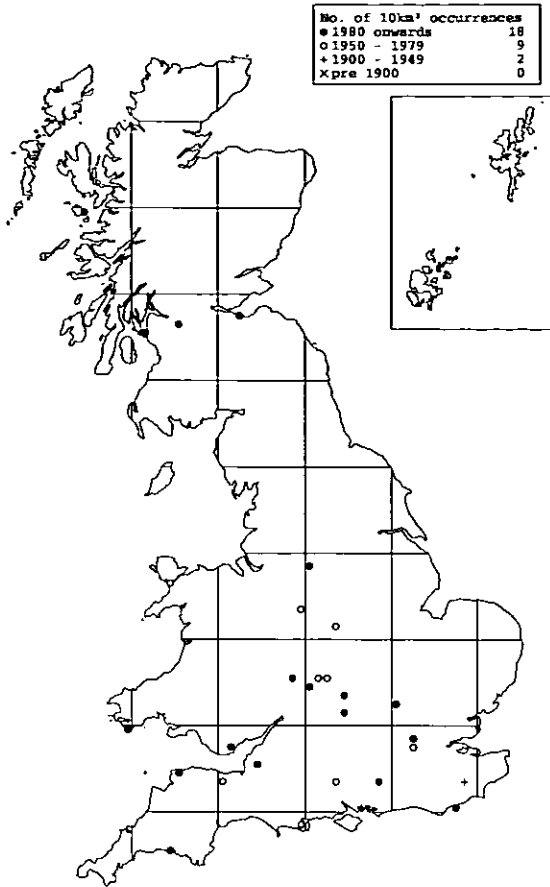
The species is widespread in England and Wales, and although it is absent from much of northern Britain, there are records as far north as Shetland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000).

Habitat and ecology

In this country *P. phalangioides* is found almost exclusively in buildings where it can benefit from the shelter and warmth provided. Bristowe (1958) showed that *Pholcus* inhabits houses where the average temperature throughout the year exceeds 50 °F (10 °C), and north of this the spider is normally confined to cellars where temperature varies little with the seasons and is usually about 50 to 52 °F. It particularly favours undisturbed parts of houses such as cellars and bathrooms, but its untidy web is not usually permitted a permanent abode in conspicuous situations such as the corners of ceilings. Adults can be found in most months of the year, with possible peaks during spring and late summer to autumn.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell

[1701] Pholcidae: *Psilochorus simoni*



Status

This species is found infrequently in England and Wales, and there are few records from Scotland. It is thought to be of American origin, imported first into France and then into Britain on wine bottles.

Distribution

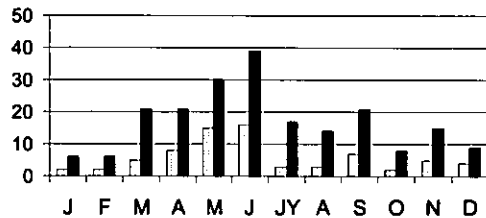
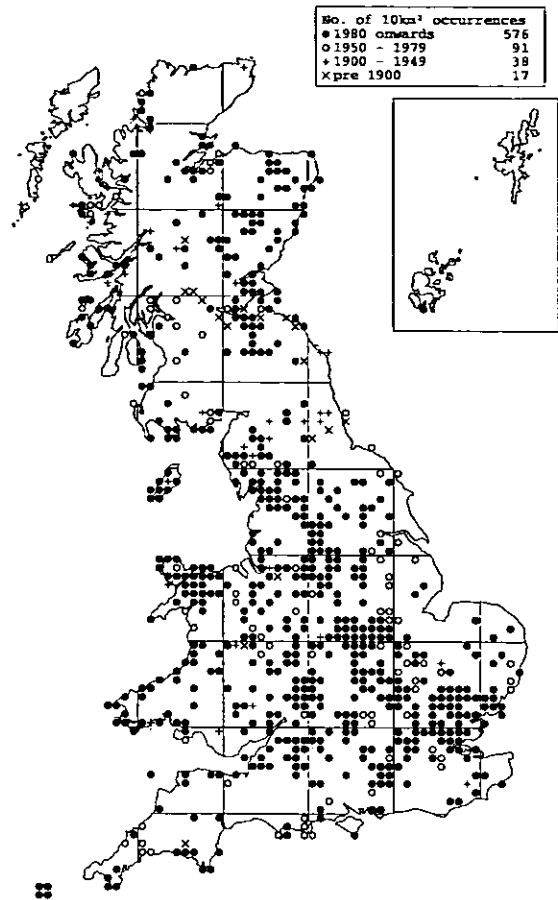
The species is widespread but very scattered in Britain. The species is widespread in western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Most early records were from dry wine cellars, but it is now recorded in other indoor situations (Merrett 1979), usually found close to floor level. The female hangs upside down in a tangled sheet web and gyrates very rapidly if disturbed. She carries the bundle of eggs in her chelicerae, loosely surrounded by silk threads, until they hatch. Adults may be found at all seasons and in Europe it has been observed that males may live for two years and females for three to four years (Bristowe 1958).

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[1403] Segestriidae: *Segestria senoculata*



Status

Generally common, particularly in the north and west.

Distribution

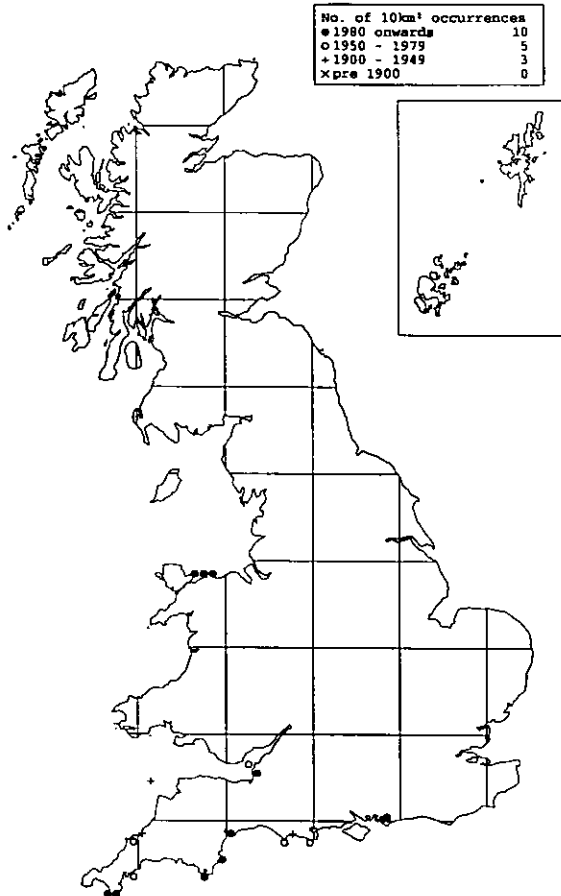
The species is widespread throughout Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This attractively marked spider lives in a tube constructed in a hole in a wall, under bark and stones or in rubble and scree, from sea-level to high altitudes (over 500 m in Shropshire and West Lancashire). Strong threads which act as trip wires radiate out from the hidden tube. The spider waits in the entrance of the retreat for unwary prey to touch the threads before dashing out to seize and drag the victim back into the retreat for consumption. Sometimes the spider can be enticed out with a tuning fork or a grass stem. Adults occur throughout the year, but both sexes seem to peak in spring and early summer. The eggs are laid within the female's retreat and the young stay there after hatching, sometimes eating their mother before dispersing (Roberts 1995).

Author of profile: R. Ruffell

[1401] Segestriidae: *Segestria bavarica*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A).

Distribution

This species is largely restricted to coastal regions of south west Britain, apart from records in North Wales from Puffin Island off Anglesey (Davies 1995) and the Great and Little Orme (Gallon 2001b). *S. bavarica* is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland and only from Sweden in Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

S. bavarica is confined to coastal regions where it can be found in cracks within rock outcrops or old walls. It has been found in gravestones in Chichester about three miles from the nearest estuary and many more miles from the nearest coastal rocky outcrop (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.). This species takes at least two years to reach maturity with adult males occurring over spring and summer whilst mature females can live for several years.

Threats

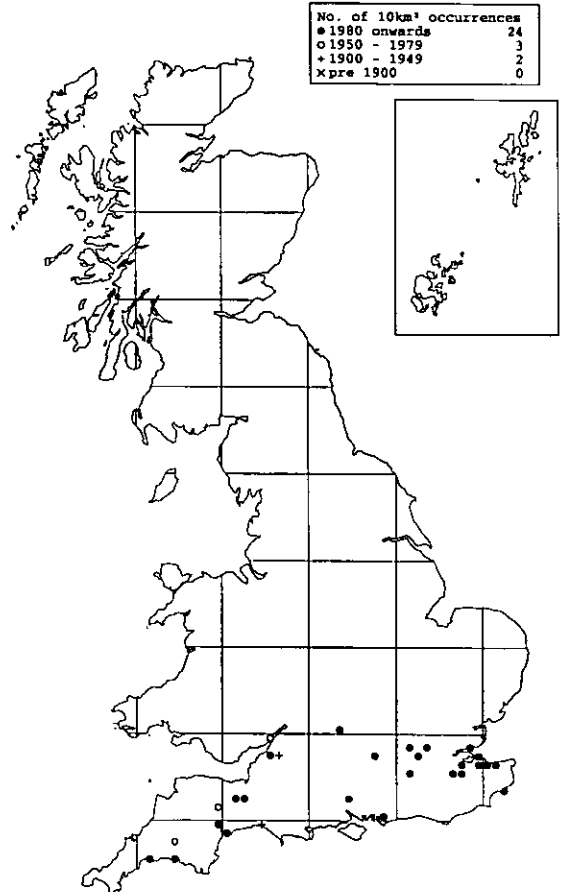
There are no major threats except for a limited amount of quarrying of cliff faces.

Management

Limit potential quarrying of cliffs.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett (1990)

[1402] Segestriidae: *Segestria florentina*



Status

Scarce, but may be abundant at some sites.

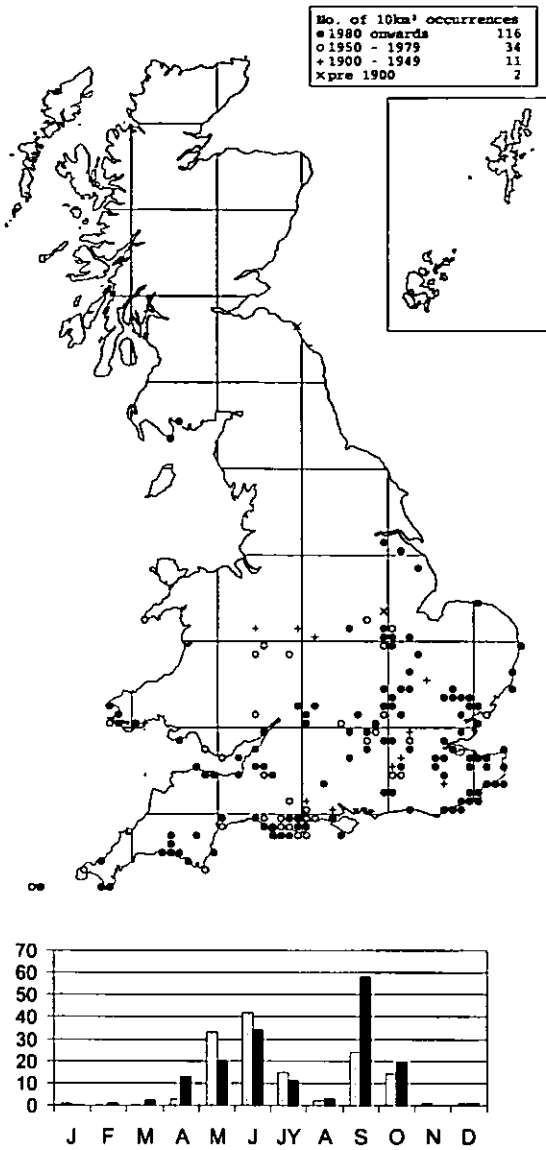
Distribution

S. florentina is restricted to southern Britain. The spider is steadily increasing in numbers and distribution (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). It is widespread in western Europe as far north as Denmark, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

S. florentina has been recorded from holes in walls and under stones, often near ports and in market towns. It is a large species, the adults with distinctive iridescent green on the chelicerae visible at the entrance to the tubular retreat. Adults occur in summer and autumn.

Author of profile: P. Smithers



Status

This species is generally very local but may be abundant where it does occur.

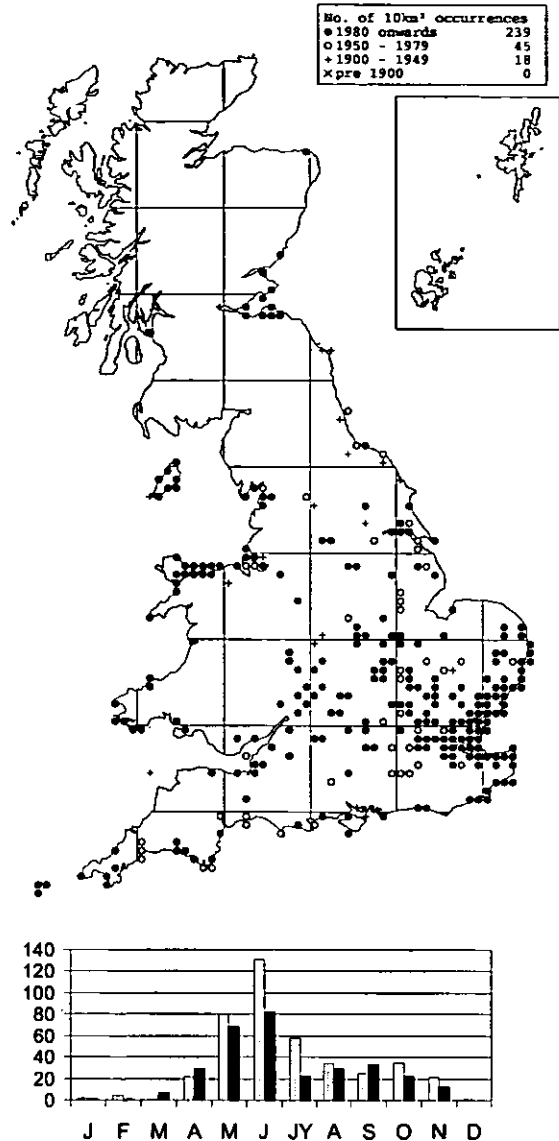
Distribution

D. erythrina is widespread in much of the south of Britain but extremely local in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but absent from Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

This species occurs in maritime habitats where it may be the dominant member of the genus. It is frequent on heathland, to the exclusion of *D. crocata* and is more often associated with ants (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). It has been recorded from permanent grasslands, disused railway tracks and ancient woodlands (Crocker & Dawes 1996), from under stones, logs and debris and possibly sometimes in damp gardens. It is very rare in Essex where it only occurs in old and undisturbed habitats (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). The species is usually replaced by *D. crocata* in disturbed habitats (Cooke 1965, 1968a). Like *D. crocata* it specialises in eating woodlice, rejected by most other spiders. Adults have been recorded all year round with peaks in late spring/early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: P. Smithers



Status

This species is common and abundant in suitable habitats in much of southern lowland Britain

Distribution

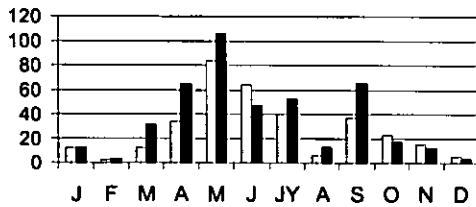
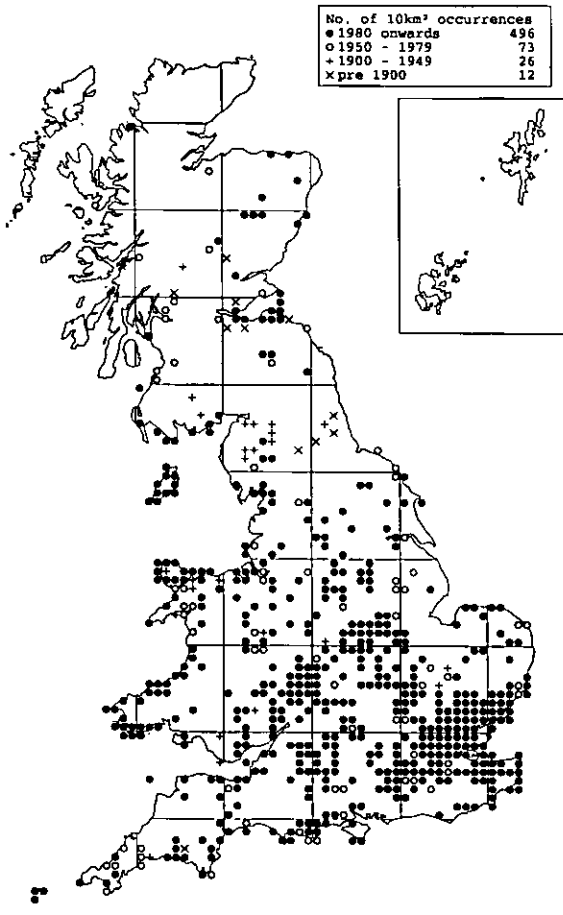
D. crocata is widespread in southern Britain, particularly near the coast, but is absent from much of Wales and the north. In Europe it is widely distributed but has not been recorded from Scandinavia north of Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

D. crocata occurs in maritime habitats and is often synanthropic, found in damp cellars and kitchens and under stones, logs and debris in damp gardens, churchyards and waste ground, where it feeds largely on woodlice at night. Adults have been recorded all year round, with a peak from spring to mid-summer, and possibly again in the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Smithers

[1301] Dysderidae: *Harpactea hombergi*



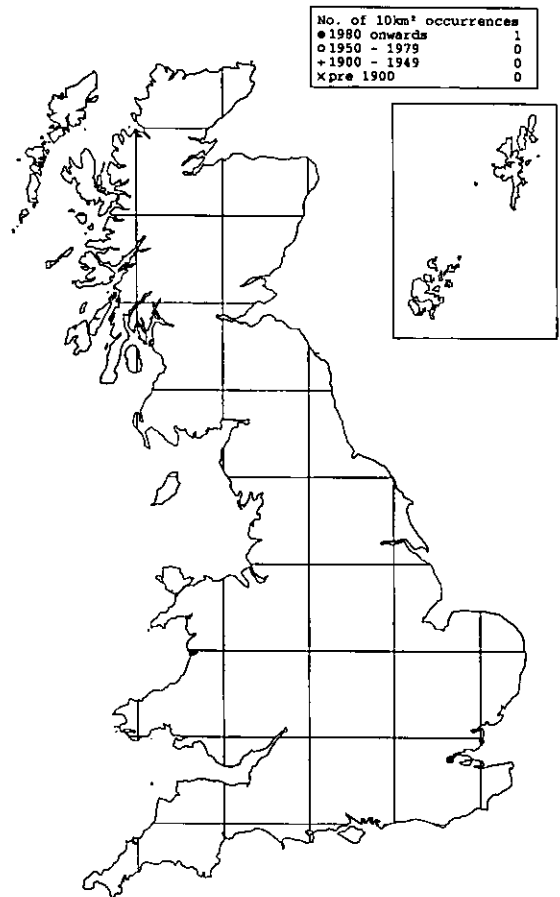
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widely distributed in Britain, but it becomes more scattered in northern England, with few records for the north of Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Denmark and Sweden.

Habitat and ecology
The spider is found under stones and bark, in ivy, dry litter and detritus wherever it collects such as in the bottoms of hedges, in epicormic shoots of trees, birds' nests and squirrels' drays. It has been recorded in gardens and sometimes houses. A fast moving nocturnal hunter with a rather elongated appearance, especially in the male, it spends the day in a sparse silken cell. The pink eggs are laid in batches of about 20 and guarded by the female (Bristowe 1958). Adults of both sexes can be found in every month of the year with peaks during the spring/early summer and autumn periods. Large numbers of all age groups occur together in suitable habitats.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell

[1302] Dysderidae: *Harpactea rubicunda*



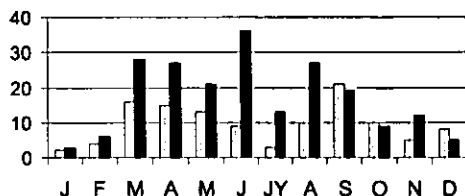
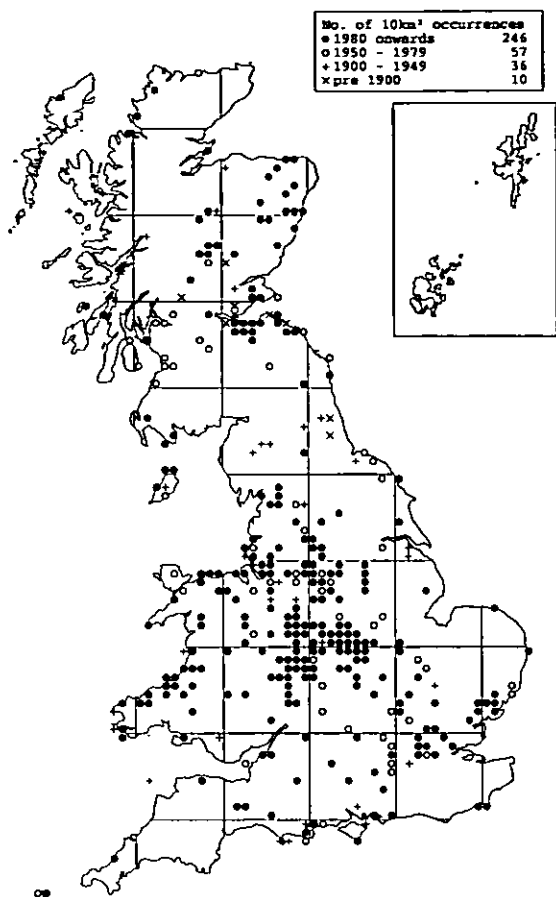
Status
H. rubicunda was evidently found in numbers in the Tilbury area of Essex in 1988 (Hamblen & Linfield 1991), but there have been no further records reported.

Distribution
The species appears to be confined to the Tilbury area. Hamblen & Linfield (1991) suggest that the spider may be widespread in parts of southern Essex and may eventually be found to be much more widespread in south-eastern England. However, comprehensive survey in south Essex including the use of pitfall traps in many suitable locations has failed to record the species, despite the wide range in the region identified for *Zodarium italicum*, a species with somewhat similar habitat preferences. *H. rubicunda* is also known from central and eastern Europe.

Habitat and ecology
Hamblen & Linfield (1991) describe the species as appearing thermophilous in Britain, occurring under stones, tarmac debris, rubble, bricks and doubtless other materials in a variety of sites including waste ground and rough grassland. In Europe it apparently occurs in a variety of habitats, including fields, woodlands, gardens and buildings. Adults have a long season, both sexes being found throughout the year.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[1102] Oonopidae: *Oonops pulcher*



Status

Local, but the species can be quite numerous where it occurs.

Distribution

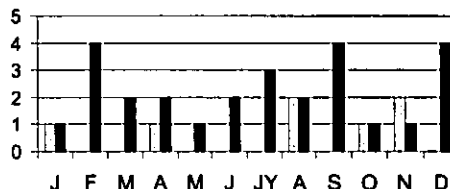
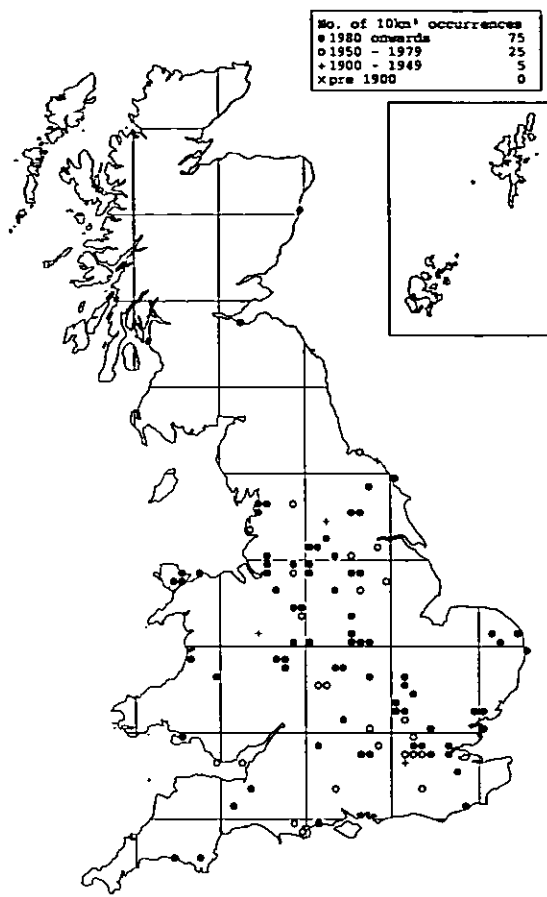
The spider is widely distributed throughout Britain. It is widespread in Europe but has not been recorded from most of Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

This small, pale, pink spider can be found in dry litter, grass tussocks and birds' nests, under stones and tree bark, where it is sometimes in the webs of *Amaurobius fenestralis*. It is also occasionally found in sheds and other buildings. A six-eyed, free-living, hunting spider, it spends the day in a silken cell, emerging at night to feed. As with *O. domesticus* the pink eggs are laid in batches of two. Both sexes have been found throughout the year, but there seem to be peaks in the spring/early summer and late summer/autumn.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell

[1101] Oonopidae: *Oonops domesticus*



Status

Synanthropic but scarce. The spider is probably under-recorded due to its small size and nocturnal habits.

Distribution

The species is widely distributed in southern Britain as far north as Lancashire and Yorkshire, but with only two records in Scotland. It is widespread in western Europe but has not been recorded from Austria or Scandinavia north of Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

It is almost confined to houses and other warm buildings but Ian Dawson has found it outside in March in the stiff leaves of a yucca. The small size and nocturnal habits of *O. domesticus* enable it to live almost unnoticed in houses. An active hunter with slow, positive movements, interspersed with short, fast dashes and pauses, it can be found on ceilings and walls after dark as it seeks a mate or prey. During the daytime it remains concealed in a silken cell. Batches of two eggs are laid and there are probably several such batches of pink eggs which are visible through the wall of the sac. Adults of both sexes are probably to be found at all times of the year.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell

Status

Extremely rare. Searches at the one known site produced single females on six occasions, the last in 1994, when the ivy habitat was cut. Other potential sites with similar habitat have been searched, so far without success. Oonopids usually have 6 eyes, and lack the anterior median eyes (AMEs) present in most spiders. The first specimen collected in 1992 had 8-eyes, but subsequently some of the individuals found had 6 eyes and some 8 eyes. All had the general appearance and typical reddish-purple markings of the oonopid genus *Orchestina*. However, femora IV of the Essex specimens are much less swollen than those of typical *Orchestina* species. Dalmas (1916) in his revision of *Orchestina* also refers to the sporadic occurrence of AMEs in some species, although the 8-eyed patterns figured are different from that of the Essex specimens. In spite of further intensive searching no males have yet been collected, and it is still unclear whether the Essex specimens belong to *Orchestina* or to a closely related (new?) genus (Merrett & Murphy 2000).

Distribution

The species is known from only one site in North Essex, where it was collected between 1992 and 1994 (Ruffell & Kovoov 1994). It does not appear to have been recorded elsewhere in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

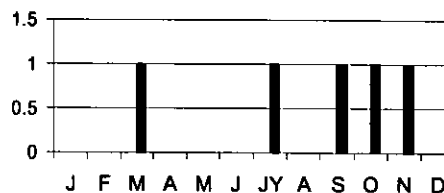
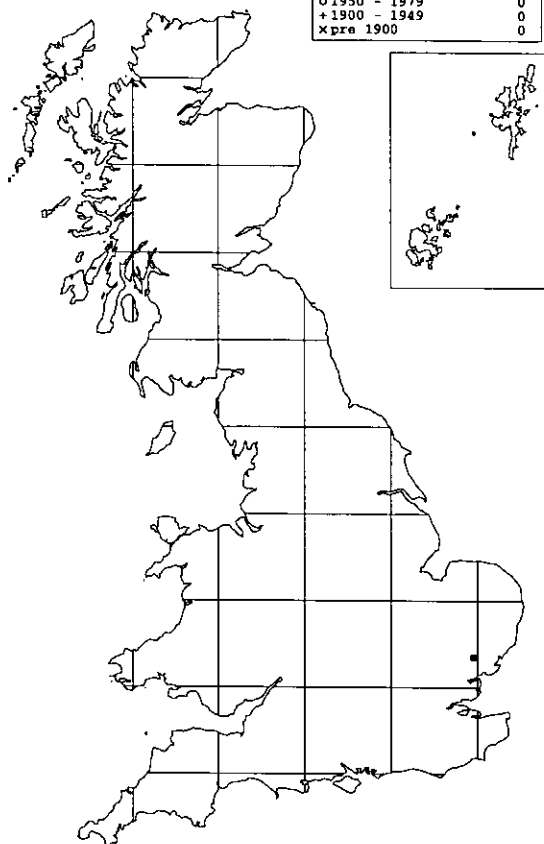
The spider has been collected on an old ivy covered wall, from the litter that collects in the close mass of clinging stems and branches. Specimens kept alive in captivity were fed psocids. They made insubstantial retreats, sometimes within a curled leaf and sometimes on the side of the box. Females have been found in March, July, September, October and November.

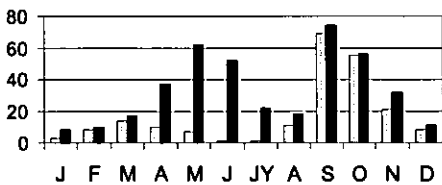
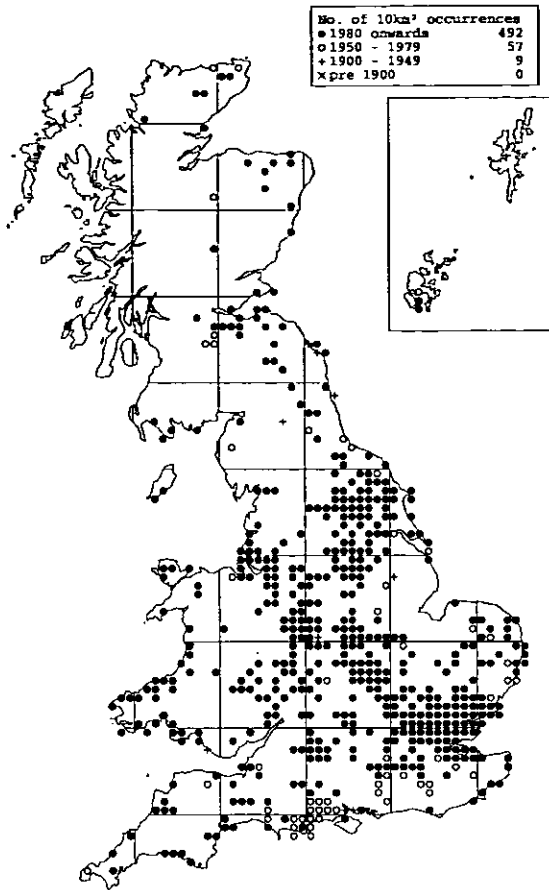
Threats

The ivy was cut after 1994, and it is not known whether the habitat has been completely destroyed, or will recover.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	1
○ 1950 - 1979	0
+ 1900 - 1949	0
x pre 1900	0





Status

Generally common in southern Britain.

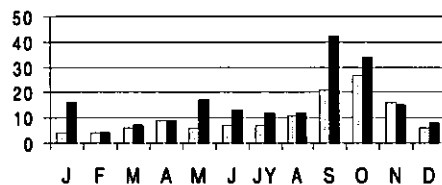
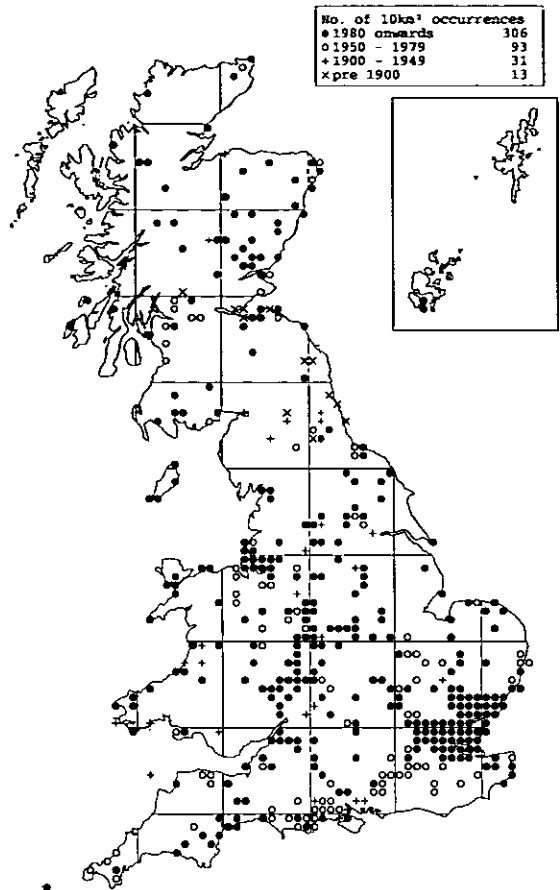
Distribution

The species is widespread in southern Britain, becoming much more restricted and scattered in the north. It is much less widespread than *E. furcata* on the continent (P. Merrett, pers. comm.).

Habitat and ecology

This pirate spider is found on trees, bushes, low vegetation and in leaf litter in a variety of habitats. It searches out the webs of other spiders, and plucks the threads to entice out the occupant. Powerful venom rapidly paralyses the unfortunate web spinner and the pirate spider then sucks dry its prey through an incision in a leg. This species may be collected with specimens of *E. furcata*. Adults have been collected throughout the year, with peaks in the autumn and in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

A common species throughout much of Britain.

Distribution

The spider is widespread in Britain and Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This pirate spider is found on trees, bushes, low vegetation and in leaf litter in a variety of habitats. It has also been taken in an interstitial trap in coastal shingle. As with other members of the genus, this species is predatory on other web-spinning spiders. It may be found in company with *E. cambridgei*. Both sexes are mature throughout the year, with peaks in the autumn and in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider is fairly frequent at most of its few known sites.

Distribution

Since 1974 the species has been recorded from a number of sites in Dorset, at Arne, Horton Common, Keyworth Farm near Wareham, Parley Common, Ramsdown Common, Stephens Castle and Town Common. It has also been found at Cranes Moor in the New Forest and probably at two other sites in Hampshire, as well as at Chobham Common, Surrey (Askins & Jones 1998). It is widespread in southern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

E. aphana is found on dry heathland in the building and mature phases, with some patches of bare stony ground and *Ulex europaeus* and *Pinus sylvestris* present. Both sexes may be found as adults from May to July, females also in August.

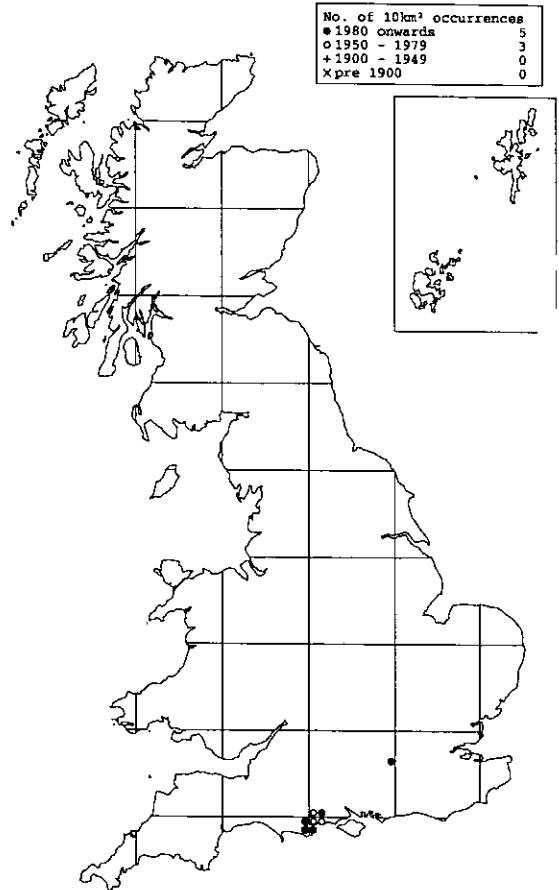
Threats

Fire and loss of heathland to building development and agriculture. Most of Horton Common has been ploughed for agriculture since the discovery of the spider. Only a small part of the once extensive heath of Parley Common survives, the rest having been lost to Bournemouth airport and housing development at Ferndown and West Parley, with further encroachment along the northern edge of the common in prospect. Pines (*Pinus sylvestris* and *P. pinaster*) have invaded substantial areas of the dry heath within Town Common SSSI, especially at Ramsdown Common.

Management

There needs to be clearance of rhododendron and other invading vegetation. Management of heathland whether by grazing, mowing or burning, should allow *Calluna* to reach the mature phase. This will often necessitate the additional control of scrub and pine invasion by hand-pulling.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). An uncommon species, never numerous.

Distribution

The species is widespread but very locally distributed in England south-east of a line from the Severn to the Wash. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Denmark, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

This pirate spider is found mainly on mature heathland on tall heather and gorse. It searches out the webs of other spiders and invades them in order to feed on the rightful occupants. It has also been recorded from younger stages of heathland succession as well as a number of other habitats including fens and buildings. Adults occur in late summer and autumn, but have been recorded until March (Merrett 1990).

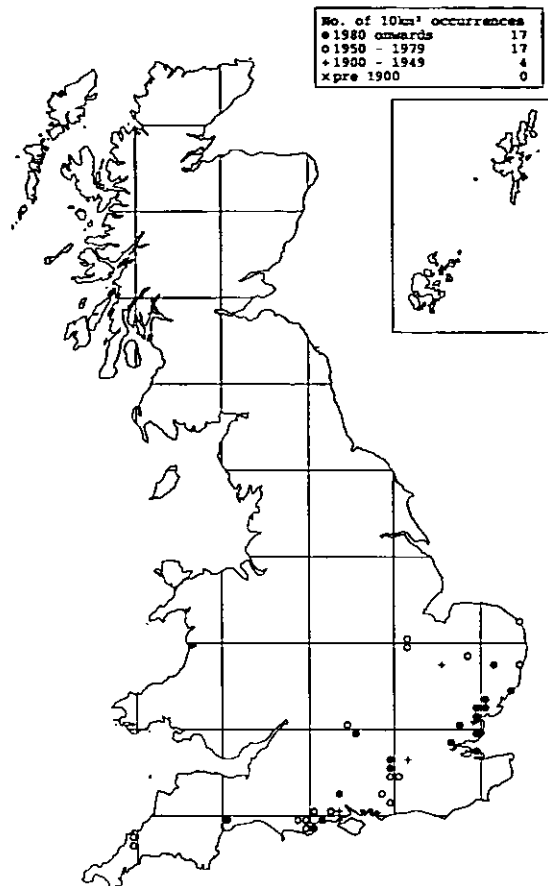
Threats

The main threats to this species arise from loss of its heathland strongholds to agriculture, forestry, housing and industrial developments (Merrett 1990).

Management

Although the species appears to be heavily dependent on mature heather, rotational management is necessary to prevent scrub invasion and to maintain all seral stages of heather (Merrett 1990).

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. One of the rarest and most spectacular of British spiders, thought to be extinct in Britain until rediscovered in 1979. The population size is believed to vary between fifteen and sixty adults, with unknown numbers of juveniles.

Distribution

This spider was formerly recorded from several heathland areas in the Poole/Bournemouth area, Dorset, and may have been seen at Kynance Cove, West Cornwall, in 1932 (Bristowe 1958) and on the Isle of Wight. It is now known only from one site in Dorset, indicated by a 50-km dot on the map. The species is rare in northern Europe, recorded from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden (where it is included on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000)) and Denmark (as *E. cinnaberinus*), but it is fairly frequent in parts of the Alps and Pyrenees.

Habitat and ecology

Found on dry sandy heathland with some bare or lichen covered patches. Shelter from wind is probably necessary, and a south facing slope is an advantage. It builds a silk-lined burrow about 10 cm deep covered by a small silk and debris 'roof'. Well-drained soil is essential. The burrows are usually found in open patches. The life cycle takes at least four years. One batch of eighty to ninety eggs is laid. The young remain in the mother's burrow over the first winter, until the sixth instar. Males are active in early May. Females and young feed from April to early June and in August and September, aestivating in late June and July. The food is mainly beetles and spiders, and ants when the spider is young.

Threats

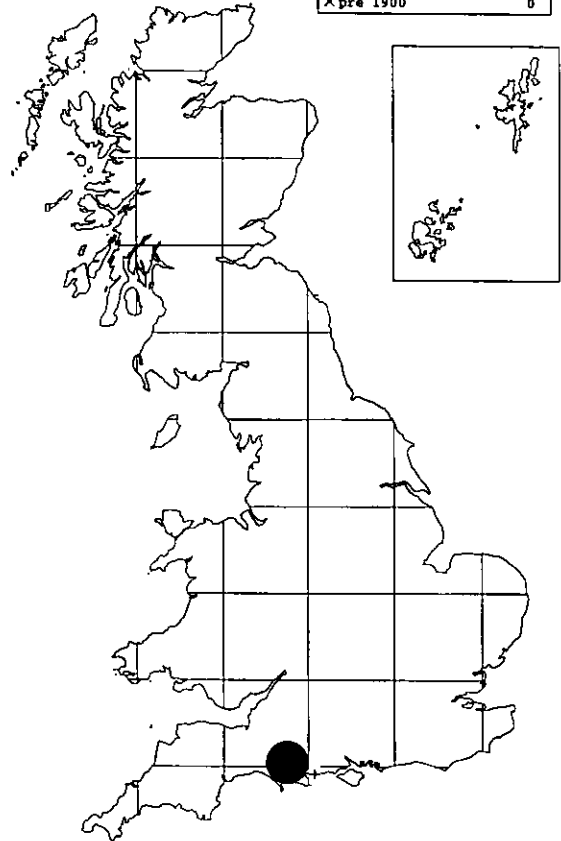
The site is a small isolated fragment of heath. Threats to the habitat include encroachment onto the heathland by the surrounding rhododendrons and pine trees, fire, and loss of heather from infestations of the Heather Beetle *Lochmaea suturalis* (Thomson). The population is so small that even limited collecting of this species is not acceptable. This species is protected by inclusion in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which prohibits, among other things, taking specimens without a licence.

Management

There is an agreement with the Forestry Commission on the conservation and management of the site. English Nature has erected a fence around the site. Some pine trees and rhododendrons have been removed, and this is continuing, leaving just a few to provide shelter. Further research into the biology and habitat requirements of the species is desirable.

Author of profile: P. Merrett.

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	1
○ 1950 - 1979	0
+ 1900 - 1949	1
X pre 1900	0



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). UK Biodiversity Action Plan species. Large numbers have been found in some localities but the species is no longer present or severely reduced in numbers at some of its former strongholds.

Distribution

The spider has been found at a few heathland localities in southern England – the New Forest and Crookham in Hampshire; Chobham Common, Thursley Common and Ash Ranges, Surrey and Lavington Common and Ambersham Common, West Sussex (Merrett, in Bratton 1991). Denton (1999a) adds other Surrey locations for the spider at Brentmoor Common and Witley Common. It is widespread in western Europe but absent from Scandinavia and Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The spider favours mature heather plants where it spins a horizontal orb web about half way up the plant. There is a stabilimentum (band of silk) running through the web's hub, extending to its opposing edges. The spider hangs down from the web hub in line with the stabilimentum. Both sexes mature in the late spring.

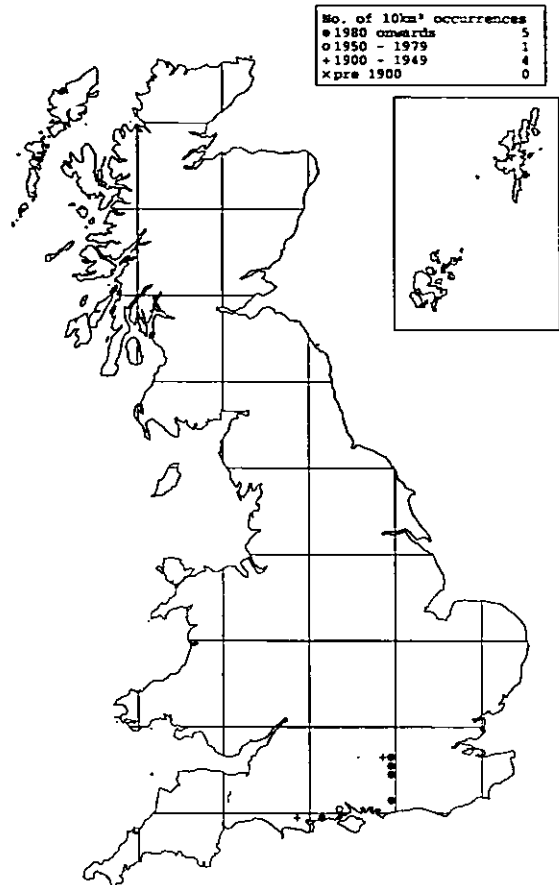
Threats

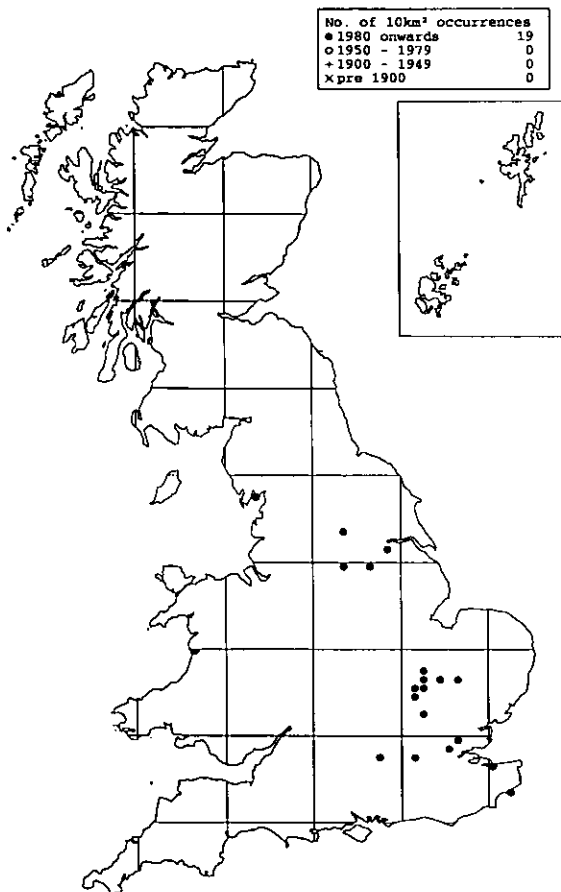
The prolonged and continued loss of mature heathland has destroyed much of the habitat for this species. The loss of habitat has been due primarily to fire, planting with coniferous woodland, motorcycle scrambling and birch and pine invasion (Merrett, in Bratton 1991). Housing developments have also destroyed much heathland.

Management

At sites where the species still exists a mature heather habitat should be retained and encouraged. Where heather is perhaps over-mature a programme of controlled annual burning of small areas over a period of 20 years or so (Merrett, in Bratton 1991) and manual scrub clearance should help maintain a mature heather habitat. On some fenced sites the *Calluna* heath can be effectively managed by grazing, but this option is not possible on sites with common rights where fencing is prohibited.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991)





Status

Not formally included on the British checklist although recorded in England in the early 1990s in three widely separated localities - Liverpool, Southampton and Reading. The species is now extremely common in greenhouses in the Reading area (Hopkin 2000) and is increasingly being recorded further afield. The spider has been found in every garden centre searched in Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Kent (I. Dawson, pers. comm.) and it has recently been found in a Leicester garden centre where it was fairly common within several of their heated glass houses (J. Daws, pers. comm.).

Distribution

This is an Old World species, but is now widely introduced and becoming increasingly common in England, Holland, Belgium and other European countries (Jonsson 1998).

Habitat and ecology

U. plumipes is probably imported from Holland on pot plants and is able to survive in greenhouses where the winter temperature is maintained well above freezing. In this habitat it appears to be playing an effective role in controlling whitefly. At rest the spider resembles a small piece of dried vegetation. It spins a small horizontal, cribellate web up to 30 cm across resembling that of *U. walckenaerius*, for example, across the tops of plant pots. The egg-sacs, varying from dark brown to pale cream in colour, are characteristically star-shaped and have been seen suspended from a mass of greyish cribellate silk. They are often the easiest way of confirming the spider's presence. It is easily distinguished from *Uloborus walckenaerius*, the only other member of the cribellate family Uloboridae found in Britain, by the feathery hairs on tibia 1.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider has been abundant at some sites, such as Bagley Wood (where it was still recorded in the 1970s), Box Hill and some sites in the New Forest. West Country records are each for only one or two individuals.

Distribution

The species was first recorded in Britain in Borrowdale, Cumbria in the 1860s. There are records from various locations in the New Forest, South Hampshire; Box Hill and Wallis Wood, Surrey; Bagley Wood, Oxfordshire; Butler's Hangings and Hearnton Wood, Buckinghamshire and Grubbins Wood, Westmorland. Recent records include the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire and in the Wye Valley and at Queen's Wood near Ross, Herefordshire (Askins 1990; Farr-Cox 1990; Merrett in Bratton 1991; Rixom 1998). Merrett (1995, 2000) also gives new county records for Kent, Staffordshire and Dorset. The spider is widespread in western and central Europe but not common.

Habitat and ecology

H. paradoxus is found on evergreen trees and shrubs (particularly yew), although has been found by the author in its web on immature beech on edge of oak woodland in Central France. The spider spins a triangular segment of orb web (containing 2 radial threads) within the tree foliage and keeps it taut by holding on to one corner of the triangle from its sitting position. When an insect is caught in the web the spider slackens and tightens the tension of the web until its prey is fully entangled in silk before advancing to wrap it securely (Roberts 1995). Both sexes reach maturity in the late summer, mating not occurring until the following spring. It appears that the young spiders over-winter in the egg-sac, not reaching maturity until late the following summer, two years after their mother reached maturity (Bristowe 1958).

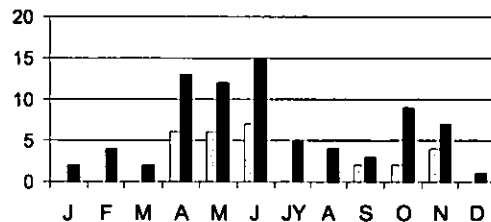
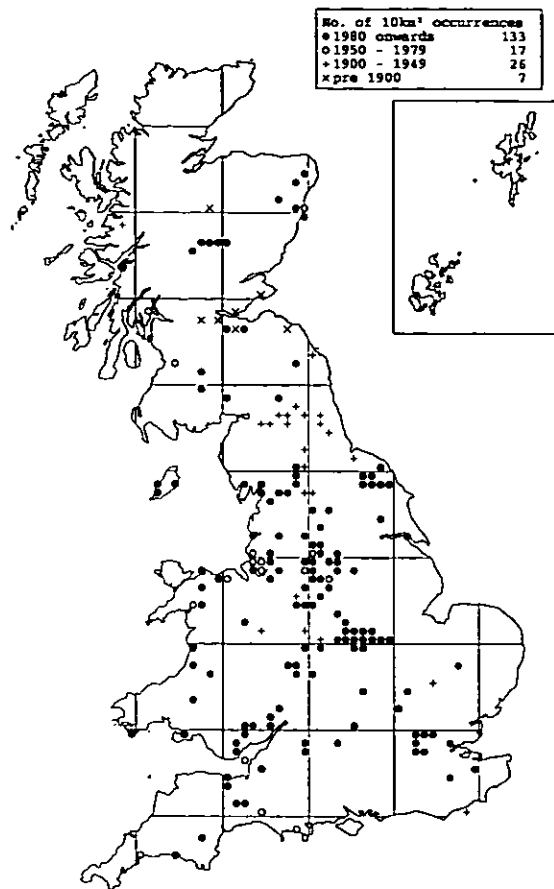
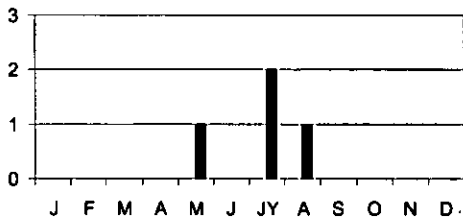
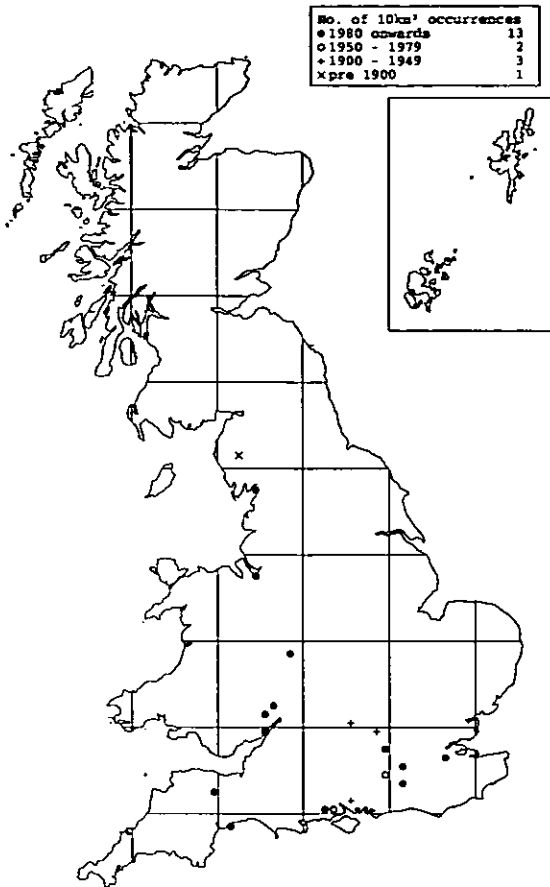
Threats

The spider appears to favour a habitat where evergreen trees and bushes grow in amongst broad-leaved species e.g. Bagley Wood and West Walk Wood. Bagley Wood has undergone extensive conifer planting and although the spider has been recorded since this occurred it is not known whether the spider is utilising the increased conifer coverage or remaining within the broad-leaved woodland. West Walk Wood has similarly undergone conifer planting but there is no information on the current status of the spider at this site.

Management

The present uncertain status of *H. paradoxus* within the sites where it has been recorded makes it difficult to offer any concrete suggestions for future management. Confirmation of the continued presence of the spider at the sites mentioned and some assessment of its current status is required. Maintenance of a suitable mix of evergreen and broad-leaved trees and shrubs would seem to be an essential pre-requisite at sites where the spider has been recorded.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee



Status

Local, but probably under-recorded due to its specialist habitat.

Distribution

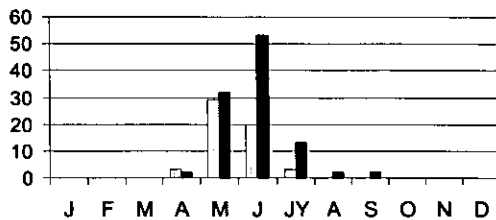
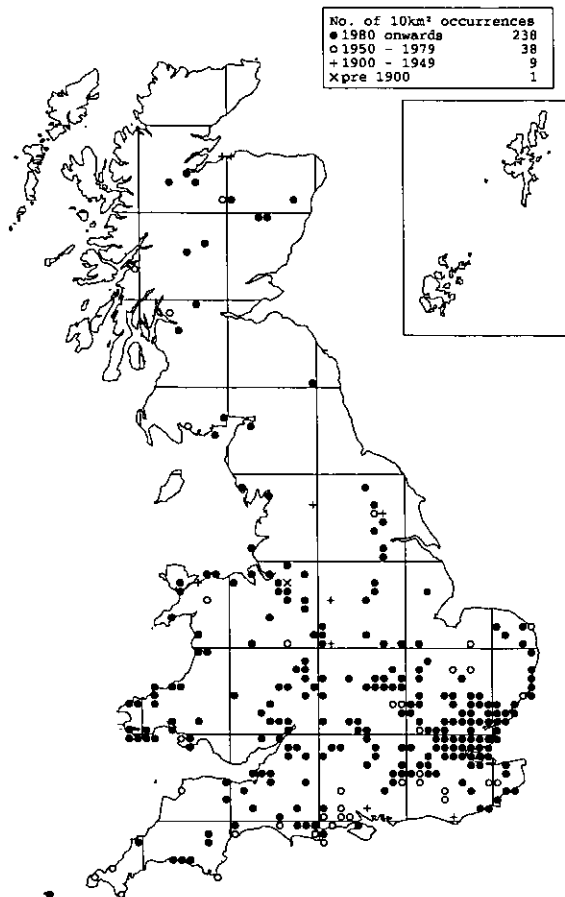
This species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in western Europe. Globally the spider has a Holarctic distribution (Platnick 1998).

Habitat and ecology

N. cellulanus creates a small tangle-web in permanently dark, damp habitats. These habitats include mines, caves, cellars, culverts, sewers, hollow trees, amongst boulders and in thick marshland vegetation. This spider does not frequent dry subterranean habitats. Specimens can also be found beneath corrugated iron sheets (Crocker & Daws 1996). Mature specimens of both sexes have been recorded between March and November, and females throughout the year. Single, spherical, translucent-yellowish egg-sacs are carried by the female, attached to her spinnerets, between June and August (Bristowe 1958).

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[8701] Theridiidae: *Episinus angulatus*



Status

Generally an uncommon species, but it may be numerous in suitable habitat.

Distribution

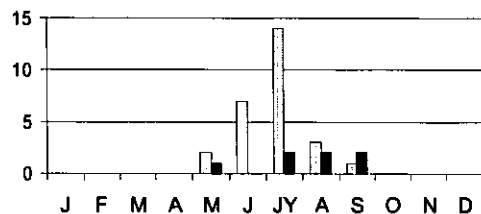
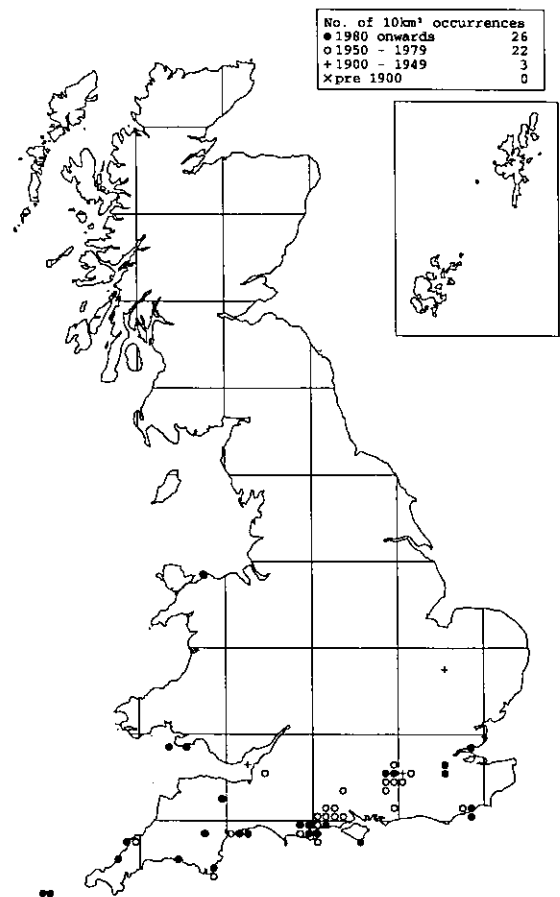
The spider is widespread in southern Britain, but becomes very locally distributed in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species produces a very simple, often H-shaped web, usually close to ground level. It is found in a wide variety of habitats from coastal shingle to mature woodland, but especially in marshes and tall grassland in damp situations. The spider sits on its web and uses its legs to tension the silk strands attached to the ground (or other substrate). Crawling insects are caught on this viscid, tensioned silk. Both sexes are mature in early to mid-summer with a peak in May and June, females persisting occasionally until September.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[8703] Theridiidae: *Episinus truncatus*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B).

Distribution

E. truncatus has been recorded from southern Britain between Cornwall and Kent, and also in Glamorgan and Caernarvonshire in Wales. It is widespread in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been recorded from heathlands where it spins a simple web beneath the heather. This species has also been recorded from maritime grasslands where it has been found beneath mats of rock-rose in Wales (Alexander and Fowles 1996) and from amongst grass tussocks on the Lizard, Cornwall (Smithers 1998b). Adults have been recorded from May to September.

Threats

The loss of heathlands and maritime grasslands to agriculture or forestry. Erosion of habitat due to public pressure.

Management

Heathlands should be managed to maintain a mosaic of age classes.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, with reference to Merrett (1990).

Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Small populations probably occur in most suitable habitats along the south-west coast of the UK, but may be under-recorded due to low population densities (Smithers 1998).

Distribution

Although *E. maculipes* was first recorded in Britain in 1929 at Tiptree Heath, Essex (Hull 1934), the spider has never been re-found at this location. The species was rediscovered in 1981 on the Isle of Wight (Hillyard 1983), and has subsequently been recorded from sites close to the coast between the Isle of Wight and East Cornwall, the Forest of Dean and most recently the New Forest and Dungeness. This species has been recorded from France and central and south-eastern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

E. maculipes has been found among the low canopy of trees and shrubs at the edges of woodlands where it spins a Y-shaped web between the vegetation at night (Hillyard 1983). It has occasionally been recorded from the field layer at the woodland edge. There are also several reports of this species from amongst dense curtains of ivy on cliff faces and one from plants close to the strandline (Smithers 1998b). Many records of this species are from habitats close to tidal waters. Adults have been recorded between June and September.

Threats

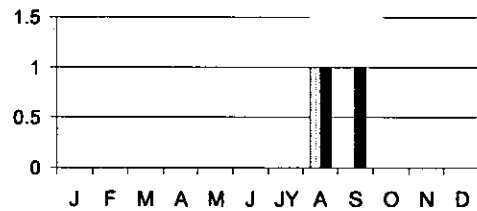
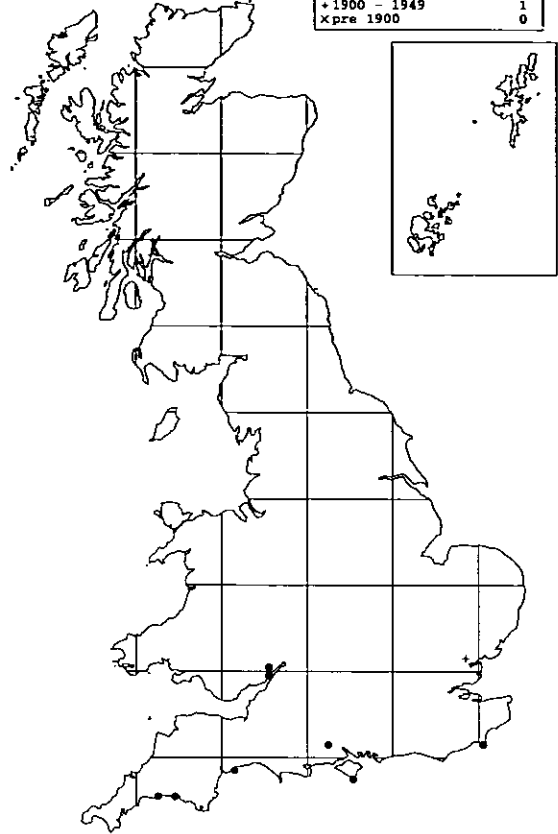
Waterfront development may pose a threat on the Isle of Wight but other sites are not known to be at risk.

Management

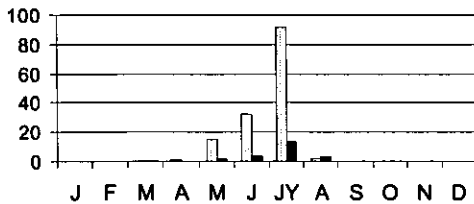
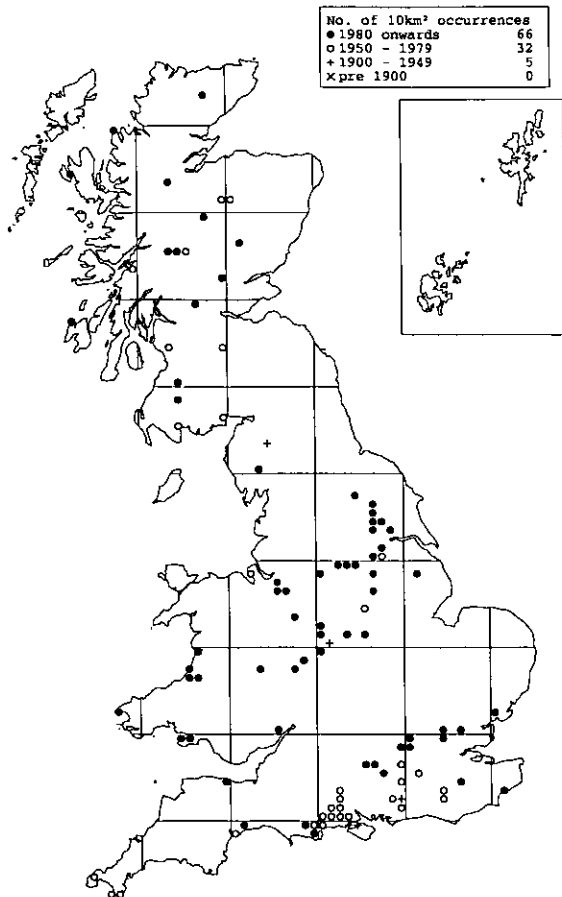
Maintain the habitat structure at sites from which this species has been recorded.

Author of profile: P. Smithers

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	8
○ 1950 - 1979	0
+ 1900 - 1949	1
x pre 1900	0



[8801] Theridiidae: *Euryopis flavomaculata*



Status

Generally very uncommon and local but the species is encountered more frequently on heathlands in southern England (Roberts 1995).

Distribution

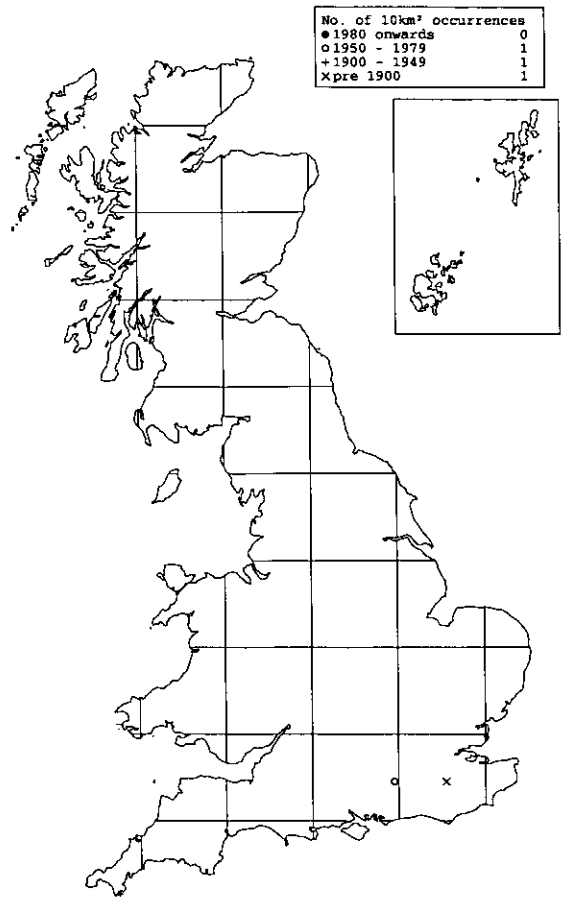
The spider is widespread but patchily distributed in Britain. It is widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species does not produce a web but searches for ants that are then immobilised with strands of sticky silk before the spider begins feeding. It is found most often amongst moss in wet habitats and in damp hollows on heathland but has also been recorded from pitfall traps in open woodland (Crocker & Daws 1996). Both sexes are mature in summer with a peak in July.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[8902] Theridiidae: *Dipoena erythropus*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). Only five or six specimens have ever been found in Britain. There are old records from near Tonbridge in West Kent and the Lizard in Cornwall. The only relatively recent record is of several specimens in 1971 at Thursley Common, Surrey.

Distribution

In Britain *D. erythropus* has only been found in southern England. It is patchily distributed in northern and central Europe, but is probably rare throughout this range.

Habitat and ecology

D. erythropus has been recorded from gorse on heathlands, adults have been found in June.

Threats

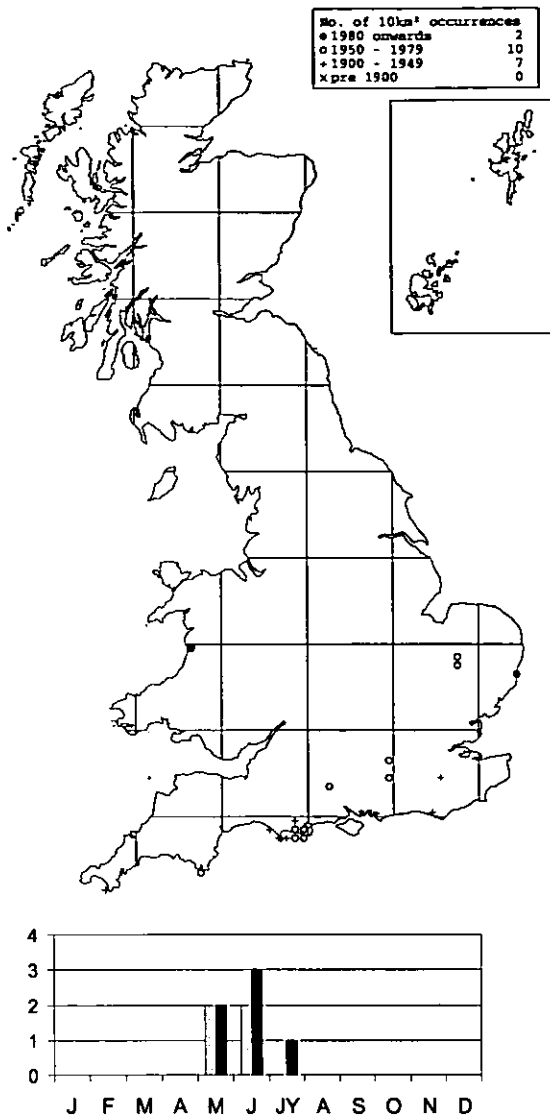
The reclamation of heathland for agriculture and also accidental fires.

Management

Research into the exact habitat requirements of this species is required in order to define a management strategy.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[8905] Theridiidae: *Dipoena prona*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B).

Distribution

D. prona is restricted to southern England and East Anglia apart from one record from Cardiganshire. It is widespread but rare in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

D. prona has been recorded from dry heathlands and calcareous grasslands, which are often near to the coast, where it has been found under stones. It may feed on ants. Adults of both sexes occur between May and July, females until August.

Threats

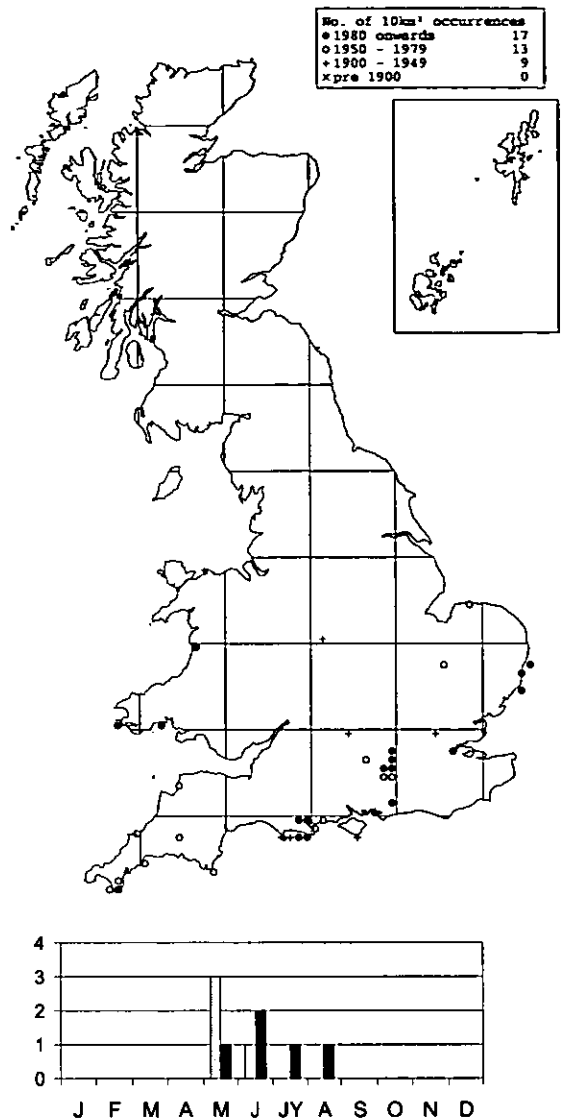
The coastal sites are not under threat at present but the heathland and grassland sites may be under threat from agriculture or forestry.

Management

No management is recommended as most of the sites are stony and on thinly vegetated soils.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[8903] Theridiidae: *Dipoena inornata*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is very scarce but can be abundant at some locations.

Distribution

A southern species with one old record from south-western Scotland. It is widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

D. inornata has been found on heathlands: beneath overhanging heather on sandy banks, in the heather canopy and under stones. It has also occasionally been found in coastal grassland. Adults of both sexes have been found from March to June, females to August.

Threats

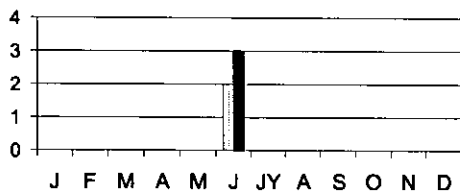
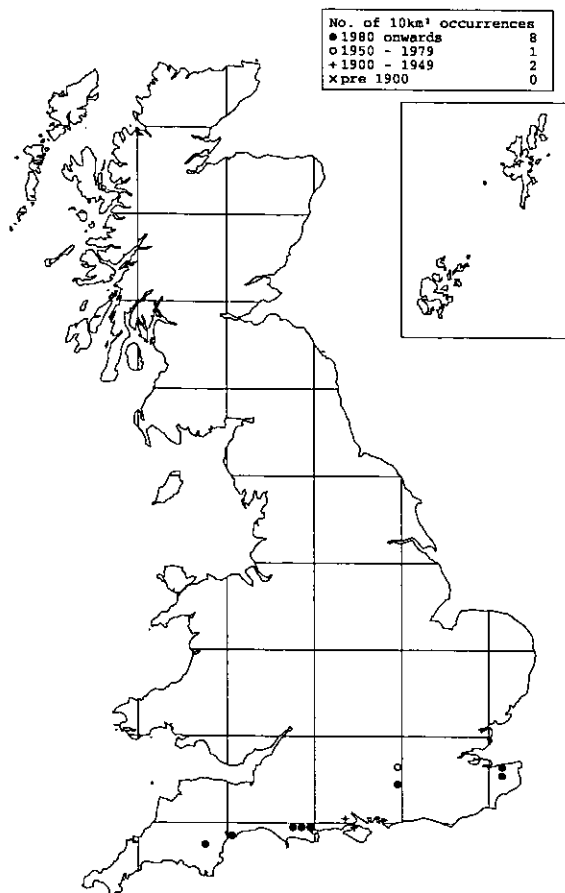
This species is abundant in rides with sandy banks in afforested areas of heath. The loss of this habitat when the forests are cleared could be a threat.

Management

Maintain rides with overhanging heather.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett (1990).

[8907] Theridiidae: *Dipoena tristis*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The species is rare in southern England.

Distribution

This spider is confined to southern England, recorded from south Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Surrey and Kent. It is widespread but slightly less rare in northern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Most records for this species are from heathland but some are from grasslands. It is usually found on gorse but it has also been recorded from young pines, heather and other bushes. It preys on ants which are caught with a minimal web consisting of a few sticky threads. Adults occur from May to July.

Threats

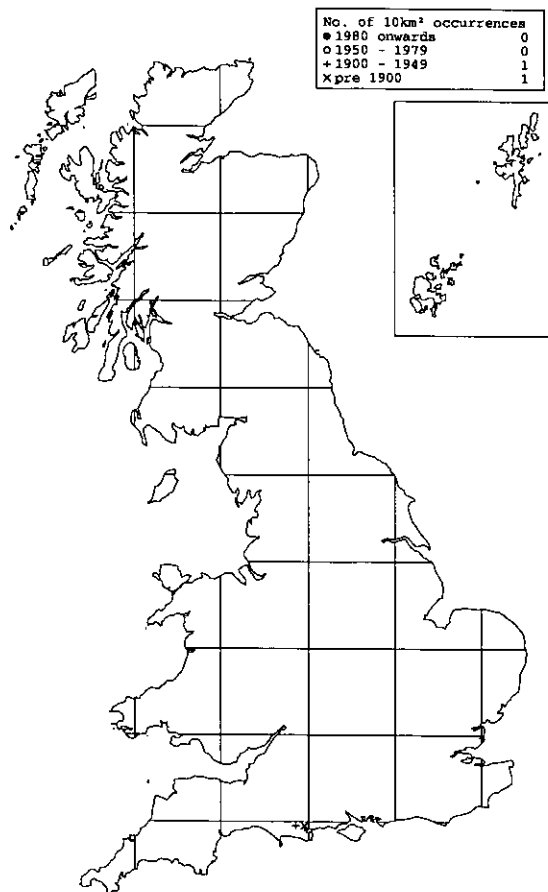
Loss of suitable habitat to afforestation and agriculture.

Management

Ensure the presence of older patches of heather on heathlands

Author of profile: P. Smithers, with reference to Merrett (1990).

[8901] Theridiidae: *Dipoena coracina*



Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Approximately ten specimens have been recorded in Britain, none since 1913.

Distribution

D. coracina has been recorded from only three sites in Britain. These are Bloxworth Heath and Morden Park in Dorset and a single site in Suffolk. The species is patchily distributed in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Most records are from heather but some are from grass in swamps. Adults of both sexes have been recorded in May with males in August and September.

Threats

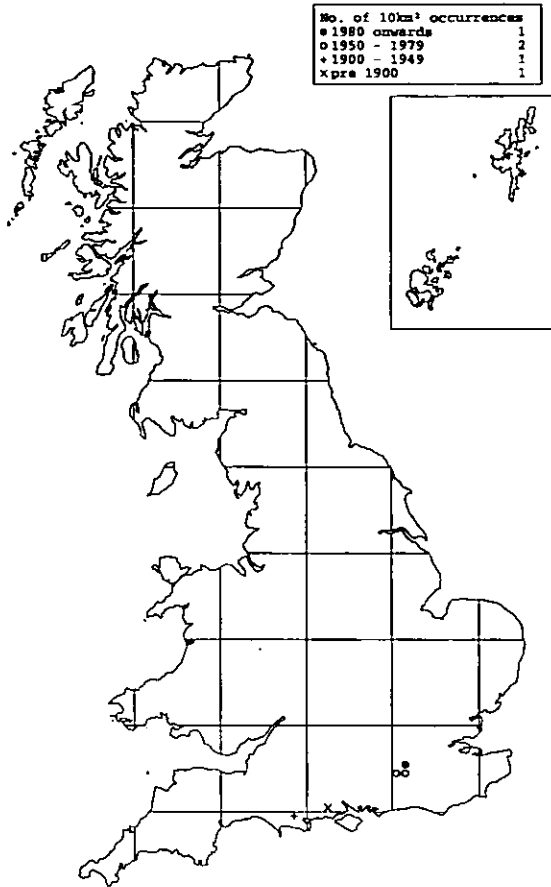
The loss and afforestation of heathlands.

Management

More data is required on the habitat requirements of this species before a management strategy can be suggested.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[8904] Theridiidae: *Diplocephalus melanogaster*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). This species is very rare in Britain. Single specimens have been recorded from Lyndhurst (Hampshire) in 1858, Bloxworth Heath (Dorset) in 1881, Mickleham Down (Surrey) in 1970, and Hackhurst Downs (Surrey) in 1976. In 1997 four adults were collected near Juniper Hall Field Centre at Box Hill, Surrey (Jones 1998).

Distribution

In Britain *D. melanogaster* has only been found in southern England. It is widespread in Europe as far north as southern Norway and Sweden, where it is included on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000). The spider is rare in northern Europe but more common in central and southern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been recorded from gorse and other low bushes, whilst in Ireland it has been found on the lower branches of Scots pine. Adults have been recorded in June and July.

Threats

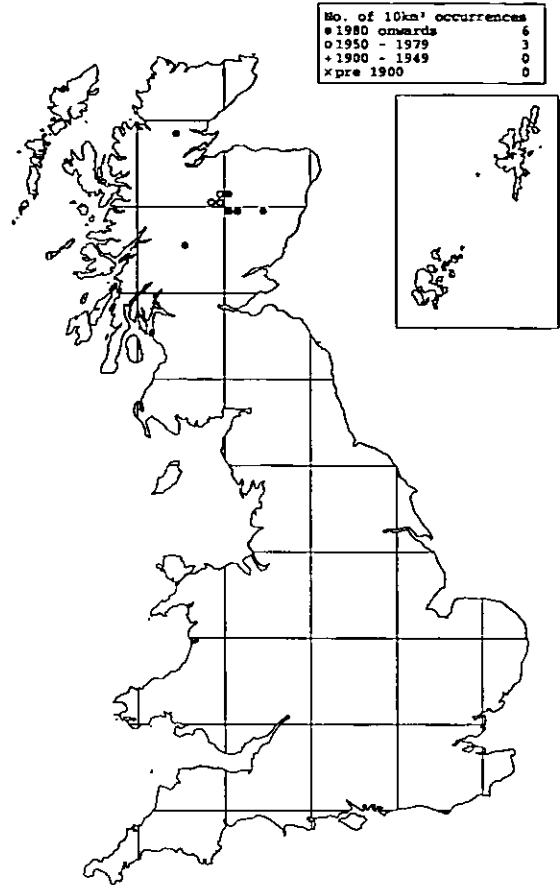
Afforestation of heathlands may pose a threat.

Management

As the males are very short lived and females live concealed in a retreat, little is known of their habitat requirements. More information is required before management recommendations can be made.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[8906] Theridiidae: *Diplocephalus torva*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The species appears to be well established at its known sites.

Distribution

D. torva is known only from a few sites in Scotland, including the Black Wood of Rannoch, Rothiemurchus Forest, Abernethy Forest, Bognacruie, Glen Tanar and Ballochbuie. It is known from France, Scandinavia and eastern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species is restricted to Caledonian pine forests, where it is found in the deep fissures of the bark on trunks of *Pinus sylvestris*. It spins a small web in which it catches wood ants. Both sexes have been found in June and females also in July, August and September.

Threats

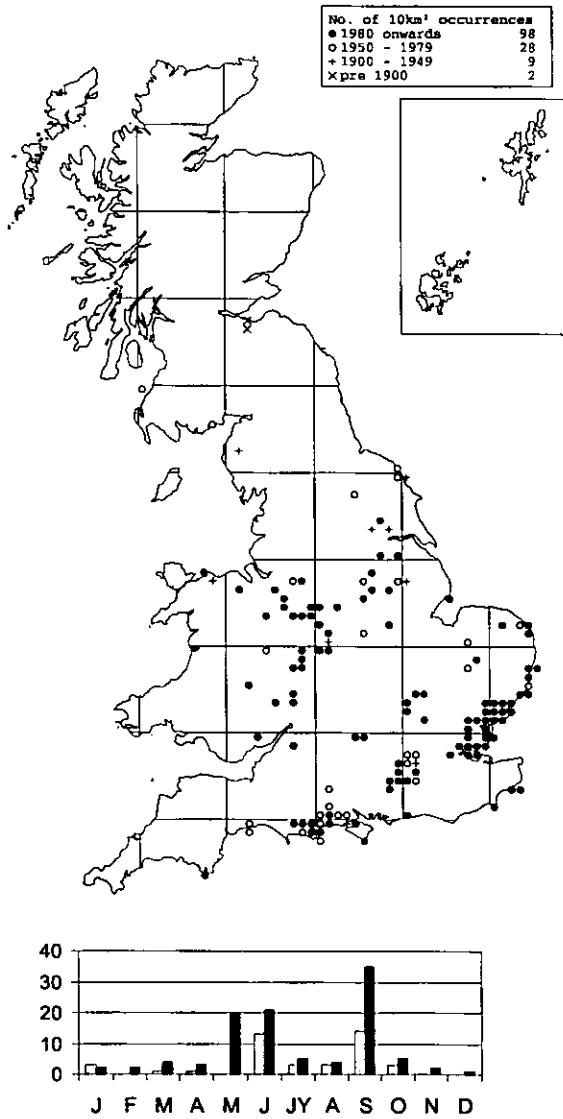
Loss of Caledonian pine forest and afforestation with high densities of non-native trees poses a threat to this species. The dense canopy of commercial forest produces a cooler habitat which is detrimental to both *D. torva* and its prey.

Management

Large areas of Caledonian pine forest have been purchased by conservation bodies and are being managed to restore the open nature of the original habitat.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[9001] Theridiidae: *Crustulina guttata*



Status

The species may be locally common in southern England but is generally scarce.

Distribution

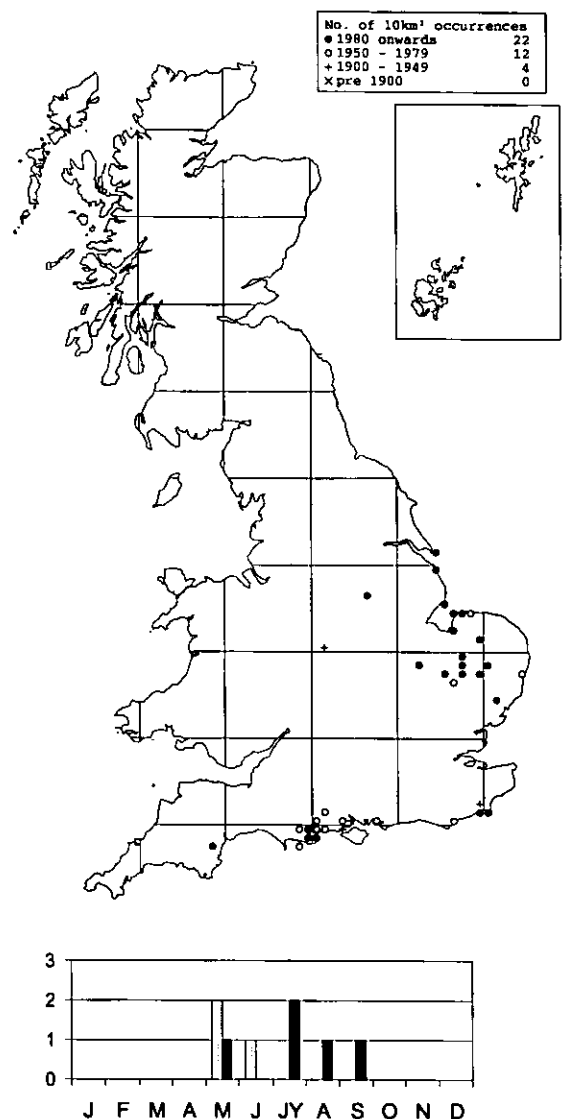
The spider is widespread but locally distributed in much of southern and eastern Britain, but becomes very scattered or entirely absent in the west and north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Small, insignificant webs are spun close to ground level amongst low vegetation, grass tussocks and detritus by this spider. It is also found in both coniferous and broad-leaved leaf litter and is most often encountered on dry, sandy soils. Adults have been found throughout the year, with peaks in the early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9002] Theridiidae: *Crustulina sticta*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B) and never common.

Distribution

Most records are from Dorset and the New Forest, East Anglia and the coast between West Norfolk and North Lincolnshire. The species is scattered but uncommon in Europe. It has been recorded from most countries in north-western Europe, but is included in the Red List for Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000) and has not been recorded from Norway.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been recorded from damp heaths and fens where it is found in damp situations at ground level. It has also been collected on shingle and amongst marram on dunes. Adults of both sexes have been recorded in May and June, females until October.

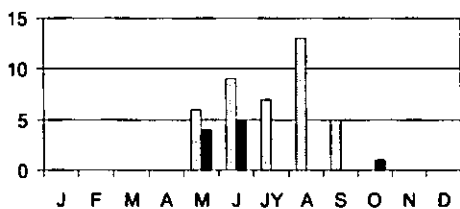
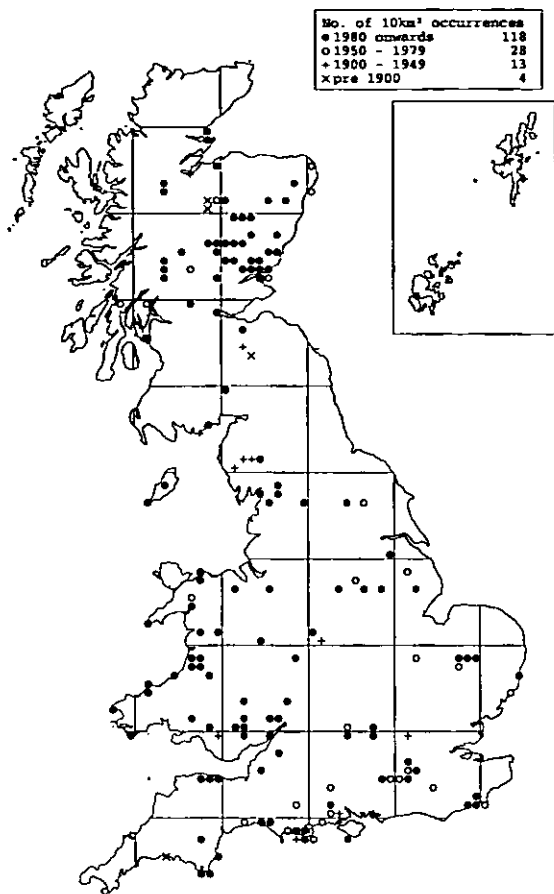
Threats

The loss of heathlands to agriculture and forestry; the drainage of fens.

Management

Maintain the damp nature of the above habitats.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).



Status

Generally uncommon throughout its range.

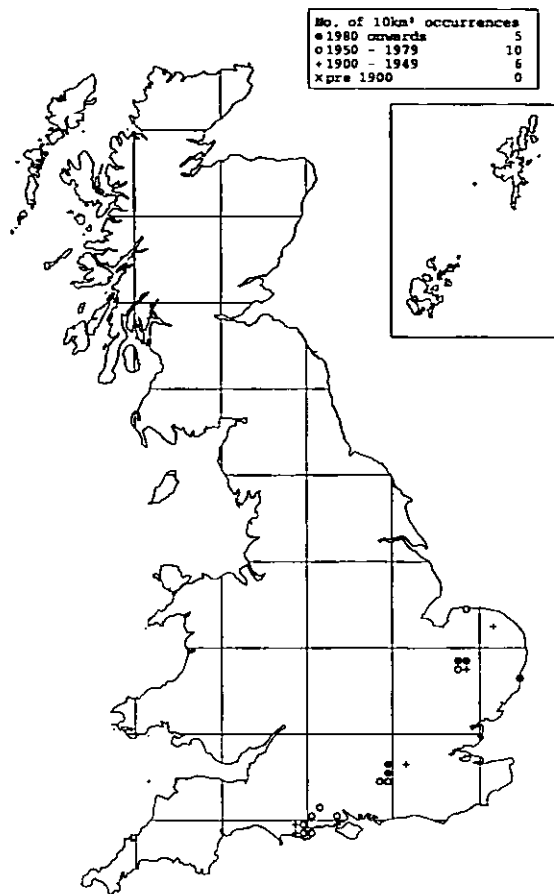
Distribution

The species is widespread but locally distributed throughout Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is usually found at ground level or in low vegetation in dry grassland, heathland and on sand dunes. It is ant-like in appearance and is usually found with ants, sometimes even in their nests. It does not build a web but actively hunts ants, which it captures with little or no use of silk to immobilise them. Adult males have been recorded between May and September, females until October.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B).

Distribution

S. albomaculata has been recorded only from central-southern England and East Anglia, where it is widespread on the heaths of Dorset, the New Forest, Surrey and Breckland. It occurs throughout Europe but is more abundant in the south.

Habitat and ecology

S. albomaculata occurs on dry heathland, where it is found on sparsely vegetated, stony ground. It is also associated with burnt areas, reaching maximum densities at between two and four years after the fire then declining for approximately eight years after which it is absent. It has also been found on shingle ridges in Norfolk. The species spins a small web between low stems of *Ulex minor*, around grass tussocks or between large stones and the ground. Beetles and ants are its main prey. Adults can be found from April to October with a peak between May and June and another between August and September.

Threats

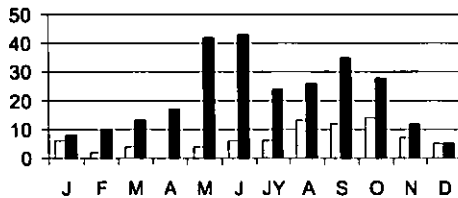
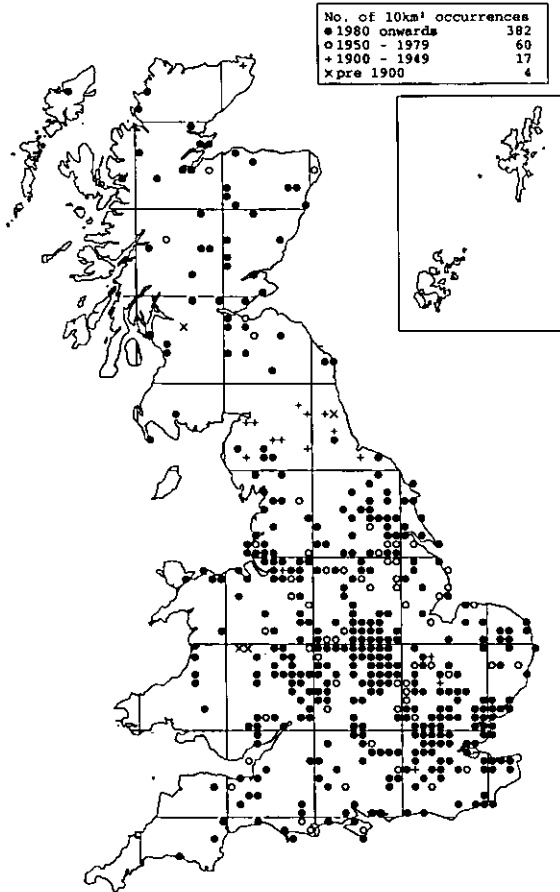
The loss of heathland to agriculture and forestry.

Management

Maintain all age classes of heather by rotational burning.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, with reference to Merrett (1990) and Roberts (1995).

[9102] Theridiidae: *Steatoda bipunctata*



Status

Generally common.

Distribution

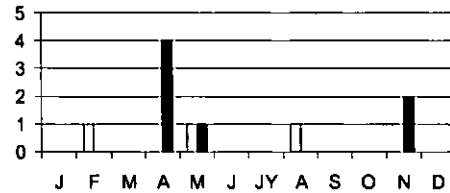
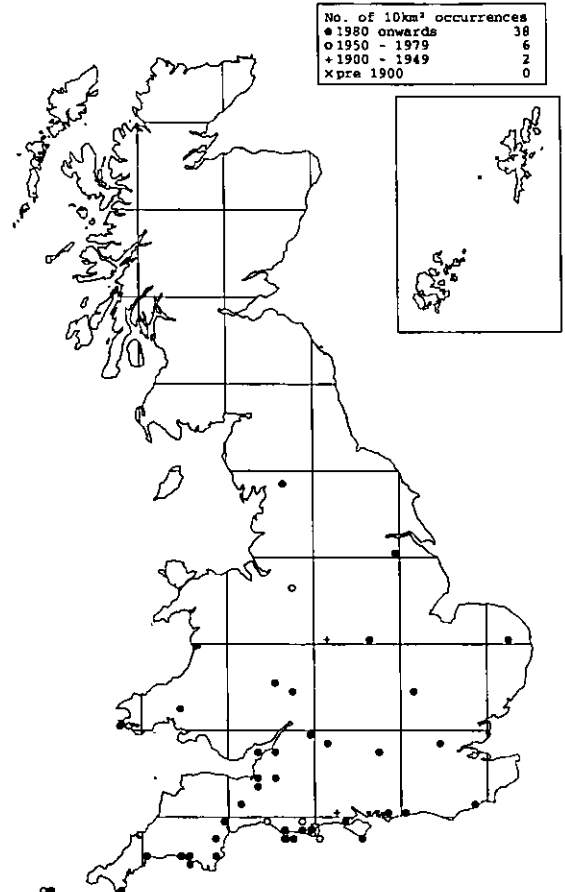
The species is widespread throughout Britain, more scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is mainly found in and around buildings but also occurs on old and dead trees where it lives under bark and in the dry litter collected in rot holes and other cavities. In common with others of the genus it preys on crawling invertebrates. The typical scaffold webs include viscid lines that are attached to the substrate under tension. The struggles of the captured insect break the attachment of these lines thus lifting the unfortunate captive into the air and leaving it suspended ready for the spider to deal with. Both sexes are mature throughout the year and females may survive for several years.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9103] Theridiidae: *Steatoda grossa*



Status

The species is commonest in coastal areas of south-west England (Roberts 1995).

Distribution

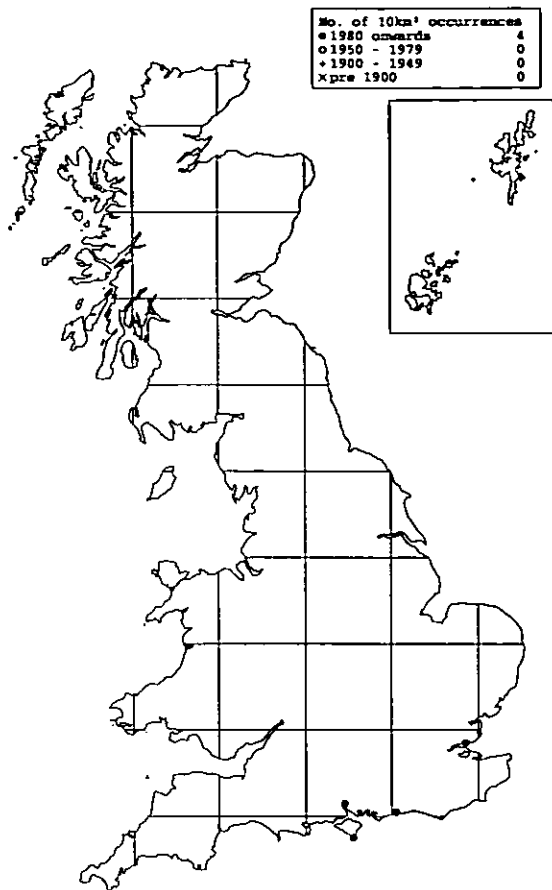
The spider is known from scattered locations across southern Britain as far north as Westmorland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but not recorded from Norway.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is found most often in and around buildings but has also been taken in sheltered locations outdoors, e.g. in cracks in walls and on under-cliffs. The spider has been found in the sewer system in Leicester (J. Daws, pers. comm.). It constructs the scaffold webs typical of the genus and has been observed feeding on pill-woodlice *Armadillidium*. Adults have been found at most times of the year.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9105] Theridiidae: *Steatoda nobilis*



Status

The species was first reported from near Torquay by Pickard-Cambridge (1879) and described from Britain by Snazell & Jones (1993). It is assumed to be introduced and is now naturalised in southern counties of England. It is extremely abundant in some places.

Distribution

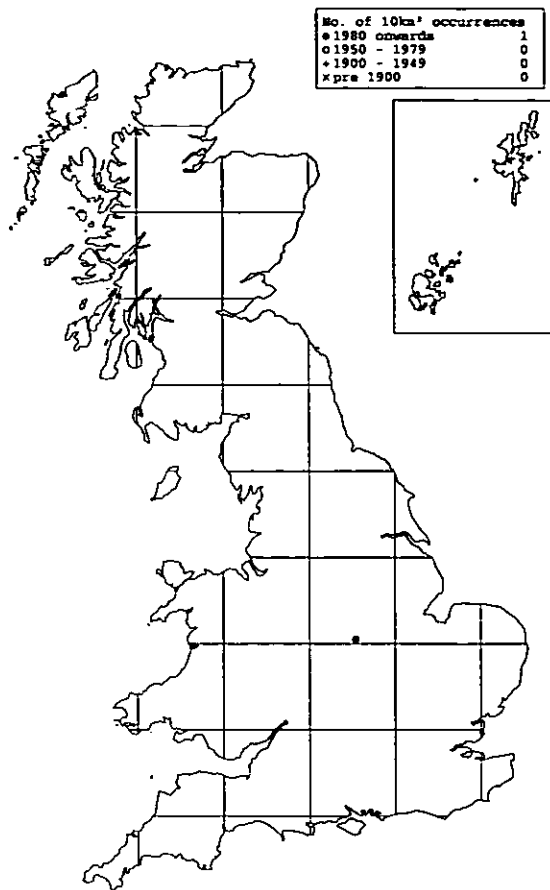
The spider is well established in several places along the south coast of England and Essex. In Europe the species is known from Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal. It is not listed in recent checklists for other western and central European countries.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is found mainly around houses, though very rarely indoors. It constructs a scaffold web that differs from others of the genus in the exceptional strength of the silk and in the tubular retreat that is at least partly concealed in a deep crack or hole. The species has been known to bite a human. The males are mature in the summer and autumn, the females probably throughout the year.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9106] Theridiidae: *Steatoda triangulosa*



Status

The spider is probably an introduction. It should be looked for in centres of population in southern Britain.

Distribution

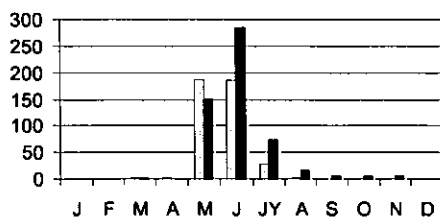
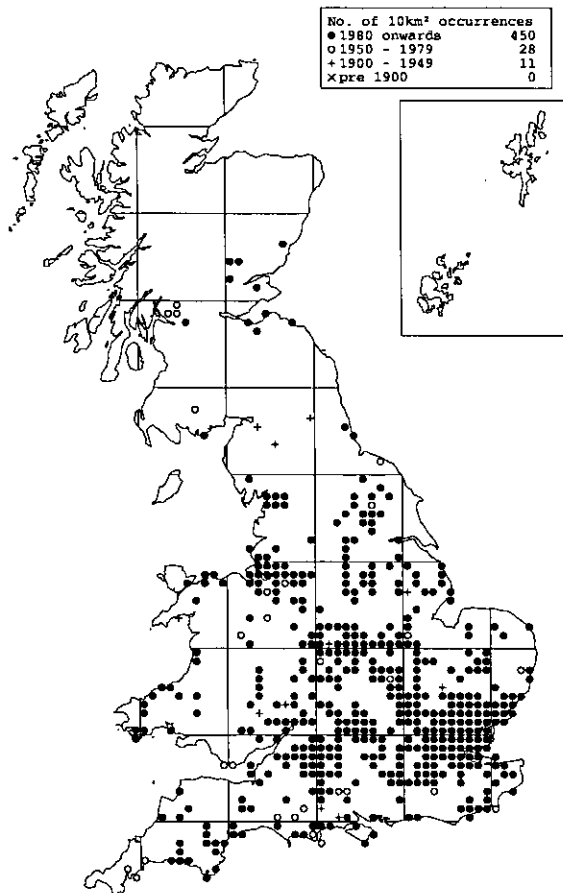
The species was first recorded in Britain from Leicester in 1996 (Daws 1997b). It is widespread in western and southern Europe but absent from Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

This species produces a scaffold web in and around houses where it feeds on crawling insects, especially ants. The males are mature in summer and autumn, the females possibly all year.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9203] Theridiidae: *Anelosimus vittatus*



Status

The species is common in much of England, but rare elsewhere in Britain.

Distribution

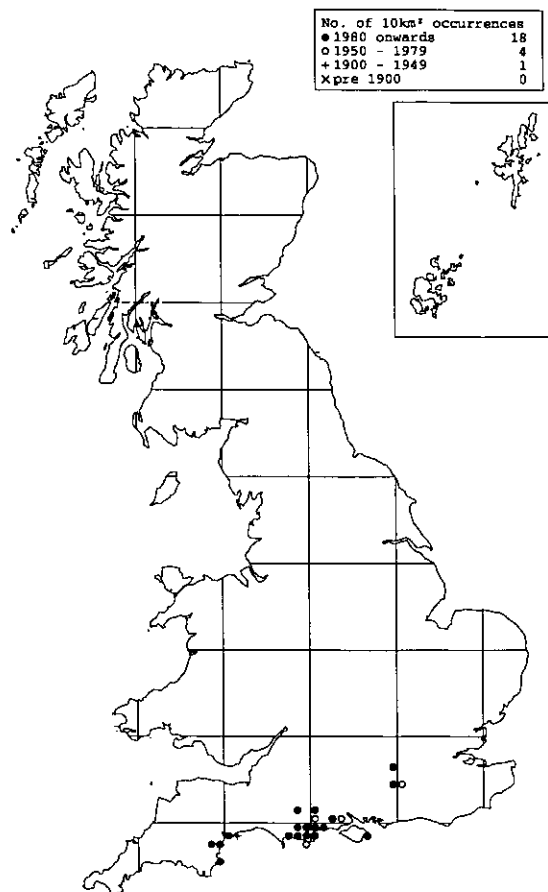
The spider is widespread in England as far north as Durham, but appears to be absent from much of Scotland and Wales. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

Habitat and ecology

This species constructs its scaffold webs on bushes, trees and tall plants in a wide variety of habitats, perhaps with a preference for oaks. Both sexes are mature in late spring and summer, with a peak between May and July, females occasionally surviving through to late autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9201] Theridiidae: *Anelosimus aulicus*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider may be abundant on gorse on inland heaths but less abundant on heaths and grasslands in coastal localities.

Distribution

A. aulicus is restricted to southern England. It has been recorded from France, Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary but is more abundant in southern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been found on gorse *Ulex* on heathland and coastal grasslands. It spins a small web near the end of gorse branches. Males are adult in May and June, females from May to August.

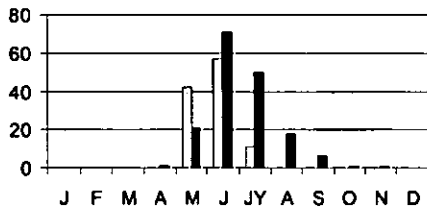
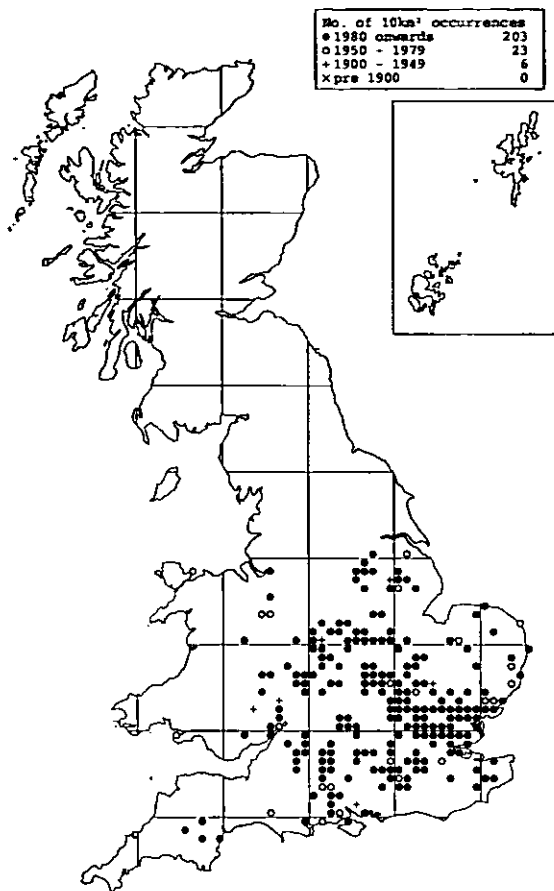
Threats

The loss of gorse on heathland and coastal grasslands. This species can survive on gorse bushes in remnant heathland along the sides of roads and forestry plantations.

Management

Maintain populations of gorse in the above habitats.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, with reference to Merrett (1990).



Status

The species is generally uncommon but may be locally frequent.

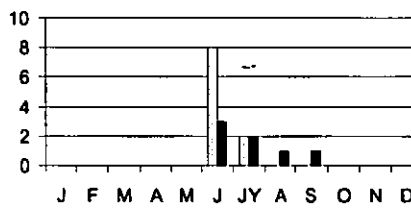
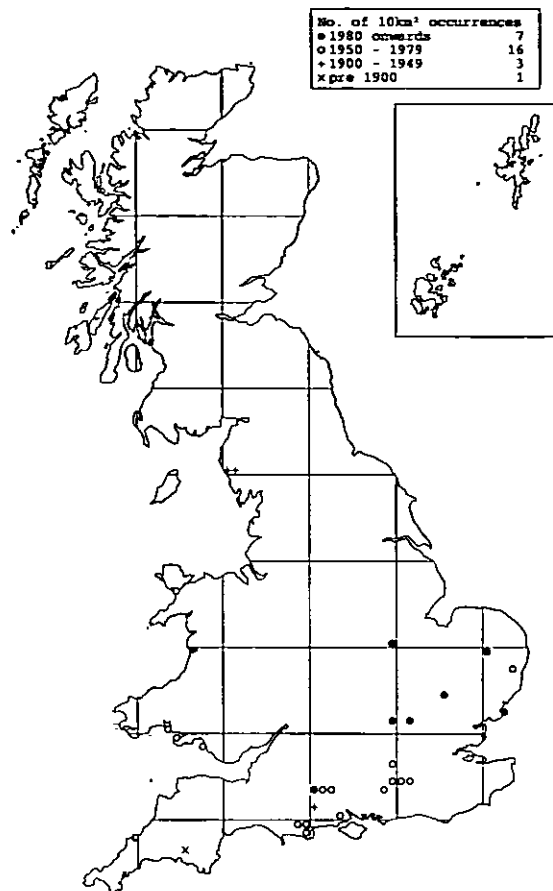
Distribution

The spider is widespread in much of southern Britain but apparently absent to the north of the Humber. The species is widespread in western and central Europe including Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

The large scaffold webs of this spider are found on bushes and the lower branches of trees, 1.5 – 2 m above the ground (Jones 1983) and in large crevices on the sides of trunks such as old birch trees. The webs may be found between small side twigs or projections and the main trunk, making the spider easy to find by bark brushing (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). It is often found in dense, shaded woodland sites but has also been taken from gorse on more open heathland. Females also build their webs on structures including fences, gates and gravestones, etc (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Both sexes are mature in early summer, with females persisting through the summer and occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is generally rare and very local but may be fairly numerous at some sites.

Distribution

A. riparia is almost confined to the south of England, East Anglia and South Wales. There are old records for Cumberland and Nottinghamshire which are doubtful. This species is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but very rare for example in the west of France (Asselin et al. 1990) and Norway.

Habitat and ecology

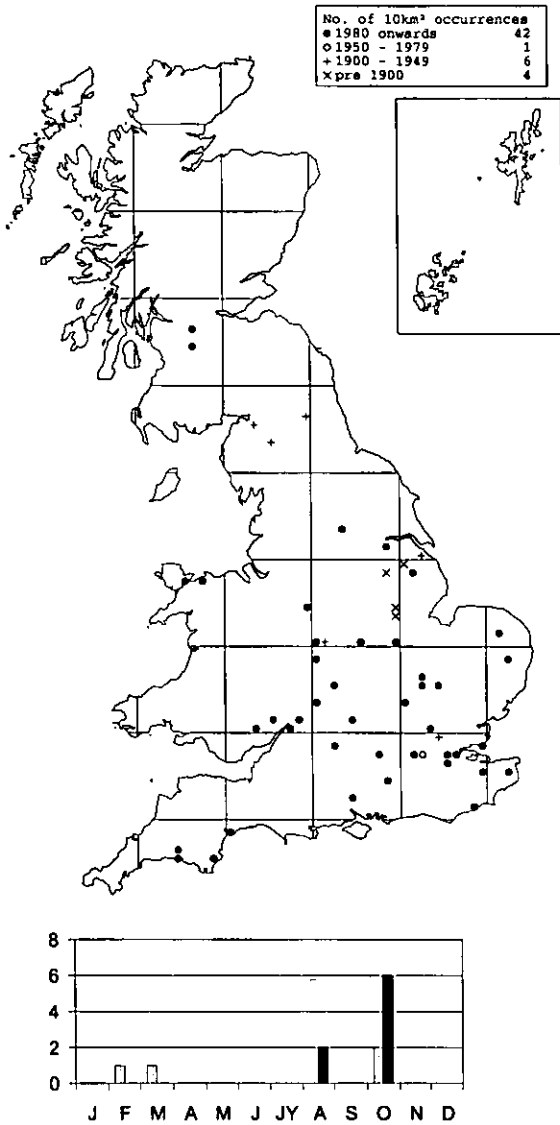
The spider is found among roots on overhanging banks or beneath low vegetation, mainly on heathland but also along rides in commercial forests. It spins a web with long sticky threads that are fixed to the ground, where they catch crawling insects. Ants form a large proportion of the prey caught. A retreat is built at the top of the web, which consists of a long silken tube covered with debris. Males are adult between late May and July, females from May to September.

Management

Maintain sandy banks with overhanging vegetation.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, with reference to Merrett (1990).

[9304] Theridiidae: *Achaearanea tepidariorum*



Status

An introduced synanthropic species. Roberts (1995) suggests that pesticides are responsible for a decline in the species, but the increase in large garden centres may be reversing this trend (I. Dawson, pers. comm.).

Distribution

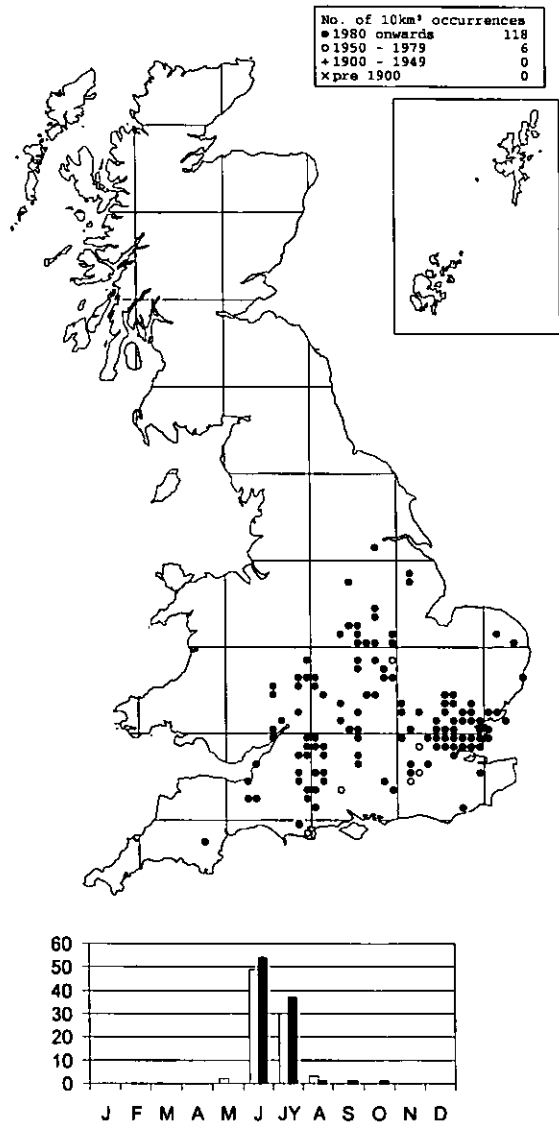
The spider is widespread in England but with few records in Wales and north of Yorkshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Although typically found in buildings such as heated greenhouses, this species has occasionally been found outdoors, e.g. on yew trees in churchyards. Mature specimens of both sexes can be found throughout the year.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9303] Theridiidae: *Achaearanea simulans*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). In most of central-southern England the spider is local and never particularly numerous, but in Essex, Wiltshire and Leicestershire it has been found to be relatively frequent.

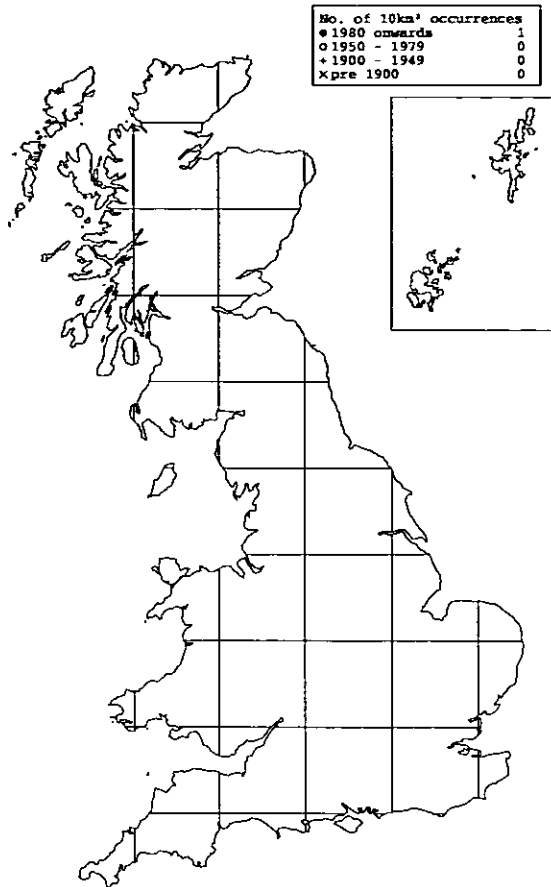
Distribution

The species occurs in the southern half of England, north to Yorkshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland or Norway.

Habitat and ecology

A. simulans occurs in areas of scrub, on hedges and along green lanes as well as woodland edge, rides and coppice in broad-leaved or coniferised woodland. It has been found on bushes and small trees, often hawthorn, rose, oak, but also yew and other conifers and occasionally on low herbage, as well as on structures such as gravestones, churchyard walls, fences and even a telephone box (J. Daws, pers. comm.). More often than not it turns up in the more shaded areas of the habitats (M. Askins, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes are found from May to July, with females occasionally persisting until the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey, with reference to Merrett (1990).



Status

The species was introduced at the start of the 20th century from New Zealand where it is common. It is now naturalised on Treesco.

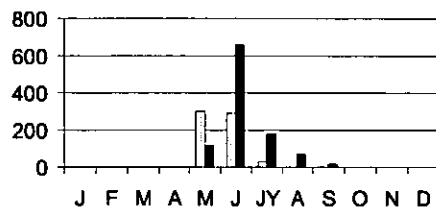
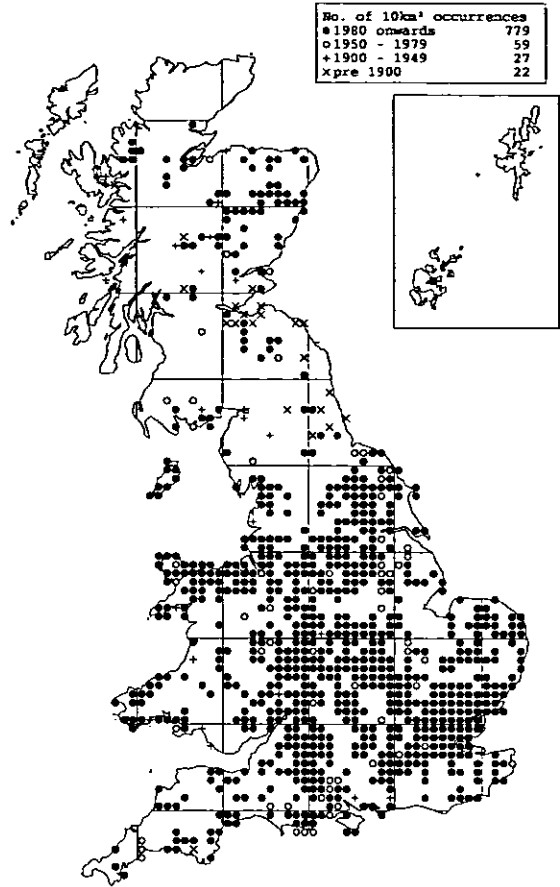
Distribution

Only in the Isles of Scilly.

Habitat and ecology

The species constructs scaffold webs on trees and bushes. Both sexes become mature in summer, females surviving through to autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Common.

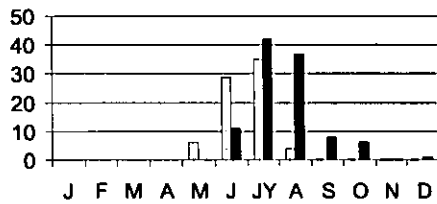
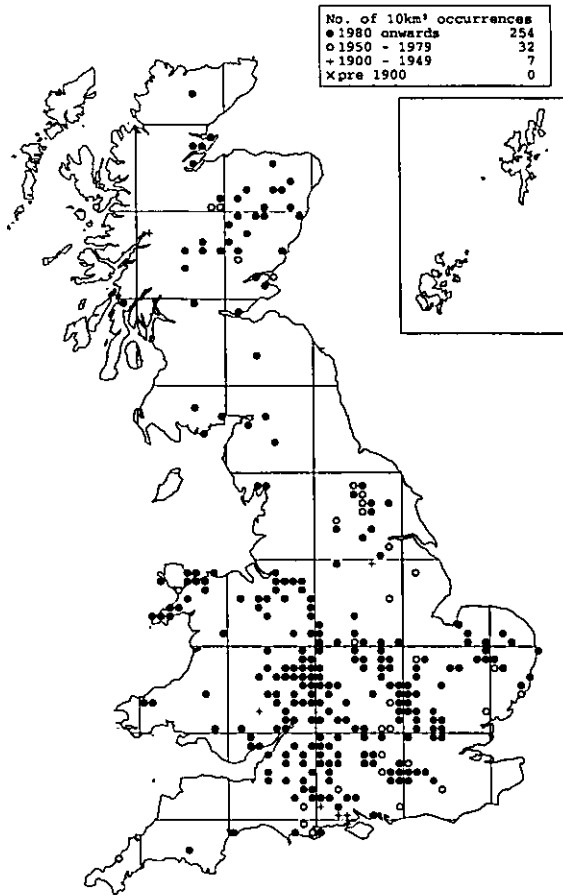
Distribution

T. sisyphium is widespread throughout much of southern Britain but apparently becomes much more localised and scattered in the north. Globally it has a wide Palearctic distribution (Platnick 1998) and is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

T. sisyphium constructs an inverted cup-shaped retreat, which it covers with plant debris. Below its retreat the spider spins a typical Theridiidae tangle web. This species is typically found on gorse bushes and heather on open ground, but can also be found on oak, blackthorn, nettles, juniper and thistles. Adults are found in early to mid-summer, with most males in May and June and most females in June, but occasionally persisting until October. Single, spherical blue-green egg-sacs are produced between June and August, slightly earlier than *T. impressum*, and are kept within the retreat. Emergent spiderlings are fed orally by the female.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

The species may be locally frequent.

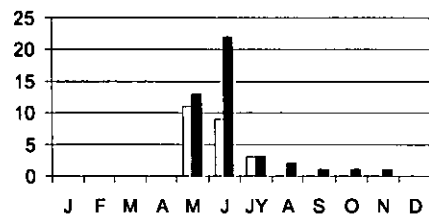
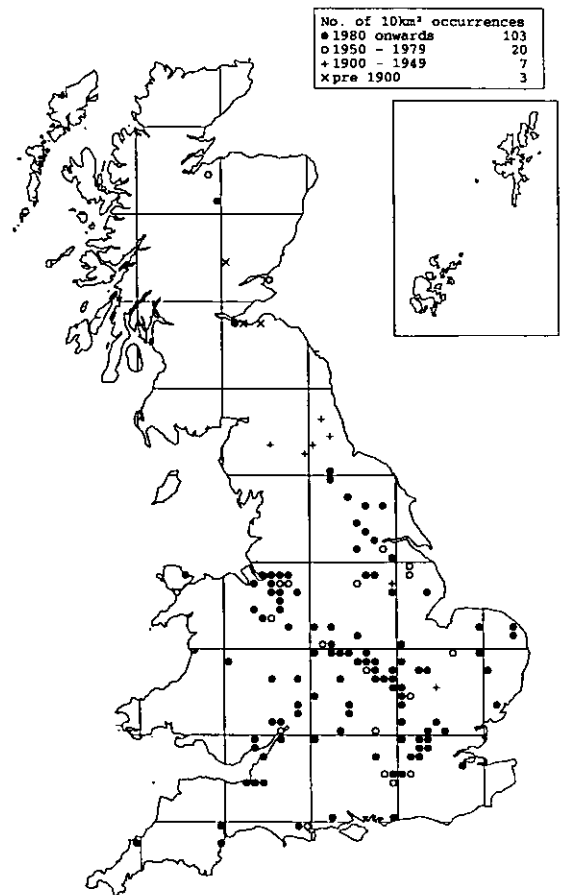
Distribution

T. impressum is widespread especially in central southern England, but becomes scattered or absent in parts of the west and north, and is very rare in some parts of the east, including well-recorded counties such as Essex. It has a wide, Holarctic distribution (Platnick 1998) and is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species constructs a similar retreat and web to that of *T. sisyphium* in the same habitats. The two species can sometimes be found together on gorse, heather and thorny bushes. Specimens of *T. impressum* have also been found on rush florets at the upper reaches of saltmarshes. Adult males have been recorded between May and August, adult females between June and October, and even on one occasion in December. Males peak in June and July, females in July and August, later than *T. sisyphium*. Mature males have been found mate-guarding immature females in their retreats. Single, spherical blue-green egg-sacs are produced in August and September, slightly later than *T. sisyphium*, and are kept within the retreat. Emergent spiderlings are fed orally by the female.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

The species may be locally common.

Distribution

T. pictum is widespread in much of England, but absent or very localised in the north and west of Britain and parts of the south. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The webs of this species can be found on a variety of shrubs, herbaceous plants and structures including post and rail fences. It occurs mainly in damp places in the lowlands. It has also been found in moss and litter in wetland sites. Both sexes are mature in early to mid-summer, with females sometimes persisting until November.

Author of profile: P. Lee

Status

Although apparently rare, the species has now been found in widely distributed localities in England and may have been overlooked in the past. It should certainly be looked for in suitable habitat in England and Wales.

Distribution

This spider was first recorded in Britain from four female specimens collected in 1982 by Dick Jones near Petworth in West Sussex. Subsequently the species has been found in Leicestershire in 1996, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Worcestershire and most recently in Huntingdonshire. It has been recorded from Sweden, and is fairly widespread in the rest of north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The original specimens were collected from a wooden fence bordering a lake and French specimens have been taken in low vegetation on marshes or bushes near water (Jones 1994). All further British records have the same association with water. In Leicestershire a female was collected at night from a fence separating a cattle-grazed field from the rough grassland and scrub of a fishing complex in part of the River Soar flood plain where marsh, wet woodland and lakes have developed in former gravel pits (Daws 1997a). In Middlesex and Hertfordshire, one male and five females were collected in wetland vegetation close to the River Colne and adjacent lake developed in old gravel excavations (Marriott 1998). The Worcestershire female was swept from vegetation on an island in the River Avon (Partridge 1999). In Huntingdonshire four males, one female and one immature were shaken from a dead sedge/grass clump standing at the edge of the water. The site is very sheltered between scrub and damp grassland, in the north-west corner of an old gravel pit in the flood plain of the River Great Ouse (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Adult females have been collected between June and early September, males in April and June.

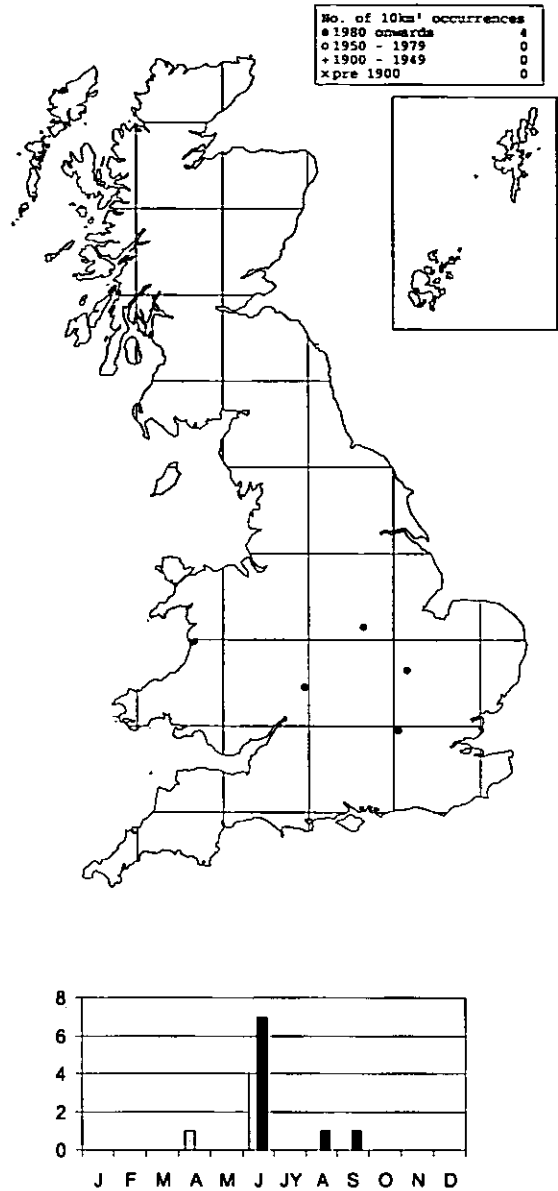
Threats

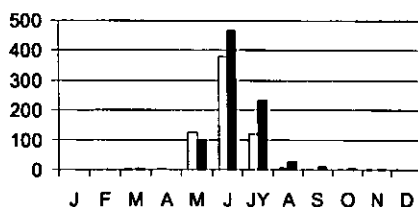
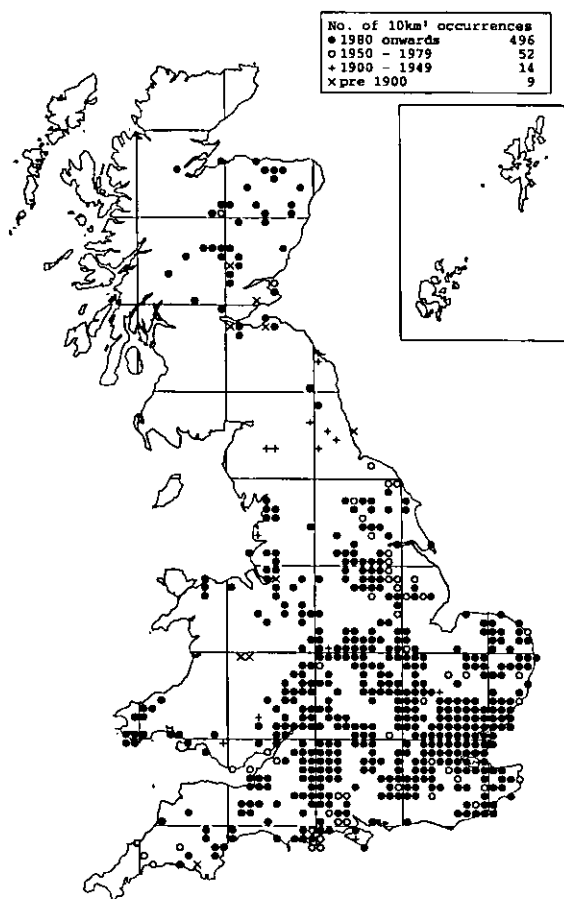
Most flood plains in England have suffered extensive drainage for agriculture. Housing, retail and industrial development is increasingly threatening the habitats that remain either directly or through unsustainable water abstraction. However, the spider's occurrence near lakes and flooded gravel pits suggests that it may be able to move into suitable habitat. Excessive management of lake margins and adjacent grassland and scrub at fishing and amenity sites should be discouraged.

Management

The retention of extensive marginal vegetation and marsh to rivers and lakes should be encouraged, and public access controlled to avoid damage to these habitats. Rough grassland should not be cut regularly but managed on a rotational basis to control scrub invasion.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





Status

Common in lowland habitats.

Distribution

The species is widespread in England but is apparently absent from parts of the south-west and much of Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is found in a variety of lowland habitats, mainly on shrubs and trees, but also on low vegetation and walls. It is less common at higher altitude (Smith 1982; J. Newton, pers. comm.) a situation clearly reflected in the distribution map. Both sexes are mature in early to mid-summer though occasionally males can persist to early autumn and females until October.

Author of profile: P. Lee

Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK).

Distribution

The species was first recorded in Britain as a male at Chobham Common, Surrey in 1977 (Murphy & Murphy 1979) with a female taken in the same vicinity in 1984. There have been a number of more recent records (Carr 1998; Carr & Harvey 1996; Harvey et al. 1993; Jones 1992) and further unpublished records in South Essex, West Kent and Surrey which suggest that the spider may be more widespread in southern Britain than previously suspected. The species is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider has previously been associated with mature heathland in Britain and pine woods on the Continent (Merrett in Bratton (1991)). However, recent evidence suggests that mature broad-leaved trees such as large oak or beech in open situations at the edge of woodland clearings, acid grassland or heathland are more typical. Mature males and gravid females have been beaten off the lower branches of oak at Leyton Flats in South Essex and further males and females have been collected from large oaks in open habitat in South Essex and Hertfordshire, and from mature beech at Burnham Beeches in Buckinghamshire (Harvey et al. 1996; Carr 1998). However, in 1998 an adult female was also collected from scrubby oak in a hedgerow near Dartford Heath in West Kent and an adult male was taken in a pitfall trap set in a silt lagoon at Rainham Marshes in South Essex. Of the 14 specimens collected in Britain, adults have all been found in the period from early June to mid-July except for a single female taken in October.

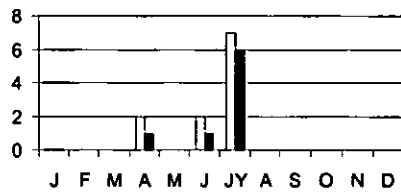
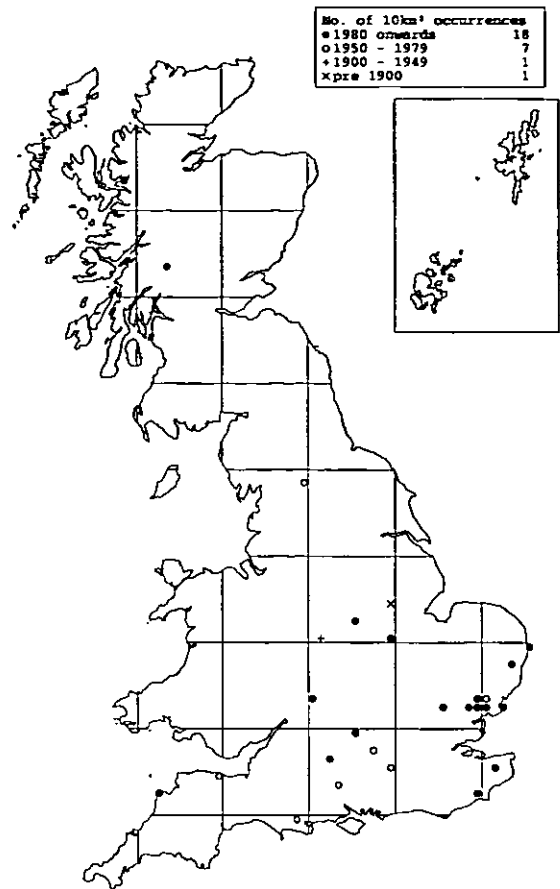
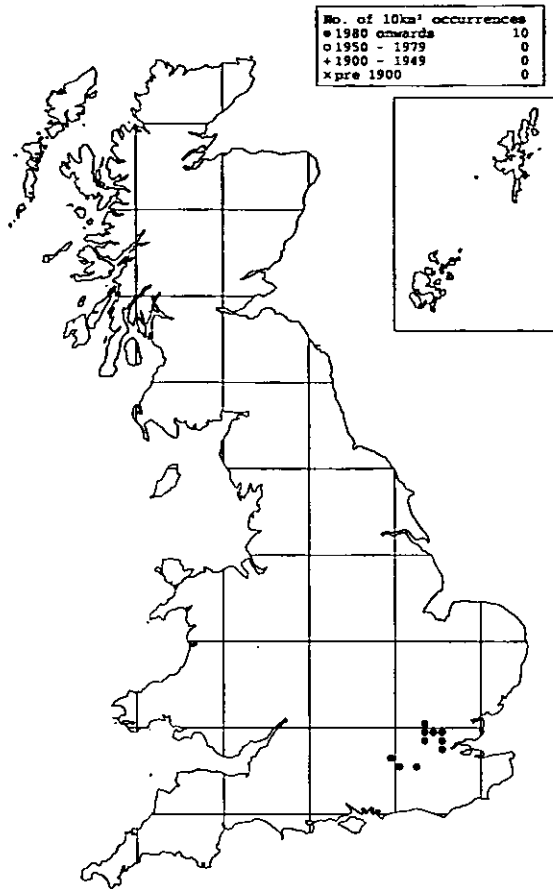
Threats

Although most recent records involve mature broad-leaved trees, a common feature is an open habitat at the edge of clearings or widely spaced trees in open grassland or heathland. Lack of management resulting in the development of secondary woodland and the closure of open woodland is probably detrimental to this species.

Management

Management to retain open surroundings by light grazing or periodic control of scrub and tree invasion is likely to be important.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey.



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). This species is uncommon and very local, with most records from southern England and a few from the North.

Distribution

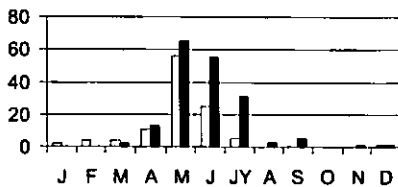
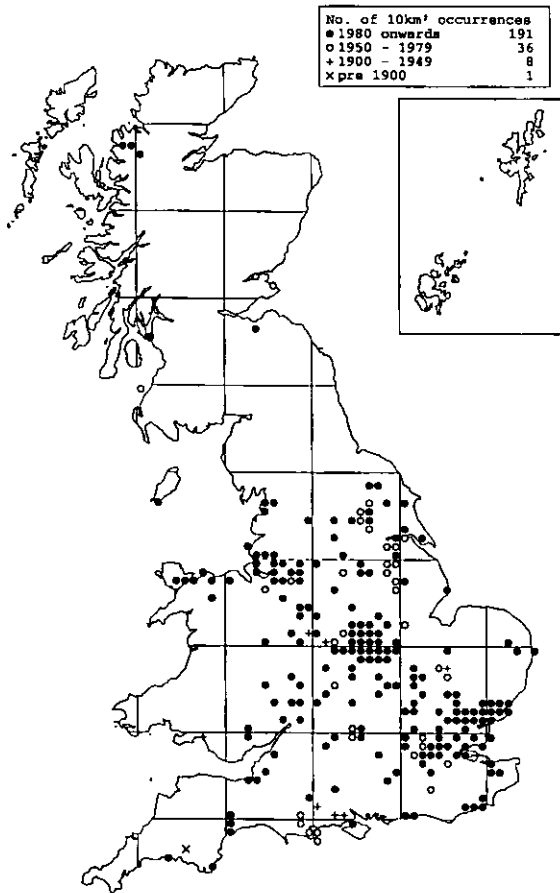
T. familiare has been found mainly in the south of England. It is widespread in north-western Europe as far north as Sweden.

Habitat and ecology

T. familiare has usually been recorded from inside houses and out-buildings, but occasionally out of doors on gorse and other bushes, and on churchyard walls. Adults have been found between April and July with a peak in July.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett (1990).

[9407] Theridiidae: *Theridion melanurum*



Status

Common in England south of Yorkshire, becoming rare in northern England and Scotland.

Distribution

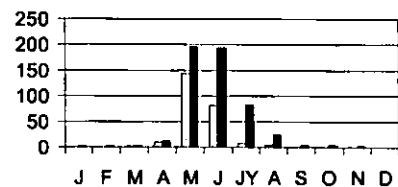
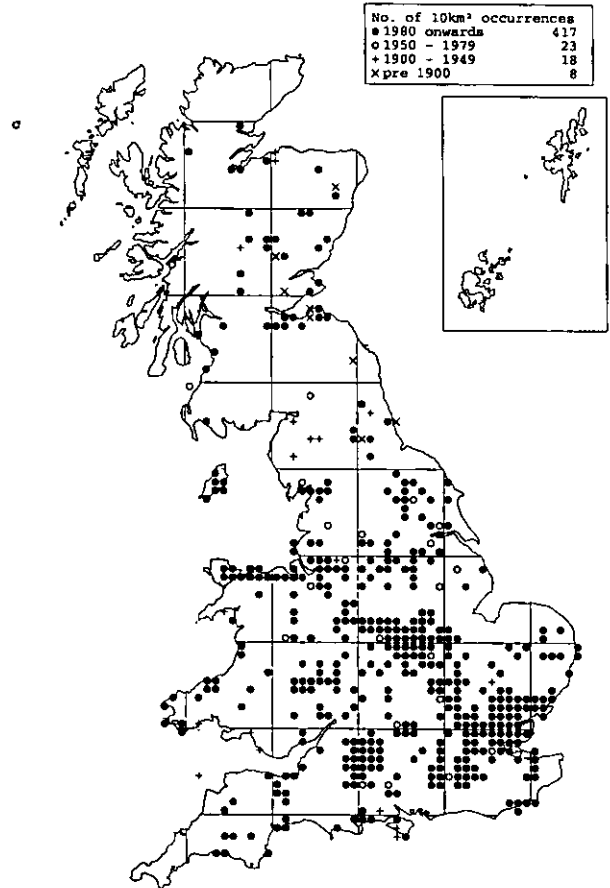
The species is widespread in England but is apparently more locally distributed in the south-west and Wales and absent or very restricted in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe but is not listed for Sweden and was removed from the checklist for Norway where it had been confused with *T. mystaceum* (Aakra 2000; Aakra & Hauge 2000).

Habitat and ecology

This is a synanthropic species constructing its webs in and around buildings. It obtains the majority of its water requirements through the prey it catches and so is able to withstand the arid environment of a modern, centrally heated house. It is occasionally found on vegetation away from buildings where it is likely to be mistaken for the very similar species *T. mystaceum*. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year, but with a peak between April and July.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9408] Theridiidae: *Theridion mystaceum*



Status

Generally common.

Distribution

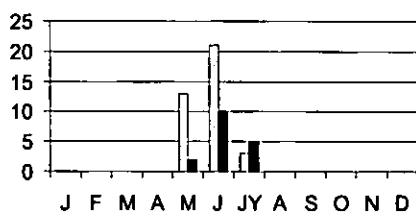
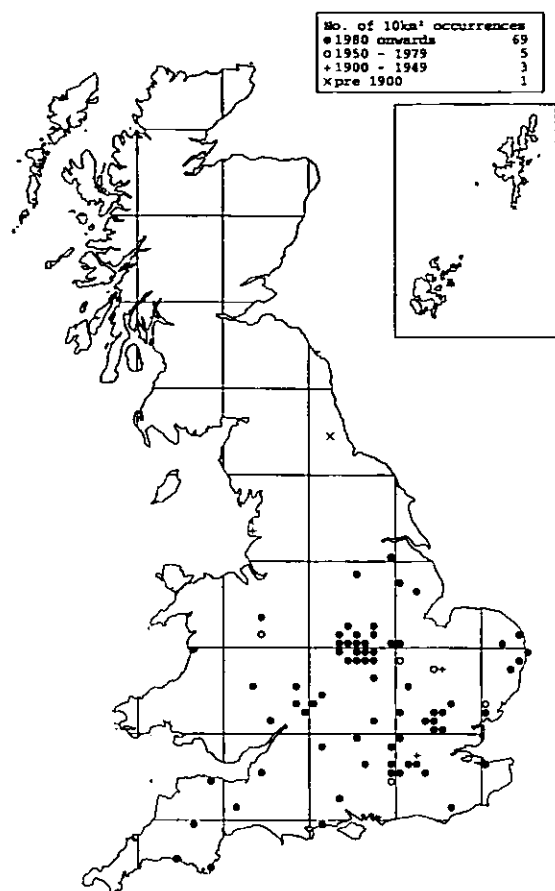
The species is widespread in much of southern Britain but much less so in much of the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Although individual spiders may over-winter in houses, the species is most often found away from buildings, unlike the very similar *T. melanurum*. The webs are usually constructed on the trunks of trees and on the foliage of shrubs, but also on rock faces by the sea (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Adults have mainly been found from early to mid-summer, but males have occasionally been recorded as early as March and odd females throughout the year.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9403] Theridiidae: *Theridion blackwalli*



Status

Generally uncommon, although it has been found to be frequent in and around churches in Leicestershire (Daws 1999).

Distribution

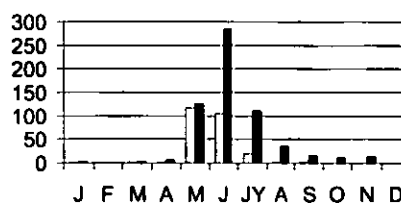
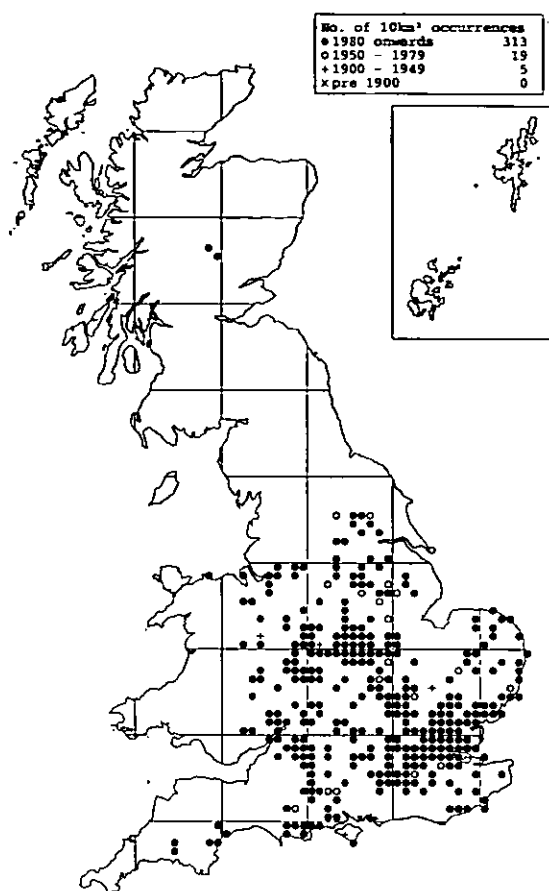
The species is widespread but locally distributed in England, mainly south of the midlands. In Fenno-scandia it has only been recorded from Finland, but the spider is otherwise widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species builds its webs mainly in and around buildings, but also in grass tussocks and on other low plants and tree trunks in a variety of habitats. In Leicestershire the species occurs on walls and gravestones in and around churches and their churchyards, but has not been recorded from vegetation within the county (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and July, but females may persist later. Daws (1999) suggests a short maturity season.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[9414] Theridiidae: *Theridion tinctum*



Status

Locally common in England south of Yorkshire.

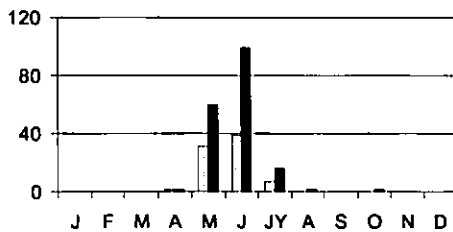
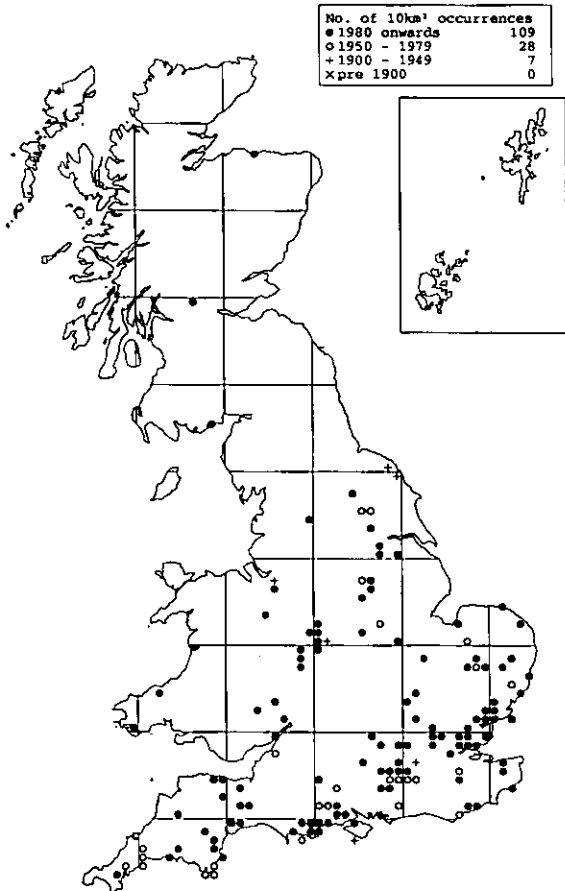
Distribution

The species is widespread in England as far north as Yorkshire, but practically absent from the north and west of Britain. The spider is widespread in western and central Europe including Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

T. tinctum is usually found on low vegetation, shrubs, and the lower branches of trees, especially yew. It is often found in the webs of other small spiders where it appears to both steal prey and feed on the resident species. Adults mostly occur in early to mid-summer with females persisting into the autumn, and odd individuals of both sexes being recorded at almost any time of year.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

The species is commonest in southern England becoming rarer north of the Humber.

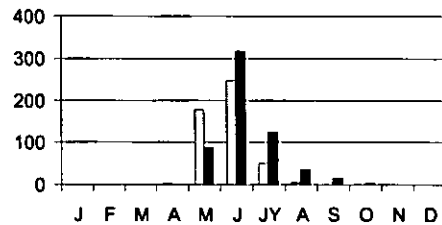
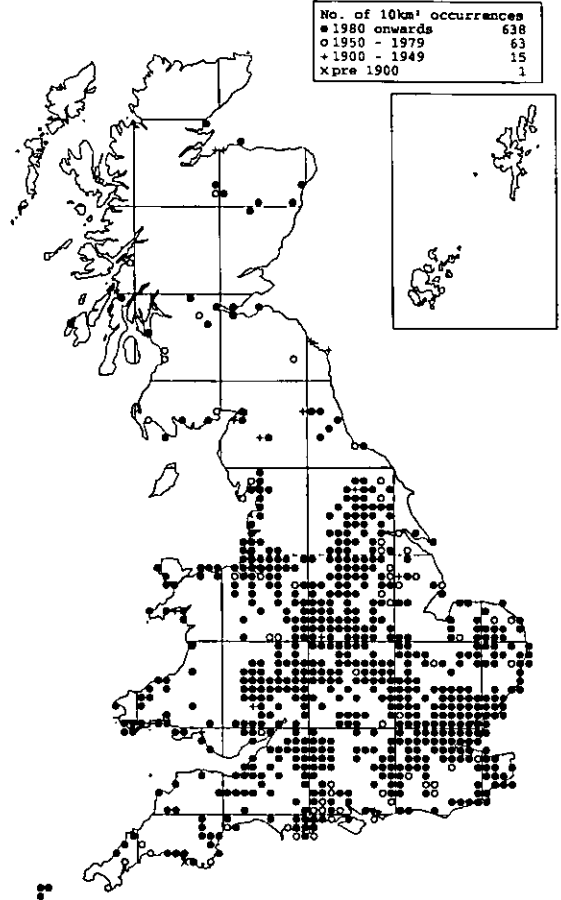
Distribution

The spider is widespread in southern England but very locally distributed elsewhere in Britain with few records from Wales and north of Yorkshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe including Scandinavia, although Aakra & Hauge (2000) show only one record for Norway.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is most commonly seen on heathland where it constructs webs on gorse, heather and other vegetation and occasionally on trees. Both sexes are mature in early to mid-summer, females occasionally persisting later.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Common in southern Britain.

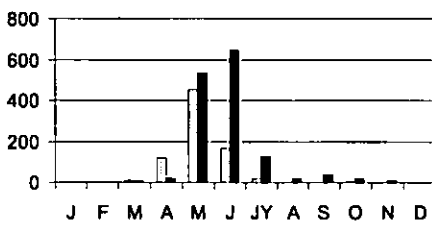
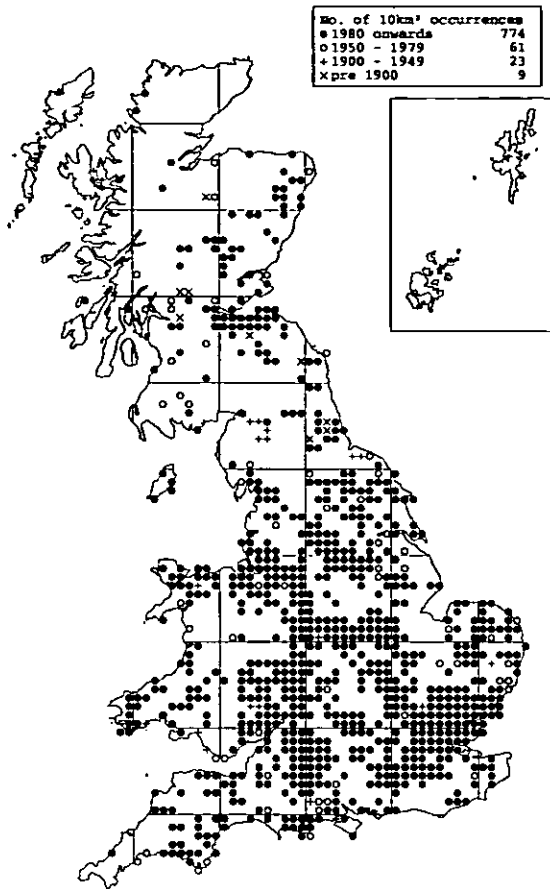
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England, but is apparently very locally distributed in upland areas and the north of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway and Finland.

Habitat and ecology

The webs of this species are found on low vegetation, bushes and sometimes the lower branches of trees in a wide variety of habitats. Females carry their egg-sac attached to their spinners and are often encountered whilst grubbing around in rank grass. Both sexes are mature mainly in early and mid-summer, females occasionally surviving through to the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Common.

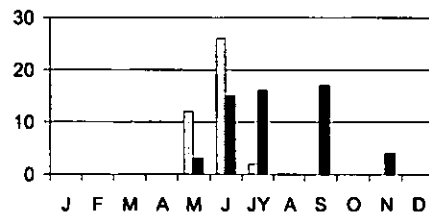
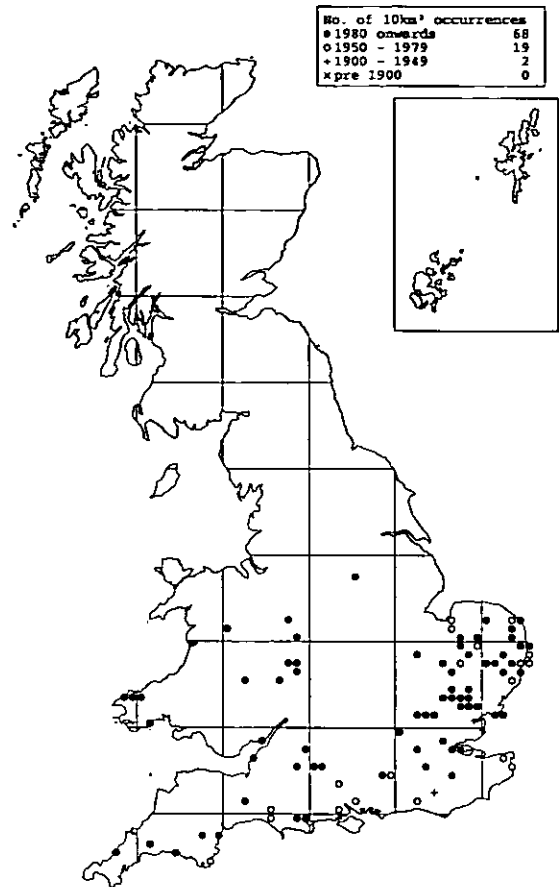
Distribution

The species is widespread in Britain becoming more scattered in upland areas and the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The webs of this spider are usually constructed on shrubs and the lower branches of both evergreen and broad-leaved trees in a wide variety of habitats. The distinctive white sputnik-shaped egg cocoon is one of the easiest ways to record the species presence. Though found on a variety of trees, oak definitely seems to be favoured and it can often be found under an oak leaf in summer, with or without female spider in attendance (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). It may also be found on herbaceous vegetation of all heights and in leaf litter. Both sexes are mature from late spring to mid-summer, but can also occasionally be found through the autumn and winter.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Generally uncommon but most frequent in south-eastern England.

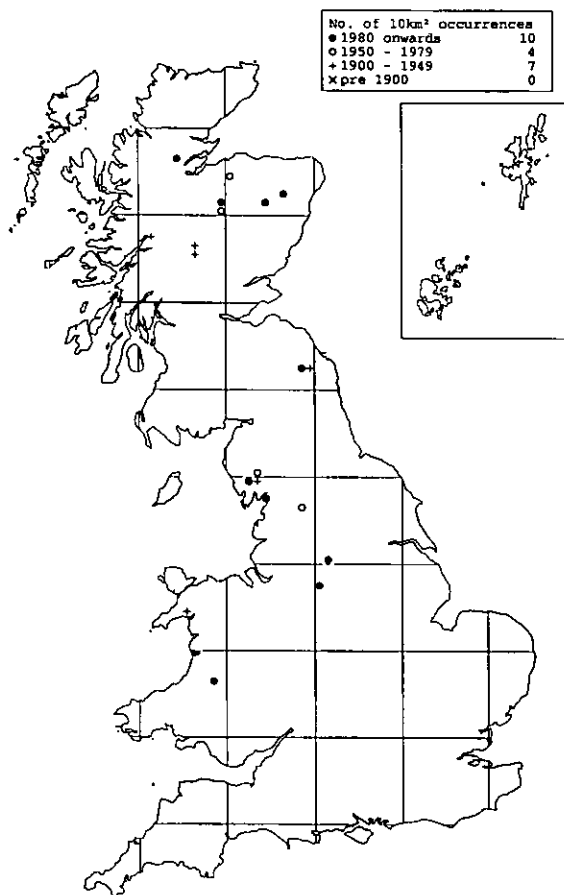
Distribution

The species is widespread in East Anglia and south-eastern England but is much more locally distributed elsewhere in southern Britain. The most northerly record mapped here is from Derbyshire although the county distribution map in Locket et al. (1974) extends the range as far north as Cumbria. Apart from Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000), the spider is absent from Scandinavia, but otherwise widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species builds its webs on low vegetation in wetland habitats including saltmarsh, reed fen, sedge marsh and carr woodland. Both sexes are mature from early to mid-summer with females recorded into the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is locally abundant within suitable habitat. It may be under-recorded because of the difficulties of exploring the habitat.

Distribution

R. bellicosus is restricted to North Wales, the north of England and Scotland. It is widespread on mountains in northern and central Europe (Merrett 1990). There is an old unconfirmed record for Staffordshire by L.A. Carr. Some of Carr's records were given by O. Pickard-Cambridge as "sent to me by L.A. Carr of Lichfield", but may not have been collected there.

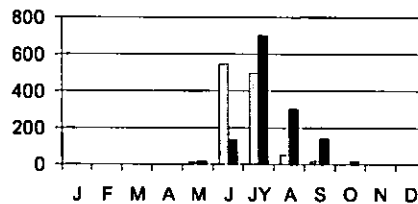
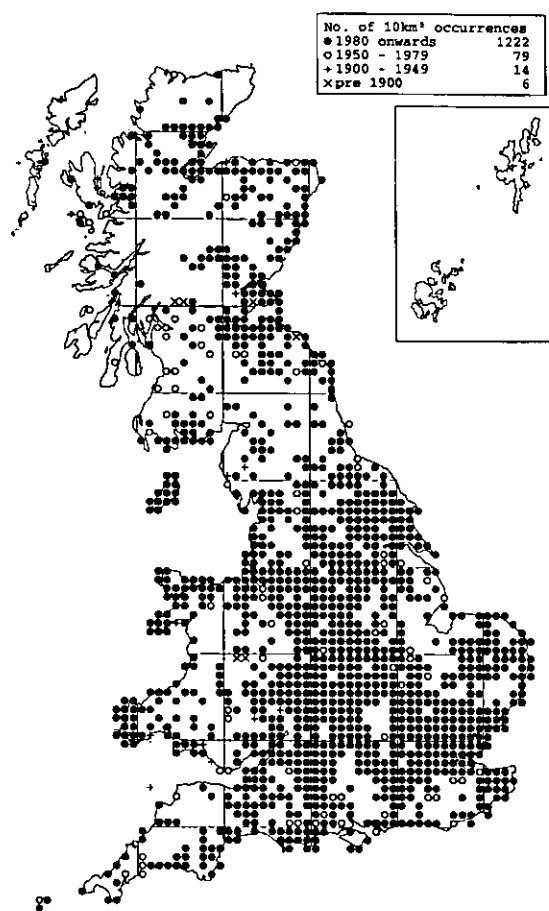
Habitat and ecology

This tiny spider lives amongst boulders, where flimsy criss-cross threads are spun across large cavities between rocks (Roberts 1995). The habitat includes scree slopes on mountains, boulders on the coast and by inland lakes and also man-made rock piles, e.g. spoil from limestone quarrying. Females may be readily identified by the relatively large white egg-sac carried on the spinners. Both sexes are adult in May and early June, females until autumn.

Threats

There is possibly a threat from the tidying up of old quarry sites.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton



Status

An extremely abundant species wherever it occurs.

Distribution

E. ovata is widespread throughout the British Isles, and in continental Eurasia westwards of a line drawn from the Russian-Finnish border to the Caspian Sea. It has been introduced into North America, occurring on both the eastern and western seaboard of the northern United States and southern Canada (Oxford & Reillo 1994).

Habitat and ecology

E. ovata is a species typical of open habitats containing low broad-leaved vegetation, e.g. road verges, domestic gardens and woodland glades. The species is notable for its striking, genetically determined, opisthosomal colour/pattern polymorphism. This consists of three forms; plain yellow (*lineata*), yellow with two dorso-lateral carmine stripes (*redimita*), and yellow with a solid shield of carmine on the dorsal opisthosoma (*ovata*) (Oxford 1983). At least the *lineata* and *redimita* forms occur in the vast majority of populations, the *ovata* form is more sporadic. It has a strictly annual life history, with males generally mature in June and females in early to mid-July. After mating, males die and females establish themselves in rolled leaves to produce and guard their (usually) single bluish egg-sac. Once the young emerge from the rolled leaf in September, the female wanders off to die, and the young descend to grass-roots level to over-winter.

Author of profile: G. Oxford

Status

Usually an abundant species wherever it occurs.

Distribution

In western and southern Britain *E. latimana* is mainly restricted to coastal habitats though its range also extends inland, especially in the east. The most northerly populations known are on the Ainsdale sand dunes in Lancashire.

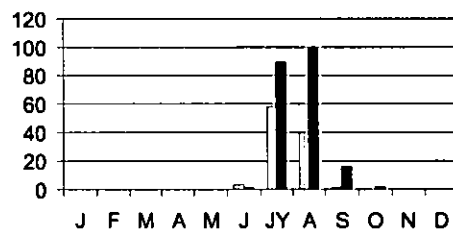
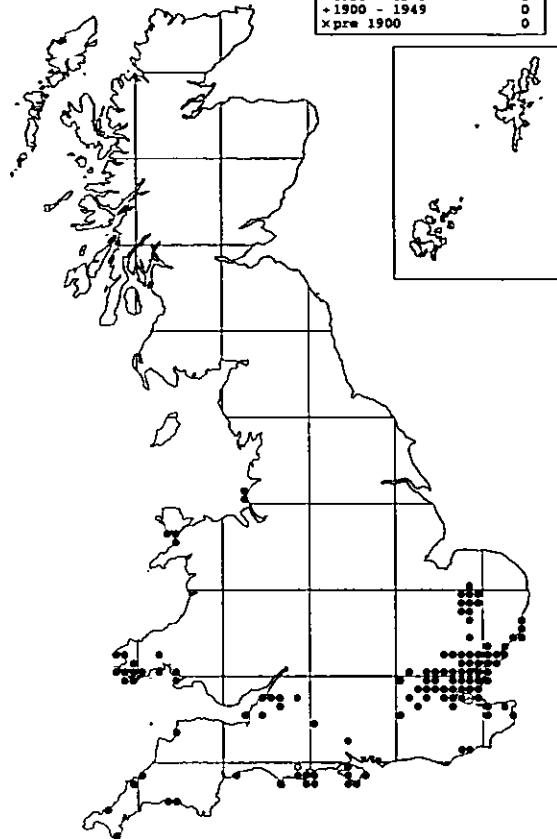
E. latimana has not been recorded from Ireland. In Europe the species does not range as far north as the very closely related *E. ovata* but extends further south, even into north Africa, and from the Atlantic coast across into central southern Russia (Oxford & Reillo 1994). Like *E. ovata*, *E. latimana* has been introduced into North America, but except for one record from south-eastern Canada, is more or less restricted to the western seaboard of the northern United States and southern Canada (Oxford & Reillo 1994).

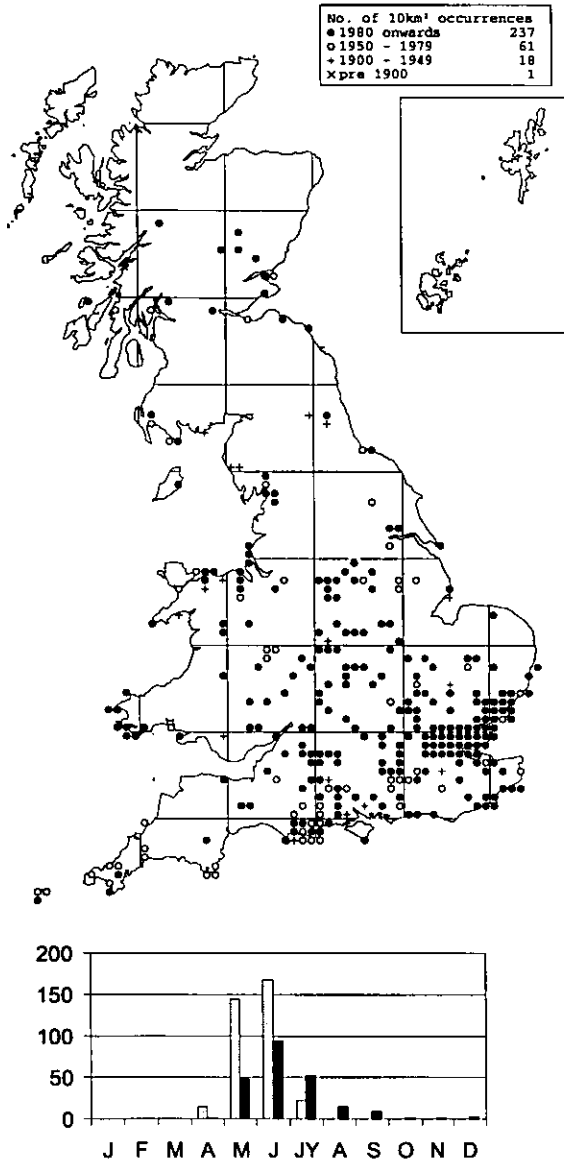
Habitat and ecology

In Britain *E. latimana* occupies the more open, drier and sunnier end of the habitat spectrum utilised by *E. ovata*. The reasons for the species' apparent association with coastal habitats in western and southern Britain, but not in eastern England or elsewhere in continental Europe are not clear. On the Continent, *E. latimana* and *E. ovata* are found together more frequently than they are found separately (Oxford & Reillo 1993). Perhaps the warmer and drier climate of continental Europe allows the species to co-exist in a wider variety of habitats. The life history of *E. latimana* is similar to that of *E. ovata* but with maturity occurring a few weeks later (Snazell 1983; Oxford 1992), adults of both sexes occurring mostly in July and August. This species exhibits similar colour polymorphism to *E. ovata* (Oxford 1992) but whereas the *lineata* and *redimita* forms are found in virtually all populations, only one individual of the *ovata* form has ever been recorded.

Author of profile: G. Oxford

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	116
○ 1950 - 1979	1
+ 1900 - 1949	0
x pre 1900	0





Status

Locally common but becoming scarce in the north.

Distribution

The species is widespread in southern Britain, but scattered or absent further north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is usually found at ground level under stones and other debris and in leaf litter. It may be encountered in a wide variety of habitats including saltmarsh, sand dunes, heathland and woodland from sea level to mountain tops. Both sexes are mature from early to mid-summer with females occasionally surviving into the autumn. Females, easily mistaken for larger linyphiid spiders, are frequently found guarding their whitish egg-sacs underneath stones.

Author of profile: P. Lee

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A).

Distribution

E. mordax is confined to coastal sites in the south of England and South Wales, with a single old record from Dumfries-shire. There is a doubtful old record for Staffordshire by L.A. Carr. Some of Carr's records were given by O. Pickard-Cambridge as "sent to me by L.A. Carr of Lichfield", but may not have been collected there. The main centre of distribution is between Suffolk and north Kent. The species is widespread but uncommon in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is included on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000).

Habitat and ecology

E. mordax has been recorded from saltmarshes where it is found amongst litter on the strand line and on vegetation at the upper end of the marsh. Adults are found in early summer with a peak of both sexes in June, females occasionally persisting until September.

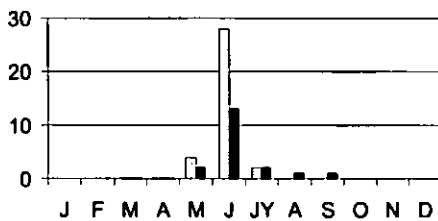
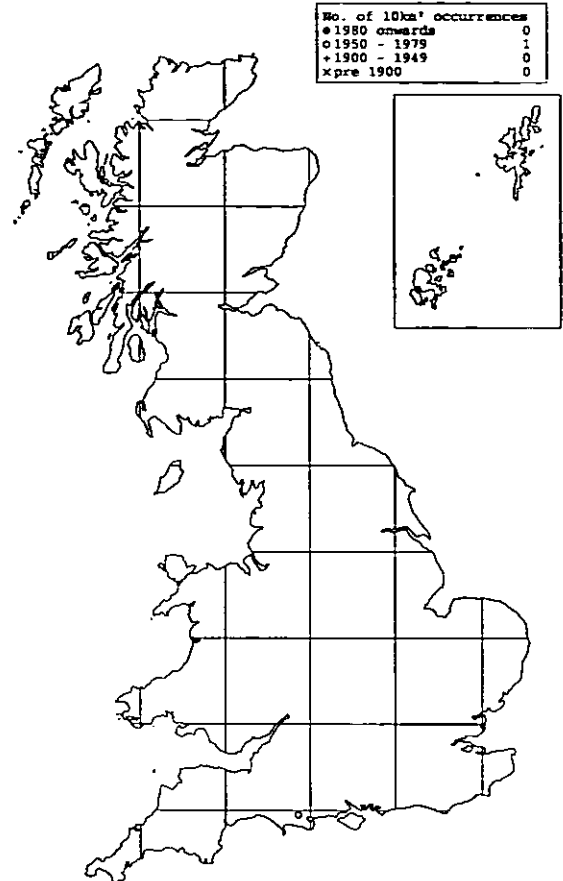
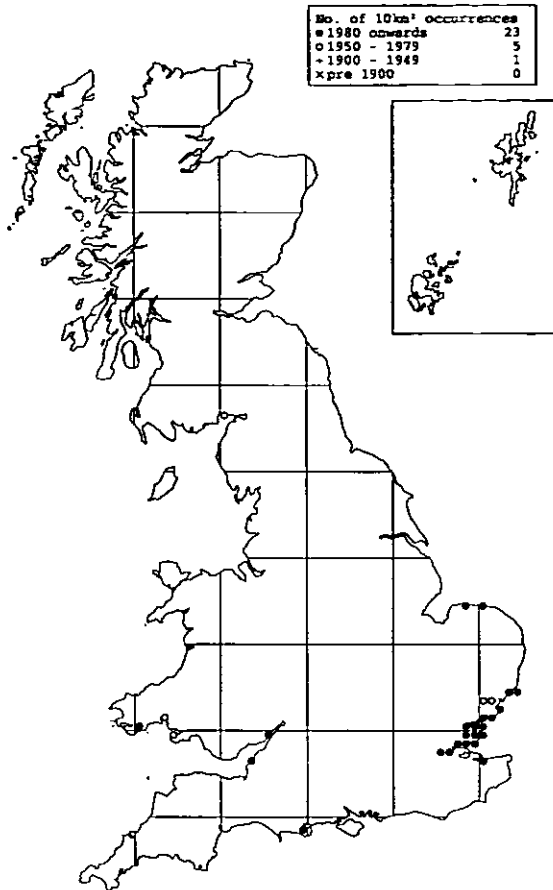
Threats

Drainage and reclamation of saltmarshes may pose a threat. Sea levels around Essex are rising relative to the land by some 6 mm a year, a combination of the land sinking and sea level rising as a result of global warming. This is causing erosion of saltmarshes and at the present rate most of the habitat will have been lost within a few decades. Many of the Thames Marshes have been reclaimed for industrial development, with the extensive use of vertical concrete-capped iron pilings along the waterfront leaving very little saltmarsh (Merrett in Bratton (1991)). With the abandonment of older industrial sites next to the Thames, there is now enormous pressure from initiatives such as the 'Thames Gateway' to redevelop, often for high value riverside housing. It seems unlikely that the importance of small areas of fragile saltmarsh will be adequately taken into account.

Management

Managed realignment, where traditional hard sea defences are replaced by softer, more responsive and natural defensive beaches, or where the sea is allowed to reform saltmarshes inland of the existing defensive wall, is an approach to manage the coastline sustainably (Gibson 2000).

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett (1990) and P.R. Harvey (pers. comm.).



Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Only two specimens of this species have been recorded in Britain, a female in 1888 and a male in 1974 (Merrett & Snazell 1975).

Distribution

E. tecta has only been found in two neighbouring sites in Dorset. In Europe it is absent from Scandinavia and Ireland but otherwise recorded from most north-western and central European countries.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been recorded from a marsh dominated by *Phragmites australis* and *Carex riparia*. The female was recorded in May, the male in July.

Threats

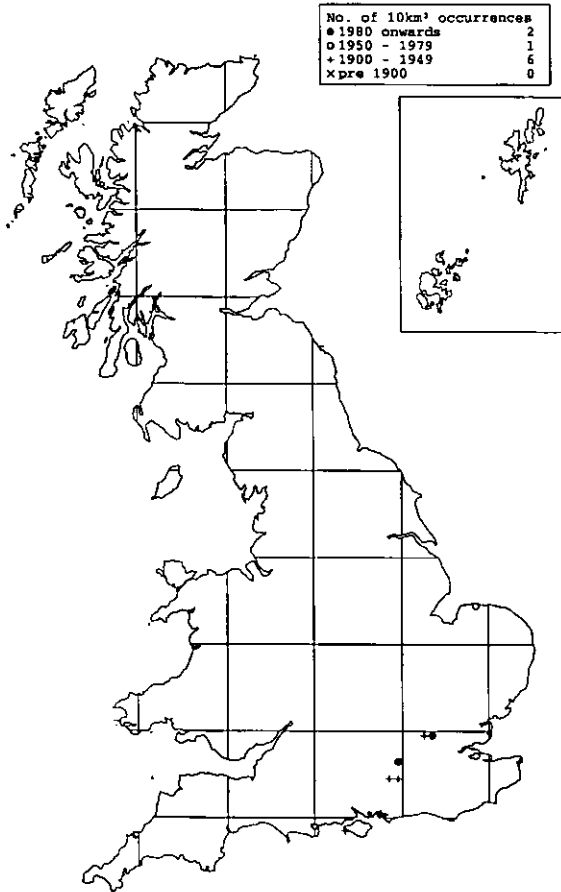
There is no threat to the site at present, but drainage and agricultural run off could pose a problem in the future.

Management

Scrub clearance may become necessary to maintain the reed-bed.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[9503] Theridiidae: *Enoplognatha oelandica*



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3).

Distribution

E. oelandica has been recorded from a few localities in the south-east of England from Norfolk to the Isle of Wight. The species has been recorded from France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland, and is on the Red List for Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000).

Habitat and ecology

This species has been recorded from sand dunes and dry sandy heaths, where it is found under stones or among vegetation. Adults have been recorded between May and August while females alone have been found in September.

Threats

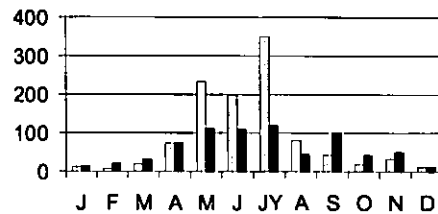
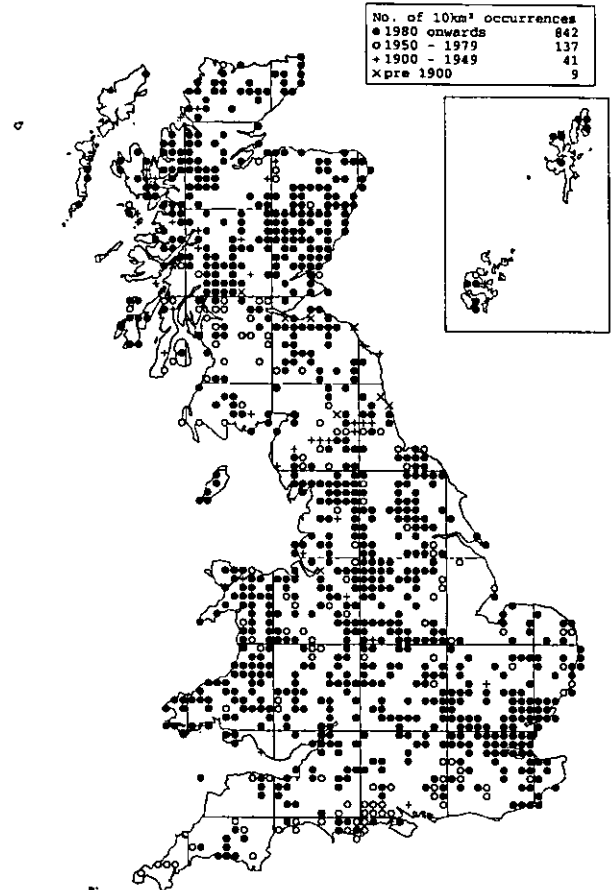
Public pressure on coastal sites can degrade these habitats through trampling, while fragmentation and loss of heathland to agriculture and forestry is another threat. The remaining areas are at risk from fires and scrub encroachment.

Management

Many of the sites are managed by conservation bodies. Scrub invasion should be controlled by grazing, mowing or controlled burning.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

[9603] Theridiidae: *Robertus lividus*



Status

Common throughout Britain.

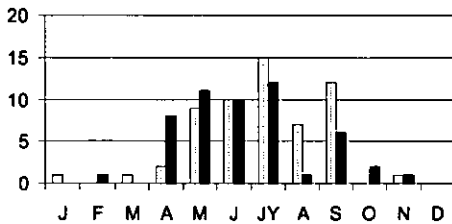
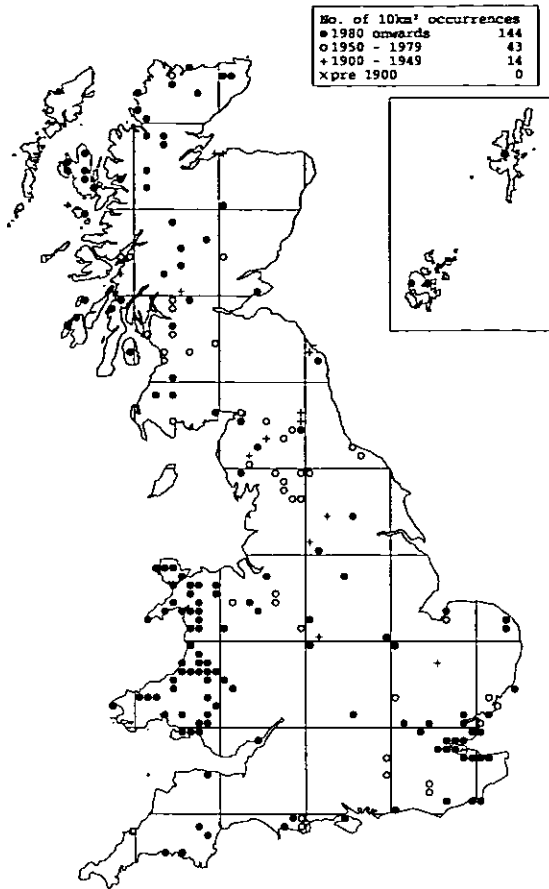
Distribution

The species is widespread throughout Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This is a ground living species found under stones, detritus, etc. and in leaf litter and moss. It is present in a wide variety of habitats including sand dunes, wetland, woodland, high moorland and at high altitude under stones on mountains. Both sexes can be found mature throughout the year, but the majority of records are between spring and early autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Generally an uncommon species throughout the country.

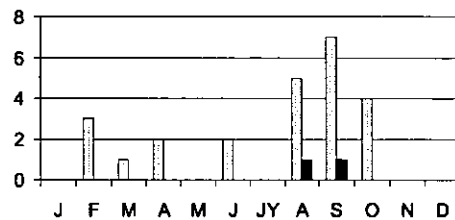
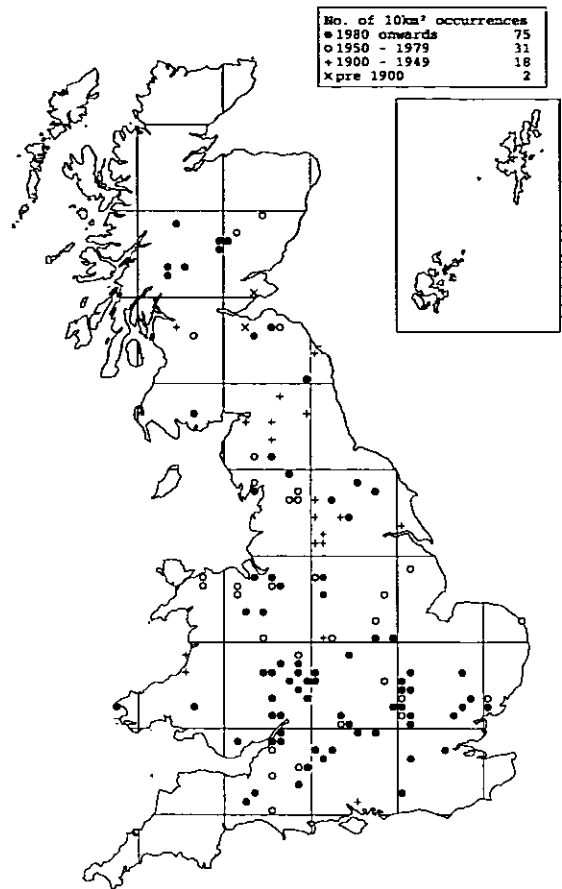
Distribution

The species is locally distributed in Britain with concentrations of records from Wales and coastal sites in Essex and north Kent. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

R. arundineti is usually found at ground level under stones and other detritus and in tussocks, leaf litter and moss in woodland and on heather moorland. In south-east England it has been found in a range of open habitats such as tidal and beach litter, on dunes, grazing marsh grassland, rough grassland and grassland on sand, as well as in set-aside fields (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). It also occurs in wetlands in southern England. The majority of adults have been found between late spring and autumn, but mature spiders may be found throughout the year.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Generally an uncommon species and possibly declining.

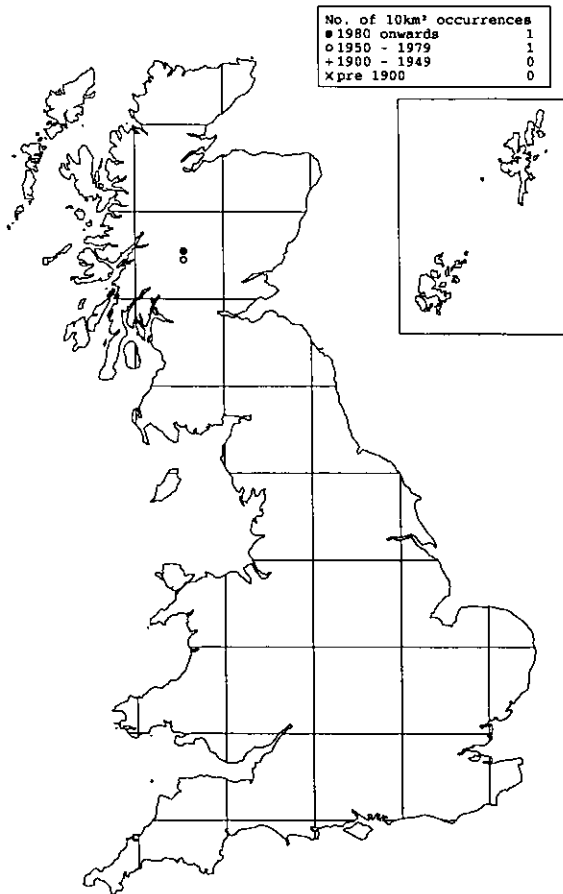
Distribution

The spider is widespread but locally distributed in Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Like the much more common *R. lividus*, this is a ground living spider. It is found in very similar situations to *R. lividus* e.g. under stones and in leaf litter. It has been found in various habitats including wetland, woodland and high moorland. Both sexes may be mature throughout the year, but most adults occur in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1).

Distribution

R. scoticus has been recorded from the Black Wood of Rannoch and the Old Wood of Meggernie in Perthshire. It is widespread but rare in northern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been recorded only from Caledonian pine forest where it is found in moss and pine litter in damp areas of the forest. Males have been found between August and October and females between June and October.

Threats

Caledonian pine forests are under threat from commercial forestry.

Management

Both of the sites are SSSIs and are being managed to maintain the open nature of the forest. Regeneration of the forest is suppressed by deer grazing and so exclosures have been set up.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).

Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Although clearly exceedingly rare, the rediscovery of this species after an 80-year gap in the records may indicate that it still survives in other East Anglian fenland sites. Until very intensive surveys of the remaining undisturbed fenland sites in Britain have been conducted, little can be inferred as to its real status.

Distribution

The first British record was of a male collected in 1907 at a locality given as Norwich, East Norfolk by Pickard-Cambridge (1907). It was then not recorded again until 1988, when another male was taken in Catfield Fen, about 15 miles north-east of Norwich (Procter 1990). In Europe it appears to be rare throughout its range. A very few individuals have been recorded from Germany, Estonia and Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000).

Habitat and ecology

Nothing was recorded of the habitat in which the first British specimen was found. The second was trapped at ground level in a *Cladium* sedge-bed, between 21 June and 5 July. In Germany it was taken in May 1959 in a flat fen meadow (Wiehle 1960). In Sweden, five males and 19 females were collected at Knisa Mere, a *Cladium* mire bordered by *Carex* tussocks and moss (Almquist 1978).

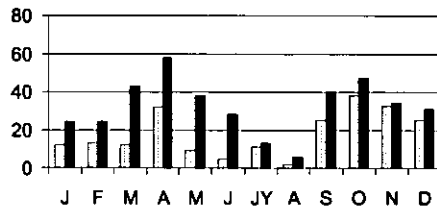
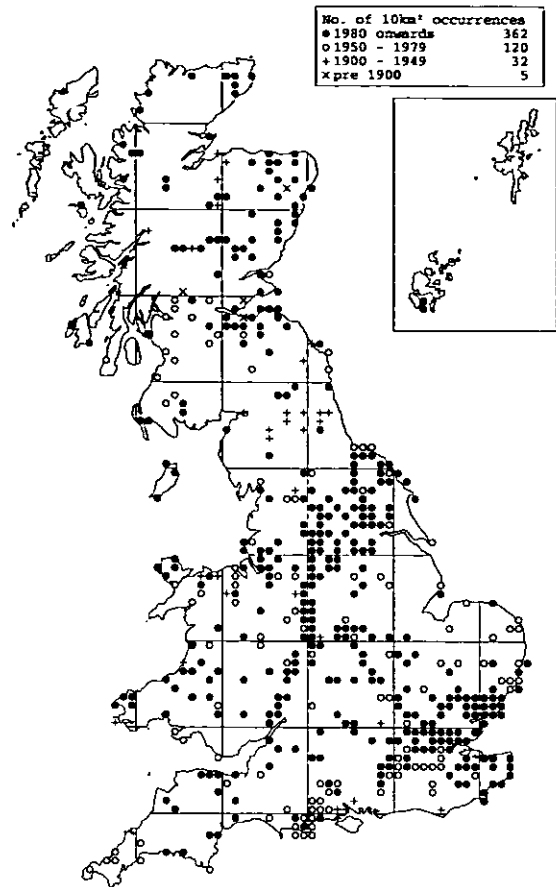
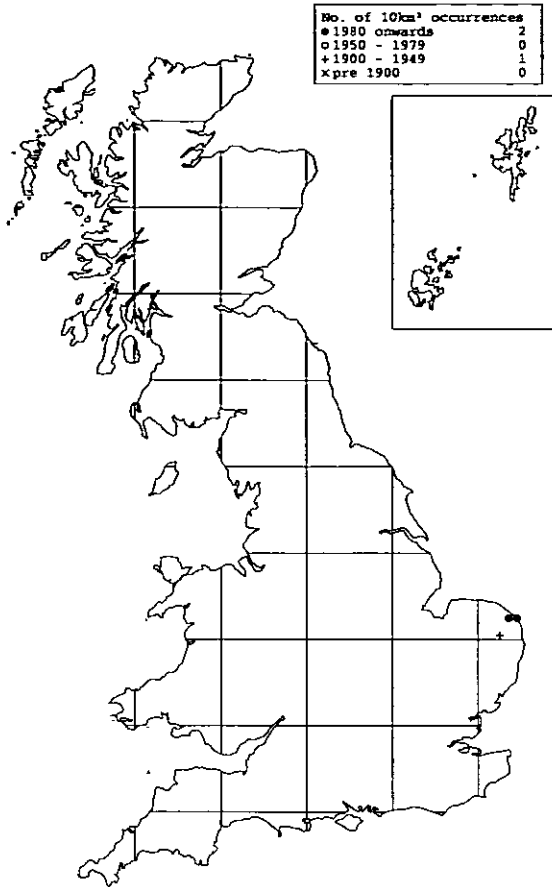
Threats

Catfield Fen lies within an SSSI. Because so little is known of the microhabitat requirements and ecology of this species, the exact nature of threats to it remain unclear. In the Broadland area of East Norfolk, sedge-beds have suffered considerable degradation since the beginning of the last century resulting from eutrophication of waterways, water abstraction, land drainage and abandonment of traditional mowing of fen vegetation which in turn leads to scrub and carr woodland encroachment. Which, if any, of these threats have impacted *R. insignis* populations is unknown.

Management

The sedge beds at Catfield Fen are being managed by regular mowing. This traditional management regime is being promoted elsewhere in the region by the Broads Authority and other conservation authorities and may help to conserve potential habitat for this species.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Generally a common species, which may be locally frequent.

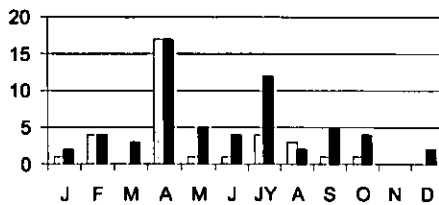
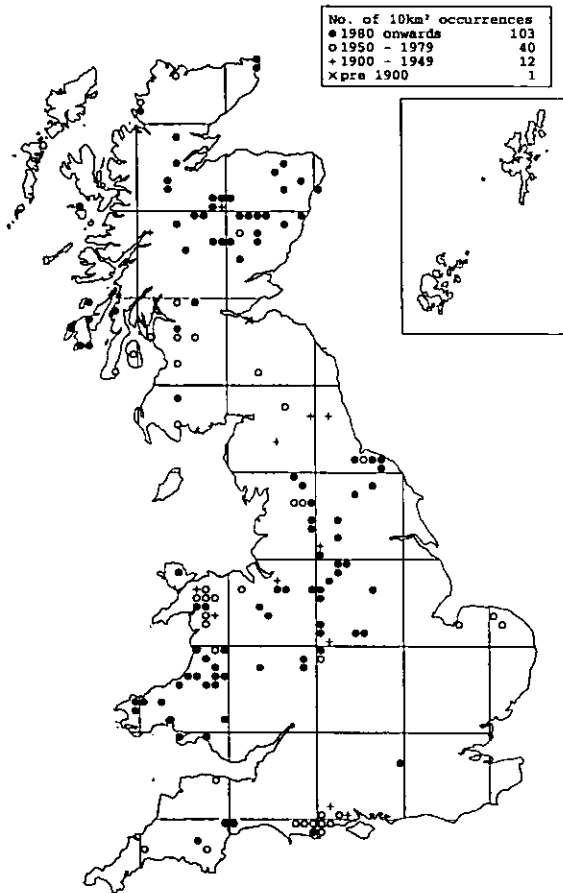
Distribution

The spider is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species may be mistaken for a linyphiid spider due to its small size and dark colouration. However, the arrangement of its eyes is very characteristic. It is usually found at ground level amongst moss and detritus in a variety of habitats. It produces a typical theridiid scaffold web, about 20 mm in diameter. Sticky lines are attached to the ground for capturing crawling insects. Both sexes have been found throughout the year, with peaks in the spring and autumn/early winter.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Apparently uncommon, but possibly under-recorded due to its small size.

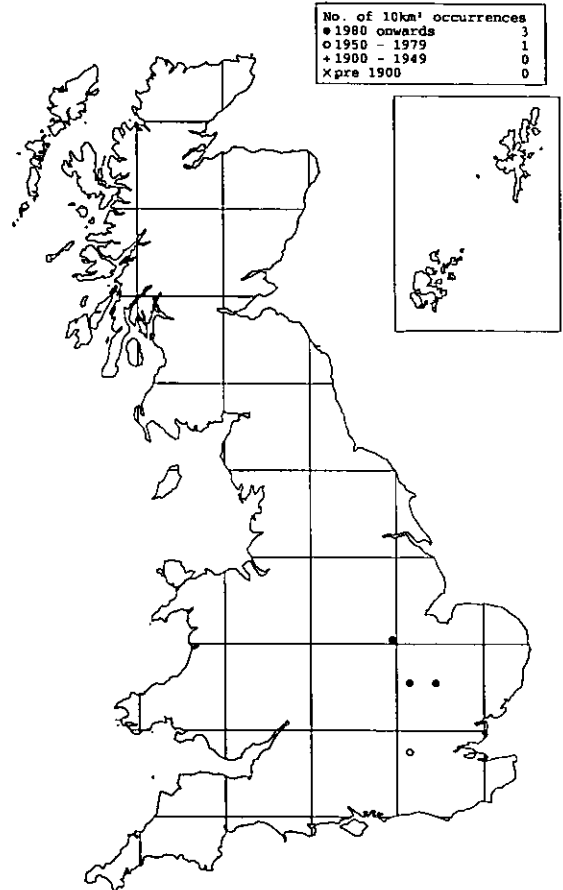
Distribution

The species is widespread in western and northern Britain but absent from most of south-central and eastern England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species is even smaller and more like a linyphiid spider than *Pholcomma gibbum*. Like that spider, it is usually found at ground level under stones and in moss etc. but may also be swept from taller vegetation. It has been recorded from a variety of habitats including sphagnum bogs, heathland and damp places in woodland. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year, with a peak in April.

Author of profile: P. Lee



Status

Introduced/synanthropic. This species seems to be following a similar pattern to other spiders of tropical origin, such as *Achaearanea tepidariorum*, which have been carried around the world with exotic plants and which have become established in heated greenhouses in cooler climates.

Distribution

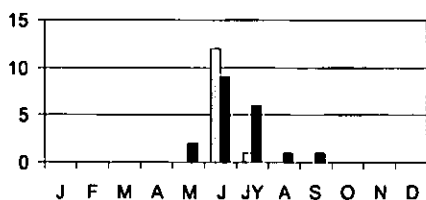
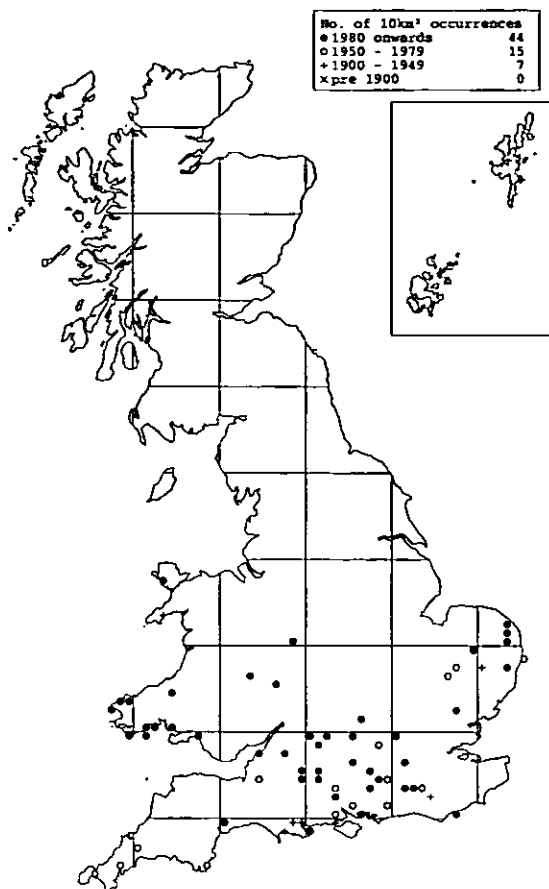
C. floridanum was first recorded in Britain from glasshouses at Kew in September 1966 by D.J. Clark (Spoczynska 1969). It was also recorded by M. Judson from Cambridge Botanic Gardens in the tropical house (Hillyard 1981) and from the Rutland Water Butterfly Centre, Leicestershire in October 1999 (Crocker & Daws 2001). A male was found indoors in Bedfordshire during 1997 (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). The species has a worldwide distribution and is considered to have originated in the American Tropics by some authors.

Habitat and ecology

In Florida this species is not always associated with man and occurs amongst leaf litter, under bark and stones. In Britain it is confined to glasshouses that maintain tropical temperatures between 12 and 30 °C with a high humidity, where it can thrive in large numbers. It is usually found on vegetation either in small webs or just clinging to the underside of leaves. The spider's habit of climbing to vegetation when disturbed greatly facilitates its worldwide distribution with cargo (Levi 1959; 1967). The species has been fully described and figured from Leicestershire specimens by Dr M. Roberts in Crocker & Daws (2001).

Author of profile: J. Daws

[12101] Theridiosomatidae: *Theridiosoma gemmosum*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is widespread in southern England and often abundant where found, but very local.

Distribution

The species does not extend northwards of a line from the Wash to Anglesey. It is widespread in western and southern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

T. gemmosum occurs in damp places, among low herbage, grass, etc., in a variety of situations (bogs, wet heath, ditches, fens, marshes). It spins a small orb web low down among vegetation. Both sexes are adult from May to August, females into September, with a male peak in June and a female peak in June and July. The egg-sac is attached by a stalk to bushes and trees at a considerable height from the ground.

Threats

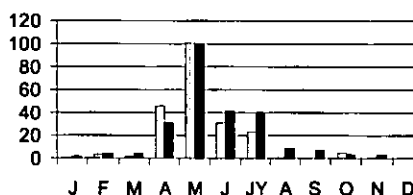
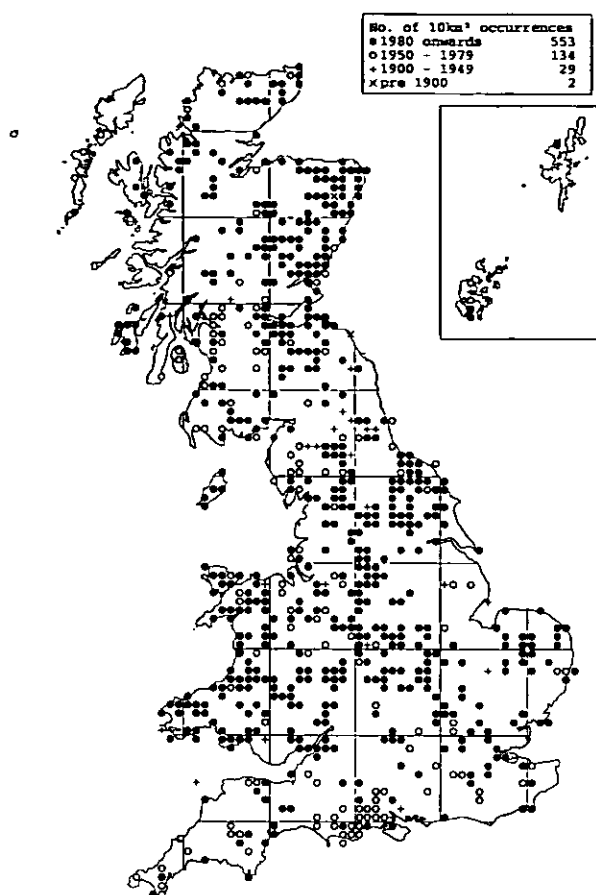
The drainage of fens, bogs and other wet places.

Management

Maintain low vegetation and the water table in fens, bogs, etc. Some bushes are necessary for egg-laying.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[12201] Linyphiidae: *Ceratinella brevipes*



Status

Common.

Distribution

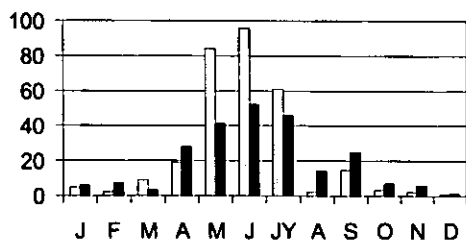
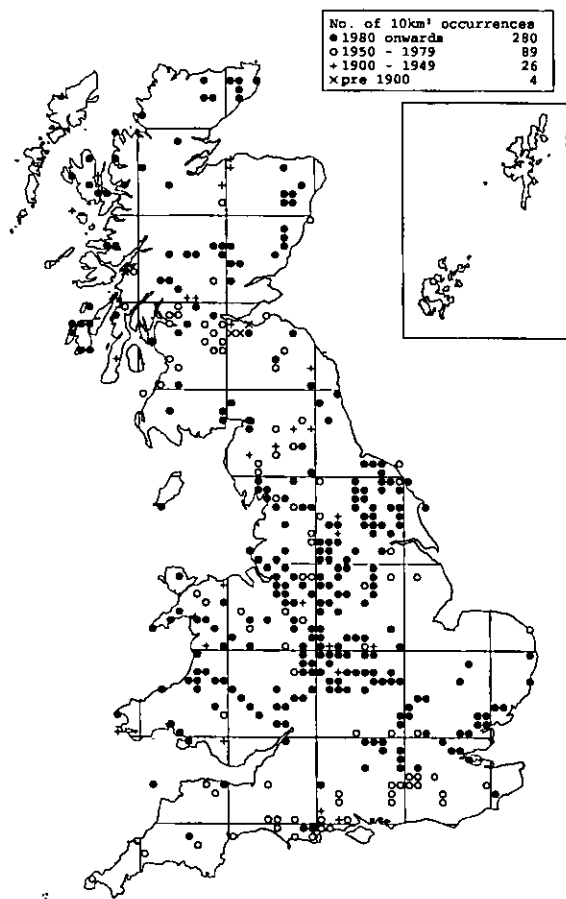
The species is widespread throughout Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found in a variety of situations. In Leicestershire, it was found most frequently in pitfall traps in wet woodland, sphagnum and leaf litter (Crocker & Daws 1996), as well as in limestone grassland, rough grassland, hay meadows, marshy ground and reed-beds, and by sweeping cross-leaved heath. Adults have been recorded almost year-round, but most frequently from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[12202] Linyphiidae: *Ceratinella brevis*



Status

Less common than *C. brevipex* in Scotland and at higher altitudes, more common at lower altitudes and in the Midlands and parts of the south of England.

Distribution

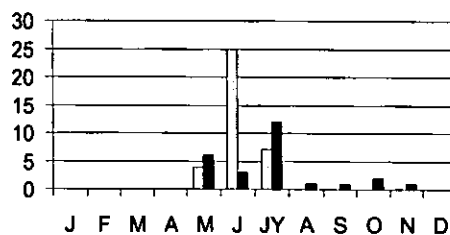
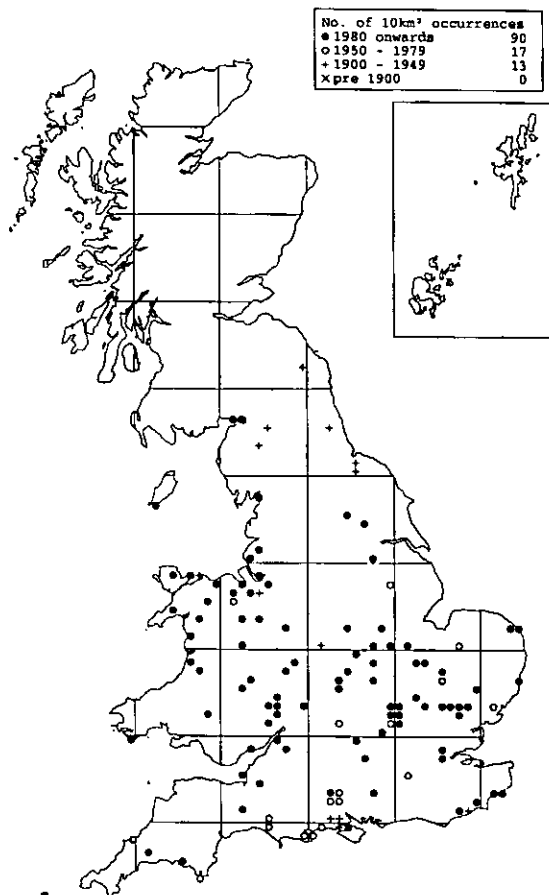
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain, but apparently absent or very rare in some areas such as East Anglia. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

C. brevis is found in a similar range of habitats to *C. brevipex*, but with more records from drier situations (Crocker & Daws 1996). It has been recorded from a wide variety of woodland, heathland, grassland and wetland sites, with woodland litter the favoured habitat. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, with the highest numbers in early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[12203] Linyphiidae: *Ceratinella scabrosa*



Status

Local and rather rare.

Distribution

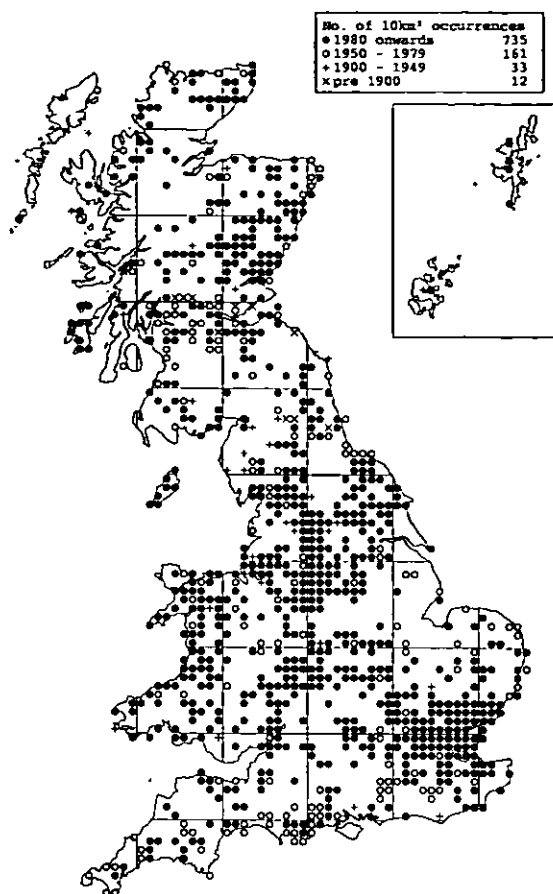
The species is widespread in much of England and Wales becoming very scattered in the north as far as Dumfries-shire and Northumberland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

C. scabrosa is most commonly recorded from limestone grassland, in the litter layer or on rocks or ant hills. It is also found in the detritus of marshes and leaf litter of ancient woodlands. Additionally, Crocker and Daws (1996) recorded it from a dried-out reed-bed. Adults of both sexes have been recorded from May to July, females occasionally persisting until November.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[12301] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria acuminata*



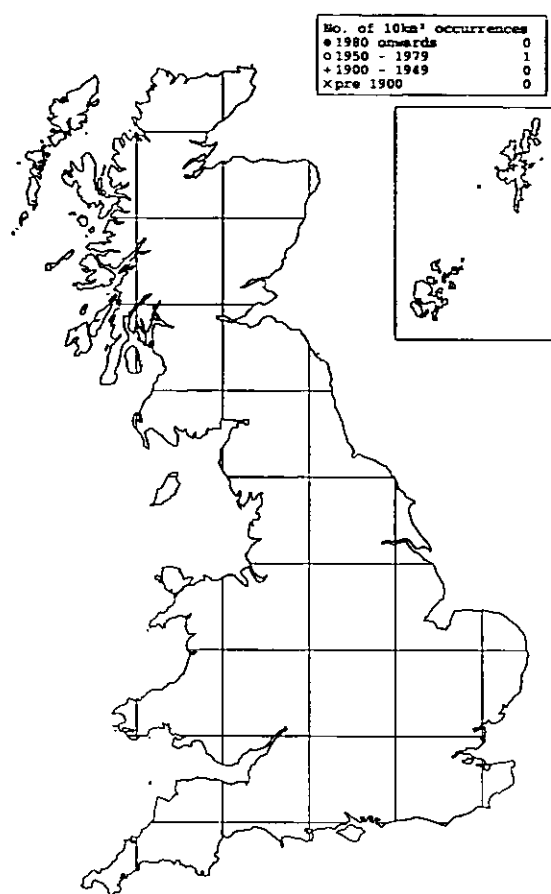
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The spider occurs in almost any habitat in the ground zone, including grassland, heathland, woodland, marsh and reed-beds, with a preference for damper substrates. Adults can be found in any month, but males mostly during the autumn, winter and spring.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

[12314] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria mitrata*



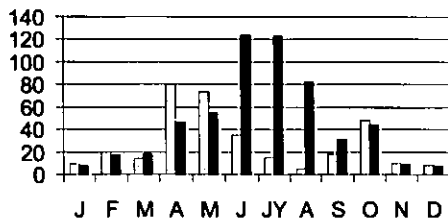
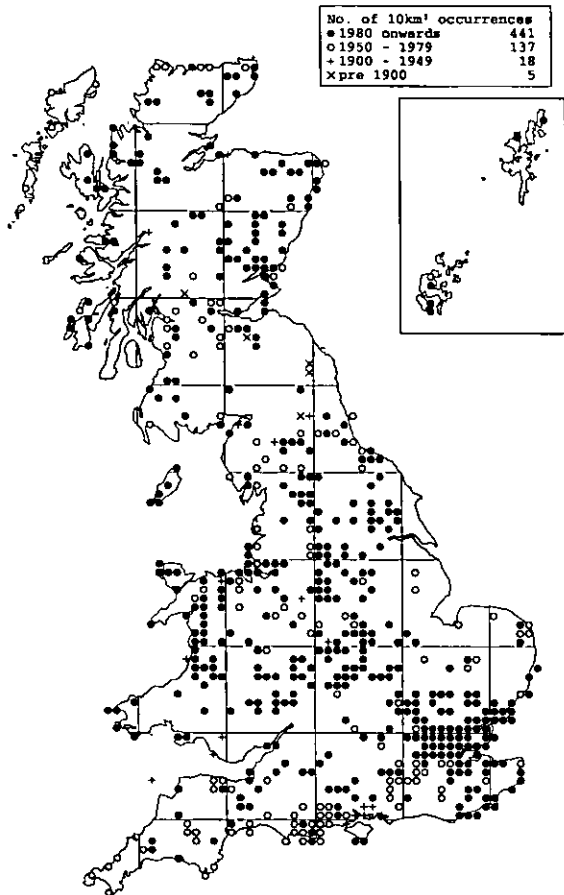
Status
Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Only four females and two males have been recorded. No further specimens have been found since its discovery in 1967 and 1968, despite extensive collecting between 1991 and 2000 in the Blean Woods complex generally.

Distribution
This species has been recorded in Britain only from a single site in Blean Woods NNR, East Kent. In Europe it appears to be widespread but infrequent with records from France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

Habitat and ecology
The only British site is an area of coppiced sweet chestnut and beech woodland that had not been cut for at least 30 years at the time the specimens were collected. Both sexes were collected in pitfall traps in April and a further female in November, in mixed chestnut and beech litter overlying a raw humus layer on London clay. A further female was collected by hand at the same site in December. In Europe it has been collected from a range of different woodland types, often on moderately wet soils.

Threats
Although there has been a large decline in the area of coppiced chestnut woodland in south-east England over the past 60 years, the fact that it was taken in an area of long-abandoned coppice and that it occurs in a range of broad-leaved woodland types in Europe suggests that simply allowing coppice to revert to tall forest may not be a threat in itself.

Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith



Status

Common. There remains some uncertainty over the status of *W. antica* and the closely related *W. alticeps* because of confusion over the separation of the species (Kronstedt 1980b). Although there is a slight difference in average size there is some overlap and separation of the two species requires very careful consideration of the genitalia, in the female by examination of the adnexae in the excised vulva.

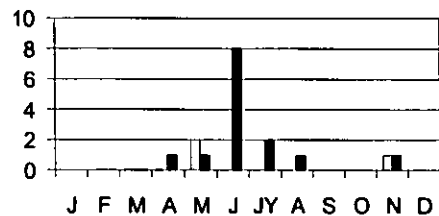
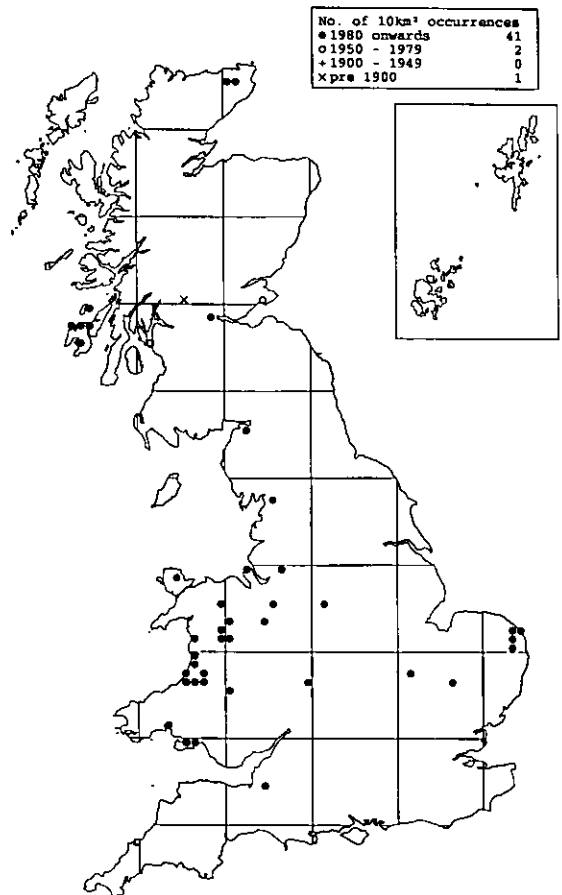
Distribution

W. antica is widespread in Britain. A Palearctic species, it is widely distributed throughout north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

W. antica appears to prefer sites exposed to the sun in open places or dry woodland litter, whereas *W. alticeps* prefers moist litter or shaded sphagnum bogs. However Rushton has shown that *W. antica*, being more eurytopic than *W. alticeps*, can utilise the wetter habitats more usually associated with the latter species if it is absent (Rushton 1991). It is a common aeronaut. Adults may be found throughout the year with most females in the spring and summer with a small peak again in the autumn. Adult males have mostly been found between April and June and again during the autumn in October.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Uncertain, but probably very local or scarce.

Distribution

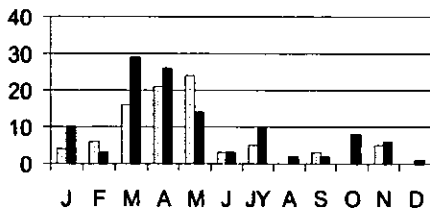
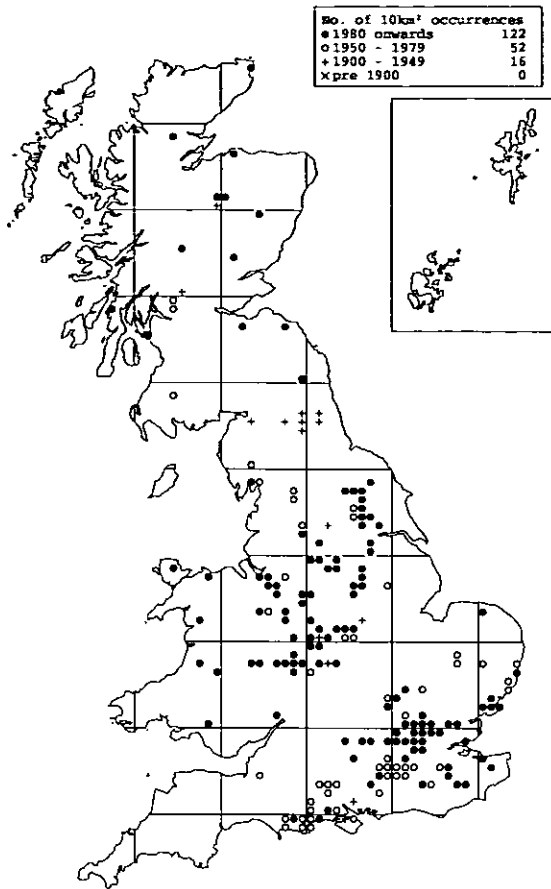
W. alticeps was separated from *W. antica* in 1952 but not recognised in Britain until 1983; earlier records of *W. antica* may include both species. It is probable that *W. alticeps* is mainly a northern species. It has been searched for without success in Leicestershire and Essex. In Europe it is listed for the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania.

Habitat and ecology

W. alticeps has been recorded from sphagnum bogs overgrown with *Molinia*, bog myrtle and birch, and other sites with moist leaf litter and shaded *Sphagnum*. From limited data, it appears that adult females may be found between April and August with a peak in June, and in November. Adult males have been recorded in May and November. This suggests a similar situation to *W. antica*, where males peak in late spring and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[12308] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria cucullata*



Status

Common locally.

Distribution

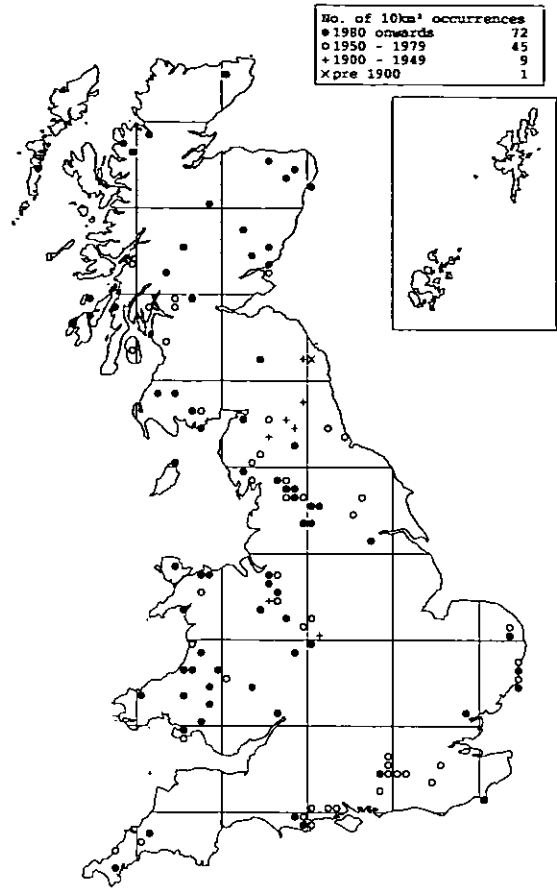
The species is widely but patchily distributed in Britain. A Palearctic species, widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species is found in moss and detritus, particularly in coniferous woodland, but also in more open grassland and, less frequently, under stones. In his study of the habitats of spiders on heathland, Snazell (1982) showed that *W. cucullata* preferred low, rather damp situations. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year but mostly from March to May, with perhaps a shorter period of activity in the autumn (Merrett 1969).

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12316] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria nodosa*



Status

The spider is uncommon in England, Wales and Scotland.

Distribution

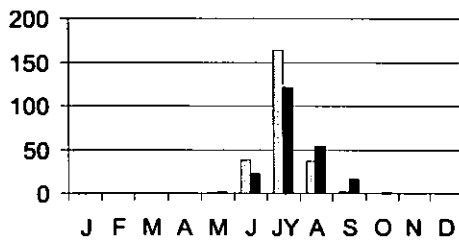
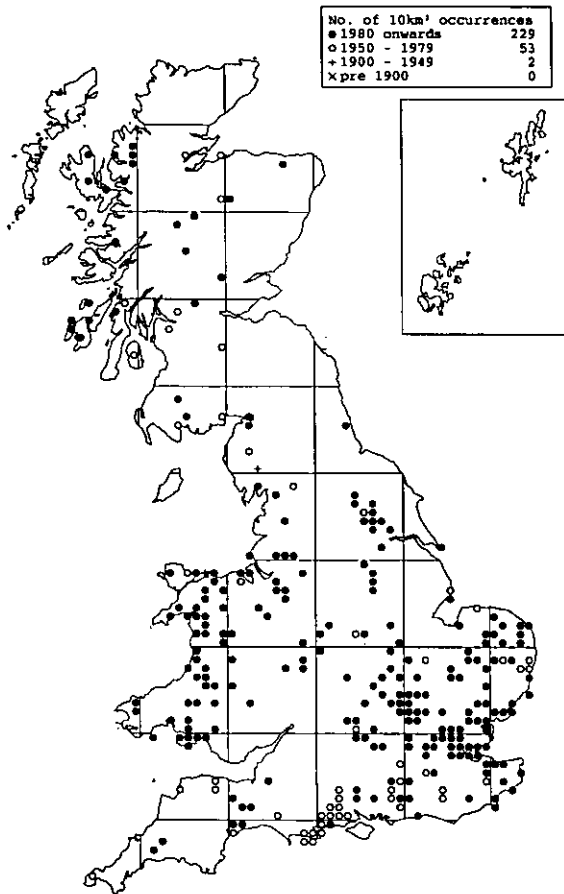
The species is widespread in Britain, but absent from much of southern and central England. It is a Palearctic species widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

W. nodosa is found in moss in woods and marshes and may be locally frequent in lowland bogs and damp heathland in the south of England. Limited data suggest adults occur in the autumn, winter and spring.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12304] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria atrotibialis*



Status

Generally uncommon and local.

Distribution

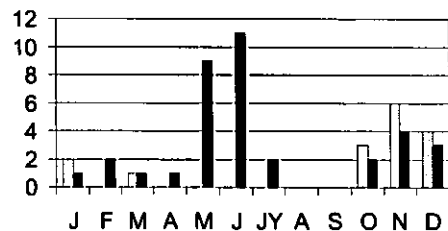
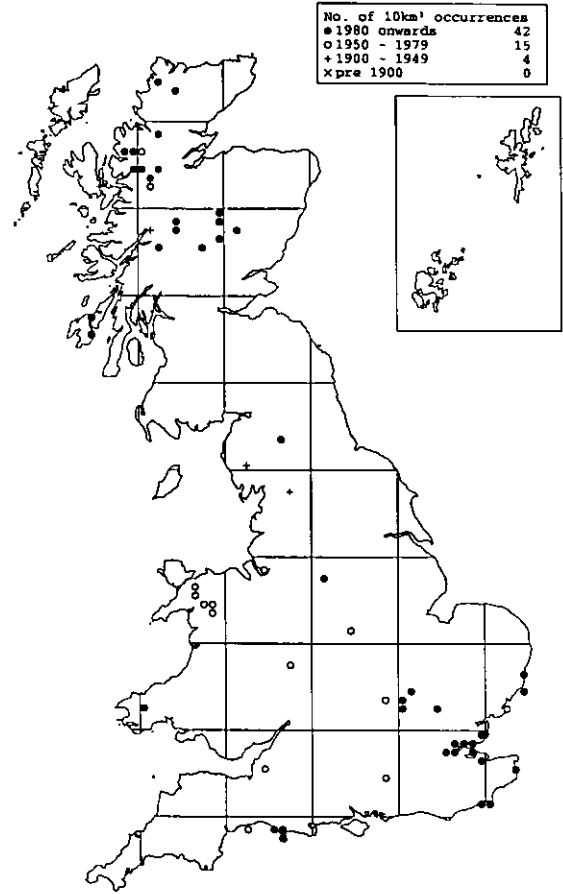
The species is widespread in central and south-eastern Britain becoming scattered in the north. It is a Holarctic species widespread in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

W. atrotibialis occurs beneath heather, on calcareous and other grasslands, in boggy or marshy ground, wetlands, fens and sometimes woodland. Adults are found in summer with a peak between June and August.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12305] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria capito*



Status

Local.

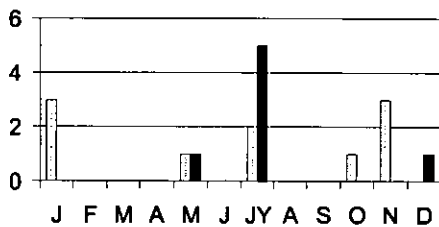
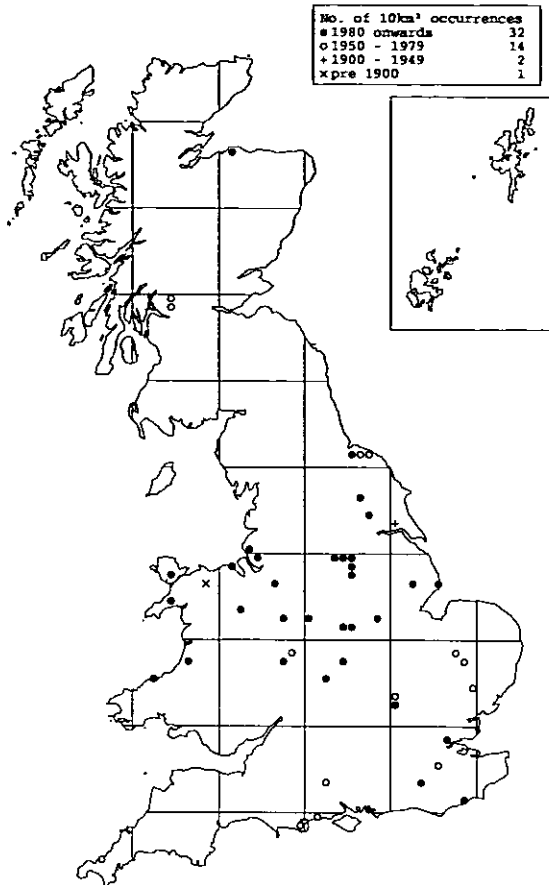
Distribution

The species is widespread in Scotland, North Wales and the East Thames Corridor, but generally widely scattered elsewhere. It is a Holarctic species widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

W. capito is found under stones on high ground in mountainous areas, but there are also records from short vegetation and grazing marsh grasslands in lowland counties. Adult females probably occur throughout the year. Our data suggest males may peak in late autumn and winter.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Records are very scattered in a variety of habitats, and few specimens have ever been found. This suggests that its principal habitat has not been discovered.

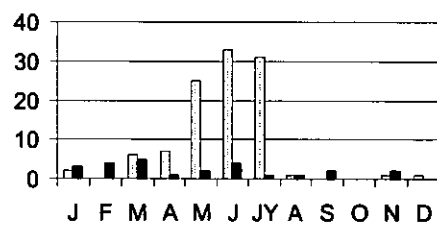
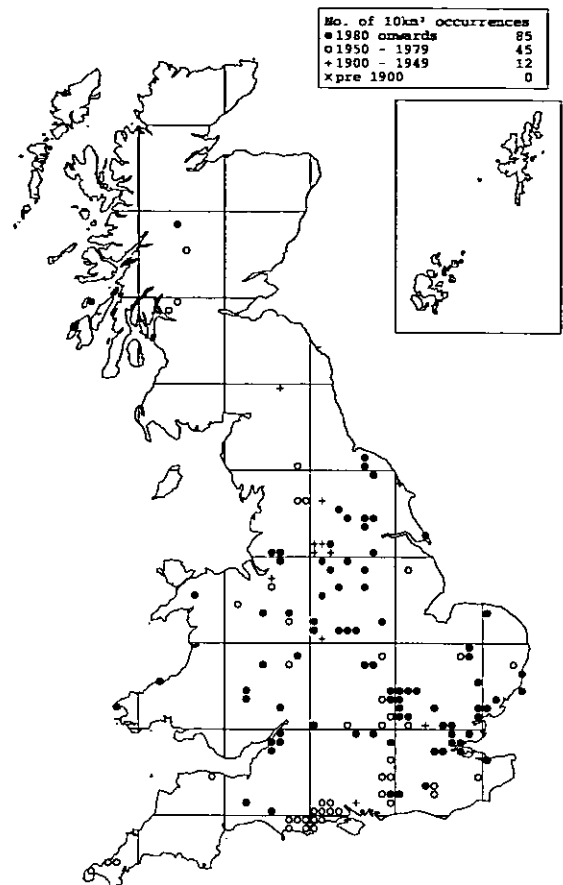
Distribution

The species is widespread but very scattered and apparently absent from large areas of Britain, with most records from Yorkshire southwards. It has been recorded from north-western Europe as far north as Sweden.

Habitat and ecology

W. incisa is found at ground level in a variety of habitats, e.g. chalk grassland, heathland, pine litter, oak litter. In Leicestershire there have been records over several seasons from pitfall traps set in open ancient woodland on acid soils, with occasional records from heathland and limestone grassland (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adult males have been collected in January, May, July, October and November, adult females in May, July and December, so the species may be active throughout the year.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

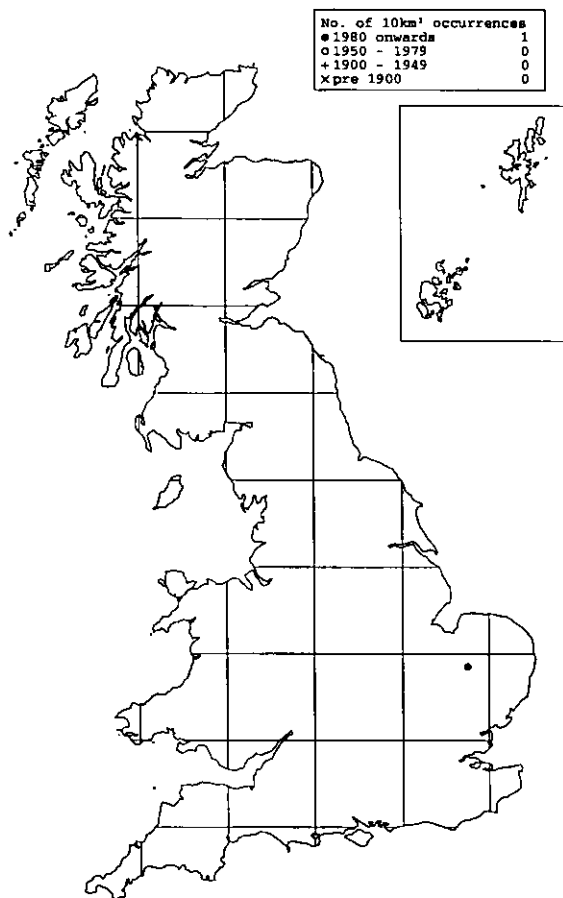
The species is widespread in England but with few scattered records in Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found on southern heathlands, especially in open, stony areas, but has also been recorded in pine needles and moss in woodlands, and on both acidic and calcareous grassland. Adults have been recorded throughout the year with most males between May and July.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12319] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria stylifrons*



Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Only three females and three males have been found in Britain: two males and two females in 1963, one female in 1989 and one male in 1994 (Procter & Foster 1996).

Distribution

The species has been recorded in Britain only from Weeting Heath, West Norfolk. Its European distribution includes Corsica, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, though most records are from the French Mediterranean coast.

Habitat and ecology

The spider was originally found in tall dense *Festuca* turf on sandy soil, but the two recent specimens came from traps set in short or very short grassland, in an experimental plot where one strip had previously been forage harvested and the other rotavated. The species has also been found in very short grassland behind a dune system on the Belgian coast. Both sexes have been found in March and April.

Threats

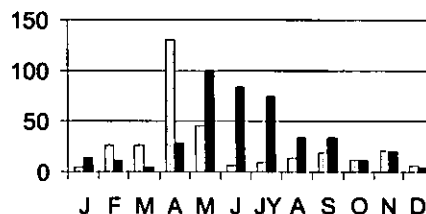
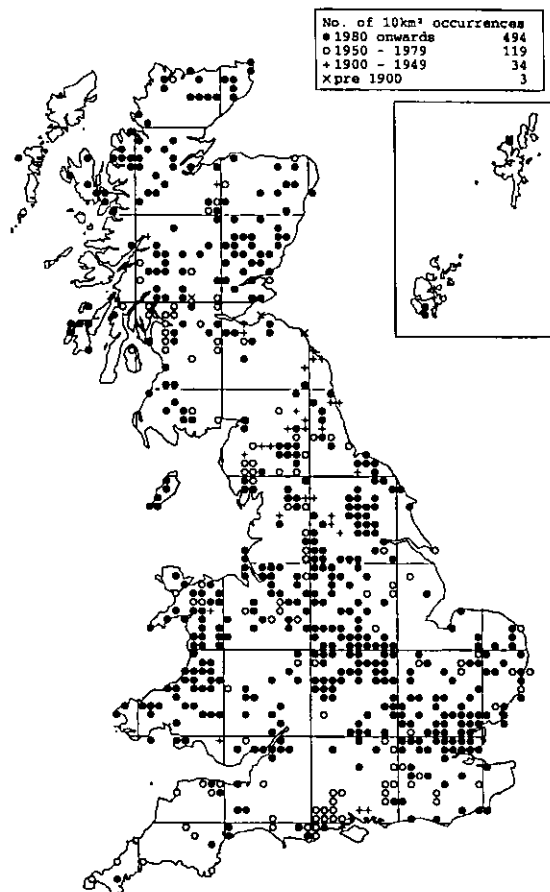
Much of Breckland has been afforested with conifers or put into permanent agricultural production, and several remaining areas of heath are fast disappearing under self-sown pines.

Management

More research needs to be done to find out the spider's particular habitat preferences and what effect different treatments have on its survival. However it would seem that management should prevent the loss of open grassland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett (in Bratton 1991), updated by P.R. Harvey using information in Procter & Foster (1996).

[12317] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria nudipalpis*



Status

Common.

Distribution

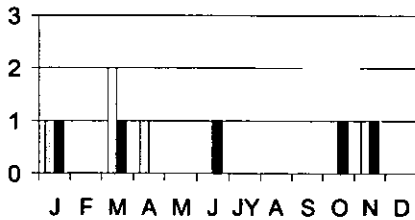
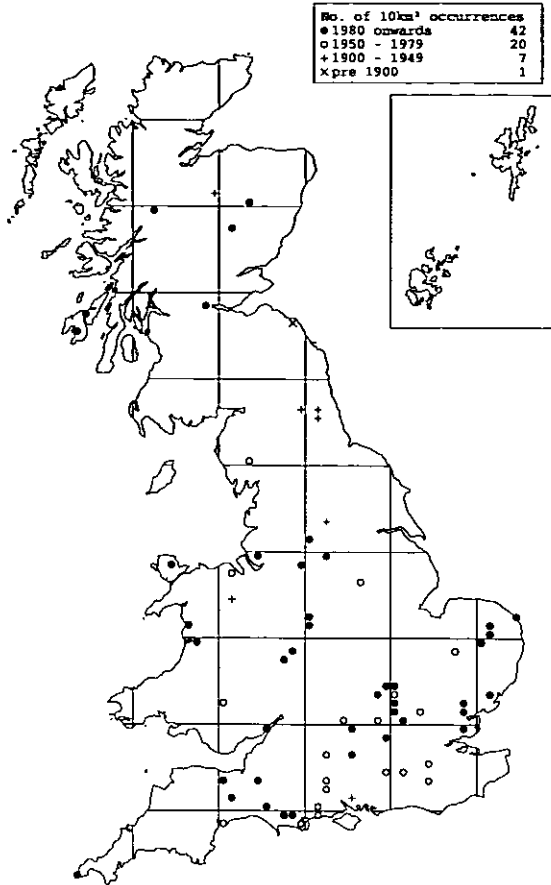
Widespread throughout Britain. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found in a wide variety of damp habitats ranging from litter in woodland through to damp heathland, boggy moorland and wetter areas such as marshes and reed-beds. It is a frequent aeronaut. On heathland in Dorset, Merrett (1969) obtained results which indicated male activity from mid-January to mid-April, and female activity from April to August and again in late October and November. Our data show adults present throughout the year with peak numbers of males being collected in April and May, females from May to July.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12318] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria obtusa*



Status

Uncommon although perhaps not as rare as once thought.

Distribution

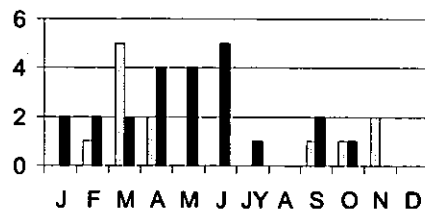
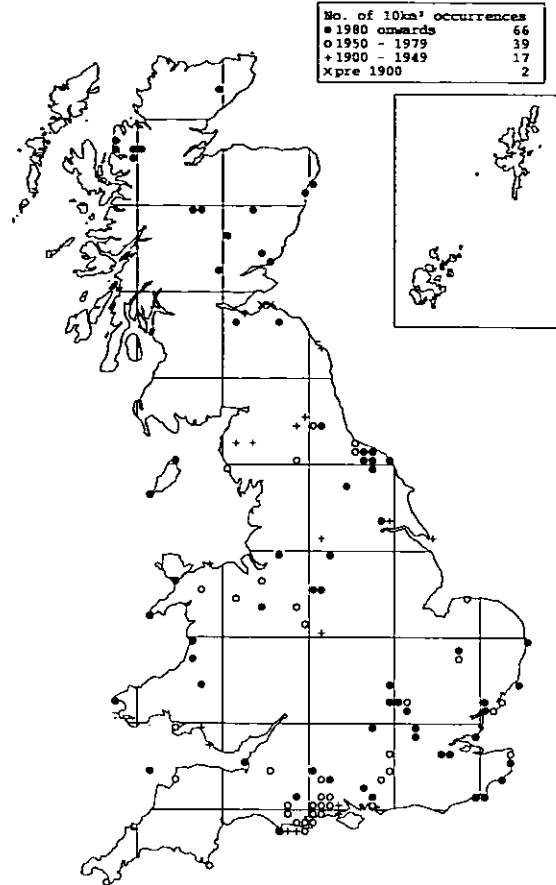
Widespread in southern Britain but becoming very scattered in the north. A Palaearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe. It has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in moss and grass, usually in broad-leaved woodland. Adult males probably occur only from late autumn through the winter and spring, adult females also into summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12315] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria monoceros*



Status

Infrequent.

Distribution

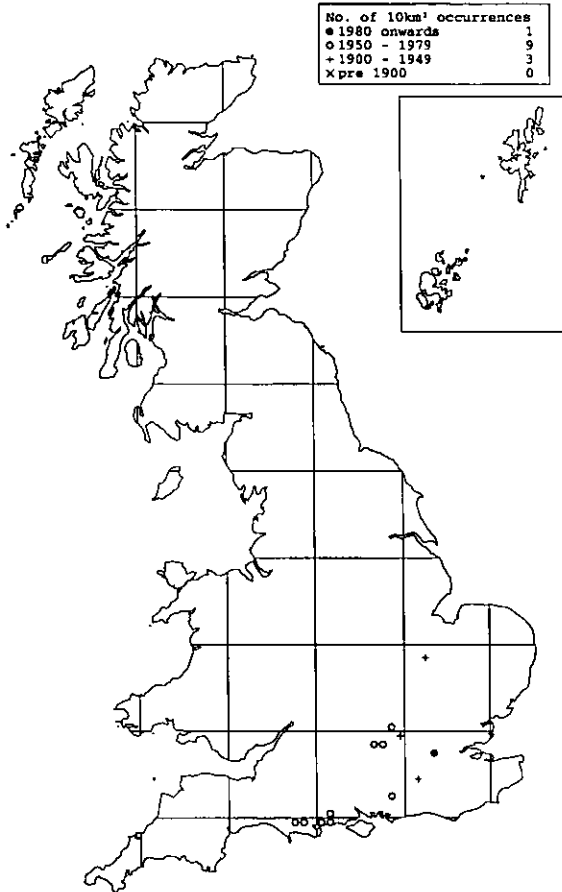
The species has a widespread but patchy distribution in Britain. A European species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs under stones and detritus, on sand-hills and open habitats inland. It has been identified as a pioneer species on burnt heathland, reaching a peak of abundance just a few years after burning but followed by a rapid decline in numbers (Merrett 1976). On heathland the period of male activity was from December through to March while females were probably active throughout the year (Merrett 1969). A similar picture of adult activity is shown by our data.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12307] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria corniculans*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider has never been found in abundance at any site.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from scattered localities in southern England. It is uncommon in western Europe as far north as Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in old dry heathland in Dorset, Hampshire and West Sussex (in some cases near pine trees), and in woodland litter at other sites. Adults are found between April and September.

Threats

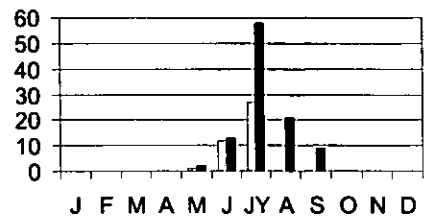
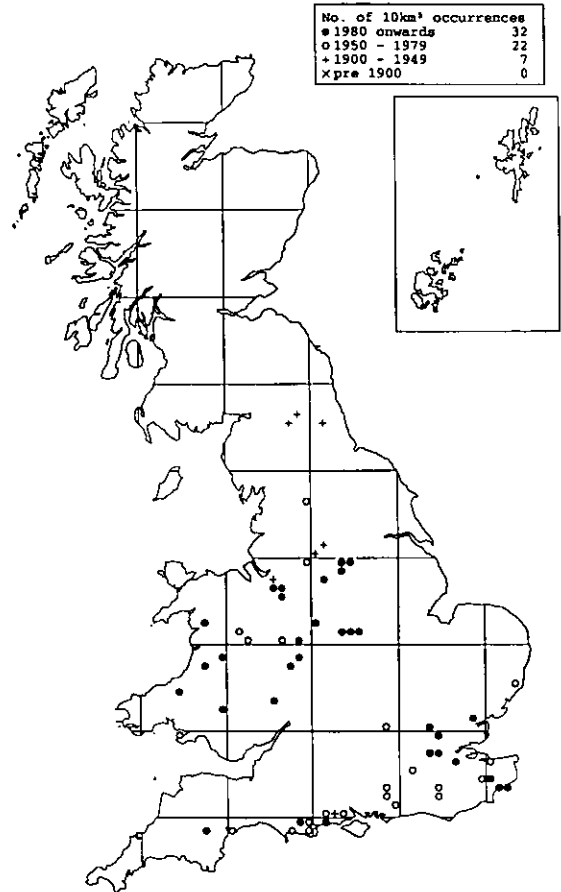
The loss of heathland to afforestation, agriculture and development, and by fire.

Management

On heathland, the maintenance of some old heather is essential. Where fire is used as a management technique, it should be used on a small scale, as extensive fires might be detrimental and may account for this species' absence from many heathland areas.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[12311] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria furcillata*



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

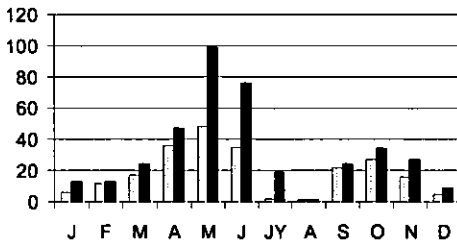
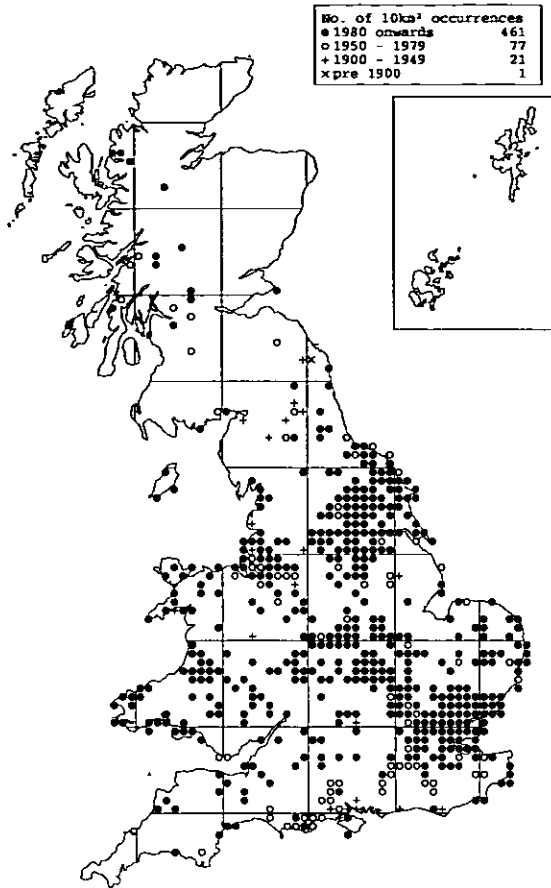
The species is widespread in parts of England and Wales. A Palaearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe but not recorded from Ireland or most of Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs under heather and scrub, and in moss and grass on acid heathland. Adults are found from April through to July, females until September.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12320] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria unicornis*



Status

The species is generally infrequent but may be common locally.

Distribution

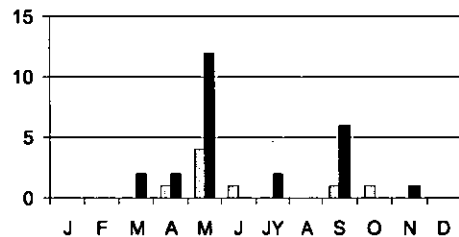
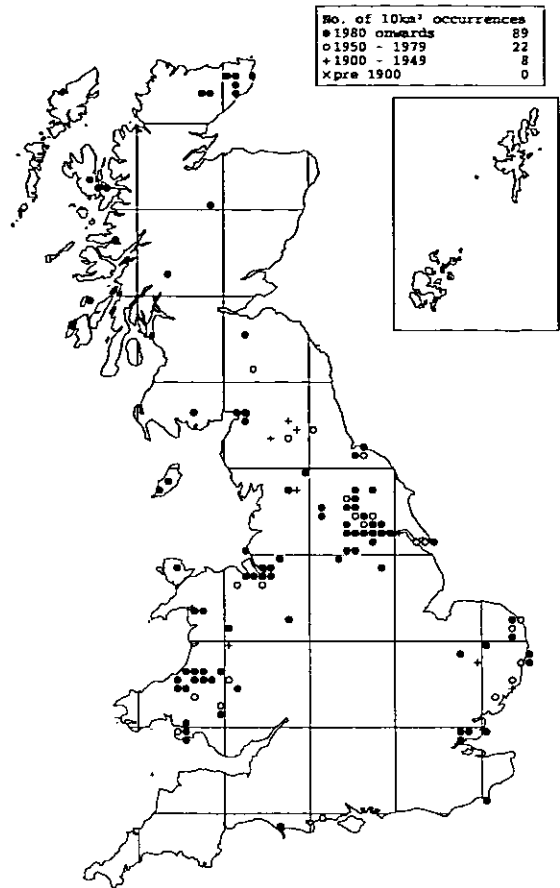
The spider is widespread throughout England and Wales, becoming very scattered in northern England and Scotland where it is apparently absent from large areas. A Palearctic species, widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

W. unicornis is found amongst detritus, moss and grass, generally in marshy areas, but may sometimes be swept from taller vegetation and scrub. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, with peaks in the spring and early summer, and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12313] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria kochi*



Status

Local.

Distribution

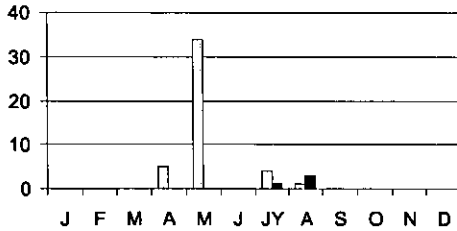
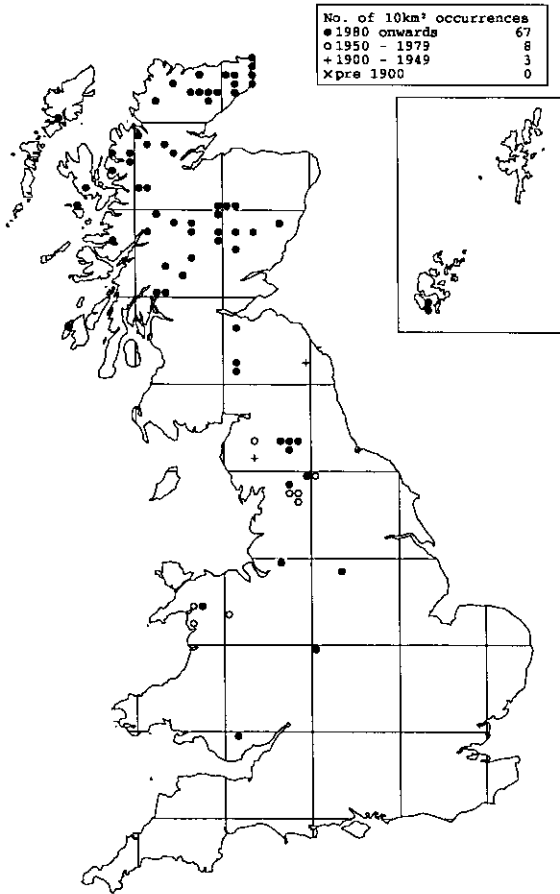
W. kochi is absent from large parts of the country and appears to be widespread only in parts of Scotland, Wales, Cheshire, Yorkshire and the coast of East Anglia and Essex. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs at the roots of vegetation, generally in moorland, marshes and bogs, or on river banks and wet areas on the coast including saltmarsh and brackish grassland. Adults of both sexes have been recorded mainly from spring to early summer and in September.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12306] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria clavicornis*



Status

Local and uncommon on high ground.

Distribution

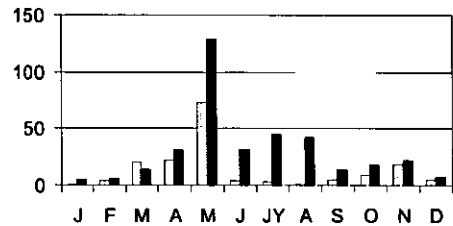
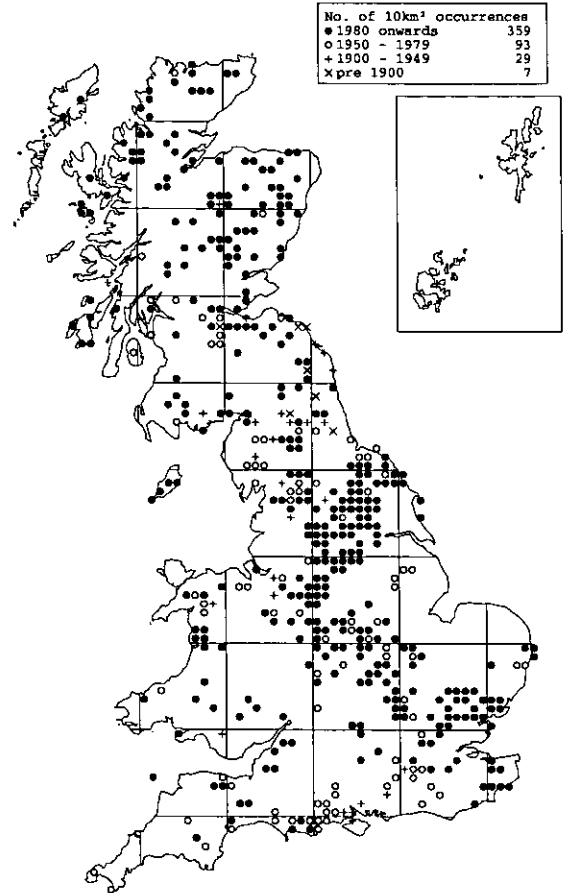
The species is found on high ground, mainly in the north, where it is widespread. The spider has a circumpolar arctic distribution (Holm 1980) and has been recorded from Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Switzerland and Austria.

Habitat and ecology

This arctic-alpine species is found in wet mosses, sphagnum mires and under stones, usually above 650 m, but there are a few records down to 300 m and even from a raised bog in South Lancashire at 20 m (D. Bell, pers. comm.). Parker (1969) states that adults have been taken from March to October, with a peak period from the end of May to the beginning of June. Our data record adult males from April to August, with a peak in May.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

[12309] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria cuspidata*



Status

Locally common.

Distribution

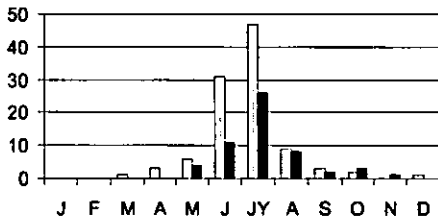
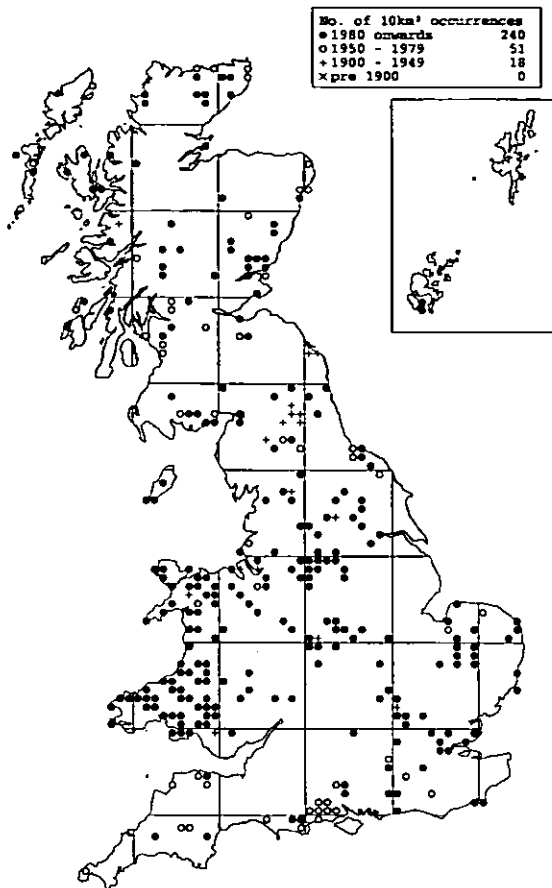
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It has a Palaearctic distribution and is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in a variety of habitats, from moss and detritus in woods, to open country, and on mountains. Merrett (1969) states that females are probably active for most of the year and males from February to July with a peak of activity in March and April. Our data show that adults have been recorded throughout the year, with a male peak in spring and early summer, and a smaller peak in the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12321] Linyphiidae: *Walckenaeria vigilax*



Status

Generally infrequent and local.

Distribution

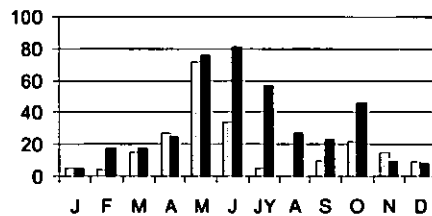
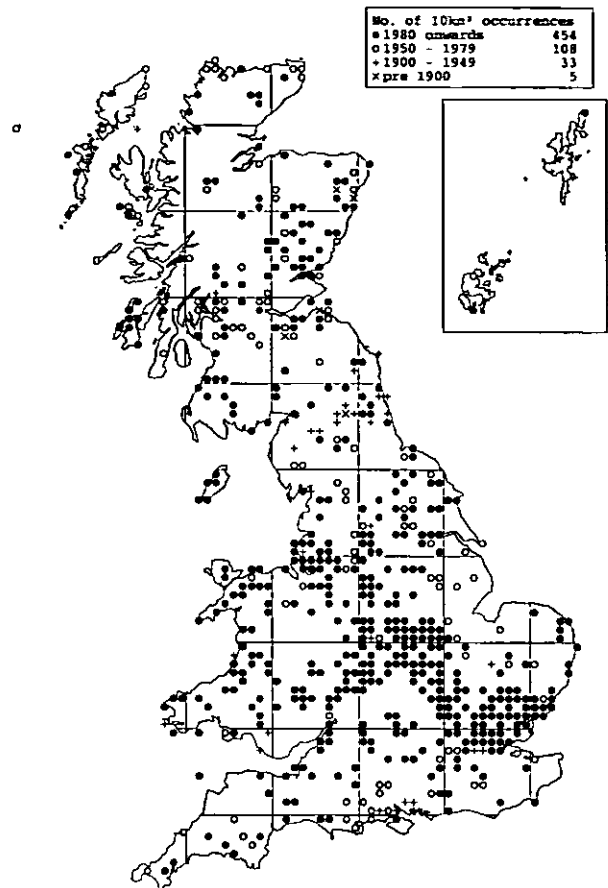
The species is widespread in Wales and parts of England, but very patchy and scattered elsewhere. It has a Holarctic distribution and is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in moss and grass in wet areas, grassland and sometimes on waste ground. Adults have been recorded between March and December, with a peak in the summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12402] Linyphiidae: *Dicymbium nigrum*



Status

A common species, more so in the south.

Distribution

The spider is widespread throughout Britain, but it is not usually found with *D. brevisetosum*. It is a Palaearctic species, widespread in Europe. The distribution map shows all records of *D. nigrum*, including any records based on females, which are indistinguishable from *D. brevisetosum*.

Habitat and ecology

D. nigrum is a common aeronaut which has been found in a wide variety of habitats including sphagnum bogs, grassland, damp woodland, heathland, marshes, wastelands and detritus. Some records are from moles' nests. It has been recorded at 2000' (610 m) on mountains in northern Scotland (Cooke 1968b). Adults have been recorded throughout the year with peaks in early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe

Status

Originally described as a subspecies of *D. nigrum* by Locket (1962) based on differences in the hairs and spines on tibiae I and II of males. It was elevated to full species status by Locket et al. (1974) based on the fact that the two forms do not occur together, but whilst Roberts (1987) regarded it as a subspecies, Merrett & Murphy (2000) continue to treat it as a separate species. There are no apparent differences between the genitalia of either species and females appear to be indistinguishable from *D. nigrum*.

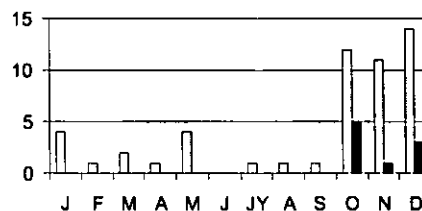
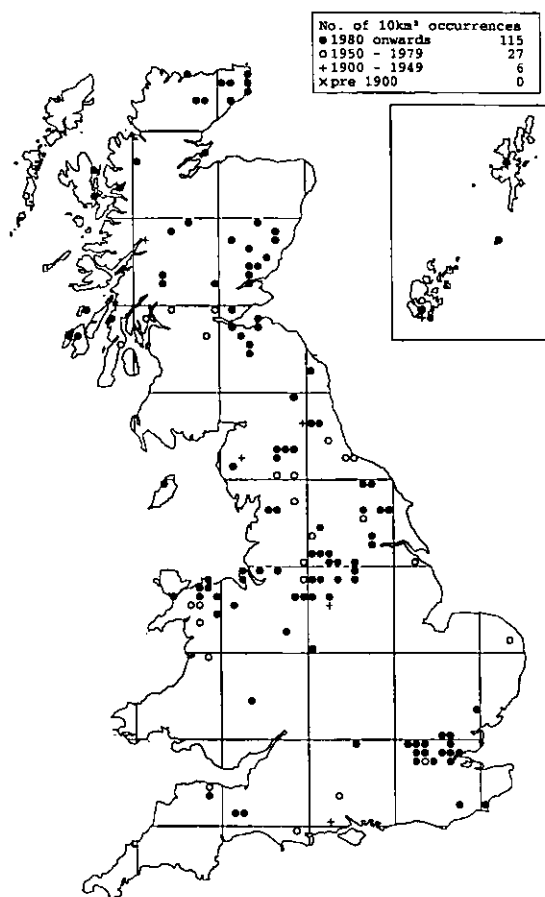
Distribution

The distribution map is based on all records submitted to the recording scheme as *D. brevisetosum*. Note that since Roberts (1987) did not consider *D. brevisetosum* as a separate species, some recorders may have ignored it, and females are not distinguishable from *D. nigrum* in any case. The species appears to have a patchy distribution and to be absent from large parts of southern England and Wales as well as areas of Scotland. It has been recorded from France, Germany, Holland, Ireland and Sweden.

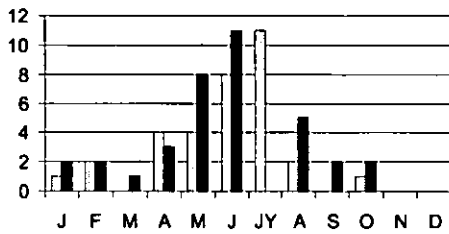
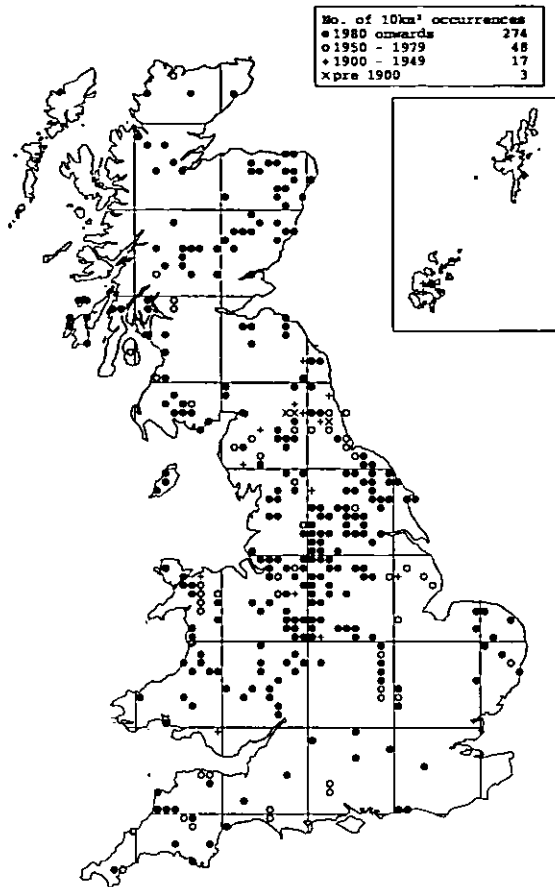
Habitat and ecology

The spider has been found in a variety of grassland habitats as well as marshes and blanket bog. In Essex the species has a very localised distribution almost completely confined to the south-west of the county, whereas *D. nigrum* is widely distributed across the whole county. Males have been recorded almost throughout the year, but mostly in the autumn. The limited female data are based on an association with males collected on the same occasion.

Authors of profile: D.R. Nellist and P.R. Harvey



[12403] Linyphiidae: *Dicymbium tibiale*



Status

The spider is more common in the north than the south. Females may have been confused in the past with *D. nigrum* but males of the two species are distinct.

Distribution

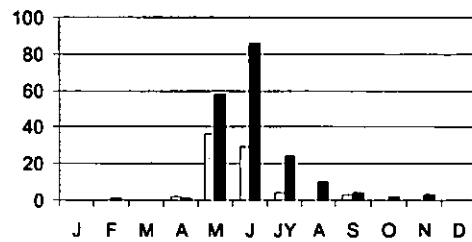
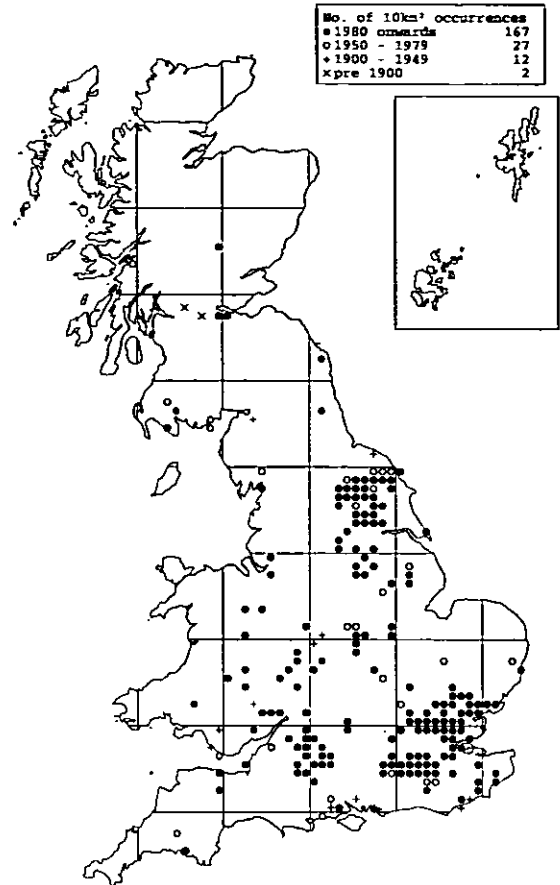
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain, but very local in south-eastern England. It is a Palearctic species.

Habitat and ecology

D. tibiale occurs under stones, in detritus in swampy areas, in broad-leaved and mixed woodland and on higher ground in more northerly areas (Merrett 1971). Adults have been recorded throughout most of the year, with a peak between late spring and summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12501] Linyphiidae: *Entelecara acuminata*



Status

The species is locally common in the south of England but rarer in the north.

Distribution

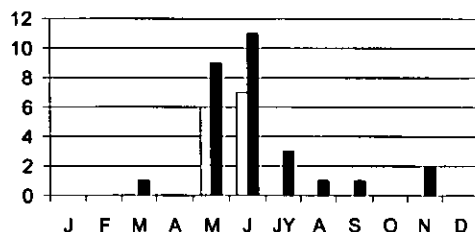
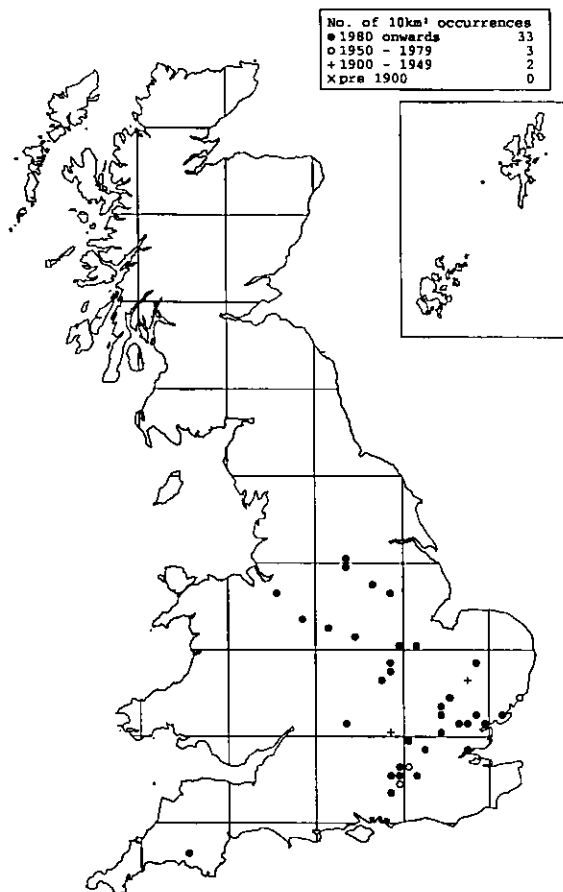
E. acuminata is widespread but patchily distributed in southern Britain with few records from the south-west and south coast, Wales, East Anglia and north of Yorkshire. A Holarctic species, widespread in north-western and central Europe, but absent from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

E. acuminata may be found by beating trees and bushes and by sweeping herbaceous vegetation. The species is a frequent aeronaut. It is mainly mature from early to mid-summer, but females have occasionally been recorded as late as November.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12502] Linyphiidae: *Entelecara congenera*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Although clearly scarce, the status of *E. congenera* is uncertain. It has been confused in the past with the commoner *E. acuminata*, and females may be very difficult or impossible to distinguish. The spider is common at some sites, but very local.

Distribution

The species appears to be largely restricted to central southern England and East Anglia, but there are scattered records as far north as Lancashire and South-west Yorkshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but absent from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

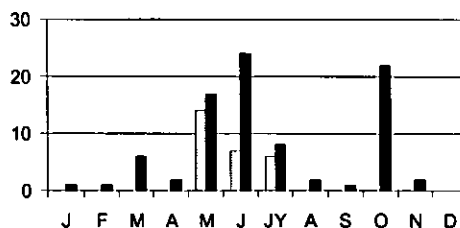
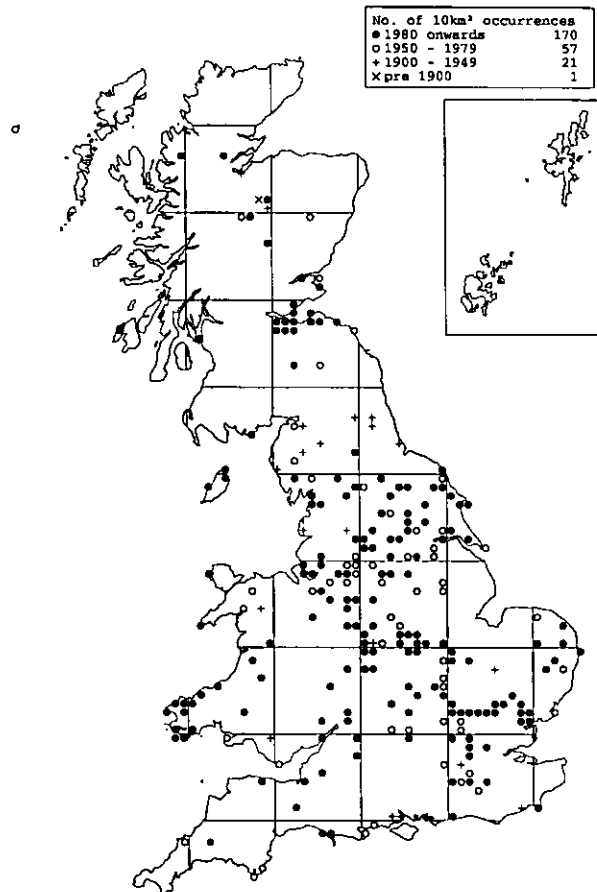
E. congenera occurs on pine trees, tall heather, gorse and other bushes in heathland and woodland. Adults of both sexes are found in May and June, females occasionally being recorded at other times of year.

Threats

The loss of heathland could threaten some sites, but the species is often found on gorse and pine in more marginal habitats rather than on open heathland.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey based on information in Merrett (1990).

[12504] Linyphiidae: *Entelecara erythropus*



Status

Not uncommon.

Distribution

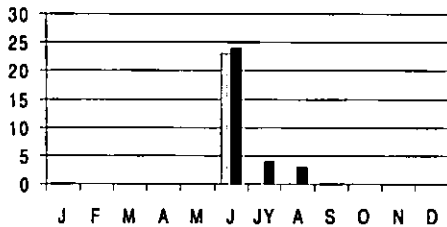
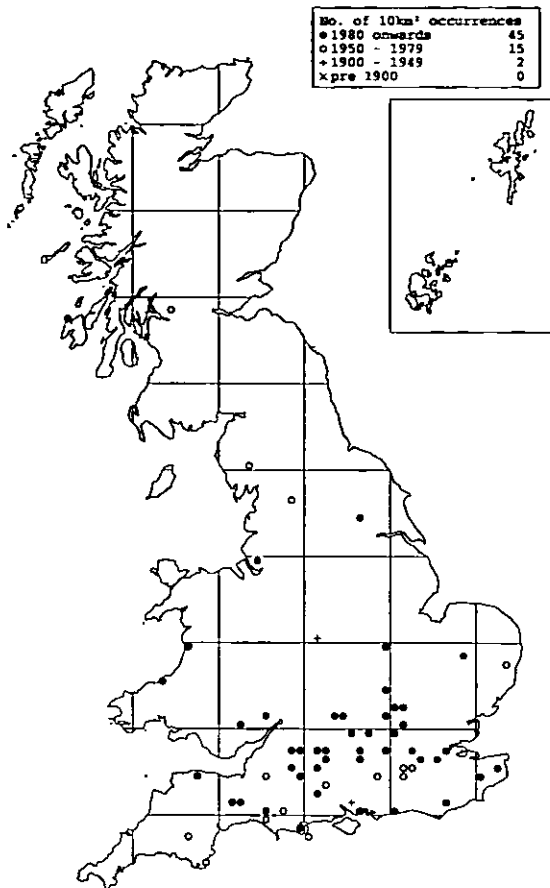
The species is widespread but patchily distributed in Britain. It has a Palearctic distribution, widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

E. erythropus occurs under stones and in detritus in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from heathland and gardens to broad-leaved and coniferous woodland. The species may also be beaten from trees and shrubs. It is a frequent aeronaut. Adults are found from early spring through to autumn. Roberts (1969) has drawn attention to a possible environmental association between this species and *Amaurobius similis* whereby *E. erythropus* is able to scavenge and spin small webs of its own in the *Amaurobius* web without fear of attack. There is some evidence that the *Entelecara* is distasteful to the *Amaurobius*. Adult males have been recorded from May to July. Adult females have been recorded in most months of the year, but with peaks during spring to mid-summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12505] Linyphiidae: *Entelecara flavipes*



Status

The spider is uncommon and very local.

Distribution

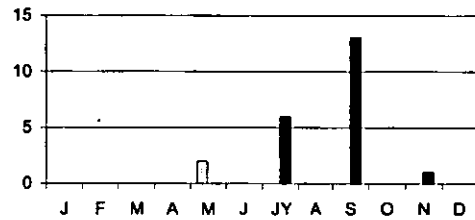
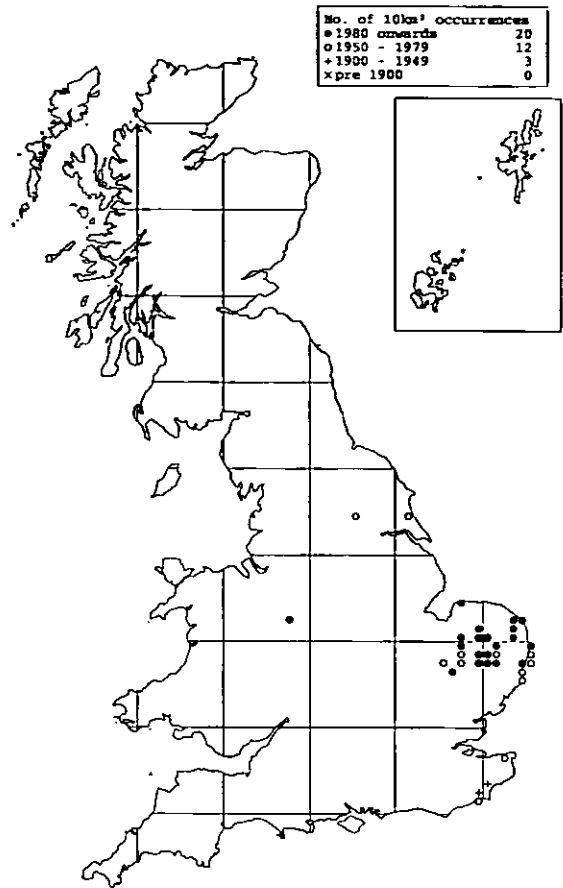
The species is widespread in southern England, but otherwise has a very scattered distribution in Britain. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but apparently only recorded from Norway in Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

E. flavipes is mainly found on calcareous grassland and by beating bushes and vegetation in woodland. It is adult in the summer, our data indicating a peak in June.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12506] Linyphiidae: *Entelecara omissa*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). *E. omissa* is abundant at some sites, but very local except in the fens of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Distribution

Most records of this species are from the fens of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. It has also been recorded from isolated sites in Dorset, Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. In Europe it has been recorded from Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

A species found among *Carex* tussocks and litter, cut sedge, etc., at ground level in fens and marshes. It has also been recorded in sedge along the margins of drainage dykes on grazing marshes at Carlton, Suffolk. In Staffordshire, it has been taken in reed-beds and a floating bog (C. Slawson, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded from May to November.

Threats

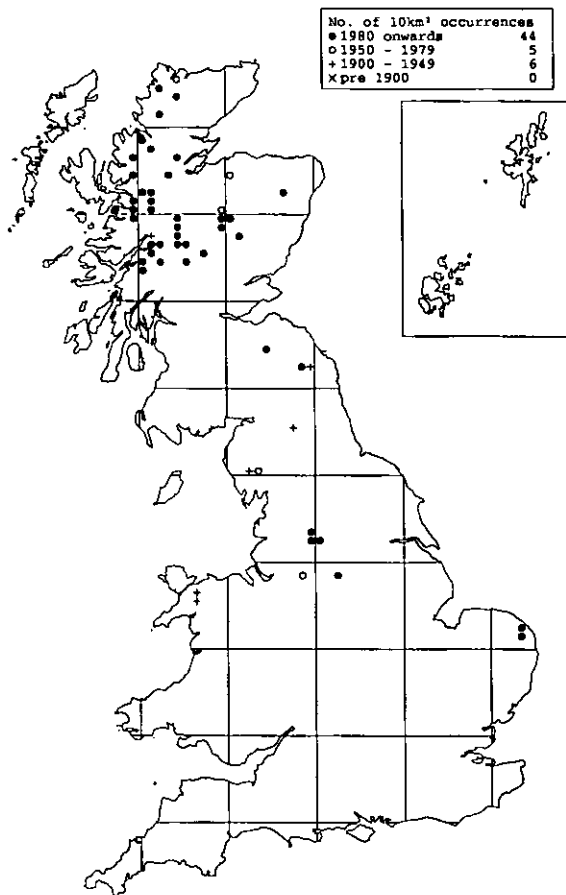
The principle threat is drainage of fens and marshes and the encroachment of scrub vegetation on herbaceous fen communities.

Management

Maintaining an adequate water table in fens or marshes is important, as is prevention of encroachment of scrub and carr woodland on open herbaceous fen communities.

Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith

[12503] Linyphiidae: *Entelecara errata*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is fairly widespread on mountains, and abundant at some sites, but very local.

Distribution

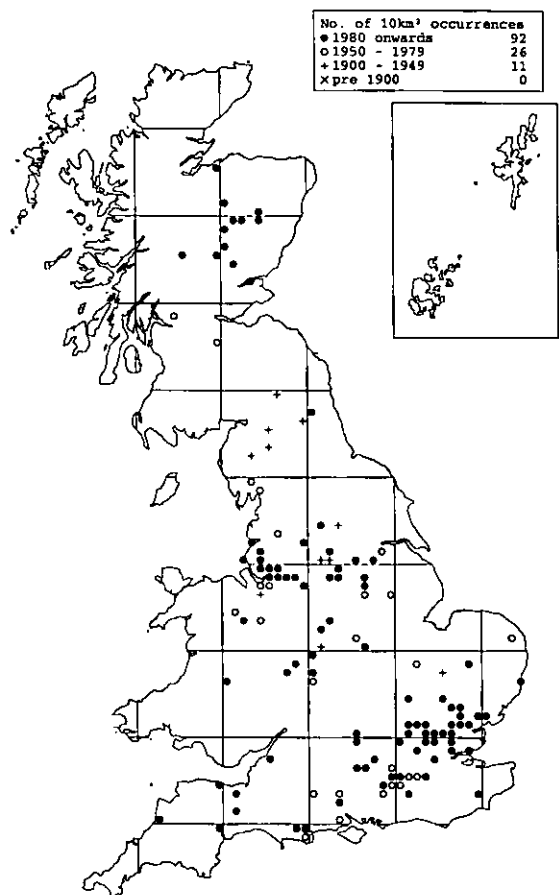
The spider occurs mainly on high ground in North Wales, northern England and Scotland. It is widespread in northern and western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

E. errata occurs under stones on high ground, mainly on mountain tops, occasionally at low altitude, but these may be accidentals. It is adult from April to July.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[12601] Linyphiidae: *Moebelia penicillata*



Status

Local.

Distribution

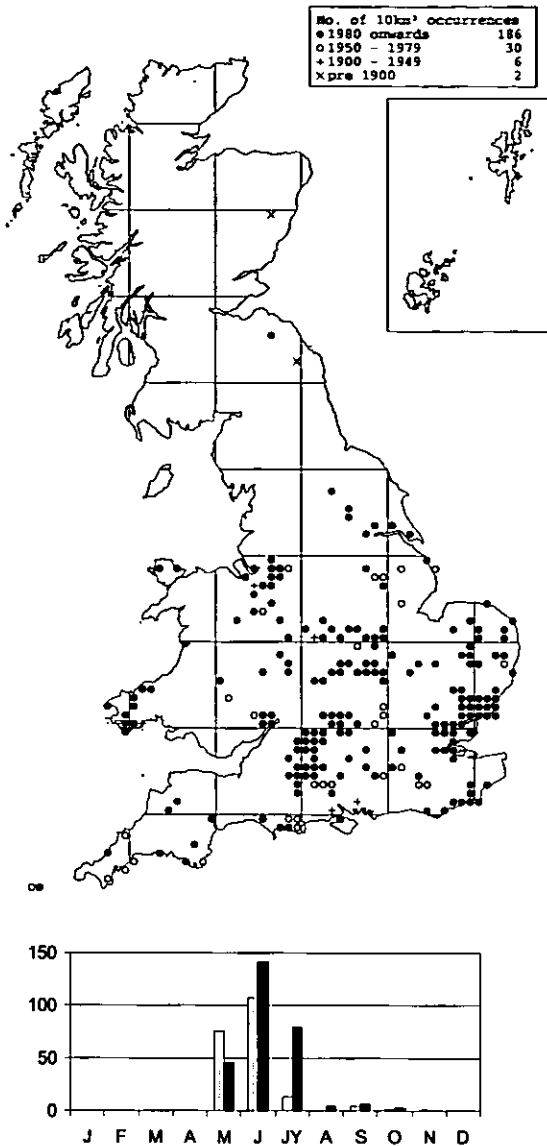
The species is widespread in south-eastern and central England and central Scotland, but apparently scattered or absent elsewhere. It has a Palaearctic distribution and is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is nearly always found in crevices in the bark of trees, particularly conifers, amongst lichen on tree trunks and sometimes in birds' nests. In early summer it may sometimes be found running over the surface of the bark in numbers. Adults are found in spring and summer mostly in May and June, but occasional individuals have been recorded in the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[12701] Linyphiidae: *Hylyphantes graminicola*



Status

Local, but usually numerous in its favoured habitat. It appears to be less frequent in the north of the country.

Distribution

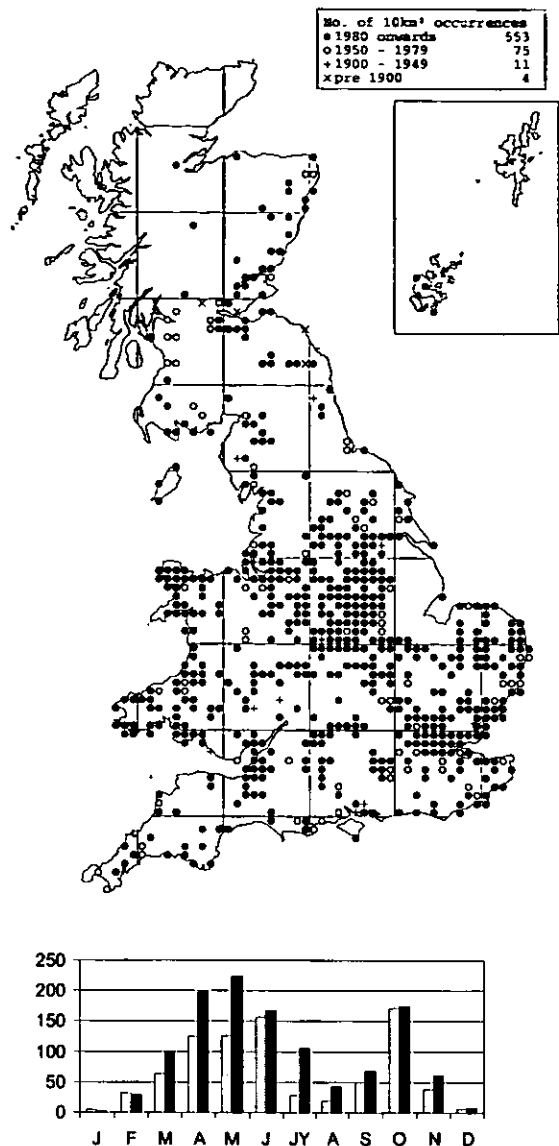
This spider is widespread in much of southern Britain, with a very few records in northern England and Scotland. Globally *H. graminicola* has a Palaearctic distribution (Platnick 1998) and is widespread in north-western and central Europe, although it has not been recorded from Norway.

Habitat and ecology

This spider constructs a thick, white, silken retreat in shrubs usually in the vicinity of open water. It favours gorse bushes, but can also be found on hawthorn and blackthorn. Specimens have also been taken from pine and yew trees in churchyards as well as on heather (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and October, but mostly in early summer.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[12801] Linyphiidae: *Gnathonarium dentatum*



Status

Common in wet habitats.

Distribution

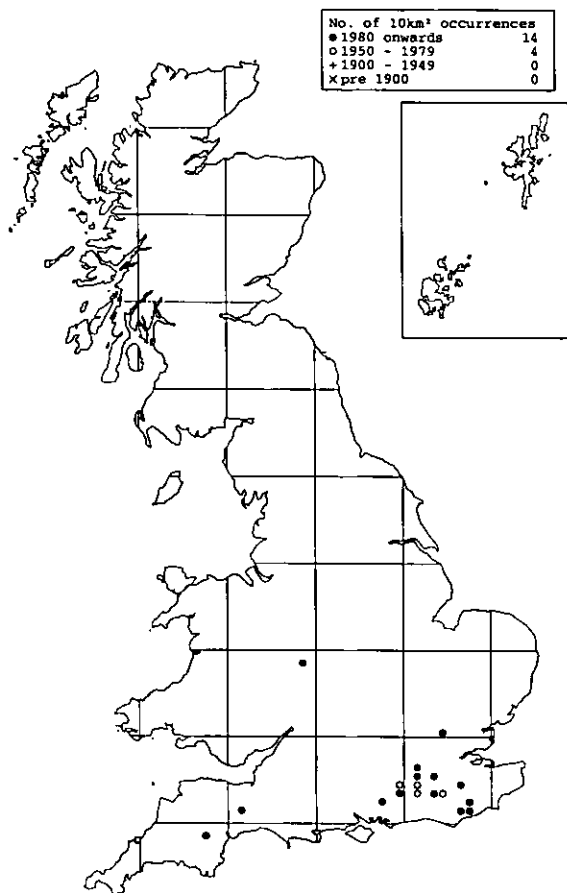
Widespread throughout most of southern Britain becoming scattered in the north and apparently absent from most of northern Scotland. A species with a wide Palaearctic distribution (Platnick 1998), widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

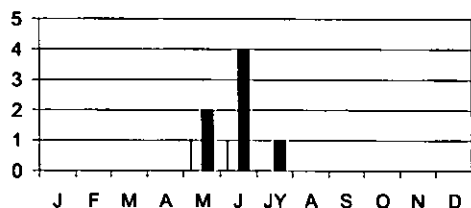
G. dentatum is a wetland inhabitant frequently found at ground level amongst marsh plants. This species readily colonises disturbed wetland sites and may be found, often in high numbers, in flooded poolside grassland. This species has not been recorded from upland blanket bogs. In North Wales specimens have been recorded to an altitude of 250 m. Mature specimens of both sexes are present throughout the year. In Leicestershire peak numbers have been noted between April and June (Crocker & Daws 1996) and our data also show a peak between April and June, but with a second peak in the autumn.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[12901] Linyphiidae: *Trematocephalus cristatus*



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	14
○ 1950 - 1979	4
+ 1900 - 1949	0
× pre 1900	0



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is numerous at some sites, but often very local, and is sometimes found on only one or two trees at a site.

Distribution

The species is almost confined to a small area in Surrey, Sussex and West Kent between the North and South Downs, but there are recent isolated records from South Essex, Devon, Somerset, Staffordshire and Worcestershire (Merrett 1995b, 2000). It has not been recorded from Ireland and is only listed for Sweden in Scandinavia, but is otherwise widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

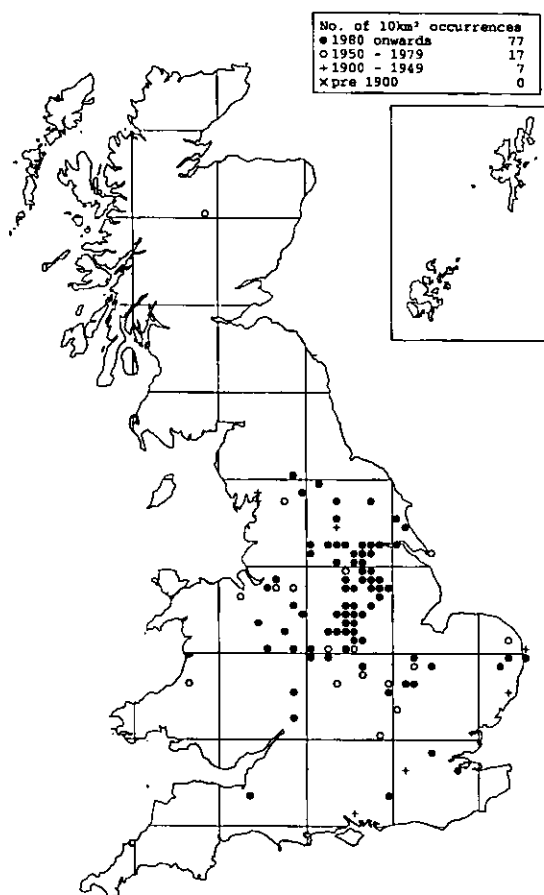
T. cristatus occurs on the foliage of various trees and bushes, especially oak, birch and gorse, in a variety of situations such as woodland, heathland, gardens, parkland, etc. Adults of both sexes are found in May and June.

Threats

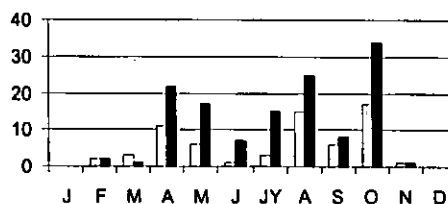
As populations of the species appear to be scattered on trees in a variety of situations, there are probably no serious threats to the species as a whole, although local populations may be lost as a result of development, tree-felling, etc.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey based on Merrett (1990).

[13001] Linyphiidae: *Tmeticus affinis*



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	77
○ 1950 - 1979	17
+ 1900 - 1949	7
× pre 1900	0



Status

A generally scarce species, which may be frequent in some localities.

Distribution

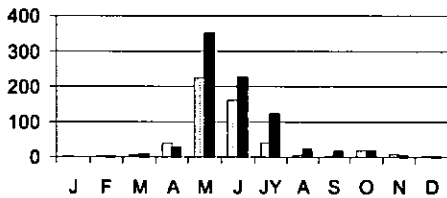
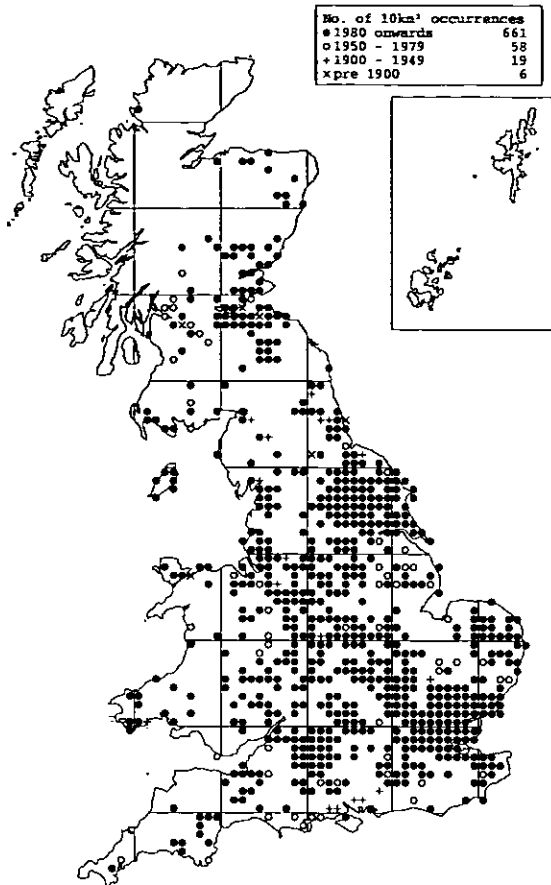
The species is widespread in central England, but very scattered or absent elsewhere in England and Wales. It has a Palearctic distribution and seems to be fairly widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

T. affinis occurs amongst moss and grass, nearly always in wet, swampy localities. It has been observed after dark, in the webs of *Tetragnatha striata* feeding on ensnared Diptera (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults have been recorded in all seasons, mainly in late spring/early summer and from late summer to autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[13101] Linyphiidae: *Gongylidium rufipes*



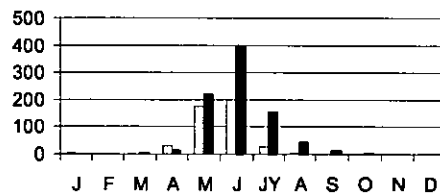
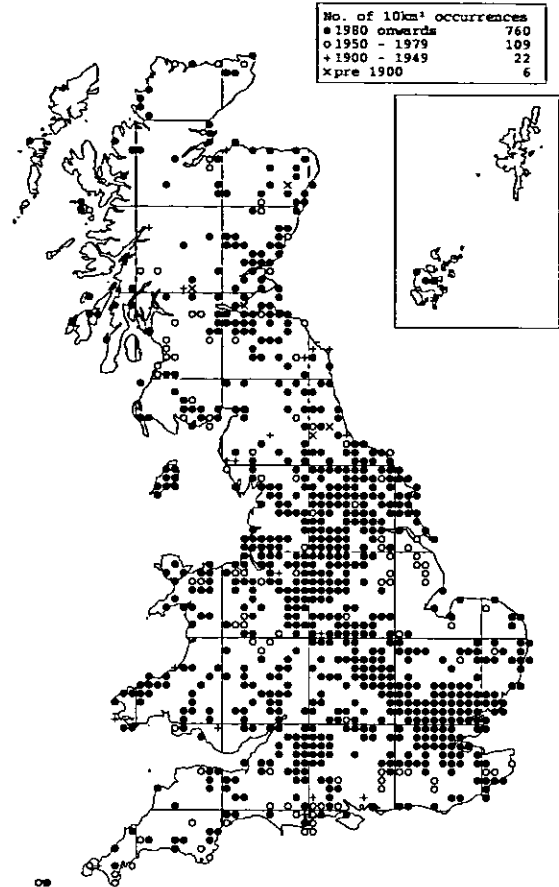
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in most of Britain except the extreme north. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
G. rufipes occurs mainly in undergrowth and on bushes and trees in woodland but also in damp and wet situations and in a wide variety of other habitats. Adults occur mostly from early to mid-summer, with occasional adults recorded throughout the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[13201] Linyphiidae: *Dismodicus bifrons*

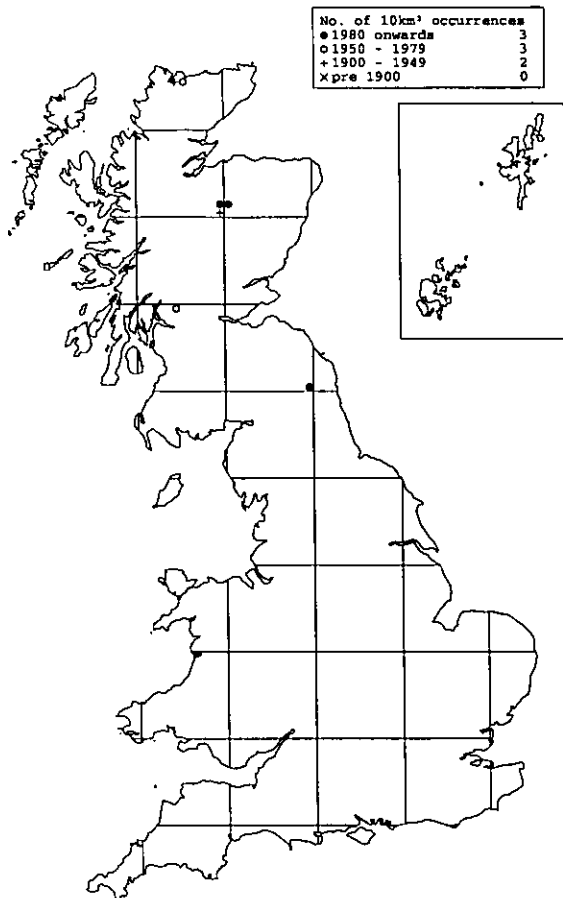


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
An actively ballooning spider particularly abundant in grasslands, fens and scrub. *D. bifrons* spins a small sheet web and is frequently found between the upper strata of field layer vegetation and the ground zone where it can be found amongst litter. Adult males have been recorded from April to August with a peak in May and June. Adult females have been recorded from April to October with peak numbers between May and July. Activity is likely to peak in June and July, when egg laying is likely to take place (Bell 1999).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). Unlike some rare Scottish spiders, it is not restricted to ancient Caledonian pine forests, so it may not be as scarce as the present records suggest, although it is certainly not frequent.

Distribution

The species is widespread from the Scottish border to the far north, but known from few localities. It is widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

D. elevatus occurs on tall heather, gorse and juniper, usually near or under pines, or on low branches of pine. Adults of both sexes are found in May, June and July, females also in August and September.

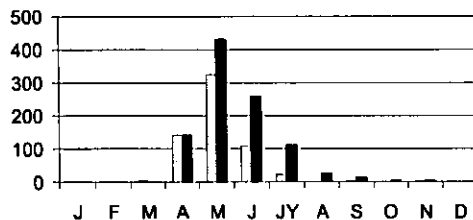
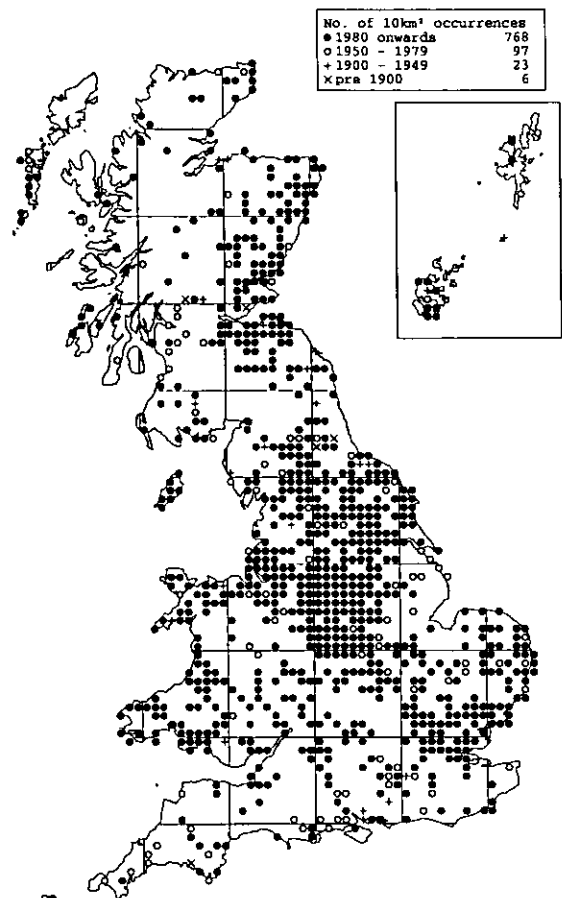
Threats

As it is not confined to ancient Caledonian pine, there is probably no serious threat.

Management

Maintain old heather, gorse and juniper in association with pines.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Common and frequent in wet habitats, occasionally in dry places in the north.

Distribution

The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. A Palearctic species widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

H. bituberculatum is generally associated with wet, swampy areas at the sides of rivers and ponds and also in wet meadows. In these situations it can withstand temporary submergence in fresh water. However, it may sometimes be swept from the field layer and has also been recorded on sandhills. A very large population was recorded in the fore-dunes at Tentsmuir (Mackie 1971), where mature females were recorded throughout the year, gravid females from April to September, and males from May to September with the peak in numbers for all three in June. Our data for a total of nearly 1500 adults show the vast majority of males recorded between April and June and females between April and July, but both sexes occasionally collected as early as February and as late as November, with a single female in January.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). Although most common in reed-beds in eastern England, it is not restricted to such habitats. It is very local, but abundant at some sites.

Distribution

This species is most common in East Anglia and the extreme south-east of England including Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, East Norfolk, East and West Suffolk, North and South Essex and East Kent, with outlying records from Staffordshire and south Wales. It has also been recorded from Counties Fermanagh (Cowden et al. 1990) and Sligo in Ireland. In Europe it is widespread in a range of wet habitats from Finland south through the Netherlands and Belgium (where it appears to be quite widespread) to France and Italy and east to Germany and the former Czechoslovakia.

Habitat and ecology

H. fulvum occurs most frequently in fens and marshes, on *Phragmites* or in the litter beneath, sometimes in *Cladium* marshes. Apart from reed-beds, records collated by Duffey (1991) include specimens from sand dunes or dune slacks, wet meadows and alder carr. It has also been recorded on shingle at Dungeness, Kent (Morris & Parsons 1991). In Essex, it has been collected in grassland of grazing marshes, in saltmarshes and on the landward side of a sea wall in herb rich grassland (P. Harvey, pers. comm.). In Staffordshire, it has been taken in reed-beds and a floating bog (C. Slawson, pers. comm.). Both sexes are adult in April and May, females until September. Our data show a peak for both sexes in May. Females construct egg cocoons in flowering heads of *Phragmites*.

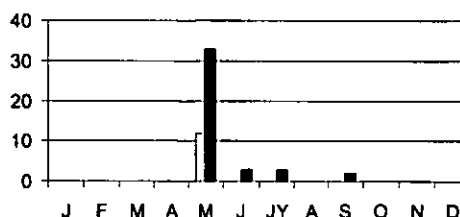
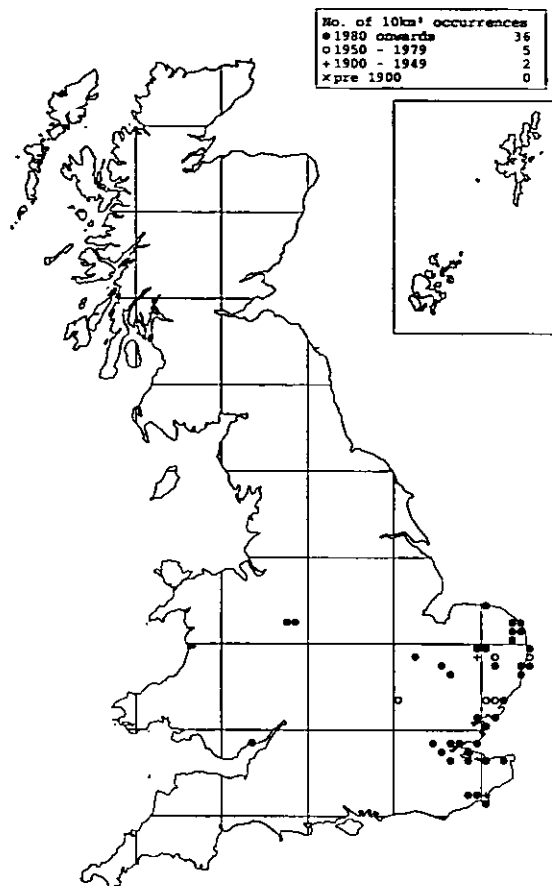
Threats

The principal threat to this species is drainage of fens, marshes and other wetlands and the encroachment of scrub into open herbaceous communities.

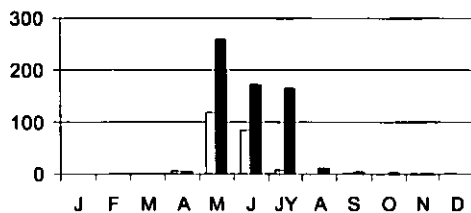
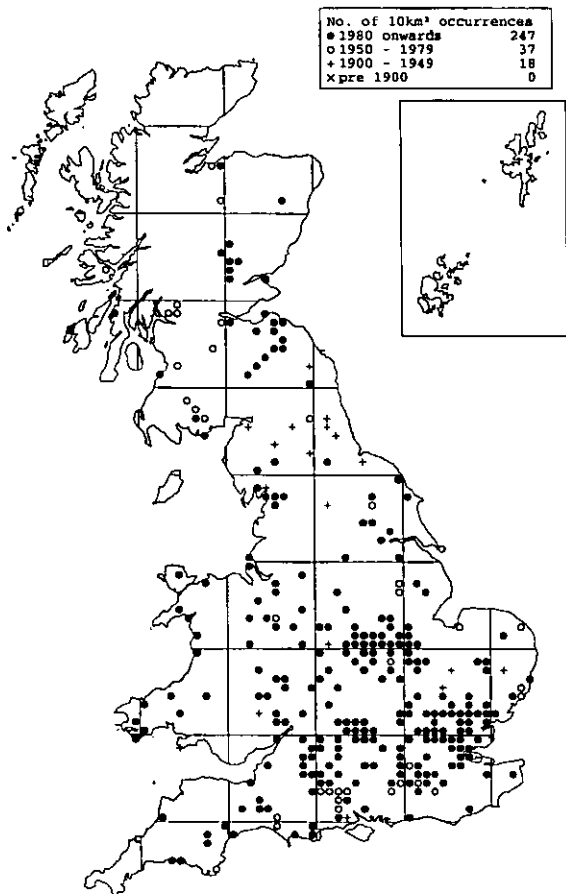
Management

Maintaining open reed-beds and controlling the growth of scrub are important, as is maintaining a surface water table.

Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith



[13302] Linyphiidae: *Hypomma cornutum*



Status

Common and locally frequent in the south, much more local in the north.

Distribution

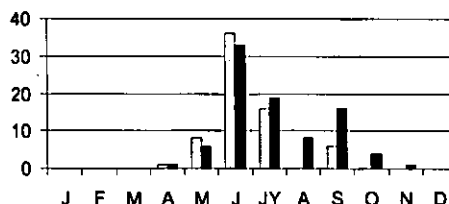
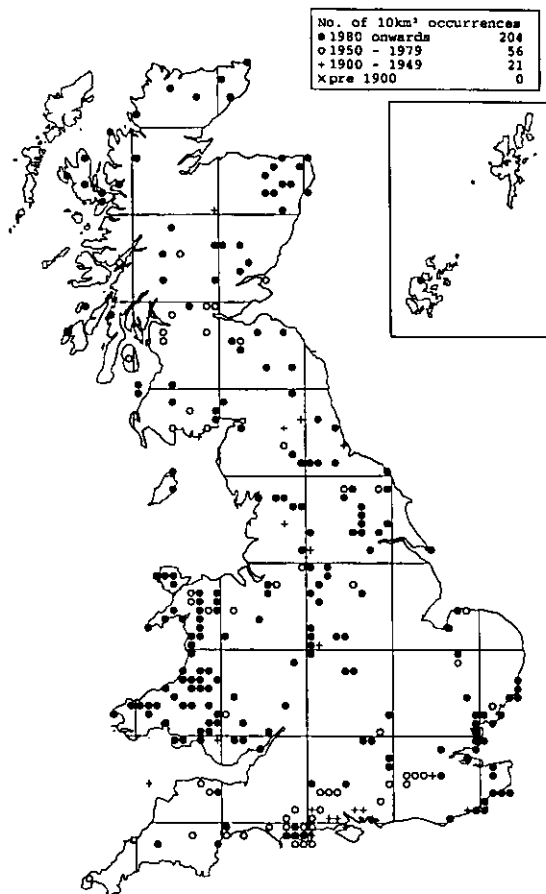
The species is widespread in central southern England becoming more localised and scattered elsewhere, and absent from the north of Scotland. It has a Palaearctic distribution and is widespread in western and central Europe, but only occurs in the very south of Norway (map in Aakra & Hauge (2000)).

Habitat and ecology

H. cornutum occurs mainly in woodland, on bushes, trees and herbaceous vegetation. In Leicestershire the species is abundant on evergreen trees and shrubs in churchyards, urban parks and parkland type habitats (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults are mostly found from early to mid-summer, both sexes occasionally occurring later.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[13401] Linyphiidae: *Metopobactrus prominulus*



Status

Generally infrequent but the spider may be locally common.

Distribution

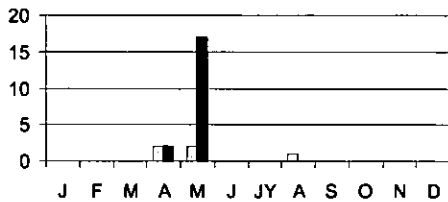
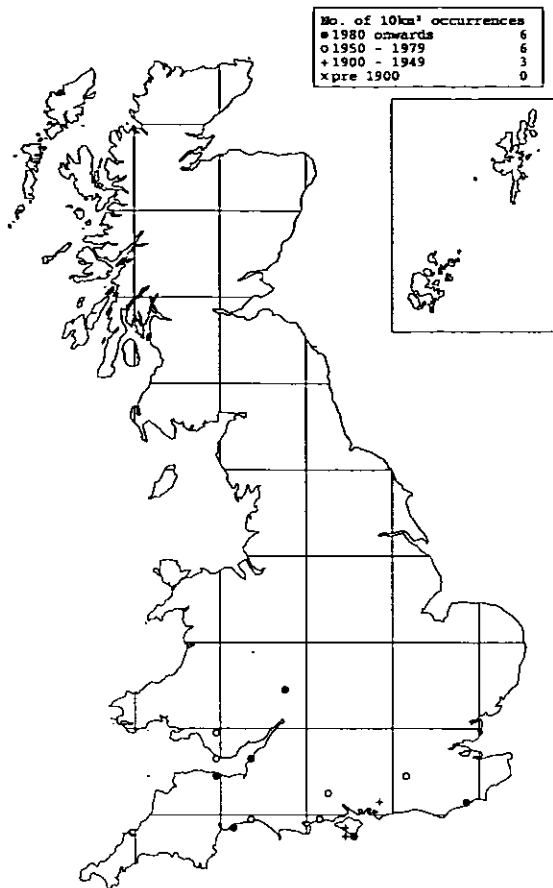
M. prominulus is widespread in Wales, but otherwise has a patchy and very scattered distribution across Britain. A Holarctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Although the species occurs in a wide variety of habitats, such as moss, undergrowth, straw etc., it is more often found on chalk grassland, ascending to 350 m on limestone grassland in Mid-west Yorkshire. Adults occur in spring, summer and autumn, with a peak in early to mid-summer and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[13501] Linyphiidae: *Hybocoptus decollatus*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider may be under-recorded because of its early maturity period. It is very local, but abundant at some sites.

Distribution

The species is confined to the south of England and South Wales. It is found in western and south-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

H. decollatus occurs mostly on yew and on chalk grassland in large yew woods. It also occurs on gorse and other bushes near the coast. Both sexes are adult in April and May, and we have one record of a male in August.

Threats

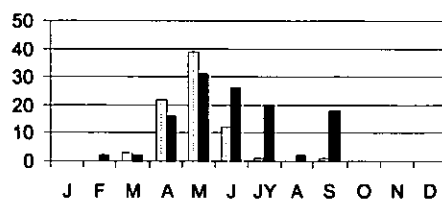
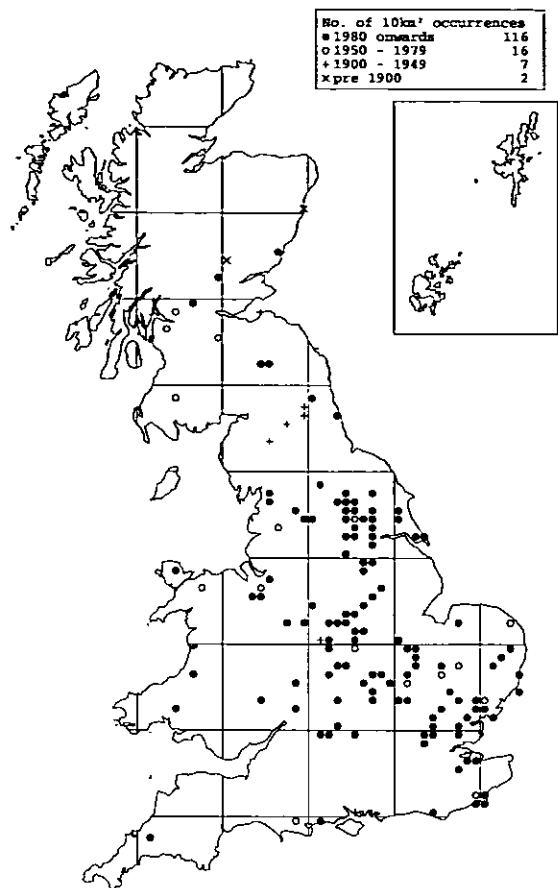
There is probably little threat to its coastal sites, but loss of yew woods on chalk would be a serious threat to its existence inland.

Management

Maintain large yew woods on chalk.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[13604] Linyphiidae: *Baryphma pratense*



Status

Local in England, although it may be fairly frequent at some sites. Rare in Scotland and Wales.

Distribution

The species is widespread in central England as far north as Yorkshire, but apparently absent from large areas elsewhere in the country and very scattered as far north as Angus.

A European species widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden (where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000)), but not recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

B. pratense is most typical of the flood plains of lowland rivers as a riparian species (Crocker & Daws 1996) but is also found in fens, ditches and marshes not clearly associated with main river systems. It is found near the base of reeds, sedges, rushes and tussocky grasses in flood meadows and in sedge marshes, wet meadows and rough grassland as well as in flood debris and on riverbanks and vegetated shingle. It has been found on riverside fences and bridges, probably through aerial dispersal. Adults have been recorded from February to September, with a male peak in late spring and early summer.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is extremely abundant in some places, but known from very few sites. Searches at Havergate have failed to re-find the spider (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.) although it has been recently recorded from the adjacent Orfordness.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from the east coast, at Havergate Island in East Suffolk and a number of sites along the sides of tidal rivers and tributaries of the Stour, Colne, Crouch and Thames in Essex and West Kent (Harvey 2000b). It has been searched for at numerous places on the coast between Scolt Head, West Norfolk, and Havergate, but without success (Merrett in Bratton (1991)). A European species known from Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Germany.

Habitat and ecology

B. duffeyi has typically been found in tidal litter or on mud beneath *Halimione*, *Phragmites* and other vegetation in saltmarsh and brackish marshes. *B. duffeyi* seems to prefer the higher tidal reaches of rivers or their tributaries and the significance of vegetation structure, substrate, tidal factors and salinity on distribution would repay further investigation. Adults of both sexes have been found from April to June, and females also in March and July.

Threats

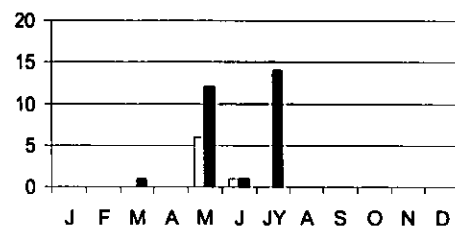
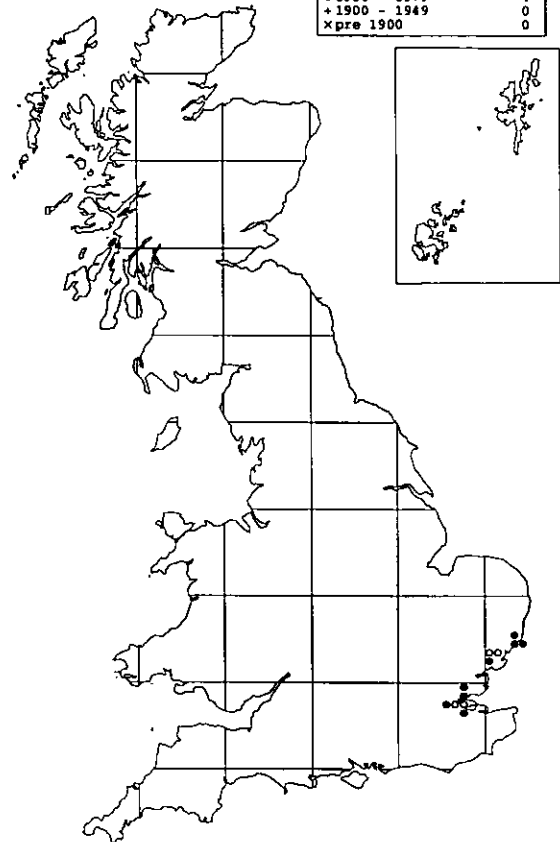
Most of the known populations are vulnerable and exist in extremely localised habitats which are threatened by development, recreational pressures and rising sea levels. Many of the Thames Marshes have been reclaimed for industrial development, with the extensive use of vertical concrete-capped iron pilings along the waterfront leaving very little saltmarsh (Merrett in Bratton (1991)). With the abandonment of older industrial sites next to the Thames, there is now enormous pressure from initiatives such as the 'Thames Gateway' to redevelop, often for high-value riverside housing. It seems unlikely that the importance of small areas of fragile saltmarsh will be adequately taken into account. Sea levels around Essex are rising relative to the land by some 6 mm a year, a combination of the land sinking and sea level rising as a result of global warming. This is causing erosion of saltmarshes and at the present rate most of the habitat will have been lost within a few decades.

Management

Managed realignment, where traditional hard sea defences are replaced by softer, more responsive and natural defensive beaches or the sea is allowed to reform saltmarshes inland of the existing defensive wall, is an approach to manage the coastline sustainably (Gibson 2000). There are some projects under way but the approach is unlikely to be used along much of the Thames.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	8
○ 1950 - 1979	4
+ 1900 - 1949	0
x pre 1900	0



Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK). The spider was apparently well established and abundant at Whiteford and Oxwich.

Distribution

The species was recorded from Whiteford Burrows and Oxwich Burrows, Glamorgan in 1967 and 1971; Ruston Common, East Norfolk, in 1974; and in 1988 from Woodbastwick Fen in East Norfolk, Cors Erddreiniog on Anglesey, Cors Geirch in Caernarvonshire, and Carmarthenshire. It has been recorded from the Republic of Ireland, Co. Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, Sweden (where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000)), Siberia and Canada.

Habitat and ecology

The first example was found in seaweed drift at spring tide mark on Whiteford dunes. However, further searching failed to locate specimens in the drift material but revealed large numbers in the high inter-tidal zone of nearby saltmarsh. It occurred only in a narrow band on the shore in vegetation dominated by *Juncus maritimus* and *Festuca rubra*. It has been found in similar habitat at Oxwich. Ruston Common is an inland marshy area with acidic fen grading into less acidic saw-sedge *Cladium* and reed *Phragmites* stands. It is not known which vegetation type was being used by this spider. At Woodbastwick Fen a female was found in a sedge-bed managed by mowing. Adults of both sexes have been found in May and June. In Sweden, it was recorded from seasonally flooded meadows around a eutrophic lake, on wet substrate under old vegetation such as *Deschampsia* tussocks (Kronstedt 1979).

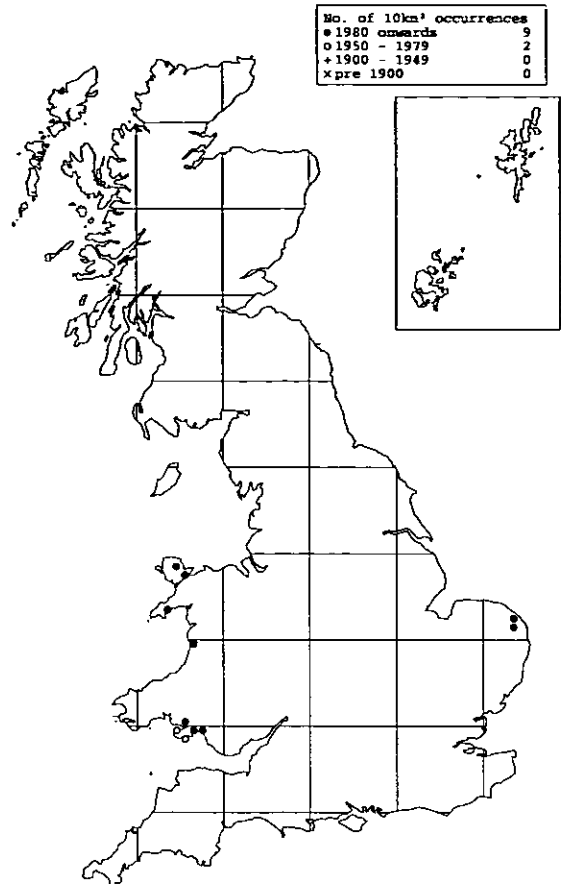
Threats

At Oxwich, natural changes in the dune system have led to an increase in the accretion rate in the saltmarsh, with consequent changes in the vegetation. The habitat at Whiteford is thought to be stable. The vegetation at Ruston Common is largely the result of management by the commoners (including cutting of reed and saw-sedge for thatch), but these practices ceased in the mid-1970s and scrub invasion is a problem at this site. More efficient drainage and increased water abstraction in the vicinity of Ruston Common had a dramatic effect on the marshy area in the late 1980s, and it remains to be seen whether the wetland flora and fauna have been permanently damaged.

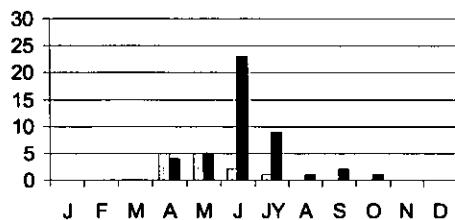
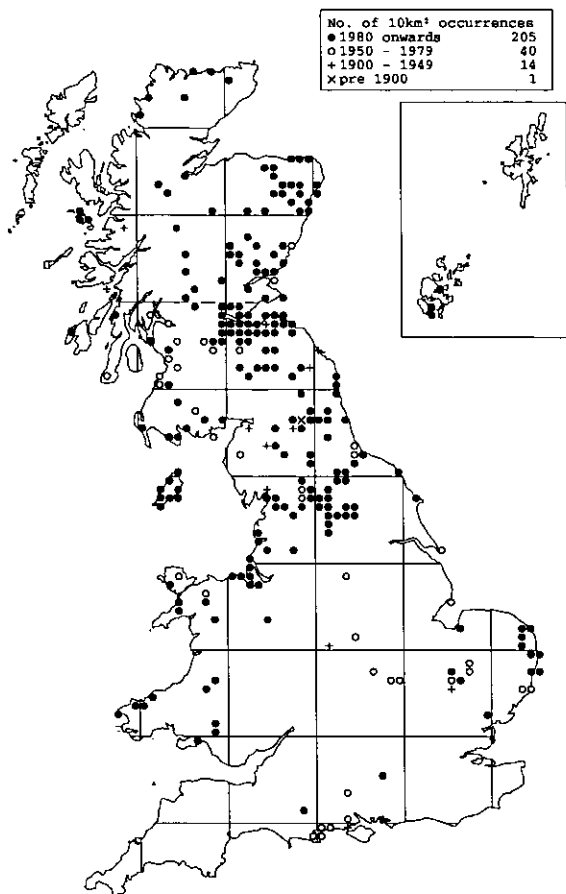
Management

Scrub clearance may help restore the reed and sedge beds at East Anglian sites.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



[13605] Linyphiidae: *Baryphyma trifrons*



Status

The species is scarce in the south, though common at Wicken Fen (Locket & Millidge 1953). It is more common in the north, but local.

Distribution

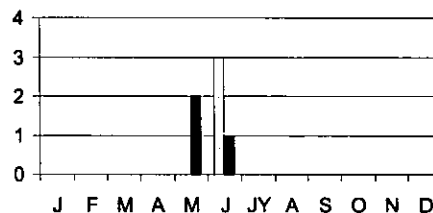
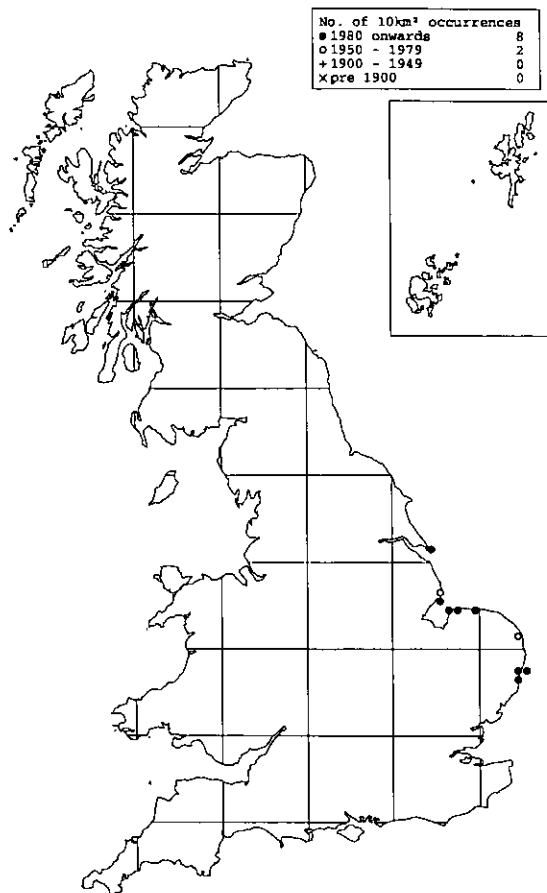
B. trifrons has a widespread but patchy distribution in East Anglia, Wales, northern England and Scotland, but is very scattered or absent in most of central and southern England. The species is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

B. trifrons is most frequently found in wet habitats, such as fens, marshes and swamps, even garden ponds in the north. In upland and western areas it may be found in tussocks of grass such as tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* in damp but not especially wet habitats. Another habitat is sand dunes, where it occurs at the base of marram grass *Ammophila arenaria*. Adult males occur from April to July, adult females from April to October, with a peak in June and July.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[13603] Linyphiidae: *Baryphyma maritimum*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is apparently restricted to dunes but fairly widespread within its east coast range.

Distribution

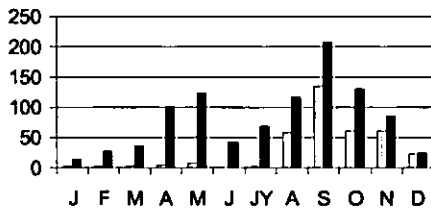
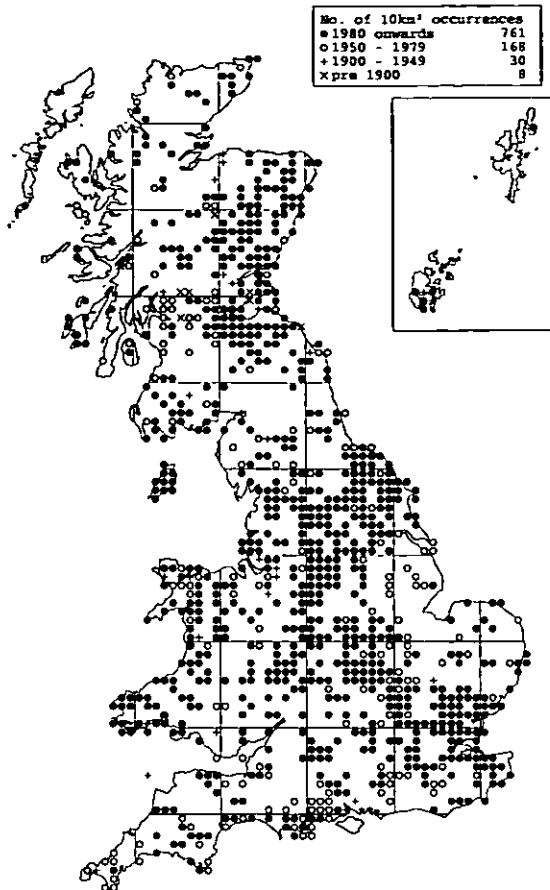
The species has been recorded from the east coast of England between Spurn Head (South-east Yorkshire) and Walberswick (East Suffolk), all since 1966.

Habitat and ecology

B. maritimum occurs among young marram, at the seaward edge of 'yellow dunes'. Adults of both sexes have been found from May to July.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[13703] Linyphiidae: *Gonatum rubens*



Status

Common.

Distribution

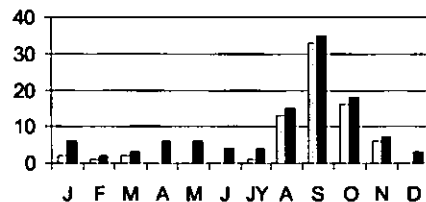
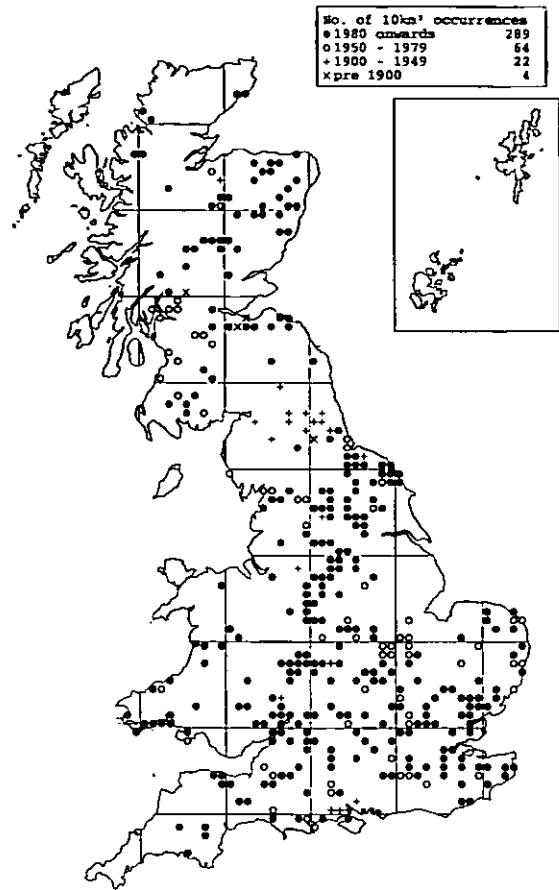
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

G. rubens inhabits a wide variety of open habitats throughout Britain. On moorlands and mountains it occurs beneath *Calluna vulgaris* and grass tussocks. This spider has also been recorded amongst sphagnum in upland blanket bogs. In the lowlands, gorse bushes are frequented by this spider, particularly on heathlands. It has been recorded from woodlands, but only beneath open canopies. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, with a peak of both sexes in the late summer and autumn. Our data show another peak of females recorded in April and May.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[13702] Linyphiidae: *Gonatum rubellum*



Status

The spider is much more local than *G. rubens*, but frequent in suitable habitat.

Distribution

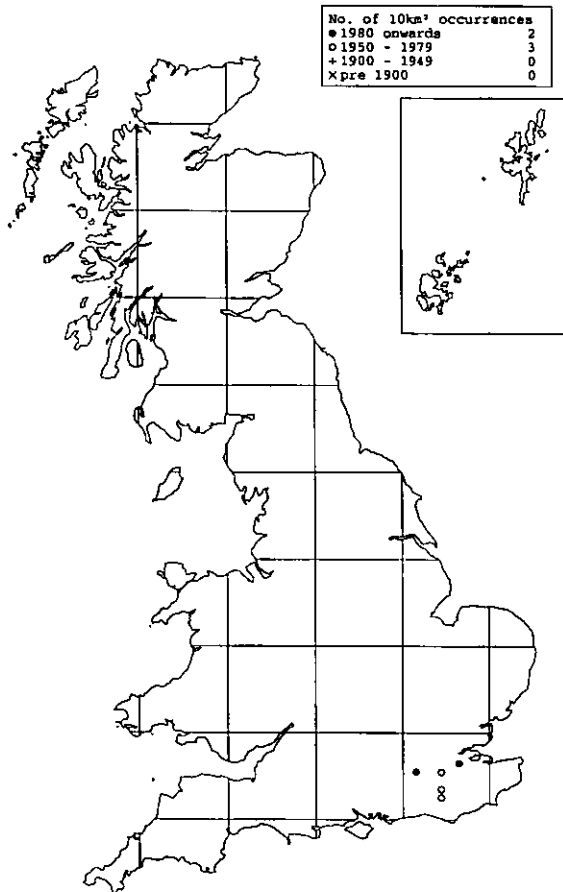
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe, common from the north of Finland to the Balkans (Millidge 1981).

Habitat and ecology

G. rubellum may be found in moss, leaf litter, detritus, short herbaceous vegetation and on bushes in wooded areas, sometimes accompanied by *G. rubens*. In Leicestershire all records are from broad-leaved and mixed woodland (Crocker & Daws 1996) and in Essex *G. rubellum* is associated with old or ancient woodlands whereas *G. rubens* occurs in a wide variety of habitats (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded at most times of year but the peak of activity is in August and early autumn (Millidge 1981).

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[13701] Linyphiidae: *Gonatium paradoxum*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2).

Distribution

The species appears to be restricted to a small area of south-east England. Since 1954 it has been recorded from two localities in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, from Limsfield Common and Box Hill, Surrey, and from Crockhamhill Common and Upper Halling, West Kent. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland, Belgium or Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs mainly on mature dry heathland and among moss and grass in chalk grassland. Adults of both sexes have been found in August and September, and females also in April, June and July.

Threats

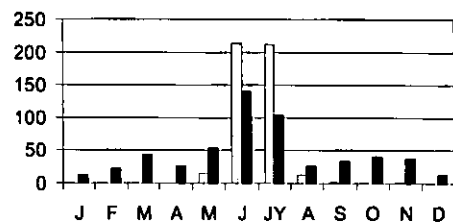
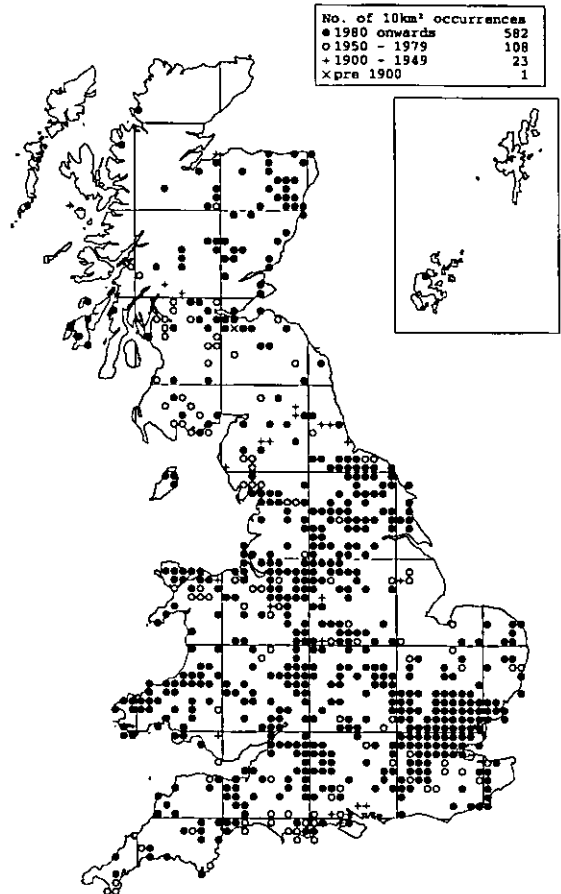
Ashdown Forest is suffering bracken and scrub invasion because of lack of grazing, with only one of the commoners now exercising sheep-grazing rights. There are also frequent fires in some areas. Limsfield and Crockhamhill Commons are both small and now heavily scrubbed over. It is unlikely that enough suitable habitat remains at these sites to maintain viable populations of this spider.

Management

Scrub clearance is needed where open habitat has been lost, ideally followed by a programme of grazing or occasional cutting in order to keep the scrub at bay and maintain a variety of sward heights.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey based on Merrett, in Bratton (1991)

[13802] Linyphiidae: *Maso sundevalli*



Status

Common.

Distribution

The species is widespread in most parts of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A sheet web spinning species with a wide ecological niche from coastal saltmarsh to mature woodland, but perhaps commonest in mature grassland, woodland edges and damp litter in shaded habitats. Data gathered for this Atlas and in Locket & Millidge (1953) indicate that adult females have been found in all months of the year, but the peak for both sexes appears to be in June and July. Typically most individuals over-winter as immatures becoming adult in the following June and July, sometimes later (Almquist 1969).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[13801] Linyphiidae: *Maso gallicus*

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is fairly common at some sites.

Distribution

Apart from four records from Kent and isolated sites in East Devon and Cardiganshire, *M. gallicus* is confined to a small area in the east Midlands and the western half of East Anglia. It is sometimes found in fens, but not always so, and this would not appear to account for its limited and patchy distribution. The species is widespread but patchily distributed in western Europe, where it has been recorded from a variety of different habitats, but does not occur in Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

Most records are from fens and other wet places, among low vegetation and cut sedge, etc. In East Kent it has been recorded from chalk grassland at Folkestone and from shingle at Dungeness and Sandwich Bay. At two sites in Leicestershire it has been recorded from scrubby limestone grassland (J. Daws, pers. comm.) and it occurs in open woodland and grassland at Castor Hanglands in vice-county Northamptonshire (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded in spring and early summer with a peak of males in June and females in June and July.

Threats

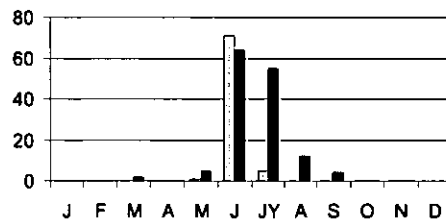
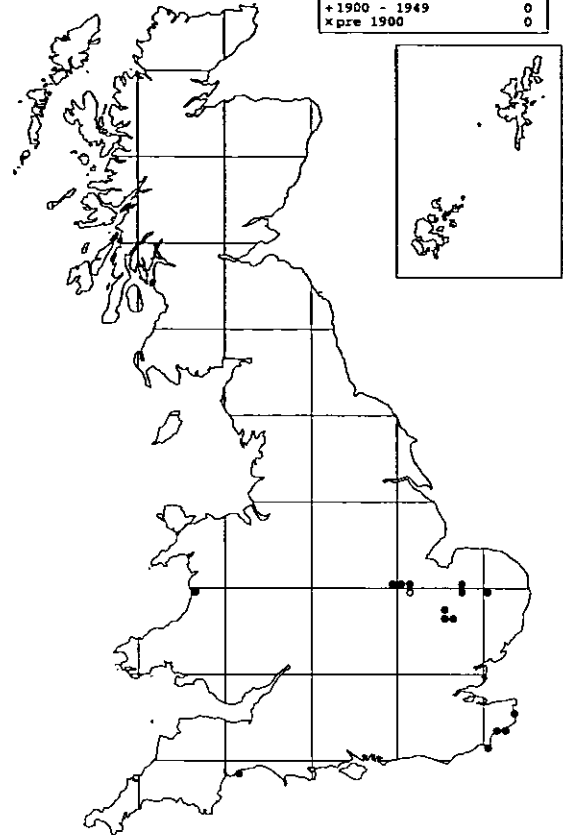
The principal threat is probably drainage of fens and other wetland sites, although its occurrence in limestone grassland and on shingle in Kent indicates it is not entirely confined to wetlands.

Management

It is important to maintain the surface water table of fens and marshes.

Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	15
○ 1950 - 1979	1
+ 1900 - 1949	0
x pre 1900	0



Status

The spider has only been found at one site in Britain. A male and female were collected in pitfall traps in 1987, and several of the easily recognizable immatures were seen in early June 1991.

Distribution

The species was discovered in Britain in 1987 at Shakespeare Cliff near Dover. It is widespread though seldom common throughout central and northern Europe as far north as northern Fennoscandia, but seems to be absent from most of the Mediterranean region.

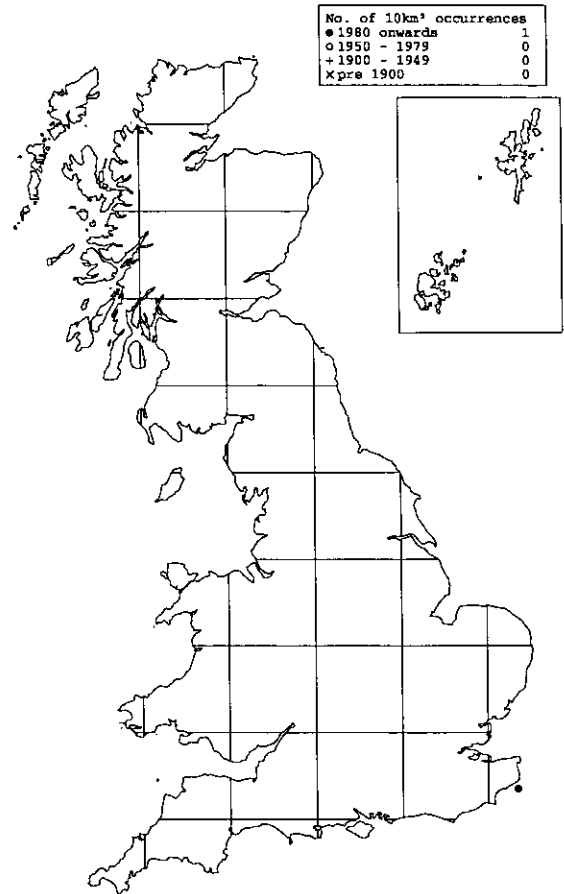
Habitat and ecology

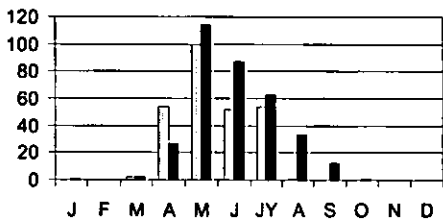
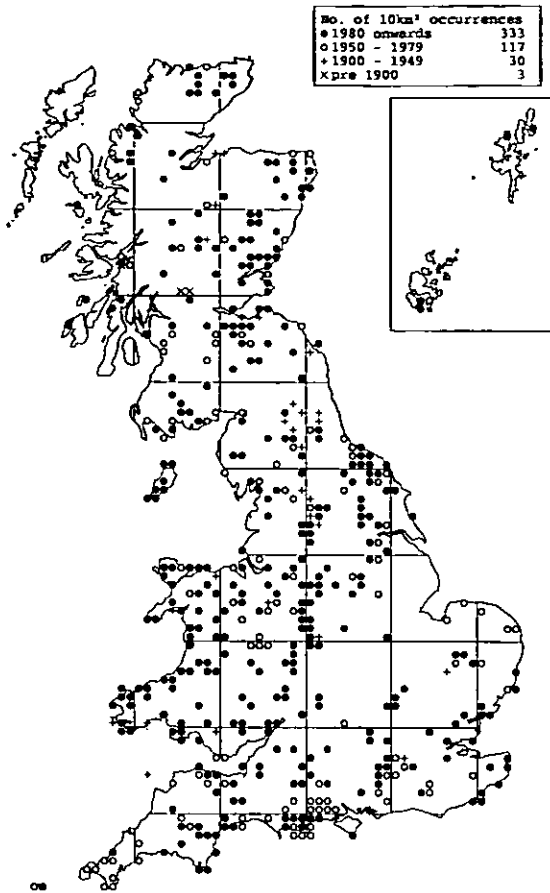
The spiders were taken among samples of invertebrates from an old rock fall at the base of the cliff. The site comprises a small area of moderately sloping chalk grassland dominated by *Brachypodium pinnatum* and *Festuca rubra*. In Europe it is most commonly found in dry habitats, among dead leaves, fallen pine needles, moss, and on sand dunes, but may also be found climbing on tall herbs and shrubs such as broom, tamarisk, gorse and juniper. It has also been taken in wet areas such as marshes. Both specimens were collected in pitfall traps set between 27th May and 24th June, but it is thought that this species is adult for most of the year, as there are records from March to October.

Threats

The species was discovered during an extensive invertebrate survey of several sites around Dover and Folkestone as part of a study of the ecological impact of some aspects of the engineering work for the Channel Tunnel. It is not known how the construction of the Channel Tunnel has affected the population of this species. If the species is restricted to such a small, rather vulnerable area it must be under considerable threat. The main threat to the site itself may, in the long term, be sea level rise and increased wave action. However it is quite possible that it occurs in the rough grassland and scrub which occurs between Aycliffe and the cliff tops.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey using information from Snazell (1992).





Status

Locally frequent in suitable habitats.

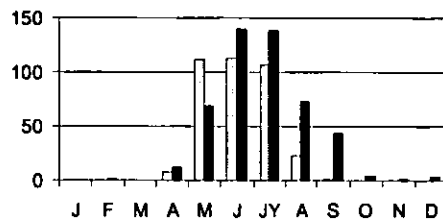
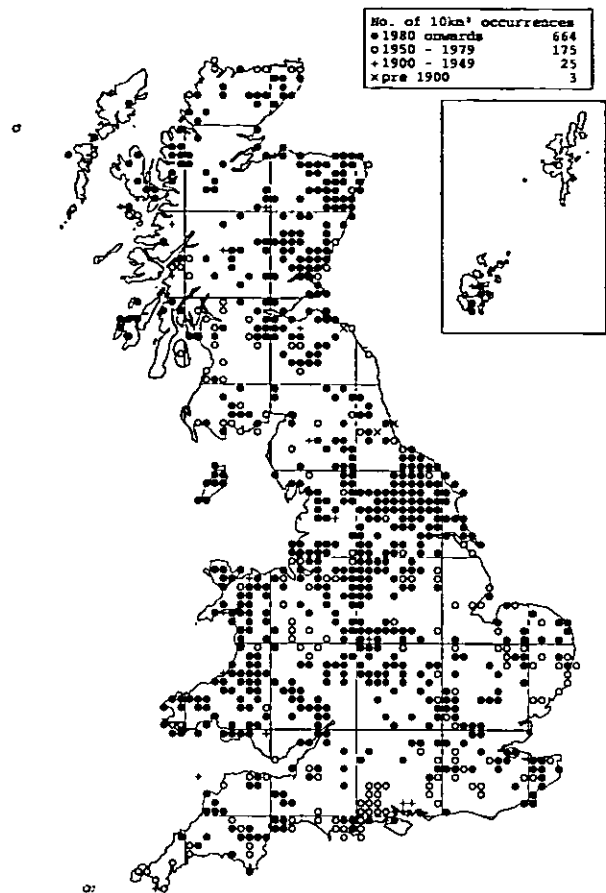
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain, but scarce or absent from some areas. It is widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species is usually found on unimproved grassland and mature heathland. It can be found on tall grass, heather and gorse, but may also occur abundantly in sparsely vegetated sandy habitats. In West Lancashire it is most frequent at middle altitudes (100 - 250 m) but has been found at 400 m (J. Newton, pers. comm.). *P. ludicum* builds a small sheet-web amongst vegetation, normally close to the ground. Adult males are active between April and July with a defined peak in May (Merrett 1969), but may be later further north. Our data show a peak in recorded adults between April and July, females later than males.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



Status

The spider is common in the north, but much more restricted in the south, where it is common on heathland. It is very rare in some parts of the south-east such as Essex, where it is restricted to wet heathland and acid grassland in Epping Forest and damp boulder clay woodlands in the north-west of the county. The difficulty of reliably distinguishing some female specimens means that a proportion of the records submitted to the scheme as *P. pumila* may in fact refer to *P. juncea*.

Distribution

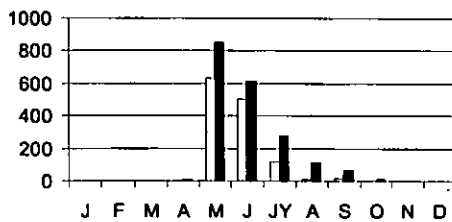
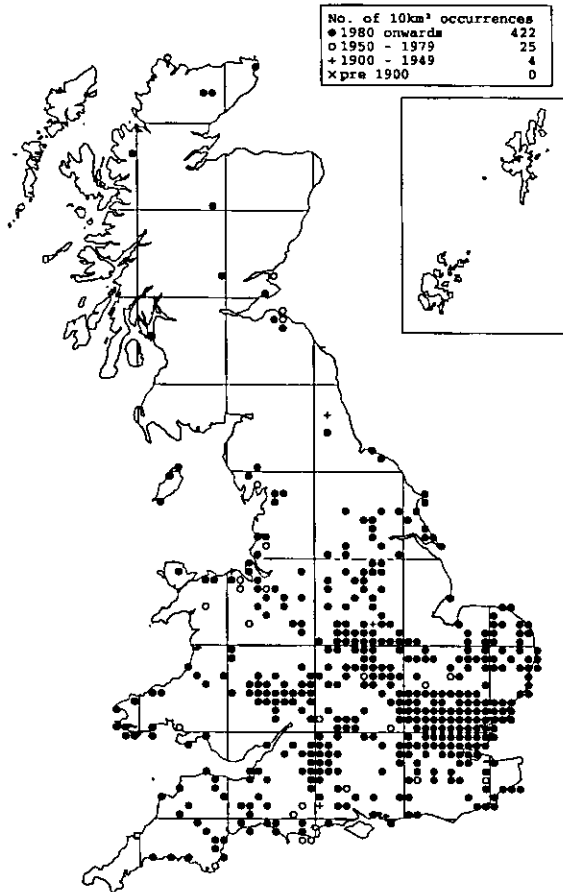
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

P. pumila occurs in a range of habitats in the north including grasslands, moorland and blanket bog. In the south it is frequent on heathland but may be rare in other habitats. In Essex, where *P. pumila* and *P. juncea* are not found together, *P. juncea* is widespread and common in a range of habitats, but *P. pumila* is restricted to wet heath in the Epping Forest area and rides in damp boulder clay woodlands in the north-west of the county. Both sexes are found mainly between May and July with females recorded later, even occasionally until December and February.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[14001] Linyphiidae: *Pocadicnemis juncea*



Status

Common in the south. Females of *P. juncea* may sometimes be incorrectly identified as *P. pumila*, and this makes it more difficult to assess the ecological differences between the two species.

Distribution

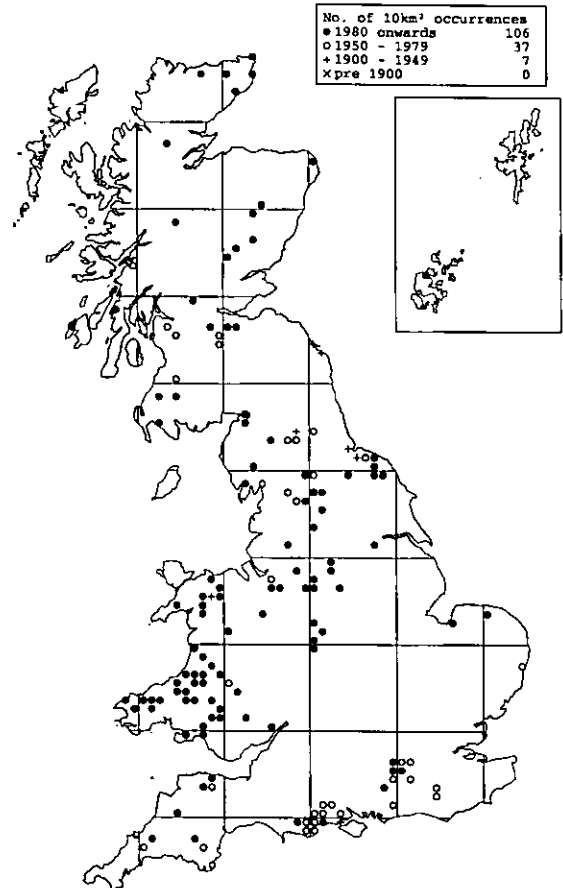
The species is widespread in England as far north as Yorkshire, but is very scattered in Wales, northern England and Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Sweden.

Habitat and ecology

P. juncea occurs at ground level amongst vegetation in various open habitats such as grasslands, roadside verges, hedgerows, woodland clearings, sea walls, dunes, old quarries, allotments and waste ground, as well as in wet places such as dyke edges, fens, carr and marshes. Both sexes are mainly found between May and July with a few later records, females even occasionally persisting until November.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[14102] Linyphiidae: *Hypselistes jacksoni*



Status

Uncommon but it can be frequent in damp heathy areas and bogs in southern England.

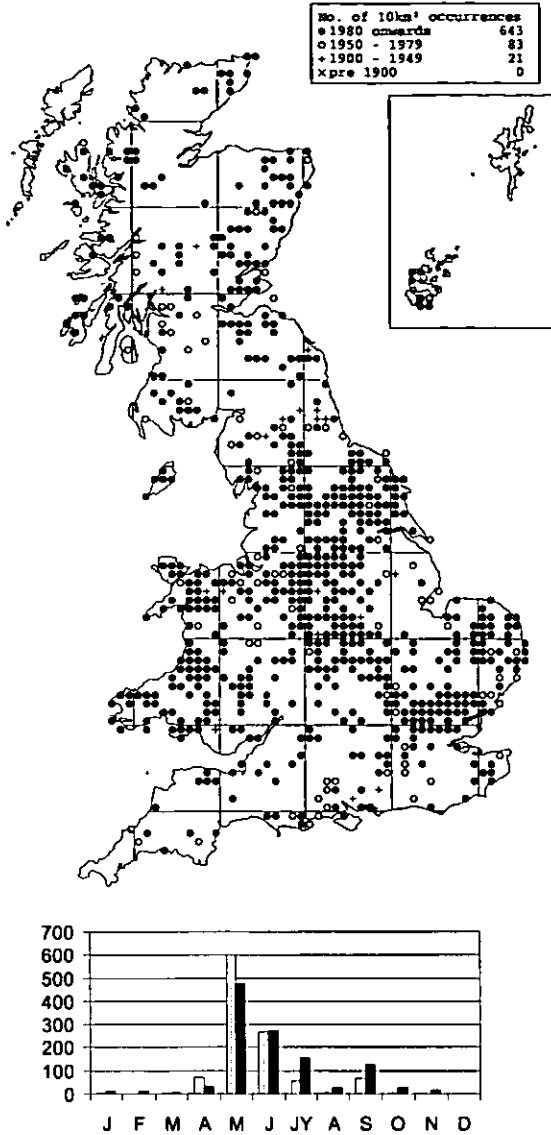
Distribution

H. jacksoni is widely distributed from the south-west, through Wales into northern England, becoming much more scattered as far north as Orkney. In southern central England the species is restricted to heathland areas. A Holarctic species, widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

H. jacksoni is nearly always found in wet or marshy areas, in bogs and heathland. Adults of both sexes have been found in autumn, winter and spring, females also in the summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Common. The map includes records submitted to the scheme as *O. tuberosus* (Blackwall, 1841) under BRC number 14206, now considered a form of male *O. gibbosus*.

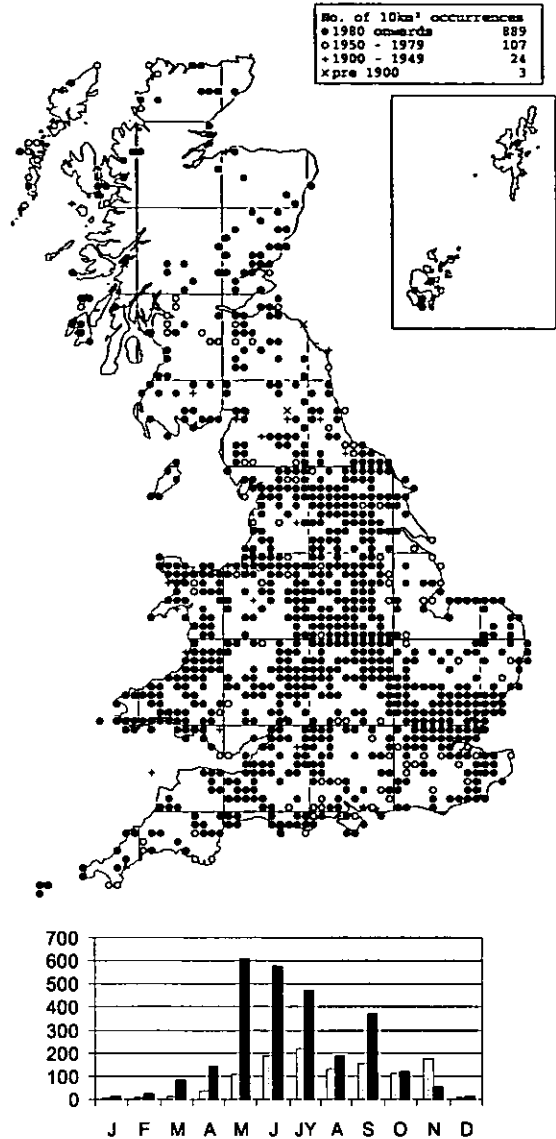
Distribution

The species is widespread in most of England and Wales but patchy and scattered in Scotland and some parts of southern England. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

O. gibbosus is associated with bogs, fens, wet meadows and other saturated habitats. This species like others in the genus does not make webs for prey capture, but hunts over the soil surface for its prey (De Keer & Maelfait 1989). Males have a characteristic but variable head modification which does not appear until the final moult (Uhl, pers. comm.). *O. gibbosus* form *tuberosus* may be recognised by its lack of the deep notch and long hairs of the carapace of the typical form of *O. gibbosus*. Juvenile development is very fast, being completed in as little as a month (De Keer & Maelfait 1989). Adults have been recorded throughout the year with a peak in male activity in early summer. Our data show adults of both sexes are mostly recorded in early summer with a smaller peak in September.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



Status

Common.

Distribution

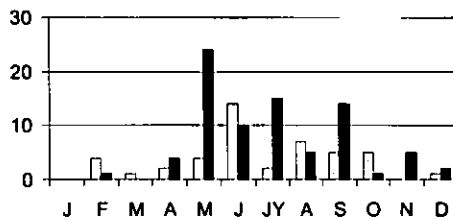
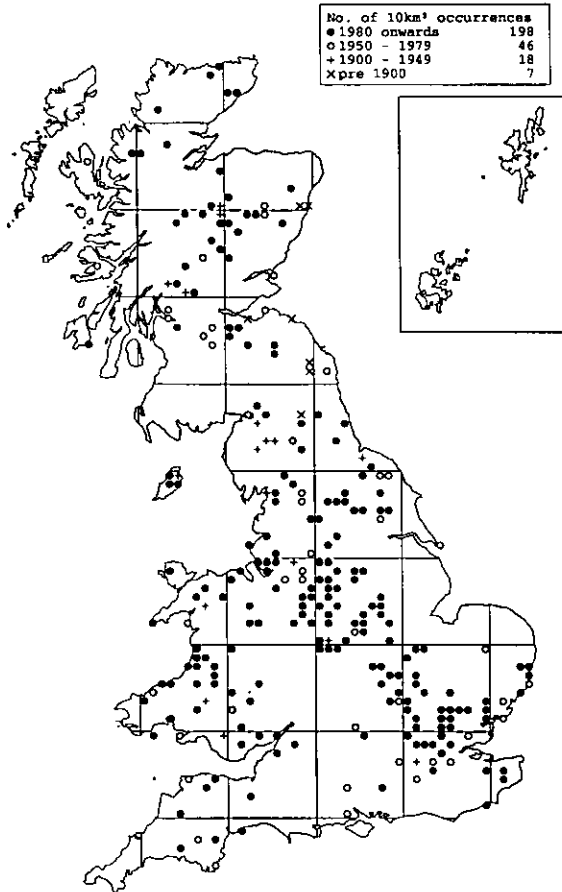
O. fuscus is widespread in most of Britain becoming scattered in the north of Scotland. The species is widespread in western and central Europe, and is also known from North Africa, the Azores and Russia (Platnick 1998).

Habitat and ecology

A common aeronaut, this linyphiid is typically found in a variety of grassland (including lawns), arable, recently burnt heathland and wetland habitats. At the coast specimens can be found amongst *Puccinellia* spp. (upper reaches of saltmarshes) and beneath shingle and estuarine driftwood. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mostly in the summer and autumn.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[14201] Linyphiidae: *Oedothorax agrestis*



Status

Local. The least frequently encountered species in the genus, most often found near upland rivers and in the north.

Distribution

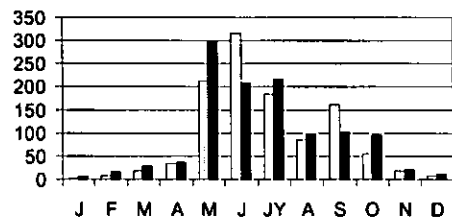
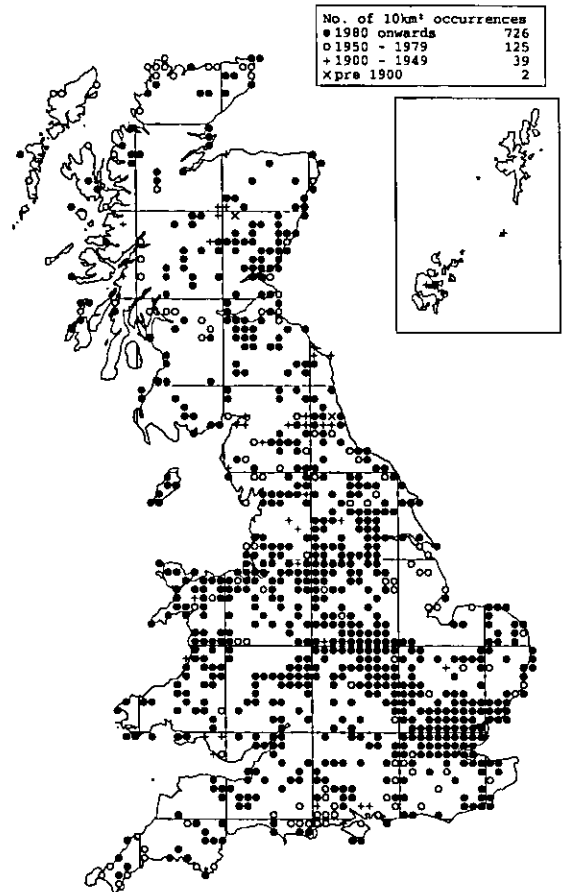
O. agrestis is widespread but patchily distributed in Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Similarly to *O. gibbosus* this species is associated with wet habitats and may be found hunting over the surface for its prey. In Essex it is rare and associated with flood debris of streams (D. Carr, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been recorded in most months of the year, mostly in the summer.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[14205] Linyphiidae: *Oedothorax retusus*



Status

Common.

Distribution

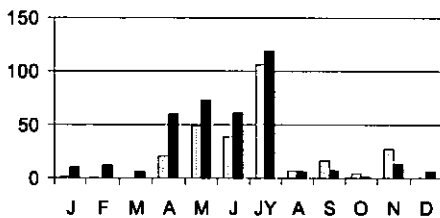
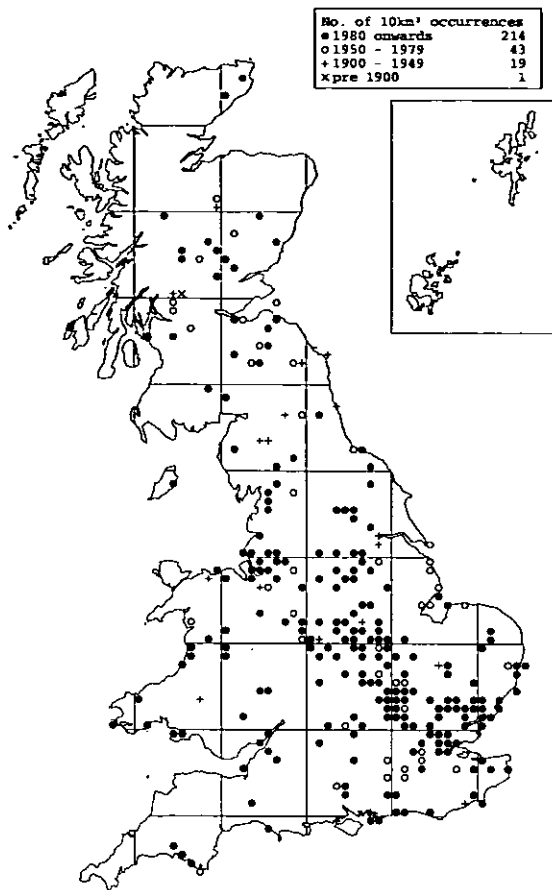
The species is widespread in much of Britain.

Habitat and ecology

O. retusus is an active ballooner which can be found in most habitats but is perhaps most associated with grassland and is one of the most abundant species in agricultural fields. Like all other species in the genus, this species does not build a web but hunts over the soil surface. Males may be less conspicuous than females, found under leaves and generally less active than females as recorded in pitfall trap catches. Adults can be found in all months of the year with a peak of activity in the autumn (Edwards et al. 1975) sometimes earlier in July-August (Topping & Sunderland 1992). Our data for nearly 2200 adults show both sexes recorded mostly from early to mid-summer and to a lesser extent in late summer and early autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[14202] Linyphiidae: *Oedothorax apicatus*



Status

Fairly common and sometimes locally abundant.

Distribution

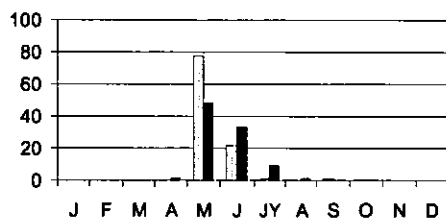
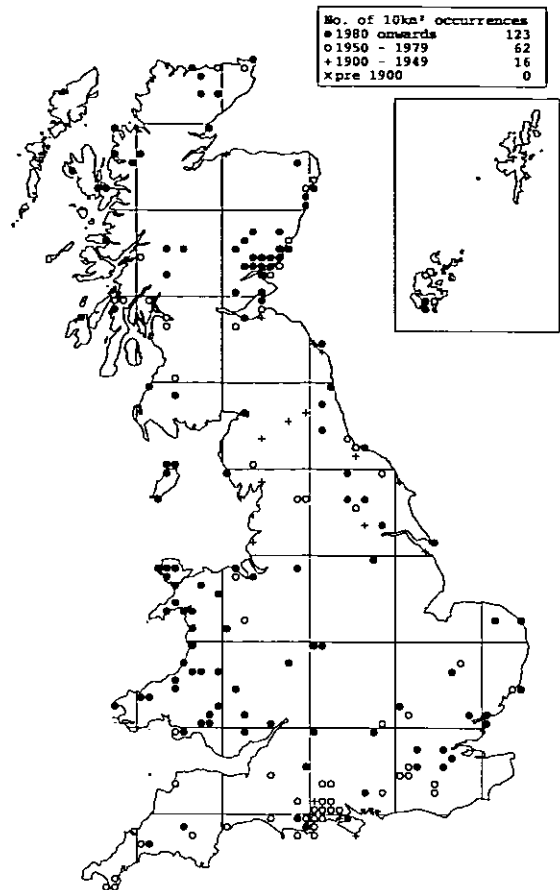
The species is widespread in much of central and eastern England, but scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species is a frequent aeronaut that occurs in most habitats. It is characteristic of open disturbed habitats such as disturbed grasslands, agricultural fields and river shingles. It is predominantly a night active species (Alderweireldt 1994), which has a low resistance to desiccation and cold (Almquist 1970; 1971). Like *O. retusus*, males may be less conspicuous than females. Males are probably less active than females as they are less frequently recorded in pitfall trap catches. Mating takes place chiefly in summer (Almquist 1969) sometimes later and then is followed by a main phase of aerial dispersal in August and September (Meijer 1977). Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, most often between late spring and mid-summer. Individuals can either over-winter as immatures or as eggs, depending on the time of reproduction.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[14302] Linyphiidae: *Trichopterna thorelli*



Status

Very local.

Distribution

The species has a very patchy and scattered distribution in Britain. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe, but not recorded from Norway.

Habitat and ecology

T. thorelli is found at ground level in moss and grass, often in rather damp areas, and may be common on wet heathland in southern England. In a study of the phenology of linyphiid spiders on heathland in Dorset it was found that the males of this species were only active in May and females from May to August (Merrett 1969). Our data show a peak in recorded adults of both sexes in May and June.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). Although recorded from only three sites, and apparently numerous at all of them, at Colne Point extensive fieldwork in the early 1990s located only three males in one small area.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Colne Point, North Essex; Sandwich, East Kent; and Rye Harbour, East Sussex, all since 1956. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe and has been recorded in the Balkans and Russia.

Habitat and ecology

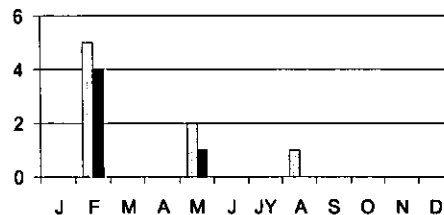
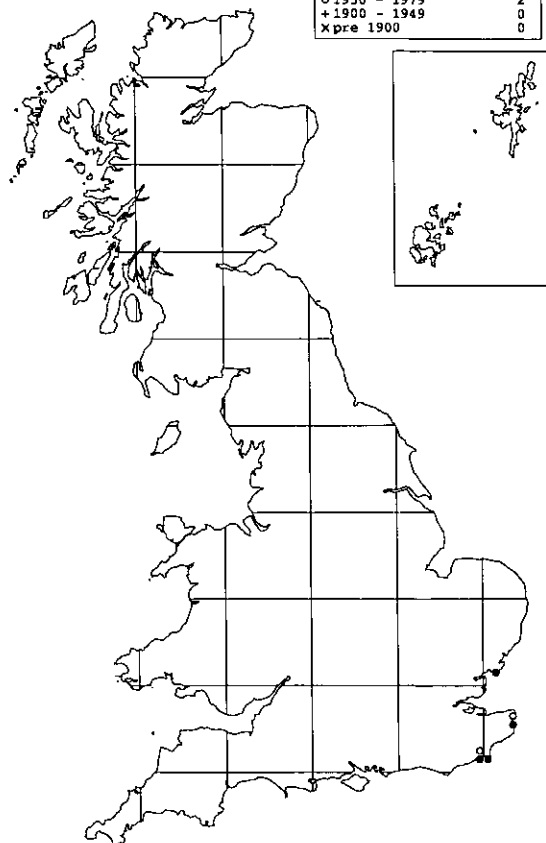
The spider has been found among moss and grass on old sand dunes and among sparse vegetation on sandy shingle. Both sexes have been found as adults in February, May and October, females also in June and a male in August.

Threats

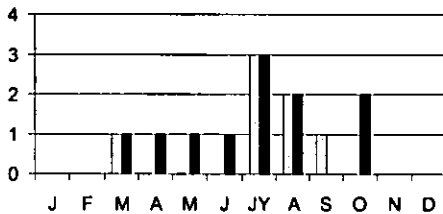
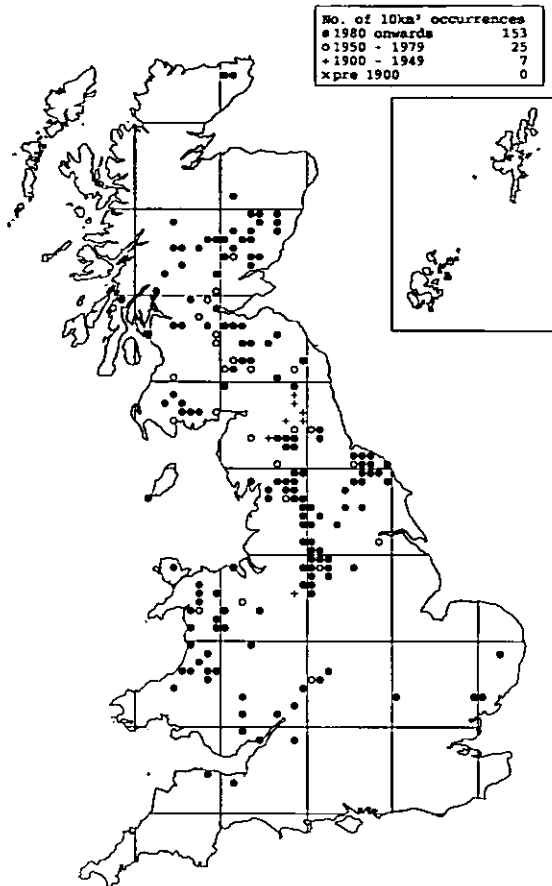
Public recreation can easily destroy the fragile vegetation of dunes and shingle. Outside nature reserves, this habitat is often the site of developments such as golf courses, caravan parks and chalets. Golf courses at Sandwich Dunes with their associated roads, buildings, drains, re-profiling and reseedling, have caused some damage to this fine dune system.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey based on Merrett, in Bratton (1991)

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	4
○ 1950 - 1979	2
+ 1900 - 1949	0
x pre 1900	0



[14404] Linyphiidae: *Pelecopsis mengei*



Status

The spider is local in northern England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, but very rare in southern and south-eastern England.

Distribution

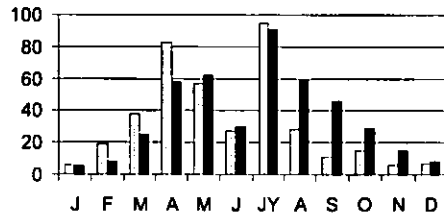
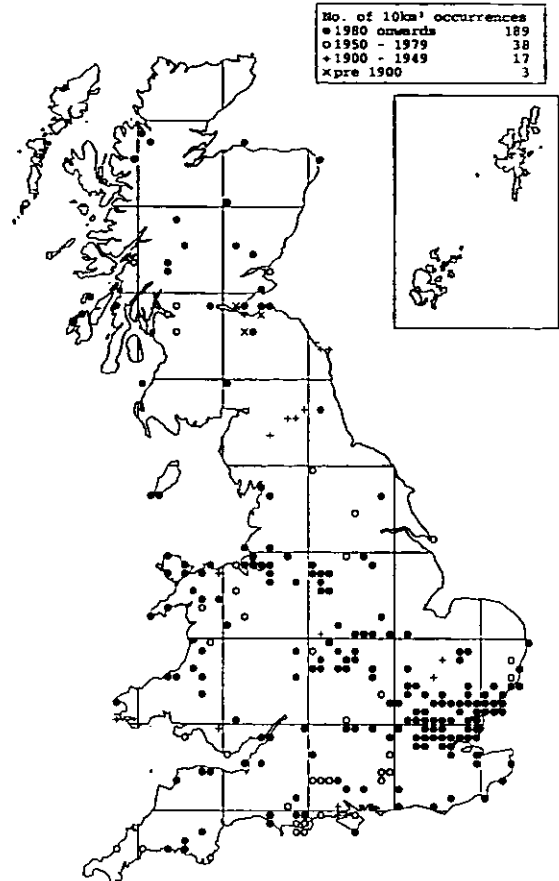
The species is widespread in Wales, northern England and much of Scotland. It is absent from most of southern England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Belgium.

Habitat and ecology

P. mengei is characteristic of damp mossy habitats such as sphagnum bogs especially those with ericaceous shrubs or invading pine and birch, and western mossy oak woods. In altitude it ranges from lowland bogs to at least 650 m in Dumfries-shire at the foot of a cliff. In Essex its presence in the Stour Valley and an adjacent glacial mere may represent a glacial relict population (P. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adult females occur throughout the year, males from spring to early autumn.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[14406] Linyphiidae: *Pelecopsis parallela*



Status

Local, but the species may be frequent where it occurs.

Distribution

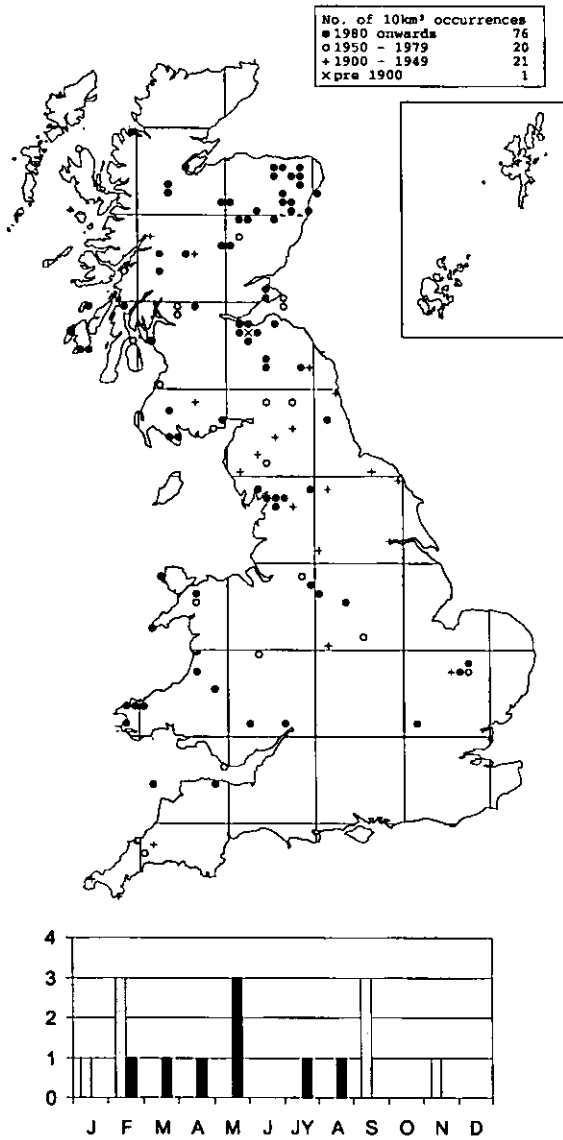
P. parallela is widespread across much of central southern Britain, but much more scattered elsewhere. It is a Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

P. parallela occurs in a variety of habitats including moss, detritus in woods, under stones and, especially, in calcareous and acid grasslands. Crocker & Daws (1996) have also recorded the species in disused quarries, on urban derelict land and in abandoned allotments. Both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, mostly in late spring and mid- to late summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[14405] Linyphiidae: *Pelecopsis nemoralis*



Status

Local and uncommon, particularly in England south of Yorkshire.

Distribution

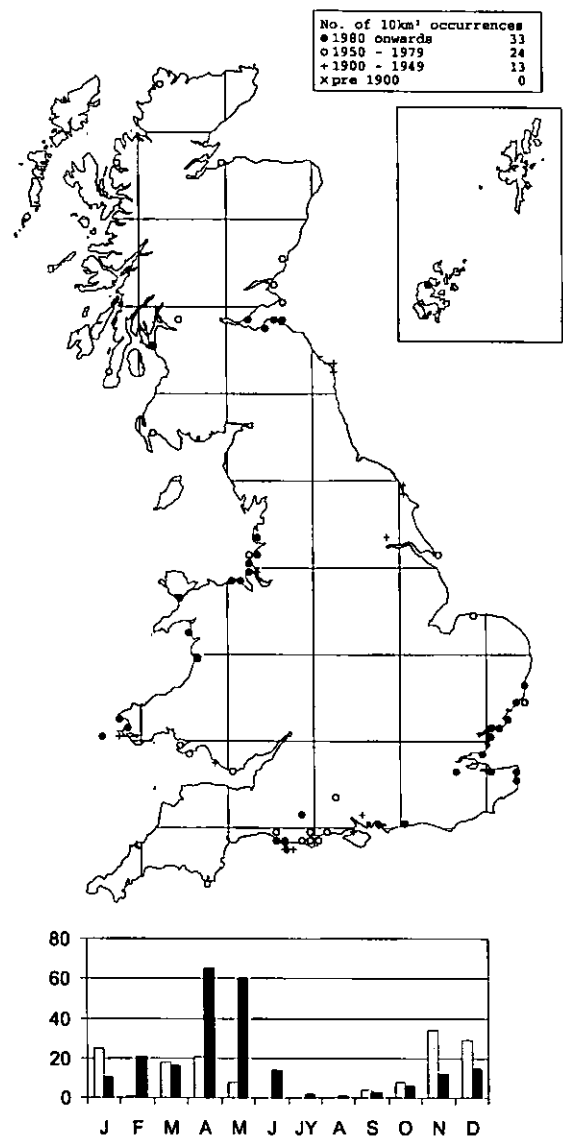
The species is widespread in the west and north of Britain, but very scattered or absent elsewhere. Roberts (1985) included *P. nemoralioides* (as *P. mediocris* and *P. locketi*) in *P. nemoralis* though it has been treated as distinct from *P. nemoralis* in Merrett et al. (1985), Merrett & Millidge (1992) and Merrett & Murphy (2000). This presents problems with the records submitted to the recording scheme. A decision has been made to map coastal records of *P. nemoralis* as *P. nemoralioides*, but the map is bound to present problems in interpretation, especially in the north where it is unknown whether the same ecological distinction is valid. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but is not listed in the recent checklists for Belgium and Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

Found in woodland in leaf litter, pine needles and moss at ground level, and in lichen and moss on tree trunks (Locket et al. 1974). It has been recorded at over 900 m in the Scottish mountains. Adults have been recorded at most times of the year, and although very limited phenology data are available the situation may be similar to *P. nemoralioides* where both sexes are adult between September and May, and females may occur in all months of the year.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

[14403] Linyphiidae: *Pelecopsis nemoralioides*



Status

Scarce, but the spider may be frequent where it occurs. *P. nemoralioides* is recognised as a senior synonym of *P. mediocris* (Kulczyński, 1899) and *P. locketi* Cooke, 1967 (BRC number 14402) by Wunderlich (1985).

Distribution

Almost entirely a coastal species it is widely distributed on sand dunes in southern Britain. Roberts (1985) included *P. nemoralioides* (as *P. mediocris* and *P. locketi*) in *P. nemoralis* though it has been treated as distinct from *P. nemoralis* in Merrett et al. (1985), Merrett & Millidge (1992) and Merrett & Murphy (2000). This presents problems with the records submitted to the recording scheme. A decision has been made to map coastal records of *P. nemoralis* as *P. nemoralioides*, but the map is bound to present problems in interpretation, especially in the north where it is unknown whether the same ecological distinction is valid. The species is widespread in north-western Europe as far north as Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

P. nemoralioides is typically found in sandy habitats, particularly coastal sand dunes, amongst marram and other grasses. It has also occurred in steep south-facing chalk grassland in West Kent and on shingle. Both sexes are adult between September and May, but females have been recorded in all months of the year.

Authors of profile: D.R. Nellist and P.R. Harvey

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider was well-established in the Rothiemurchus/Abernethy area.

Distribution

The species has been recorded in Britain only from Rothiemurchus Forest and Loch Garten/Abernethy Forest, East Inverness-shire, and near the south shore of Loch Rannoch, near Kinloch Rannoch, Mid Perthshire. It is widespread in central and northern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

In Britain, *P. elongata* is confined to Caledonian pine forest. It occurs mainly in dry pine litter on rocks, but also on the lower branches of juniper and in moss. Adult males have been found in November, December, March and April, and females also during the summer. The main activity period is probably during the winter.

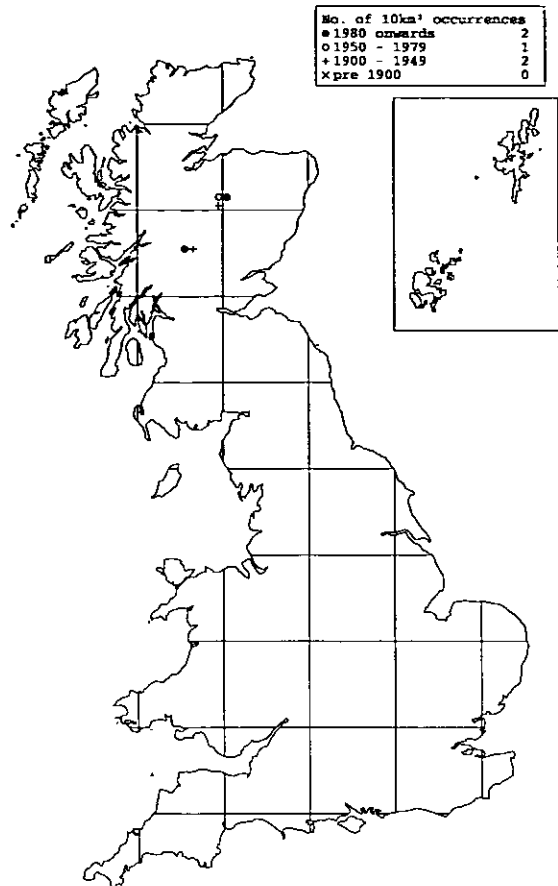
Threats

Areas of Caledonian pine forest are threatened with conversion to intensive forestry using Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis*, lodgepole pine *Pinus contorta* and other alien species. The ecological requirements of *P. elongata* are not known in detail, but it is unlikely that conversion of open Caledonian pine forest to dense plantation forestry will maintain the habitat in a suitable state for this species. North of the Loch Garten RSPB reserve there has been a great deal of planting of Scots pine and lodgepole pine on land which previously supported scattered mature native pines. In Rothiemurchus Forest, 305 ha out of the 1539 ha of native pine were ploughed and planted in 1971 with Scots pine and lodgepole pine. Although 30 ha of Abernethy Forest were felled in 1984 before it was renotified as an SSSI, and a total of 226 ha were lost since 1977, it is now owned and managed by the RSPB.

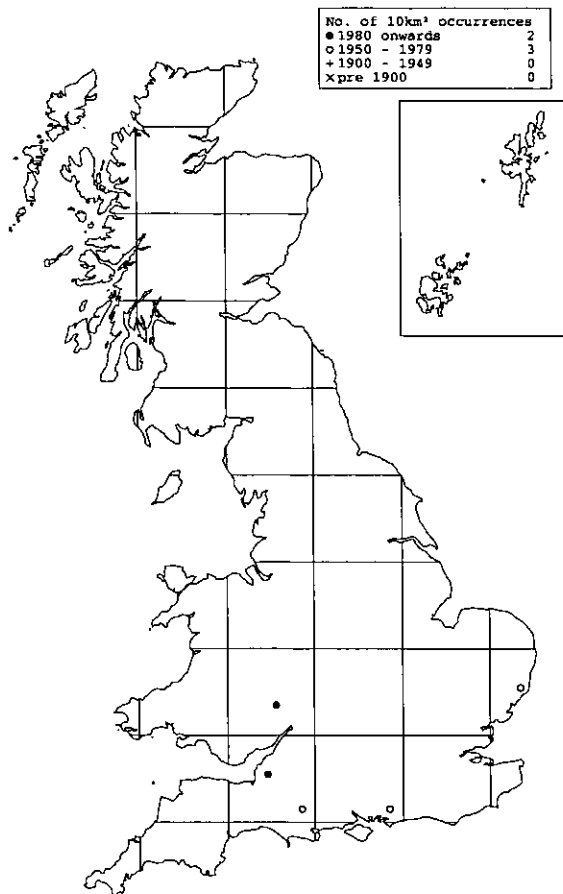
Management

Regeneration of native pine should be encouraged by protection of the felled areas from grazing. At Rothiemurchus increased numbers of human visitors are thought to disturb the grazing deer sufficiently to reduce grazing pressure to the level at which pine regeneration can take place. In deer exclosures, natural regeneration can become as dense as a pine plantation and it may be necessary to thin pines in order to maintain an open forest with a varied age structure and good ground flora. The primary aim of the RSPB at Abernethy is to develop a self-sustaining native pine forest over the whole potential woodland area (Taylor in Aldhous 1995).

Author of profile: P. Merrett in Bratton (1991), updated by P.R. Harvey



[14407] Linyphiidae: *Pelecopsis radicolica*



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Numerous specimens have been found at each of its sites except Rodney Stoke.

Distribution

In Britain, the species has been recorded from the South Downs near Heyshott, West Sussex; the Mendips at Rodney Stoke NNR, North Somerset; Fontmell Down, Dorset; Staverton Park, East Suffolk; and Nupend Wood, Herefordshire (Rixom 2000). All records have been made since 1949. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

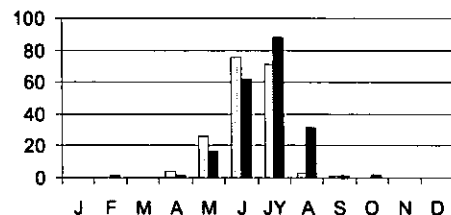
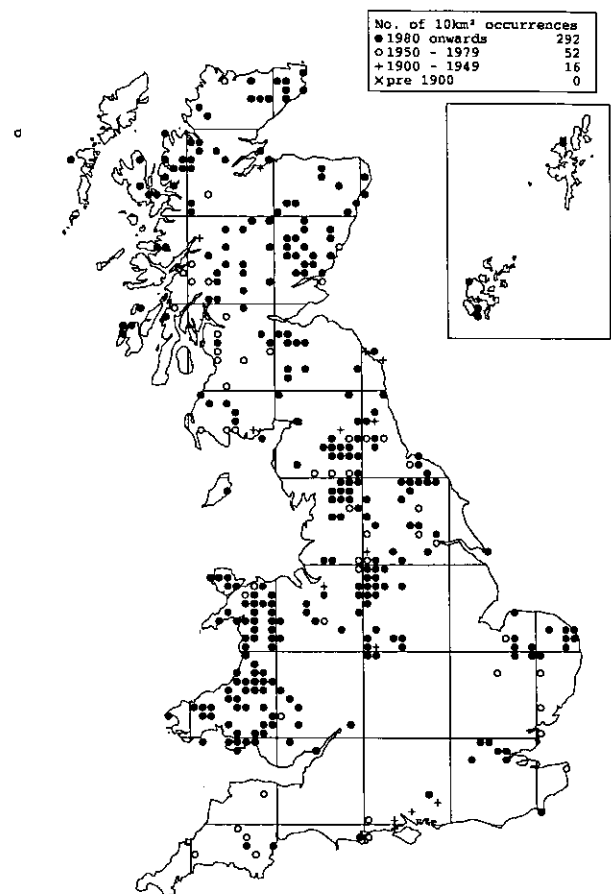
Most British records are from among grass roots in chalk or limestone grassland, but it has also been found in a glade of grass and bracken in Staverton Park, which lies on a base-poor sandy soil. Adults of both sexes are found between June and October.

Threats

The loss of semi-natural dry grassland to intensive farming, either arable or livestock, will have contributed to a decline in the habitat available for this species. Conversely, the neglect of suitable habitat and the decline in rabbit-grazing, with ensuing invasion by scrub or bracken, is also likely to have been damaging.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[14502] Linyphiidae: *Silometopus elegans*



Status

Rather uncommon, but less so in the north.

Distribution

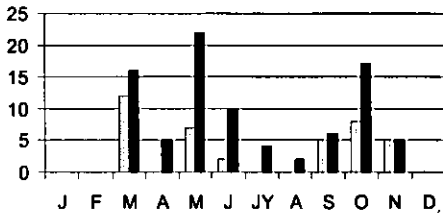
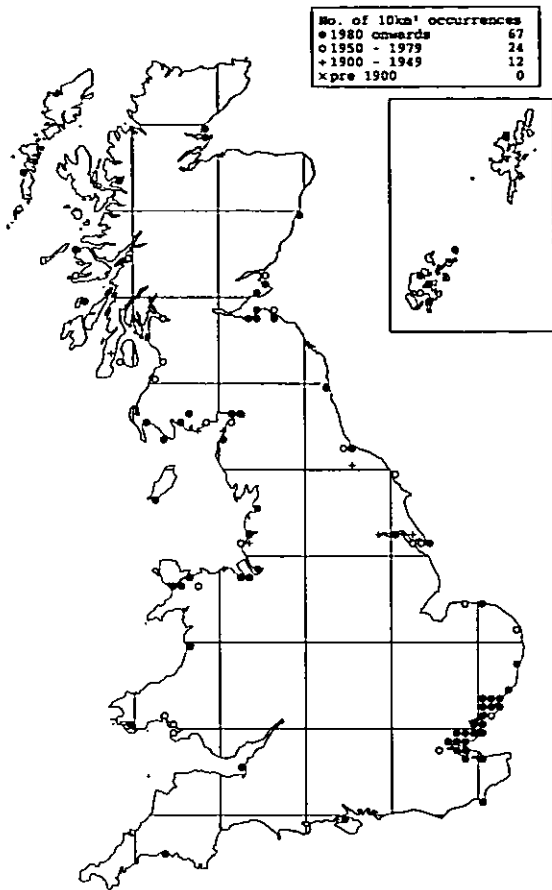
S. elegans is widespread north of a line from the Severn estuary to the Humber, but mostly absent further south. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found in grass, moss and undergrowth, often in wet or marshy places. It is also found under stones on high ground up to 980 m. In southern England it appears to be confined mainly to high ground (Lockett et al. 1974). Adults are mainly found from May to August.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

[14501] Linyphiidae: *Silometopus ambiguus*



Status

Local, but the spider may be frequent in suitable habitat. Although Bristowe (1939) had drawn attention to the uncertainty over the identity of *Silometopus curtus* (Simon), records of this species and of *S. ambiguus* (O. P.-Cambridge) were confused until Locket & Millidge (1961) showed that there was just a single, somewhat variable, species for which they believed the name *S. curtus* had priority. However it was later shown by Denis (1963) that the name *S. ambiguus* had priority.

Distribution

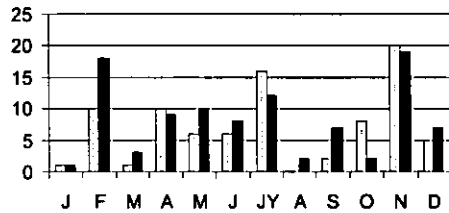
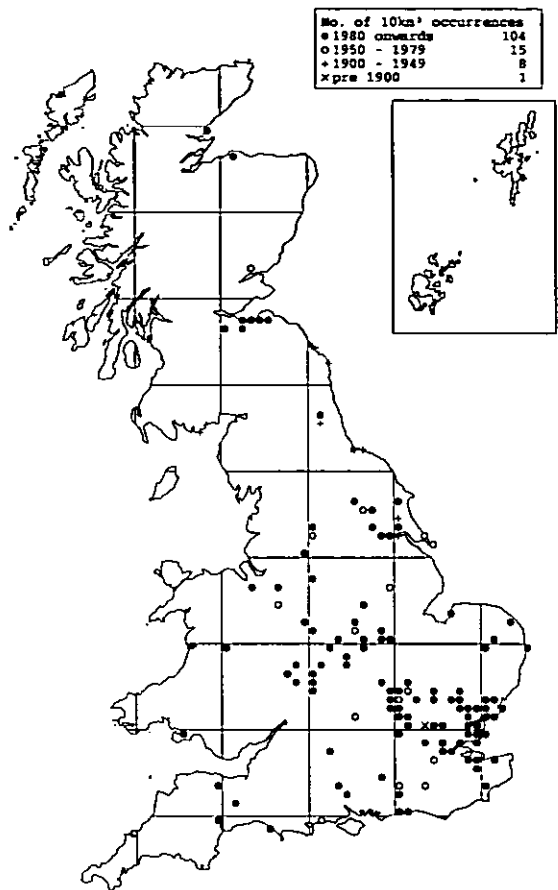
S. ambiguus is widespread on the coasts of Britain, especially in the region from Suffolk and Essex to north Kent. A European species recorded from Ireland, France, Belgium, Denmark and Norway.

Habitat and ecology

A halobiont, being found on saltmarshes, tidal estuaries and sand-hills by the sea, in tidal litter and on mud. Adults of both sexes have been recorded from February to June and September to November, but females may occur throughout the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[14504] Linyphiidae: *Silometopus reussi*



Status

Local. The name *S. reussi* (Thorell) was shown by Locket (1962) to be a senior synonym of *S. interjectus* (O. P.-Cambridge).

Distribution

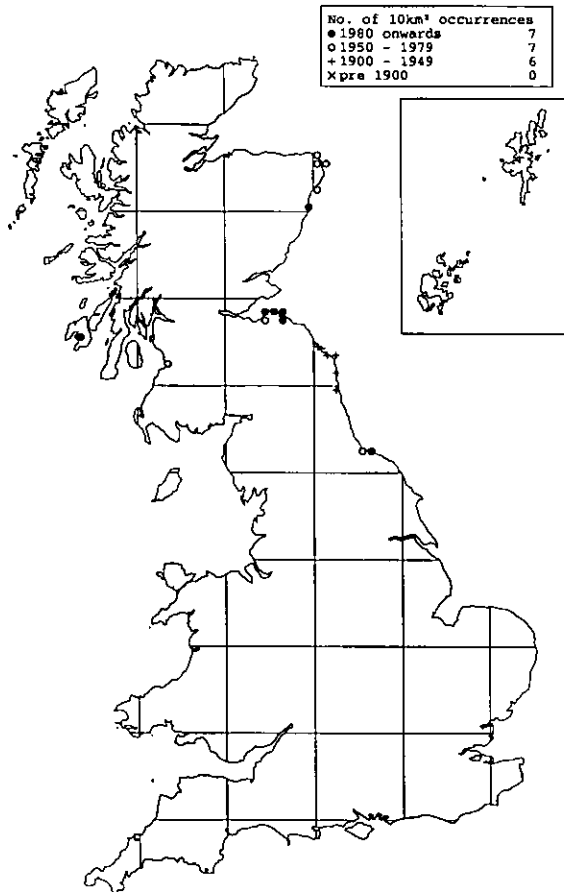
The species is widespread in England in a band from Cheshire, Yorkshire and the Midlands to the south-east. Elsewhere the distribution is very scattered and there are few records from western Britain or north of Yorkshire. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

S. reussi occurs in straw, undergrowth, manure heaps and cut vegetation in gardens, sometimes in abundance. Adults of both sexes have been recorded almost throughout the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[14503] Linyphiidae: *Silometopus incurvatus*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is numerous at some sites.

Distribution

The species is apparently restricted to sand dunes in the northern half of Britain, on the coast of North Yorkshire, Northumberland, East Lothian, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Ayrshire and Islay. In Europe it has been recorded from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

S. incurvatus occurs on sand dunes, in marram litter 8 - 20 cm above ground level, and in sea buckthorn litter. Adults have been found between February and June.

Threats

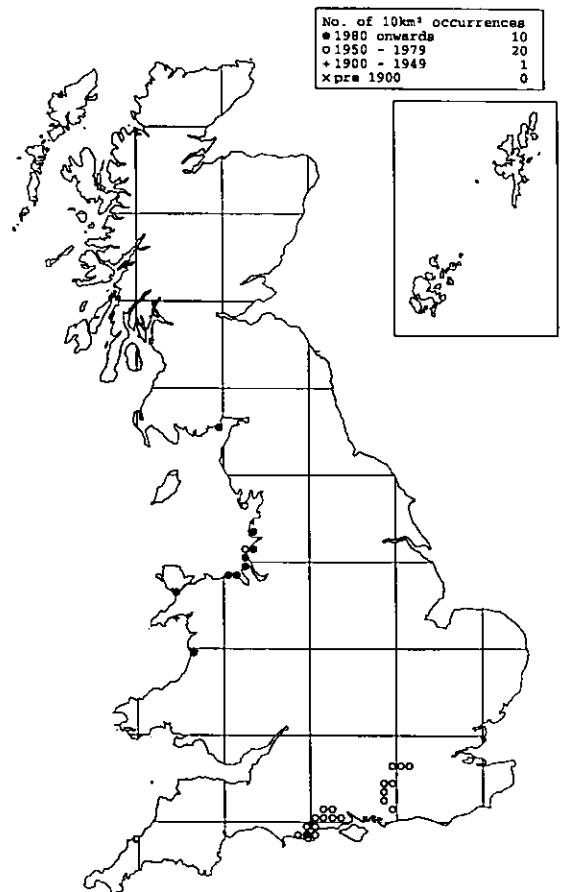
Possibly public pressure in some of the more southern sites.

Management

Control erosion and maintain healthy growth of marram on sand dunes.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[14601] Linyphiidae: *Mecopisthes peusi*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very abundant on heathland in Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex and Surrey, but scarce elsewhere.

Distribution

The species is mainly confined to central southern England, Wales, Cheshire and Lancashire. It has recently been found in pitfall material from Mersehead, Dumfries and Galloway (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). A European species recorded from Ireland, France, Germany and Austria.

Habitat and ecology

In the south, *M. peusi* occurs on dry heathland, reaching maximum densities between 5 and 10 years after fire. It lives in the thin layer of litter around the base of heather plants at the edge of patches of bare ground. In Wales, Cheshire and Lancashire, the spider is found on sand dunes and dune slacks on the coast. It is adult from October to July, but the main period of activity is from March to May.

Threats

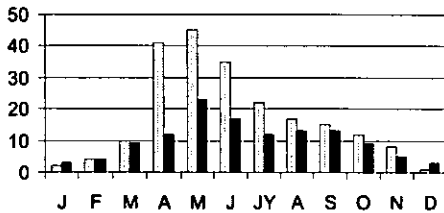
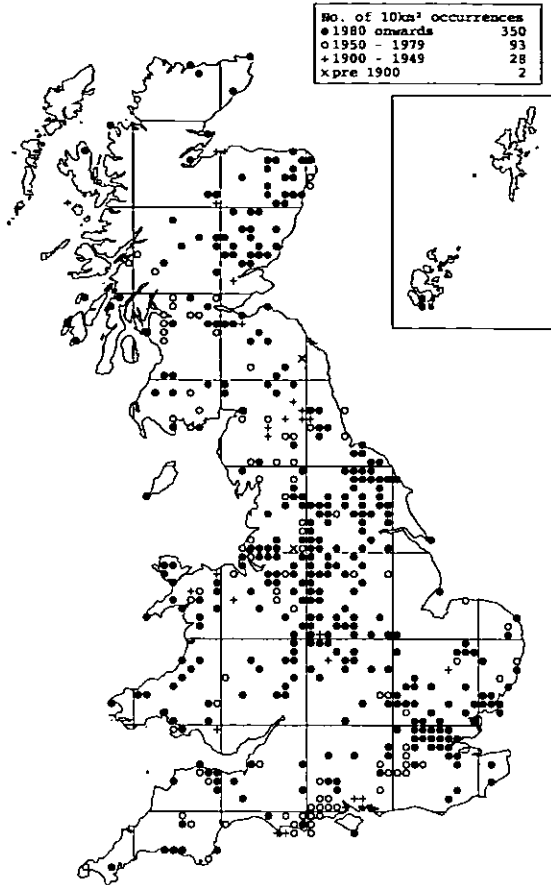
Loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry and development.

Management

Maintain all seral stages of heather by rotational management. This species appears to disperse fairly readily, so the size of managed area is relatively unimportant.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[14701] Linyphiidae: *Cnephalocotes obscurus*



Status

Frequent locally.

Distribution

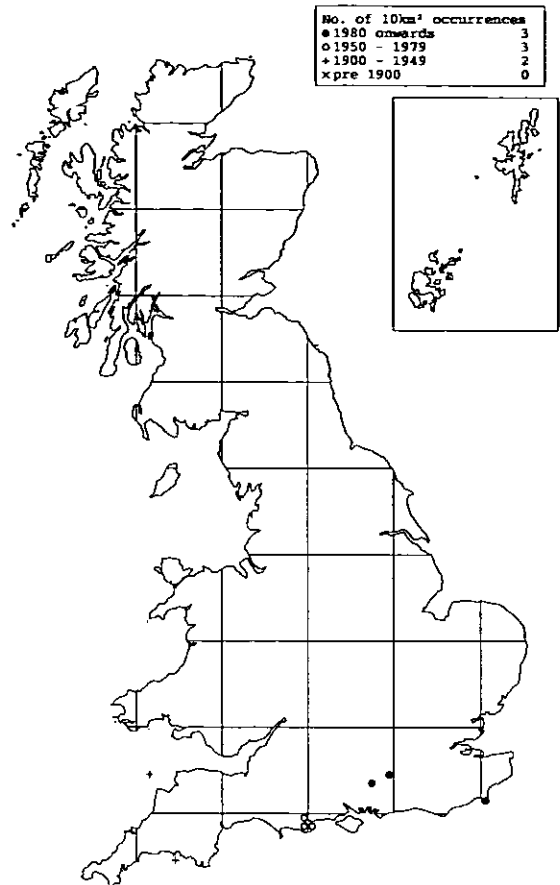
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain, but with an apparently patchy and scattered distribution in parts of the south and north. A Palearctic species, widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

C. obscurus is generally recorded in detritus, moss and other vegetation. In Essex the species is typically found in old and tussocky grassland (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). In Leicestershire and Rutland, Crocker & Daws (1996) have recorded the species in a wide variety of habitats including acid, neutral and calcareous grassland, rocky moorland, broad-leaved woodland and disused quarries and gravel pits. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but with a peak in late spring and early summer through to the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[14801] Linyphiidae: *Acartauchenius scurrilis*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is restricted to dry heaths and coasts in the south and west, probably partly by its dependence on its ant host. Since its habitat is not often investigated, it may not be as rare as the number of records suggests.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Kynance Cove and Rame Head in Cornwall, Lundy Island, New Forest and Woolmer Forest in Hampshire, Studland, Hartland Moor and Morden NNRs and Parley Common in Dorset, Thursley Common NNR in Surrey and Dungeness in Kent. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland or Norway.

Habitat and ecology

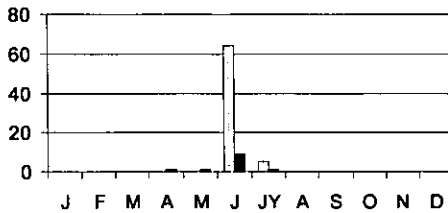
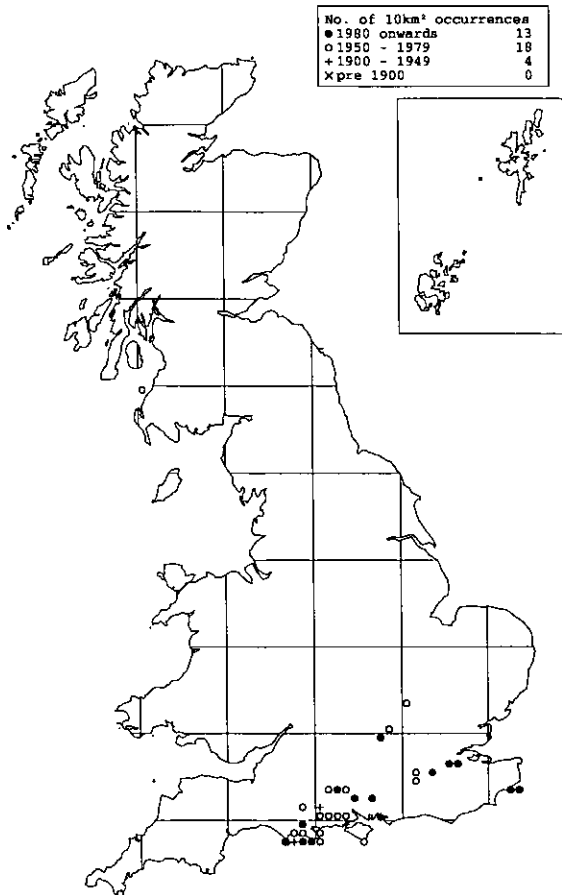
On dry heathland and coastal grassland, *A. scurrilis* occurs in the nests of the ant *Tetramorium caespitum* (L.). It is sometimes taken in pitfall traps when dispersing (usually females, very occasionally males). Adult males have been taken in pitfall traps in May and September, and females between April and October, but adults are possibly present in ant nests throughout most of the year. Denton (1999b) notes it as abundant in *Tetramorium* nests in Woolmer Forest in October.

Threats

The loss of dry heathland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett (1990), updated by P.R. Harvey

[14903] Linyphiidae: *Trichoncus saxicola*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is fairly widespread on calcareous grassland in the south, but rather local and never particularly common.

Distribution

The species is restricted to southern England except for a single female taken in 1976 on Ailsa Craig, Ayrshire (Hogg 1995). It is widespread in northern and central Europe, but in Scandinavia only recorded from Sweden.

Habitat and ecology

T. saxicola occurs mainly on fairly tall calcareous grassland, especially near the coast, sometimes in grassy areas on heathland and shingle. Females have been found from April to July with a peak of both sexes in June.

Threats

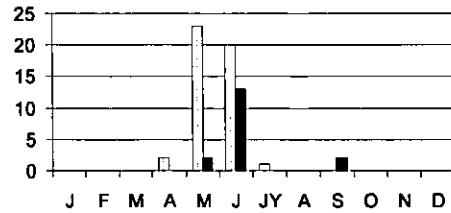
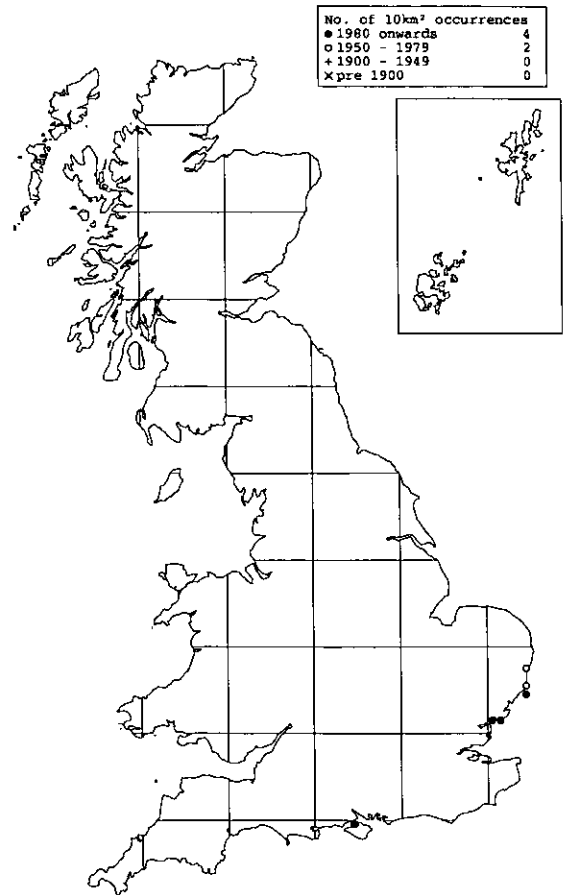
The loss of calcareous grassland to agriculture.

Management

This species appears to favour relatively lightly-grazed grassland, but it would be necessary to control growth of scrub.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[14902] Linyphiidae: *Trichoncus hackmani*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). This spider has been abundant wherever it has been found, which makes the possibility of its being under-recorded less likely.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Needs Ore Point, South Hampshire; Colne Point, North Essex; and Dunwich Marshes, East Suffolk, all since 1961. There is also an unconfirmed record from Iken Marsh, East Suffolk. Elsewhere in Europe it is known from Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

T. hackmani occurs mainly among tide litter and sparse vegetation on shingle. Adults of both sexes have been found from April to June and in September and October, with a male also in July.

Threats

Disturbance of shingle and destruction of its vegetation by, for example, trampling, off-road vehicles or construction of sea defences. On shingle beds outside nature reserves, holiday developments are also a possible threat.

Management

Tide litter should be left undisturbed.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider was numerous at Orford Beach and Dungeness, but the other records are based on few individuals.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Hayling Island in South Hampshire, Rye in East Sussex, Dungeness and Church Wood in East Kent, Orford Beach and Havergate Island in East Suffolk, all records except one being since 1960. Apart from the inland site in East Kent, all records are coastal. It has been reported from France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania, but the taxonomy of this genus is rather confused in Europe.

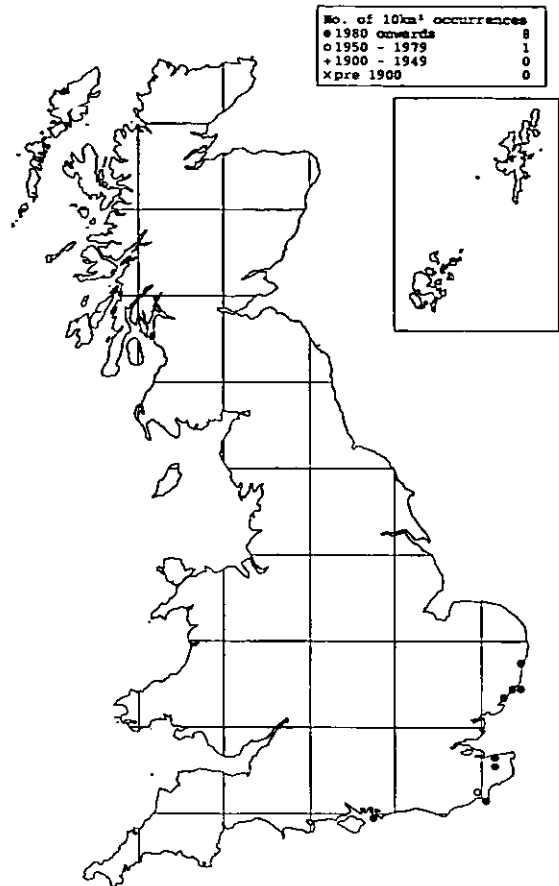
Habitat and ecology

It has been found among the roots of sparse vegetation on shingle, apart from one inland record of both sexes in litter accumulated at the base of a recently coppiced chestnut in Church Wood RSPB Reserve, part of the Blean Woods complex near Canterbury (Russell-Smith 1998). Adults of both sexes have been recorded in April, May, June and September, and females in July and November.

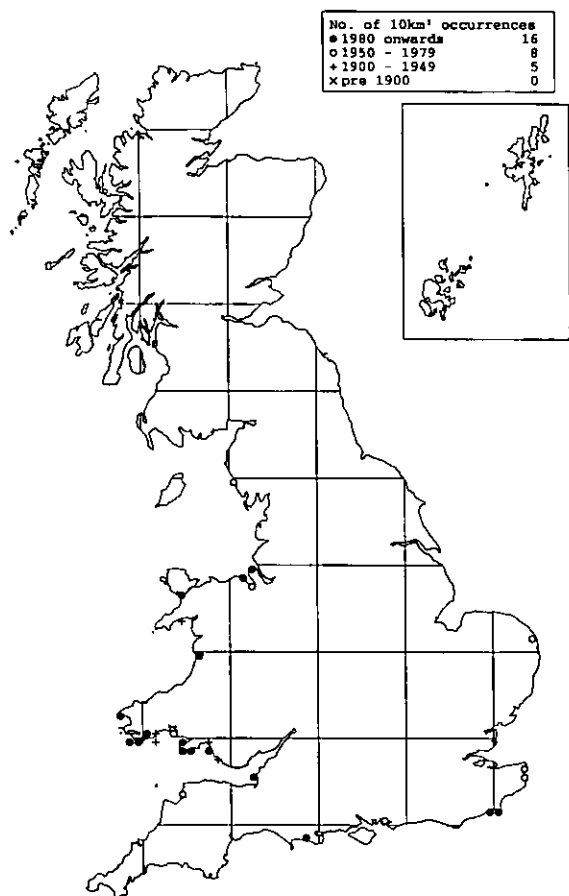
Threats

The coastal habitat is susceptible to public pressure, shingle vegetation being very vulnerable to trampling. Although Dungeness is being damaged by gravel extraction and there is no end date yet for gravel extraction, SAC designation now leaves just one last permission to be implemented. There are currently no plans for a new power station at Dungeness but its possibility in the future still poses a threat. Irrevocable damage has been caused by motor cycles and other vehicles crossing the shingle, damaging the vegetation and the shingle ridges. This damage has largely been reduced to the occasional incident and there is more evidence that the shingle communities are capable of regenerating after superficial disturbance, hence the current levels of surface disturbance are likely to be biologically sustainable (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.).

Author of profile: Merrett, in Bratton (1991) updated by P.R. Harvey



[15001] Linyphiidae: *Ceratinopsis romana*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common at some sites, but rather local.

Distribution

The species is widespread on the coast of Wales with a few scattered locations on the coast of England as far north as Cumberland. It is widespread in western and central Europe but absent from Scandinavia and has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

C. romana occurs among marram on coastal sand dunes, mainly in extensive dune systems. Adults have been recorded in February, May, June, July and in the autumn.

Threats

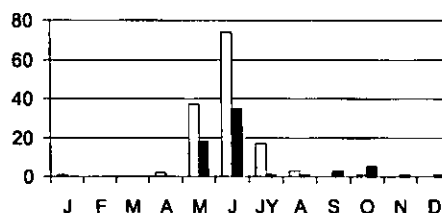
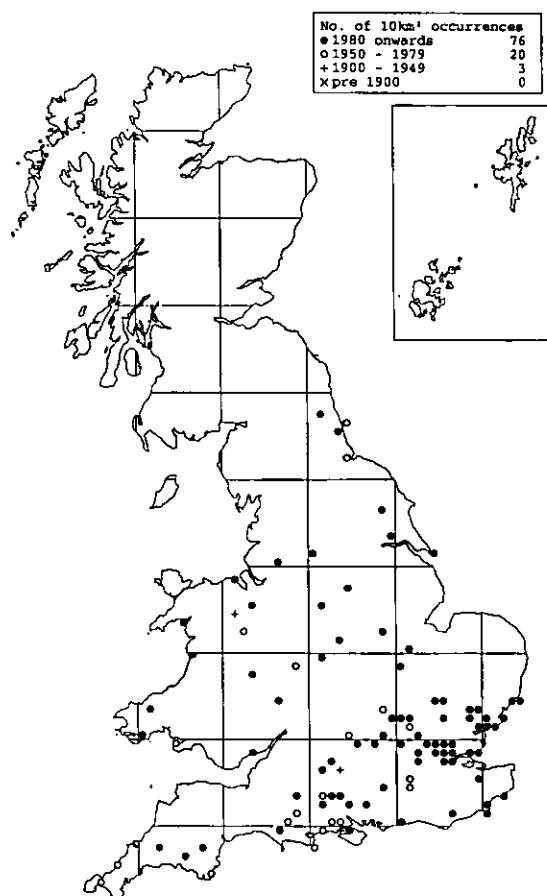
Possibly public pressure and holiday development at some sites.

Management

Control erosion of sand dunes.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[15002] Linyphiidae: *Ceratinopsis stativa*



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

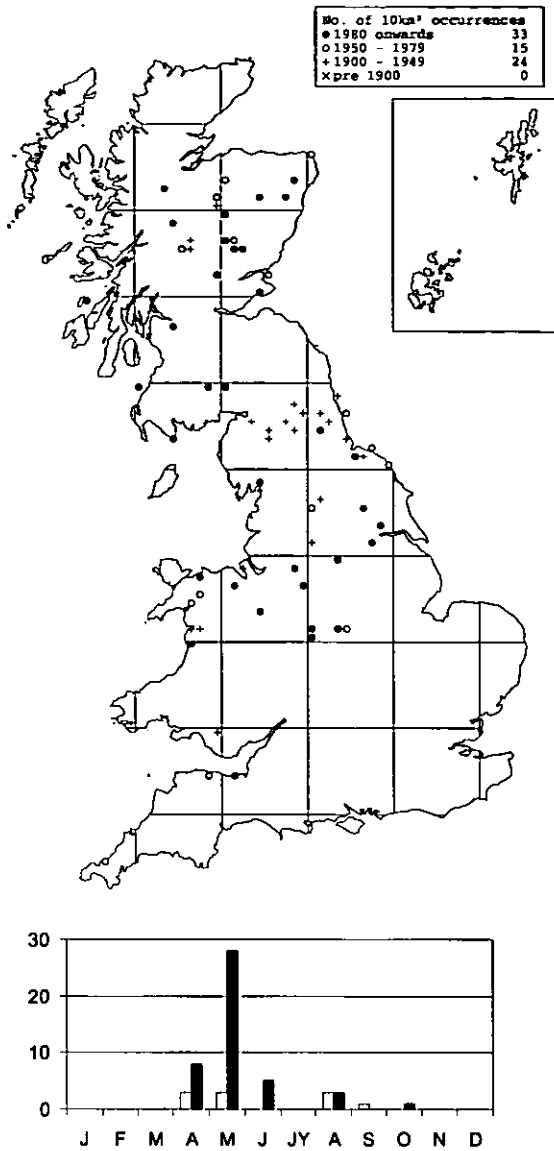
The species is widespread in parts of south-eastern England but scattered elsewhere in England and Wales as far north as Northumberland. It has a Holarctic distribution, and is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

C. stativa has been recorded from *Sphagnum* and shingle but is found most frequently on calcareous grassland in southern England. In Essex it is associated with old and unimproved grasslands, where it can be found at the base of tussocks (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults have been found mostly in early summer, but there are occasional records of adults at other times of the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[15101] Linyphiidae: *Evansia merens*



Status

Local, but the species may be under-recorded due to its specialised habitat.

Distribution

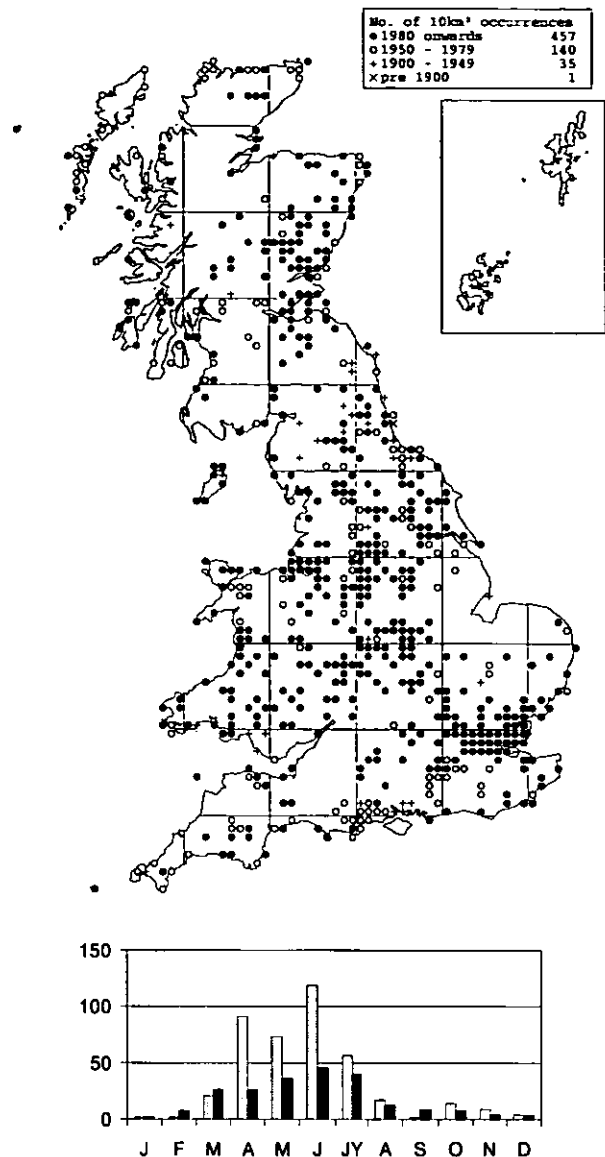
An inhabitant of north and west Britain, it is rarely found south and east of the line connecting the Humber and the Exe. This species has a wide Palaearctic distribution (Platnick 1998) and is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Belgium or the Netherlands.

Habitat and ecology

This myrmecophilous spider has been recorded from the nests of several ant species (*Lasius niger*, *L. fuliginosus*, *Formica fusca*, *F. sanguinea*) (Roberts 1985). It occurs exclusively in dry peaty soils on open heaths and moors. In these habitats it is usually found within ant galleries beneath large rocks or logs. Both sexes are mature throughout the year, with egg-sacs (affixed to rocks within the ant galleries) produced between May and August. Our data show a peak of recorded females in May.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[15202] Linyphiidae: *Tiso vagans*



Status

Common.

Distribution

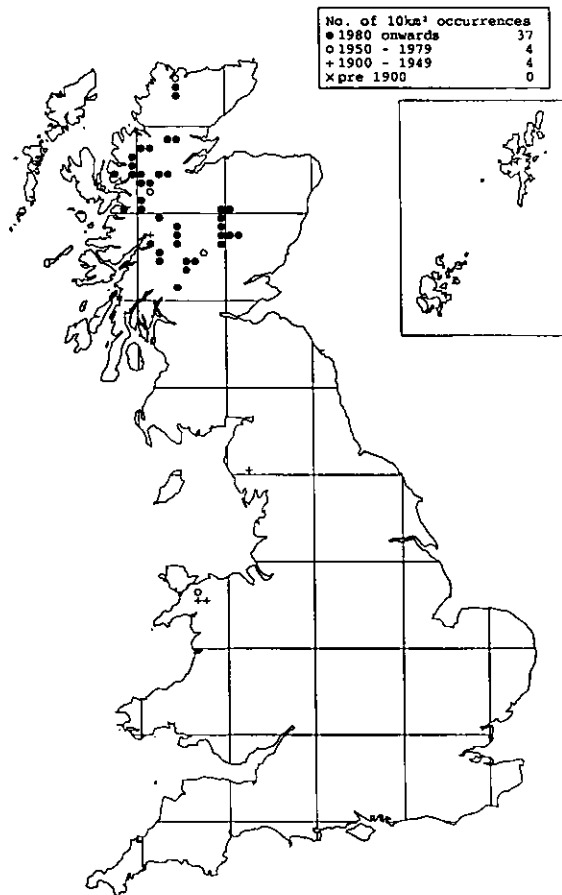
T. vagans is widespread throughout most of Britain. A European species, widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is generally found in moss, grass and detritus but has also been recorded from grasslands, wet moorland, heathland, birch/alder woodland and gardens. Bristowe (1939) remarks that it had been recorded on sand-hills, in bird's nests and above 2000' (600 m) on British mountains, this last observation probably being the result of the species being a common aeronaut. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but with a peak between late spring and mid-summer. Duffey (1963) records adult females from April to November and adult males between April and July.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[15201] Linyphiidae: *Tiso aestivus*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is widespread on high mountains, but local and not common.

Distribution

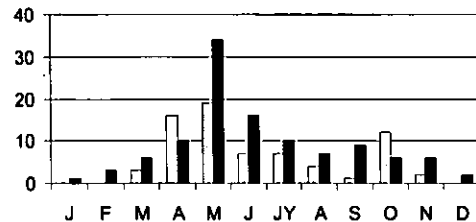
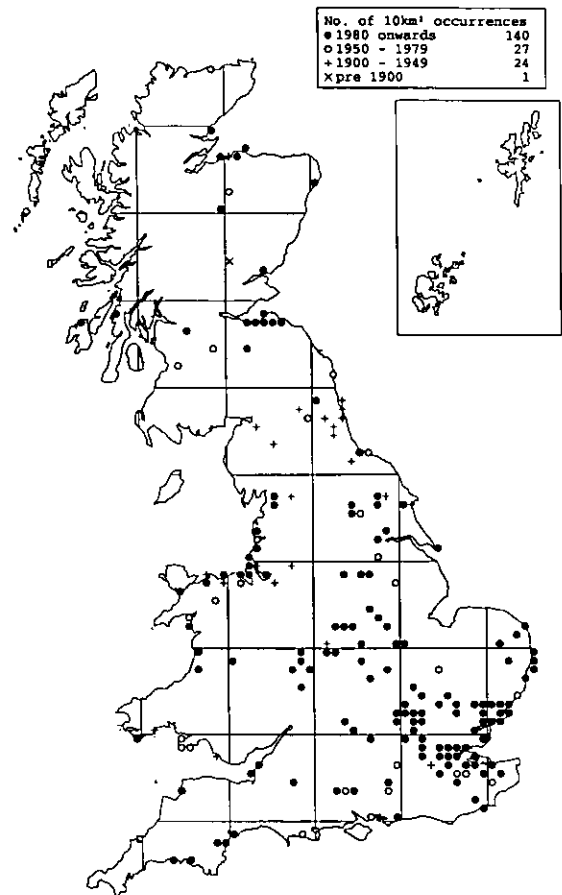
The species has been recorded from North Wales, the Lake District and Scotland. It is a boreo-alpine species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

T. aestivus occurs under stones on mountains above 600 m. Adults of both sexes are found from April to August.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[15302] Linyphiidae: *Troxochrus scabriculus*



Status

Locally common in dry habitats. The map includes records submitted to the scheme as *T. cirrifrons* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871) under BRC number 15301, now considered to be a form of male *T. scabriculus*.

Distribution

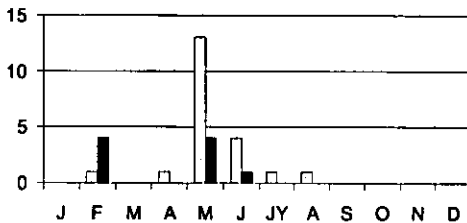
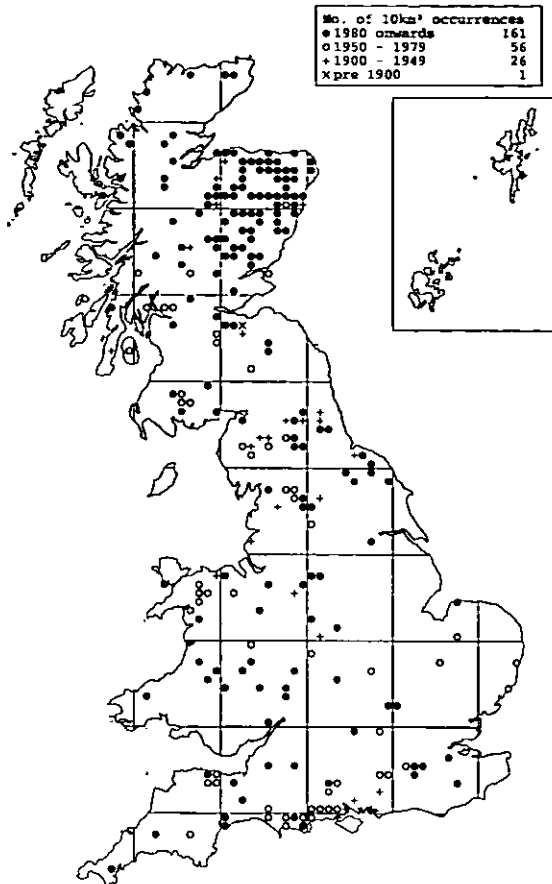
The species has a widespread but patchy distribution in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

T. scabriculus is restricted to dry habitats such as calcareous grassland, quarries, river shingle, haystacks and bare ground. The spider is a typical inhabitant of sand dunes where it can be found within dense clumps of marram grass. In gardens the species can be found living within gravel paths. Adult females may be present throughout the year but there is a peak in recorded adults of both sexes in late spring and early summer, and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[15401] Linyphiidae: *Minyriolus pusillus*



Status

Local. The spider is probably much commoner in the north but is rare or absent from many parts of England.

Distribution

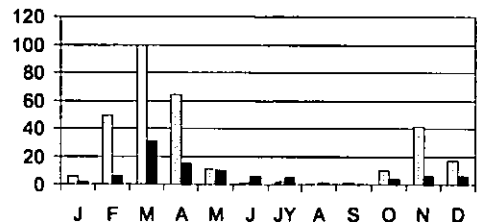
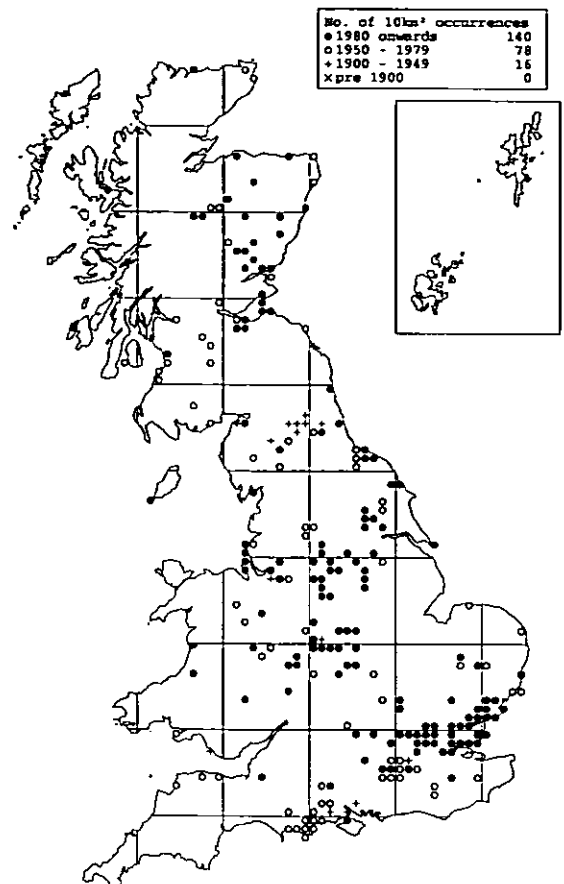
The species is widespread in central eastern Scotland, but scattered elsewhere in Britain. It appears to be absent from some well-recorded southern areas such as Essex. Smith (1982) suggests it is restricted to higher ground in Yorkshire. A Palaearctic species, it is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Regarded by Merrett (1977) as mainly a species of both broad-leaved and coniferous woodland, but it may also be found in moss and grass in more open areas. Adults may be found throughout most of the year. Our limited phenology data suggest a peak in early summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[15504] Linyphiidae: *Tapinocyba praecox*



Status

Local, but the spider may sometimes be found in abundance. It is less common than *T. pallens* in the north.

Distribution

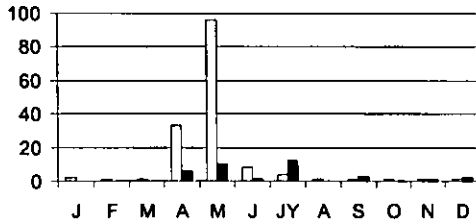
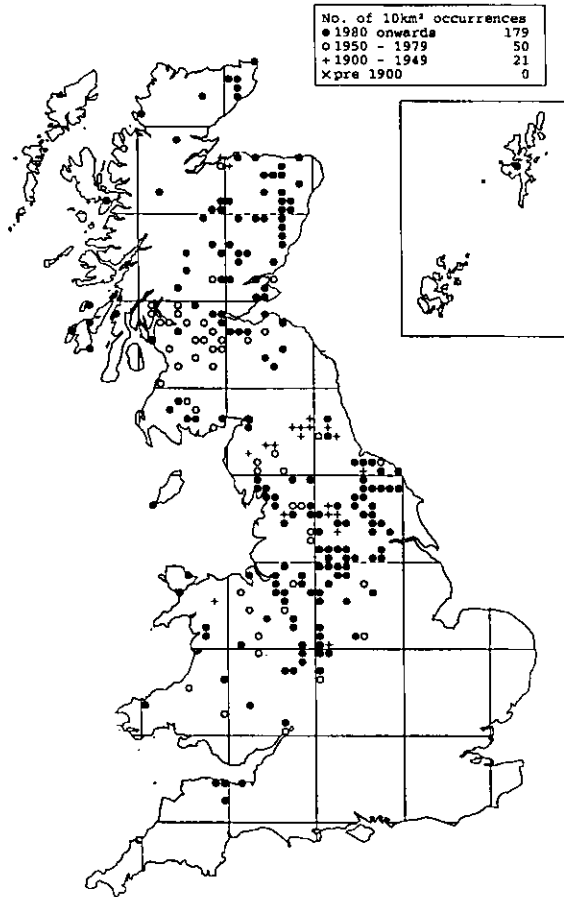
The species is widespread but has a very patchy distribution in Britain, and appears to be absent from much of the west. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from the north of Sweden or from the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Habitat and ecology

T. praecox may be found in a variety of habitats including the ground layer in grassland, on heathland, in leaf litter and also by sweeping short vegetation. In Berkshire, Duffey (1956) captured both sexes between January and April, and found that the species was a common aeronaut. In North Wales, Pearson and White (1964) captured adults between February and July with most activity from March to May. Our data show a peak of adults of both sexes in spring, a smaller peak of males in late autumn/winter, with occasional adults collected throughout the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[15503] Linyphiidae: *Tapinocyba pallens*



Status

Locally common in the north and west.

Distribution

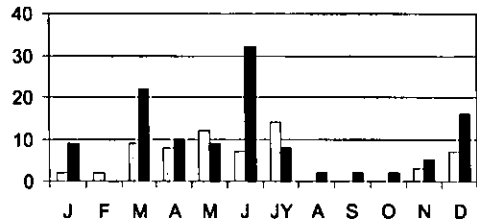
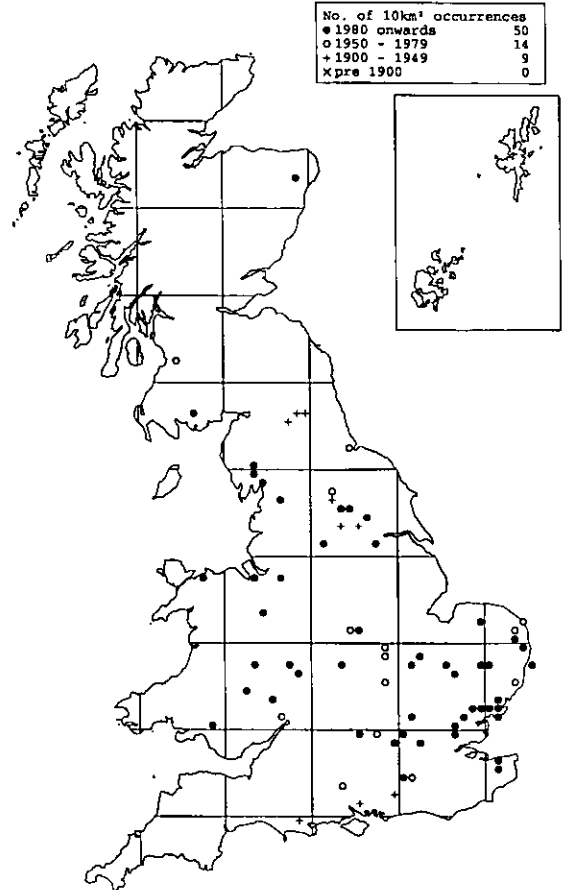
The species is widespread in northern and western Britain north of a line from the Severn to the Humber. A European species fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but not recorded from the Netherlands, the Czech Republic or Hungary.

Habitat and ecology

A northern species found almost exclusively in pine needles and leaf litter in woodland, and in sphagnum bogs where it may be common locally (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Adults occur mainly in late spring and early summer, but are occasionally found at other times of year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[15501] Linyphiidae: *Tapinocyba insecta*



Status

Local, but the spider may be numerous in some localities.

Distribution

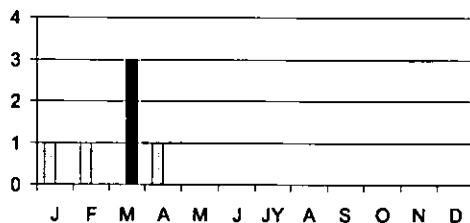
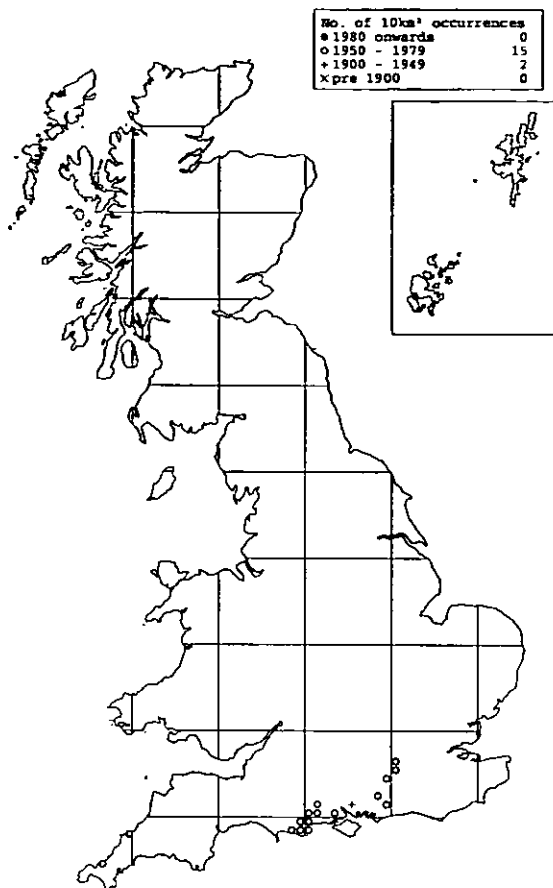
T. insecta is widespread but scattered throughout most of England with the exception of the south-west. There are few records for Wales and Scotland. A Palearctic species, it is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This linyphiid is essentially restricted to ancient broad-leaved woodland. Crocker & Daws (1996) note that specimens are found amongst leaf litter, sphagnum and golden-saxifrage flushes in Leicestershire woodlands (oak, birch/oak, birch/alder and alder/willow). In Essex the spider is found in leaf litter in oak/hornbeam and chestnut woodland (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). At Wicken Fen it has been found in fen carr (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded throughout the year but males and most females between November and July.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[15502] Linyphiidae: *Tapinocyba mitis*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). It is frequent in heathland areas in the New Forest, Dorset and West Sussex, but never particularly abundant, and uncommon elsewhere.

Distribution

The species is almost confined to a small part of south-central England, with an outlying record from West Cornwall. Otherwise, it appears to have only been recorded from Latvia (Platnick 2000).

Habitat and ecology

T. mitis occurs among deep litter and moss under pine, and on open dry heathland, appearing in small numbers in the first few years after fire, but not reaching reasonable numbers until after about 8 years, and probably most numerous in mature heather. It is adult from October to June, but the main activity period is in February and March.

Threats

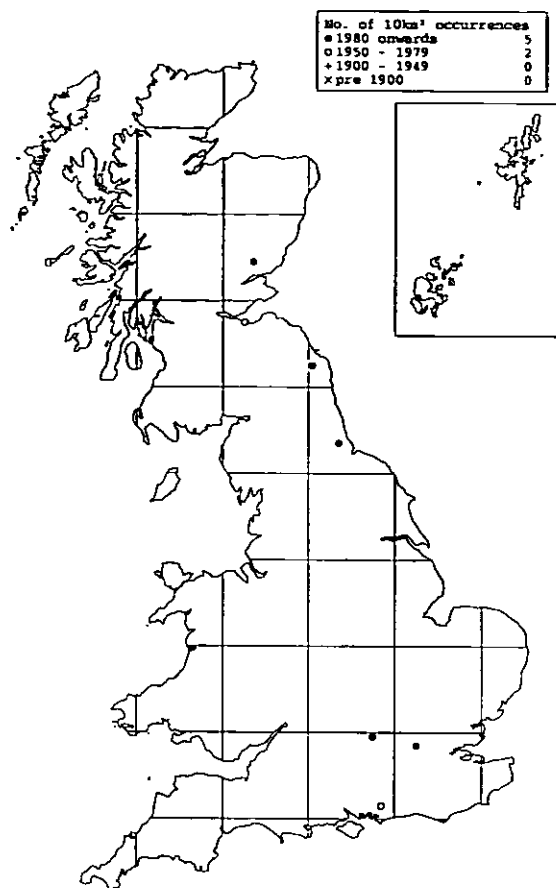
As it is able to live under pine as well as on open heathland, there is probably no serious threat.

Management

Maintain some mature heather and pine on heathland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[15601] Linyphiidae: *Tapinocyboides pygmaeus*



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider has been rarely recorded but, as the species is very small and pale and lives among grass roots, it could easily be overlooked. It was numerous at Heyshott and Butler's Hangings.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from the South Downs near Heyshott, West Sussex, in 1951; the Chilterns at Butler's Hangings and Swain's Wood, Buckinghamshire, in 1982; Town Kelloe Banks, Co. Durham, in 1982 and 1986; a farm at East Lilburn, North Northumberland, in 1987; Hampstead Heath, Middlesex (Milner 1992); near Duddingston, Midlothian; Angus and Shetland (Merrett 2000). The wide geographical spread of the known sites suggests that it may occur more widely. Elsewhere in Europe, it is known from Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Finland and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species has been found among grass roots on chalk and limestone grassland and, in Northumberland, in grass on boulder clay. During pitfall-trapping at Butler's Hangings, the females of this species built their webs between the plastic cup and the tin sleeve of the pitfall trap, and the main habitat is probably mouse tunnels and crevices created by soil creep (J. Hancock, unpublished). Both sexes are found in September, April and May, and males also in March. The peak of activity is possibly in April.

Threats

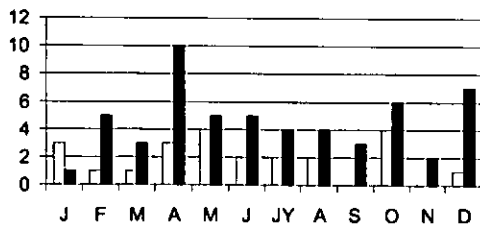
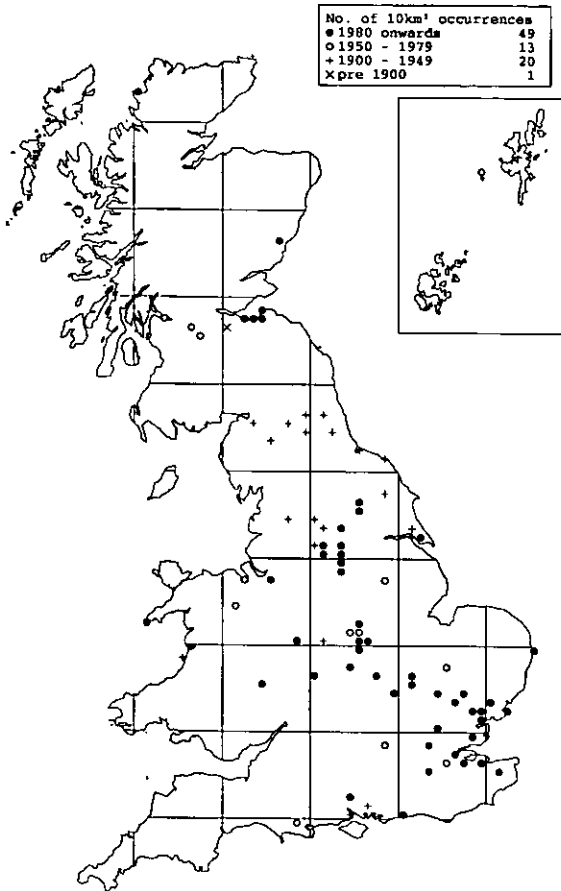
Conversion of calcareous grassland to arable agriculture or the scrubbing-over of sites if grazing lapses.

Management

Grazing to produce a diversity of sward heights is likely to maintain the soil and vegetation structure required by this spider.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[1570] Linyphiidae: *Microctenonyx subitaneus*



Status

Although numerous in some habitats in southern England, the species is generally infrequent. British records prior to 1985 were under the name *Aulacocyba subitanea* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875).

Distribution

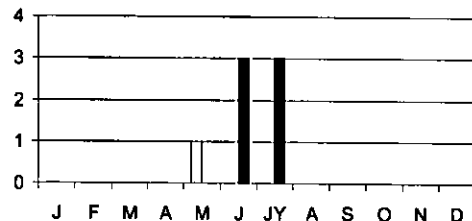
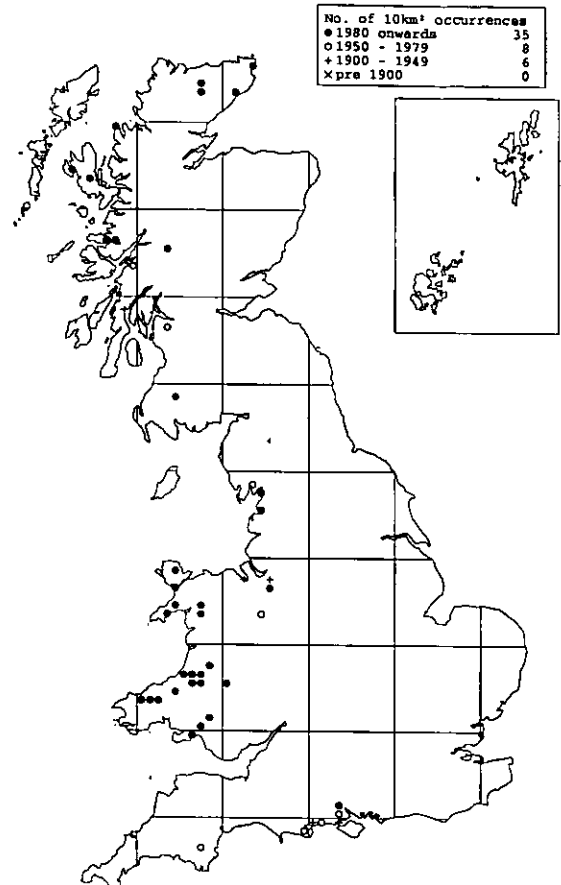
The species is widespread in parts of northern, central and eastern England, but apparently absent from the south-west and with few records from Wales and Scotland. It has a Holarctic distribution, and is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland. The species has also been reported from New Zealand and South America, probably the result of importation.

Habitat and ecology

M. subitaneus is strongly associated with straw and is found in ricks, straw-rich detritus, amongst hay and straw in out-houses and manure heaps, etc. It may also be a frequent spider in gardens and allotments, and in Leicestershire it is a frequent spider in the slightly rougher less managed areas of gardens, and in rough grass and lawns, especially close to hedges (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults are found throughout the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[1580] Linyphiidae: *Satilatlas britteni*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is abundant at some sites, but extremely local, and in spite of its apparent wide tolerance of both *Sphagnum* and saltmarsh, it is absent from many areas which might appear suitable. The species may perhaps sometimes be overlooked because of its early maturity period.

Distribution

The species is widespread but except in Wales records are very scattered and concentrated on the western side of the country up to the north of Scotland. It is widespread but uncommon in north-western and central Europe.

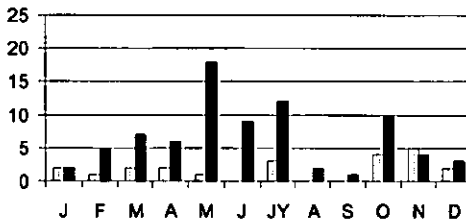
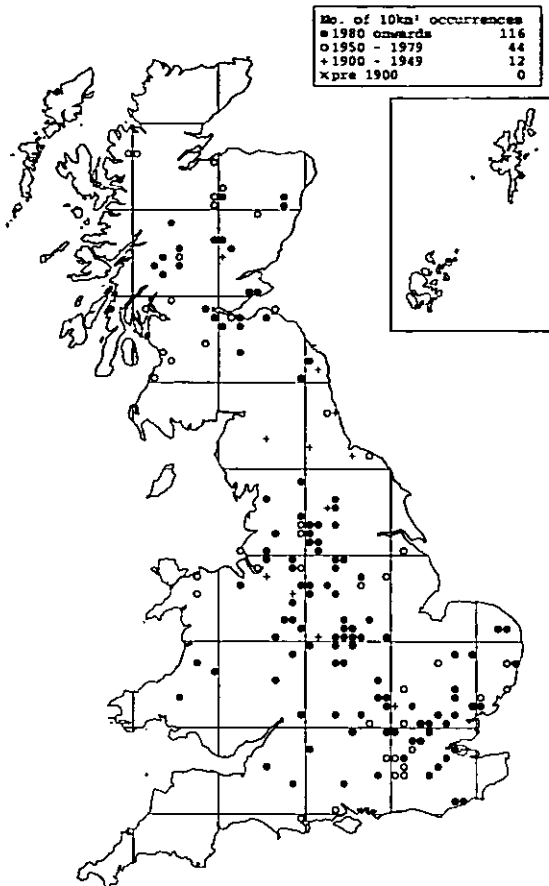
Habitat and ecology

S. britteni occurs in wet places, mainly in sphagnum bogs and saltmarshes. Adults are found from March to July.

Threats

Some of its bog sites could be threatened by drainage for adjacent forestry.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Local but infrequent, and perhaps under-recorded because of its specialised habitat

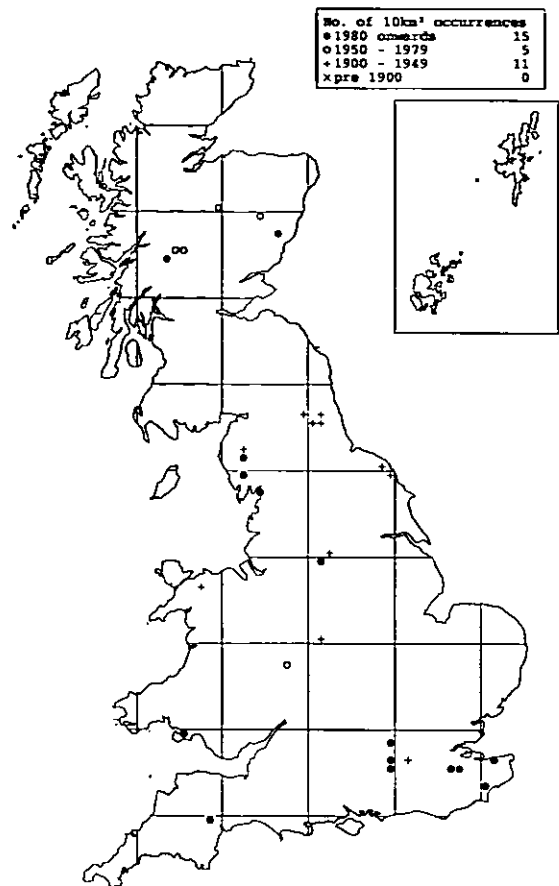
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England and central Scotland, but very scattered elsewhere and apparently absent from the south-west and other parts of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

T. parasiticus is found in damp, dark habitats of two main types: underground sites such as mines, caves, cellars, and disused sewers; and in woodland sites inside hollow trees, in dead and rotting timber, under bark, in birds' nests and in the dense dry twiggy material lodged in epicormic growths. It also occurs on derelict sites, under stones in rubbish dumps. Adults have been found throughout the year.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton



Status

Local. Donisthorpe (1927) states "I have personally found both sexes of *T. biovatus* in every [*Formica*] *rufa* nest I have examined, from the Highlands to the South Coast of England, and in every month of the year." Wood-ants have declined appreciably over this century, and there are relatively few recent records of the spider. The species is no doubt under-recorded because of its specialised habitat.

Distribution

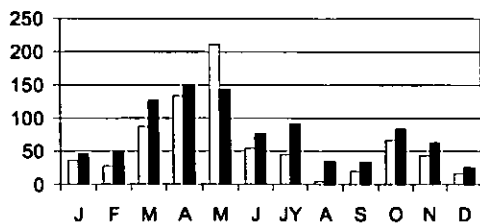
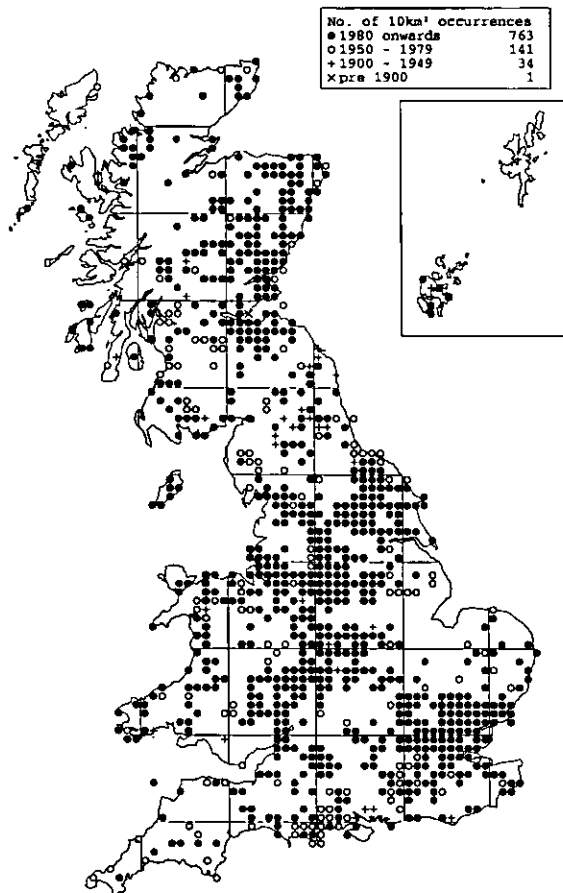
Records indicate a patchy and very scattered distribution as far north as the highlands of Scotland with the spider not recorded in some areas from which the ants *Formica rufa* and *F. lugubris* are known (see maps in Barrett (1979) and Edwards (1997)). *T. biovatus* is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

Most records are from wood-ant nests where the spider appears to be untouched by the ants, and probably lives on small flies and other small insects in the nests. Egg-sacs are laid in gaps in wood inside the nests. Both male and female spiders may be seen on the surface of the nests in autumn, and in material taken from the nests at other times of the year. It certainly occurs in both *F. rufa* and *F. lugubris* nests (Robinson 1998 and pers. comm.), and Donisthorpe reports it from a nest of *F. fusca* at Aviemore. It has occasionally been recorded away from ant nests (Roberts 1987).

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[16002] Linyphiidae: *Monocephalus fuscipes*



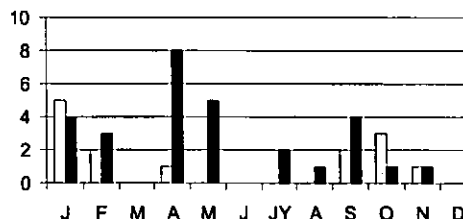
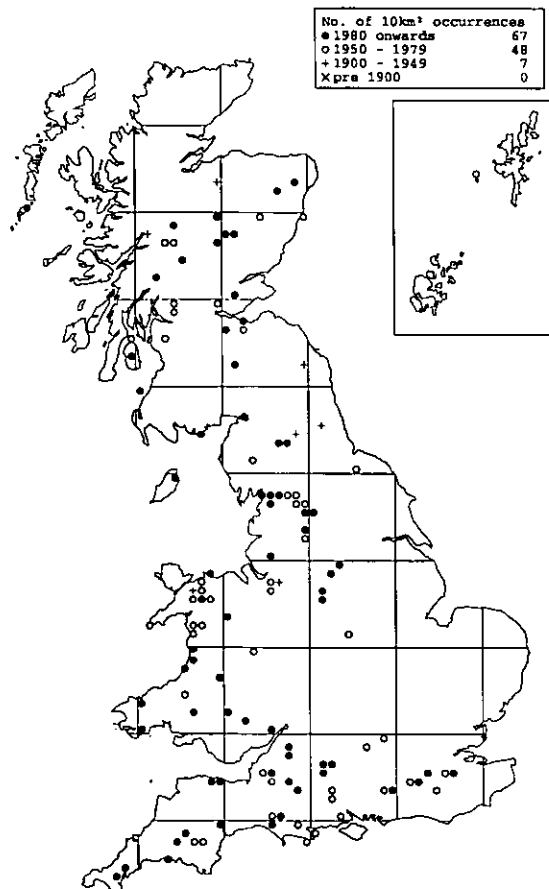
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western Europe, but has not been recorded from Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology
M. fuscipes is often abundant in litter in its preferred habitat of broad-leaved and coniferous woodland, but it has also been recorded in other habitats including alder carr, rocky heathland, grassland and disused quarries. It has been found at up to 2000' (610 m) on mountains in Wales (Goodier 1970a 1970b) and up to 1500' (457 m) in Scotland (Merrett 1971). Adults are found throughout the year, with peaks in the spring and early summer, and in the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16001] Linyphiidae: *Monocephalus castaneipes*

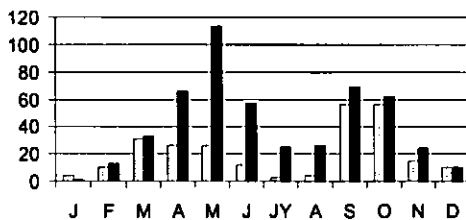
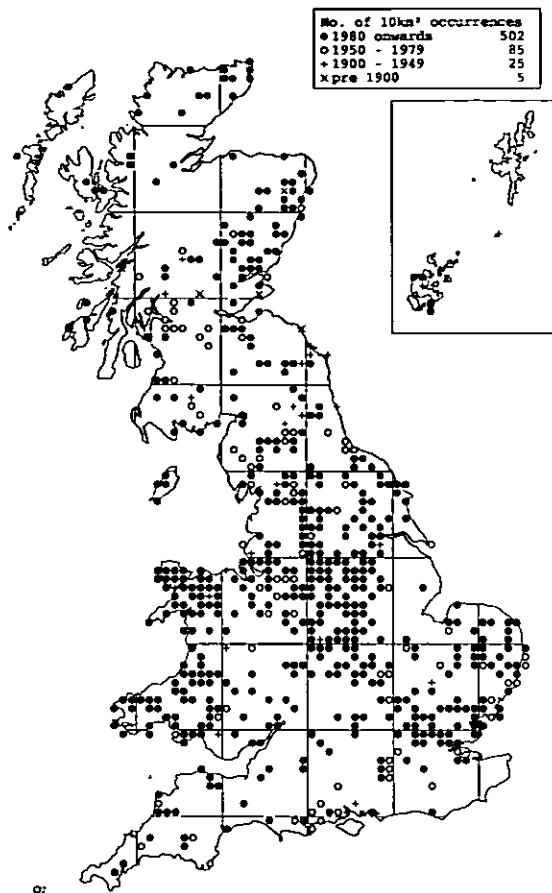


Status
Local.

Distribution
The species is widespread but scattered throughout most of western and northern Britain as well as England south of the Thames. It seems to be absent from northern Scotland, the Midlands and eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent including some well worked areas. This spider is restricted to northern Europe (Platnick 1998).

Habitat and ecology
M. castaneipes inhabits two different habitats in Britain. In the south it is often abundant amongst moss growing on the trunks and lower branches of standing trees (Merrett 1979). In the north in addition to moss on tree trunks and rocks, it associates with open uplands and mountains, where it lives beneath rocks. Adult females have been recorded in most months of the year. Adult males have been found in the autumn and again peaking from January and February until April.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

Local but often frequent in wetland habitats.

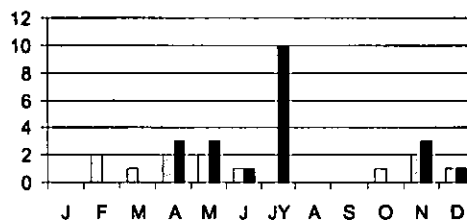
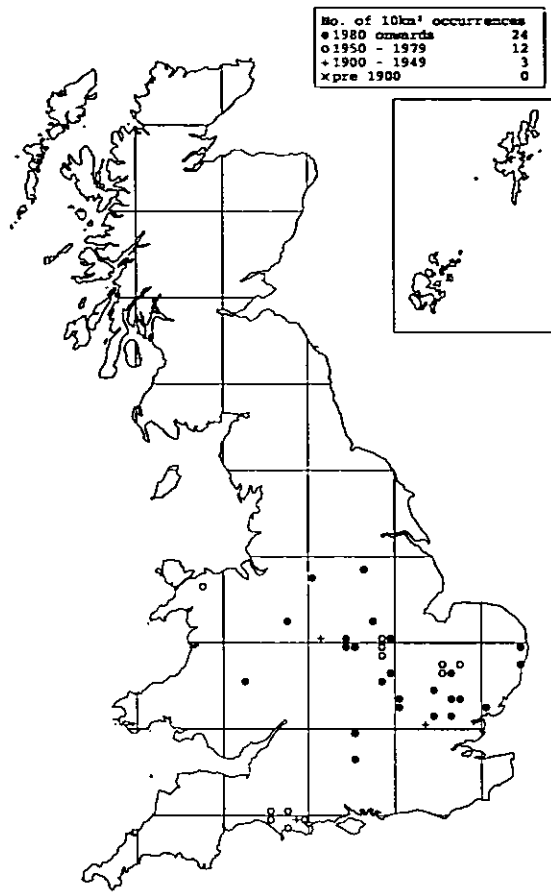
Distribution

The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. This is a northern Palaearctic species (Platnick 1998), widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. punctatum is found amongst litter and low vegetation in a wide variety of wetland habitats, from brackish *Phragmites communis* beds at the coast, to upland blanket bogs. It has also been recorded from alder carr woodland (Crocker & Daws 1996). Mature specimens of both sexes are present throughout the year with peaks in spring and early summer, and in the autumn.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is abundant at some sites. It is probably under-recorded because of its minute size and rather unusual habitat of wet litter, but definitely local.

Distribution

S. diceros is fairly widespread in a band from Wales across central England and East Anglia, mainly towards the eastern side of the country, but with a cluster of records in Dorset. It is probably fairly widespread in the southern half of England. The species is uncommon in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

S. diceros occurs among moss and litter in damp broad-leaved woodland, including carr in fens, often in wet hollows. Adults of both sexes are found from October to June, females also in July.

Threats

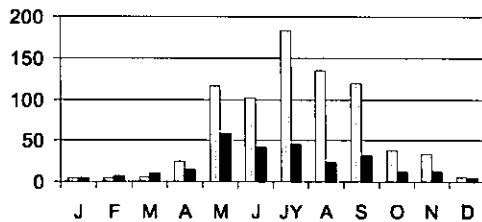
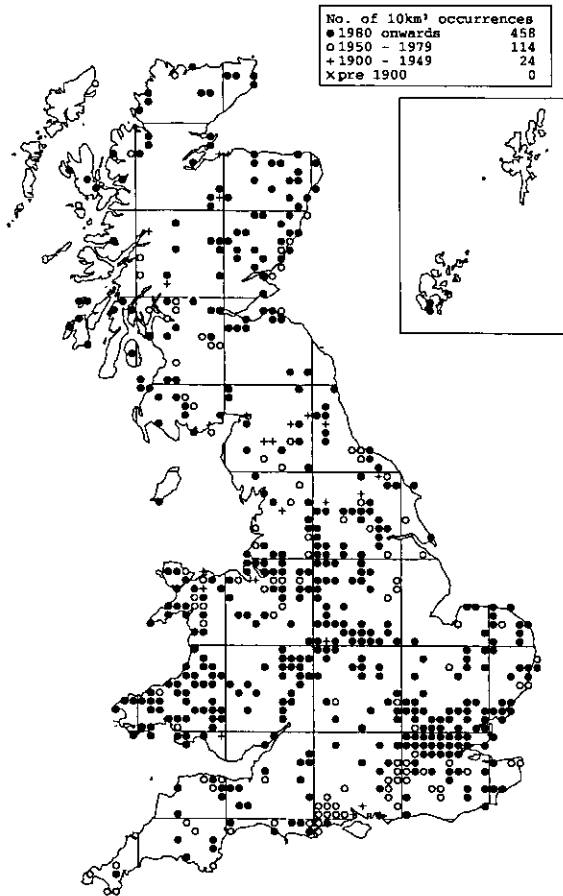
The loss of damp broad-leaved woodland to intensive forestry, and perhaps drainage at some sites.

Management

Maintain damp woodland. The growth of carr in fens is beneficial to this species.

Author of profile: P. Merrett (1990)

[16303] Linyphiidae: *Gongyliellum vivum*



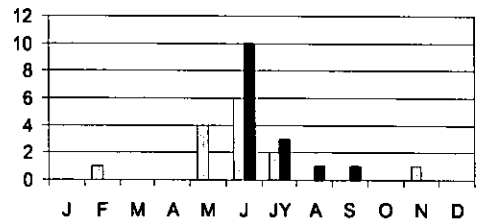
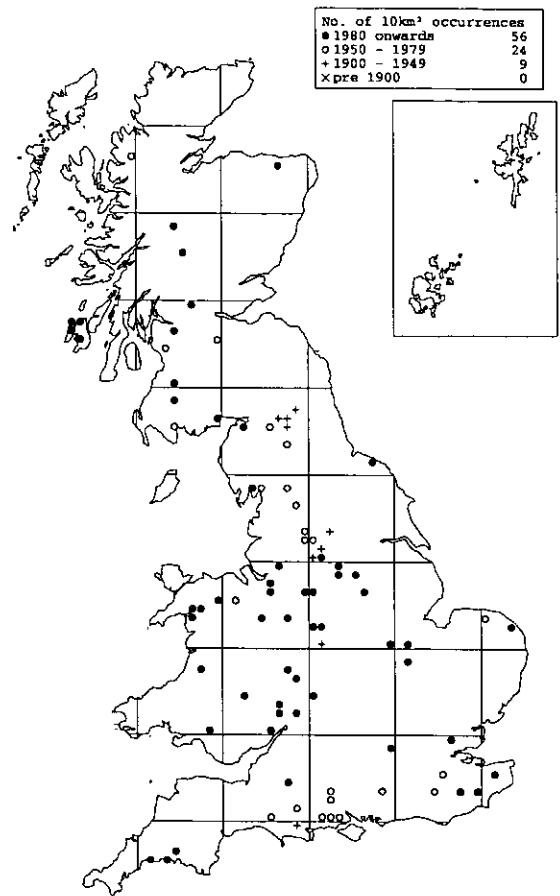
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It has a Palearctic distribution and is widespread in most of northern Europe.

Habitat and ecology
G. vivum is found in moss, grass and leaf litter, often in damp situations. Rushton et al. (1987) showed that it has a preference for undisturbed, well-vegetated grassland sites. It is a frequent aeronaut. Merrett (1969) found that on heathland in Dorset, males were active from March to July and again from October to late December or early January. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, with a peak in summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16301] Linyphiidae: *Gongyliellum latebricola*



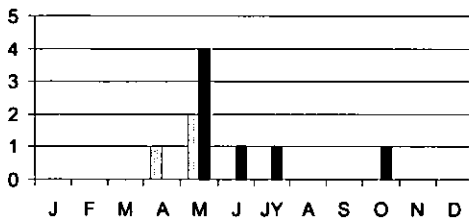
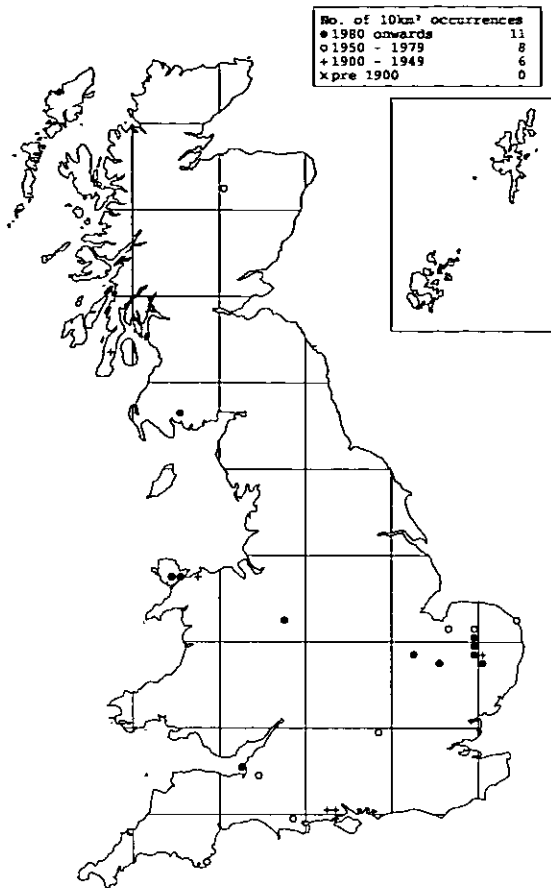
Status
Generally uncommon.

Distribution
The species is widespread in parts of Britain, but absent from many areas. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
G. latebricola is found in moss, grass and leaf litter, generally in damp situations in woodland, grasslands, raised bog and lowland sphagnum bog. Adults have been recorded between February and November, with a peak of both sexes from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16302] Linyphiidae: *Gongyliellum murcidum*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). *G. murcidum* is fairly numerous at some sites, but still very local.

Distribution

The species is widespread in East Anglia, but otherwise there are few very widely scattered records. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, with records from France and Switzerland to Hungary.

Habitat and ecology

This species is usually found among wet moss and litter in fens, sometimes in fen carr or in other wet broad-leaved woodland. In Staffordshire, it has been taken in reed-beds and a floating bog (C. Slawson, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes occur from October to July. Our very limited phenology data indicate a possible peak in late spring/early summer.

Threats

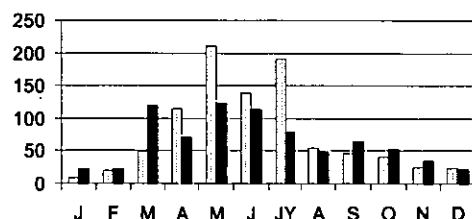
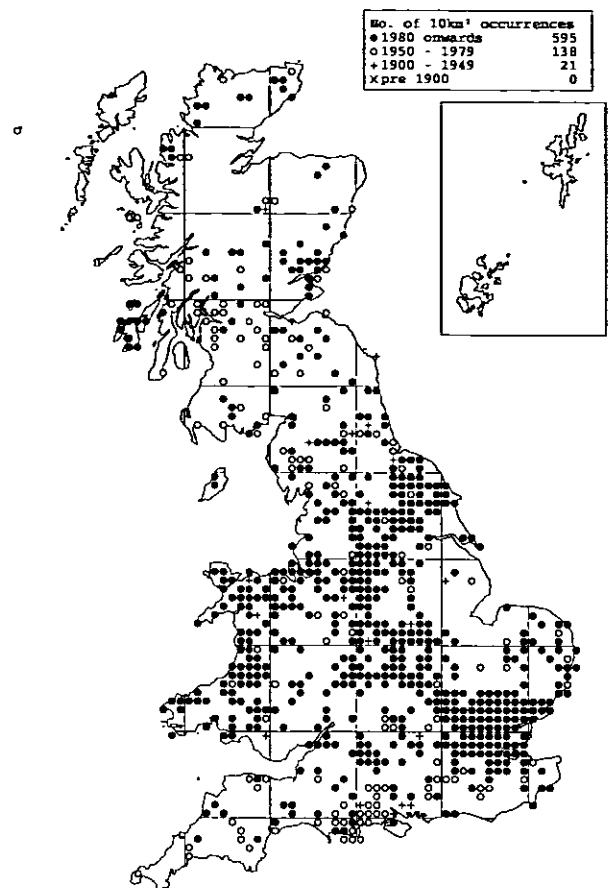
The most serious threat is from the drainage of fens and wet woodland.

Management

It is important to maintain the water table in fens and wet woodland. The growth of scrub in fens is probably not as detrimental to this species as to other fenland species.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[16402] Linyphiidae: *Micrargus herbigradus*



Status

Common.

Distribution

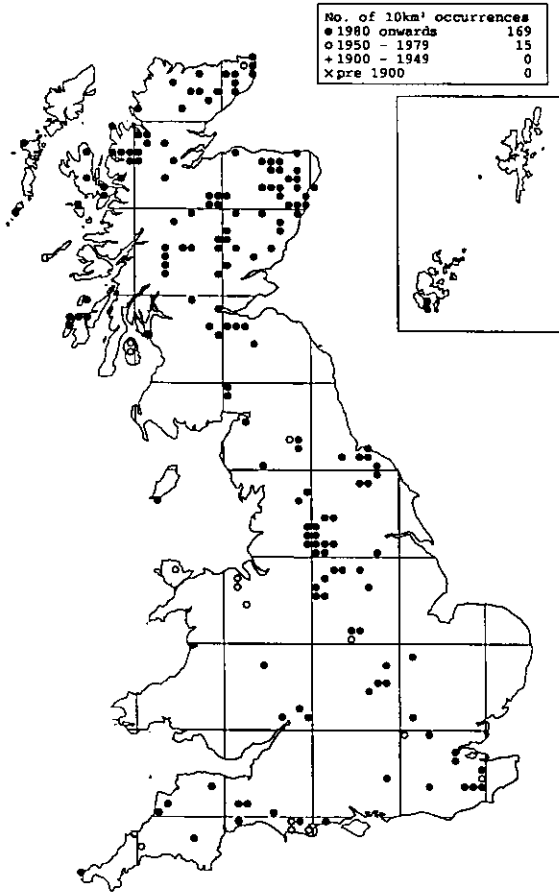
The species is widespread in most of Britain, but apparently very scattered or absent in some areas. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

M. herbigradus is usually found in moss, leaf litter and detritus in woods. In Leicestershire and Essex (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.) it has been recorded in other habitats such as grassland, heathland, marshes and bogs, and derelict industrial sites. It is adult at all seasons of the year with a peak from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16401] Linyphiidae: *Micrargus apertus*



Status

The species is apparently more local and scarce than *M. herbigradus* in the south, but commoner than that species in the north. *M. apertus* was reinstated as a species separate from *M. herbigradus* by Millidge (1975). In both sexes, careful consideration of the genitalia is necessary to distinguish between these two species.

Distribution

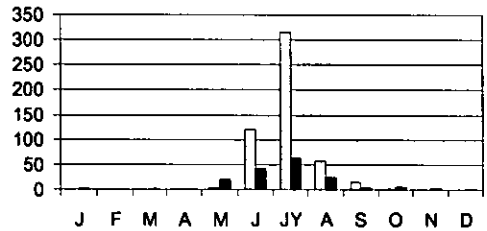
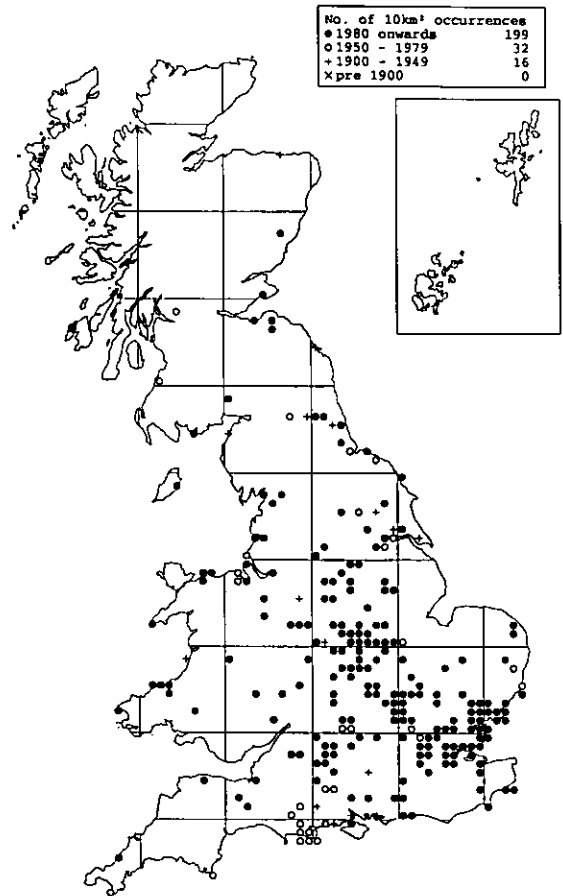
M. apertus is widespread in Scotland and parts of England, but very scattered or absent elsewhere. It is a Palearctic species recorded from Scandinavia, Belgium, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is usually found in moss, leaf litter and detritus in woods. Any differences in habitat requirements between *M. apertus* and *M. herbigradus* are not yet clear, but *M. herbigradus* seems to occur in more open habitats than *M. apertus* in the north (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded at all seasons of the year with a peak in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16404] Linyphiidae: *Micrargus subaequalis*



Status

Locally common.

Distribution

The species is widespread in most of England, but more scattered in the west and north as far as central Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Usually found in the ground zone and field layer in a variety of grasslands, whether managed or not, particularly chalk downland. Also found in gardens amongst grass and on low plants as well as in damp places such as marshland grass, woodland leaf litter and detritus. There is a peak of adults in mid-summer.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is fairly widespread on southern heathland, but possibly commoner in the New Forest and in West Sussex and Surrey than in Dorset and further west. It is also widespread on coastal cliff top grassland. In both habitats, it is rather local and never particularly numerous.

Distribution

Most records are from south coastal counties, with a scatter of records north to Caernarvonshire (Gallon 1998; 2001a). In Europe it is reported for France, Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary and possibly Romania.

Habitat and ecology

M. laudatus occurs mainly on dry heathland, mostly in fairly sparsely vegetated areas, but also sometimes on short, stony calcareous grassland, especially near the coast. It is possibly an ant-mimic. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year, with the main activity period in late June and July.

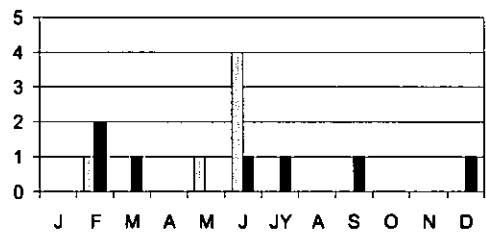
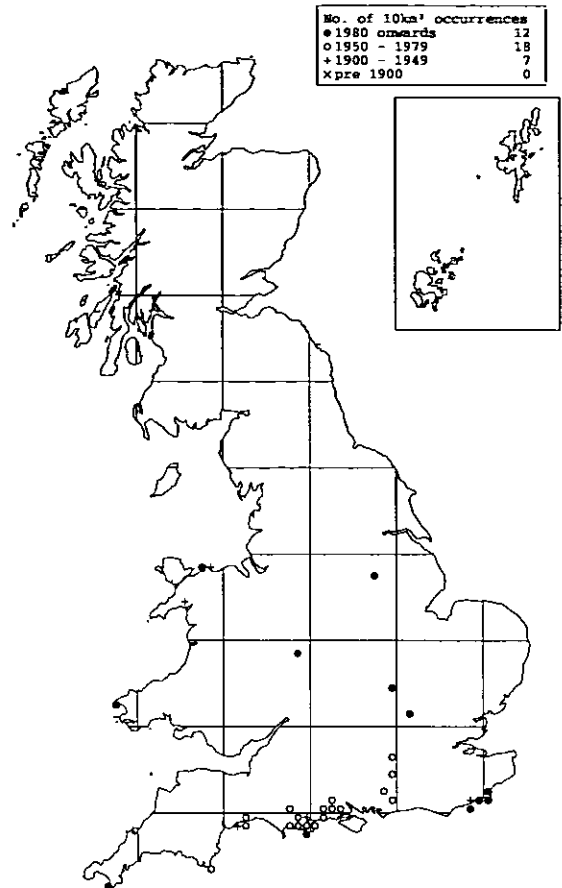
Threats

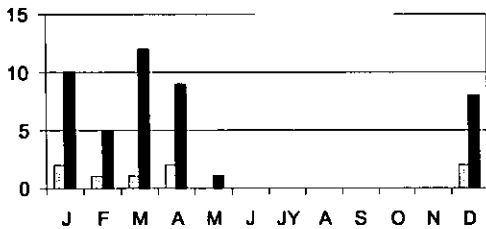
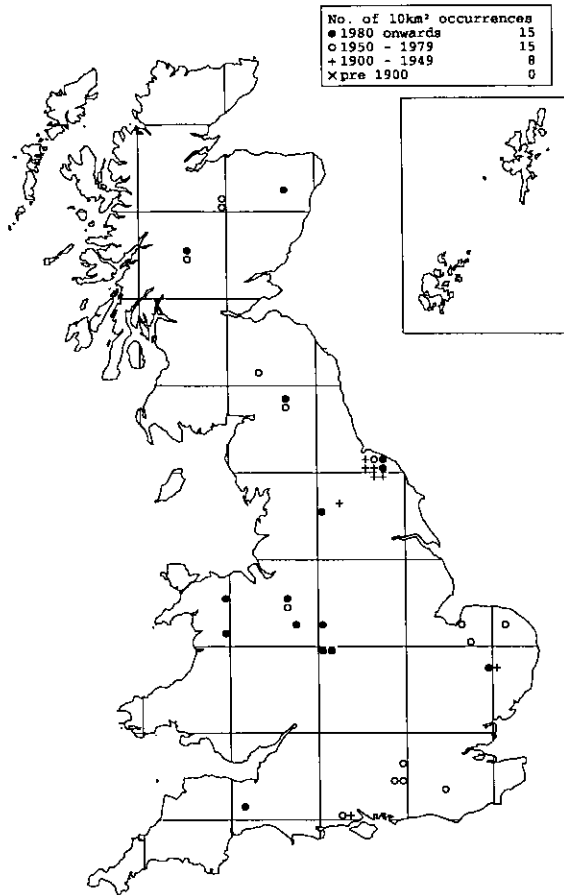
The loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry or development. Most of its coastal grassland sites are probably too stony or inaccessible to be threatened.

Management

On heathland it may occur mostly in areas that are sparsely vegetated because of lack of soil rather than as a result of burning. On burnt sites it shows no clear trends of changes in numbers, though young heather should be more suitable than mature heather.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common at some sites, but apparently absent from parts of the country which would appear to contain suitable habitat. It is fairly common in wet wooded areas on heathland in Surrey and the New Forest, but has never been recorded from the many similar areas in Dorset. It has also been recorded from Redgrave and Lopham Fens, but not from the better-known Wicken or Woodwalton Fens.

Distribution

The species is very scattered and patchy in England, Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

N. sarcinatus occurs among wet, usually tall, moss (*Sphagnum*, *Polytrichum*, etc.), often under pine or other trees in swampy places, often in heathland areas, or sometimes in fens. Both sexes are adult in autumn, winter and spring.

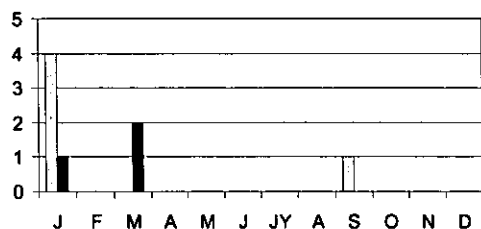
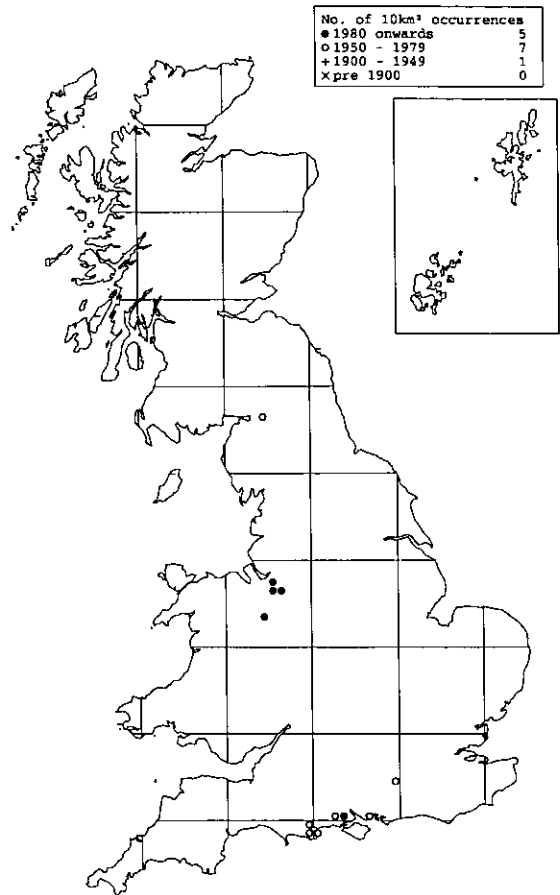
Threats

The loss or drainage of heathland for agriculture, forestry or development. Although it is often found in wooded areas, it is less likely to be able to survive in the generally drier and more disturbed conditions under forestry plantations.

Management

Maintain swampy areas with trees on heathland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is abundant in some sphagnum bogs in heathland areas in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey, but has only been recorded a few times elsewhere.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey, Cheshire, Shropshire and Cumberland. In north-western and central Europe it has been recorded from Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Germany and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

The species is found in lowland sphagnum bogs, usually in areas where there is a sturdy growth of *Sphagnum* above the water level. Adults of both sexes are found between September and May, but are usually most numerous between October and February.

Threats

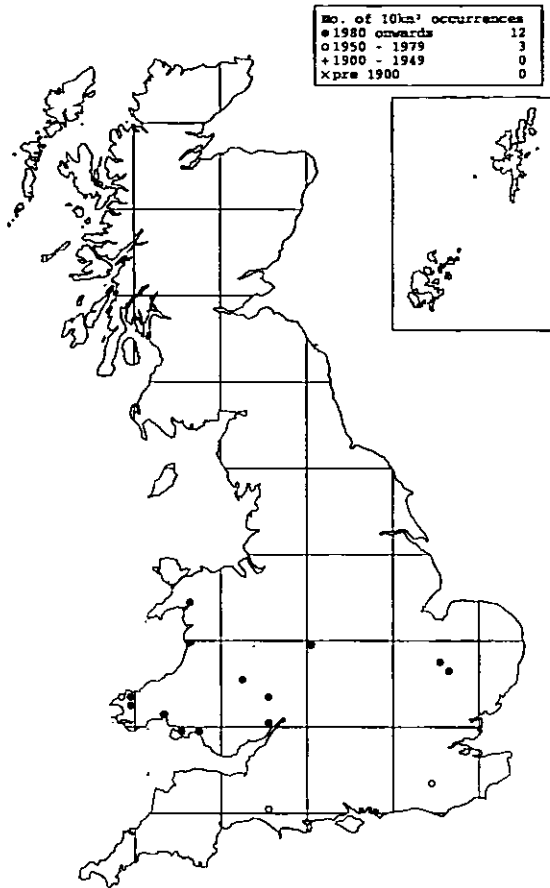
In common with other heathland and bog species, *G. cottonae* is threatened by the loss of heathland, and drainage of associated bog systems by agriculture, afforestation and development.

Management

It will be important to maintain the water table in bogs.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[16602] Linyphiidae: *Glyphesis servulus*



Status

This species was regarded as being very rare with records from only three sites in England. It was thus given Red Data Book status (RDBK; Insufficiently Known). However, subsequent work by the Welsh Peatland Invertebrate Survey recorded the spider in a further seven sites in five vice-counties in Wales so that it is now considered to be under-recorded and the RDB status has been withdrawn (Merrett in Bratton (1991)). This leaves it without any official status although it should clearly be considered Nationally Scarce.

Distribution

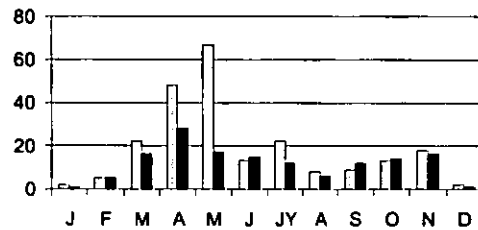
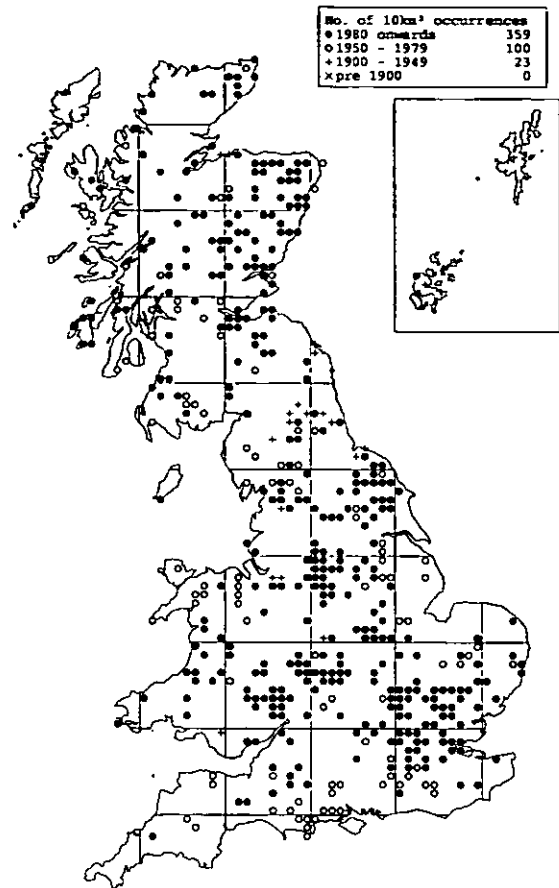
The species has very scattered records in southern England, but is more widespread in Wales. A European species with records from France, Belgium, the Netherlands and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

G. servulus has been recorded from wet sedge litter in fens, in grass litter on damp ungrazed pasture and in bogs. It is probably adult at all seasons of the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16701] Linyphiidae: *Erigonella hiemalis*



Status

Common.

Distribution

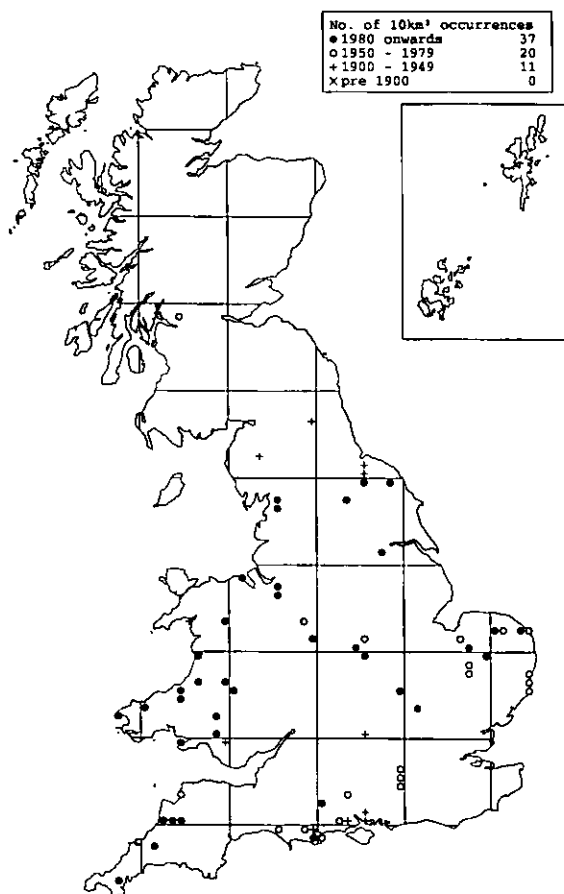
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. A Palearctic species, widespread in most of north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

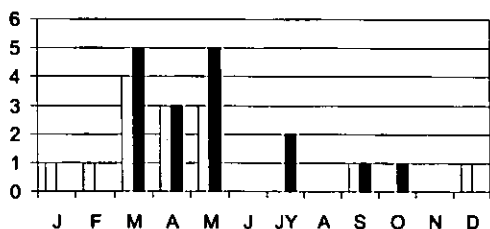
E. hiemalis has been recorded in a variety of habitats, including damp marshy areas, grass and leaf litter, and by sweeping the field layer in woodland. Adults have been recorded throughout the year with a main peak in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16702] Linyphiidae: *Erigonella ignobilis*



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	37
○ 1950 - 1979	20
+ 1900 - 1949	11
× pre 1900	0



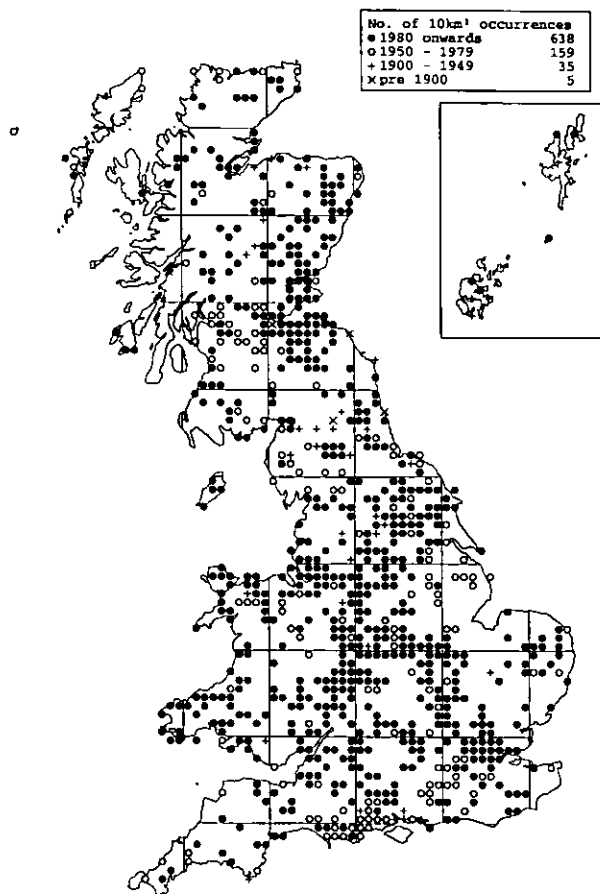
Status
Very local.

Distribution
E. ignobilis is widespread but very scattered in England and Wales, with a single record from Scotland. It appears to be absent from much of England including the south-east. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

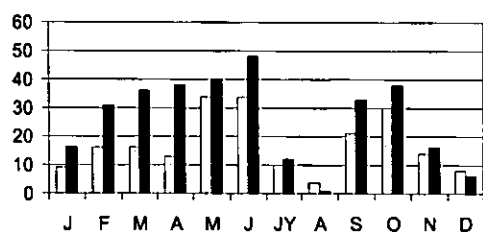
Habitat and ecology
E. ignobilis usually occurs in damp, marshy areas, damp litter and low vegetation at the edge of open water. It is probably adult at all seasons, possibly with a peak in spring.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[16801] Linyphiidae: *Savignia frontata*



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	618
○ 1950 - 1979	159
+ 1900 - 1949	35
× pre 1900	5



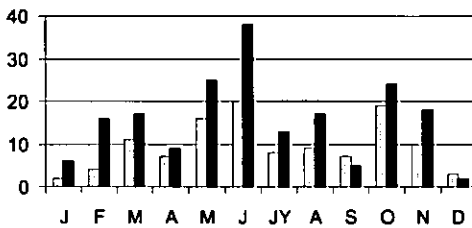
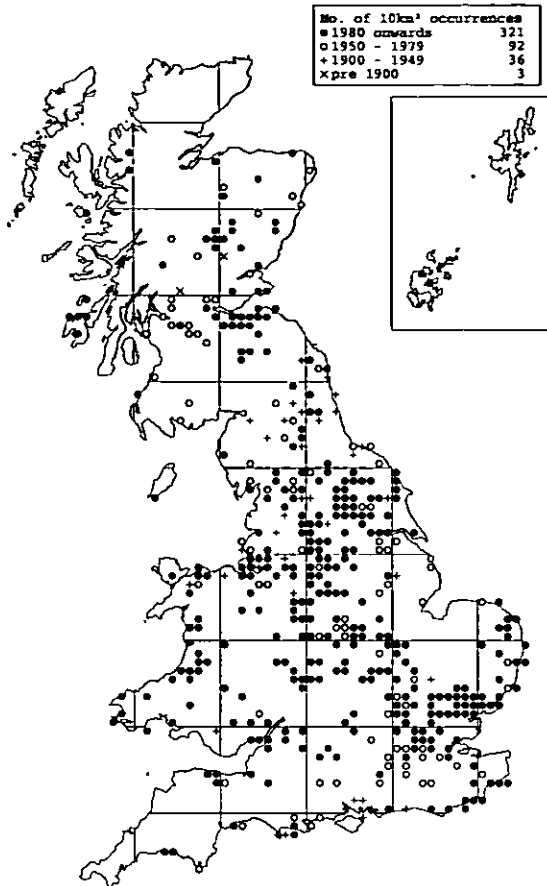
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout Britain. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology
S. frontata is found in a variety of situations and habitats such as grassland, leaf litter, moss, bushes and on low vegetation and bushes. As a result of their work at a large number of sites in north-east England, Rushton et al. (1987) concluded that this species favoured more open, highly-managed ley sites. It is a frequent aeronaut which probably explains its capture above 2000' (600 m) on British mountains noted by Bristowe (1939) and Merrett (1971). Adults may be found all year, but results from a number of studies indicate that the main periods of activity are January to March and September to November (Merrett 1969). Our data show peaks in recorded adults of both sexes in spring and early summer, and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe

[16902] Linyphiidae: *Diplocephalus cristatus*



Status

Common.

Distribution

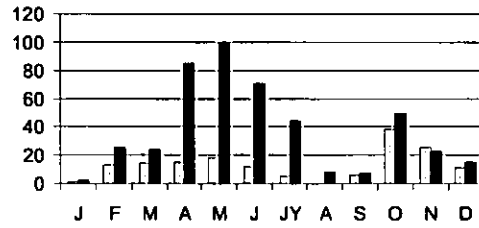
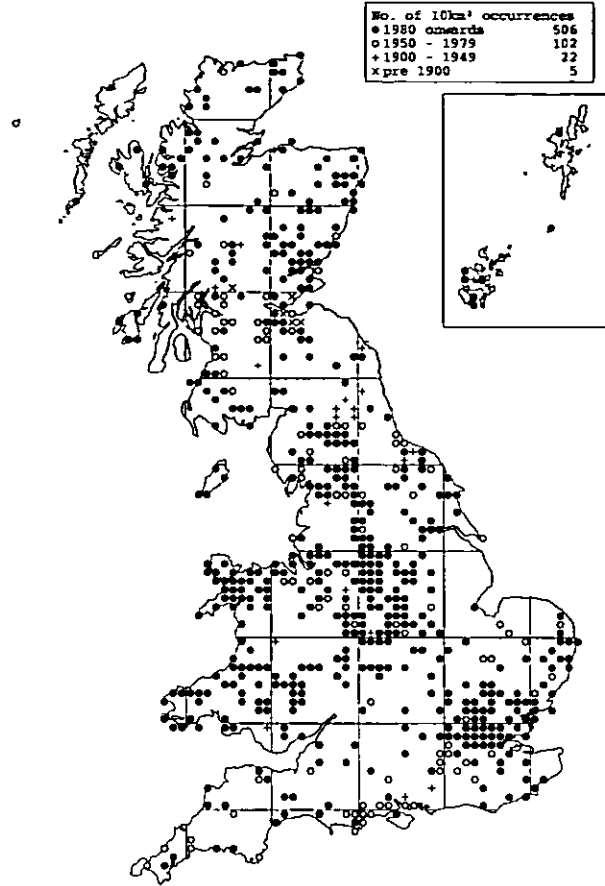
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A sheet-web spinner, characteristic of calcareous grassland habitats but also occurring in other habitat types. Adults have been recorded throughout the year with males particularly active in spring and early summer. Our data suggest peaks in recorded adults in spring, early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[16905] Linyphiidae: *Diplocephalus permixtus*



Status

Common and can often be found in high numbers in favoured habitats.

Distribution

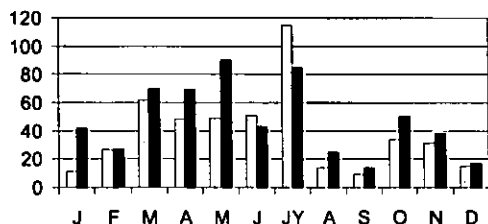
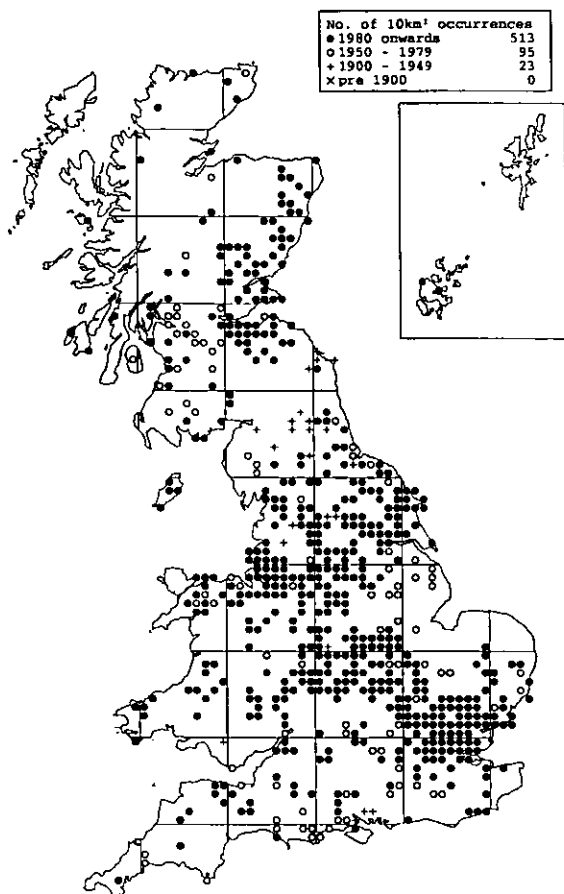
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is present throughout northern Europe and Russia (Platnick 1998) and has also been reported from Portugal.

Habitat and ecology

This wetland spider occurs beneath low vegetation in a variety of marshy habitats. These habitats include ditches, seeps, reed-beds, wet meadows, peat bogs and alder carr. Estuarine and other coastal, brackish wetlands are also inhabited by this linyphiid. Both sexes are mature throughout the year, mainly from spring to early summer and in the autumn.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[16904] Linyphiidae: *Diplocephalus latifrons*



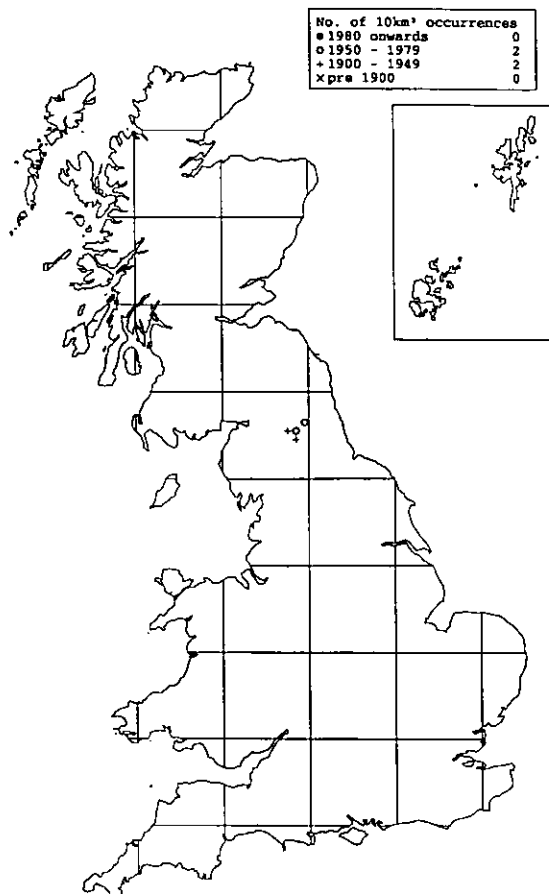
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain, but very scattered or absent in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The spider occurs in woodland, in almost any habitat in the ground zone, including bare ground, but especially in litter. It has been swept from field and shrub layers. Both sexes can be found at any time of year with peaks from spring to mid-summer and possibly also in the autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

[16901] Linyphiidae: *Diplocephalus connatus*



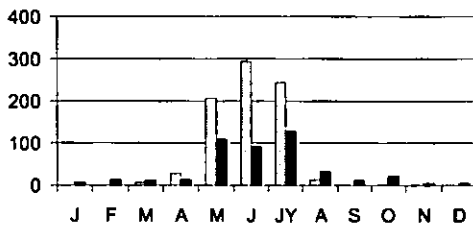
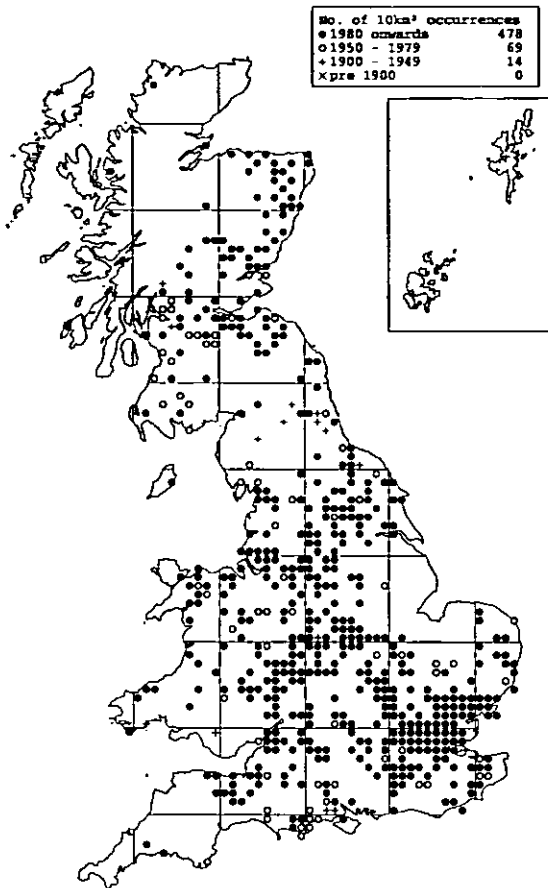
Status
Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider was numerous at both its British sites. *D. jacksoni* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1903 was recorded as a species new to science from the north bank of the River South Tyne near Hexham, South Northumberland, in 1902. It was found among *D. connatus* and it is now believed that males of *D. connatus* are dimorphic (Roberts 1987) and that *D. jacksoni* is a form of *D. connatus*.

Distribution
In Britain, the species has only been recorded in South Northumberland: from the north bank of the River South Tyne near Hexham (1902 and subsequently), and from the confluence of the Rivers West and East Allen (1965). Further survey work is needed to establish the limits of its range. It is also known from France, Germany, Switzerland, the Balkans and Poland.

Habitat and ecology
D. connatus was originally found among waterborne debris on the river bank, but all recent records have been from under stones and boulders on sandy shingle banks at the side of rivers. Adults of both sexes have been found in June, September and October.

Threats
No immediate threats are known, but the habitat would be vulnerable to river engineering work.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

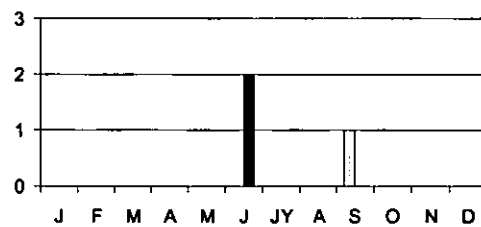
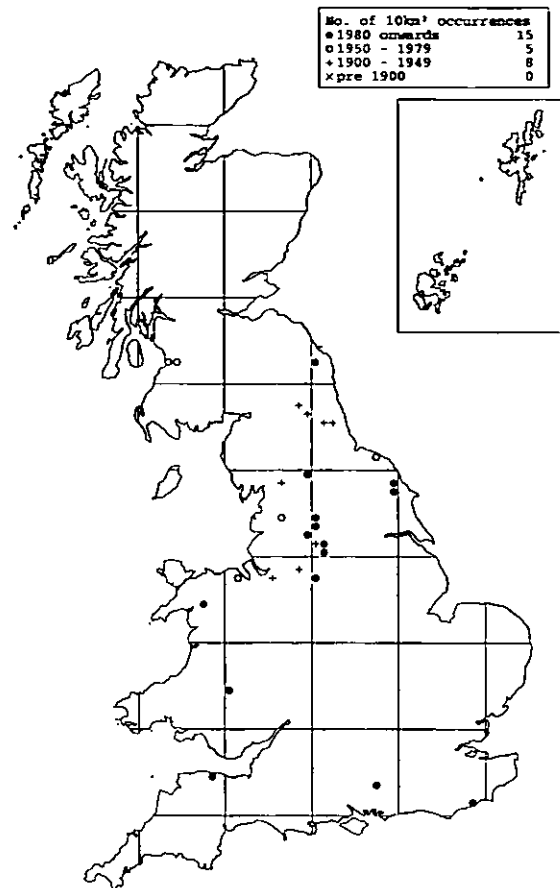


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but very scattered or absent from some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
A spider associated with woodlands and scrub. A characteristic woodland litter species, but recorded from some other habitats where it can be found close to the ground in a sheet-web. Adults have been recorded throughout the year with males active in May and June and females active during the main phase of egg-laying between June and August (Toft 1978). There is a peak in recorded adults of both sexes in May, June and July. Over-wintering is in the immature phase, and some may spend a second winter in this state (Toft 1978).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



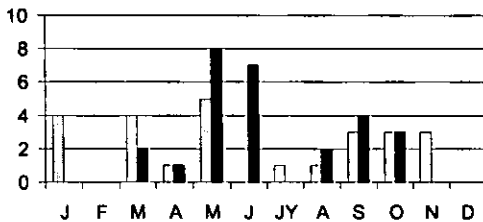
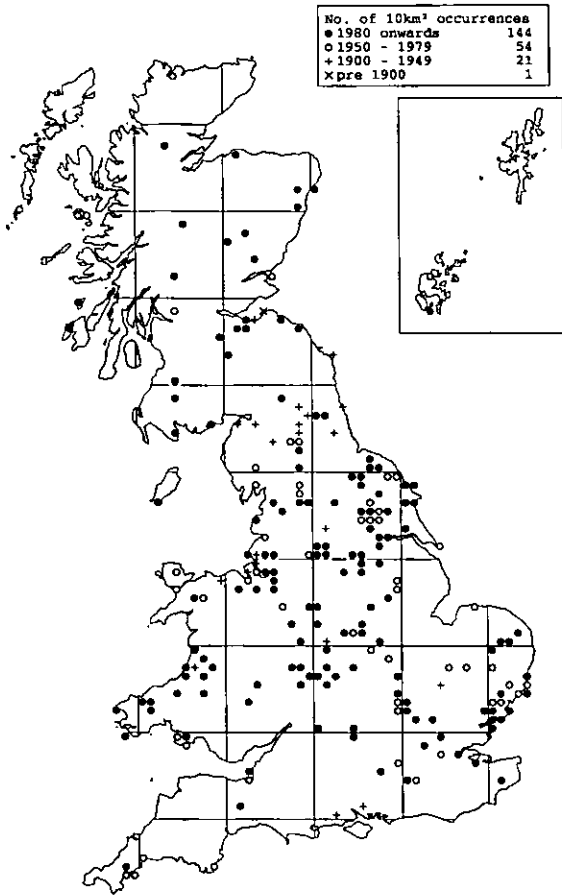
Status
Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Fairly widespread in the north of England, but local and never particularly numerous. Very rare in southern England with records of single specimens from stream-sides in East Sussex and North Hampshire.

Distribution
Mainly restricted to northern England with a few scattered records in Wales and southern Scotland, but recently discovered in East Sussex, North Hampshire and Somerset (Merrett 2000).

Habitat and ecology
The spider is found in wet places, among moss, grass or rushes, often near streams or on moorland. A single female was sieved from loose leaf litter in fairly deep shade on a gravel bed in the channel of the River Rother near Selborne (Denton 1999c) and a male was collected from leaf litter beside a wooded gill stream in Hastings Country Park (Phillips 1999). The streams in the Hanger woodlands of north-east Hampshire and the gill streams of Hastings and the Weald are known to have a number of other species more typical of the north and west of Britain. *D. protuberans* is possibly adult most of the year.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[17002] Linyphiidae: *Araeoncus humilis*



Status

Fairly common.

Distribution

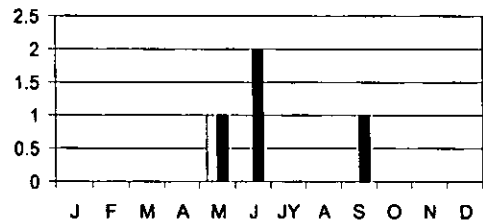
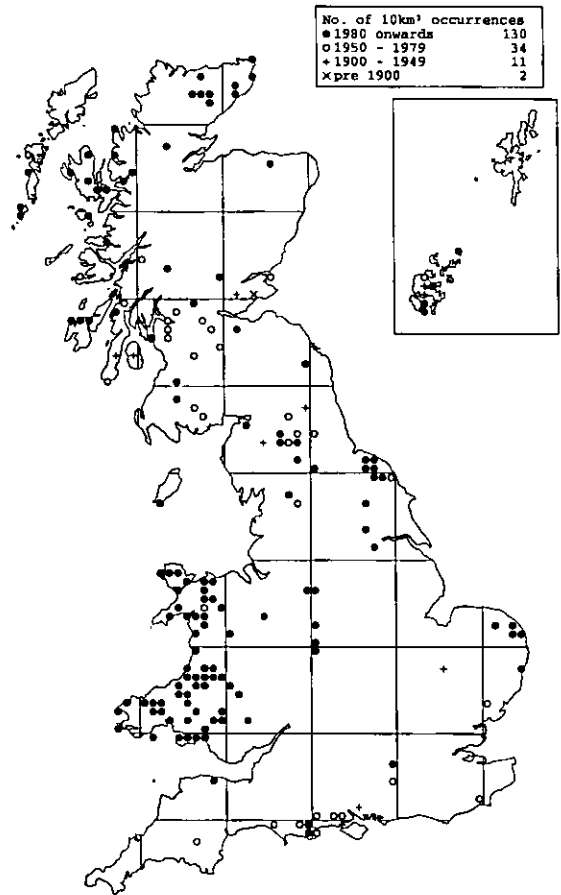
The species has a widespread but patchy distribution in much of England and Wales, and is scattered in Scotland. It is widespread in most of western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A. humilis is a frequent aeronaut found in a variety of habitats including moss, grass, straw and litter. It is sometimes found in coastal seaweed litter and in the filter beds of sewage works. Adults occur at all seasons.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe

[17001] Linyphiidae: *Araeoncus crassiceps*



Status

Local.

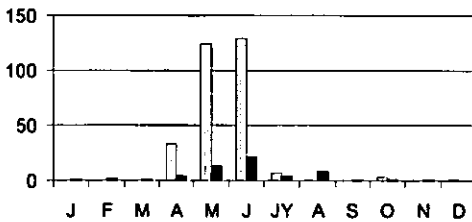
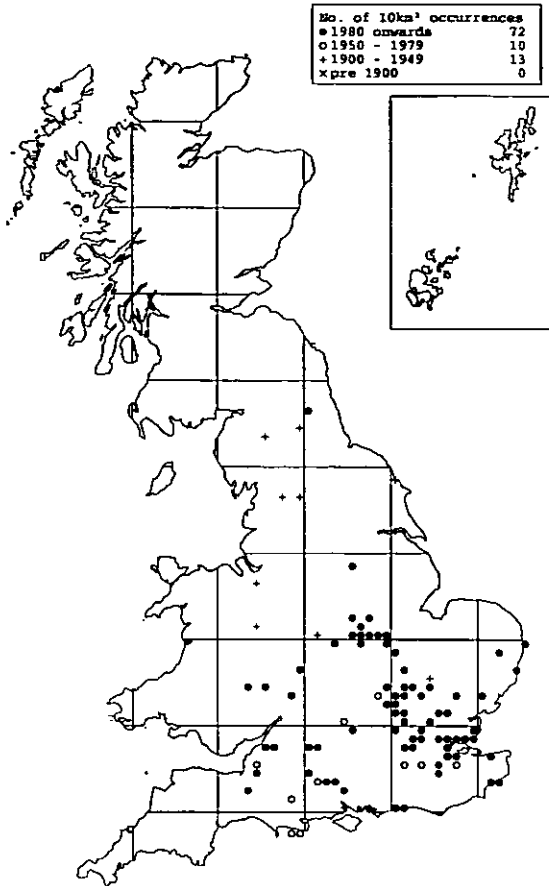
Distribution

The species is widespread only on southern heathlands and in Wales, northern England and north-western Scotland. Elsewhere it is absent or very scattered. It is a Palearctic species, widespread in most of north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A. crassiceps occurs in a variety of habitats including moss, grass, straw, litter, tideline debris and heathland, but in rather damper conditions than those favoured by *A. humilis*. On heathland in Dorset males were found to be active from May to July (Merrett 1969).

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Local and usually infrequent.

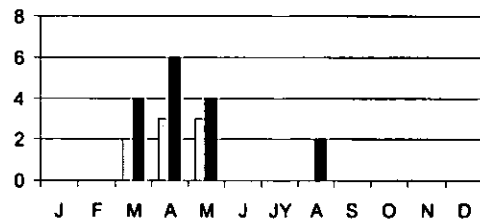
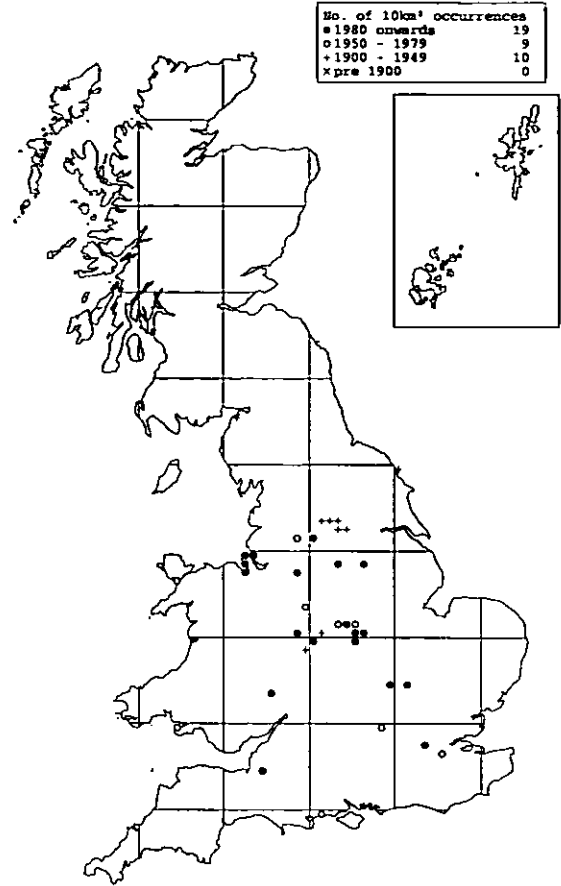
Distribution

Widespread in central and southern England but absent in the south-west and very scattered in the north and parts of the east and south. Absent from Ireland and Scandinavia, but otherwise widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Roberts (1985) suggests that *P. sulcifrons* has a preference for calcareous grassland, and Crocker & Daws (1996) add flood meadows, drier hay meadows and quarries. In Essex the species has been found in woodland edge habitat, unimproved meadows, Thames Terrace grasslands, grazing marsh grassland, landslip and tidal debris (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). It has also been found in calcareous arable land (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.) Adults may occasionally be found in any month of the year, but there is a large peak of records in late spring and early summer.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



Status

Local and uncommon.

Distribution

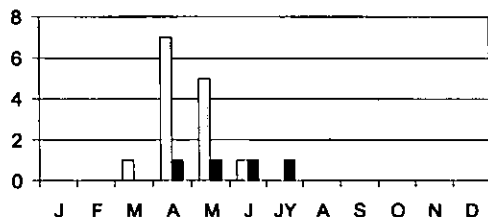
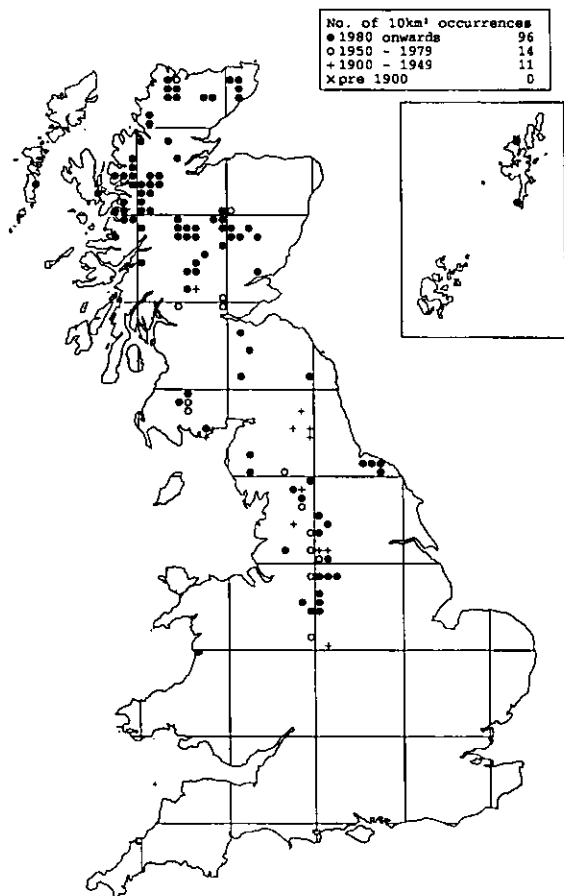
The spider has mainly been recorded in north-central England, with scattered records further south and in Wales. It is widespread in western Europe as far north as Sweden.

Habitat and ecology

L. dentichelis is generally found in damp and humid caves, mines and sewers and the filter beds of sewage works, but it has also been recorded amongst marram grass on sand-hills. The species has been studied by Bonnet (1932) who confirmed that humidity is the key factor in habitat selection. Females may be adult all year, males in the autumn, although our limited phenology data show adults of both sexes recorded in spring.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe

[17301] Linyphiidae: *Scotinotylus evansi*



Status

Local, but it may be common where it occurs. This small spider of inaccessible upland habitats is probably under-recorded.

Distribution

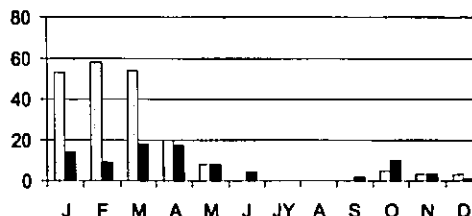
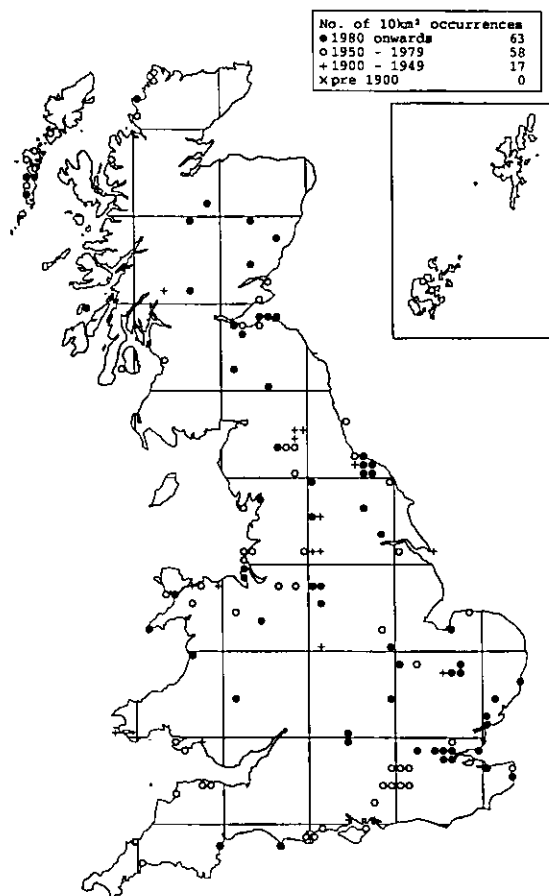
S. evansi is widespread in the hillier districts of northern England and Scotland. The species is found from Greenland to the former USSR (Platnick 1998), and in north-western and central Europe has been recorded from Scandinavia, Switzerland and Austria.

Habitat and ecology

The spider may be locally plentiful under stones at the summits of hills, and also amongst grass and heather (Locket & Millidge 1953). It ascends to at least 600 m in the Lake District where a male was found on snow in March (S. Hewitt, pers. comm.). Adult males have been recorded between March and June with a peak in April and May, adult females between April and July.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[17401] Linyphiidae: *Typhochrestus digitatus*



Status

Local.

Distribution

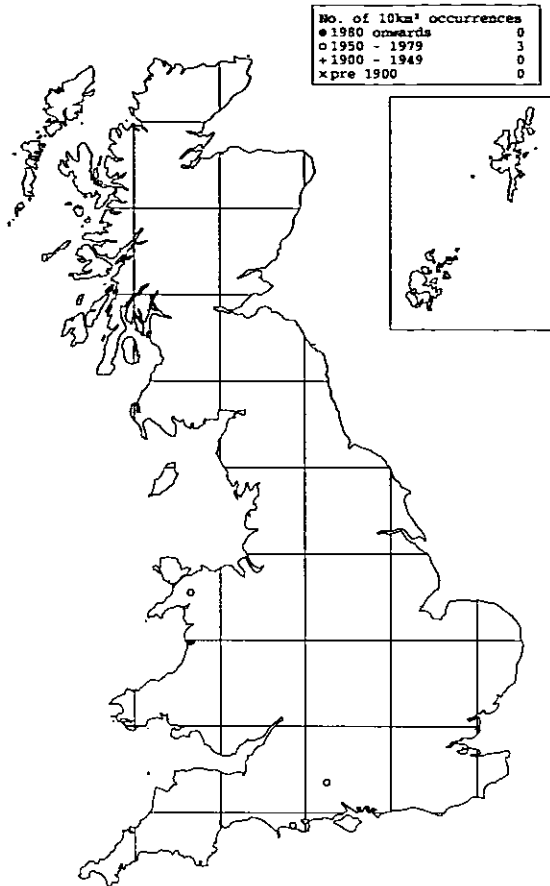
The species has a widespread but patchy and very scattered distribution in Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

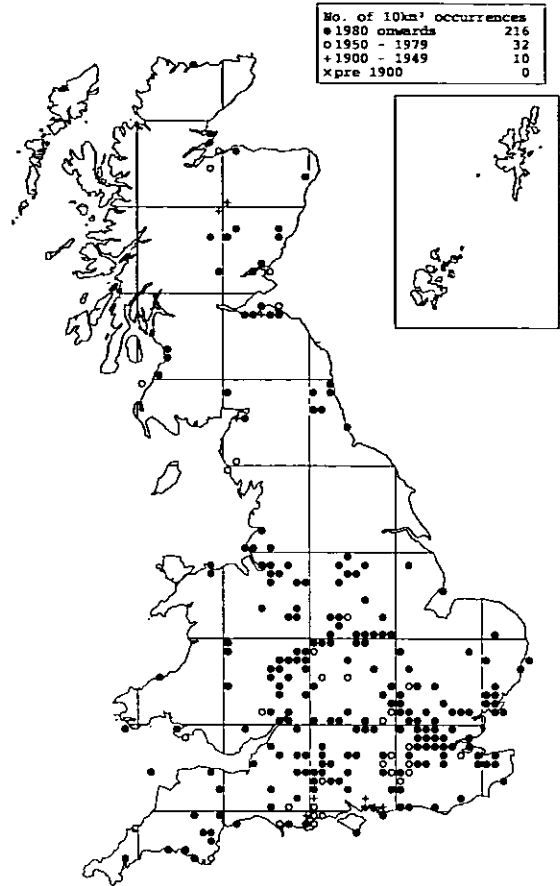
Principally a winter-active species associated with bare or sparsely vegetated calcareous grasslands, heathlands and sandy grasslands. In central Europe by contrast, *T. digitatus* seems to show a distinct preference for coastal grasslands (Hänggi et al. 1995). *T. digitatus* builds a small horizontal sheet-web over depressions in the soil or against stones. Adult males have been recorded from October to May, becoming active between the months of January to March (Crocker & Daws 1996), in agreement with our data which show most records of males in those months. Females have been found to persist until July (Bell 1999).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[17402] Linyphiidae: *Typhochrestus simoni*



[17501] Linyphiidae: *Milleriana inerrans*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider was numerous in one area of Porton Down. It is rare in Europe.

Distribution

The species has been recorded in Britain only from the south slope of Y Lliwedd, Snowdonia, Caernarvonshire; Porton Down, South Wiltshire; and the south slope of Bindon Hill, Lulworth, Dorset, all since 1966. It is also known from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

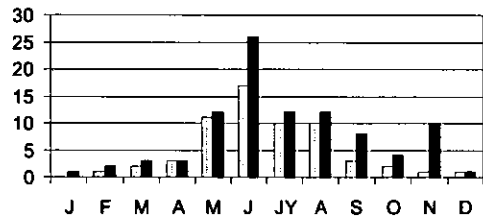
Habitat and ecology

The Welsh site is montane *Festuca-Nardus* grassland at 450 - 600 m. The other sites are at low altitudes on short rabbit-grazed or lichen-rich chalk grassland. The main period of activity is probably in March and April, but both sexes have also been found in January and February and a male in November. Most continental records have suggested *T. simoni* to be a montane species, but the records from Lulworth and Porton Down indicate that it also occurs at low altitudes on dry exposed downland.

Threats

Its chalk grassland habitat is the more severely threatened, by conversion to arable agriculture on shallow slopes and by scrub encroachment where grazing ceases on steeper slopes.

Author of profile: P. Merrett in Bratton (1991)



Status

Locally frequent, although perhaps generally rather uncommon.

Distribution

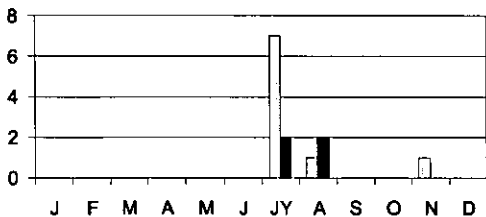
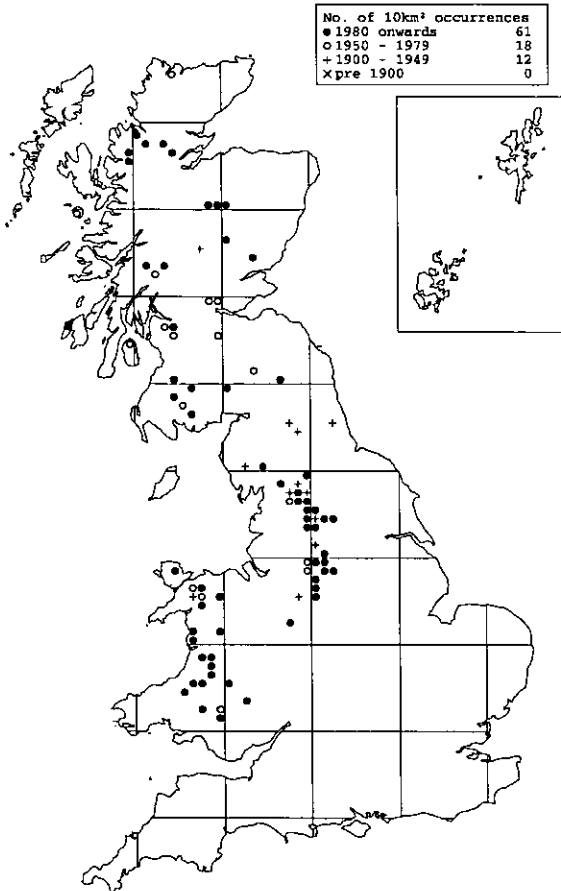
The species is widespread in England south of the Humber, but very patchy and scattered further north and in Wales. It is widespread in north-western Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland or Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in a variety of situations, both damp and dry. It is a frequent aeronaut, and can be collected from fence posts, as well as swept from the ground layer or sieved from litter. It often colonises new habitats such as burnt heathland and arable land. Both sexes have been recorded in all seasons, with a peak in summer. Females may be found in any month.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

[17601] Linyphiidae: *Diplocentria bidentata*



Status

Local and uncommon.

Distribution

The species is widely distributed in Wales and northern England, scattered in Scotland.

Habitat and ecology

Found in a variety of habitats including moss, grasses, woodland litter and under stones. Occasionally recorded on mountains where it has been taken at 975 m. Locket & Millidge (1953) give the adult period as autumn and winter, but adults are also to be found throughout the summer.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

[17602] Linyphiidae: *Wabasso quaestio replicatus*

Status

A rare native species, discovered new to Britain in 1999. It may have been overlooked in the past, as females in particular are potentially confusable with *Diplocentria bidentata*, but is likely to be rare. Females have not yet been found in Britain. The curious generic name is derived from Longfellow's 'Song of Hiawatha' in which 'Wabasso' is the white rabbit (= the Snowshoe Hare or perhaps Arctic Hare), symbolic of the North.

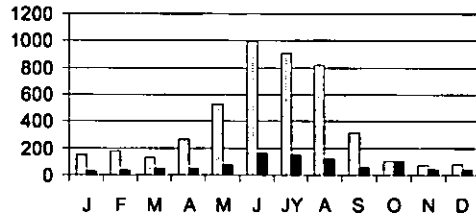
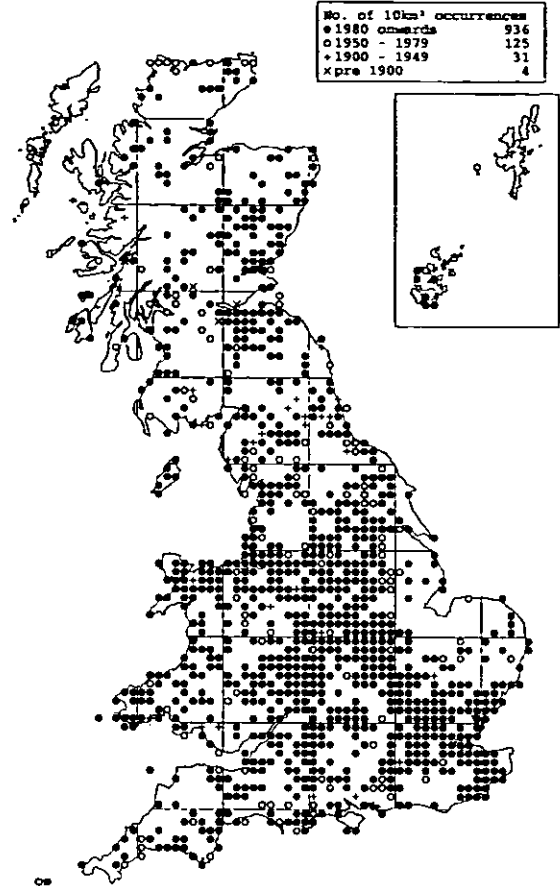
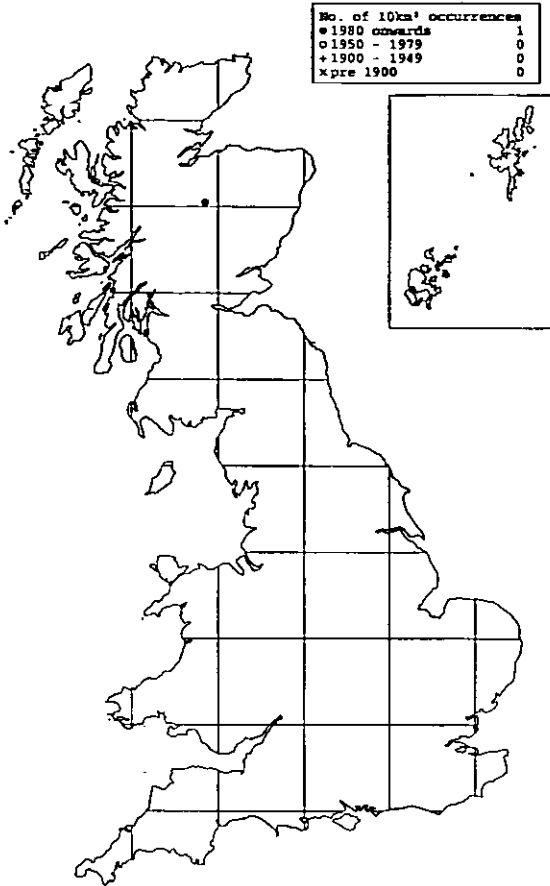
Distribution

The species was discovered in Britain on the Insh Marshes RSPB reserve in the Spey Valley, Scotland in July 1999, and was found there again in July 2000. It was first described by Chamberlin (1948) from eastern Canada under the name *Eulaira quaestio*, while Holm (1950) described *Diplocentria replicata* from Sweden. These two taxa were synonymised by Millidge (1984) and transferred by him into a new genus *Wabasso*. Although there are small differences between New and Old World populations, further work needs to be done to ascertain whether these differences are constant or merely within the range of normal variation. The species has also been found in Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Russia east of the Urals, but seems never to be common.

Habitat and ecology

Little appears to be known about its requirements, the species occupying both wet and dry habitats in its northern range. The two males found in 1999 were sieved from wet flood debris on an open part of Insh Fen, with further immatures shaken from dry *Molinia* tussocks on the fen in July 2000. The vegetation here is relatively acidic with *Molinia* dominant, and in the wetter areas frequent *Eriophorum*. Insh Marshes form part of the natural flood plain of the Spey Valley and are regularly inundated during the winter, the water often lying well into the spring or even summer in wet years, such as 1999. In summer there is low intensity grazing on the fen by sheep. Males are readily recognised by having one or two prominent curved prolateral distal spines on the first metatarsi, and with the tarsi much longer than the metatarsi, especially of leg I. The period of maturity may be short, with adults elsewhere found between June and August. As Scotland lies farther south *Wabasso* may perhaps mature earlier here.

Author of profile: I. Dawson



Status

Very common.

Distribution

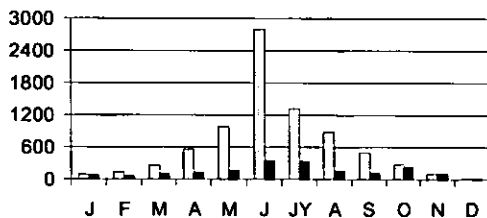
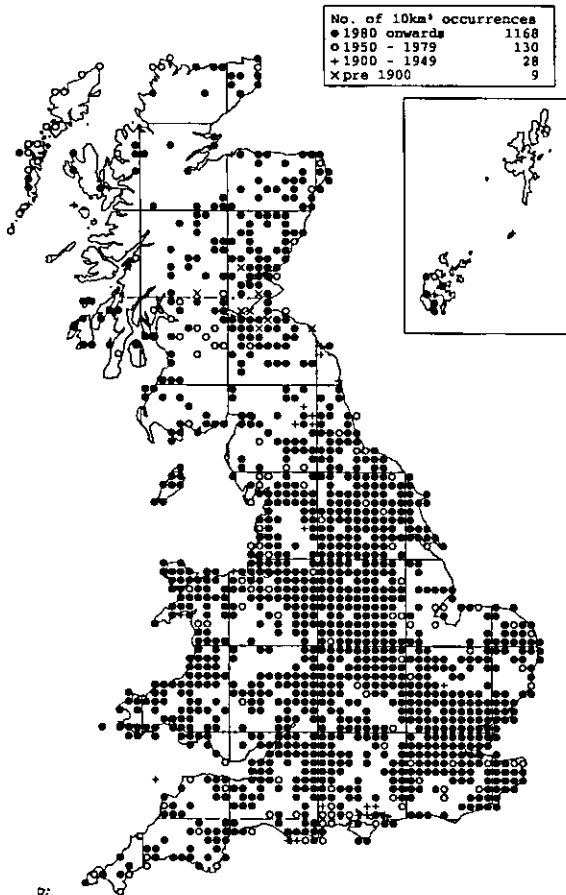
The species is widespread in most of Britain, possibly becoming more scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is similar in size and colouration to *E. atra*. An equally common aeronaut, it occurs in a similarly wide range of habitats. Adults can be found all through the year, with peak numbers in summer.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[17703] Linyphiidae: *Erigone atra*



Status

This is one of the commonest spiders, often dispersing aeronautically in large numbers in late summer and autumn.

Distribution

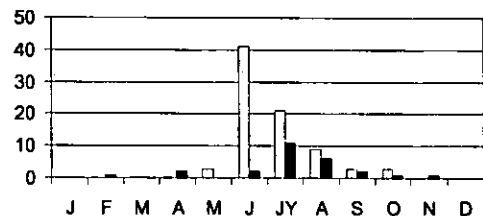
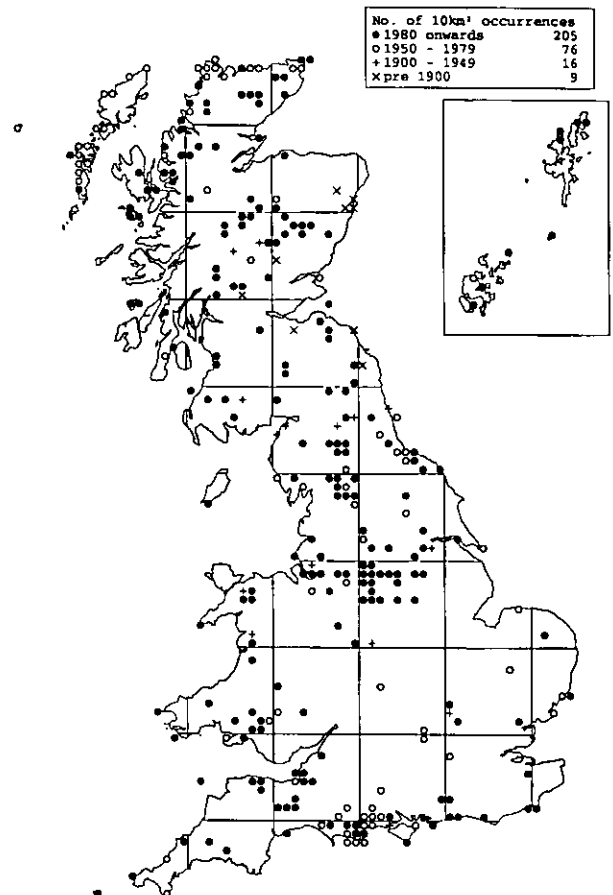
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain, possibly becoming more scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This small ubiquitous linyphiid spider is to be found at ground level on low vegetation and under the bark of fallen trees. When weather conditions are suitable it stands on outstretched legs with the tip of its abdomen pointing in the air. It lets out a line of silk which, if the air currents are favourable, lifts the spider to considerable heights and conveys it to a new location. Such a procedure means that some perish on the journey or land in unsuitable places. This is when many people discover these money spiders on their person or in close proximity. Adults can be found at all times of the year, with peak numbers in summer.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[17708] Linyphiidae: *Erigone promiscua*



Status

This species is much less common than *E. atra* and *E. dentipalpis*, which it closely resembles. It is extremely rare in some parts of the country including well-worked counties such as Essex.

Distribution

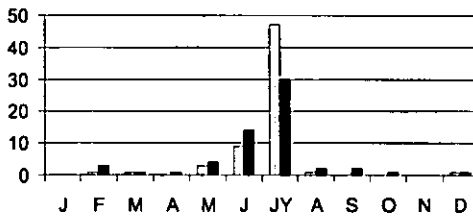
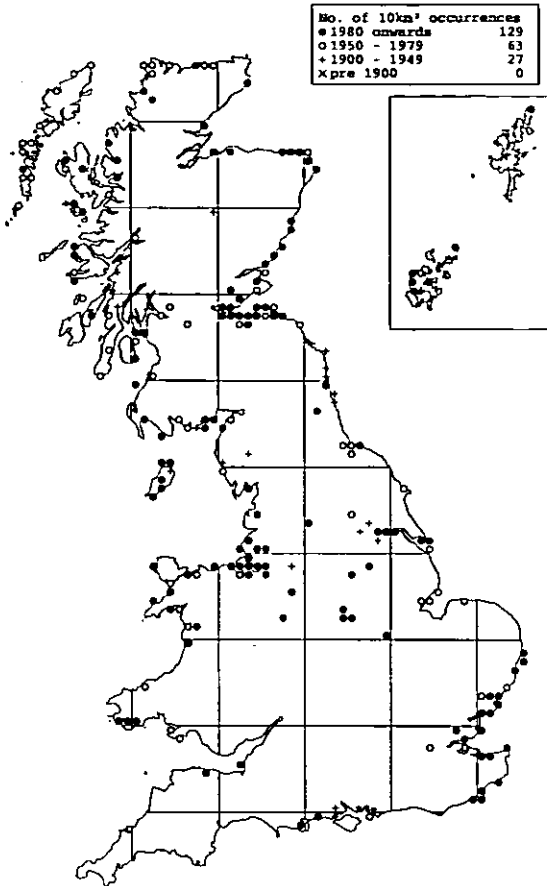
E. promiscua is widespread in northern Britain and parts of the west and south. However, it is absent from large parts of central and eastern England. In western and central Europe it has been recorded from Ireland, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany and the Iberian Peninsula.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is found in the ground layer and has been recorded from heathland, blanket bog, machair, grasslands and shingle, ranging from coastal sand dunes to grassland at 600 m in Lancashire (J. Newton, pers. comm.) and at 634 m in webs on *Sphagnum* by a pool in the Applecross mountains, Wester Ross (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Colouration and genitalia are very similar to *E. dentipalpis* and *E. atra* and the species needs to be carefully identified with a microscope. Adults are mature in the summer and possibly all year.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[17702] Linyphiidae: *Erigone arctica*



Status

Local, but where it does occur the species can be quite common.

Distribution

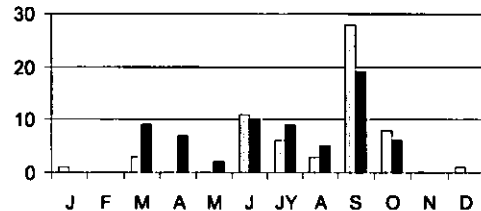
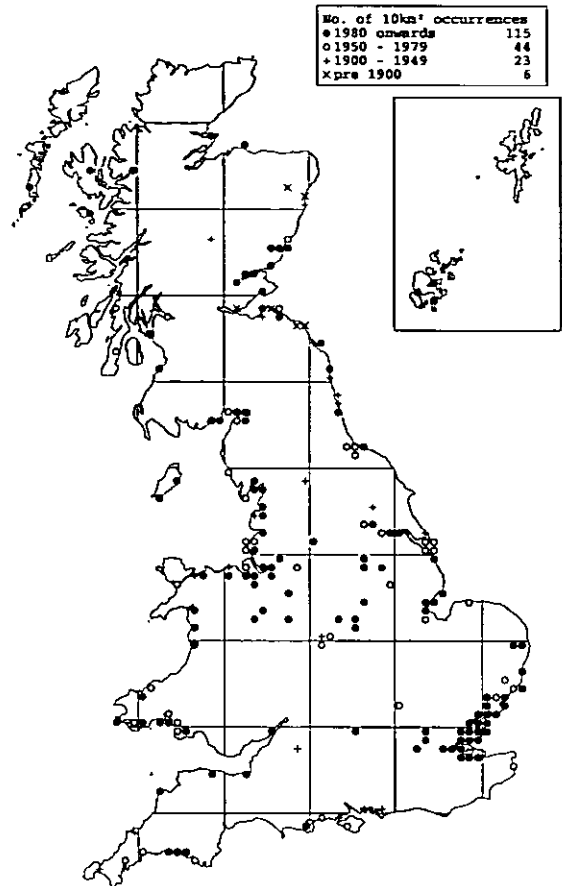
E. arctica is widespread along much of the coastline of Britain, with scattered inland localities. A Holarctic species, recorded in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

E. arctica inhabits the seashore and the shoreline of estuaries where it can be found under stones, seaweed and other shoreline detritus. In the Outer Hebrides and north-west Scotland large numbers have been taken on the machair where the vegetation is extremely short, sometimes as far as 300 m from the shoreline. Inland the species has been found in open grassy vegetation growing on saline lime beds in Cheshire and has frequently been recorded in the spaces between the clinker at sewage filter beds (Duffey 1978), as well as occurring on the shores of old gravel pits and ponds and on unvegetated shingle spits of rivers, under stones. On the coast it is sometimes to be found with *E. longipalpis*. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year, but mainly from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[17706] Linyphiidae: *Erigone longipalpis*



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

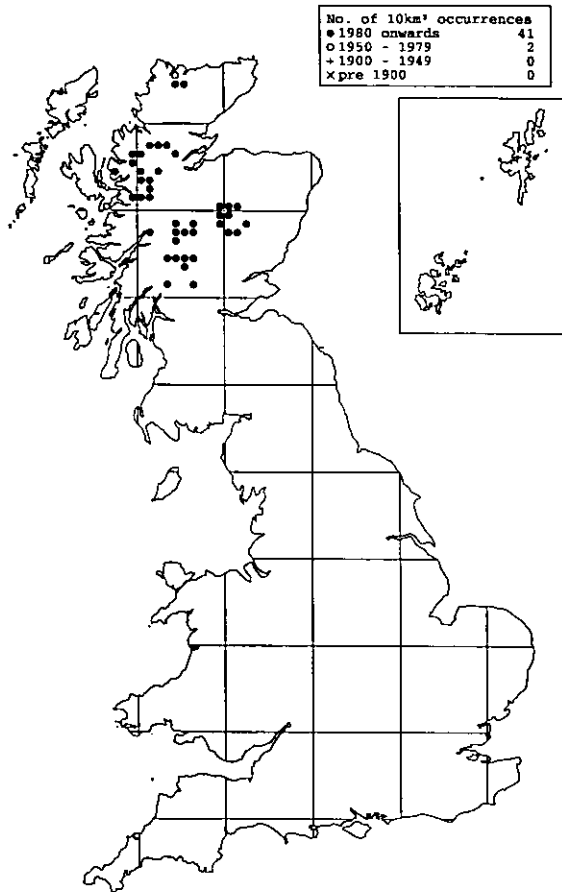
The species is widespread around the coasts of Britain, with scattered inland records. It is widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species usually occurs in wet habitats, often at ground level in coastal estuaries and saltmarsh, sometimes with *E. arctica*. Inland it is associated with damp grassland within river flood plains, where it has been collected in Leicestershire with *E. arctica* (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults can probably be found all year, but mainly in summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[17709] Linyphiidae: *Erigone tirolensis*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Common on high mountain-tops.

Distribution

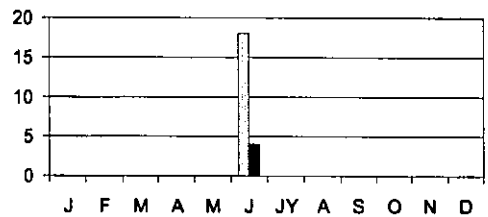
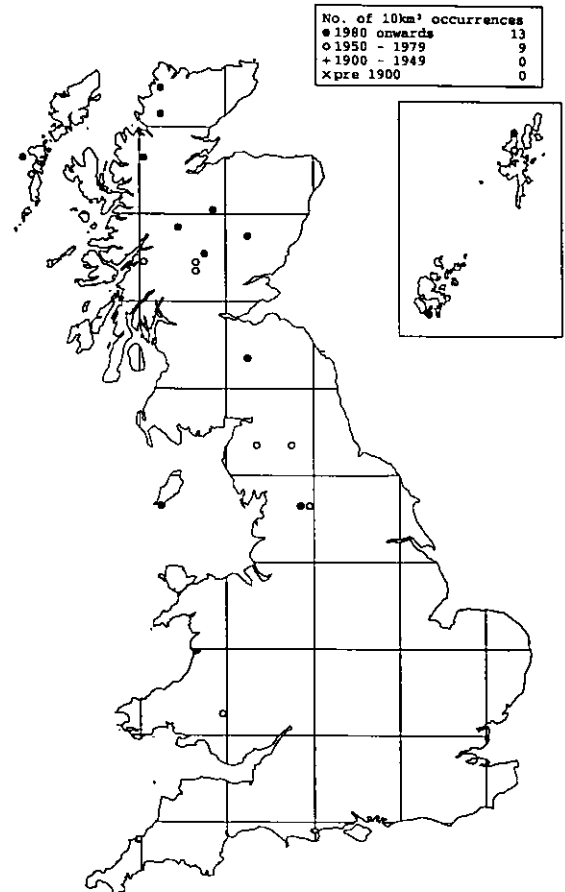
The species is restricted to the Highlands of Scotland. It is a boreo-alpine species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species occurs under stones on mountains, usually above 900 m, but down to 300 m in the far north. Adults of both sexes are found from May to September, and possibly most of the year.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[17704] Linyphiidae: *Erigone capra*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is abundant at all sites, but very local.

Distribution

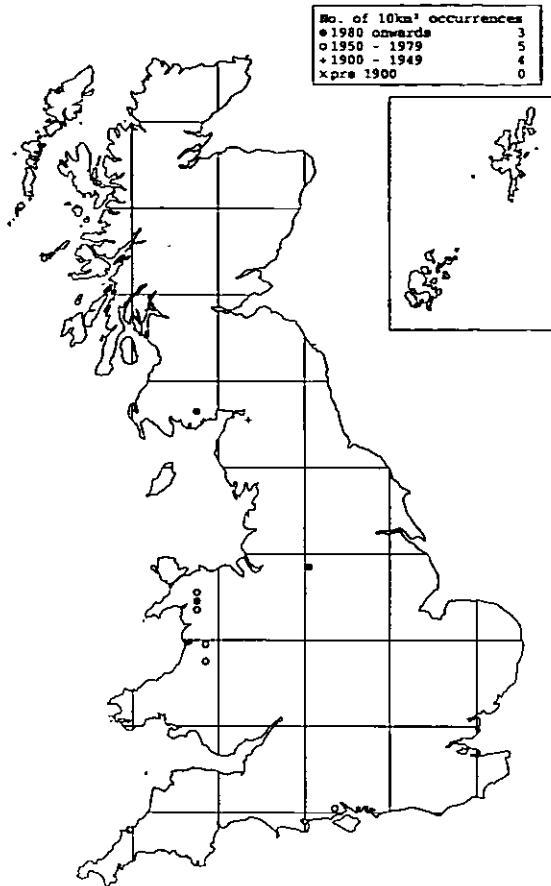
The species is restricted to Wales, northern England, the Isle of Man and Scotland. It is widespread in northern Europe, especially in the arctic.

Habitat and ecology

The species occurs among moss or grass at the edge of or overhanging areas of open water, mostly on fairly high ground, except in the far north. It may be adult for most of the year.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[17710] Linyphiidae: *Erigone welchi*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is abundant at some sites, and widespread, but apparently extremely local.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Hampshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, north and mid-Wales, Kirkcudbrightshire, Perthshire and Tír na nÓg. It has been recorded from Ireland, France and Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

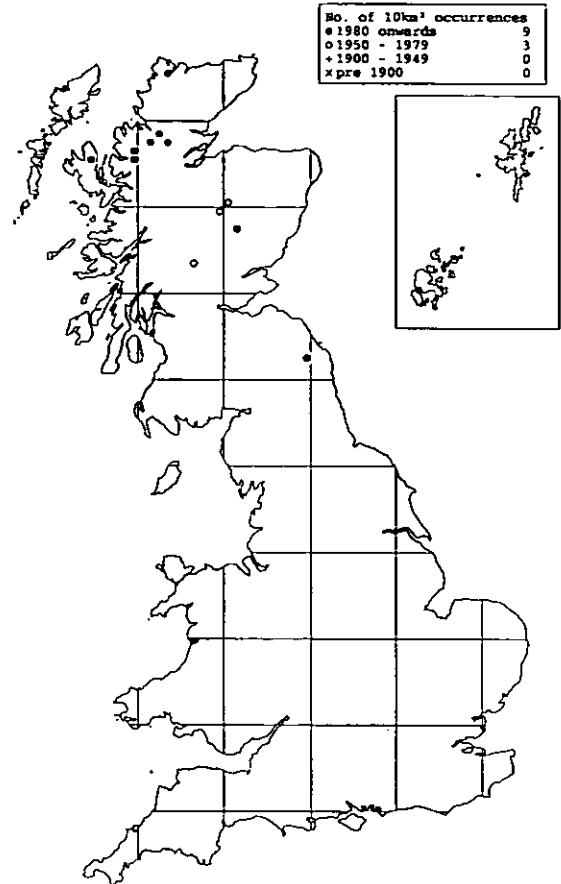
E. welchi usually occurs on very wet *Sphagnum*, with small webs spun just above the water level, but also among wet moss and grass, and among *Carex* tussocks. Its altitude range is from near sea level to about 500 m. Adults are probably found throughout most of the year.

Threats

Probably none, as all of its known sites are in remote boggy areas.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[17707] Linyphiidae: *Erigone psychrophila*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is abundant at most of its sites, but apparently local, and not found on many mountains.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Northumberland (Cheviot), Perthshire, Aberdeenshire, Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, Mull and Skye. It is a boreo-alpine species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

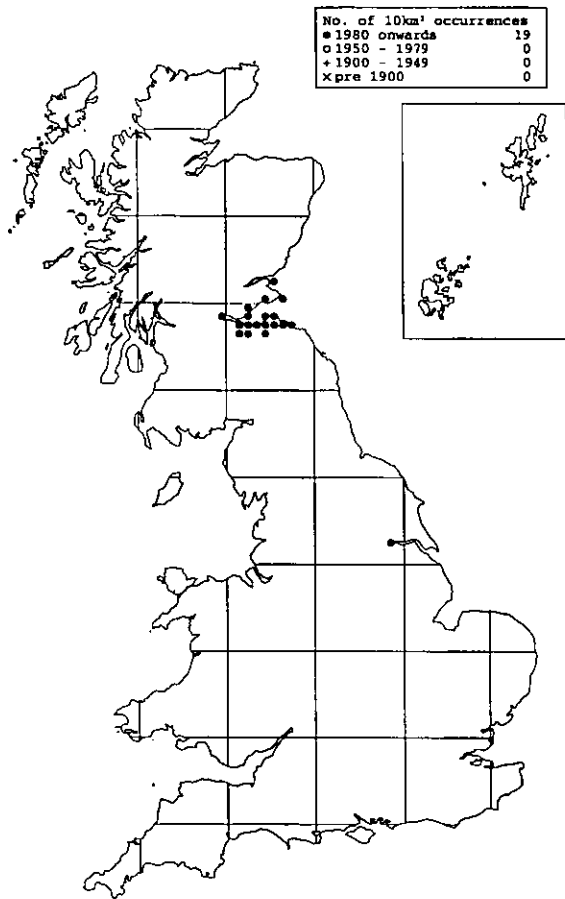
A montane species, which is usually found in very damp situations, in *Sphagnum* at the edge of bog pools and amongst overhanging vegetation. It occasionally occurs under stones. Adults of both sexes are found from April to September.

Threats

The chief conservation problem on the Cairngorm mountains is their heavy use for recreation. Skiing compacts the snow causing severe damage to the underlying vegetation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[17701] Linyphiidae: *Erigone alettris*



Status

Fairly common within a locally restricted range.

Distribution

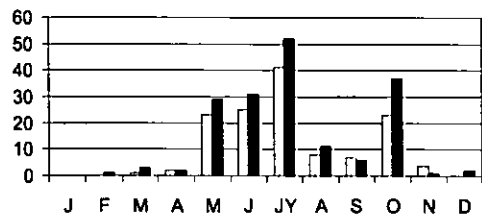
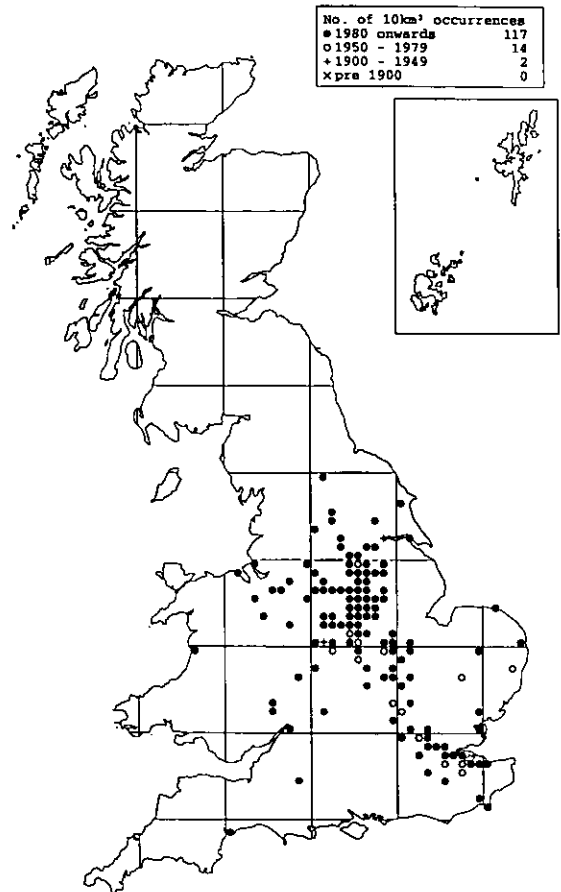
The first record of this species in Britain and Europe was of a male specimen taken in 1976 at a site in East Lothian (Snazell 1980). Previously known from coastal sites in North America, the subsequent discovery of additional specimens along the Lothian coastline from Leith Docks to North Berwick led to the supposition that immigration might have happened through Leith (Stewart 1987; Horsfield & Stewart 1989). Since then there has been a relatively rapid spread inland within Lothian, with an altitudinal distribution from sea level up to 230 m. The first record for Fife was noted by Gordon Corbet in 1996, and since then it has been found at several sites along the coast of Fife as far north as Tentsmuir. It has recently been found in England near Whitton, North Lincolnshire (Gallon 2001c).

Habitat and ecology

Originally apparently confined to coastal habitats, this spider can now be found in a wide variety of habitats such as under stones and rubbish, on waste ground and in gardens, in short and tall vegetation, on conifers and in conifer litter. Pitfall trapping in cereal and oil seed rape crops produced a large number of specimens (I.S. Downie, pers. comm.). This species seems to be a very successful immigrant and can be expected to continue spreading out from its now rather wide base. Adults are present throughout the year, with peak numbers in July and August.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

[17801] Linyphiidae: *Prinerigone vagans*



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

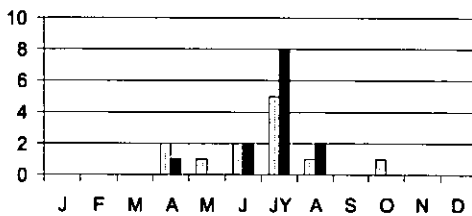
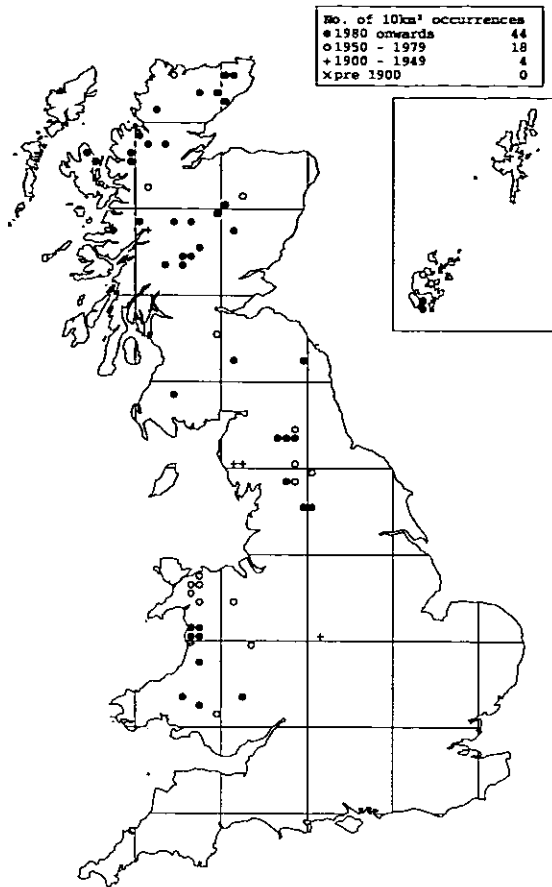
The species is widespread in central and south-eastern England, but very scattered or absent elsewhere. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland or Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

This species inhabits wet places including wet grassy meadows, the shores of lakes, gravel pits, sewage filter beds and saltmarsh. It has been recorded from pitfalls on arable land, presumably as an aeronaut (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Adults have been found at most times of year, but mostly from early to mid-summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[17901] Linyphiidae: *Mecynargus morulus*



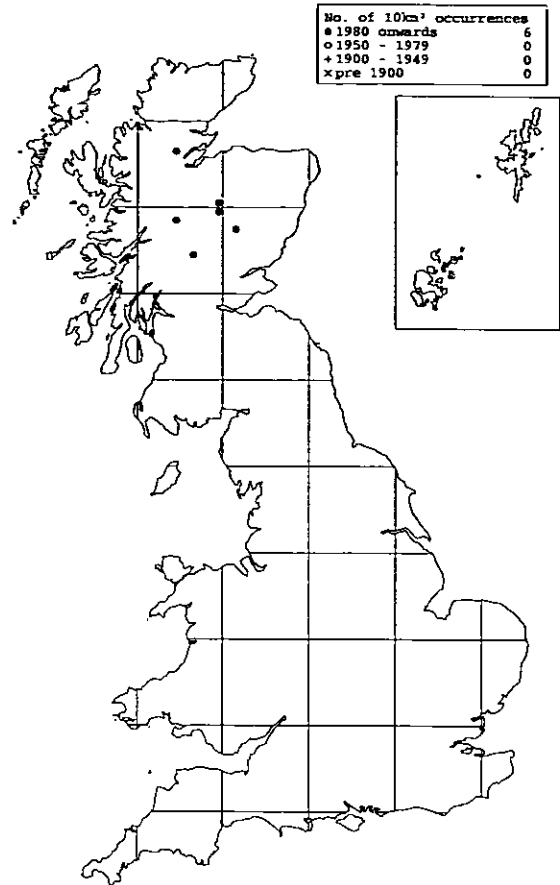
Status
Locally rare.

Distribution
This is a spider of high ground in Britain, and has been recorded from Wales, northern England and Scotland. It has been recorded from Ireland, Scandinavia, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Habitat and ecology
Found among grass and moss and under stones on high ground and mountain tops (Locket & Millidge 1953). Adults hve been found from April to October, with a peak in July.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

[17902] Linyphiidae: *Mecynargus paetulus*



Status
Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider is apparently well-established on Ben Lawers and in the Cairngorms, but is very local.

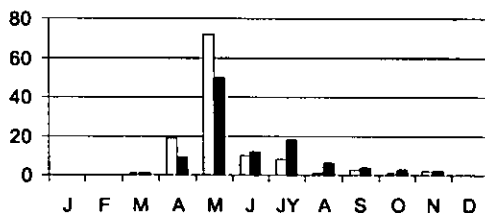
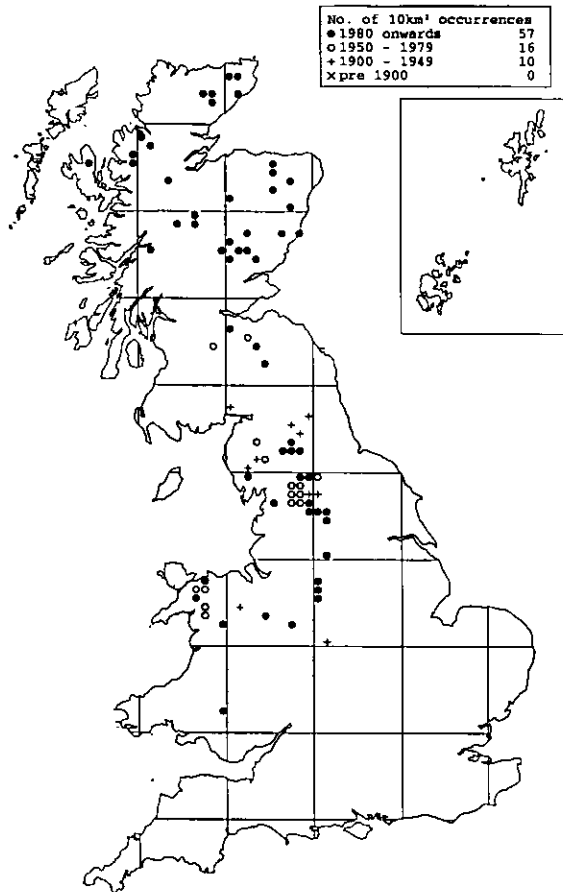
Distribution
The species has been recorded from Ben Lawers, Mid Perthshire, first in 1965 and on several subsequent occasions; from the Braeriach and Cairngorm-Ben Macdui plateaux, Inverness-shire, in 1981; and from Creag Meagaidh, West Inverness-shire, in 1983. An arctic-alpine species also known from France, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Habitat and ecology
M. paetulus has been found under stones above 850 m and in *Nardus stricta* snow-bed grassland on Creag Meagaidh. It may be associated with mat vegetation. Adults of both sexes have been found in May, June, August and September.

Threats
Additional skiing developments, with plans to increase numbers of skiers in the existing skiing areas as well as opening up new slopes, periodically threaten the fragile high-altitude vegetation of the Cairngorms region. Hill-walking could threaten this species, its habitat being on the top of the Cairngorm plateau where the effects of trampling are quite severe.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[18001] Linyphiidae: *Latithorax faustus*



Status

Local, but the spider may be under-recorded because its upland habitat is under-worked.

Distribution

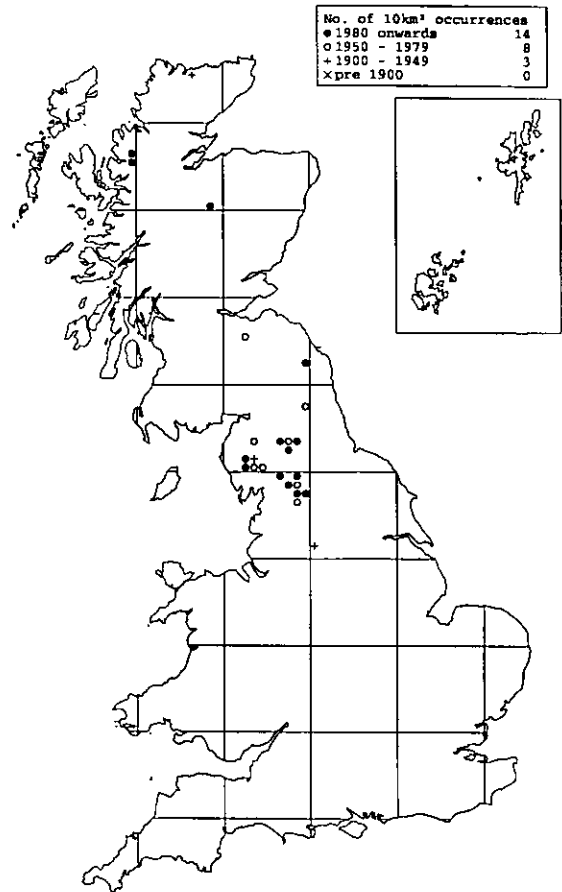
In Britain this Palearctic species is restricted to northern and western regions, and is also known from south-western Ireland (Platnick 1998; Locket et al. 1974).

Habitat and ecology

This species inhabits damp, open habitats in upland regions. In North Wales, specimens were discovered amongst low growing *Eriophorum* spp. and *Juncus squarrosus* surrounding a peat bog pool at an altitude of 540 m. In West Lancashire, a female was found in a similar acidic bog pool area at an altitude of only 210 m (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded between March and November, with a peak in May.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[18101] Linyphiidae: *Semljicola caliginosus*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is local and never particularly common.

Distribution

The species is widespread in northern England but scattered in Scotland. It has not been recorded outside Britain (Platnick 2000); evidently our populations are globally important.

Habitat and ecology

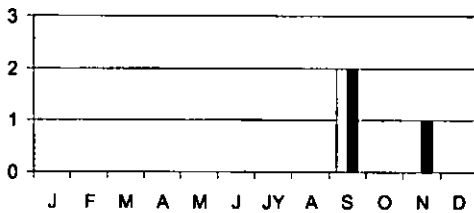
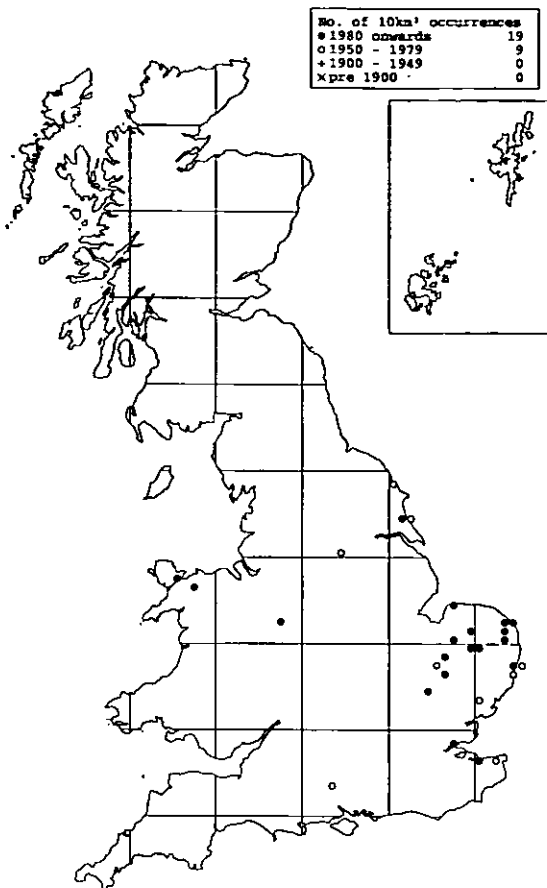
S. caliginosus occurs in wet places, among *Sphagnum*, *Juncus*, grass and moss, mostly on high ground, but down to 120 m in the far north. Adults have been found in June, July, August, September and in early spring. It may be adult for most of the year.

Threats

Some sites might be threatened by drainage for afforestation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[18201] Linyphiidae: *Donacochara speciosa*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is frequent at some sites, but very local.

Distribution

The species is mostly confined to eastern England between Kent and Norfolk, but there are recent records from Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Staffordshire. There are old records from East Yorkshire and isolated records from Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire. It is widespread in northern and central Europe, but uncommon.

Habitat and ecology

D. speciosa is found in very wet places in fens and marshes, and in sewage beds, probably mainly in reed-beds. It may be adult for most of the year.

Threats

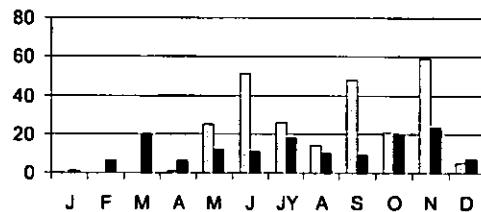
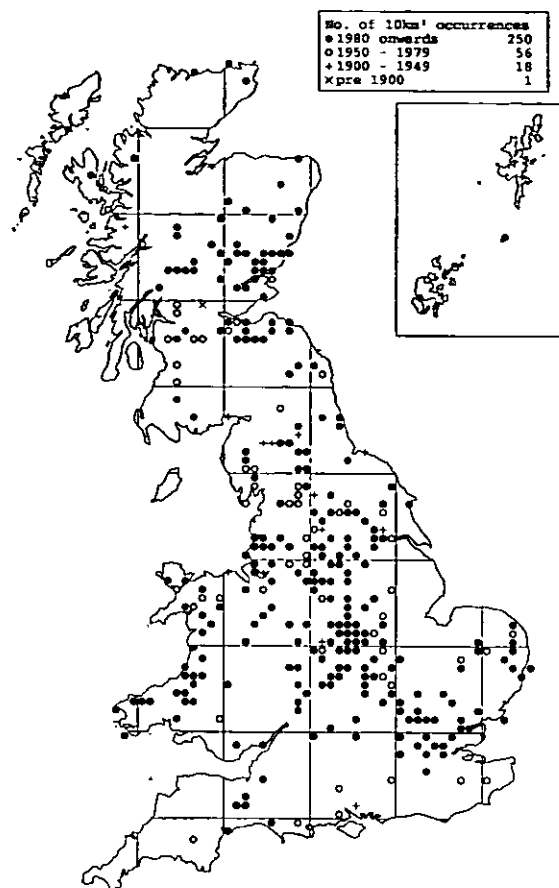
The drainage of fens and marshes.

Management

Maintain water table of fens and marshes, and restrict scrub growth.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[18301] Linyphiidae: *Leptorhoptrum robustum*



Status

Local.

Distribution

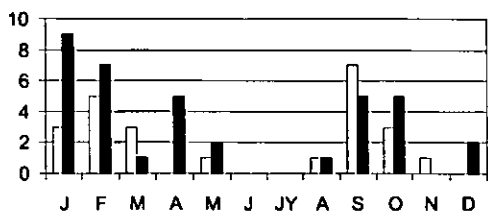
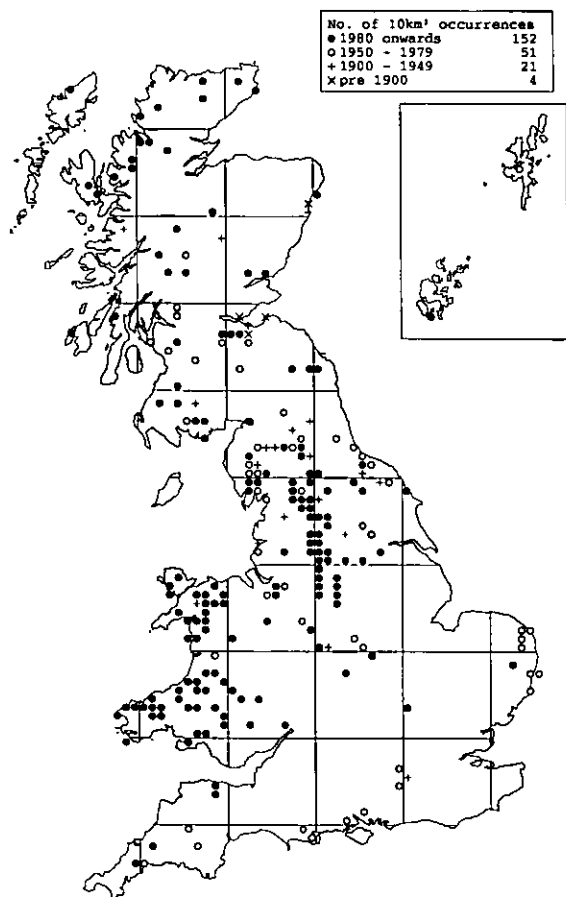
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but absent or very scattered in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Duffey & Green (1975) have noted that in the south of England this species is found in fens and marshes, particularly in the litter layer of thick herbaceous vegetation, and in wet meadows and fen woodland. However in the north it occurs widely on mountains and moorland, in upland valleys usually under stones and has also been taken in pine forests with heather, and on saltmarsh and in dune slacks. It can occur in exceedingly high numbers in the filter beds of sewage treatment plants where it is the commonest spider in this habitat. Duffey & Green (1975) also showed, surprisingly, that in spite of its small size this spider was responsible for inflicting bites on the workers at sewage treatment plants resulting in inflammation and swelling of the affected area. Adults have been found throughout the year, but mostly in summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[18401] Linyphiidae: *Drepanotylus uncatu*s



Status

Local and more frequent in the north.

Distribution

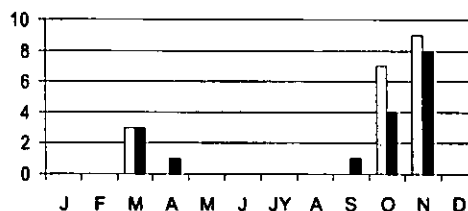
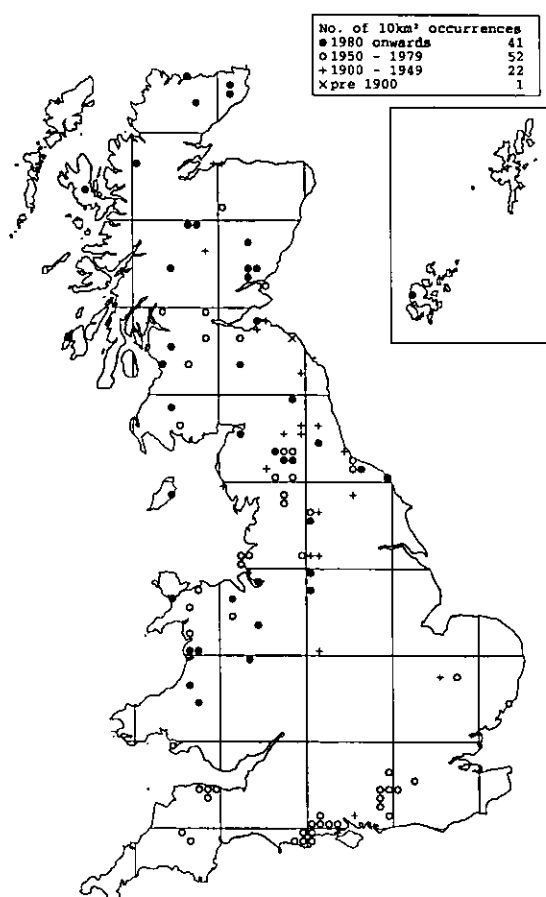
*D. uncatu*s is widespread in Wales and northern England, scattered in Scotland and parts of southern England, but absent from much of central and south-eastern England. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

*D. uncatu*s is usually found in wet habitats such as marshes and bogs. It is adult in autumn, winter and spring.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[18501] Linyphiidae: *Leptothrix hardy*



Status

Local.

Distribution

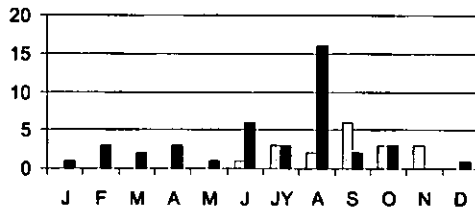
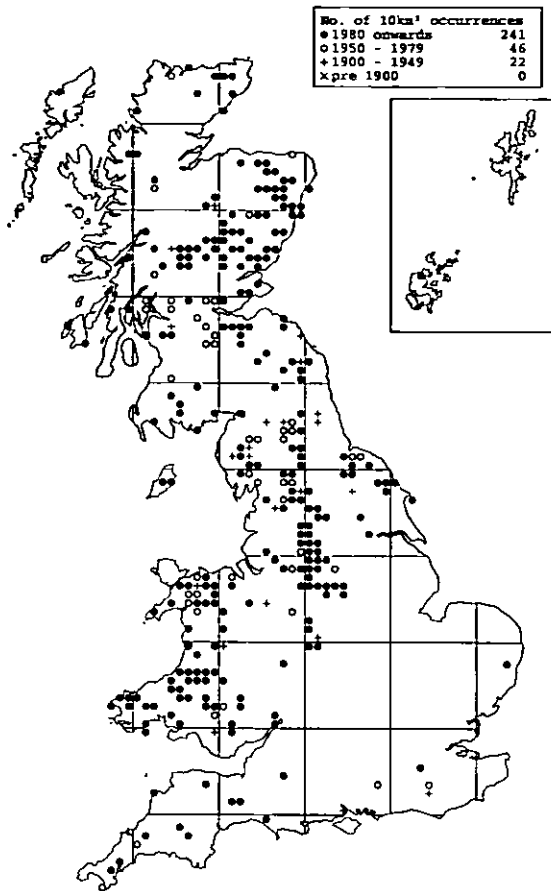
L. hardy is widespread on southern heathlands and in western and northern Britain. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. hardy is generally found in wet habitats on moorland and heathland on high ground, but in the south of England it can be abundant on recently-burnt heathland with sparse vegetation cover. It is predominantly a winter active species and is absent in mid-summer (Merrett 1969). Our data show adults of both sexes have been collected in autumn and spring.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[18601] Linyphiidae: *Hilaira excisa*



Status

Uncommon in north and west Britain.

Distribution

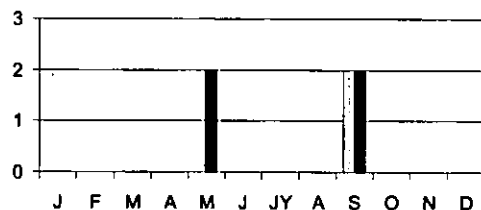
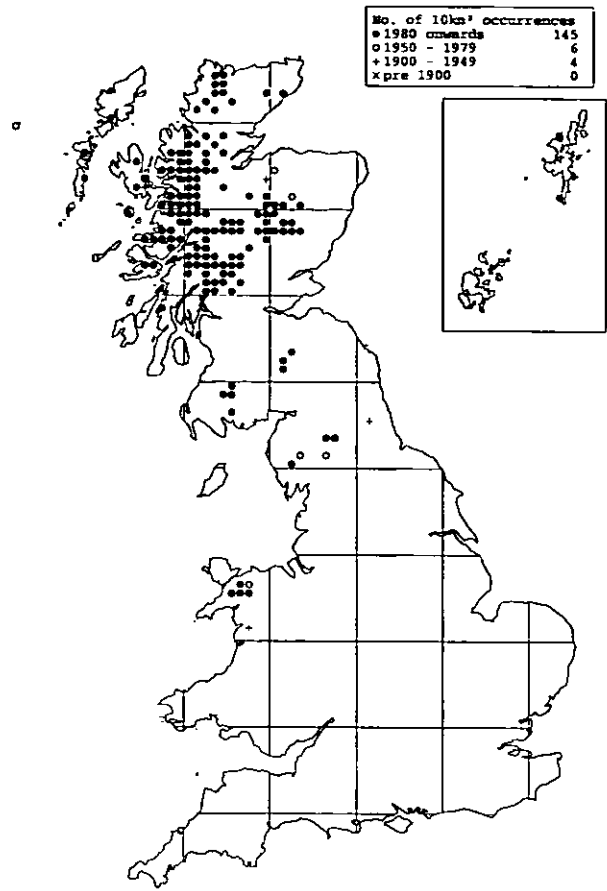
H. excisa occurs in the wetter, northern and western parts of Britain. It is absent from most of south-eastern England, rarely found in areas with less than 700 mm rainfall per year. This species is exclusively European (Platnick 1998) and is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is found amongst low plant growth in a variety of wetland habitats (seeps, reed-beds, alder carr and marshes). It may also be found in damp, broad-leaved woodland amongst *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* mats. In upland blanket bogs specimens often inhabit clumps of the moss *Polytrichum commune*. Mature females are present throughout the year, males between June and November. Egg-sacs have been noted in March and June.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[18602] Linyphiidae: *Hilaira frigida*



Status

Local, but common in its mountain refugia.

Distribution

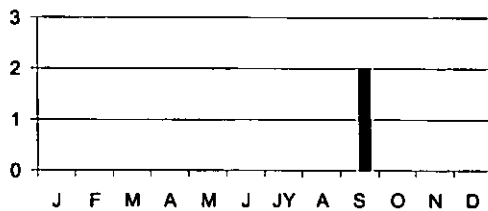
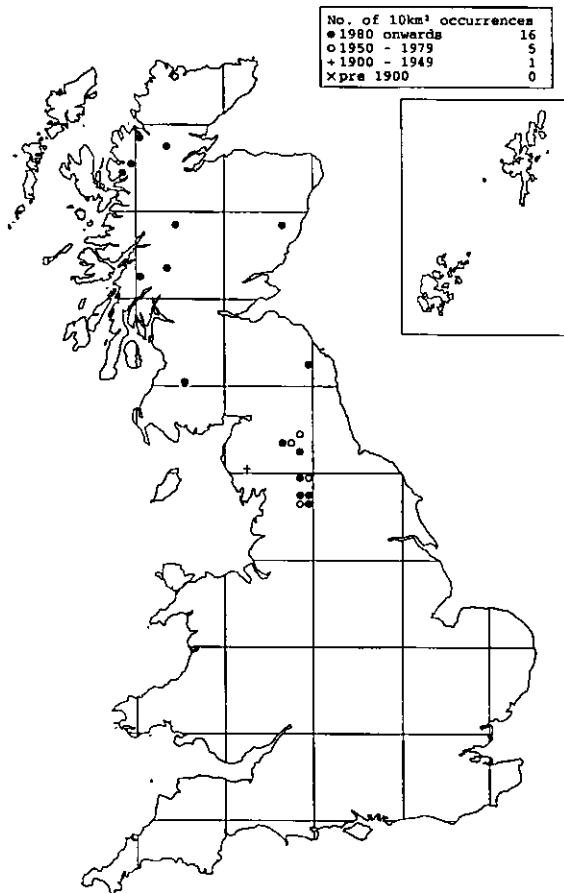
The species is widespread in Scotland, with records south of the border concentrated around the Lake District and Snowdonia. This is a Holarctic spider with a circumpolar distribution (Platnick 1997; Goodier 1967). It is known from the mountains of Ireland, Scandinavia and Poland, but has not been recorded from the Alps.

Habitat and ecology

In Britain *H. frigida* is typically found beneath felsenmeer rocks on the summits of high mountains. In the far north, the species occurs at lower altitudes. In felsenmeers it favours the interface between rocks and heath rushes. It frequents drier habitats than its British congeners. Mature specimens of both sexes have been recorded between April and September, but it is probably mature throughout the year (winter recording being rare in the mountains). On Snowdon, females have been found guarding egg-sacs suspended within their webs in May.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[18603] Linyphiidae: *Hilaira nubigena*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider has been recorded from a number of sites in the northern Pennines and Scotland, and is fairly numerous in some places, but it is rather local.

Distribution

Records are scattered in Scotland and northern England, with a concentration from the Pennines. It is a boreal species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

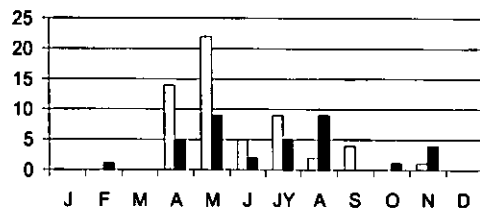
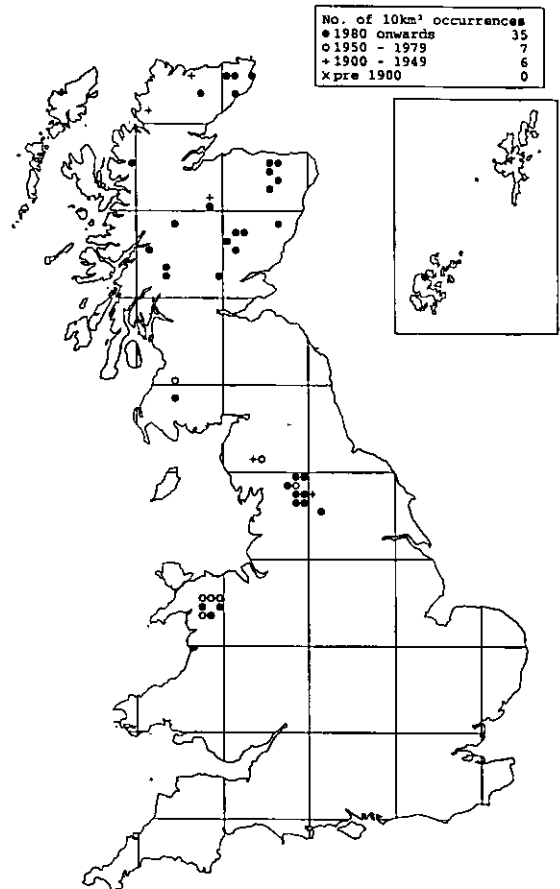
H. nubigena occurs in wet areas, usually in association with *Sphagnum* or *Juncus*, on moorland, mostly at altitudes between about 400 and 700 m. Adults are found in August and September, and probably over winter.

Threats

Probably the only threat at some sites might be afforestation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[18604] Linyphiidae: *Hilaira pervicax*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common at some sites, but very local and widely scattered.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from North Wales, the northern Pennines, the Lake District and Scotland. It is a boreal species, also recorded from Ireland.

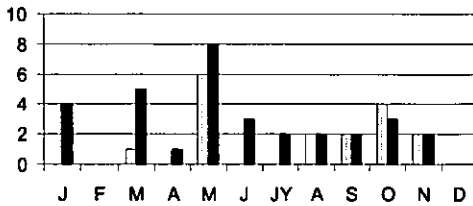
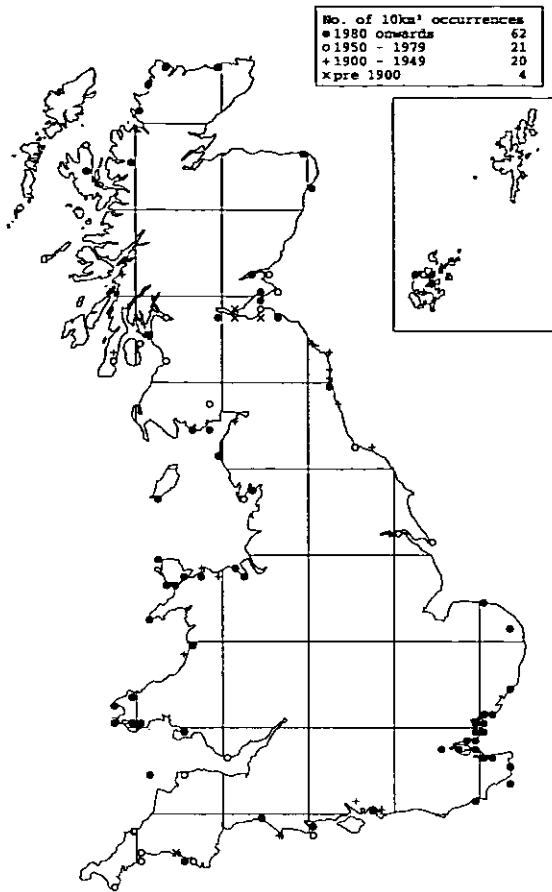
Habitat and ecology

H. pervicax occurs in wet places, among *Sphagnum*, *Juncus* or moss, usually on fairly high ground, but down to 120 m in the far north. Adults of both sexes have been found mainly in spring and summer, but also in the autumn.

Threats

There is probably little threat from forestry, as most of its sites are too wet.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Local in its coastal habitats. Relatively few records exist for this species from continental Europe suggesting that the British populations are of international importance.

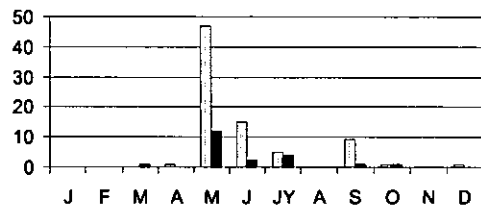
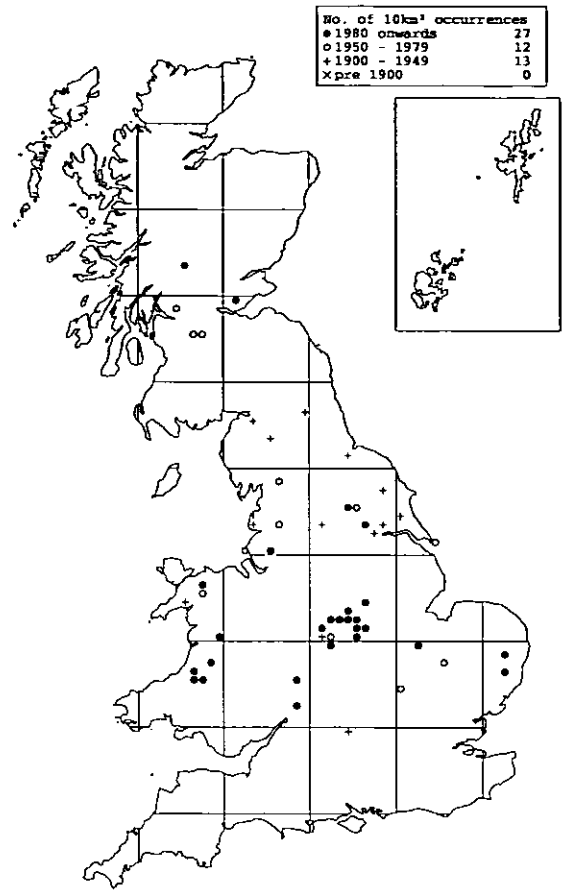
Distribution

H. reprobus is widespread throughout coastal Britain and Ireland. There is a very doubtful old record for Staffordshire by L.A. Carr. Some of Carr's records were given by O. Pickard-Cambridge as "sent to me by L.A. Carr of Lichfield", but may not have been collected there. Globally this species is restricted to the north-western coastline of Europe where the centre of its distribution seems to be the British Isles (Decler & Bosmans 1989).

Habitat and ecology

This spider lives exclusively in coastal habitats such as saltmarshes and rocky/muddy shores. In these habitats it conceals itself beneath rocks and tidal litter. Some specimens may be found below the high tide mark. *H. reprobus* has also been found in the nest material of cormorants (Bristowe 1958). Adults are present throughout the year (Locket & Millidge 1953).

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

Rather rare.

Distribution

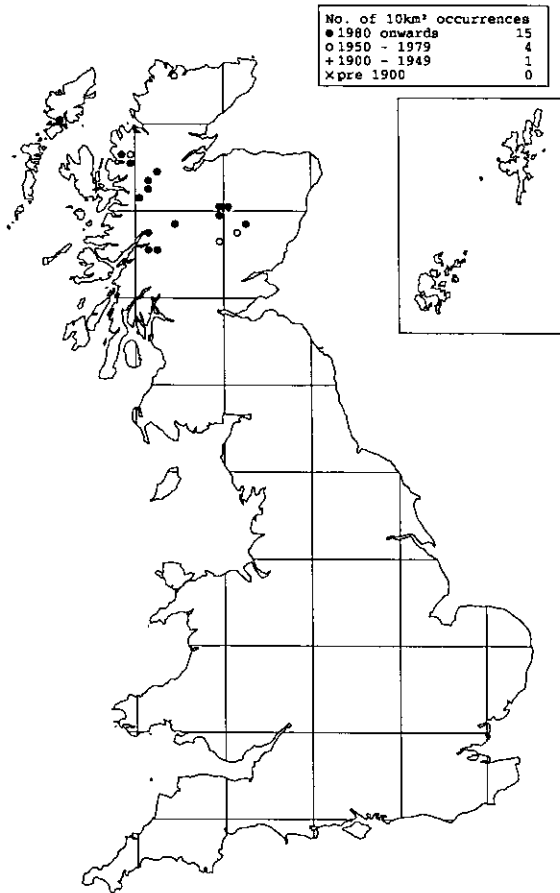
H. distinctus has a scattered and patchy distribution in Wales, central and northern England. There are few records in Scotland. A Palaeartic species recorded from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

H. distinctus occurs in the ground zone in wet habitats including river flood meadows, shingle beds, riverside vegetation and moss. Adults have been recorded between March and December, with a peak in early summer, and possibly again in the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[18702] Linyphiidae: *Halorates holmgreni*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common in some localities, but rather local.

Distribution

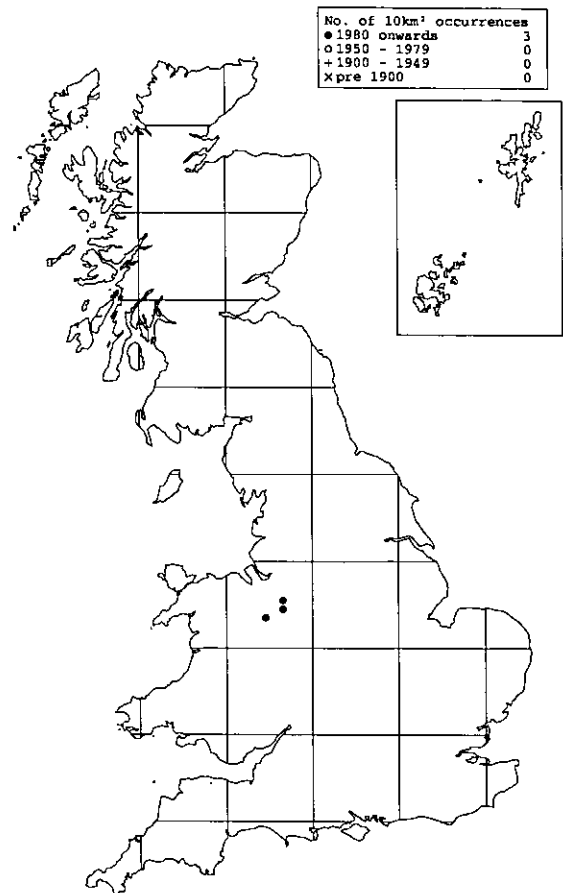
The species is restricted to the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland. It is a boreal species, which is widespread in the arctic.

Habitat and ecology

H. holmgreni occurs among short heather and grass, and under stones, on mountains, mainly above 900 m, but down to 500 m in the far north. Adults are found from May to September.

Author of profile: P. Merret

[18801] Linyphiidae: *Carorita limnaea*



Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The spider fauna of the Cheshire Mosses is well-studied, but Wybunbury Moss is the only one at which this species has been recorded. It has been abundant at the site, but it was only in 1993 that it was recorded again, when one male and twelve females were detected by meticulous sieving and sorting of wet *Sphagnum* moss on floating bog. At Whixall Moss, a single male was found despite the intensive and extensive nature of an English Nature survey.

Distribution

In Britain, the species has only been recorded from Wybunbury Moss, Cheshire, (first found in 1962) and Whixall Moss, Shropshire (discovered in 1993). It is also known from Sweden, Germany, Finland, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

It occurs in *Sphagnum* bog, sometimes in association with *Erica tetralix*, *Eriophorum* and *Vaccinium oxycoccus*. Both sexes are found in June and July.

Threats

Wybunbury Moss suffered severe pollution from septic tank overflow and road drainage for many years up to 1986. This nutrient enrichment has had a marked effect on the vegetation and much of the former *Sphagnum* lawn has developed into fen. Eutrophication from agricultural run-off threatens further damage. Further substantial areas of the nutrient-poor raft have developed into pine and birch woodland.

Management

In 1986 major sources of eutrophic water at Wybunbury Moss were intercepted and diverted away from the reserve. As a result peat degradation and fen encroachment appear to be receding. Removal of invading trees also commenced in 1986 and is continuing with encouraging results.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). Although clearly a rare species in Britain, in at least two of the sites (Reedham Marsh and Wheatfen) it has occurred in some numbers, as is the case in the De Blankaart Nature Reserve in Belgium (Decler & Bosmans 1989). The minute size of this species means that it may well have been overlooked in otherwise well recorded fenland sites. In Europe, it is apparently established at a number of sites in Belgium but is otherwise rare.

Distribution

C. paludosa is known in Britain from only four sites: Reedham Marsh and Hickling Broad (1970), Wheatfen (1971), Catfield Fen (1989) all in East Norfolk, and Westhay Moor, Somerset (1973). Elsewhere in Europe it has been recorded from the Burren area of County Clare, Ireland, five localities in Belgium, one locality in the boreal area of Sweden (see map in Decler & Bosmans 1989) and Germany.

Habitat and ecology

In Britain it has been recorded from *Sphagnum* tussocks in alder/willow carr woodland as well as litter and cut grass and sedge in *Cladium mariscus* sedge-beds in fenland in East Anglia. In Somerset it was found in *Phalaris* litter and moss in moist but not very wet ground with old peat cuttings and carr woodland nearby. In Belgium it has been most frequently recorded from reed-beds but also from *Phalaris* and *Carex* litter and *Glyceria maxima* vegetation. All sites in Belgium had a thick litter layer and Bosmans & Decler (1989) provide some evidence that this may be an important feature of the micro-habitat of this species. In Britain, adults have been collected in September, October and February while in Belgium they have been recorded in all months from February to October.

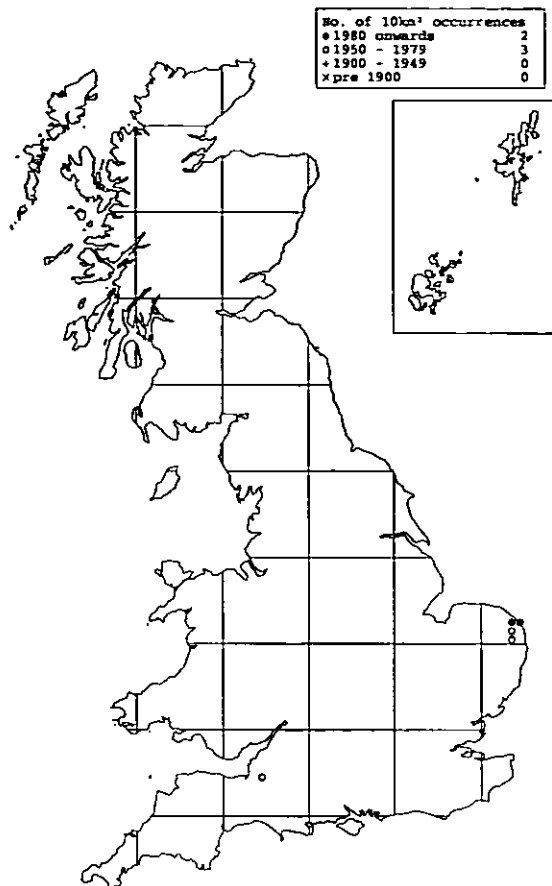
Threats

Hickling Broad is a National Nature Reserve within a larger SSSI and both Reedham Marshes and Catfield Fen are parts of an SSSI. In Somerset, Westhay Moor is a Local Nature Reserve and an SSSI. In the Norfolk broads, drainage of marshland and invasion of herbaceous fen communities by scrub and carr woodland as a result of abandonment of traditional mowing practices may be the principal threats. However, in Belgium, Decler & Bosmans (1989) found this species to very much less abundant in plots that were regularly cut than in uncut plots in the de Blankaart Nature Reserve and the effect of frequency of mowing on populations of this species (in relation to maintenance of a dense litter layer) will require further study. In the Somerset Levels, conversion of grazing marsh to arable agriculture with attendant drainage works has lowered the water table over much of the area. Westhay Moor has also been severely damaged by peat extraction for horticultural use.

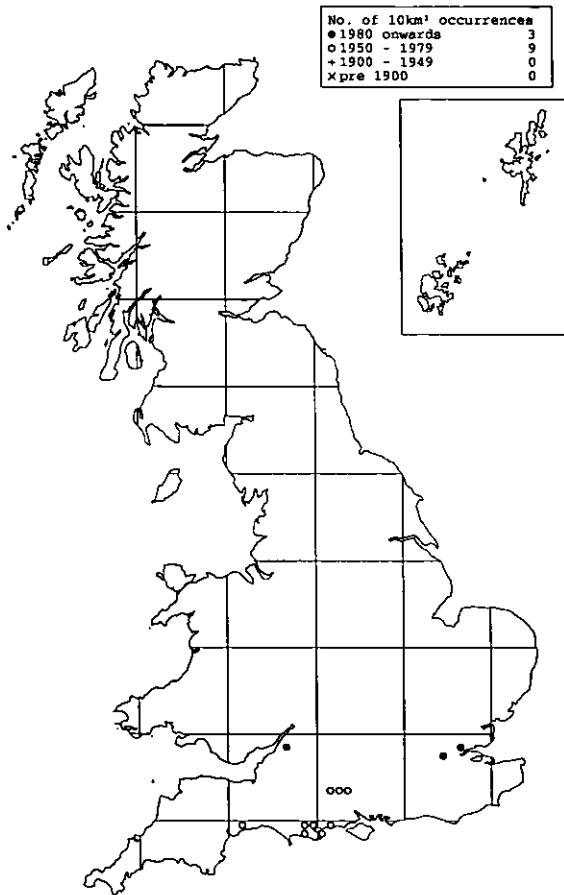
Management

Sedge cutting has been reinstated at both Reedham Marshes and Catfield Fen as a means of controlling scrub and carr invasion into sedge beds. At Westhay Moor, the local Trust has purchased an area of worked out peat diggings on which it is eventually hoped that acid bog habitats will be re-established.

Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991).



[18901] Linyphiidae: *Wiehleia calcarifera*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider may have been under-recorded because of its unusual habitat. It has never been found in abundance at any site.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from a few localities in southern England, with most records from a fairly small area in central-southern England. It is likely to be restricted by its need for coarse well-drained soil, and by climatic factors. In Europe it is known from France, Belgium and Germany.

Habitat and ecology

W. calcarifera occurs in the top layers of coarse sandy soil on open heathland, deep among pine and oak litter on sandy soil, and in short chalk grassland. The records suggest that it lives mainly in coarse sandy soil, and that it migrates downwards in winter. Adults of both sexes have been found between October and May.

Threats

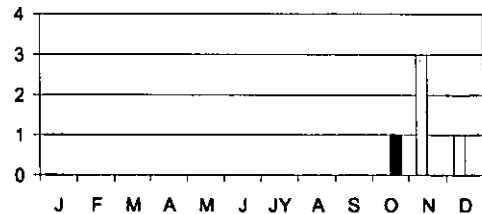
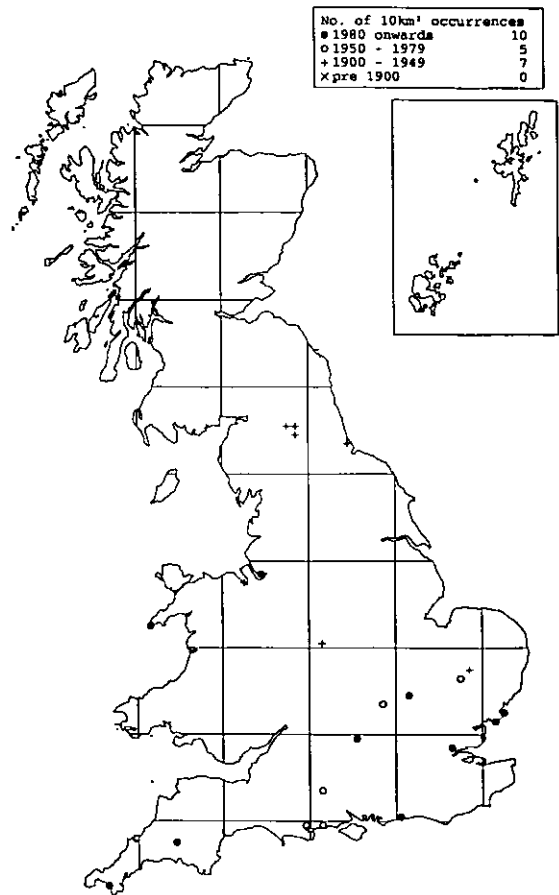
Sand and gravel extraction at some sites, loss of heathland and chalk grassland to agriculture.

Management

Most specimens have been taken from fairly sparsely vegetated areas, but the maintenance of this type of habitat is probably not essential as it has also been found in woodland litter.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[19001] Linyphiidae: *Mioxena blanda*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Rare.

Distribution

M. blanda is known from widely scattered localities in England and Wales. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The species has been recorded from a wide range of habitats: saltmarsh, calcareous grassland, beneath stones on a river bed, in birch and pine litter, sand dunes, bracken, sugar-beet fields and a tin mine. It is thought that its true habitat has not yet been identified, and it may be subterranean. Adults have been found between August and January, possibly mostly in the late autumn and early winter.

Threats

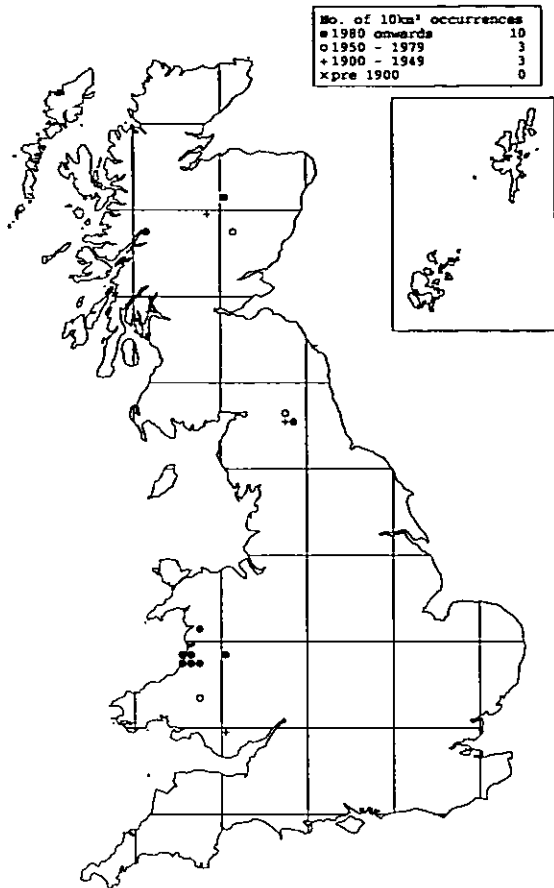
No threats are known for this species.

Management

Too little is known of the biology of this species to make management recommendations.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett (1990).

[19101] Linyphiidae: *Caviphantes saxetorum*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). On account of its unusual habitat, this spider may have been under-recorded; it is probably less rare than the number of records suggests. It may be fairly widespread on upland rivers with sandy and stony banks.

Distribution

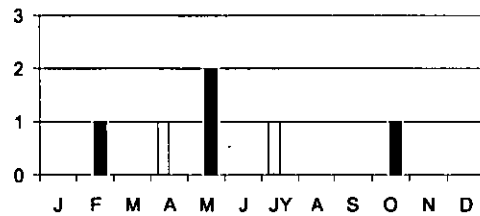
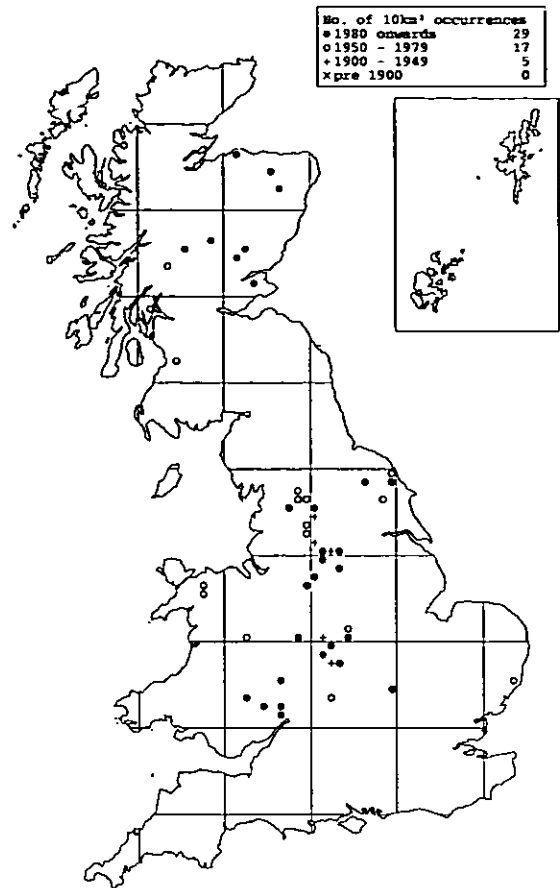
The species has been recorded from Wales, scattered localities in Scotland, and from Haltwhistle and the confluence of the rivers East and West Allen in Northumberland.

Habitat and ecology

C. saxetorum occurs under stones and boulders on sandy banks of rivers. There is some evidence that it may live in cavities under deeply embedded boulders in winter, and under smaller stones in drier surroundings in summer. Adults of both sexes have been found in March, June and September, a male also in May, and a female in July. It may be adult throughout the year.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[19201] Linyphiidae: *Asthenargus paganus*



Status

Local.

Distribution

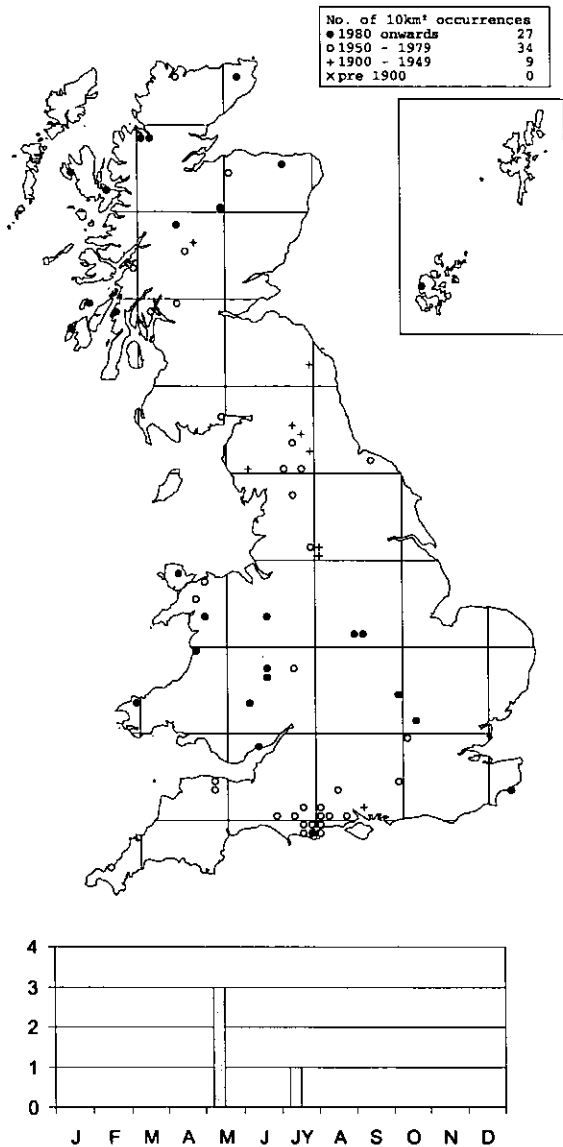
The species is widespread in England from the Severn to Yorkshire, with scattered records from Wales, central Scotland and an isolated record from Suffolk. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A. paganus is found in moss, leaf litter and detritus in mature broad-leaved and coniferous woodland. It is apparently common under the scales of spruce bark and has been found in spruce litter (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). It is adult in autumn, winter and spring.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19301] Linyphiidae: *Jacksonella falconeri*



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

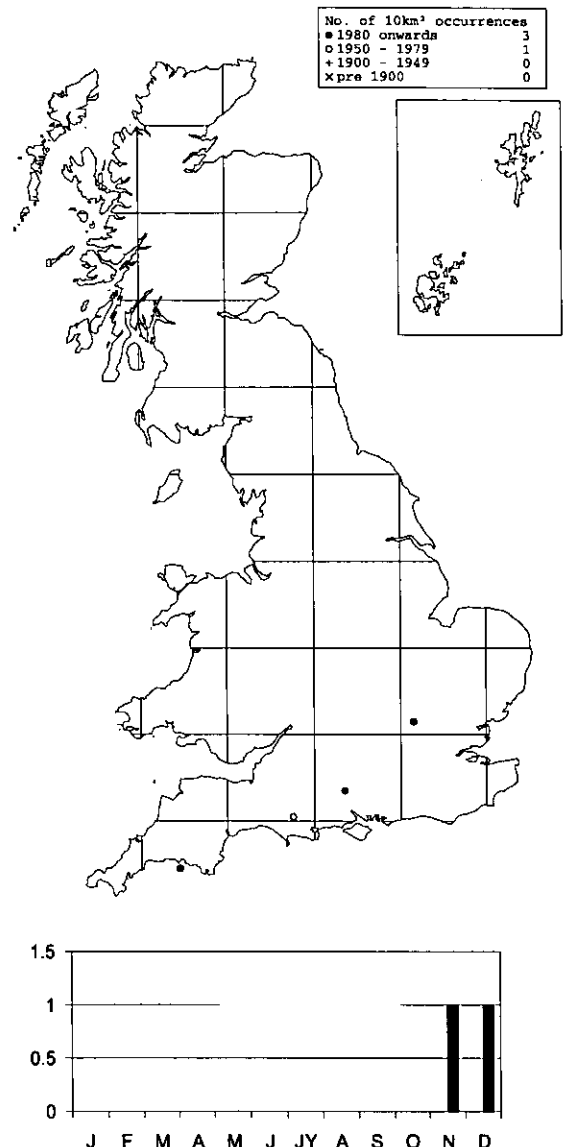
The species has a patchy and scattered distribution in Britain, but is absent from large areas. It has been recorded from most of the countries in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

In southern England *J. falconeri* is found in open, stony areas on heathland and in the top layers of soil. It has also been found on calcareous grassland, in pine needles and under stones. Adults occur in spring and autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19401] Linyphiidae: *Pseudomaro aenigmaticus*



Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK). This species is rare over its recorded range. Only five females have been found in Britain and six in Europe.

Distribution

P. aenigmaticus has been recorded from single localities in Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire and Hertfordshire. It is also known from Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland and Italy.

Habitat and ecology

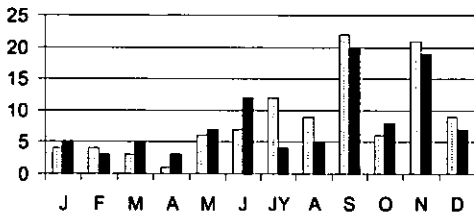
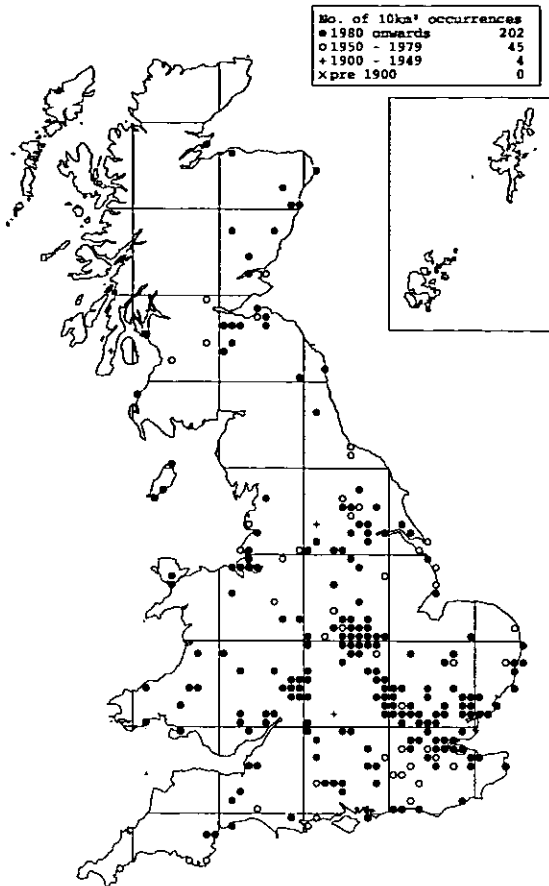
On the continent this species has been recorded from caves and cellars, while in Britain it has been collected from chalk grassland in Dorset and Hampshire, fields of winter wheat in Hertfordshire (Merrett in Bratton 1991) and the field layer of a woodland edge near the coast in Cornwall (M. George, pers. comm.). The habitat for this species is not known but it is suspected to live in ant nests or in fissures in the soil. Adult females have been found between November and February.

Threats and management

Not enough is known about this species to identify any threats or make any management recommendations.

Author of profile: P. Smithers

[19501] Linyphiidae: *Ostearius melanopygius*



Status

The spider's association with rubbish-tips and refuse, and the knowledge that it occurred in Madeira and the Azores, led Bristowe (1939) to suggest that it had been imported from the Atlantic islands. Importation from New Zealand has also been suggested (Locket & Millidge 1953), but it is more likely to have been exported from Britain to New Zealand (P. Merrett, pers. comm.).

Distribution

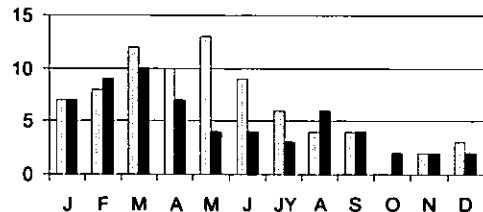
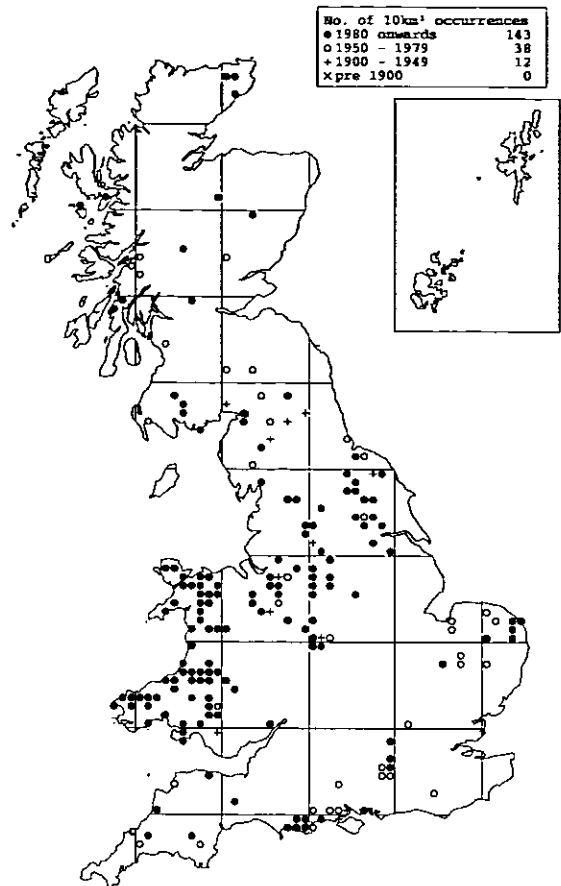
The species is widespread in much of England, but very scattered elsewhere. It is cosmopolitan and widespread in Europe as far north as Sweden in Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

O. melanopygius occurs in a very wide range of habitats, particularly rubbish heaps and gardens, and occasionally occurring indoors. It is a frequent aeronaut. Adults of both sexes are found throughout the year, with most recorded in summer and autumn or early winter.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19601] Linyphiidae: *Aphileta misera*



Status

Local.

Distribution

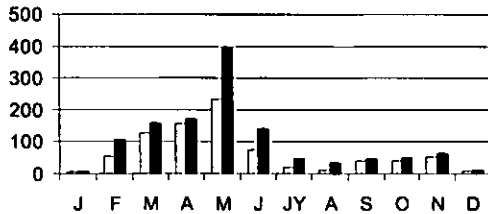
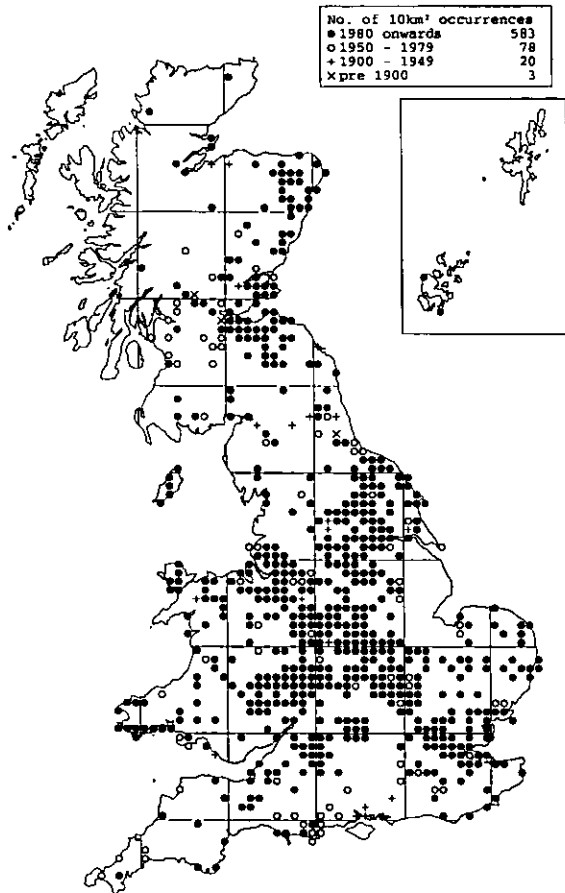
A. misera is widespread on southern heathlands and in East Anglia, in a band from south-west Wales to Yorkshire, and in northern England and the Borders but the distribution is scattered elsewhere and the species is absent from many areas of southern England. It is a widespread, northern Holarctic species (Platnick 1998; Denis 1969).

Habitat and ecology

This spider inhabits undisturbed, acidic wetlands such as fens, mires and blanket bogs. It is commonly found in the uplands where it lives amongst low bog vegetation. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, mainly from January through to the spring and summer. In North Wales, egg-sacs have been found in June affixed within clumps of the moss *Polytrichum commune*. The female stands guard over the single egg-sac.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[19709] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma pygmaeum*



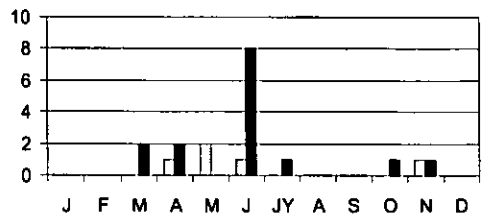
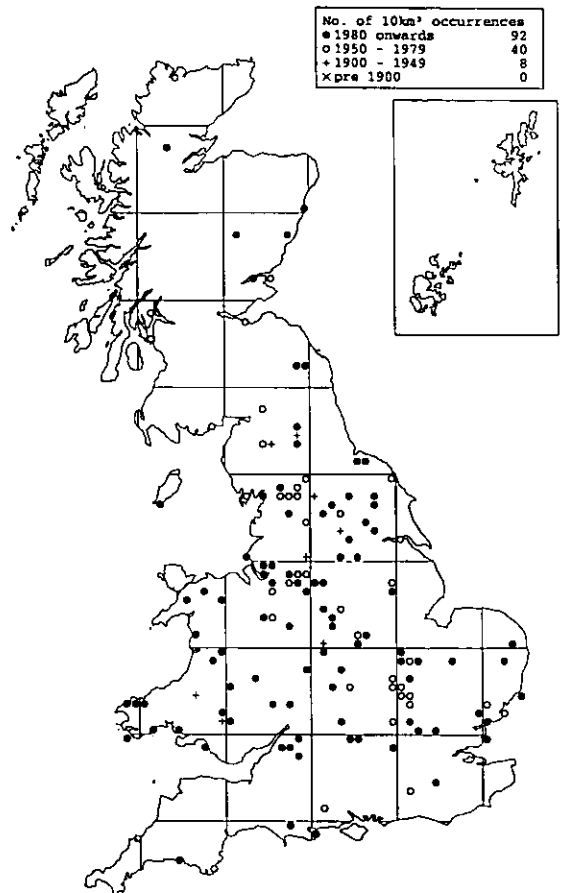
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of England, Wales and the east of Scotland, scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The main habitat for this species is in damp marshy places. However it is a common aeronaut and can be found in many habitats at all levels, from woodland leaf litter, through grassland of many types, and upwards into shrub and canopy layers. Adults of both sexes can be found at any time of year, with a peak in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

[19702] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma convexum*



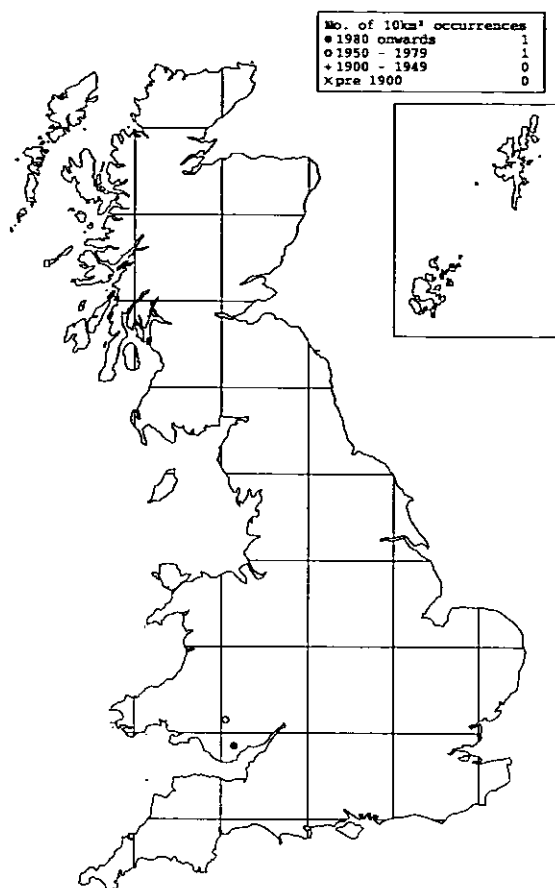
Status
Local, but the spider may be frequent where it occurs.

Distribution
P. convexum is widespread but scattered in much of England and Wales, but widely scattered elsewhere. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
Typically this spider is found within damp mines and caves where it constructs a small web within recesses in the rock. *P. convexum* can also be found in damp culverts, cellars, beneath rock piles, amongst thick undergrowth and within sewage filter beds (Crocker & Daws 1996; Locket & Millidge 1953; Bristowe 1958). Adults may be found throughout the year. Single egg-sacs are affixed to the rock surface and have been noted in November.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[19710] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma rosenhaueri*



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2).

Distribution

In Britain *P. rosenhaueri* has been recorded only from Lesser Garth cave and Ogof-y-Ci near Cardiff (Chapman 1993). It has been recorded from Ireland, Spain, France, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

This species is a blind troglobite which lives in the network of cracks and fissures that permeate the limestone (Chapman 1993). Females have been found in July, but adults probably occur all year.

Threats

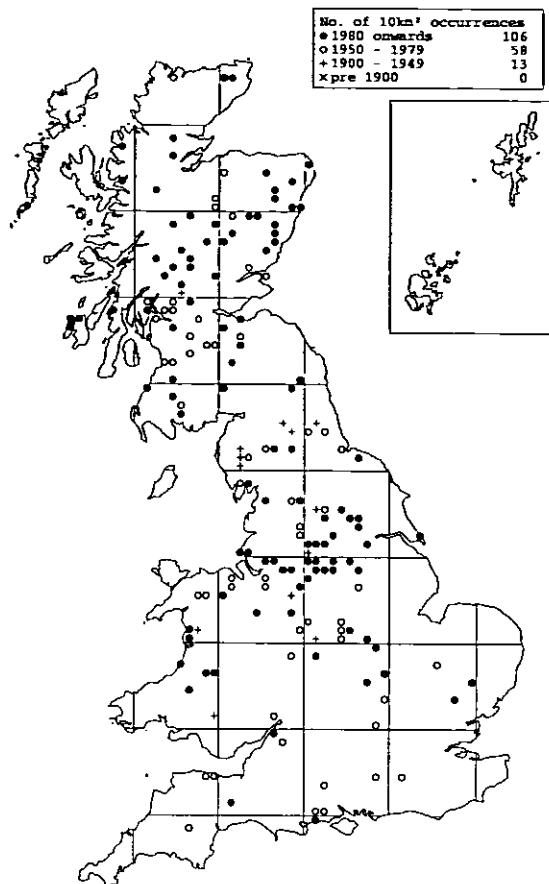
Quarrying may be a threat to these cave systems (Chapman 1993).

Management

Too little is known of the biology of this species to make management recommendations.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett, in Bratton (1991).

[19708] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma pallidum*



Status

Local.

Distribution

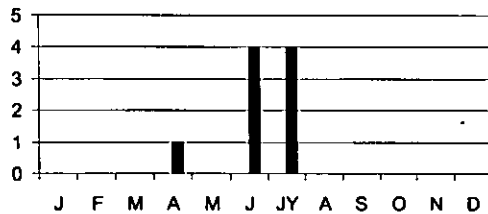
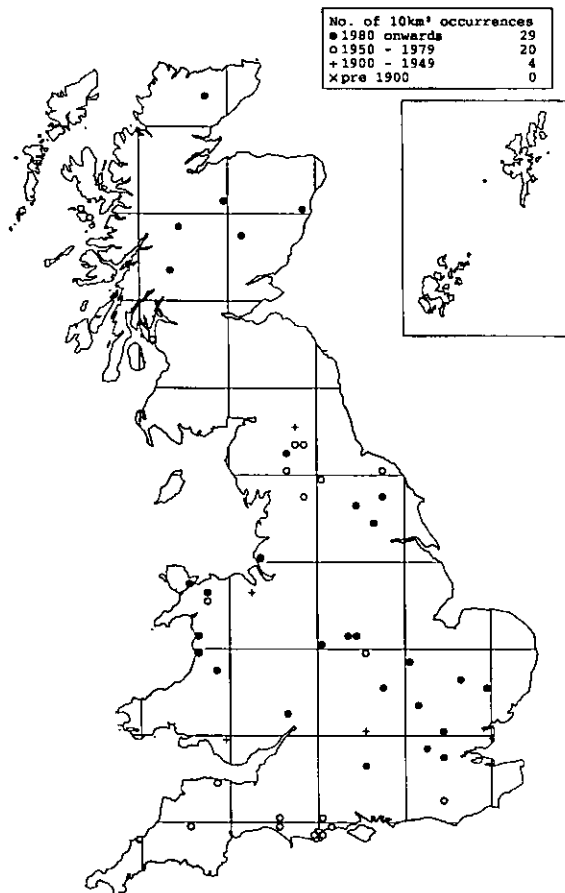
The species is widespread in Britain, but records are scattered, especially in southern England.

Habitat and ecology

A shade-tolerant species of woodland and upland habitats normally found in small webs close to the ground either under stones or within the moss layer. In central Europe, *P. pallidum* also occurs in meadows and raised bogs (Hänggi et al. 1995). Adults can be found throughout the year in Finland (Huhta 1971) a situation reflected in our own data. *P. pallidum* is rarely recorded in any numbers, although there is some evidence that the peak activity is likely to fall in late summer (Locket & Millidge 1953; Huhta 1971). Our data suggest a more extended or complex adult period between late spring and the autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[19701] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma campbelli*



Status

Local, but rarely encountered perhaps due to its habitat preference.

Distribution

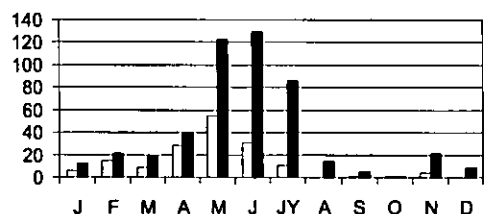
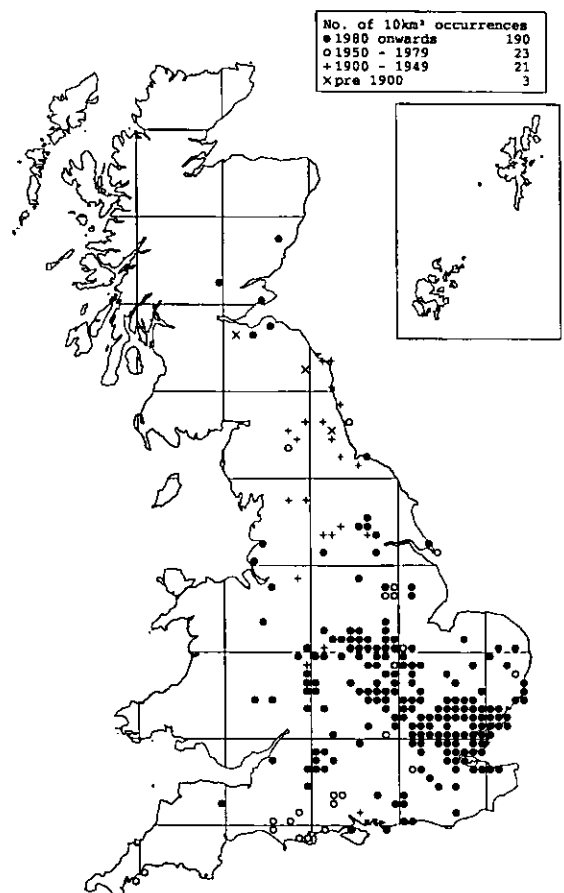
P. campbelli has a widespread but very scattered distribution in Britain. A Palaearctic species fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider has been found beneath rocks and amongst dry reed-bed litter (Crocker & Daws 1996). *P. campbelli* has also been taken whilst ballooning off fence posts in upland moorland. It is likely that the species typically inhabits subterranean mammal burrows as specimens have been found in mole nests (Bristowe 1958). Adult females have been taken between April and July.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[19705] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma microphthalmum*



Status

The spider is common in the south-east, rare in the north and west.

Distribution

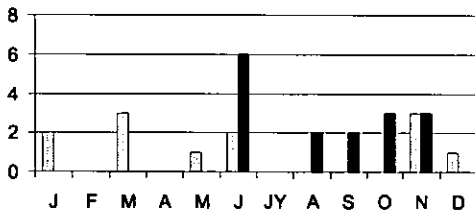
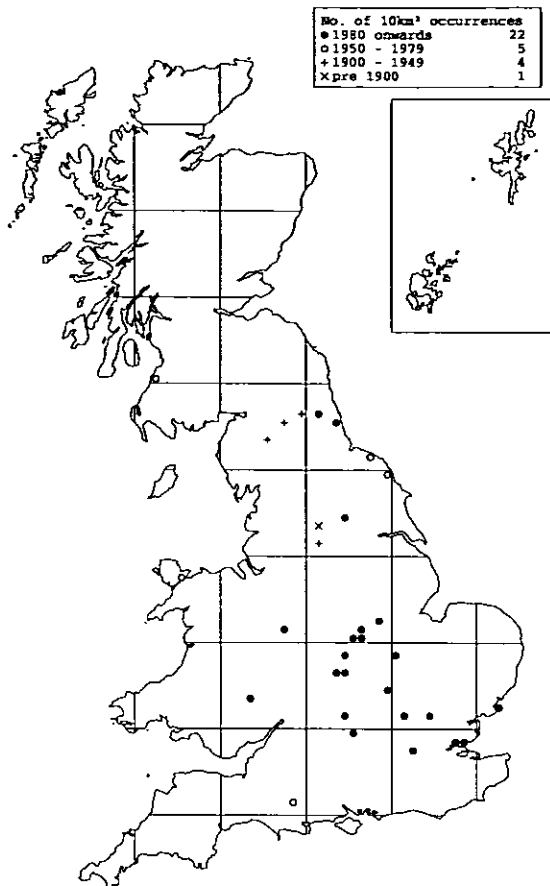
The species is widespread in central and south-eastern England but more scattered elsewhere in England. It is absent from much of the west, extending as far north as central eastern Scotland. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but only doubtfully reported for Ireland (Van Helsdingen 1996).

Habitat and ecology

A common spider of agricultural fields (Thornhill 1983) and sparsely vegetated grasslands, such as mudflats and saline grasslands (Meijer 1977). *P. microphthalmum* is partly subterranean, living between cracks in the soil. However, it may on occasion, be found higher up in vegetation, for example on shrubs. The spider is a frequent aeronaut, which may explain its apparent wide habitat niche. A Swiss study found that there were two peaks in aeronautic dispersal: the first between July and mid-August and the second between the end of September and mid-December (Blandenier & Fürst 1998). In Britain, Thornhill (1983) found females between January and September and males between March and November. Our data show a peak of adult males in late spring and early summer and females from early to mid-summer, with adults of both sexes occasionally found throughout the year.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[19704] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma errans*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is apparently rare and local, with few specimens found, but it is possibly under-recorded because its main habitat is unknown. It is uncommon in Europe.

Distribution

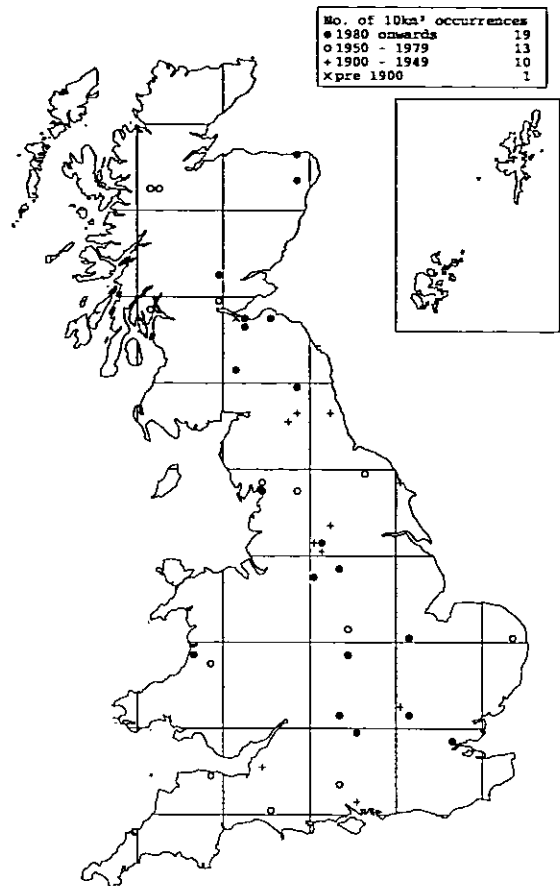
The species is widespread but very scattered with most recent records from the Midlands and south-eastern England. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but not recorded from Scandinavia north of Denmark.

Habitat and ecology

The biology is poorly known. The species possibly occurs mainly on grassland, but it has also been found in woodland, on soft-rock cliffs, heavily rabbit-grazed grassland and arable land. In Essex it has been found on coastal landslips and south-facing grassland with a good proportion of bare ground and in Leicestershire it has been found in gardens, allotments and churchyards in grassland type habitats (J. Daws, pers. comm.). The presence of bare ground may be the most significant common feature. Adults of both sexes have been found between October and June, females also in August and September.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey, based on Merrett (1990)

[19703] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma egeria*



Status

Scarce.

Distribution

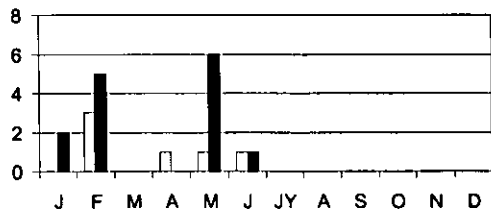
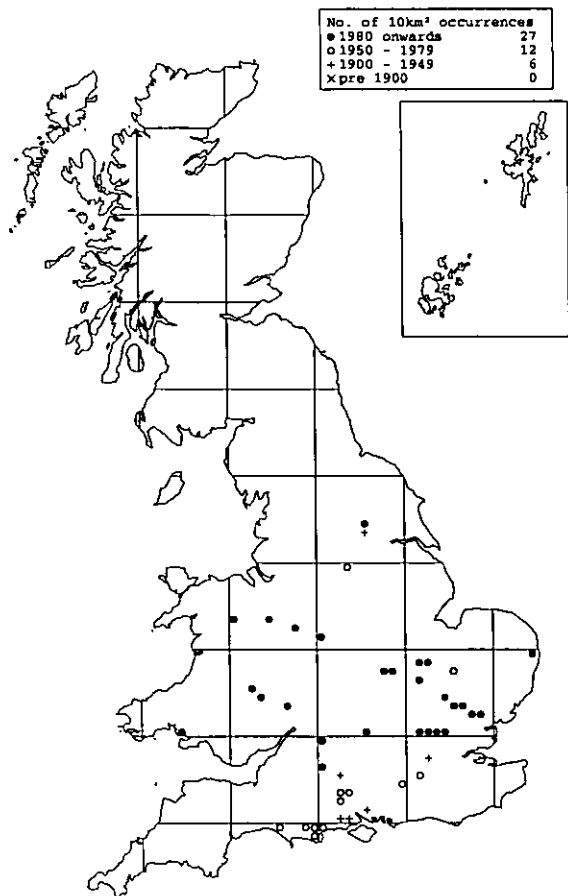
The species has a widespread but very scattered distribution in Britain. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Denmark, Norway or Hungary.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is predominately a cavemicolous species, often exploiting the deeper parts of the cave system (e.g. Ružička 1996). Outside of the cave habitat, *P. egeria* is less frequent but has been found down mines, amongst stony debris within moss and occasionally in cellars. Gradual eye reduction has been observed in this species which is dependent on the distance from the cave entrance (Sanocka (1982), cited in Ružička (1996)). Never occurring in any numbers, its ecology and phenology still remain something of a mystery, although it is known to use a web for prey capture and has been recorded in some months between February and September.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[19707] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma oblitum*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider may be abundant, but is very local.

Distribution

The species is widely distributed in England and Wales from Yorkshire southwards, but is generally scattered and absent from the south-west and many other areas of England and Wales. The species is uncommon but fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe. It has not been recorded in Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The species occurs in wet, usually broad-leaved, litter, in damp woodland and fen carr. It may be swept from herbage in woodland and fens. Adults of both sexes have been found from October to early June. We have limited data for adults between January and June.

Threats

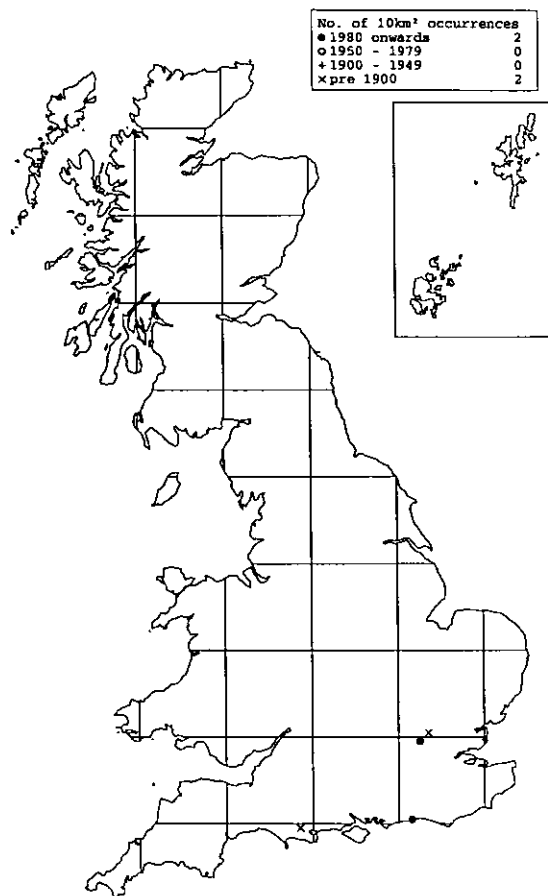
The species may be threatened by the loss of damp broad-leaved woodland to intensive forestry, or drainage.

Management

Maintain the water table in damp woodland and fen carr. This is one of the few fen species for which scrub growth is beneficial.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey based on Merrett (1990).

[19711] Linyphiidae: *Porrhomma cambridgei*



Status

The spider is scarce and likely to be confined to southern England

Distribution

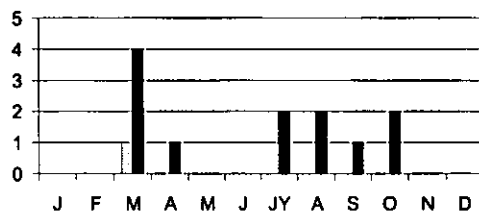
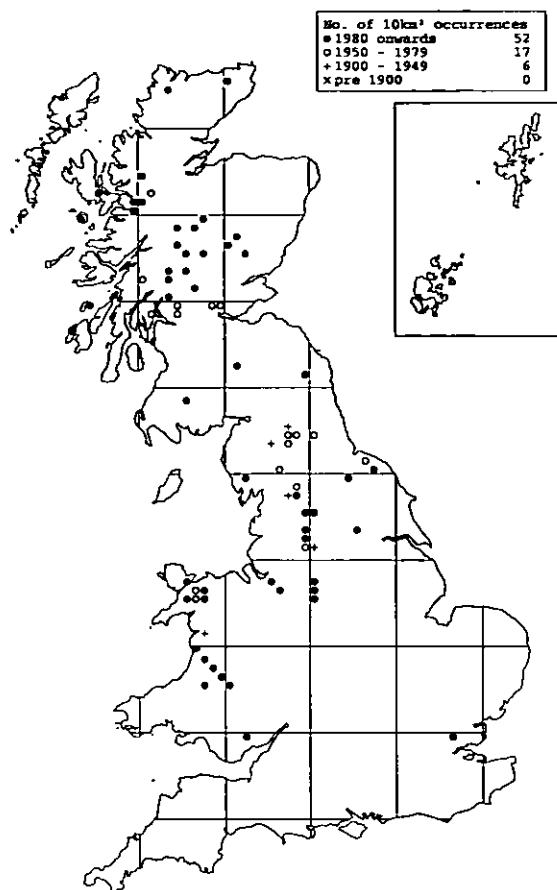
A species recorded from Dorset, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Sussex. It has also been recorded from Germany and Switzerland.

Habitat and ecology

The reduced eyes and pale colour of *P. cambridgei* suggest a subterranean habit (Merrett 1994). Like many other species in the genus, the most likely habitat is within soil cracks in grassland and crop fields. Thus far, only females have been found in Britain. They have been found above ground attempting to balloon. Elsewhere in Europe, *P. cambridgei* has only been found in Germany amongst sparse vegetation in a sandy area (Merrett 1994).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[19706] Linyphiidae: *Porrohomma montanum*



Status
Local.

Distribution

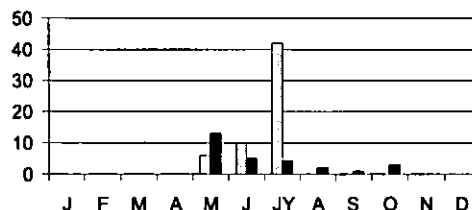
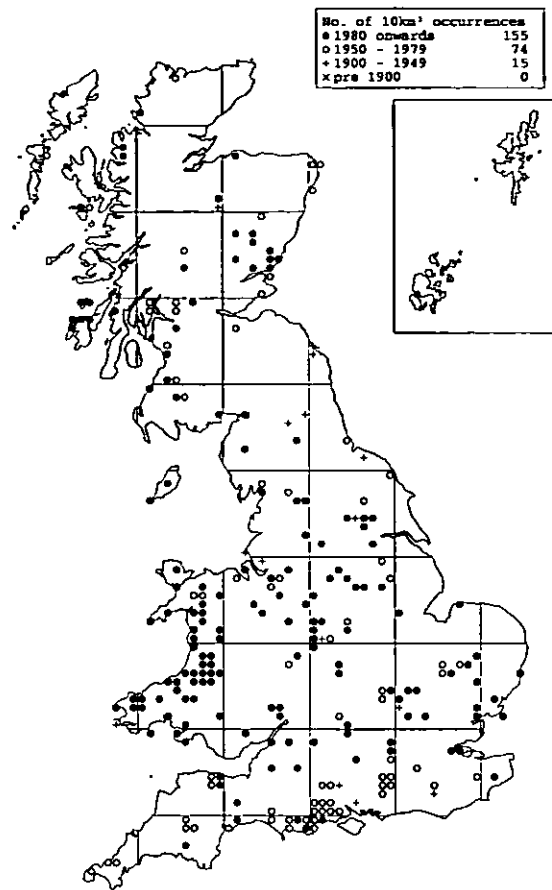
The species has a widespread but scattered distribution north of a line between the Severn and Humber estuaries, but there is one isolated site known in south-east England. It is widespread in north-western Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland, France, Austria, Switzerland or Poland. It is a Palearctic species (Platnick 1998).

Habitat and ecology

This is typically an upland species occurring beneath rocks on open mountains. On two occasions specimens have been taken from wet leaf litter in a ditch at Thorndon Park, an ancient woodland in South Essex (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). In Snowdonia, mature females have been recorded in April and September. In Essex, adults of both sexes were recorded in March with further females in July. Females have been observed guarding single egg-sacs affixed beneath felsenmeer rocks in mid-September at Moel Siabod, Snowdonia.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[19806] Linyphiidae: *Agyneta subtilis*



Status
Frequent in some areas.

Distribution

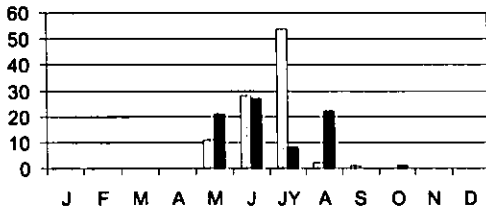
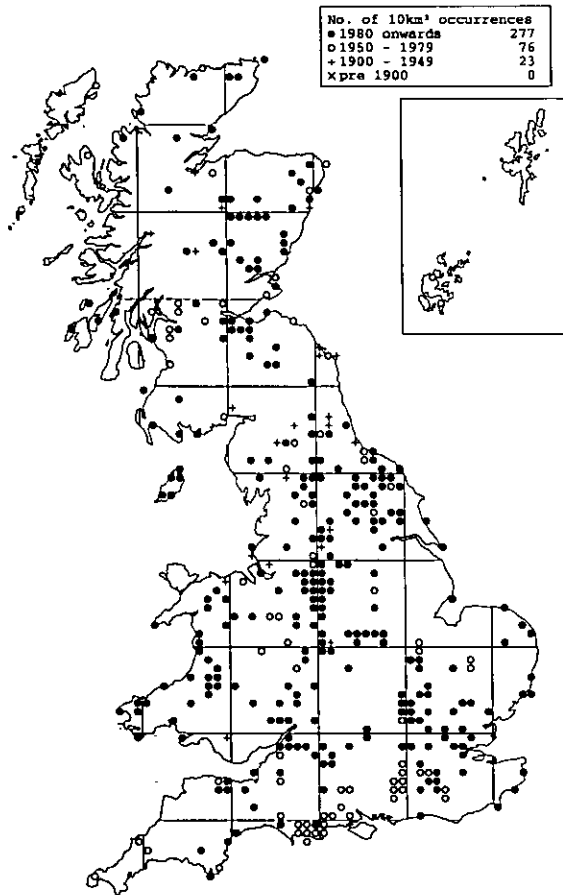
The species is widespread, but records are more scattered and patchy in the north. A Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A. subtilis is found in a variety of habitats including undergrowth and leaf litter in broad-leaved woodland, and in moss and grass. Merrett (1990) has reported that after the burning of dry heath this species can reach and remain at high densities in the regrown, mature heather. It is adult in spring, summer and autumn with a peak of activity in May and June (Merrett 1969). Our data record adults of both sexes from early to mid-summer, with females persisting until the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19802] Linyphiidae: *Agneta conigera*



Status

Local, more frequent in the north.

Distribution

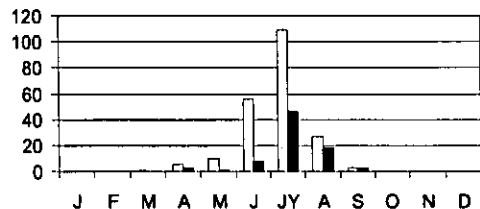
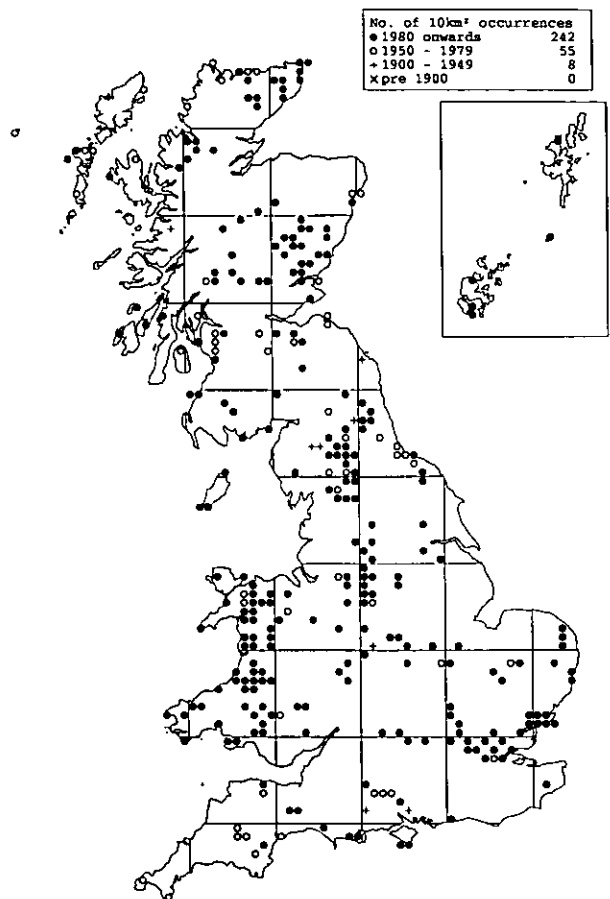
A. conigera has a patchy but widespread distribution in Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A. conigera is found in a variety of habitats including undergrowth, leaf litter, moss and grass. It may also be found by sweeping herbaceous vegetation and by beating from bushes and trees. Adults of both sexes have mainly been recorded from early to mid-summer, with females occasionally persisting until the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19803] Linyphiidae: *Agneta decora*



Status

The spider is probably commonest in the north and in upland habitats and is usually infrequent in the south.

Distribution

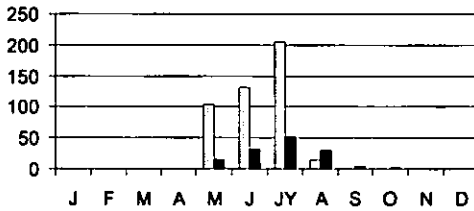
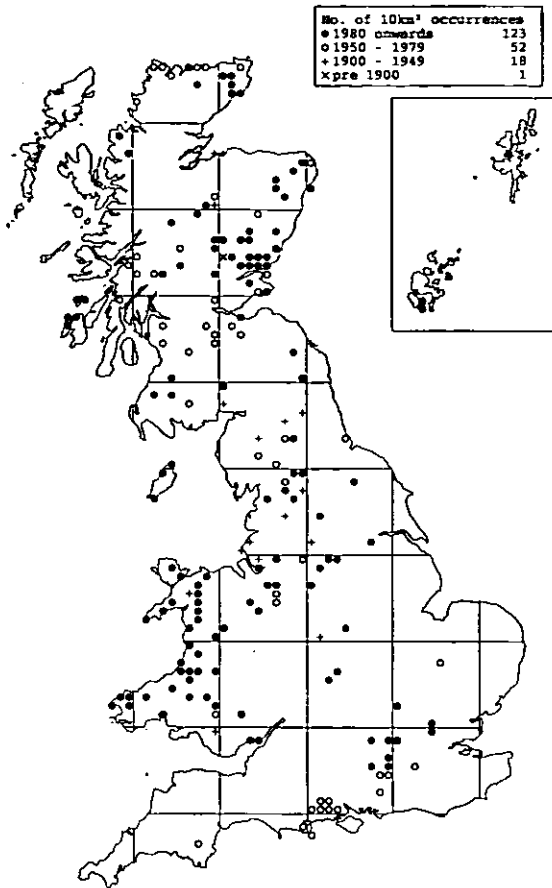
A. decora has a patchy but widespread distribution in Britain. It is widespread in northern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

A. decora is found in similar situations to *A. subtilis* and *A. conigera*. Adults of both sexes are found from spring to late summer, with a peak in July.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19801] Linyphiidae: *Agyneta cauta*



Status

Uncommon.

Distribution

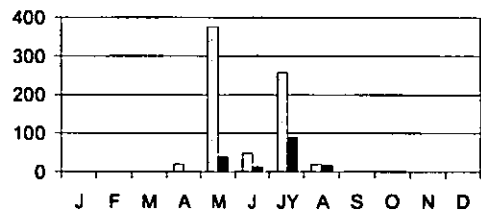
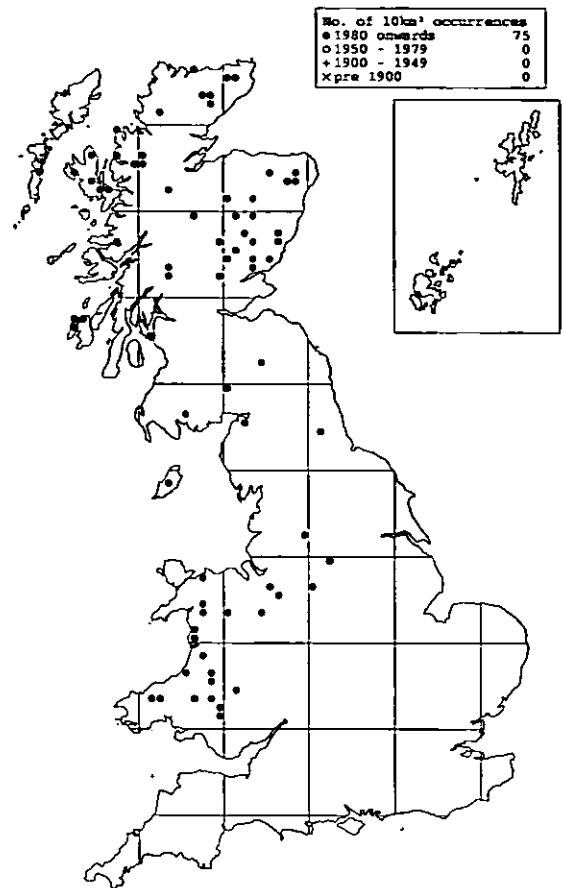
The species is widespread on southern heathlands, in Wales, northern England and Scotland, but absent or very scattered elsewhere. It is a European species, widespread in most of north-western and central Europe, but apparently not recorded from France.

Habitat and ecology

A. cauta is generally found in litter, detritus and sometimes in moss in damp sites. Crocker & Daws (1996) record the capture, in Leicestershire in July, of both sexes in a pitfall trap set in bracken/heather heathland, and of a male on the same occasion in a trap set in open, rocky, exposed *Nardus* grass heath on a summit ridge at 900' (270 m). It has been recorded from a small sphagnum bog in Essex and occurred commonly in blanket bog in Scotland, together with *A. olivacea* (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have mainly been recorded from early to mid-summer, with females occasionally persisting until the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19804] Linyphiidae: *Agyneta olivacea*



Status

A. olivacea was recognised as a separate species distinct from *A. cauta* (O. P.-Cambridge) and described from Britain by Hippa & Oksala (1985). It may be frequent in suitable habitat.

Distribution

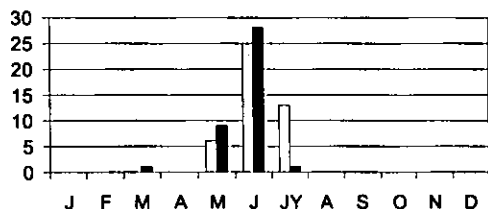
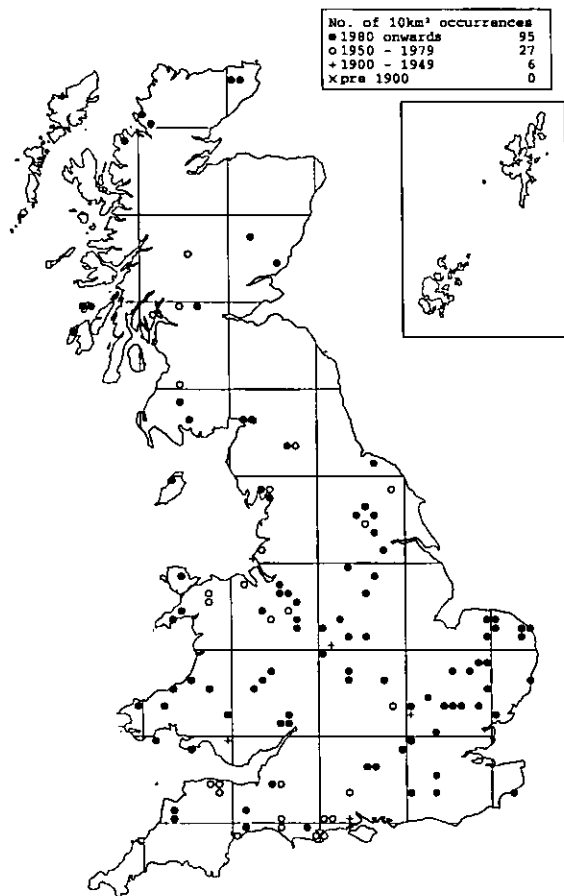
The species has not been recorded south of a line between Breconshire and Yorkshire. It is a Holarctic species with records from Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia.

Habitat and ecology

Any differences in the habitat preferences of *A. cauta* and this species are not yet known. It occurred commonly in blanket bog in Scotland with *A. cauta* (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been recorded in summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19805] Linyphiidae: *Agynera ramosa*



Status

Local, but the spider may then be frequent.

Distribution

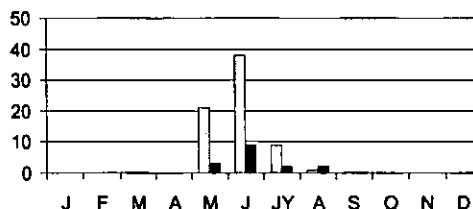
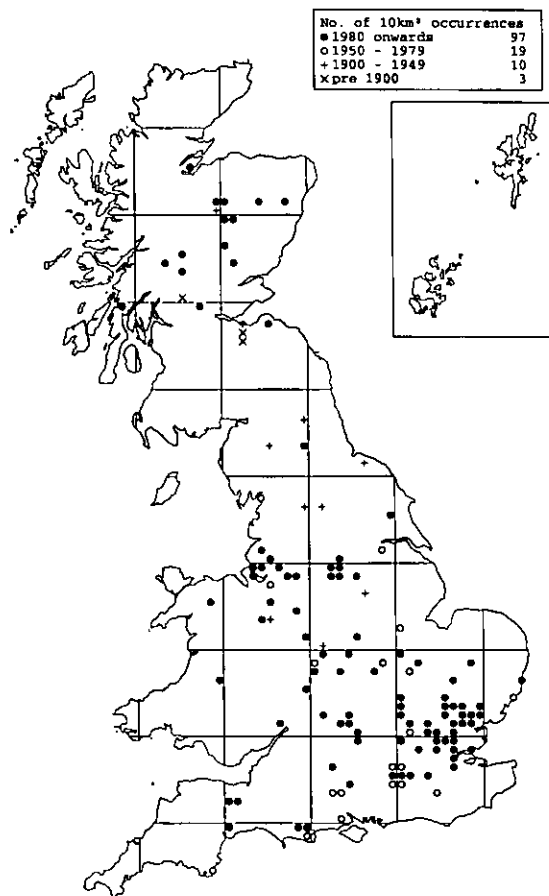
The species is widespread in much of England and Wales, becoming very scattered in Scotland. A Palaearctic species widespread in northern and central Europe, but not recorded from Ireland or France.

Habitat and ecology

A. ramosa generally occurs in moss in damp areas, including those in broad-leaved woodland, but it has also been found in leaf litter in woodland, on bare ground under fallen trees, and on well-drained *Nardus* grass heath. The peak of activity is from May to July.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[19903] Linyphiidae: *Meioneta innotabilis*



Status

Local.

Distribution

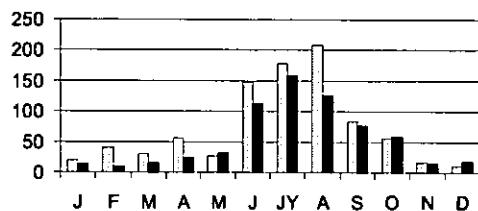
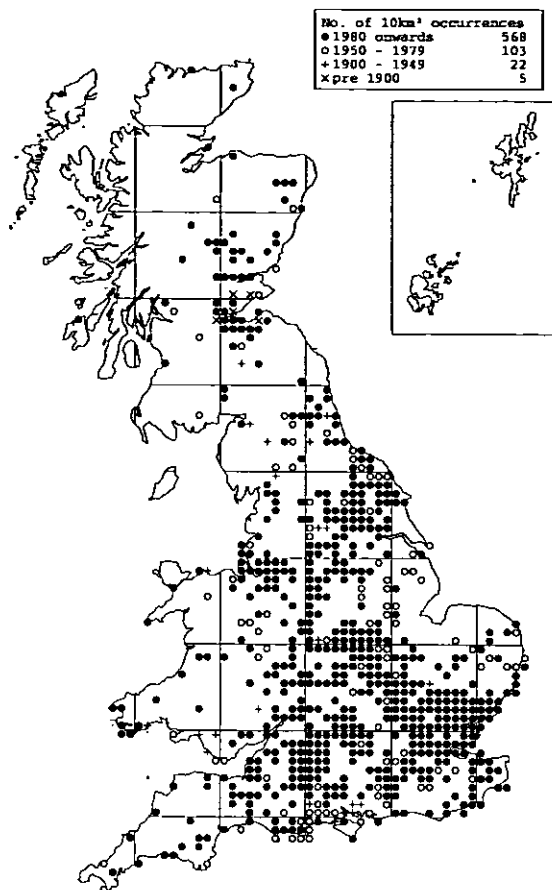
The species is widespread in much of southern England, but with few records in the south-west and Wales and becoming very scattered north of south Yorkshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This is a woodland spider, which usually occurs on and under bark on tree trunks, at the base of trees or sometimes within leaf litter. In early summer, adults may be seen running over the surface of tree trunks in the sunshine. The ecology of this spider is little known. Adults are found mainly from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[19906] Linyphiidae: *Meioneta rurestris*



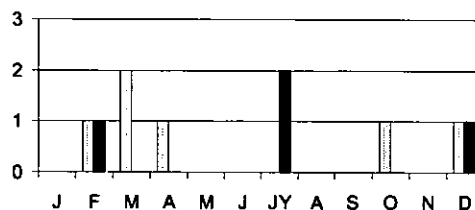
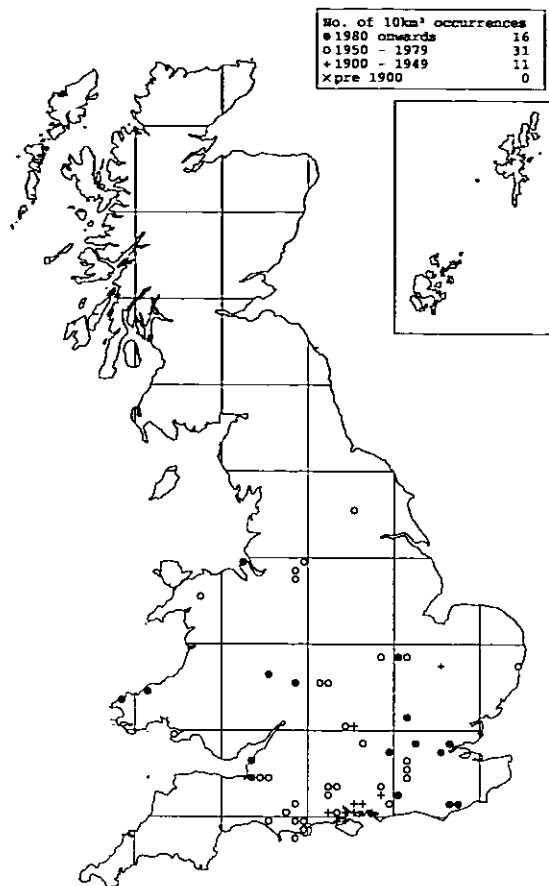
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain, becoming scattered in the west and north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
A central and northern European species abundant in disturbed sparsely vegetated habitats. *M. rurestris* is one of the commonest spiders living on British grasslands and cultivated land. It builds a small horizontal sheet web (c. 30 cm²) over depressions in the soil or against stones, normally over bare ground but also amongst vegetation (Thornhill 1983). This spider is known for its super-colonising ability of pioneer habitats (e.g. Meijer 1977). In a Swiss experiment, it was found that there are two main phases of aerial dispersal: the first from July to early September, and the second from mid-October to mid-November (Blandenier & Fürst 1998). Although adults have been taken throughout the year, combined data from Thornhill (1983) and Bell (1999) suggest that the peak of activity is between May and August, indicating the main copulation phase. The diet consists of Collembola, Homoptera and Thysanoptera (Sunderland et al. 1986).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

[19904] Linyphiidae: *Meioneta mollis*

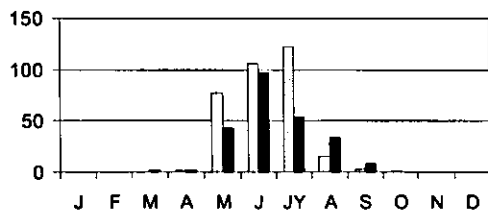
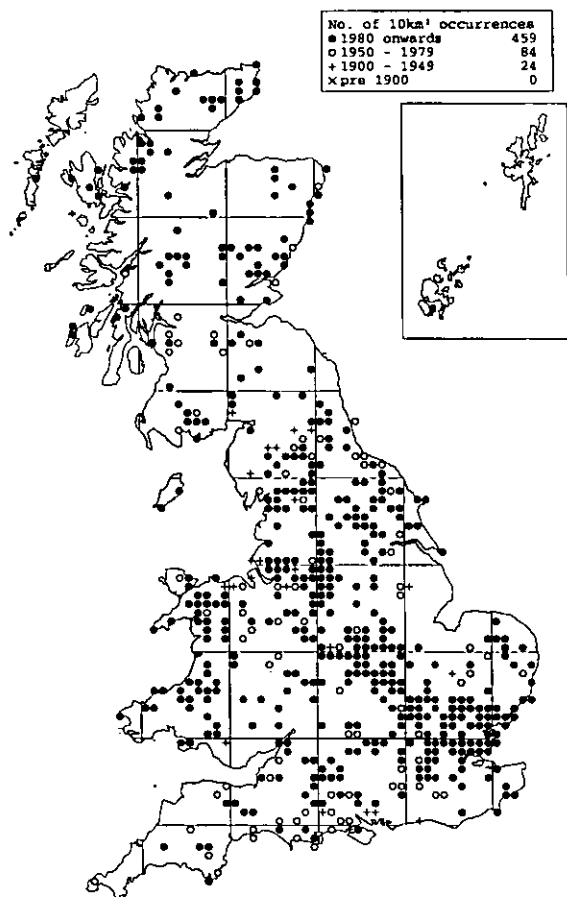


Status
Local and scarce.

Distribution
The species is widespread in southern, central and eastern England and very scattered as far north as Yorkshire, with few records in Wales. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland, Denmark or Norway.

Habitat and ecology
Duffey (1956) found *M. mollis* to be quite locally abundant in limestone grassland in Oxfordshire. The peak density of the spider was found to be in November, although adults could be found between September and April. Based on a small number of observations, Duffey (1956) found that a spring dispersal phase was most likely. In central Europe, the spider seems to be commonest in most types of, particularly damp, grassland and wet woodland (Hänggi et al. 1995). The picture may be slightly different in Britain, with most records from grassland but some from woodland. Our limited data record males in spring and autumn/early winter.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



Status

Common.

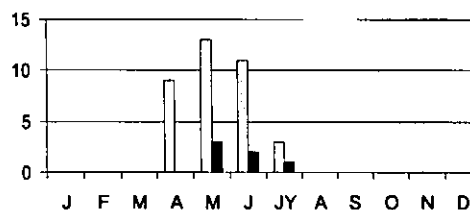
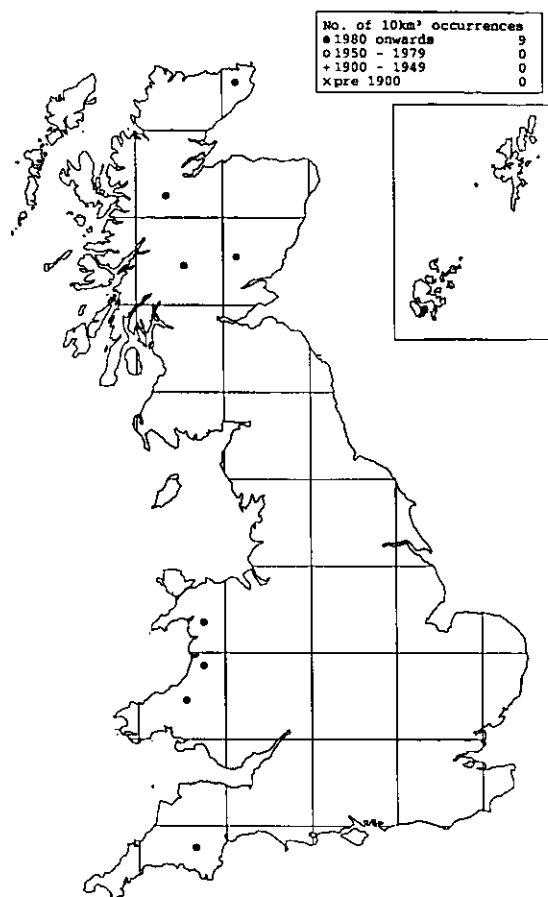
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain, becoming more scattered further north. A new species, *M. mossica* was split from *M. saxatilis* by Schikora (1993). Prior to that the two species had been confused under the name *M. saxatilis*. Consequently, a number of the western and northern upland records of *M. saxatilis* mapped here may in fact relate to *M. mossica*. *M. saxatilis* is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Schikora (1993) notes that *M. saxatilis* is likely to have a much broader habitat niche than *M. mossica*, which includes coastal and inland grasslands, crop fields, broad-leaved and pine woodland. The two species only overlap in bogs and peaty areas. Within these habitats, *M. saxatilis* is normally to be found in a small sheet web in the litter zone or at the base of vegetation. Adults have a peak in activity in July (Bell 1999), but have been found between March and October with both sexes recorded mainly from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



Status

Scarce, but the species' true status remains unknown

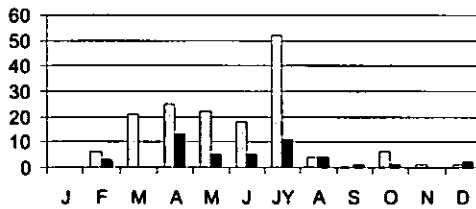
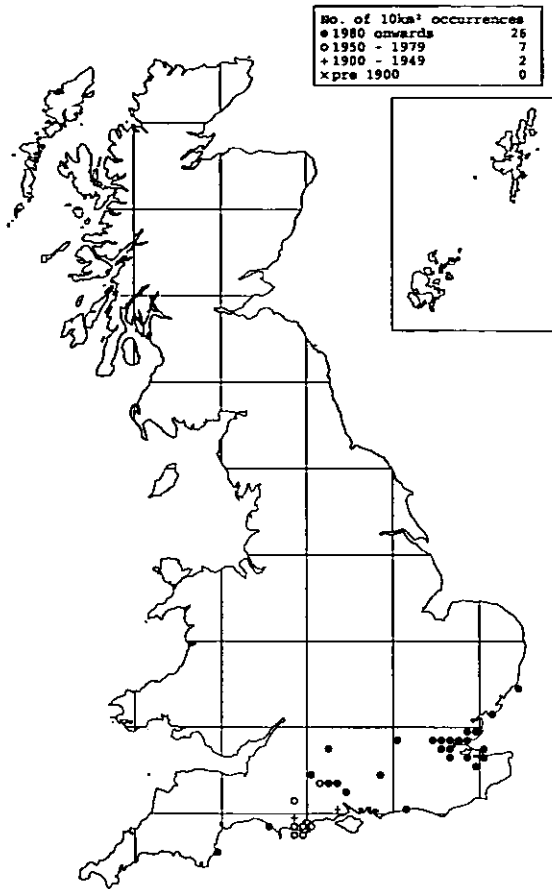
Distribution

There have been rather few records in Britain since its recognition as a new species closely related to *M. saxatilis* (Schikora 1993), but it is probably a mainly northern and western species in this country. Records given in Schikora (1993, 1995) for Kielder Forest in Northumberland and Kinder Scout in Derbyshire have not been submitted to the recording scheme. *M. mossica* has been recorded from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

As its species name suggests, *M. mossica* can be found in wet peaty, mossy habitats, particularly bogs. Details of the ecology of this new species are still scarce. Schikora (1993) records that the most suitable niche for the spider was within open *Sphagnum* expanses subject to temperature fluctuations. Here, spiders build a small sheet web in depressions made in the *Sphagnum* layer (Schikora 1995). Adults can be found between mid-April and October, with an activity peak beginning in mid-May and ending in June (Schikora 1993). The limited British data show males recorded from April to July and females from May to July, with a peak for males between April and June.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider may be relatively frequent in some areas. It is fairly common on chalk and limestone grassland near the coast in Dorset and Sussex, and in grazing marsh grassland in Essex and the north Kent marshes, but there are few records from elsewhere.

Distribution

The species is confined to the south of England. In Europe it has been recorded from France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania.

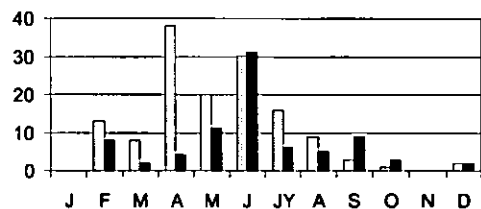
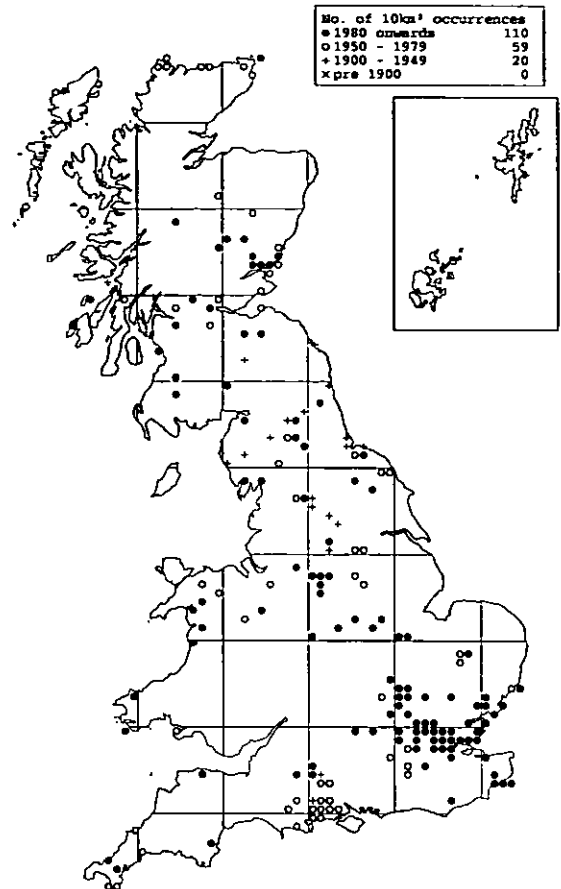
Habitat and ecology

M. simplicitarsis occurs mainly on calcareous grassland near the coast and grazing marsh grassland, usually in taller tussocky grass. Occasional records from heathland areas and shingle possibly represent stray individuals from nearby grassland or roadside verges. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year, with a peak between spring and mid-summer.

Threats

Overgrazing and the loss of calcareous grassland and coastal grazing marsh grassland to arable agriculture.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey, using information in Merrett (1990)



Status

Local.

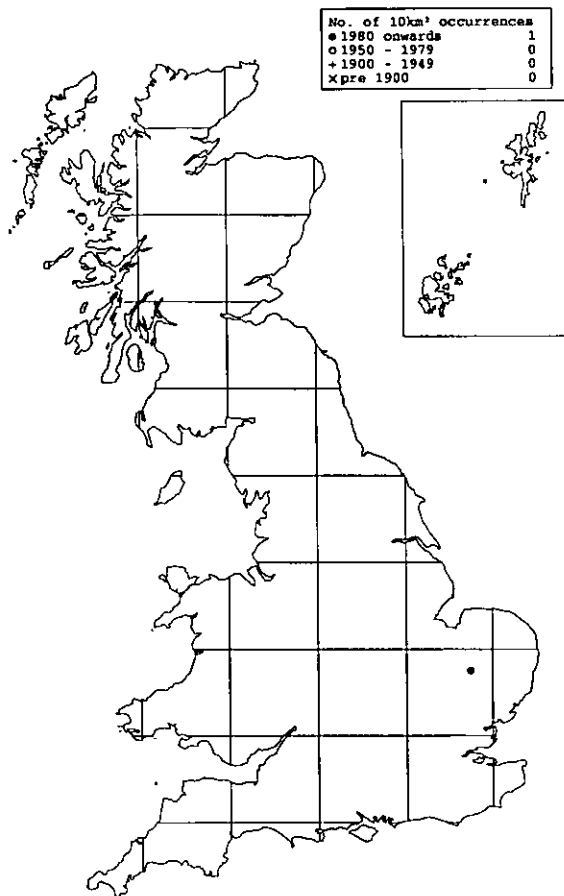
Distribution

The species has a widespread but patchy distribution, and appears to be absent from many areas of the country. It is widespread in most of north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from the Netherlands, Sweden, Hungary or Poland.

Habitat and ecology

This is principally a grassland spider which occurs in a sheet web in the lower strata of the vegetation. It occurs on heathland in the New Forest, but it is not generally found in this habitat (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). In central Europe, *M. beata* appears to have a much broader niche, occurring in a wide variety of habitats including raised bogs, fens and wet meadows (Hänggi et al. 1995). It seems to be commonest in open habitats, only rarely being found in closed canopy woodlands. Crocker & Daws (1996) note adults from May to September. Our data record adults of both sexes for most of the year, between February and December, mainly from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

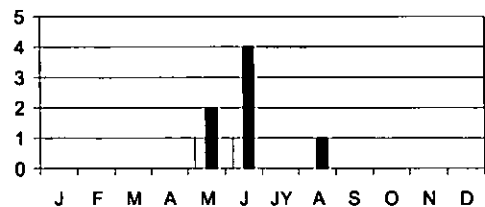
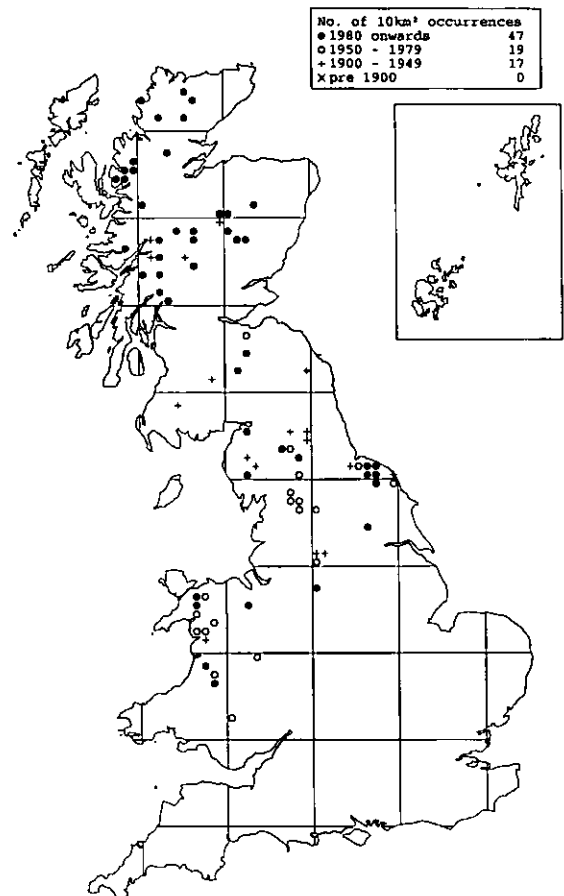


Status
Unknown.

Distribution
The species is widespread in northern Europe but is rarely found (Heimer & Nentwig 1991). The only British records of the spider are from a single site at RAF Mildenhall in West Suffolk, reported in more detail in Lee & Merrett (2001).

Habitat and ecology
Heimer & Nentwig (1991) give the habitat as damp places and occasionally on tree trunks but the British specimens were taken from calcareous grass heath in Breckland. Recent records from Germany (Blick 1999) and Belgium (Vanuytven 1992) suggest that open, sandy habitats are the more usual habitat and confusion with *M. rurestris* may have led to some misunderstandings over habitat requirements in the past. Males have been found at RAF Mildenhall from June to August and in October. The only record of a female at the site is from June.

Author of profile: P. Lee



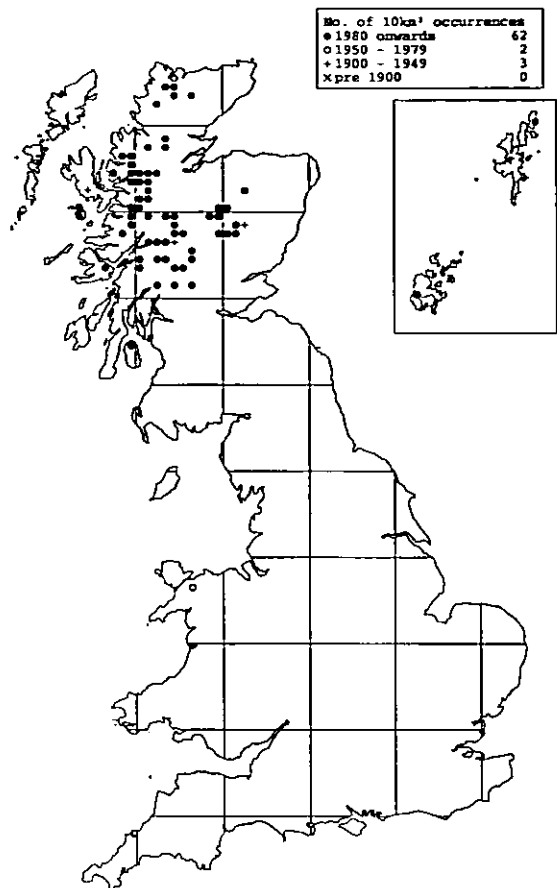
Status
Local.

Distribution
The species is widely distributed north of a line between Breconshire and Yorkshire. *M. gulosa* has a Palaearctic distribution (Platnick 1998) and has been recorded from the Alps, Tyrol, Pyrenees, Corsica and Norway (Goodier 1967), as well as Sweden, Finland and Poland.

Habitat and ecology
This spider is found beneath rocks in open, upland areas. On mountain felsenmeers, numerous specimens may be found ballooning together in fine weather. This aerial dispersal probably accounts for many of the lowland records. *M. gulosa* has also been found amongst shingle at the side of upland streams (Nant Ffrancon valley, Snowdonia, 220 m) and at low altitudes in Scotland under seaweed on coastal shingle and inland on a grassy bank (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Mature specimens of both sexes have been recorded between May and August.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[19905] Linyphiidae: *Meioneta nigripes*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is frequent at some sites, but local.

Distribution

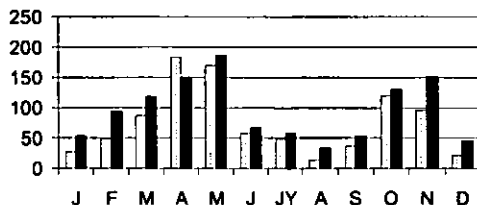
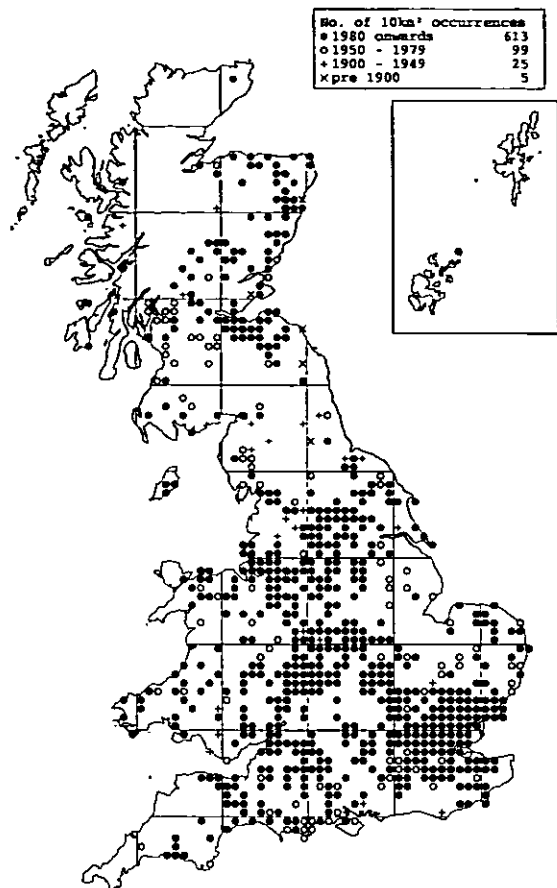
The species is confined to North Wales and Scotland. It is a common boreo-alpine species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

M. nigripes occurs among moss and short grass and under stones, mainly on mountains above 500 m, but lower in Orkney and Shetland. Adults of both sexes are found from May to August.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[20001] Linyphiidae: *Microneta viaria*



Status

Common.

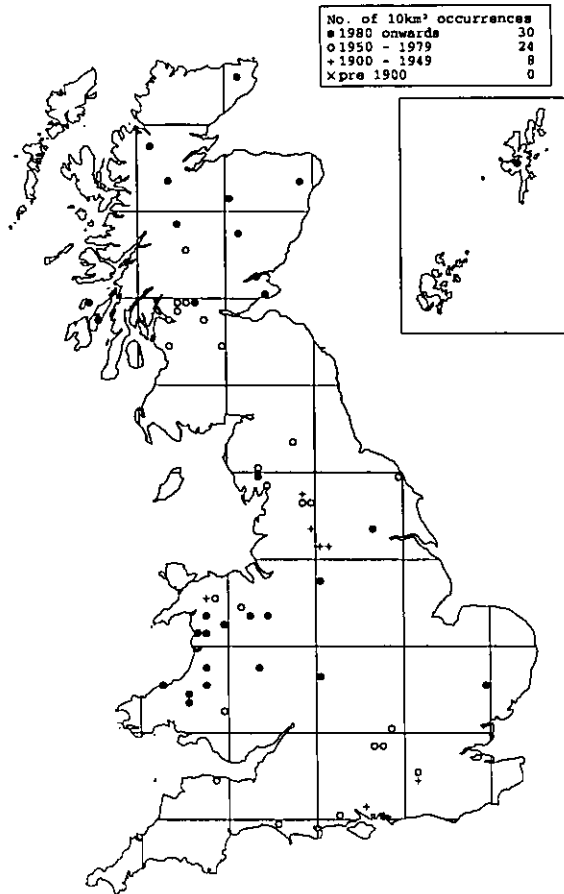
Distribution

The species is widespread in most of England, Wales and central Scotland, becoming scattered in northern England and absent from most of north-west Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species is usually found in woodland litter and leaf litter under scrub and in hedgerows. It can also be found in grasslands, quarries, urban wasteland and gardens (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults can be found throughout the year with peaks in spring, early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



Status

Uncommon.

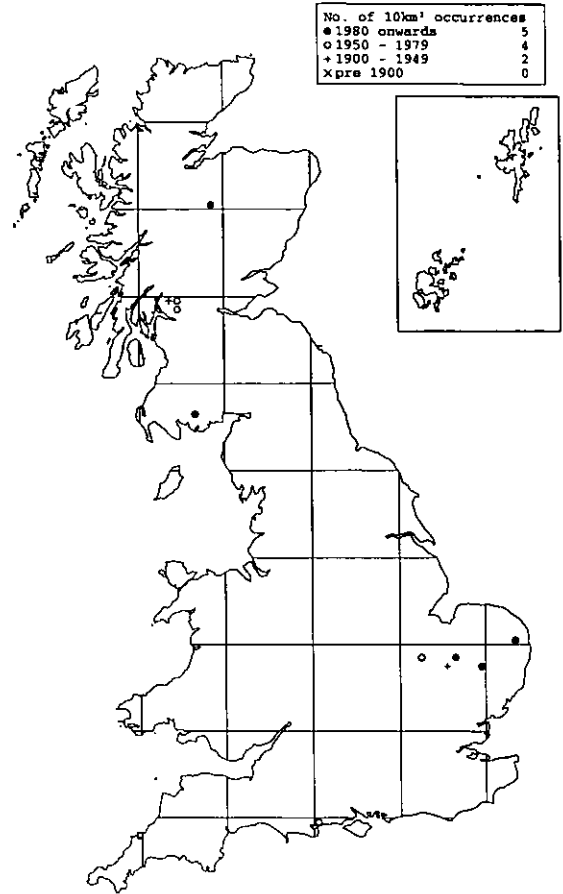
Distribution

The species is widespread but scattered in parts of Wales, northern England and Scotland, with few records elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found under stones, in moss, pine needles and detritus, possibly mostly in northern and upland areas. It is adult in all seasons.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is abundant at Parley Common (Dorset), and has been taken several times at Woodwalton Fen (Huntingdonshire), but most other records are of single individuals. The sites are very widely scattered throughout England and Scotland, suggesting that it may be more frequent than the present records indicate, but it is clearly extremely local.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from Dorset, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, North Lancashire, Kircudbrightshire, Dunbartonshire, Stirlingshire and Invernesshire. It is a northern European species, recorded from Ireland (van Helsdingen 1996).

Habitat and ecology

M. sublestus occurs in various wet habitats, often under or near trees, in fens on peat under *Salix* and *Calamagrostis* and in cut sedge. It has been recorded from wet *Salix* and *Betula* litter, on wet heath with *Erica tetralix*, *Molinia* and *Sphagnum*, and once from dry oak litter. Adults of both sexes have been found most frequently in February and March, with males also found in November, and females in January, April, June and August.

Threats

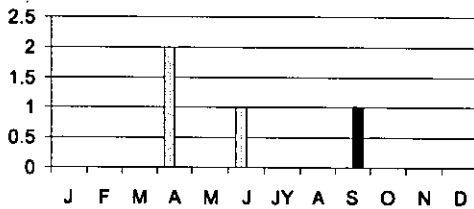
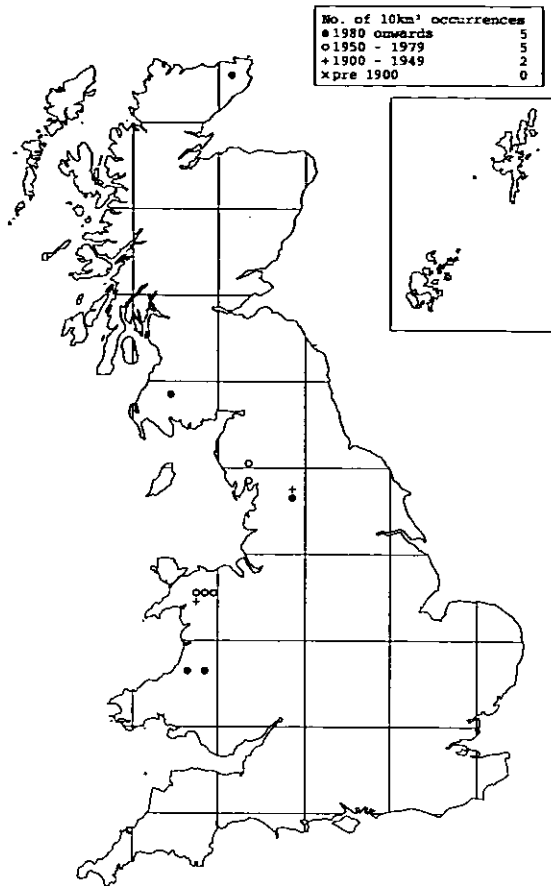
The loss and drainage of fens and wet woodland habitats.

Management

Maintain the water table in fens and wet woodland. The growth of scrub in fens is probably beneficial to this species, or at least not detrimental.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[20102] Linyphiidae: *Maro lepidus*



Status
Nationally Rare (RDB3).

Distribution
The species has been recorded from Mid-west Yorkshire, Westmorland, Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire, and most recently Cardiganshire, Radnor and Caithness. It is also known from Belgium, Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic.

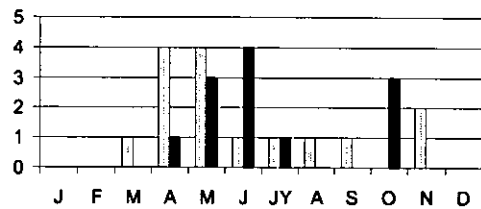
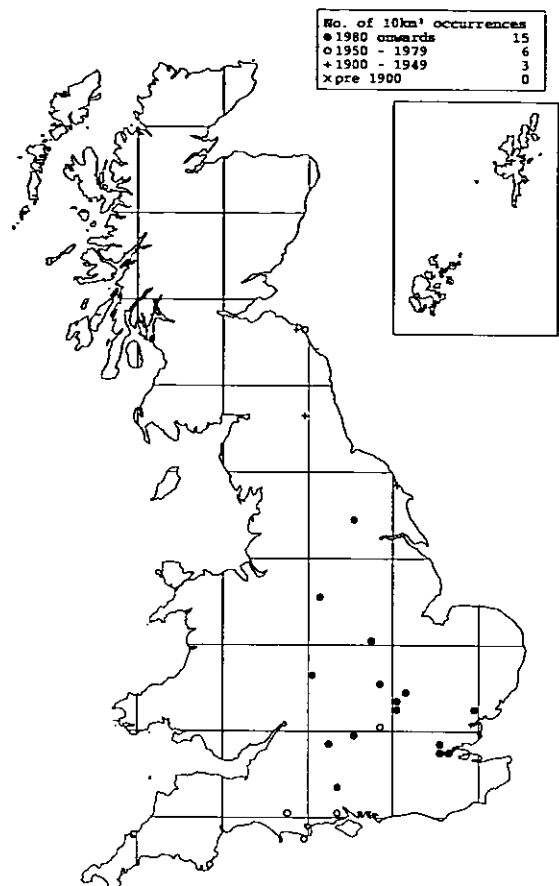
Habitat and ecology
The spider has been found among *Sphagnum* in raised bogs; among wet grass and *Juncus* by a stream; in a sedge marsh surrounded by *Sphagnum*; and in rank *Molinia* grassland. Adults of both sexes have been taken between September and December, and males in April and June.

Threats
Commercial peat-cutting has destroyed most of the major peat-mosses in north-west England and degraded the remainder. Rusland Moss is drying out, pine is invading, and there are further drainage proposals along one side of the surviving bog.

Management
Where sites are adversely affected by drainage, pine invasion needs to be controlled and water levels raised as far as possible.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[20201] Linyphiidae: *Syedra gracilis*



Status
Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local and never particularly common.

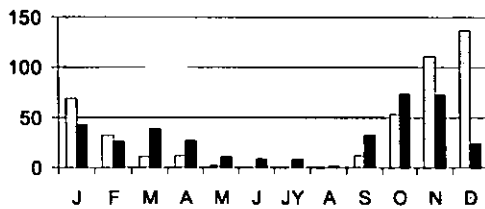
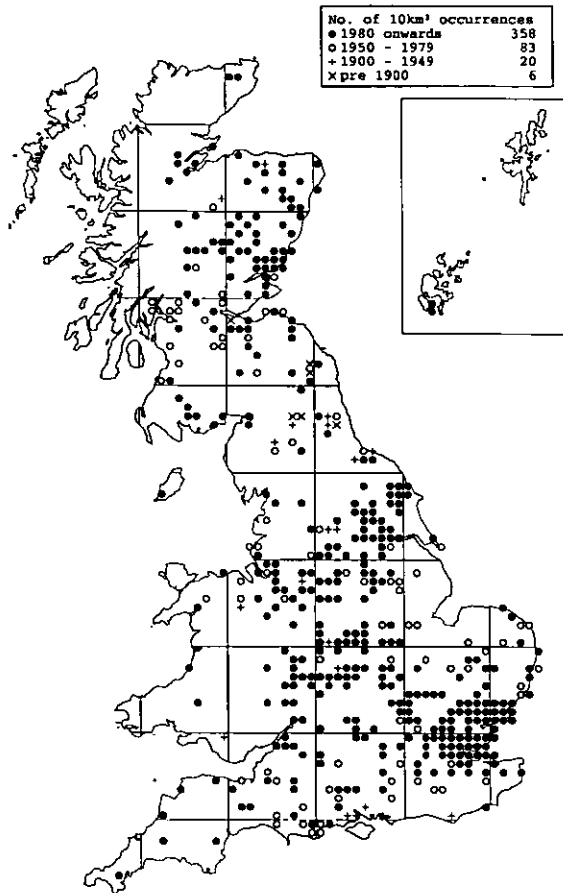
Distribution
The species is widespread but scattered as far north as the Scottish border. It is widespread but uncommon in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
S. gracilis occurs mainly in calcareous and grazing marsh grassland possibly mostly in tall grass, but also grassland on sand (Thames Terrace grasslands) with occasional records from grassy areas on heathland, dyke edges and allotments. Adults have been found between February and November, but occur mostly in spring and early summer and again in late summer and autumn.

Threats
The loss of grassland to agriculture.

Management
Maintain calcareous and grazing marsh grassland and prevent scrub growth by traditional grazing.

Author of profile: P. Merrett (1990), updated by P.R. Harvey

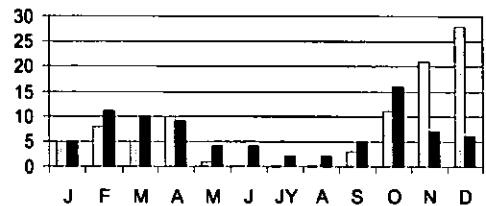
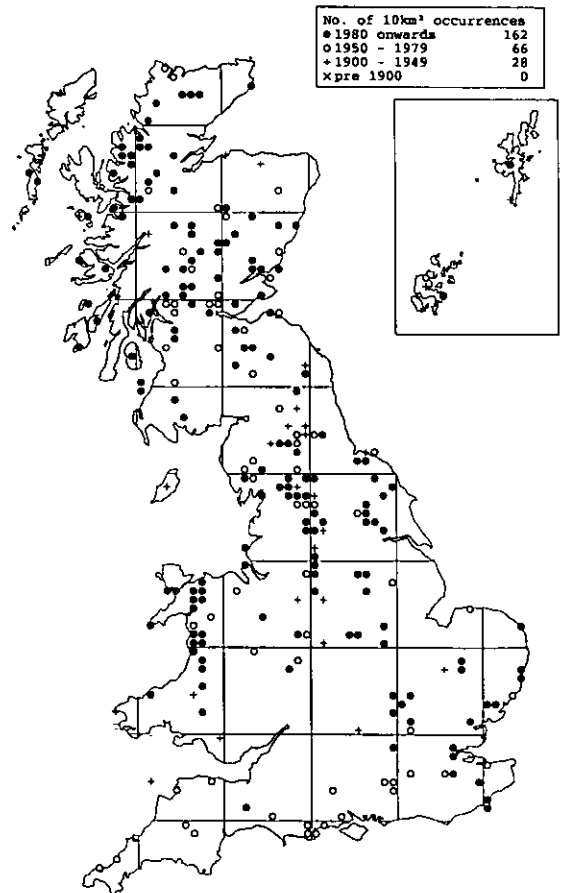


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but very scattered in the west and some other areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
C. sylvaticus is generally regarded as preferring moss and grass in woodland. However it has been recorded from a wide variety of habitats including grassland, heathland, marsh, peat bog and waterside vegetation (Crocker & Daws 1996) and it may be frequent in rough grassland in Essex (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adult females have been recorded throughout the year but both sexes peak in the autumn and winter. Pitfall trapping in a mature chestnut coppice (Russell-Smith & Swann 1972) and on a site at Spurn Point periodically flooded by the sea (Sudd 1974) also showed the males to be winter active.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

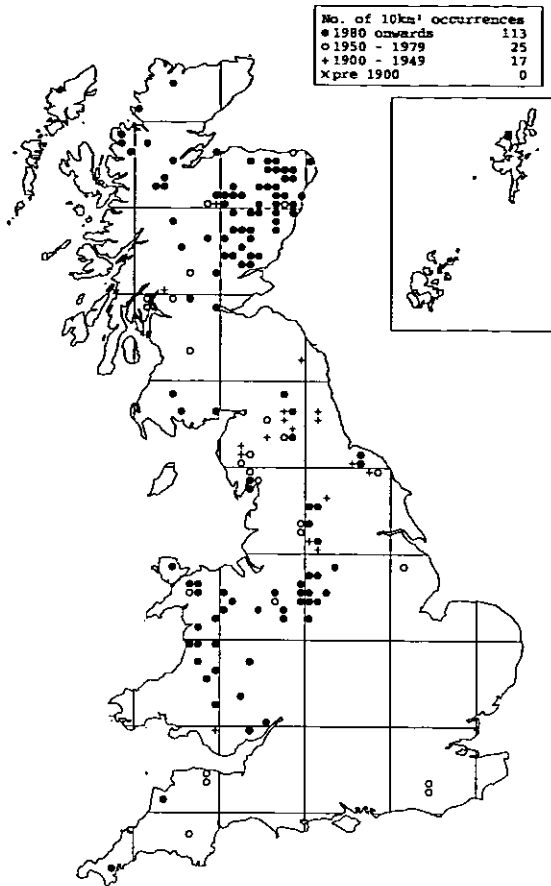


Status
Common in northern counties, but infrequent and local in the south.

Distribution
The species is widely distributed in Britain, but very scattered or absent in some areas. It is widespread in western Europe.

Habitat and ecology
C. prudens can be found in a variety of typically dry habitats. These habitats include sand dunes, rocky grassland and heathery areas (Crocker & Daws 1996; Locket & Millidge 1953). Specimens have also been found at cave entrances and beneath felsenmeer rocks on mountain summits. In Essex the species is almost confined to three areas of unimproved sandy grassland in the south of the county (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adult females have been recorded throughout the year, males in the autumn and early winter through to late spring.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	113
○ 1950 - 1979	25
+ 1900 - 1949	17
× pre 1900	0



Status

Local, but more frequent in northern Britain. The species may be common on mountain summits.

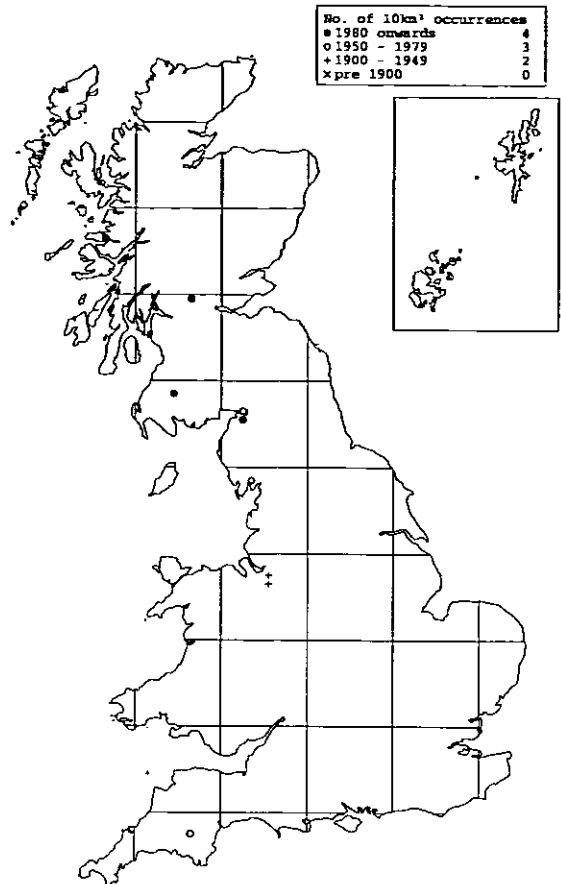
Distribution

C. arcanus is almost confined to western and northern Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from the Netherlands.

Habitat and ecology

This linyphiid is typically found beneath rocks in mountainous areas and can be found together with *C. prudens*. At lower altitudes *C. arcanus* lives amongst moss, grass and pine needles in coniferous woodland and acidic bogs. Adults have been recorded in most months of the year.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	4
○ 1950 - 1979	3
+ 1900 - 1949	2
× pre 1900	0

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2).

Distribution

The species has been known from Delamere Forest, Cheshire, since 1906. Since 1970, records include Glasson Moss and Biglands Bog, Cumberland; Foxtor Mires, Dartmoor, South Devon; Flanders Moss, Stirlingshire and Kentra Moss, Argyll. The European distribution includes Ireland (van Helsdingen 1997), Estonia, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, the former Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Habitat and ecology

C. levitarsis is most often found among *Sphagnum*, both in damp woodland (mainly birch) and on open moorland. It has been taken near large pools in a wet blanket bog system (SNH species dossier). Adults of both sexes have been found in March and April, females also in May and a male in October.

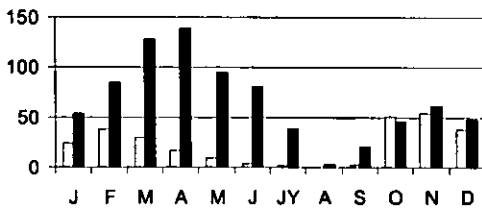
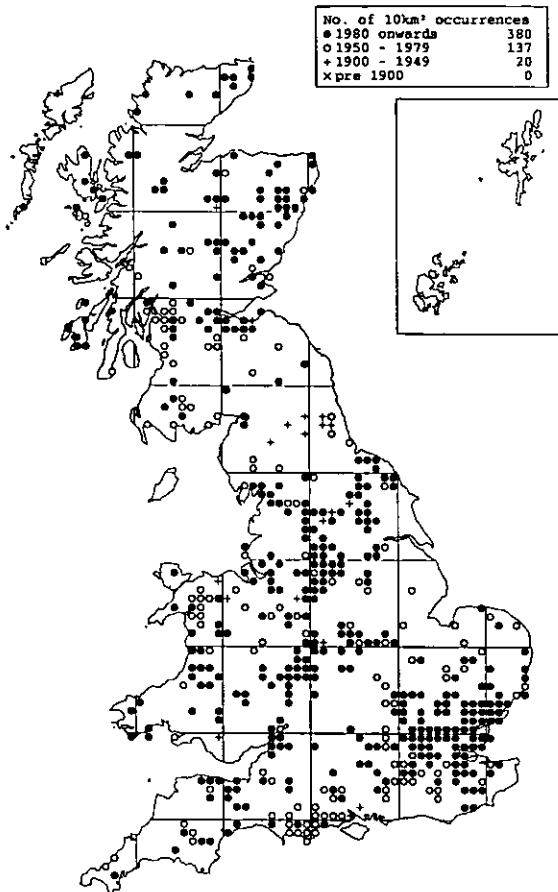
Threats

Much of Glasson Moss has been commercially cut for peat, a practice which ceased in the 1950s. There have been a series of fires on this bog, the most recent and most serious being in 1976. There are signs that eutrophication of Biglands Bog is occurring. This may be due to run-off from the heavily fertilised pasture and arable land which surrounds it, or from Bampton Beck, or both. Bampton Beck crosses the site and carries the outflow of a sewage works. It occasionally floods the bog.

Management

Raising the water table and prevention of fires is being achieved by damming the drains on Glasson Moss.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

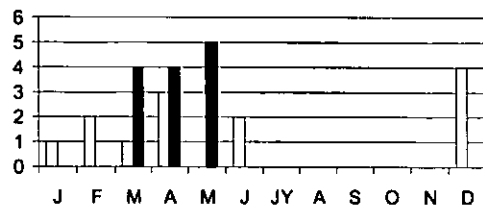
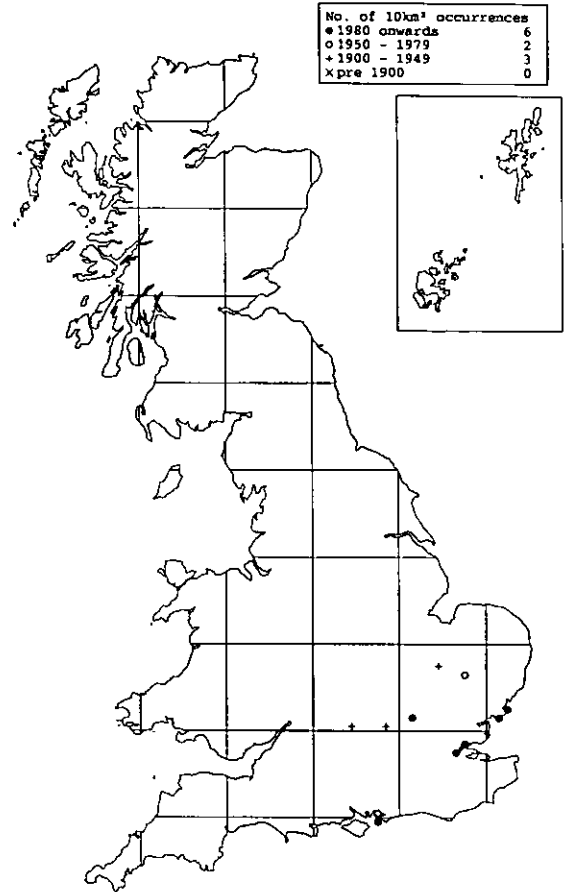


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It is found in Europe and the Faeroes (Holm 1980) and is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The species has been recorded in detritus in broad-leaved, mixed and coniferous woodland, in heathland, moorland and grassland, and at an altitude of 2400' (732 m) in the Snowdonia National Park (Goodier 1970a). Curiously, of the three habitats investigated at Wybunbury Moss, the species was recorded from the *Sphagnum* lawn but not from the pine and fen woodland, or the wet grassland (Felton & Judd 1997). Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mostly in autumn, winter and spring, with females until mid-summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



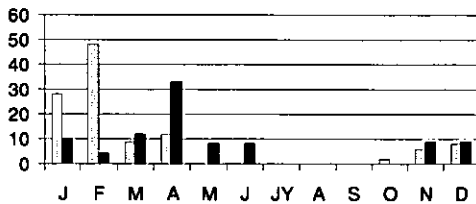
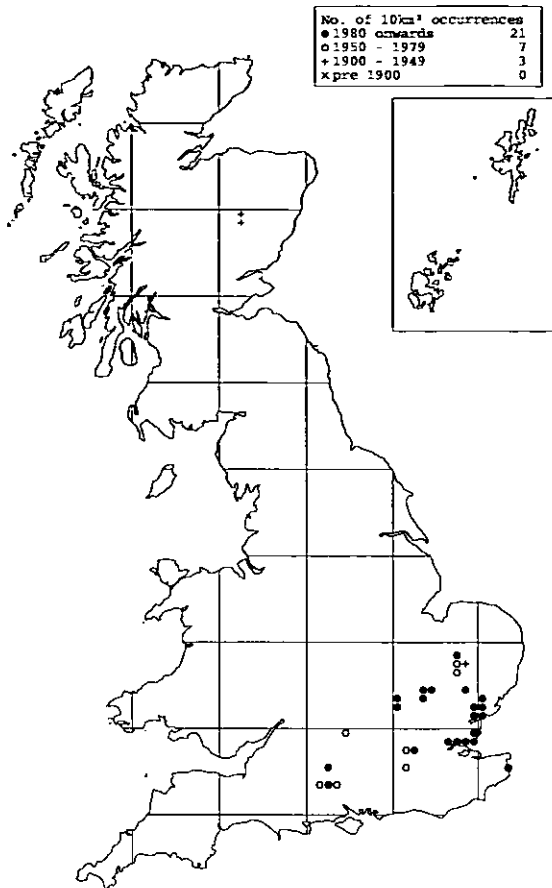
Status
Rare, occurring in a small number of sites. The first specimen, captured in Wytham Wood by Duffey in 1952, was not immediately recognised as this species (Locket & Millidge 1957) and there was some early confusion with *Centromerus incultus* (Falconer). This latter name is now treated as a junior synonym of *C. semiater* by Merrett & Murphy (2000).

Distribution
The species is found mainly in south-eastern England. It has also been recorded from France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Russia.

Habitat and ecology
The preferred habitat of this species is the litter layer of broad-leaved woodland although it has been found in other habitats (Merrett 1977), for example in arable fields (Thornhill 1983), sandy grassland, grazing marsh grassland and undercliffs (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). In common with other species in the genus it is probably a winter-active species in Britain. Males have occurred between December and June.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[20307] Linyphiidae: *Centromerus incilium*



Status
Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common at some sites, but very local and restricted in range.

Distribution
Apart from old (doubtful?) records from Aberdeenshire, the species is confined to south-central and south-eastern England. It is widespread but uncommon in north-western and central Europe. It has not been recorded from Ireland.

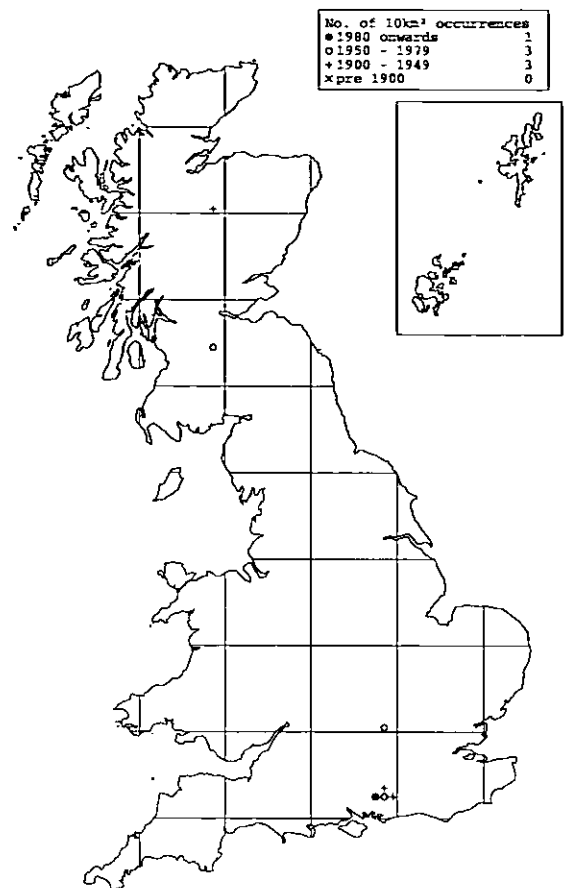
Habitat and ecology
C. incilium occurs mainly on chalk grassland and on sandy grassland in Essex and Breckland, in both long and short grass, occasionally on arable land. It has occurred on roadside verges and in old chalk and sand pits especially on sparsely vegetated ground and lichen heath. Both sexes are adult from autumn to late spring with a peak in winter, females also until June.

Threats
The loss of grassland to agriculture or forestry, and the degradation of grassland structure through overgrazing or excessive cutting.

Management
Maintain grassland by traditional grazing or periodic scraping to return to early succession.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey, based on Merrett (1990).

[20301] Linyphiidae: *Centromerus brevivulvatus*



Status
Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is never found in abundance.

Distribution
This species has a strangely scattered distribution, with records from the south-east of England and two isolated records from Scotland. It has been recorded from Iping Common, Blackdown and Marley Heights near Kingsley Green, and east of Duncton, West Sussex; Hampden, Buckinghamshire; Corehouse, Lanarkshire; and Insh Marshes, East Inverness-shire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology
C. brevivulvatus occurs among broad-leaved litter, especially in deep beech litter, and among tall heather. Males have been found in October and April, and females from October to May.

Threats
The loss of heath through pine and bracken invasion is a problem at Blackdown. In 1976, large areas of heath at Iping Common were burnt, which may have reduced the amount of the preferred tall heather available to this spider for several years. Drainage for improved agriculture was a threat to the Insh Marshes, but the vast majority is now an RSPB reserve.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The species has never been rediscovered at Wicken Fen, despite much recording but seems well established at Woodbastwick Fens. In Europe, it has been recorded from Finland, Sweden and West Germany. Almquist (1984) found the species to be relatively abundant in humid meadows on the island of Öland in Sweden.

Distribution

This species has been recorded from few sites in Britain, including Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire (1913), Woodbastwick Fen (1970), Wheatfen (1971) and Catfield Fen (1989) in Norfolk. In Europe it has been recorded from Finland, Sweden, Russia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, the former Czechoslovakia and Switzerland (see map in Decler & Bosmans 1989).

Habitat and ecology

In Britain the species has been found in litter and moss on the wet floor of sedge beds, in the litter layer of *Calamagrostis canescens* and *Thelypteris palustris* growing along the edge of fen waterways, in heaps of cut saw sedge *Cladium mariscus* and in open carr woodland and fen litter. In Europe it has been found in a much wider range of habitats including open pine and alder woodlands, willow scrub, sphagnum bogs on heathland, reed-beds, various types of sedge vegetation and wet meadows. Clearly, this species is not confined either to basic or to acid vegetation types but occurs in a wide range of wet habitats (Decler & Bosmans 1989). The only quantitative population data comes from Sweden where Almquist (1984) found it to be most abundant (1 individual m²) in wet meadows with *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex panicea* and *Filipendula vulgaris*, followed by *Cladium mariscus* mire (0.6 individuals m²) and lowest densities in *Carex elata* mire and a *Sphagnum* bog (0.3 individuals m²).

Threats

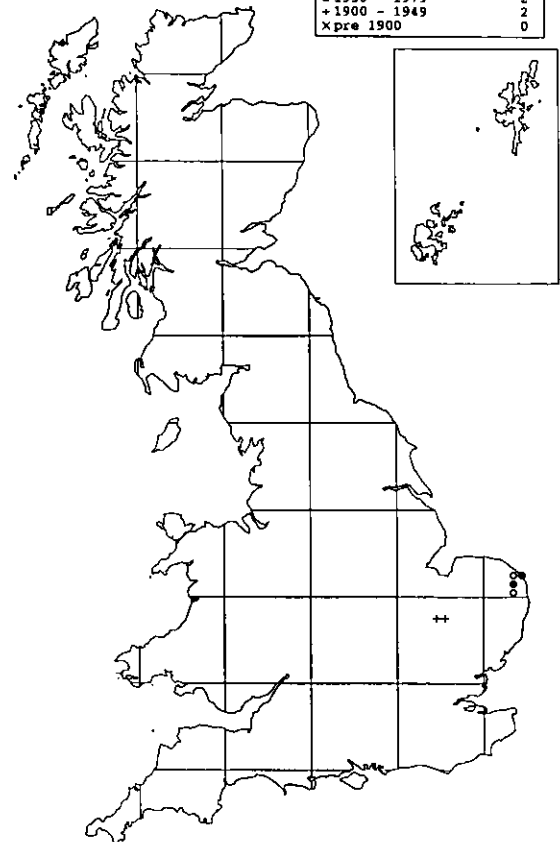
Most known sites for this species lie within SSSIs. Woodbastwick Fen lies within the Bure Marshes NNR and Wicken Fen is a nature reserve owned by the National Trust. The principal threats in the Norfolk Broads are drainage of agricultural land and, in particular, abandoning of traditional management of sedge beds by summer mowing, leading to encroachment of scrub and carr woodland.

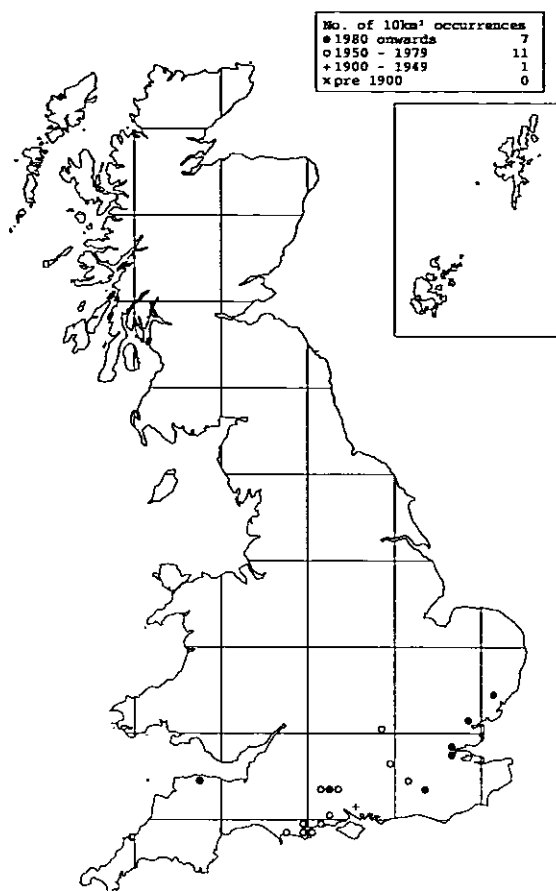
Management

Scrub invasion at Wicken Fen, a major problem in the recent past, is now being controlled by clearance of the scrub and annual mowing of the sedge beds. At Woodbastwick Fen, sedge beds are mowed annually and *Phragmites* is cut which should help maintain suitable conditions for *C. semiater*. Heaps of sedge litter left in the fens are probably an additional benefit.

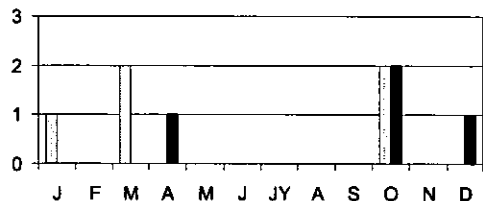
Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith using information from Merrett, in Bratton (1991)

No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	2
○ 1950 - 1979	2
+ 1900 - 1949	2
x pre 1900	0





No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	7
○ 1950 - 1979	11
+ 1900 - 1949	1
× pre 1900	0



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is sometimes abundant, but local and of restricted range. It is widespread only in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey.

Distribution

The species is confined to the south of England. It is uncommon in Europe and has not been recorded from Ireland or Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

C. serratus occurs in litter and moss under pine, beech and oak, and in moss on chalk grassland and acid grassland. It is probably most abundant in deep beech litter. Both sexes are adult from October to March, females also in April.

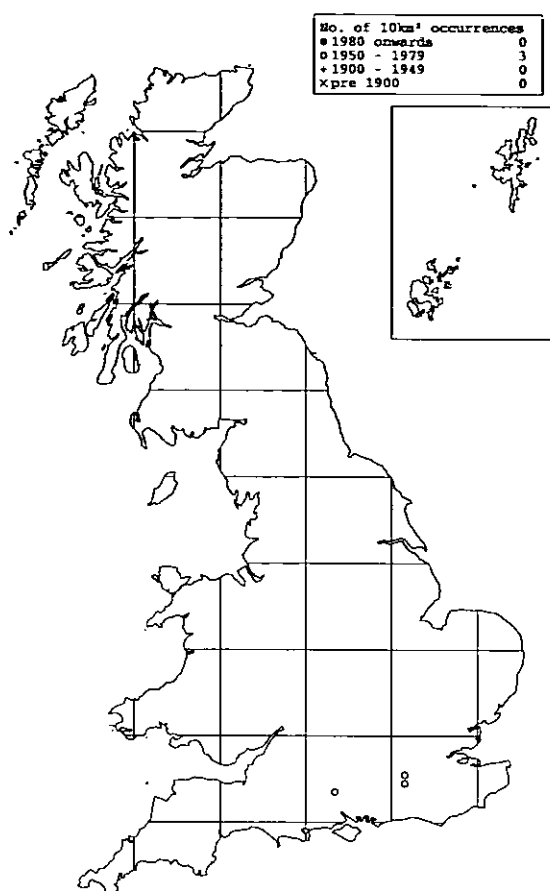
Threats

The loss of old beech woods. This species has been found in litter in pine plantations, but under pine is more often in clumps of moss mixed with litter than in pure pine litter, and therefore is usually more frequent in semi-natural woodland.

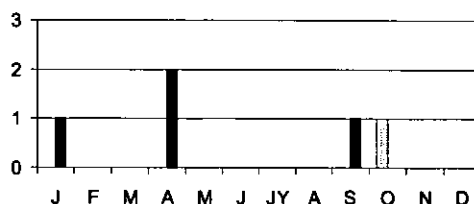
Management

Maintain old beech woods with deep litter layer, and areas of old pine with associated moss and heather on heathland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	0
○ 1950 - 1979	3
+ 1900 - 1949	0
× pre 1900	0



Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider was numerous at its Surrey sites.

Distribution

The species is known from Box Hill and White Downs, Surrey, and Stockbridge, Hampshire, all since 1962. It has also been reported from France and Romania.

Habitat and ecology

C. albidus occurs in beech litter in beech woods. Adult males have been found between August and November and females between August and April.

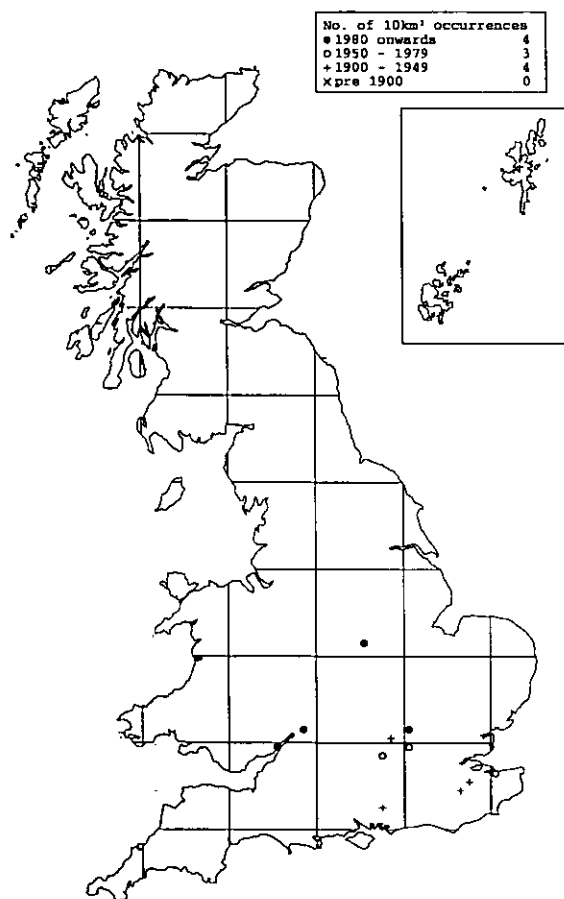
Threats

The loss of established beech woods. In past years, foresters have clear-felled ancient beech woods on the North Downs and used a nurse crop of conifers in the replanting, a practice which could be detrimental to the ancient woodland fauna and flora, including this spider.

Management

Small group fellings with no conifer nurse crop should ameliorate the effects of previous management of the beech wood ecosystem.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is possibly most frequent in the Chilterns. It is reported to be difficult to find and has never been found abundantly. However, enough beech woods have been searched unsuccessfully to establish that it is a truly rare species.

Distribution

Recorded localities include Hampden and Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire; Durford Heath, West Sussex; Matfield, West Kent; Blean Woods, East Kent; Maidstone, Kent; Whippendell Wood, Hertfordshire; Nettlebed, Oxfordshire; and more recently Dedmansey Wood, Bedfordshire in 1995; Buckholt Wood near Stroud, Gloucestershire in 1995; Lancaut Nature Reserve, Gloucestershire in 1998 and Leicestershire (Merrett 2000). There are old records from unknown localities in Surrey and Cornwall, the latter record being doubtful. It has been reported from most countries in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Scandinavia, the Netherlands or Ireland.

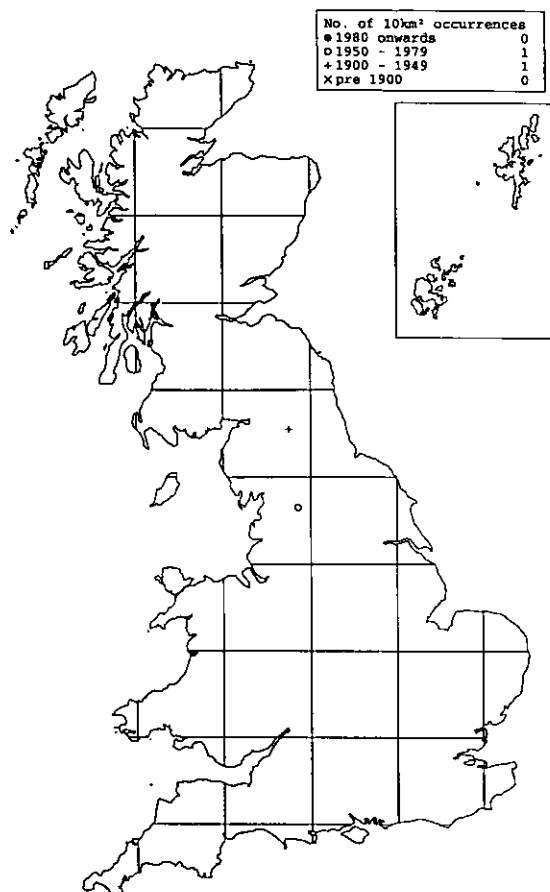
Habitat and ecology

Most known sites are beech woods in south-east England, where the species is found deep amongst beech litter, or sometimes on sheet webs inside empty beechnut husks. It has also been found in oak litter, coppiced sweet chestnut litter and leaf litter in mixed woodland. Males have been found in October and females from September to March.

Threats

The loss of old beech woods, frequently through coniferisation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett in Bratton (1991), updated by P.R. Harvey



Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK). The spider has only been found rarely. Further searching at Malham Cove has failed to locate more specimens.

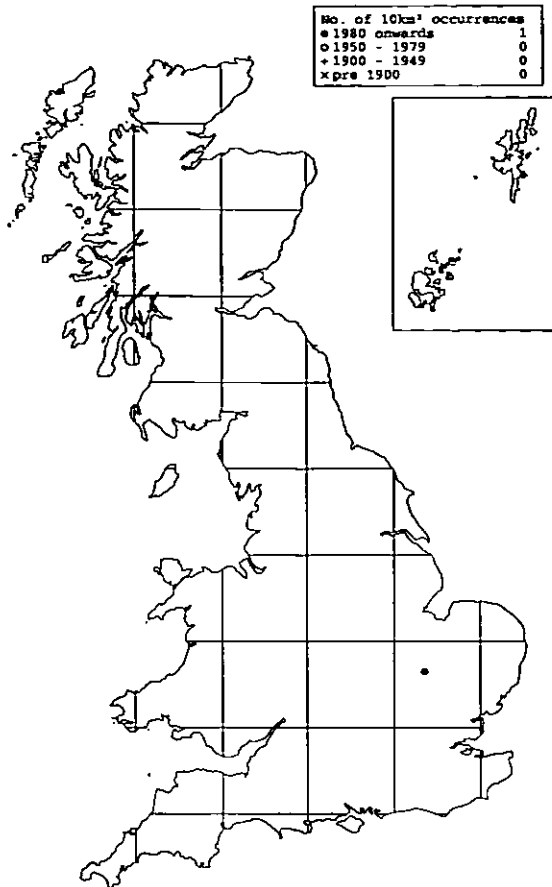
Distribution

The first report of this species in Britain was from the bank of the River West Allen below Whitfield, at the junction with the River East Allen, South Northumberland, in 1916. However, this often-quoted record may have been a misidentification, and ideally the specimens should be re-examined if they still exist. The only definite British record of this species was from Malham Cove, Mid-west Yorkshire, in 1961. A second record from Mid-west Yorkshire, from Pen-y-Ghent, is now known to be false, referring to a misidentified specimen of *Maro lepidus*. Elsewhere in Europe, *C. persimilis* is known from Ireland, Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Poland and the former Czechoslovakia.

Habitat and ecology

Two females attributed to this species were found under stones by the River West Allen in July. At Malham, a single male was found in a crevice of limestone pavement in September. The sites of the records and the small size and pale colour of this species suggest that it may live in a subterranean habitat, which would account for only stray individuals being found.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Nineteen males were collected by pitfall trapping in a single field of winter wheat and described as new to science (Merrett, Powell & Maher 1993).

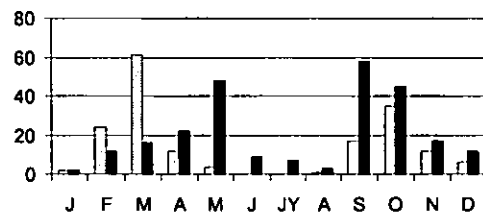
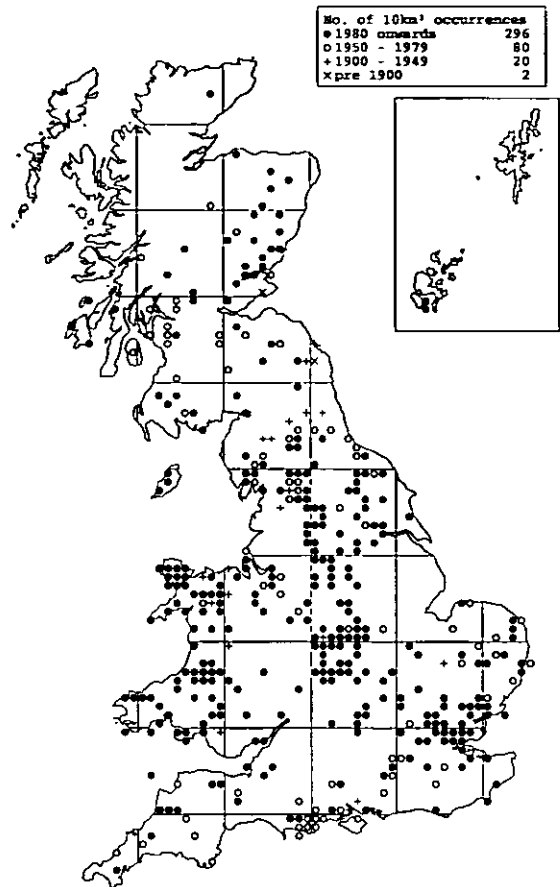
Distribution

In England, the species is known from one site in Cambridgeshire. It has also been recorded from Germany (Blick & Hänggi 2000; Sacher & Breinl 1999).

Habitat and ecology

Although not greatly reduced the eyes are small, supporting the view that the spider may live in fissures below the surface of the ground. The species does appear to be related to a group of cave-dwelling *Centromerus* species from southern Europe (Merrett, Powell & Maher 1993). Males were collected during the period 9th January to 19th March 1992. In spite of further pitfall trapping and hand searches, females have not been found.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist.



Status

Common.

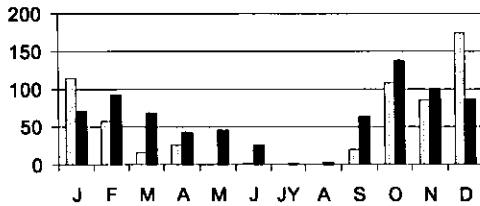
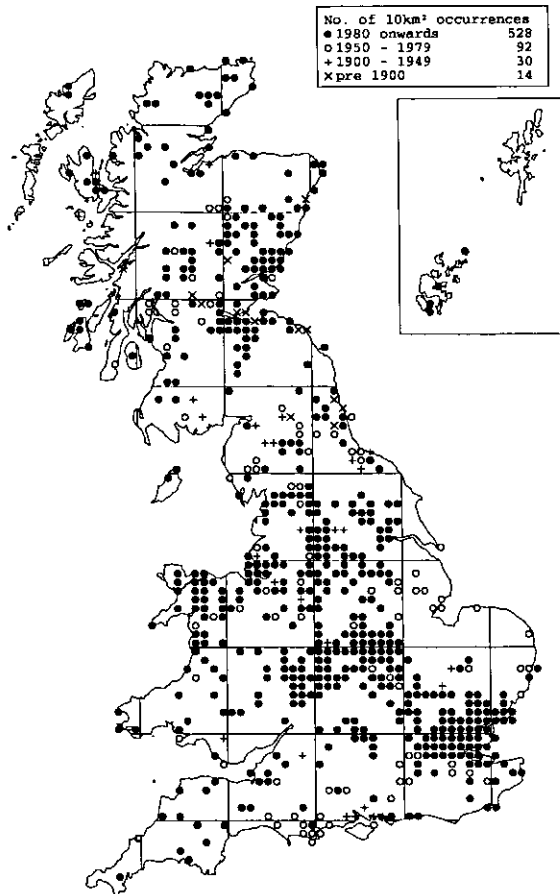
Distribution

T. experta is widespread in Wales and much of England, but is very scattered in Scotland and some parts of England. It is a northern Palaearctic species (Platnick 1998) widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This wetland spider occurs in a variety of damp marshy habitats. These habitats include carr woodland, blanket bog, fen, reed-beds and wet meadows. In these situations it lives beneath ground layer vegetation. It is particularly fond of the niche formed beneath flattened *Juncus* clumps. Adults of both sexes have been recorded mainly in the autumn and spring, females throughout the year.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

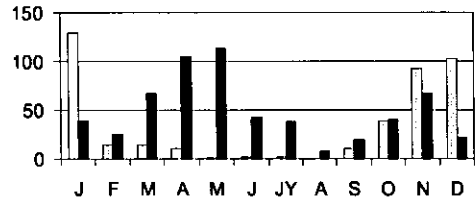
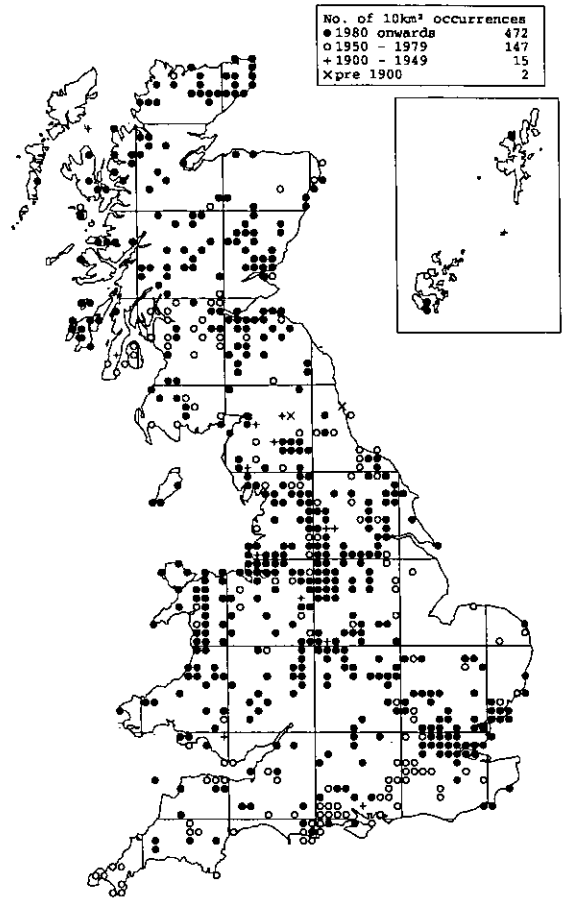


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The spider occurs in grass, moss and detritus in a wide range of habitats, including grasslands, heathland, bog, hedgerows, wasteland and allotments, but perhaps especially in improved and disturbed grasslands and other places with areas of open ground, often in taller grass than *C. concinna*. It is scarce on heathland. Adults of both sexes are recorded mainly in the autumn, winter and early spring, females persisting later, occasionally to late summer.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



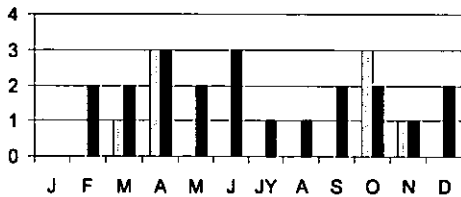
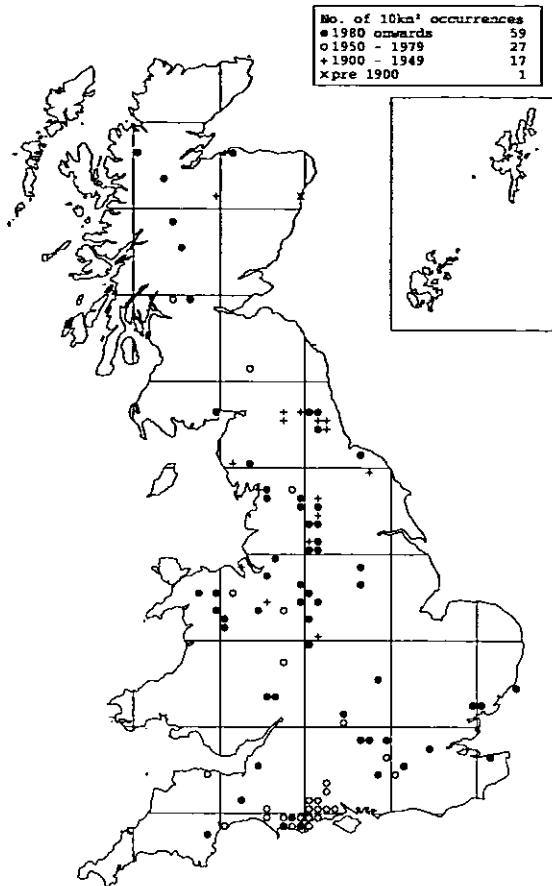
Status
Common in little disturbed habitats.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in western Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The species occurs in grass, moss and detritus in a wide range of habitats, but is much more restricted to old and undisturbed situations than *C. bicolor*. It is very abundant on heathland and moorland. Adults of both sexes are recorded mainly in the autumn and winter, females in the spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[20601] Linyphiidae: *Sintula corniger*



Status

Local.

Distribution

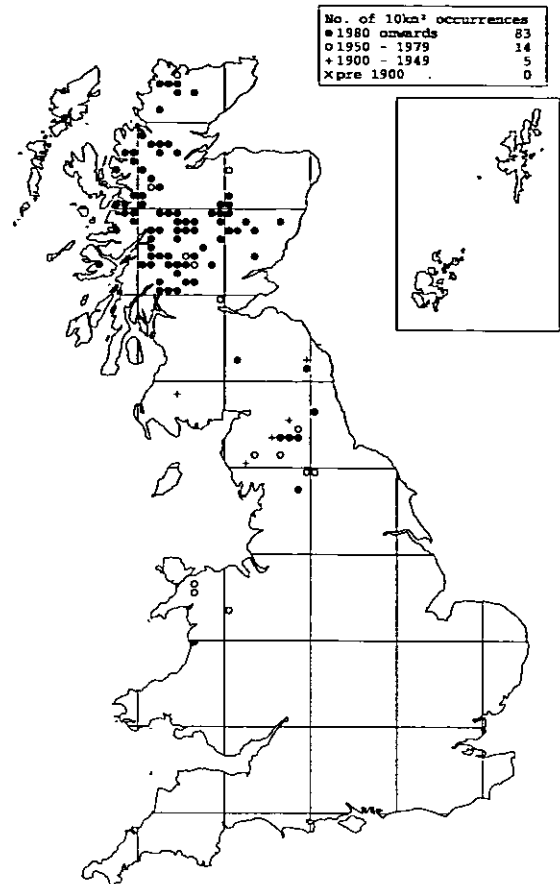
The spider has a widespread but patchy and scattered distribution in Britain. Globally this European species extends as far east as Azerbaijan (Platnick 1998). It is widespread in north-western and central Europe but has not been recorded from Ireland or the Netherlands.

Habitat and ecology

S. corniger lives amongst moss and grass in wet swampy areas (Locket & Millidge 1953). In North Wales the species is typically associated with damp areas in open, upland (above 250 m), coniferous woodland. Adults of both sexes are present in autumn and spring, females in most months of the year. Egg-sacs have been noted affixed within clumps of the moss *Polytrichum commune* in May.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[20701] Linyphiidae: *Oreonetides vaginatus*



Status

Very local and uncommon.

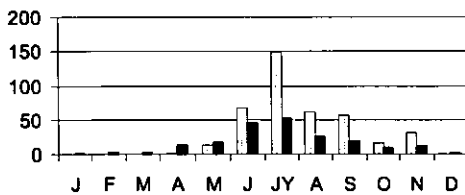
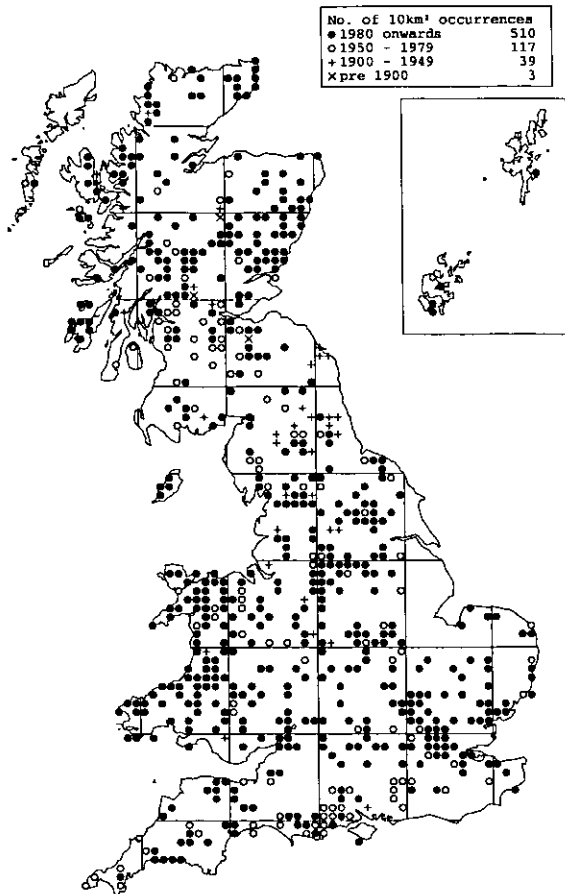
Distribution

Apart from one old record from Staffordshire (not mapped), the species is restricted to North Wales, the north of England and Scotland, where it is widespread. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found under stones, on mountains and high ground. Adults are found in late summer and autumn (Locket & Millidge 1951).

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

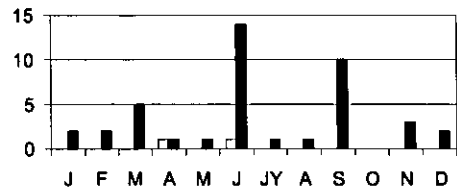
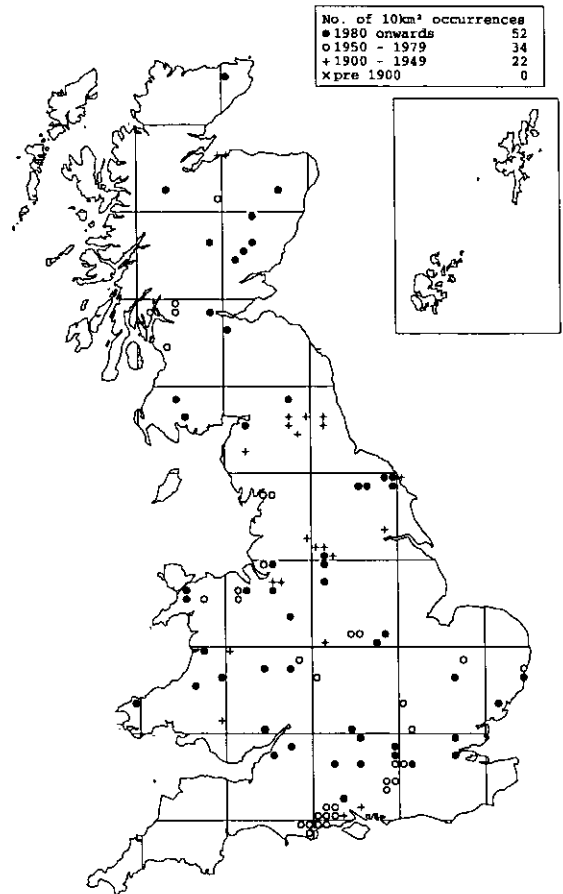


Status
Common.

Distribution
S. abnormis is widespread in most of Britain. It has a wide Palaearctic distribution (Platnick 1998) and is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
S. abnormis frequents a wide range of habitats including marshland, bogs, disused mines, woodlands (broad-leaved and coniferous), moorlands, heaths and mountains. In these habitats it may be found beneath logs and rocks and amongst leaf litter. Adults of both sexes occur mainly in the summer and autumn, and females are occasionally recorded at other times of year. Spherical egg-sacs are produced between July and September and several egg-sacs may be found suspended within the female's web.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



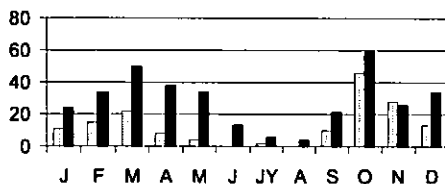
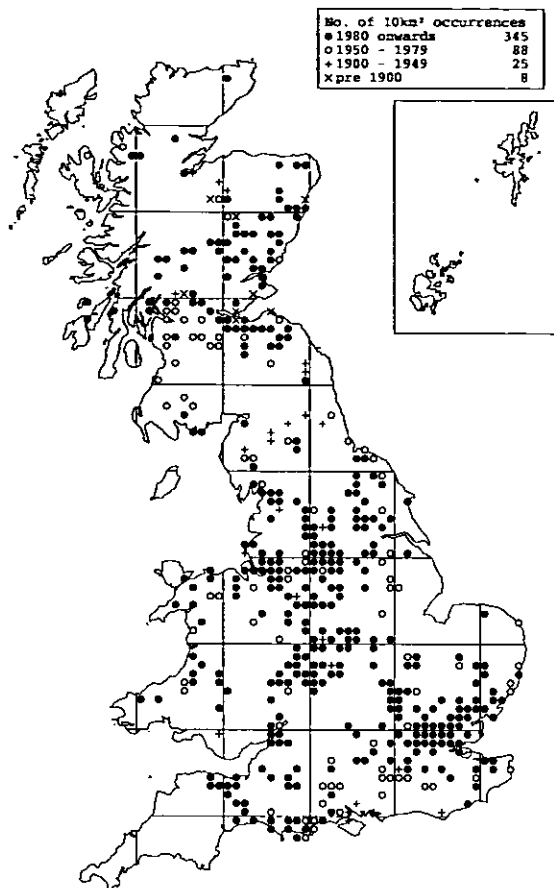
Status
Local and scarce.

Distribution
The species is widespread but very scattered throughout Britain, and is apparently absent from many areas. It is widespread in much of north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The spider has generally been recorded from damp situations amongst moss, *Sphagnum*, leaf litter, pine needles and heather in woodland, scrub, peat bog, fen and heathland. Adult females have been found throughout the year, adult males from August to September (Locket & Millidge 1951), April and June.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

[20902] Linyphiidae: *Macrargus rufus*



Status

Common. Its winter season may result in under-recording.

Distribution

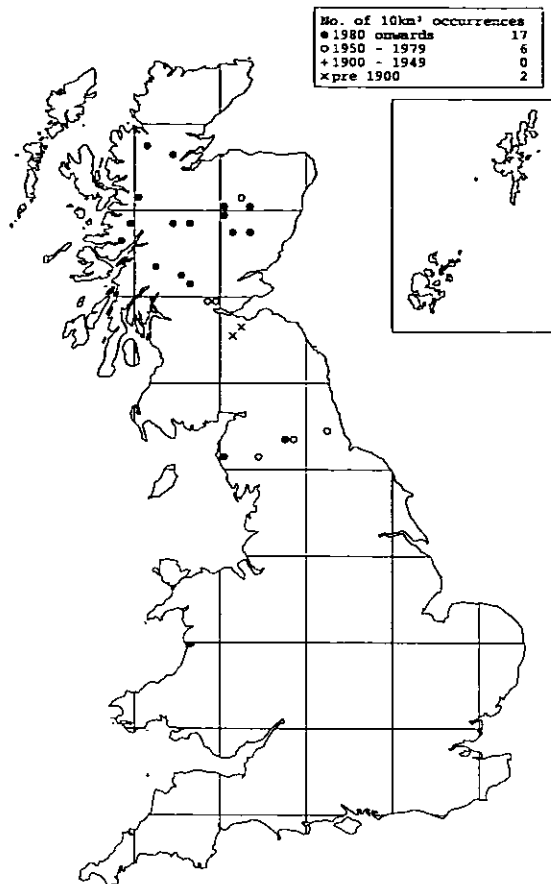
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but absent or very scattered in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

M. rufus is primarily a spider of woodlands, where it may be abundant in the leaf litter, moss and grass under broad-leaved and coniferous trees, from ancient oak woodland to beech and larch plantations. Occasionally it is found in other habitats such as under heather and bracken (Crocker and Daws 1996). Adults of both sexes are mostly found in the autumn, through the winter and spring, occasionally persisting later.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[20901] Linyphiidae: *Macrargus carpenteri*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The species has been recorded from few sites scattered over a wide area of apparently suitable habitat, which might indicate that it could be more common than present records indicate, but it has not been found in many well-worked localities and appears to be very local.

Distribution

The spider is restricted to the north of England and Scotland. A northern European species not recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

It occurs on high moorland, among grass or short heather, or under stones. The spider is adult from autumn to spring.

Threats

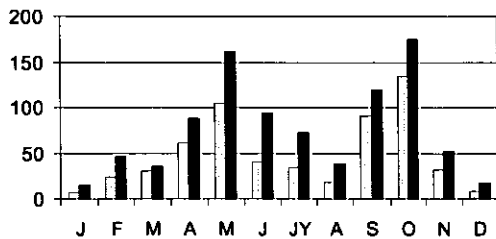
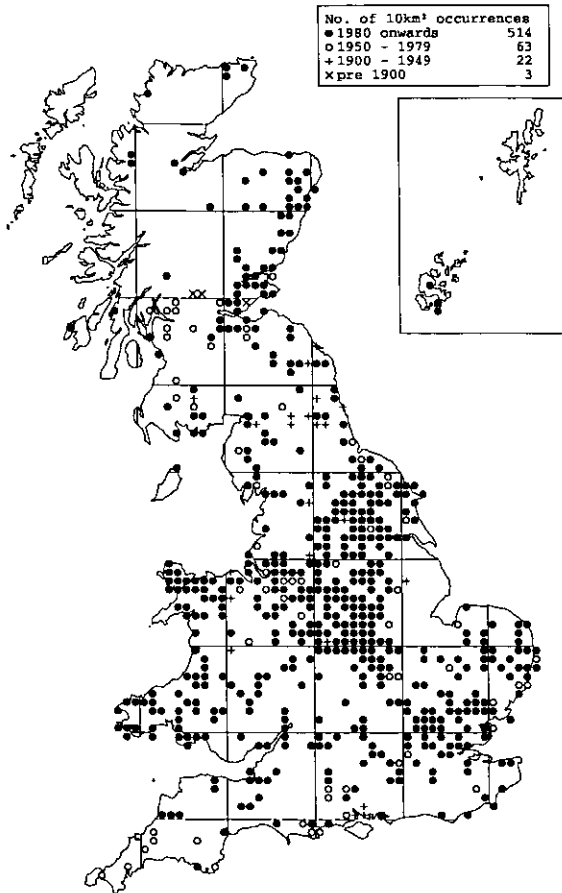
Possibly afforestation at some sites.

Management

Maintain open moorland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[21001] Linyphiidae: *Bathypantes approximatus*



Status

Local, but the spider may be numerous in wet habitats.

Distribution

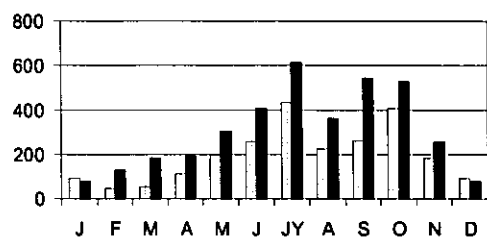
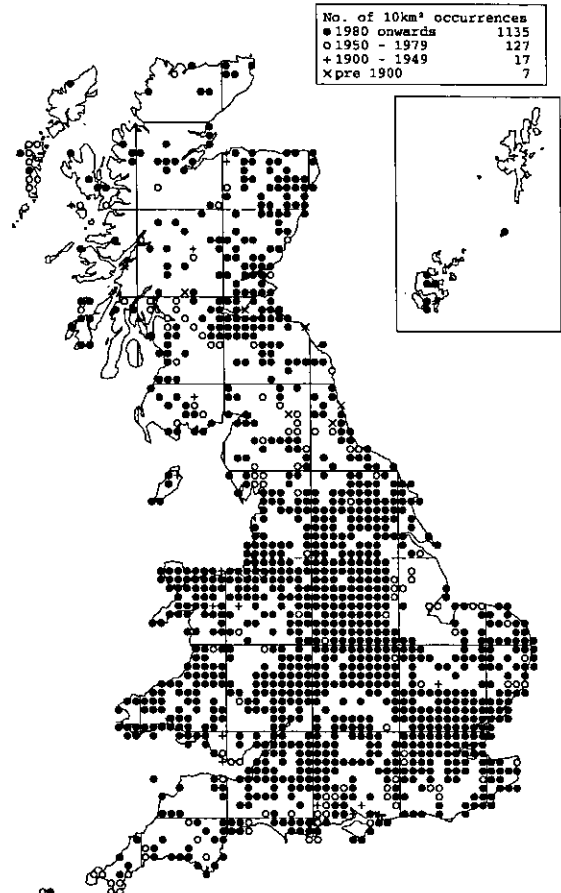
The species is widespread in Britain, but very scattered. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This linyphiid spider can be found amongst moss and ground vegetation with a particular affinity to damp habitats including those within woodland. Examples include wet meadows, sedge and *Phragmites* marshes, ditches and alder or willow carr. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly in early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[21002] Linyphiidae: *Bathypantes gracilis*



Status

Common.

Distribution

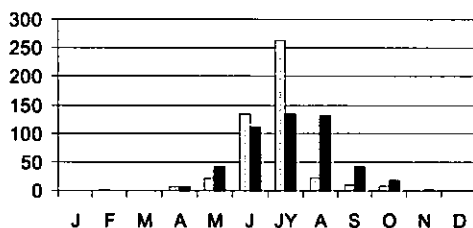
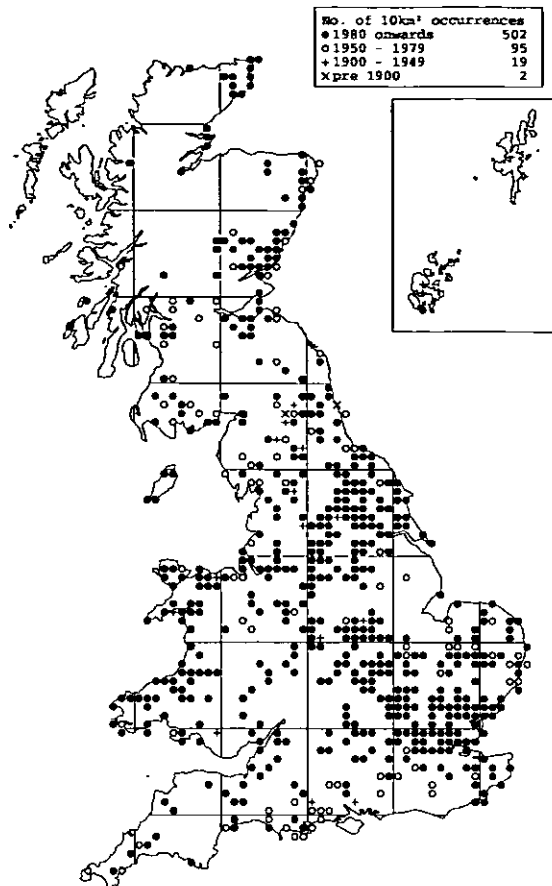
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This ubiquitous spider is common in grassland and undergrowth of all kinds, including heathland, woodlands and marshy habitats. The carapace is brown and the abdomen features black bars on a grey background although this coloration is variable and some specimens are wholly grey or black. It is a common aeronaut. Adults can be found at all times of the year, but mostly in the summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[21004] Linyphiidae: *Bathypantes parvulus*



Status

Much less common than *B. gracilis*.

Distribution

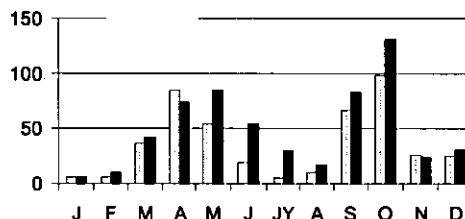
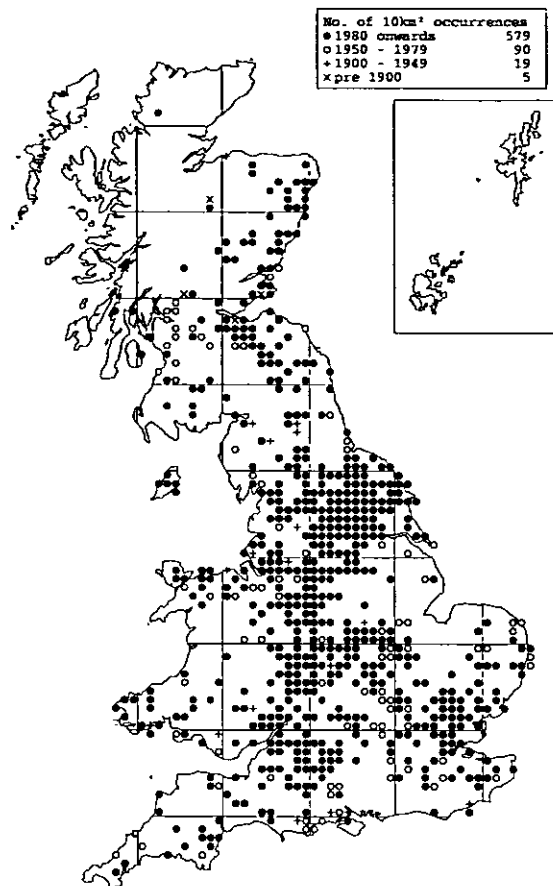
The species is widespread in much of Britain but scattered or absent in parts of the south and much of Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, as far north as southern Norway.

Habitat and ecology

B. parvulus is perhaps predominantly a grassland spider occurring in acid grassland and grass heath, chalk grassland and meadows, but also marshes and fens. A very similar spider to *B. gracilis*, the two species are often found in the same place. They may be similar in colouration and variability and although the female epigyne is distinct the determination of the male is difficult and depends on the position of hairs on its paracymbium. Adults occur mainly in the summer, occasionally persisting later.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[21003] Linyphiidae: *Bathypantes nigrinus*



Status

Common, but the spider may be rather locally distributed.

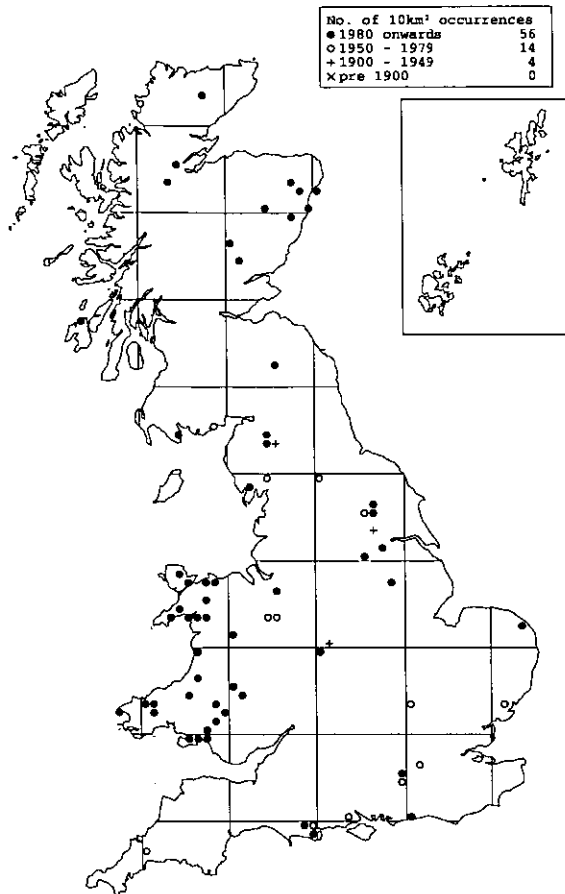
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain but with few records north of central Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

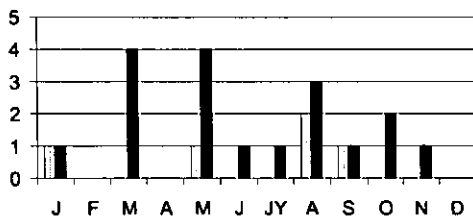
Habitat and ecology

B. nigrinus mainly occurs in shaded woodland or wooded paths but also damper habitats. It is frequently taken when sweeping lower undergrowth such as dog's-mercury and sometimes in considerable numbers. It can also be found in leaf litter and moss. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly in spring/early summer and the autumn.

Author of profile: M. Askins



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	56
○ 1950 - 1979	14
+ 1900 - 1949	4
× pre 1900	0



Status

Very local and uncommon.

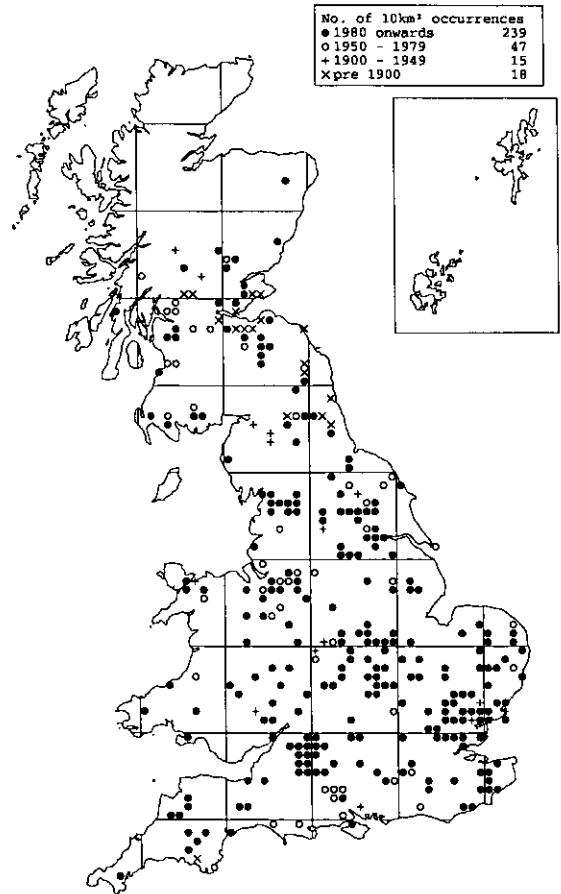
Distribution

The species is widespread in Wales, but very scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from France or the Netherlands.

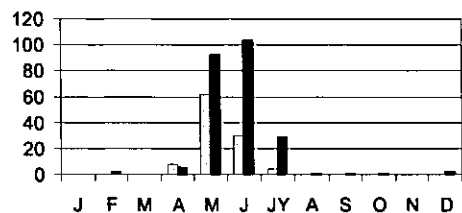
Habitat and ecology

B. setiger inhabits wet boggy areas. On the BAS Mid-Wales survey in 1995, it was found at the Rhos Goch bog; a typical site. The species is mature in summer and autumn, probably all year round.

Author of profile: D. Marriott.



No. of 10km ² occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	239
○ 1950 - 1979	47
+ 1900 - 1949	15
× pre 1900	18



Status

Somewhat local. It is possibly less common now than in the past (Smith 1982).

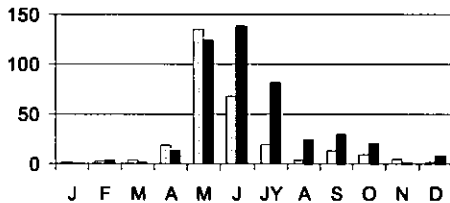
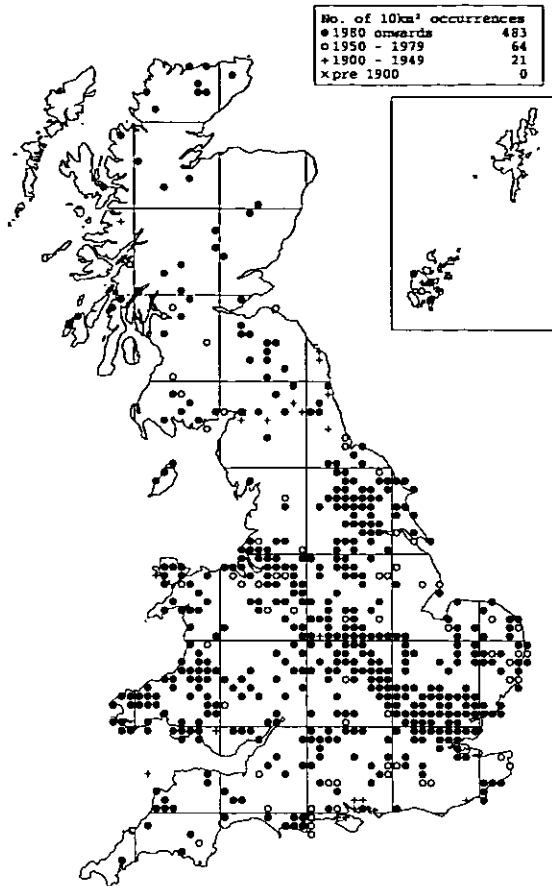
Distribution

The species is widespread but scattered in Britain as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

K. dorsalis is a spider of scrub and open woodland, including gardens and churchyards. It is perhaps most frequently beaten off gorse, but also off hawthorn, oak, ash, willow, pine, yew and ornamental shrubs (Crocker & Daws 1996). It may be swept from grass and dog's-mercury in woodland rides, and is occasionally taken from woodland leaf litter. The species seems to have a short season with adults of both sexes recorded from April to July, with most activity in May and June. Sub-adult females may be found in the winter, along with the occasional adult female.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton



Status

Common in wetland habitats.

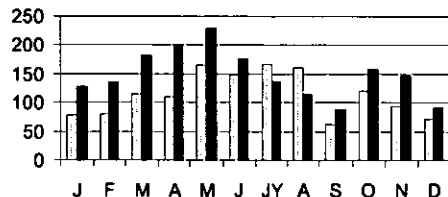
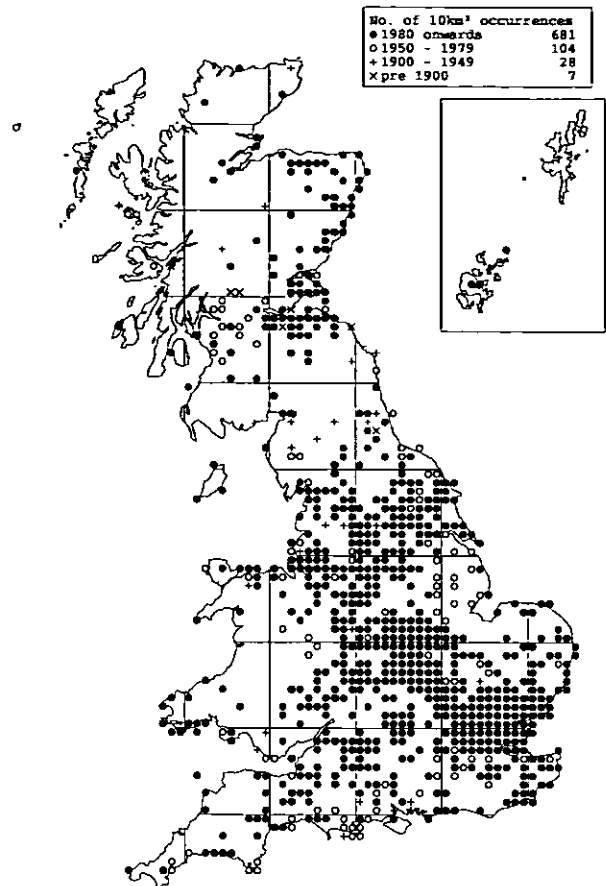
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain, becoming scattered in the north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

K. pullata is typically associated with wetland habitats such as marshland, reed-beds, alder carr, upland bogs, seeps and drainage ditches where it lives amongst low vegetation. The spider is also found in grasslands and broad-leaved woodland (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly in the summer.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

Common.

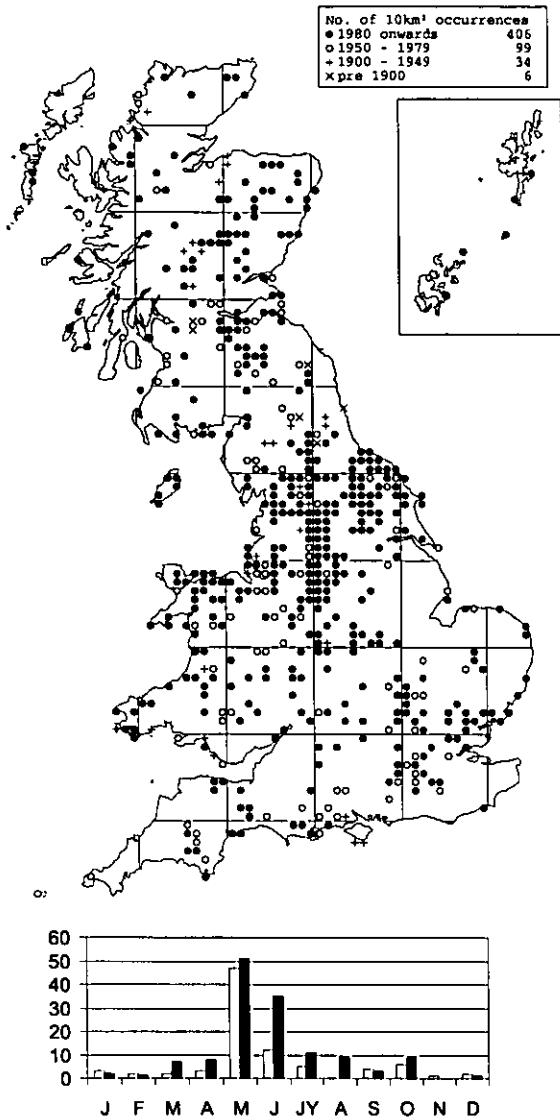
Distribution

The species is widespread in Britain but becoming very scattered and patchy in the west and north.

Habitat and ecology

D. concolor is found in a wide variety of situations, usually at ground level. It can be found in grassland (probably being commonest on calcareous grassland), broad-leaved and mixed woodlands, hedgerows, marsh and waterside vegetation, moss, leaf litter and under ground cover such as stones and is especially common in disturbed situations. It usually occurs in small mixed-sex groups under stones, pieces of wood, rubbish, etc. (J. Daws, pers. comm.). The conditions can range from the relative dryness of chalk downland to the dampness of marshes. Adults of both sexes are commonly recorded throughout the year.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas



Status
Local.

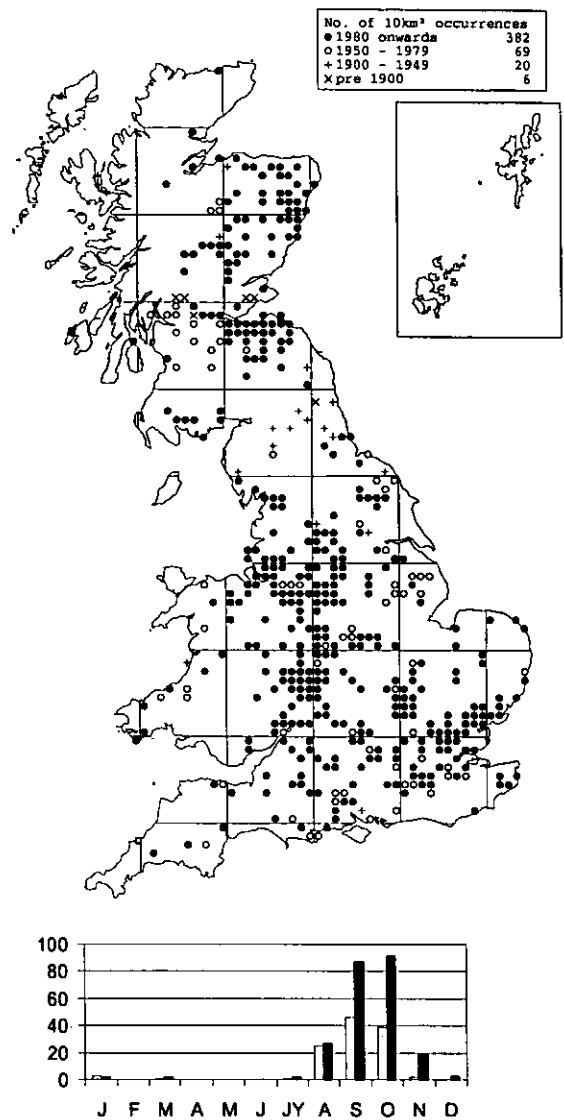
Distribution

This species is especially widespread in Wales and northern England, more scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This linyphiid is found in a variety of open habitats. In the lowlands it is typically found in gorse bushes, but can also be found beneath stones in grasslands, heathlands and abandoned quarries. In upland regions, including mountain summits, the spider lives beneath stones or amongst grasses and rushes, sometimes near damp habitats. Adults of both sexes are most common in early summer, but have been recorded throughout the year.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

Fairly common, and may be locally abundant.

Distribution

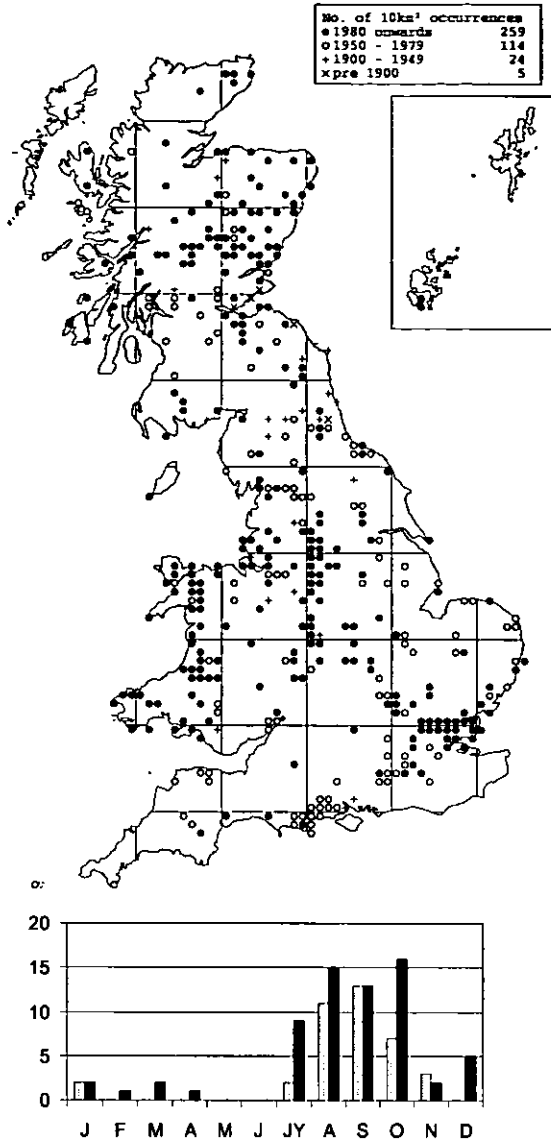
D. socialis is widespread in much of Britain, but scattered in the west and a number of other areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

D. socialis almost always occurs well camouflaged on the bark of tree trunks, less often in the litter at the base of trees and sometimes on fences in woods. However, the species has been recorded from a number of other habitats including damp rock faces in a disused quarry (Mackie 1965). The females construct a web of very fine threads, covering an area of about 6 x 4 cm², which lies very close to the trunk surface. Investigations in Germany showed that the species selected regions of trunks covered with a layer of epiphytic algae, probably because of increased prey availability in such areas, and placed webs under protuberances on the trunk, presumably to gain protection against water (Schütt 1997). Mackie (1965) showed that in north Cheshire, 45% of individuals were uniformly black, and suggested industrial melanism. Adults occur in late summer and autumn with a peak of activity in September and October. Mature females have been seen on trunks until late in December (Gurr 1967) and there is some evidence that a few adults over-winter.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe

[21501] Linyphiidae: *Tapinopa longidens*



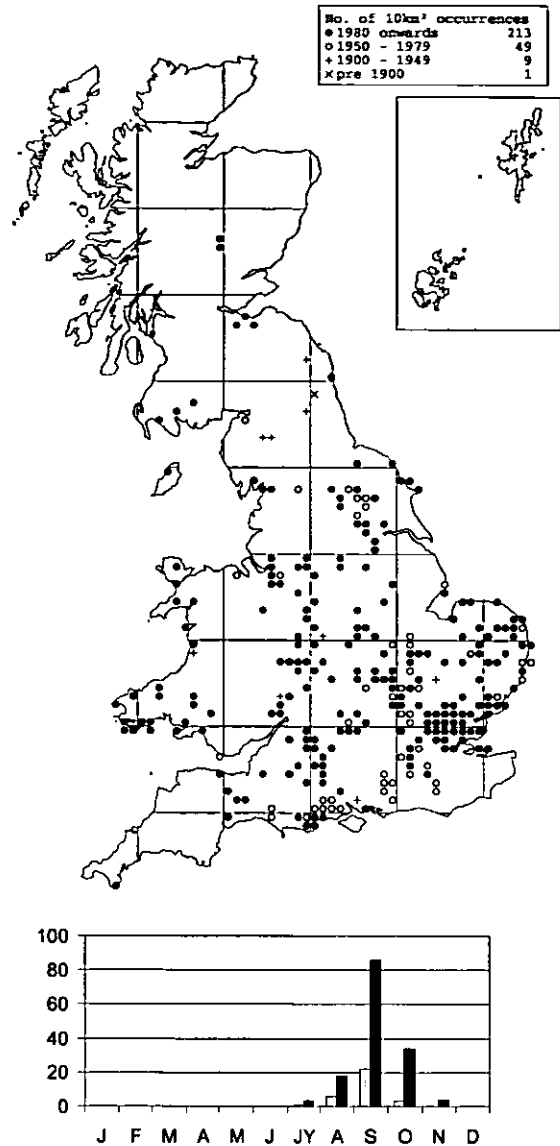
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but very scattered in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
T. longidens may be locally abundant in a variety of habitats, including detritus in woods, in marshy areas, grassland, open hillsides, moorland, heather and marram dunes. The highly characteristic web is a thick glistening sheet with a white, glossy appearance quite unlike that of any other spider (Bristowe 1958). It is usually spun in small open spaces in low vegetation, over a hollow in the ground or under stones. Males are active from mid-August to mid-November with a peak of activity in September (Merrett 1969). Adults have been recorded mainly between July and October, females occasionally persisting until April.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe

[21601] Linyphiidae: *Floronio bucculenta*

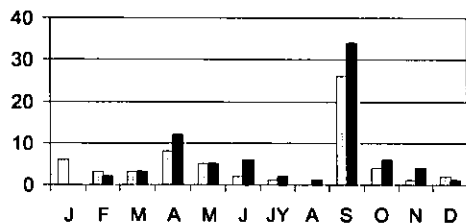
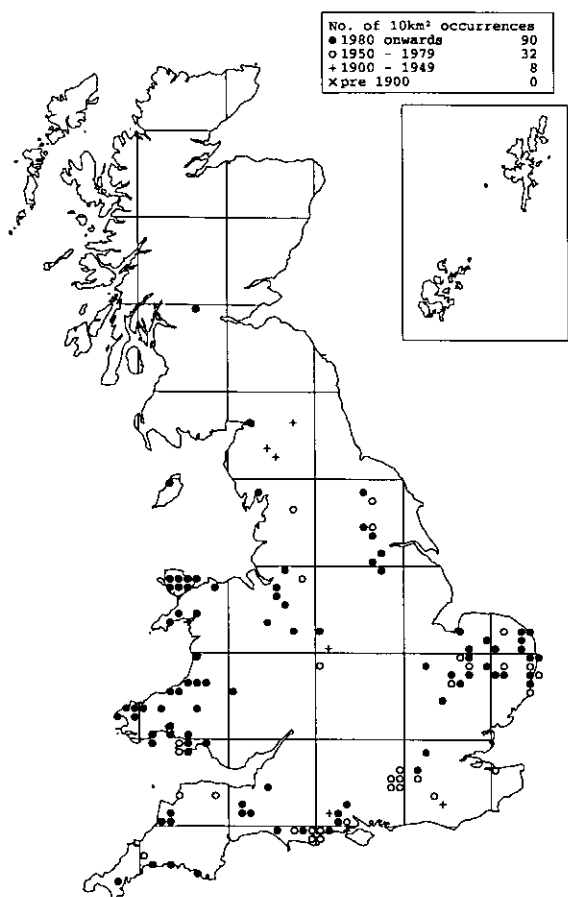


Status
A very local species, generally uncommon and infrequent, although it has been found commonly at sites in Surrey and Sussex.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of the lowlands, but apparently scarce in the south-west, and very scattered north of Yorkshire as far as Perthshire in Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
F. bucculenta occurs on bushes and low vegetation in damp places in a variety of habitats, including earthy banks, low vegetation in marshy areas, rough unmanaged grassland with scrub and tall herbaceous vegetation, open woodland with bracken and grass and tall heather. It has been observed that when females of this species are disturbed they drop to the ground and remain motionless. During this time the usual lightish colour of the abdomen changes to a much darker hue making the spider more difficult to spot. The former colour and patterning return after a few minutes (Bristowe 1958). Adults may be found in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: I.M. Howe



Status

Very local.

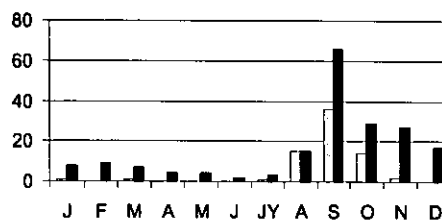
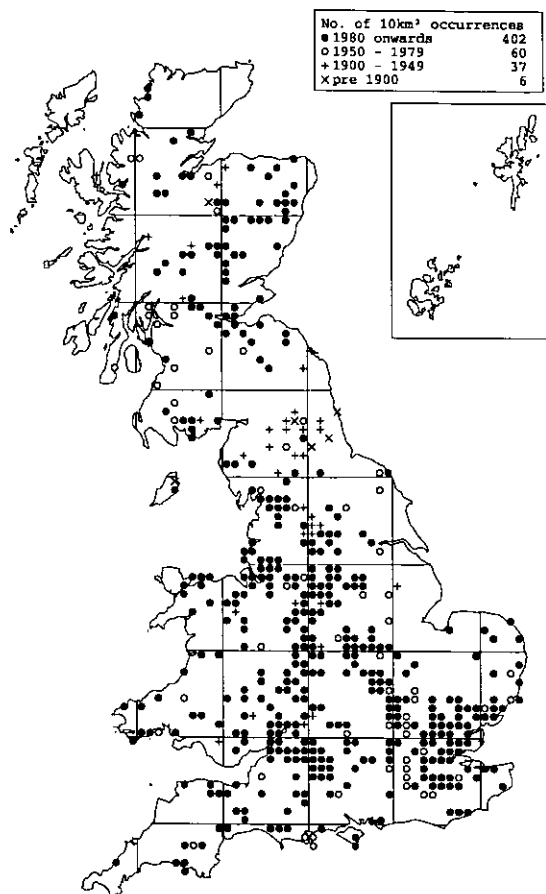
Distribution

T. setosus is widespread in East Anglia, West Wales and parts of northern England, and on southern heathlands, but absent or very scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is typically associated with old, undisturbed, lowland bogs and fens where it lives amongst flattened sedges. The species also exploits other wetland habitats such as reed-beds, lake margins and ditch sides. There are also reports of specimens inhabiting heather (Locket & Millidge 1953). Adults of both sexes are mainly found in the autumn and late spring, but have been recorded in small numbers at other times of year.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



Status

Common. It is less frequent in little-wooded, lowland parts of the country (C. Felton, pers. comm.; Smith 1982).

Distribution

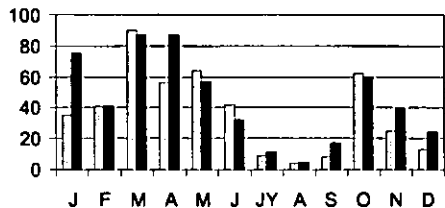
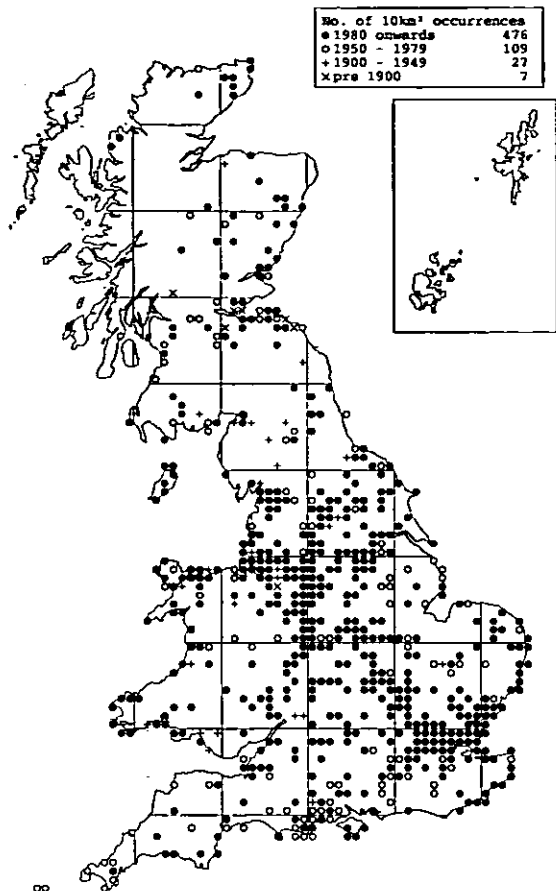
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider has been recorded from damp, shady places in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, limestone pavement, unmanaged grassland, overhanging banks, gardens, and houses. It is found under loose dead bark, in hollow trees and at the base of trees, in holes, in ivy, under logs and stones, in bird boxes, in cellars and outhouses, in webs across drains and rocks. It ascends to 350 m in the Yorkshire Dales. Adults of both sexes are found mainly between August and October, but females and occasionally males can be found in most months. Immatures are readily identifiable from the three white patches on the underside of the abdomen, so it is a species which can be identified throughout the year.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[21901] Linyphiidae: *Stemonyphantes lineatus*



Status

The spider may be locally distributed but can be abundant.

Distribution

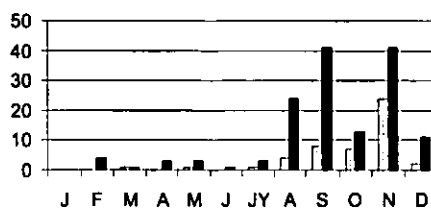
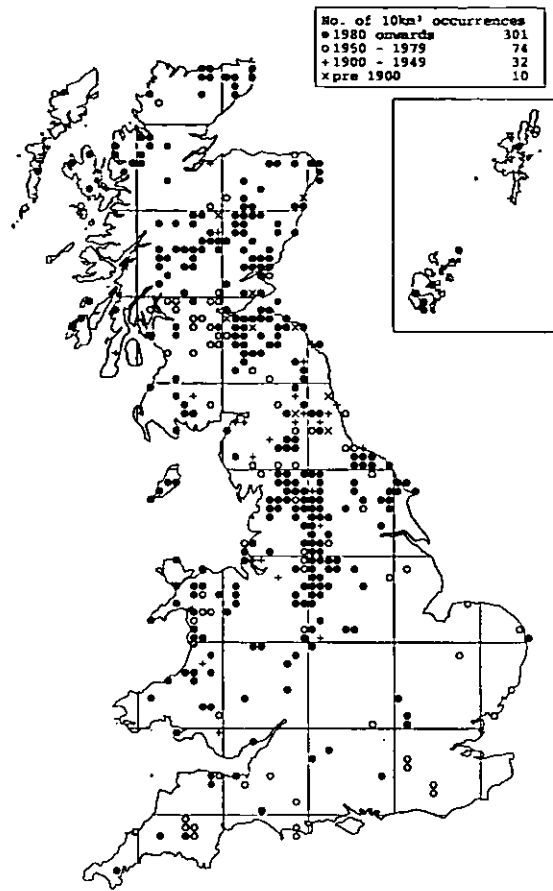
The species is widespread in much of England, but scattered and patchy in some areas, and more scattered in Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Usually found at or near ground level in a wide variety of habitats such as grassland, especially chalk downland, occurring in rabbit burrows, beneath overhanging grass tussocks, under stones and detritus, and in gardens. Occasionally found on taller vegetation. Adults of both sexes are found mainly from autumn and winter to mid-summer.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas

[22002] Linyphiidae: *Bolyphantes luteolus*



Status

Common in the north, but scarce in southern England except on high ground.

Distribution

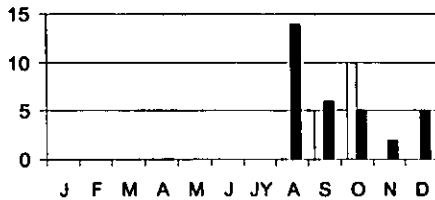
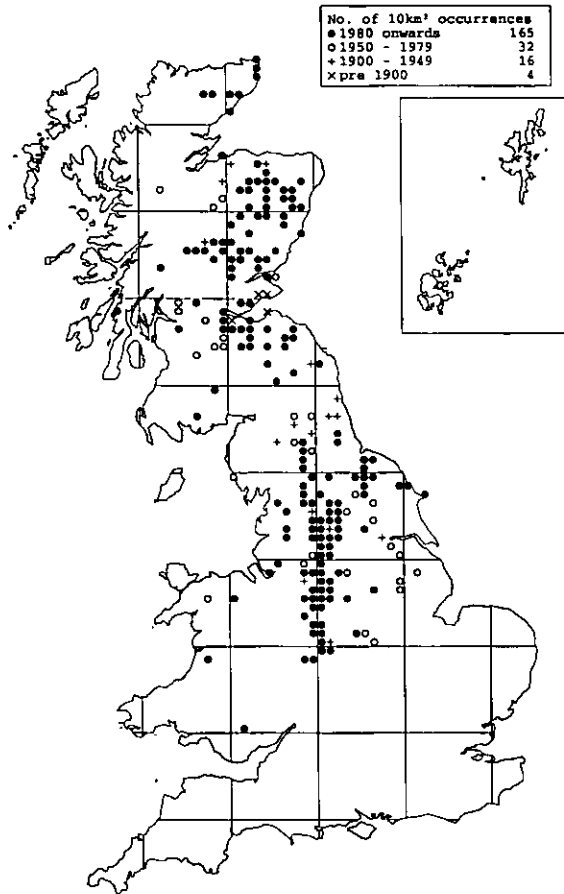
The species is widespread in the west and north of Britain, but very scattered and absent from most of lowland and south-eastern England. *B. luteolus* is a Palearctic spider widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species inhabits a variety of habitats including grasslands, heathland, moorland and wet flushes (Roberts 1995; Locket & Millidge 1953; Crocker & Daws 1996). In these habitats the spider can be found beneath stones, amongst low vegetation or in bushes such as heather. Adults are mainly found between August and December, occasionally at other times of year.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[22001] Linyphiidae: *Bolyphantes alticeps*



Status

The species is most frequent in Scotland, local in northern England and Wales.

Distribution

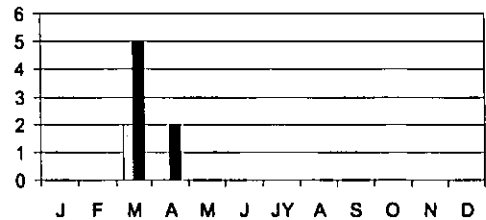
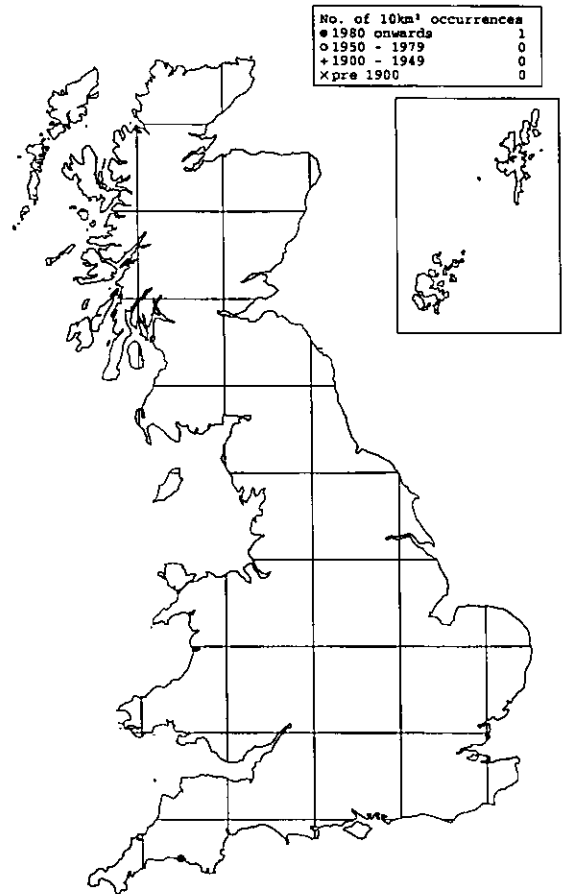
The species is widespread in northern England and eastern Scotland, but absent from southern England and most of Wales. This Palearctic linyphiid is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from the Netherlands. A male and female were recently recorded in Cruagh Forest on the Dublin mountains, Co. Dublin, Ireland (Nolan 1999).

Habitat and ecology

B. alticeps occurs in a variety of habitats including wet flushes, grassland, and coniferous and broad-leaved woodland. In these habitats the spider lives amongst low vegetation or amongst loose leaf litter. A study in the Pyrenees mountains revealed that *B. alticeps* only occurred in the uppermost part of the forested area between 1500 and 1900 m (Bosmans et al. 1986). Adult females have been recorded between August and December and males in September and October.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[22741] Linyphiidae: *Nothophantes horridus*



Status

Extremely rare.

Distribution

This species is only known from two abandoned limestone quarries in the Plymouth area.

Habitat and ecology

Under stones and debris on the floor and cliff faces of disused limestone quarries. This species is possibly trogloditic, living in narrow fissures in the limestone, from which it occasionally emerges. Adult females have been recorded in March and April but males have only been found in March (Merrett & Stevens 1995; 1999).

Threats

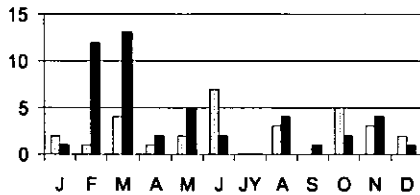
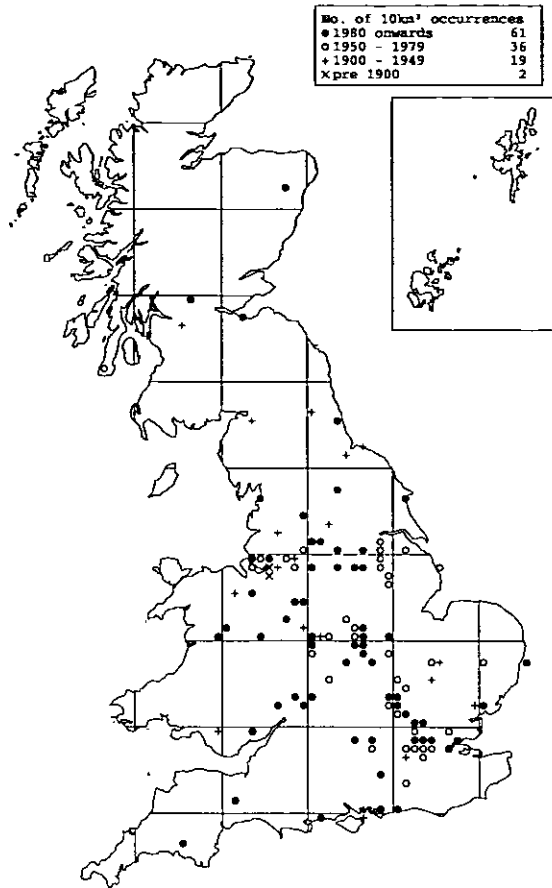
The type locality has already been extensively developed but it is hoped that the second site can be protected.

Management

As very little is known about the biology or life history of this species, it is not possible to make any management recommendations.

Author of profile: P. Smithers.

[22114] Linyphiidae: *Megalephyphantes nebulosus*



Status

The spider is more frequent in the south than the north. The species has recently been transferred from the genus *Lepthyphantes* by Wunderlich (see Merrett & Murphy 2000).

Distribution

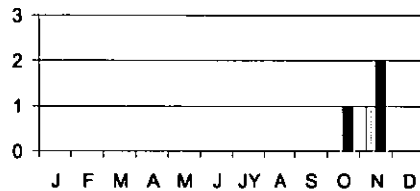
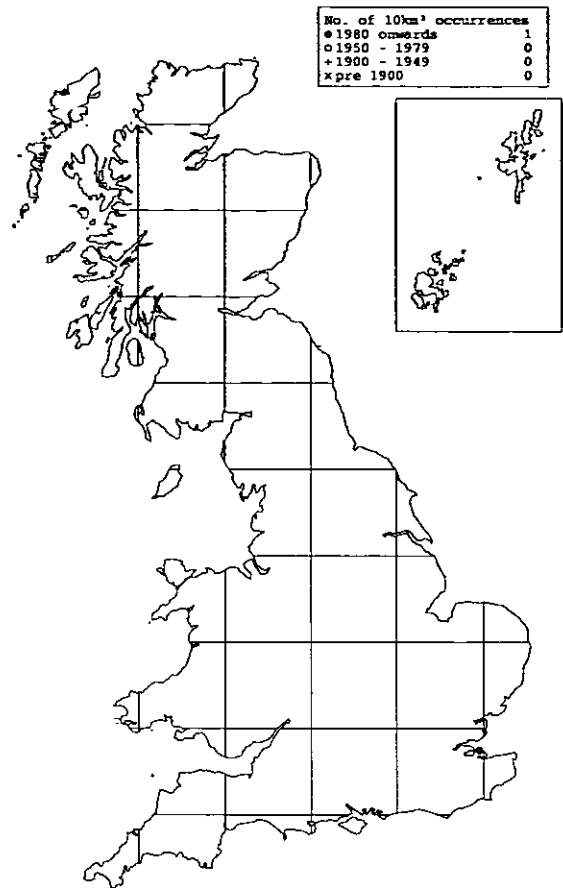
The species is widespread in England, but with few records in the west, Wales or Scotland. A Holarctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe and North America.

Habitat and ecology

M. nebulosus is generally associated with the damper and cooler areas of buildings such as wine and coal cellars and outhouses, but it has been recorded in other habitats such as under rubbish and stones in farmyards and gardens (Crocker & Daws 1996). Both sexes are probably adult at all seasons of the year.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

[22123] Linyphiidae: *Megalephyphantes collinus occidentalis* ?



Status

One male and two females were found in 1999 and a further female in 2000. It is closely related to, but distinct from, typical *M. collinus* (L. Koch, 1872), and probably best treated as a subspecies at present. The British male resembles the type material of *occidentalis* in having a truncated tibial apophysis, but shows some differences, and may represent another subspecies (Merrett & Murphy 2000).

Distribution

The species was discovered on the Isle of Sheppey at Minster in Kent in 1999.

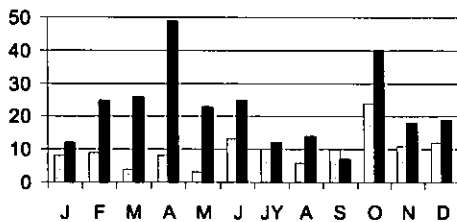
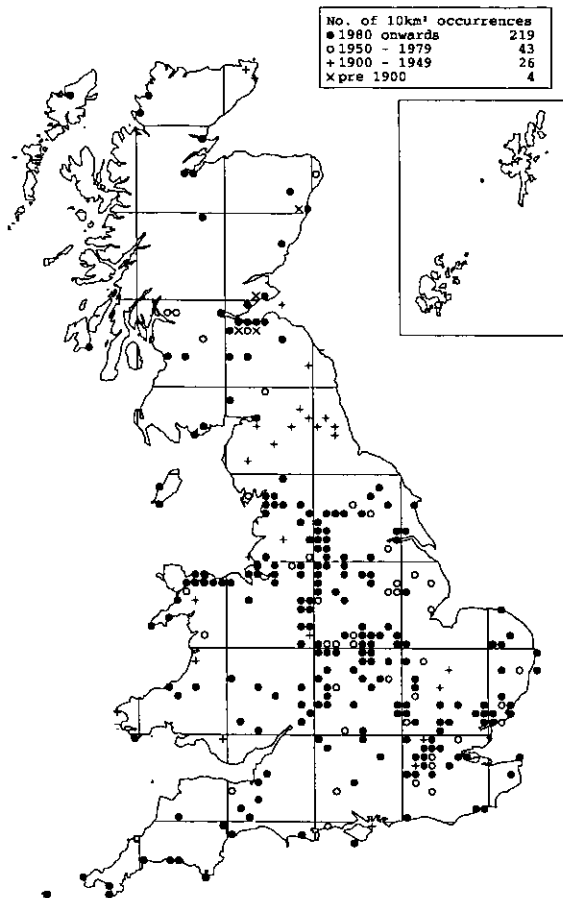
Habitat and ecology

The spider has been found in tall open herbage growing on stabilized shingle at the foot of London Clay under-cliffs, and dense tall grass close to the beach. The adult male and two females were found at the start of November, and the other female in early October.

Threats

The area of vegetated shingle is very small and vulnerable to disturbance and change. An extensive length of under-cliff near Minster has previously been graded and the natural habitat destroyed.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



Status

Common, and probably very under-recorded because its main habitat is inside houses.

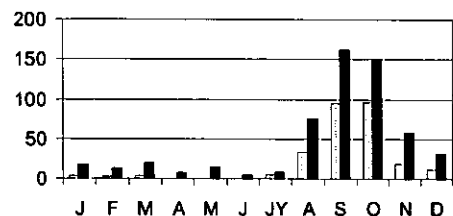
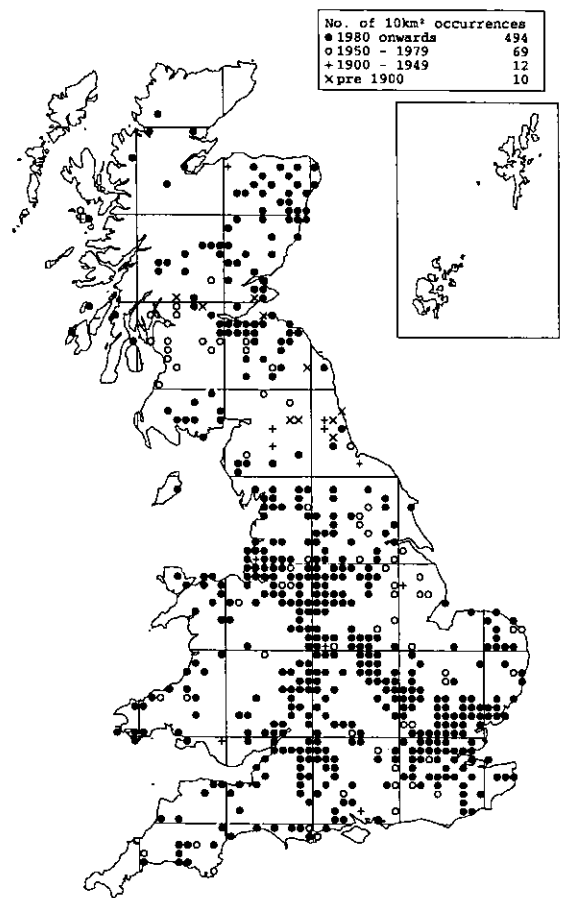
Distribution

The species is widely distributed in much of Britain, becoming very scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. leprosus is found in all types of buildings, from newly built houses (noticed within nine months of completion) to derelict barns. It forms small webs across corners of rooms, behind cupboards, etc. mostly at fairly low levels. It also occurs in disused quarries, in bark of old trees in parkland and broad-leaved woodland, under man-hole covers, in rubbish and in garden litter (Crocker & Daws 1996). On Scilly it has been found away from houses in vegetation on a dry stone wall, in association with *Harpactea* (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). It would be interesting to know whether it is confined to houses in any parts of its range. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, possibly with peaks in the autumn and spring.

Author of profile: J. Newton



Status

Common.

Distribution

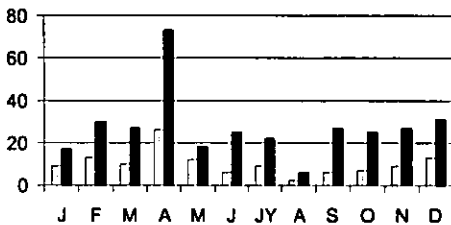
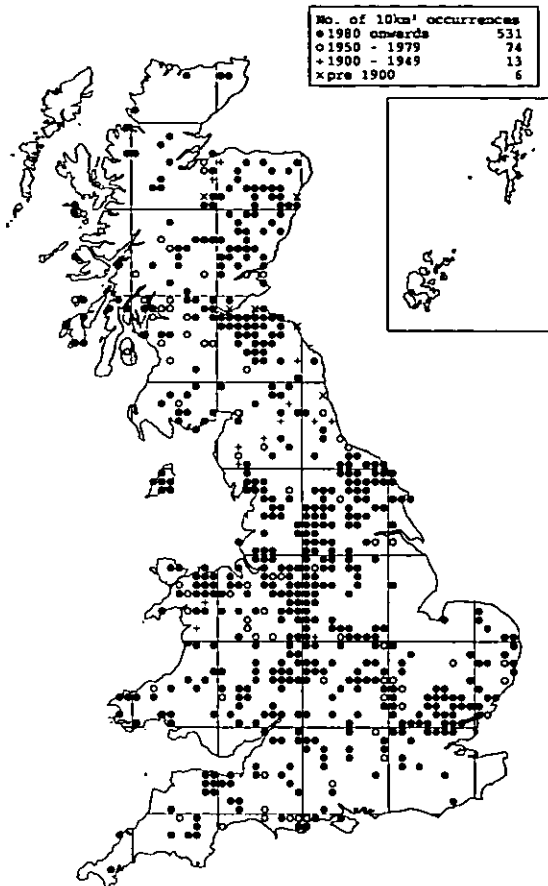
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This is a spider of broad-leaved woodlands. It is frequently found when beating branches of trees, especially near the junction with the trunk where dry leaf litter may gather. It is often common in litter around the bases of trees and can also be found under logs or on walls and occasionally in houses. Adults are mainly recorded in late summer and autumn, occasionally over-wintering to be found in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: M. Askins

[22101] Linyphiidae: *Lepthyphantes alacris*



Status

Common, especially in the north, but more local in the south.

Distribution

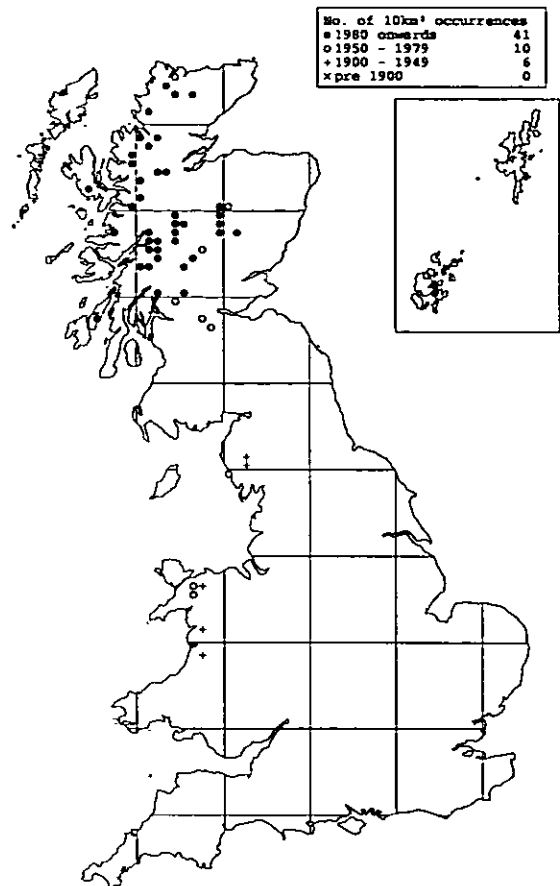
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. alacris is primarily a spider of woodlands, especially damp and upland woods, where it ascends to at least 275 m and may be abundant in leaf litter, moss and tussocks of grasses, woodrushes and sedges. It occurs under broad-leaved and coniferous trees, including ancient oak woodland, alder carr, conifer plantations and birch on bogs. Occasionally it is found in rocky heath grassland or grassland adjacent to woodland (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults are found throughout the year, mainly in the autumn, winter, spring and early summer.

Author of profile: J. Newton

[22120] Linyphiidae: *Lepthyphantes whymperi*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is widespread on mountains, but rather local and never particularly numerous.

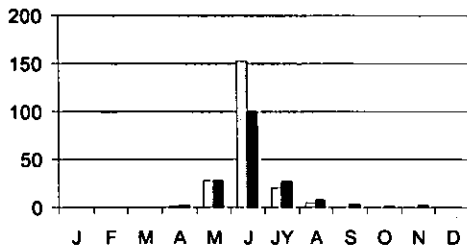
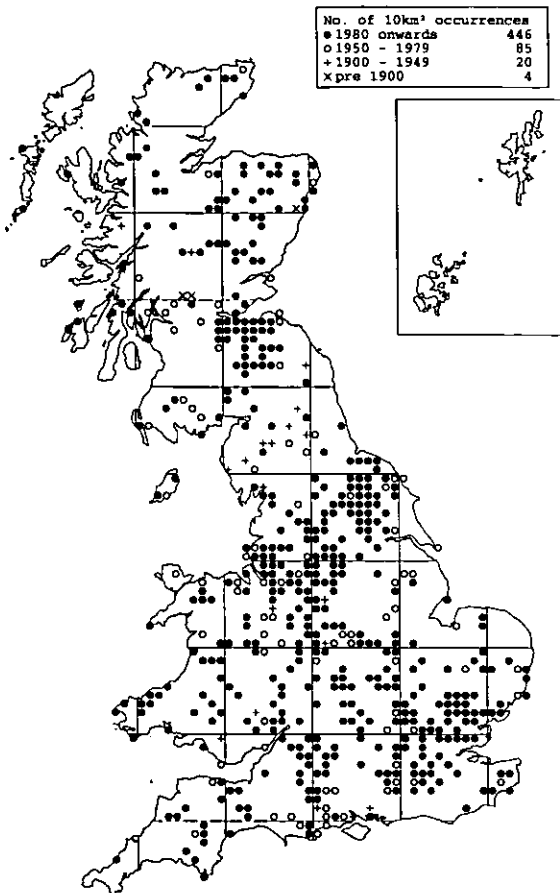
Distribution

The species is confined to north Wales, the Lake District, and Scotland. It is a boreal species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. whymperi occurs mainly in cavities among rocks on mountains above 700 m, but lower in the far north and occasionally elsewhere. Adults are found from June to September.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Common, but the spider may be rather locally distributed.

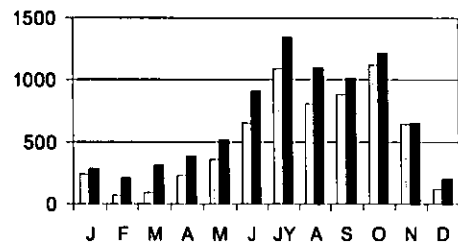
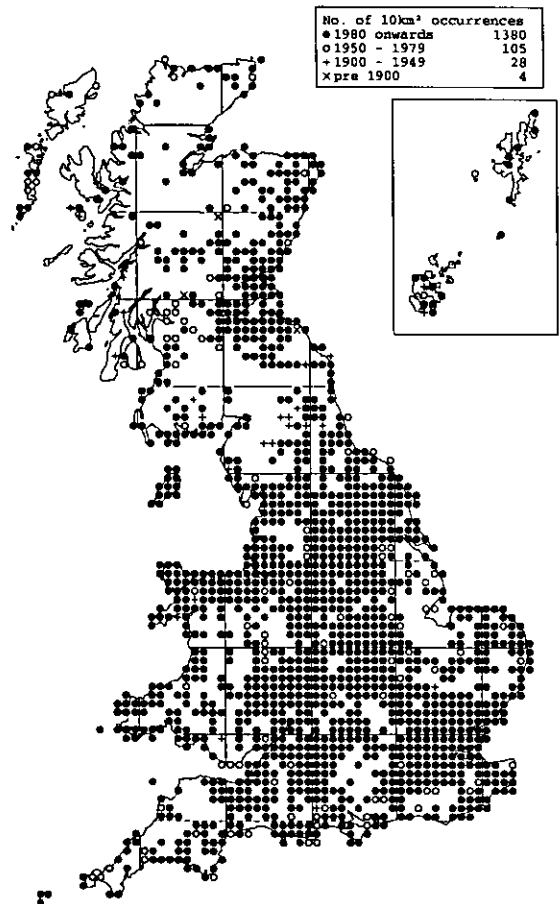
Distribution

The species is widespread in most of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species is principally a woodland species and can probably most easily be found by beating conifers at the right time of year. However, it can be found in a range of other habitats including broad-leaved woods, scrub and hedgerows, on shrubs, heather or other low vegetation and in leaf litter. Adults are found from early to mid-summer with a peak in June, females occasionally persisting into the autumn.

Author of profile: M. Askins



Status

Common. In many parts of Britain the species can be regarded as one of the most ubiquitous spiders, but is less frequent in the north of Scotland.

Distribution

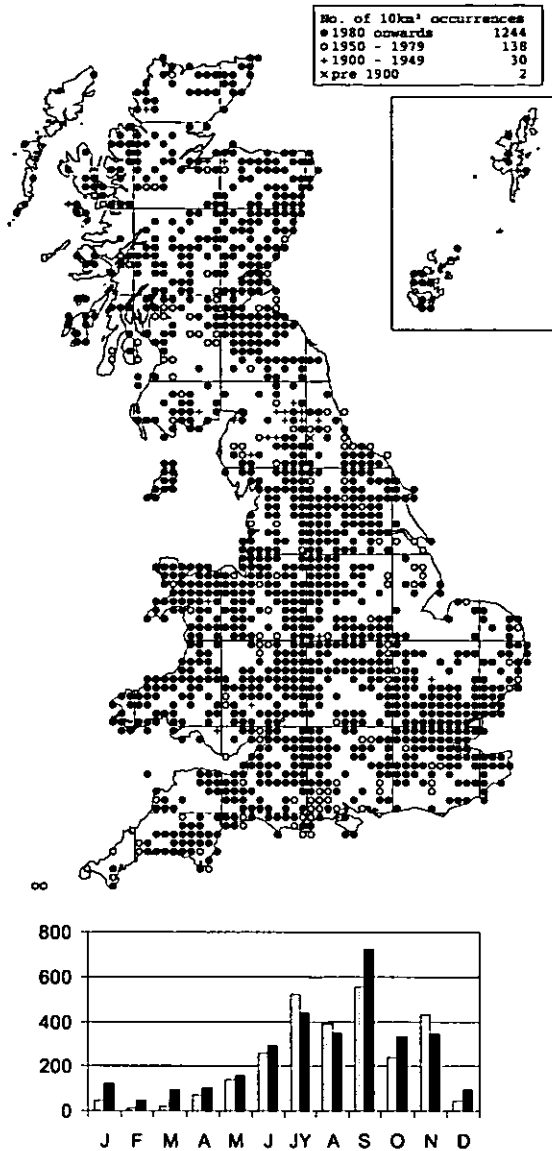
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species is a frequent aeronaut and can be found in many different situations. It is regularly recorded indoors. In lowland England, its habitats include ruderal vegetation, gardens, grassland, arable fields, wetland, heathland and woodland, but it is perhaps especially associated with grasslands. R. Gallon (pers. comm.) notes the species has a particular fondness for living in rabbit scrapes in the short turf of limestone grassland. In many of these situations it can be considered a 'pioneer' species which will quickly colonise new habitats and take advantage of disturbed ground. *L. tenuis* is often frequent in open lowland grassland but is rare or absent in upland exposed grassland where *L. zimmermanni* is common (Gallon 2000a). Adults can be found throughout the year, mostly in the summer and autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey using information from C. Geddes, W. Rixom, H. Williams (pers. comms.).

[22121] Linyphiidae: *Lepthyphantes zimmermanni*



Status

The spider is common within its varied habitats. It is one of the most frequently encountered spiders in the Welsh mountains (Goodier 1967).

Distribution

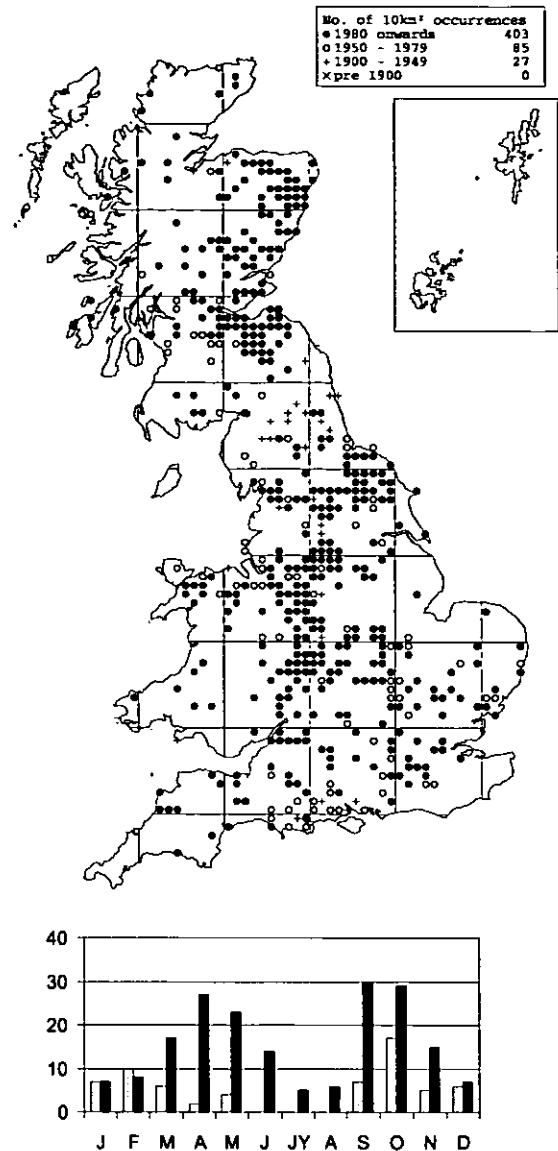
The species is widespread throughout much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

In the south, *L. zimmermanni* is mainly a woodland species. It is frequently found amongst leaf litter and under logs in both broad-leaved and coniferous woodland. Further north it is much more widespread and occurs in a wide variety of habitats from sea level to the summits of high mountains. On exposed coastal sites (cliffs) this spider is found beneath overhanging low vegetation. *L. zimmermanni* is more frequent than *L. tenuis* in upland grassland and moorland where it inhabits clumps of low vegetation (grass, sedges, rushes and moss). A Dundee Museum pitfall survey in the Sidlaw Hills of Angus found *L. tenuis* to be more frequent in grasslands and *L. zimmermanni* to be more numerous in heather (J. Stewart, pers. comm.). On high mountain summits it lives beneath felsenmeer rocks. Adults of both sexes can be found throughout the year, mostly in summer and autumn.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

[22105] Linyphiidae: *Lepthyphantes cristatus*



Status

Local, more common in the north.

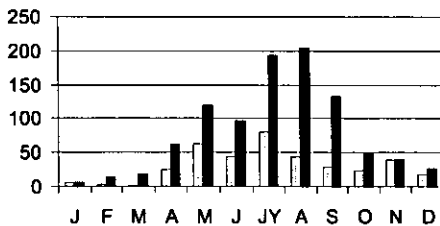
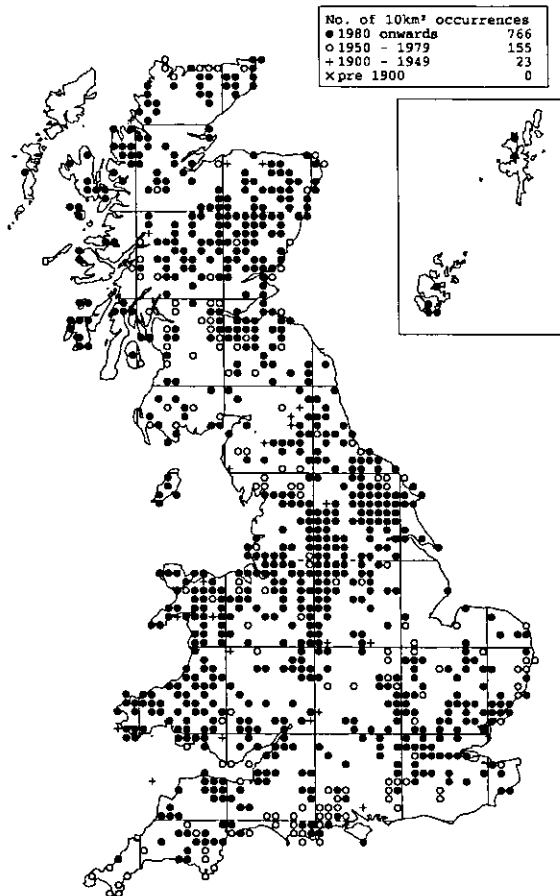
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain, but very scattered or absent in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. cristatus occurs in a variety of damp shady habitats, including alder carr, mixed broad-leaved woodland, birch and pine on sphagnum, juniper scrub on limestone, wet pasture and rank grassland. It is found in leaf litter, moss, tussocks and by pitfall trapping and beating scrub. Adults of both sexes are mainly found in the autumn, both sexes occurring through the winter and spring, with a second peak of females in spring and early summer.

Author of profile: J. Newton



Status

Not uncommon in suitable habitat.

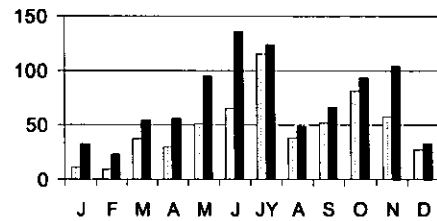
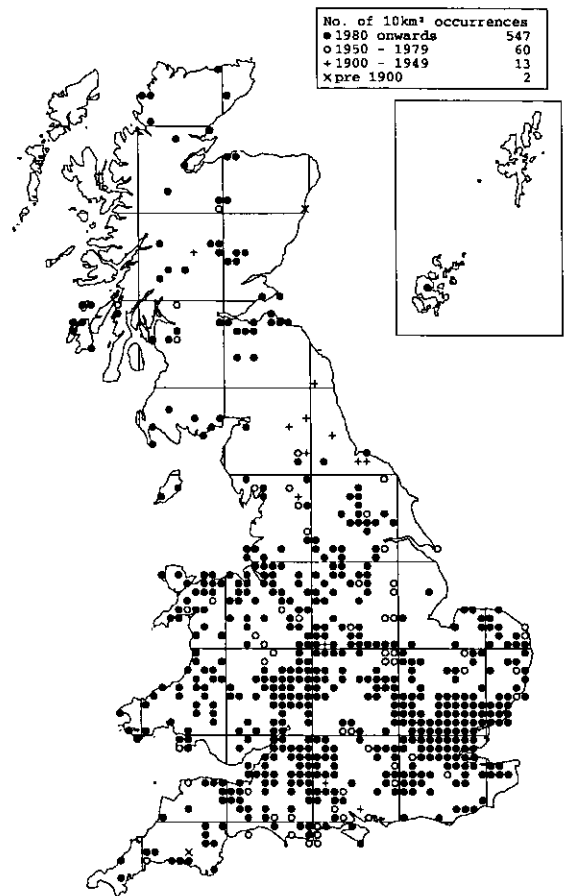
Distribution

The species is widespread in most of Britain. *L. mingei* is a Palearctic species widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. mingei is found in undergrowth, grass and moss, on dry heath, moorland and in woodland, and has also been recorded at altitudes up to 3000' (914 m) in Scotland (Cooke 1967; Cooke 1968b; Merrett 1971) and, interestingly, at over 6000' (1900 m) in mixed forest in the Pyrenees (Bosmans et al. 1986). In Essex the species is mainly restricted to relict heathland, heathy woodland and old grassland habitats (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). It is adult at all seasons of the year, but mainly in the summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Common.

Distribution

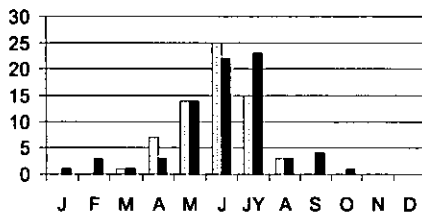
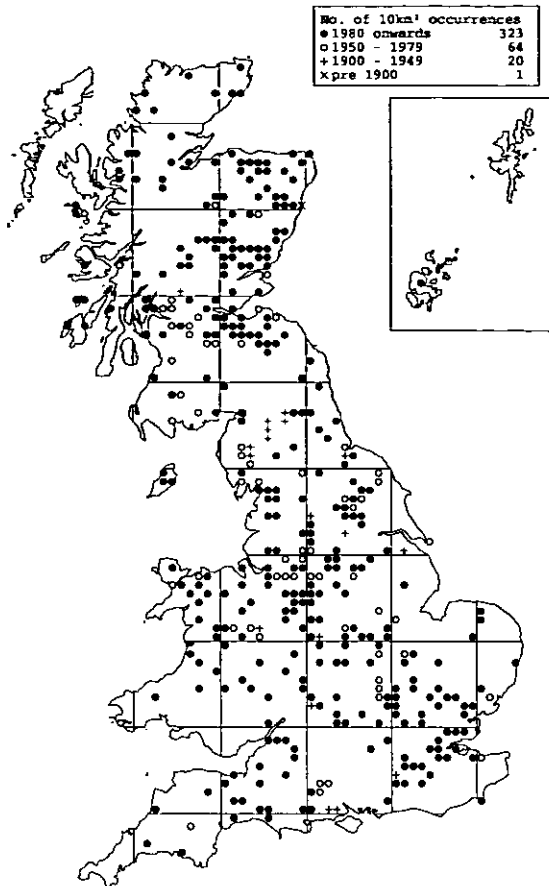
The species is widely distributed in southern Britain, becoming scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

Habitat and ecology

L. flavipes is predominantly a woodland species occurring in leaf litter and undergrowth. It may also be found in a variety of other situations including grasslands, heaths and marshes, generally at ground level, such as in heather, moss, and grass. Adults are found throughout the year, mainly from spring to mid-summer and autumn.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas

[22118] Linyphiidae: *Lepthyphantes tenebricola*



Status

More common in the north than the south, where it is rather local.

Distribution

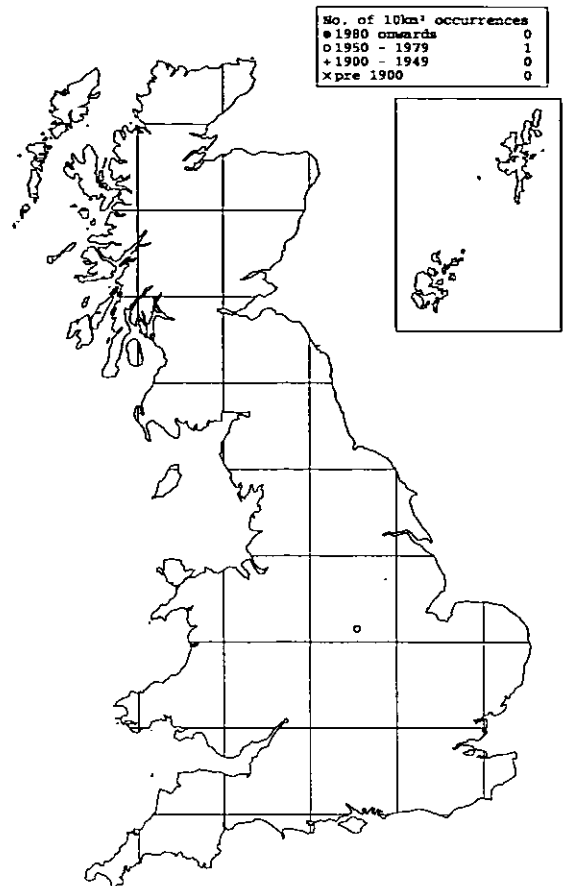
The species is widespread but scattered in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. tenebricola is predominantly a woodland spider found in leaf litter and moss, under stones or bark, under a variety of broad-leaved trees, including oak, sycamore, lime, birch, alder and willow. It has been swept out of tussocks of grass or woodrush, shaken from sedge litter, extracted from a wood ants' nest, and from a pile of hay on a roadside verge. Occasionally it may be beaten from the shrub layer, or found on tree trunks. Adults of both sexes have been recorded mainly from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

[22122] Linyphiidae: *Lepthyphantes beckeri*



Status

The status of this species is not yet clear. Only two specimens are known, both female, one from Germany and one from Leicestershire, both from ancient deer parks. The first was collected in 1953 by a trap set in a small clearing in a park near Berlin and described in 1973 (Wunderlich 1973). In 1970, the second was found in leaf litter at the base of a stone wall within the ruins of Bradgate House in Bradgate Park (Crocker and Daws 1996). In spite of further searching no more specimens have been found at either site. External morphology and vulval anatomy suggest that the species is closely related to *L. flavipes* and *L. mengei*. However, when captured, both specimens were carrying a well-developed ectoparasitic larva and it has been suggested that, as a result of this, both specimens have been subject to biochemical modification and are, in fact, aberrant forms. Clearly more information is needed, such as the capture of males and evidence that breeding populations exist, before the status of this taxon can be established.

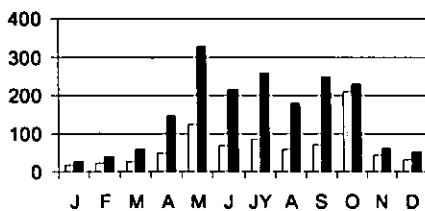
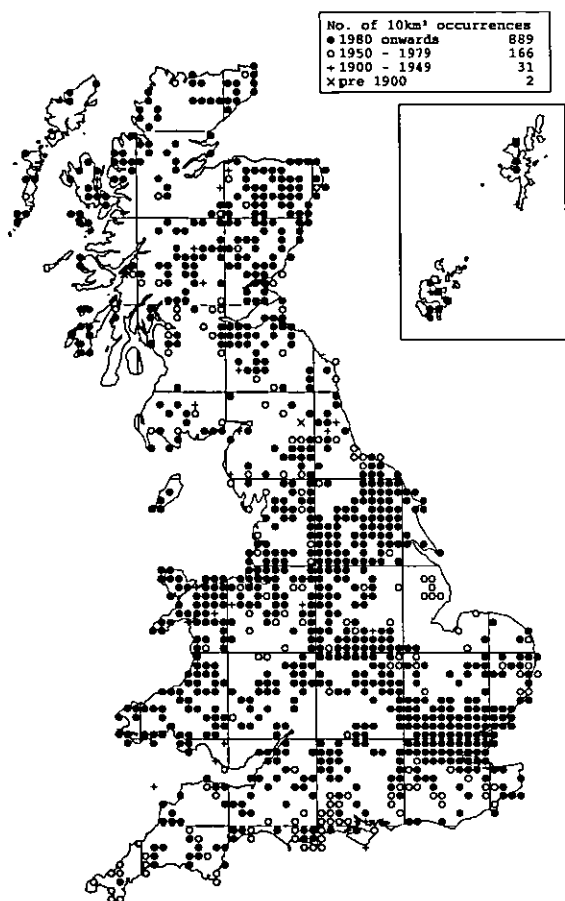
Distribution

England and Germany.

Habitat and ecology

Not yet established.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist.

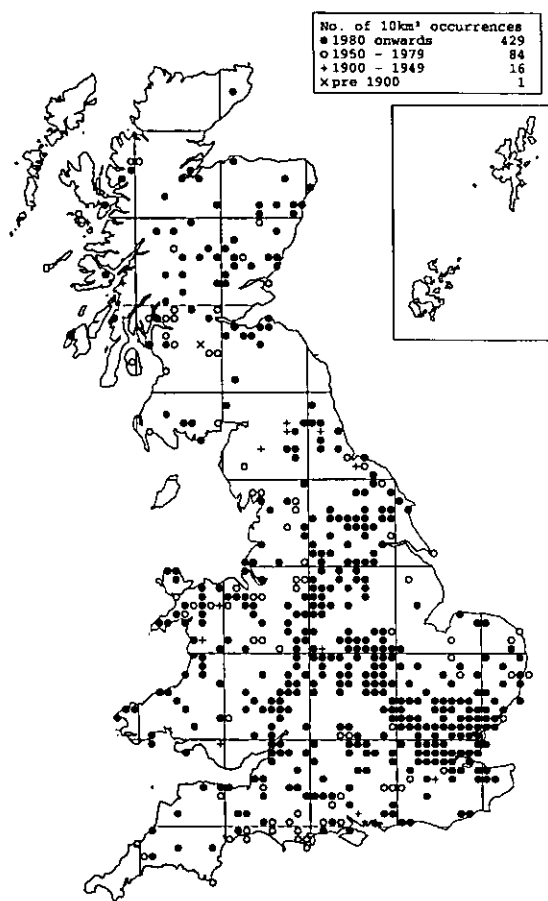


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It is widespread in north-western Europe.

Habitat and ecology
Generally found at or close to ground level amongst plant stems in heather and grasses. It occurs in damp grassland such as in marshes and around ponds, coarse grassland, chalk downland, heathland, as well as in the litter of broad-leaved and mixed woodlands. Essentially a ground zone species probably requiring fairly humid conditions for it has also been found in sewage filter beds. Adults are found throughout the year, mostly between late spring and autumn.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas

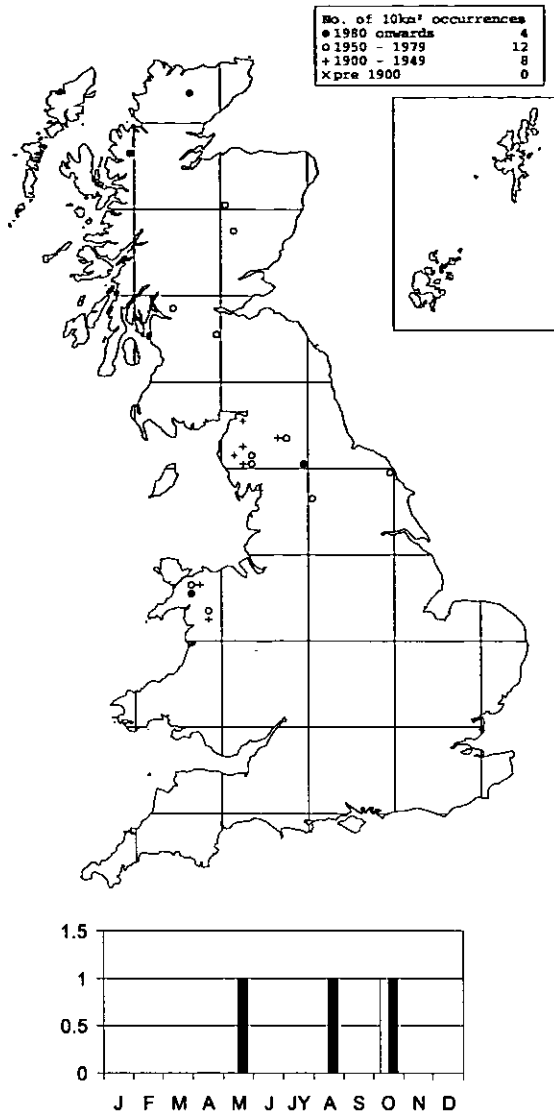


Status
Common, but generally infrequent.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
L. pallidus has been recorded from a wide variety of habitats including short grassland, under stones, in moss and litter, on urban derelict land, in cavities inside hollow trees and on dune systems. It may often occur under stones on mountains as high as 3000' (914 m) (Cooke 1967). Adults of both sexes have been found throughout the year, with the highest numbers from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local and never numerous.

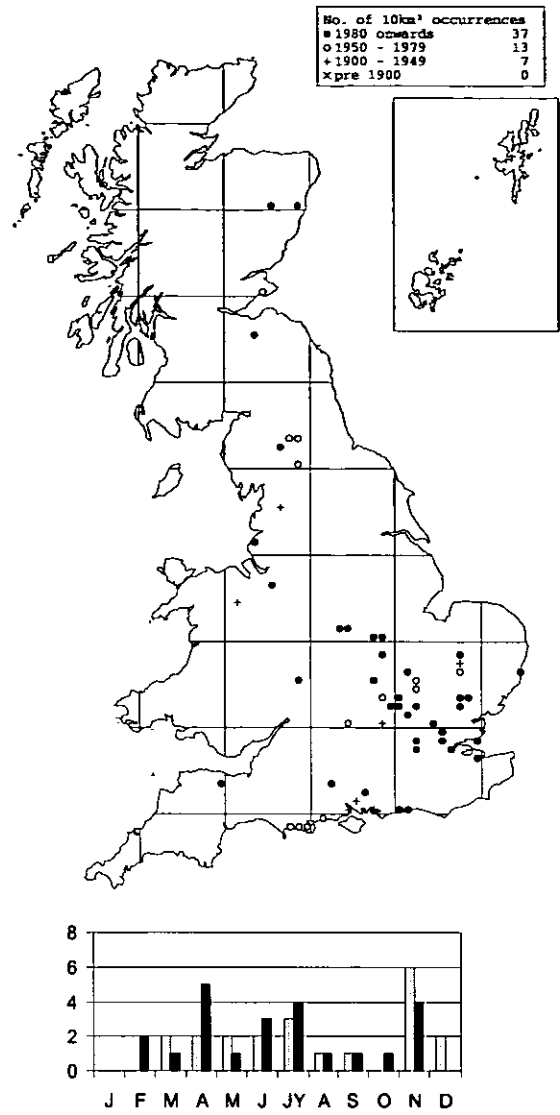
Distribution

The species is widespread but scattered over northern England, Wales and Scotland. There is a doubtful old record for Staffordshire by L.A.Carr. Some of Carr's records were given by O. Pickard-Cambridge as "sent to me by L.A. Carr of Lichfield", but may not have been collected there. It is an alpine species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. pinicola occurs on high ground, often among loose stones. It is adult in summer and autumn.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local and not usually numerous. Intensive sampling programmes collected the species in numbers in fields of winter wheat at several locations (Powell 1993) and seven have recently been found together in a line of culverts (Daws 2001b).

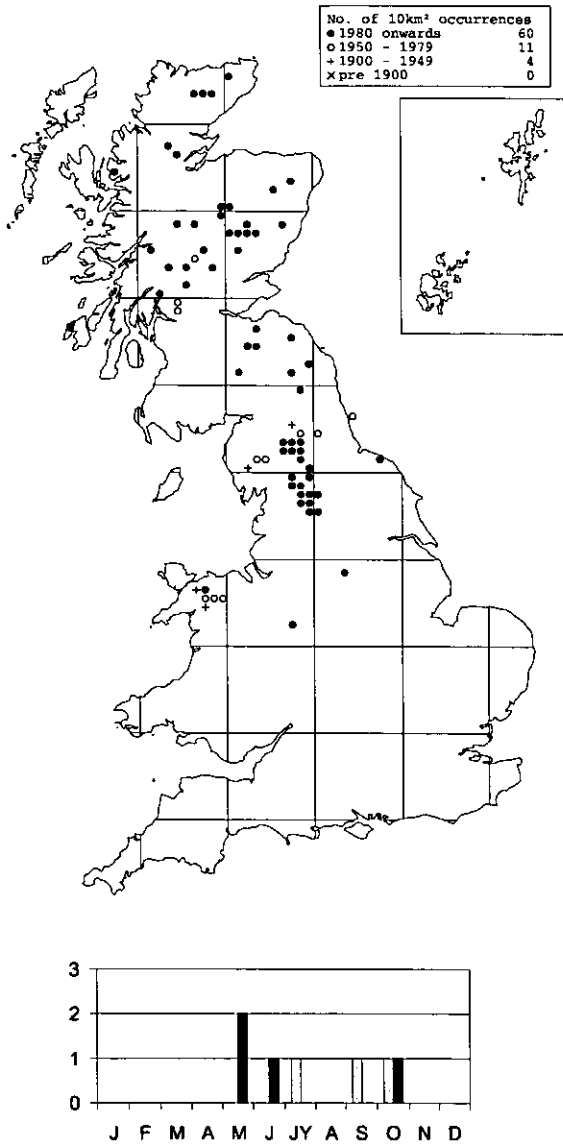
Distribution

The species is widespread but scattered across England, mainly in the south-east. There are few records from Scotland and Wales. It is uncommon but widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000).

Habitat and ecology

L. insignis is found mainly in dry grassland, and occasionally on arable land. Daws (2001b) has recently found two males and five females in a row of recently constructed drainage culverts in an extension of a Victorian cemetery. Several of the female webs had white egg-sacs adjacent to them, stuck onto the concrete wall of the culverts. A subterranean life style, possibly gregarious in favourable conditions has been suggested by Daws. Adults have been found at most times of the year, mainly in the autumn, spring and early summer.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey, with reference to Merrett (1990)



Status

Local and uncommon.

Distribution

The species is widespread on high ground in North Wales, northern England and Scotland. It is widespread in Scandinavia and northern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is usually found on high ground. Adults occur in summer, autumn and winter (Locket & Millidge 1951).

Author of profile: P. Merrett (1990)

Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Only two males and six females have been found, despite an extensive arachnological survey of the Cairngorms which included over a hundred sites above 600 m.

Distribution

The species is a northern and sub-alpine species that is apparently established in the Cairngorms, Inverness-shire where it was recorded in the Lairig Ghru in 1979 and 1980 and from Sròn a' Cha-no in 1980. It is also known from the Swiss and Austrian Alps, the Carpathians and Fennoscandia between latitudes 61 °N and 70 °N.

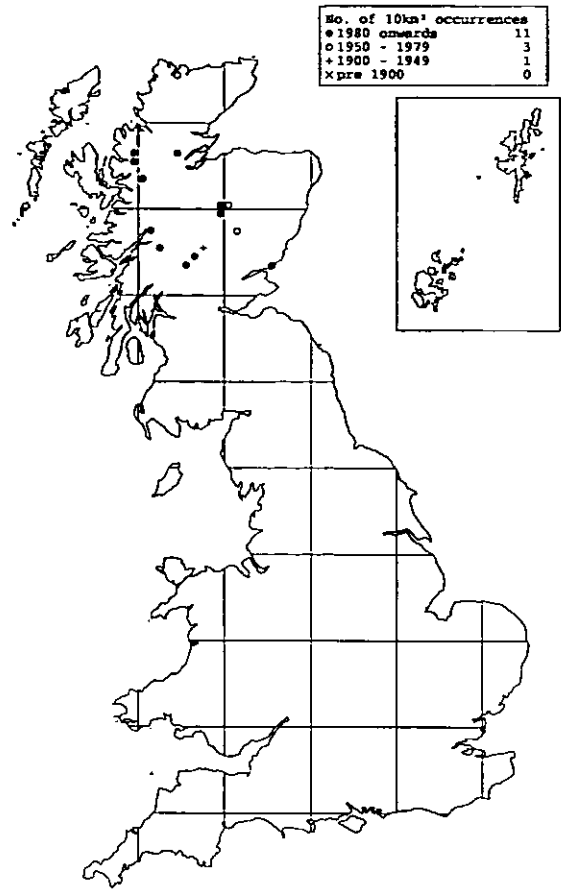
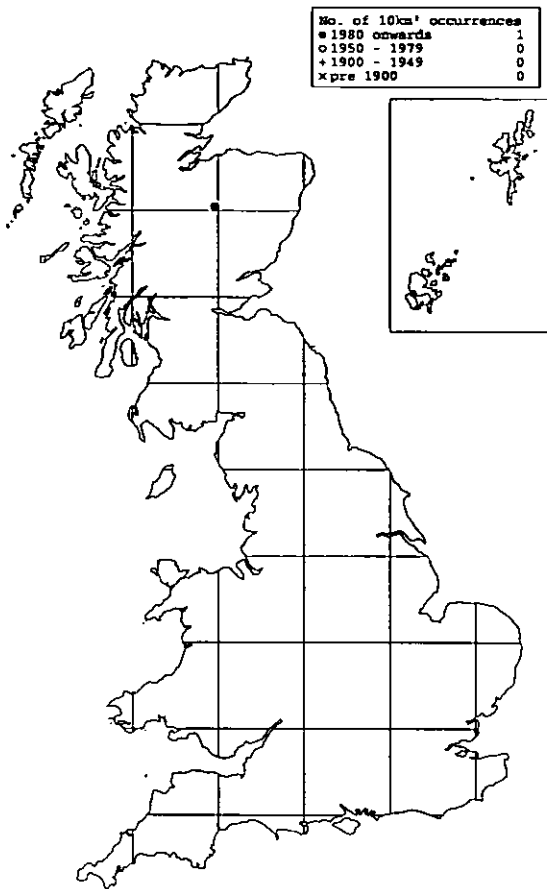
Habitat and ecology

In Scotland, the spider has been found under rocks and among low vegetation consisting mainly of *Empetrum*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, grasses and mosses, at about 900 to 980 m. In the Alps this species occurs in spruce and pine woods, and in Fennoscandia in spruce and birch forests. Despite the absence of trees at Lairig Ghru, the ground vegetation is similar to its Fennoscandian habitat. Sub-alpine birch woods may be worth searching for this species in Scotland. Adults of both sexes have been found from May to September.

Threats

There have been proposals for skiing developments close to the sites where this species was found. Lurcher's Gully was the subject of a public inquiry in 1981 and the proposals were rejected at that time. In the late 1980s there were further proposals for another ski-tow, a café and other means of access, but these may not be permitted now that the structure plan for the area shows a presumption in favour of conservation. The compaction of snow caused by heavy skiing can have severely damaging effects on upland vegetation, which, owing to its slow growth, is unable to recover during the summer months. Snow-fences increase the duration of the snow cover, which causes the vegetation to change from dwarf heath to a *Nardus stricta* sward. Such a change in the vegetation structure is not likely to be within the tolerance limits of this spider.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is widespread on Scottish mountains, but local and never numerous.

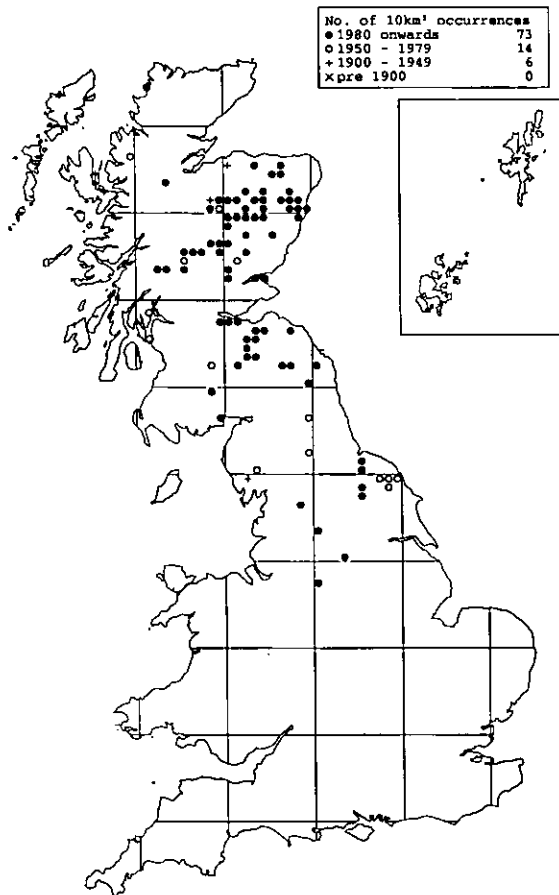
Distribution

The species is restricted to the Highlands of Scotland. It is a boreo-alpine species in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

L. complicatus occurs on mountains, under stones etc., usually above 900 m. Adults are found from June to August.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

**Status**

Locally abundant in suitable habitat within its restricted range.

Distribution

L. expunctus is widely distributed in Scotland and northern England. It is absent from southern England and Wales. The species is widespread in northern and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species is often found on the branches and trunks of trees, especially pines, on the edges of woodland and plantations. It has been taken from birch, larch and juniper and occasionally from vegetation bordering woods. Females are adult from March to October, males from July to September.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). This is an extremely rare species associated with ancient trees, either in ancient woodland or, in the case of Donington Park, an isolated oak in ancient wood pasture.

Distribution

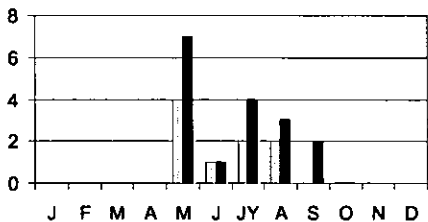
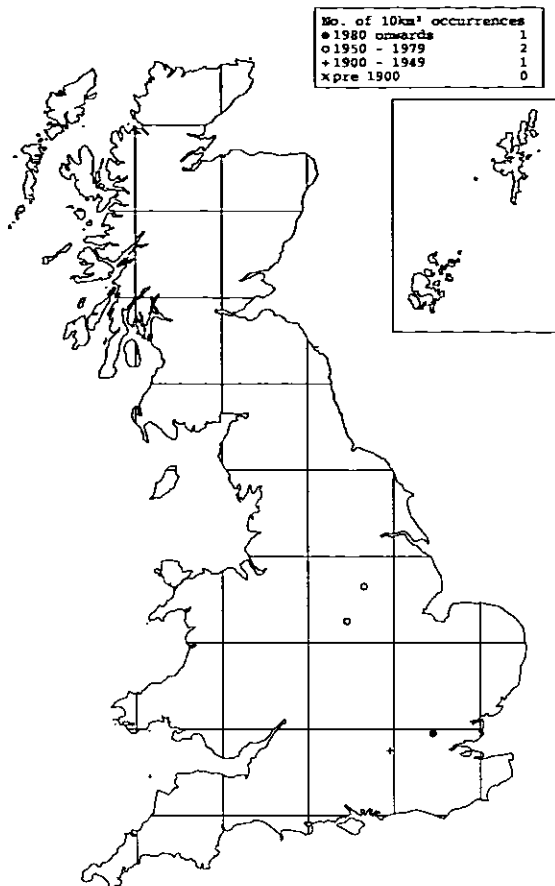
In Britain this species has been recorded from Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, Donington Park in Leicestershire, Epping Forest and Hainault Forest in South Essex and Windsor Forest in Berkshire. In Europe it has been recorded from Fortuens Indelukke State Forest in Denmark, the Trebon Basin in the Czech Republic, Germany, Swietokrzskie National Park in Poland, Fontainebleau Forest and most recently in the Department of the Haute Vienne (Duffey 2000) in France.

Habitat and ecology

The species appears to be confined to ancient trees where it has been taken in a range of microhabitats including accumulations of litter from the base of hollow oaks and beeches, bird nests (including those of pigeons, jackdaws and thrushes) and squirrel dreys. The more recent records in Britain include those from litter in hollow oaks and beeches in Sherwood Forest (1979-80), Donington Park (1971-1979) and Windsor Forest (1978), from bird nests in Sherwood Forest (1980) and Epping and Hainault Forests (1980) and from squirrel dreys in Epping Forest (1980) (Crocker & Daws 1996). A semi-systematic survey in Epping Forest in 1980 involved hand-sorting 53 samples of litter (both from hollow trees and the crowns of pollarded hornbeam and oak), bird nests (pigeon and sparrow) and squirrel dreys collected between 10 May and 13 July (author's unpublished data). A total of 5 male and 13 female *M. midas* were collected from sites in the central forest area (within one mile radius of Loughton), but none were found in either the north (Wintry Wood) or further south (Upper Walthamstow). In Epping, this species appears to be more common in bird nests (56% of 9 samples) and squirrel dreys (28% of 18) than in accumulations of litter (4% of 26) possibly because Collembola (principally *Orchesella* sp.), which are potential prey items, were particularly abundant in nests and dreys. Intensive surveys by groups of experienced workers in both Sherwood and Windsor Forest have revealed only isolated individuals. Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and August, females also in September.

Threats

All the British sites from which this species is known are SSSIs and Sherwood Forest is a Country Park where the conservation importance of over-mature trees is fully recognised. Threats include the loss of ancient woodland to other land-uses such as intensive forestry and agriculture, and the removal of over-mature trees from existing ancient woods and parks. For much of the twentieth century, ancient pollard trees were removed in Epping Forest out of a mistaken belief that woodlands should be "vigorous". These ancient pollards form favoured sites for birds nests and squirrel dreys which appear to be especially attractive to *M. midas*. Further loss was caused by the wind throw of top-heavy pollarded hornbeams during the hurricane of 1987, a result of the discontinuation of active pollarding in the forest after World War II. In Windsor Forest, large areas of the ancient woodland were converted to intensive conifer production in the 1940s and 1950s with concomitant loss of ancient trees. Current use

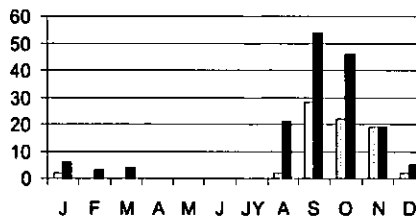
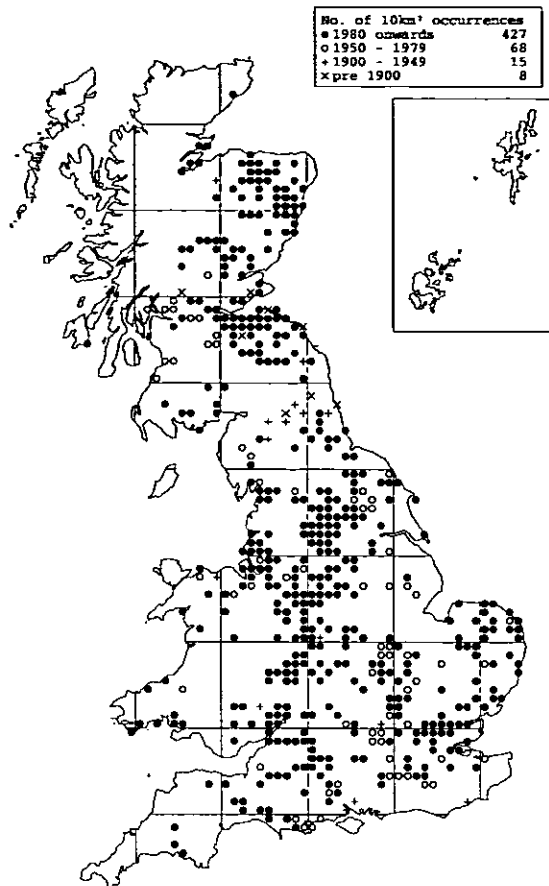


of much of this forest for public recreation brings the threat of removal of ancient trees for safety reasons. The single remaining oak in Donington Park where this species is known to occur is no more than a stump, following extensive wind damage.

Management

At Windsor Forest, the importance of ancient trees is now recognised and taken into account in management plans (Merrett in Bratton 1991). In Epping Forest, pollarding of trees has re-commenced on an experimental basis but it will probably be many years before it is known whether *M. midas* can re-colonise the newly pollarded trees. At Donington Park, there are plans to plant oak and lime saplings but this may be too late to ensure continuity of over-mature trees.

Author of profile: A. Russell-Smith



Status

Fairly common, commoner in the north than the south.

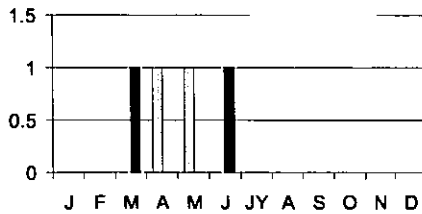
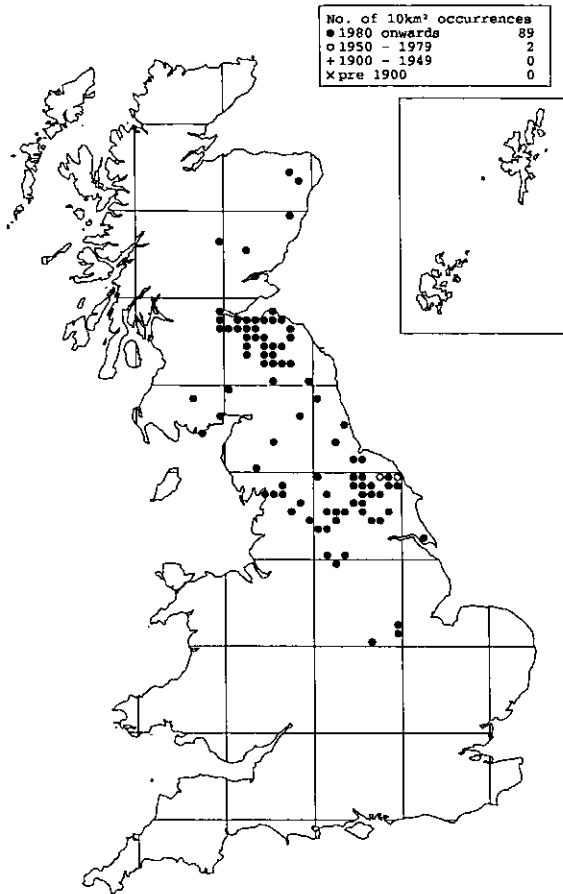
Distribution

The species is widely distributed in much of Britain, but with no records for north-west Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is usually found in moss, grass and lower vegetation in woodland, seeming to favour damp situations. It is reputed to be found where dog's-mercury grows, and has been swept off this plant in Hertfordshire (pers. obs.). This spider has an orange-brown carapace with a grey abdomen which usually carries thin black chevrons. Adults of both sexes occur in late summer and autumn, with small numbers recorded through the winter, females occasionally until March.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The species was first discovered in Britain in 1974. It is possible that it colonised Britain recently, living as it does mainly in spruce plantations. However, it has been found in areas which were previously little-worked, so it could have been present for some considerable time. It is abundant at some sites.

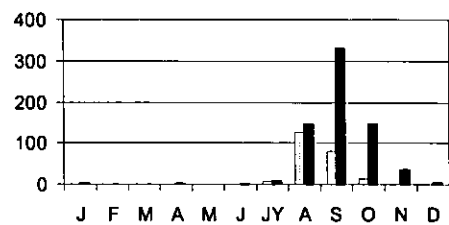
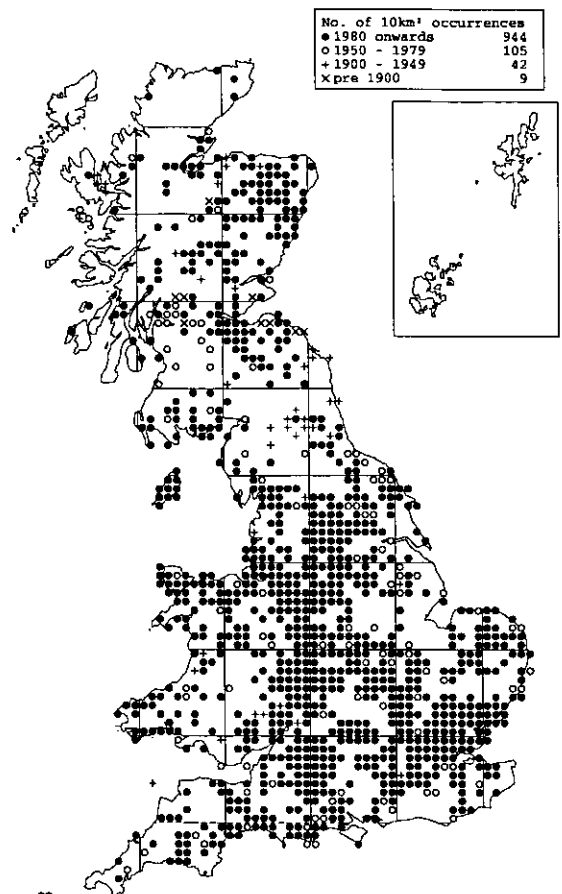
Distribution

The spider is apparently confined to northern England and southern and central Scotland. It is widespread in Europe, especially in boreal conifer forests, mainly on mountains in southern Europe.

Habitat and ecology

P. phrygianus occurs mainly in plantations of Norway spruce and Sitka spruce, sometimes in association with larch, and on juniper. At one site in Northumberland, it has been found on juniper but not on spruce nearby, and it has been found in well-established native yew in mixed woodland in North Yorkshire and in parkland in Peebles and Midlothian (Baldwin 1990) and Leicester (Daws 2001a). The spider spins a sheet web slung beneath a branch near its tip. It spends the winter on the trees as large immatures. Adult males have been found from April to June, females from March to August.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Common.

Distribution

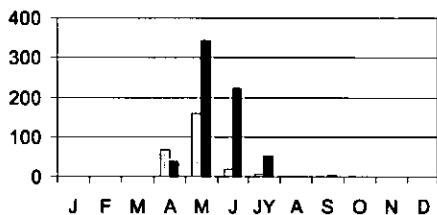
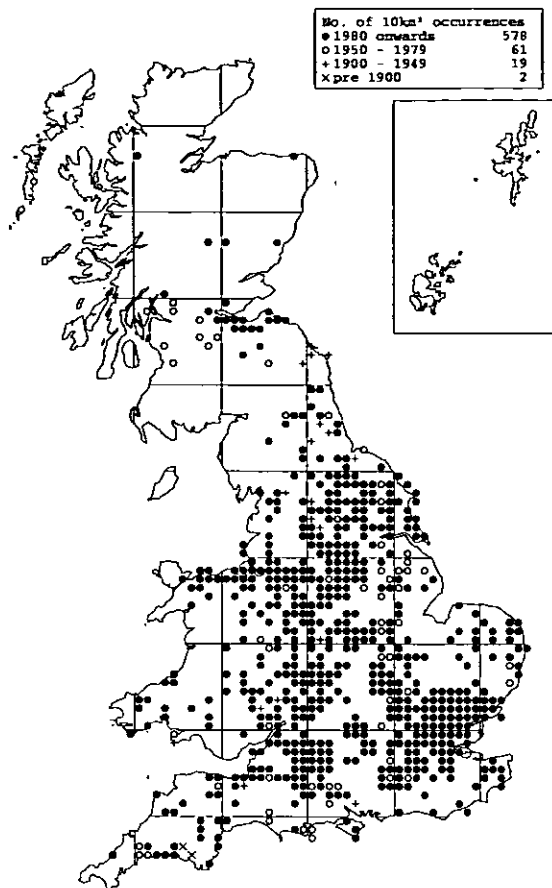
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but scattered in northern Scotland and some other areas. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is commonly found on lower bushes and vegetation in a range of habitats including gardens. It spins a very noticeable horizontal sheet web and awaits the arrival of prey in an upside down position on the underside of the web. The species is adult in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[22403] Linyphiidae: *Linyphia hortensis*



Status

Fairly common.

Distribution

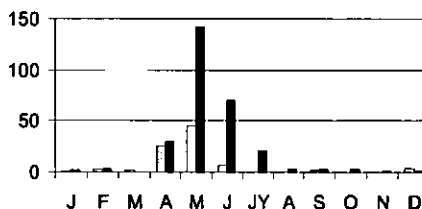
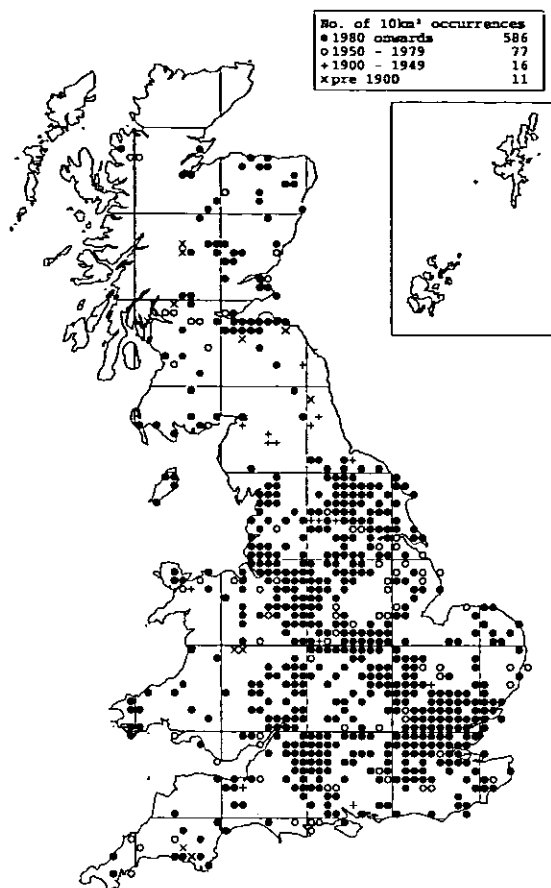
The species is widespread in England and Wales, becoming very scattered and patchy in Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is found on low vegetation, especially dog's-mercury, mostly but not exclusively in woodland. It is also found in hedgerows and can be swept off low plants in these habitats. Adults of both sexes are found from late spring to mid-summer, females occasionally being recorded until late November.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[22405] Linyphiidae: *Neriene montana*



Status

Common.

Distribution

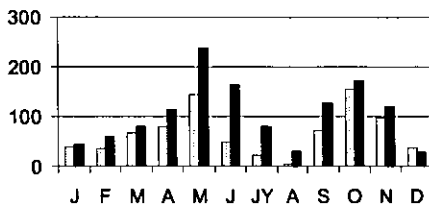
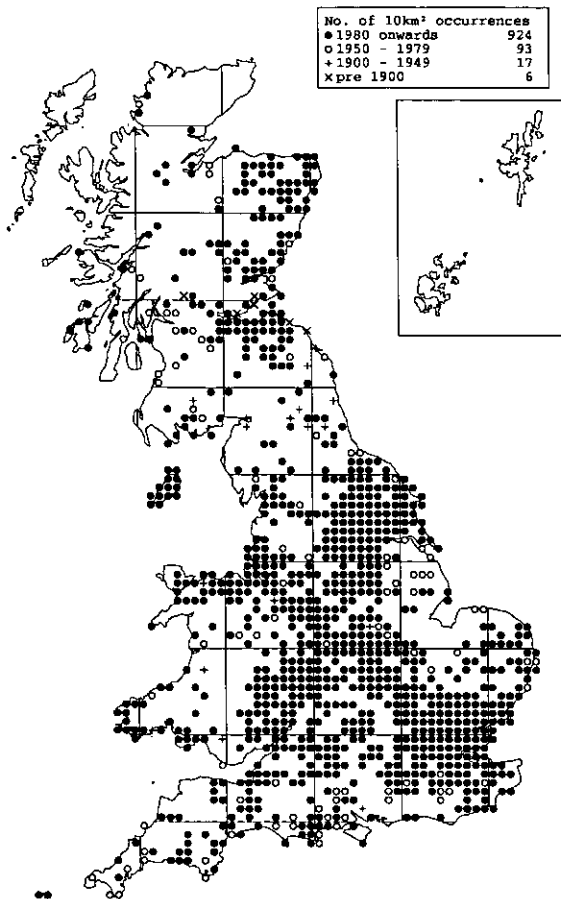
The species is widespread in much of England from Yorkshire southwards, but scattered and patchy in the south-west, Wales and north of Britain, and absent from northernmost Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The species is found on low vegetation and bushes, mostly in woodland, but also in churchyards and other shady places. It over-winters in dry litter, including accumulations in brushwood on the side of tree trunks, in leaf litter and under dead wood. Adults of both sexes are found in late spring and early summer with females occasionally persisting until late summer. Adults of both sexes are sometimes recorded at other times of year.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[22401] Linyphiidae: *Neriene clathrata*



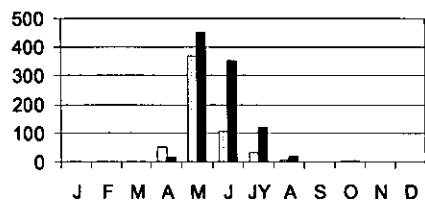
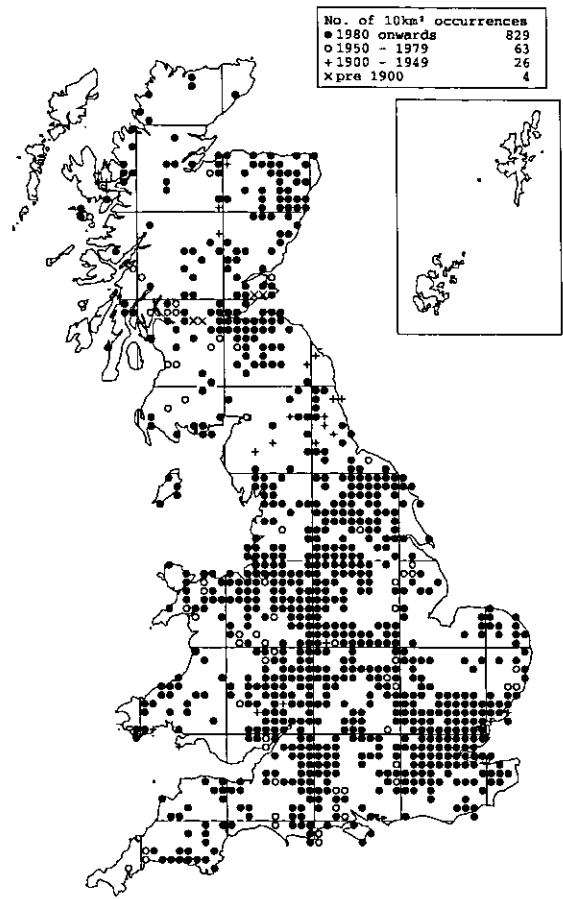
Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain, becoming scattered in northern Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
The species is found in a wide range of habitats including grassland, heathland, marshes, scrub, woodland and gardens where it occurs on the ground in litter, vegetation and in low undergrowth. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, with peaks from spring to mid-summer and in autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

[22406] Linyphiidae: *Neriene peltata*

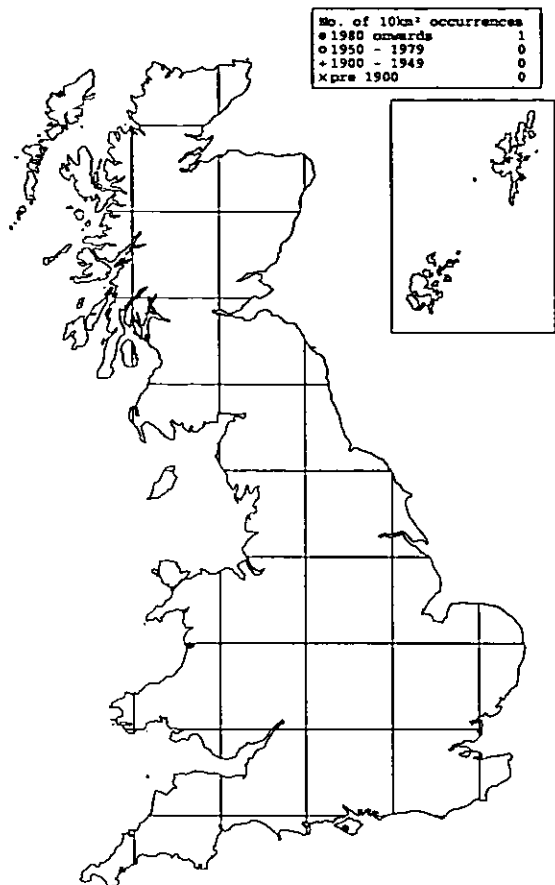


Status
Common.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of Britain, but scattered in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
Another inhabitant of low vegetation and bushes, the spider occurs in woodland, scrub and hedgerows, generally at higher levels in the vegetation than other common species of *Neriene*. It can be frequent on conifers in parkland (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Both sexes are found in early summer, occasionally persisting later.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



Status

A single female has been found. The spider is probably a relatively recent arrival. An interesting parallel may be drawn with the Small Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma viridulum* which has been spreading north on the European mainland, but was unknown in Britain prior to its initial discovery in Essex in 1999 (Cham 2001) and has recently colonised the Isle of Wight, being discovered at several sites on the island in 2000.

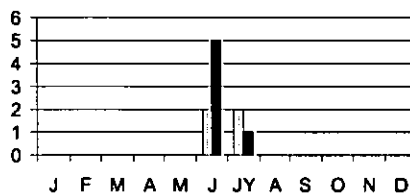
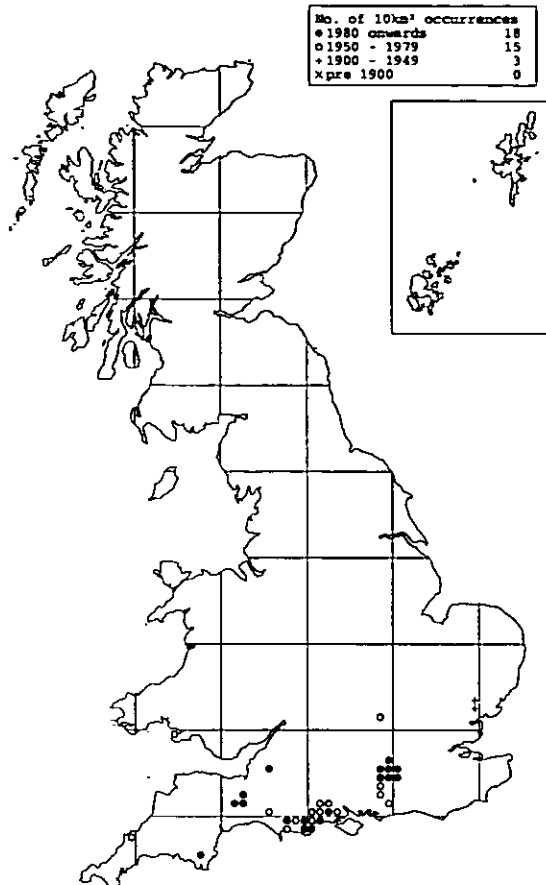
Distribution

The species was discovered in Britain in August 2000 on the Isle of Wight in Brighstone Forest, at over 500 ha the largest area of woodland on the island. *N. emphana* is widespread on the European continent as far north as Denmark and southern Finland, occurring east across temperate regions of Eurasia to China and Japan.

Habitat and ecology

N. emphana typically occurs on the lower branches of trees and bushes in dark woods, both coniferous and broad-leaved, sometimes associated with beech. The British specimen was beaten from a shaded holly tree at the edge of a rather dark and gloomy mature beech forest with scattered yew and some sycamores along a forest road. *Linyphia triangularis* was common on the same tree. The sheet web, which may be slightly domed, is built on the lower branches of trees, but well off the ground. It is mature in summer.

Author of profile: I. Dawson



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is fairly common on southern heathland from Dorset to Surrey.

Distribution

Apart from an old doubtful record from Staffordshire, the species is restricted to South Wales and the south of England. It is widespread in Europe, especially in the south.

Habitat and ecology

N. furtiva occurs mainly on dry heathland, reaching highest densities among mature heather, occasionally on calcareous grassland. Both sexes are adult in June and July, females also until August. It is an ant-mimic.

Threats

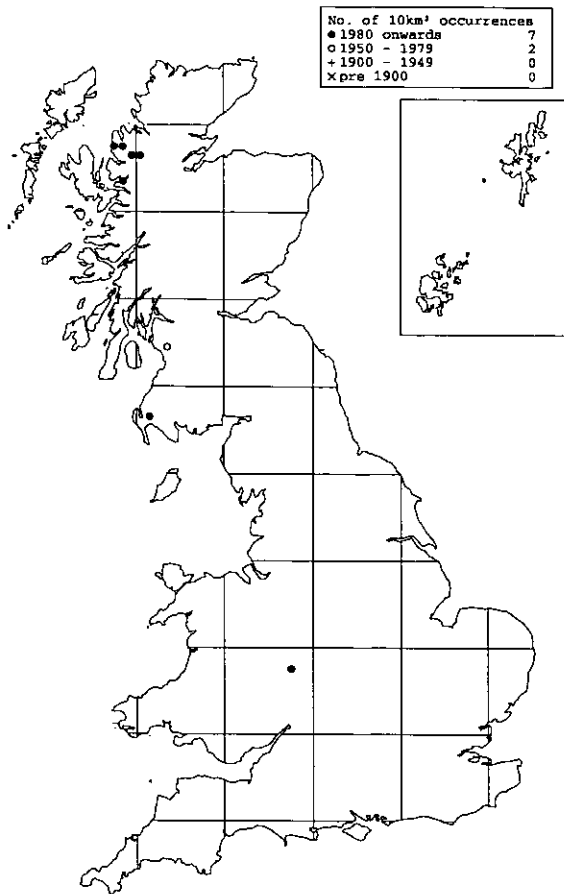
The loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry and development.

Management

Although this species is found mainly among older heather, it is necessary to maintain all seral stages of heather by rotational management.

Author of profile: P. Merrett (1990)

[22404] Linyphiidae: *Neriene radiata*



Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is apparently uncommon in western Scotland, with few records. It is frequent in the Wyre Forest. Possibly it may sometimes be overlooked and confused with the similar but common *L. peltata*.

Distribution

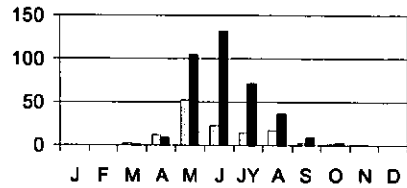
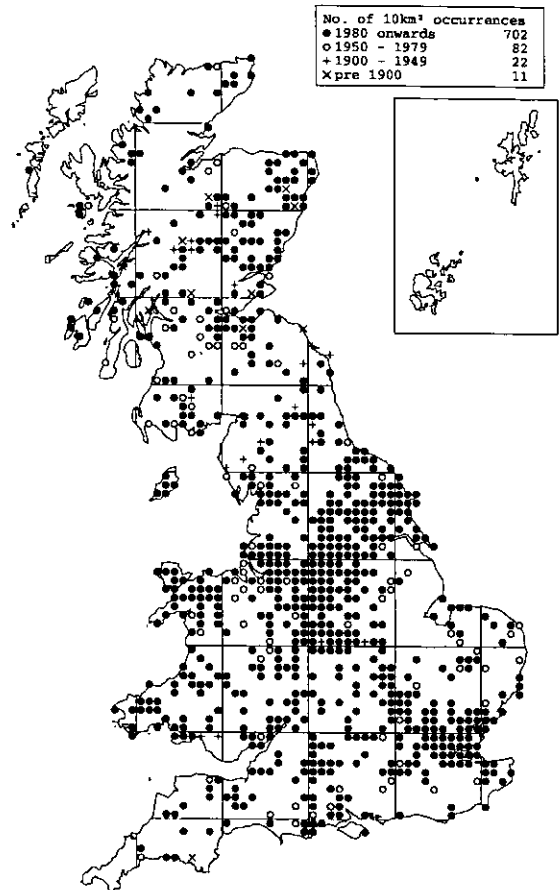
The species is almost restricted to western Scotland, but it has also been recorded from the Wyre Forest (Shropshire and Worcestershire). It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

N. radiata occurs on bushes about 1 m above ground level, on tall *Calluna* and pine in ancient woodland and in plantations, and also under overhanging banks in moist shady places. In the Wyre Forest it seems to occur particularly in managed clearings within oak woodland, where a scrub vegetation of birch saplings and *Calluna* grows (Taylor 1989). Adults have been found in May, June and July.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

[22502] Linyphiidae: *Microlinyphia pusilla*



Status

Common.

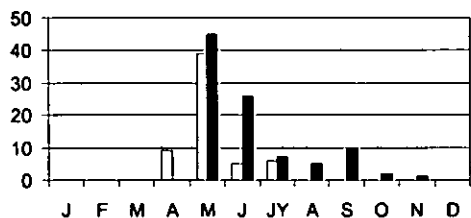
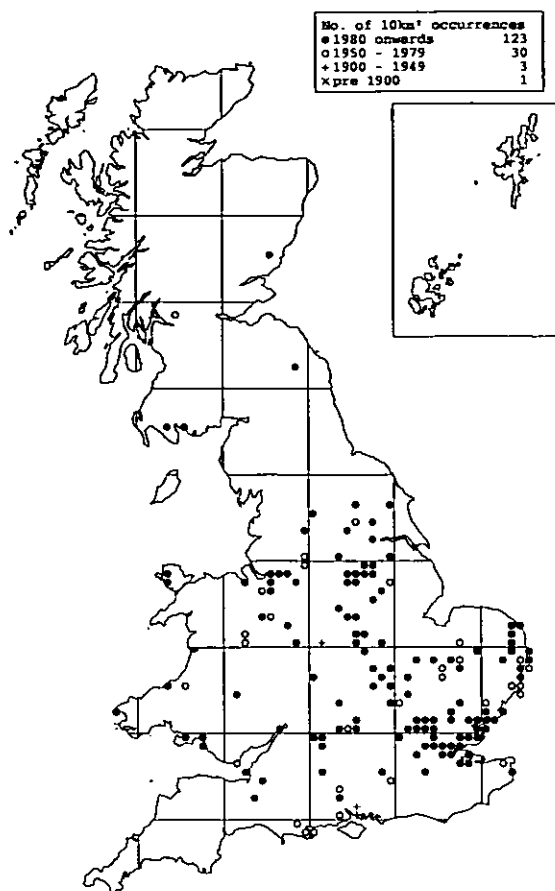
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

This species spins a horizontal sheet web in low vegetation in a wide range of habitats such as heathland, dune, scrub saltmarsh and other wet habitats, but is perhaps commonest in grassland. The male is a little smaller than the female, which it does not resemble. Both sexes are mature in spring and summer, with a peak from early to mid-summer, individuals occasionally persisting into the autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

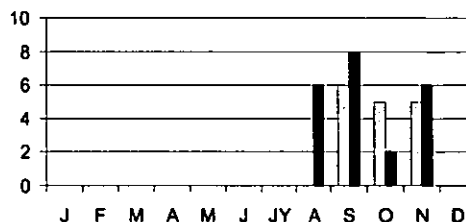
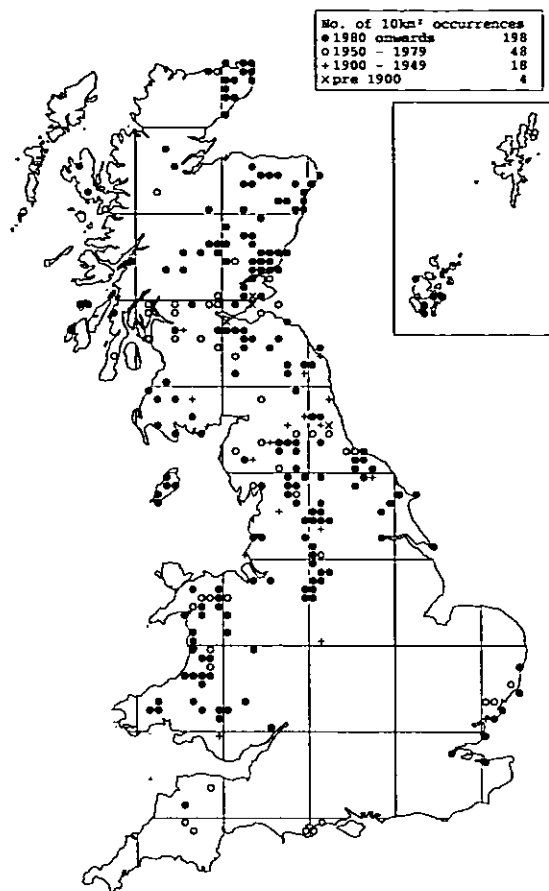


Status
Local.

Distribution
The species is widespread but generally scattered in southern Britain as far north as Yorkshire, with a few very scattered records in Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
This species is found in low vegetation in marshy places where it spins a horizontal sheet web. The male is very similar to *M. pusilla* but often lacking the white patches. Adults of both sexes are found in early summer, females occasionally persisting to late autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

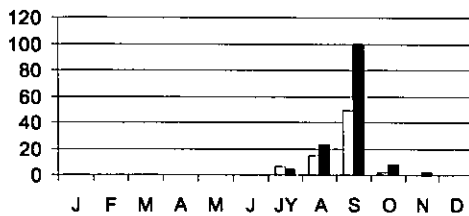
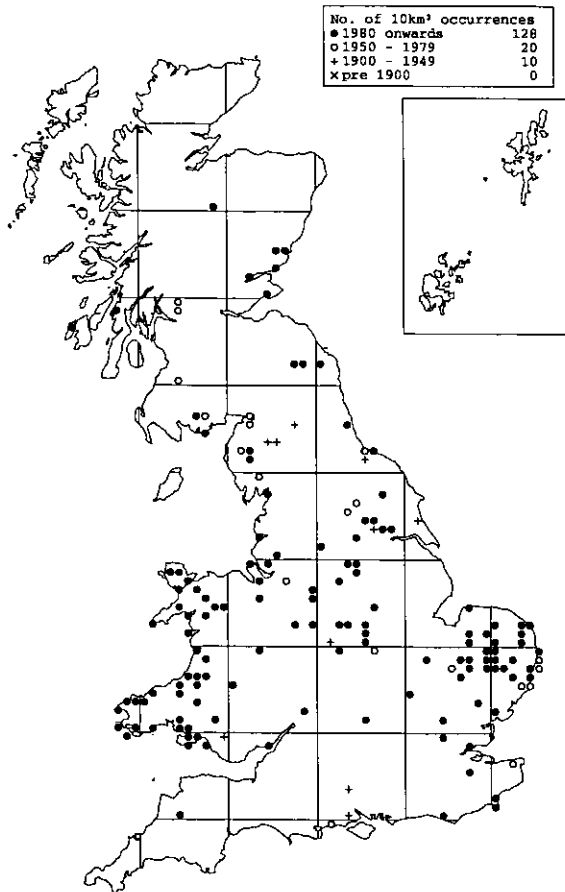


Status
Locally common in the north, but scarce in the south.

Distribution
The species is widespread in much of northern and western Britain, with coastal records in south-eastern England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology
This spider is found in wet habitats, swampy areas, saltmarshes, and high ground. On the Sidlaw Hills in Angus it has been found to be abundant in both wet grassland and dry heather habitats from August to October at up to 450 m. In comparison, this species is rare in Essex where it seems to be confined to saltmarsh and tidal habitat (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults are found in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart



Status

Very local, much less common than *A. scopigera* in the north, but commoner in the south.

Distribution

The species is widespread in Wales and much of England from the south-east northwards, with scattered records as far as central Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Found in a variety of usually wet habitats such as swamp, fen and marsh, mostly at low altitudes. Adults of both sexes are found in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart

