



Centre for  
Ecology & Hydrology

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

*Provisional Atlas of  
British spiders  
(Arachnida, Araneae),  
Volume 2*

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



JOINT  
NATURE  
CONSERVATION  
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Volume 2***

***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.**

**JOINT  
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# SPECIES ACCOUNTS AND MAPS: Tetragnathidae to Salticidae

## [10001] Tetragnathidae: *Tetragnatha extensa*

### KEY TO MAPS AND BAR CHARTS

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:

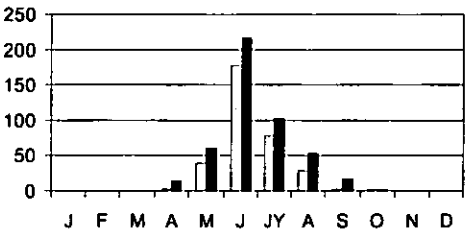
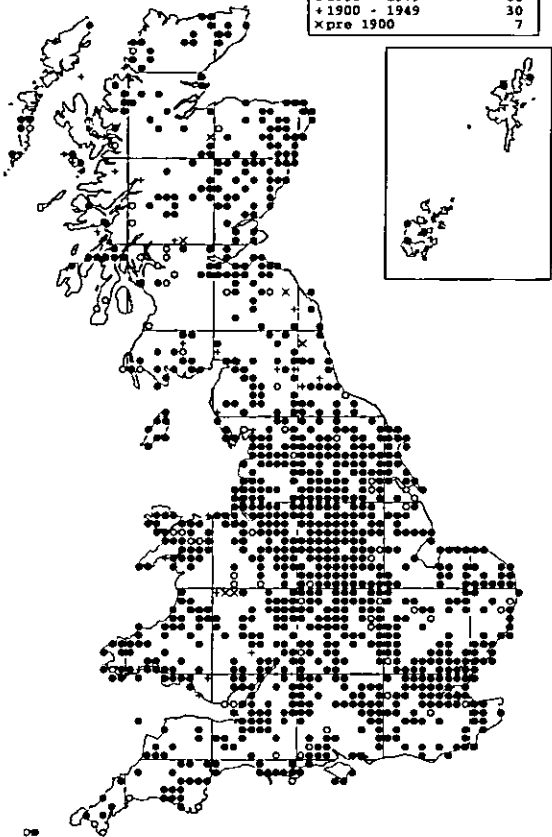


### Maps

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 to show up any changes in distribution patterns over time.

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

No. of 10km <sup>2</sup> occurrences	
● 1980 onwards	979
○ 1950 – 1979	68
+ 1900 – 1949	30
× pre 1900	7



### Status

Common.

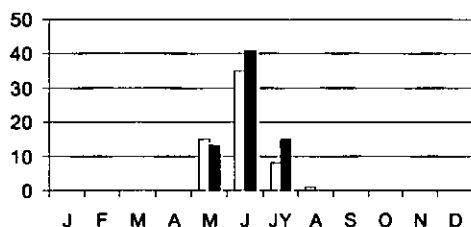
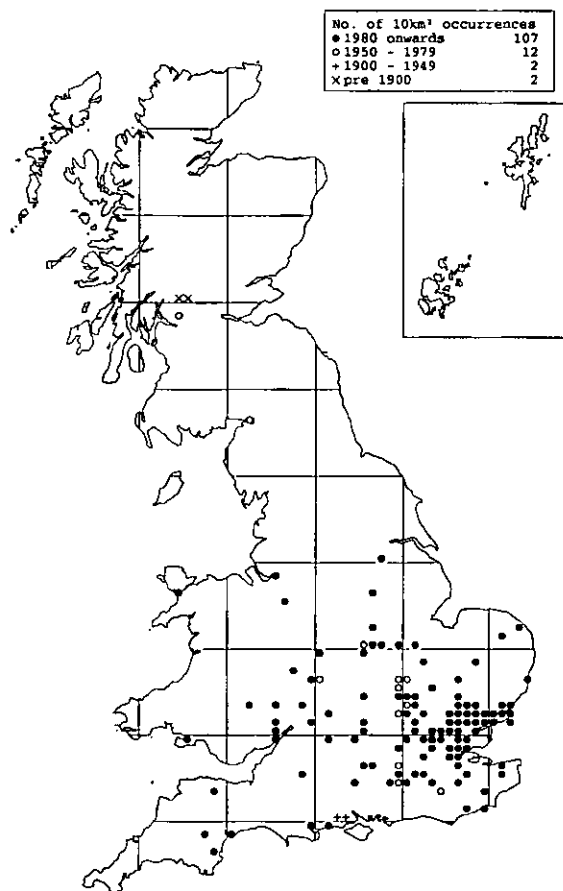
### Distribution

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

### Habitat and ecology

This spider spins its orb webs on grasses and other low vegetation especially in waterside and wetland habitats, both lowland and upland. As with other members of this genus, when disturbed the spider leaves its web and stretches out along a leaf with the four anterior legs pointing forwards and the four posterior legs pointing backwards. Its elongate shape, combined with this pose, enables the spider to escape detection by predators. Both sexes are mature from early to mid-summer and sometimes into the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



#### Status

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

#### Distribution

Many old records are doubtful because of confusion with *T. extensa*. The species appears to be mainly southern and is widespread in southern England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*T. pinicola* is usually found in lightly wooded areas, mainly on young trees and tall open herbage in woodland clearings and rides. In Essex it is often found in clearings several years after coppicing has taken place. Adults of both sexes are found in early to mid-summer, occasionally into August.

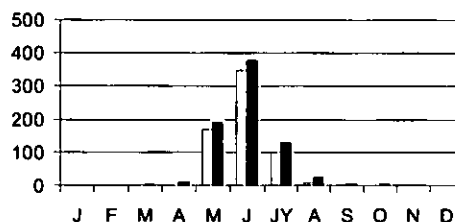
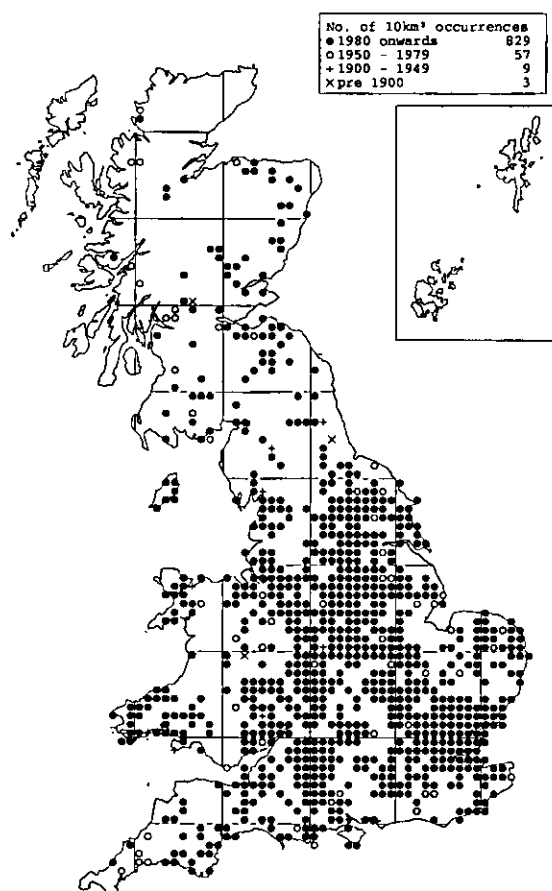
#### Threats

The loss of semi-natural mixed woodland to intensive forestry.

#### Management

Retain areas of mixed-age broad-leaved woodland. Maintain traditional coppice rotation and ensure that woodland contains a patchwork of open areas and wide rides with plenty of woodland edge habitat.

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



#### Status

Common.

#### Distribution

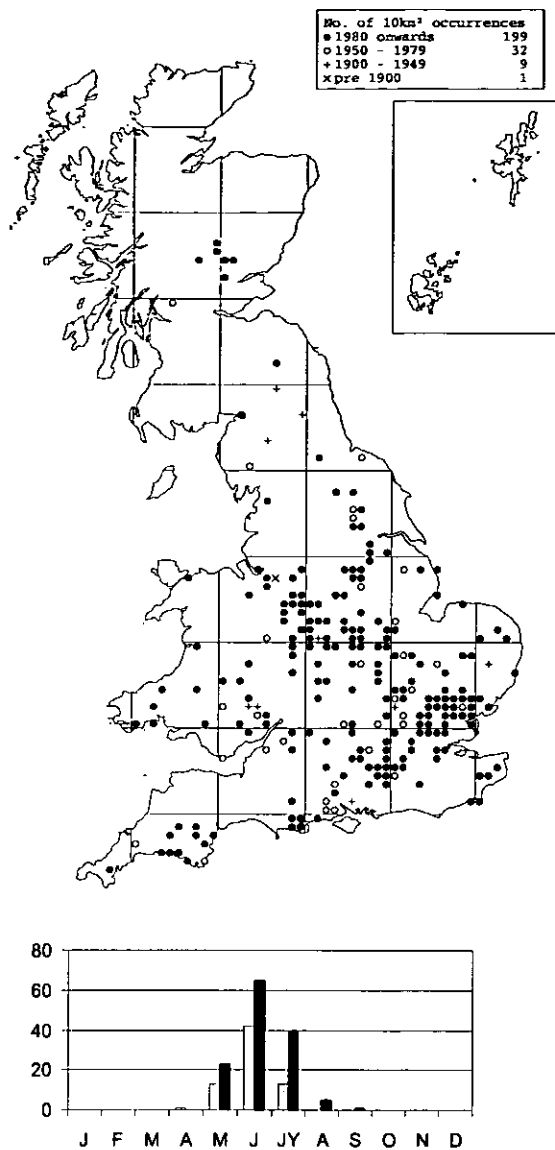
The species is widespread in southern Britain, becoming scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

#### Habitat and ecology

Orb webs of this species are found on trees, bushes and low vegetation in a variety of habitats, mostly at low altitudes. It may be found close to water but is less closely associated with wetland habitats than *T. extensa*. Both sexes are mature from early to mid-summer and sometimes into the autumn.

**Author of profile:** P. Lee





**Status**

Locally common in England and Wales. Rare in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

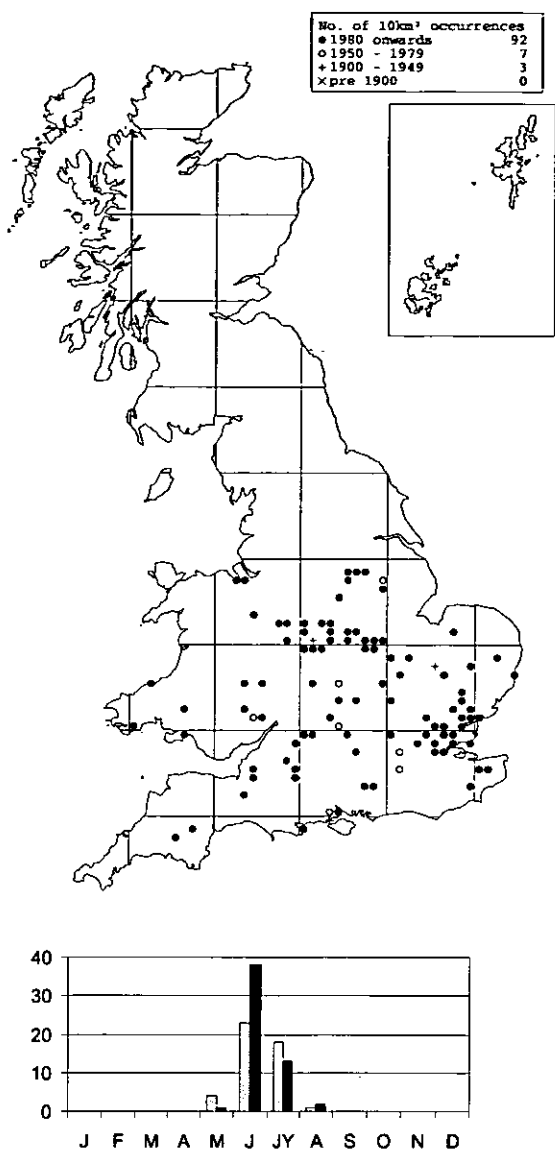
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in England and Wales but absent from much of Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

This spider spins its orb webs on woodland trees especially in damper sites but is also found on heathland pines, and in parkland, churchyards and large well-planted gardens (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes are found from early to mid-summer, occasionally into September.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**

Generally an uncommon species in southern counties of England becoming rare in the Midlands and further north.

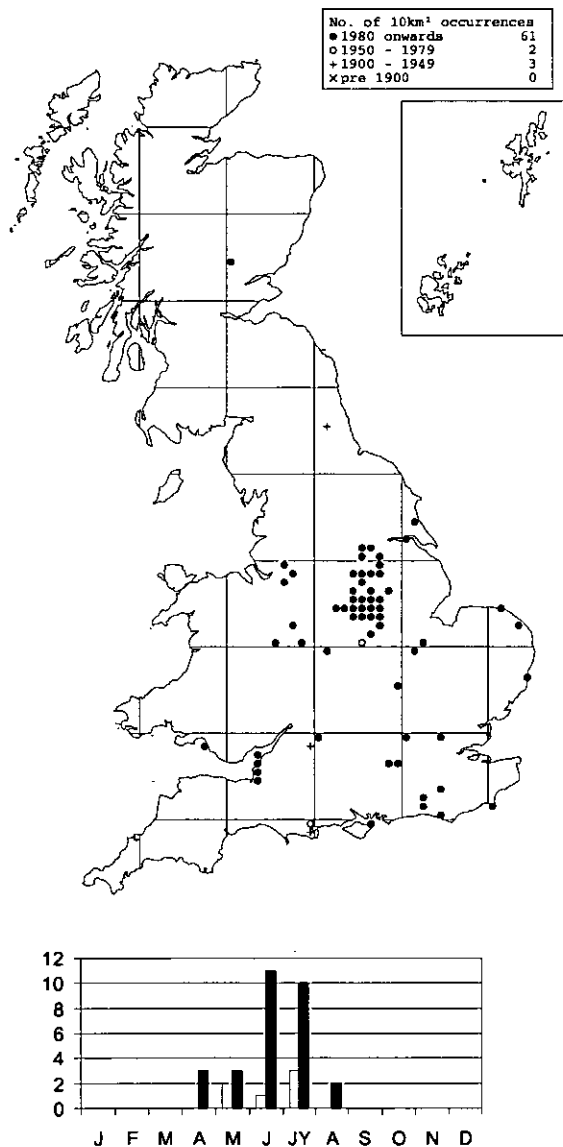
**Distribution**

The species is widespread but very local across the southern half of England and Wales north to Cheshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden.

**Habitat and ecology**

The orb webs of this species are most commonly found on trees and shrubs but it will also build them in the vegetation of the field layer. Although most often found near water, this spider can also be found in drier situations. Adults of both sexes are found from early to mid-summer, occasionally into August.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is apparently very local, but probably not as scarce as the records suggest, because of its inaccessible habitat.

**Distribution**

The species is widespread but scattered in England with single records from Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*T. striata* occurs in reed-beds in standing water, usually at the edge of lakes where it spins an orb web among reeds. Adults are found from April to August, mainly in June and July.

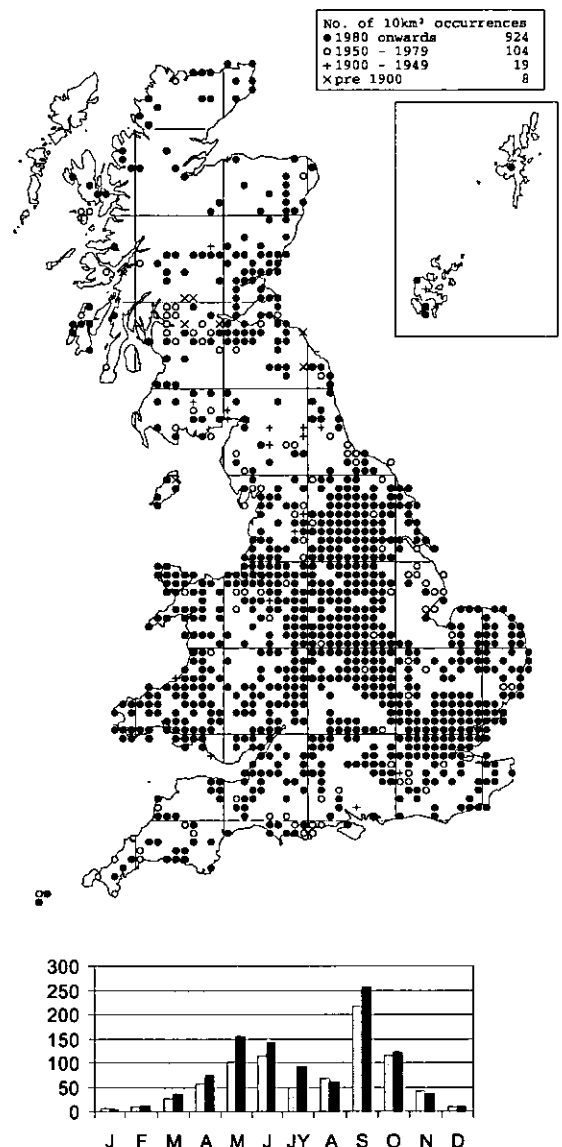
**Threats**

As it occurs in reed-beds in open water, rather than in fens, there is probably little threat.

**Management**

Maintain reed-beds around edges of lakes.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

More local and less common than *P. degeeri*, but frequent in wet habitats.

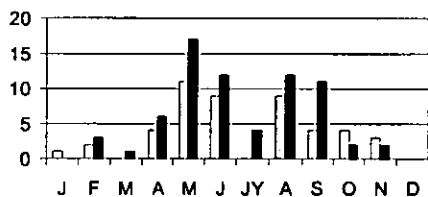
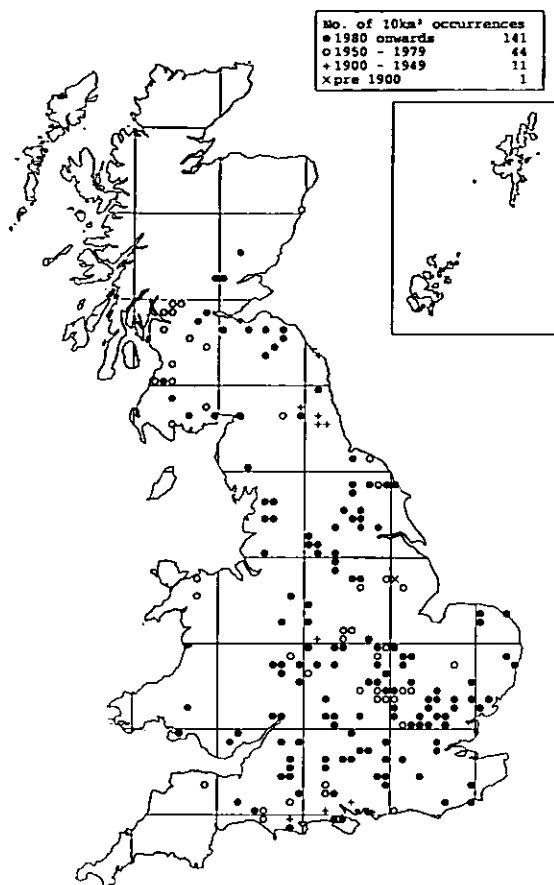
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in much of Britain, becoming scattered in northern England and northern Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*P. clercki* occurs in damper habitats than the other two members of the genus in places such as bogs or marshes and the edges of ponds, rivers and streams where it can be found in low vegetation by grubbing or sweeping. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly from early to mid-summer and in the autumn.

Author of profile: M. Askins



**Status**

Local and uncommon.

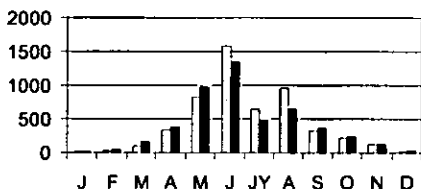
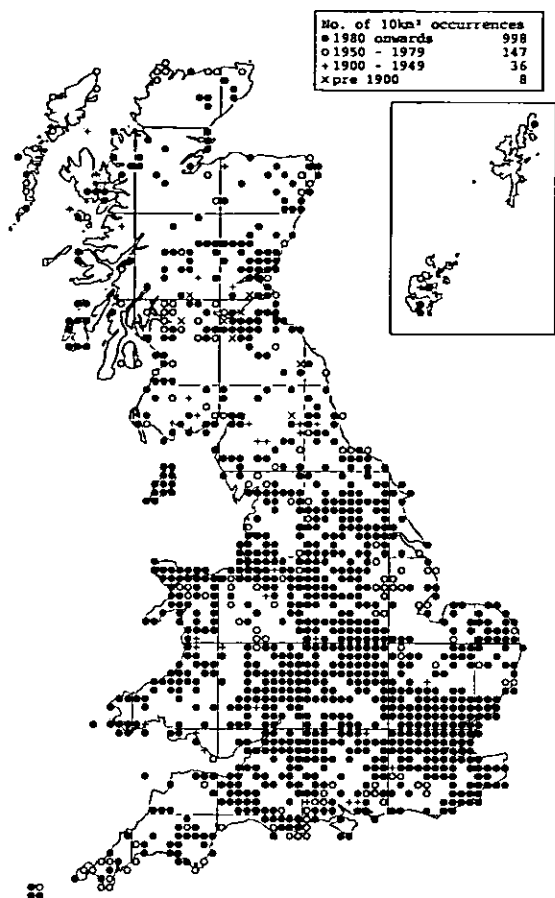
**Distribution**

The species is widespread but scattered in Britain from central Scotland southwards, but with few records in Wales or south-west England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

This species, unlike the other two British representatives of the genus, is more restricted in its habitat requirement, generally only occurring in well-established or ancient broad-leaved and mixed woodlands. It can be found by sweeping or grubbing about in the lower regions of the undergrowth, often in damper areas of the wood. Adults can be found all year, but mostly in late spring/early summer and late summer/autumn.

Author of profile: M. Askins



**Status**

Very common.

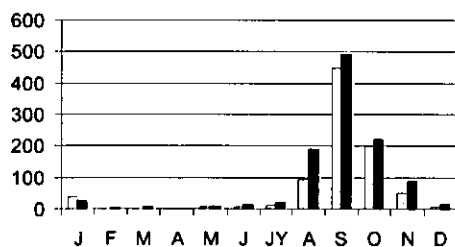
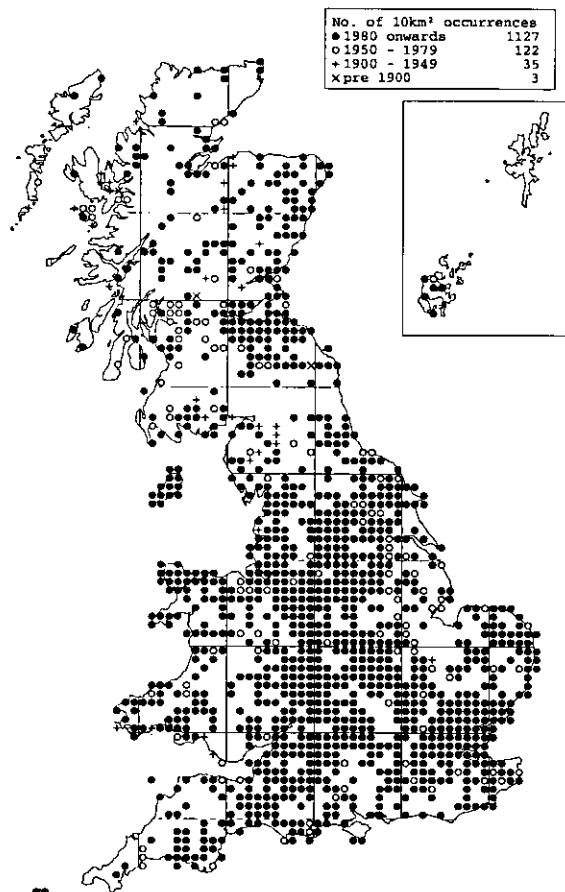
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in much of Britain, becoming scattered in northern England and northern Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*P. degeeri* is by far the commonest species of the genus and can be found in low vegetation by grubbing or sweeping. It occurs in a wide range of habitats from woodland clearings and path-sides to grassland, quarries and even household detritus. The common factor appears to be that this spider is found in more humid microhabitats. For example on grassland they are often near or in crevices in the ground or in tussocks. Adults can be found throughout the year, mainly in the summer.

Author of profile: M. Askins

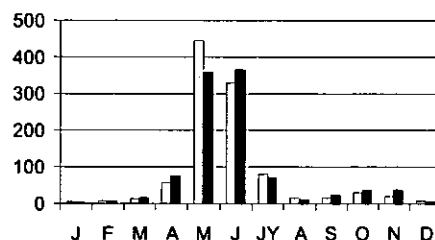
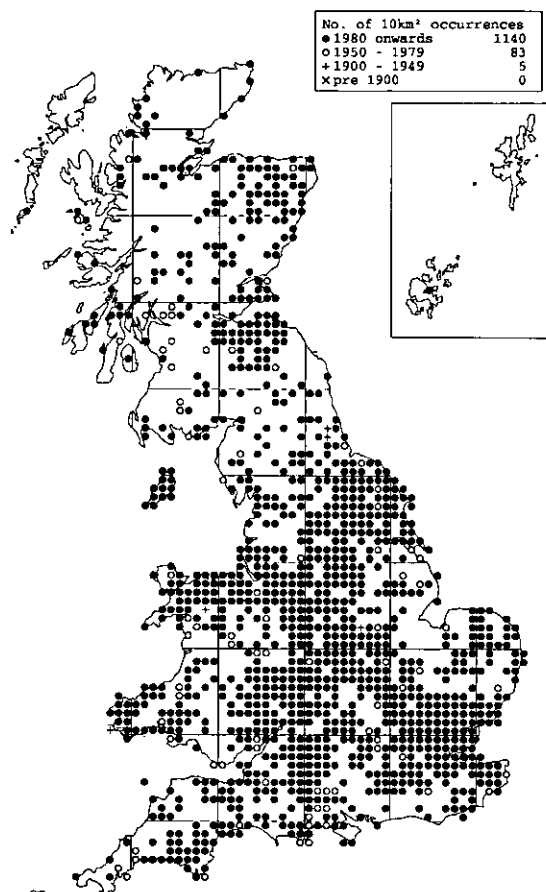


**Status**  
Common.

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

**Habitat and ecology**  
Like *M. menzei*, this species occurs in almost any habitat and may be collected in large numbers by sweeping in grassland or in woodland understorey. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly from late summer to autumn.

**Author of profile:** W.J. Partridge using information from Roberts (1985) and Crocker & Daws (1996).



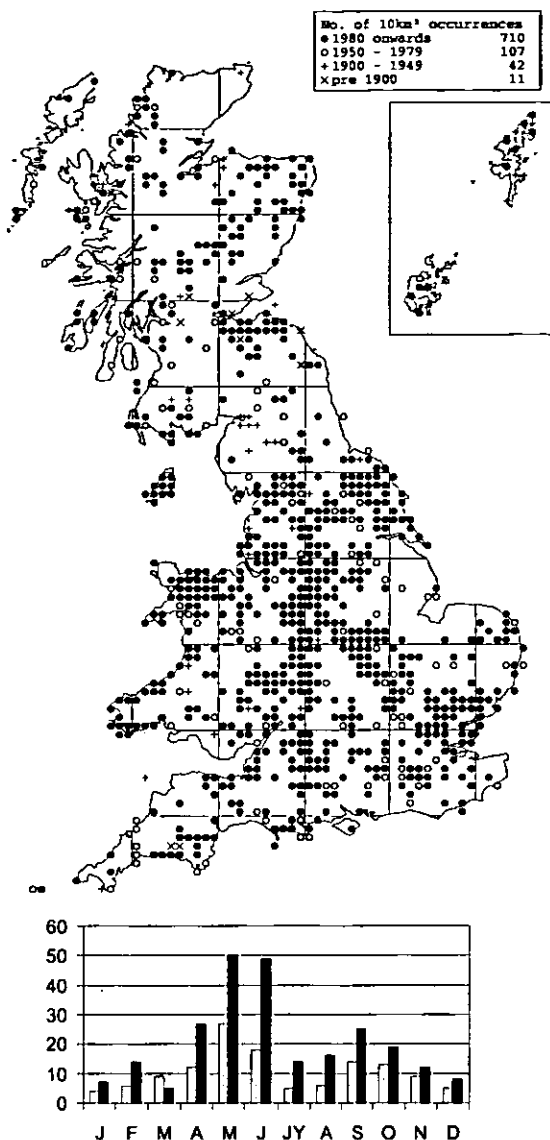
**Status**  
Common.

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

**Habitat and ecology**  
Like *M. segmentata* this species occurs in almost any habitat, and can be collected in large numbers by sweeping in grassland or in woodland understorey. The colour variation of both this species and *M. segmentata* can be confusing to the beginner. The orb webs are usually inclined with the spider sitting at the centre, on the lower side, often with the male waiting at the side of the female's web. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly from late spring to mid-summer.

**Author of profile:** W.J. Partridge





#### Status

Common, perhaps especially so in the north where it may be abundant in webs across drainage channels with overhanging heather in moorland (I. Dawson, pers. comm.).

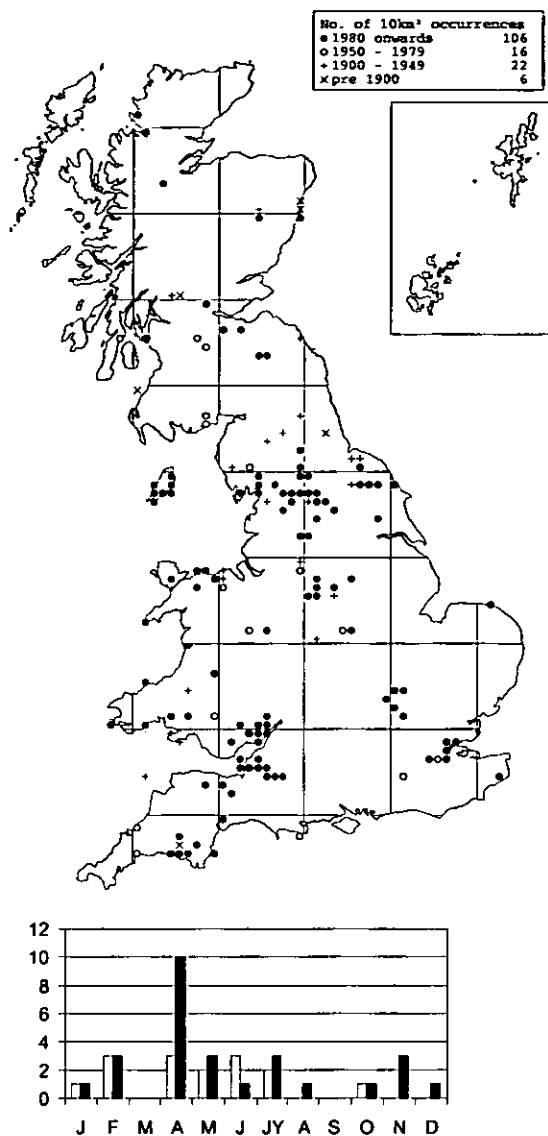
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe, extending as far east as Georgia (Platnick 1998).

#### Habitat and ecology

This spider produces an orb web in shady, damp habitats, but is usually found concealed away from its web during the day. *M. merianae* can be found in boathouses, cellars, abandoned rabbit and badger burrows, hollow trees and near the entrances of caves and culverts, particularly in the vicinity of water seeps. A favoured habitat of this spider is beneath soil overhangs in a variety of habitats including woodland and moorland to over 500 m altitude above Loch Lomond in Dunbartonshire (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Specimens have also been found on bushes and rock faces within the spray zones of waterfalls. Both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, with peaks in late spring/early summer and late summer/autumn. White, spiky egg-sacs have been observed in June.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



#### Status

Local. It is probably under-recorded throughout its range due to its specific habitat preferences.

#### Distribution

*M. menardi* is widely but patchily distributed in Britain and apparently absent from large areas. This spider is exclusively European (Platnick 1998) and is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species lives exclusively in permanently dark, damp habitats such as caves (including sea caves), mines, sewers, ice-houses, damp cellars, limestone pavement, hollow trees and railway tunnels. Very occasionally it may be discovered beneath convex artefacts in fields (Felton 1995). Dry habitats are not occupied by this species. *M. menardi* produces a large orb web, but usually resides on the wall of its habitat. Prey items include hibernating Lepidoptera, mosquitoes, slugs, isopods, millipedes and beetles (Smithers 1996; Cropper 1997). Both sexes are mature throughout the year (Howes 1999). Large, white, tear-shaped egg-sacs are suspended from the roof of the spider's habitat between September and February, these persist for a long period even after spiderling emergence. Hatched spiderlings have been noted within egg-sacs in January.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is known from rather few sites but often in good numbers. It may be under-recorded due to its unusual habitat.

**Distribution**

The species has a widespread but scattered distribution in southern England with one record from Wales. It has been recorded from France, Germany, Switzerland, Romania, Italy and the Iberian Peninsula, but it is possible that some European records of *M. menardi* refer to *M. bournetii* (Roberts 1995).

**Habitat and ecology**

*M. bournetii* is generally regarded as a spider found in underground situations, e.g. tunnels, culverts and drainage inspection chambers. However, males have been recorded by the author close to ancient oak trees in Sherwood Forest. This suggests that the hollow trunks of ancient trees may provide similar conditions to those found in the spider's acknowledged habitat, i.e. dark, damp spaces of sufficient dimensions to enable the large orb web to be spun. Halstead (2000) located a colony in the hollow stump of a lime tree at Burley in the New Forest. *M. bournetii* is very similar to *M. menardi*, both species having a glossy appearance and a similar size. Further searching for *M. bournetii* needs to be carried out to confirm its habitat range.

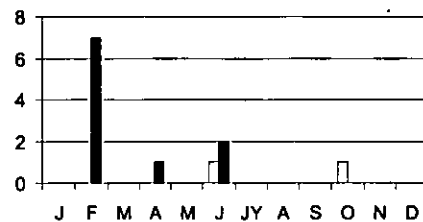
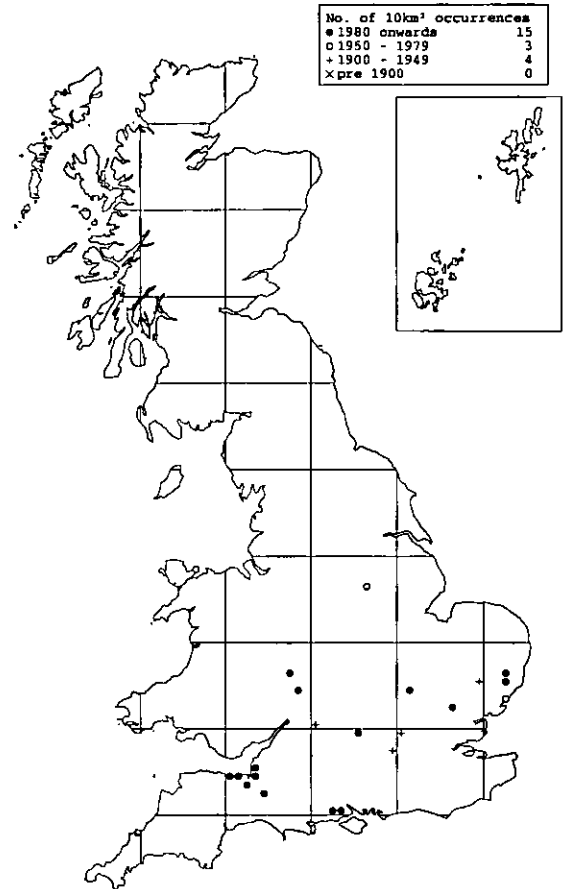
**Threats**

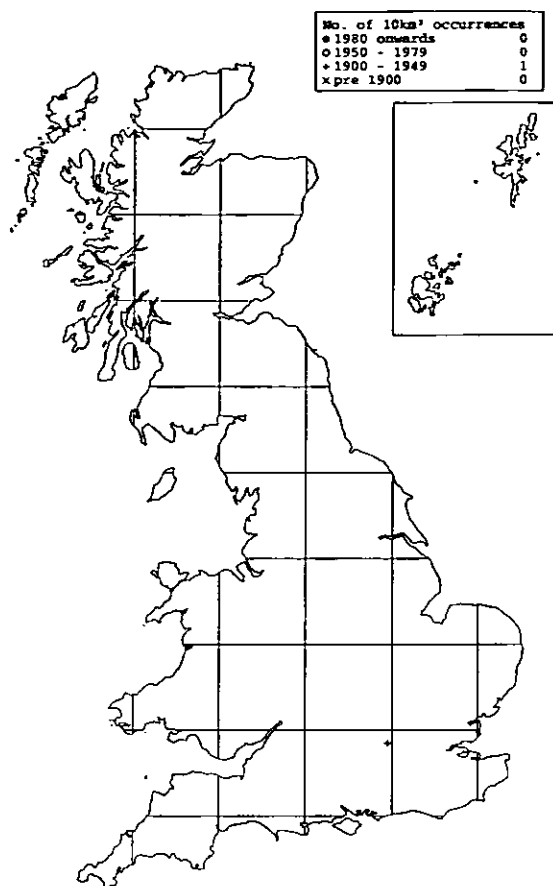
Where the spider inhabits ancient, hollow trees there is a danger of damage to the habitat through the uninformed 'tidying up' of dead and decaying timber.

**Management**

Recommendations for management of *M. bournetii* are difficult to make without a fuller knowledge of the habitat requirements and the true status of the species in the British Isles. Further field investigation and search for the species is required.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee





#### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The spider was found on several occasions early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when reasonable numbers were recorded. However, since 1950, there have been no records and the spider may now be extinct in Britain.

#### Distribution

The species was known in Britain only from Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire. A doubtful report exists from Essex for the period 1935 - 45 (Hull 1947). In Europe the spider is widespread in southern and central areas.

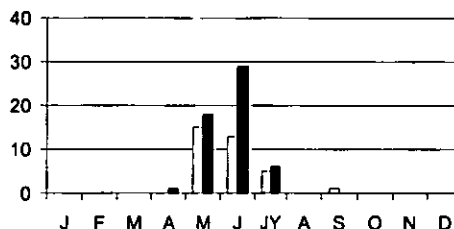
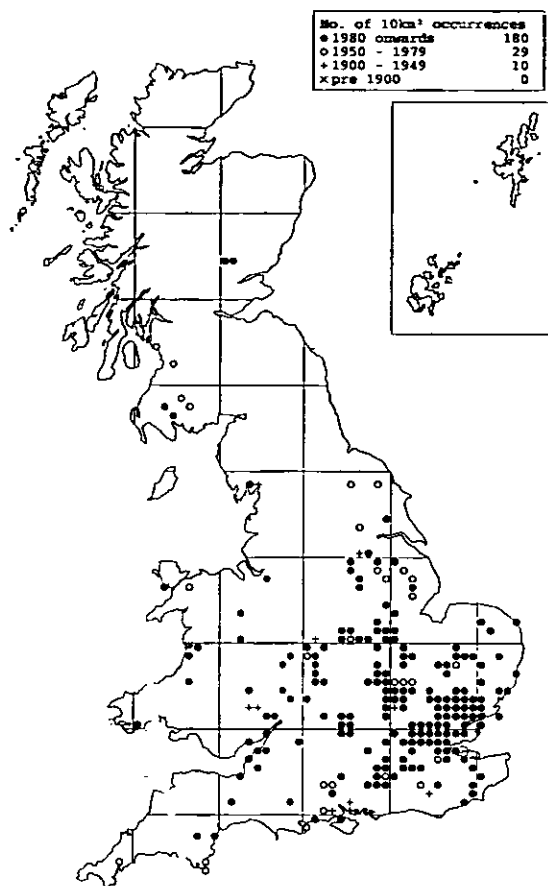
#### Habitat and ecology

The spider spins its web near the ground in areas of scattered bushes in open woodland and underneath hedgerows. In Britain, adult females were recorded in May.

#### Threats

The vegetation where the spider was found at Burnham Beeches was mown to the ground in 1954 despite the designation of the site as a SSSI three years earlier.

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



#### Status

Although frequent in southern England, the species becomes rarer in the north.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in southern and eastern England, with scattered records in the west, Wales and north to central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider spins an orb web on trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, in woodland, hedgerows and more open areas. Both sexes are adult from early to mid-summer.

**Author of profile:** P. Lee

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is infrequent and local in woods usually within the coastal corridor.

Distribution

The species is generally confined to southern counties of England, usually within 30 miles of the coast. There is however one record further inland in Surrey where the spider was collected at Great Oaks, Claygate in 1985 and was present in some numbers (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). It is widespread in western and central Europe, but the species is included on the Red List for Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000) and has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The spider is mainly found in or at the edge of broad-leaved woodland, occasionally being recorded from pine. It has also been found in scrub on maritime heath. The spider's orb web is sometimes spun high up in trees and can have a very long frame thread. Males and females are adult in June, the females remaining mature through to September.

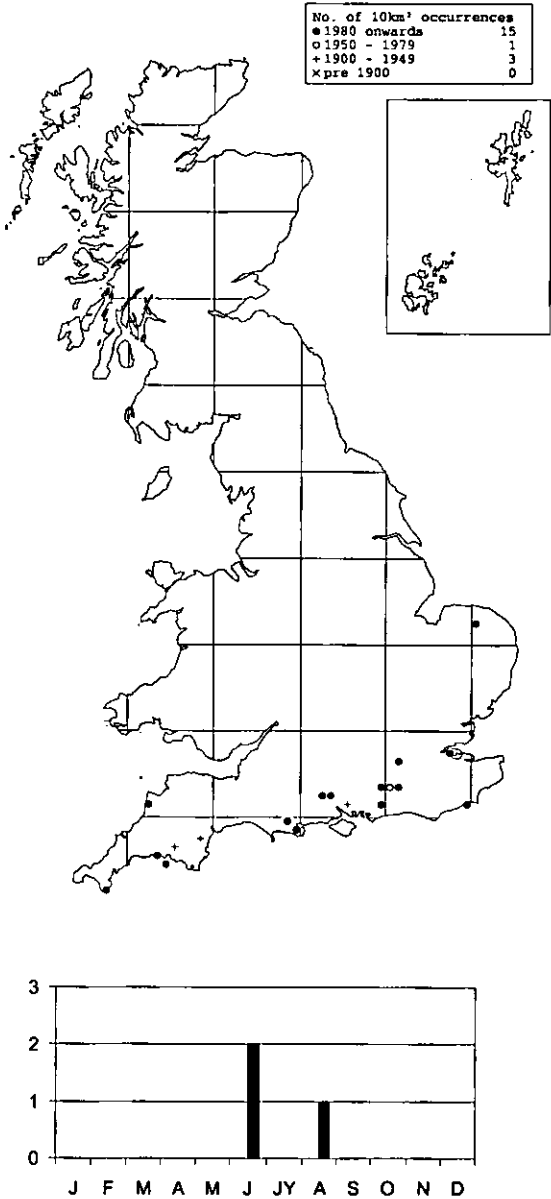
Threats

The loss of semi-natural woodland to intensive forestry practice reduces the potential habitat for *A. angulatus*. An additional threat to this species in particular is the pressure on land for development and tourism in its main range along the south coast.

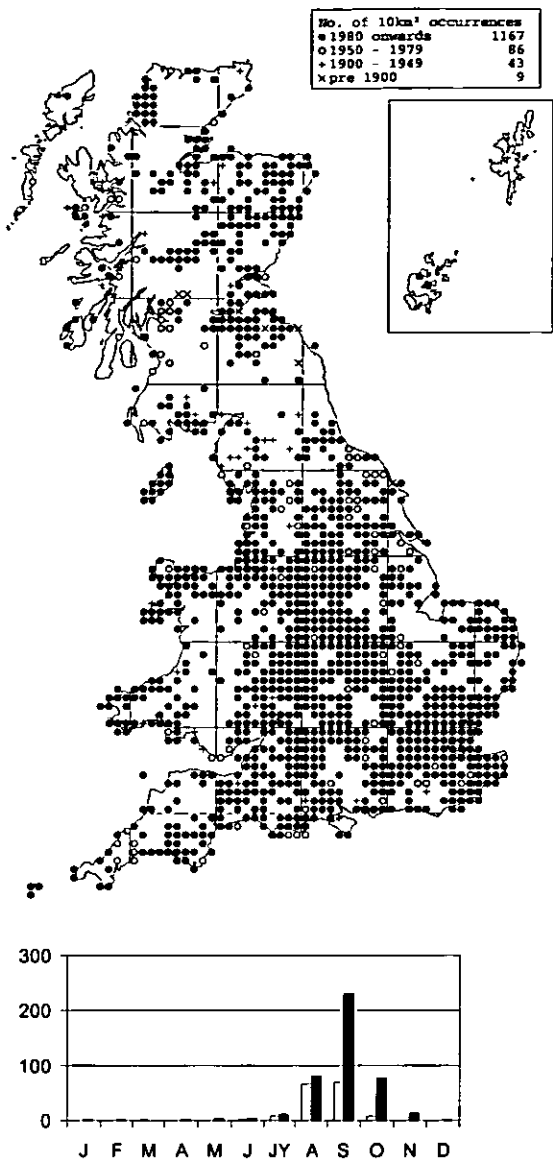
Management

*A. angulatus* has occasionally been recorded from the woodland edge and, by actively maintaining this feature within existing woodland glades and rides, suitable habitats for this species could be increased.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee using information in Merrett (1990)





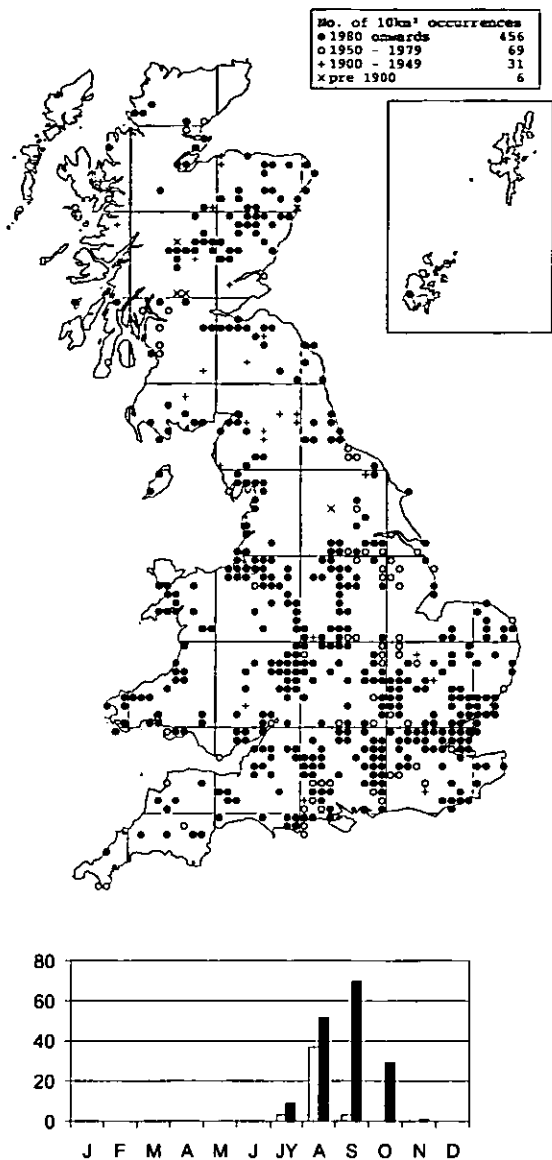


**Status**  
Common.

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

**Habitat and ecology**  
A large and distinctively marked spider found in a wide range of habitats wherever the habitat can provide supports for its large and conspicuous orb web, such as all types of woodland, scrub and other vegetation, hedgerows and roadside verges, buildings (sometimes inside) and gardens, as well as heathland, quarries and cliff-faces. It spins large orb webs up to 40 cm across at heights of between 1.5 m and 2.5 m (Jones 1983) in shrubs and tall herbaceous vegetation. Both sexes are mature in late summer and autumn, females surviving through to late autumn. It takes two years for the young spiderlings to reach maturity in Britain, and immatures may be found throughout the year.

Authors of profile: P. Lee and T. Thomas

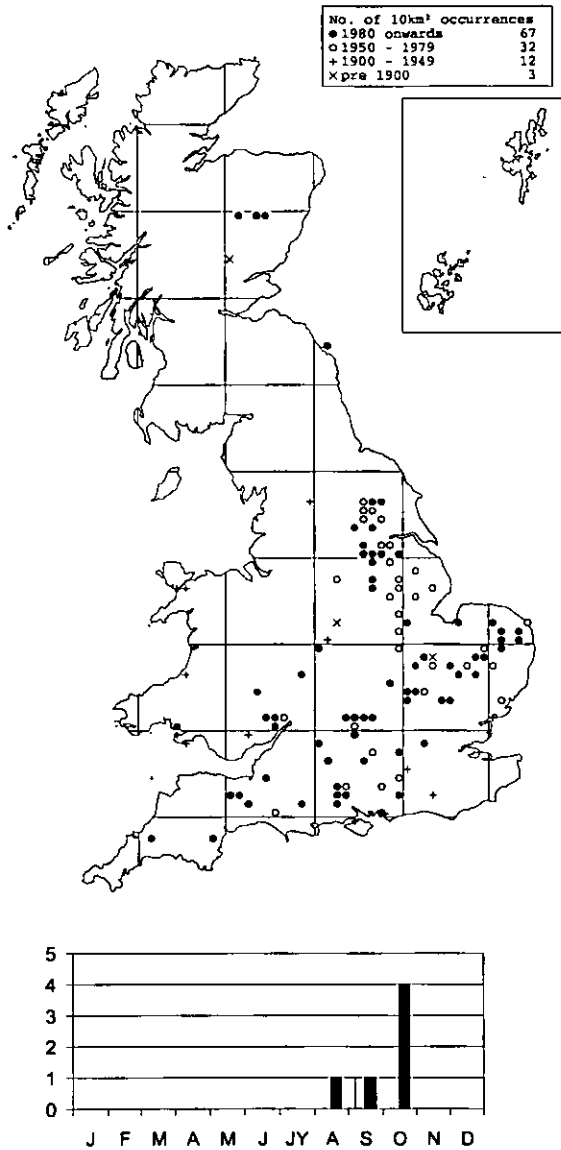


**Status**  
Locally common, although Crocker & Daws (1996) suggest that it may be declining. This may be due to loss of suitable habitat.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread but patchily distributed throughout Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider is found on vegetation which has sufficient height and strength to support the large orb web, such as undisturbed grassland, heather and gorse. There may be a preference for damper situations. The web is usually found stretched across the gap between plants, with a large tent-like retreat at one side, where the spider can be found if not in the centre of the web. This very variably-coloured spider holds the British weight record. Adults are found in late summer and autumn, with a male peak in August and female peak between August and October.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



#### Status

An uncommon species with two distinct colour varieties. The typical form is found mainly in an area of eastern England from Norfolk to Yorkshire, where it can be relatively common on the lowland heaths (Smith 1982).

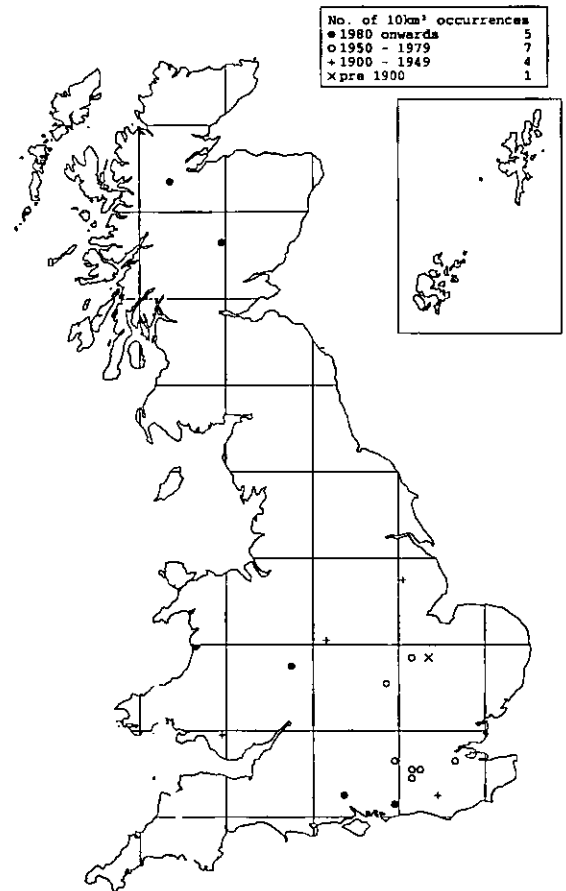
#### Distribution

The species is widespread but locally distributed in Britain, mainly south of a line between Carmarthenshire and Yorkshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

Both forms may be found in woodlands and wet heathland. *A. marmoreus* is a large orb web spider that spins its web on the lower branches of trees, shrubs and in tall herbaceous vegetation but usually at heights above 1.5 m (Jones 1983). At Wicken Fen the form *pyramidatus* is common quite low down in webs spun in rank path-side grass (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Both sexes are adult from late summer through to the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is widespread but uncommon and very local, with few recent records.

#### Distribution

The species is generally confined to the southern half of England and Wales apart from recent records from Inverness-shire and Perthshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

*A. alsine* is usually found on grasses and other low vegetation in damp, sheltered woodland clearings. The spider spins its web in this low herbage, and occupies a small conical retreat, consisting of silk and one or two curled, dry leaves, at the top of the web. Even though the spider is of a conspicuous orange to deep red colour it is often overlooked in its habitat. Females are adult from June to October whilst mature males are generally found in June and July.

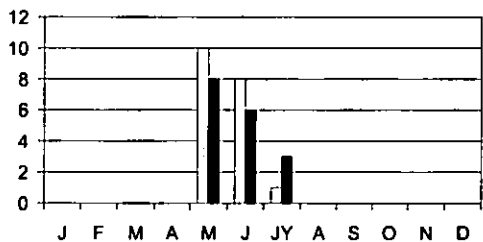
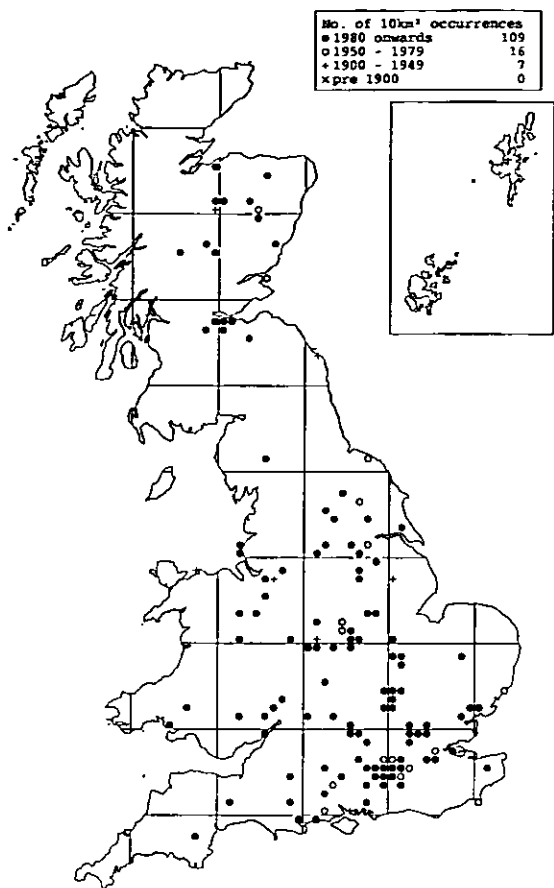
#### Threats

The loss of damp semi-natural woodland habitat to intensive forestry practice is the obvious threat but lack of suitable management to maintain this particular habitat within the woodland structure is also significant.

#### Management

Maintenance of existing sheltered clearings and their associated ground layer within established woodland where the spider is found, particularly where there is some moisture in the ground, would be of benefit. Creation of new clearings on a similar basis would possibly encourage the extension of the spider's presence within its current sites.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee using information from Merrett (1990)



**Status**

Generally uncommon but the spider may be present in large numbers where it is found.

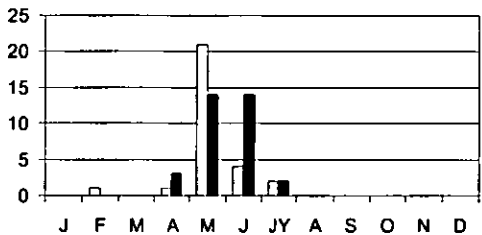
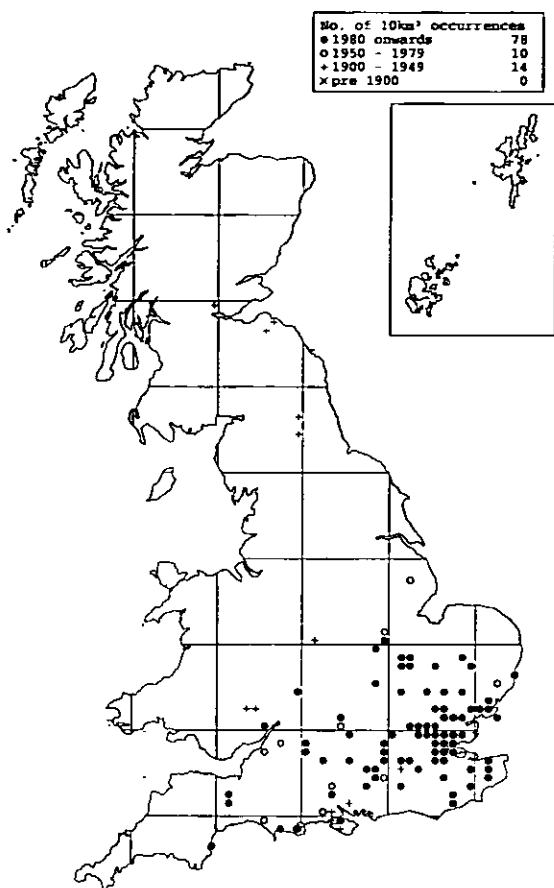
**Distribution**

The species has a scattered distribution in Britain as far north as central Scotland, but is absent from some large areas of the country. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but the species has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

The orb webs of this spider are most often found on evergreen trees and shrubs in scrub or old woodland. In Leicestershire the species has been collected from yew and other evergreens in urban and suburban churchyards and parks (J. Daws, pers. comm.). The adults are found mainly in May and June with some females surviving through to late summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**

Local but fairly common in the south-east.

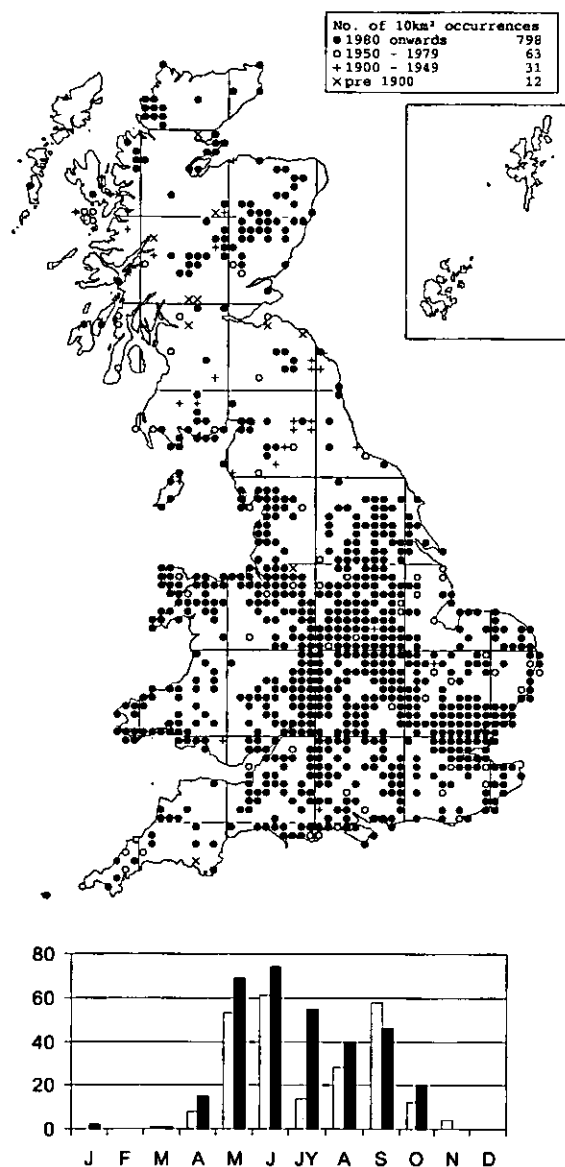
**Distribution**

Most British records are from England south of Lincolnshire but there are some old Scottish records. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but in Scandinavia it has only been recorded from Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000).

**Habitat and ecology**

In contrast to *A. sturmi* the orb webs of this species are usually constructed on broad-leaved trees and shrubs. Adults of both sexes are found from early to mid-summer, with some females surviving through to late summer. One male has been collected in late February inside a telephone box.

Author of profile: P. Lee



#### Status

Common.

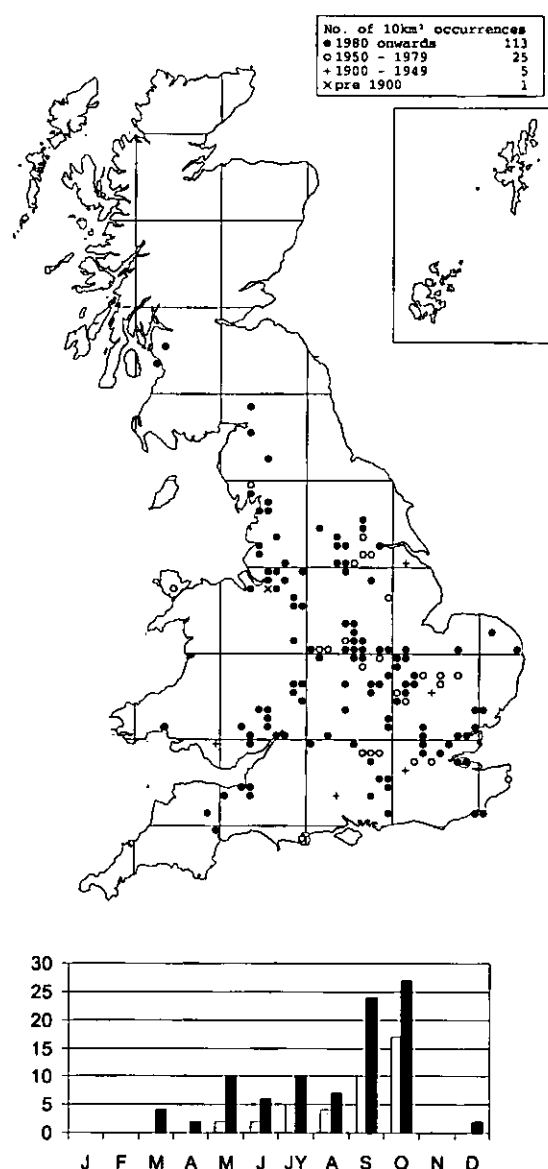
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider can be found on reeds, grasses, and other waterside vegetation and in tall herbage and rough grassland, usually in damp places. Females can often be found spun up in a tough silk retreat in the seed heads of plants but they are also found on bridges and posts etc., where their orb webs are very prominent. During the day these webs may seem to be deserted, the spider having retreated to a hiding place in the foliage or a crevice in wood. The spider is a frequent aeronaut as an immature, so can turn up in some habitats well away from water (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults are found mainly in late spring/early summer and late summer/autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



#### Status

Very local, but the spider may be numerous where it occurs, e.g. Howes (1999), Ruffell (2000).

#### Distribution

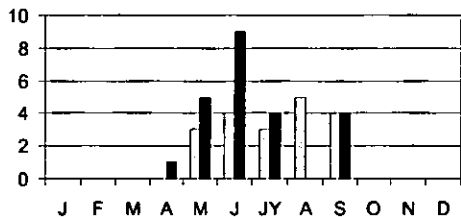
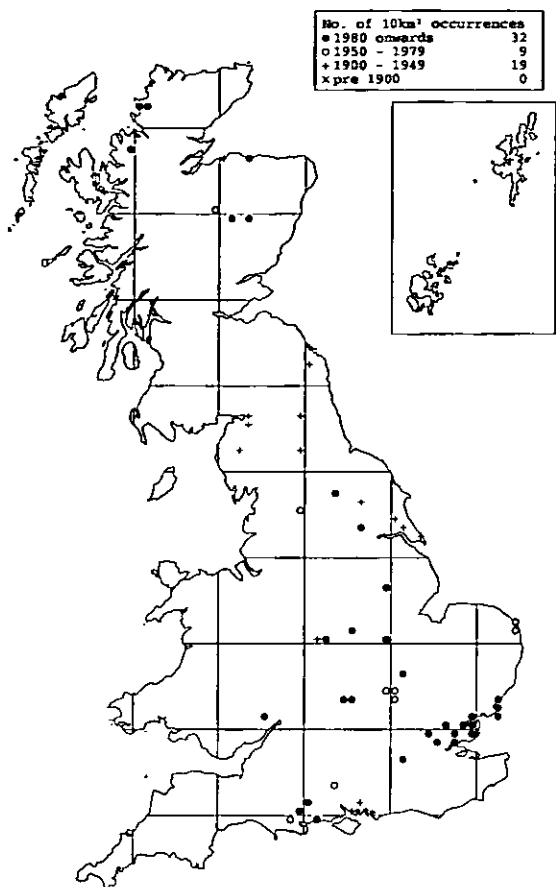
The species is locally distributed in England with few records in Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

Proximity to water seems to be a necessity for this species. Its natural habitat appears to be tree trunks adjacent to water, but it is usually found on fences and bridges and has been found under a pontoon floating some 30 - 50 mm off the water. Considerable numbers were found on a boat moored on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation in Essex (Ruffell 2000). Buildings near the water are also favoured but it is not often found on vegetation, although it is frequent on stiff vegetation in a garden adjacent to a disused gravel pit (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been recorded in summer and autumn, but females may be mature all year round. A female has been found in a torpid state under woodwork on a cold January morning.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



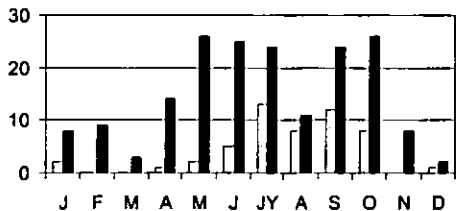
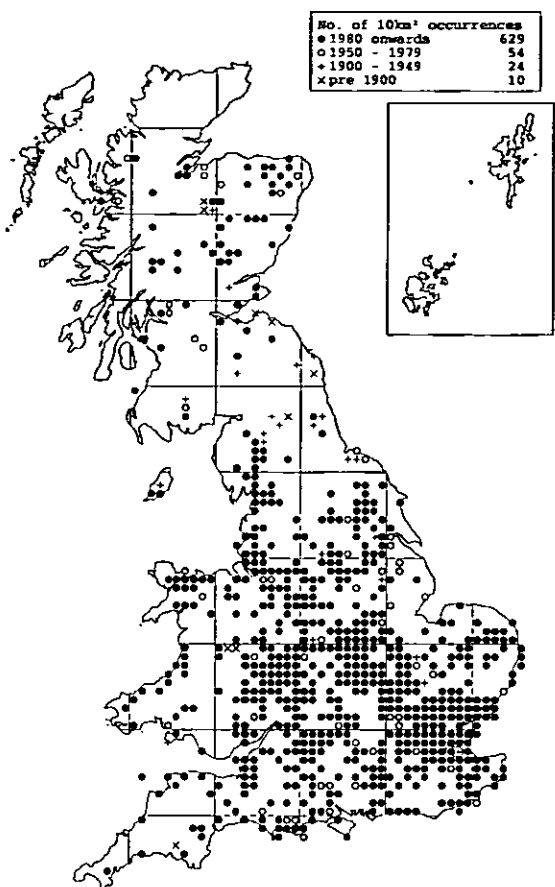


**Status**  
Uncommon but sometimes locally frequent.

**Distribution**  
The species is widely scattered in Britain and only widespread in south-eastern England north of the Thames. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
This spider spins its orb webs on shrubs and trees, sometimes producing the silken retreat under loose bark. Although it may be found with the other *Larinioides* species, it is not so closely associated with waterside habitats and is often found in much drier sites. Both sexes are adult in the summer until September.

Author of profile: P. Lee

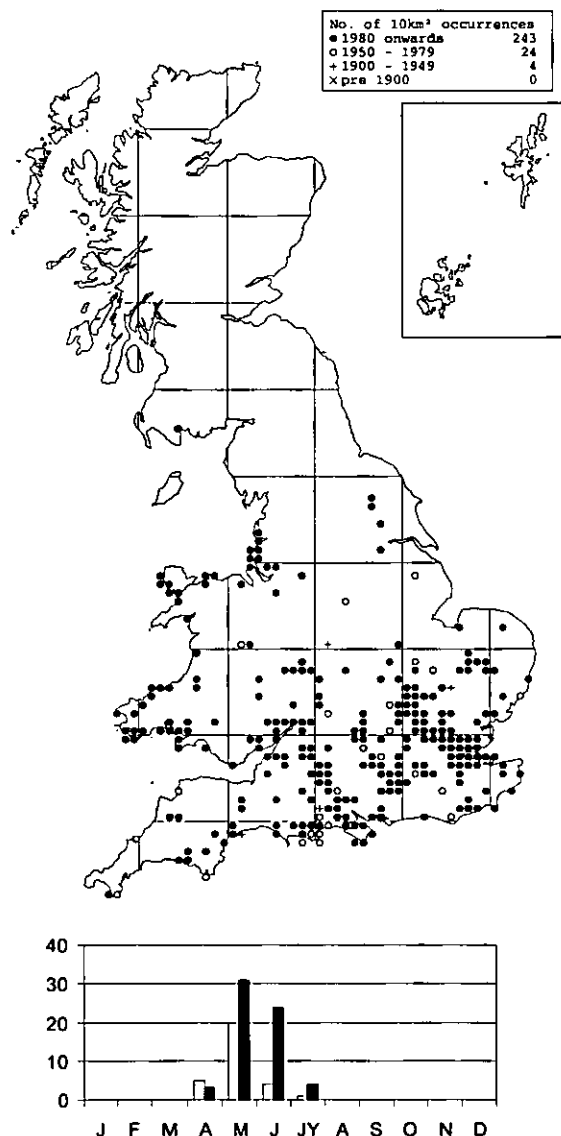


**Status**  
Common.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in Britain, but is scattered in the north and absent from northern-most Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider conceals itself under bark and in fissures in posts and fences during the daytime. In some areas it is a common resident of window and door frames. The body is flattened and this assists the spider to secrete itself in the cracks and fissures. This spider is nocturnal and builds a conspicuous orb web between its retreat and surrounding vegetation. Whilst the web is usually empty during the day, the spider can be found hidden away nearby. Adults of both sexes are found mainly between late spring and autumn, but females and occasionally males can be found during the winter.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



#### Status

Local, but the species may be numerous in suitable habitat in the south. It is rare and mostly coastal in north-west England.

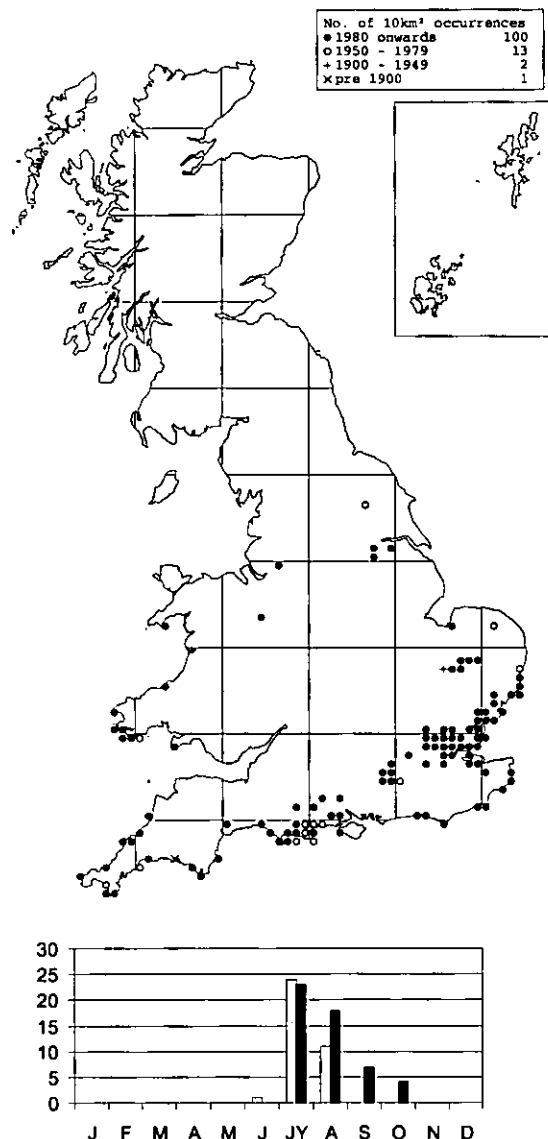
#### Distribution

The spider is widespread in England and Wales as far north as West Lancashire and North-east Yorkshire, but is absent further north apart from one record for south-west Scotland (McCleary 1998). The species is widespread in western Europe as far north as Scandinavia, but only one old record is mapped at the southern tip of Norway (Aakra & Hauge 2000) and the species is apparently absent from Finland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is found in heather and gorse, usually below one metre above the ground, and rough grassland where the spider often makes its web between dead herbaceous stems with a retreat in a dead flower-head. In the north of England the spider is most common on sand dunes, often on creeping willow (J. Newton, pers. comm.). The hub of the medium sized orb web is often covered with fine silk. The spider's abdominal markings show considerable variability (see Jones (1983)). After over-wintering as a sub-adult, adults can be found from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



#### Status

Generally an uncommon species becoming rarer further north. It may be locally common in the south and south-east.

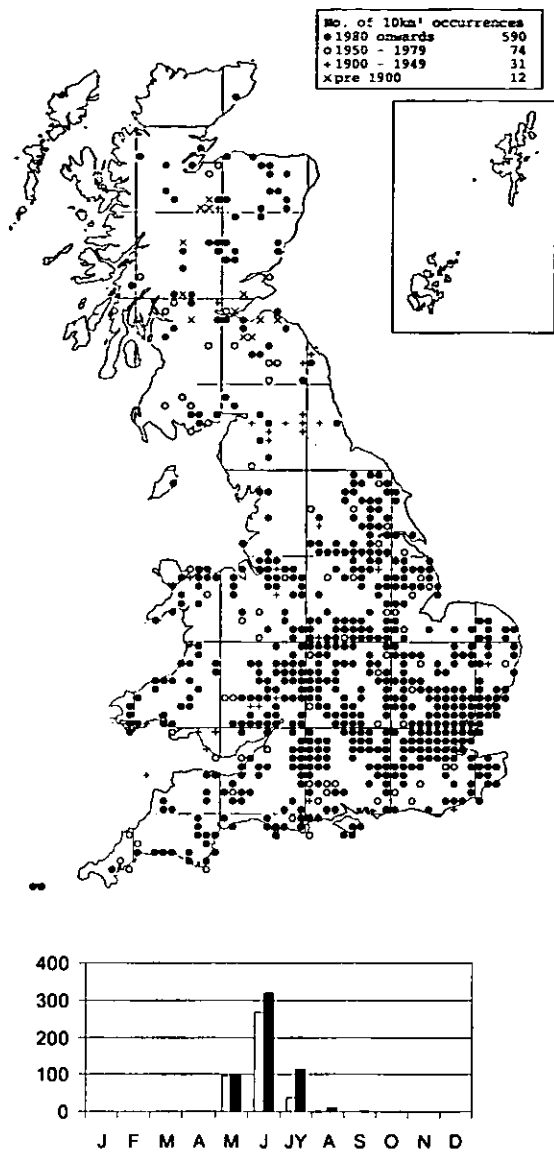
#### Distribution

The species is widespread near the coast in England and Wales north to Yorkshire, and on southern heathlands and in south-eastern England. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This distinctively marked spider spins its orb web on low vegetation such as heather, gorse and sometimes grasses in a range of open habitats including heathland, coastal grasslands, saltmarsh and fen. The hub of the web contains much white silk giving it an unfinished appearance. The retreat is a platform of silk on which the spider awaits its prey. Both sexes are adult from mid- to late summer, females through to the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee

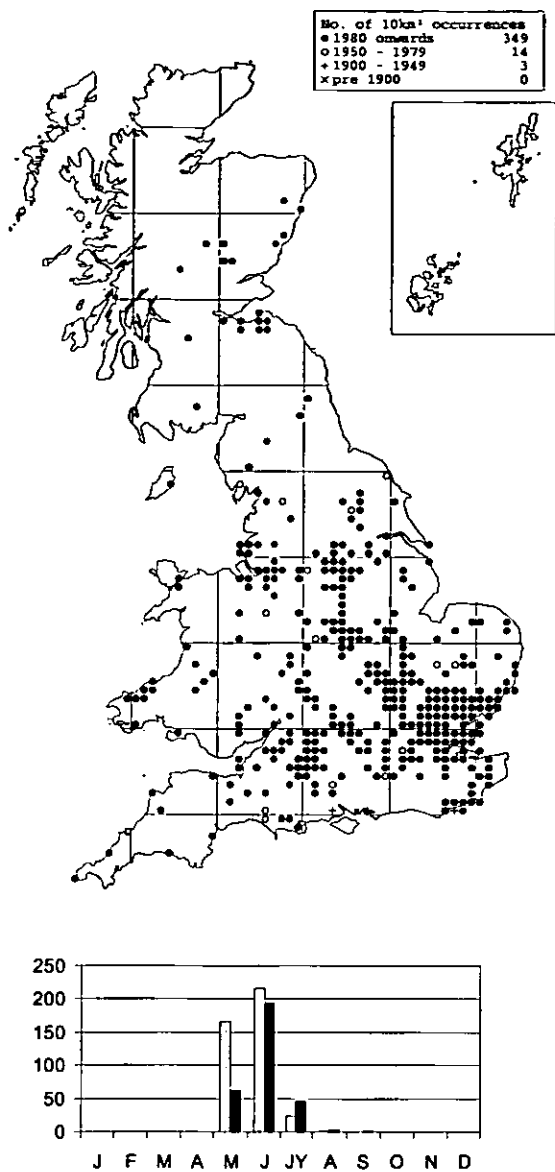


**Status**  
The species is common in England and Wales but a little less so in Scotland.

**Distribution**  
The species is widely distributed in Britain, becoming more scattered in the west and north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider is found in a wide variety of situations, but most commonly on trees (particularly oaks) and bushes in woodland, scrub and hedgerows, as well as on nearby low vegetation. It occurs in similar habitats to *A. opisthographa*, with which it is often, but not always, found. Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and July, with a peak in June. Females have occasionally persisted as late as September.

Author of profile: D. Carr

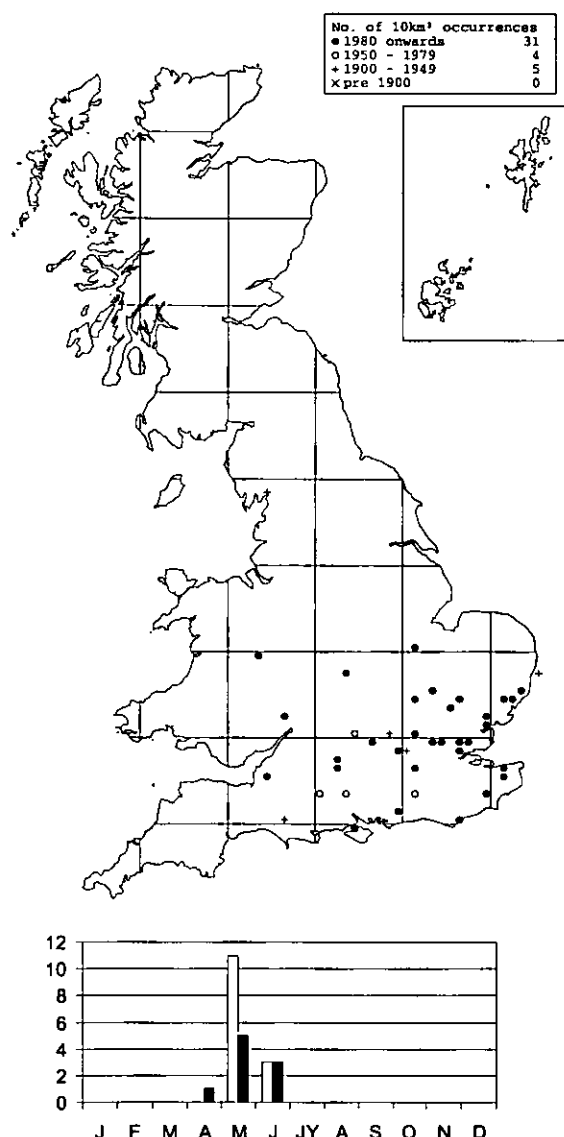


**Status**  
This species is common in most parts of England.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in much of southern England from Yorkshire southwards, but it is much more scattered in the west and north as far as central Scotland. It is more sparsely distributed in Wales, Scotland and south-west England than *A. cucurbitina*. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider is found in a wide variety of situations, but most commonly on trees (particularly oaks) and bushes in woodland, scrub and hedgerows, as well as on nearby low vegetation. It occurs in similar habitats to *A. cucurbitina*, with which it is often, but not always, found. Adults have been recorded between late spring and summer, with a peak in late May and June. Females have occasionally persisted as late as September.

Author of profile: D. Carr



### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is frequent at some sites, but very local (Merrett 1990).

### Distribution

The species range does not extend northwards of a line from the Wash to the Lleyn Peninsula. It is apparently rare in northern Europe (Roberts 1995) but is widespread as far north as Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000).

### Habitat and ecology

The spider is found mainly on trees, particularly oaks and evergreens. Evidence from Essex and Hertfordshire would seem to suggest that this species is adult a few weeks earlier than *A. cucurbitina* and *A. opisthographa* with specimens recorded from oaks whose leaf buds are only just beginning to open. This may lead to the species being overlooked when the commoner species in the genus are more prevalent. Adults have been recorded from April to June with a peak in May.

### Threats

The loss of semi-natural woodland to intensive forestry is likely to be detrimental.

Author of profile: D. Carr

### Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is known from a few sites in southern England.

### Distribution

This species was recorded from Great Kimble in Buckinghamshire and from the New Forest in South Hampshire early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. More recent records are scattered in central southern England. In Europe the spider is widespread but uncommon (Roberts 1995).

### Habitat and ecology

*A. alpica* has been recorded from trees, particularly yew and beech. It has also been found on dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. It has been recorded from chalk grassland (at Melbury Down) but this was in close proximity to woodland. Mature males and females occur in May and June.

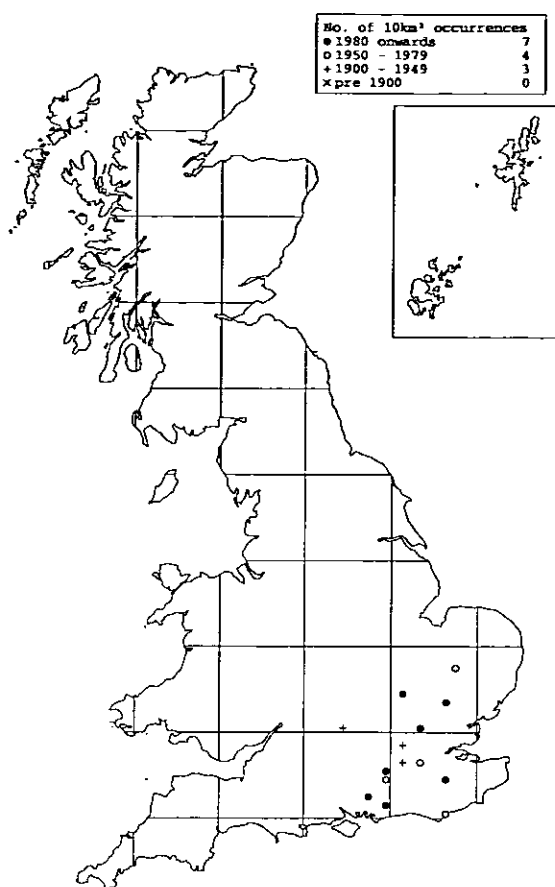
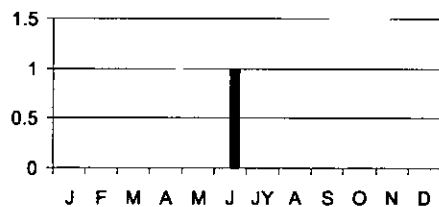
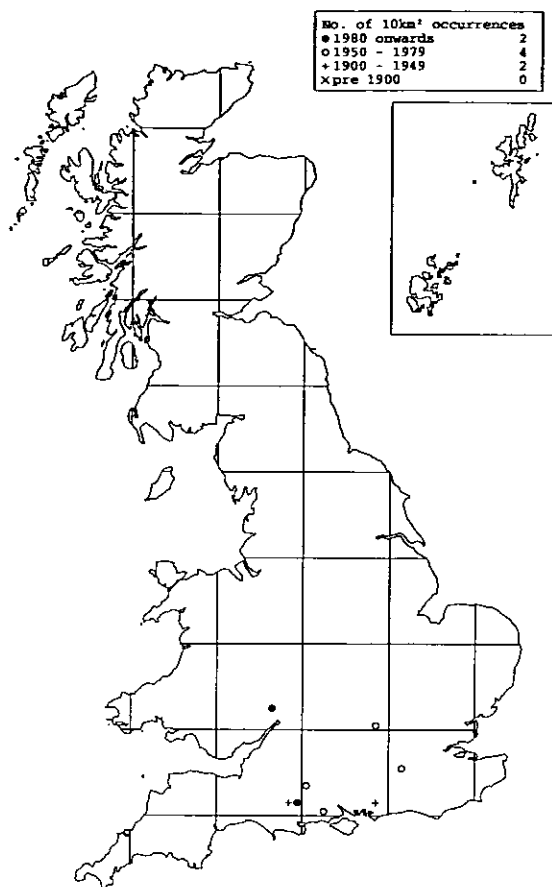
### Threats

The loss of old yew and beech woodland and also of woods containing mature stands of these trees poses the greatest threat to the spider.

### Management

Where woodlands in the south of England contain ancient and mature yew and beech stands management to encourage their continued presence would provide the most suitable conditions for *A. alpica*. Half the known sites have SSSI designation, one of which is owned by the National Trust.

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



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The species is restricted to a few sites, however the habitat in which it has been found is much more widespread.

#### Distribution

In Britain, *A. displicata* is confined to south-east England. It is widespread but generally rare in northern Europe (Roberts 1995) and has not been recorded from Ireland or Denmark.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is usually found on pine trees, often in association with heather. Adults have been recorded from March to June.

Author of profile: D. Carr

### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is often abundant where found, and is especially frequent in parts of south-east England (Harvey 2000a).

### Distribution

The species is confined to the southern half of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden. It has not been recorded from Ireland.

### Habitat and ecology

The spider is found on tall heather, brambles, bushes and the lower branches of trees, usually in sheltered shady places and among scrub on cliffs by the coast. It occurs at the edge of clearings or rides in broad-leaved or mixed woodland, in old hedgerows, green lanes, scrub and sometimes gardens. Forestry plantations often provide suitable habitat, at least in their early stages when heather is still present. Immatures can be beaten out of scrub and hedgerows in late autumn but have also been found in litter at that time of year. Adults of both sexes are mainly found in May and June, with occasional females in July and exceptionally September and October.

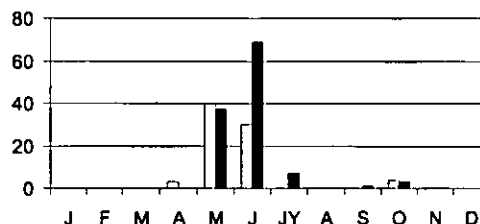
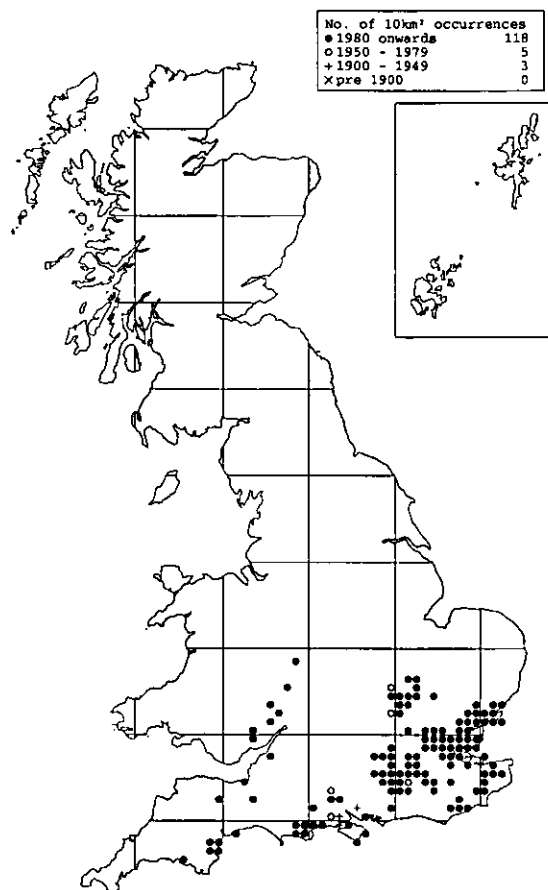
### Threats

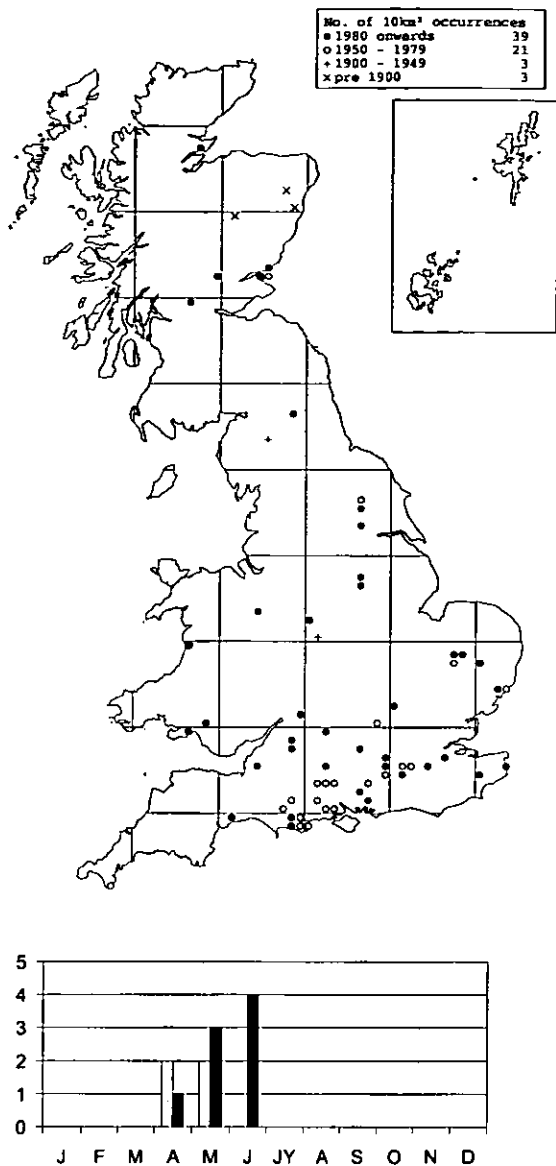
Lack of management resulting in the closure of open woodland and the loss of heathland and old hedgerows is probably detrimental. Where arable fields are adjacent to woodland or hedgerows, spray drift from the use of pesticides on crops is likely to affect the survival of this spider.

### Management

Management should prevent closure of heathland, scrub and woodland by periodic control of scrub and tree invasion. The retention of wide field edges and headlands should be encouraged to help maintain a diverse invertebrate fauna and reduce the effects of spray drift on hedgerows and at woodland edges.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey using information in the species account by Merrett (1990).





**Status**

An uncommon species.

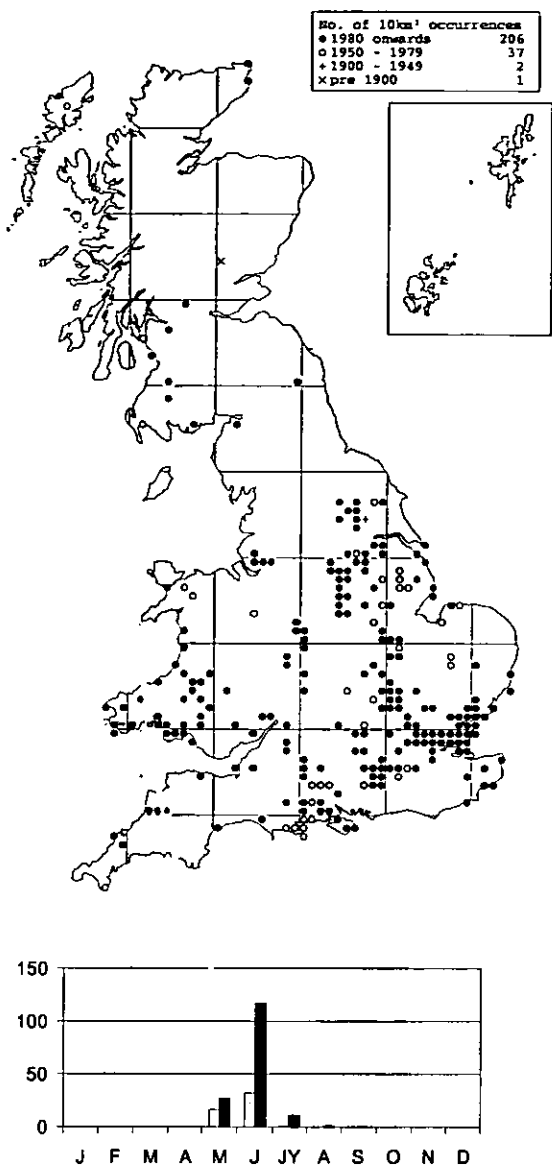
**Distribution**

The species is widespread but locally distributed in Britain becoming more scattered further north. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

This distinctively marked spider spins its orb webs low down, less than 20 cm above ground level (Jones 1983), usually on heather in heathlands, but it has also been recorded in chalk grassland. Both sexes are mature in late spring and early summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**

Local. Although the most frequently encountered species in the genus this is still an uncommon spider, especially in the north. However it may be frequent in calcareous grassland and some other grassland situations. In Cannock Chase and the West Midlands it has been abundant on heathland, both in the heather and the acid grassland (C. Slawson, pers. comm.).

**Distribution**

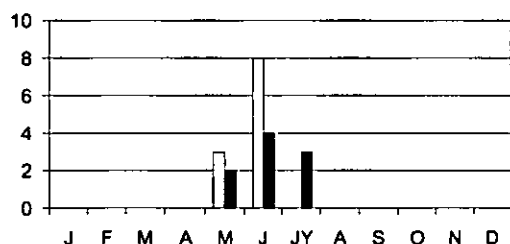
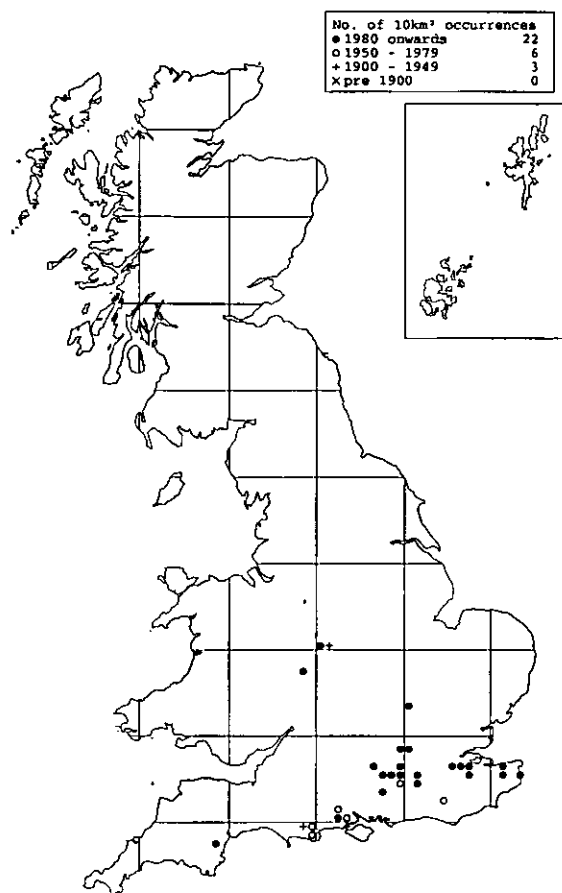
The species is widespread in parts of southern Britain, with few widely scattered records in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

This species spins orb webs on low vegetation, often on calcareous grassland but also in damper areas of heathland, acid grassland, and other tussocky and rough grasslands. Crocker & Daws (1996) also note that occasional specimens may be found on low shrubs. Both sexes are adult in early summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee





#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is local and only found in small numbers.

#### Distribution

The species is generally confined to the southern counties of England, but there are also records for Worcestershire and Staffordshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*H. sanguinea* is found mainly on heathland amongst fairly mature heather (growing for at least 8 years following fire), usually in damp (although occasionally rather dry) situations. It has also been recorded from tall calcareous grassland. Both sexes are mature in May and June.

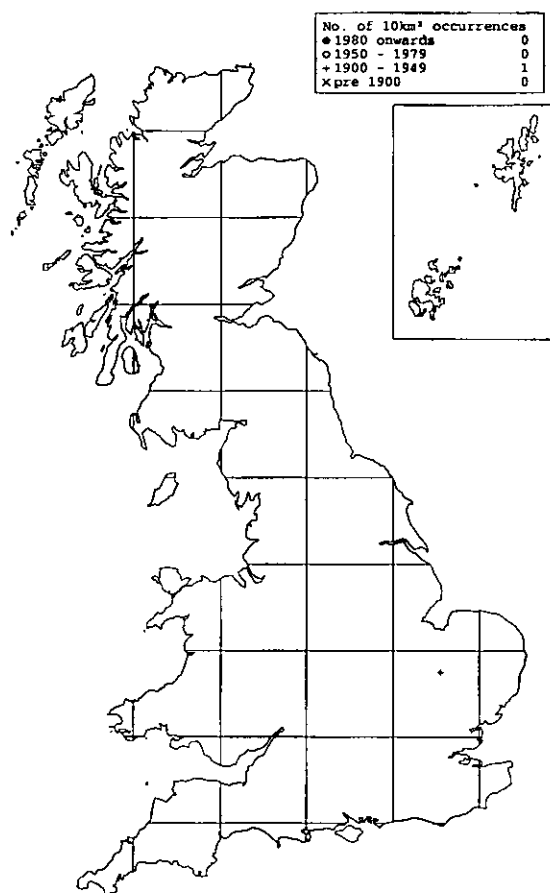
#### Threats

The loss of heathland to housing and commercial development, agriculture and forestry.

#### Management

The maintenance of all seral stages of heathland by rotational management would ensure the correct habitat conditions for this species.

**Author of profile:** E.L. Bee using information in Merrett (1990)



#### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The species may well now be extinct in Britain. Extensive recording efforts at Wicken Fen have resulted in no further records.

#### Distribution

Single male specimens of the spider were recorded from Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire in 1892 and 1912. Records also exist from Berkshire but the date and locality are not known. The spider is widespread in southern and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs on low plants near water. Males reach maturity in June and July.

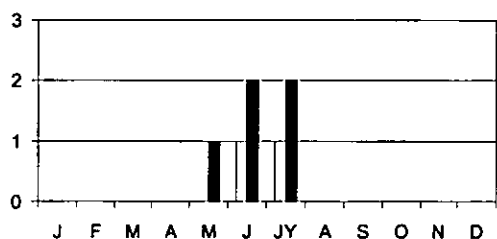
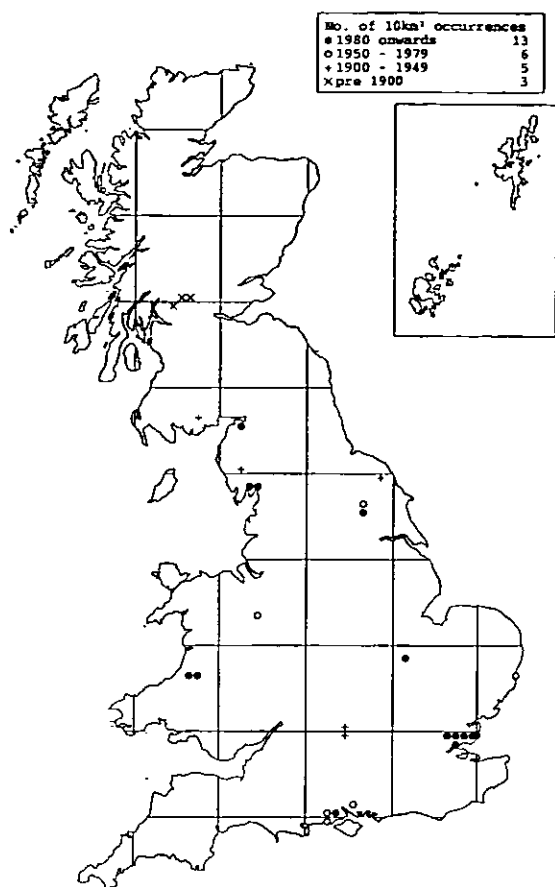
#### Threats

The lowering of the water table at Wicken Fen, due to the drainage of surrounding farmland, has probably made this site unsuitable for *H. heri*. Certainly, sites where the spider is found in other parts of Europe have a higher water table than that currently prevailing at Wicken.

#### Management

Recent efforts have been made at Wicken Fen to reduce the water seepage to the adjacent land by lining the surrounding banks with a waterproof membrane. However, it is unlikely that this will restore previous water table levels. An alternative option, under consideration, would be to extract peat thereby lowering the ground surface down to the present water table.

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



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider may be abundant in some localities but is very local.

#### Distribution

The species is widely scattered as far north as central Scotland. Its distribution on the Continent is poorly known.

#### Habitat and ecology

*S. hamata* spins its web on low vegetation usually in damp habitats, for example damp pasture and raised bogs but also in areas of rough unmanaged grassland. A pinkish retreat containing the egg-sac can often be found on vegetation near the web. Both sexes mature in May and June, the females lasting through to October.

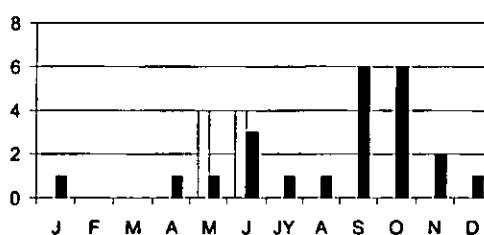
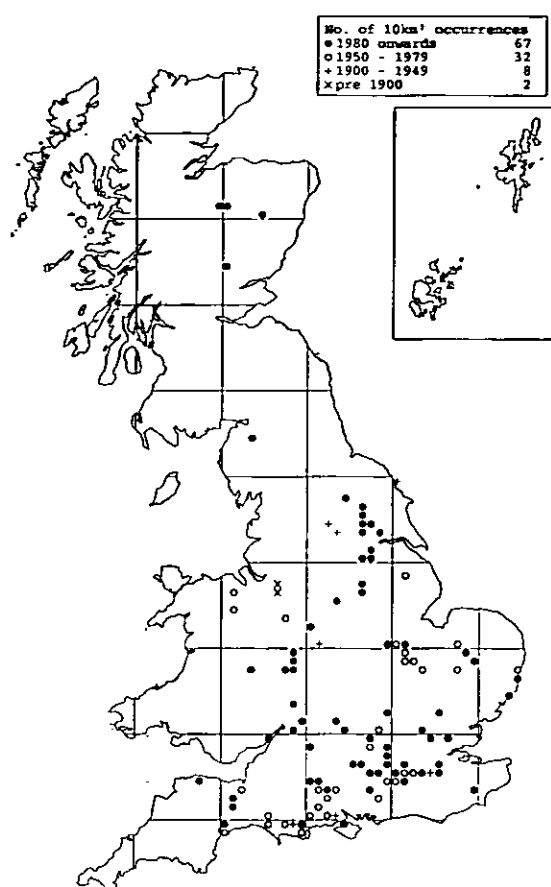
#### Threats

The loss of raised bogs and damp pasture, particularly through drainage, and the regular cutting of grassland poses a significant threat to this species.

#### Management

Where damp pasture is still present grassland cutting should be on a rotational basis so that areas of long grass and herbage within the pasture are left each year to provide a permanent habitat for *S. hamata*. Of particular importance are well established tussocks of long grass and where possible these should remain.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee using information in Merrett (1990)



#### Status

Generally an uncommon species and becoming more so further north. Rare in Scotland.

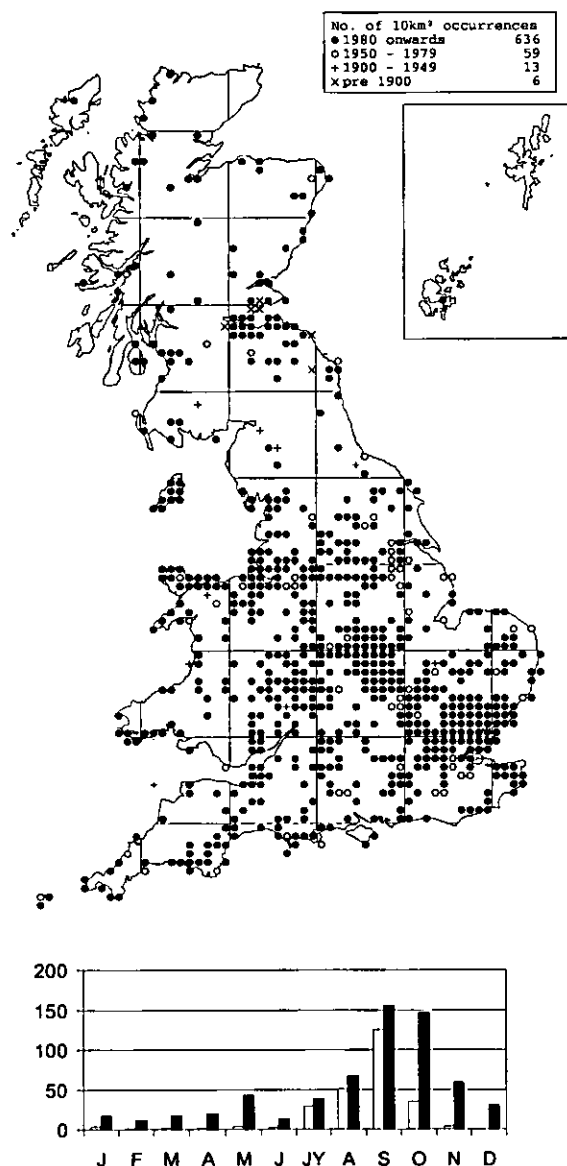
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain with few records in the south-west, Wales or northwards from Yorkshire to central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species occurs mainly on heathland and calcareous grassland, perhaps preferring habitats with sparse vegetation. The orb webs of this spider lack the silken retreat and signal line typical of the family Araneidae. They are constructed in vegetation near to ground level and any disturbance may cause the spider to drop into the litter layer. Males are adult from spring to autumn. Adult females may be present all year.

Author of profile: P. Lee



#### Status

Common, but under-recorded in its synanthropic habitat

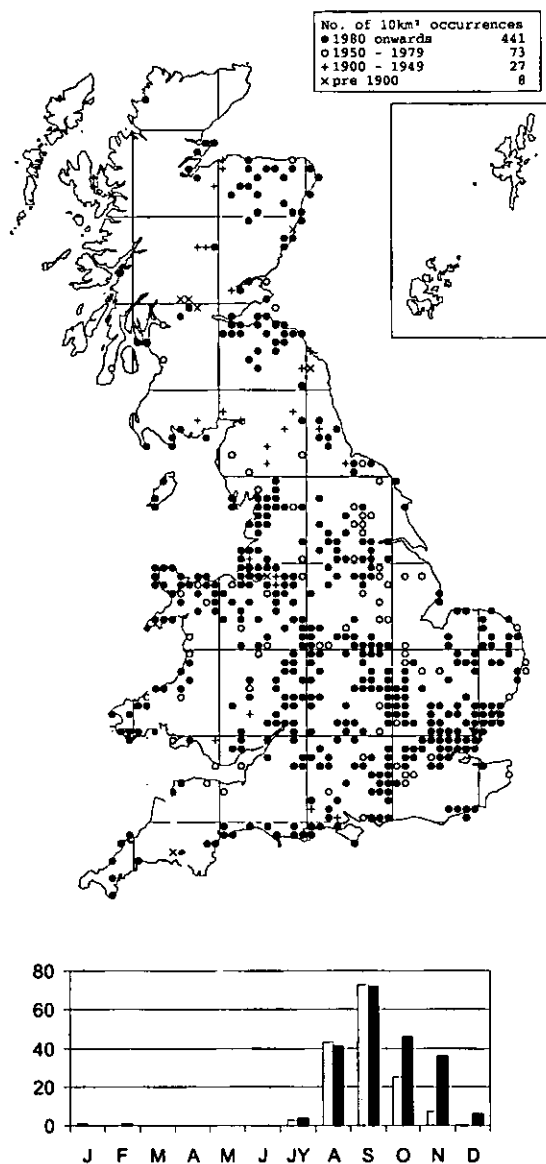
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*Z. x-notata* conceals itself within a silk-tube retreat situated above an orb web with its distinctive missing sector. This spider is typically found on buildings and street furniture and is often found in the outside corners of windows. Specimens have also been discovered on cliffs and on bushes, especially near habitation. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mostly in late summer and autumn. Single egg-sacs, covered loosely with yellow silk, are produced in autumn and winter and are affixed to solid surfaces. Spiderlings emerge from the egg-sacs in spring.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



#### Status

Common.

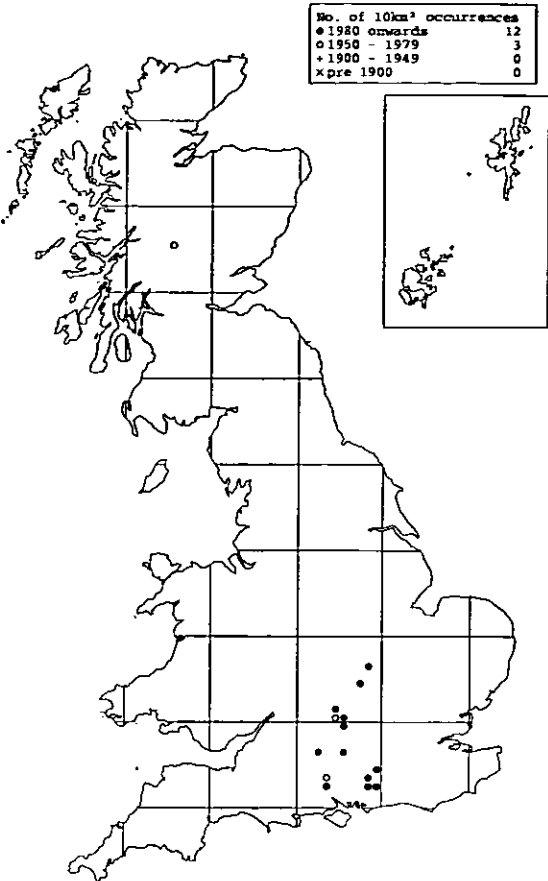
#### Distribution

*Z. atrica* is widespread but patchily distributed in much of Britain. It is a European species introduced to Canada and the USA (Platnick 1998) which is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species constructs a similar retreat and web to that of *Z. x-notata*, but more typically on thorny bushes (blackthorn and gorse) on open ground away from human habitations. On heathlands, *Z. atrica* can be found on heather and on the trunks of pine and birch trees. Metal signposts and gates are also frequented in open country. At coastal sites, specimens are also found on rocky shores, cliffs and sea defences. Adults of both sexes are found in late summer and autumn, occasionally persisting later.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is abundant in some places in the south of England, but very local. It may be overlooked because of its specialised habitat.

**Distribution**

The species is almost confined to central southern England, where it is fairly widespread, but with a single record from central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe but has not been recorded from Ireland and the Netherlands.

**Habitat and ecology**

*Z. stroemi* occurs on deeply fissured trunks of pine and large oak trees, and occasionally on lower branches. It spins a small, delicate orb web on the surface of the trunk, and lives in a retreat in deep fissures in the bark. Males are adult from June to September, females throughout the year.

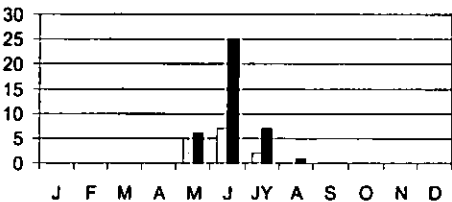
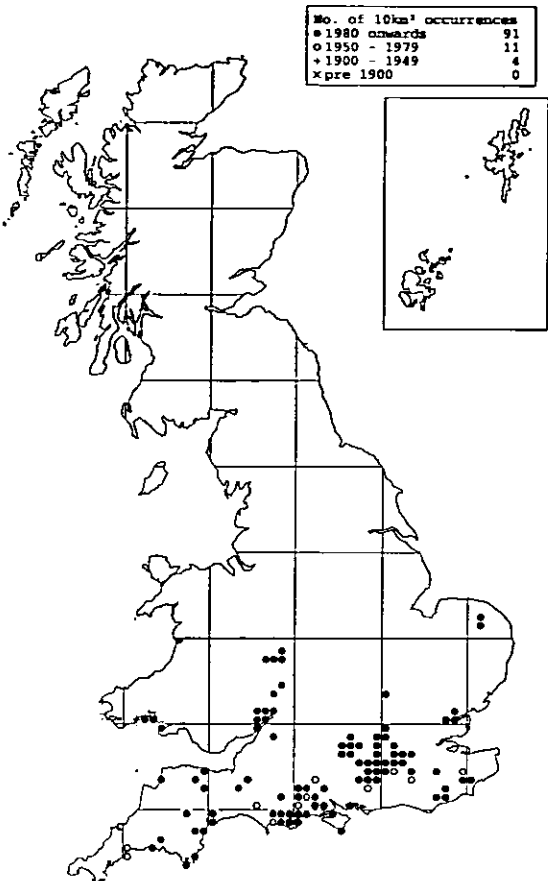
**Threats**

The loss of old pine and oak trees to intensive forestry, in which the trees are unlikely to develop the same degree of deeply fissured bark.

**Management**

Retain old pine and oak trees with fissured bark.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

The spider may be numerous in parts of the south of England but seemingly inexplicably rare in other areas.

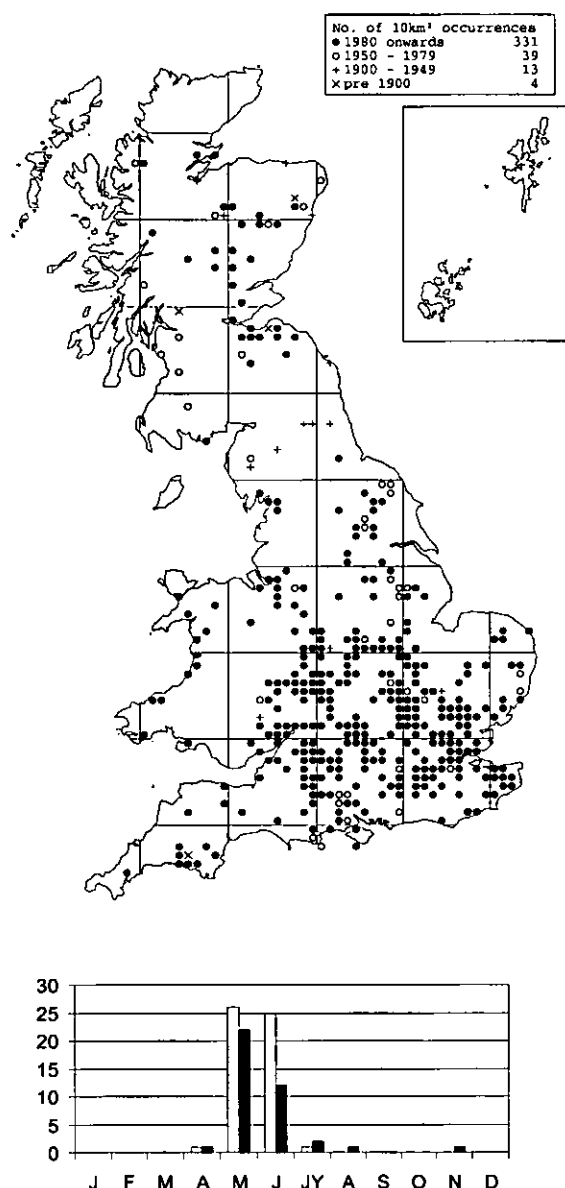
**Distribution**

The species has a widespread but patchy distribution in southern England and south Wales. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Finland.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs on heathland and in open woodland. It can usually be found in the centre of its small but densely woven orb web, which is constructed on low vegetation such as heather and gorse. The few sites in Worcestershire where it is found suggest that it prefers drier places. It is mature early in the season, adults occurring mainly from May to June.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



### Status

Local.

### Distribution

The species is widespread in Britain as far north as central Scotland, but scattered in the west and north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

The species is found on bushes and trees, often evergreen, in damp or shady situations, preferring dark damp woodland with a good shrub layer (Crocker & Daws 1996). The medium-sized orb web has an extra line of silk across it (the stabilimentum); the spider sits in the centre of the web with legs folded, resembling discarded food. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early summer, females occasionally into late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). This designation does not take account of the substantial increase in sightings of the spider during the period from 1990. At sites where *A. bruennichi* is present, individuals can number into the thousands (P. Smithers, pers. comm.).

### Distribution

The spider was first recorded in Britain in 1922 at Rye, East Sussex (Locket & Millidge 1951) and for many years, seemed to be restricted to a few areas close to the south coast in Sussex, Kent, Hampshire and Dorset. Since the 1970s, evidence suggests that the spider has increased its range, spreading inland from a number of its coastal locations. The spider is well established in Dorset (Merrett 1979) and records from as far back as 1965 in East Cornwall have come to light (Smithers 1992). A record from Derbyshire (Dobson 1996) was assumed to be an accidental import, but in 1997 the spider turned up both in the very south and north of Essex (Ruffell 1997). There are now records from Surrey (Baldock 1998) and Wiltshire (M. Askins, pers. comm.), and the spider is widespread in the East Thames Corridor (Harvey 2000d). Remarkably, P. Harvey has been given details of a sighting near Bexley, north Kent in 1965 confirmed by a photograph. There is a strong implication that the present distribution in the West Country and north Kent originates from nuclei dating at least this far back. Harvey (1999a; 2000d) and Smithers (2000) have provided distribution maps showing the spread of the spider. It is widespread in western Europe (Merrett 1990).

### Habitat and ecology

The spider has a very striking appearance with black and yellow horizontal bands on its abdomen. It spins a large orb web with a stabilimentum and favours areas of coastal chalk grassland, open rough grassland, wasteland and roadside verges. P. Harvey (pers. comm.) has seen depauperate juvenile spiders in a wheat field, but these individuals were unlikely to survive to mate or produce egg-sacs. In northern France the author has recorded *Argiope bruennichi* in large numbers in unmanaged damp grassland. The large orb webs are slung low down in the vegetation and the adult spider is easily hidden by the surrounding herbage. Grasshoppers form the main food item. The large urn shaped egg cocoon is positioned in the higher levels of vegetation and the eggs over-winter, hatching out in the following spring. Both sexes mature in the late summer, the females perhaps living on until October but the much smaller males living for only a short time.

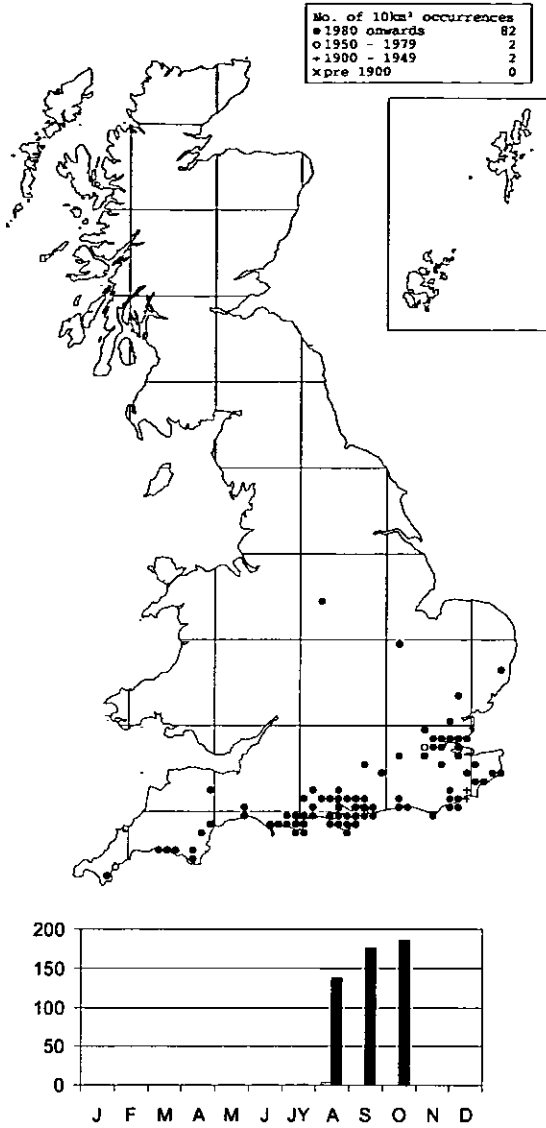
### Threats

Any form of regular cutting of grassland will destroy the webs and the over-wintering egg cocoons, presumably explaining why large populations seem to be confined to unmanaged rough grassland and waste ground. Commercial and housing development of wasteland can threaten populations, but the successful spread of the species during the 1990s shows that at present these threats are not serious.

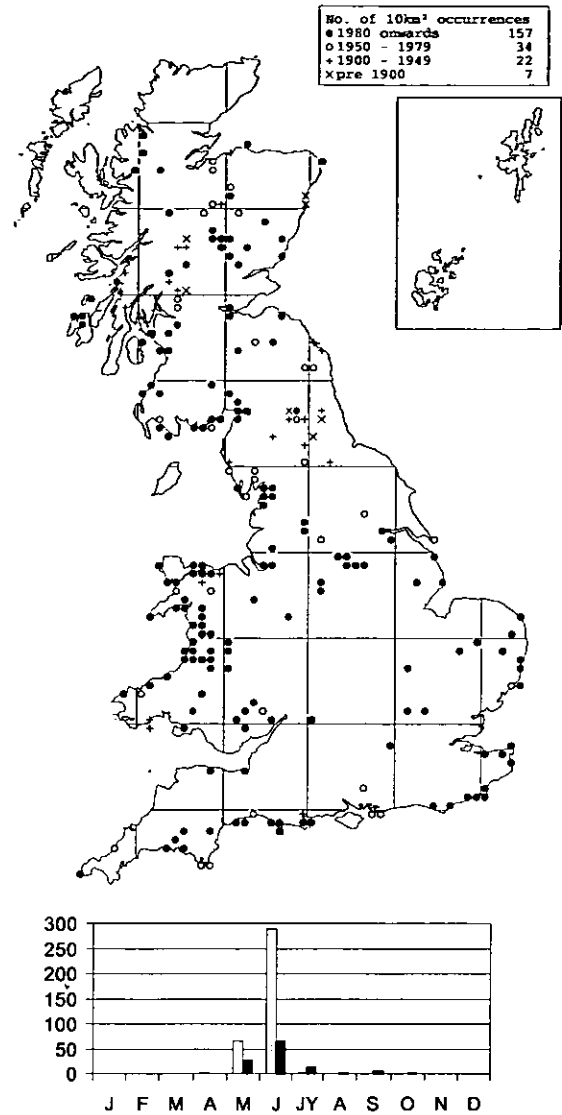
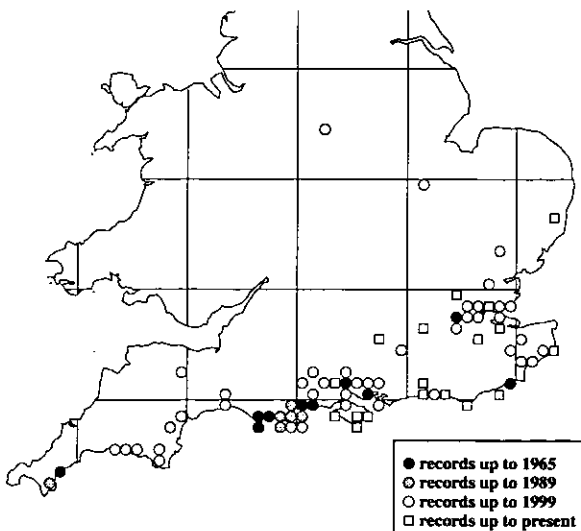
### Management

Grassland cutting should be on a rotational basis so that areas of long grass and herbage are left each year to provide a permanent habitat for *Argiope bruennichi*. In areas where the spider is known, development of wasteland should retain patches of suitable habitat to encourage the continued presence of the species.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee



A map showing the expansion in range of *Argiope bruennichi*



#### Status

Locally frequent in northern England and Scotland, less common in Wales and Ireland, and very scarce in southern England. The Nationally Scarce (Notable B) *P. arenicola* has been deleted from the British check-list, as it is now regarded as synonymous with *P. agricola* (Merrett & Murphy 2000).

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in northern England and Scotland, more restricted in Wales, Ireland and southern England. Widespread in northern Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. agricola* is found on shingle and sand on the coast and beside rivers and lakes, and occasionally on stony waste ground away from water. It seems to require bare substrate with little or no vegetation, though there is some evidence that adult females move to more vegetated areas after the first spiderlings have hatched (Albert & Albert 1976). It is a variable species, placed by D J Clark (in Locket et al. 1974) into three forms: *agricola*, *arenicola* O. P.-Cambridge and *maritima* Hull. Both the genitalia and the patterning of the carapace and legs show considerable independent variation, not easily correlated with habitat or distribution (Roberts 1985). The adults appear in early May. Most males die off in June but some survive into late July. Females with eggs survive into August, occasionally October.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). *P. agrestis* (as recognised by Locket & Millidge 1951; Merrett & Murphy 2000) is abundant at some sites, but very local.

Distribution

The species is more or less restricted to the southern half of Britain. However the situation is complicated by the fact that Roberts (1985) included *P. purbeckensis* in *P. agrestis*, but also stated that the most reliable method of separating *P. purbeckensis* is by consideration of its habitat. All records mapped here exclude records from saltmarsh, which have been mapped as *P. purbeckensis* even when recorded as *P. agrestis*. The species is widespread in Europe.

Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs mainly on sparsely vegetated clay soil, in clay pits and chalk pits, on under-cliff and dry banks above saltmarsh. In Leicestershire it has turned up in large numbers in herb-rich hay meadow and grazed marsh in the River Welland flood plain (Crocker & Daws 1996). The greatest concentration of records seems to come from the region of Oxford clay, chalk, and London clay, in southern central and eastern England. Both sexes are adult mainly between May and July, occasionally until September.

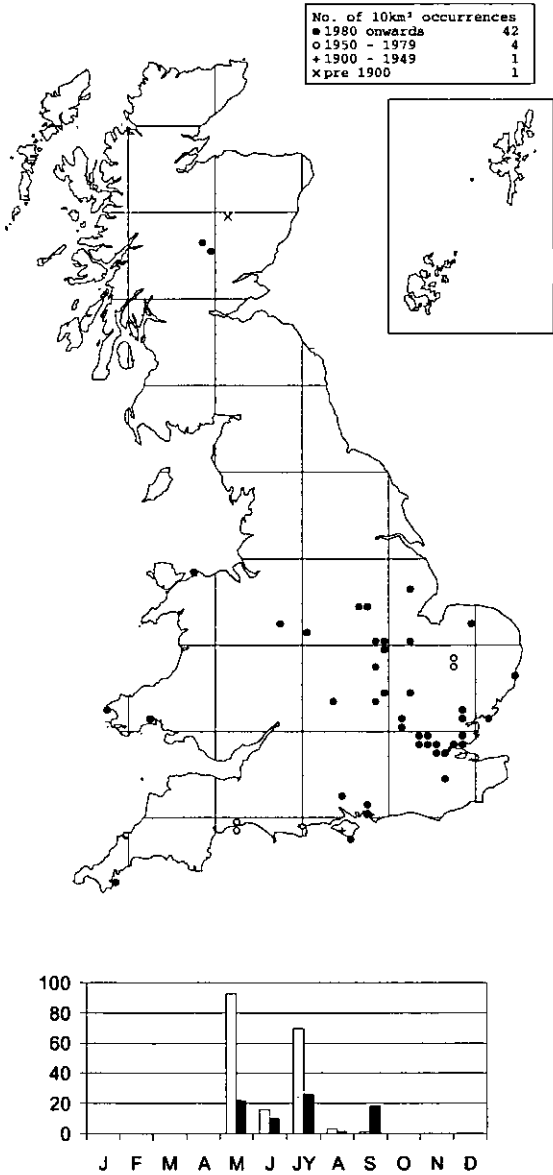
Threats

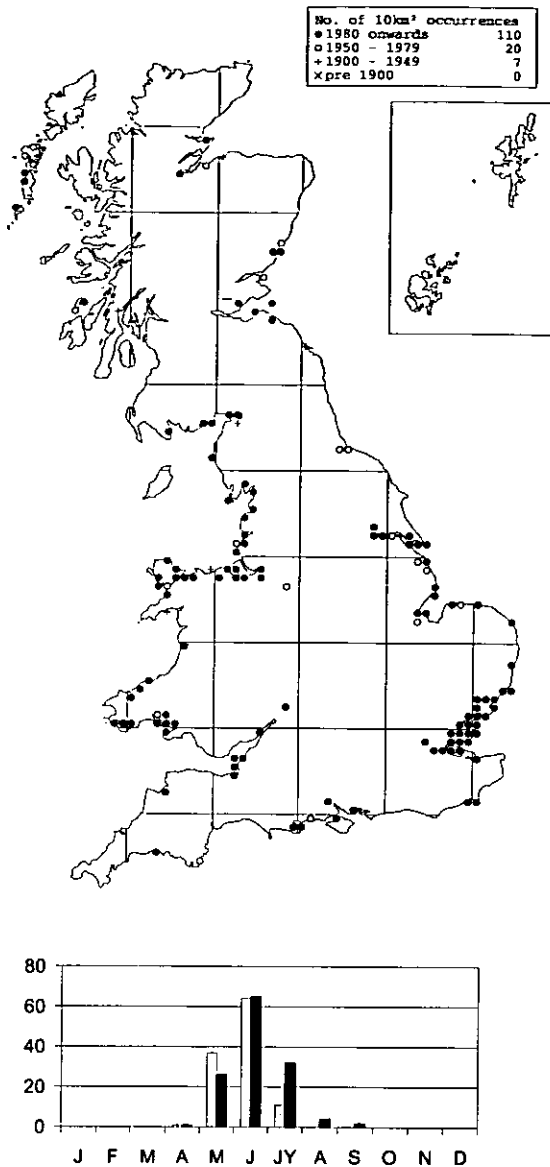
The loss of sites to development, the dumping of rubbish in old clay pits and chalk pits. There is probably little threat to most coastal sites.

Management

Retain old clay pits and chalk pits and avoid their use for rubbish dumping. Scrub removal, low level grazing and small scale disturbance to prevent loss of bare and sparsely vegetated ground will probably become necessary at many sites.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





#### Status

Local, but numerous in suitable coastal habitat. Despite its continued separation from *P. agrestis* in Merrett et al. (1985), Merrett & Millidge (1992) and Merrett & Murphy (2000), Roberts (1987; 1995) does not recognise *P. purbeckensis* as a separate species and this presents problems in the mapping of records submitted to the recording scheme. A decision has been made to map coastal records of *P. agrestis* as *P. purbeckensis*.

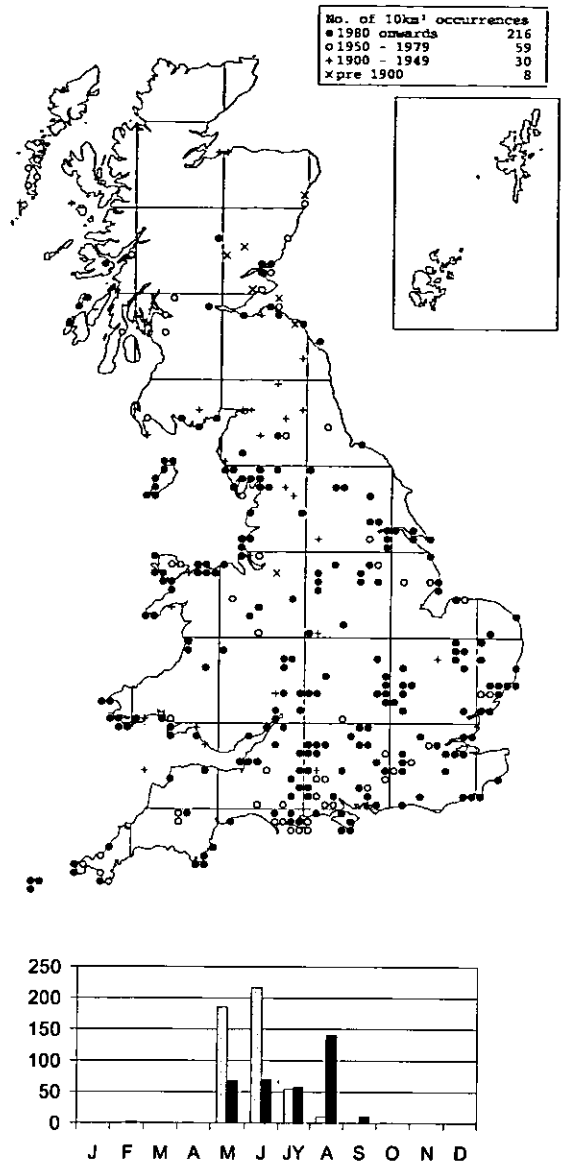
#### Distribution

The species is widespread on the coasts of Britain.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. purbeckensis* occurs in saltmarsh and tidal habitats on mudflats and the shores especially of estuaries, running over mud and tidal debris. Adults of both sexes may be found from early to mid-summer, females persisting later.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

The spider is usually numerous where present, but local or rare in much of the modern agricultural countryside. Crocker & Daws (1996), Wright (1997) and Harvey (1997) note its rarity in Leicestershire (a single site), Warwickshire (two sites) and Essex (a few localities) respectively.

#### Distribution

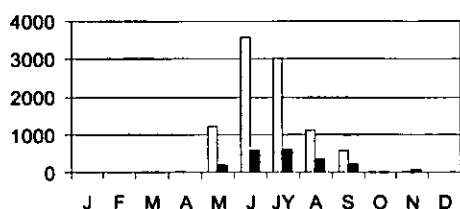
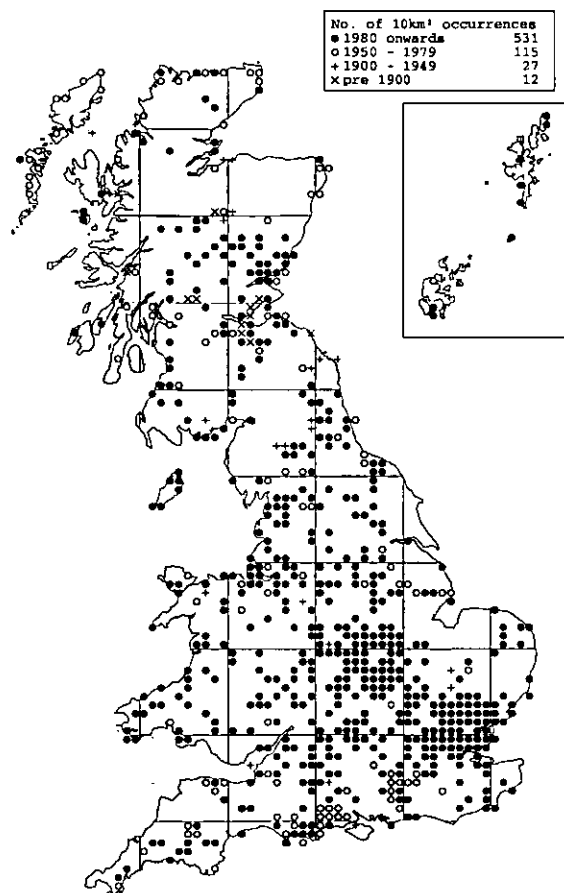
The species is widespread but locally distributed as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. monticola* usually occurs in open short vegetation in grasslands, meadows, open heaths and dunes, especially where the habitat is old and unimproved. It may be abundant on chalk grassland and stabilised dunes. In Wiltshire, it is almost exclusively found on the short turf of chalk downland (Askins 1997). Adults occur mainly from early to mid-summer, females later.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





#### Status

Common.

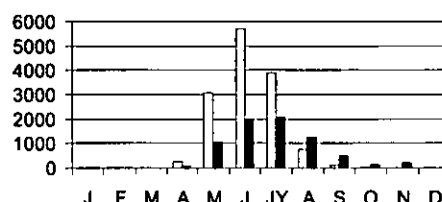
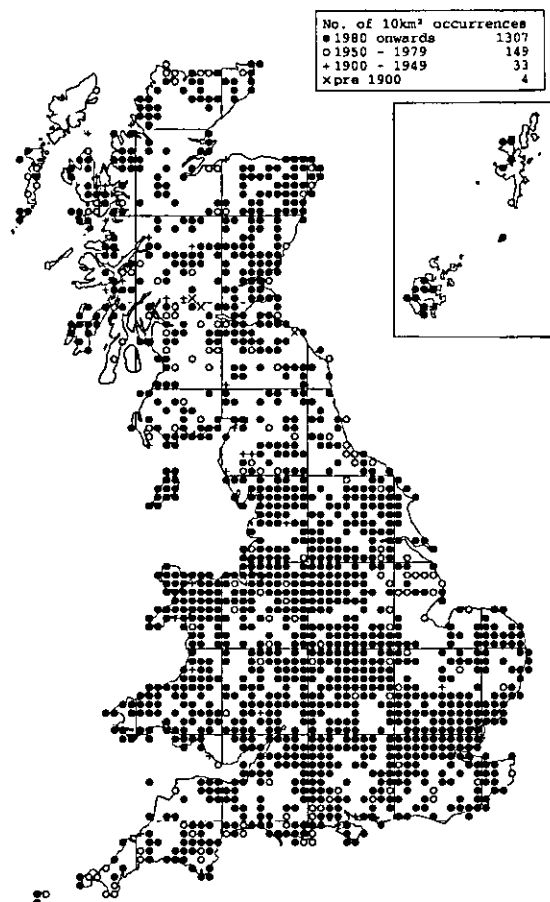
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. palustris* occurs on open sparsely vegetated and bare ground, in habitats including heathland, moorland, grasslands, flood meadows, arable land and waste ground. The species is noted as a successful aeronaut in Crocker & Daws (1996) and its preference for bare ground and success as an aeronaut may explain its colonisation of arable land and various other disturbed sites. Both sexes are adult in summer, occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Common.

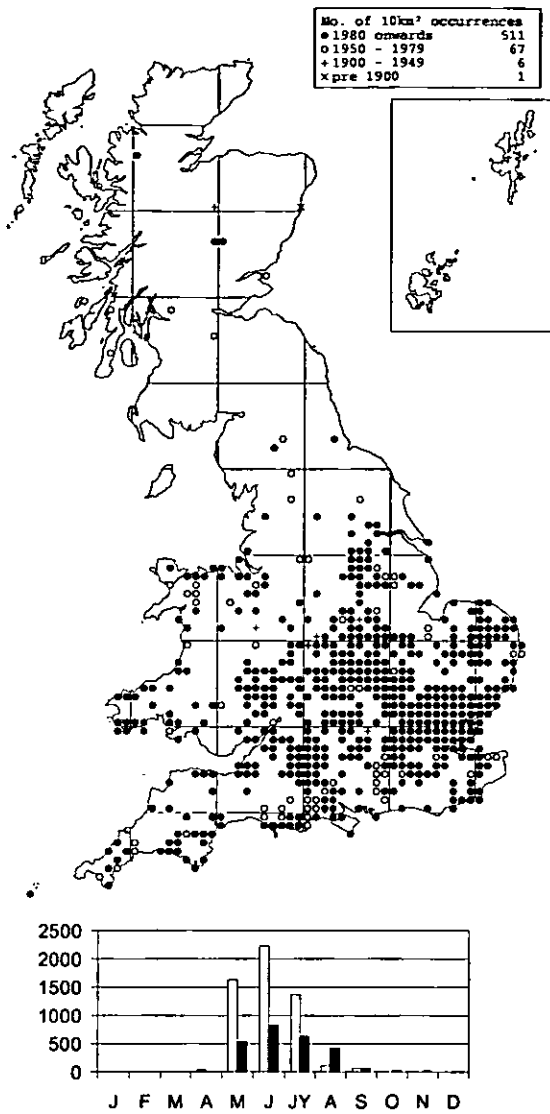
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. pullata* occurs in various open habitats such as grasslands, sea walls, dyke edges, dunes, heathland, moorlands, blanket bog, mires, woodland clearings, old quarries and roadside verges. In lowland agricultural Britain it is perhaps found most often in long-established tussocky grassland. Adults of both sexes occur mainly in early to mid-summer, occasionally persisting until the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



**Status**

The spider may be abundant locally, but is scarce in northern Britain.

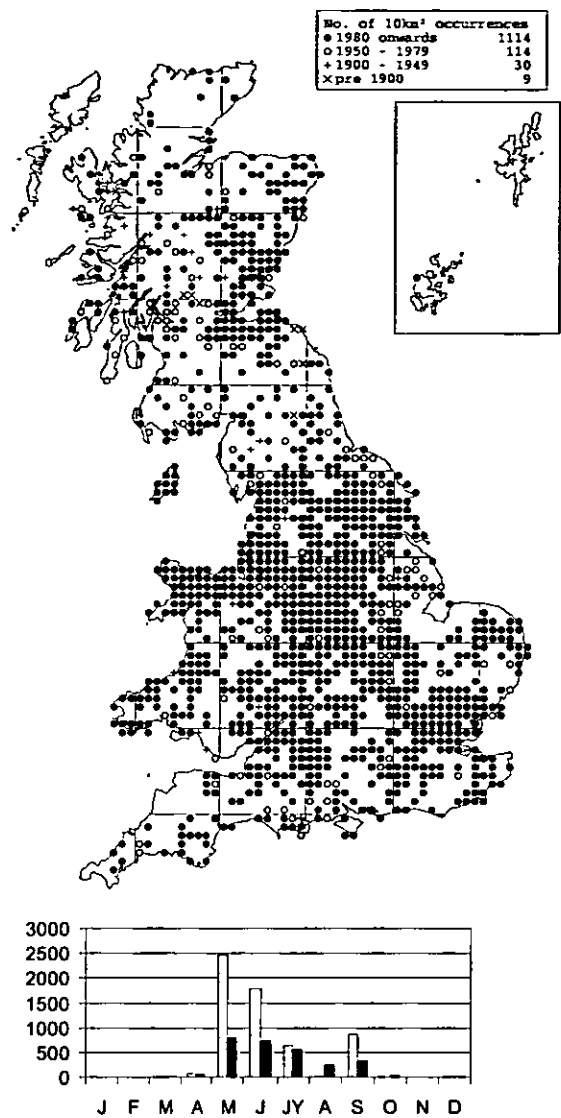
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, with very scattered records further north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*P. prativaga* occurs on open ground and herbage in various open habitats including grasslands, waste ground, fields, heathland, woodland clearings, dunes, old quarries and roadside verges as well as in wet places such as dyke edges, fens, marshes and bogs. At Braunton Burrows in Devon, the species has been recorded across the dune system from the seaward mobile dunes, through the dune slacks to the landward heathy area with bracken (Merrett 1967b). The genitalia are quite distinct from *Pardosa pullata*, yet inter-specific copulations have been observed and fertile eggs sometimes result. This has only been seen with specimens in captivity, but it has been suggested that if this also happened in nature it could explain the fact that specimens are sometimes captured with the sexual organs of one but with the colouration approaching that of the other (Locket & Millidge 1951). The spider is adult mainly in early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



**Status**

Common.

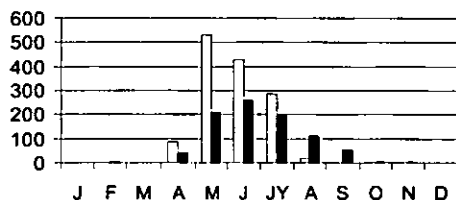
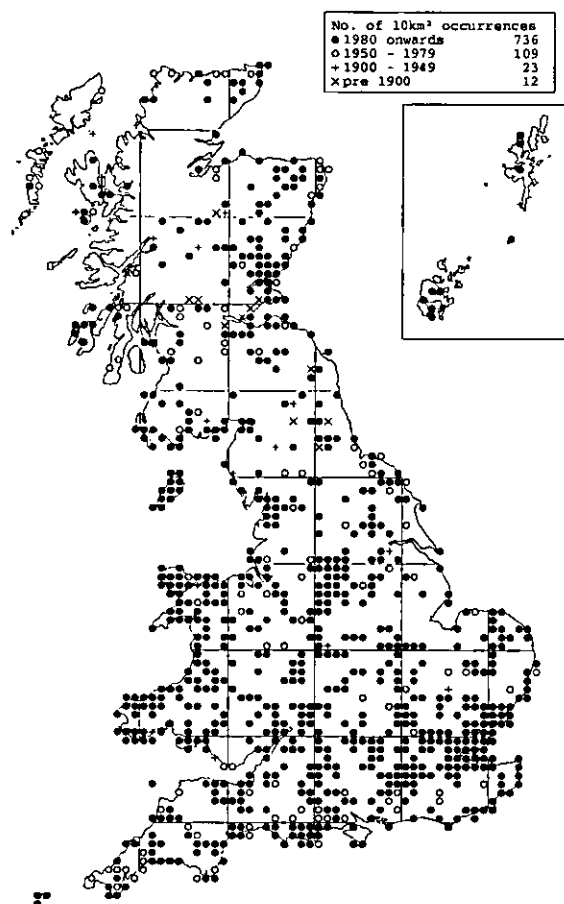
**Distribution**

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

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs in a wide range of open habitats, especially in damp situations. It has been recorded from grasslands, marshes, riversides, fens, saltmarsh, woodland clearings, hedge banks, moorland, blanket bog, waste ground, field margins and rarely heathland. In gardens this is usually the commonest *Pardosa* species. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early to mid-summer, and sometimes again in early autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Common.

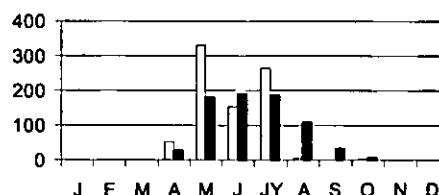
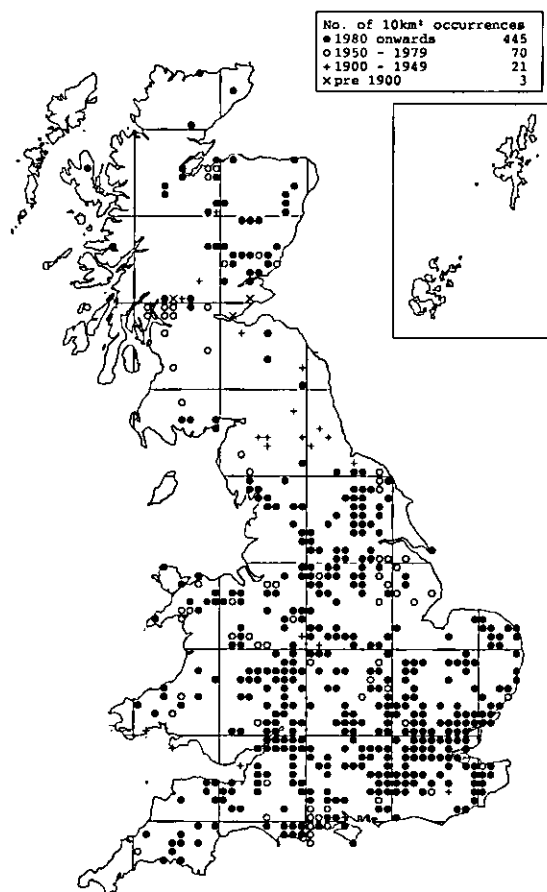
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. nigriceps* is found on the ground, on low vegetation and bushes in a variety of habitats such as grasslands, sea walls, dyke edges, dunes, heathland, moorlands, blanket bog, mires, woodland clearings, old quarries and roadside verges. It tends to live higher in the vegetation than other *Pardosa* species. The spider is adult in spring and early summer, females persisting later.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

The spider may be localised, but is usually found in numbers. *P. saltans* was described by Töpfer-Hofmann as a species distinct from *P. lugubris* and so far all British material examined has proved to be *P. saltans*, but it is possible that *P. lugubris* may occur here as well (Merrett & Murphy 2000). All records have been mapped as *P. saltans*.

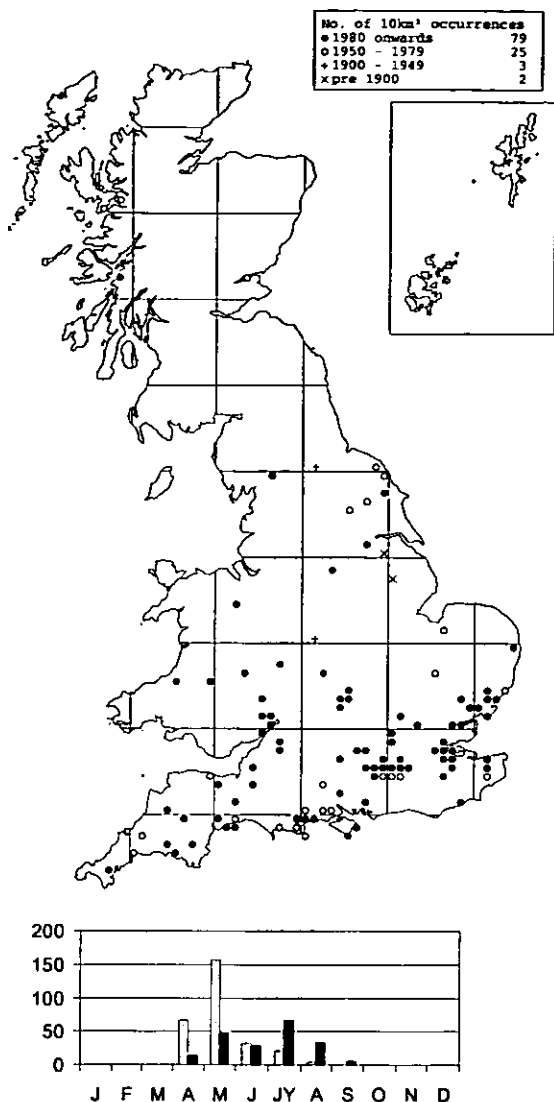
#### Distribution

The species is widespread, but becomes more scattered in northern Britain. It seems to be restricted to the more western parts of Europe (Töpfer-Hofmann, Cordes & Helversen 2000).

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. saltans* occurs in forests, woodlands and copses and sometimes nearby grassland and hedgerows. It seems to be largely restricted to old and ancient woodland sites, where it may be numerous running over the ground in open clearings as well as amongst litter within the shade of the wood. Adults mainly occur in early to mid-summer, with females later, occasionally even until October.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

The spider is very local, but may be frequent in suitable habitat.

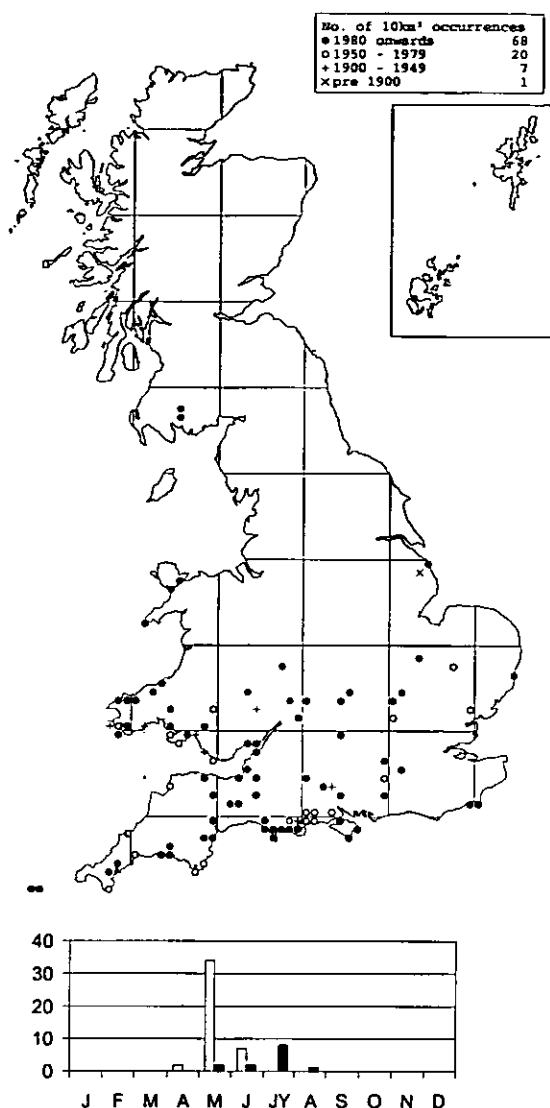
#### Distribution

The species is widespread but locally distributed in southern Britain, with few records from Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but not recorded from Scandinavia or Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. hortensis* occurs in open situations running over sparsely vegetated ground in grasslands, heathland, waste ground, woodland clearings, old chalk and sand pits and the sea shore. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in spring and early summer, with females persisting later.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Very local and often in small numbers, though the spider can be abundant in some habitats.

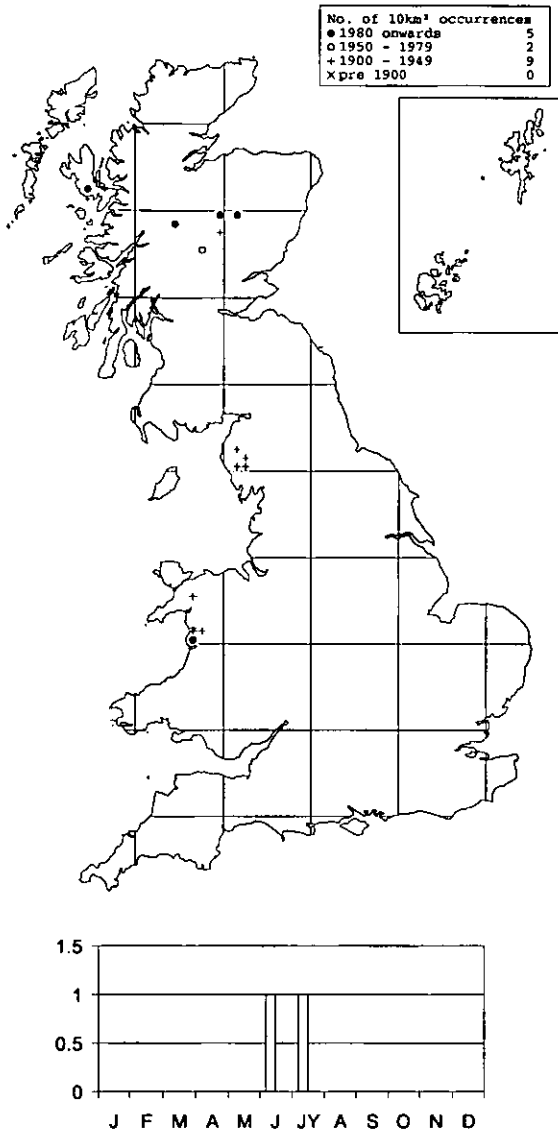
#### Distribution

Most records of this species are from southern England and Wales but there are scattered records as far north as south-west Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe but the species is not recorded from Scandinavia or Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. proxima* can be found in a variety of sparsely vegetated habitats but typically occurs in moist and marshy places. The species is most likely to be found at coastal sites including earthy cliffs, saltmarsh, dune slacks and in streamside habitats including exposed riverine sediments. *P. proxima* has also been recorded from lowland heaths and gardens. Although this information is compiled from some quite recent records it is worth noting that the Rev. Octavius Pickard-Cambridge noted the species was present in his garden but he found it in abundance on the swampy flats at Studland 'whence the winters floods had retired' (Pickard-Cambridge 1879-81). Adults are found in spring and summer with males occurring from April to June and females occasionally persisting into August.

Author of profile: F.L. Farr-Cox



**Status**

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

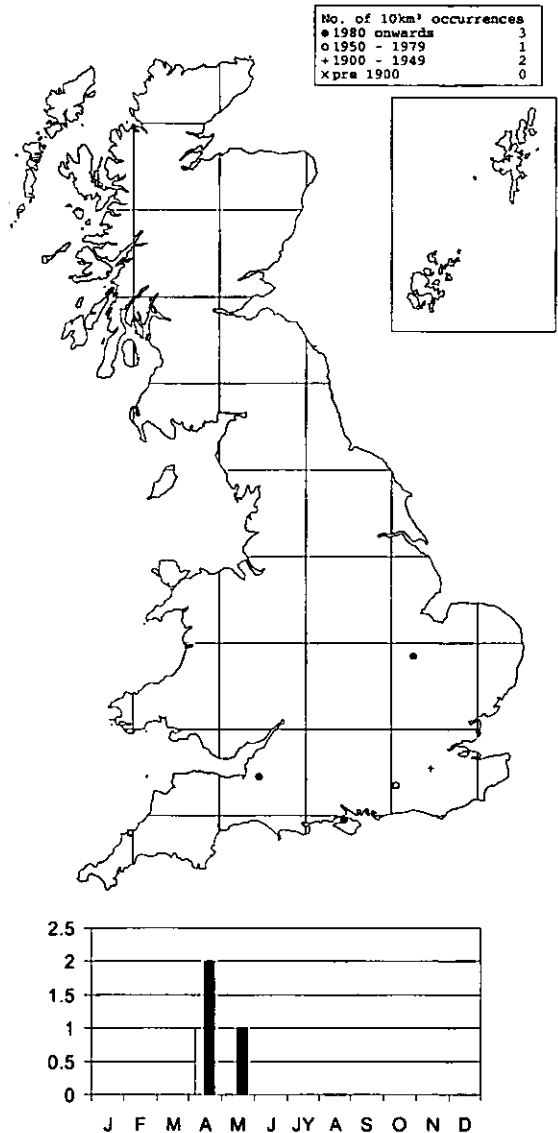
**Distribution**

The species occurs in mountainous areas in Wales, the Lake District and Scotland. *P. trailli* has been recorded from Sweden and Norway.

**Habitat and ecology**

It occurs in open stony ground on mountains, especially on scree. Both sexes are adult in May and June, and females until August.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider was apparently fairly numerous at Shapwick Heath, Plaistow and Woodwalton Fen. There have been no records from new sites since 1974.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded from Shapwick Heath and Catcott Heath, North Somerset; Parkhurst Forest, Isle of Wight; Plaistow, West Sussex; Cudham, West Kent; Woodwalton Fen, Huntingdonshire; and Tarrington, Herefordshire. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe.

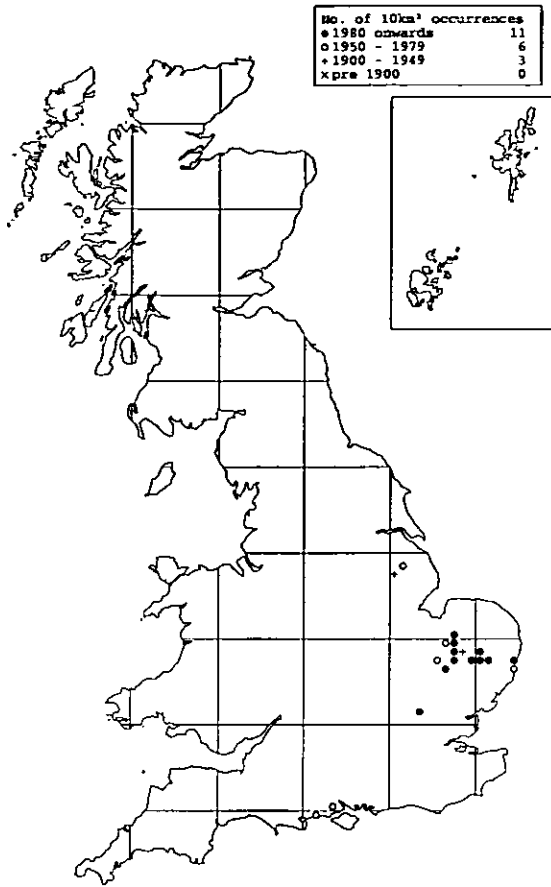
**Habitat and ecology**

*P. paludicola* has been recorded from grassy clearings in woods, running on peat near trees in fens, and among grass near a pond. It may require moderately long grass or herbage. Males are adult in late March and April, and females have been found in April and May. Both sexes have also been found in November, and some individuals may mature in late autumn and over-winter.

**Threats**

Shapwick Heath has been very severely damaged by peat extraction, even within the National Nature Reserve, and only a small area of the wet heath remains. Falling water tables due to agricultural drainage are a problem in the Somerset Levels sites and at Woodwalton Fen. It is difficult to maintain a high water table on the protected areas when the surrounding fields are being drained.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). This species is abundant at some sites, but very local and restricted in range.

#### Distribution

Most records for *H. rubrofasciata* are from a small area of West Suffolk, West Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. It has also been recorded from isolated sites in East Suffolk, and the New Forest, Hampshire, as well as old records from Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire and from Lincolnshire. The species is widespread and fairly common in northern and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

Generally found in damp habitats at ground level, mostly in fens but sometimes under or at the edge of carr woodland by the side of rides. Adults have been found in May, June, September and, at Chippenham Fen (Cambridgeshire) in November (D. Carr, pers. comm.)

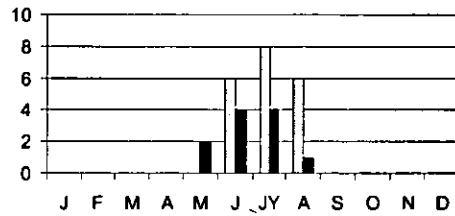
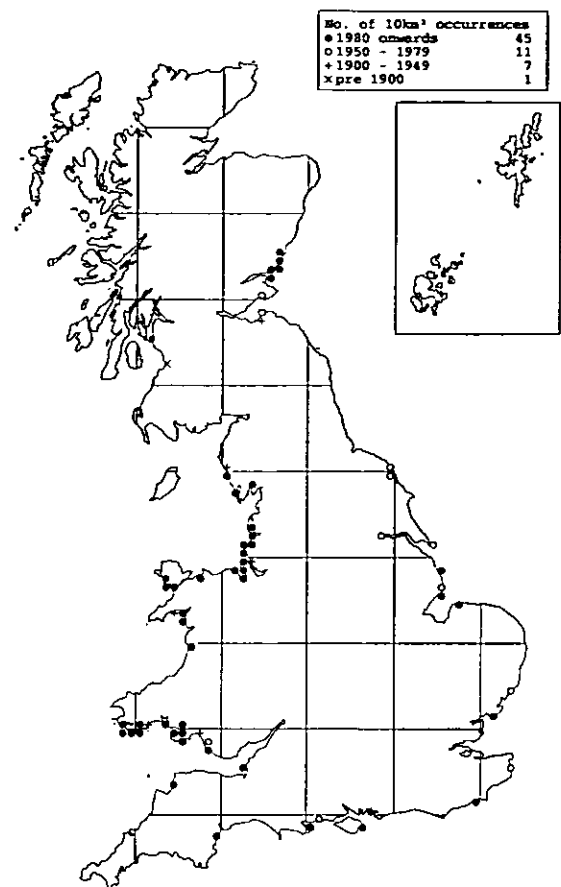
#### Threats

Drainage of fens is the most important threat. However, it appears to be more tolerant of the growth of scrub than most other fenland species.

#### Management

Maintaining the water table in fens is very important. Encroachment on open fen by carr woodland is possibly less of a threat to this species than to other typical fenland species, as it occurs widely in wet woodland in Europe.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Locally common in its dune habitat.

#### Distribution

*X. miniata* is widespread on the coast in Britain as far north as eastern central Scotland, but is absent from apparently suitable areas. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

This lycosid spider is essentially restricted to coastal sand dunes where it favours fixed dunes. In this habitat specimens can often be found in association with areas of sand adjacent to clumps of restharrow. *X. miniata* has also been found inhabiting rocky, sparsely vegetated terrain at a coastal Flintshire site (Felton 1995). Adults of both sexes have been recorded in summer. Females have been observed carrying young on their abdomens in July.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is abundant at some sites in the south-east of England (mainly in Surrey, Sussex and southern Hampshire), but very local.

**Distribution**

The species is widely distributed in southern England. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*X. nemoralis* occurs in dry litter and bark in coppiced areas or clearings in woods, on short stony chalk grassland, on recently burnt heathland (up to about 4 years after fire) or bare patches on older heathland. It has occurred in large numbers, almost to the exclusion of other lycosids, on sparsely vegetated rail ballast in a disused railway marshalling yard and on sparsely vegetated ground at post-industrial sites. The spider is extremely well camouflaged against its background, populations having a more greyish or pinkish tinge according to the surrounding substrate. Adults of both sexes are found in summer.

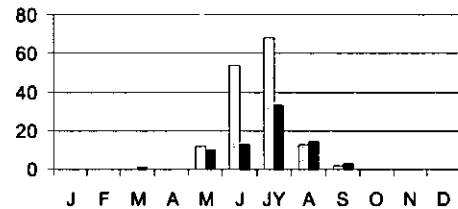
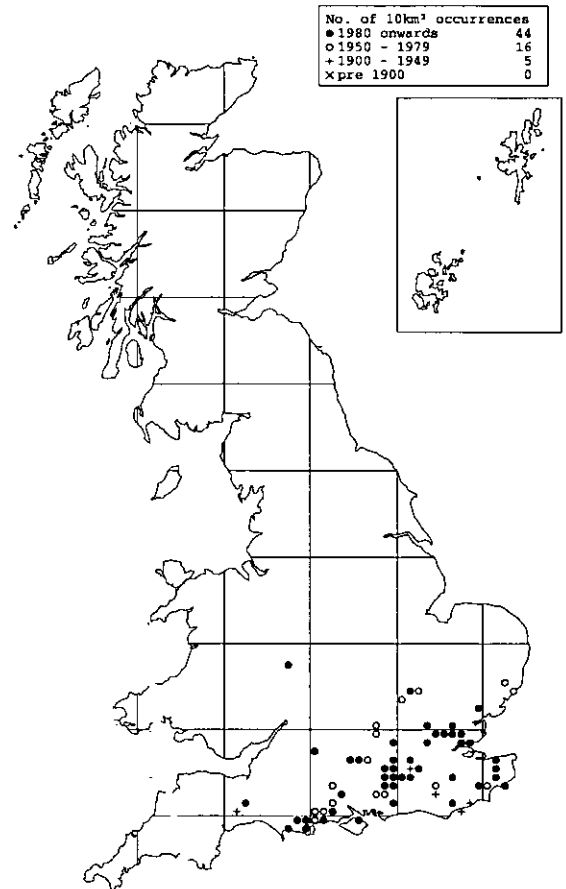
**Threats**

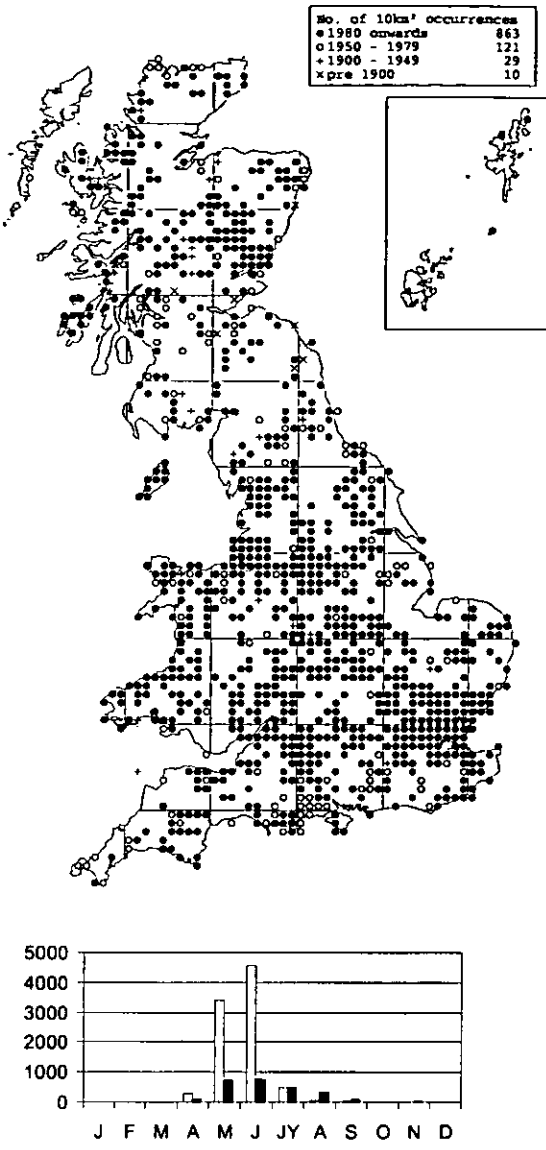
The loss of semi-natural woodland to intensive forestry, the loss of chalk grassland to agriculture, the loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry and development and the loss of post-industrial sites to development.

**Management**

Maintain open clearings and rides with dry leaf and bark litter and reintroduce or maintain coppice cycles in woods, maintain short chalk grassland by grazing, and maintain all seral stages of heather by rotational management.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey based on species account in (Merrett 1990)



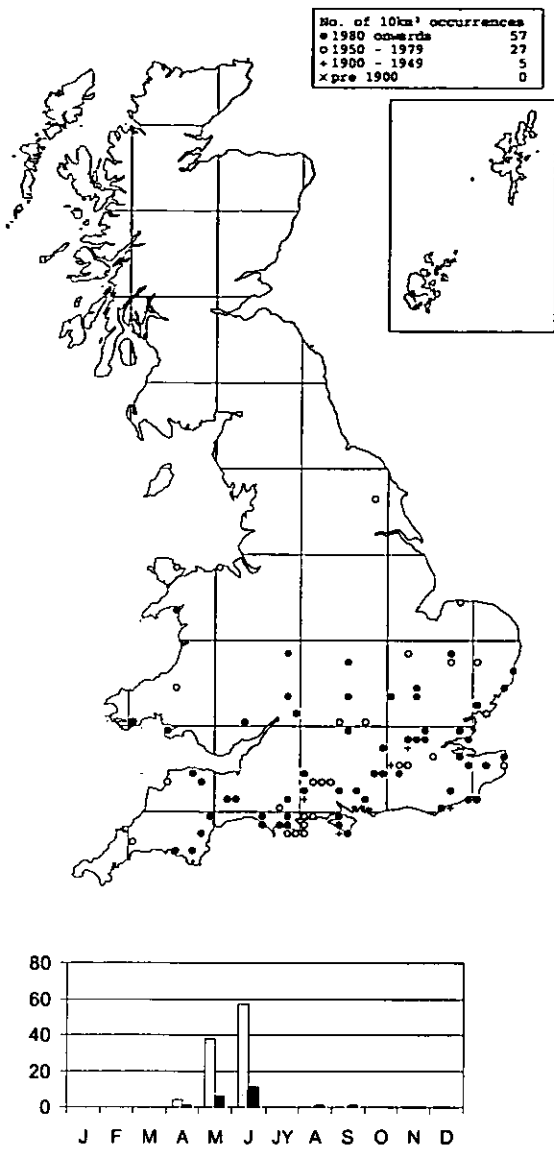


**Status**  
Common.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider is found in many open habitats, including heathland, grasslands, moorland, dunes and old quarries and pits. It ascends to considerable altitudes (over 700 m in Dumfries-shire) where unusually large specimens are often found (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Large and distinctively marked specimens have also been found in Orkney (P. Merrett, pers. comm.) and in Caithness. Adults of both sexes are found from spring to mid-summer, occasionally later.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



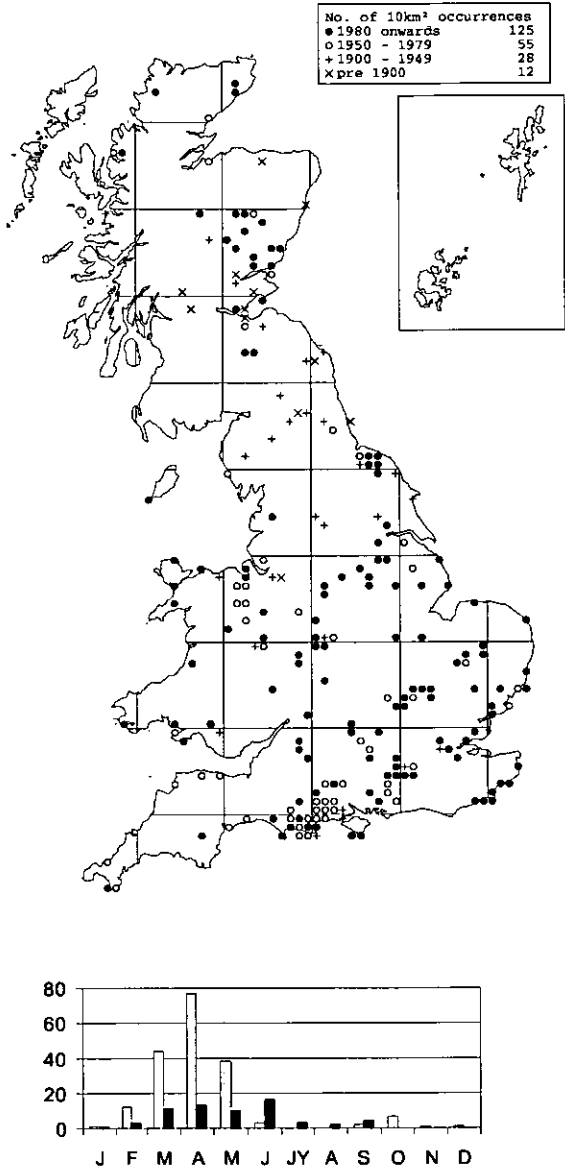
**Status**  
Local and uncommon although the spider may occur in numbers, especially on chalk grassland and dunes. In the agricultural lowlands of southern England it is very locally distributed and rare.

**Distribution**  
The species is widely distributed in southern Britain, but with some records in the north. The species is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*A. cuneata* occurs on old and unimproved grasslands and dunes, especially where there are areas of sparsely vegetated ground, short turf and lichen heath. Adults of both sexes are found from late spring to early summer, females sometimes until the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





**Status**

The species is rare in the agricultural lowlands of southern England e.g. in Leicestershire (Crocker & Daws 1996), Essex (Harvey 2000c), and very rare in most of the north of Britain.

**Distribution**

The species is widely distributed but scattered in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*A. barbipes* occurs on heathlands and old and unimproved grasslands, especially where there are areas of sparsely vegetated ground, short turf and lichen heath. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early spring to mid-summer. Females are occasionally recorded at other times of year and males in the autumn and winter.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

**Status**

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The spider is known to occur in three distinct populations. Each occupies a small area, and, since the spider is large, the population density is low and therefore vulnerable. There are probably no more than a hundred adults in any one population. It has been known for over a hundred years at Morden Heath. All records from Hankley Common are recent.

**Distribution**

The species has been found in two small areas of Morden Heath, Dorset, and on Hankley Common, Surrey. It has also been recorded from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia, Poland, Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and the Balkans.

**Habitat and ecology**

*A. fabrilis* inhabits a burrow in sandy soil or holes under stones. The preferred habitat is dry sandy heathland with some open stony areas. It has also been found wandering on ploughed firebreaks but may not be resident in such habitat. Both sexes are adult in September and October, and females probably over-winter.

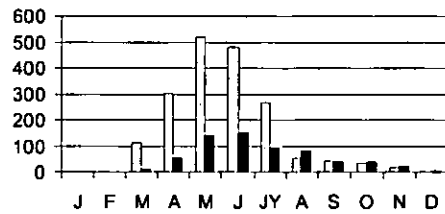
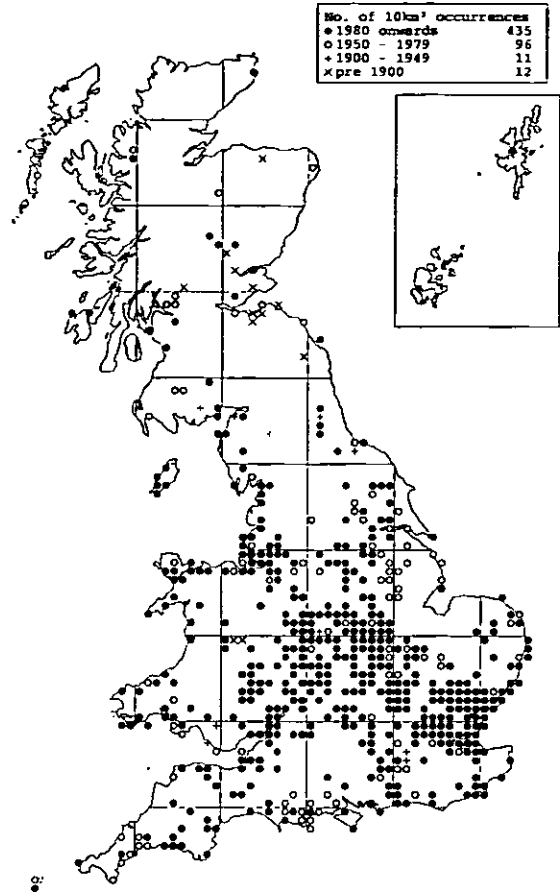
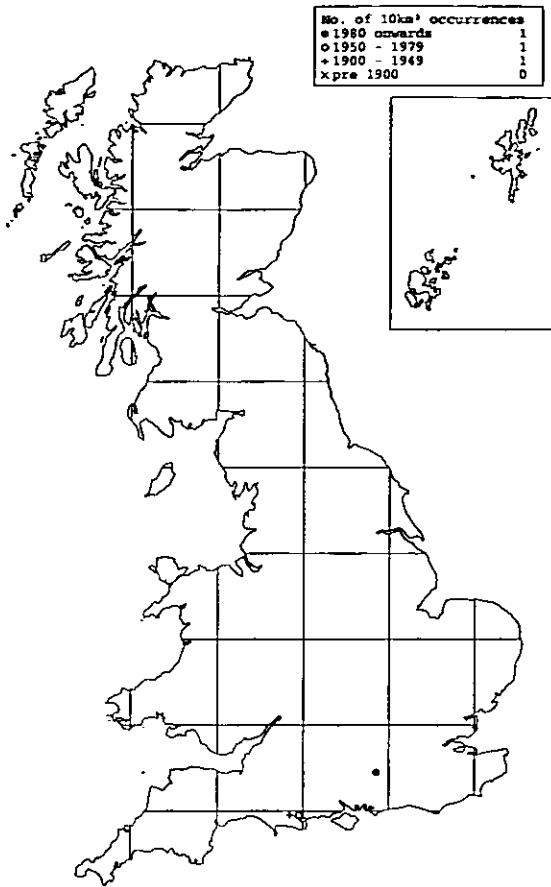
**Threats**

Pine and birch trees encroaching on the sites and probably fire.

**Management**

Because of the vulnerability of the localised spider populations, fire is unsuitable as a management tool, and regular removal of the invading pines by hand-pulling should be undertaken. This regime may lead to a build up of litter and humus. Thus further management to restore patches of bare stony ground may be necessary, possibly by localised grazing. At Hankley Common, small-scale disturbance of the vegetation in the course of army training exercises may be maintaining the desired habitat.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Common throughout, though generally only at low altitudes.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, becoming very scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

#### Habitat and ecology

This spider is often found under stones and logs in damper situations such as meadows, on the sides of ditches, and in marshland. Adults of both sexes have been recorded from March to December, but mainly from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Most old records are doubtful, because of confusion with the common *T. ruricola* (De Geer). All definite recent records are from calcareous grassland or coastal cliffs. It is fairly numerous in some places, especially near the coast, but very local.

**Distribution**

Apart from two old records from Yorkshire and Durham, which may be considered doubtful, the species is only recorded from the southern half of England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, except Scandinavia, and has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

*T. robusta* occurs mainly on stony calcareous grassland, especially on cliff-tops and under-cliff on the south coast. Males are adult from February to June, and again in September and October, females are probably present for most of the year. The female makes a shallow burrow under a stone.

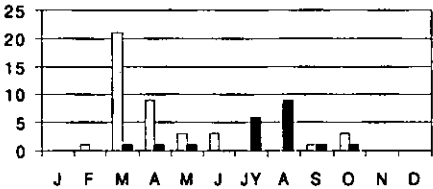
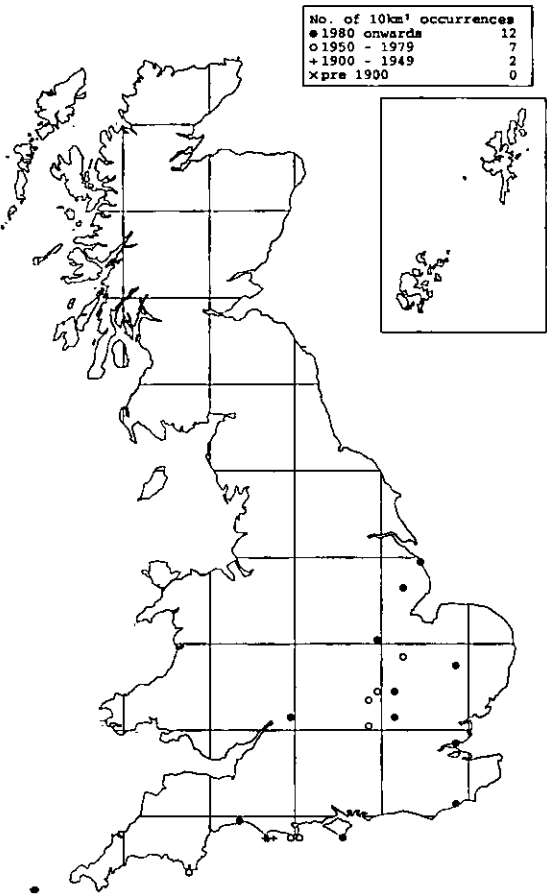
**Threats**

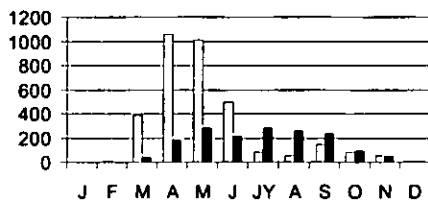
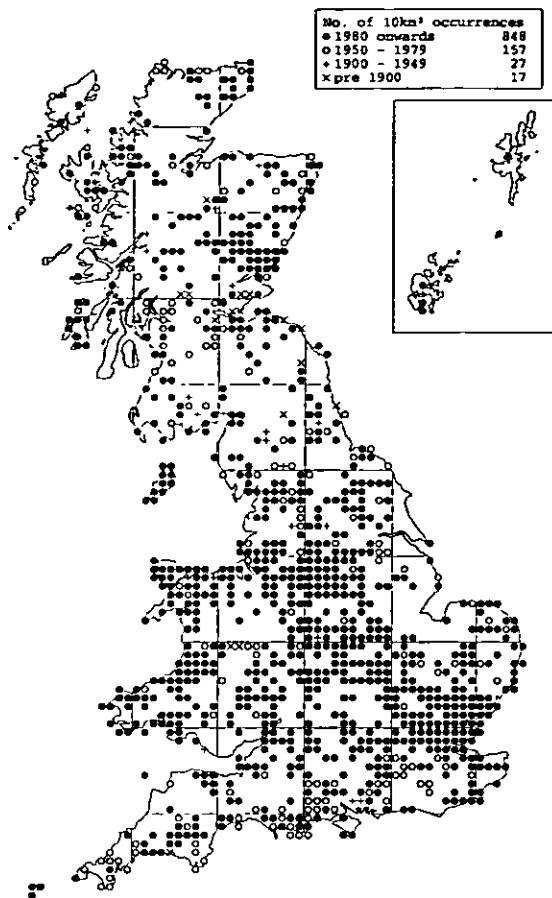
Most sites are in fairly inaccessible places such as cliffs or old quarries which are unlikely to be threatened by agriculture.

**Management**

Soft-rock cliff sites should be maintained in their existing state without sea defences which would cause stabilisation and changes in vegetation structure.

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



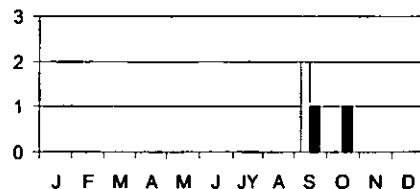
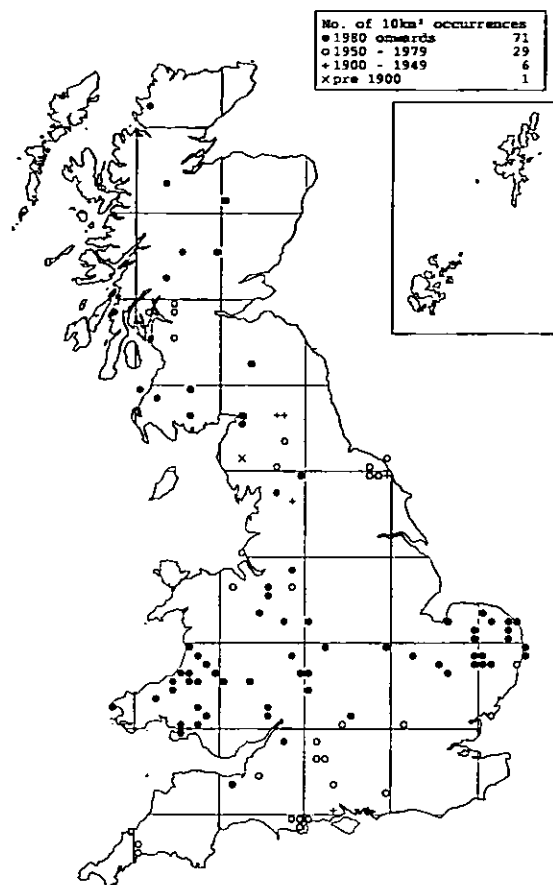


**Status**  
Common.

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

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider is found in a wide range of habitats, including woodland, grassland, heathland and industrial sites, under such things as stones and logs, but showing a preference for drier, heathy conditions, although in bogs and marshes it may often be taken in pitfall traps. Unlike *T. ruricola* it can be common in upland areas (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been recorded from March to November, mainly from spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



**Status**  
Rare or local.

**Distribution**  
The species is widely distributed in Britain but absent from large areas and generally very scattered. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*T. spinipalpis* appears to have a preference for damp places, such as *Sphagnum* bogs, wet heathland, damp meadows, fens or marshland. Adults have been collected in April, May, June and in the autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Such a large spider is unlikely to be overlooked. It was found to be fairly numerous at the Blythburgh Estuary. Although Cooke (1961) reported considerable numbers at Colne Point and the marshes bordering the Stour Estuary at Wrabness, it has not been found again at these sites despite extensive searches, although it has recently been rediscovered in Essex at Haven Point near Foulness.

**Distribution**

The species appears to be confined to a few saltmarshes around the Solent, the Thames estuary, and on the coast of East Anglia. Elsewhere in Europe it has been recorded from Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Corsica.

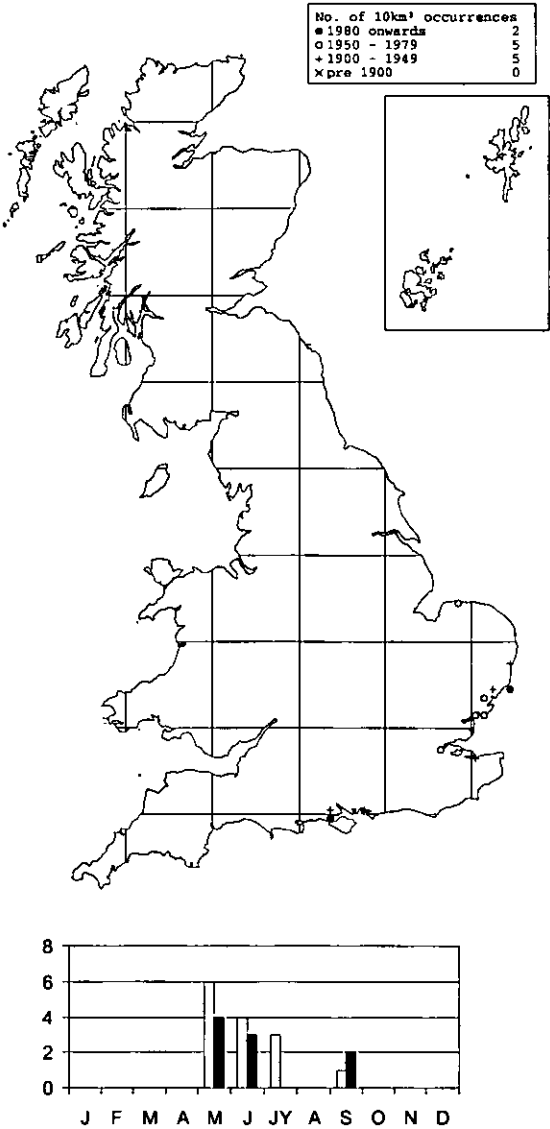
**Habitat and ecology**

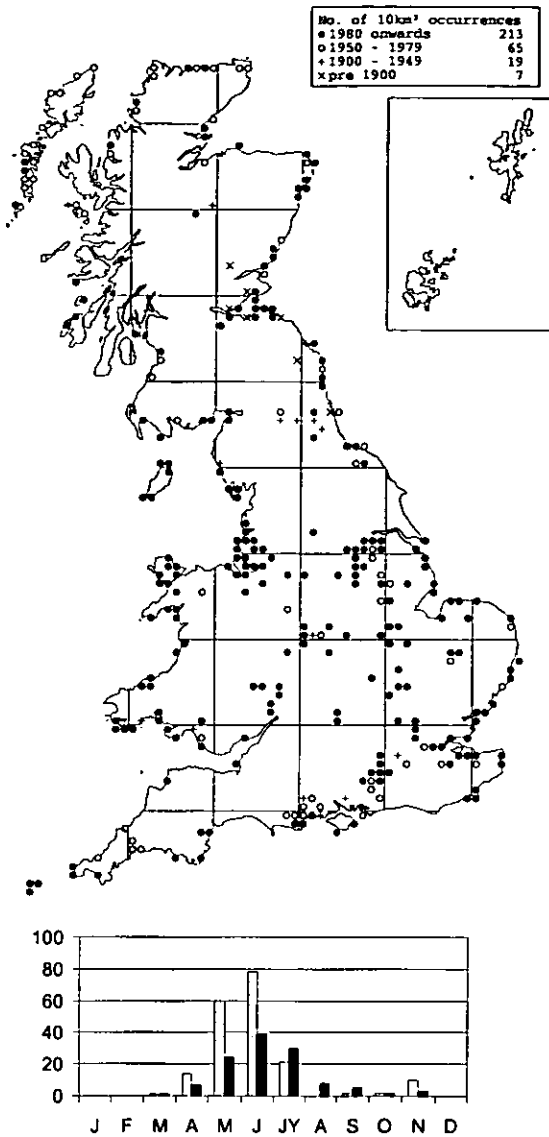
*A. fulvolineata* is found under debris and stones at the top of saltmarshes, under lumps of mud and wet, tightly matted debris along the foot of the sea wall and under stones on the wet mud on the nearby marshes. It has also been found in cracks in the upper saltmarsh where salt pans had dried out and were unvegetated, and on pure shingle at Havergate Island (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes are found mainly from April to June, but also in September. Possibly some individuals mature in the autumn and over-winter, as in many other large lycosids.

**Threats**

In the construction and maintenance of sea defences, the strip of land immediately in front of the sea wall is very vulnerable to being covered with spoil or at best severely disturbed. The spider's adoption of this habitat at Colne Point would suggest that the sea wall has caused a seaward contraction of its horizontal range on the shore. There has been extensive work to raise sea wall defences at this and other parts of coastal Essex, and suitable habitat for this spider may have been lost. Sea level rise and coastal defence improvement are likely to increasingly threaten this and other coastal species.

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





**Status**

Local.

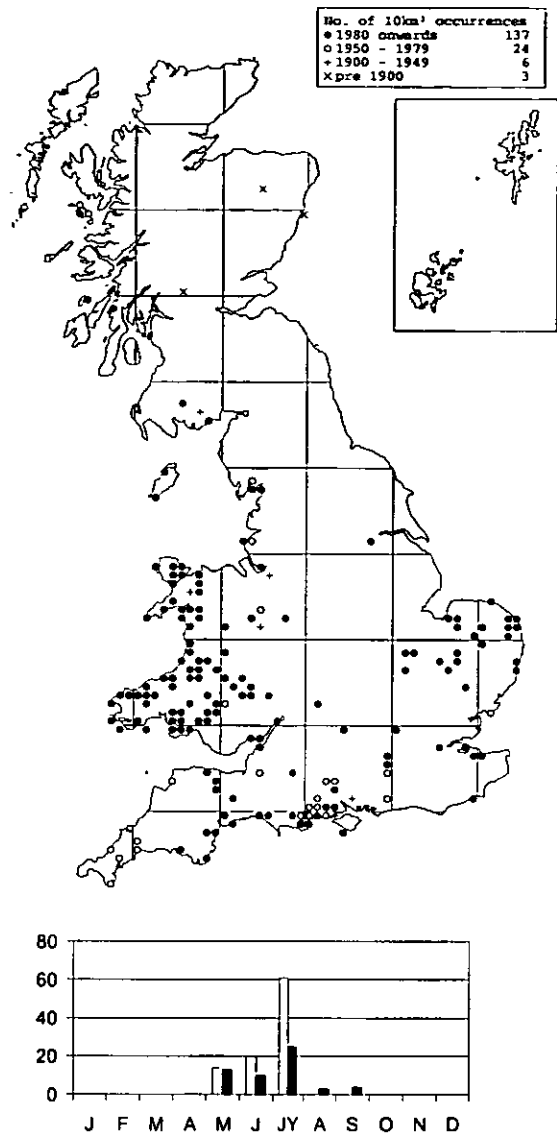
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in coastal Britain, but inland records are patchy and scattered, restricted to suitable habitat. The range of this spider may be increasing with new records inland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

A species strongly associated with sandy coasts and heathland habitats. In coastal dunes, the spider shows strong positive correlations with bare ground and the sparse vegetation that surrounds it (Bell & Haughton 1995). *A. perita* has been identified as a frontal dune specialist, but it has also been recorded outside this habitat on inland heaths, old ironstone workings, river banks and old sand and gravel pits. Within the loose substrate that is abundant at these types of habitat, the spider builds a well-concealed retreat burrow. The spider has been collected between February-November, with two activity peaks, one in spring and the other in autumn (Merrett 1968). However, it is thought that female spiders may over-winter as adults. Our data show a main peak from late spring to mid-summer and a smaller peak in the autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



**Status**

Very local and often few in number.

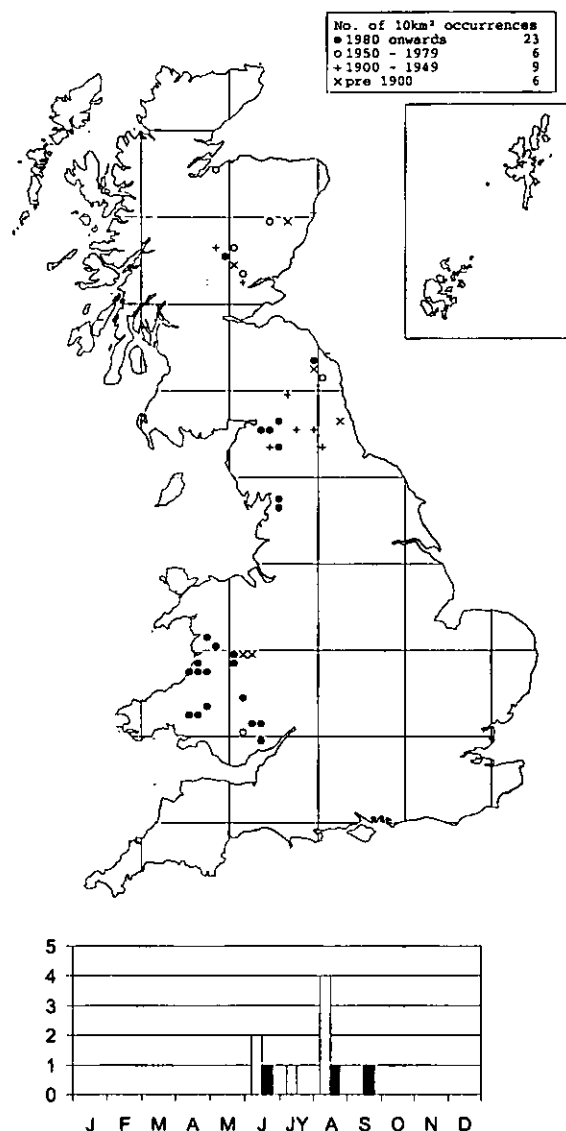
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in Wales and on southern heathland, but very scattered elsewhere and absent from much of central and northern Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

This spider can be found in a variety of situations, including wet heathland, dune slacks, fenland and other wet marshy places. Unlike *A. perita*, this spider does not seem to build a burrow, seeming to be content with a silken cell constructed amongst litter or vegetation. Merrett (1968) found this spider to be adult between May and October with an ill-defined peak of male activity in June. Our data show adults of both sexes have been collected between May and July, females occasionally later.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B), but the spider may be very locally common.

#### Distribution

The species has been recorded only from Wales, northern England and Scotland. It is probably under-recorded because of its specialised habitat and the likely need to turn over many rocks before finding a specimen, although the spider may attract the attention of the general public because of its large size and riverside habitat. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*A. cinerea* inhabits shingle beds of fast flowing rivers and lakeshores. It may be found hiding in crevices between rocks, close to the water's edge, where it constructs a silken burrow and where it apparently remains even when the river floods. Adult females are probably present throughout the year; males have been recorded in spring, summer and autumn.

#### Threats

Over-zealous management of rivers, with removal, disturbance, or stabilisation of shingle, may threaten the species. There is a widespread lack of appreciation of the value of such an apparently barren habitat as river shingle.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton

#### Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The species is well established in the Cairngorms, though probably rather local. The strongest population known is on the south slopes of Cairn Gorm.

#### Distribution

The species was originally recorded from a mountain near Braemar, South Aberdeenshire, in 1872, as *Trochosa biunguiculata*. It has since been found on Cairn Toul, South Aberdeenshire, on three occasions; Cairn Gorm; the plateau between Cairn Gorm and Ben Macdui, Banffshire; and recently from Creag Meagaidh in West Inverness-shire, Sgurr nan Clach Geala in West Ross and near Drumochter in Perthshire. The spider is also known from France, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

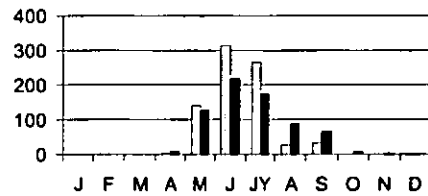
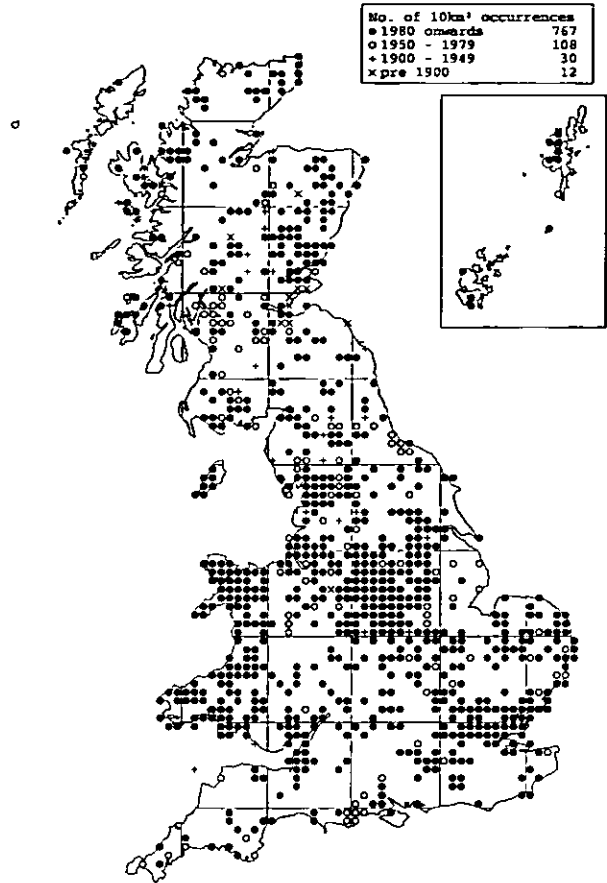
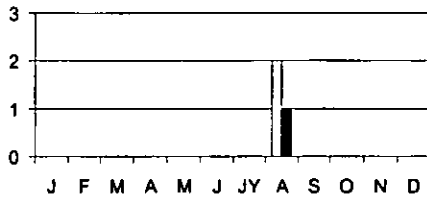
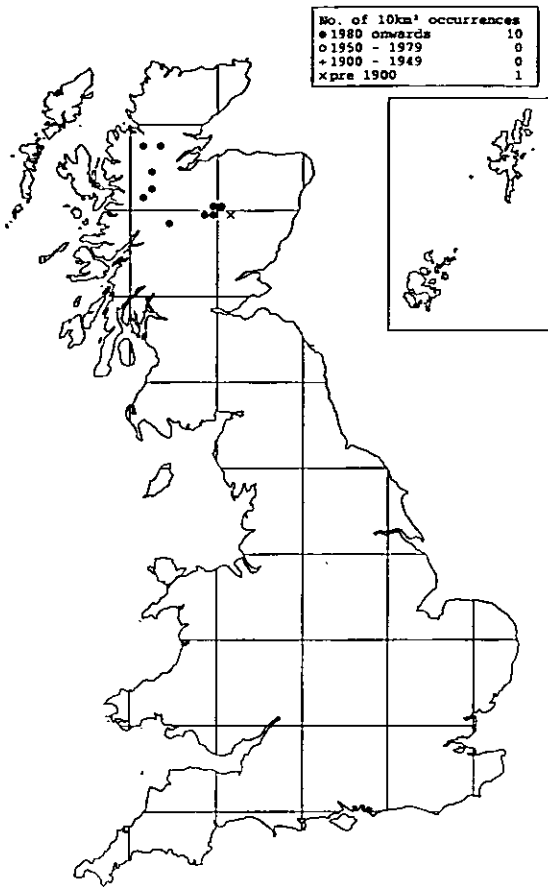
#### Habitat and ecology

Found on mountains above 1,000 metres, in silk tubes in densely matted vegetation dominated by *Empetrum* or *Nardus stricta*, with *Vaccinium*, *Cladonia*, *Racomitrium*, etc. Trapping on Creag Meagaidh showed it to be most frequent in *Nardus stricta* snow-bed grassland (which was also the habitat on Sgurr nan Clach Geala) and to a lesser extent in *Racomitrium lanuginosum* moss heath. The spiders spend much of their time below the vegetation mat and are only occasionally seen running in the open. Adults of both sexes have been found in June, July and August, and females also in May.

#### Threats

The high altitude vegetation which forms the habitat of this species is fragile and slow growing, and prone to damage from hill walkers and skiers.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Local.

#### Distribution

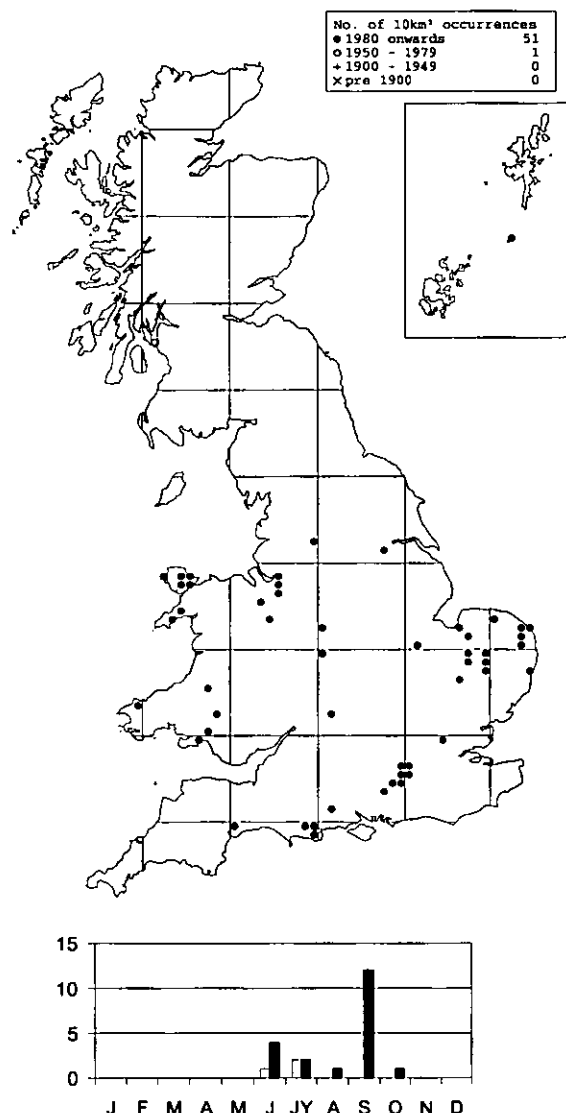
The species is widespread in much of Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species occurs in a wide variety of wetland habitats such as pond and stream margins, marshes, fens, upland blanket bogs, *Sphagnum* seeps and reed-beds. In sunny weather this ambush predator can be found in the open, but in cooler weather it conceals itself amongst low vegetation. Adults of both sexes have been recorded between late spring and autumn, but mainly from early to mid-summer. Females carry a single, ovoid, white egg-sac attached to their spinnerets.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon





#### Status

The spider may be numerous in suitable habitat, but is local. The presence of *P. tenuitarsis* in England was first established by Kronstedt (1980a), who discovered specimens in the collections of the Natural History Museum wrongly identified as *P. piraticus*. It closely resembles this latter species and has since been found in numerous other collections, again wrongly identified as *P. piraticus*, often associated with specimens of *P. piraticus* itself but also with *P. latitans* and *P. hygrophilus* (Snazell 1983).

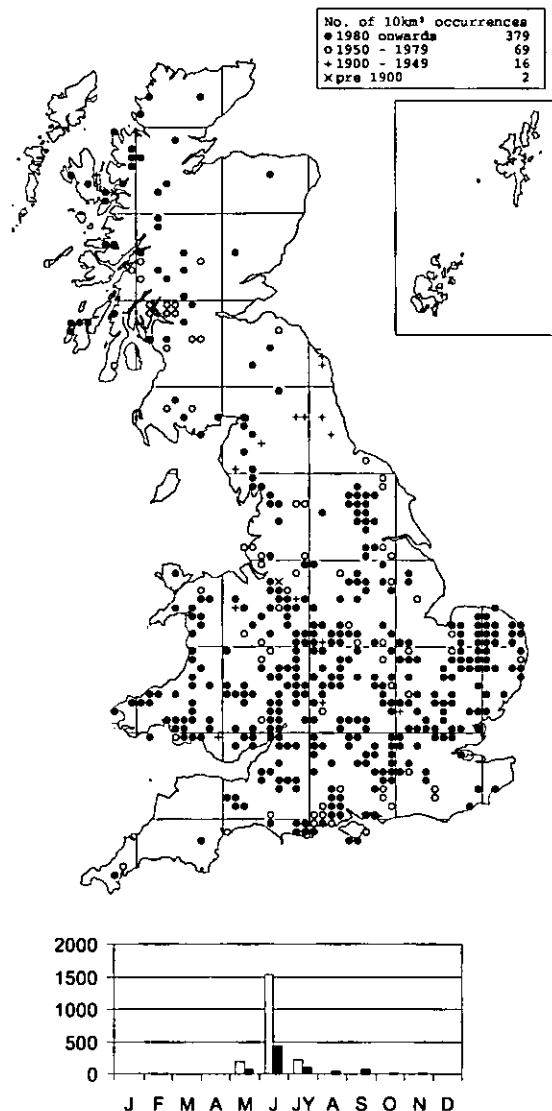
#### Distribution

The species appears to be widespread on southern heathland, in north-west Wales, and the mosses of Cheshire and Shropshire but is otherwise very scattered in the southern half of Britain. It is widespread in central southern Europe but with records as far north as south-west Sweden (Michelucci and Tongiorgi 1975; Kronstedt 1980a). It was first recorded in Ireland at Pollardstone Fen, Co. Kildare (van Helsdingen 1997).

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. tenuitarsis* and *P. piraticus* generally have quite distinct habitats, at least in the south (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). *P. tenuitarsis* occurs in acid bogs, with most records from sphagnum bogs often in the vicinity of bog pools and wet heathland.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



#### Status

The species is less frequently recorded than *P. piraticus*, with which it often occurs, but it may be locally abundant. It is possibly under-recorded because it is less active during the day and more likely to remain hidden under vegetation.

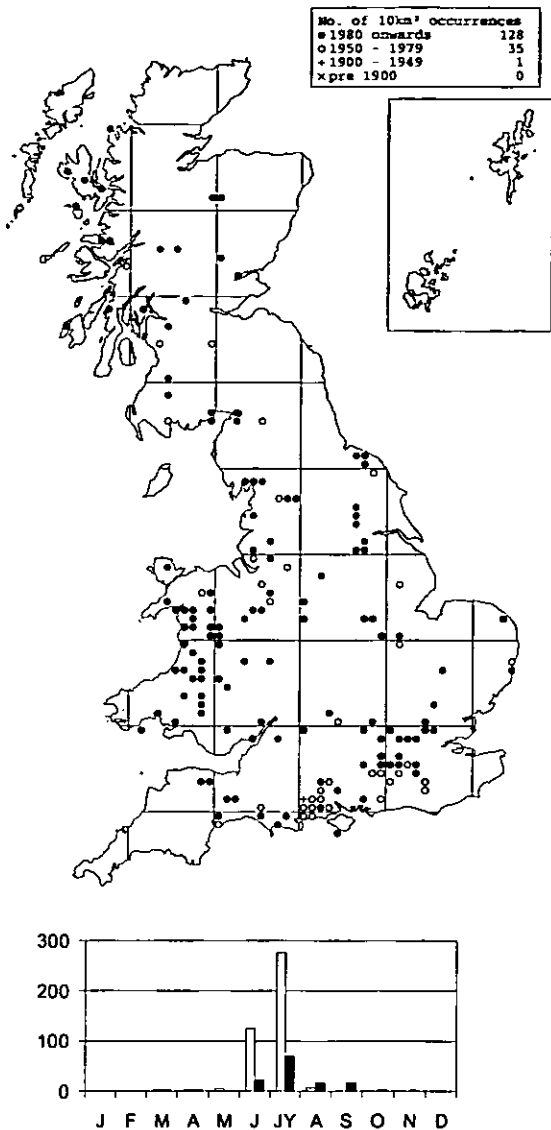
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain, much more scattered in the north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. hygrophilus* may be abundant in the ground layer of damp woodland, raised bogs, lowland heaths, marshy grassland and other damp or wet habitats, but it is not normally associated with open water. Adults of both sexes are found mainly from early to mid-summer, females persisting until later.

Author of profile: J. Newton

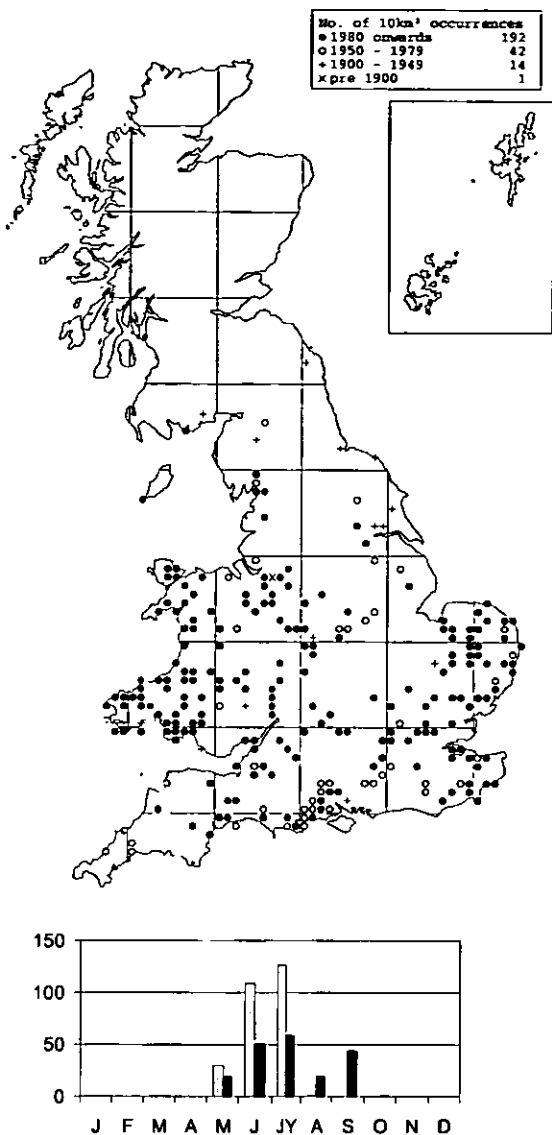


**Status**  
Local.

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

**Habitat and ecology**  
*P. uliginosus* is found in two main habitat types, infertile and calcareous grassland, where it was first found in 1951 (Locket & Millidge 1953) and drying, rank and grassy, bogs. It is not associated with particularly wet areas and can be found in quite dry habitats, frequently appearing in pitfall traps. Both sexes are found mainly in June and July, but they have been recorded as early as March and females persist into the autumn.

Author of profile: J. Newton

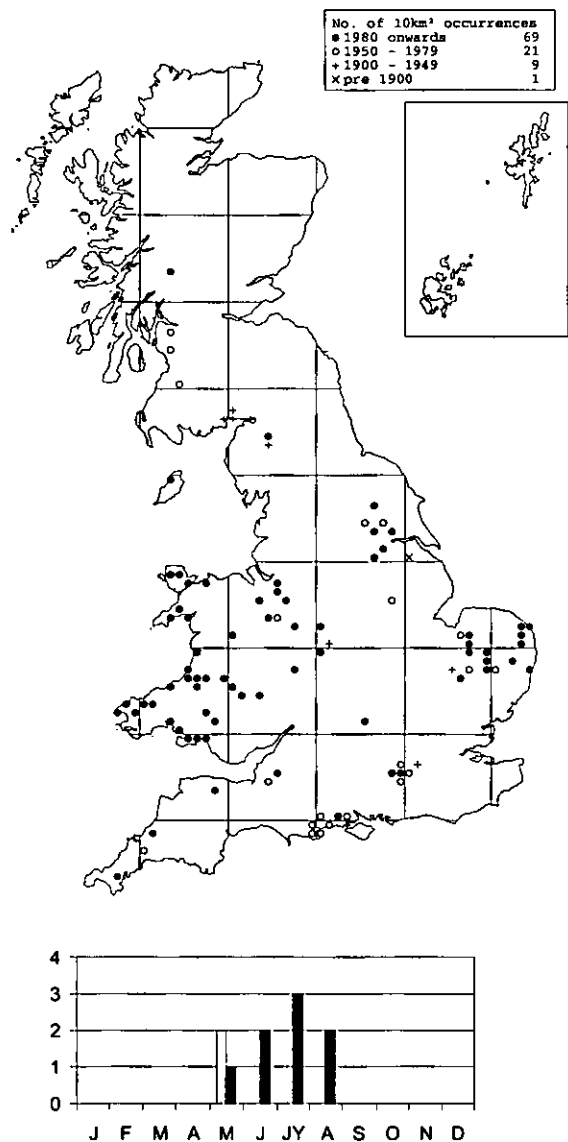


**Status**  
Local, very infrequent in Scotland.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain, but very scattered in northern England reaching south-west Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Denmark.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*P. latitans* is a species of the ground layer of open marsh and fen habitats, and sometimes in damp grassy habitats. It is less associated with *Sphagnum* bogs than other species of *Pirata*, though it does occur on *Sphagnum*. It is often found by the edge of open water, which it will run across. Both sexes are found mainly from early to mid-summer, females with eggs into August and later.

Author of profile: J. Newton



**Status**

Very local.

**Distribution**

The species is absent from large areas of England and Scotland, but widespread in Wales, a few parts of England and possibly south-west Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*P. piscatorius* is invariably found in very wet areas, most often near standing water. Bristowe observed that females build a vertical tube in sphagnum moss from which they will dart out to catch passing insects. The lower end leads down into the water and if disturbed the spider will move down to below the water surface (Bristowe 1923). Adults are found in May and June, adult females to at least August, and probably year-round.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

**Status**

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The spider is currently known at only one site in Britain (Newtown Ranges, Isle of Wight), and is not likely to be grossly under-recorded. It may have gone extinct at its other British sites near Dunster, where the original habitat has been lost. Although there is open heathland and woodland adjacent to the Dunster sites which may still support this species, searches in 2000 by a number of arachnologists were unsuccessful and the original habitat has been lost.

**Distribution**

The species was recorded from two quarries near Dunster, South Somerset, one in 1936 and 1938 and the second on a number of occasions between 1963 and 1974. It was discovered at Newtown Ranges, Isle of Wight, in 1985. It is fairly widespread in western and central Europe.

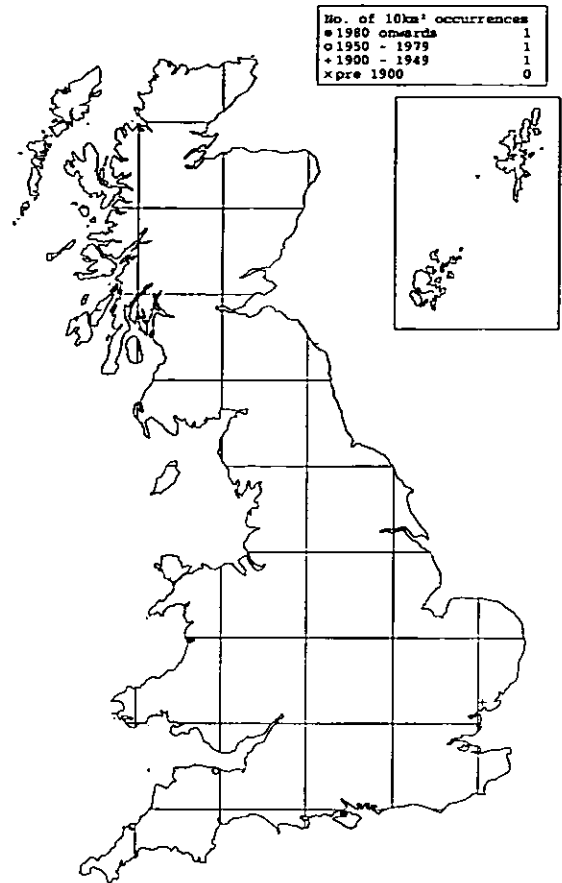
**Habitat and ecology**

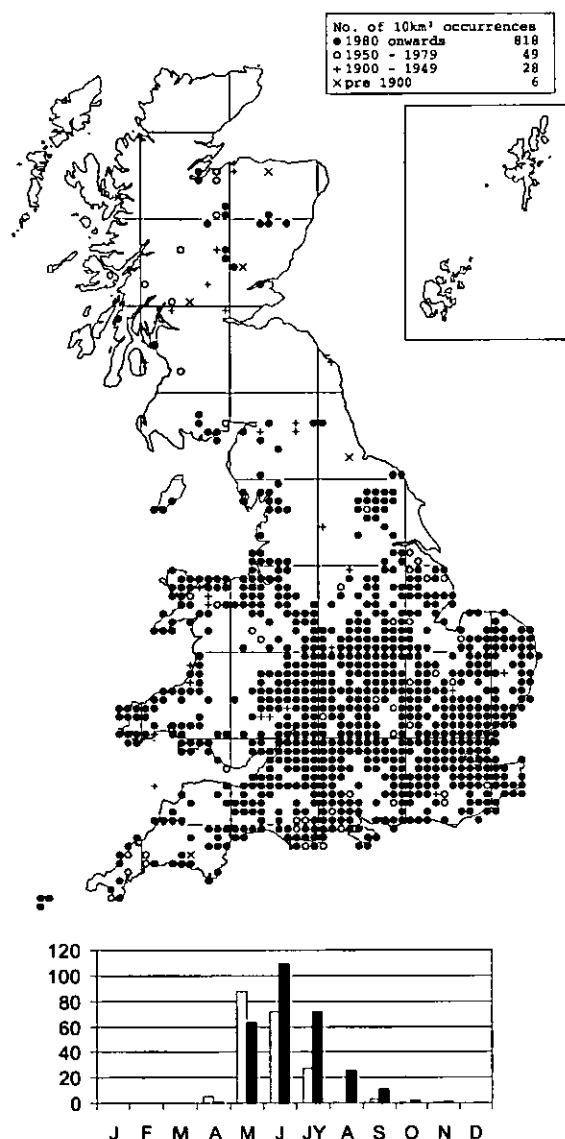
*A. albimana* was found among stones at the side of a disused quarry and running on the quarry floor in Somerset. The Isle of Wight site is a damp grassy area sheltered from the wind on three sides but open to the sun. Adults were found at the end of June in a tiny hollow in the soil at the base of dense grass stems. Juveniles had previously been found in the same area in May. In Germany, this species has been observed to make a flimsy sheet web with a tubular retreat in moss. In France, the spiders have been found with their sheet webs on the ground amongst tussocky grass and in litter amongst open herbage.

**Threats**

The quarry near Dunster from which it was recorded in the 1960s and 1970s has been used as a rubbish tip, a common fate of disused quarries. The site of the earlier records has also apparently been destroyed.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett





#### Status

Common in the south, but becoming more infrequent in the north.

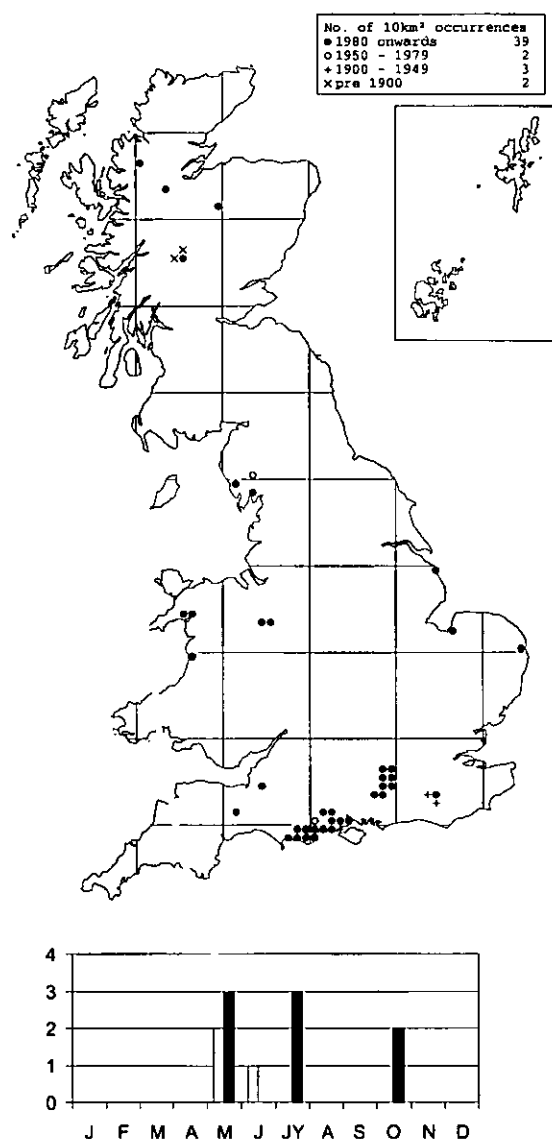
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, but with a scattered and patchy distribution in the north as far as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is found in a wide variety of habitats. Adults tend to occur in reasonably tall vegetation in habitats such as rough grassland, woodland rides, field edges, heathland, gardens and marsh edges. The species is easily recognised even in early immature stages. It is extremely variable in colour, much of which appears to be genetically determined. As the spider commonly sits out on leaves, this visible polymorphism may be maintained by the action of predators (G. Oxford, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes are found mainly between May and July. The male catches a fly or other prey item as a courtship 'gift' for the female during mating. The female carries the egg-cocoon in her chelicerae until the eggs are about to hatch, when she constructs a tent-like web in tall herbage in which young remain until they disperse. Apparently this maternal care is not very successful against ichneumonids (Bristowe 1958).

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Very local, but the spider may be more common on some southern heathlands.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread on southern heathlands, but very scattered elsewhere in Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The main habitat of *D. fimbriatus* is *Sphagnum* bogs and pools, although juveniles may be found in much drier habitats away from bogs (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). The spider also inhabits water margins of ditches, ponds and slow flowing streams. Adults assume a hunting position on emergent water plants where the front appendages are held on the water surface. In this position the spider preys on invertebrates trapped on the water surface. When threatened the spider retreats underwater (Bristowe 1958). Spiderlings hunt in high vegetation. Adults are found in spring and early summer (Locket & Millidge 1951). Females carry their spherical egg-sacs in their chelicerae and enclose them within a nursery web prior to spiderling emergence.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). IUCN listed. UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. At one time this species was numerous in parts of South Lopham Fen (East Norfolk) but much rarer in the Redgrave portion of this fen. Throughout the period 1991 to 1999, adult numbers were probably less than 100. Irrigation of pools occupied by the spiders from a borehole during this period almost certainly prevented extinction of the population (Smith 2000). A large-scale survey of the population at Pevensy Levels in 1991 produced a maximum estimate of 3,000–4,000 females (Jones, unpublished report), making this the largest population in the UK. This species is thought to be in decline throughout Europe (Collins & Wells 1987), which increases the importance of conservation of the English populations.

### Distribution

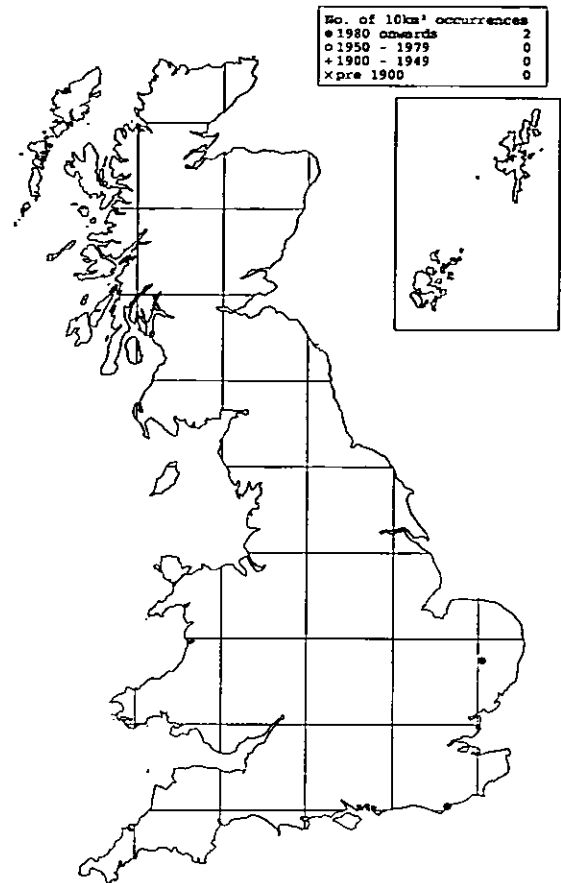
Currently this species is only recorded from two sites in Britain, Redgrave & South Lopham Fen (on the Waveney and Little Ouse watershed in East Suffolk and East Norfolk) and the Pevensy Levels, East Sussex. It was first recorded at Redgrave in 1956 (Duffey 1958) and has been continuously recorded at this site since then, being the subject of intensive monitoring since 1991 (Smith 2000). It was discovered on the Pevensy Levels by Kirby in 1988 where it occurs in drainage dykes between grazing marshes. This species is widespread but extremely local in Europe and has been reported from Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Italy and Greece.

### Habitat and ecology

At South Lopham Fen this species is found among saw-sedge *Cladium mariscus*, particularly around small pools formed in old peat cuttings. Pools around which fine-leaved grasses such as *Molinia* have established are not favoured by this species. It is probable that young spiders hatching in early summer mature the following year while those hatching in late summer spend two winters as juveniles. At South Lopham, adults are found from May to August. In the Pevensy Levels spiders have been found at the waters edge of a drainage ditch under overhanging vegetation.

### Threats

Both sites for *D. plantarius* in the UK lie within National Nature Reserves and Redgrave & South Lopham Fen is a SSSI. *D. plantarius* is protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which prohibits the unlicensed collection of specimens. The two major threats to the species at South Lopham Fen are declining water quality and, particularly, falling water levels, resulting from abstraction of water, drainage of surrounding farmland and dredging of the River Waveney downstream of the fen. This has resulted in drying up of many of the pools within the fen and replacement of sedge by grasses as well as invasion of willow and birch scrub. Water running off surrounding agricultural fields contains high quantities of nutrients. At the Pevensy Levels, similar problems of falling water tables have resulted from deep drainage for arable agriculture in some areas and from eutrophication in the undrained areas.



### Management

At the Suffolk site, management has been directed at maintaining water levels in the fen and at maintaining open sedge communities by rotational mowing of small blocks on a four year cycle. The River Waveney has been dammed downstream of the reserve to impede drainage of water from it and artificial deeper pools have been dug in the surface of the fen to provide additional suitable habitat for the spiders. From 1991, water from the adjacent borehole was used to irrigate the surface of parts of the fen in summer in an attempt to maintain water levels. In 1999, the artesian borehole on the edge of the fen used for abstraction of groundwater was closed but, despite increased water levels, to date this appears to have had no effect on the recovery of the population (Smith, pers. comm.).

**Author of profile:** A. Russell-Smith

**Status**

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider is abundant on a few small heathland areas in west Surrey. Denton (1999d) comments on its local abundance on north Surrey Tertiary heaths, but its rarity on the Lower Greensand heaths to the south. The species has not been found in the New Forest for over eighty years.

**Distribution**

The species is found on a number of heathland sites in Surrey. There are old records (1858 1909 and 1910) from the New Forest near Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst, South Hampshire. It is widespread in central and southern Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*Oxyopes* is found on mature dry heathland, usually near the top of heather and seemingly with a preference for south-facing slopes. Adults occur in late May and June.

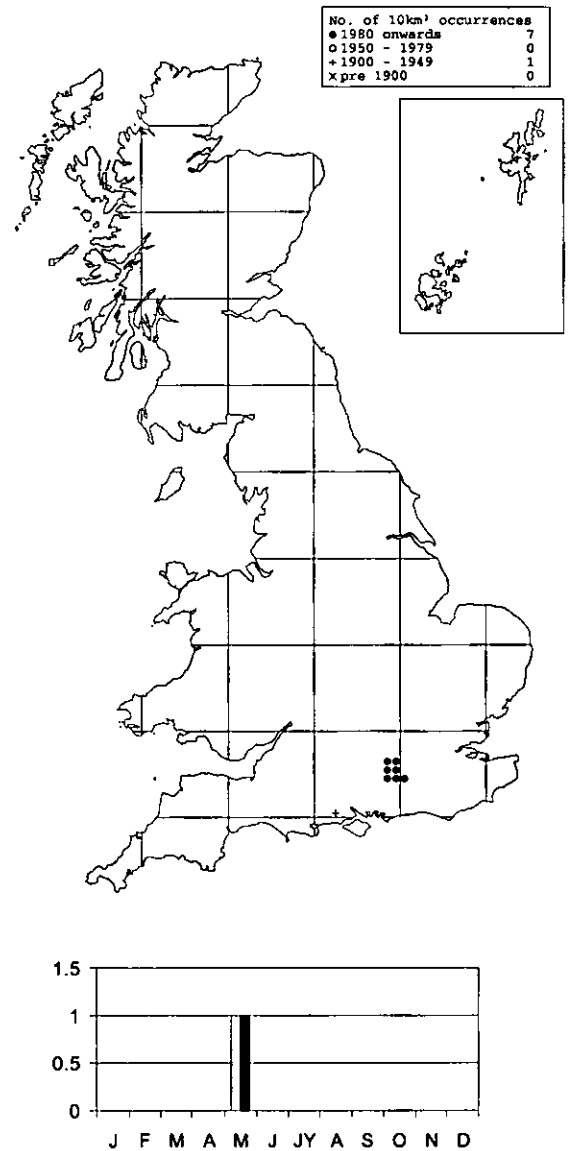
**Threats**

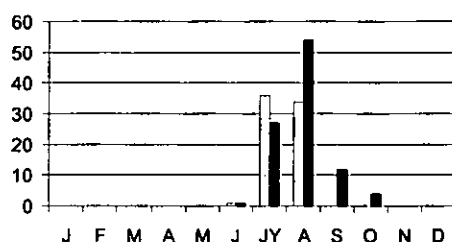
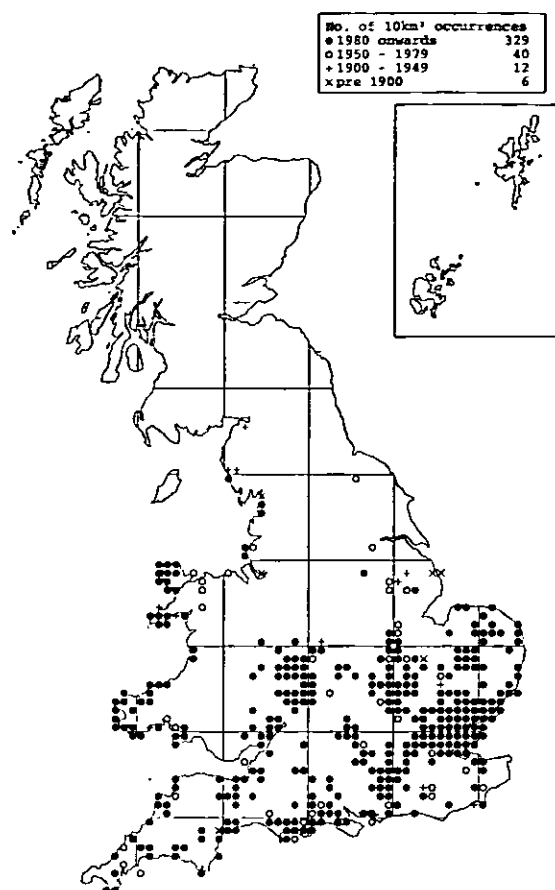
Fire and loss of heathland habitat. Because of the increased fire risk that mature heather presents, heaths are often managed to avoid this phase, even on nature reserves. However, at Chobham Common, lack of management is resulting in birch and pine invasion. Accidental fires are also too frequent an occurrence on parts of this common, causing replacement of heath by *Molinia caerulea*. In parts of the New Forest, grazing by livestock prevents the heather developing into tall mature plants, but there are still areas of apparently suitable structure.

**Management**

Management needs to be geared to ensuring good representation of heather in the mature phase. Thus, if burning is to be used, small portions of the site should be treated in rotation on a cycle of about twenty years. If grazing is the favoured option, it should be at a low intensity in some areas.

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





#### Status

Common in the south of England.

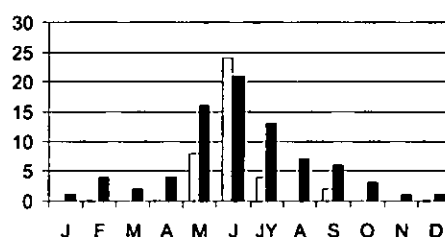
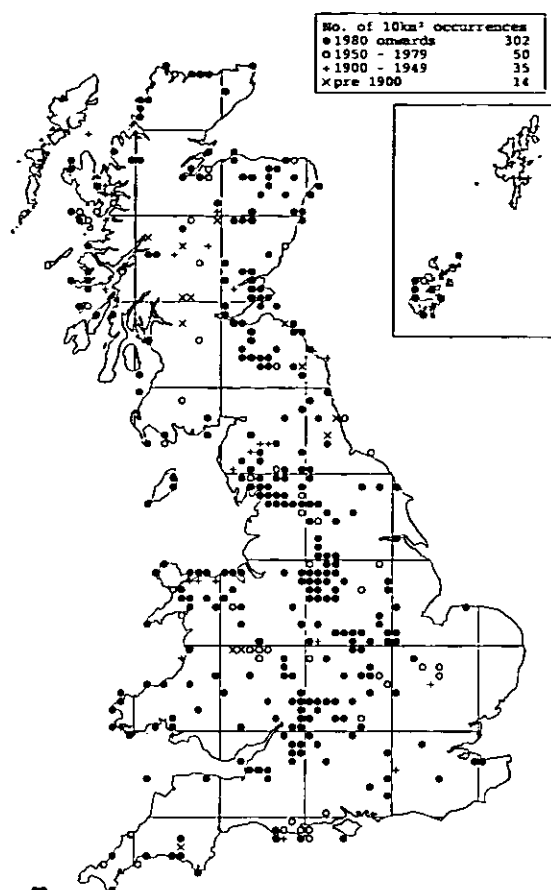
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of southern England and coastal Wales. It is very scattered in northern England and not recorded from Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species is found in the vegetation of rough uncut grassland, uncultivated field edges and low bushes of gorse and heather where it spins a large conspicuous sheet web with a funnel retreat on or above the ground. The spider waits down the end of the tubular retreat for prey, largely grasshoppers, to alight and become entangled on the web whereupon it rushes out and takes the prey down the tube for consumption. In late summer the female builds a large and very elaborate chamber in the vegetation to enclose her eggs. The labyrinth of passages within its dense white walls have earned the spider her name of *labyrinthica* (Bristowe 1958). Adults of both sexes are found mainly in July and August, females later.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



#### Status

Common in the north. However in the south of England it is much more restricted and in the south-east it is only occasionally encountered.

#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

This spider can be found on stony ground, in rocky crevices, on low vegetation, under bark, and on low bushes, inland and by the sea. It also occurs on the hills of northern England and in Scotland it is equally common in houses. In south-eastern England there are records from sparsely vegetated rail ballast at disused railway sites. Both sexes are mainly found from early to mid-summer but females can be found at most times of the year and males have also been recorded in September.

Author of profile: D. Marriott



**Status**

Very common where it occurs.

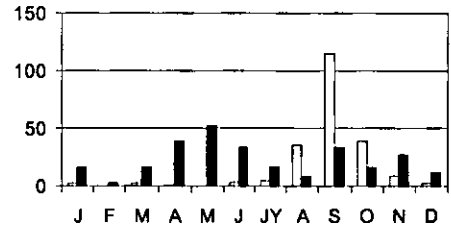
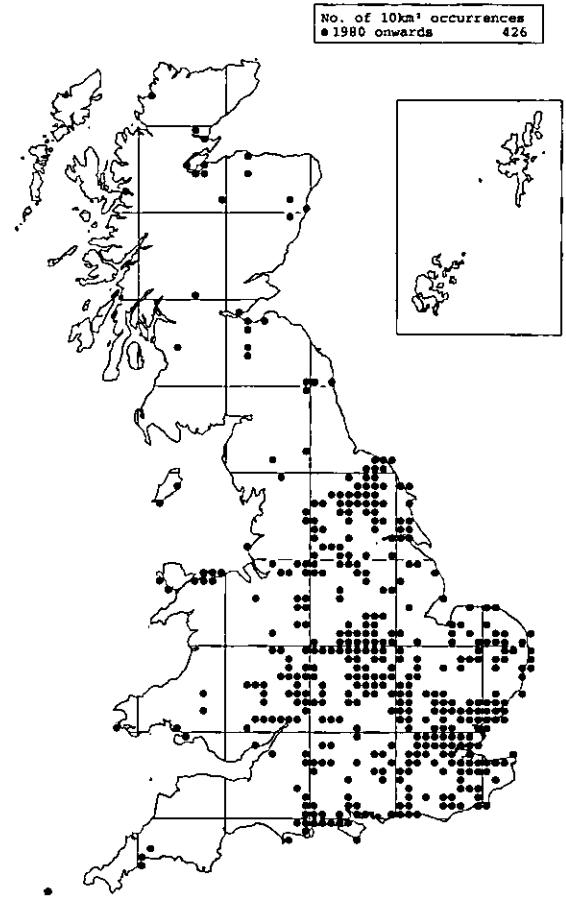
**Distribution**

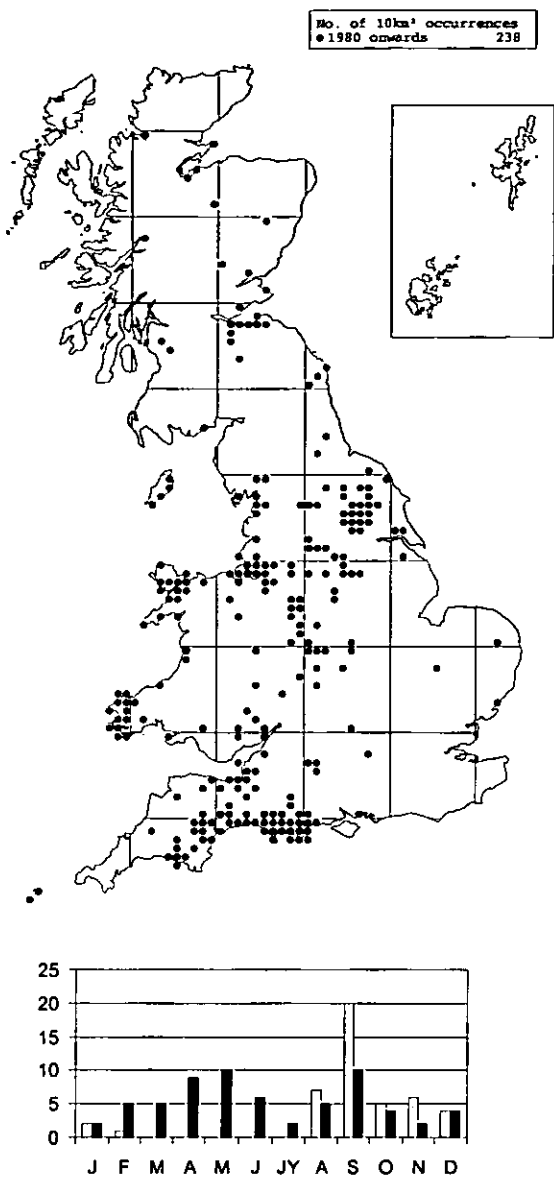
*T. gigantea* is widespread across eastern, central and northern England, but more sporadic in Scotland and the west. In mainland Europe, the natural range seems to be confined to France and the Iberian Peninsula although it has been reported in a number of other countries (Maurer 1992; Croucher, Oxford & Searle, unpublished), apparently as a result of importation.

**Habitat and ecology**

The species is often found in houses, garages and sheds. It also occurs in areas far from human habitation throughout its range (cf Roberts 1995), where it inhabits rock, stone and tree crevices, overhanging banks, rabbit holes and very dense vegetation (Roberts 1995). Within houses, the species is most often noticed in autumn when males wander freely in search of the more sedentary females. Mating occurs in autumn and females over-winter with stored sperm. In spring, with increasing temperature and food supply, egg-sacs are produced over an extended period. Growth to maturity usually takes two years. Males die after mating but females may live for a further year or more. The total number of instars to maturity can vary widely, which explains the large differences in size often found in mature individuals (Merrett 1980). Where this species overlaps geographically with the closely related *Tegenaria saeva*, hybrids can form and may be common in some areas e.g. central Yorkshire (Oxford & Smith 1987; Oxford & Plowman 1991). Adults of both sexes have mostly been recorded in late summer and autumn.

**Author of profile:** G. Oxford





**Status**

Very common where it occurs, but perhaps less so in Scotland.

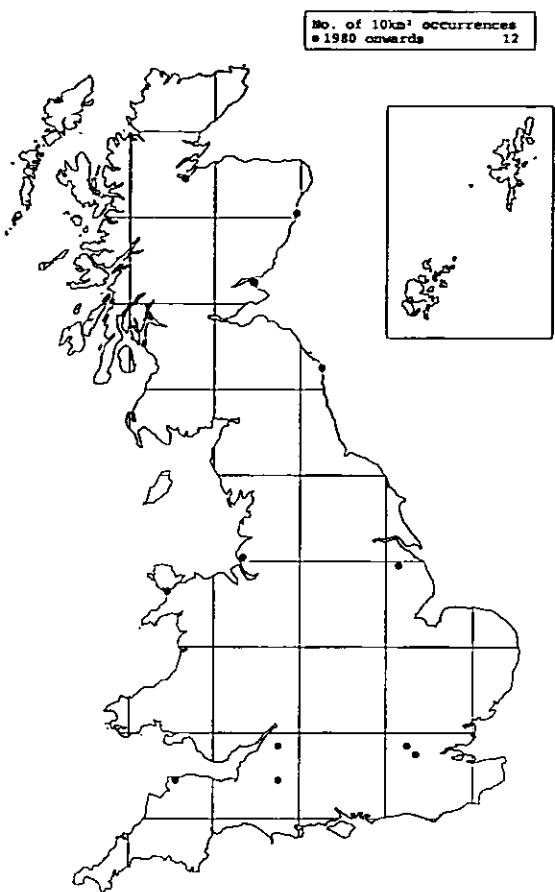
**Distribution**

*T. saeva* is widespread in the west country, Wales and northern England, but more sporadic in Scotland. Difficulties over the taxonomic status of historical records mean that only post-1979 records of *T. saeva* and *T. atrica* are mapped. In mainland Europe its distribution is the same as for *T. gigantea*. Note that in southern and central England and Wales, the distribution of this species is almost complementary to that of *T. gigantea* with only a relatively narrow band of overlap, where some hybridisation occurs (see *T. gigantea*).

**Habitat and ecology**

The habitat and ecology of this species seem to be identical to that of *T. gigantea* (q.v.)

Author of profile: G. Oxford



**Status**

In Britain, specimens are often found in locations such as garden centres and post offices, which suggest recent importation from Ireland or the continent. Self-sustaining populations have probably not established here.

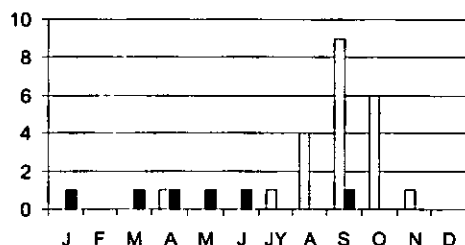
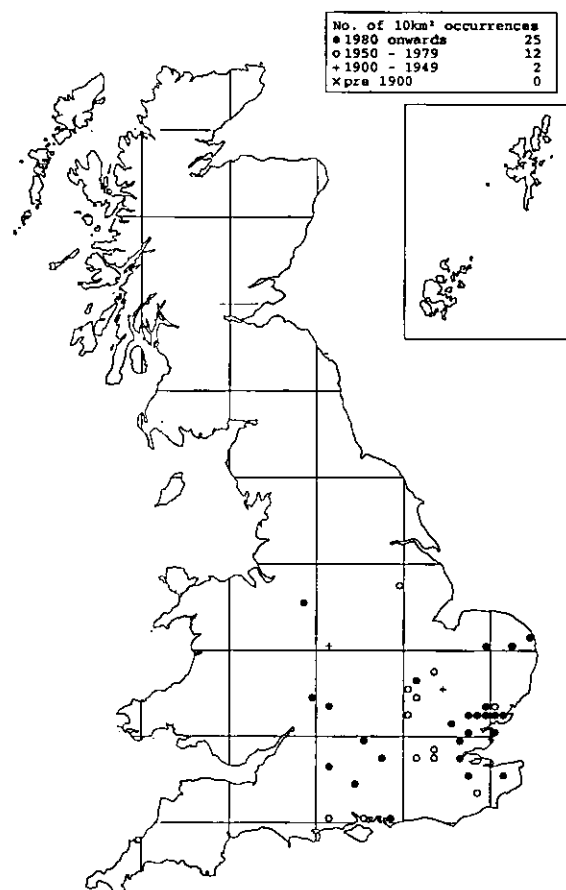
**Distribution**

*T. atrica* occurs very sporadically in Britain. The species is widespread across the whole of continental Europe (Maurer 1992) and is common in Eire, but not Northern Ireland (Oxford & Chesney 1994). This curious distribution is probably a result of historical human importation into Eire from continental Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

The habitat and ecology of this species seem to be identical to that of *T. gigantea* (q.v.). Where *T. atrica* occurs with *T. saeva*, apparent hybrids have been reported e.g. in Iceland where both species are frequently found in warehouses (Agnarsson 1996).

Author of profile: G. Oxford



#### Status

Locally common.

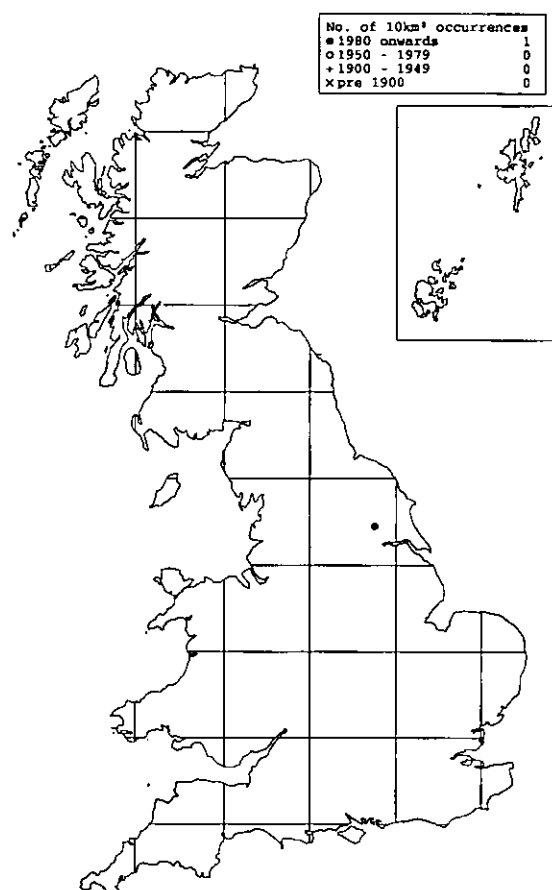
#### Distribution

The species is widespread within its range in Britain, occupying the southern counties of England, but not those in the south-west. In Europe it is widespread from Portugal to Russia, and from Italy to Scandinavia (Maurer 1992). It also occurs in eastern Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

Roberts (1995) records the habitat as 'sometimes in houses but usually in very old buildings'. It can also occur in abundance on the outside of buildings (e.g. Pershore Abbey, Worcestershire) and has been collected well away from buildings in an ivy-covered wall in Marlborough, Wiltshire. These habitats are described in Roberts (1995) as being more typical of the species in southern Europe. Adults of both sexes have mostly been recorded in late summer and autumn. This species shows extreme sexual dimorphism for leg length with mature males having legs almost twice as long as those of equivalent sized females (Oxford & Merrett 2000).

Author of profile: G. Oxford



#### Status

Although Elvington is the only known location in Britain, *T. ferruginea* is superficially similar to our native *T. parietina* and may in the past have been overlooked as a result of confusion with this species. Distinguishing features of the two are described by Roberts (1995) and Oxford & Merrett (2000). There seems no obvious reason why *T. ferruginea* should not further colonise this country.

#### Distribution

The only record of this species in Britain to date, is from Elvington, a village about 9 km south-east of York, Yorkshire (Oxford 1999). Here there is a thriving population centred on the church and churchyard, but with little sign of spread since its discovery in 1998 (last survey, May 2000). The origin of the Elvington population is unknown. The species is widespread in mainland Europe (Maurer 1992; Oxford & Merrett 2000), although it is commoner in the south (Roberts 1995).

#### Habitat and ecology

The species frequents holes and crevices in banks and tree trunks, and in barns and derelict buildings (Roberts 1995). In Elvington it has been taken from thick ivy at the base of a hedgerow, a wooden fence, tree crevices and on the outside wall of the church. It does not appear to require a hole or crevice as a retreat; in the church windows it builds a triangular sheet web, similar to that of *T. domestica*, with a perfectly cylindrical silken retreat. Males are said to mature in summer, whereas mature females are present all year (Roberts 1995).

Author of profile: G. Oxford

Status

A successful and colonising species.

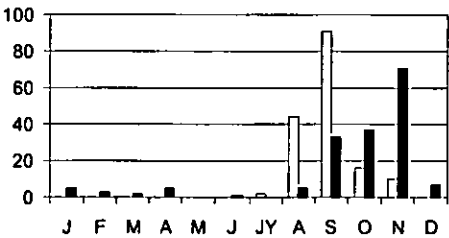
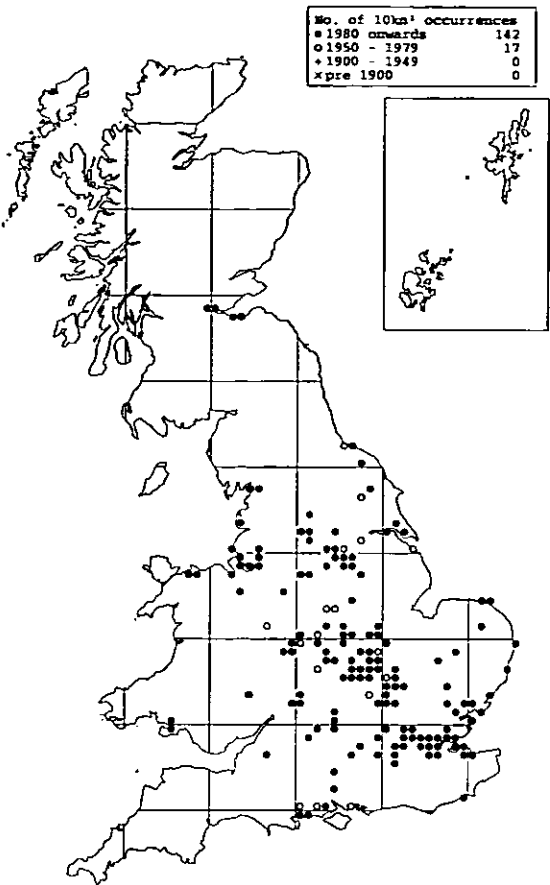
Distribution

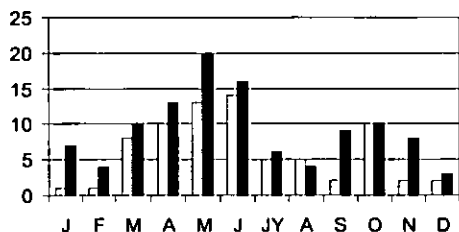
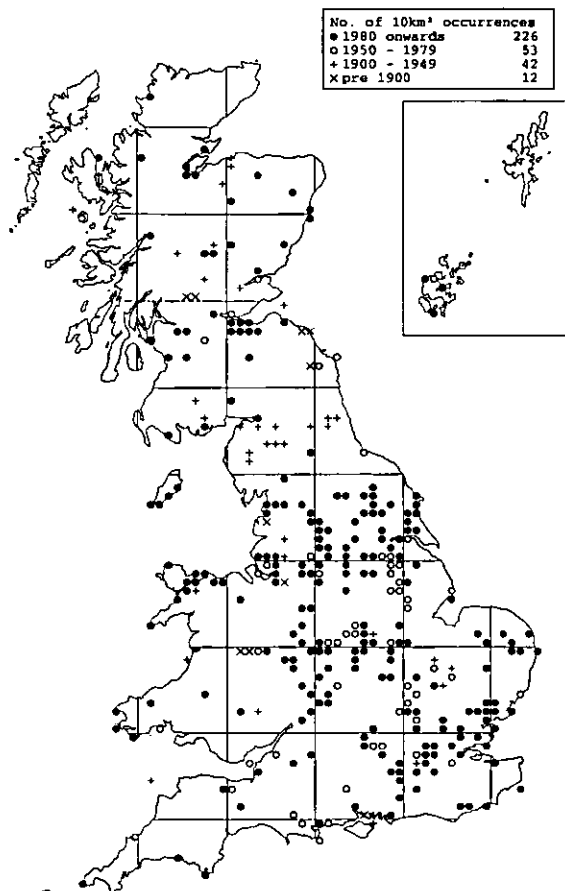
First recorded in Britain from Wilverley Plain, Hampshire in 1949, this species has colonised northwards over the last half century (Merrett 1979). It now has a wide but patchy distribution through much of England and Wales, and is colonising Scotland (e.g. Stewart 1987). Elsewhere in Europe it is widespread, extending into Russia, Ukraine and Kirghizia (Maurer 1992). *T. agrestis* was introduced into the Pacific North-west region of the United States in the early 1900s.

Habitat and ecology

*T. agrestis* in Britain is usually found among sparse grassy vegetation and under stones, particularly on waste ground (e.g. in the centre of cities) and alongside railway tracks. The sheet web extends from the retreat and is supported by vegetation. The egg-sac is a multi-layered structure, one layer of which is often composed of mud and other debris. Although not normally a house spider in Europe, this habitat is mentioned by De Blauwe & Baert (1981) for the species in Belgium and it has occurred regularly in a house in Bedfordshire (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). In North America, *T. agrestis* is very much associated with houses and their environs, commonly frequenting wood piles, garages and spaces beneath buildings (Akre & Myhre 1991). Here a number of serious spider bites have been attributed to *T. agrestis* (Akre & Myhre 1991), although there are no such records from Europe. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: G. Oxford.





#### Status

Common, but in some places, such as Cambridgeshire and Essex, it seems much less common than *T. gigantea* (I. Dawson & P.R. Harvey, pers. comms.).

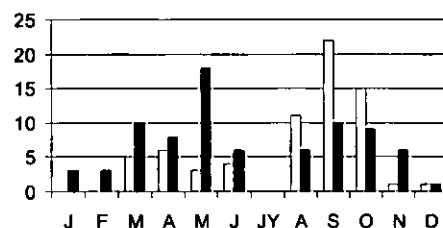
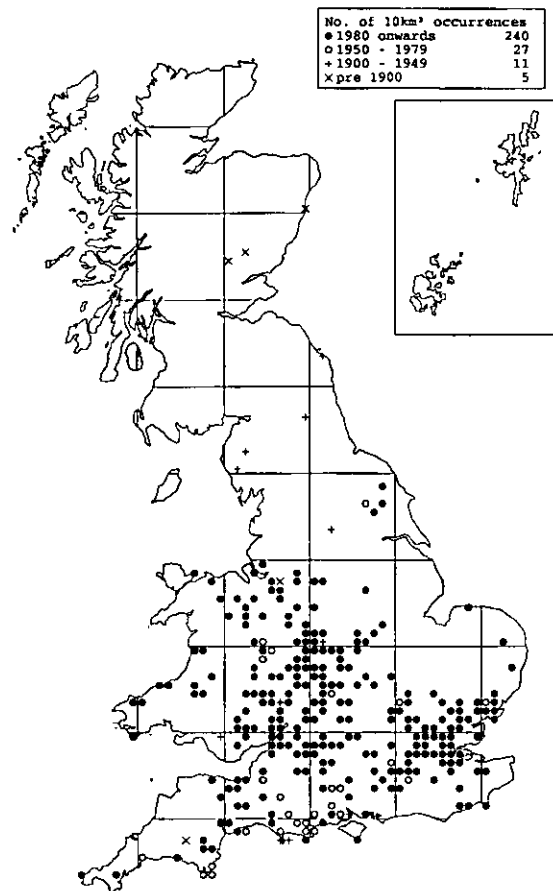
#### Distribution

*T. domestica* is widely distributed in much of Britain, but more scattered in the west and north. It is widely distributed in Europe (Maurer 1992) and has colonised many other parts of the world as a result of transportation by man.

#### Habitat and ecology

Almost entirely found within buildings although Bristowe (1958) reported finding the species in the entrance to dry caves and in hollow trees. Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but mostly from spring to mid-summer and autumn.

Author of profile: G. Oxford



#### Status

Local.

#### Distribution

*T. silvestris* is widespread in central and southern England and Wales, but very scattered further north. The species occurs across the whole of Europe and into the Ukraine and Moldavia, although it is absent from Scandinavia (Maurer 1992).

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is usually associated with woodland, where it occurs in damp situations where sheet webs can be constructed, such as low banks and ditches, and in open vegetation along rides, but it is also to be found in caves, under bark, logs and stones and sometimes on scrubby waste ground and along railway lines. It occasionally enters houses. Its small size may sometimes cause it to be disregarded as immature. Adults have been found most of the year, both sexes mainly in spring and early summer, and late summer or autumn.

Authors of profile: G. Oxford and W.J. Partridge

Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK). A small number of specimens were found at the Amberley site on two occasions (Jones 1984; 1995).

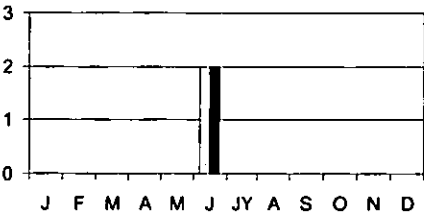
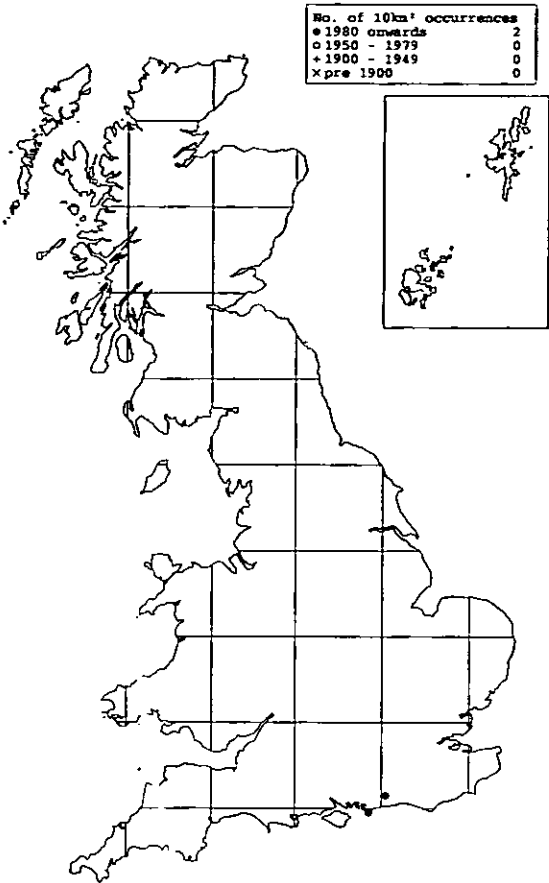
Distribution

*T. picta* was first recorded in Britain from Amberley Chalk Pits, Houghton, West Sussex in 1982 (Jones 1984). It has since been collected near Selsey in 1990 (Roberts 1991) and in East Hampshire (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). *T. picta* is widely distributed over much of northern Europe and the Iberian peninsula (Maurer 1992) and extends across to the Ukraine. Although Roberts (1995) states that the species does not occur in Scandinavia, it has been recorded at least once in Sweden (T. Kronestedt, pers. comm.).

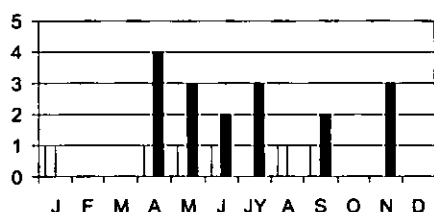
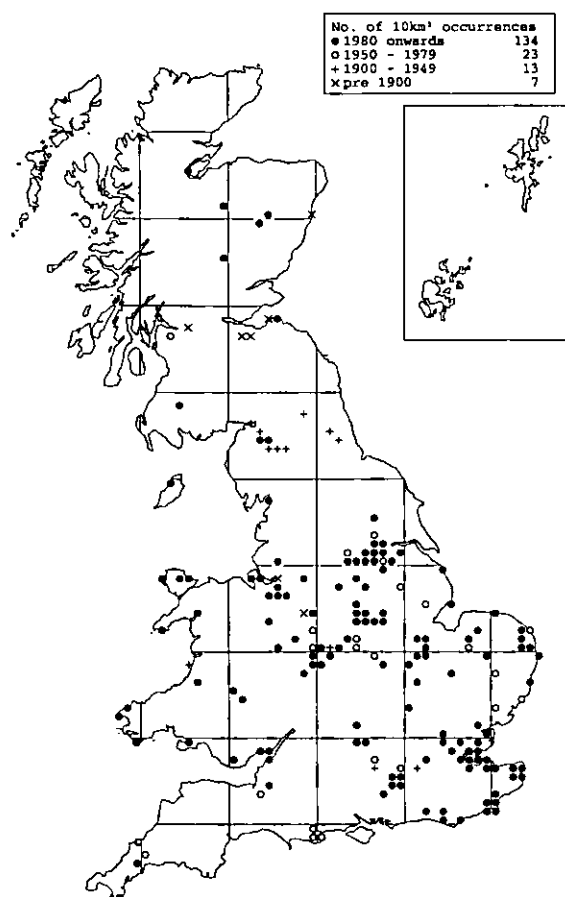
Habitat and ecology

The Amberley specimens were found beneath lumps of chalk on the floor of quarry workings, occupying the space between the boulder and the ground (Jones 1984). Two males were caught in separate pitfall traps in a winter wheat field near Selsey. It seems likely that these were wandering in search of females and may have started their travels from a nearby site (Roberts 1991). The web has an area of some 100 cm<sup>2</sup> and is supported by several vertical silk tubes attached to the rock ceiling above. In Belgium, the species is widespread and found in woods, again principally under stones (De Blauwe & Baert 1981). Simon (1937) also records *T. picta* as being a woodland species throughout France. The two Selsey males were collected in early June.

Author of profile: G. Oxford



[7501] Cybaeidae: *Argyroneta aquatica*



**Status**

The spider may be abundant in suitable habitat. It may be declining in some areas due to loss of habitat through pollution.

**Distribution**

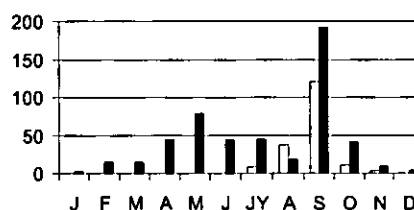
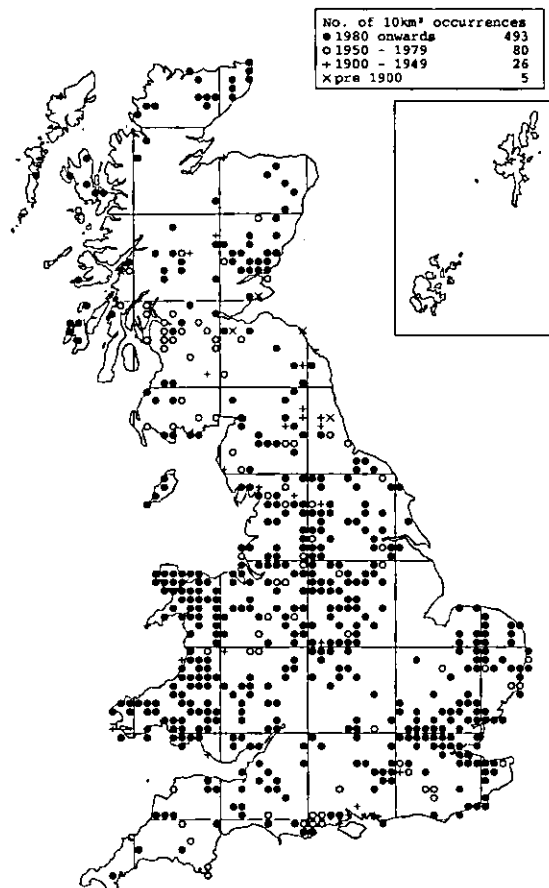
The species is widespread but scattered in much of the southern half of Britain, very locally distributed further north. It is probably under-recorded because its aquatic habitat is seldom sampled by arachnologists. *A. aquatica* is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

The water spider is found in clean, vegetated fresh water with little current e.g. ponds, lakes, dykes and canals where it lives submerged under water throughout most of its life. It creates an underwater silken cell that is filled with air from the surface. Prey is taken back to this retreat for consumption and the cell is also used for mating, egg-laying and overwintering. Occasionally the spider will feed at the surface and moulting normally takes place out of the water. The spider is adult throughout the year but most active from spring to late summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee

[8401] Hahniidae: *Antistea elegans*



**Status**

Common.

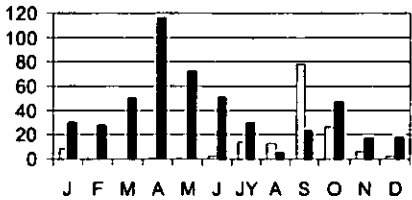
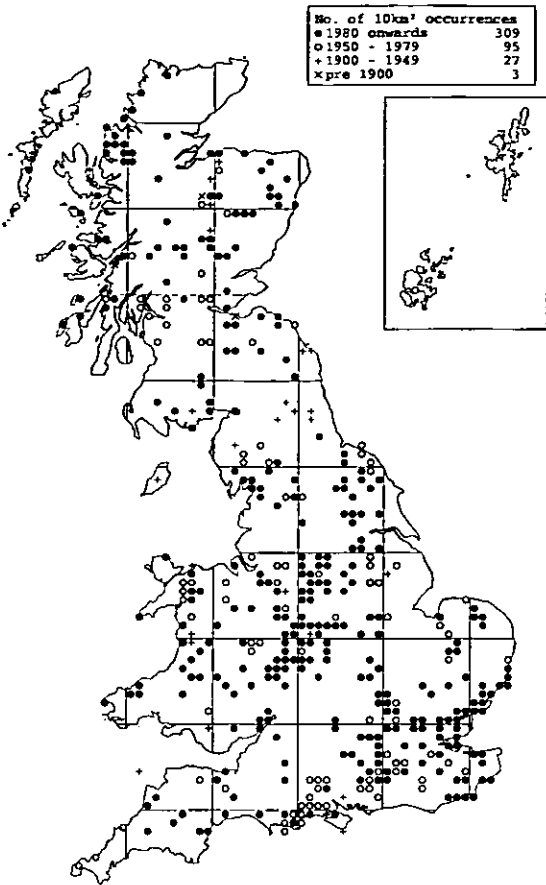
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in much of Britain, but scattered in the north and some southern areas. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*A. elegans* constructs a small sheet web over depressions in wetland soil, typically beneath plants (Locket & Millidge 1953). It has been recorded from reed-beds, marshes, upland blanket bogs, lowland Sphagnum bogs, seeps and woodland pool-sides. In Snowdonia specimens have been taken amongst wet sphagnum at 470 m. Adults of both sexes have been found mainly in late summer and autumn, females throughout the year.

Author of profile: R.C. Gallon

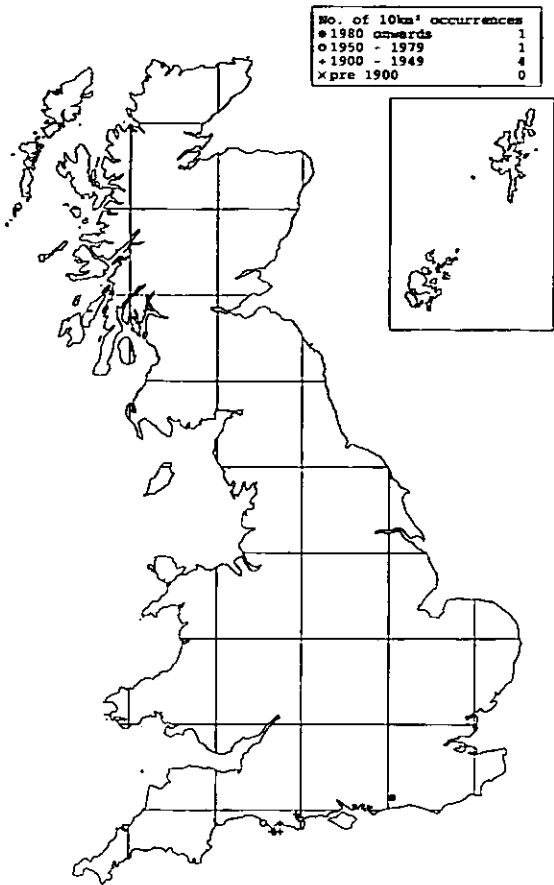


**Status**  
Common.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread but scattered in most of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but included in the Red List for Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000).

**Habitat and ecology**  
The sheet webs of this species are found in leaf litter (including pine needles), moss and detritus in damp situations, especially in woodland. There are occasional records from other habitats including grassland, heathland, fen, sand dunes and coastal shingle. Females are mature throughout the year, but mature males are found only in late summer, autumn and winter, mainly during the autumn.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**  
Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider would appear to have been established at Portland. Most of the twenty-one known British specimens have been found at this site. One female has been collected at Amberley.

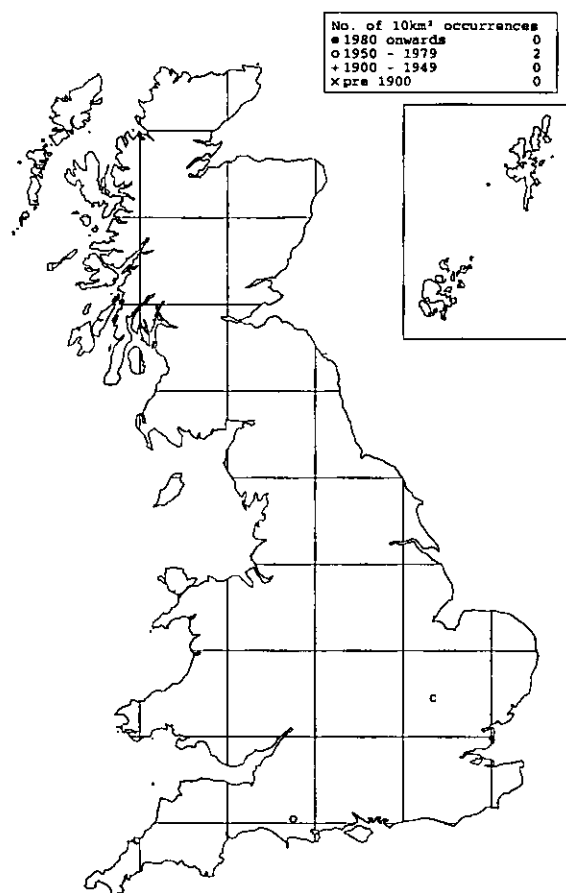
**Distribution**  
The species has been recorded from four localities in Dorset: at Portland on four occasions between 1854 and 1945; Chesil Beach near Abbotsbury in 1977; Ringstead in 1913; and Morden Park in 1913, though this last record is doubtful since the habitat is different from the other localities. In 1993 it was recorded from Amberley, West Sussex (Jones 1995). It is also known from Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, southern Germany and Poland.

**Habitat and ecology**  
Most specimens have been found under stones on coastal cliffs or on shingle. One female was from among heather inland and the Amberley female was collected from beneath a chalk boulder in a chalk pit. Adults of both sexes have been taken in September, and females also in February and June.

**Threats**  
The loss of coastal grassland habitat. There is extensive stone-quarrying on the Isle of Portland. It is not known whether this is diminishing the habitat of this spider.

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





#### Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK). Only two specimens are known to science.

#### Distribution

One female was recorded from Lyscombe Hill, Dorset, and one female from close to Therfield Heath, Royston in Hertfordshire, both in the winter of 1975/76. Not known from outside Britain.

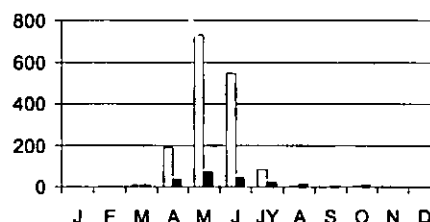
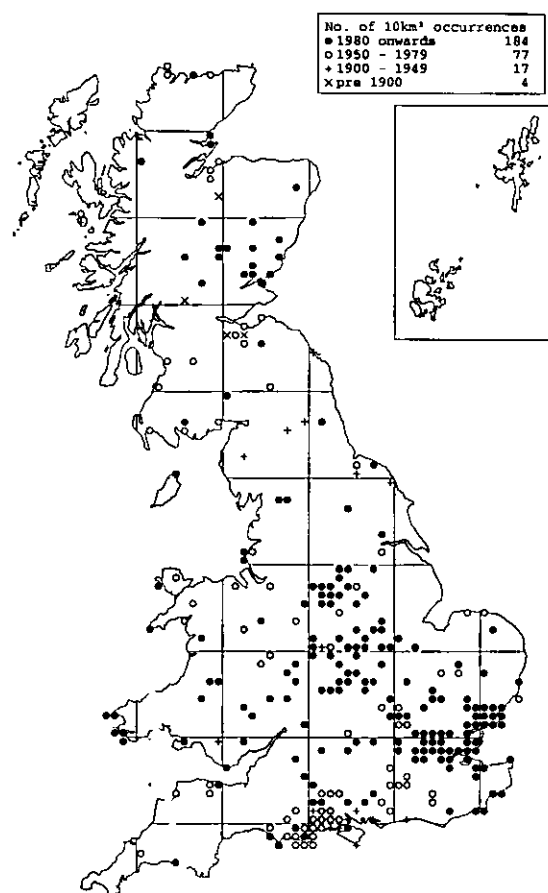
#### Habitat and ecology

The Dorset example was found in chalk grassland of great age. The other was collected in a field with a clay soil overlying chalk, which had been cultivated for cereals until 1973, allowed to revert to grassland, but then ploughed and harrowed in the autumn of 1975 and which supported a sparse growth of grasses at the time that *H. microphthalma* was found. Permanent chalk grassland occurred at nearby Therfield Heath. It is possible that this species lives underground in fissures in the soil or in ants' nests. Females have been found in December and January.

#### Threats

If old chalk grassland is important in the ecology of this species, it is likely to have suffered great loss of habitat in recent decades, as it is estimated that over 70% of chalk grassland was destroyed in Britain between 1940 and 1984 (Nature Conservancy Council 1984). Much of this loss has been the result of conversion to arable agriculture. The Royston field is now under cultivation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Local.

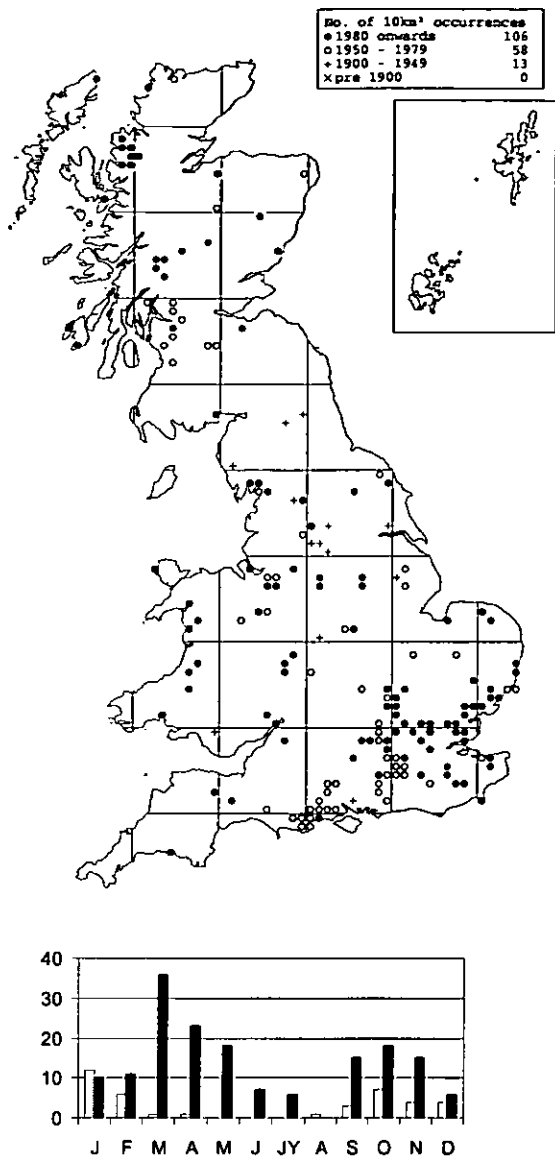
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, but more scattered in the west and north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species produces sheet webs in moss and other low vegetation and amongst stones or in soil crevices. It is usually found away from woodland in more open habitats including heathland, grassland, sand dunes, waste ground, quarries and coastal shingle. Adults are found mainly from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**

The spider is not as frequent as *H. montana* and *H. nava* but may be common where it does occur.

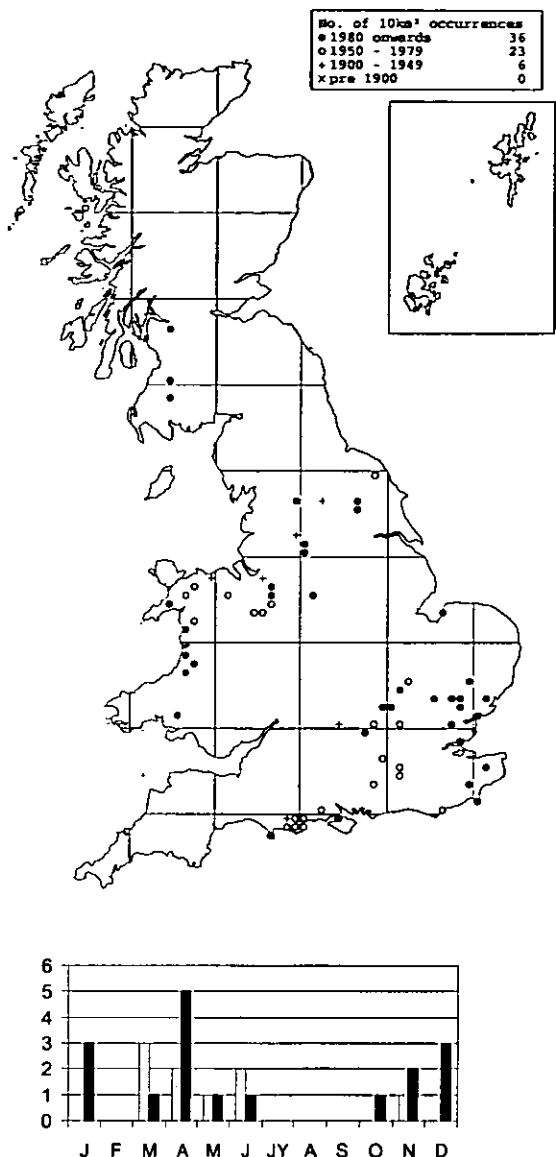
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in south-eastern England, but scattered and locally distributed elsewhere in Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

This spider spins sheet webs in leaf litter (including pine needles), detritus, moss and low vegetation. It is usually found in woodland but has been recorded from acidic grassland, moorland, heathland, wetlands and coastal sites. Crocker and Daws (1996) recorded adult females from January to October in Leicestershire. Adult females can be found throughout the year, mainly in autumn and spring/early summer, but males are mature from late summer through the winter until spring.

Author of profile: P. Lee



**Status**

Generally a very uncommon species.

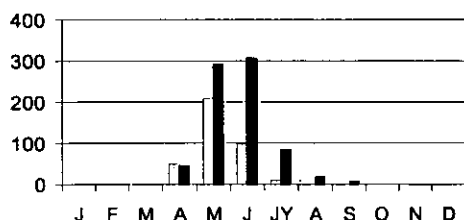
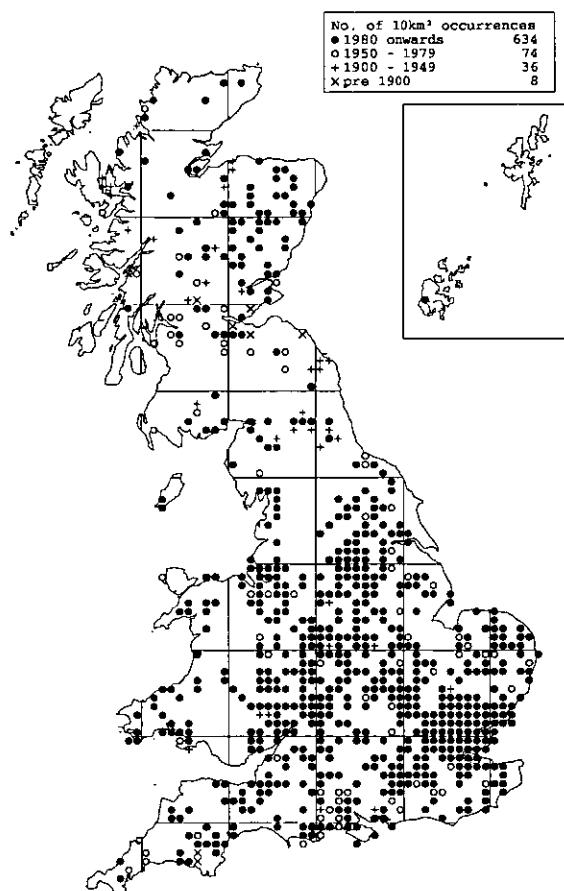
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in a band from Wales to Yorkshire and in south-central and south-eastern England, with old records from the south-west of Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

The sheet webs of this spider may be found in low vegetation, in leaf litter and under stones, usually in sites with high humidity. Adults have been recorded in the autumn through the winter and spring to early summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee



#### Status

A common spider, but Bristowe (1958) states it has seldom been found in Wales and Bell (2000) comments on its patchy and rare occurrence at a local level in Shropshire.

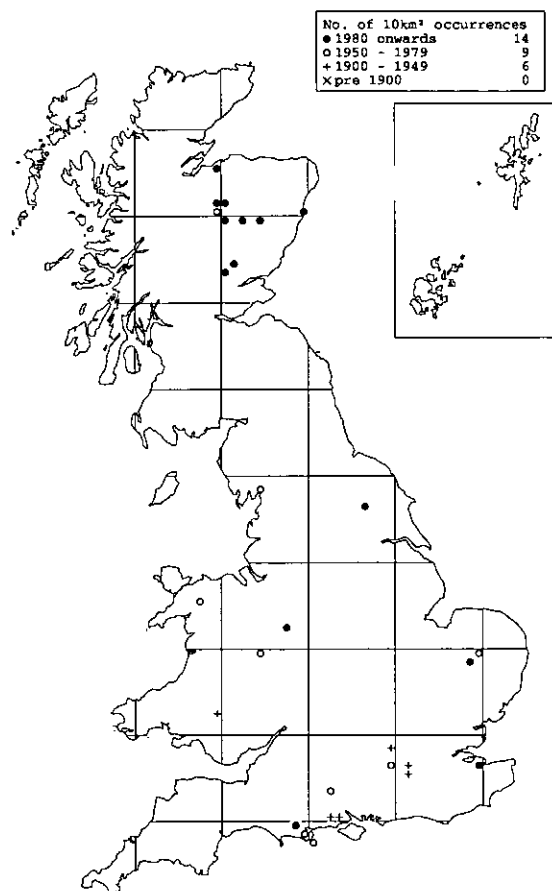
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in Britain, but more scattered in the west and north. A Holarctic species that is widely distributed in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is found on low, especially dry or dead vegetation (Jones 1983), in rough grassland or herbage growing at the edges of fields, hedges and woodland rides. It spins its web in the tops of plants which supply rigidity and suitable structural spaces. The old heads of various umbellifers, docks, thistles and plants like *Hypericum* are favoured situations. On heathland the spider is very common on heather. The spider is not deterred by the prey's size, which is always bitten in the leg until dead. Adults occur from late spring to mid-summer. In June the male seems to stay for a month or more in the female's web where they both live in a rough chamber with several openings (Bristowe 1958).

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

The spider is generally very uncommon, but it may be locally abundant in some areas of Scotland.

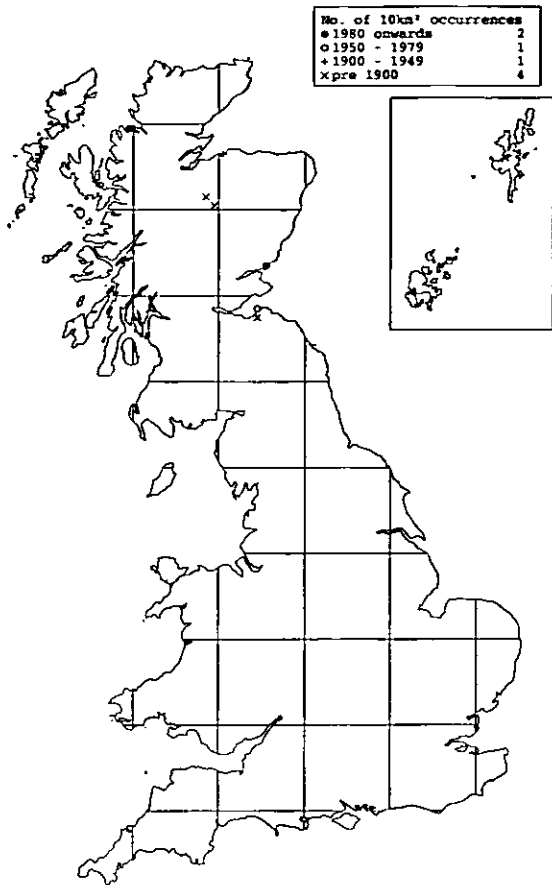
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in an area of central eastern Scotland, with widely scattered records from England and Wales. A Palaearctic species, widely distributed in Europe but not recorded from Ireland and more frequent in the north of the region.

#### Habitat and ecology

*D. pusilla* is found on low, dry or dead vegetation where it spins an irregular retreat resembling that of *Dictyna arundinacea*. It is mature in spring through to late summer.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



**Status**

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The only modern records are of a single male in 1991 at Barry Links in Angus and of two males in 1998 at Gruinard in West Ross.

**Distribution**

There are old records from Aberlady Bay, East Lothian, from Loch Morlich, East Inverness-shire in 1893, from near Forres, Morayshire in 1910, and from the Isle of Hoy, Orkney Islands in 1897 (Stewart 1992). *D. major* has been found throughout much of northern Europe, including France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden (where it is in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000)), Finland, and in the Balkans, Poland, Romania and possibly Hungary.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider has been pitfall trapped in marram on fore dune (Stewart 1992) and on bare sand and amongst dried seaweed on the landward side of dunes by a small tidal stream (M.B. Davidson, pers. comm.). At Aberlady Bay, the males were found running over warm sand and the females were concealed with their egg cocoons in dried seaweed and withered leaves on the sand. At Loch Morlich, specimens were found on the shore at c. 320 m altitude. It is not unusual for coastal species to be found on loch shores. The modern records of adult males were made between the end of May and early June.

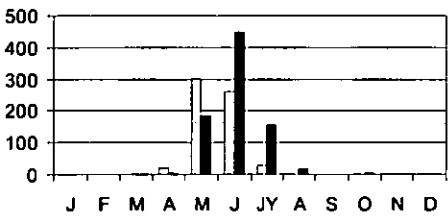
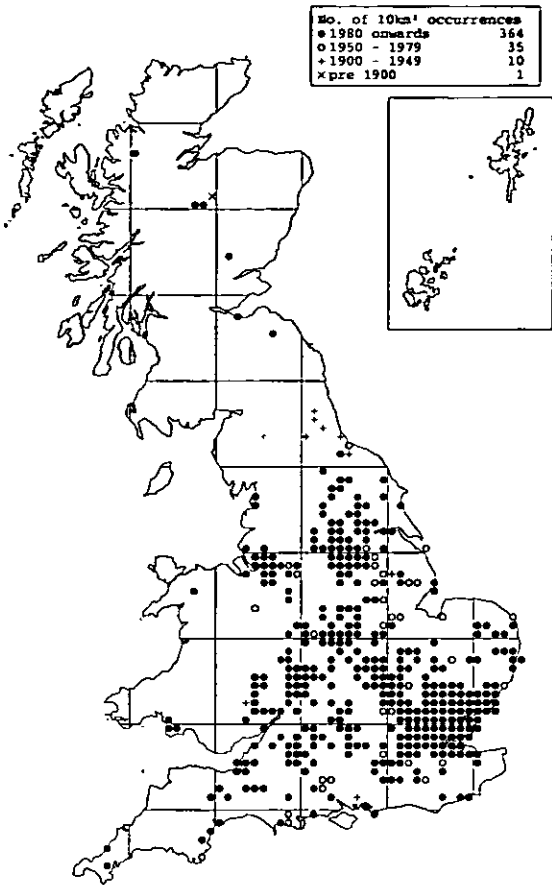
**Threats**

The species is possibly threatened by public pressure on beaches, disturbing the strandline.

**Management**

Leave drift lines undisturbed, and minimise public pressure on dunes.

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



**Status**

A common species in much of England.

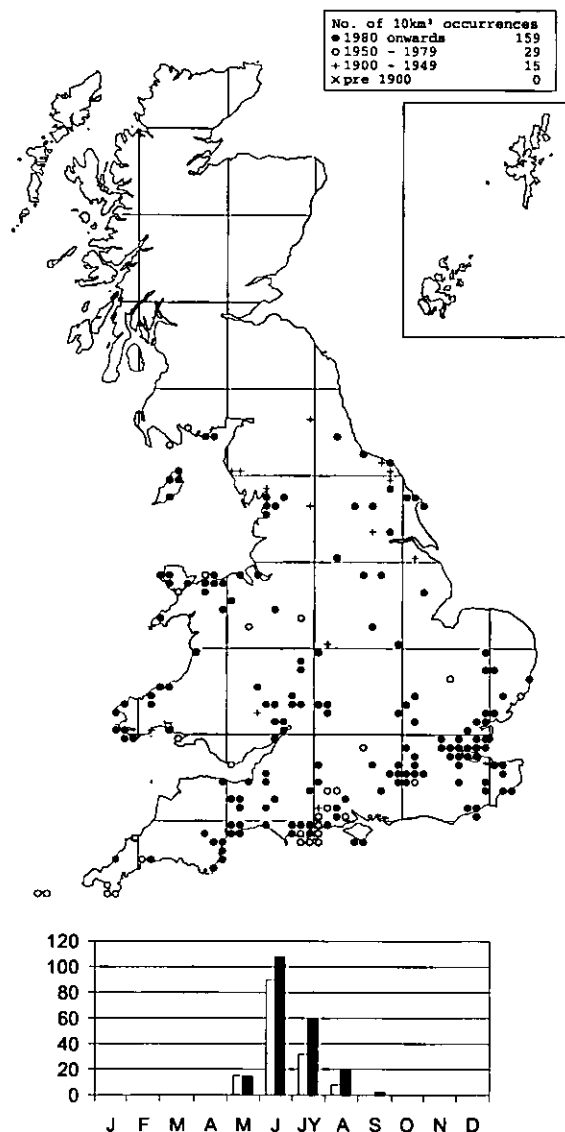
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in England, but with few records from the south-west, Wales or Scotland. A Palaearctic species that is widely distributed in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

A species that seems to be found higher in the vegetation than *D. arundinacea* where it makes its mesh web across the surface of the leaves of bushes and trees. It is commonly found in scrub, hedgerows and woodland where the spider can be beaten off bushes and the foliage of trees along the sides of rides and the edges of clearings. It has been found in gardens and has occasionally been noted on prostrate rockery plants spun up in the dead flower heads of the previous year (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults are found in late spring to mid-summer, with females very occasionally persisting into the autumn.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey



#### Status

The spider is generally uncommon, becoming very rare in the north.

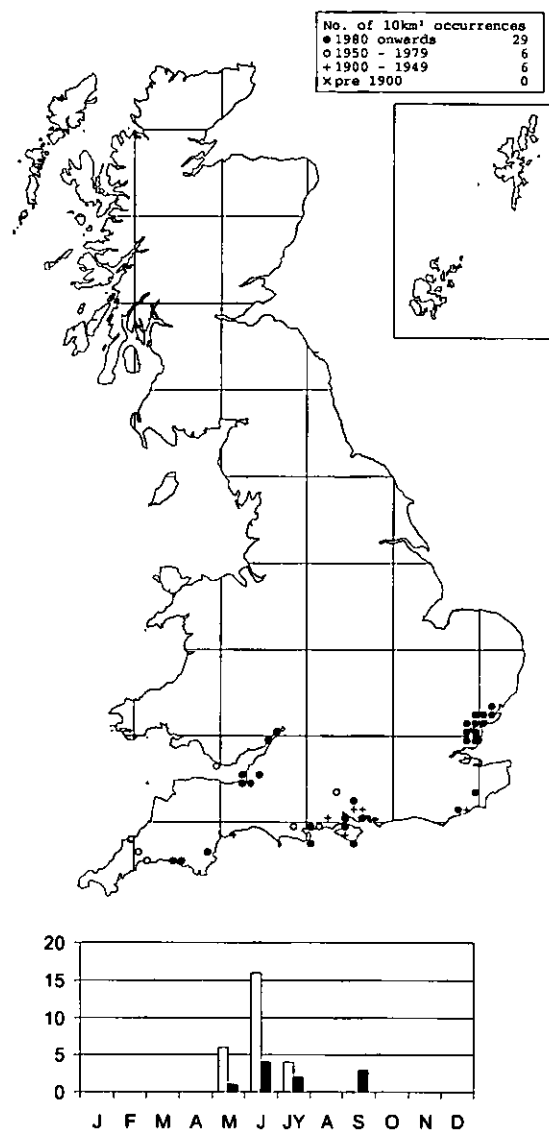
#### Distribution

The species has a widespread but generally patchy and scattered distribution in the southern half of Britain as far north as south-west Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but rare in the north.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in heathland, rough grassland, old sand and gravel pits and well-established unmanaged ruderal vegetation. It is especially frequent on heather, gorse and other scrub in heathy places. Adults are found in summer, maturing a little later than *D. arundinacea* and *D. uncinata*.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local, but may be frequent in some areas.

#### Distribution

The species is restricted to south of a line from Suffolk to Glamorgan. In Essex it has an interesting distribution, apparently confined to an area near the coast where it is reasonably frequent. A similar situation occurs in Somerset. In Europe it has been recorded from France, Germany and Switzerland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs on low broad-leaved bushes and shrubs in hedgerows and gardens, but also sometimes in scrub and open woodland. It spins a small web on the surface of leaves. Both sexes are adult from May to July. In North Essex females with egg-sacs have been found in their webs on the under-surface of leaves in September but most records have been in June and July.

#### Threats

The excessive trimming and loss of hedgerows are likely to threaten this species. Where the species occurs on hedgerows between arable fields the spider and its potential prey are presumably threatened by spray drift from pesticides.

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

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider can be common in gardens in London and south Essex and is probably widespread and frequent in this area. It has been regularly seen in a garden near Alderton in Gloucestershire since its discovery there in 1993 and has more recently been found in and around Tewkesbury (Burston pers. comm.) and has been recorded from Warwickshire. It was perhaps originally imported into Britain (Merrett 1990), but it should be noted that there are other species with a distribution based in the Thames and Severn Valleys, where climatic similarities include average daily maximum and minimum temperatures in January and July (figures in *The Climate of England, some facts and figures*, The Met Office 1996).

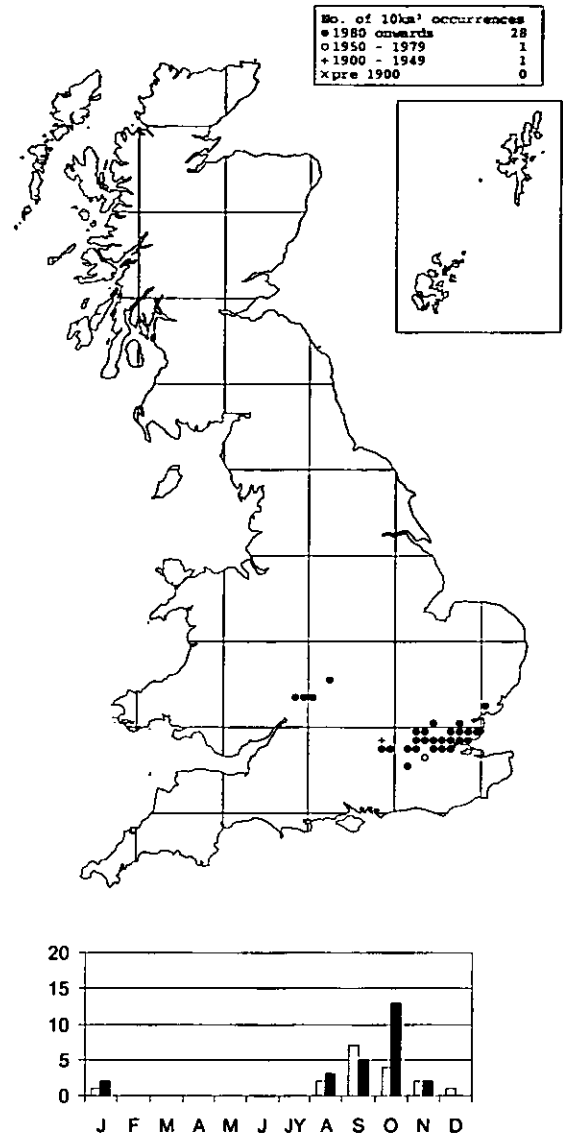
Distribution

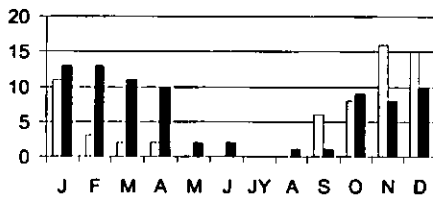
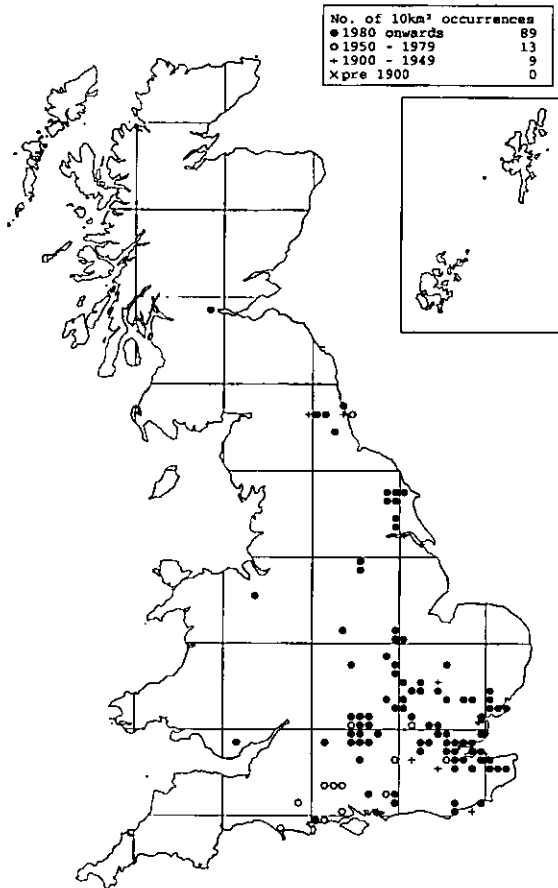
The species was first recorded in Britain at Box Hill and Kew (Surrey) as long ago as about 1880 and 1898 (Verdcourt 1997). It is found mainly in the Thames valley in Essex, east Berkshire, Middlesex, Surrey (and London), and the Severn valley in Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. The spider is frequent locally in southern parts of Europe (Roberts 1995), but is absent from Scandinavia.

Habitat and ecology

The species is found on bushes in gardens and parks often in suburban areas, but also on scrub in more natural habitats. The spider spins a small web and retreat on the upper surface of leaves of bushes. The leaves of lilac, *Forsythia*, holly and ivy are especially favoured but any leaves are used with a similar size and curved surface across which the web can be made. Both sexes have been found in malaise trap samples run in Buckingham Palace Gardens between September and November and females are sometimes found indoors in late autumn. Adults are generally found in late summer and autumn with females persisting into the winter, although both sexes have been recorded in January.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





#### Status

A very local species.

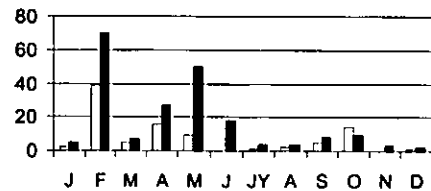
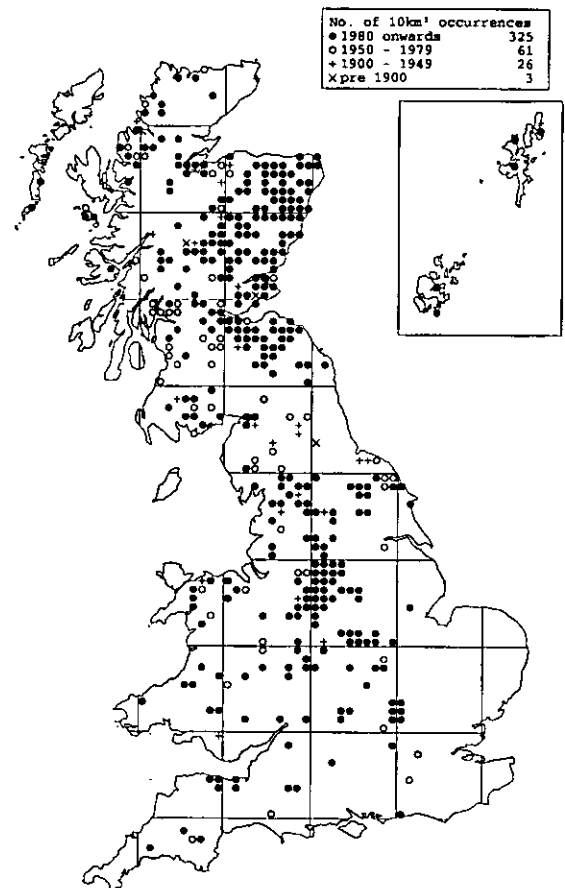
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in parts of eastern and central England with single records in Scotland and Wales. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe but has not been recorded from Ireland and is on the Red List in Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000).

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is often found in dark, damp situations such as woodland litter and in caves, drains and cellars where the spider spins a sheet web with a small retreat. Smith (1989) notes all recent records in Yorkshire refer to those parts of the county where chalk or magnesian limestone is the basic geological formation. Females have been found under stones in disused quarries, railway cuttings, etc. and numerous males have been taken in pitfall traps set in chalk grassland on steep, well-drained hillsides. Crocker & Daws (1996) also give some records from more open habitats and note a possible link with calcareous sites in Leicestershire. A similar association with calcareous sites occurs in Dorset (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). The spider has also been found in fairly open conditions on exposed chalk on the South Downs (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.). Both sexes have been found from the autumn through the winter to spring, females occasionally persisting into the summer.

Author of profile: P. Lee



#### Status

Common in northern England and Scotland.

#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

This species is commonly found in leaf litter in woodlands where it may be abundant, and also occurs under bark. In addition *C. silvicola* inhabits higher ground where the spider may be found under stones on the moors. Adults have been recorded throughout the year but mainly in spring and early summer, and in the autumn.

Author of profile: D. Marriott

**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Though rare and local, work by Hambler (1995) on the habitat of *Tuberta maerens* suggests it may be commoner than its present status rating suggests.

**Distribution**

Old records for this species exist from Bloxworth, Dorset in 1862 and 1879, and from Bagley Woods, Berkshire. In the 1980s, the spider was recorded from Wytham Woods and Little Wittenham Wood in Berkshire; Brasenose Wood, Oxford; Horton Common, Dorset; Chobham Common, Surrey and Savernake Forest, Wiltshire. In Europe it has been recorded from Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

**Habitat and ecology**

Hambler (1995) has shown that *T. maerens* appears to be highly specialised to particular microhabitats. It seems to favour fissured bark on tree trunks where it spins a small, fragile funnel web. An open broad-leaved woodland habitat, where tree trunks are relatively warm and dry, offers suitable microclimatic conditions for the spider. It has also been found, once, on Scots pine and there have been a few records of the spider being found under bark on oak and pine. Females are adult throughout the year and males from July to October.

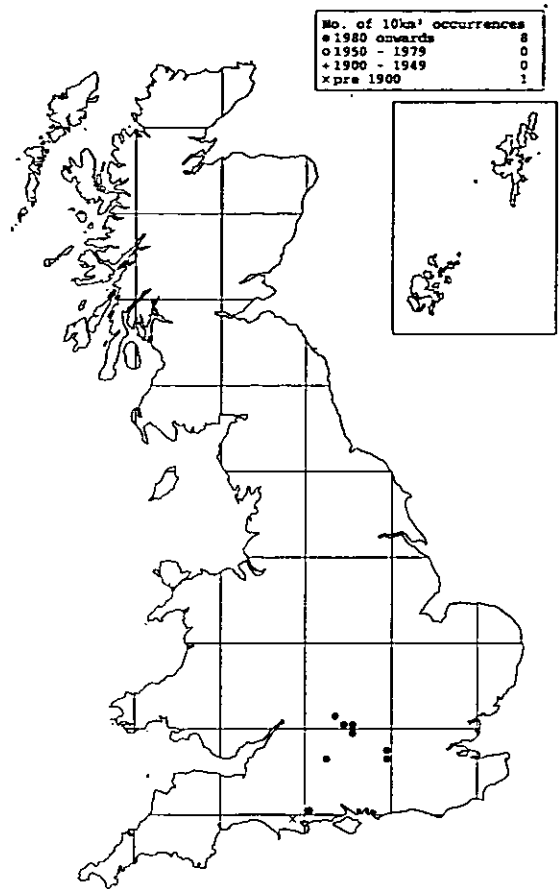
**Threats**

The planting of conifers at Bagley Wood will have almost certainly reduced the amount of suitable habitat for this spider. It is not clear whether the introduction of short rotation coppice at Brasenose Wood has adversely affected the species at this site.

**Management**

Evans and Hambler (1995) suggest that coppice on a twelve year rotation is probably of greatest benefit to *T. maerens*, although the highest population of the spider found during their research was found on permanently exposed trees on the woodland paths.

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





### Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). All records are from the period 1892 to 1926. The spider was apparently found fairly frequently in ants' nests in Surrey and Berkshire by Donisthorpe in the first quarter of this century but has not been recorded since. This may be because ants' nests are rarely investigated by arachnologists. However, Roberts (1985) suggested that *M. arietina* and *M. macrophthalma* are forms of the same species, as their genitalia are identical and the only noticeable differences are in the eye size and arrangement.

### Distribution

The species has been recorded from Oxshott, Weybridge and Woking, Surrey; from Windsor Forest and Wellington College, Berkshire; and from Carlisle, Cumberland, though only a single wandering female was found in the last instance. A record from County Durham last century under the name *Cryphoea diversa* proved to be false (Cooke 1967). It is fairly widespread in southern and central Europe.

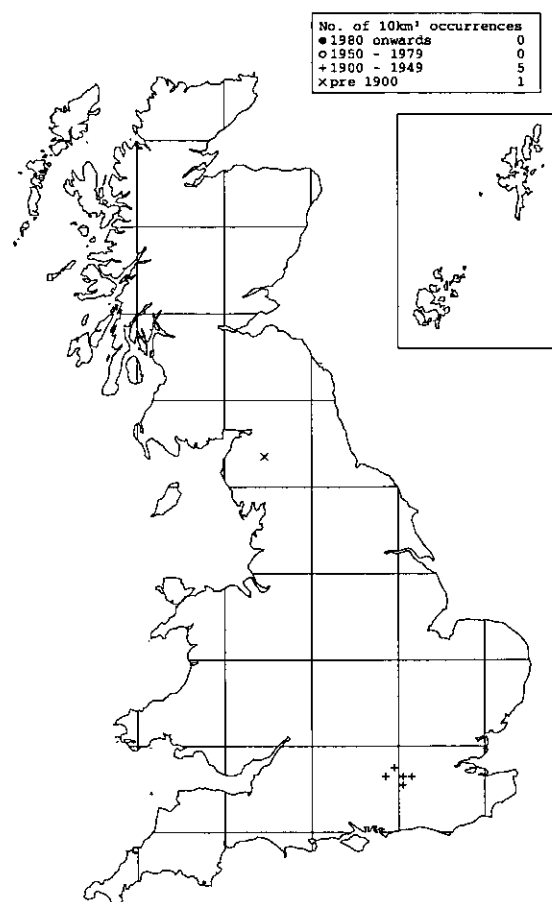
### Habitat and ecology

The species occurs only in the nests of the ants *Lasius fuliginosus* (Latreille) and *L. brunneus* (Latreille), which inhabit tree stumps and old trees. The latter species is found mostly in oaks in open country (Brian 1977). Adult males of the spider have been found in April and October, and females in January, April, July to October and December.

### Threats

The loss of over-mature trees from woodland and parkland. Unfortunately, this loss persists even within areas set aside for nature conservation, largely because those responsible for management do not appreciate the value of the dead wood habitat and see the presence of dying trees as a sign of bad forestry.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider still appears to be well established in Charnwood and Sherwood Forests. There is little recent information on the spider's occurrence on its earlier known sites in southern England, possibly due to the lack of sufficient recent investigation of these sites for the spider.

Distribution

There are old records for this spider dating from early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from Oxshott and Weybridge in Surrey; from Wellington College, Berkshire; Porlock, South Somerset and Craig-yr-Eglwys, Glamorgan. Since the 1970s further records have been obtained from six sites in Charnwood Forest and from Donington Park, Leicestershire and from Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire. The spider is widely distributed throughout Europe (Roberts 1995).

Habitat and ecology

The spider has a strong association with ants, often in areas of over-mature trees and dead wood. It has been found in the nests of *Lasius fuliginosus* (Latreille), *L. umbratus* (Nylander), *L. brunneus* (Latreille) and *Formica rufa* L. Occasionally, *M. macrophthalma* has been found away from ants, under the bark and within the hollow trunks of dead and ancient trees. As these are generally records of single specimens, breeding colonies are thought to be restricted to ants' nests and their environs. Adults of both sexes have been recorded from April through to December, suggesting the probability of year round maturity.

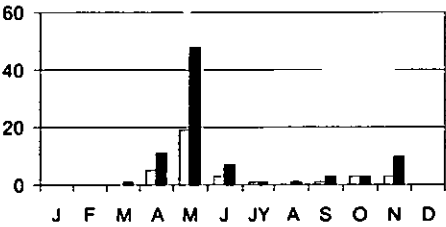
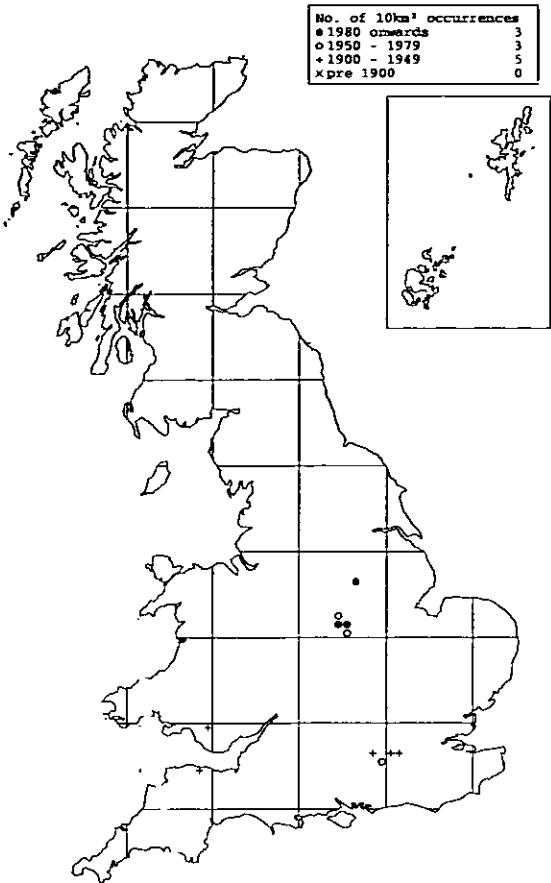
Threats

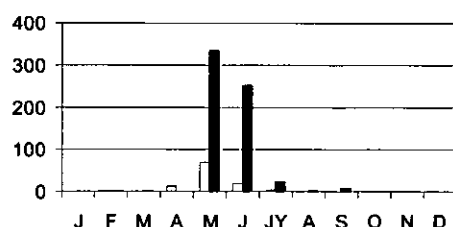
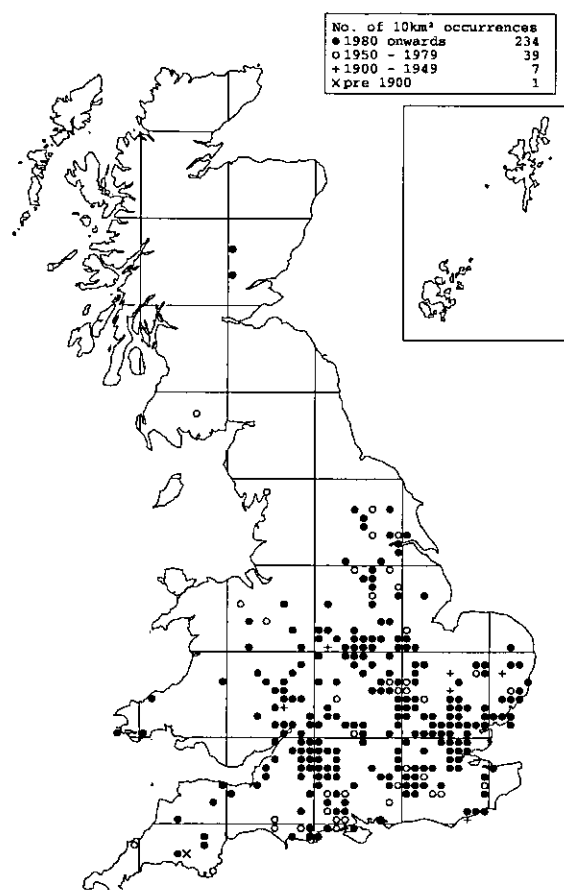
The 'tidying up' of fallen limbs and branches from ancient trees poses a threat to those invertebrates associated with this habitat. In addition, the pressure resulting from increased recreational use of sites such as Charnwood and Sherwood Forests may lead to conservation problems in the future. There may be increased demand for space and more stringent health and safety requirements call for dangerous trees, which may be liable to shed branches, to be made safe or removed altogether. In Charnwood Forest, quarrying and bracken burning threaten habitats where the spider has been recorded.

Management

In Sherwood Forest Country Park the conservation value of ancient trees and dead wood habitat is recognised and incorporated into the management plan. At Donington Park, new plantings of oak and lime are designed to maintain the existence of a multi-aged woodland in coming centuries (to include the continuing presence of over-mature trees).

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





### Status

Local, and commoner in the south.

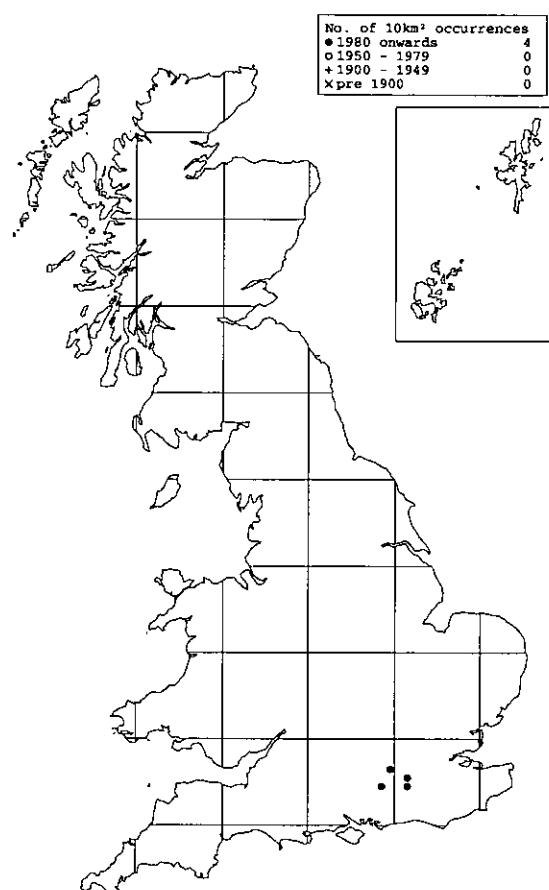
### Distribution

The species is widely distributed in the southern half of Britain, but with very few records from Scotland or the west. A Palearctic species widespread in western and central Europe but not recorded from Ireland, Norway and Finland.

### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs on bushes and trees in woodland and scrub, and can be beaten off oak, holly, yew, pines, gorse, etc. It may also be fairly common on ornamental evergreens and privet hedges in parks and gardens (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Juveniles over-winter in leaf litter, brushwood, under bark and other similar situations. Adults occur mainly in May and June, with females persisting into July or even September.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). *Lathys nielsenii* was recognised in Britain as a separate species from *L. humilis* (Blackwall) only in 1984, but there have been few records since that time, and it seems likely that it is confined to heathland in a small area of south-east England.

### Distribution

The species has been recorded only from Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire. The distribution in Europe is poorly known, but it has been recorded from Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

### Habitat and Ecology

The spider occurs in moist places at ground level on heathland, under stones or among damp, dead *Molinia caerulea* litter between the tussocks. It has been found at between 700 and 1500 m in Austria and Switzerland. Males are adult in April, females continuing until end of May.

### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, afforestation and development.

### Management

Maintain all seral stages of heathland by rotational management.

Author of profile: P. Merrett.

Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The species is apparently rare, but as it matures early in the season it may have escaped detection in some localities. At most known sites several specimens have been found.

Distribution

The species was recorded early in the twentieth century from the Lizard and Kynance, West Cornwall, and Lundy Island, off the North Devon coast. In the 1960s it was found at Chapel Porth, East Cornwall, and Dungeness, East Kent (it was also recorded at the latter site in 1982 and found to be quite numerous there in the late 1980s during an NCC survey). In the mid-1980s and 1989 the spider was found at Rye Harbour, East Sussex; and in the late 1980s at the Crumbles, East Sussex. The most recent record is from Ramsey Island, off the Pembrokeshire coast in 1999 (Dawson 2000). *Lathys stigmatisata* is a Palearctic species also known from France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the former Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the Balkans.

Habitat and ecology

Found under stones, among heather and grass, and among sparse vegetation on shingle. Both sexes are adult in April and females have also been found in June.

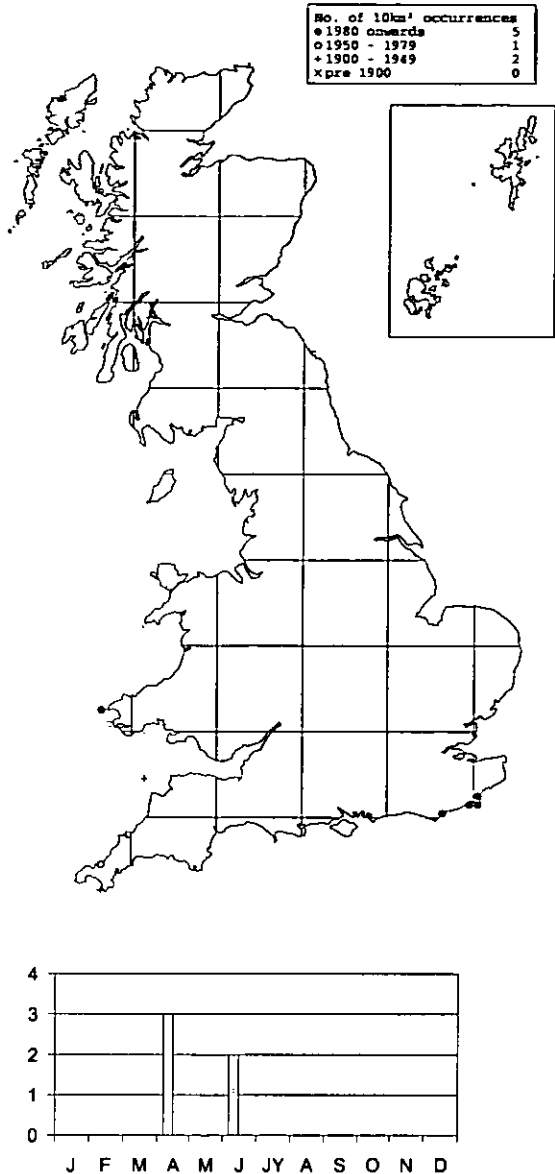
Threats

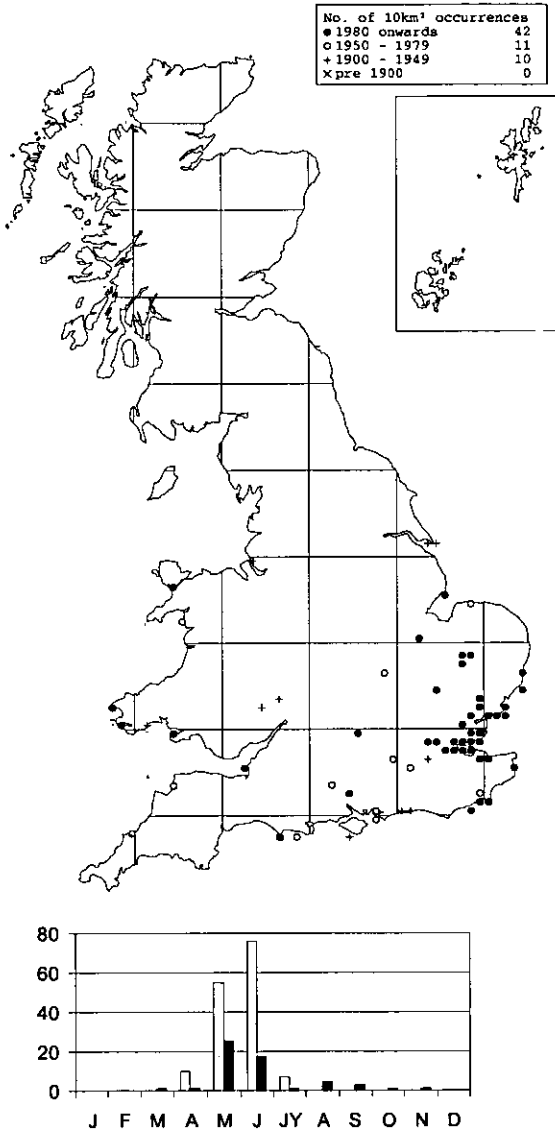
Chapel Porth, Kynance Cove and Lundy are National Trust properties, the last two also being SSSIs. The Cornwall Trust has a reserve at Kynance Cliffs. The Lizard is an SSSI and in part an NNR. The Rye Harbour records are from within the LNR, Ramsey Island is now an RSPB reserve, and Dungeness is an SSSI and in part an RSPB reserve. Threats include the loss of coastal heathlands in Cornwall and public pressure on the remaining ones. Accidental fire is a risk at Kynance. Dungeness is being degraded by a number of activities including gravel extraction, vehicle damage and trampling. The last two cause disturbance to the fragile vegetation and the thin covering of soil, resulting in the creation of areas of bare shingle. The shingle habitat at the Crumbles has been largely destroyed by building and marina development.

Management

The National Trust now controls public access at Kynance Cove and the previously serious damage from trampling of the cliff-top vegetation has eased. The National Trust and English Nature are reintroducing grazing to this site, which should benefit the heathland and grassland communities.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





**Status**

Local and uncommon.

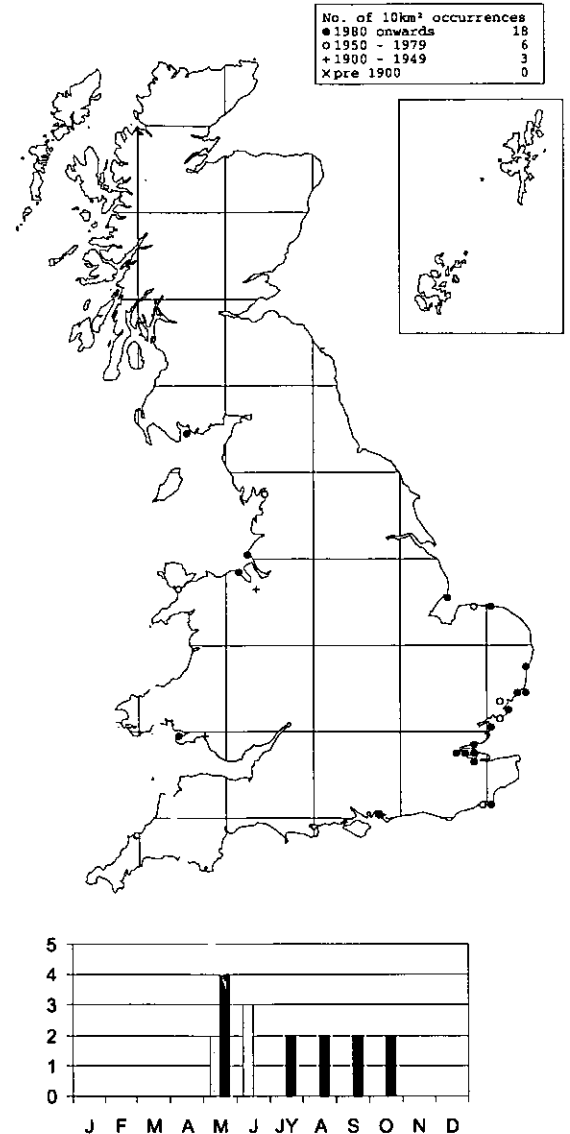
**Distribution**

The species is widely scattered in England and Wales from Yorkshire southwards, but only widespread in the south-east. It is widely distributed in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs under stones and at the base of vegetation, usually in open sparsely vegetated areas of grasslands, dunes, old quarries and waste ground. It is sometimes found on bushes. Adults are mainly found in May and June but females have occurred into July and August, or even November.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Apparently not scarce in suitable habitat.

**Distribution**

The distribution is restricted by the number of suitable rivers, estuaries and saltmarshes. The species is widespread on the coasts of western Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs among strand-line litter and under stones on the banks of tidal rivers or on estuaries and saltmarshes. Adults of both sexes are found in May and June, females until October.

**Threats**

Pollution on some rivers and the loss of saltmarsh to land reclamation may threaten the species at some sites. There has been a massive loss of saltmarsh on parts of the east coast where erosion has been attributed to relative sea level rise resulting from a combination of land falling following the retreat of the last Ice Age and sea rising due to global warming. Initiatives to try and counteract the loss of saltmarsh include the deployment of more environmentally sustainable sea defences and even the controlled breaching of sea walls, leading to 'managed realignment' of the coastline (Gibson 2001).

**Management**

Retain strand-line litter in soft-coast habitats.

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

**Status**

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The species is currently known from only a few square metres of heath, with a population of possibly less than fifty. There is the possibility of its having been overlooked in other areas, in view of its small size, specialised microhabitat and early maturation season. However, the lack of disturbance or burning at Morden Bog makes the habitat at this site very unusual and few other sites are likely to be suitable for this spider.

**Distribution**

The species has been known from Morden Bog, Dorset, since 1971. A male was recorded from a house at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, in 1880. This was possibly a chance importation, though there were sizeable areas of wet heath in the Hoddesdon area at that time. This species is rare in France and Germany; and also recorded from Italy, Spain, Austria and Belgium.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider is found in cavities in the soil under small stones embedded in dry algal mats on bare sandy areas of dry heathland. Adults are found in April and May, occurring in small colonies.

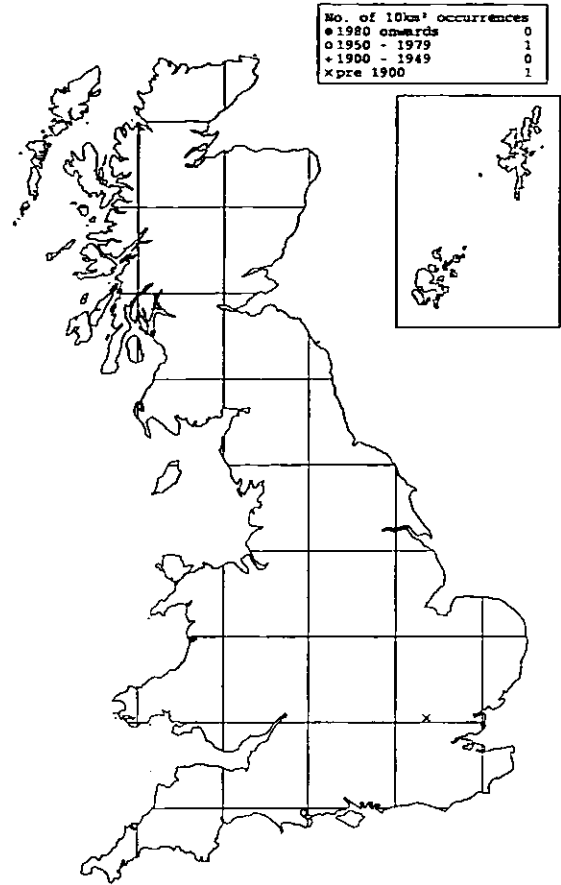
**Threats**

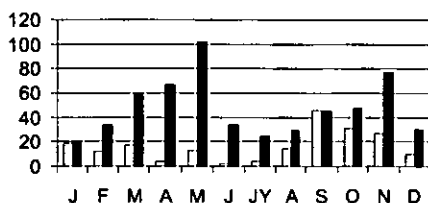
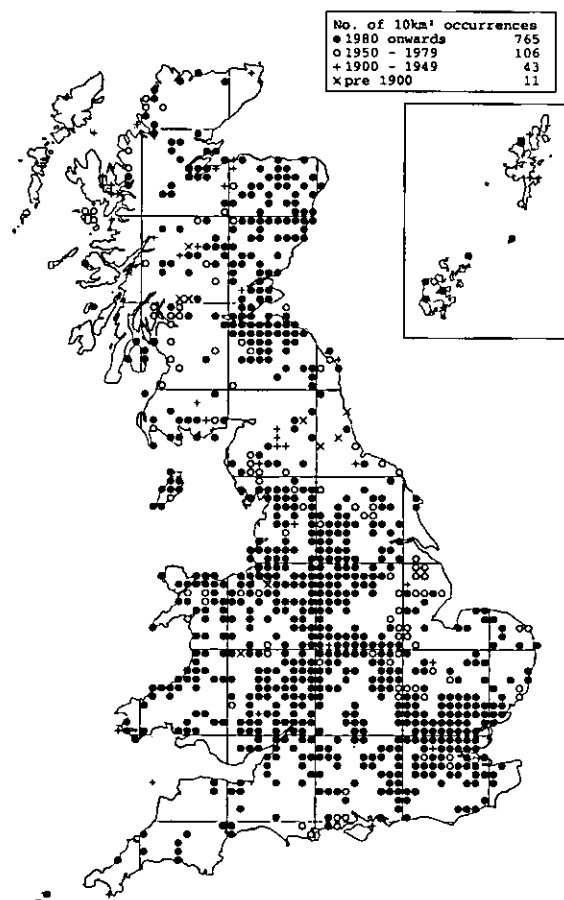
Morden Bog is an NNR. The fragility of the micro-habitat is such that even widely used heathland management practices such as controlled burning could cause damage. In the absence of such management, seral progression is a threat.

**Management**

The bare areas were caused by military training during the war and, because the area is very gravelly, they have not re-vegetated. It may eventually become necessary to create new disturbed areas. In the meantime, management should concentrate on removal of pine and other tree seedlings with minimum disruption to the *A. lucida* colony. All burning should be avoided.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett





#### Status

Common.

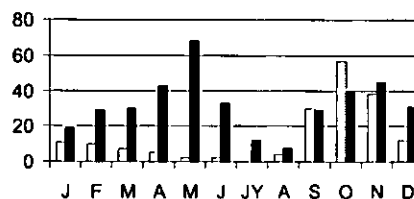
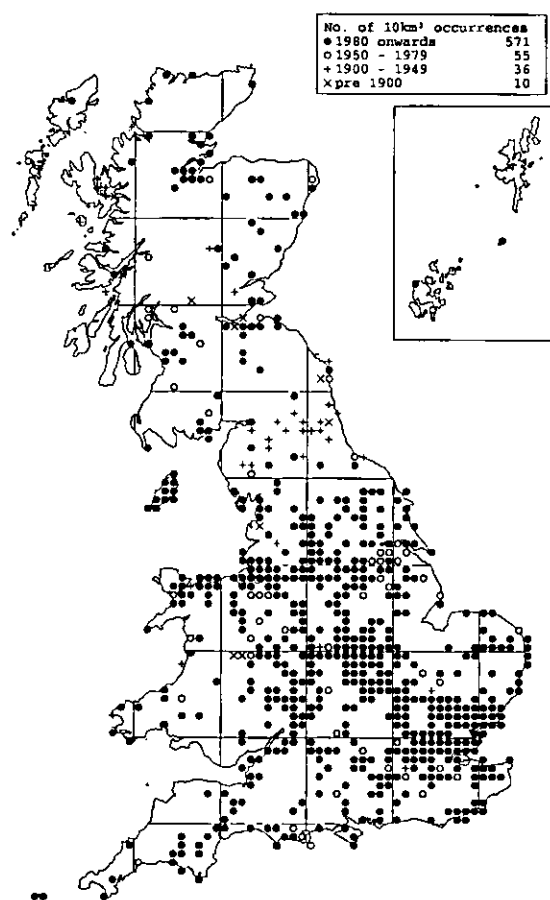
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in most of Britain. It is widely distributed in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is found in woodlands under the bark of trees, logs and in leaf litter. It is also found under stones and on plants with stiff dense foliage (Roberts 1995). Webs are very common on tree trunks in crevices and under loose bark, and are much more easily found than the spider. Although not usually associated with houses and gardens, it is sometimes found on fences. Adults occur throughout the year but mainly in the spring and autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Common, possibly less so in the north.

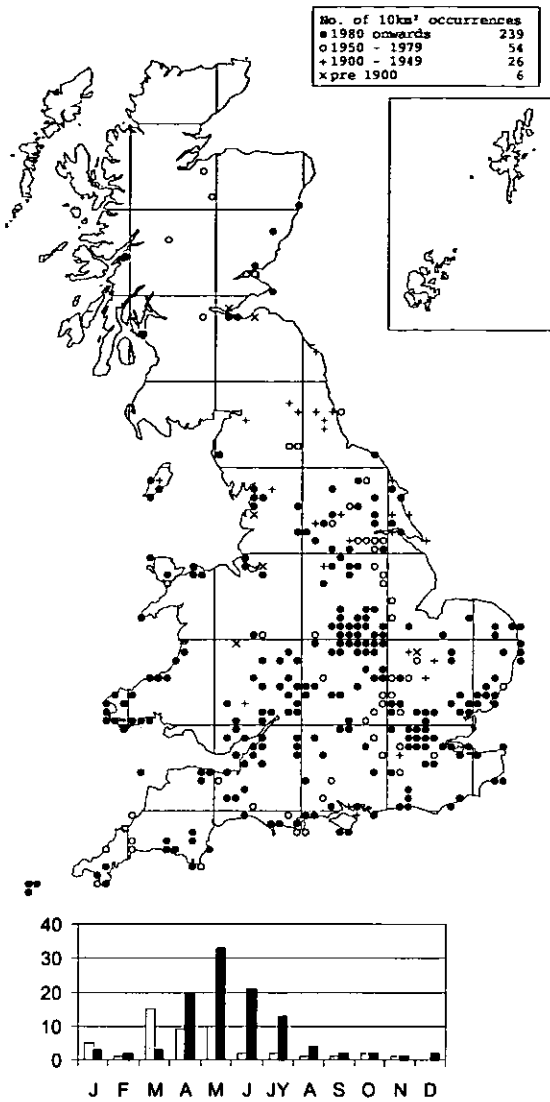
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in most of England and Wales, becoming more scattered in Scotland. A Holarctic species that is widely distributed in north-western Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider probably occurs in almost every house and outhouse in the country. The spider makes its characteristic web of cribellate silk in cracks in the brickwork, under the eaves, under undisturbed rubble or debris and between cracks in wooden sheds and fences, etc. Channels carrying cords for sash windows are a favoured retreat inside houses (J. Newton, pers. comm.). It is also occasionally found under bark in more natural habitats like woods especially where these are near habitation. It is possible that it replaces *A. fenestralis* in these situations. Adults occur throughout the year but both sexes peak in the autumn, and females are recorded again in numbers during the spring and early summer.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



**Status**

The spider is much less common than *A. fenestralis* and *A. similis* and becomes rare in the north of Britain.

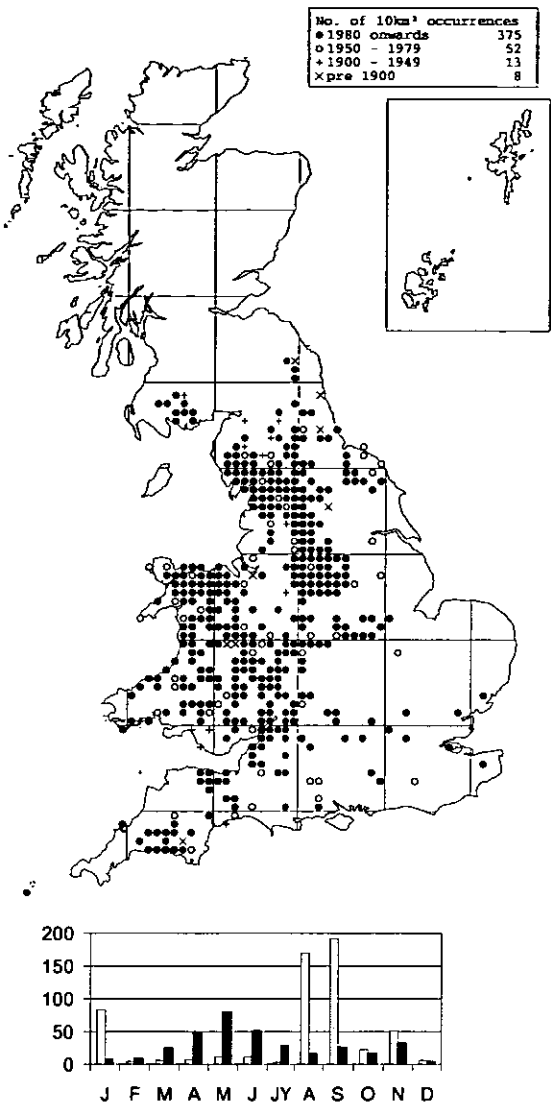
**Distribution**

The species is widely distributed in England, mainly near the coast in Wales and with few records for Scotland. A Holarctic species, widespread in western and central Europe, but becoming rare in the north, absent from Norway and Finland and listed in the Red List for Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000).

**Habitat and ecology**

The species is found in gardens, cellars and outhouses under rubble or other debris but is also recorded in more natural habitats under logs in woodland or hedgerows and under stones. According to Bristowe the species is more likely than the other two species to be found in shady and damper situations in walls or at the entrances to caves or tunnels. It is probably under-recorded despite its large size and impressive appearance. Adults occur throughout the year but mainly in the spring and early summer.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey



**Status**

The spider is common in the west, becoming scarcer towards Scotland. It is very rare in south-eastern England.

**Distribution**

The species is widespread across Wales and north-west England, and in upland areas of south-western England. It is absent throughout much of south-eastern England and Scotland. *C. atropos* has been recorded from France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden (where it is included on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000)), Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Romania. It has not been recorded beyond Europe (Platnick 1998).

**Habitat and ecology**

*C. atropos* constructs a silk-lined burrow beneath rocks and logs in woodland (broad-leaved and coniferous), moorland, heathland and mountains. In woodland sites *C. atropos* can also be found living arboreally in rot-holes (M. Askins, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but males mainly in the autumn and winter, females in spring and early summer. Males are often found guarding females in their retreats. Single egg-sacs are produced between May and September and are affixed to a rock or log within the female's retreat. The resultant spiderlings may remain with their mother for the first few instars prior to dispersal.

**Author of profile:** R.C. Gallon



### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). In the south-east of England the spider is widespread, but rather local and never abundant. It is scarce elsewhere.

### Distribution

The species is confined to the southern half of England and Wales, mainly south of the Thames in the south-east. Old records from Yorkshire and Berwickshire are considered doubtful. In more northerly parts of the country there is likely to have been some confusion with the much commoner *C. atropos*. *C. terrestris* is widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Denmark. It has not been recorded from Ireland.

### Habitat and ecology

*C. terrestris* occurs mainly in woodland, under fallen logs, among litter at the bases of trees, also sometimes in mossy banks, or mature heathland with some scrub. Males are adult in autumn and spring, females probably for most of the year. The eggs are laid in the female's silken tube. When the young hatch they feed on the mother's prey until early winter, when the mother dies and the young feed on her remains and disperse in the spring.

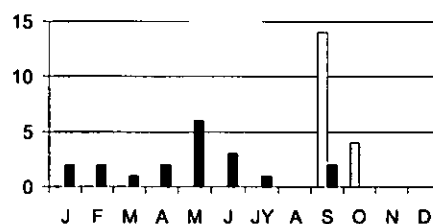
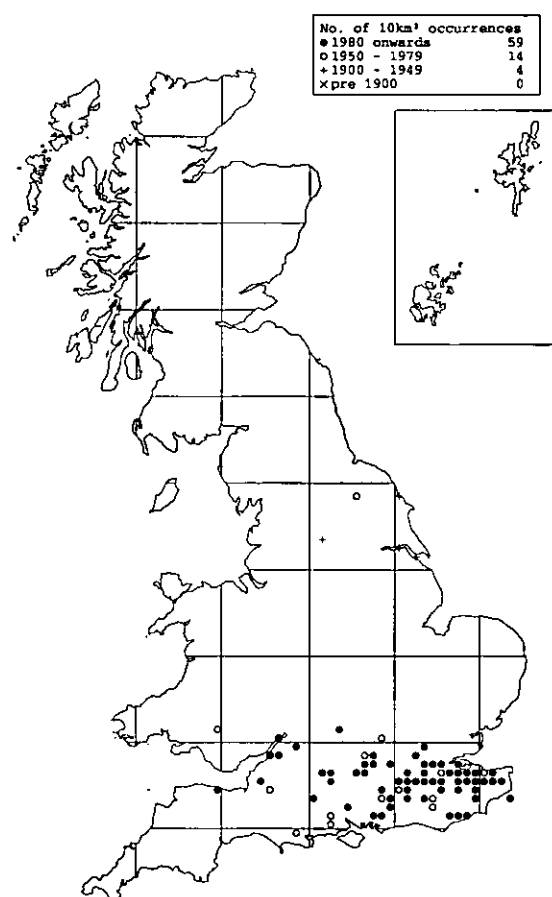
### Threats

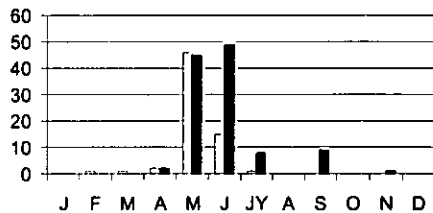
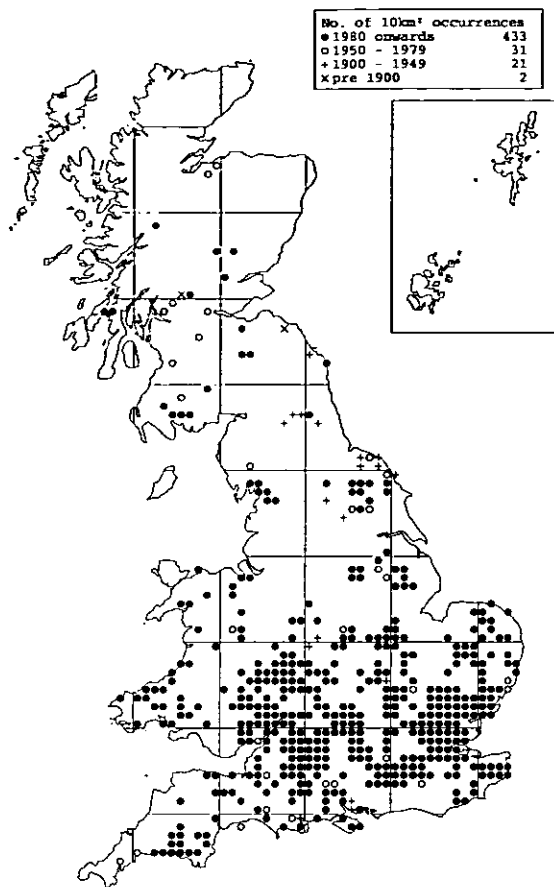
The loss of semi-natural woodland to intensive forestry, and the loss of mature heathland. The removal of fallen logs and dead wood.

### Management

Retain fallen logs and dead wood in woodlands, and retain some areas of mature heathland scrub.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



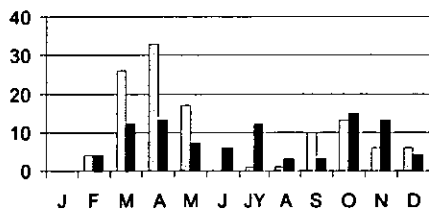
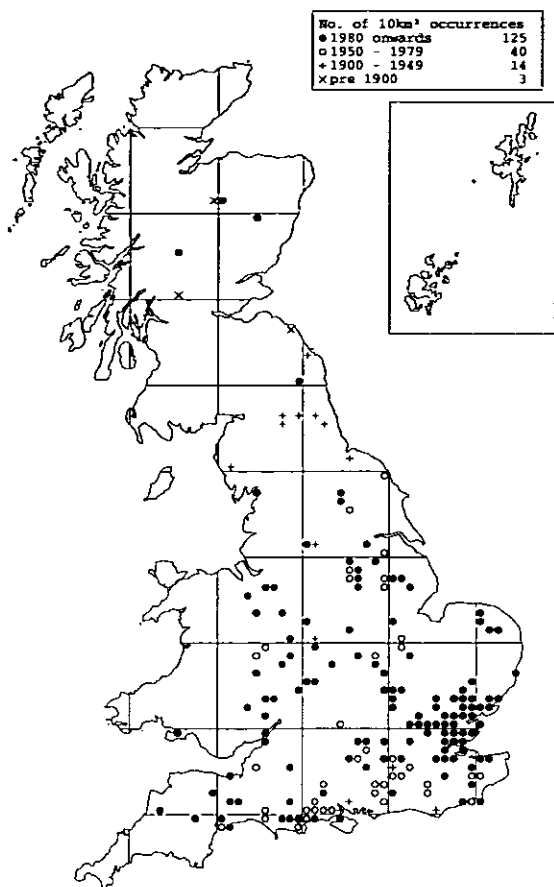


**Status**  
Common and locally abundant especially in the south of England.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in most of southern Britain, becoming more scattered as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
This species is found in woodland and bushy areas. It is easily recognisable by the distinctive arrow-like markings on the abdomen quite unlike any other British species. The spiders hunt and mate on the leaves of trees and bushes. During courtship the male is known to emit a high pitched buzzing sound by vibrating its abdomen on a leaf. This sound may be inaudible to older people. Adults of both sexes are mostly found in early to mid-summer with females sometimes surviving through to the autumn. Immatures can be found in ground vegetation, leaf litter and under bark in the autumn and winter.

**Author of profile:** D. Marriott

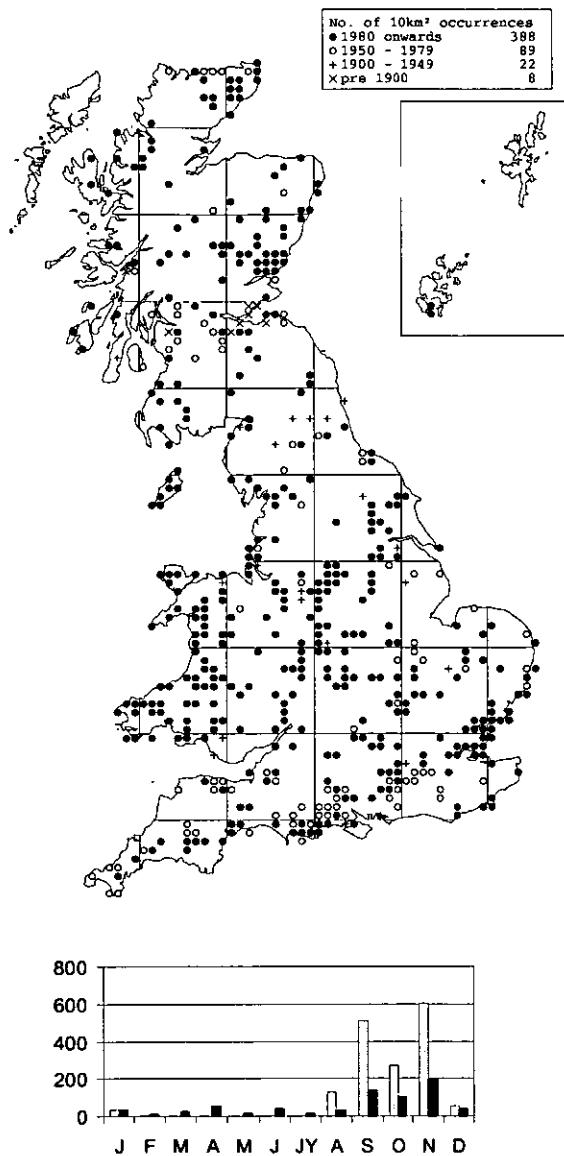


**Status**  
Local.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread but scattered in most of England, with few records in the south-west and north, Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**  
This spider, the largest of the *Agroeca* species to occur in Britain, is found mainly in woodland at ground level amongst leaf litter, grasses or other low vegetation, but also in grassland and heathland situations. The female suspends the egg-sac within a bell-shaped covering of silk on a stem of grass or some other low plant with the opening of the bell at the bottom. The silken bell is then covered with particles of earth which may afford protection from some potential predators (Bristowe 1958). Adults of both sexes have been found in most months of the year, but mostly in spring/early summer and in the autumn/early winter.

**Author of profile:** R. Ruffell.



**Status**

Fairly common.

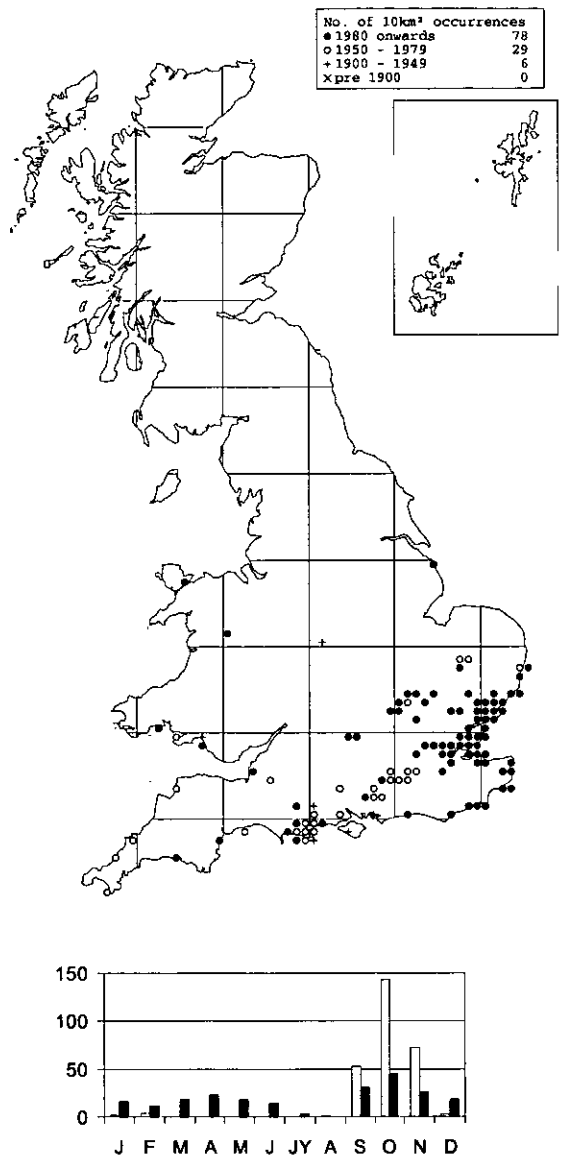
**Distribution**

The species is widely distributed throughout Britain. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Sweden.

**Habitat and ecology**

This nocturnal hunter is ground living with a preference for fairly dry habitats amongst leaf litter, grasses, heather and other low vegetation. It is one of the commonest species on heathland. As with *A. brunnea*, the egg-sac is attached to a stem of grass or other low plant and surrounded by a protective silk chamber which is covered by soil particles (Roberts 1995). Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late summer and autumn, occasionally into late winter and spring with females persisting into the summer.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell



**Status**

Local.

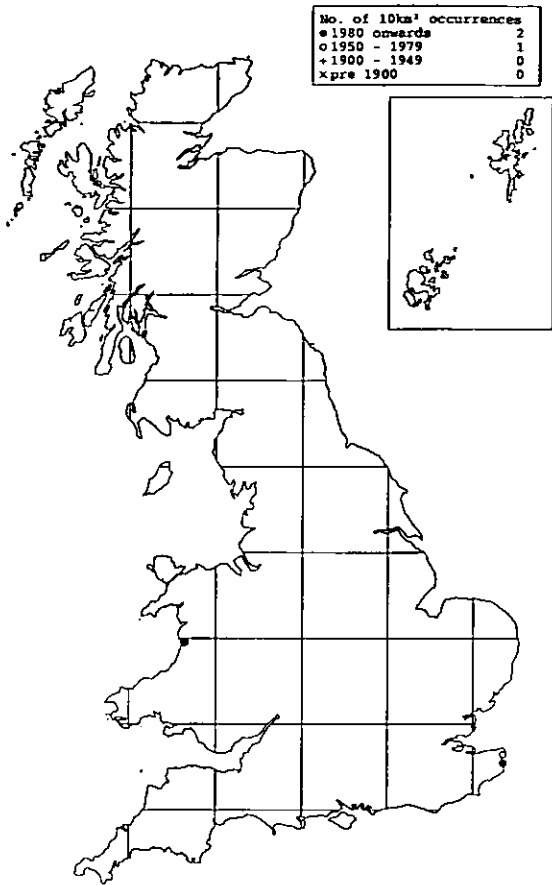
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in south-central and south-eastern England, with very scattered records elsewhere as far north as Lincolnshire and in Wales. It has been recorded from France, Belgium, Switzerland and the Iberian Peninsula.

**Habitat and ecology**

This species can be found amongst grass tufts and other low vegetation, most usually in fairly dry open situations such as calcareous grassland, but also in the leaf litter of woods. The period when males are mature appears to be shorter in this species than in those of *A. brunnea* and *A. proxima*. Adults of both sexes are mainly found in the autumn, although occasional adults are found the following spring and females until summer.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell



**Status**

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The spider was first found at Sandwich Dunes in 1938 and subsequently on a number of occasions at this site, so the species is apparently well-established there. Its status at Ynyslas Dunes is unknown.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded in Britain from Sandwich Dunes, East Kent and Ynyslas Dunes, Cardiganshire. It is fairly widespread in western and central Europe.

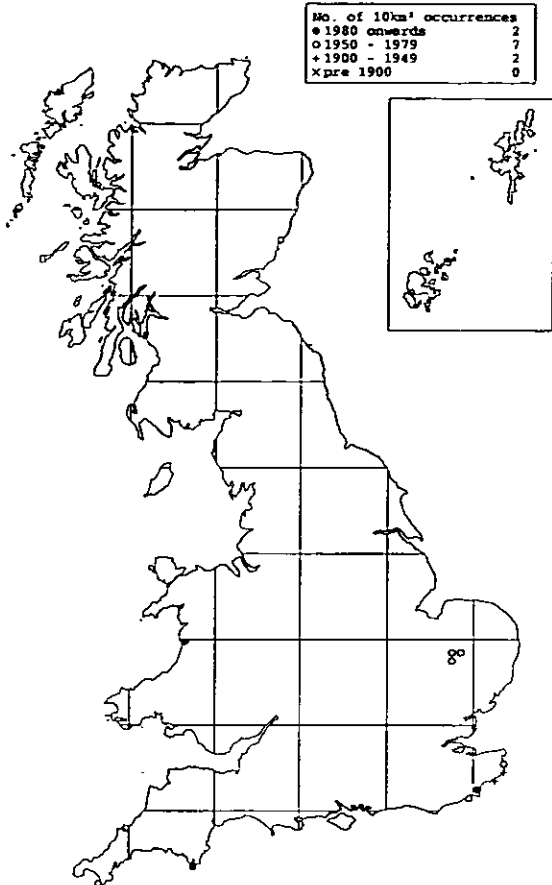
**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs on sand dunes. An adult male has been found in September, and females in May and September.

**Threats**

The habitat may be threatened by erosion and disturbance of the dunes through intense public use. The Sandwich dune system has three golf courses, and their associated buildings, roads, drains and fairways have caused loss of natural dune habitat. The dunes form the sea defence for their strip of coast, and some low points have been artificially built up to reduce the risk of flooding, and this has also caused disturbance to the habitat.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is usually fairly numerous where found, but apparently very local. As its records are scattered over a wide area, however, it seems likely that it occurs in some other dry coastal sites as yet unrecorded.

**Distribution**

The species is widely scattered as far north as Kincardineshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland, Denmark or Finland.

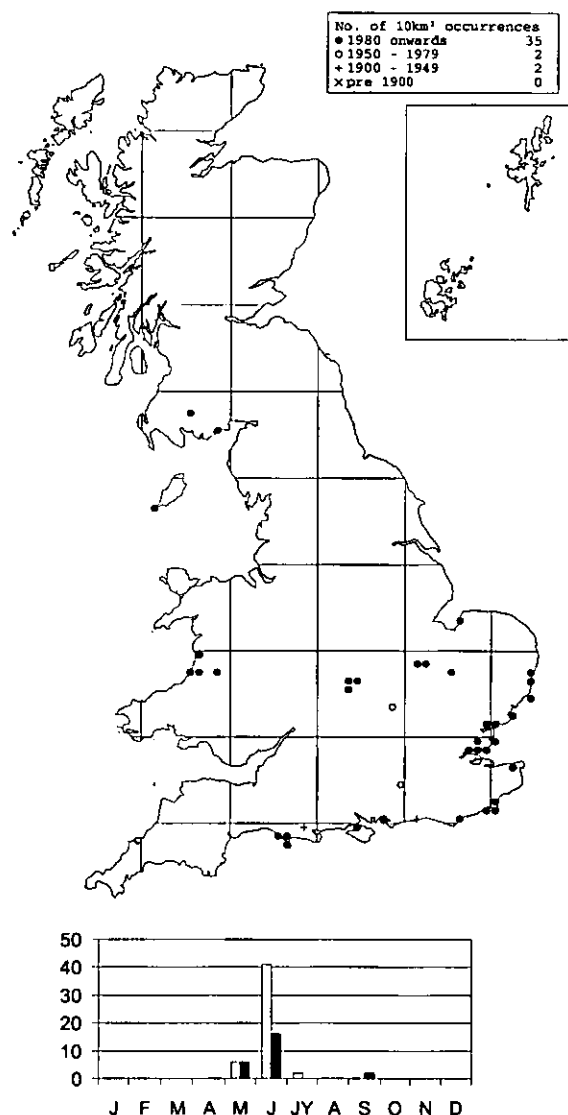
**Habitat and ecology**

*A. cuprea* is found in a variety of dry sandy habitats e.g. heathland at Kynance Cove, Cornwall, sand dunes at Rye and Camber, Sussex, and Sandwich, Kent, dry grassland near Folkestone, Kent, in Devon and on Breckland heaths. All sites are coastal apart from the Breckland. Both sexes have been found in September, females also in April and May. A male has also been taken in October in Breckland (P. Lee, pers. comm.). The phenology is possibly similar to that of most other *Agroeca* species, males of which are mature in September and October, with females persisting for most of the year.

**Threats**

There is possibly little threat to its coastal cliff-top sites, but its sand dune sites are likely to be threatened by holiday development, golf courses, etc, and its Breckland sites by afforestation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local, but numerous in some places.

#### Distribution

Apart from records from Kirkcudbrightshire and the Isle of Man, the species is confined to south of a line from the Wash to Cardigan Bay. It is widespread but infrequent in north-western and central Europe, but absent from Scandinavia.

#### Habitat and ecology

*A. striata* occurs at ground level in wet places, in wet heathland and bog, in marshes, fens and wet broad-leaved woodland, with no clear preference for any particular type of wet habitat. It is found in a range of coastal habitats including wet grassland and dyke edges but also on dune and shingle. In Essex the species is often found in brackish grassland behind the sea wall. Adults of both sexes are found from May to July with a peak in June. Females have occasionally been recorded until September.

#### Threats

Drainage of bogs, marshes and other wet places.

#### Management

Maintain the water table of marshes, fens, etc.

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

#### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). This species was found in some numbers during a Nature Conservancy Council survey of Dungeness in the late 1980s and it has been recorded on the Ministry of Defence ranges at nearby Denge Marsh in the mid-1990s.

#### Distribution

The first record of this species was from Dungeness, East Kent, in 1981. This species is at the edge of its range and possibly is restricted to the Dungeness vicinity by the need for open sun-baked conditions and associated high summer temperatures. It is common and widespread on the continent.

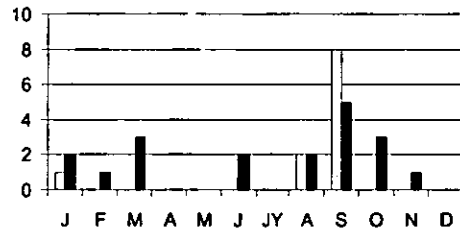
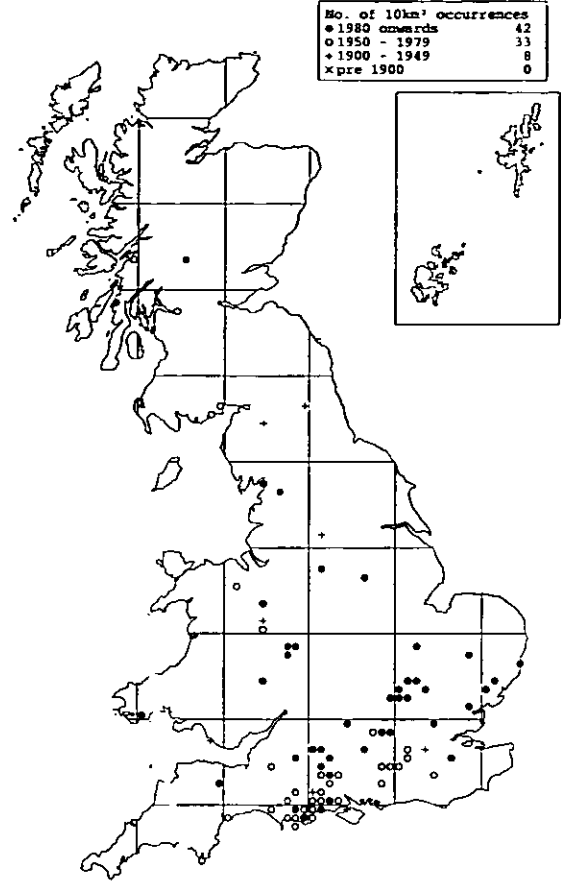
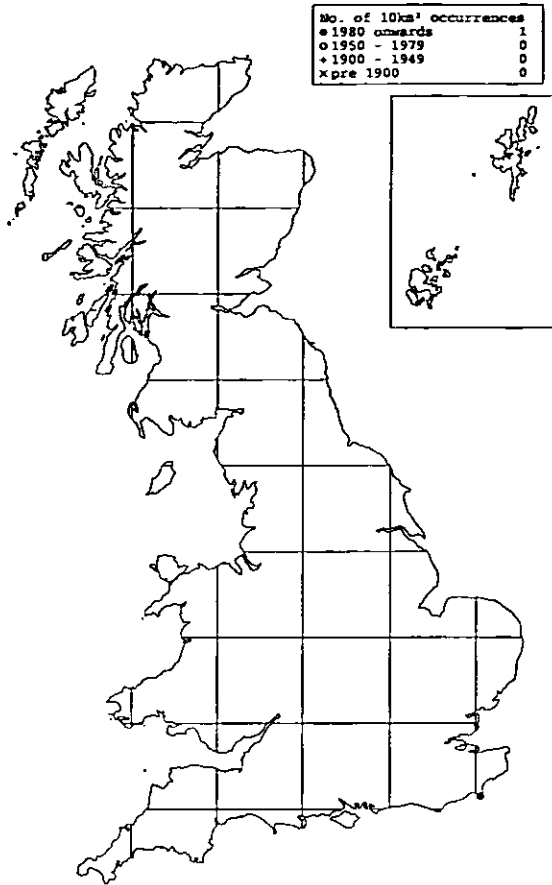
#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs on shingle covered with a thin layer of soil and bearing vegetation composed of mixed grasses, mosses, lichens, spring ephemerals and wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia*. It is a species of the *Arrhenatherum elatius* dominated community on shingle, a very key invertebrate habitat at Dungeness (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.). Males have been found in May and once in November, females from May to July.

#### Threats

Dungeness is being extensively damaged by gravel extraction, which is causing significant alteration of the hydrology, and thereby ecology, in addition to the obvious loss of shingle area to gravel-pits. Although there is no end date yet for gravel extraction, SAC (Special Area of Conservation) designation now leaves just one last permission to be implemented. The extension of holiday centres and other recreational activities are also causing damage. 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: P. Merrett



#### Status

Although it is rather uncommon the spider is found more frequently in the south. It may have been confused with *S. palliardii* as distinguishing these two species has caused problems in the past (Locket et al. 1974).

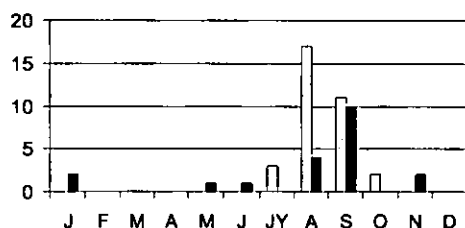
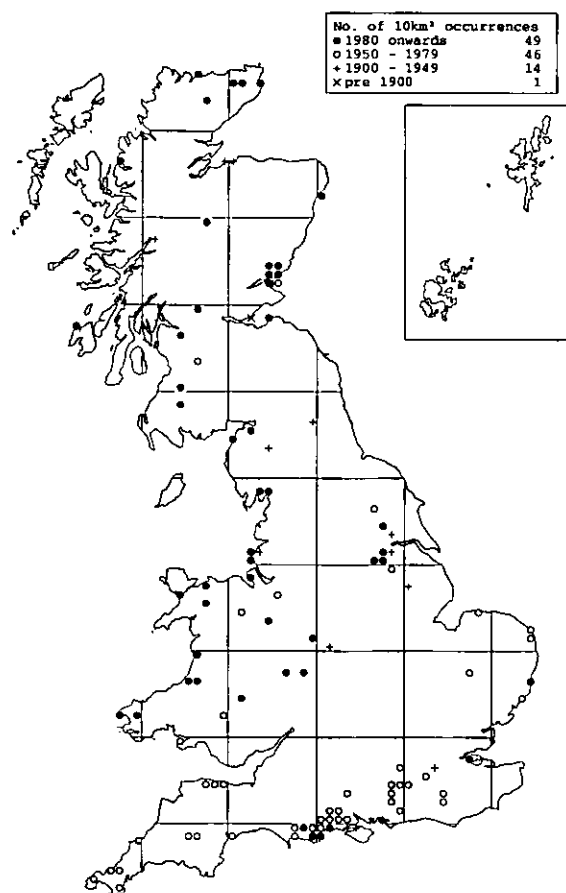
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in parts of southern England, but very scattered in the west and further north as far as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe and as far east as Russia, but has not been recorded from Denmark and is on the Red List in Sweden (Gärdenfors 2000).

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in moss and detritus in woodland and also on heathland. In this latter habitat it has been shown that this species prefers more heavily vegetated, damp areas rather than the dry more open vegetation preferred by *S. palliardii* (Snazell 1982). Females may be found throughout the year and males in late summer, autumn and January. In a study on Porton Down in Wiltshire the month of peak activity was found to be November (Coleman 1977). Our data show a peak of both sexes in late summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



#### Status

Uncommon and local.

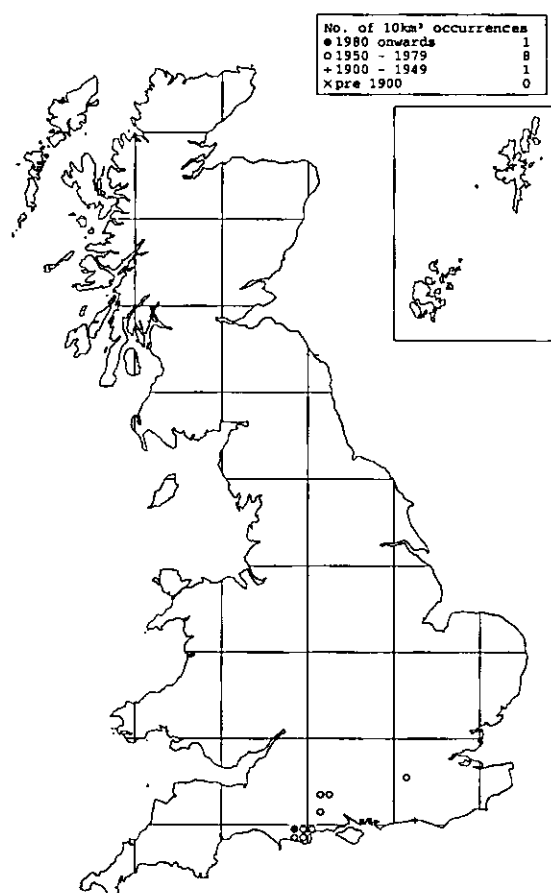
#### Distribution

The species has a widespread but patchy and very scattered distribution, and is absent from many areas in Britain. It is widespread in north-western Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is generally found in dry and exposed heathland habitats amongst the roots of heather, but it has also been found in woodland and raised bog. Adults of both sexes are found in late summer and autumn, but females persist throughout the year.

**Author of profile:** D.R. Nellist



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is very local, but abundant where found. It is apparently absent from many areas that would appear to be suitable.

#### Distribution

The species is apparently confined to central southern and south-east England. It is fairly widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*S. palliardii* occurs in mature wetish heathland and chalk grassland. Adult males are found from September to March, with most activity in October, November, February and especially March. Adult females are found throughout the year.

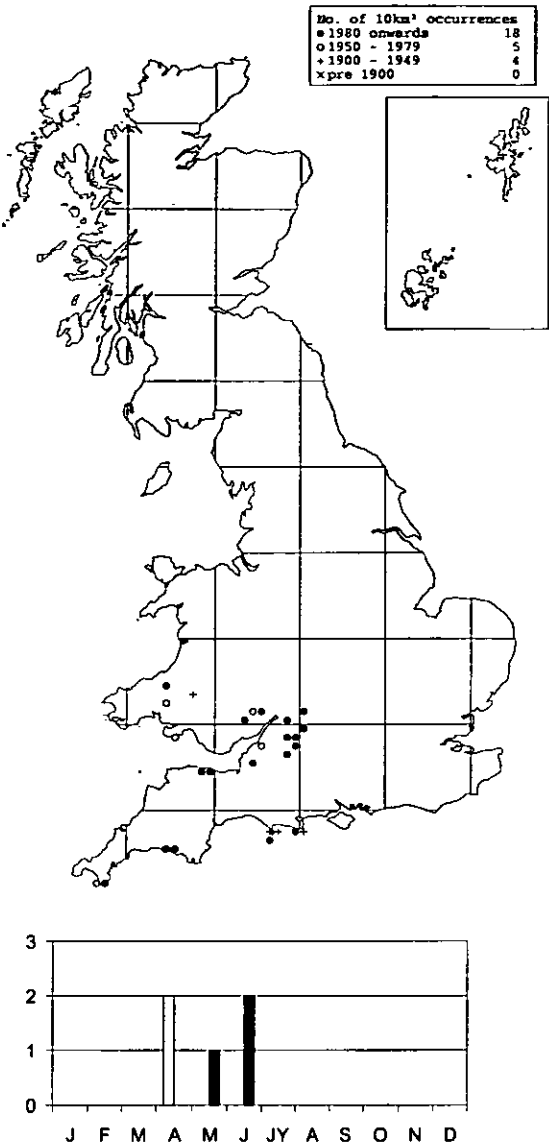
#### Threats

The loss of heathland and chalk grassland to agriculture and afforestation.

#### Management

Maintain some areas of mature heathland by rotational management in small areas and control scrub growth on chalk grassland.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett



**Status**  
Nationally Scarce (Notable B).

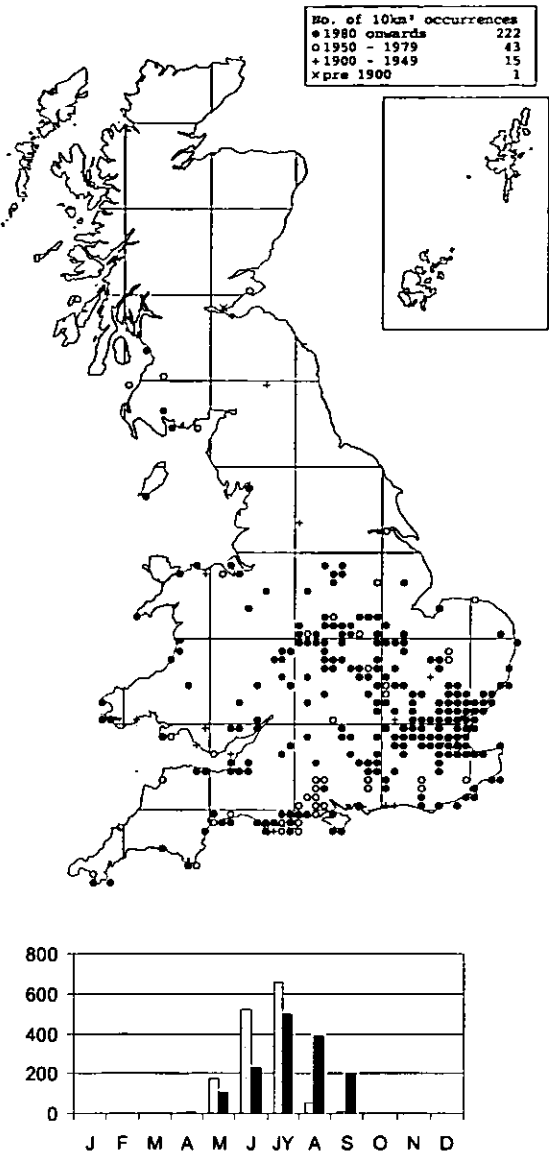
**Distribution**  
*L. rupicola* has been recorded from south-west England and south Wales. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider has been recorded from under stones in dry places, especially old quarries, in cracks in cliffs, dry stone walls and occasionally in houses. Adults can be found in both spring and autumn.

**Threats**  
There are probably none due to the barren and inaccessible nature of the habitat in which this species is found. However the dumping of rubbish in disused quarries may prove a threat, but this is unlikely to be a problem in coastal sites.

**Management**  
Disused quarries should be protected.

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



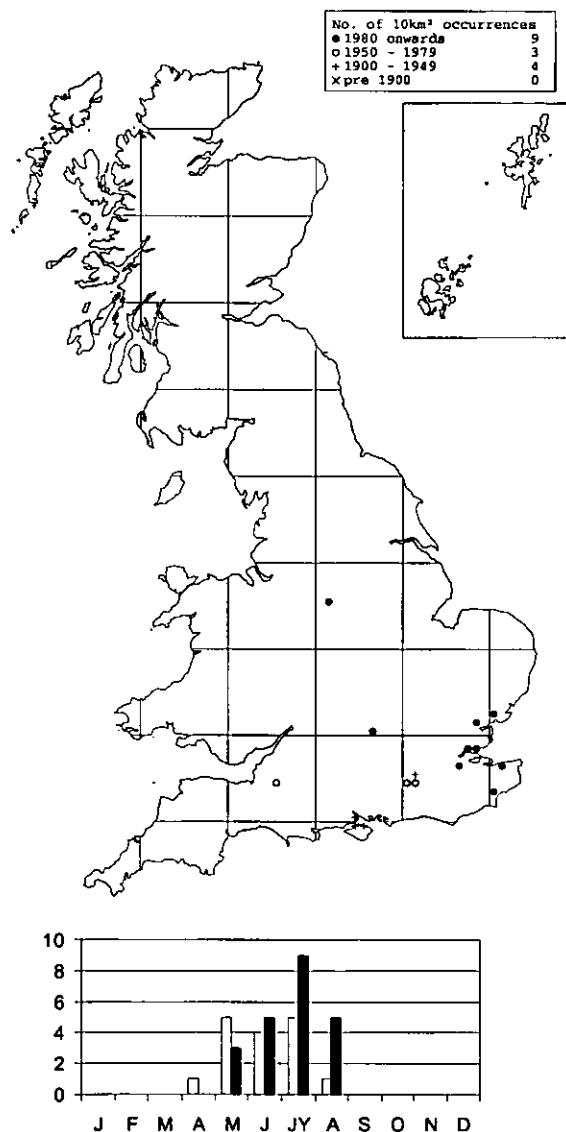
**Status**  
The spider is fairly common in the south.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in southern Britain, but very scattered in the west and as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
This is a species that is often seen rapidly running in open spaces under sunny conditions. It can be found under stones in quarries and by water-filled pits, in leaf litter, in grasslands and gardens, and in a range of similar situations, often near ants, in both dry and damp conditions. Adult males are found mainly from late spring to mid-summer, females through the summer, persisting until the autumn.

**Author of profile:** T.J. Thomas





#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is very local, with most records from the North Downs area and the Isle of Wight. It is absent from many apparently suitable chalk grassland areas.

#### Distribution

The species is confined to the south of England mainly in the south-east, apart from one record in Staffordshire. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland and is scarce in Scandinavia.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. minimus* occurs in grassland, mainly on chalk, usually in stony, sparsely vegetated areas, but it has also been found in open woodland areas on sand, in dry litter at the edge of woodland rides and coppice areas. It is found under stones or running in sunshine. Adult males are found mainly from late spring to mid-summer, females from May to August.

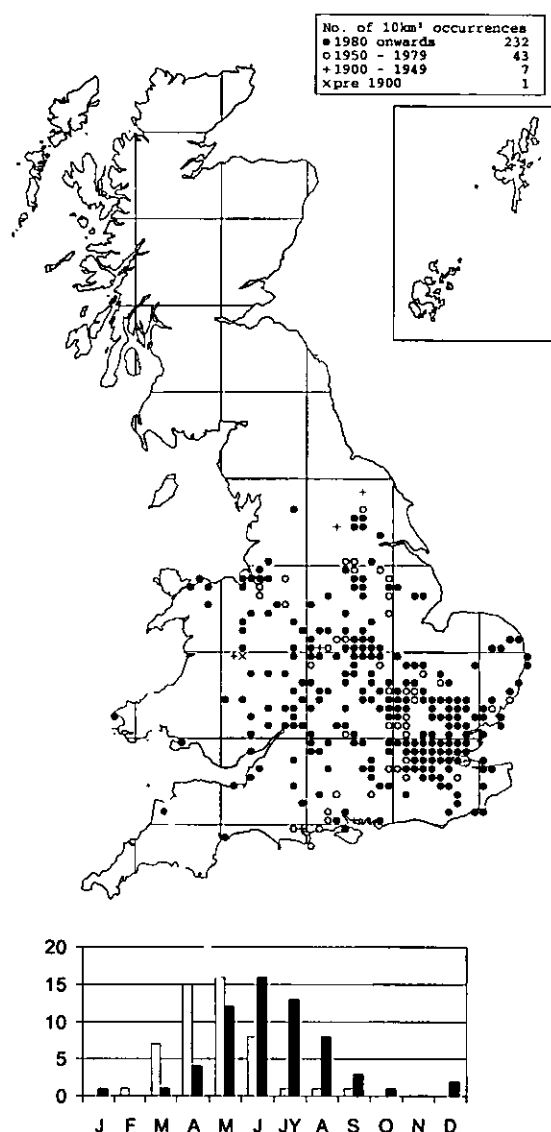
#### Threats

The loss of chalk grassland to agriculture, and loss of sparsely vegetated areas by reduction of grazing.

#### Management

Maintain open stony and sparsely vegetated areas by grazing and irregular disturbance.

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



#### Status

The spider is common, more so towards the south.

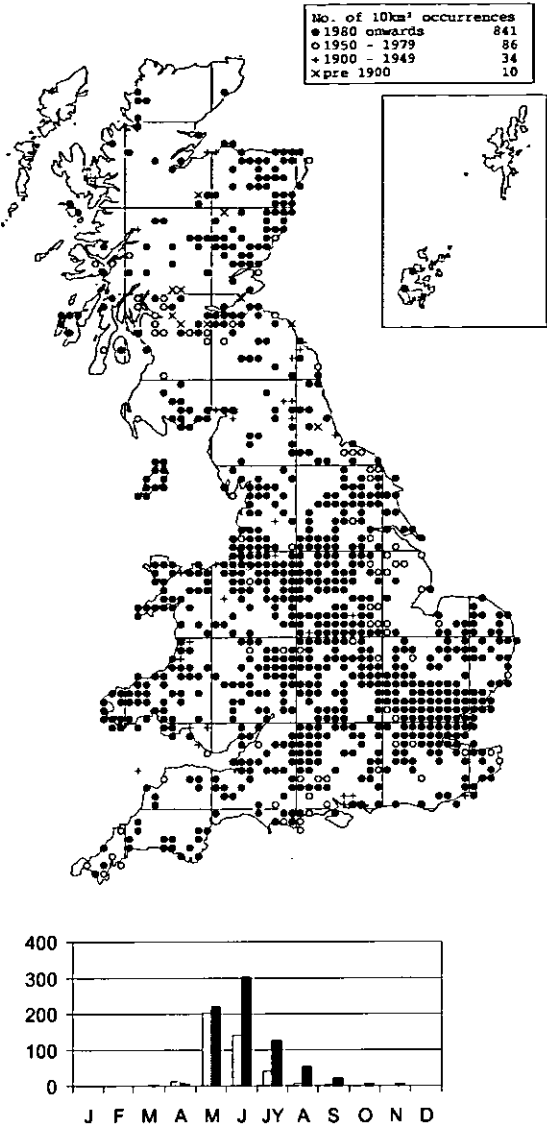
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in England as far north as Yorkshire, but scattered in the south-west and Wales. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species is most commonly found beneath the loose bark of dead and dying trees though it may be found in a range of other habitats. Habitats include broad-leaved and mixed woodlands, heathland scrub, marsh vegetation, acid and calcareous grassland scrub as well as under stones and in leaf litter, and occasionally in and around houses. Because of its association with trees *C. corticalis* may be found in birds' nests and squirrel dreys. Adults of both sexes have been recorded in most months of the year, but males are found mainly in spring and early summer, females in summer.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas

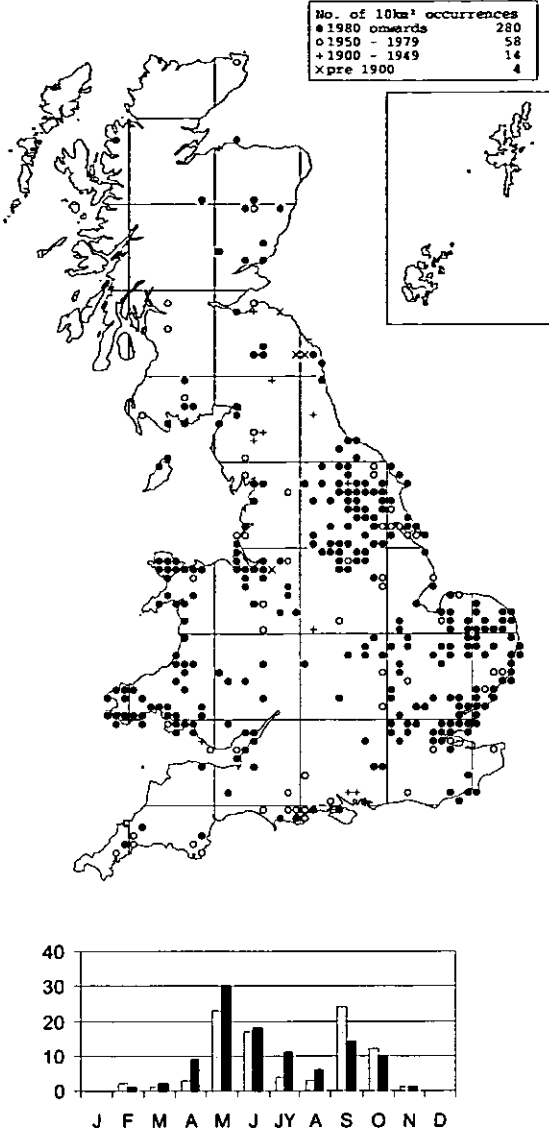


**Status**  
Common.

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

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider can be found amongst low vegetation and detritus in a wide range of habitats, most often in damp or marshy situations, but also scrub grassland, nettle beds, rubbish tips and heathland. The female can often be found with her eggs in a retreat constructed in a curled leaf held with silk. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late spring to mid-summer, females occasionally persisting into the autumn and winter.

**Author of profile:** W.J. Partridge using information from Bristowe (1958), Crocker and Daws (1996), Locket & Millidge (1951) and Roberts (1995).



**Status**  
Local, but the spider may be common in fens and marshes.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in parts of southern Britain, but very scattered in large areas of the south as well as north of Yorkshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
A ground active spider associated with wetlands, particularly fens, bogs and coastal habitats such as saline grassland and marsh. Females attach their white egg-sacs to leaves and other vegetation which are then rolled and sealed with more silk. Once complete, these egg-sacs can normally be found guarded by the female. Adults of both sexes have been found between February and November, but mainly from late spring to mid-summer and in the autumn.

**Author of profile:** J.R. Bell

### Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). UK Biodiversity Action Plan species. The spider is thought to be fairly plentiful in Abernethy Forest, and widespread but sparse in the Black Wood of Rannoch.

### Distribution

The species was recorded from Abernethy Forest several times between 1945 and 1999, and near Coylumbridge in 1979, both in East Inverness-shire. There have been sporadic reports from the Black Wood of Rannoch, Mid Perthshire between 1913 and 1987. This species is widespread in Europe, being known from Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia and Russia.

### Habitat and ecology

The spider is associated with Caledonian pine woods, having been found under bark, on branches, in pine litter, once among young pines and, near Coylumbridge, on juniper growing as an under-storey within a pine wood. Adults of both sexes have been found in June, males also in September.

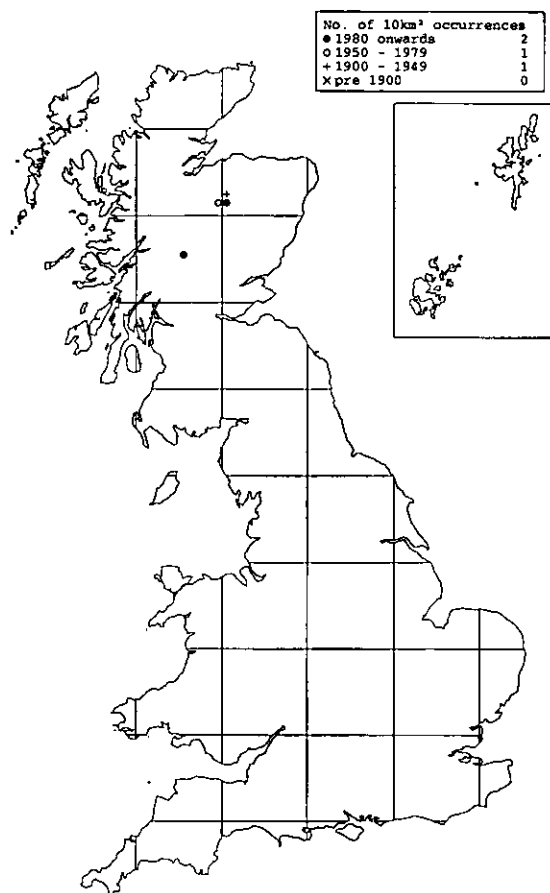
### Threats

The loss of Caledonian native pine forest through conversion to intensive plantation forestry. Both Abernethy Forest and the Black Wood of Rannoch have suffered from planting of Scots pine and non-native conifers in large blocks, sometimes preceded by clear-felling of the native pine. Although 30 ha of Abernethy Forest were felled in 1984 before it was re-notified as an SSSI, and a total of 226 ha were lost since 1977, it is now owned and managed by the RSPB.

### Management

Management should be aimed at conserving the pine and other native trees. Natural regeneration of Scots Pine should be allowed to proceed to give the typical open forest structure. Where regeneration is so dense as to be too impenetrable, early thinning of the saplings may be needed to create glades. 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 using information in the species dossier of Scottish Natural Heritage and information from Ian Dawson.



### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. There is an established population at Chippenham Fen but of unknown size and extent. Its status at Tuddenham Fen is not known.

### Distribution

Only known from two sites in Britain: Tuddenham Fen, West Suffolk from a single record, and Chippenham Fen, Cambridgeshire where it has been recorded on many occasions since 1951. In Europe it is otherwise only recorded from France, Poland and the former Czechoslovakia.

### Habitat and ecology

Confined to fens where it is found among cut sedge and reeds and in sedge tussocks. Adults have been collected in February, May, June, September and October, suggesting an extended period of adult activity.

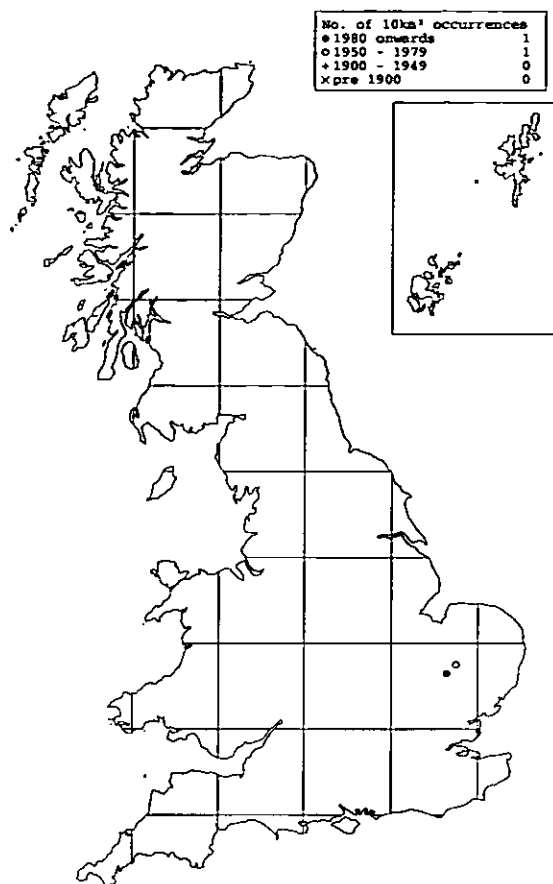
### Threats

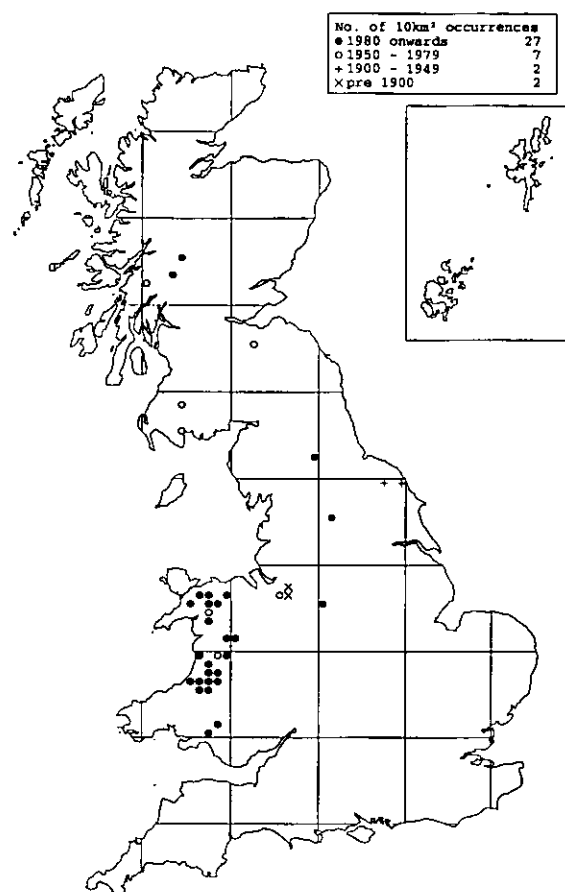
Both sites where this species occur lie within NNRs. In its principal site at Chippenham Fen, water abstraction in the surrounding area is thought to have reduced water levels in the fen although there is no evidence of a decline in the population of the spider at this site. At Tuddenham Fen, dredging of the River Lark since 1964 has lowered the water table and greatly reduced the extent of fen vegetation along the river valley. However, part of Tuddenham Fen is spring fed and water levels are partially independent of the river level. Here too, water extraction may be affecting the flow of the springs.

### Management

Management at Chippenham Fen is aimed at maintaining a high ground water table and preventing carr woodland encroaching on open sedge beds by a regime of annual mowing. At Tuddenham Fen, efforts are being made to maintain the water table by pounding back the outflow of the springs.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider has been recorded from relatively few sites, but is numerous at some of them. Because of its rather inaccessible habitat and early maturity period it may be more frequent than the records suggest, although it is definitely very local.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in Wales, but widely scattered elsewhere, mainly on high ground. It has been recorded from the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland.

#### Habitat and ecology

*C. norvegica* occurs in wet places, mainly on high moorland, among moss and *Sphagnum*. Adults are found in early spring (males in February and March) and autumn, and possibly for most of the year.

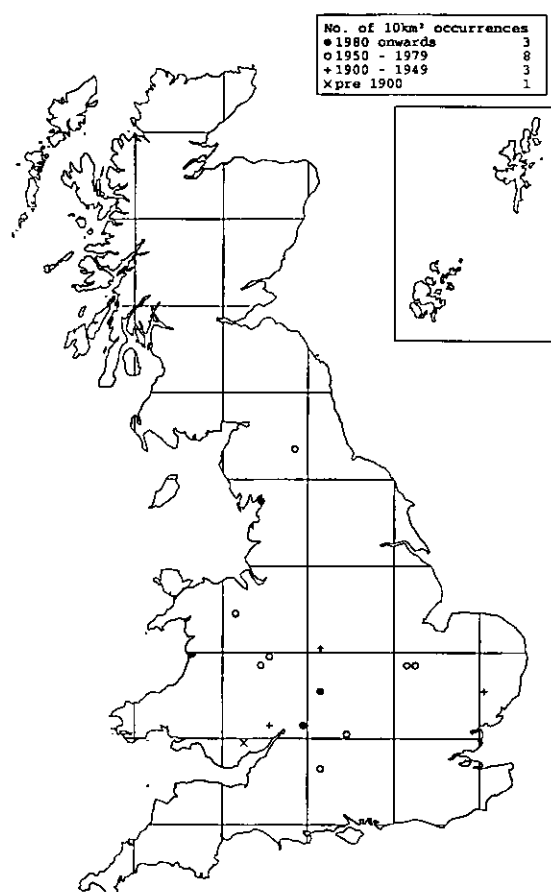
#### Threats

Possibly drainage and the loss of open moorland to afforestation at some sites.

#### Management

Open moorland should be maintained by traditional management.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). There are few records, but it has been numerous in a few places. Although clearly very local, its wide distribution suggests that it may have been overlooked in some places, perhaps because it matures late in the season or perhaps it occupies a slightly unusual habitat.

#### Distribution

Records are widely scattered, but with very few recent captures. The species is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but it has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs on low plants among scrub and overgrown woodland, and on young oaks. A male appeared in a Robinson light trap set for moths in scrub in West Lancashire in May (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes are found in September and May. It possibly over-winters as an adult.

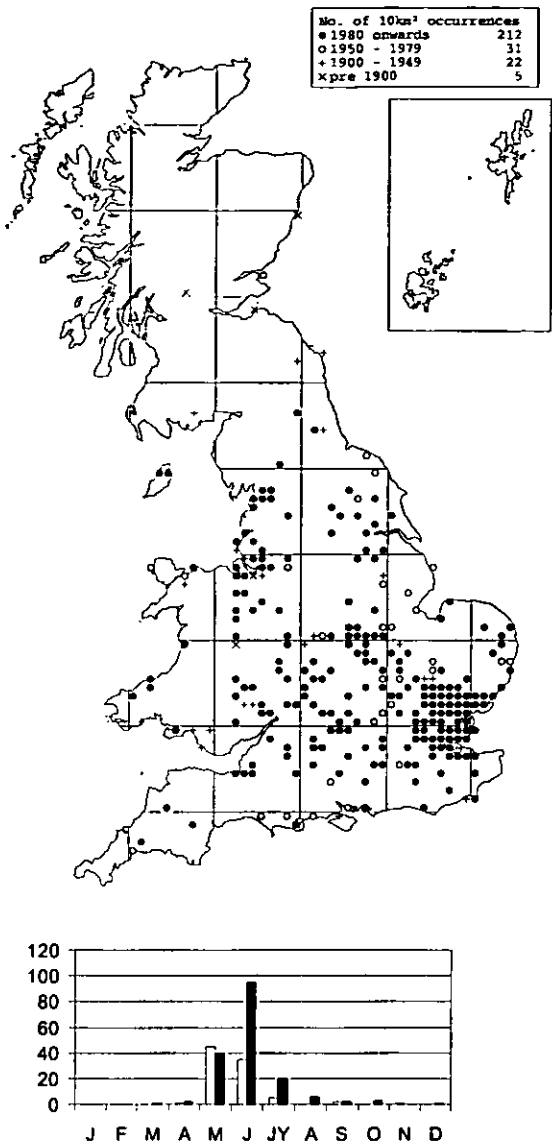
#### Threats

The clearance of scrub and old woodland for intensive forestry, and the removal of shrub layer vegetation.

#### Management

Maintain low plants and shrub layer in old woodland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



Status

Local, but more common in the south.

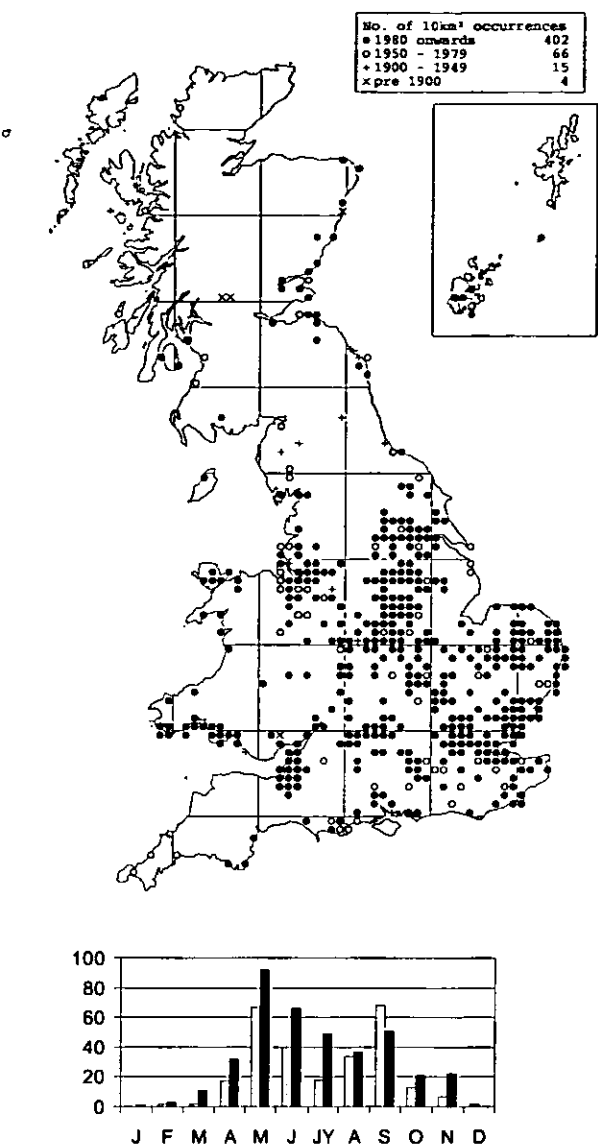
Distribution

The species is widespread in parts of England, but otherwise very scattered as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

*C. pallidula* is typically found on trees and shrubs, on bark or by beating. An unusually high proportion of records are from gardens, both urban and suburban (e.g. five of the twelve sites in Leicestershire in Crocker and Daws (1996)). One female was found on eggs in a folded *Yucca* leaf in a suburban garden. It also occurs under stones, inside houses, outhouses and derelict buildings and in grassland. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late spring and early summer, females occasionally until December. A male has been recorded in November in Leicestershire inside a telephone box.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton



Status

Locally common.

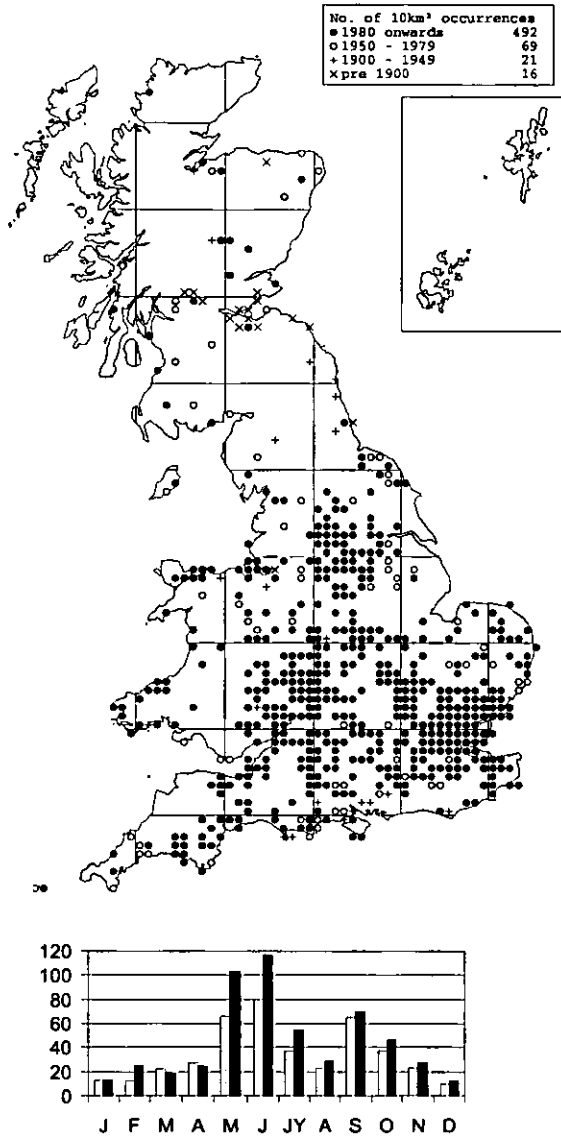
Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England from Yorkshire southwards and in lowland Wales, but very scattered in south-west England and northern Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

Habitat and ecology

Can be found in most wetland habitats, especially in emergent vegetation at the edge of water and occasionally on sand dunes. In standing water the spider may be seen stalking prey on stems just above the waterline (Crocker & Daws 1996). The silk retreat is often easiest to see, woven into a folded reed leaf or *Phragmites* head, where the female may be found guarding her egg-sac. Adults have been found throughout the year, but mostly in late spring to mid-summer and late summer to early autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



#### Status

Common in the south.

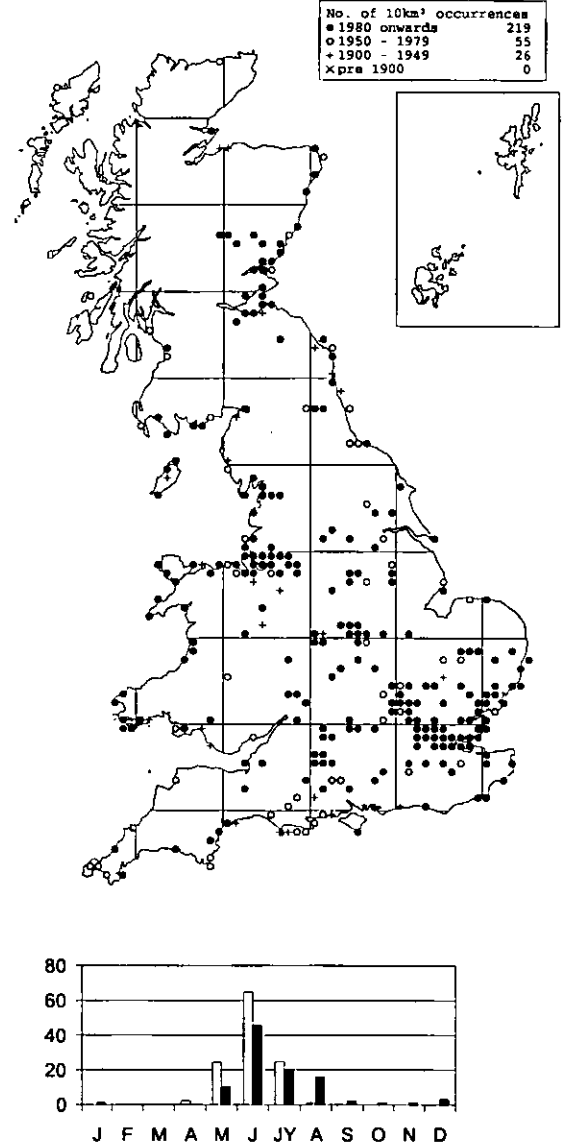
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in most of the southern half of Britain, but becomes very scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This widespread species is found in a large number of situations, usually at ground level, particularly in leaf litter and detritus, occasionally indoors and around houses, in the garden, on shrubs and low vegetation, trees, sometimes under loose bark and under stones. The dampness of the habitat can range from the dryness of heath to the extreme dampness of marshes. Adults of both sexes may be found throughout the year, with peaks from late spring to mid-summer and in the autumn.

**Author of profile:** T.J. Thomas.



#### Status

Local.

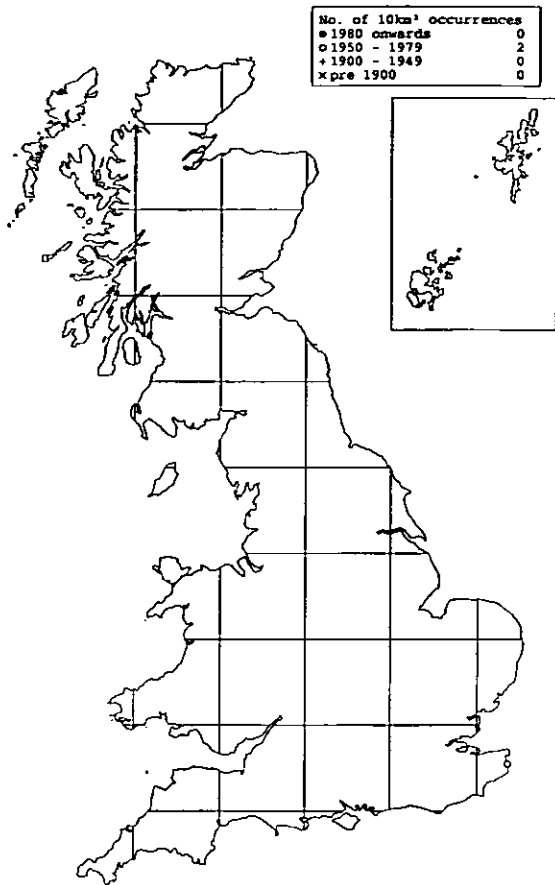
#### Distribution

The species has a patchy distribution throughout Britain, but is very scattered in much of the country. *C. pseudoneglecta* was recently recognised as a species distinct from *C. neglecta* (Wunderlich 1994), and has been collected in Scilly, Kent and the Channel Islands (Merrett 2001). The map shows all records of *C. neglecta* submitted to the recording scheme, and few are likely to be referable to *C. pseudoneglecta*.

#### Habitat and ecology

*C. neglecta* is typical of sparsely vegetated open habitats, including short grassland, sand dunes, wasteland, old quarries and brick pits, open scrub and scattered young trees. Specimens are found mainly in the ground layer and under stones, but some have been taken by beating scrub and young trees or sweeping the field layer (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early to mid-summer, females occasionally into the autumn and winter.

**Author of profile:** J.M. Newton



**Status**

Probably a rare species. *C. pseudoneglecta* was recently recognised as a species distinct from *C. neglecta* (Wunderlich 1994).

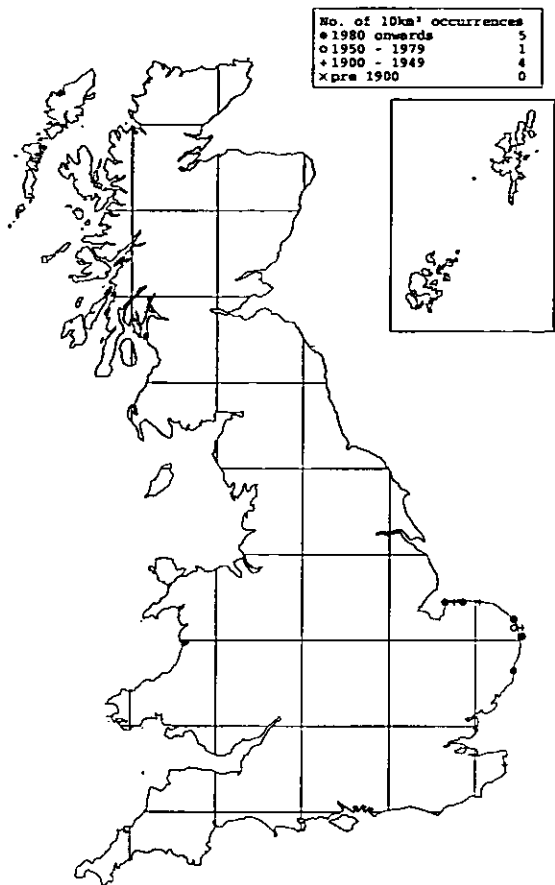
**Distribution**

*C. pseudoneglecta* has been found in material collected in Scilly in 1959, Kent in 1975 and the Channel Islands in 1979. It might be expected to be a southern coastal species in Britain (Merrett 2001). A few of the records shown on the map for *C. neglecta* are likely to be referable to *C. pseudoneglecta*. In Europe the species has been recorded in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Romania and Greece.

**Habitat and ecology**

The precise habitat in Scilly is unknown, but likely to have been either coastal grassland or dunes. Specimens from Sandwich in Kent were collected on sand dunes, and those from Jersey also came from a coastal area. In Europe the spider has also been found on dunes, but also from a lightly wooded area in S. France, a dry, warm habitat in south-west Germany and dry grassland in Switzerland.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey based on information in Merrett (2001).



**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Well-established on coastal dunes in East Anglia.

**Distribution**

This species, formerly known in Britain as *C. similis*, is recorded from the east coast of England between Norfolk and Kent. The species is mainly coastal in distribution, whereas the true *C. similis* is a Central European and more upland species (Merrett & Murphy 2000).

**Habitat and ecology**

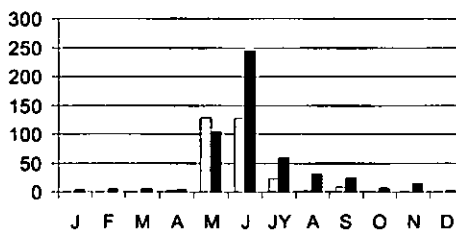
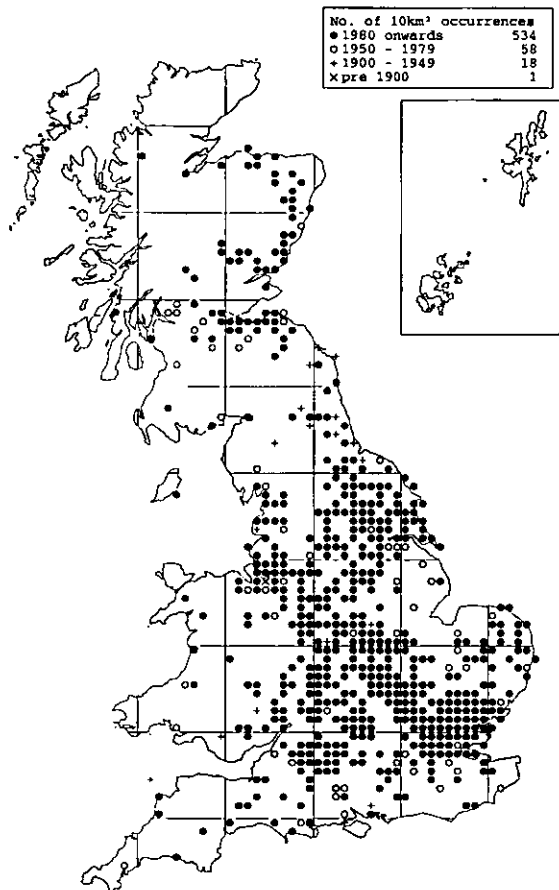
The spider occurs in marram tussocks on sand dunes. Adults have been recorded in May and June and again in September and October.

**Threats**

Public pressure can cause damage to the fragile dune vegetation, destroying it by too much trampling or by climbing in the steeper dunes. Possibly holiday development has destroyed some habitat, and this is always a threat to coastal dunes which lack statutory protection. Sand dunes are popular sites for golf courses (Sandwich Dunes now supports three) and the associated buildings, roads and re-profiling and reseedling of the dunes causes damage to the natural ecosystem.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett





#### Status

Common in most of Britain.

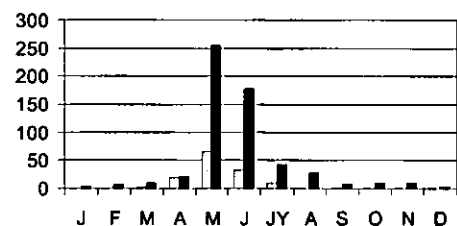
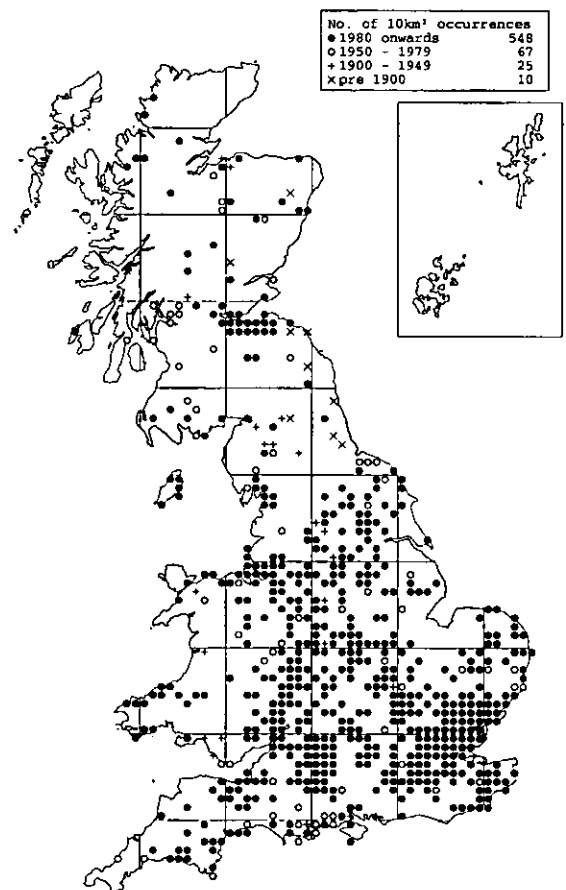
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of Britain, but apparently very scattered in the west and much of the north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*Clubiona lutescens* is found in a wide variety of habitats, including woodlands, grasslands, marshes and waterside vegetation, gardens, allotments, waste places and stony seashores. It has been taken from under stones and in moss and litter, by sweeping field layer vegetation, and by beating trees and shrubs (Crocker & Daws 1996). In rank vegetation the female forms a silk retreat by folding over and fastening leaves, where she hides with her egg-sac. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May and June, females occasionally throughout the year and males from April to September.

Author of profile: J.M. Newton



#### Status

Common.

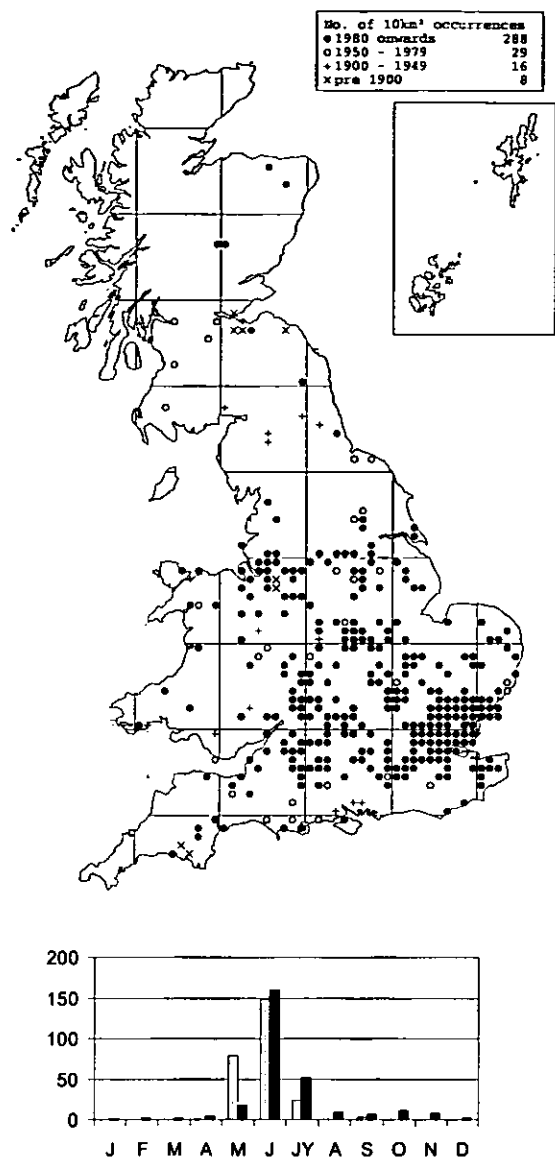
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England, but more scattered and patchy in the west and north, Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

Often occurring at low densities, this spider is associated with bushes and trees where it lives under bark and within the canopy. Immatures have been found in the field layer in autumn and winter which suggests migration to the canopy during later instars and a biennial life cycle (Toft 1978; Crocker & Daws 1996). Females attach their white egg-sacs to leaves and bark which are normally guarded. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late spring and early summer, females occasionally throughout the year.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

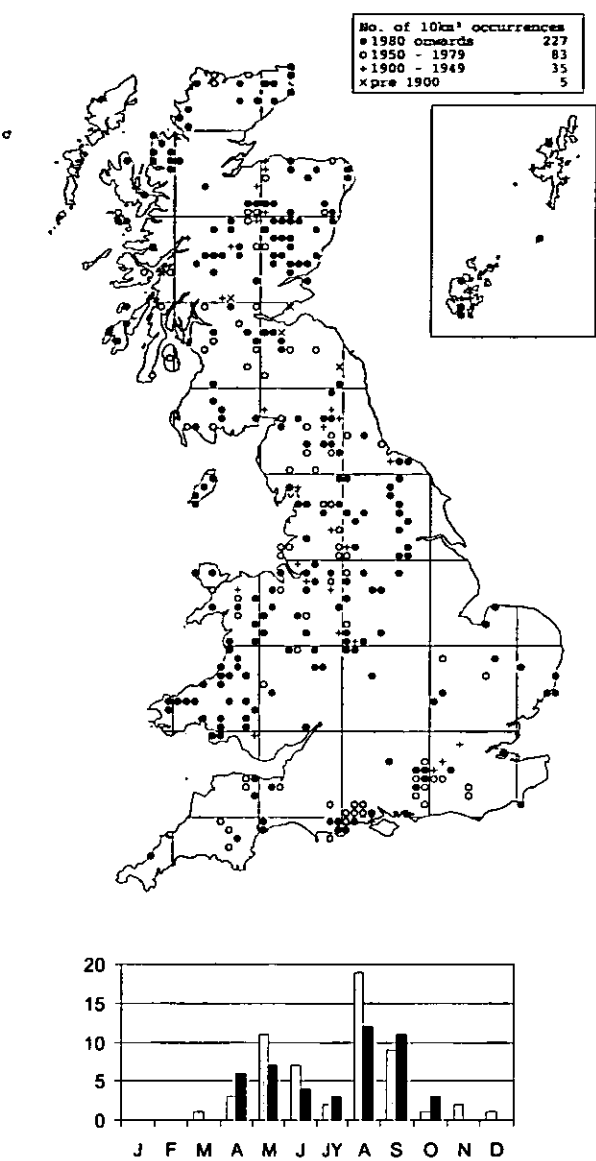


**Status**  
Common.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in England from Yorkshire southwards, but scattered in the south-west, northern England, Wales and as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
An abundant spider associated with bushes and trees where it lives under bark and within the canopy. Immatures have been found in the field layer in autumn which suggests migration to the canopy during later instars and a biennial life cycle (Toft 1978). Females attach their white egg-sacs to leaves and other vegetation which are normally guarded. Adults of both sexes are found mainly from early to mid-summer with a peak in June, females occasionally throughout the year. Males and females have been found from April to November in Leicestershire with activity peaks in June (Crocker & Daws 1996), whereas in Huntingdonshire and Denmark activity peaks in September to October (Duffey 1969; Toft 1978).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



**Status**  
The spider is very local in the south, but more frequent in the north.

**Distribution**  
The species has a widespread distribution in Britain north of a line between Glamorgan and the Humber but to the south it is very scattered except on moorland in south-western England and on southern heathlands. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*C. trivialis* is generally found amongst low vegetation such as heather and gorse, and sometimes under stones, but it has also been found on pines. It often occurs on high ground but has also been found at sea level. In the south the species mainly occurs on heathland. Adults have been found between March and December, with peaks in late spring/early summer and late summer/early autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

### Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). This species appears to be well established at several places in the Broads, East Norfolk, all of which are in either National or Local Nature Reserves. Its status in Dorset, Essex and Cambridgeshire is insufficiently known.

### Distribution

In Britain, the species has been recorded from Cambridgeshire (Chippenham Fen 1995), Dorset (Keyworth, Poole Harbour 1962-63), Essex (Stanford Warren 1987-88; Old Hall Marshes 1995) and East Norfolk (Bure Marshes, Reedham Marsh, Horsey Mere 1970-71; Barton Turf 1983; Reedham, Catfield, Sutton, Woodbastwick and Hickling 1988-89). Elsewhere in Europe, it has been recorded from 11 countries including Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Romania, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland and Estonia (see map in Decler and Bosmans (1989)).

### Habitat and ecology

In Britain it has been found in reed-beds and fens including brackish reed-beds in Dorset, under cut *Cladium* and among reeds and in ground vegetation in *Phragmites/Cladium* fens in Norfolk, including in sphagnum moss. In Essex females were taken from silken retreats in reed heads in an area of wet grass and reeds. Reed-beds also seem to be the most typical habitat elsewhere in Europe but it has been taken in dense vegetation on coastal sand dunes in Ireland and Germany. In Britain, adults have been recorded in May, July, September and October but Decler and Bosmans (1989) collated all records in Europe and found adults present in all months from March to December. They suggest that this species has two generations per year, the first generation hatching in spring, hibernating as adults and reproducing the following spring and the second generation produced in summer, hibernating as sub-adults and reproducing in the next autumn.

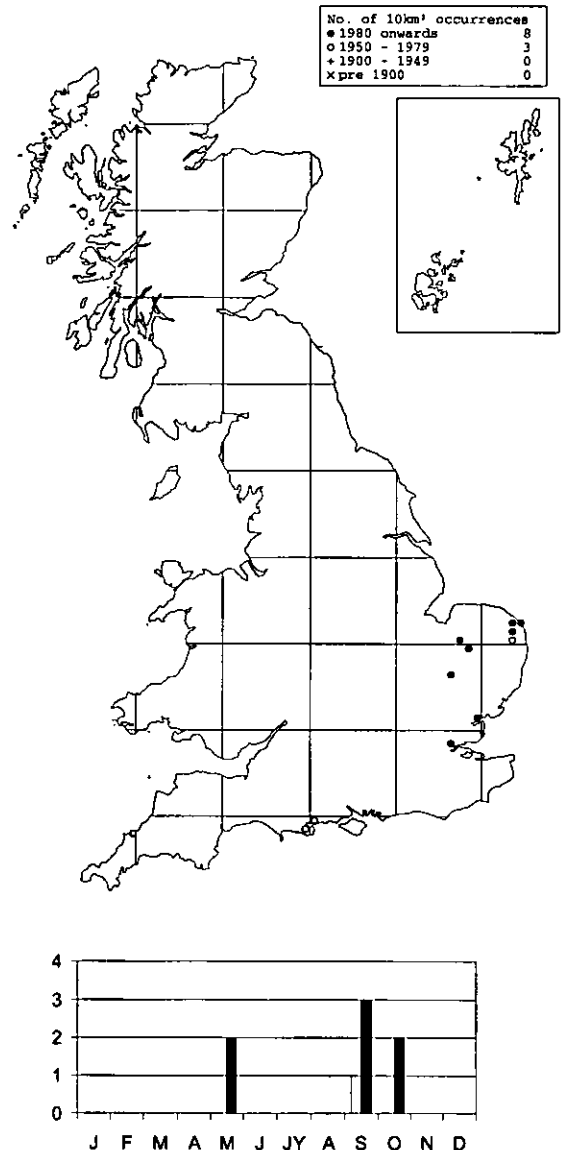
### Threats

All the known sites in Norfolk lie within NNRs or SSSIs. Stanford Warren in Essex was denotified as an SSSI several years ago but is currently an Essex Wildlife Trust reserve, and Old Hall Marshes is a RSPB reserve. In Norfolk the biggest threat to this species has been loss of reed-beds in recent years in the Broads, caused principally by eutrophication of waterways. The best areas of reed-beds are now those that are largely isolated from the main Broadland rivers. In areas where regular reed cutting has ceased, succession of reed-beds to carr woodland is also a major threat.

### Management

Efforts are now under way to reduce the nutrient load in the broads rivers by more effective sewage treatment and regulation of waste discharge from boats. The re-establishment of regular reed and sedge cutting in several of the East Norfolk nature reserves should help to prevent invasion of reed and sedge beds by carr woodland.

**Author of profile:** A. Russell-Smith



Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Twenty-seven females or cells with eggs were recently found on Ramsey Island (Dawson 2000).

Distribution

This species has been recorded from four sites on the Lizard in Cornwall (Smithers 1998b), the Isles of Scilly, Lulworth and Ringstead in Dorset and the islands of Ramsey and Skokholm in Pembrokeshire. The exact distribution in Europe is uncertain due to confusion with similar species, but it appears to be widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000). It has not been recorded in Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

*C. genevensis* has been recorded from under stones and among scree in maritime grasslands, and also amongst grass and heather in coastal habitats. The main habitat of this species is still uncertain. Adult females have been found from April to September but males only in April.

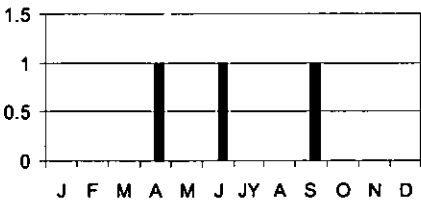
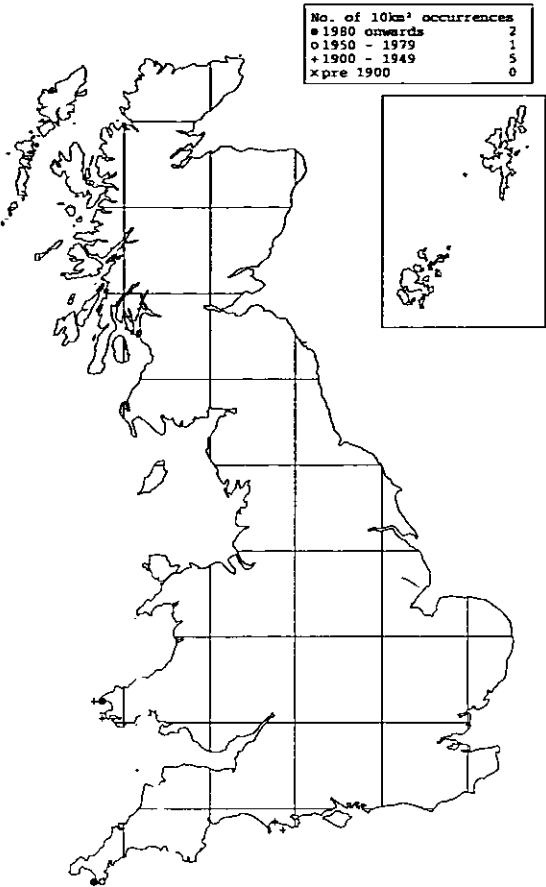
Threats

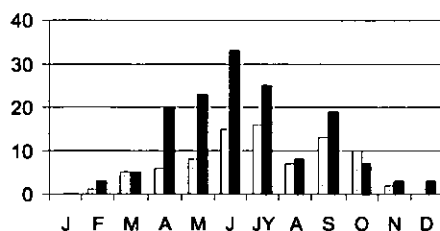
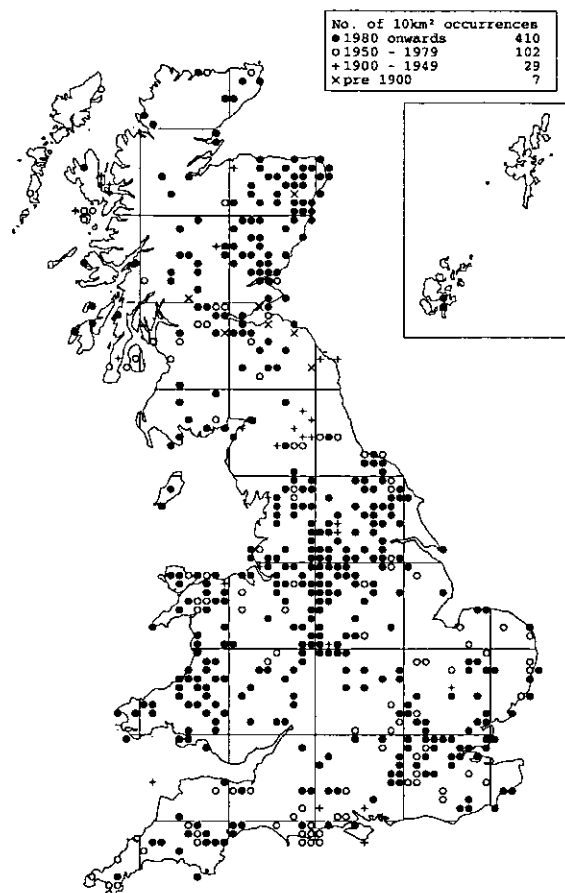
The loss of coastal heaths and grasslands to agriculture plus public pressure on existing sites. Trampling and accidental fires will degrade known sites and may adversely affect this species. Ramsey Island is now an RSPB reserve.

Management

The reduction of public pressure and trampling would be advantageous

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





#### Status

Locally common, but may be scarce in the modern countryside.

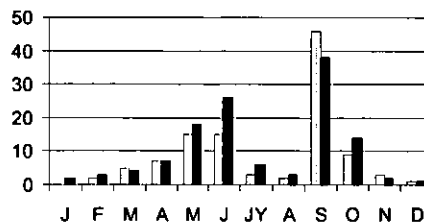
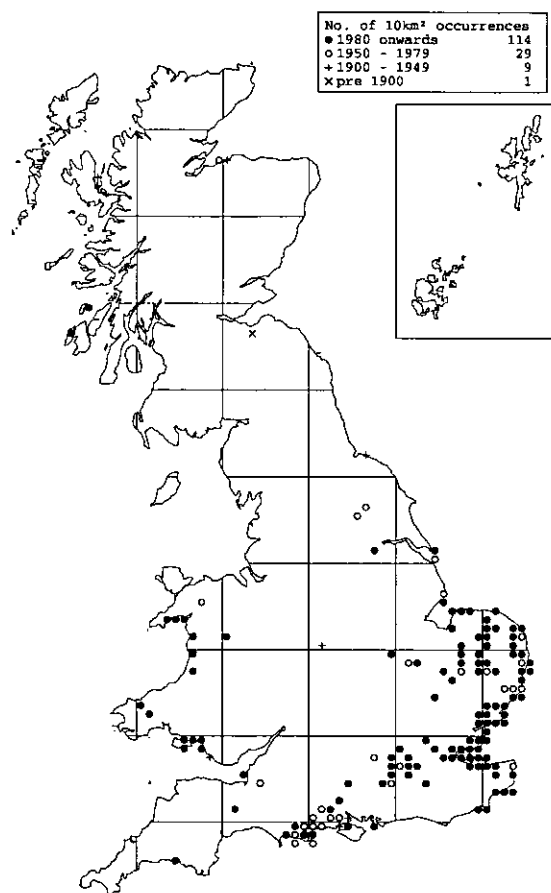
#### Distribution

Widespread in Britain but scattered in some areas. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*C. diversa* is a nocturnal spider typically found near the ground on inland and coastal grasslands. In the south it is rare on heaths where it is replaced by *C. trivialis* (P. Merrett, pers. comm.), but the two species may occur together on heaths and bogs in the north (J. Newton, pers. comm.) and in Leicestershire *C. diversa* is fairly frequent on heathland/moorland in Charnwood Forest, whereas *C. trivialis* is rare in the county (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Egg-sacs are white silken cells which can be found under logs and stones and are guarded by the female. Males and females have been found in every month from February to November and there is some suggestion that small numbers may be found during winter in Sweden (Almqvist 1973). Our data show most adults of both sexes are found between spring and autumn, perhaps with two peaks, in late spring to mid-summer and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



#### Status

Local, but the spider may be frequent in wet habitats, especially fens and marshes in the south.

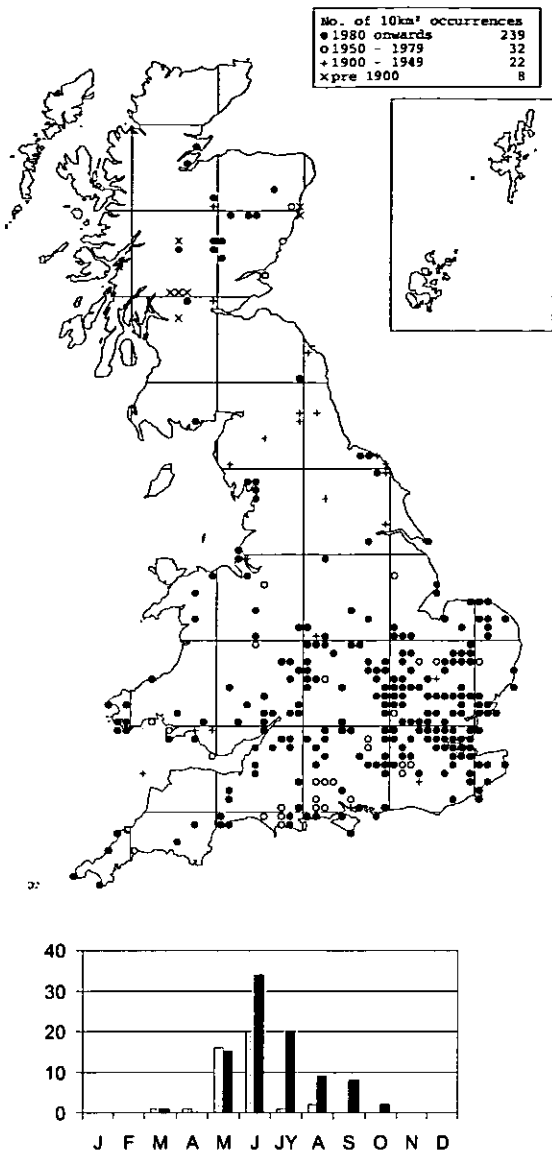
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in East Anglia, near the coast in Wales and south-eastern England, and on southern heathlands, but records elsewhere are very scattered, to as far north as Skye.

#### Habitat and ecology

A wetland species of fens, bogs, wet meadows and coastal habitats such as *Phragmites* dykes, saltmarsh edge and tidal litter, which paradoxically also occurs in sand dunes. Little is known of the ecology of this species. Adults of both sexes have been recorded almost throughout the year, but mainly in spring/early summer and the autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

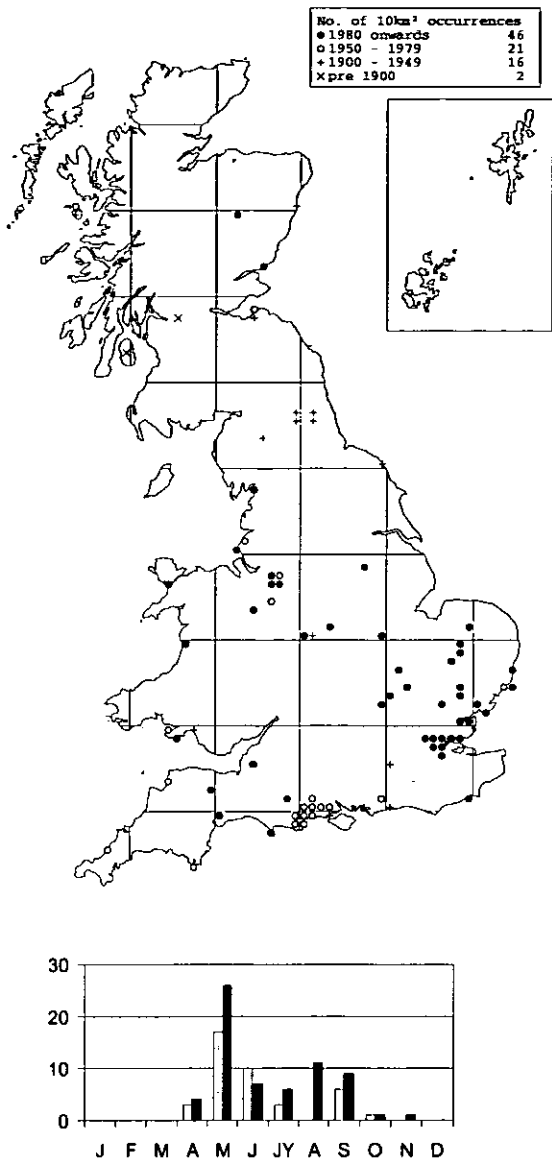


**Status**  
Local.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread south of the Wash, but is more scattered in the west and in the north as far as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider occurs on low plants in rough vegetation and heather. It is most easily found in early summer by looking for the retreat constructed from two or three leaves, or grass heads, stitched together to make a retreat which will hold the female and egg-sac. Later in the year, immature specimens, which already show the reddish median stripe on the abdomen, can be found in small silk cells on plant stems such as dried docks. Adult males are found mainly in late spring and early summer, females from late spring to the autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



**Status**  
Although generally uncommon, in the south the spider may be frequent.

**Distribution**  
The species has a scattered distribution in Britain as far north as central Scotland, but is only widespread in parts of southern England. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
The spider occurs under stones, or low vegetation such as heather, in dry, sandy or sparsely vegetated areas in open habitats such as heathland, waste-ground and dunes. It generally remains in a silk cell during the day and the egg-sac is also hidden away under a stone. Although generally uncommon it is probably the *Cheiracanthium* species most often found on heathland and particularly on young heather (Merrett 1976). Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late spring/early summer and autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

**Status**

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). Abundant on Chobham Common, Surrey, where it was first found in 1968 and has been recorded on many subsequent occasions. Possibly frequent on Whitmoor Common, but scarce elsewhere.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded from Hampshire, Dorset and Surrey, and there is an old record from Wokingham, Berkshire, in 1872, when both sexes were found. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is included on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000). The species has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs on mature dry heathland and is closely associated with the heather. Females, either with eggs or heavily gravid, have been found in cells on cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, several dead flower heads having been drawn together and the cell made in their middle. On heather *Calluna vulgaris*, an immature female has been found in a cell, with the male waiting outside. Males have been found from June to August and females from May to August.

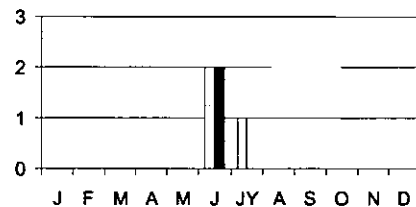
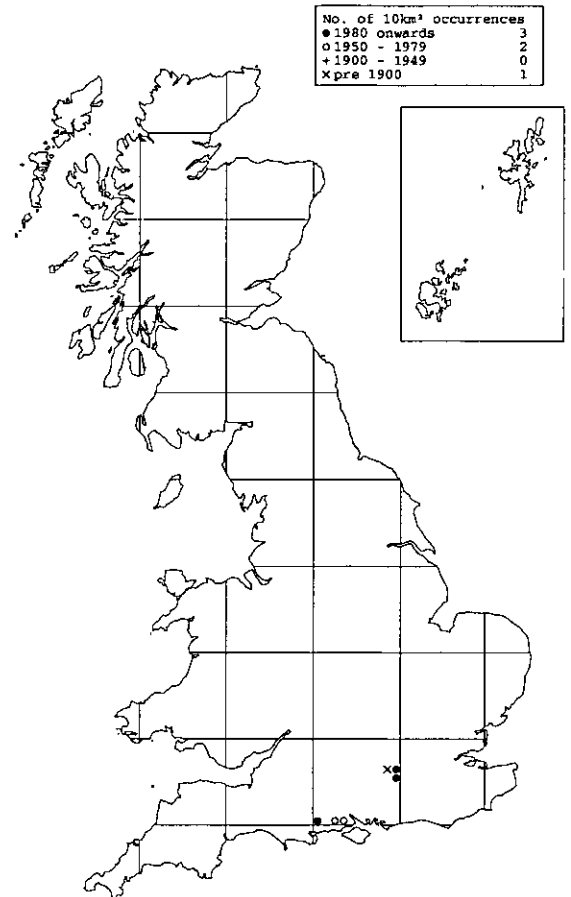
**Threats**

Accidental fire or the too frequent use of fire as a management tool on the heathland habitat, and loss of habitat through changing land-use. A hundred hectares of Horton Common were ploughed up and turned over to agriculture in 1980. Birch and pine invasion is a threat on areas of heath, in the absence of burning, grazing or other active management. This is currently a problem in the spider's habitat on Chobham Common.

**Management**

Loss of heathland to birch and pine invasion should be prevented. Whilst fire is a valuable management tool for maintaining *Calluna* heath, it should be used at long enough intervals to allow the mature phase in the *Calluna* growth cycle to be reached and burning should be carried out on a rotation which allows this phase to be ever present on the site. If grazing is used in management, it may be necessary to fence off exclosures in which the *Calluna* can develop ungrazed for a number of years.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett



## Status

The species is widespread and common in suitable habitat in the East Thames Corridor where the climate is unique in Britain for its low rainfall, high summer temperatures and mild winters. Records from derelict railway sidings and sites near railway lines have caused some arachnologists to suggest this spider is a recent arrival and that railways may play a part in the distribution of the spider. This view is rejected here on the basis of our current knowledge of its distribution and ecology in Britain and the European distribution. The distribution map in Bosmans (1997) indicates the British records are within the natural range of the species in Europe. Populations may represent a survival from periods when Britain was joined to mainland Europe by a land bridge and current evidence suggests this is probably a native species, which should be regarded as Nationally Scarce.

## Distribution

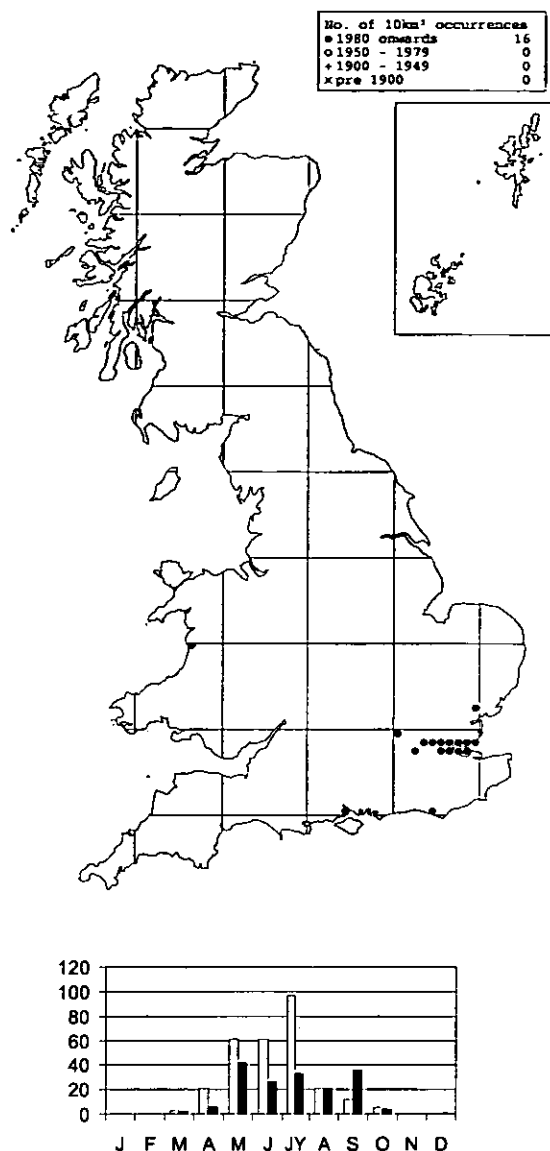
The centre of distribution in Britain is the East Thames Corridor in south Essex and north Kent. The species is also recorded from Stanway near Colchester in north-east Essex, Croxley Green in Hertfordshire and from Middlesex. More recently it has been recorded from Newhaven in West Sussex (1998) and Dibden Bay in S. Hampshire (1999). In Europe the species is known from France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia (Bosmans 1997) and the Netherlands (van Helsdingen 1999).

## Habitat and ecology

The spider is strongly associated with dry, warm, sunny open habitats containing a proportion of bare ground. The spider has been trapped in large numbers in the drier parts of grazing marsh grasslands, unimproved Thames Terrace grasslands and other open grassland sites. It is also found in old sand and chalk pits and other 'brown field' sites in the region where the substrate provides warm, dry, sunny, sparsely vegetated habitats. The Colchester and Hertfordshire localities are old railway sites with clinker and railway ballast and the London localities are adjacent to railway lines. The Newhaven record is from a shingle beach and the South Hampshire record is from dry gravelly grassland. The spider has been observed using the common black ant *Lasius niger* as prey but will take the meadow ant *Lasius flavus* in captivity and other ant species are probably used. On hot days the spider appears to become more active in the early evening, possibly a response to slower ant activity. Adults are mainly found from early to mid-summer but the species has a long season with adult males and females being recorded between March and October.

## Threats

The 'Thames Gateway' initiative threatens wildlife habitats in the whole East Thames Corridor. There is enormous development pressure on all open space in the region and 'brown field' sites are especially vulnerable. Amenity management, the 'tidying up' of habitats and the political urge to plant virtually every open area with trees all represent threats to the nationally important biodiversity of thermophilic and xerophilic species found in the region.



## Management

Open sunny habitats need to be maintained by grazing or periodic control of scrub and tree invasion. Occasional disturbance to expose areas of bare ground is likely to be beneficial.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



# Status

The spider has only been found at the one site in Britain, but on two occasions. Two males and one female were originally taken in pitfall traps in 1987 and a further visit in 1991 yielded a further four males and seven females, evidence for a well-established population at the site.

# Distribution

The species was discovered in Britain in 1987 at Shakespeare Cliff at Dover. It is otherwise known only from Italy: on the island of Giglio in the Tuscan archipelago, from Forli (Province Forli) and Aspromonte, Calabria.

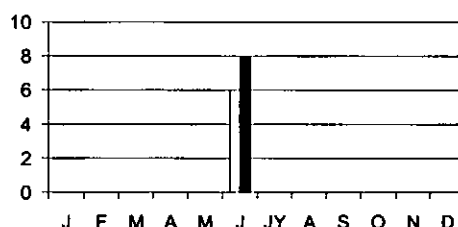
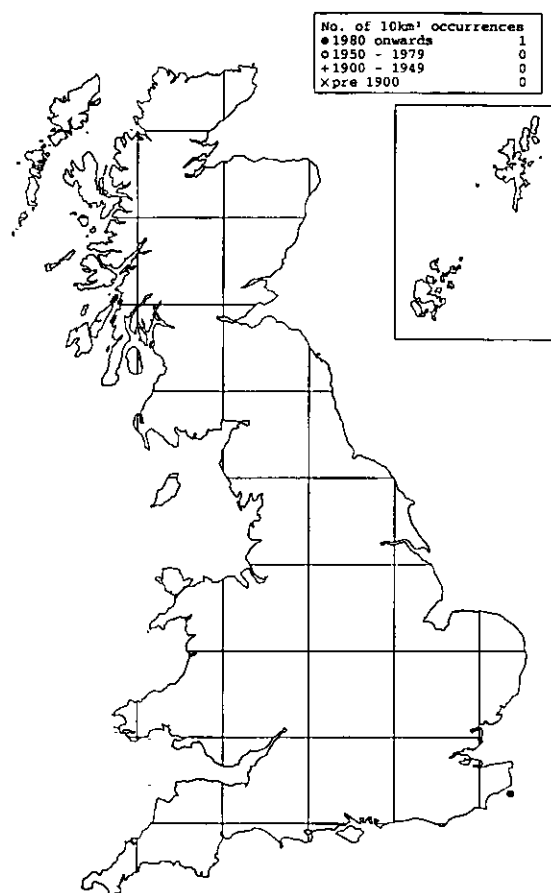
# Habitat and ecology

The spiders have been taken in pitfall traps set in an old rock fall at the base of the cliff in an area of moderately sloping chalk grassland dominated by *Brachypodium pinnatum* and *Festuca rubra*. The spiders have been collected in close proximity to nests of the ant *Lasius alienus*, many being found in retreats typical of the genus *Zodarion*. Adults were collected between the end of May and June.

# 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. The main threat to the site itself may, in the long term, be sea level rise and increased wave action.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey using information from Snazell & Bosmans (1998)



Status

The location of the known population suggests the spider is probably naturalised but the distribution map in Bosmans (1997) indicates the species may be at the edge of its natural range in Britain. A reasonable population of the spider was found during 1999. The species may occur in suitable habitat elsewhere in the Lee Valley.

Distribution

The species was first collected in Britain at Temple Mills in the Lee Valley, South Essex by P. Mabbott in July 1997 (Harvey 1999b). The species is known from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, north Italy, north-east Spain, Switzerland, and (probably as an introduction) the USA (Bosmans 1997).

Habitat and ecology

Like other *Zodarion* species there is an association with dry, warm, sunny open habitats containing a proportion of bare ground and with ant prey. The habitat at Temple Mills consists of ruderal vegetation and scrub developed on a substrate of old dry railway ballast which ranges in size from coarse stones to finer material. The main ant species present at the site is the common black ant *Lasius niger*. The formerly extensive site consists of railway marshalling yards, mostly abandoned in the mid-1980s but mills have at various times stood on or near the site since at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Burley et al. 1989). Adults have been found from June to October.

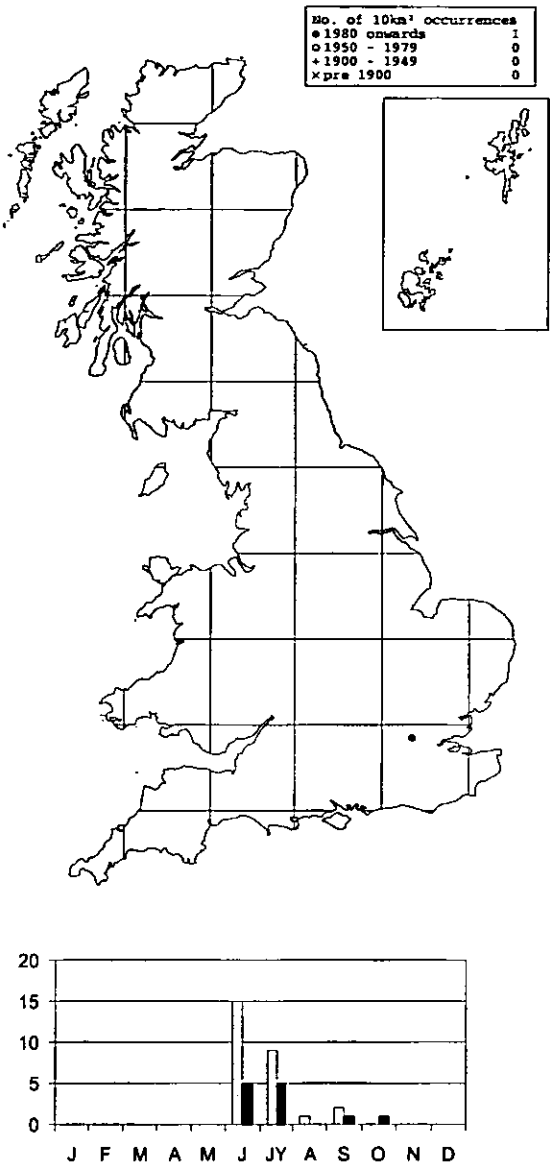
Threats

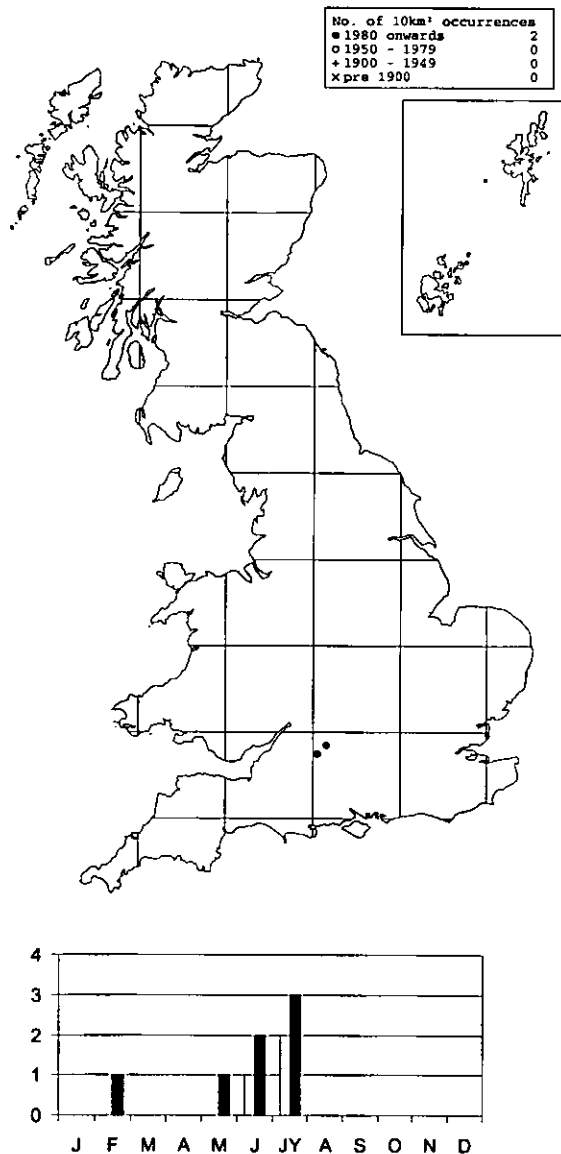
The site has been partly destroyed by the construction of a road and a large area of what remains has been cleared for development. The remainder of the site is likely to be lost to development except for a strip along one side of the road.

Management

Open sunny habitats need to be maintained by periodic control of scrub and tree invasion. Occasional disturbance to expose areas of bare ground is likely to be beneficial.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





#### Status

The spider has only been recorded from one old railway line in Wiltshire. Numbers have been found at several locations on the disused line.

#### Distribution

The species has been found south of Swindon, Wiltshire in 1997. It is also found in southern France and northern Spain (Askins 1999).

#### Habitat and ecology

*Z. fuscum* has been found under stones on an embankment, under loose mortar at a brick bridge and platform, and in clinker (Askins 1999). The species presumably needs a relatively warm habitat. In Wiltshire, it has been found in situations well exposed to the sun, where there are plenty of bare surfaces and gaps between stones, gravel, etc. which provide refuges at all the sites. It seems that females may be adult most of the year, males in June and July.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey using information in Askins (1999)

#### Status

Local, less common than *D. cupreus* in parts of the south of England, and scarcer in the north. *D. lapidosus* has often been confused with *D. cupreus*. In appearance *D. lapidosus* often has a silky grey coat and mouse-like appearance, whilst *D. cupreus* often has a distinctly copper coloured coat (as indicated by its name). Both species occur on the Continent where a number of very closely related species are also found. For a long time, it seems that taxonomists used *D. lapidosus* as a "blanket species" and it is probable that a number of different *Drassodes* species lie buried among the numerous Continental records of *D. lapidosus*.

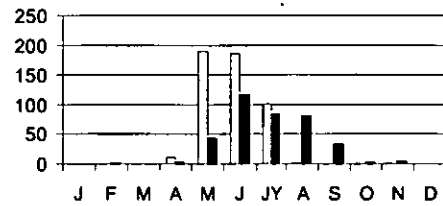
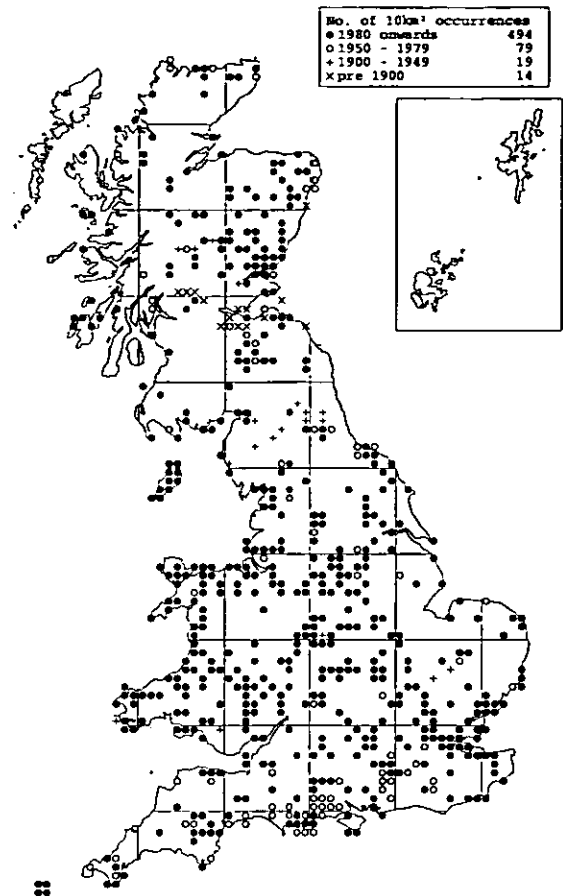
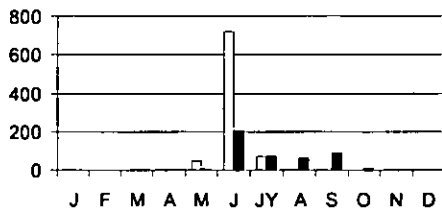
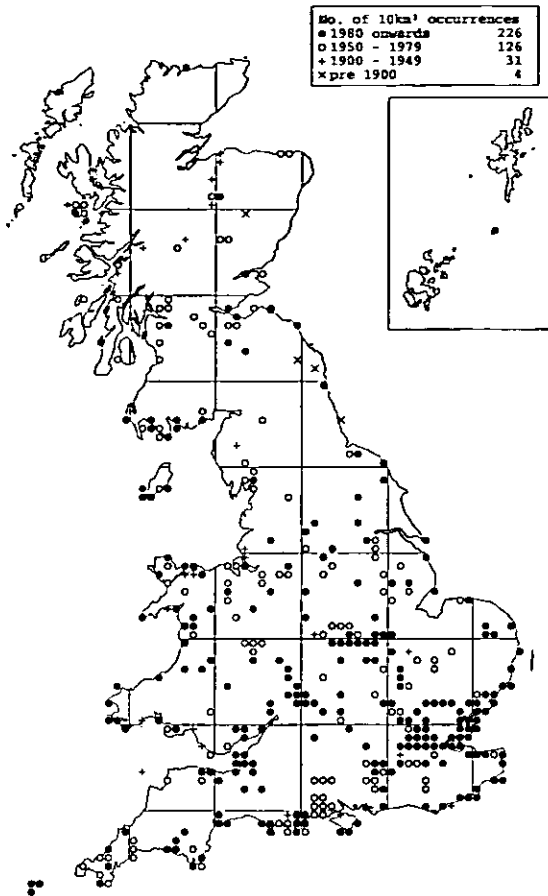
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, but its distribution becomes patchy and very scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway, but not included in the checklists for the Netherlands and Sweden.

#### Habitat and ecology

As the name suggests, *D. lapidosus* is found in stony areas such as scree and the drier parts towards the rear of shingle beaches. It is also synanthropic, associated with man-influenced habitats such as gardens and waste ground where piles of old masonry, discarded clothes, etc. have been dumped. Specimens are usually found in silken cells under stones. The peak period for mature specimens appears to be from summer to autumn, but mature specimens have also been collected all round the year. As with *D. cupreus*, it is not unusual to find a mature male together with a penultimate instar female in the same silken cell. Males occur between May and July, peaking in June, Females may persist until the autumn.

**Author of profile:** J.A. Murphy



### Status

Fairly common. For years, in Britain, *D. cupreus* was regarded as a subspecies of *D. lapidosus*. This was possibly due to the fact that both have very similar genitalia and, to a large extent in England, Wales and Scotland, their ranges overlap. In the field, the typically copper coloured coat of *D. cupreus* is often a guide to its identity.

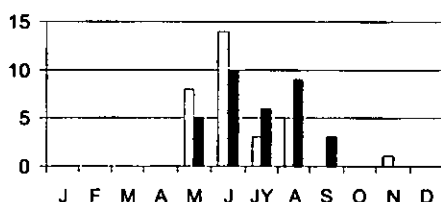
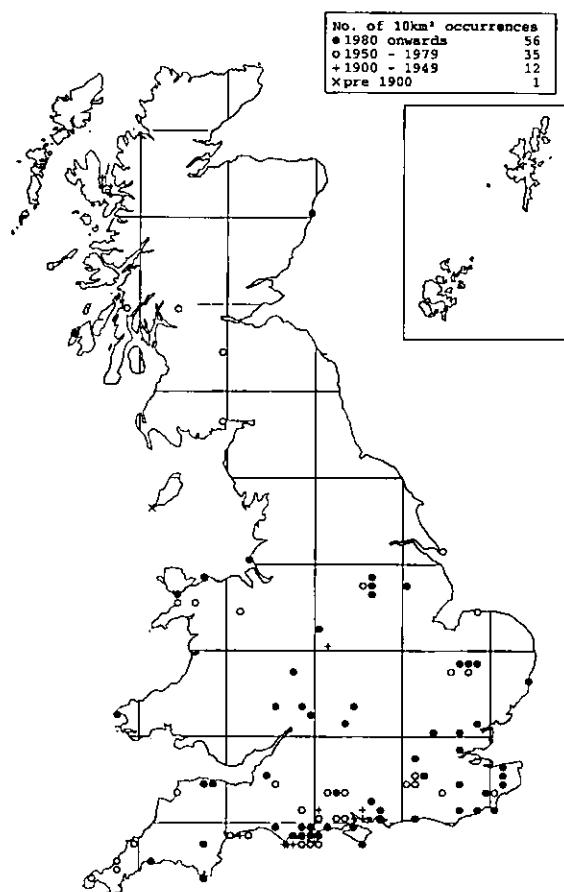
### Distribution

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

### Habitat and ecology

*D. cupreus* is frequently found under scattered stones, discarded rubbish and grassy tussocks, particularly on heaths and old grasslands, and may be beaten out of gorse and heather. In the south of England *D. cupreus* is not uncommon on heaths where *D. lapidosus* appears to be absent. Curiously, both species may be equally common on calcareous grassland. It is not unusual to find a mature male together with a penultimate instar female in the same silken cell, which can surprise and even cause a collector to miss both. Both sexes are adult mainly from early to mid-summer, females through the summer, sometimes persisting later.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



#### Status

In Britain *D. pubescens* is rare compared with *D. lapidosus* and *D. cupreus*. In appearance, *D. pubescens* looks much like a small or immature *D. lapidosus*, but the genitalia of both sexes are clearly distinguishable from those of *D. lapidosus* and *D. cupreus*.

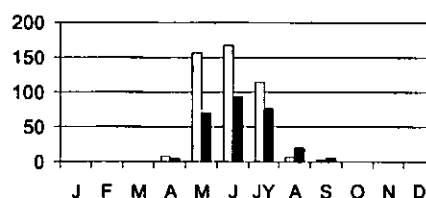
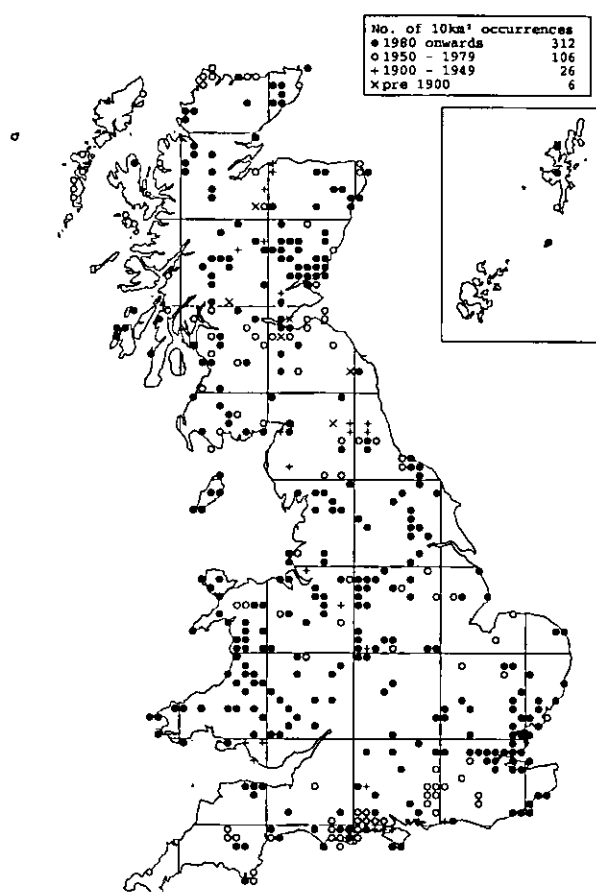
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in parts of southern England, becoming very scattered and scarce northwards into Scotland. *D. pubescens* has a Palearctic distribution and is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway and Finland, but it is not recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

On grasslands, *D. pubescens* is sometimes found when grubbing at the base of long grass, but it also occurs in habitats similar to those occupied by *D. cupreus*, i.e. under scattered stones, discarded rubbish and grassy tussocks on heathland. Both sexes have been recorded in summer, males also in November.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



#### Status

Local.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread throughout most of Britain and, indeed, throughout the entire Holarctic region.

#### Habitat and ecology

*H. signifer* is commonest on heathlands and grasslands. On sandy heaths it occupies much the same habitats as *D. cupreus*, and is often found under scattered stones, discarded rubbish and in grassy tussocks. At first glance, the spider suggests that it might be a *Drassodes* species. In fact, for many years, *H. signifer* was known in Britain as *Drassodes signifer*. It gives the general impression of a plump, uniformly coloured spider, whose colour can vary from brown to almost blackish brown. Adults occur between April and September, with the peak between early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy

**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Common and widespread on heathland in Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex and Surrey, but few records elsewhere, nearly all other records being coastal.

**Distribution**

The species is almost confined to southern England. It has also been found in Anglesey, and there are old records from Staffordshire (doubtful?) and Norfolk. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but is not recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs mainly on dry heathland at ground level among heather and under stones, but also sometimes on stable sand dunes or shingle on the coast. It appears on burnt heathland during the first year after fire, but reaches maximum densities between about 6-12 years after fire, then declines. Adult males are found between March and July, with a peak of activity in May and June, females from April to late August, with a peak of activity in June.

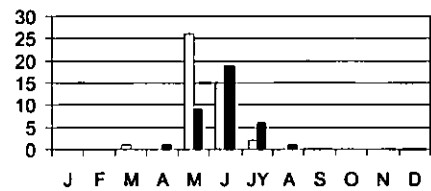
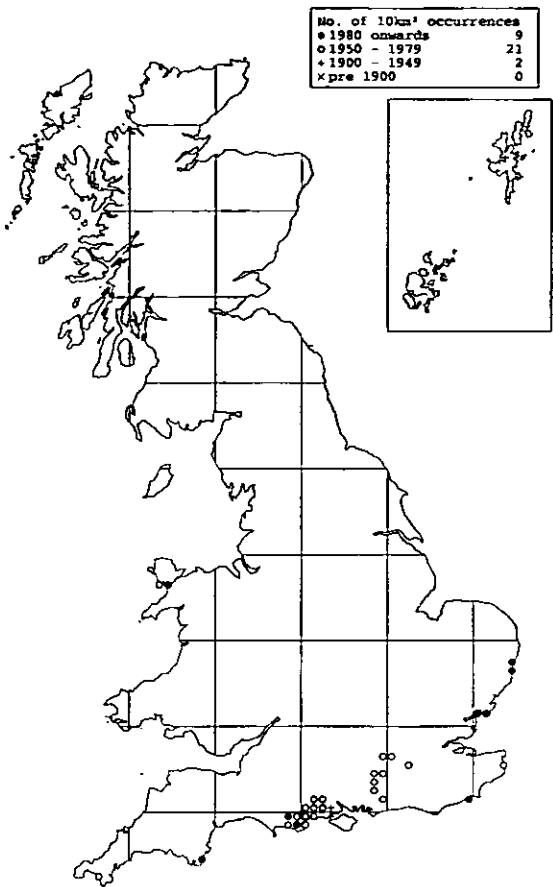
**Threats**

Threats include the loss of heathland to agriculture, afforestation and development and possibly public pressure on a few of its coastal sites.

**Management**

Maintain range of seral stages of heathland by rotational management. The spider is able to survive in all ages of heather except possibly in very old heather.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is abundant at Vales Moor and Cranborne Common.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded from five sites in east Dorset and from Vales Moor on the western edge of the New Forest, South Hampshire, all since 1969. It probably occurs in several sites on the eastern side of the Avon Valley on the western fringes of the New Forest. This pattern of distribution is similar to that of *Ero aphana*. In 1990 the British range of *H. umbratilis* was found to include Hadleigh Downs, South Essex (Harvey 1990). It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

In Dorset and Hampshire *H. umbratilis* has been found on dry heathland in the building and mature phases. In Essex it occurred on a small area of steep south-facing landslip with grassland and scrub. Adult males have been found in May and June, females from May to August.

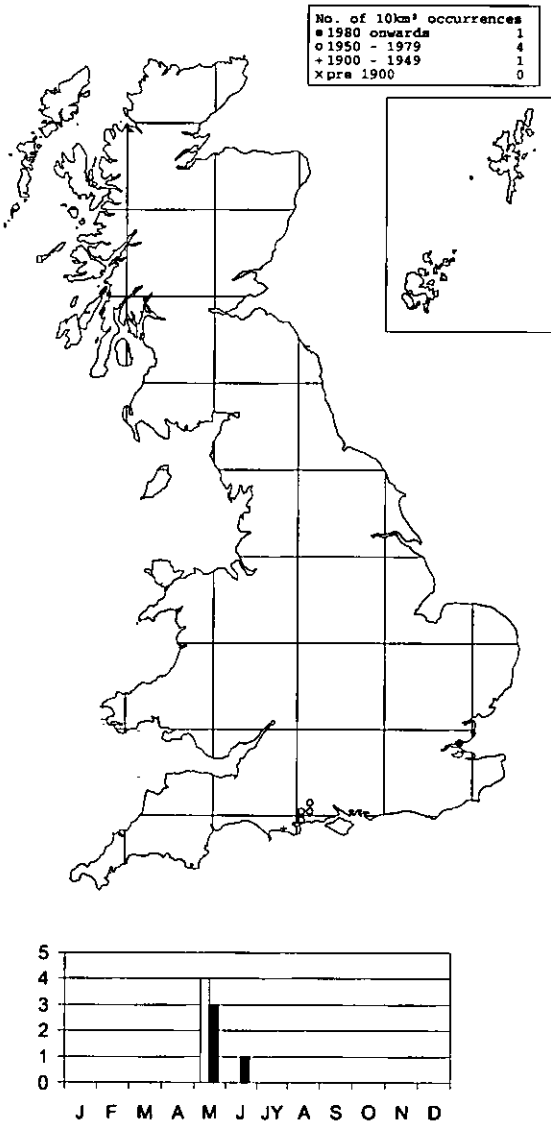
**Threats**

Uncontrolled heathland fires and the loss of heathland to building development and agriculture. Previously abundant at Horton Common, but much of this site (100 ha) has now been ploughed up and is used for agriculture. The surviving twenty hectares of heath at Horton Common now have the protection of SSSI status. Knighton Heath is now a golf course with only a few banks of heath left, and even the golf course is under threat of building development. Much of Cranborne Common has been planted with conifers, only strips of heathland remaining. The remaining heath is now an SSSI and in part a Dorset Trust reserve. Heath at Stephens Castle lies within Verwood Heaths SSSI. If the density of scrub at Hadleigh Downs increases, it may overrun the grassland required by this spider.

**Management**

Management to accommodate this spider requires patches of the heath to be regularly returned to the early stages of heather development on a long rotation, preferably well over a decade. This should ensure the permanent presence of the building and mature stages. It could be achieved by small-scale burning, or, where nearby pine plantations preclude this, heavy grazing for a short period or manual stripping of the vegetation could be attempted. At Hadleigh Downs, sufficient grazing is required to maintain patches of short sward and to prevent scrub encroachment. Some scrub clearance may also be necessary.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett



# Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). Few specimens have been found, although it was recorded at Abernethy in 1999 (I. Dawson, pers. comm.).

# Distribution

In Britain, the species has been recorded only from Abernethy Forest, East Inverness-shire and from the Black Wood of Rannoch, Mid Perthshire. It has also been found in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia, Poland, the former Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Austria.

# Habitat and ecology

In Britain, the spider is apparently confined to Caledonian pine forest. It is found among ground vegetation in open pinewoods. Females with eggs have been noted in July and adults also occur in June.

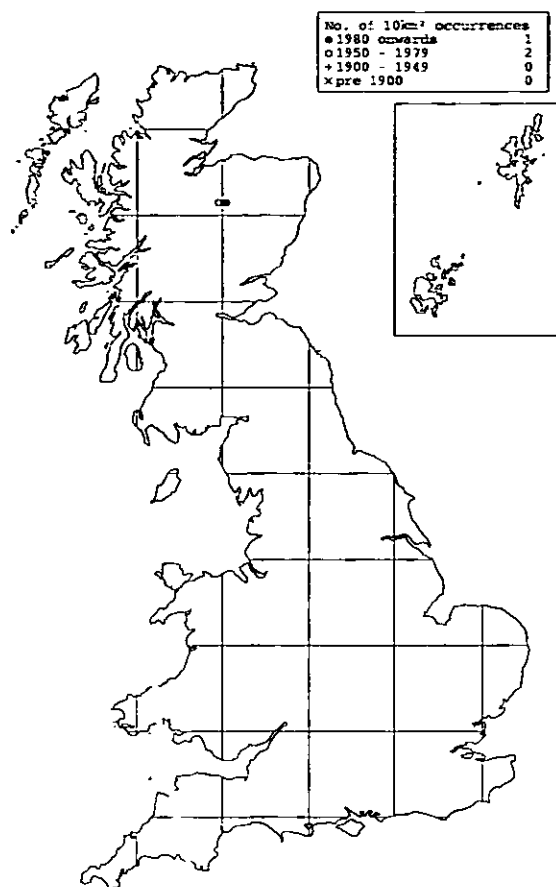
# Threats

The loss of Caledonian pine forest, often to more intensive blanket forestry. Planting is usually at a density of 2,500 trees per hectare, and this produces 'blanket' forest with little light reaching the ground and virtually no ground flora. Such conditions eliminate *H. soerenseni* along with most of the other fauna and flora. The establishment of plantations adjacent to native forest precludes the natural expansion of the forest and threatens existing forest through allowing its invasion by the exotic species. The exotics frequently out-compete the native Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*.

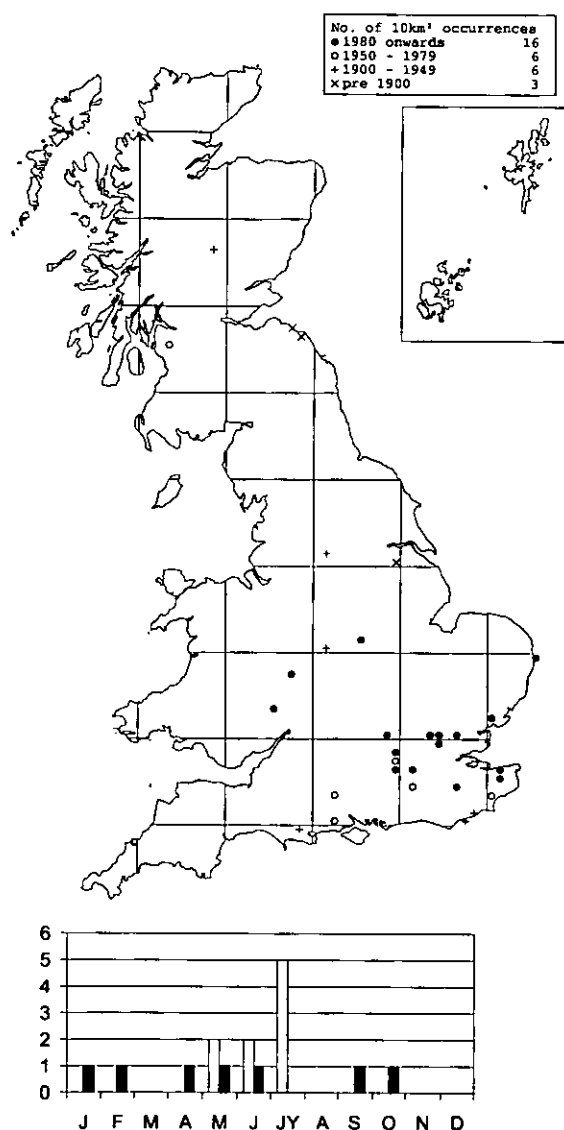
# Management

Management should aim to conserve and expand the native component to ensure the future of the native pine, but closing-in of the forest canopy needs to be avoided. Fencing and deer-culling are promoting strong regeneration of pine in parts, and much thinning with the creation of glades may need to be implemented if the ground vegetation is to be maintained in a state suitable for *H. soerenseni*. Abernethy Forest has been owned and managed by the RSPB since about 1990 and the primary aim is to develop a self-sustaining native pine forest over the whole potential woodland area (Taylor in Aldhous 1995).

Author of profile: P. Merrett







#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Local and apparently never numerous.

#### Distribution

The species has been recorded from the south coast of England to Perthshire, but is widely scattered except in the south-east. The species is widespread in northern and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is found in woodland, amongst litter, under bark, stones, etc. In Essex it appears to be confined to woodlands on sandy soils, occurring in chestnut coppice or other broad-leaved woodland, or nearby heathland and grassland areas. Adults occur in spring, summer and autumn, perhaps mainly during early to mid-summer.

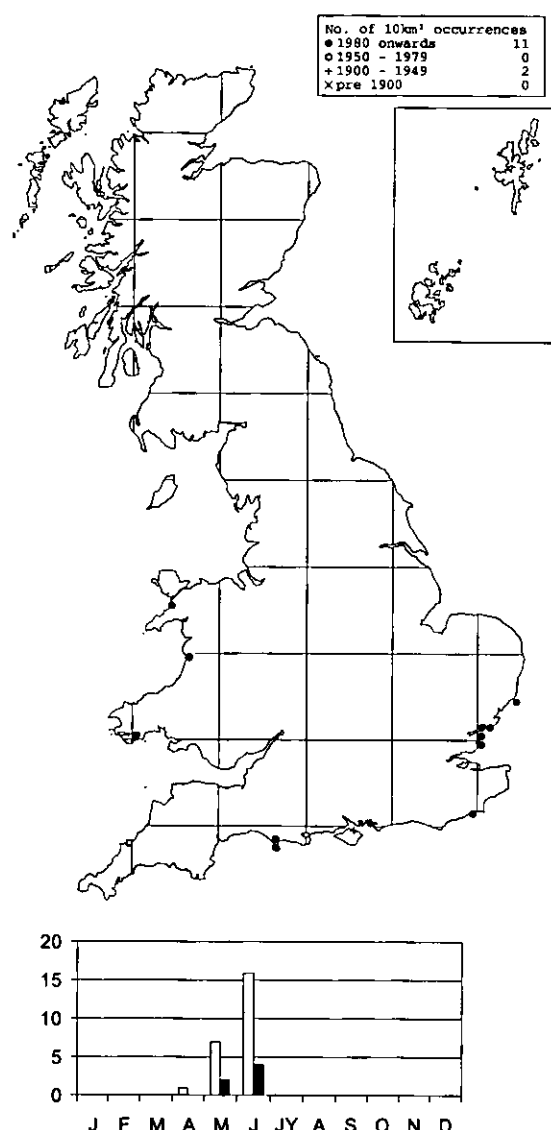
#### Threats

The loss of broad-leaved woodland and clearance of dead wood. The loss of open areas in woodland through neglect and the cessation of coppicing. The intensive coniferisation of broad-leaved woods may destroy suitable habitat.

#### Management

Maintain broad-leaved and coppice woodland. Retain any dead wood and ground cover.

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



#### Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider may be fairly numerous, but most populations are very localised and the habitat is vulnerable to disturbance.

#### Distribution

The species has been recorded from coastal locations between Suffolk and Dorset, and between Pembrokeshire and Caernarvonshire. The European distribution includes Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, the Balkans and Russia.

#### Habitat and ecology

*H. minor* occurs among tide litter and sparse vegetation and shingle on the seashore. Both sexes have been recorded between April and June, with a peak in June.

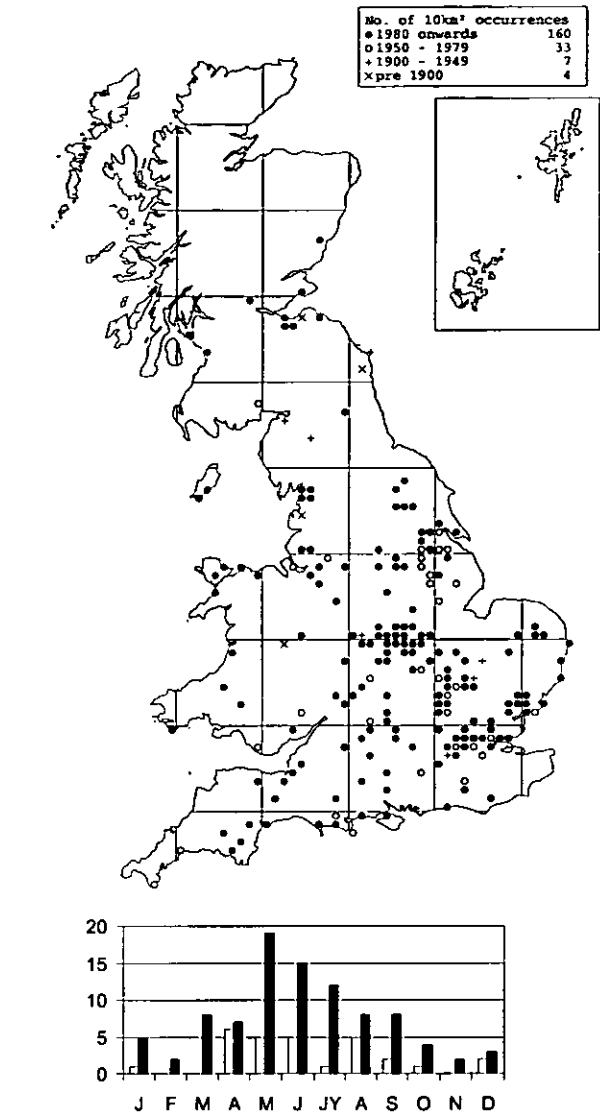
#### Threats

Public pressure can disturb the habitat by trampling. In some areas, holiday development and gravel extraction are also threats. The removal of strandline debris on beaches used for recreation would pose a threat to this and other strandline-dwelling invertebrates.

#### Management

Accumulations of tide-line litter are likely to be of value to this spider and should be left undisturbed.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

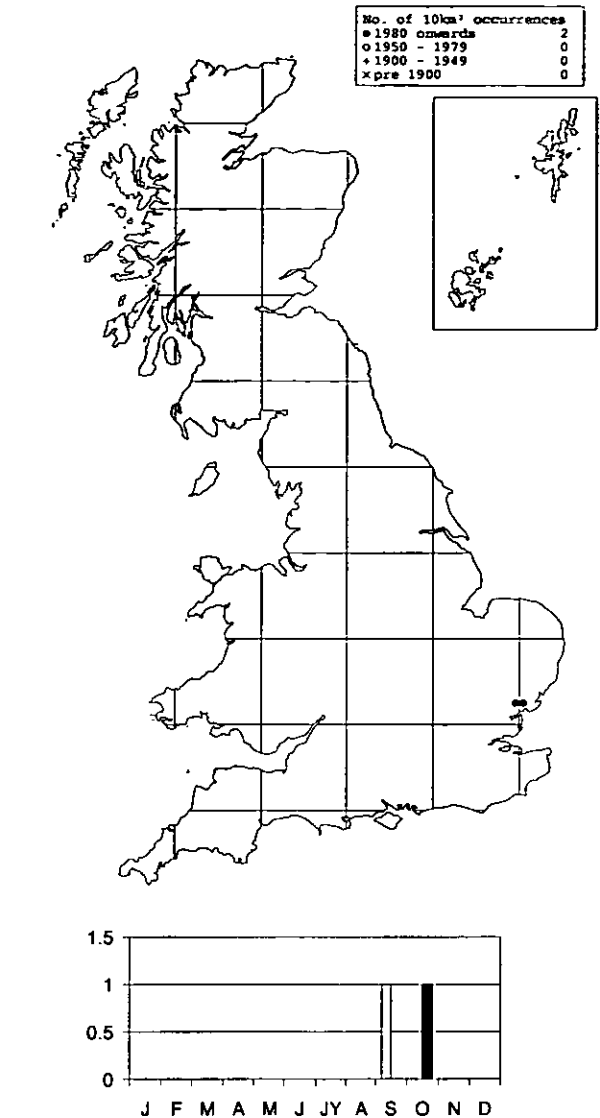


**Status**  
Relatively common.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in much of England with scattered records in Wales and Scotland as far north as Kincardineshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe and the Palearctic in general.

**Habitat and ecology**  
In Britain *S. blackwalli* typically occurs in houses, sheds, etc. which suggests that this species has migrated northwards from warmer places. It has also been found in gardens on bushes and can be fairly common on wooden fences and under bark of dead trees in urban situations in Leicestershire (J. Daws, pers. comm.). These outdoor specimens have been noted as generally much larger than those from inside houses (Crocker & Daws 1996). Certainly, in the Mediterranean region, where there are more *Scotophaeus* species, these are often lighter coloured and are to be found under flakes of bark on trees (particularly pines) and even in the dried stalks of reeds. In Britain one often comes across *S. blackwalli* at night, creeping stealthily on the walls or ceilings of a house. It may be that *S. blackwalli* does so, unnoticed, during daylight and that it is its dark colour and sinister movement that catches the eye when the electric light is switched on. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly in summer.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy

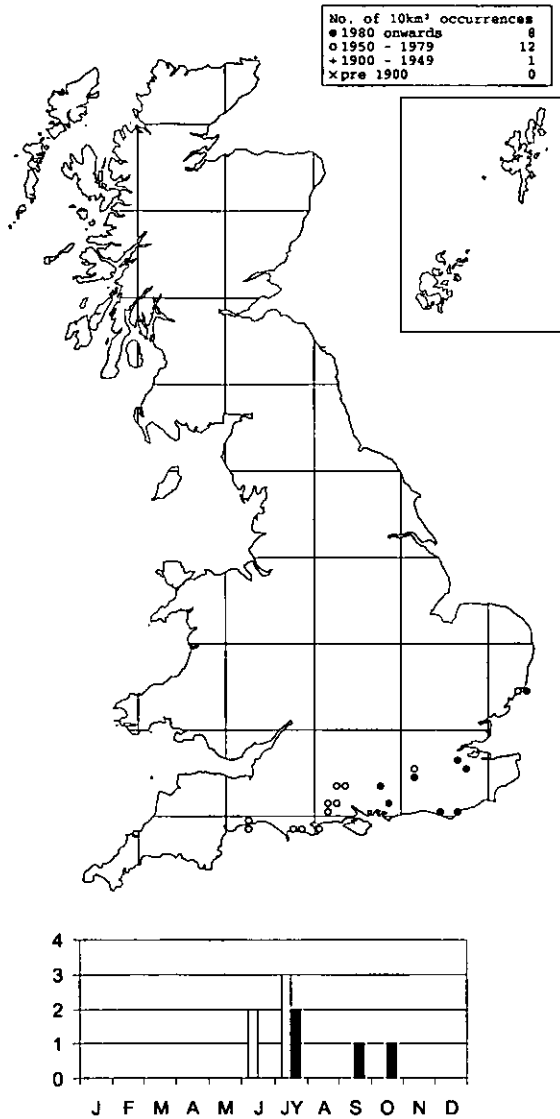


**Status**  
Synanthropic. Only three British specimens have been recorded, but as it is widespread in Europe there seems no reason to suppose that it is restricted to one area of Britain. Its close similarity in appearance to *S. blackwalli* means that it may have been overlooked.

**Distribution**  
First recorded in Britain in 1989, it has now been recorded from two locations, both in Colchester, Essex. The species is widespread in Europe, occurring in Belgium and almost the whole of France (Grimm 1985).

**Habitat and ecology**  
A female was found on a bedroom wall by the author of the profile on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1989. An immature male was found on the stairs of the same dwelling on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1994 and subsequently matured in captivity on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1994. An adult male was found just over 5 km to the west on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2000 at the author's current home (Ruffell 2001). This species, like *S. blackwalli*, is a nocturnal wanderer and has a similar mousy appearance. In Roberts (1995) the period of maturity is given as the same as *S. blackwalli*.

Author of profile: R. Ruffell



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is frequent at some sites on calcareous grassland, but very local.

#### Distribution

The species is confined to southern England. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but local.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. braccatus* occurs mainly on calcareous grassland, especially near the coast, usually in sparsely vegetated areas or under stones. It is also occasionally found on sparsely vegetated dry heathland in the New Forest, or coastal shingle in Suffolk, and in woods. Adults have been recorded from June to October.

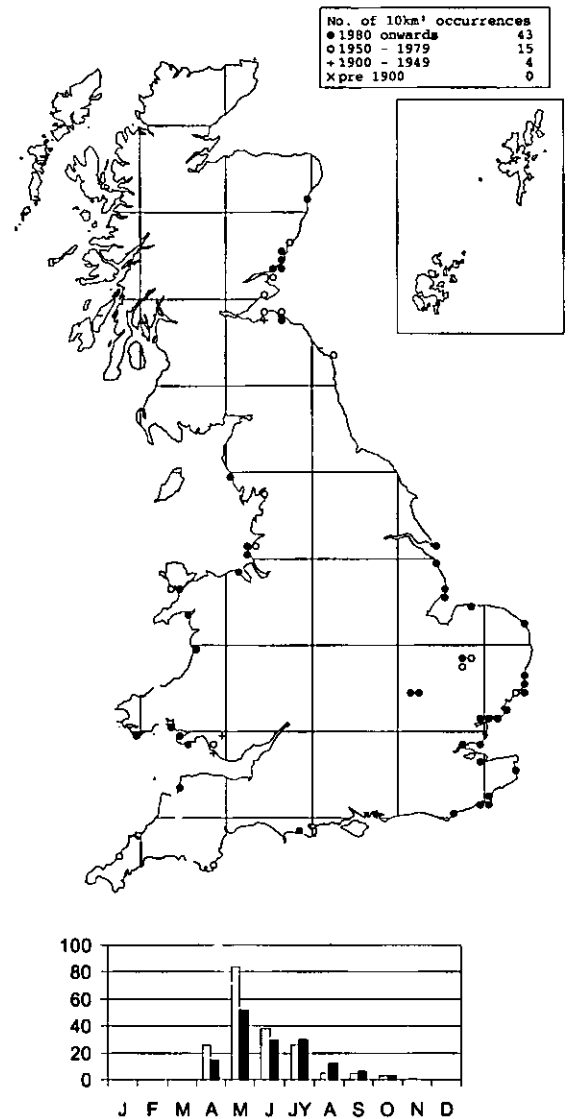
#### Threats

The loss of calcareous grassland to agriculture, and reduction of grazing.

#### Management

Maintain open, stony and sparsely vegetated areas on calcareous grassland by grazing. Some of these areas probably remain open and stony anyway because of lack of soil.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Not common.

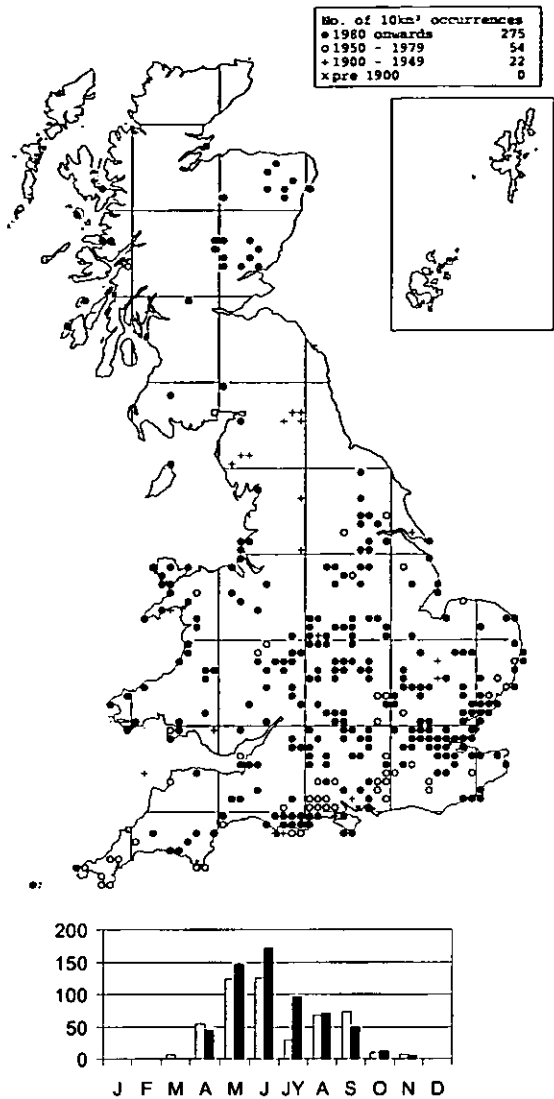
#### Distribution

This species is largely restricted to coastal Britain, but specimens have also been collected inland on sandy Breckland in East Anglia, and on heathland in Bedfordshire containing an outlying population of the coastal and Breckland pyralid moth *Synaphe punctalis* (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). It does occur in Europe and Asia even in countries without any sea coast. The author has collected a specimen on an open alp at 1400 m in the Pyrenees.

#### Habitat and ecology

Small and much more colourful compared with other British *Zelotes* species. The spider is usually found when grubbing at the base of low vegetation in dunes, and even the specimens collected in the Breckland occupied a similar habitat. Adults of both sexes are found mainly from late spring to mid-summer, but occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



**Status**

Local.

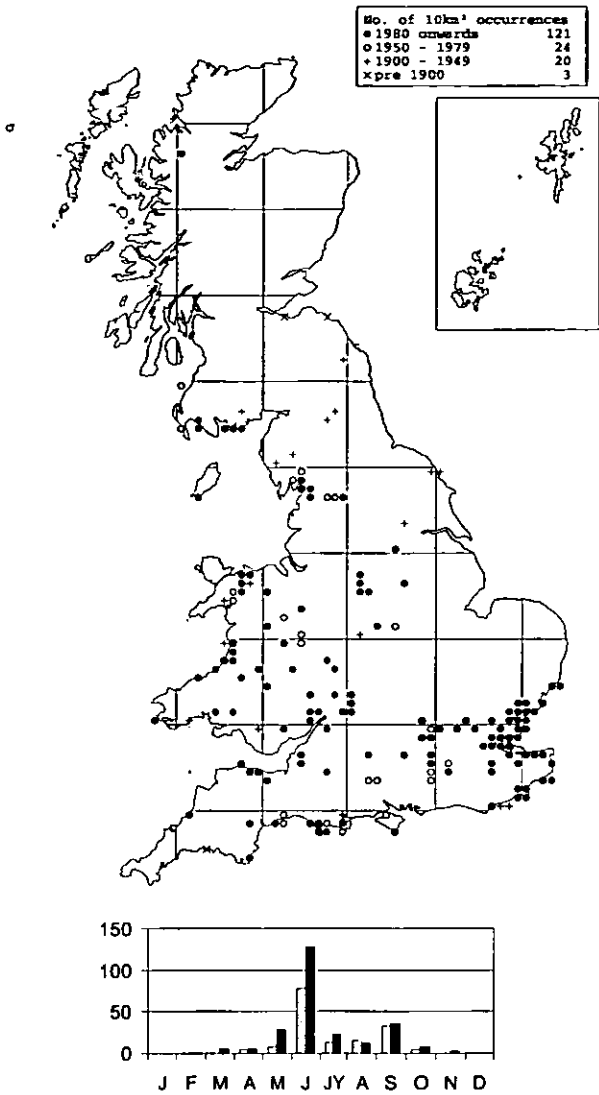
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, becoming very scattered and patchy in the north as far as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*Zelotes latreillei* appears, in general, to be a lowland species. It is often found under stones, wooden debris, etc., but it is also found when grubbing in short vegetation. There seems to be a preference for open areas such as chalk downland and heaths. On sunny days the spider is occasionally seen running over the ground. Adults of both sexes are found from spring to autumn, with peaks in late spring/early summer and late summer/early autumn.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



**Status**

Fairly common. *Z. apricorum* is very close to *Z. subterraneus* and there is increasing evidence of introgression between the two species. Typical *Z. subterraneus* specimens seem to be dominant in north-east Europe whilst *Z. apricorum* seem to be dominant in south-west Europe. The present records in Britain are more or less consistent with this conjecture. However, the overall situation remains confused due to the fact that many specimens of *Z. apricorum* and *Z. subterraneus* in European museums and in private collections have been misidentified.

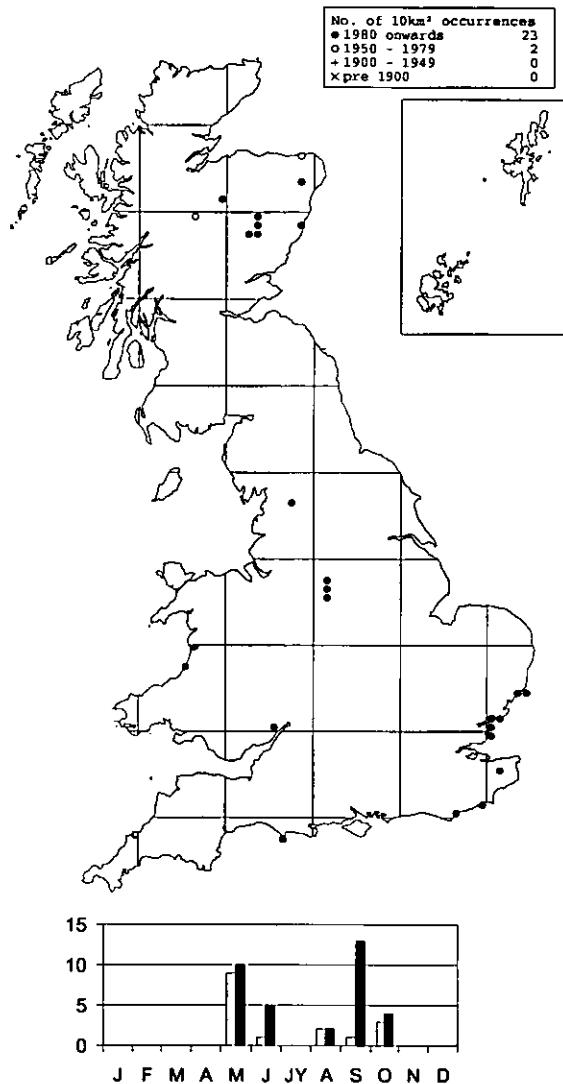
**Distribution**

The species has a widespread but patchy and mainly western distribution in Britain except in the south, with few records north of south-west Scotland.

**Habitat and ecology**

Like many *Zelotes* species, *Z. apricorum* prefers stony beds and quarries in both calcareous and acidic areas, but is also found in stony coastal habitats and can sometimes be found when grubbing in grass tussocks. Like all *Zelotes* species, it is agile and has an impressive turn of speed which makes its capture something of a triumph for the collector. The pink coloured egg-sacs are typically attached to the underside of a stone, the shape rather like a small fried egg, 'sunny side up'. Adults have been recorded between March and November, both sexes peaking in June and September.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



#### Status

Rare. The two species *Z. subterraneus* and *Z. apricorum* are very closely related (Murphy & Platnick 1986). In particular, the epigynes of the females are difficult to separate, and even the internal genitalia are very similar. For many years only *Z. apricorum* was recorded from Britain, so it is possible that among females identified as *Z. apricorum* there could have been some specimens of *Z. subterraneus*.

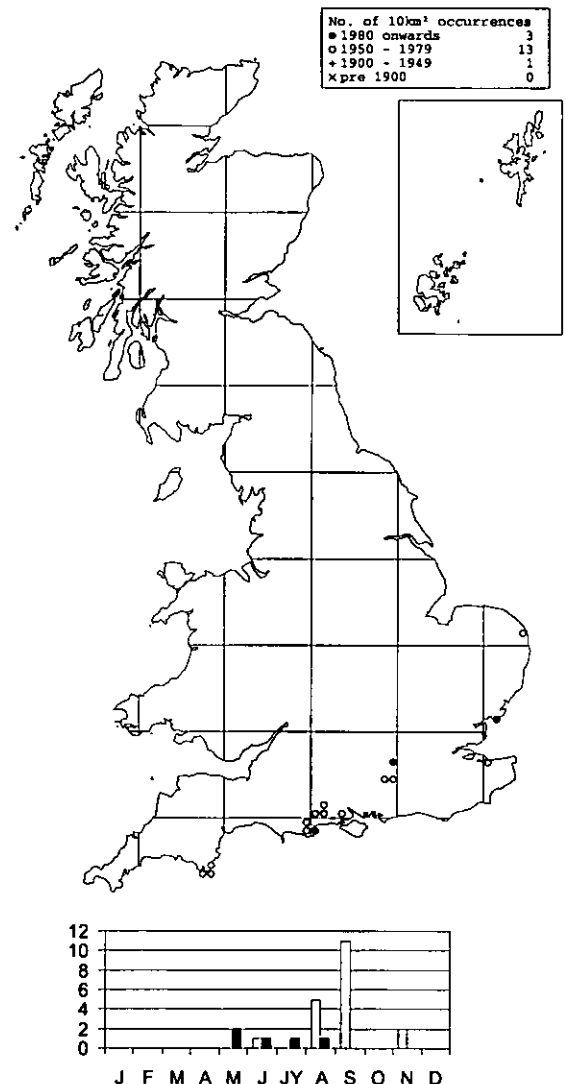
#### Distribution

So far, most of the few specimens recorded from Britain have come from coastal locations, as in the south-east, and inland stony areas, as in northern England and central and eastern Scotland. On the nearby Continent *Z. subterraneus*, but not *Z. apricorum*, has been recorded from Belgium, Holland, Norway and Sweden.

#### Habitat and ecology

The Essex specimens appear to have occupied discarded shells on shingle beaches, but elsewhere *Z. subterraneus* is typically found under stones, even on mountains. *Z. subterraneus* is one of the shiny, all-black *Zelotes* species. Adults of both sexes have been recorded in late spring/early summer and late summer/autumn.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is common on heathland in Dorset, but apparently less frequent in the New Forest and on Surrey heaths. It is scarce elsewhere.

#### Distribution

The species is confined to England south of a line from Norfolk to Somerset, apart from one old (doubtful?) record from Argyll. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*Z. longipes* occurs mainly on dry heathland. It appears in the first year after fire, but reaches maximum densities between about 5-12 years afterwards. It is also occasionally found in dry coastal habitats, under debris on stable sandy shingle, etc. Males have been recorded from June to November, with a peak of activity in August and September. Females are probably present for most of the year, but are active mainly from April to September, with a peak in August.

#### Threats

Loss of dry heathland to agriculture, development.

#### Management

Maintain seral stages of heathland by rotational management. This species is able to live in a wide range of ages of heather, but is most abundant in moderately young heather.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). Generally few specimens have been found, but at one site in Essex considerable numbers were collected by hand searching and in pitfall traps (Harvey 1998).

Distribution

The species has been recorded only from a few southern counties. Most sites are in a small area of Surrey and a neighbouring part of Hampshire although there are recent records from Suffolk, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

Habitat and ecology

The habitat is poorly known. The species appears to occur in a fairly wide range of dry open habitats, such as fairly open areas on dry heathland and chalk grassland, but also on coastal shingle and among grass and under stones on dry hillsides. At the only known site in Essex the species occurred in rabbit-grazed unimproved grass heath. Adults have been found from March to October, with males from March to May and July to October.

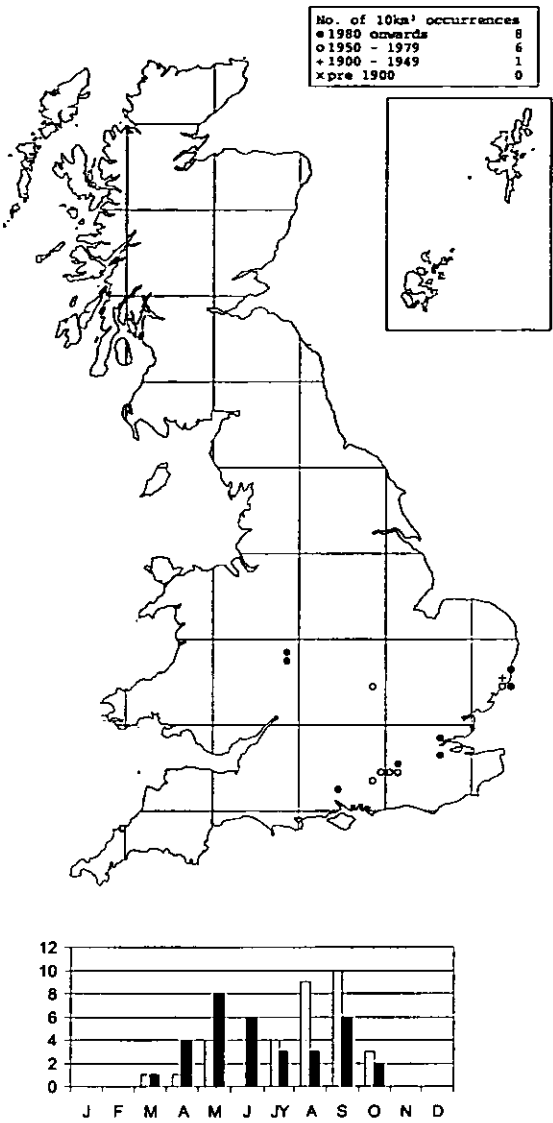
Threats

The loss of open heathland and grassland to agriculture, afforestation and development.

Management

Little is known of the spider's detailed habitat requirements, but it would appear likely to benefit from the maintenance of some open areas of heathland by rotational management, and some grazing would probably be beneficial on its grassland sites.

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



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is abundant in some places, especially on dry coastal grassland with many loose stones, but rather local inland.

**Distribution**

The species is confined to southern Britain south of a line from Norfolk to Herefordshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

*T. pedestris* usually occurs in chalk and limestone grassland, often under stones in fairly open areas. In Essex it occurs on dry south-facing grasslands, landslip areas and at the base of sea walls. It has occasionally been found in open sandy areas on Breckland heaths. P. Merrett (pers. comm.) notes an occurrence in his kitchen sink! Egg-sacs are deposited under stones. Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and August, mainly in June.

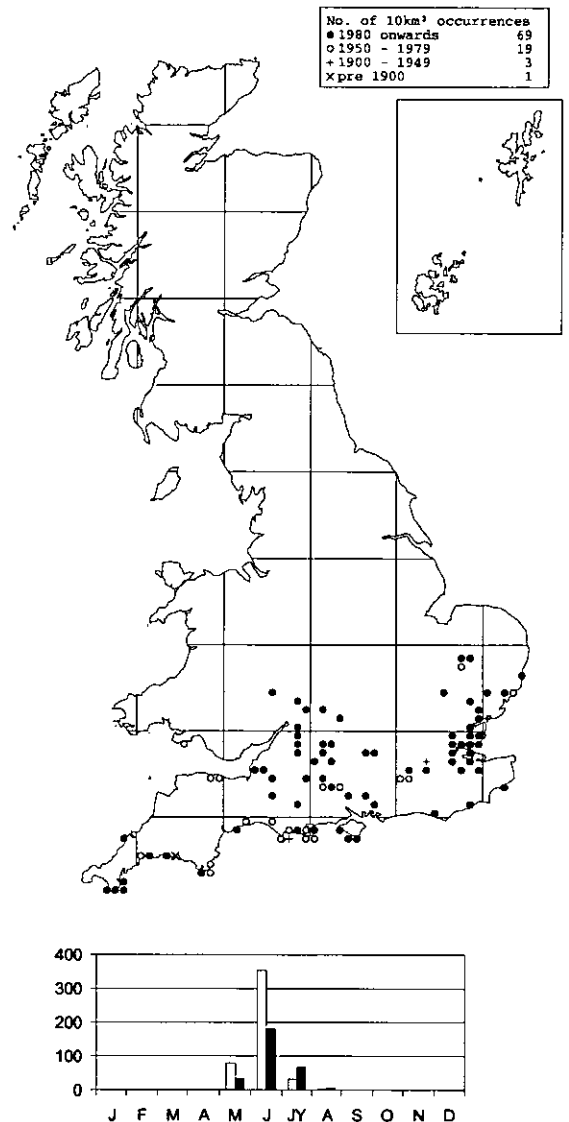
**Threats**

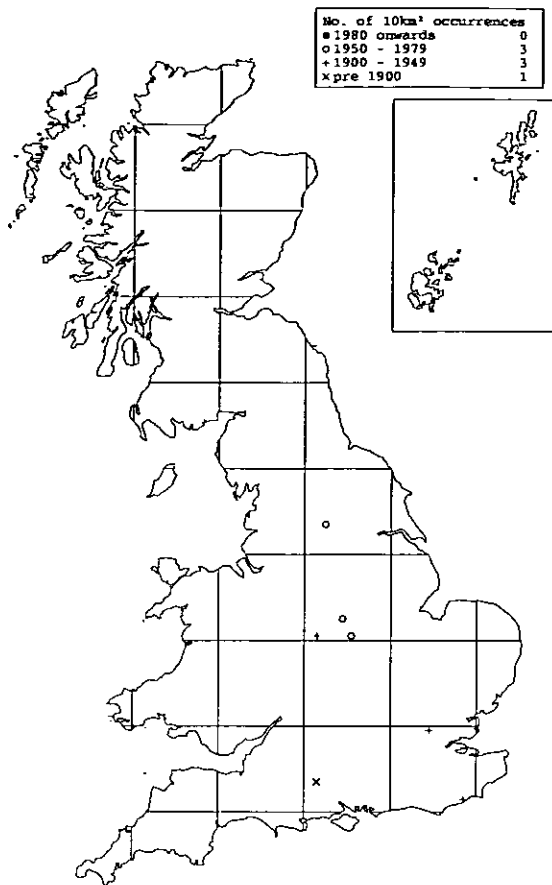
The loss of calcareous and coastal grassland to agriculture.

**Management**

Maintain grassland by grazing. This species is probably less sensitive to changes in grazing pressure than many grassland species, as it occurs in some areas with tall vegetation, and is often in stony areas which tend to remain unvegetated because of lack of soil.

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





**Status**

Very rare, with only sporadic records in Britain during the twentieth century, none recent. It is possibly an erratic visitor which does not appear to have become established.

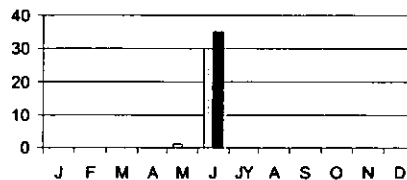
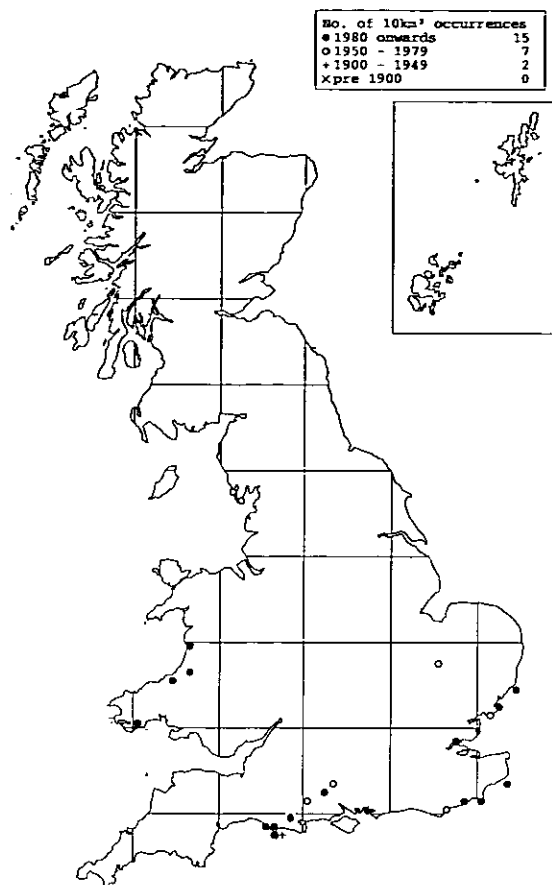
**Distribution**

There are scattered records from Yorkshire southwards. *U. rusticus* appears to have a wide and varied distribution worldwide (Platnick & Murphy 1984), occurring in temperate regions of both hemispheres.

**Habitat and ecology**

It appears to be associated with man and is typically found on the walls of houses, much as *Scotophaeus blackwalli*. The author has collected specimens from the walls of a basement flat in New York and near Park Headquarters at 1800 m on Mount Kinabalu, Sabah.

**Author of profile:** J.A. Murphy



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). Most records have involved few individuals.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded from rather few, mostly coastal, sites in widely scattered counties in England and Wales. There are doubtful old Scottish records which have not been submitted to the scheme and are not mapped. *D. lutetianus* is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

The species occurs among detritus in marshes, on sand dunes, among stones and in wet tide litter on the sea shore. There are a few records from marshy sites inland. Adults have been found between April and June.

**Threats**

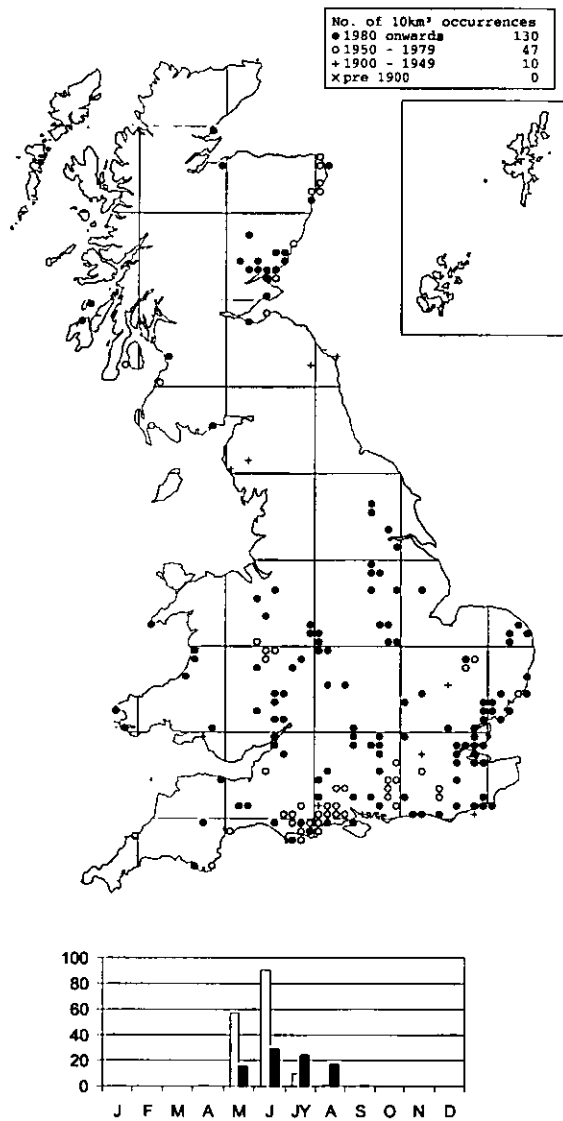
The drainage of marshes, and possibly public pressure at some coastal sites.

**Management**

Maintain the water table in marshes, and retain wet tide litter on sea shore.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett





#### Status

The spider is local and not common.

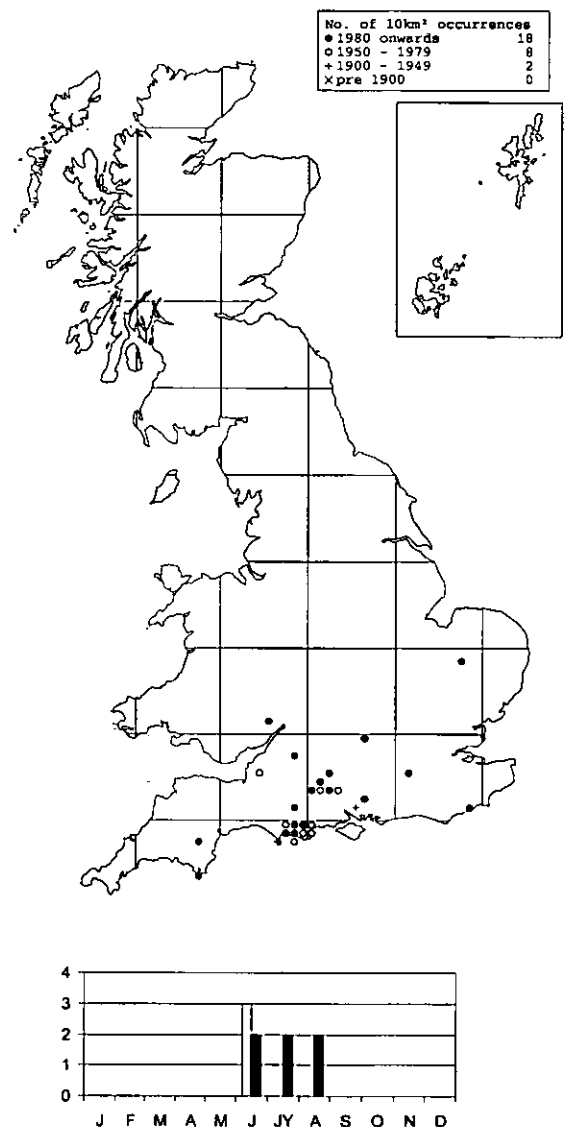
#### Distribution

The species has a widespread but patchy and scattered distribution in Britain, mostly in lowland regions in the southern half of Britain and central eastern Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*D. pusillus* is small and more colourful than the typical all black *Zelotes*. It appears to have a preference for open, dryish areas such as sandy heaths and chalk downland and like other *Zelotinae* species it is often found under stones, discarded rubbish and in grassy tussocks. Adults of both sexes are found mainly from early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is never particularly numerous, and rather local, especially on heathland.

#### Distribution

The species is restricted to southern England where it is widespread in an area of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire, but very scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is probably most frequent on chalk grassland, under stones, etc. It is also sometimes found on dry heathland, mostly between about 6-12 years after fire. Adults of both sexes are found from May to July.

#### Threats

The loss of chalk grassland and dry heathland to agriculture.

#### Management

Maintain seral stages of heathland by rotational management, and maintain chalk grassland by traditional grazing.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is not rare in south-east Dorset, but there are very few records elsewhere.

Distribution

The species has been recorded from E. Suffolk, Hampshire and Dorset, and Isle of Wight and W. Sussex (not mapped), but most records are from south-east Dorset. Old records from Berkshire and Staffordshire must be regarded as doubtful. It is fairly widespread in north-western and central Europe, but the species is not recorded from Ireland, Scandinavia north of Denmark, and only doubtfully from the Netherlands (van Helsdingen 1999).

Habitat and ecology

In Dorset, *G. lugubris* is found in dry stony areas on open heathland and on coastal limestone grassland, usually on hillsides in both cases. It also occurs in coastal grassland on the Isle of Wight and in dry coastal habitats in Sussex and Suffolk. Adult males are found from May to July with a peak of activity in early June; females from May to October.

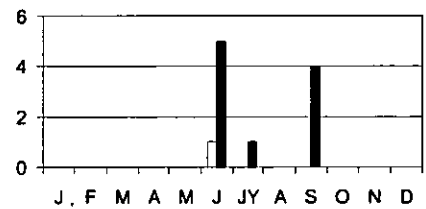
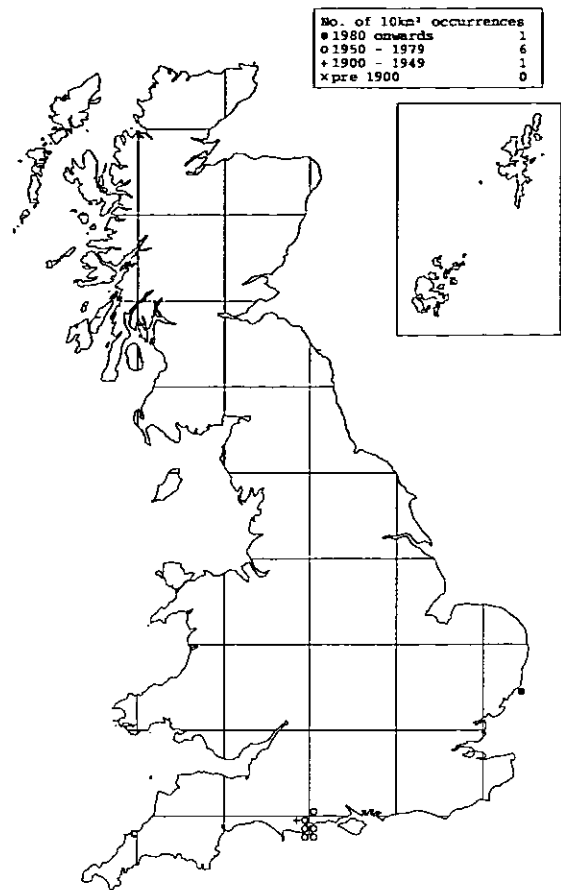
Threats

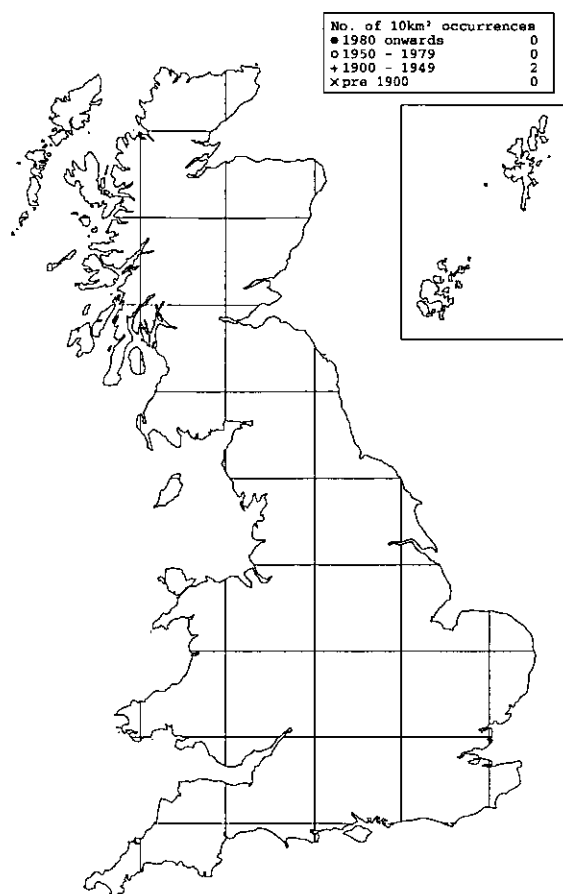
There is probably little threat to most of its coastal sites, and most of its heathland sites are NNRs, but other heathland sites may be threatened by agriculture, afforestation or development.

Management

Maintain open stony areas on heathland and short coastal grassland by grazing. However, many of its sites would probably remain sparsely vegetated because of lack of soil.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). Few specimens have been found in this country, and none since 1935 despite a considerable amount of collecting effort at Kynance and Cadgwith Coves in recent years.

### Distribution

The British records are from West Cornwall: Kynance Cove in 1922 (one male and two females) and Cadgwith in 1935. The species is also known from France.

### Habitat and ecology

The habitat in Britain is apparently not recorded. The two localities are well-known for their cliff-top heather and grassland. The spider would possibly be found under stones in this vegetation. Both sexes are adult in June.

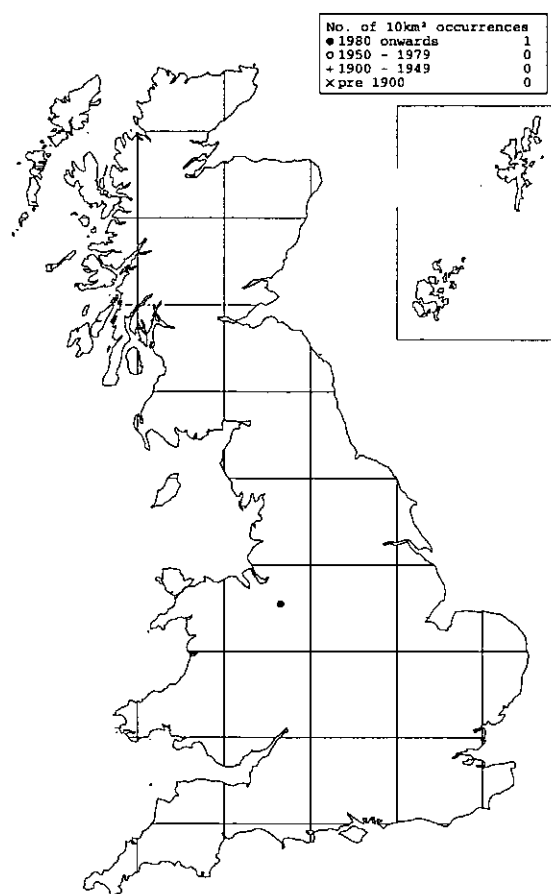
### Threats

The cliff-tops at Kynance have suffered badly from heavy trampling, but public access is now controlled by the National Trust and the heath and grassland communities are recovering very well. Accidental fires are possibly the main threat at this site now. At Cadgwith there has been no grazing on the cliffs for many years and the coastal heath and grassland have been largely lost to rank vegetation including scrub and bracken. It is unlikely that *G. occidentalis* will have survived at Cadgwith.

### Management

Grazing has been restored by the National Trust and English Nature on the cliff heathland at Kynance.

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



### Status

Rare, but apparently plentiful at Wybunbury Moss, its British site, where it was first recorded in 1994.

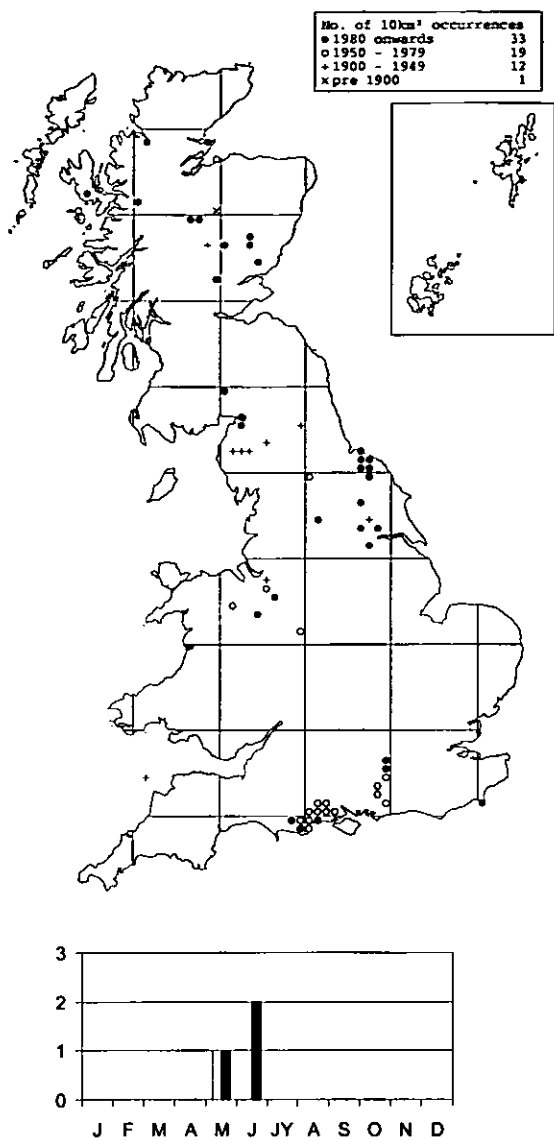
### Distribution

So far, this species is known only from one site in Britain (Felton 1997), although it is widespread in the cooler parts of Europe and Asia. In north-western and central Europe it has been recorded from Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland.

### Habitat and ecology

*G. nigerrima* is much like *G. lugubris* in general appearance. It was collected in pitfalls set in *Sphagnum* moss, a habitat similar to that preferred by *G. leporina*. Over the years, this particular boggy area had been well worked by local arachnologists and it is curious that a conspicuous species of this size had not been collected earlier.

Author of profile: J.A. Murphy

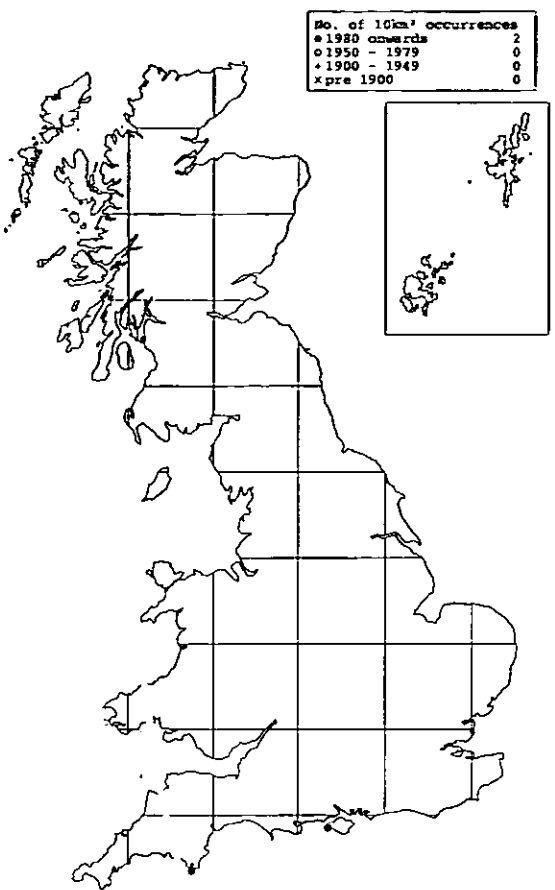


**Status**  
Uncommon.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in parts of south-central England, northern England and Scotland but is absent from many areas. It is widespread in north-western Europe, but the species has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**  
Generally, most *Gnaphosa* species are to be found under stones, and occasionally in a suitable stony bed, specimens are plentiful. They are usually lethargic and easy to collect. However, *G. leporina* seems altogether more active and is often to be found running over the ground. It seems to prefer damp rather than wet areas on heaths or moors.

**Author of profile:** J.A. Murphy



**Status**  
Nationally Endangered (RDB1).

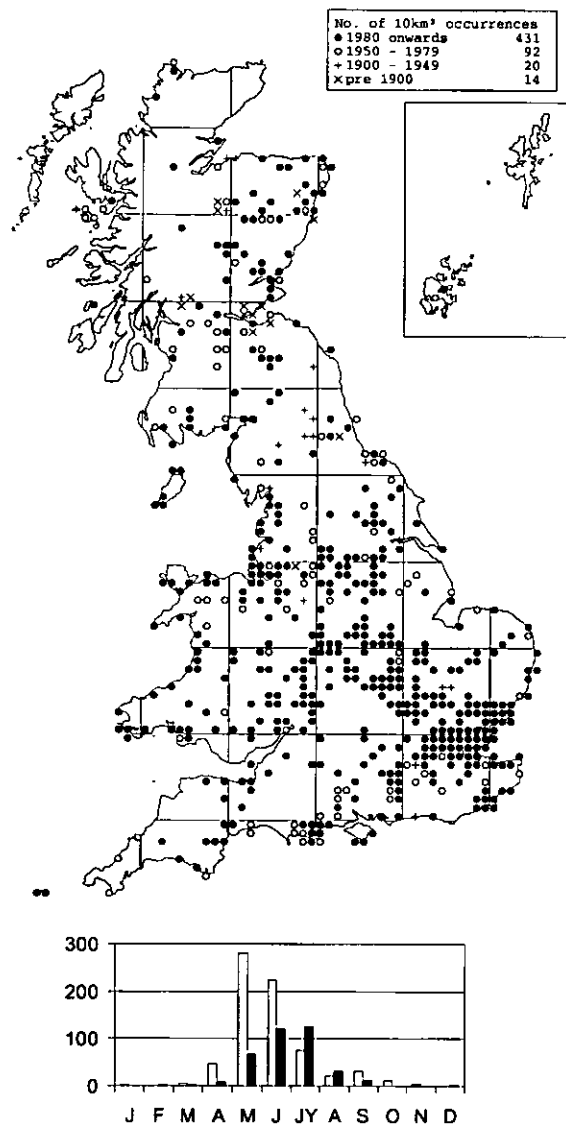
**Distribution**  
*C. nocturna* has been recorded from only two sites in Britain, one at Prawle Point and Signalmans Point in Devon and the other at Tennyson Down on the Isle of Wight (Alexander 1999). It is widespread in Europe being recorded from as far north as Scandinavia.

**Habitat and ecology**  
On the continent this species is associated with coniferous woodlands, where it is often found under stones. In Britain it has been recorded running over sandy banks, rocks and exposed chalk, all on sea cliffs. This diurnal species appears to require bare ground with a sunny microclimate and may be associated with ants (Alexander 1999). Adults have been found in May and June.

**Threats**  
The growth of scrub may shade the exposed sandy banks or rocks on which this species has been found.

**Management**  
Prevent the encroachment of scrub around south facing sandy banks and rocks at these sites.

**Author of profile:** P. Smithers, using information from Merrett in Bratton (1991) and Roberts (1995).



**Status**  
Common.

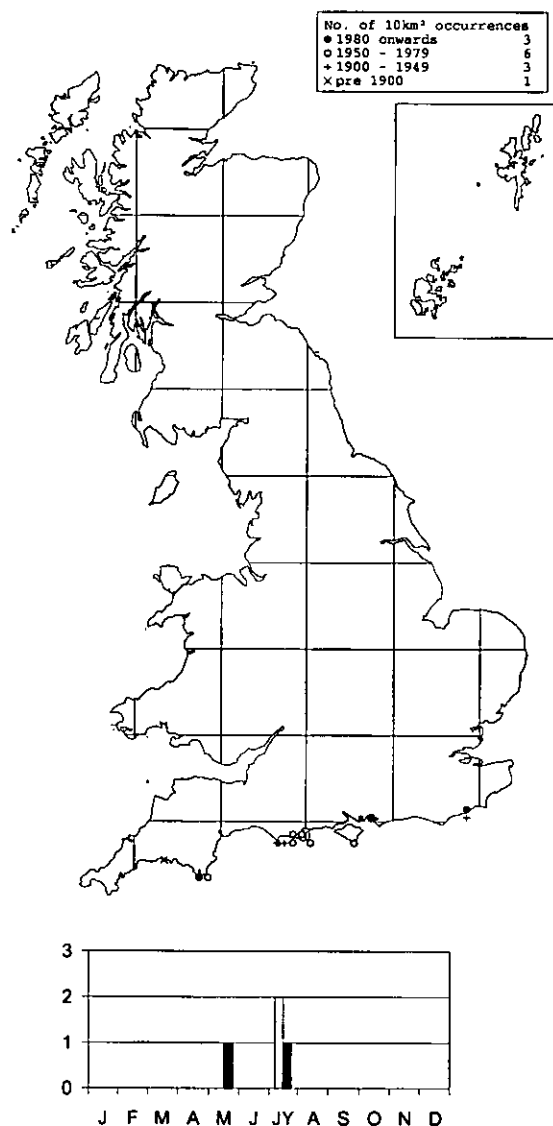
#### Distribution

The species is widespread throughout most of Britain and, indeed, the entire Holarctic region.

#### Habitat and ecology

*M. pulicaria* is often to be found in open areas of short vegetation where there are scattered stones or small beds of stones. It has been recorded from most habitats particularly the warm, sunny parts of sandy heaths, chalk downlands, dunes and derelict land, but it has been found in saltmarsh, sphagnum filled hollows in dunes, moss in broad-leaved woodland as well as stony, bare, dry habitats. Although not myrmecophilous the spider quivers its front legs in an ant-like fashion which may help prevent it falling prey to larger spiders which generally avoid contact with ants. Females enclose the eggs within a stiff sac which is said to resemble a rimmed pot and although she does not guard them, Bristowe (1958) states that she returns frequently to check the egg-sac. Adults of both sexes have been recorded from early February to late November and mature specimens may occur throughout the year. The Recording Scheme data indicate the main season is late spring to mid-summer.

**Authors of profile:** J. Murphy and J. Bell



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common in some places on hot hillsides near the coast, but very local, and not found more than a few miles inland.

#### Distribution

The species is confined to the extreme south of England. It is widespread in central and southern Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*M. romana* is found near the south coast, mainly on short calcareous grassland, on cliff-tops, in warm sunny situations. It is an ant-mimic, often found in company with ants, running in hot sunshine. Both sexes are adult from May to July.

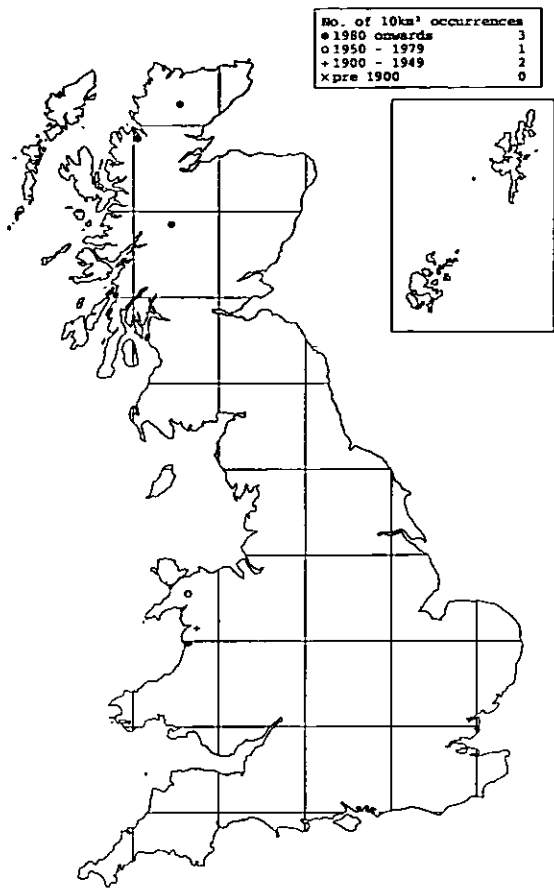
#### Threats

There is probably little threat from agriculture in most of its coastal grassland sites, as it occurs mainly in stony areas or on steep slopes which are unsuitable for cultivation. Public pressure could possibly be a threat in some areas.

#### Management

Maintain open grassland and prevent growth of scrub, but this is probably not a problem at most sites.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett



**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). Very few specimens have been found.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded from Welsh mountains and from Scotland. In Europe, it is known from France, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

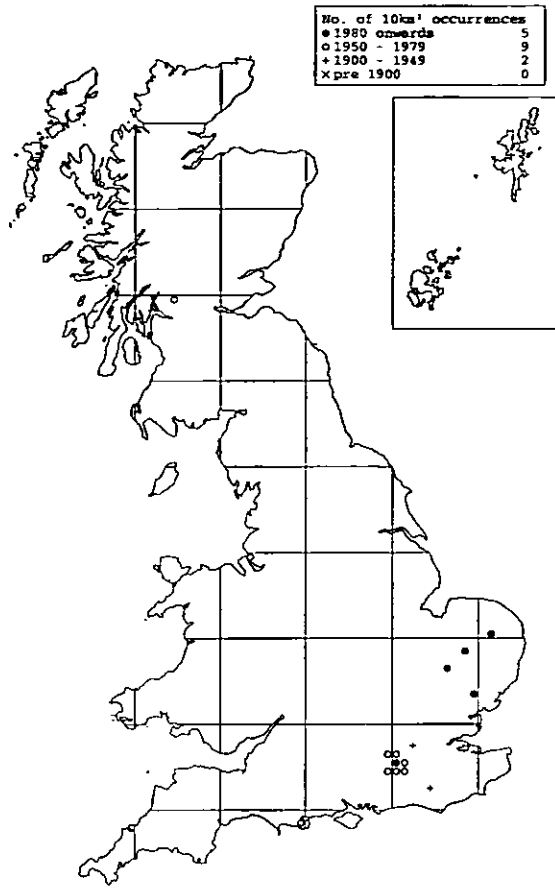
**Habitat and ecology**

The spider is found under stones, among grass and moss, etc., usually above 750 m. On Creag Meagaidh it was found in *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath, while on An Teallach the habitat was *Nardus/Racomitrium* grassland (D. Horsfield pers. comm.). Near Loch an Fheoir it was found in a hummock of *Racomitrium* in the middle of a *Sphagnum* bog. Males are adult from May to July, females in June and July.

**Threats**

Some populations are likely to suffer damage from hill-walkers and skiers. Forestry is a potential threat to populations below the tree line.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is apparently fairly numerous on pine trees in a number of places in the south of England. The isolated northern records may represent temporary colonies formed by accidental introductions, and it remains to be seen whether they will persist and whether other northern populations will be found.

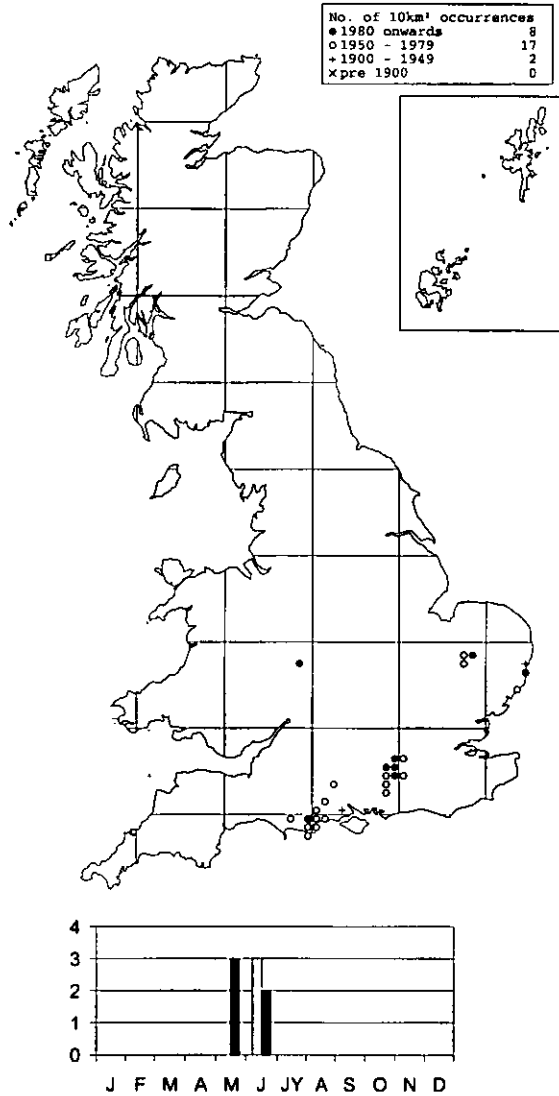
**Distribution**

The species is almost confined to the south of England. It has also been found in Stirlingshire, and in Glasgow and Liverpool, but in view of the distance from its main centre of population in the south, there must be some doubt as to whether these northern records represent well-established populations or are chance importations. It is widespread in northern and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*M. subopaca* occurs mainly on trunks of pine trees, but has also been found at the base of oak trees and on railings. It is an ant-mimic, often found in company with ants, running on pine trunks in sunshine. Both sexes are adult from May to October.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is frequent on fairly recently burnt heathland in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey, and on open, sandy Breckland heaths in Suffolk, but scarce elsewhere.

#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*M. silesiaca* occurs on sparsely vegetated heathland, reaching maximum densities in about the second or third year after fire, and disappearing by about 10 years after fire. It is found mainly on dry heath, but is also present on moderately wet heath and in damp gullies. It is an ant-mimic, sometimes found in association with ants. Males are adult from late May to early July, females also until August.

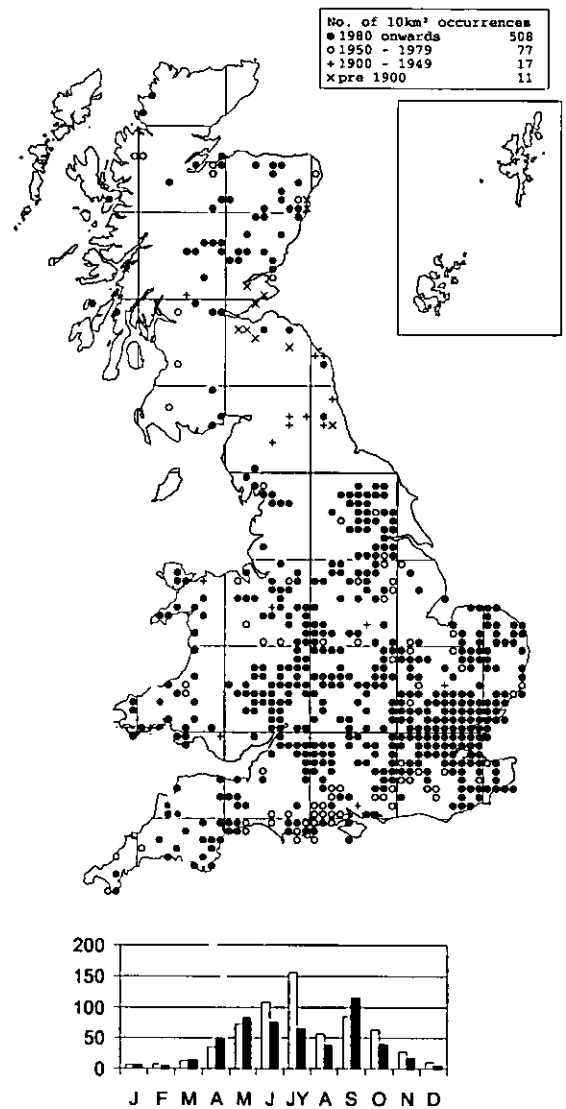
#### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, afforestation and development. The growth of scrub, and lack of open areas.

#### Management

Maintain all seral stages of heather by rotational burning. A regular supply of naturally open sandy areas or recently burnt areas is required by this species. Residual populations probably survive on firebreaks, sandy banks, gullies, etc, from where they spread to burnt areas.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Common.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain and central eastern Scotland, but scattered elsewhere. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This is typically a grassland spider, usually found near the ground in grass roots or leaf litter, but also under stones or other objects, where the female may be found sitting on the white sheet of silk which covers her loosely-woven egg-sac. It is also found in a range of other habitats including heathland, open woodland and raised bog. The body pattern is fairly distinctive, even in juveniles. Adult of both sexes have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly between late spring and autumn, possibly with peaks in early to mid-summer and again in the autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

**Status**

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is thought to be fairly frequent on Hartland Moor and Morden Bog. The last record at Wicken Fen was in 1997. Its status at other sites is unknown.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded from Wicken Fen and Chippenham Fen, Cambridgeshire; Woodwalton Fen, Huntingdonshire (where the record requires confirmation); and Hartland Moor, Slepe Heath and Morden Bog, Dorset. It is also known from Spain, France, Greece and Sweden.

**Habitat and ecology**

Known from two rather dissimilar habitats in Britain: among litter and cut reeds in fens in East Anglia, and in wet heath and bog in Dorset. Adults of both sexes have been found between April and September, a female in October.

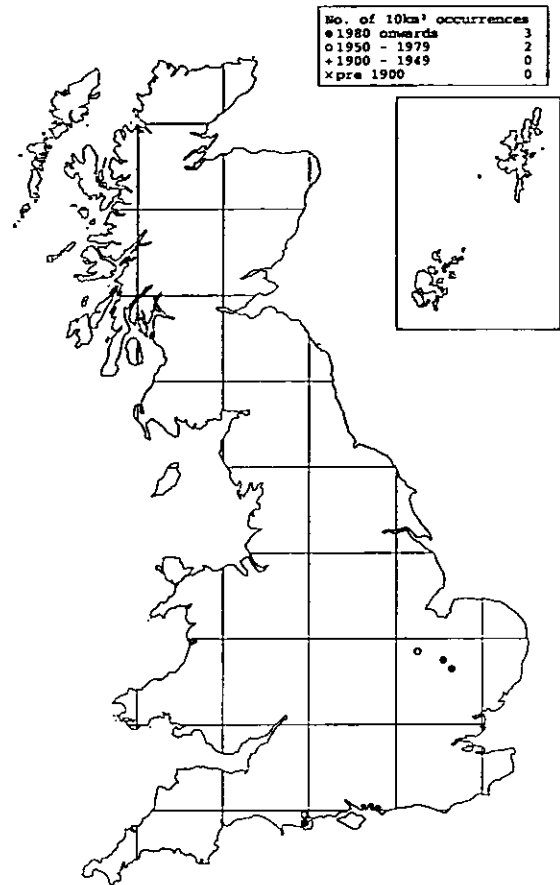
**Threats**

Despite the major fire at Hartland Moor in 1976, the site has revegetated well and this spider still occurs there in good numbers. Lowering of the water table, such as by drainage of adjacent land and/or water abstraction, would damage all the listed localities of this species. A lower water table often leads to scrub invasion, which increases the drying process and shades out the fen and bog plant communities. The effects of drainage on the fenland sites are well known (e.g. Godwin 1978; Darby 1983). The catchment of Morden Bog has also been greatly modified by the extensive conifer forestry in the area during the twentieth century.

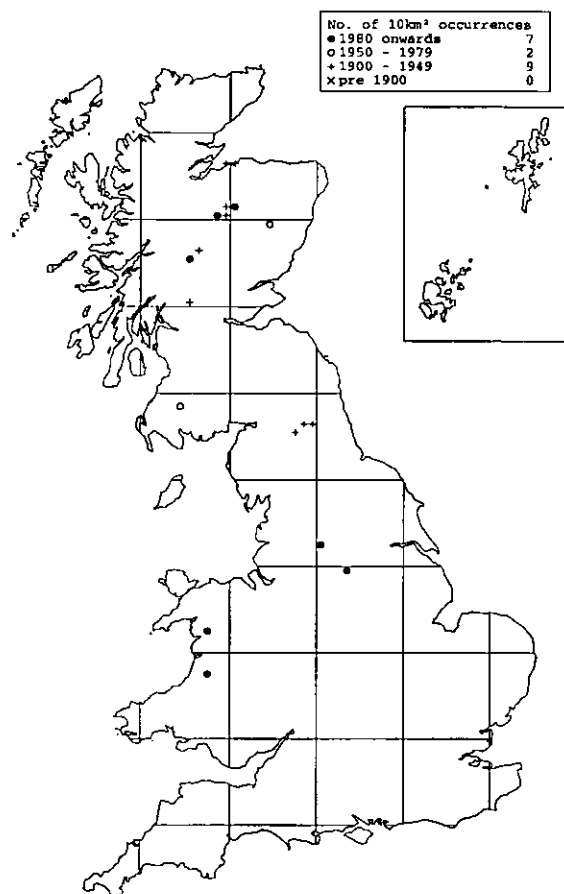
**Management**

Where drainage leads to scrub invasion, it is only through much manual and mechanical scrub clearance that former sedge and litter beds can be restored and the fenland vegetation maintained, and even this probably differs markedly from what would be present if drainage of the surrounding area had not been carried out. Mowing and sedge harvesting are part of the management of Wicken Fen with the aim of maintaining scrub-free areas.

**Author of profile:** P. Merrett







### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is apparently very local, but it may be more frequent than the few records suggest.

### Distribution

Apart from one old record from Dorset, this is a northern species in Britain. It is widespread in northern and central Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

*Z. nemoralis* occurs among moss and heather in or near woods. Adults are found from May to September.

### Threats

The loss of semi-natural woodland to intensive forestry, and loss of ground-cover.

### Management

Maintain moss and ground-cover in woodland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

### Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider is apparently rare but may have been overlooked owing to its similarity to the widespread and abundant *Z. spinimana*. Several specimens were found at Hurt Wood and Sherwood Forest.

### Distribution

The species has been recorded from a small number of sites including Hurt Wood, Surrey, in 1953; Iken Heath, East Suffolk, in 1955; Ambersham Common, West Sussex, in 1969; Sherwood Forest Country Park, Nottinghamshire, in 1987 and from north-east Hampshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

### Habitat and ecology

In Britain, *Z. silvestris* occurs on dry heathland, mainly in mature heather. In Sherwood Forest it was found with larger numbers of *Z. spinimana* in mixed heather and grassland from which encroaching scrub and trees had been cleared. Both sexes are found from May to July and a female has been recorded in September.

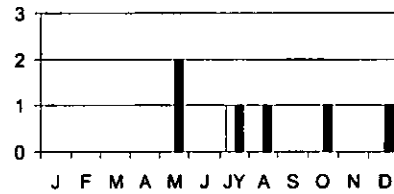
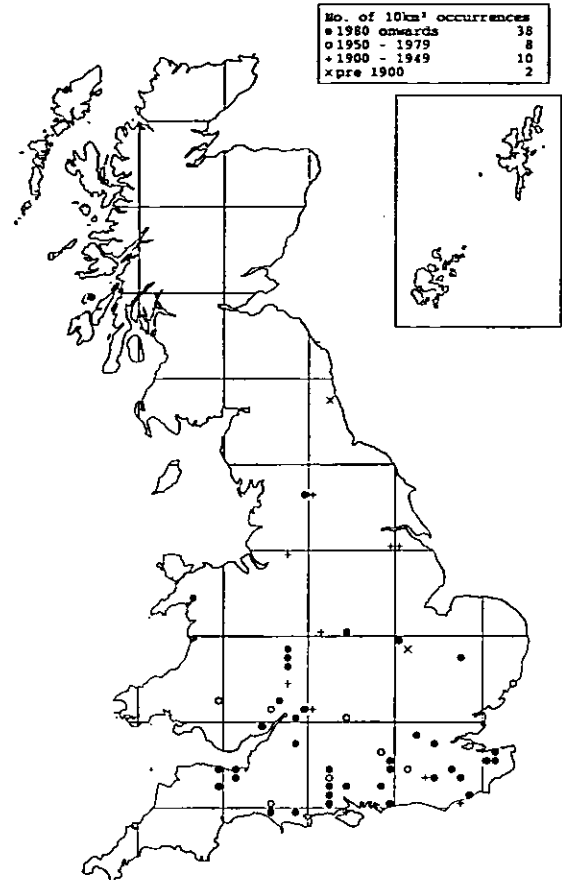
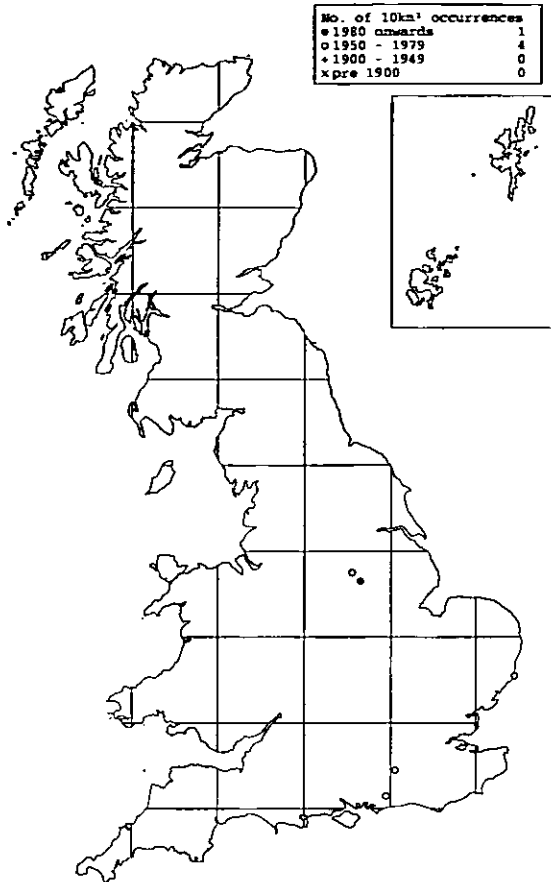
### Threats

Fires in the mature heather habitat are a threat to this species. Management to reduce the fire risk by preventing the heather reaching the mature phase, such as by grazing or burning on a short rotation, is often used on nature reserves, but would probably result in very little heather being at the desired stage for this spider. Small unmanaged areas rapidly succumb to scrub encroachment, with loss of heather. Heathlands are also at risk from urban expansion and conversion to arable land. Motorcycle scrambling may cause damage to areas of heath and where sites are close to the roadside, there is risk from traffic pollution, road salt and roadworks.

### Management

Scrub and tree clearance to restore heathland should ideally be followed by a grazing regime which will maintain the heathland vegetation at a variety of heights.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Very local, rarer in the north.

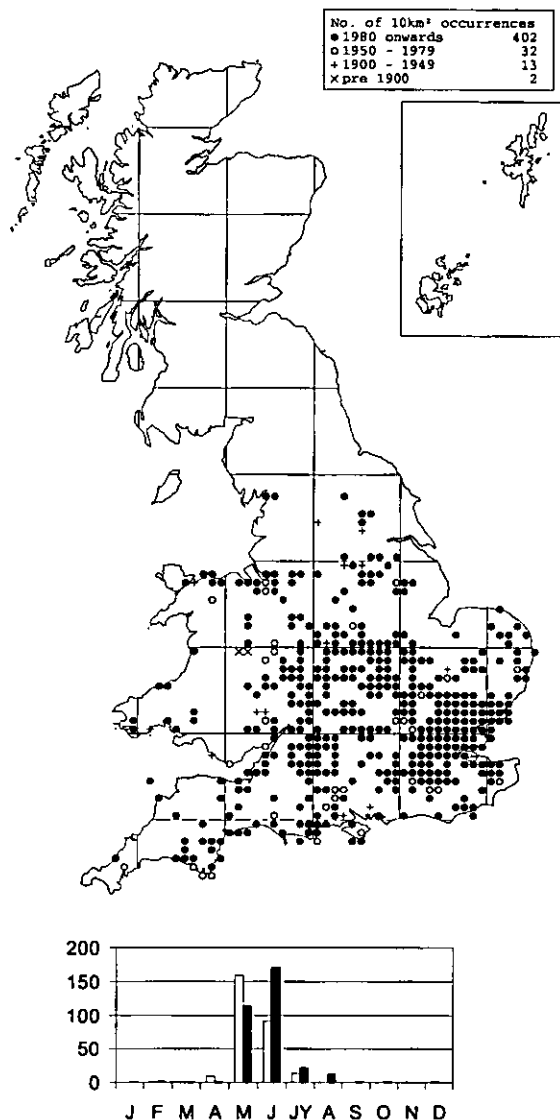
#### Distribution

*M. virescens* is widespread but generally widely scattered in the southern half of Britain, with few records in the north. It is absent from many areas. The species is widespread in western and central Europe but uncommon.

#### Habitat and ecology

Both sexes are distinctive and cannot be mistaken for any other species. The spider prefers damp sheltered woodland and is often found on the lower branches of oak saplings, on tall grass or sedge tussocks where it sits head down waiting to pounce on passing insects. In mid-summer the female stitches together several leaves to form a relatively large space to enclose the egg-sac (Bristowe 1958). Females are mature from May through to December, but males have a short season and are rare.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



#### Status

Common in the south.

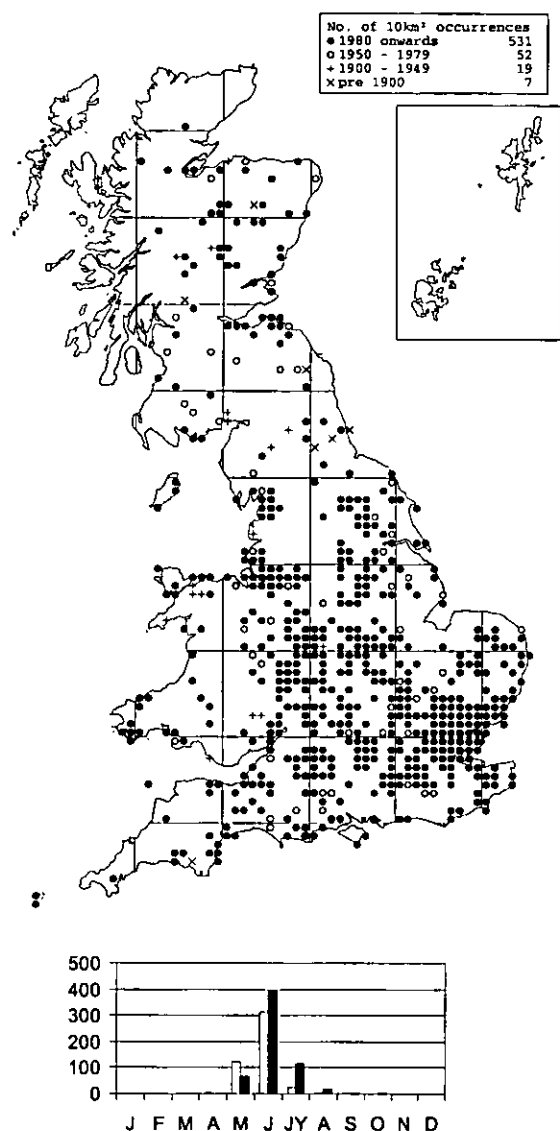
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain, but not recorded north of Westmorland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is found in a variety of wooded habitats including broad-leaved, mixed and coniferised woods, thickets, hedgerows, scrub, gardens and it sometimes comes into houses. It can be swept from woodland herbage and the lower branches of trees and bushes. The spider appears to over-winter in litter, especially in leaf litter and the litter which accumulates at the bottom of hedgerows, in tree boles and at the base of branches. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early summer, females occasionally persisting into the autumn and winter. Single males have been recorded inside telephone boxes in December and February (Crocker & Daws Leicestershire data; J. Crocker, pers. comm.).

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Common. The difficult taxonomy and the complexity of the *aureolus* group in Europe mean that new species may remain undetected. Voucher specimens of all species in the *aureolus* group are essential (*P. aureolus*, *P. buxi*, *P. cespitum*, *P. collinus*, *P. longipalpis* and *P. praedatus*).

#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is found in a variety of wooded habitats including broad-leaved, mixed and coniferised woods, thickets, hedgerows and scrub. It also not infrequently enters houses. It is usually beaten from bushes and the lower branches of trees but may also be swept from adjacent herbage. Although sometimes found on old trees, the spider is more often collected from younger trees, both broad-leaved and coniferous. The spider probably over-winters in the leaf litter that accumulates in various woodland situations. Adults of both sexes occur mainly in early to mid-summer.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Records in Essex and elsewhere indicate the species has probably been over-looked. Although males are easy enough to distinguish from other members of the *aureolus* group, females are difficult without dissection and reference to reliably identified specimens. Identification by the external appearance of the epigyne is unreliable. See Harvey (1991) for diagnostic characters. As with other members of the group it is essential to keep voucher specimens.

Distribution

The species is widespread in southern and eastern England, but there are rather few records in the south-west, Wales, northern England and central Scotland. In Locket et al. (1974) the species was only known from old specimens taken at Bloxworth, Dorset, New Forest, Hampshire and Shrewsbury, Shropshire, yet by Merrett (1990) it had been recorded in ten counties mainly in southern England and also Inverness-shire. It is now known from 25 counties north to Lancashire and Inverness. The species is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000). It has not been recorded from Ireland.

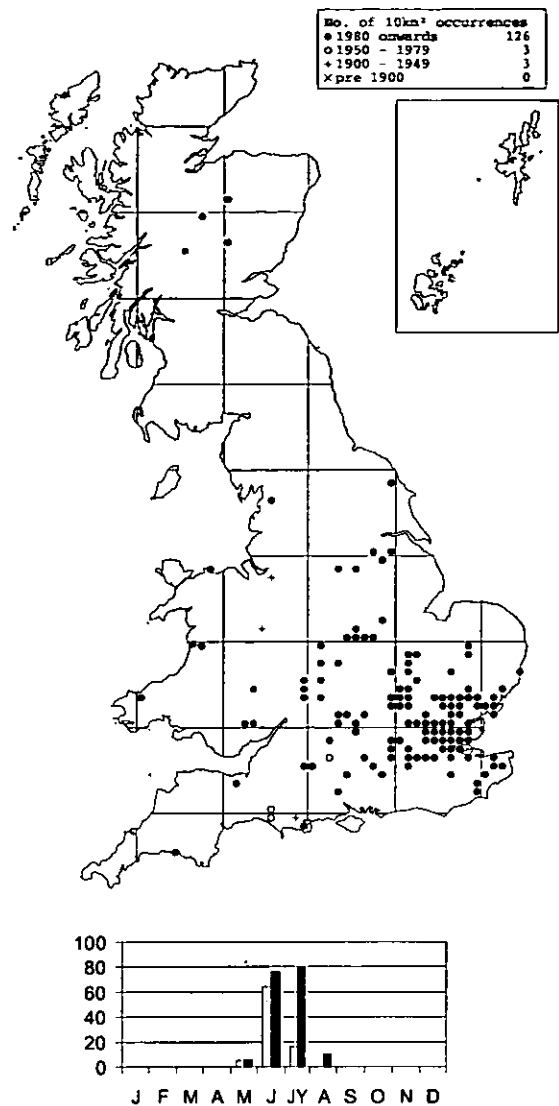
Habitat and ecology

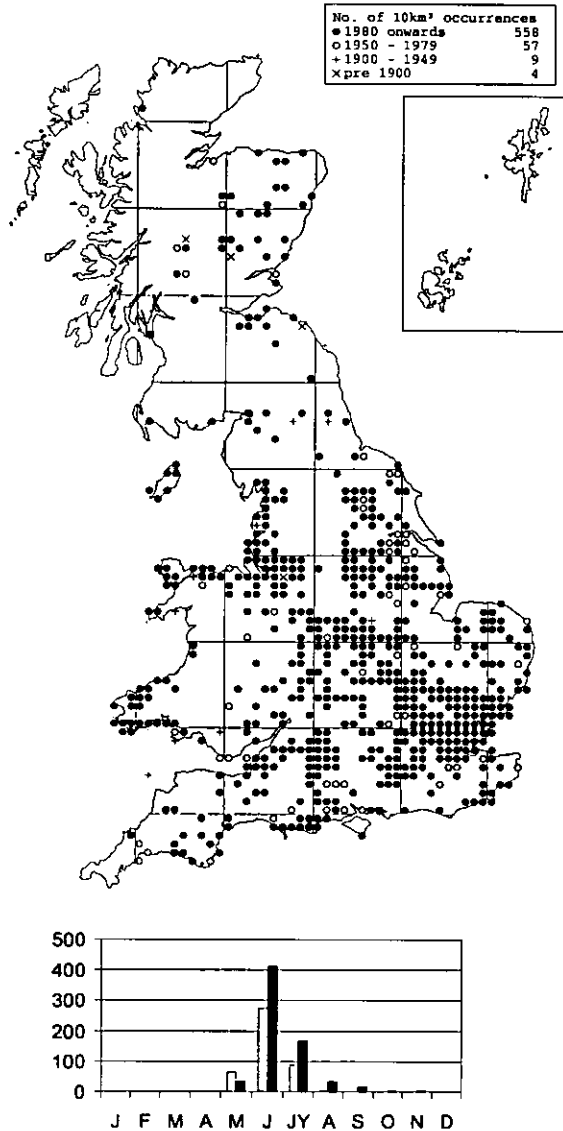
The spider is typically found on mature oak trees in open situations, in wood pasture, at the edge of woodland rides or in old hedgerows, but it has also sometimes been beaten from other trees such as Field Maple. There seems to be a particular association with oak branches where the foliage has been attacked and the leaves have a yellowish-green, reddish and curled appearance. Females have been found with their egg-sac in curled oak leaves. Adults of both sexes have been found between late May and the end of July with most records in June and early July.

Threats

In view of our current knowledge of the distribution of this species, it cannot be considered threatened. However the majority of records are from mature oak trees in open woodland habitat, at the edge of clearings or in hedgerows. This type of habitat is threatened by lack of management resulting in the closure of open woodland, the loss of old trees and the use of pesticides on crops where old oak trees occur in land converted to arable or in old hedgerows adjacent to arable fields.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





#### Status

Common. Taxonomic confusion besets this group and the species was formerly considered as a variety of *aureolus* (var. *cespitolis*) in Locket and Millidge (1951) but recognised as a separate species by Locket et al. (1974) and subsequent publications.

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain in lowland areas, but records are scattered in the north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species is found in heathland and heathery bogs, hedgerows, scrub and wooded habitats. It is more often associated with scrub and herbage than *P. aureolus* but is sometimes found on trees and also occasionally enters houses. A very distinct variety occurs where the dorsal abdominal cardiac mark and chevrons are replaced by a pale yellow dorsum. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early to mid-summer, females occasionally persisting into the autumn, although one male has been recorded in October (Crocker & Daws 1996) on ivy on the rear wall of a house.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

#### Status

Current evidence suggests this is a rare species.

#### Distribution

The species was first collected in Britain at Box Hill in 1985 but remained unidentified until specimens were identified by Hendrik Segers. The spider has been collected from widely scattered sites across southern England. *P. longipalpis* has been found in material collected in France, Spain, Crete, Turkey and Hungary (Segers 1992) and is included in the checklists for the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Romania.

#### Habitat and ecology

All adults have been beaten from the lower branches of old oak trees but juveniles have been taken from heather at Chobham Common in Surrey and from heather under open oak woodland in the Quantocks, South Somerset and kept in captivity until maturity. All records have been of singletons except for the recent collection of two females from one old pollard oak tree by the side of a footpath between wheat fields at Paglesham Churchend in South Essex. Adults have been collected from mid-May to mid-July. *P. longipalpis* is significantly larger than other species in the *aureolus* group and juveniles have a characteristic reddish coloration. Specimens which may be this species should be retained alive until mature. The difficulty of identification presented by this group means that all records must be confirmed with a voucher specimen.

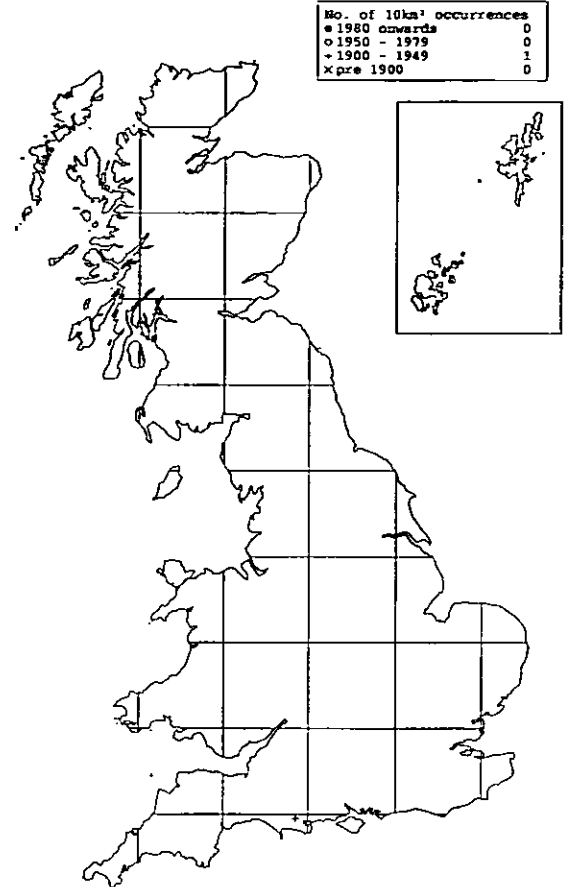
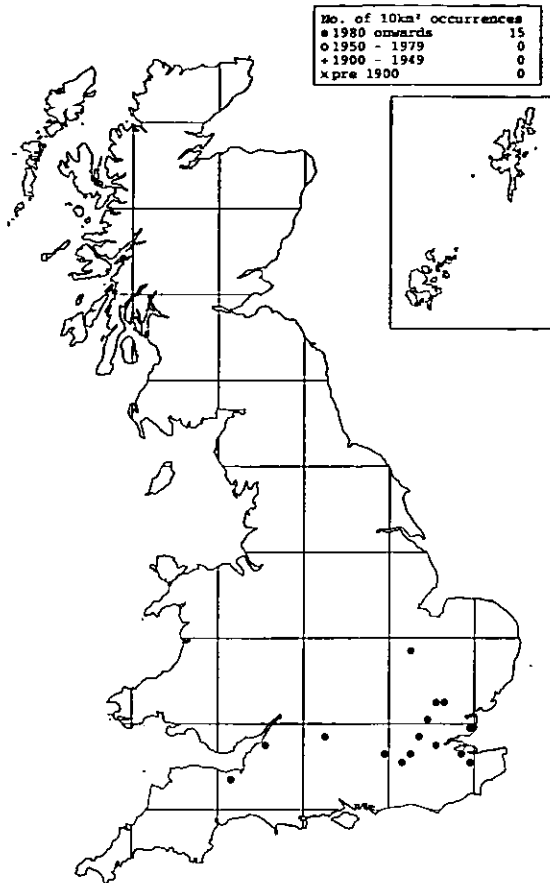
#### Threats

Current evidence points to a low population density and exacting habitat requirements. Most records are from mature oak trees in open woodland habitat, at the edge of clearings or in hedgerows. This type of habitat is threatened by lack of management resulting in the closure of open woodland, the loss of old trees and the use of pesticides on crops where old oak trees occur on land converted to arable or old hedgerows are adjacent to arable fields.

#### Management

The rotational cutting of woodland ride vegetation, periodic control of scrub and tree invasion and light grazing in woodland pasture can all help to retain open surroundings. The retention of wide field edges and headlands should be encouraged to help maintain a diverse invertebrate fauna and reduce the effects of spray drift on old oak trees in hedgerows and at the edge of woodland.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Only one specimen has ever been recorded from Britain, and it has now been deleted from the British checklist (Merrett & Murphy 2000).

#### Distribution

A single female was taken at Bloxworth by O. Pickard-Cambridge in the nineteenth century (Locket et al. 1974), but there may have been confusion over its origin. The species is absent from Scandinavia, but has been recorded from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Romania and the Iberian Peninsula.

#### Habitat and ecology

In Europe the species can be found on bushes and trees.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is uncommon but it may be frequent where it occurs.

**Distribution**

The species is restricted to southern and eastern England north to Yorkshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider is mainly found on the branches of pine trees, also on yew and Douglas fir. It has been found on broad-leaved trees in mixed woodland and coniferised ancient woodland sites, and is frequent on pine in heathland areas in Norfolk, Suffolk, Surrey and Hampshire. It has also been found by beating yews and other evergreen trees and bushes in urban parks, churchyards and suburban cemeteries in Leicestershire (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults of both sexes have been found from May to July.

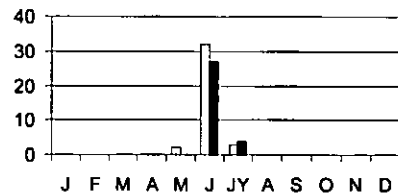
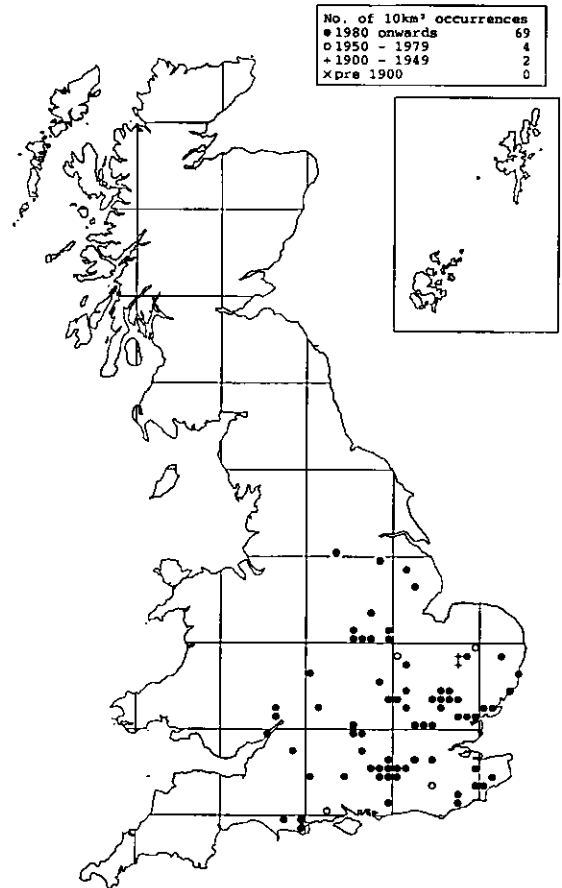
**Threats**

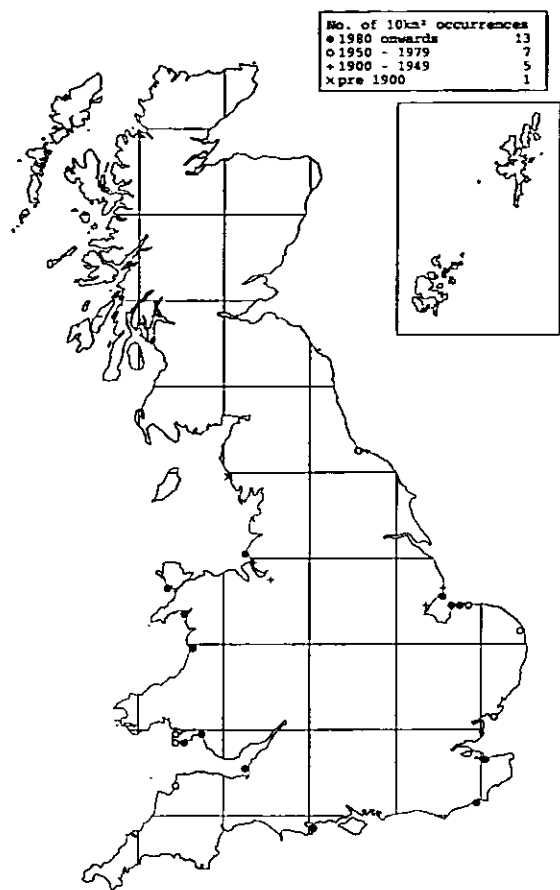
The association with coniferous trees in woodland and on heathland in southern England suggests the species might decline with improved heathland management to control pine invasion and with the reversion of coniferised woods in southern England to broad-leaved woodland.

**Management**

When coniferised woods are harvested and reversion to broad-leaved woodland takes place, some mature coniferous trees should be retained at the edge of clearings or rides.

**Author of profile:** P.R. Harvey based on species account in Merrett (1990).





**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is fairly frequent on sand dunes, but never particularly common, and rather local.

**Distribution**

The species is widespread on the coasts of England and Wales. It is fairly widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden where it is included in their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000), but has not been recorded from Ireland.

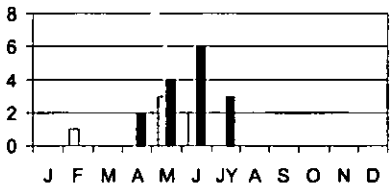
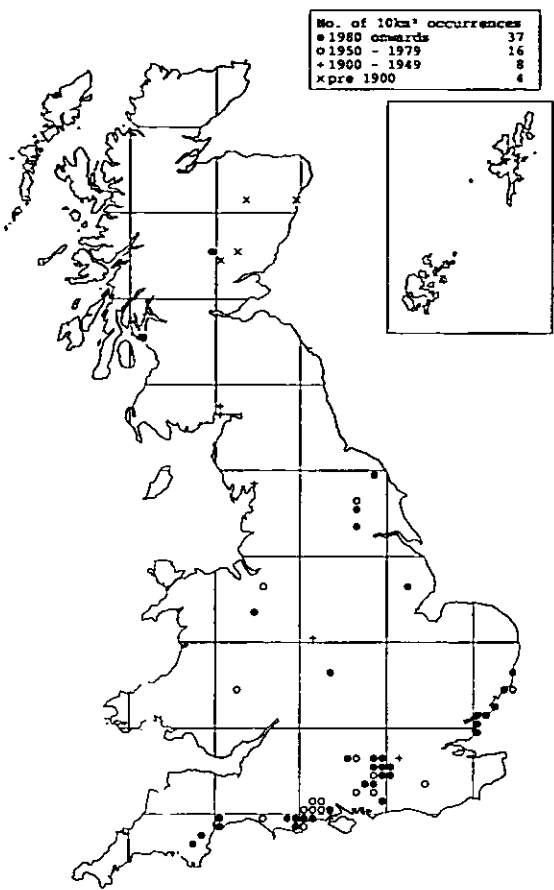
**Habitat and ecology**

The spider occurs on coastal sand dunes, especially on fore-dunes, on sand or among marram, where it is camouflaged to match the sand. Males are adult in April and May, females from late April to June. The female deposits her eggs in a cocoon in the sand at the base of marram.

**Threats**

Possibly public pressure at some sites, but as it occurs mainly on fore-dunes there is probably no threat from agriculture or golf-course developments.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

Generally rare and very local, but the spider may be frequent on some heathlands.

**Distribution**

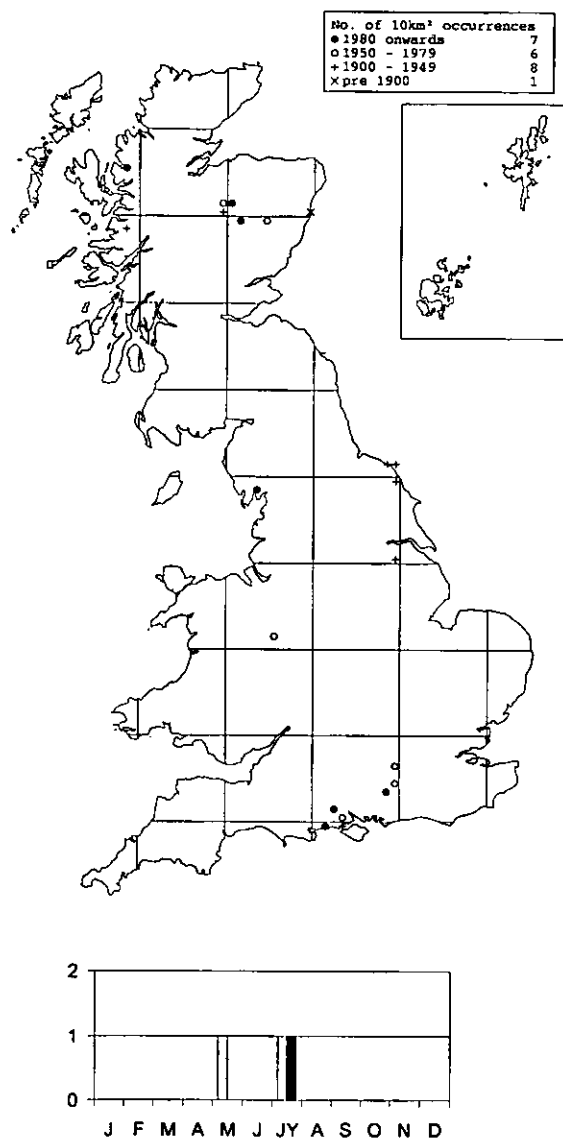
The species is widespread on southern heathlands, but otherwise has a very scattered distribution in Britain as far north as central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

*P. histrio* usually occurs on heather in heathland, where the female encloses her egg-sac in silk and bits of dried heather. The spider, whose red-brown colour and whitish markings provide excellent camouflage against the background, may be found guarding her egg-sac. There is a most interesting variety found on saltmarsh in Essex (where the heathland form has not been recorded) in which the spider has the reddish-brown replaced by the bluish-green colour of Sea Purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*. Adults of both sexes occur mainly in May and June.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





#### Status

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

#### Distribution

The species has widely scattered records as far north as West Ross. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs on pine trees, occasionally on heather (probably near pines), mainly in heathland areas. One female has been found guarding an egg-sac under a stone on river shingle in Caledonian pine forest (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). It is adult from May to July.

#### Threats

The clearance of semi-natural Scots pine for intensive forestry plantations might be detrimental for this species.

#### Management

Maintain some old semi-natural pine on heathland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). Most references in literature suggest that the species is never very numerous (Merrett 1990) or that only single individuals are usually found (e.g. Crocker & Daws 1996), but this has not been the case in Essex where it is a widespread and often frequent species. The spider is not uncommon on old trees at some sites in southern Oxfordshire (J. Denton pers. comm.) and it has been found in numbers in Huntingdonshire (I. Dawson, pers. comm.). The species formerly known as *P. rufus* was split into *P. rufus* and *P. albidus* (Dondale 1972; Segers 1989). Dondale (1972) states that Pickard-Cambridge (1895) described and figured a male from Britain that matched the real *P. rufus*. However since *P. rufus* has not been found since the re-description of *P. albidus* it has now been deleted from the British checklist (Merrett & Murphy 2000). In western France *P. albidus* has been collected in high oak forest whereas the closely related *P. rufus* occurred on young trees and scrub in open habitats. If *P. rufus* does occur in Britain, it should probably be sought in open warm habitats near the south coast of England.

#### Distribution

The species is confined to the southern half of England. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Scandinavia or Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider is usually found in broad-leaved or mixed woodland on the lower branches of broad-leaved trees such as oak at the edge of clearings or rides. It is also found in old hedgerows and green lanes. Adults of both sexes have been found from May to July with a peak in June.

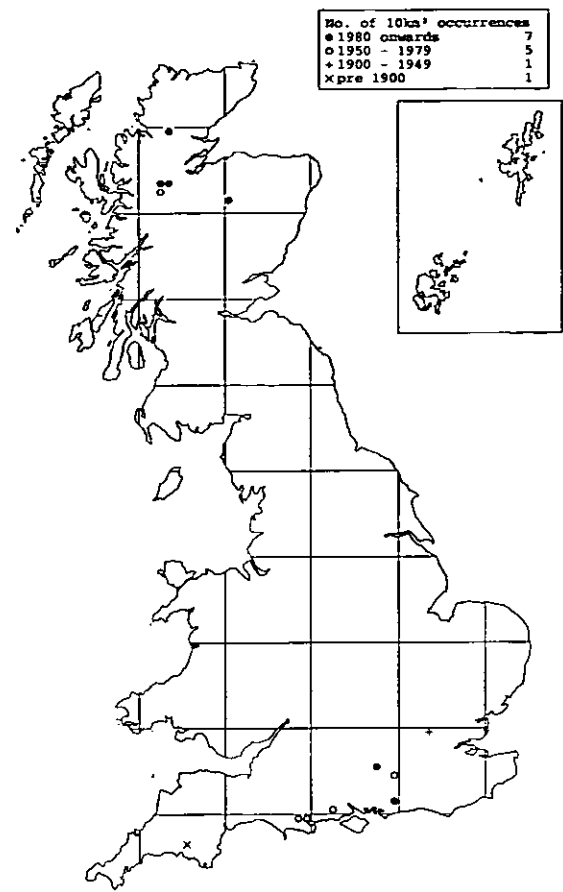
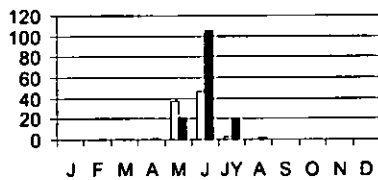
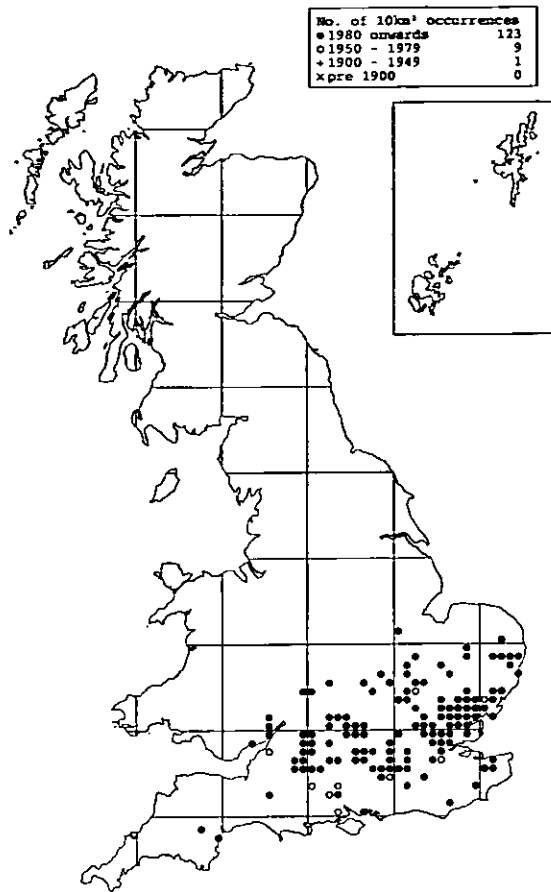
#### Threats

The majority of records are from trees or bushes at the edge of clearings or in hedgerows. Lack of management resulting in the closure of open woodland and the loss of old hedgerows are almost certainly detrimental to this species. Spray drift from the use of pesticides on crops is likely to affect the survival of this spider, as well as many other invertebrates, where arable fields are adjacent to woodland or hedgerows.

#### Management

Management should retain open surroundings by rotational cutting of woodland ride vegetation, periodic control of scrub and tree invasion and light grazing in woodland pasture. The retention of wide field edges and headlands should be encouraged to help maintain a diverse invertebrate fauna and reduce the effects of spray drift on old trees in hedgerows and at the edge of woodland.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local, although its excellent camouflage may result in under-recording.

### Distribution

The species is known from scattered localities in the south of England and central Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

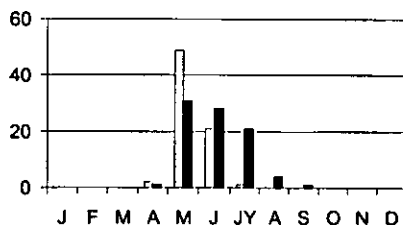
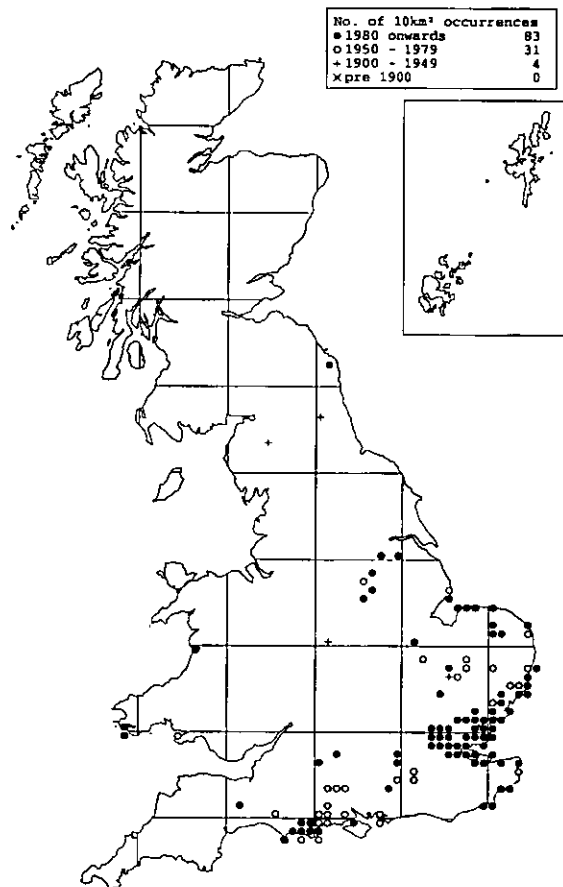
### Habitat and ecology

*P. margaritatus* occurs on trunks of trees, both pines and broad-leaved, especially when these are covered with lichens. It has also been found on electricity pylons near pine trees and sometimes in gardens on apple trees, etc. It is variable in colour, and camouflaged to resemble lichen on which it sits. Adults are found in May and June.

### Threats

The felling of old, lichen-covered trees.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

The spider is local and generally uncommon, but it has occurred with some frequency in Essex.

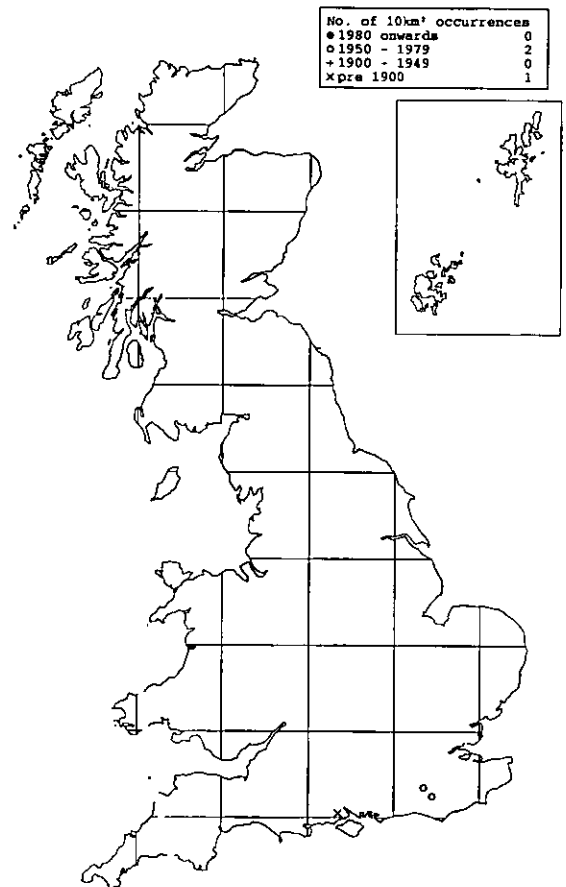
#### Distribution

The species is widespread on southern heathlands and in south-eastern England but with few scattered records elsewhere in England as far north as Northumberland and in Wales. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*T. striatus* occurs on the ground at the base of vegetation in sandy grassland, heathland and dunes but also in tussocky grassland on sea walls, in brackish grassland, saltmarsh, dyke edges, waste ground and old sand pits. Adults of both sexes are mainly found in May and June, females into July and occasionally August and September.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The paucity of records may partly be due to this species being mature early in the year when little recording of spiders is carried out. It was apparently well-established when found in Ashdown Forest.

#### Distribution

The species has been recorded from Beaulieu Heath near Brockenhurst, New Forest, South Hampshire, in 1894; and Legsheath and Duddleswell, in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, this century. Adults were found at Legsheath in the 1930s and juveniles at both Sussex sites in 1969. This species is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in boggy areas with *Sphagnum*, tall *Molinia caerulea* and mature *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix*. Adults are found in March or April.

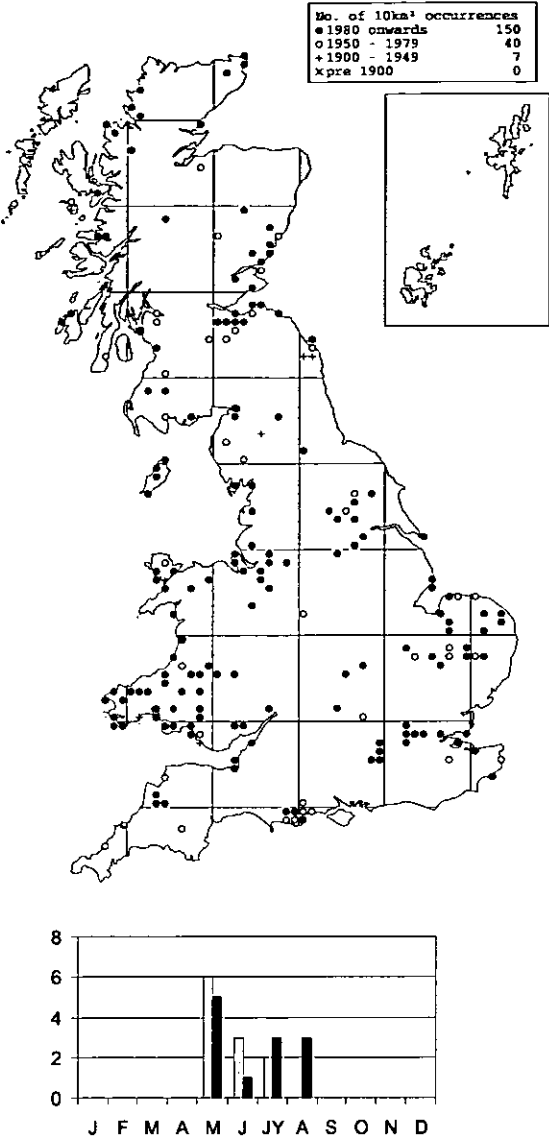
#### Threats

Fire on heathland and loss of the heathland habitat to other land-uses. Drainage of some New Forest bogs has been carried out in the past in order to increase the area and quality of grazing land. There is now very little grazing in Ashdown Forest, partly because the main roads crossing the unfenced common land are a danger to livestock. Consequently, scrub and bracken invasion of the heath is a problem.

#### Management

Scrub clearance is required to restore heathland and open boggy areas.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**

Although *T. maritimus* has a much more localised distribution than *T. oblongus*, it may be locally abundant. In the past there has been some confusion between these two species and they are only separable with certainty by careful examination of the genitalia.

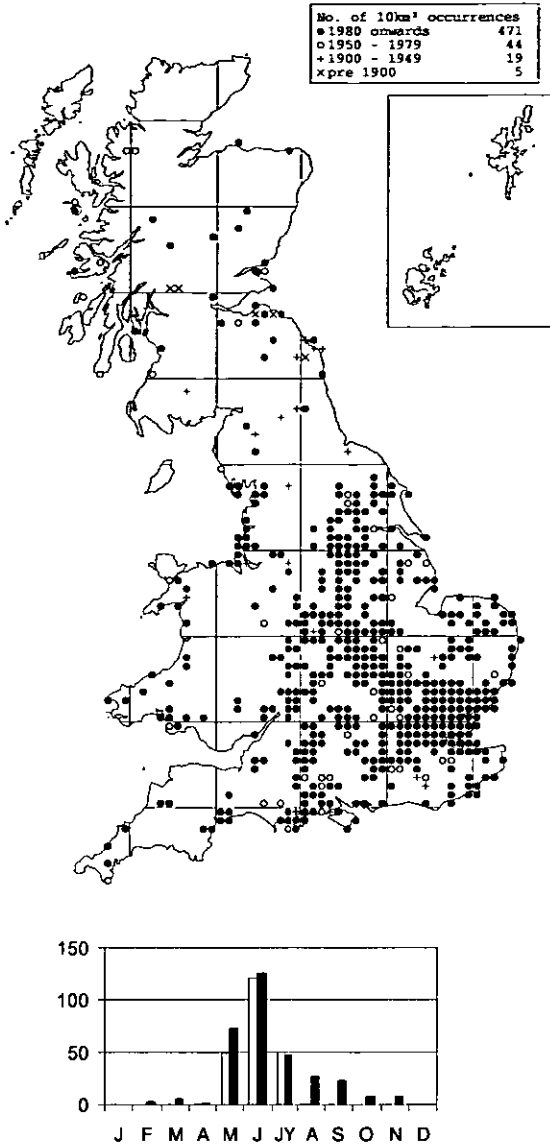
**Distribution**

The spider has a scattered distribution in much of Britain, but is absent from many areas. A Holarctic species, widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*T. maritimus* is found on coarse grasses, heather, rushes, etc. in damp places, raised bogs, on sand-hills and rough ground. Specimens are often found hugging plant stems with the legs extended along the length of the stem and in this position they are largely inconspicuous. When disturbed they move very rapidly upwards in the vegetation. Adults of both sexes are found from late spring to mid-summer, females persisting later.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



**Status**

The spider is common in the south but more local and restricted in the north, although it may be locally abundant (J. Newton, pers. comm.).

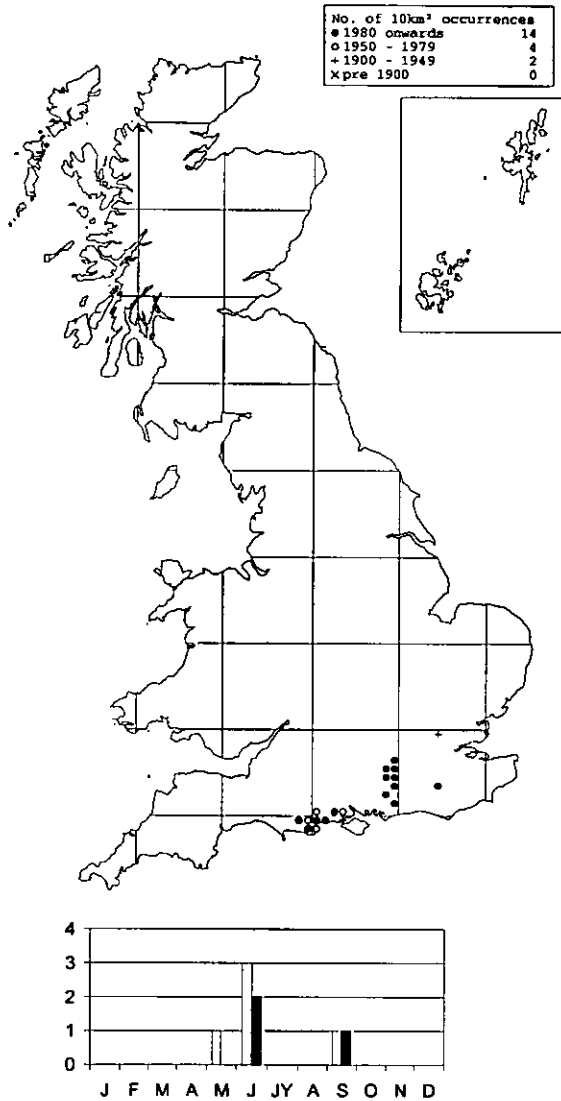
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain, but the distribution becomes scattered in the west and north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*T. oblongus* occurs in a variety of dry or damp habitats, ranging from sand-hills to grassland of most types, though longer herbage seems to be preferred. Adults of both sexes are found mainly from May to July, females persisting occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: T.J. Thomas



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is frequent on heathland in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey, but never particularly numerous. It is local elsewhere.

#### Distribution

The species is restricted to central southern and south-east England. It is widespread in Europe, especially in the south.

#### Habitat and ecology

*T. onustus* occurs in dry or moderately wet, mainly mature, heathland, usually on flowers of *Erica tetralix* or *E. cinerea*, where it ambushes prey, mostly bees and large flies. Adult females can adjust their background colour to match that of the flower upon which they sit (Oxford & Gillespie 1998). Both sexes are adult from May to September. Females deposit their egg-sac in July spun up in flower heads of *Erica*.

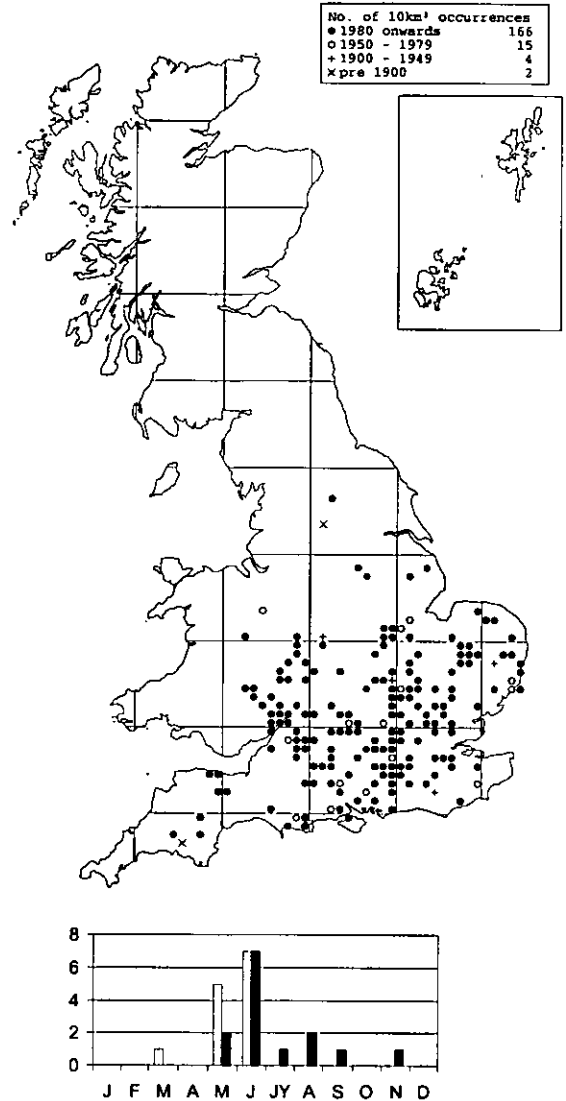
#### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry, development and excessive burning.

#### Management

Rotational management of heathland will maintain the full range of seral stages of heather. Large fires may be detrimental, although the young stages disperse readily and can start to colonise new areas about 5 years after fire.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Local.

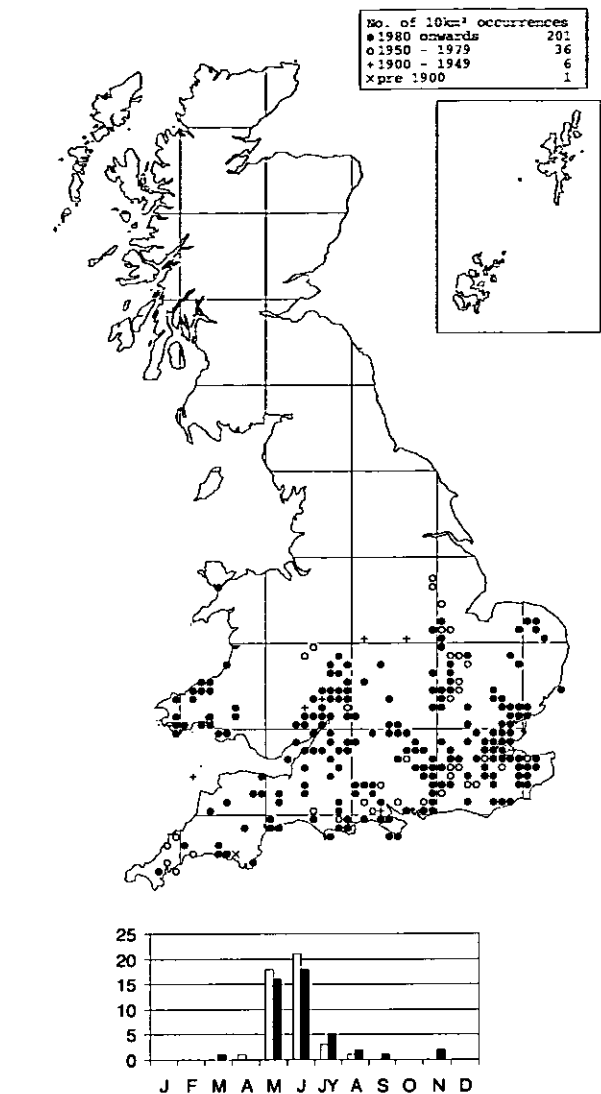
#### Distribution

*D. dorsata* is widespread in the southern half of England, becoming scattered in the west and north as far as Yorkshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but commoner towards the south of the region (Roberts 1995). It has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species is strongly associated with woodland, perhaps with a preference for evergreens and conifers, and is found on the leaves of bushes and trees such as oak, box, yew and conifers, and is therefore usually collected by beating. It can also be found in leaf litter, and occasionally in the field layer of undisturbed scrubby grassland (Crocker & Daws 1996), and on fence posts in 'ballooning' weather. Females can be found guarding the eggs, which are covered with a thick layer of silk in a partially bent leaf. The characteristic colouring allows adults and juveniles to be identified in the field. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May and June, females persisting occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



**Status**

The spider is fairly common in the south.

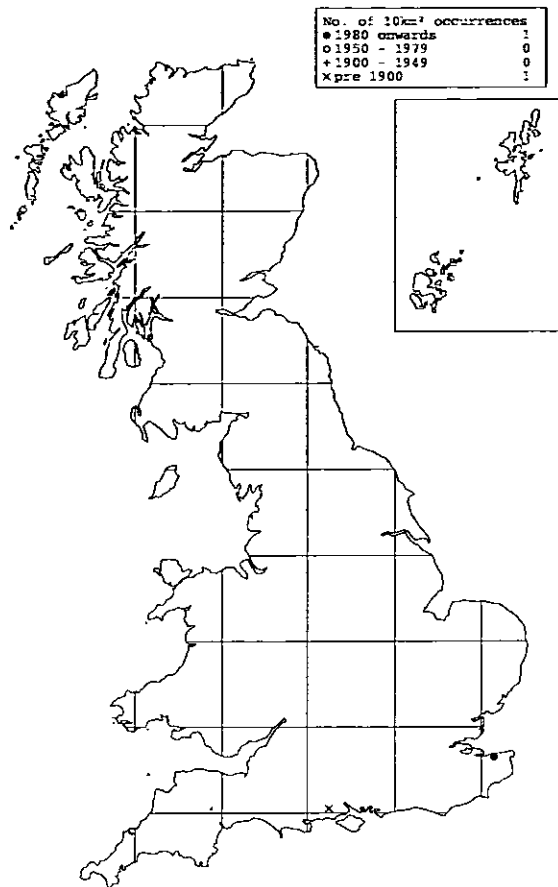
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in the southern half of England and Wales. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but commoner towards the south of the region (Roberts 1995).

**Habitat and ecology**

This species seems to be most commonly found in the boundary region between grass and scrub, such as the edges of woodland rides but it also occurs in more open locations. It may be found in the vegetation, or sitting on a flower head waiting for prey. In these situations its cryptic colouring may make it difficult to see until it moves, especially as the colouring may vary through white, yellow and greenish to match the flower. Only mature females can undergo background-matching colour changes. Some females have red anterior, dorso-lateral lines or spots which appear to be genetically determined and are unaffected by the background colour. Mature males are smaller and predominantly brown. The sexual dimorphism for colour is probably a result of males and females occupying different niches (Oxford and Gillespie 1998). Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and August, but mainly in May and June with females occasionally persisting into the autumn or perhaps even through the winter with one female recorded in leaf litter in March.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge



**Status**

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). The spider was thought to be extinct in Britain until rediscovered in 1985.

**Distribution**

The species was recorded from the New Forest near Brockenhurst, South Hampshire, in 1896. The precise locality is not known. A female was recorded from a wood in the Blean area, East Kent, in 1985 and two juveniles collected at East Blean Woods in 1993, where a further specimen, an adult female, was collected in 2001 (Russell-Smith 2001). The spider is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, where it is included on their Red List (Gärdenfors 2000). It has not been recorded in Ireland.

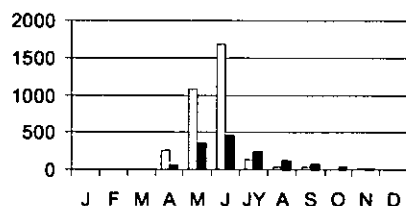
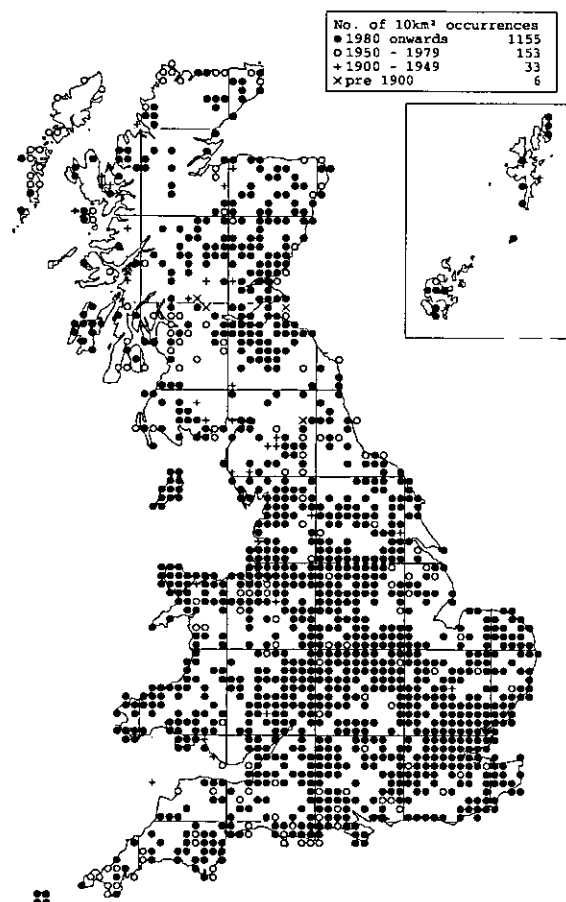
**Habitat and ecology**

The first Blean specimen emerged in May from pieces of dead wood collected in the previous March, which suggests that dead wood may be an over-wintering site. The specimen survived for some weeks in captivity, being fed on flies. The two juveniles were collected from small coppiced oak. In France, this species is found on bushes, especially small scrubby oaks. Adults occur in May, June and July, in captivity one male reached maturity in March.

**Threats**

Many broad-leaved woodlands in south-east England have been cleared for agriculture or converted to conifer plantations in recent decades, and both activities are still real threats to the surviving woods. Development pressures are also increasing in Kent with the effects of the Channel Tunnel, and further woods are likely to be lost to housing, industry and roads.

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



#### Status

Common.

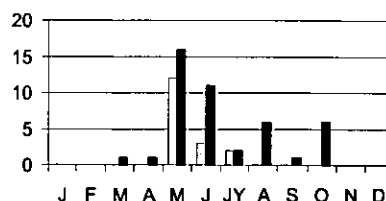
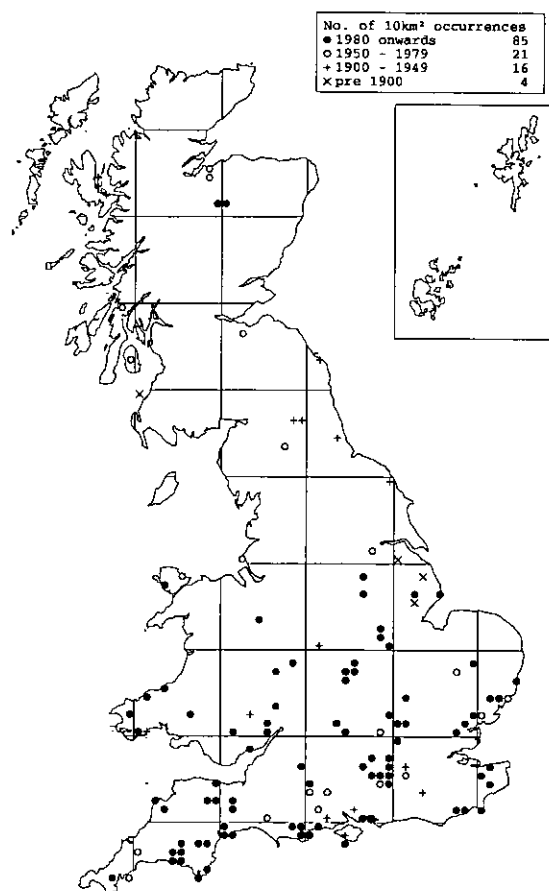
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*X. cristatus* occurs in almost every habitat type, but is shade intolerant and rare in woodlands and closed canopy habitats. Large numbers can be found in grasslands and habitats which have undergone some degree of disturbance such as quarries and agricultural fields. In grasslands, this spider exploits a flexible hunting position either at the tips of vegetation or on the ground surface. As a consequence, the diet is extremely varied and comprises flying insects, including bees and butterflies, when positioned in flower-heads, or ants, spiders and other soft bodied prey when ambushing prey on the ground (Nyffeler & Breene 1990). Immatures have been found ballooning, particularly between the months of July to September (Freeman 1946). Adults have been recorded from February to December, with a male activity peak in May and June (Merrett 1967; Bell 1999).

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



#### Status

The spider is frequent in suitable habitat in southern England, but very local elsewhere. It has been considered by some authors to be a form of *X. cristatus* but there is now agreement that it is a separate species. However careful consideration of colour, carapace markings and genitalia is needed to distinguish the two species.

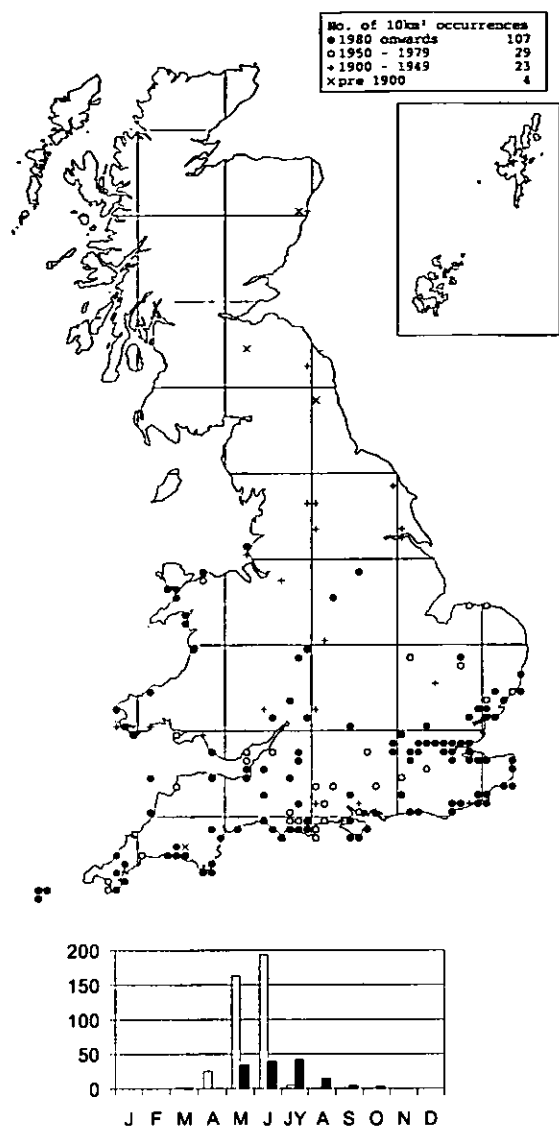
#### Distribution

The species has a widespread but rather scattered distribution in much of southern Britain, with a few scattered records north to Inverness-shire. It is a Palearctic species widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*X. audax* is found on gorse and heather in heathland and sometimes grassland, usually at higher levels in the vegetation than *X. cristatus*. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in late spring and early summer, females persisting later.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist

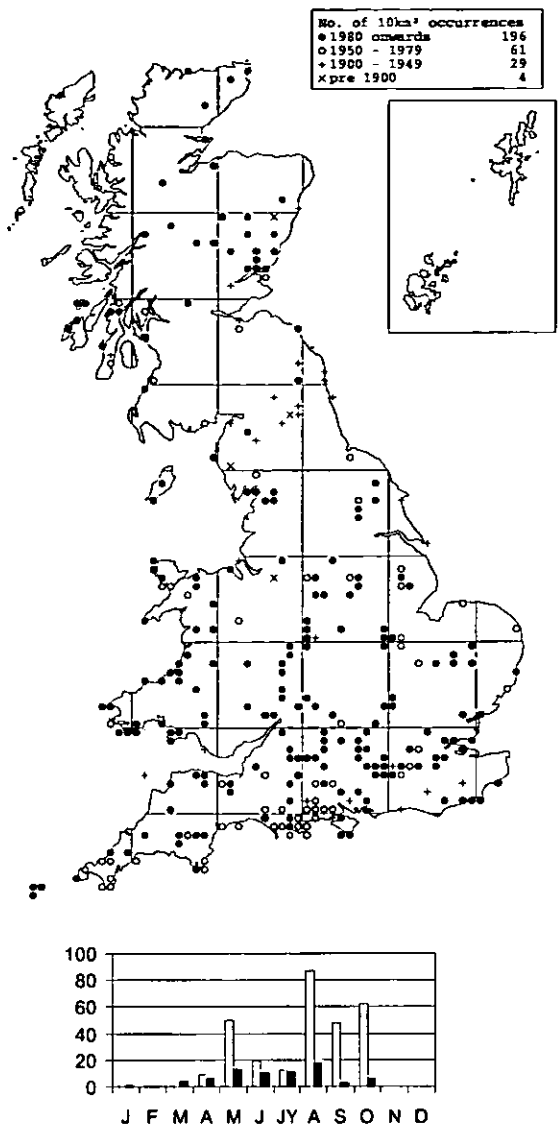


**Status**  
Local.

**Distribution**  
The species has a widespread but patchy and scattered distribution in Britain, mainly in the south. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

**Habitat and ecology**  
Locket and Millidge (1951) state the species occurs fairly commonly on bushes and in undergrowth. However habitat data available suggest the spider favours warm, dry conditions, provided by open and sparsely vegetated habitats such as ruderal habitats, dunes, vegetated shingle, under-cliffs, old sand and chalk pits, south facing scarps, chalk and drier parts of grazing marsh grasslands. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May and June, but females can sometimes survive into the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



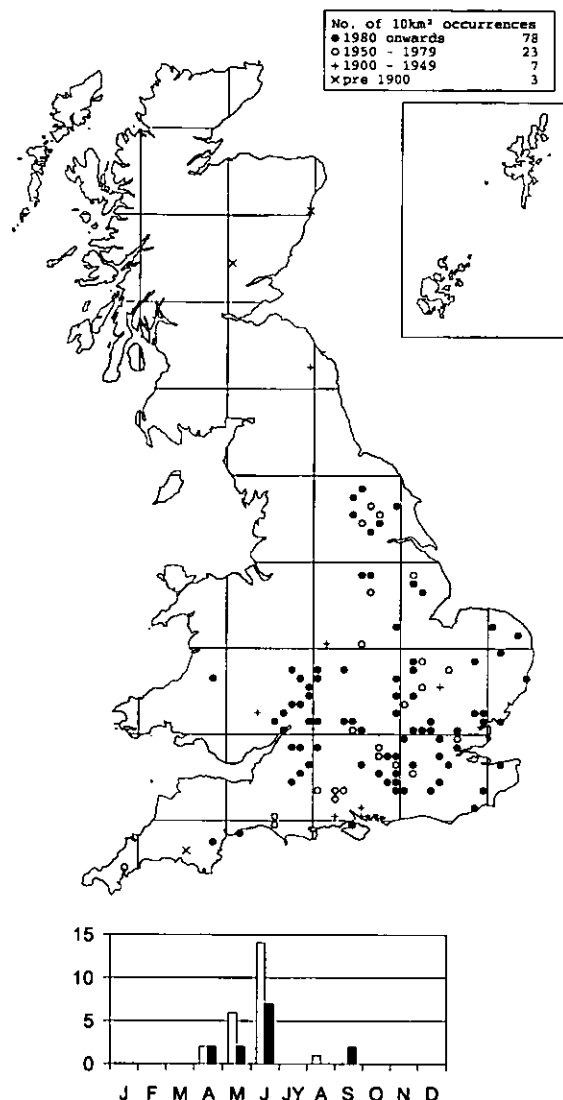
**Status**  
Local.

**Distribution**  
The species has a widespread but patchy and scattered distribution in Britain. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway.

**Habitat and ecology**  
Principally a grassland and heathland spider with a penchant for shorter swards such as those found on grazed calcareous grassland, upland base-rich flushes or disturbed sites such as quarries. This habitat distribution in Britain agrees well with that found in central Europe (see Hänggi et al. (1995)), although it may also be found in forests. In Essex the spider is only found in unimproved grassland or heathland (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.). Adults are recorded from March to October, with a single female recorded in January. Coleman (1977) shows one peak in male activity in September, whilst Merrett (1967) shows peaks in June and September. Our data indicate two peaks, in the south in May and August/September, and further north in August and October.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell





#### Status

Local. The spider may be frequent in parts of the south, but in some southern counties such as Essex, it is inexplicably rare (P.R. Harvey, pers. comm.).

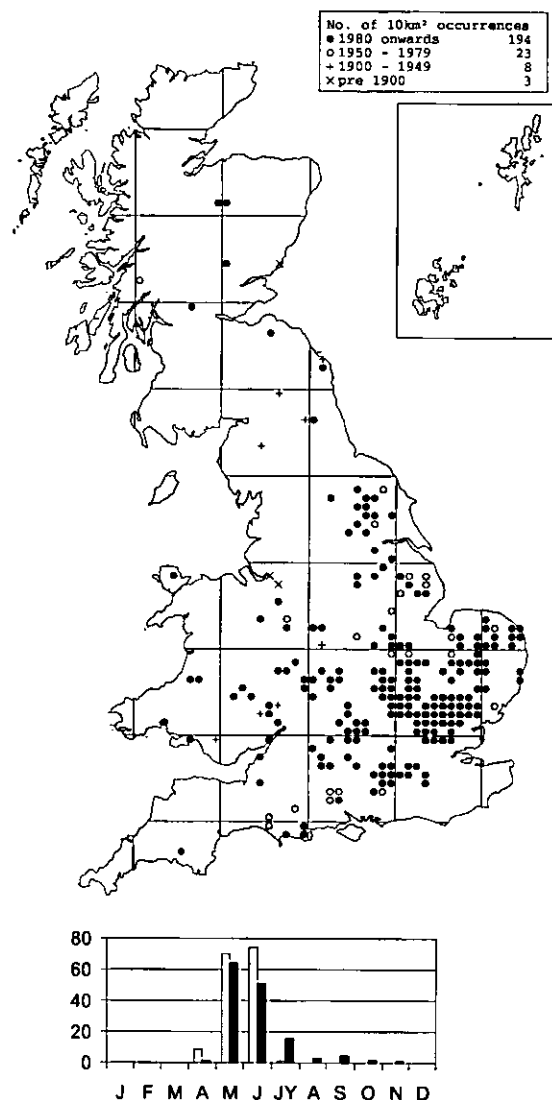
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in southern and eastern England, with scattered records in the south-west, Wales and the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The only member of the genus to be commonly found on bushes or young trees in woodland, especially favouring young oaks. Adults of both sexes are found mainly between April and June, occasionally later.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



#### Status

Local, but the spider may be frequent, as in north and west Essex. Its absence in the southern and eastern parts of Essex, the driest parts of Britain, may be the result of low rainfall and humidity.

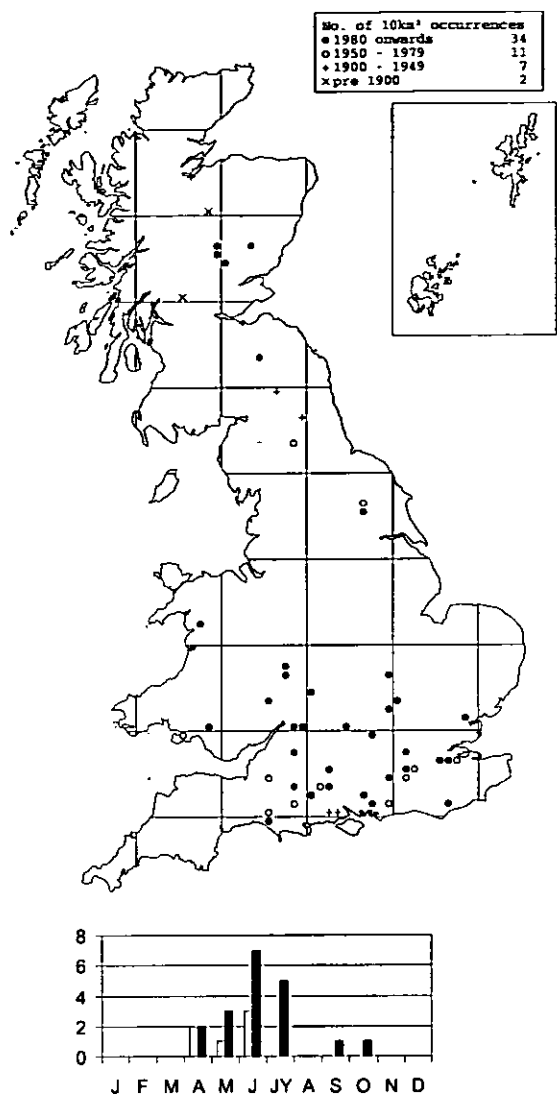
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain mainly towards the east, becoming scattered in the west and north as far as central Scotland. However *X. ulmi* appears to be genuinely absent in the extreme south-east of the country. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider usually occurs on low vegetation and in the ground layer in damp situations, especially in marshes, fens, and rough grassland, but in North Essex it is also found in ditches alongside arable fields, hedge banks, roadside verges and woodland especially in open and coppiced areas. Juveniles are often found in ground litter at the base of vegetation whereas adults are usually swept from herbage. Females guard their egg-sacs, usually near the tops of higher plants. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May and June, females occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



**Status**

Scarce, but may be frequent at some sites.

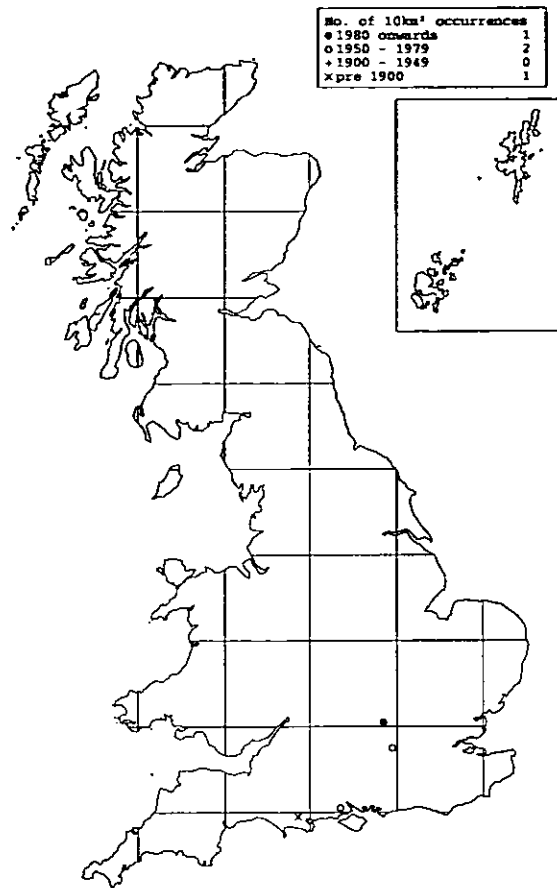
**Distribution**

The species is widely scattered in England, Wales and Scotland, but fairly widespread in southern central England. It is a Palearctic species widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

*X. bifasciatus* is a large and robust spider and of the twelve British species in the genus it is only equalled in size by *X. luctator* and *X. robustus*. It is found in low vegetation, under stones on warm grassy heaths, and on chalk grassland. Adults of both sexes are found in spring and early summer, females occasionally persisting into the autumn.

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



**Status**

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). Few individuals have been found, and the spider appears to be very rare.

**Distribution**

The species has been recorded only from Bloxworth Heath, Dorset (a single male in 1854 and a female soon after); Beaulieu Road Heath in the New Forest, South Hampshire (a male and female in 1958 and several times previously); High Standing Hill, Windsor Forest, Berkshire (a single female in 1978) and Whiteleaf Hill near Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire (a single female in 1995). It is fairly widespread in central and northern Europe.

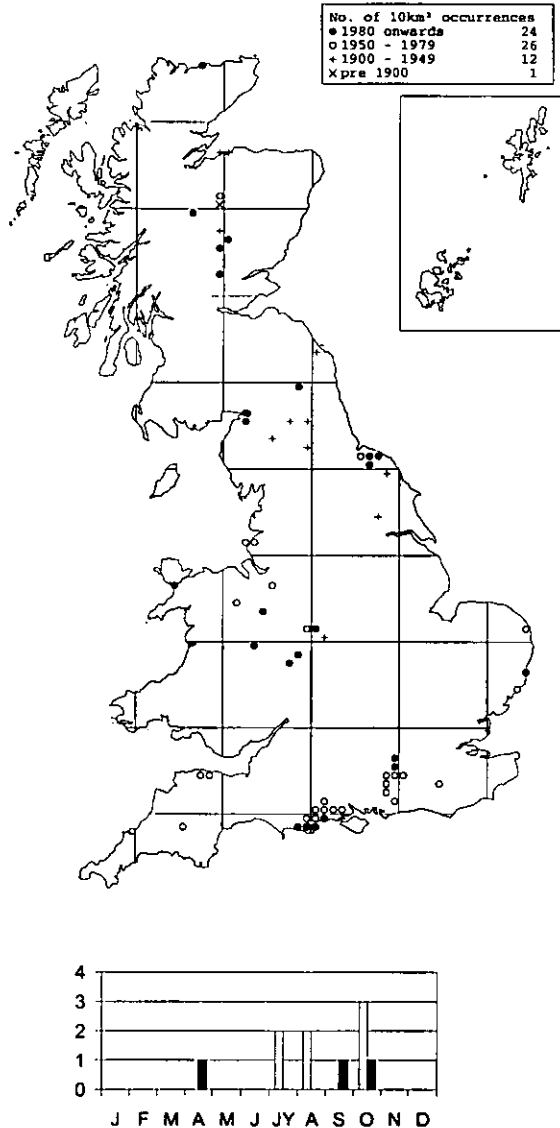
**Habitat and ecology**

*X. luctator* is found in mature dry heathland, under dead wood among heather and beech litter, and amongst dead wood and leaf litter in beech woodland. Both sexes are adult in May.

**Threats**

The grazing pressure, particularly from ponies, is too high in much of the New Forest for mature heath to develop. This is despite the fact that current grazing levels are much below that allowed by the by-laws. However, in the long term a more serious threat is posed by the decline of grazing as the population of the New Forest loses interest in exercising the commoners' rights to graze livestock. A marked lessening of the grazing pressure would allow scrub encroachment on the areas of heath. Bloxworth Heath has been largely lost to conifer forestry, only a small part of the original surviving as Morden Bog NNR.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



### Status

Uncommon and very local, but Merrett (1967a) showed that it can be the most abundant thomisid on southern English heathland.

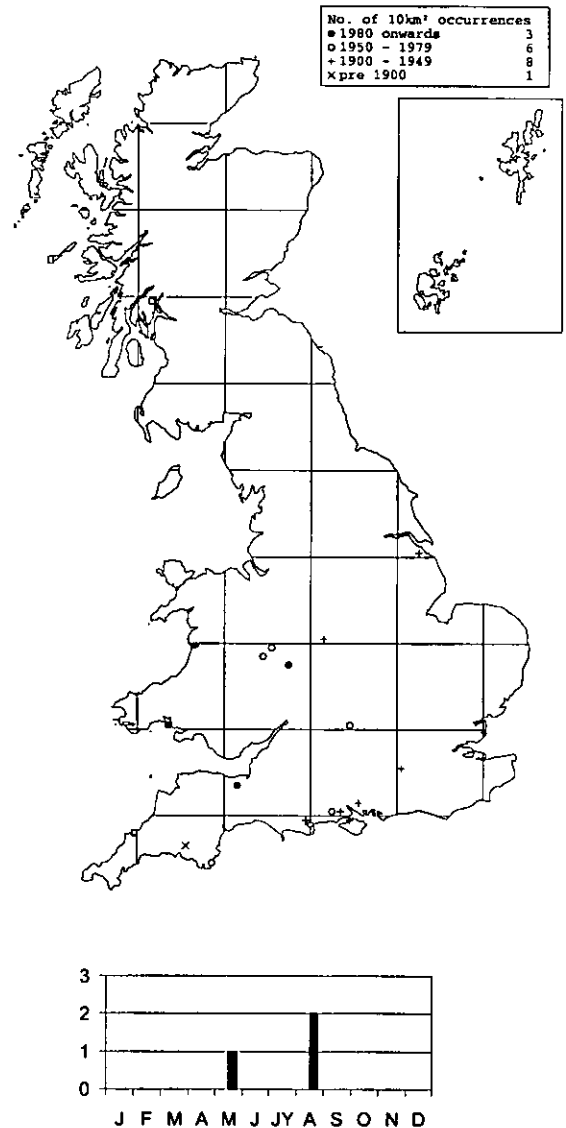
### Distribution

The species has a patchy and very scattered distribution in England, Scotland and Wales. It is a Palearctic species widespread in western and central Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

A complex patterning containing much brown and black confers good camouflage for this species in its favoured habitat on sand or gravel on heathland, although it has occasionally been found on low heathland vegetation. It can be regarded as a pioneer species on burnt heathland, numbers rising to a high level in the first two to three years after burning (Merrett 1976). It is the only member of the group in which mature specimens of both sexes may be found into the autumn and, indeed, female activity has been recorded from March through to December suggesting that egg-laying may be interrupted by winter and completed in the spring (Merrett 1967a).

Author of profile: D.R. Nellist



### Status

A rare spider. Although recorded from 16 counties, and currently assigned a Nationally Scarce (Notable B) status, there are few recent records for this spider. It is possible that some of the old records refer to *X. acerbus*, females of which are very similar to *X. luctuosus*, but this would probably only apply to southern records.

### Distribution

The species is widespread, but scattered. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs among low plants and on bushes in woods. Adults are found from May to August.

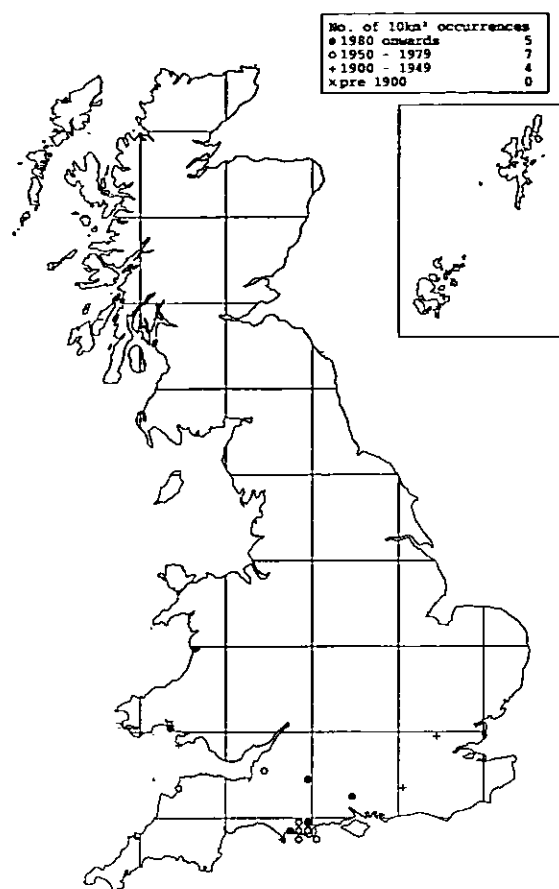
### Threats

The loss of woodland to intensive forestry, and clearance of understorey.

### Management

Maintain low plants and the shrub layer in woodland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider appears to be very local, and at most sites only a few specimens have been found. It may be slightly under-recorded because it matures early in the season.

#### Distribution

There are scattered records in the south. The species is widespread in western and central Europe, but is absent from Scandinavia and has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in a fairly wide range of grassland habitats, chalk or limestone grassland in Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset, short meadow grassland in Sussex and Glamorgan and sand dunes at Braunton Burrows (Devon). It has also occasionally been found on heathland and coastal under-cliff in Dorset. Both sexes are adult in April and May.

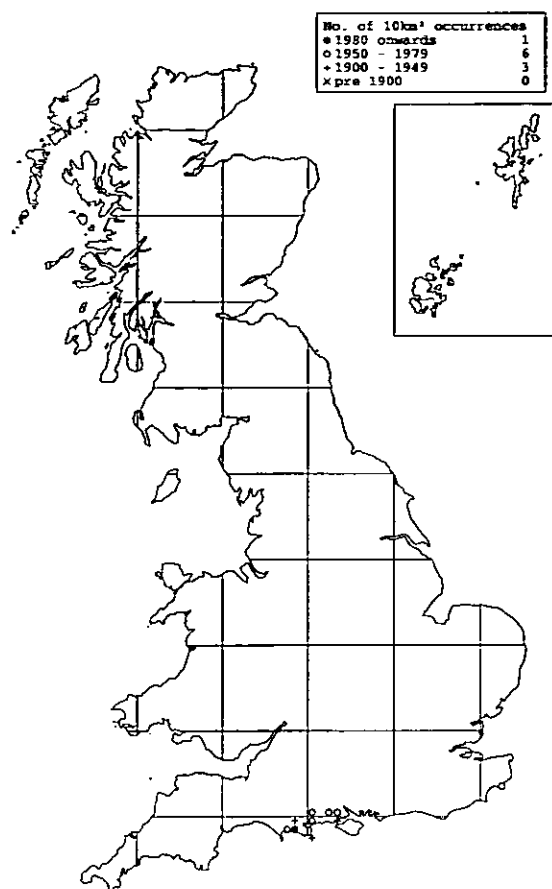
#### Threats

Threats are difficult to assess because of its varied habitats, but the loss of unimproved grassland in general is likely to be detrimental.

#### Management

Maintain unimproved calcareous and other grassland by grazing.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A).

#### Distribution

The species is confined to Dorset, the New Forest (Hampshire), and near Folkestone (Kent). It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs in dry heathland and coastal calcareous grassland, usually in stony, sparsely vegetated areas among older, taller vegetation. Adults of both sexes are found from May to July.

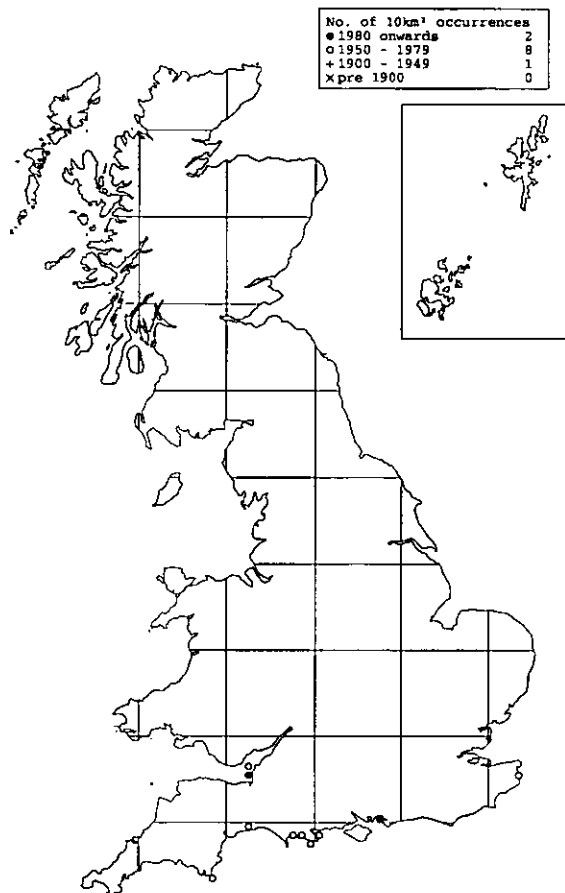
#### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, afforestation and development. There is probably little threat to its coastal sites.

#### Management

Maintain mixed age structure of heathland by rotational management. Grazing is probably advantageous in its grassland sites.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider may be frequent in places along the south-west coast, but is local and never particularly numerous. It is scarce inland.

#### Distribution

The species is mainly south-western and coastal in Britain. An old Staffordshire record seems rather doubtful. It is widespread in Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*O. blackwalli* occurs under stones and in short grass, mainly near the coast, on cliff-tops and under-cliff. Elsewhere, it is scarce and probably mainly found on short calcareous grassland. Both sexes are adult from May to August, and females have also been taken in March.

#### Threats

Possibly public pressure in a few places, but most sites are in places which are not suitable for cultivation.

#### Management

Maintain open stony grassland on cliff tops and under-cliff, control scrub growth.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is fairly common on some of the Breckland heaths, but less frequent, and very local, on heaths in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey.

#### Distribution

The species is found mainly south-east of a line from the Wash to Dorset, but also in West Cornwall, Leicestershire, Pembrokeshire (Skomer) and mid-Wales. The more continental climate in East Anglia may favour this species, as in Europe it is confined to northern and central regions.

#### Habitat and ecology

*O. scabricula* occurs mainly on dry, stony or sandy heathland with sparse vegetation cover, and also on coastal sand dunes in Norfolk where mobile sand formed 60% of the cover between marram tussocks. It probably has poor powers of dispersal, as it seems to occur mainly on heaths which are sparsely vegetated because of their soil characteristics rather than on recently burnt heathland. Adult males are found between March and May, and between August and October, females from April to September.

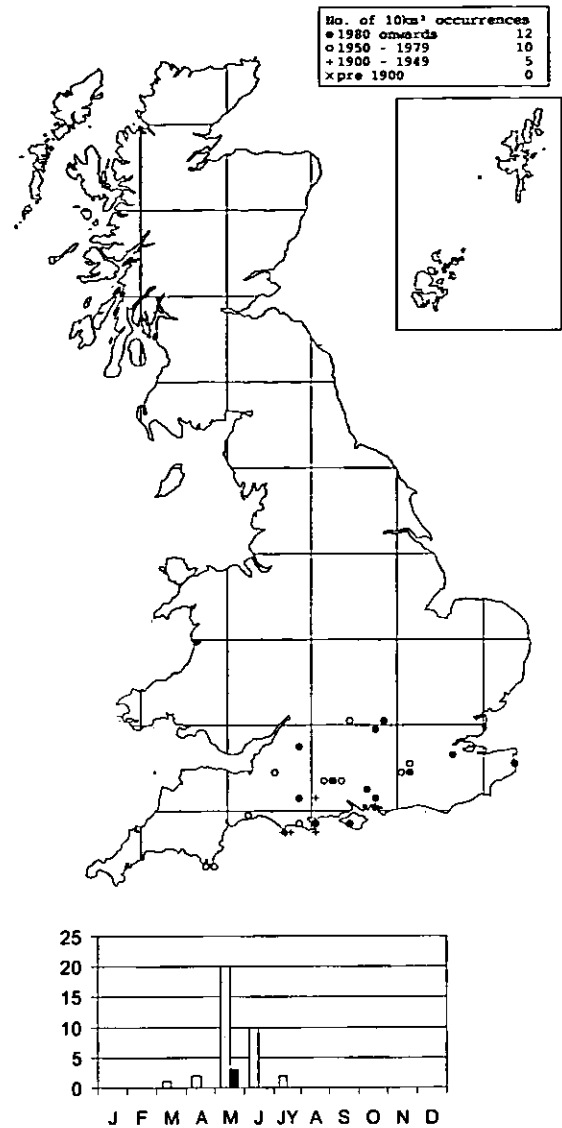
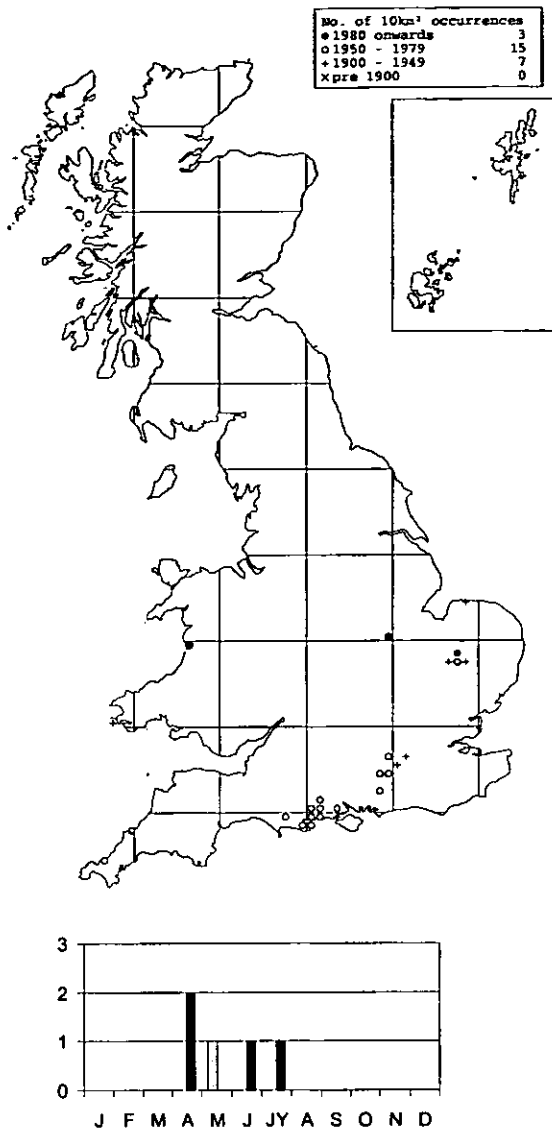
#### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry and development.

#### Management

Burning is probably not beneficial for this species, although it lives in open areas. Rotational management is, however, necessary on most heathlands to maintain all seral stages of heather, but is best confined to relatively small areas at a time.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is abundant on some calcareous grassland sites, but rather local.

#### Distribution

The species is confined to southern England. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Sweden, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs mainly on short calcareous chalk and limestone grassland, often in stony areas, and especially near the coast. It is also occasionally found on sand dunes. Males have been found adult from March to July, with a peak of activity in May and June, and again from August to October (although our data do not show this). Females have been found adult from March to September.

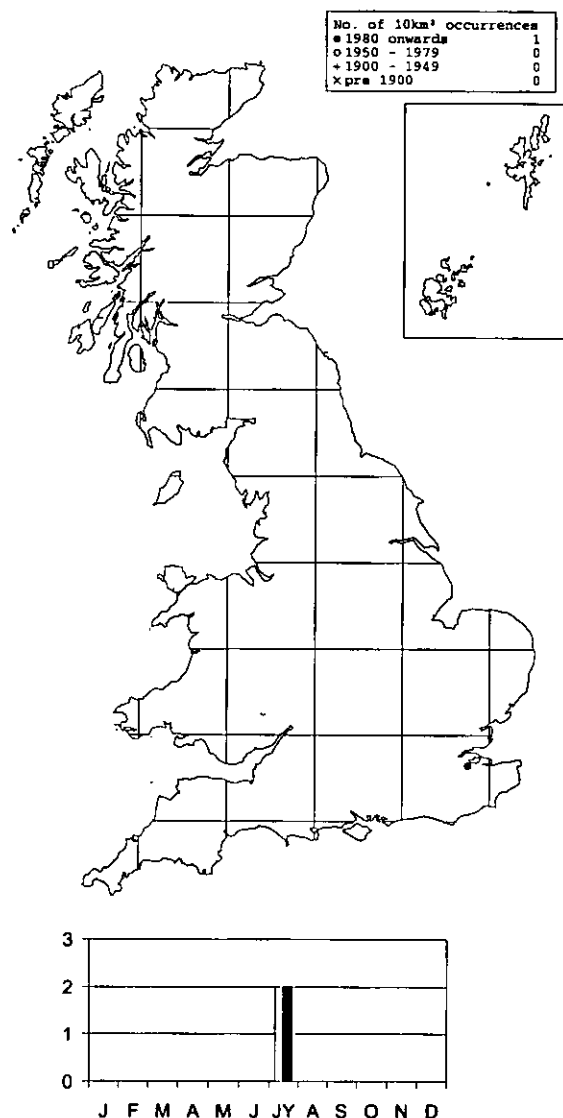
#### Threats

The loss of calcareous grassland to agricultural improvement, and possibly public pressure at some coastal sites.

#### Management

Maintain short calcareous grassland by grazing.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

At the known locality the population is stable. It might also be expected that *O. pullata* will be found at sites with similar habitat in the south-east of England (e.g. the North and South Downs).

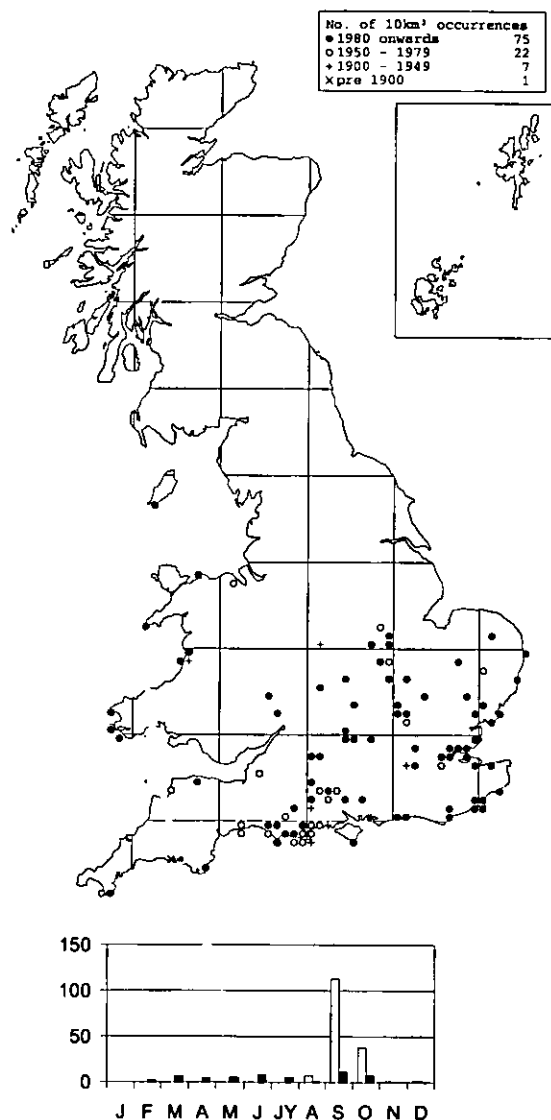
#### Distribution

The only known British locality for this species is Upper Great Culand quarry, Burham, Kent. On the continent, it is considered a scarce southern central and eastern European species (Heimer & Nentwig 1991).

#### Habitat and ecology

The single known site is a disused chalk quarry. The vegetation is heavily rabbit-grazed and thus dominated by very short scrub/grassland, although with some encroachment by more robust shrubs. The locality is very open, unmanaged and has low anthropogenic disturbance (Bell 1999; Bell & Merrett 2000). The species is found at ground level, particularly amongst grass roots. In continental Europe, Roberts (1998) similarly records the habitat of this species as calcareous grassland, especially amongst moss and grass tussocks at ground level. Specific details on the ecology of this species are limited but, in keeping with many other *Ozyptila* species, adults appear to reach a peak in June and July.

Author of profile: D. Bell



#### Status

Local and generally rare, but the spider is commoner in the south where it may be frequent in suitable habitat.

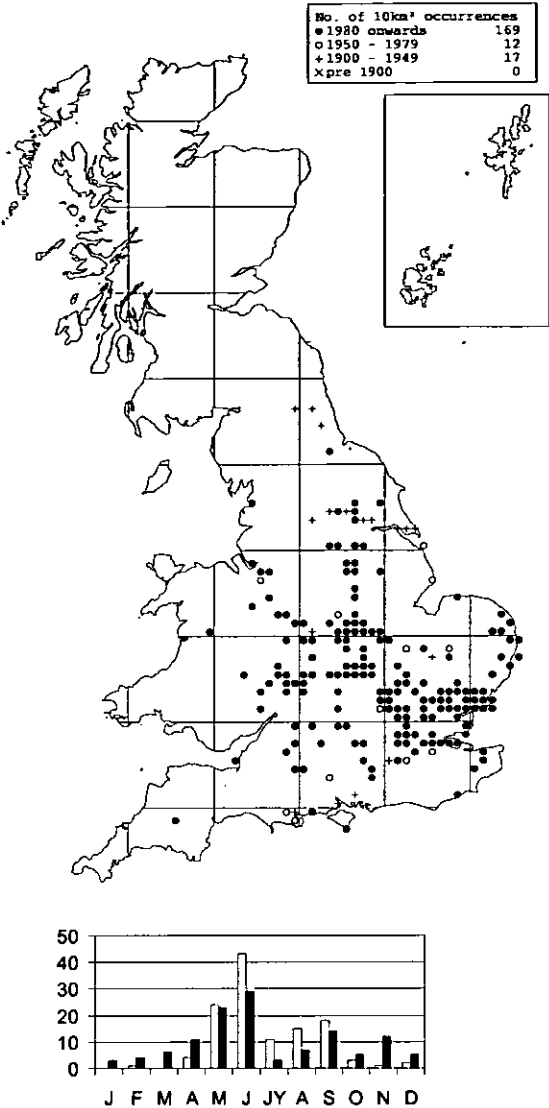
#### Distribution

The species is widespread but generally scattered from the Isle of Man, North Wales and central England southwards. It is widespread in north-western Europe but absent from Scandinavia.

#### Habitat and ecology

*O. sanctuaria* occurs in open situations where it can be swept from herbage and undergrowth or found under stones and at the base of vegetation. It has been recorded from chalk and acid grassland, sea walls, lichen heath, roadside verges, old sand and chalk pits and under-cliffs. Males are found between August and December, but mainly in September and October. Females have been recorded between February and December and can probably be found at any time of year.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

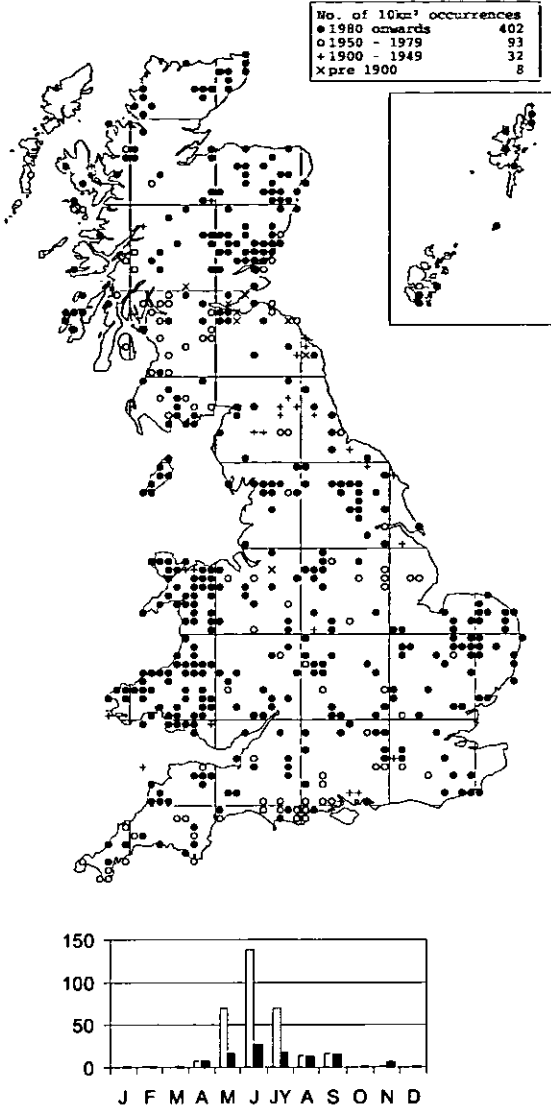


**Status**  
Local.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain as far north as Northumberland, but with few records in the west. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe

**Habitat and ecology**  
A species that occurs in the litter zone in a variety of habitats including woodland, grassland, parks and gardens and even disturbed areas such as quarries. In highly structured habitats the spider is able to climb to the lower branches of trees and may also be found under bark. Crocker & Daws (1996) found adults between April to November with a peak in male and female activity in June. Our data show adults recorded throughout the year, but with one peak building from April to June and a smaller peak building from July to September.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



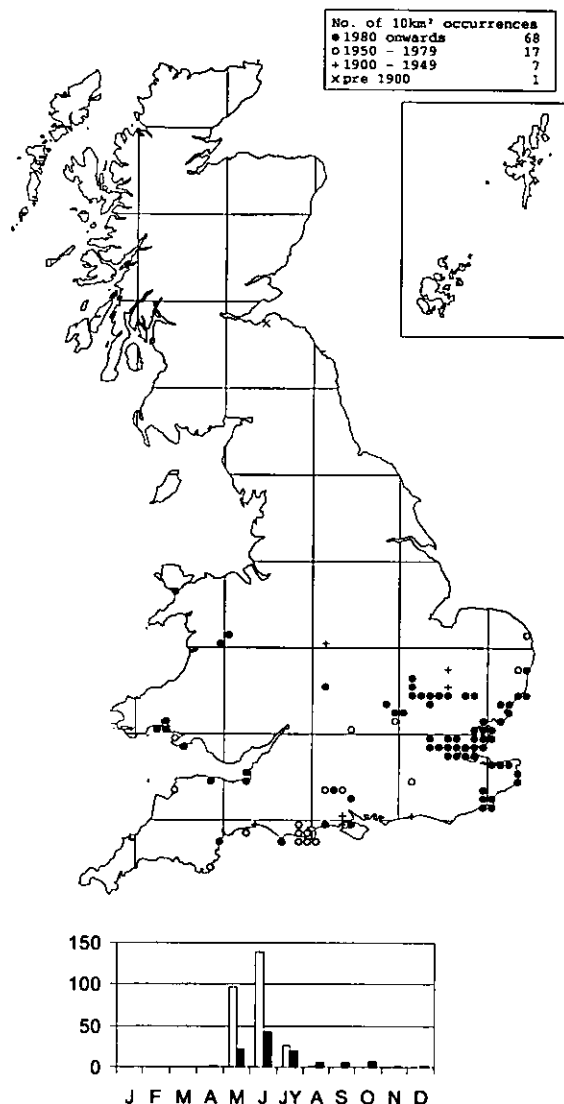
**Status**  
Local, but more common in the north and west.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread, but scattered in much of Britain. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*O. trux* has a wide habitat niche, occurring in all types of wet and dry grassland, heath and woodland, from sea level to 350 m in Kirkcudbrightshire (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Although Merrett (1967) recorded adults from May to September, there is some suggestion that this spider may be similar in phenology to *O. atomaria* with adults throughout the year (Roberts 1995). The spider may spend much of the season inactive or within the upper zone of the vegetation thus avoiding capture. Our data show adults have been recorded throughout the year, with males from February to November, but mainly in May, June and July.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell





#### Status

Local but the spider may be frequent near the coast in the south-east.

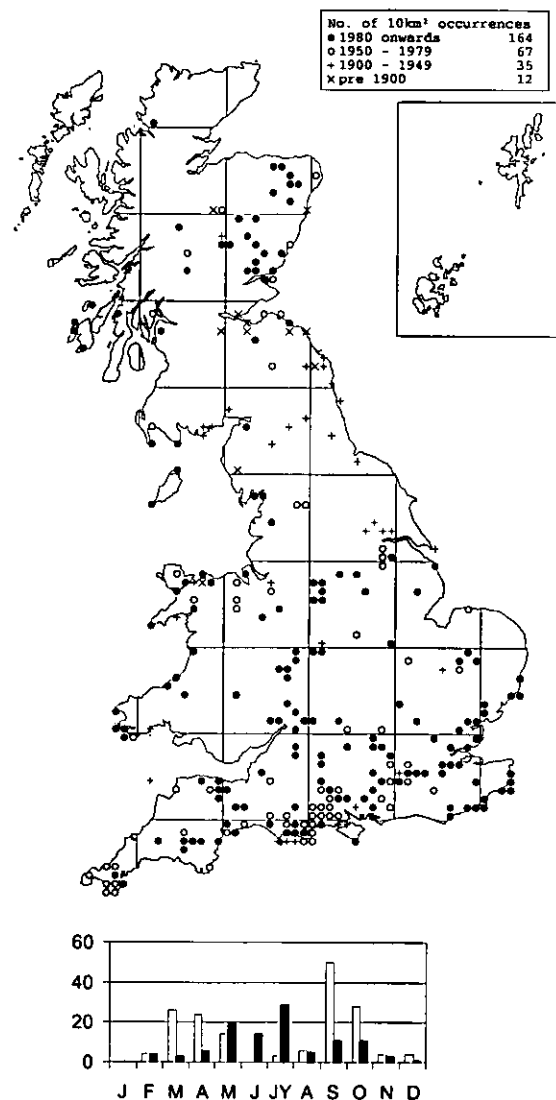
#### Distribution

The species has a scattered and patchy distribution in the southern half of Britain as far north as Anglesey, with one old record for East Lothian in Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Scandinavia or Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

A species associated with sand-hills, coastal grasslands, estuarine habitats and occasionally inland grassland habitats. In central Europe, this spider may also be found in fens and reed-beds (Hänggi et al. 1995). Adults of both sexes are found mainly from May to July, females occasionally into the autumn and winter.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



#### Status

Local.

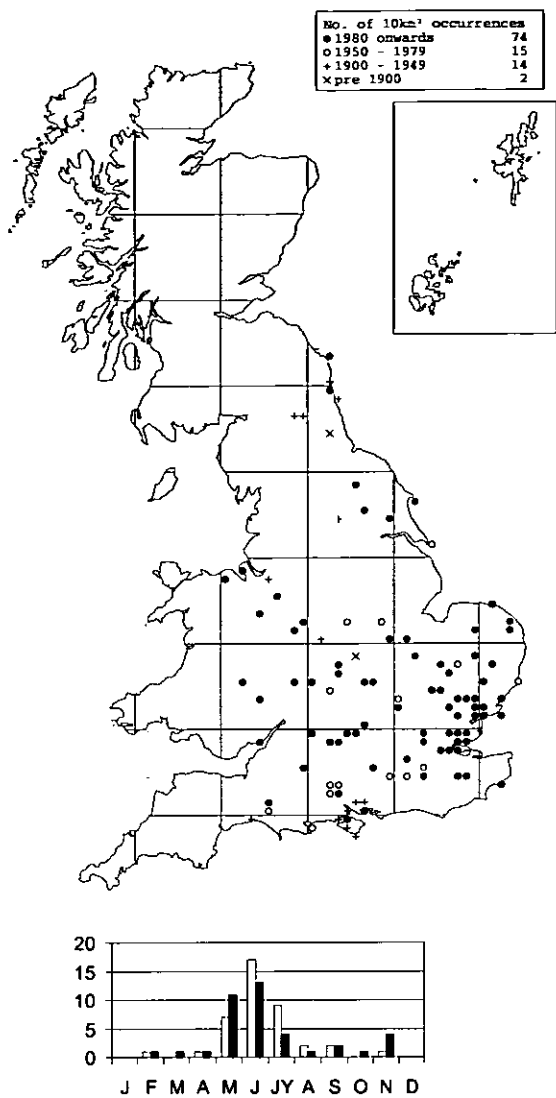
#### Distribution

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

#### Habitat and ecology

*O. atomaria* lives within the litter layer of grasslands and heathlands, ambushing soft bodied prey. The spider seems to prefer more mature heathland (Merrett 1976) or limestone grassland (Bell 1999) rather than more disturbed sites. In the north many records are associated with stony habitats, where the spider occurs under stones (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Both sexes may be more nocturnal than diurnal and active even under snow (Aitchison 1980). Egg-sacs are attached to the ground and are guarded by the female who sits over them (Bristowe 1958). Adults have been recorded in every month of the year with two peaks in the male activity, the first in spring (April-May) and the second in late summer (August-September) (Merrett 1967; Bell 1999). Our data show males recorded for most of the year, but mainly between March and May and in September and October.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

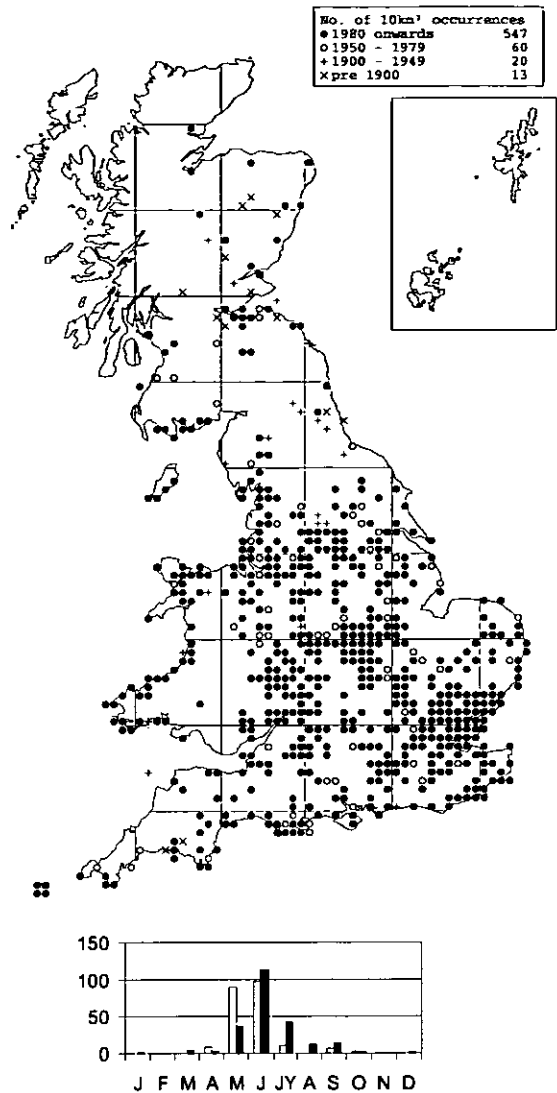


**Status**  
Local.

**Distribution**  
The species has a widespread but rather scattered distribution as far north as Northumberland, but mainly in the south and east. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*O. brevipes* appears to be only found with any frequency in fens, such as Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, and marshy places including coasts. It is also found in heathlands, grasslands and other drier habitats, and is well established on limestone grassland and on gorse in the east of Leicestershire (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Adults have been recorded between February and November, but mainly between May and July.

**Author of profile:** J.R. Bell

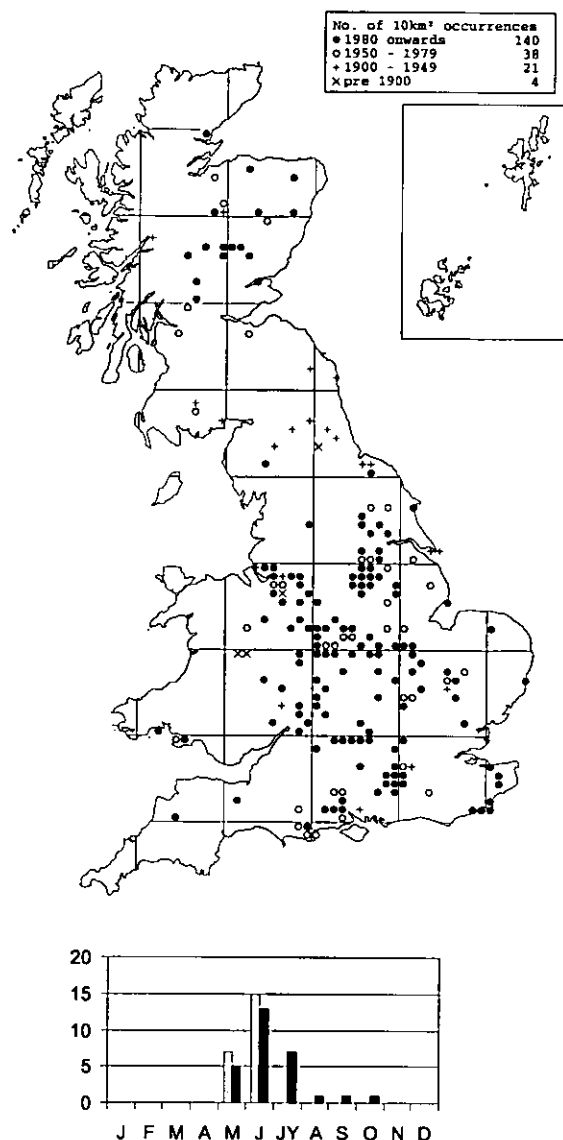


**Status**  
Common in southern Britain but becoming scarce in Scotland.

**Distribution**  
The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, becoming more scattered in the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**  
This is an easily recognised spider found on sunny walls and fences in rural and built-up areas but also indoors usually near a window. It is also found in more natural open habitats, on rocks, shingle and occasionally tree trunks such as oak in open situations. The spider has been found in pine woodland, swept from heather and sometimes occurs at higher elevations. Totally melanic forms have been described from industrially polluted areas (Mackie 1964). As with all Salticidae the spider has good vision and the enlarged chelicerae in the males, easily seen by the females, play a role during courtship. Males are found mainly in May and June, females between May and July, but adults have occasionally been recorded into the autumn and even winter.

**Authors of profile:** P.R. Harvey and D. Nellist using information from C. Geddes, W. Rixom, A. Russell-Smith, H. Williams (pers. comms.).



### Status

Local. The spider may be frequent in suitable habitat. It is inexplicably rare in some parts of the country such as Essex.

### Distribution

The species is widely distributed in Britain, but with few records in the west, south-east and large areas of the north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

*S. cingulatus* occurs on old tree trunks and fence palings in sunny situations in or near woodland, fens and heathland where it may be frequent on pines. Males are found in May and June, females mainly between May and July, but occasionally persisting into the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey

### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider may be numerous in favourable conditions, but is more often found as singletons or in small numbers. Records in Essex indicate that the species, whilst rare, may be over-looked and hence more widespread in southern England than present records suggest.

### Distribution

Formerly only known from seven sites in Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent (Merrett 1990), the species is now recorded from a number of new sites in Essex, Berkshire, Hertfordshire (and London) and Worcestershire. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

### Habitat and ecology

Although described as mainly found on the trunks of pine trees (Roberts 1995) many recent records are from old oak trunks at the edge of ancient woodland, in pasture woodland and hedgerows and on old willow trunks. The spider has also been found on an old oak trunk between arable fields in South Essex and on an old oak trunk in parkland converted to arable in Worcestershire (Alexander 1995). It has even been found on a number of occasions on an old lime trunk in a suburban garden at Surbiton, Surrey originally part of an old estate. The spider is very well camouflaged and can rapidly hide in fissures and crevices or under loose bark. The texture and structure of the bark is probably more important than the particular type of tree and all old trunks with fissured bark are worth investigation. The spider is most easily seen when it moves around on the surface of bark in sunshine. Adults of both sexes have been found between late April and the third week of July with most records in June.

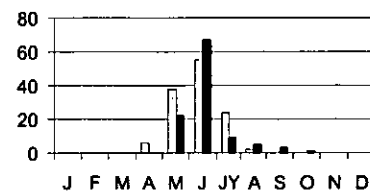
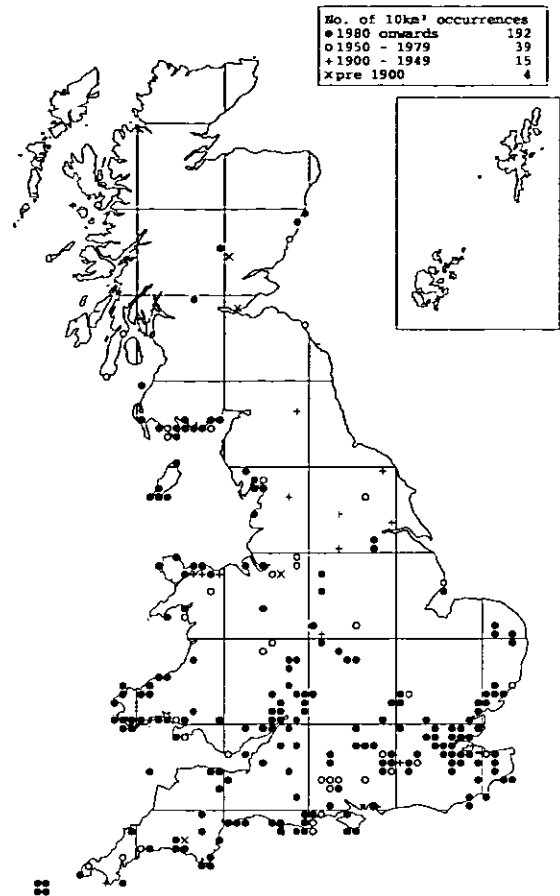
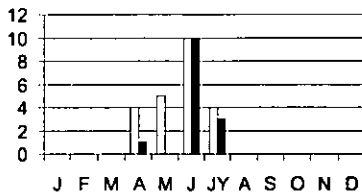
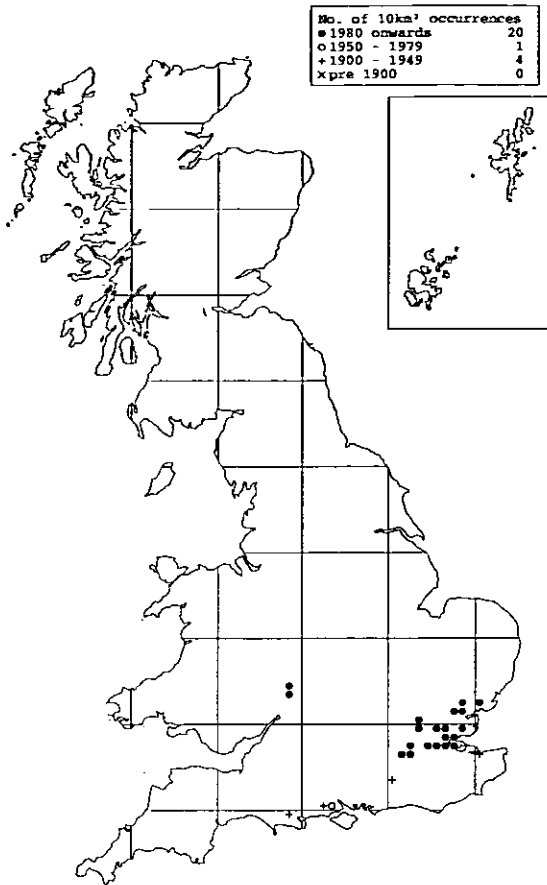
### Threats

Most records have been from mature trees in open woodland habitat or at the edge of clearings. Lack of management resulting in the closure of open woodland and the loss of old trees and ancient woodland are almost certainly detrimental to this species. Spray drift from the use of pesticides on crops is likely to affect the survival of this spider, as well as many other invertebrates, where old oak trees occur in land converted to arable or in old hedgerows adjacent to arable fields.

### Management

Open surroundings and the presence of old tree trunks exposed to the sun are likely to be important. Management should retain open surroundings by rotational cutting of woodland ride vegetation, periodic control of scrub and tree invasion and light grazing in woodland pasture. The retention of wide field edges and headlands should be encouraged to help maintain a diverse invertebrate fauna and reduce the effects of spray drift.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Local. In northern Britain it is more common along the coast (J. Newton, pers. comm.).

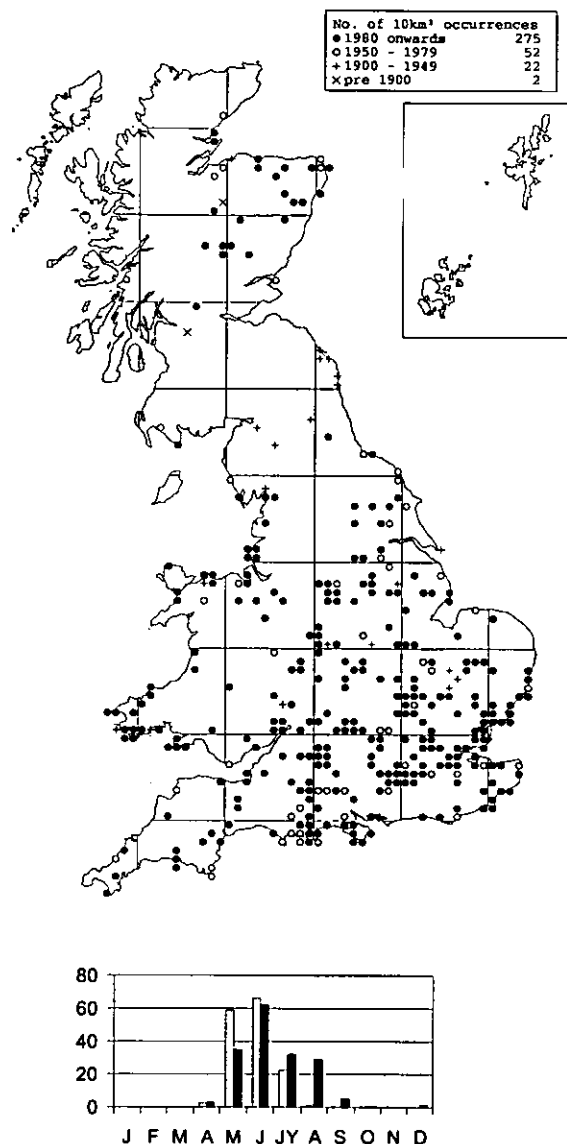
#### Distribution

The species is widely distributed as far north as central Scotland but it is absent or very scattered in many parts of the country. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

A species collected from a wide variety of habitats including woodlands, grasslands, raised bogs, coastal cliffs, shingle beaches and wastelands and other disturbed habitats such as quarries. In these varied habitats, it is commonly found in the drier parts, occasionally seen active on the surface but more commonly within litter. In northern Britain the species seems to need sunny conditions (J. Newton, pers. comm.). During a resting period, this spider may be found in a silken cell placed under stones or in litter. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May, June and July, females persisting occasionally into the autumn.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



#### Status

Local. In north-western England it is more common along the coast (J. Newton, pers. comm.).

#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain and central eastern Scotland, but very scattered or absent in upland areas and much of the north.

#### Habitat and ecology

The habitat of this spider is very similar to that of *H. cupreus*. It may occur in the field and shrub layer and on lower branches of trees, where it can be collected by sweeping and beating respectively (J. Daws, pers. comm.). Like *H. cupreus*, in northern Britain the species seems to need sunny conditions (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Additionally, *H. flavipes* has been found in a Malaise trap, which indicates aerial dispersal (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May, June and July, females occasionally persisting into September and on one occasion December.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell

#### Status

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider was found in some numbers in 1961 at Colne Point, although it has not been re-found there despite extensive fieldwork. At Steeple Creek the spider was present in numbers on a small area of shingle. Its status at Arne is unknown.

#### Distribution

In Britain the species was known only from Essex until it was discovered at Arne in Dorset in 1999 (Dawson 2000). It was first recorded in 1961 at Colne Point, North Essex, and then in 1987 it was found at Shinglehead Point, North Essex, and Steeple Creek, South Essex, both on the Blackwater Estuary. The species is widespread in central and southern Europe.

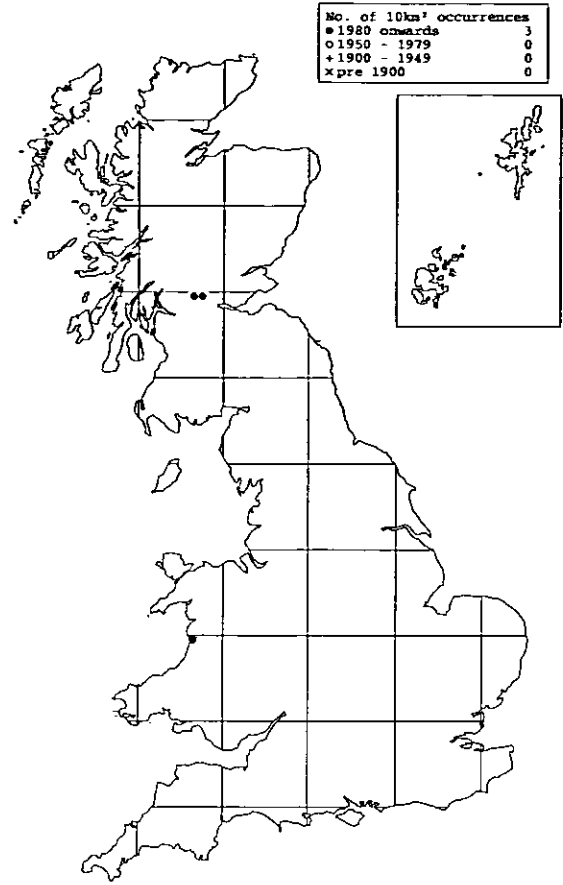
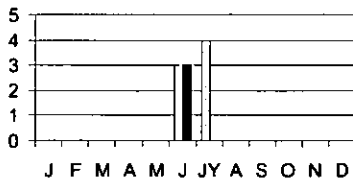
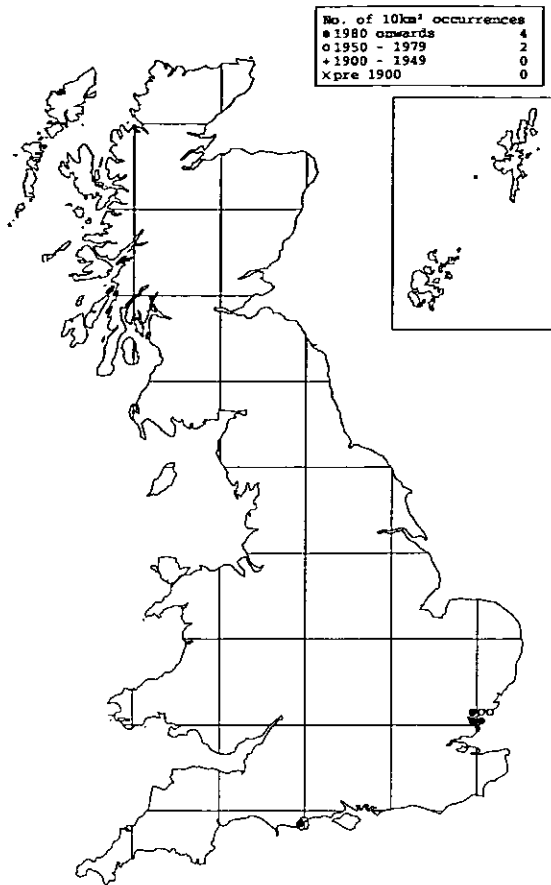
#### Habitat and ecology

In Britain *H. auratus* has been found among sparse vegetation on shingle, just below the line of the spring tide litter. The Arne site consists of a narrow sparsely vegetated shingle strip between saltmarsh and Poole Harbour (I. Dawson, pers. comm.) and similarly at Steeple Creek the spider occurred on a narrow strip of shingle below the sea wall adjacent to saltmarsh and the tidal river. The spider can be seen running on shingle during periods of sunshine. Both sexes are adult in June and males have been found in early July.

#### Threats

The Blackwater sites consisted of a shingle strip and a shell bank, both adjacent to the sea wall. Construction and maintenance of sea defences frequently destroy the strip of habitat in front of the sea wall, so, where possible, work should be carried out from the landward side of the existing bank.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey using information from Merrett (in Bratton 1991).



#### Status

Insufficiently Known (RDBK).

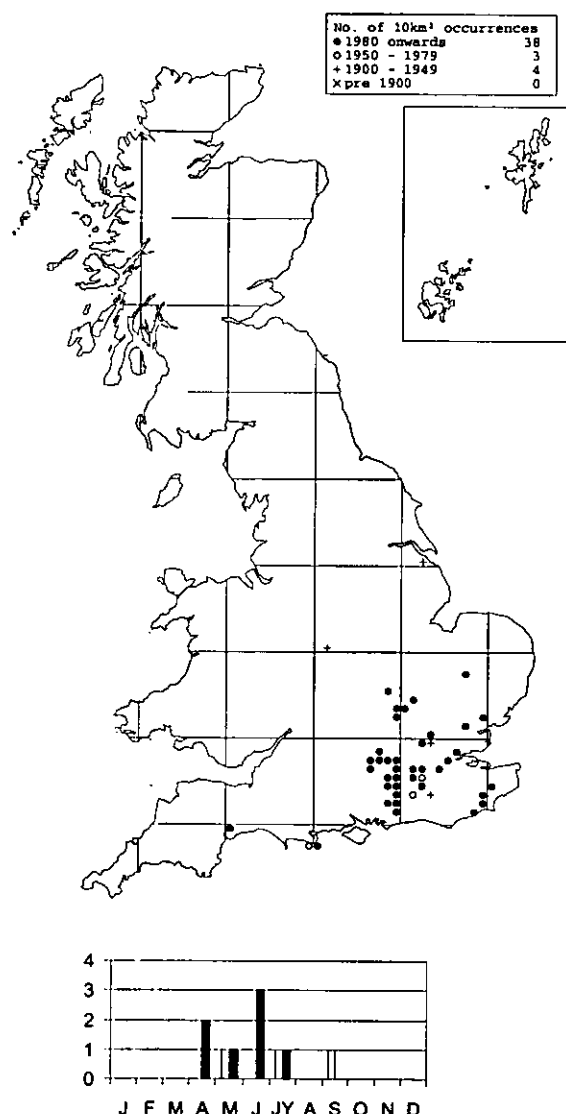
#### Distribution

The discovery of this spider in Britain was made in September 1989 at Cors Fochno, an estuarine raised bog in Cardiganshire (Williams 1991). Subsequently specimens of this species were taken at Flanders Moss and Ochertyre Moss in Perthshire, both raised bogs (Stewart 1993). In Europe it has been recorded from France, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Poland.

#### Habitat and ecology

*H. dampfi* is apparently found only on raised bogs throughout its range. On these the usual habitat in Europe is *Molinia* and *Eriophorum* (Bratton 1991). The Welsh specimens were pitfall trapped in low, dense *Myrica*, *Erica tetralix* and *Eriophorum*. On the Scottish sites pitfall trapping proved to be much less successful than sweeping and shaking out in obtaining specimens. Adult spiders appear to prefer the taller vegetation such as saplings of Scots pine and birch as well as clumps of *Myrica* and *Vaccinium*. Immature specimens were found at lower level in heather. Adult females are found from April to July, males in June and July.

Author of profile: J.A. Stewart



### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The species is common on dry-stone walls in south-east Dorset and frequent in some areas in the south-east of England. Elsewhere it is local and generally rather uncommon

### Distribution

The species is widespread in south-eastern England, with a few scattered records further west and north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs mostly under loose bark on trees, on paling fences, posts, hop poles, etc, but in south-east Dorset it is common under flat stones on the tops of dry-stone walls. Adults of both sexes are found from April to September, and females possibly most of the year.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). *Marpissa radiata* is widespread and fairly common in the fens of East Anglia, but apparently absent from some areas that seem suitable.

### Distribution

Although this species is almost confined to the fenland areas of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, it has also been recorded from Shapwick Heath (Somerset), marshes east of Swansea (West Glamorgan) and there is an old record from Dorset. In Europe it is widespread but rather local in wet habitats generally, rather than being confined to fens.

### Habitat and ecology

Generally a species which is found in open fens, where females spin a cocoon in heads of *Phragmites*. It is also found among lower vegetation. Adults are most abundant in May and June, but a female has been collected from litter at Chippenham Fen in October (D. Carr, pers. comm.).

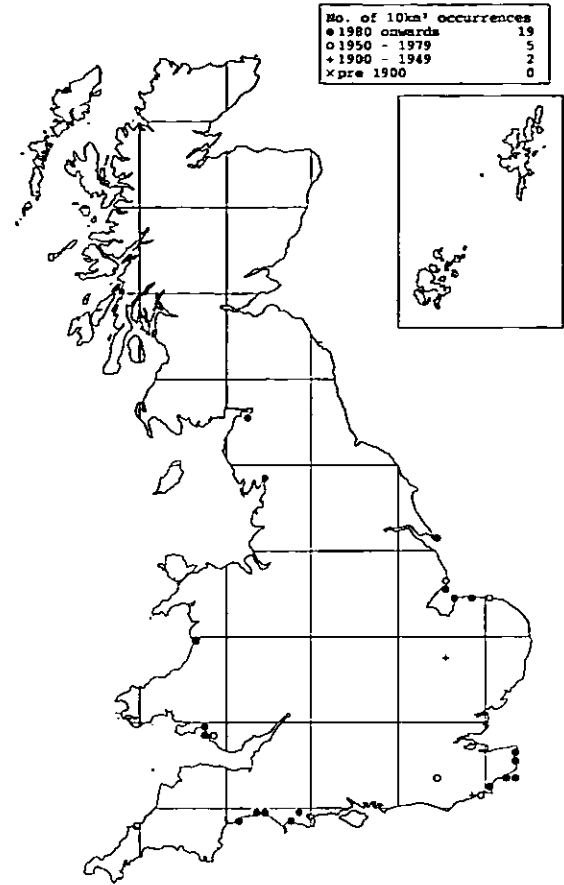
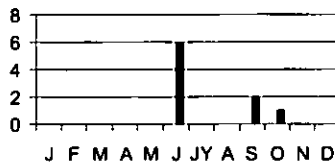
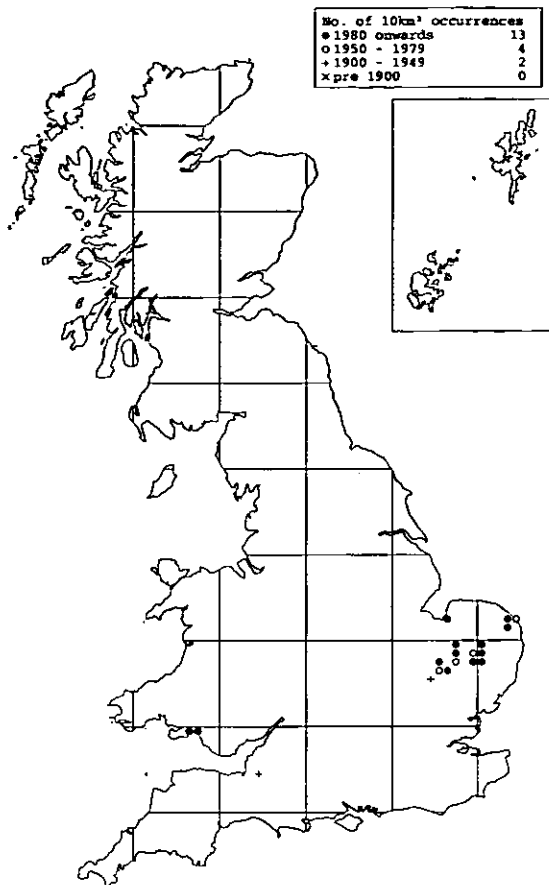
### Threats

The most significant threat is loss of open fens through drainage or invasion of scrub vegetation.

### Management

Management to maintain open *Phragmites* beds by controlling scrub growth and maintenance of a surface water table are necessary. Traditional reed-bed management should be encouraged where possible.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is local and never particularly common.

#### Distribution

The species is restricted to England and Wales, where it is widespread on sand dunes. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe as far north as Denmark.

#### Habitat and ecology

*M. nivoyi* occurs mainly on coastal sand dunes among marram, occasionally in inland marshes, and once on dry burnt heathland at Ashdown Forest (Sussex). The spider is long and thin, and runs along marram stems. Males have been found from April to September and females most of the year.

#### Threats

Possibly public pressure and holiday development at some sites.

#### Management

Control erosion of sand dunes.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



# Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is very local, but probably most frequent in the East Thames Corridor.

# Distribution

Most records are from the south-eastern part of England. Otherwise the species has a widely scattered and very local distribution, recorded from the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire and from Lancashire, Dunbartonshire (Merrett 1990), Warwickshire (Merrett 1995a), Hatfield Moors in Yorkshire (Wilson 2000) and Lincolnshire. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as southern Norway, but has not been recorded from Ireland or Sweden.

# Habitat and ecology

*B. aurocinctus* does not appear to be restricted to any particular habitat type apart from a need for dry sparsely vegetated ground. It occurs in a variety of habitats, but always among short vegetation (heather or grass) or in stony areas. Old sand and chalk quarries, post-industrial sites and unimproved Thames Terrace grasslands all provide suitable habitat in the East Thames Corridor, where the climate is unique in Britain for its low rainfall, high summer temperatures and mild winters. Adults of both sexes have been found from spring to early autumn, but mainly in June.

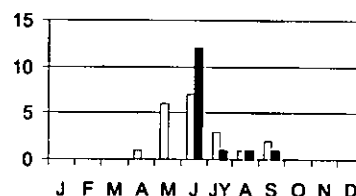
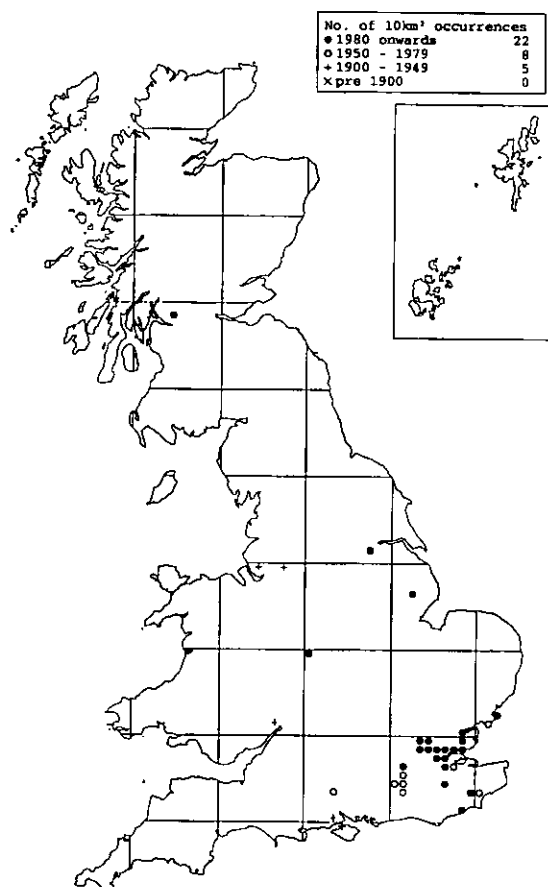
# Threats

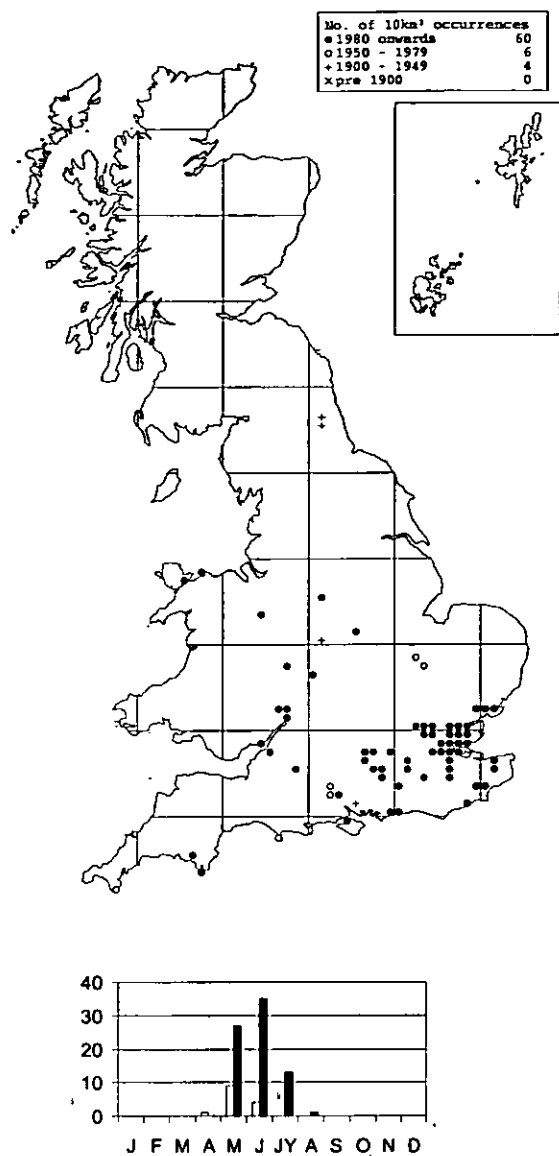
There is enormous development pressure on all open space in the East Thames Corridor, where the 'Thames Gateway' initiative threatens wildlife habitats and 'brown field' sites are especially vulnerable. Amenity management, the 'tidying up' of habitats and the landscaping and loss of open areas to tree planting all represent threats to the habitat of this and many other species found in the region. Other threats include the loss of chalk grassland to agriculture at some sites and the loss of sparsely vegetated habitats to succession.

# Management

Open sunny habitats need to be maintained by grazing or the periodic control of scrub and tree invasion. Occasional disturbance to expose areas of bare ground is likely to be beneficial.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey





**Status**

The spider is rather local.

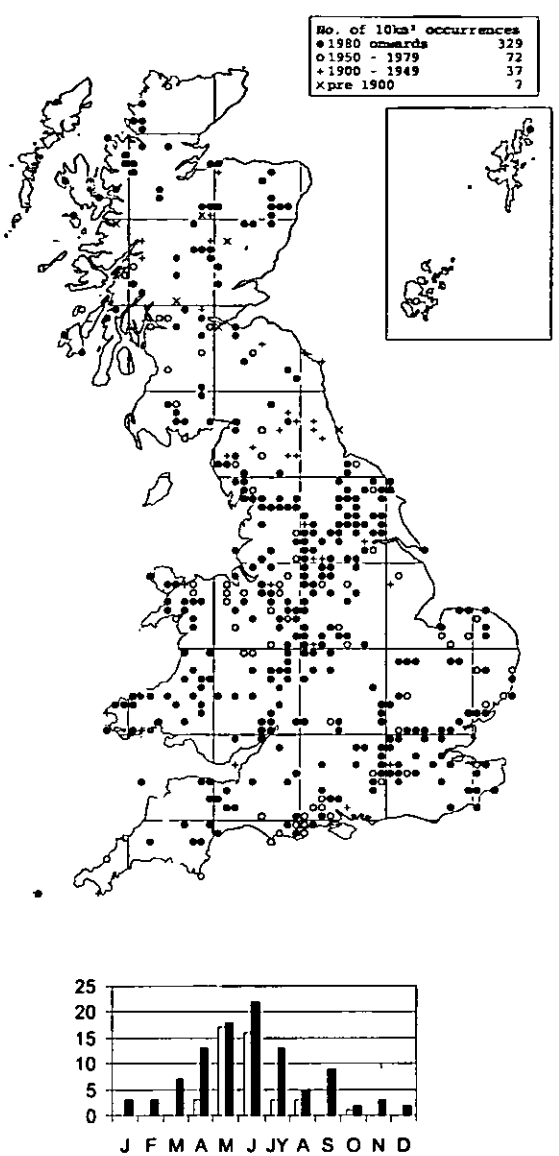
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in south-eastern England, but otherwise has a scattered distribution in southern Britain, including Leicestershire (Crocker & Daws 1996), with old records for Durham. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

*B. chalybeius* favours a woodland habitat where it spins a retreat on the upper surface of leaves of bushes and young trees, particularly oak. Adults are found mainly from late spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee



**Status**

Local, but the spider may be abundant where found.

**Distribution**

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

**Habitat and ecology**

There are two distinct habitats for this species; either in leaf-litter (often quite dry) in woodland, or within moss in open, damp, boggy habitats. It has also been recorded in bracken litter, on and under stones in grassland and on the beach. It ascends to 350 m in mid-west Yorkshire (J. Newton, pers. comm.). Its small size may make it difficult to see, especially in the woodland situations, but the patterning is visible if the light is good enough. Adult females have been found throughout the year, and adult males from April to October, but the peak is spring to mid-summer.

Author of profile: W.J. Partridge

**Status**

Insufficiently Known (RDBK). The spider appears to be locally abundant within its ecological niche.

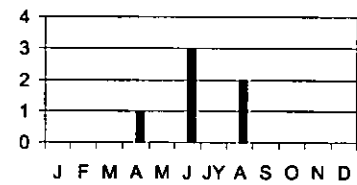
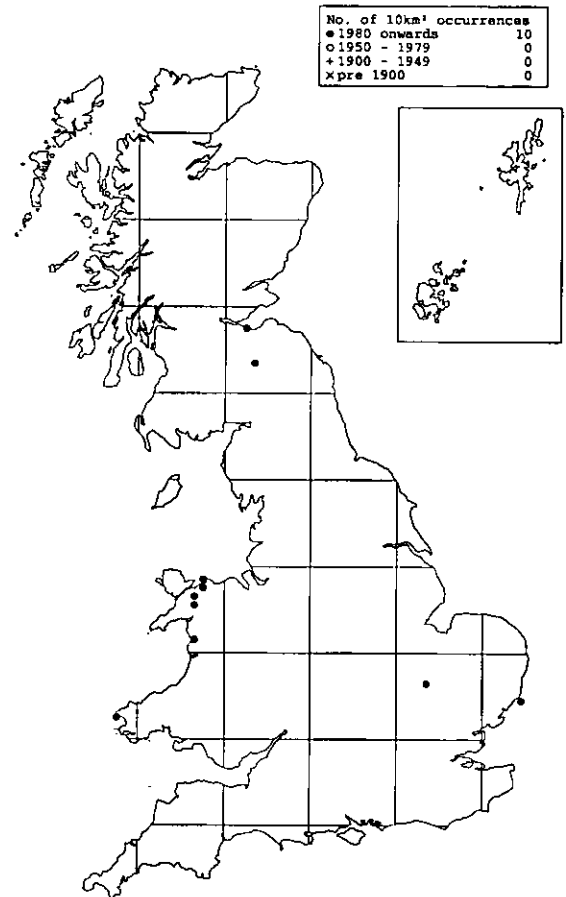
**Distribution**

As a result of past confusion with *Neon reticulatus*, *N. robustus* was only recognised as part of the British fauna in 1997, but has now been recorded at several widely scattered locations from the south-east of Scotland, through Wales to the south-eastern coast of England (Snazell et al. 1999; Gallon 2000b; Dawson 2000; Marriott 2000) and is likely to turn out to be more widespread. This northern European species is otherwise known only from Ireland, Denmark, southern Sweden and Finland (Snazell et al. 1999).

**Habitat and ecology**

*N. robustus* is a thermophilous species inhabiting open patches of scree, often on sheltered south-west facing slopes (Snazell et al. 1999). At coastal sites *N. robustus* has been found on shingle beaches (Marriott 2000), amongst loose piles of rock (Dawson 2000) and amongst scree (Gallon 2000). In Snowdonia *N. robustus* frequents montane screes and has been found at altitudes between 600 and 715 m. This salticid spider is also known to inhabit stone walls in southern Sweden (Snazell et al. 1999). Records throughout this spider's European range indicate that females are mature between April and October and males during May and June (Snazell et al. 1999). The few British records of adult males indicate maturity for a longer period, from April to August.

**Author of profile:** R.C. Gallon



**Status**

Nationally Vulnerable (RDB2). The spider is reported regularly at Wicken and Chippenham Fens, Cambridgeshire and Foulnden Common, West Norfolk where it may be not uncommon.

**Distribution**

This species is restricted to a few fenland sites in a relatively small area of East Anglia. There are records from Cambridgeshire (Wicken and Chippenham Fens), West Norfolk (Foulnden Common), East Norfolk (Roydon Fen), West Suffolk (Pashford Pools Fen) and East Suffolk (Redgrave Fen). An early record from Essex (Hull 1948) is unlikely and a record from Box Hill (Surrey) has proved on re-examination to be *N. reticulatus*. In Europe the species has been recorded from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Romania and Poland.

**Habitat and ecology**

The spider is found in grass and moss in sedge fens. At Redgrave Fen it has also been recorded in *Molinia*, *Cladium* and *Juncus*. Adults are normally found in May and June but females were taken at the end of July at Roydon Fen.

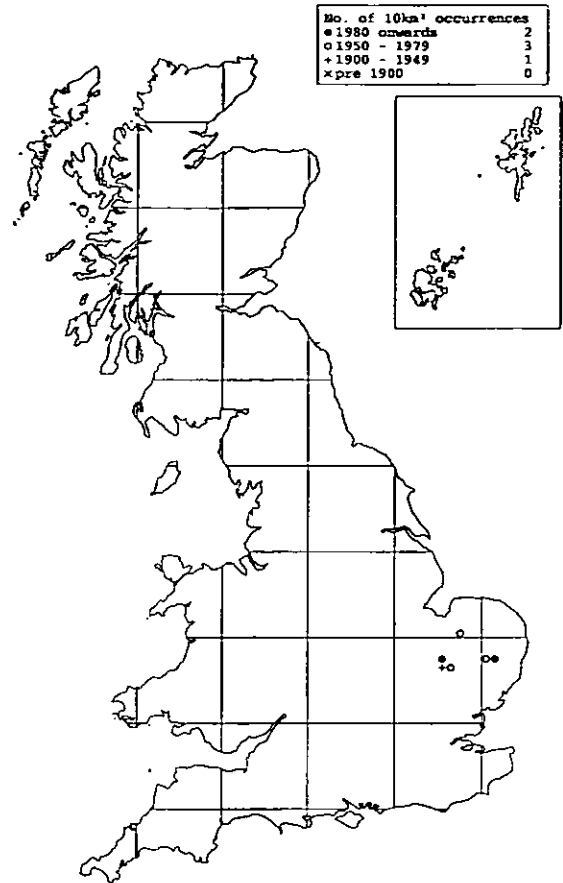
**Threats**

All the sites at which this spider has been recorded are either National or Local Nature Reserves and four (Wicken Fen, Pashford Pools Fen, Redgrave Fen and Foulnden Common) are SSSIs. As with other fenland species, drainage of the East Anglian fens for agriculture has lowered the water table over a wide area. This, together with water abstraction for irrigation and public water supplies has decreased flows of water from springs on which many of the valley fens in the area depend. At many of these sites, drying out of soils has been accompanied by invasion of open fen communities by willow and birch scrub and, eventually conversion to carr woodland.

**Management**

At Wicken, Chippenham and Redgrave Fens, the hydrology of the sites is being manipulated in an effort to maintain high water tables. At these sites, revival of sedge cutting has begun to reverse the encroachment of scrub and carr woodland onto open fen communities. While one solution might be to divert water from fenland rivers onto sites, the high nutrient load of these rivers (derived from agricultural fertilizers) can cause problems of eutrophication of soils and consequent changes to the vegetation.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



# Status

The status of *N. pictus* in Britain is not yet fully established but at the two known sites the population appears to be stable. Specimens correspond to the species usually described as *Neon levis* (Simon, 1871) in northern Europe, but males are different from specimens of *levis* from Corsica, the type locality and probably correspond to *N. pictus* from Central Europe (Merrett & Murphy, 2000).

# Distribution

*N. pictus* was first recorded in Britain in May 1998 on coastal vegetated shingle at Rye Harbour SSSI, East Sussex. The spider has been found regularly since in small numbers throughout the area. It was subsequently discovered in June 1999 on a closely similar site at Dungeness SSSI, East Kent. Here it has been recorded in small numbers in both 1999 and 2000. This rather inconspicuous species may occur on shingle elsewhere in southern Britain. It is widespread in southern and eastern Europe, found from France and Italy eastwards to the Czech republic, Romania and Greece. This species closely resembles the non-British species *Neon levis* (Simon, 1871) and the two may well have been confused in the literature.

# Habitat and ecology

At Rye Harbour, this species appears to be restricted to areas of either completely bare or sparsely vegetated shingle from near the shoreline to over one mile inland, where it occurs on disturbed areas of very old shingle ridges. The species has been found from May to October with adults between May and August. Only a single mature male has been found at Rye, in June 1999. At Rye, *N. pictus* occurs together with *Salticus scenicus*, *Pseudoeuophrys obsoleta* and *Sitticus inexpectus*. At Dungeness, the species has been taken from the first to the sixth shingle ridge from the shoreline at Lydd and occurs in both areas of almost bare shingle near the shore and those with very sparse grassland of *Arrhenatherum elatius* occurring slightly further inland. Adults have been taken between April and August, with males present from May to July only.

*N. pictus* is found together with *Salticus scenicus*, *Pseudoeuophrys obsoleta*, *Euophrys frontalis*, *Pellenes tripunctatus* and *Phlegra fasciata* at Dungeness.

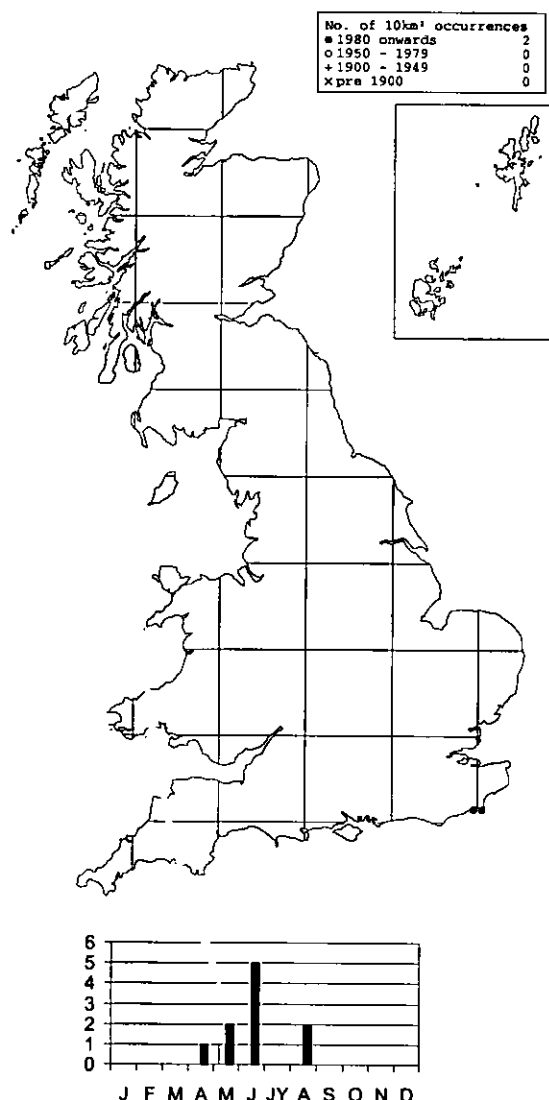
# Threats

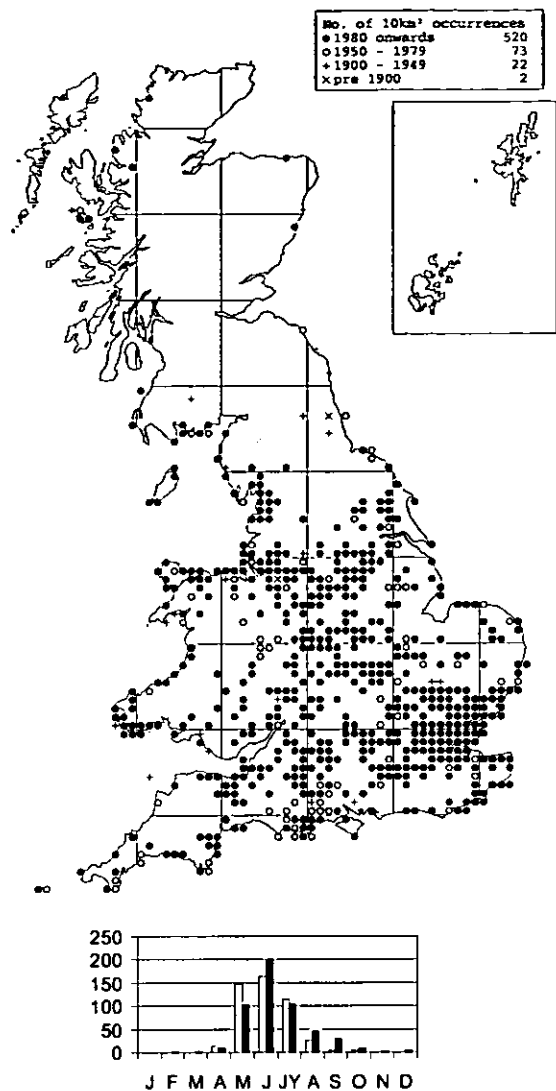
Rye Harbour is an SSSI and part lies in a LNR. Dungeness is an SSSI part of which lies within an RSPB reserve. This species has been discovered too recently in Britain to be certain what threats it faces. However, parts of the Dungeness area have been severely damaged by gravel extraction and if this spider occurs outside the SSSI this could still represent a potential threat. Despite the high level of public recreational pressure on the immediate area in which it is known to occur at Lydd, there is no evidence as yet that this is affecting the *N. pictus* population.

# Management

As with other species restricted to shingle habitats, protection from disturbance of shingle due to extraction, building and recreation (particularly motor sports) is essential.

**Authors of profile:** A.R. Russell-Smith and A. Phillips





**Status**

Common in the south.

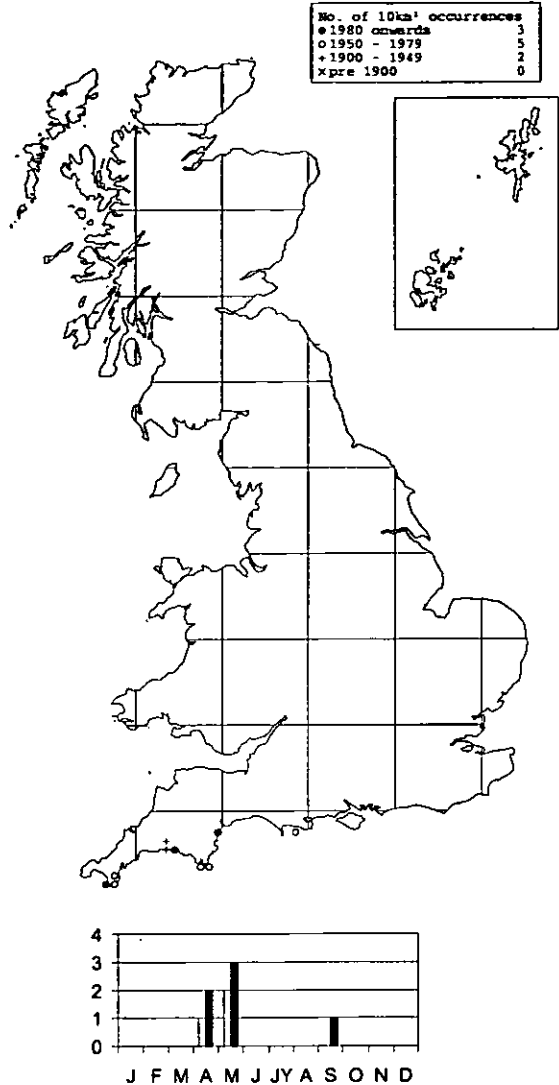
**Distribution**

The species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, with mainly coastal records further north. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

As in central Europe (see Hänggi et al. (1995)), this spider does not seem to have a well-defined habitat niche in Britain, although it seems particularly abundant in grasslands and heaths. *E. frontalis* has a rather catholic diet, which may include insect eggs. It is only caught during the day. Males can be observed acting out their complex courtship which involves behavioural cues using both their legs and palps (Bristowe 1929, 1958). During a resting period, *E. frontalis* may be found in a silken cell placed under stones or in litter. Females guard the egg-sacs which contain around 20 eggs each (Bristowe 1958). Adults of both sexes have been recorded between April and October, but mainly in May, June and July with females occasionally persisting into the autumn and winter.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). This species may be under recorded in the south west of England as females can be easily confused with *E. frontalis*. Merrett (1995b) should be consulted for reliable diagnostic features.

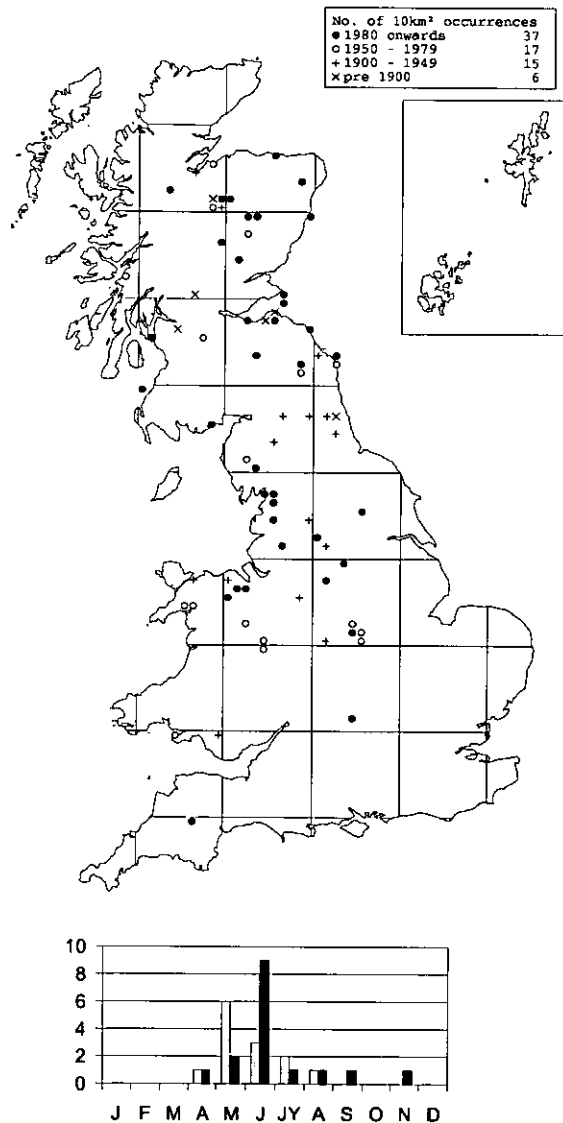
**Distribution**

The spider has been recorded from a scatter of sites along the south coasts of Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. Its distribution suggests that it is sensitive to frost, and it seems unlikely that it would be found east of the Isle of Wight, or further north in England. A single female recorded at Freshfield, Lancashire by Mackie (1962) is now thought probably a misidentification (Merrett 1995b). Specimens recorded from Orfordness, Kent, Suffolk, Sussex and Middlesex were found on re-examination to be *E. frontalis* and two records from northern England are extremely doubtful (P. Merrett, pers. comm.). These records have not been mapped. In Europe the centre of distribution is around the western Mediterranean but extends up the French coast as far as Brittany and the Channel Islands.

**Habitat and ecology**

*E. herbigrada* has been collected on dry, sunny slopes or cliff-tops within a few hundred metres of the sea, from among grass and heather and also under stones. Adults have been recorded between April and June, and in September.

Author of profile: P. Smithers, using information from Merrett (1990) and Roberts (1995).



#### Status

The spider is local, and seems to be more common in the north.

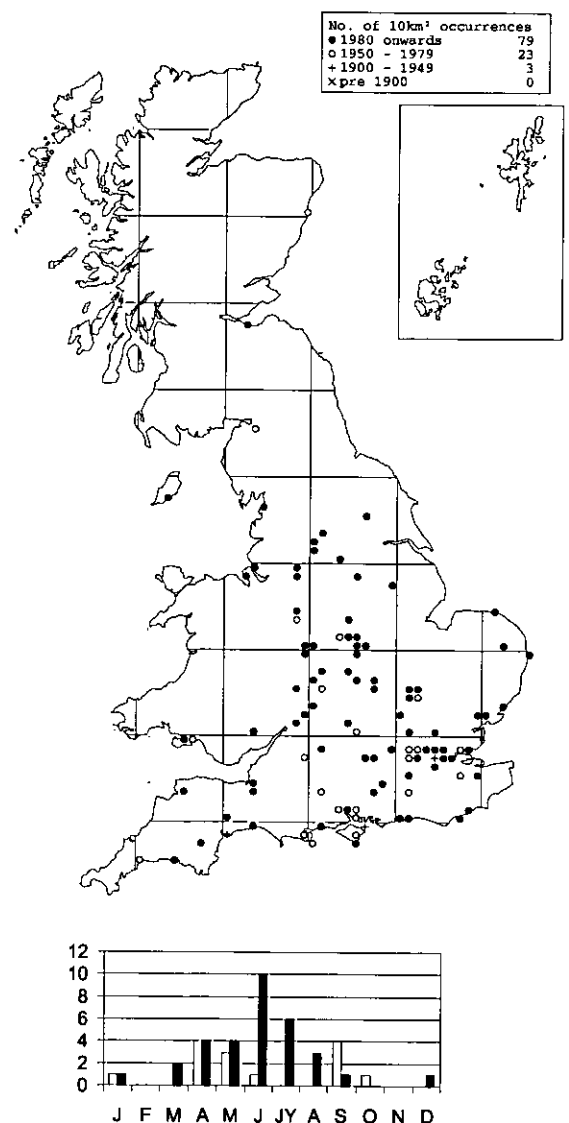
#### Distribution

The species is widely but locally distributed in western and northern Britain. It is rare or absent from most of southern and eastern England. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from the Netherlands.

#### Habitat and ecology

*P. erratica* occurs on walls and amongst stones. In Leicestershire it has been found in rugged heathland, scrubby acid grassland and ancient deer parks with over-mature oak trees, in each case with bracken a dominant feature of the habitat. The spiders have been observed stalking prey on rock surfaces and on an oak stump in bright sunshine, and they have also been collected from dead wood and under bark of old oak trees, under stones and in leaf litter (Crocker & Daws 1996). Adults of both sexes are found from late spring to late summer, but mainly in May and June, with females occasionally recorded into the autumn.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey



#### Status

Local.

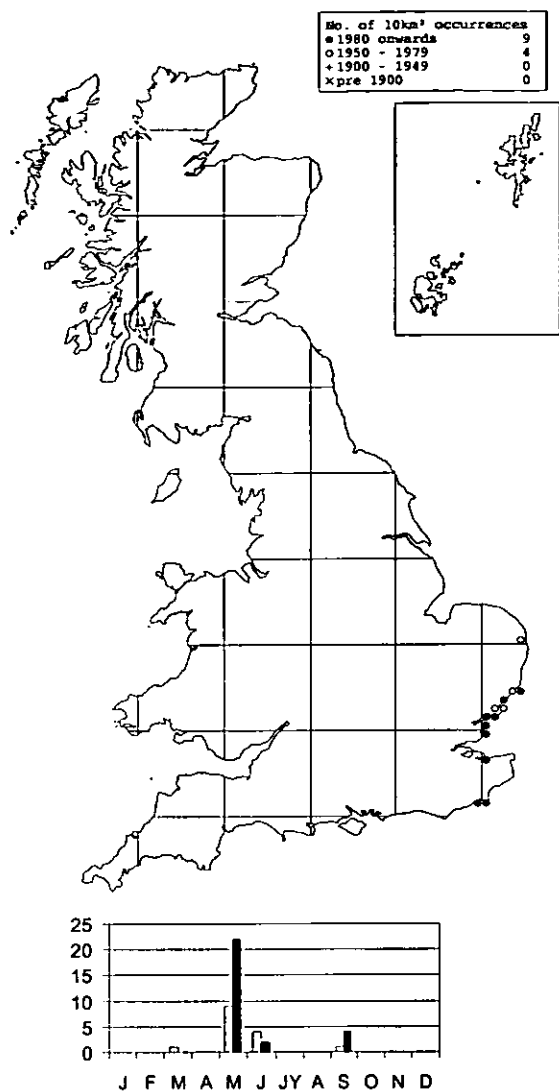
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England, with a few records in Wales and Scotland and is apparently spreading north, probably partly assisted by man. It is widespread in western and central Europe as far north as Denmark.

#### Habitat and ecology

This species was first recorded in Devon in 1930 and since that time has spread rapidly northwards (Merrett 1979). *P. lanigera* is strongly associated with man, and is one of the few spiders that is characteristic of roofs and walls of buildings. It may be found away from this habitat, in woodlands for example, but these records are rare. The spider has been observed using a drop-and-swing behaviour (pers. obs.), which is successfully used by other species to become airborne. An aeronautic habit would explain, in part, its successful migration from Devon northwards to Scotland. Due to the favourably warm microclimate provided by central heating in houses, the spiders seem to continually produce young year-round (Clarke 1972). Adult females can be found in all months, but males may not survive the winter.

Author of profile: J.R. Bell



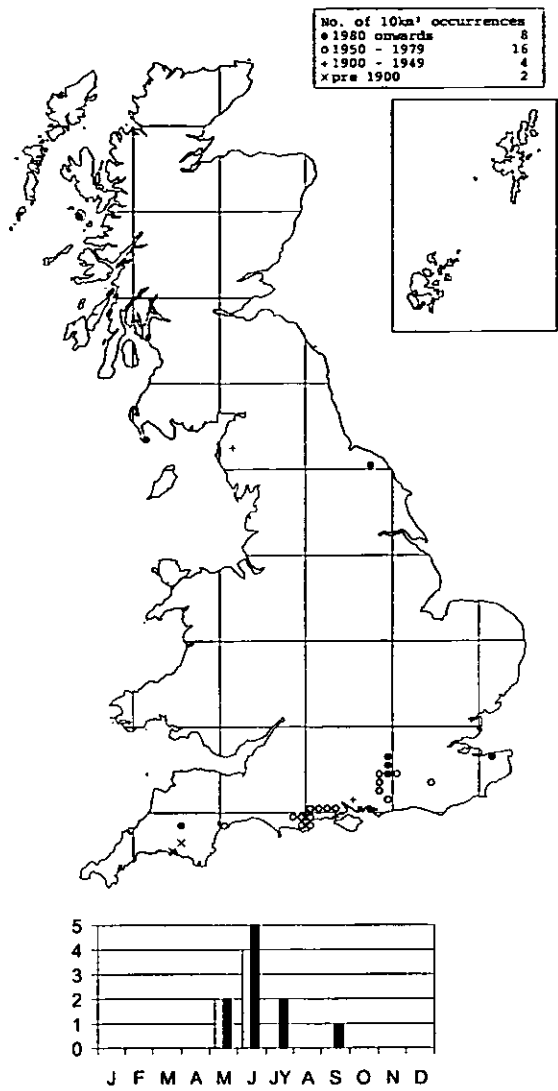
**Status**  
Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is numerous at some sites, for example Bradwell, Colne Point and Shingle Street.

**Distribution**  
Apparently restricted to shingle beaches in the south-east, the species has been recorded from Blakeney Point, East Norfolk (not mapped); Orford Beach and Shingle Street, East Suffolk; Colne Point and Walton Naze, North Essex; Bradwell, South Essex; Lydd Ranges and near Faversham, East Kent; and Rye Harbour, East Sussex, all since 1953.

**Habitat and ecology**  
*P. obsoleta* occurs among tide litter, in empty whelk shells and in the open on shingle. Adults of both sexes are found from April to June and from August to October.

**Threats**  
Public pressure, causing erosion by trampling, may degrade its sites and holiday development may be a threat outside nature reserves. The use of vehicles on shingle, as at Lydd Ranges, causes irreversible disruption to the habitat. Shingle erosion and oestrogen-mimicking chemicals that could affect whelk populations may also be threats (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.).

Author of profile: P. Merrett



**Status**  
Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is common on some heathland sites, but rather local.

**Distribution**  
Apart from an old record from Cumberland, and recent records from North Yorkshire, Rum and Wigtownshire, the species is confined to the south of England. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

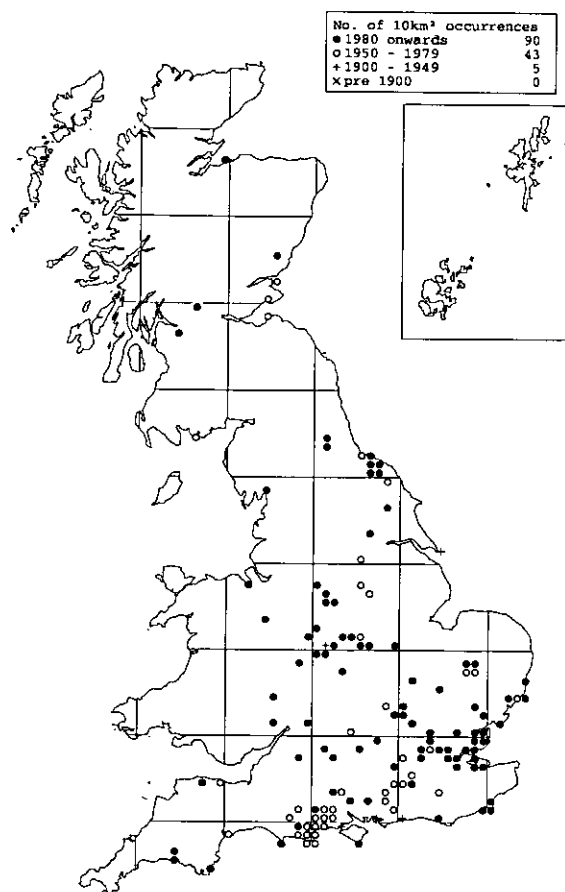
**Habitat and ecology**  
*T. petrensis* occurs on dry heathland, reaching highest densities between about 7 and 12 years after fire. It may colonise small burnt areas in the first year or two, but may take 4 or 5 years to become established on large burnt areas where there is not an adjacent source of immigrants, suggesting that its powers of dispersal are rather poor. It is usually seen active in sunshine on bare stony areas, but is also able to live among older heather. The spider is also found under stones on mountains in the north. Males are adult from late April to July with a peak of activity in late May and early June, females are adult from late March to September.

**Threats**  
The loss of heathland to agriculture, afforestation and development. This species appears to be slow to spread to large expanses of burnt heathland.

**Management**  
Maintain all seral stages of heather by rotational management.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





#### Status

Local and uncommon, but the spider is more frequent in southern counties.

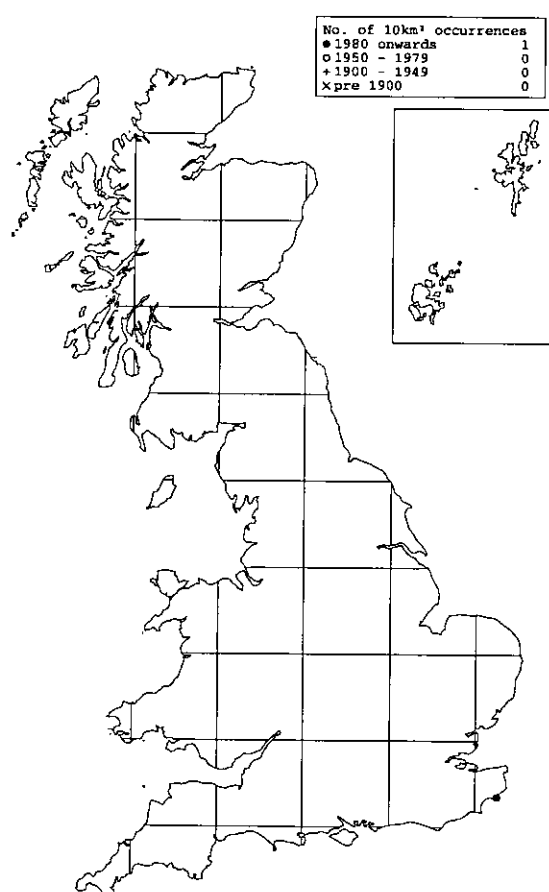
#### Distribution

The species is widely distributed in Britain but with only a few scattered records in the west and north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

This little spider is found in warm, open, sunny habitats with bare surfaces, such as short turf on downs, sandy or stony banks, and quarries or old railway embankments. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in May, June and July.

Author of profile: M. Askins



#### Status

Very rare. A single female was taken at Castle Hill in 1989 and another adult male and female in 1991.

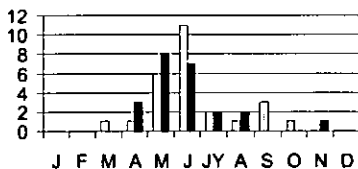
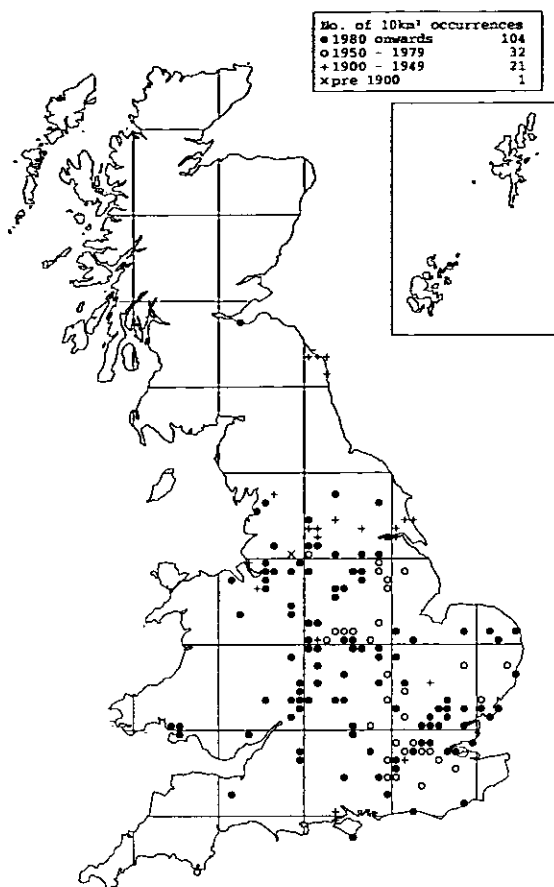
#### Distribution

The species was first discovered in Britain at Castle Hill, near Folkestone, East Kent in 1989 (Snazell 1995). It has subsequently been recorded from Sussex and Surrey (Merrett 2000) but these records have not been submitted to the recording scheme. Outside Britain there are a few, very scattered records of *T. thorelli* from central and eastern Europe, southern Scandinavia and north-western Asia.

#### Habitat and ecology

The species was found in steep, south-facing chalk grassland, typical of that found all along the Folkestone escarpment. It is predominantly *Brachypodium pinnatum* grassland, with much of the area falling into the *Centaurea nigra-Leontodon hispidus* sub-community. Adults of both sexes have been taken in June.

Author of profile: P.R. Harvey using information from Snazell (1995).



#### Status

The spider is locally dispersed throughout its range. A marked decline associated with an increase in *Euophrys lanigera* is pointed out in Merrett (1979) and a marked decline nationally since the early 1970s is also noted in Crocker & Daws (1996).

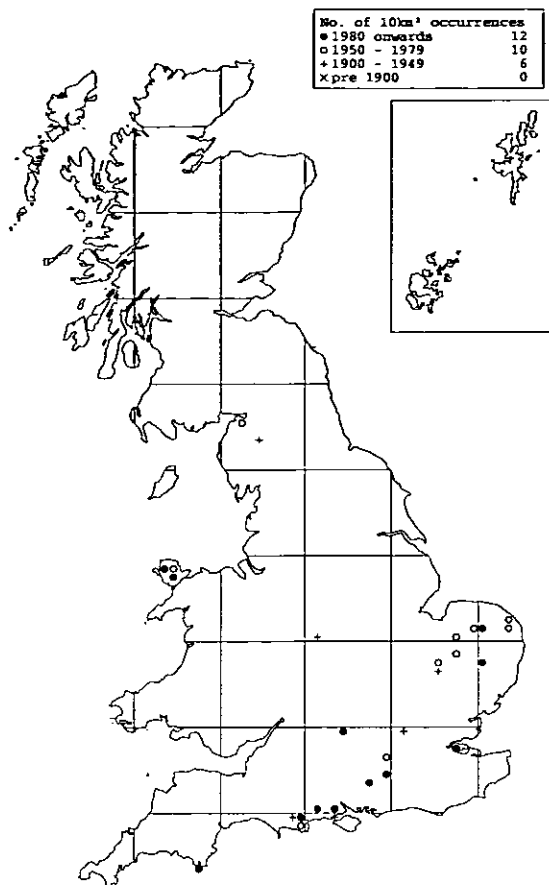
#### Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England and parts of Wales. It is also recorded from the Isle of Skye (Merrett 1989, not mapped) and Midlothian (Merrett 2000). *S. pubescens* is widespread in western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

*S. pubescens* is usually found in association with human habitation, on walls, window frames, fences and sometimes indoors but tending to prefer outdoor situations in full sunshine. It is occasionally found on fence posts, tree trunks, underneath stones and on heather away from houses and other buildings (Roberts 1995; Crocker & Daws 1996). Mature females can be found throughout the year and males have been recorded between March and October, but adults of both sexes are found mainly in May and June.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee



#### Status

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

#### Distribution

The species is widely scattered in England and Wales. It is widespread but local in northern and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

The spider occurs among *Molinia* and *Sphagnum* in lowland bogs, and among low vegetation in marshes and fens. Adults of both sexes are found in October and November, and from March to July, and probably over-winter.

#### Threats

Drainage of bogs and fens.

#### Management

Maintain the water table of bogs and fens.

Author of profile: P. Merrett

### Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). The spider is abundant at its known sites.

### Distribution

The species is well-established at four sites in the Delamere Forest area, and it has been found more recently at Wybunbury Moss. In addition to these Cheshire sites, it was discovered in 1981 in a marsh by Loch Ken near New Galloway, Kirkcudbrightshire, and has since been found several times in this area and at Loch Stroan a few miles away. It has also been found in Shropshire and Denbighshire (Merrett 1995a) in the same habitat type. This species is fairly widespread in Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

In the Delamere area it has been found in bogs on *Sphagnum*, and at Wybunbury Moss in two fen meadows and in an area of abundant *Eriophorum vaginatum* in the *Sphagnum* bog. It spins a cocoon in tall vegetation such as seed heads of *Eriophorum* and flower heads of *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and *Cirsium palustre*. It over-winters deep in the *Sphagnum*. In the Scottish sites it also occurs on *Deschampsia cespitosa* at the side of the loch and in drier areas in dead leaves lying in the grass. Adults are found from March to September.

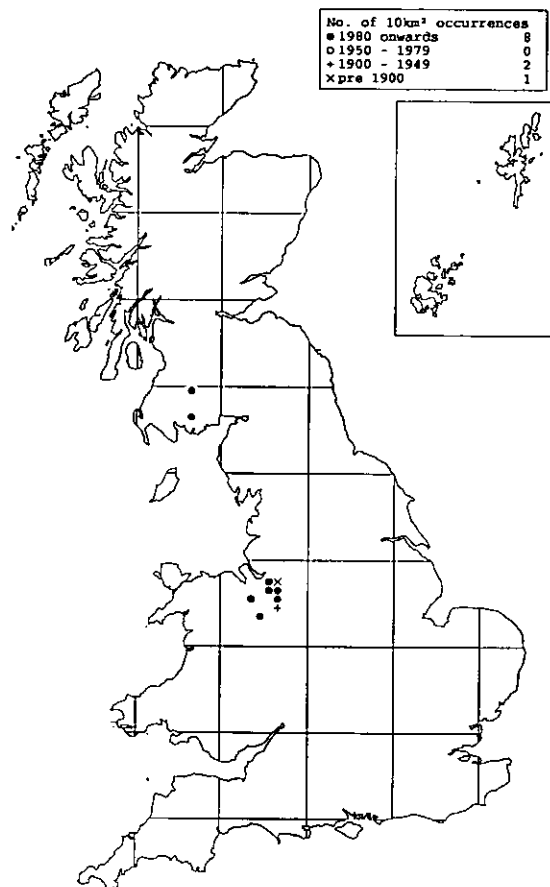
### Threats

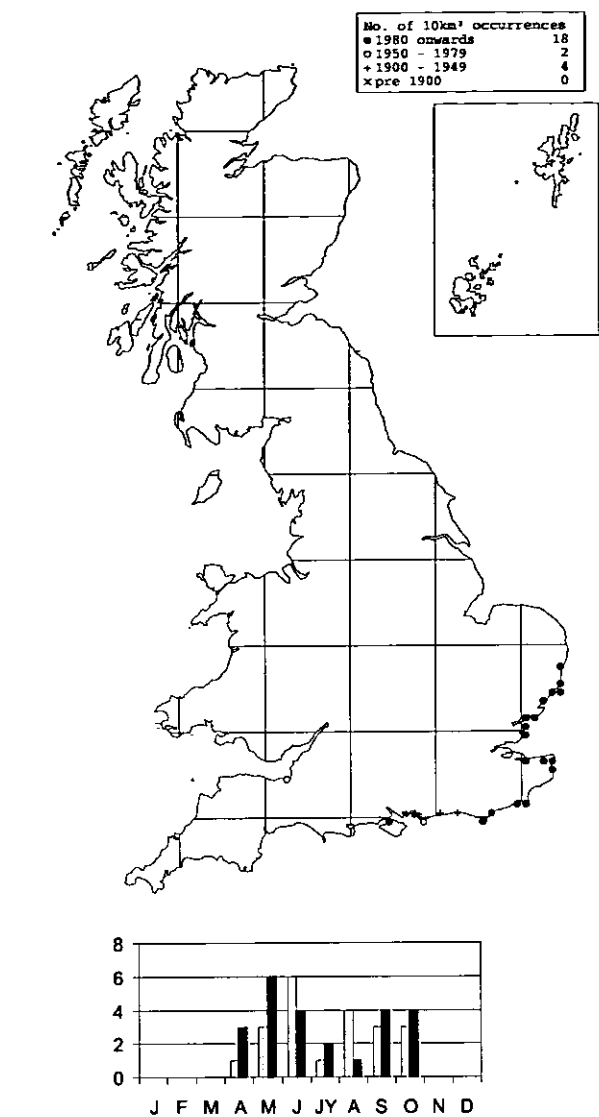
Wybunbury Moss suffered severe eutrophication for many years prior to 1986 owing to pollution from a septic tank and road drainage. Agricultural run-off still threatens further damage of this sort. The eutrophication has caused marked changes in the vegetation, with loss of *Sphagnum* lawn. There has been further loss of *Sphagnum* owing to birch and pine invasion. Woodland encroachment is also a problem at Abbots Moss.

### Management

In 1989 *S. floricola* was found in an area of Wybunbury Moss where tree cover had recently been removed, resulting in a good growth of *Sphagnum* and *Eriophorum*. This suggests tree removal is an effective means to restore the habitat where there has been birch and pine invasion.

Author of profile: P. Merrett





**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). *S. inexpectus* was recently described as a new species and British records of *S. rupicola* refer to this species. The spider is common at some sites, mostly in areas of large expanses of relatively undisturbed shingle.

**Distribution**

The species is confined to coastal sites south-east of a line from the Wash to the Severn. There are scattered localities in lowland northern Europe, contrasting with *S. rupicola* which occurs at higher altitudes (Logunov & Kronstedt 1997).

**Habitat and ecology**

The species occurs on coastal shingle and amongst tidal litter on shell shingle and sand adjacent to saltmarsh. Adults are found from April to October.

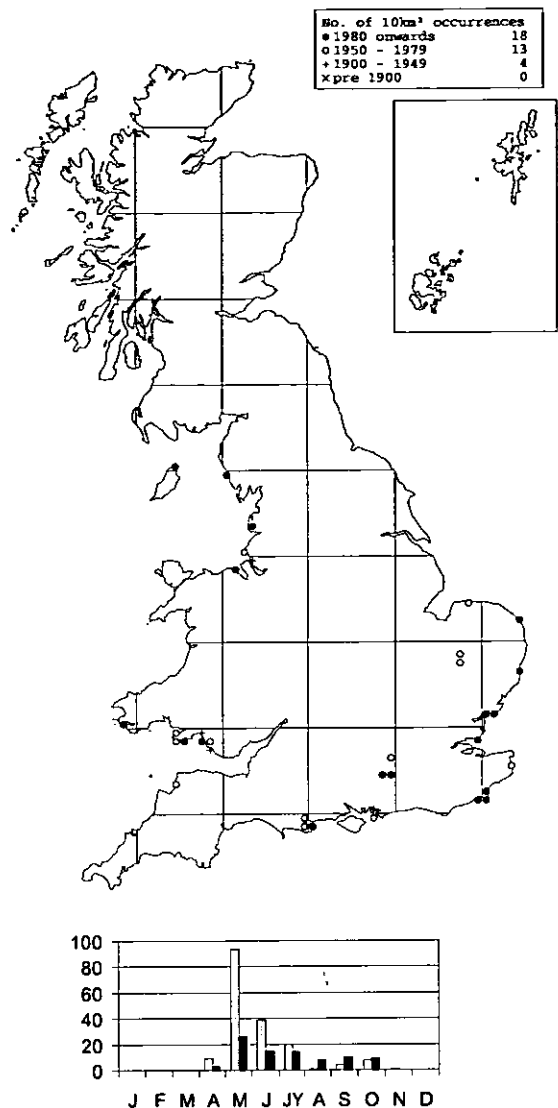
**Threats**

Public pressure and shingle and gravel extraction.

**Management**

None apart from the reduction of disturbance.

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



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is widespread, but infrequent and local on sand dunes. It is scarce on heathland, except for a few places in the Breckland. Its apparent scarcity may be partly accounted for by its small size and camouflage.

**Distribution**

The species is confined to England and Wales, mostly on the coast. It is widespread but uncommon in western and central Europe, and has not been recorded from Ireland.

**Habitat and ecology**

*S. saltator* occurs in sandy places, mainly on coastal sand dunes on open sand in sunshine, where it is well camouflaged and can leap considerable distances. It is sometimes found on sandy heaths inland, where it tends to live in open sandy areas rather like *Ozyptila scabricula*. Adults of both sexes have been found from spring to autumn, but mostly in May, June and July and with perhaps a second smaller peak in the autumn.

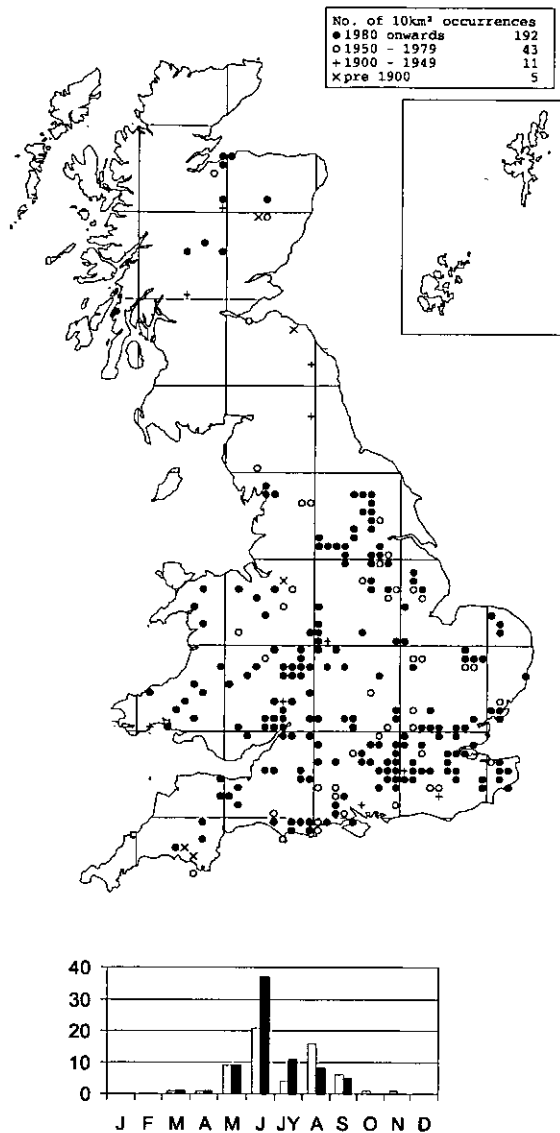
**Threats**

The loss of sandy heathland to afforestation and development, and possibly public pressure at some coastal sites.

**Management**

Rotational management for the maintenance of open bare ground on heathland.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



#### Status

The species is fairly common throughout its range but can be local in some areas (Crocker & Daws 1996).

#### Distribution

The spider is widespread in the southern half of Britain, but becomes very scattered in the north of England and Scotland. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe.

#### Habitat and ecology

This woodland spider occurs in the foliage of trees and on lower vegetation such as heather and gorse in woodland clearings (Roberts 1995). It is readily obtained by beating lower tree branches and sweeping vegetation (Locket & Millidge 1951). Adults of both sexes have been found between March and November, but mainly in May, June and August.

Author of profile: E.L. Bee

#### Status

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

#### Distribution

The species is almost confined to central-southern and south-eastern England, but it has also been recorded in Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Cardiganshire, and in 1999 the species was discovered at Hatfield Moors in Yorkshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland.

#### Habitat and ecology

*E. arcuata* occurs mainly on old heathland in damp areas, sometimes in bog, often with some scrub present, but sometimes on dry heathland and other similar low shrubby vegetation. Adults of both sexes are found from May to August and males have been recorded in September and October.

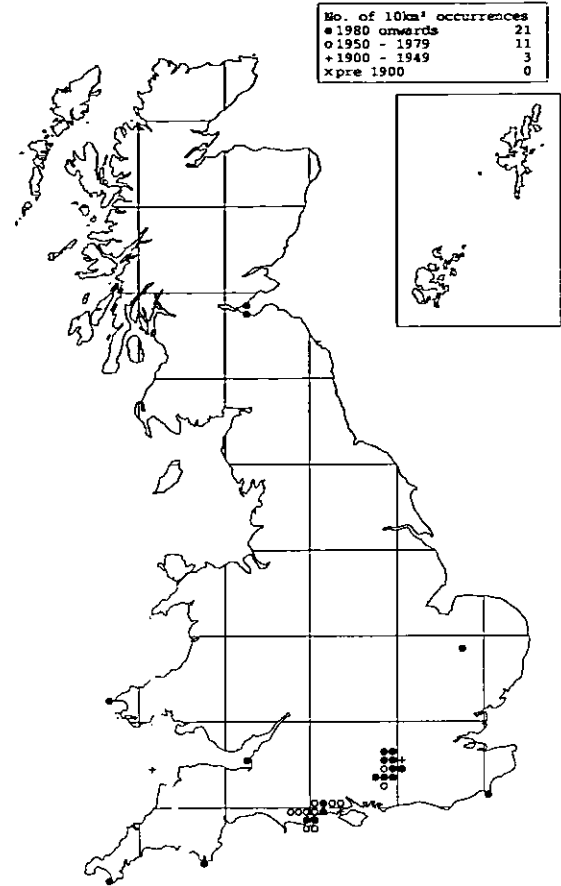
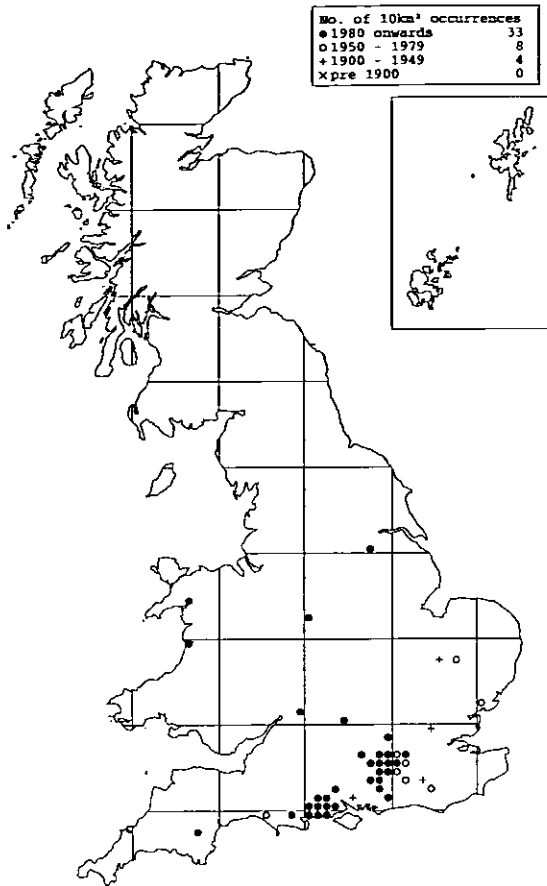
#### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, afforestation and development. Most of Hatfield Moors has already been destroyed, and peat exploitation continues on vast tracts surrounding the small remaining refuge. Drainage of the surrounding land has lowered the water table to a point where the lowland raised mire is in imminent danger of being completely lost to woodland.

#### Management

Maintain some patches of mature, damp heathland with scrub. At Hatfield Moors efforts are being made to raise the water table in the surviving area of mire.

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



### Status

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is sometimes common on heathland, but rather local. It is probably commoner towards the south-west and near the coast than in the south-east.

### Distribution

*A. v-insignitus* mostly occurs in England south of a line from the Wash to the Severn, apart from one record for Ramsey Island in Pembrokeshire (Dawson 2000) and two localities in Scotland, where an 1895 record from Fife was confirmed in 1999 and the species was recorded in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh in 1998 and 1999 (Stewart 1999). It is widespread in Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

It occurs mainly in dry, open, sunny areas on heathland, and also on short, stony calcareous grassland, usually near the coast, and occasionally on rocks near the sea. On heathland the spider reaches highest densities between about 4 and 10 years after burning, but may be present even on mature heathland. Males are adult from May to July and again in late August and September, females are adult from May to September.

### Threats

The loss of heathland to agriculture, forestry and development.

### Management

Maintain all seral stages of heather by rotational management. This species is able to survive in all ages of heather, but is more abundant in younger heather.

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

### Status

Nationally Rare (RDB3). For some sites the records are over fifty years old. The spider was recorded in small numbers at several sampling points at Rye Harbour and Dungeness during an NCC survey in the late 1980s, but it is not common. Several specimens were found independently at two locations on the Gower in 1994 and it may be widespread on limestone cliffs in that area.

### Distribution

The species has been recorded from a number of sites on the south coast between Dungeness and Sandwich, East Kent and Chesil Beach, Dorset. It was recently discovered in South Wales (Alexander & Morgan 1994). It is fairly widespread in Europe, and also found in the U.S.A.

### Habitat and ecology

*P. fasciata* is found mainly on sand dunes and sometimes in other dry coastal habitats such as shingle. In South Wales the spider was found on steep rocky limestone sea cliffs, on bare and sparsely vegetated limestone slopes and in a very warm and dry spot with loose rocks and sparse, herb-rich limestone grassland vegetation on skeletal soils (Alexander & Morgan 1994). Adults of both sexes are found between April and July, females also in September.

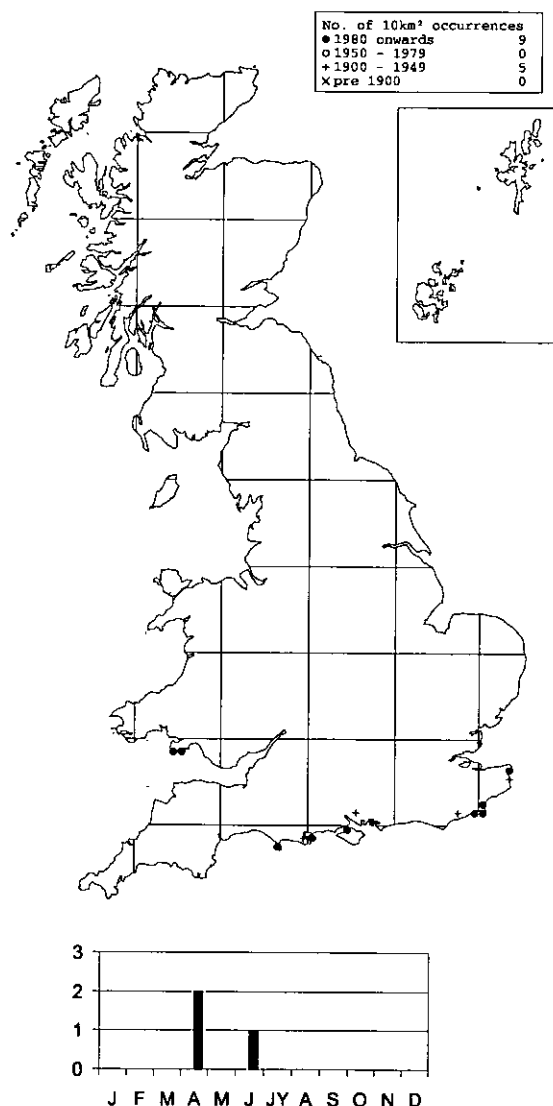
### Threats

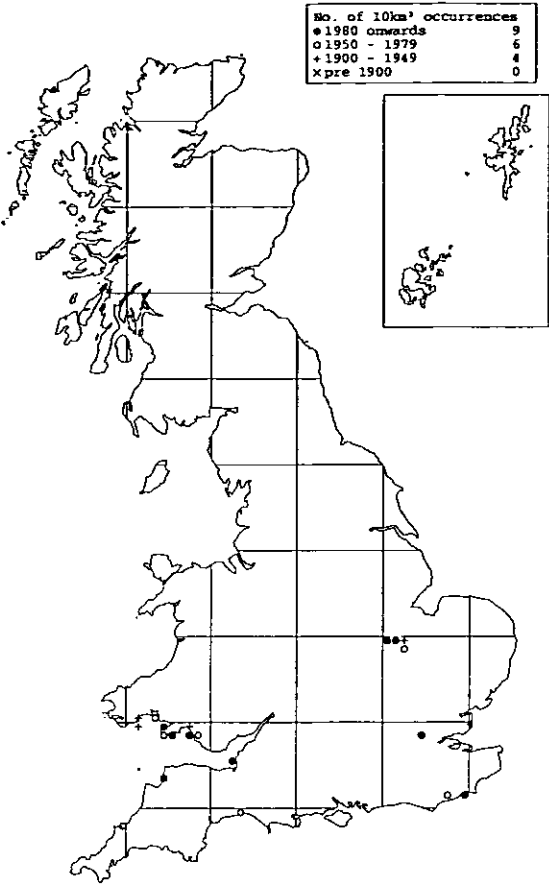
Erosion caused by high public use, particularly the use of motor vehicles on shingle, and possibly holiday development threaten the rather fragile habitats of this species. Dungeness is being extensively damaged by gravel extraction, which is causing significant alteration of the hydrology, and thereby ecology, in addition to the obvious loss of shingle area to gravel-pits. Although there is no end date yet for gravel extraction, Special Area of Conservation designation now leaves just one last permission to be implemented (M. Shardlow, pers. comm.). There are currently no plans for a new power station at Dungeness but its possibility in the future still poses a threat.

### Management

Adequate safeguards are necessary to avoid the damaging operations mentioned above.

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





**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable A). The spider is fairly common in some large dune systems, but infrequently recorded elsewhere.

**Distribution**

The species is almost confined to the coasts of southern England and South Wales, but also recorded from Yaxley and Woodwalton Fens, Huntingdonshire, two old brick pits in the Peterborough area and an old pulverised fly ash (PFA) lagoon site in South Essex. It is widespread and more frequent in Europe.

**Habitat and ecology**

*S. venator* occurs in sand dunes on the coast, usually low down among marram, and among similar tussocky vegetation in fens. More recently it has been found in two old brick-pits, in one case on a fairly steep bank with *Phragmites* and partial vegetation cover near the margin of a pool (P. Kirby, pers. comm.) and in traps set in weathered PFA ‘dune’ with nearby areas of *Phragmites* and ‘fen’ vegetation. The spider is an ant-mimic, usually found in association with ants. Both sexes are adult in summer and autumn, and females also in spring.

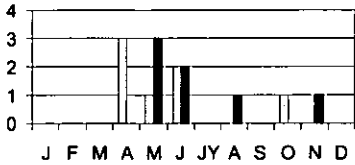
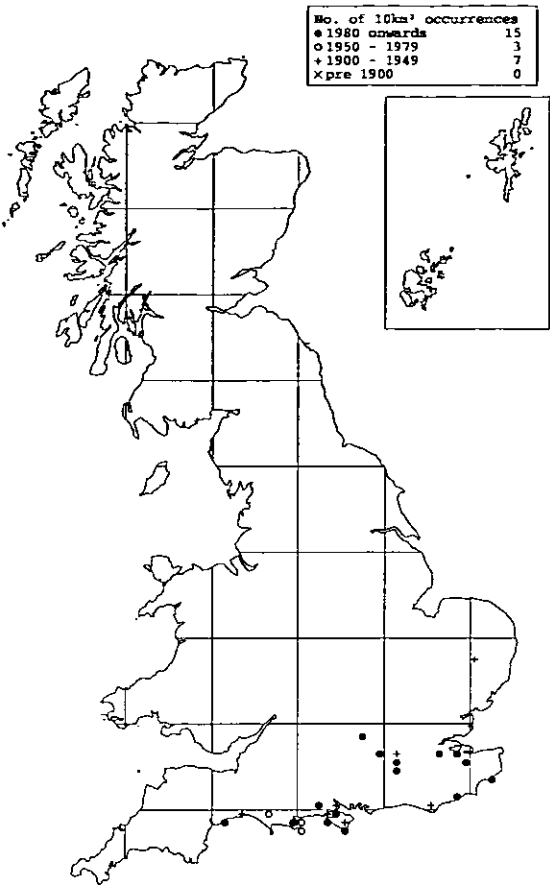
**Threats**

Public pressure and holiday development on sand dunes, the drainage or growth of scrub in fens. One of the old brick pit sites and the PFA lagoon site have subsequently been developed for housing.

**Management**

Little is needed on sand dunes apart from the reduction of erosion by public pressure. In fens control scrub growth and maintain the water table.

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



**Status**

Nationally Scarce (Notable B). The spider is very local, but fairly numerous at some sites and is possibly most frequent in damp places on under-cliff.

**Distribution**

The species is confined to south-east of a line from the Wash to the Severn. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but has not been recorded from Ireland or Denmark.

**Habitat and ecology**

*M. formicaria* usually occurs on some type of grassland, sometimes very near the beach and on under-cliff. There are many records from chalk grassland but also stony cliff ledges, saltmarsh, marram and fens. Jones-Walters (1997) reports it as relatively common in the New Forest mires where the common ant *Myrmica scabrinodis* is abundant. It is an ant-mimic, usually found in company with ants, either running among grass or under stones. Adults have been recorded from April to November.

**Threats**

Most of its coastal sites are too inaccessible to be liable to any specific threat, although some have recently been covered by landslides. Some of its chalk grassland, fen and mire sites might be vulnerable to agricultural changes or drainage respectively.

**Management**

None needed on coastal sites, but maintain chalk grassland by traditional grazing and maintain water table in fens.

Author of profile: P. Merrett



### Status

Nationally Endangered (RDB1). A Nature Conservancy Council survey in the late 1980s recorded small numbers at several sampling points at Dungeness.

### Distribution

Formerly recorded only from Folkestone, East Kent, in 1888, when both sexes were found. In recent years numerous specimens have been found at Dungeness, East Kent. The spider was found in 1994 on Chesil Beach, Dorset. There is also an unconfirmed record from the Crumbles, East Sussex, in the 1980s. It is apparently widespread in central and southern Europe.

### Habitat and ecology

The spider has been found on sparsely vegetated shingle, on one occasion in whelk shells. Adults have been found in late May and June.

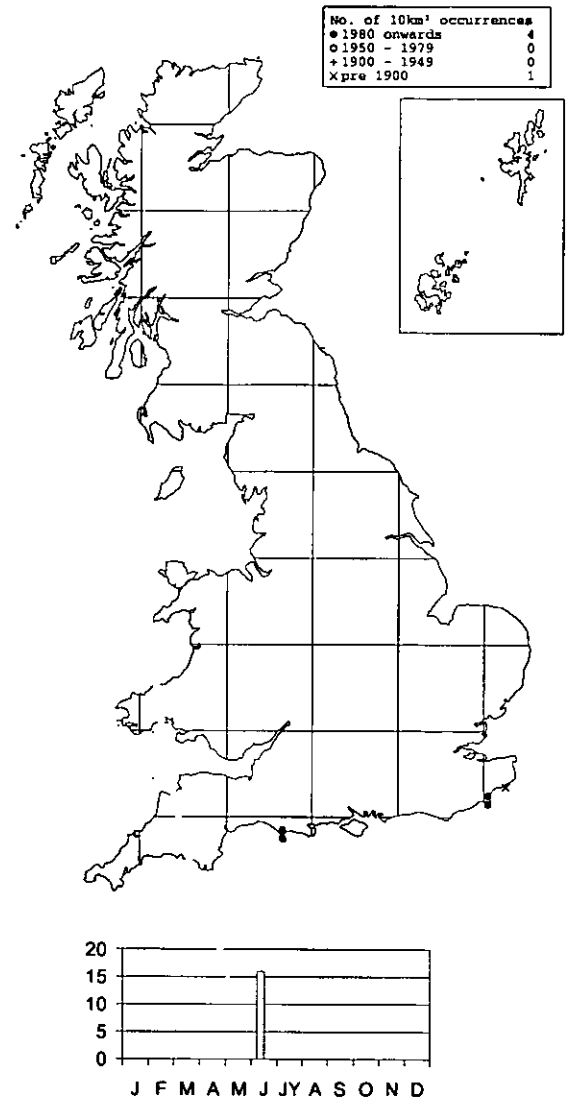
### Threats

The Crumbles was largely destroyed in 1988 by marina and building developments. Dungeness is being extensively damaged by gravel extraction, which is causing significant alteration of the hydrology, and thereby ecology, in addition to the obvious loss of shingle area to gravel-pits. Although there is no end date yet for gravel extraction, Special Area of Conservation 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.).

### Management

Adequate safeguards are necessary to avoid the damaging operations mentioned above.

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



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# SPECIES INDEX

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