

ORDER:OPILIONES SUBORDER:Dyspnoi SUPERFAMILY:Ischryopsalidoidea FAMILY:Taracidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The sole member of this genus (Shear, 1986; Cokendolpher and Lee, 1993) ONLINE PHOTOS: Photographs are included on BugGuide, but under the genus name

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Probably found throughout the Mountains in appropriate habitats. This species is fairly widespread in the North, ranging from New England to the Great Lakes region. It ranges as far south as South Carolina in the Southern Appalachians (Shear, 1986).

HABITAT: This species is associated with cool, moist microclimates and appears to occur primarily in hardwood-dominated forests rather than stands of conifers; several specimens have been found in Rhododendron leaf litter (Shear, 1986). Records in North Carolina come from both high elevations (over 5,000 ft in some cases), as well as fairly low elevations, such as the Swannanoa River valley.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Usually collected using Berlese funnels (Shear, 1986)

NHP RANKS: [GNR] [S3S4]

STATE_PROTECTION: Arachnids are not protected under state law, although permits are needed to collect them in State Parks and other public and private nature preserves

STATUS_COMMENTS: We have relatively few records for this species but that may be due to the specialized methods needed to collect this species. Although at least somewhat specialized in terms of its habitats, its habitats appear to be widespread within the Mountains. As a species associated with cool, moist microclimates, it is likely to be vulnerable to the warming and drying effects of climate change as well as disturbances that open up the forest canopy.