

ORDER:OPILIONES SUBORDER:Eupnoi SUPERFAMILY:Phalangioidea FAMILY:Sclerosomatidae

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: Approximately 30 species in this genus have been identified as occurring in North America north of Mexico (Cokendolpher and Lee, 1993; Ingianni et al., 2011), with 16 recorded in North Carolina. However, the validity of several of these species is suspect, with several that will probably be determined to be synonyms of other species, e.g., davisi, speciosum, and zimmermani in North Carolina Burns et al., 2012; Shultz, 2018). According to Shultz (2018), moreover, recent phylogenetic studies indicate both that more species are waiting to be described and that the name Leiobunum may eventually be restricted to European species, requiring new generic names for most, if not all, of our species.

ONLINE PHOTOS: BugGuide, The Harvestmen of Maryland

DISTRIBUTION COMMENTS: Probably confined to the Mountains in North Carolina

HABITAT: Recorded at both high and low elevations in the Mountains. Habitats are mostly unrecorded but several records come from the Spruce-fir zone, including at Mt. Mitchell, Grandfather Mountain, Clingman's Dome, and Richland Balsam. Habitats at lower elevations may include cove forests.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Active diurnally and can be found by direct search of likely habitats

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: Not enough is yet known about its distribution, habitat associations, abundance, and population trends in North Carolina to accurately assess the conservation needs of this species.