

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.

DISTRIBUTION COMMENTS: So far recorded in North Carolina only from the Piedmont

HABITAT: In Tennessee, formosum is commonly encountered in stands of pine and mixed hardwoods (Townsend et al., 2006)

NHP RANKS: [GNR] [SU]

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 only a single relatively old (1976) record for this species. While this species does not appear to be habitat limited, we need much more information on its distribution in the state, its habitat preferences, and population trends before we can begin to estimate its conservation status.