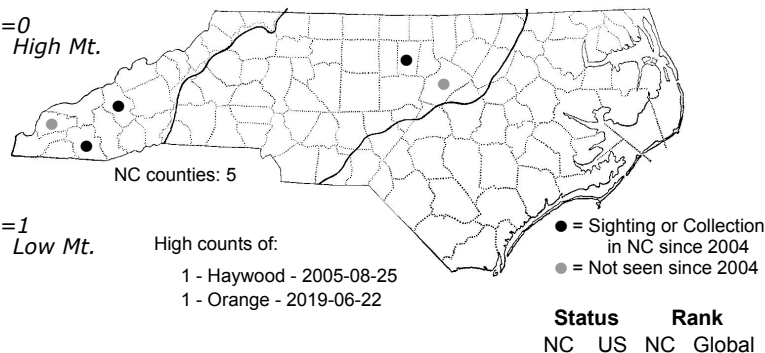
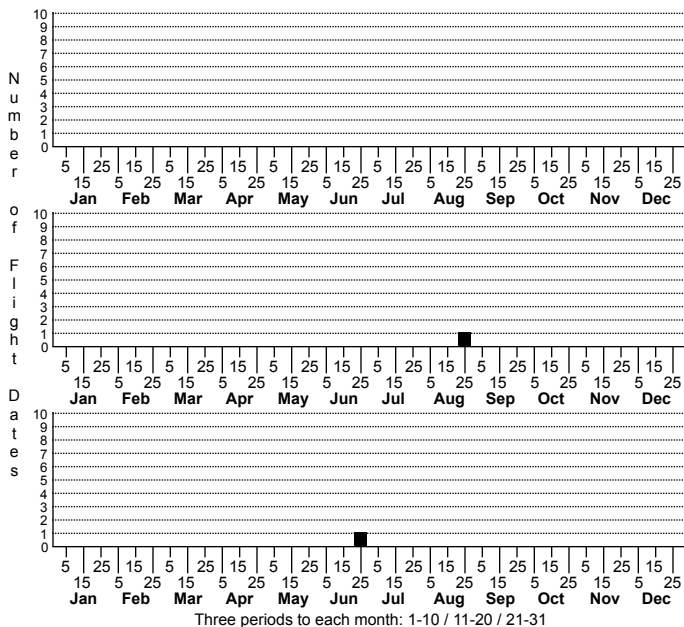


Leiobunum politum No common name



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., davisii, 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: We have records from both the Piedmont and Mountains but some of these were made prior to the separation of brachiolium from politum and need to be verified through collection of modern specimens

HABITAT: Found along forest edges in Maryland (Shultz, 2018)

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Shultz (2018) describes politum as more commonly found on the forest floor than brachiolium, which is usually found up on vegetation

NHP_RANKS: [GNR] [S3S5]

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: While this species does not appear to be habitat limited, but 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.