

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: We have records from the High Mountains to the Coastal Plain

HABITAT: Crosby and Bishop (1924) reported seeing a large number of mating pairs on a sunny bank on the edge of a pine woods.

OBSERVATION METHODS: This is a late season species, persisting into early winter (Shultz, 2018)

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: We have only one recent record for this species in the state but it appears to occupy a wide range within the state and does not appear to be habitat-limited. It will therefore probably be determined to be secure within the state.