

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

DISTRIBUTION COMMENTS: The records we have span the state, from the low Mountains to the Tidewater region.

HABITAT: In Maryland, Shultz (2018) notes that verrucosum is common in late spring on vegetation near woods (especially brambles), and tends to move into woods later.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Overwinters as juveniles and matures in the spring; probably day-active and best found by direct searches in likely habitats

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: Although we have very few current records from North Carolina to judge its conservation status, it may potentially occur statewide and occupy a wide variety of forested to semi-open habitats. Consequently, it is likely to be secure within the state.