

# **Atlas of Nottinghamshire Harvestmen 2026**

Third edition



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## Introduction

This modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Harvestmen, broadly follows the same format as used in our publications of this type. Its aim once again, is to provide an up to date and reasonably accurate atlas of Nottinghamshire's *Opilione* (Harvestmen) fauna, including short accounts on range, distribution and habitat of the now 24 species recorded within the boundaries of VC56 Nottinghamshire.

There is a steadily increasing number of Harvestmen found in the UK following some recent additions. Of these UK species, around two thirds have been reliably recorded in Nottinghamshire since the turn of the present century and there is the distinct possibility that at least two species are already present in the county and awaiting discovery.

Since the last edition of this Atlas back in 2023, both *Dicranopalpus larvatus* (2023) and shown below, and *Dicranopalpus caudatus* (2025) have been added to the county species list, these following the earlier discovery of *Platybunus pinetorum* new to Nottinghamshire in 2020. Following further surveys the following year, was ultimately found at a number of sites within the Sherwood Forest/Clumber Park and Rufford areas. Nottinghamshire probably now has more records of this attractive Spring Harvestman than any other county across the UK and a more detailed account of this discovery is given later in this publication.



Only one species (*Paroligolophus meadii*) is again not illustrated in this publication, but distribution maps are provided for all species, which are largely based on our own records and those made available to us from a variety of sources. *Paroligolophus meadii* has been looked for over the years and continued to avoid the authors. However, the search goes on.

## Recording Harvestmen

Recording Harvestmen offers the urban-based naturalist, the chance to find a range of species. One advantage of undertaking their study and identification is that they are commonly found around human habitation, so it is not always necessary to travel any distance to find them. Few Harvestmen are confined to specific habitat types and several species will easily be found in most gardens over the course of a year.

In recent years, Dilys and myself devoted a considerable amount of time and effort recording the Harvestmen found within Nottinghamshire (VC56) and I still continue to devote much time to recording Harvestmen, even after Dilys's death in 2019.

In 2009, we were unexpectedly rewarded with the discovery of the UK's first record of the still (even after 15 years) scientifically un-named *Leiobunum* sp. A.

Found (of all places) on the wall of a modern terraced house in the middle of a Worksop housing estate, it remains a fine example of how the unexpected should always be expected, especially when dealing with invertebrates. Its often remarkable as to what occurs where and from our own small terraced house garden, there have been a number of unexpected first county records over the years. So, the chances are that the next new Harvestman to be recorded new to the county, may well turn up in some suburban garden.

## Harvestmen (Opiliones) species list for Nottinghamshire (VC56)

The following list of species are all confirmed as being recorded from Nottinghamshire as of January 2026. There are post-2000 records for all the species listed, although there have been no recent records of *Paroligolophus meadii*.

### NEMASTOMATIDAE

MITOSTOMA Roewer, 1951

*Mitostoma chrysomelas* (Fabricius, 1775)

NEMASTOMA C.L. Koch in Hahn & C.L. Koch, 1836

*Nemastoma bimaculatum* (Hermann, 1804)

### PHALANGIIDAE

DICRANOPALPUS Doleschall, 1852

*Dicranopalpus caudatus* (Dresco, 1948)

*Dicranopalpus larvatus* (Canestrini, 1874)

*Dicranopalpus ramosus* (Simon, 1909)

LACINIUS

*Lacinius ephippiatus* (C.L. Koch, 1835)

LOPHOPILIO Hadži, 1931

*Lophopilio palpinalis* (Herbst, 1799)

MEGABUNUS Meade, 1855

*Megabunus diadema* (Fabricius, 1779)

MITOPUS Thorell, 1876

*Mitopus morio* (Fabricius, 1779)

ODIELLUS Roewer, 1923

*Odiellus spinosus* (Bosc, 1792)

OLIGOLOPHUS C.L. Koch, 1872

*Oligolophus hansenii* (Kraepelin, 1896)

*Oligolophus tridens* (C.L. Koch, 1836)

OPILIO Herbst, 1798

*Opilio canestrinii* (Thorell, 1876)

*Opilio parietinus* (De Geer, 1778)

*Opilio saxatilis* (C.L. Koch, 1839)

PAROLIOLOPHUS Lohmander, 1945

*Paroligolophus agrestis* (Meade, 1855)

*Paroligolophus meadii* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1890)

PHALANGIUM Linnaeus, 1758

*Phalangium opilio* (Linnaeus, 1758)

PLATYBUNUS C.L. Koch, 1848

*Platybunus pinetorum* (C.L. Koch, 1839)

RILAENA Šilhavý, 1965  
*Rilaena triangularis* (Herbst, 1799)

**incertae sedis** (A taxon, or a group of taxa, whose relationship with others is currently unknown or undecided)

LEIOBUNUM C.L. Koch, 1839  
*Leiobunum blackwalli* (Meade, 1861)  
*Leiobunum rotundum* (Latreille, 1798)  
*Leiobunum* sp. A (Schönhofer & Hillen 2008, Toss 2009, Wijnhoven et al. 2007)

NELIMA Roewer, 1910  
*Nelima gothica* (Lohmander, 1945)

## Potential new Nottinghamshire species

One of the joys of invertebrate study, coupled with the trend for increasingly warmer Summers and considerably milder Winters, is that the likelihood of new species arriving in the UK through accidental importation, or other means, has substantially increased over recent years. This is very well illustrated by those new Harvestmen discovered in some southern coastal counties and one north-western county over the past decade, so it seems only logical that we should expect more species to turn up .... and they have!

The changes to our apparently warming climate which we have experienced in recent decades, will very likely present those species arriving here (probably from continental Europe) with an ideal opportunity to gain a foothold and potentially increase in range over time. All this means that there could be some exciting discoveries over the coming years for those willing to take up the recording of Harvestmen. So, here's two species (there could be more) which could turn up in Nottinghamshire, or they may already be here.

*Anelasmacephalus cambridgei* (Westwood, 1874) Most likely to be found sieving leaf litter in woodland  
*Leiobunum limbatum* (L. Koch, 1861) Could turn up on a wall or building anywhere

## Calendar of Harvestman activity in Nottinghamshire

	Body length	Adult season	VC56 status
<i>Mitostoma chrysomelas</i>	2.5 mm	All year	Rare
<i>Nemastoma bimaculatum</i>	3.0 mm	All year	Common
<i>Lacinius ephippiatus</i>	6.0 mm	Spring and Summer	Uncommon
<i>Lophopilio palpinalis</i>	5.0 mm	Summer and early Winter	Uncommon
<i>Megabunus diadema</i>	5.0 mm	All year	Uncommon
<i>Mitopus morio</i>	8.5 mm	Summer and Autumn	Common
<i>Odiellus spinosus</i>	11.0 mm	Late Summer and Autumn	Uncommon
<i>Oligolophus hansenii</i>	5.0 mm	Late Summer to Winter	Uncommon
<i>Oligolophus tridens</i>	5.5 mm	Summer and Autumn	Common
<i>Opilio canestrinii</i>	9.0 mm	Summer to Winter	Common
<i>Opilio parietinus</i>	9.0 mm	Summer and Autumn	Common
<i>Opilio saxatilis</i>	6.0 mm	Summer and Autumn	Uncommon
<i>Paroligolophus agrestis</i>	5.0 mm	Summer to Winter	Common
<i>Paroligolophus meadii</i>	4.0 mm	Summer and Autumn	Rare
<i>Phalangium opilio</i>	9.0 mm	Spring to Autumn	Common
<i>Platybunus pinetorum</i>	7.0 mm	Spring and early Summer	Uncommon
<i>Rilaena triangularis</i>	7.0 mm	Spring and early Summer	Common
<i>Dicranopalpus caudatus</i>	6.0 mm	Late Summer to Winter	Rare
<i>Dicranopalpus larvatus</i>	4.0 mm	Autumn through early Spring	Rare



<i>Dicranopalpus ramosus</i>	6.0 mm	Late Summer to Winter	Common
<i>Leiobunum blackwalli</i>	6.0 mm	Summer to early Winter	Common
<i>Leiobunum rotundum</i>	6.5 mm	Summer and Autumn	Common
<i>Leiobunum</i> sp. A	9.0 mm	Late Summer to early Winter	Rare
<i>Nelima gothica</i>	4.5 mm	Summer and Autumn	Rare

## Species accounts

### Nemastomatidae

#### ***Mitostoma chrysomelas*** (Fabricius, 1775)

A small, rather leggy Harvestman with a body length of around 3mm. This is an inconspicuous species and at first glance may give the impression of a juvenile *Leiobunum*. The adults can occasionally be found under logs, discarded rubbish, or in leaf litter.



This is generally an uncommon Harvestman in Nottinghamshire, which is rarely recorded in personal experience. Records are usually of casual occurrence and it has never been found annually, although there have been a number of records since 2013 directly attributable to regular recording.

There are pre-2000 records from Sherwood Forest in 1978 (BAS survey team) and from Bunny Old Wood in 1986 (per Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust), with records this century from Sherwood Heath in 2013, then three records from Clipstone Old Quarter in 2013, 2016 and 2018. The most recent records have come from King's Wood in 2019 and from Haywood Oaks and Sherwood Forest CP in 2021, Clipstone Old Quarter and Wellow Park in 2025.

#### ***Nemastoma bimaculatum*** (Hermann, 1804)

A small black species with two roughly kidney or hour-glass shaped cream patches towards the front of the body. These patches can occasionally be absent on some specimens, but this is something we never recorded despite seeing this species commonly over many years.

*Nemastoma bimaculatum* is recorded under logs and within leaf litter from many woodland sites, especially in the in the Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park areas, but it is resented in many wooded habitats throughout much of Nottinghamshire. However, it is by no means confined to being a woodland specialist as it is often recorded under logs or stones on agricultural land well away from woodland and there are a surprising number of records from sites along the Trent Valley and occasionally from suburban locations (parks, allotments and old, established gardens) in Nottingham and Mansfield.

It's small size, coupled with the fact that they often do not move for several minutes when disturbed, means that they can easily be missed.

### Phalangiiidae

#### ***Lacinius ehippiatus*** (C.L. Koch, 1835)

All of the Nottinghamshire records we are aware of, have occurred since 1977, when it was recorded from at least two areas of the Sherwood Forest NNR (Buck Gates and Sherwood Forest CP) by a survey team from the British Arachnological Society.

Recent surveying (2025) for this species, very quickly revealed that *Lacinius ehippiatus* is probably something of an under-recorded Harvestman in Nottinghamshire. It is currently known from a line of sites running from Annesley Woodhouse in the west of the county, up through the Sherwood Forest area, to Misson Carr in north. This was one Harvestman Dilys and myself never found during our most prolific period of recording harvestmen, probably because we never did any leaf litter sampling during the warmer months of the year.

The adults are found during the Spring and Summer, in the ground layer, but Nick and Samantha Brownley found several juvenile/immature specimens by sieving leaf litter from an area of Beech woodland at Clumber Park in May

2025, which were reared to maturity in captivity. There are other recent county records from Annesley Woodhouse Quarry in 1999, the Idle Valley Nature Reserve in 2000 and Misson Carr in 2006 (all Williams, H.).

***Lophopilio palpinalis*** (Herbst, 1799)

Nottinghamshire records of *Lophopilio palpinalis*, suggest that this is largely a Harvestman of deciduous woodland and heathland, with all but one of the county's records coming from the Sherwood Forest area. Turning over stands of heather, is a useful method to record this species.

There is an isolated 1990 record from Bunny Old Wood (per Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust) although the recorder is unknown and there are relatively few county records of this Harvestman. All of the most recent records have come from the Buck Gates and Sherwood Forest CP areas of the Sherwood Forest NNR between 2002 and 2021.

***Megabunus diadema*** (Fabricius, 1779)

This Harvestman is perhaps the most well marked and distinctive of all our native species, but is relatively small (3mm body) in size. Its cryptic markings also mean that it is often well camouflaged when sat on the trunks of lichen and moss covered trees it favours although it is fairly easy to spot from a distance with practice.



For a number of years, we searched many Nottinghamshire woodlands for this elusive Harvestman, before eventually finding it in an area of coppiced woodland at Wellow Park in 2012 and Gamston Wood near Retford in 2013.

Further surveys have proved *Megabunus diadema* to be easiest to find on the smooth trunks of coppiced Ash with a diameter of at least four to six inches, growing along small woodland paths that allow the sun to come through from time to time.

This is also a fast-moving species which can be difficult to approach at times, but they are quite distinctive when sat openly on tree trunks anywhere from around three to six feet off the ground.

Although the habitat requirements of this Harvestman are now well known in Nottinghamshire, it does not appear to be found widely, even where the habitat seems ideal. Then again few are looking. But either way, *Megabunus diadema* does not appear to be particularly widespread.

The only recent records and sites are Wellow Park, Dukes Wood, Kirton Wood, Gamston Wood, Bevercotes and Watchwood near Calverton. Most of these woods are rich in areas of coppiced Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, or smooth-barked trees and generally lie on heavy clay soils.

There is a single record from Sherwood Heath in 2006 (Godfrey, A.) which somewhat goes against the findings of the authors in terms of habitat preferences and despite spending many hours looking for this species on the trunks of trees and fence posts around the NNR, we never recorded it.

***Mitopus morio*** (Fabricius, 1779)

A common Harvestman, usually found in well vegetated sites and woodlands. It is widespread across Nottinghamshire, being especially well recorded from the Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park areas, but really anywhere west of the Trent Valley. There are few known sites close to, or east of the River Trent, but this may be down to a bias in observer coverage, rather than this species not occurring there.

***Odiellus spinosus*** (Bosc, 1792)

A large bodied and relatively short-legged species with strong synanthropic\* tendencies, *Odiellus spinosus* is most often found in gardens and low on the walls of houses and other buildings in urban areas. All but one of the county's records have indeed come from such habitats, with records from all the major Nottinghamshire towns apart from Retford, where it undoubtedly occurs.

There are currently records from Worksop, Edwinstowe, Market Warsop, Mansfield, Southwell and from several sites around Nottingham. There is a solitary record from Sherwood Forest CP in 2002.

\* Synanthropic:- a species which lives in close association with people, buildings etc, often benefitting from their surroundings and activities.

### ***Oligolophus hansenii*** (Kraepelin, 1896)

When the first edition of this atlas was published back in 2015, this species was regarded as being uncommon in Nottinghamshire. But with the increase in surveying came an increase in the number of records of *Oligolophus hansenii* and it was found to have been considerably overlooked previously. There is potential confusion between this species and the similarly sized *Paroligolophus agrestis* and the two are likely to be found occupying the same habitat.

Both are commonly found resting by day on walls, gravestones and the trunks of trees, but *Oligolophus hansenii* is most often among greater numbers of *Paroligolophus agrestis*, found by beating the lower branches of trees on heathland. Still thought to be quite widespread in Nottinghamshire, yet the current distribution map suggests mostly a Harvestman of the sandy soils of the Sherwood Forest area. The most northerly record on the distribution map is from the Idle Valley NR near Retford.

### ***Oligolophus tridens*** (C.L. Koch, 1836)

Generally common and widespread throughout Nottinghamshire and found in a variety of habitats which includes suburban areas. The majority of the county's records are from the northern-half of Nottinghamshire, but this is undoubtedly down to recording effort and bias. However, there are very few records from the Trent Valley area, which seems surprising considering its wide range in other parts of Nottinghamshire.

Not always obviously different from *Paroligolophus agrestis*, so care has to be taken regarding the identification.

### ***Opilio canestrinii*** (Thorell, 1876)

*Opilio canestrinii* is an invasive species which arrived in Nottinghamshire as recently as 2010, when recorded from a house wall in Worksop (Pendleton, T. A. and Pendleton, D. T.) but had obviously been present in the county for a number of years. It is often found in gardens and on the walls of buildings and is certainly commonest in urban areas although in the past few years it has turned up at a number of rural locations, most especially woodland.

It has been claimed that in some parts of the UK, *Opilio canestrinii* seems to have replaced *Opilio parietinus* from its former haunts and we recorded evidence of this ourselves in Nottinghamshire, although in general, the two species can often be found sharing the same wall.

Annual surveying of our/my terraced house at Market Warsop and Worksop Priory have proved quite interesting and the totals in the columns below, relate to the number of records rather than the number of individuals, but they do indicate that (at least on Worksop Priory) *Opilio parietinus* has totally disappeared from there. However, this is more likely to be due to the presence of *Leiobunum* sp. A, rather than *Opilio canestrinii*, which has itself, more or less been driven out by *Leiobunum* sp. A.

#### **Site 1. Sheltered, south-facing wall of terraced house in Market Warsop**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>canestrinii</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	2	3	14	0	5	8	1	3	3	2
<i>parietinus</i>	1	0	0	4	2	4	0	2	0	4	1	2	3	4	4	3	0

*Opilio parietinus* has always been noted for some 30 years on the walls of our house at Market Warsop, although regular recording didn't commence until 2009. *Opilio canestrinii* first appeared in 2014 and has been recorded in varying numbers ever since. There were an unusually high number of records in 2018, but most years tend to produce just a handful of records. Records of *Opilio canestrinii* outnumber those of *Opilio parietinus* here by around a third (48 compared to 34), but on the whole, there is little real evidence of *canestrinii* pushing *parietinus* out from our house walls.

#### **Site 2. South-facing stone wall of Worksop Priory**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>canestrinii</i>	NR	NR	NR	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
<i>parietinus</i>	NR	NR	NR	4	2	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

At Worksop, the walls of Worksop Priory have proved good for Harvestmen over the years, being particularly famous as a site for *Leiobunum* sp. A., which itself is regarded as being a very invasive species. *Leiobunum* sp. A., appears to be a strong influencing factor affecting the number of records (and ultimately populations?) of both *Opilio canestrinii* and *Opilio parietinus* at Worksop Priory and there has been an obvious decline in both Harvestmen since the discovery of *Leiobunum* sp. A. at Worksop Priory in 2012. As a result, there has been just three records of *Opilio canestrinii* from there in the past nine years to the end of 2025.

Back in 2015, *Opilio canestrinii* was described in this atlas as being 'less widespread than *Opilio parietinus*' in



Nottinghamshire, but during those intervening years, there has been a considerable change in both range and the number of records. It is now found widely over much of western and central Nottinghamshire, but where records were concentrated to the larger towns and the city of Nottingham in 2015, it is considerably more widespread than it was now and more regularly turning up in woodland, farmland and rural locations.

***Opilio parietinus*** (De Geer, 1778)

A large bodied and long-legged Harvestman which appears to be strongly synanthropic and almost always to be found resting on the walls of buildings.

Most records are from urban areas in the Mansfield and Worksop areas, but it will sometimes occur on isolated buildings (petrol stations etc) well away from towns and villages.

*Opilio parietinus* is thought to be a species in serious decline, following the arrival of the invasives *Opilio canestrinii* and *Leiobunum* sp. A (for which see the above account) and the current downward trend is indeed worrying if it continues.



It's present UK status overall seems largely unknown, but is believed by some authorities that *Opilio parietinus* could even become extinct at some time in the not too distant future. And indeed, our own evidence through surveying over many years, certainly indicates a great decline in both records and numbers from a number of Nottinghamshire sites.

***Opilio saxatilis*** (C.L. Koch, 1839)

Generally uncommon in Nottinghamshire and seemingly restricted to predominantly dry, sandy soils. The number of recent records has increased through greater coverage given over to Harvestmen from a small number of recorders, with records from Market Warsop, New Ollerton, Harrison's Plantation near Eakring, Mansfield, Church Warsop and along the Southwell Trail at Farnsfield.

Other recorded sites include Mapperley Park and Nottingham Trent University's Brackenhurst Campus at Southwell (Skinner, M.), Attenborough NR (Andrews, L.) and Clumber Park (Godfrey, A.). The most recent records are from Thieves Wood and Wollaton Hall (Pendleton, T.A.) in 2021 and 2022 respectively and from Stoke Bardolph in 2024 and 2025 (Brownley, N. and Brownley, S.).



***Paroligolophus agrestis*** (Meade, 1855)

A very common and fairly small Harvestman which is found widely across Nottinghamshire and is probably the county's commonest harvestman.

The range of habitats for *Paroligolophus agrestis* includes urban gardens, where it is usually found within the ground layer, or accumulations of leaves or plant debris and occasionally on walls.

In more rural locations, it will occur on tree trunks, low vegetation and under logs etc, but is perhaps most easily found by either beating the foliage of trees and shrubs during the day, or by searching the trunks of trees with a torch after dark.

Adults are hardy and can often be found in leaf litter samples well into January and February during mild Winters.

***Paroligolophus meadii*** (O.P.-Cambridge, 1890)

Not illustrated. The only Nottinghamshire records are from Sherwood Heath SSSI (Godfrey, A.) in 2006 and from Rainworth Heath (Williams, H.) in 2010. *Paroligolophus meadii* has been looked and surveyed for each year since, but despite a great amount of effort, it has not been found and may now be lost as a Nottinghamshire species, as well as perhaps declining nationally.

However, it should still be looked for in areas of grassy heathland, as it is very similar to *Paroligolophus agrestis* and is not entirely obvious as being noticeably different, even when seen 'in the hand'.



### ***Phalangium opilio*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

A large, common and widespread Harvestman which is regularly found on the walls of buildings in urban areas where it occurs, but it does occur in other habitats. Very often, *Phalangium opilio* is the commonest, large harvestman of sandy heathland sites within the Sherwood Forest and Mansfield areas, where both sexes can be seen regularly walking across bare areas of ground during the day and this is probably the best habitat to see this species with any degree of certainty in Nottinghamshire.

There are a small number of records from the lower Trent Valley (Netherfield Lagoons, Stoke Bardolph and Gunthorpe) but records east of the River Trent are very few. Again, this is probably down to recorder coverage as there are widespread records of *Phalangium opilio* from the entire length of the county.

### ***Platybunus pinetorum*** (C.L. Koch, 1839)

Unknown in the UK, until first recorded from a Sheffield garden in 2010 (Richards, P.). It was then found at Glasgow and Aberdeen in Scotland, Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the UK at Yorkshire, Northampton and a number of other towns.

Found for the first time in Nottinghamshire at Holborn Hill Plantation Gleadthorpe in May 2020 (Pendleton, T.A.) and recorded from the same site again the following year. Targeted surveys conducted over the course of Spring 2021, showed it to have a much wider range in the area of the initial record. More extensive surveying found this species in some twelve 1km grid squares within the Clumber, Sherwood Forest, Rufford and Mansfield areas. Most sites were Beech woodland situated close to main roads. By the end of 2025, *Platybunus pinetorum* was recorded from some 19 1km grid squares across the Mansfield, Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park areas.

This is a Spring species and one of the first to appear. Sub-adults and adults (only females are known in Nottinghamshire and virtually the whole of the UK) are easily found by searching the smooth trunks of Beech and Sycamore. Juveniles have been found to overwinter in leaf litter, and can be found by sieving leaf litter samples during the Winter months.

There is more on the discovery of *Platybunus pinetorum* in Nottinghamshire in Appendix 2 and 3 of this Atlas.

### ***Rilaena triangularis*** (Herbst, 1799)

One of only a few Harvestmen to be found as adults during the Spring and early Summer, *Rilaena triangularis* (for a time *Platybunus triangularis*, after being *Rilaena triangularis* for many years) is a species of woodlands and well vegetated sites.

It is widespread and common throughout Nottinghamshire and although has been found occasionally in suburban gardens, does not tend to be synanthropic and is more at home in woodland, where it rests on the trunks of trees and especially along woodland rides on low foliage such as Nettles.

Found across Nottinghamshire, it occurs at many sites and is found commonly along the Trent Valley, but again, as with a number of other Harvestmen, has rarely been recorded east of the River Trent though the lack of coverage in the eastern areas of the county.

Juveniles overwinter in leaf litter, but can be found by sieving leaf litter samples during the Winter months.



This species should be monitored over the coming years, as there appears to be some evidence of decline at some of its former woodland haunts, where it may well be being out-competed by *Platybunus pinetorum*.

## **incertae sedis**

### ***Dicranopalpus caudatus*** (Dresco, 1948)

Was finally recorded new to Nottinghamshire in September 2025 (Pendleton, T.A.), when a noticeably small male was found on the walls of Worksop Priory, whilst I was surveying for *Leiobunum* sp.A.

Historically, *Dicranopalpus caudatus* has always been considered to be a synonym of *Dicranopalpus ramosus*, which is a species familiar to many. But in 2015, its status was revised (see *Dicranopalpus ramosus* account below) and it was re-instated to species status.

In the UK, there had been no accepted *D. caudatus* records for around 30 years, but it is now being found widely across much of the UK. But identification of this species remains extremely difficult and usually relies on examination of the male's genitalia. However, it is thought/hoped that there are external characteristics (obviously smaller size, pale, silvery colouration), that could help point towards a specimen, to at least being suspected as *D. caudatus* and checked further.

***Dicranopalpus larvatus*** (Canestrini, 1874)

Another Harvestman which is only recently new to the UK, first being recorded from Cornwall in 2020. There soon followed occasional records of *Dicranopalpus larvatus* from other widely spaced parts of the country including Norfolk, Yorkshire and Caernarvonshire and although still very rare, the number of sites has since showed an increase.

It is unusual compared to other species, in that it appears to mature later in the year than other harvestmen and so should be looked for under logs, stones and other debris etc, from late Autumn through to Spring.

Nottinghamshire's first record came with a female found under a small section of rotting wood, just outside the former kitchen garden at Woodthorpe Park on 09/04/23 (Pendleton, T.A.), followed later the same year by three ♀ and one ♂ at the same site on 18/12/24. It has continued to be found there since, with four ♀ and one ♂ present on 18/12/24, a single female on March 13/03/25 and four ♀ and one ♂ again on 19/12/25.

***Dicranopalpus ramosus*** (Simon, 1909)

*Dicranopalpus ramosus* is another relatively new species to the UK, being first recorded in the 1970's (Davidson, 2019). Originally of Mediterranean origin, it rapidly increased its UK range and is now found as far north as Scotland. Nottinghamshire's first record seems to have been from Sherwood Forest CP in 2002 (Denton, M. L. et al) when recorded during a British Arachnological Survey of the area.

This is now an extremely common species found throughout the county and it is certainly one of our most widespread Harvestmen. But in recent years, the ease of identification of *Dicranopalpus ramosus* has changed and specimens can no longer be immediately assigned as being *Dicranopalpus ramosus*, unless confirmed by examination of the male's genitalia. The reason for this is due to the publication of a paper by Wijnhoven and Prieto in 2015, who provided the evidence to revalidate *Dicranopalpus caudatus* as a species, rather than a synonym of *Dicranopalpus ramosus*.

When writing the 2023 edition of this Atlas, *Dicranopalpus caudatus* had yet to occur in Nottinghamshire. It since has been and so any suspected male *D. ramosus* or *D. caudatus* specimens ideally need to be checked under a microscope.

***Leiobunum blackwalli*** (Meade, 1861)

Male and female *Leiobunum blackwalli* are sexually dimorphic, with both sexes bearing strong similarities to male and female *Leiobunum rotundum*.

Although not as widespread as *Leiobunum rotundum* in Nottinghamshire, *Leiobunum blackwalli* is still common in woodlands and along woodland edges, where adults can often be found on fence posts or low vegetation either singly, in pairs, or small loose groups. But this Harvestman will occur in some suburban gardens and it has occurred in the Mapperley Park, Mapperley and Bestwood areas of Nottingham and the more built-up parts of Mansfield. There are no records from the Trent Valley (where it must surely be overlooked) and once again, there are no records from anywhere lying east of the Trent Valley.

***Leiobunum rotundum*** (Latreille, 1798)

Undoubtedly one of our commonest Harvestmen, being wide-ranging over the western half of Nottinghamshire away from the River Trent. It is found in a range of habitats and similarly to *Leiobunum blackwalli*, it does occur in suburban areas where it can be found on walls, the trunks of trees etc. At more rural sites, it is most often found on low vegetation or on the trunks of trees, but can occasionally be found in loose aggregations of a dozen or so individuals on the more sheltered sections of buildings sited in wooded areas.

***Leiobunum* sp. A** (Schönhofer & Hillen 2008, Toss 2009, Wijnhoven et al. 2007)

This large *Leiobunum* Harvestman first appeared in The Netherlands in 2004 and still remains scientifically unidentified to species level, after over 15 years. It is an invasive species, quickly forming large aggregations on the shaded walls of buildings. Such aggregations can sometimes reach into the hundreds.

*Leiobunum* sp. A is believed to have been introduced into Europe via importation, but the exact country of origin is unknown, though considered likely to have been somewhere in South America. Following its arrival into Europe in 2004, it was subsequently recorded from Germany, Switzerland and Austria over the following years. France's first record was in 2009, which was the same year we found the first ever record for the UK, on the wall of a terraced house in Worksop (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).



However, for three years our specimen remained frustratingly unidentified.

We never published photographs of it online at the time and all efforts to find anything looking remotely similar to our male specimen on the internet, proved fruitless until three years later, when one evening a match was found and the identification was quickly confirmed as being the unnamed *Leiobunum* sp. A.

It was then found by Paul Richards on a factory wall in Barnsley, Yorkshire in September 2012, before we were finally able to locate this Harvestman again on the walls of Worksop Priory in October 2012.

Currently (January 2026) there are 16 recorded sites for *Leiobunum* sp. A in Nottinghamshire, compared to seven in this Atlas three years ago and with established populations at a number of these. There are still good numbers annually on the walls of Worksop Priory (highest count being of 306 in August 2017), although there was a huge drop in numbers during the hot, dry Summer of 2022 and low numbers again in 2025. Elsewhere in Worksop, populations have been found on Bridge Street, close to its junction with Newcastle Street since 2020 (Michalek, L.) and at B&Q on Sandy Lane since 2021, from where it continues to do well annually, with numbers peaking at 127 in late July 2025.

In 2019, the first record of *Leiobunum* sp. A from Nottingham, came from Stanley Drive at Bramcote (Campbell, J.) and most recently from Shakespeare Street in the centre of Nottingham in 2022 (Harrison, O.), where a healthy population was found on a number of Trent University buildings. There is a solitary record of a male from a garden centre near Oxton in 2018 (Heeney, W.), with no further records suggesting it was an obvious arrival via the transportation of plants. Other populations of *Leiobunum* sp. A around the City, include on the sandstone walls of the Park Tunnel in the centre of Nottingham, at Mapperley, Ilkeston Road, Rock Cemetery and the Victoria Embankment area. In the Mansfield area, there are recent records from Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Market Warsop.

*Leiobunum* sp. A. is a dark, extremely long-legged species, much larger than most other *Leiobunum* Harvestmen in the UK, with a leg span of around 100mm. They can be looked for on the shaded walls of houses, Churches and factories etc, where numbers can reach hundreds. They are nocturnal hunters, and are possibly having a direct effect on several native species and invasive species too. Adults can remain active well into December and rarely into January. Despite searches in Retford and Newark, it has so far not been found, but is certainly present in both towns.

There is more on the discovery of *Leiobunum* sp. A in Nottinghamshire in Appendix 1.

### ***Nelima gothica*** (Lohmander, 1945)

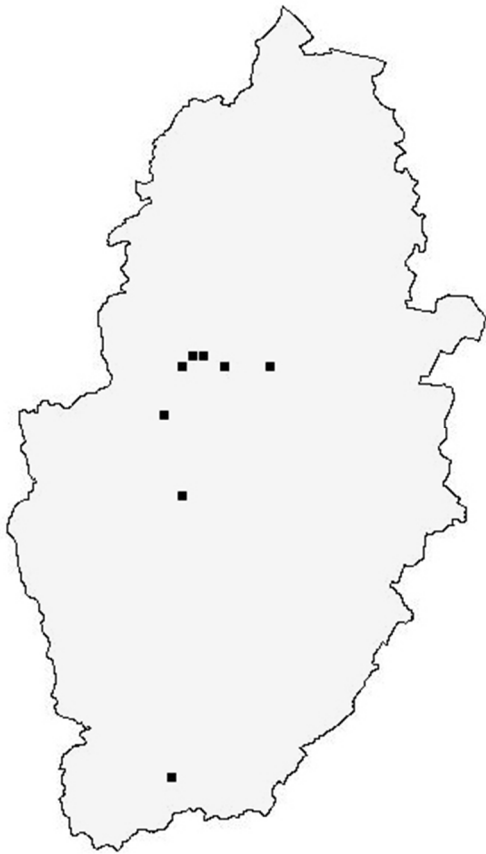
Rare in Nottinghamshire, with few reliable records. Very similar to a *Leiobunum* type Harvestman, but obviously smaller and with pale trochanters and a lighter leg colour. The specimen shown in the photographs is darker than that often depicted in books or on the internet. Specimens tend to become darker late in the year.

Post-2000 county records have come from Rainworth Heath in 2010, Carlton-in-Lindrick in 2012 and Hannah Park Wood in 2014 (all Williams, H.), from Worksop Priory in 2015 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.), three records from Nottingham in 2015 (Skinner, M.). Not recorded in Nottinghamshire since one found at Mansfield in 2016 (Morris, D.).

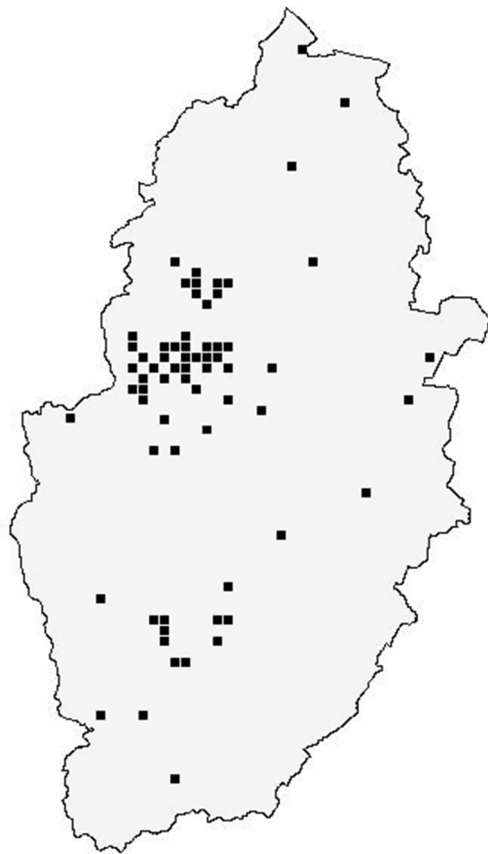


## Latest species distribution maps

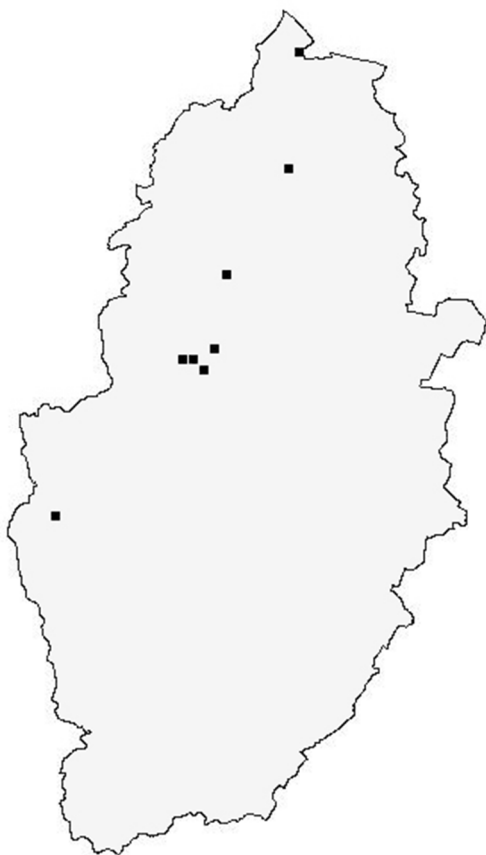
*Mitostoma chrysomelas*



*Nemastoma bimaculatum*



*Lacinius ephippiatus*

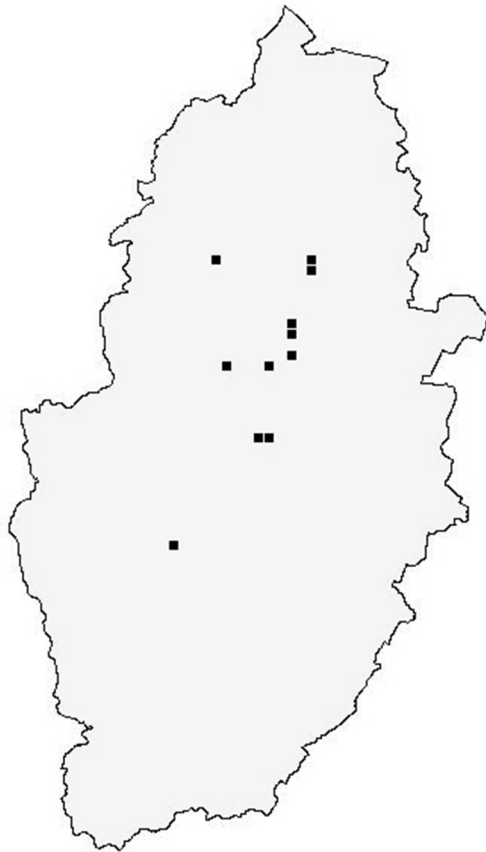


*Lophopilio palpinalis*

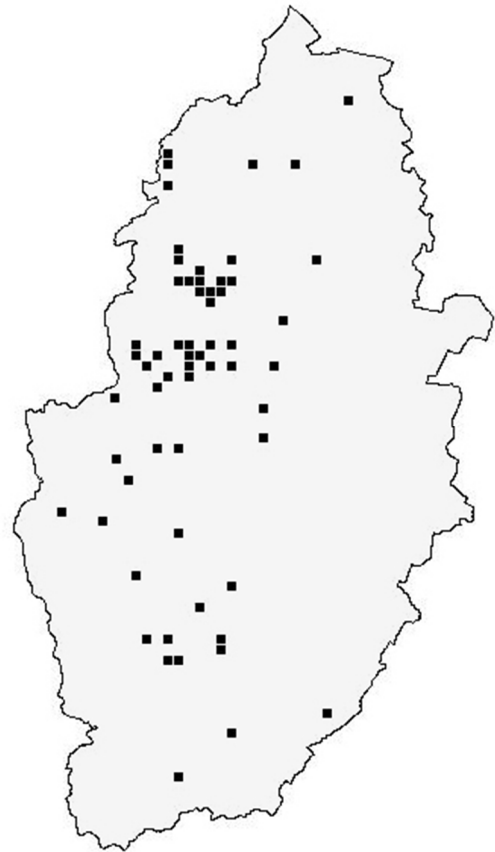




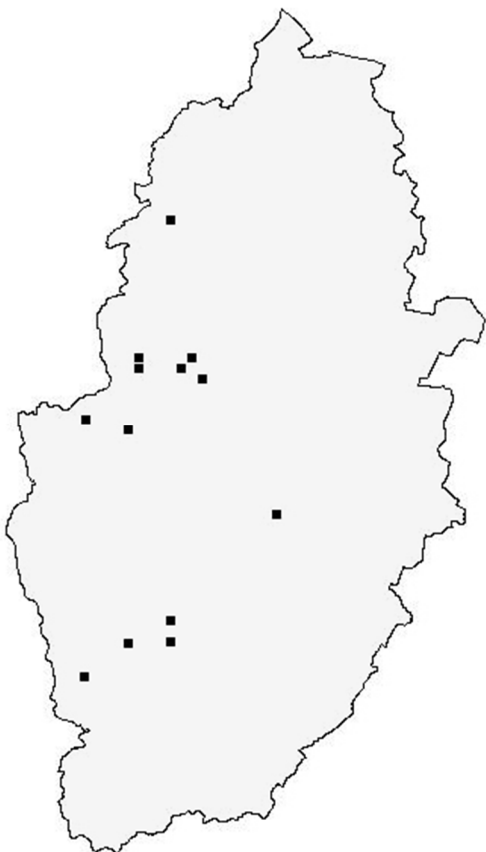
***Megabunus diadema***



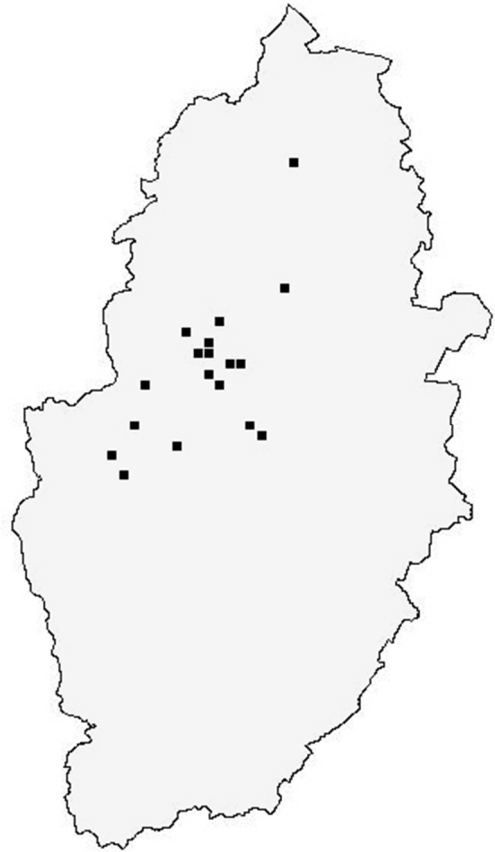
***Mitopus morio***



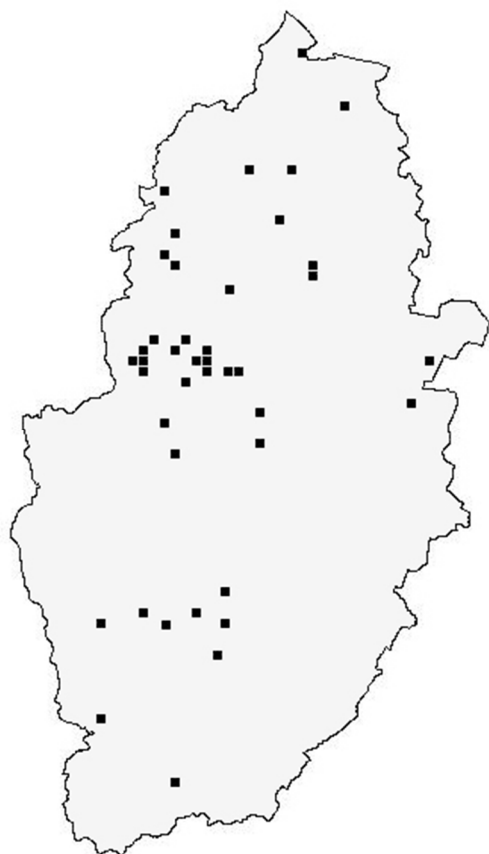
***Odiellus spinosus***



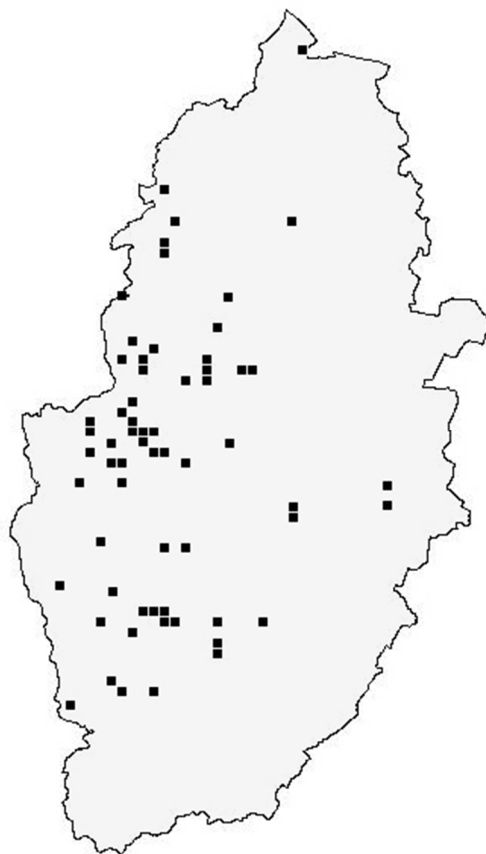
***Oligolophus hansenii***



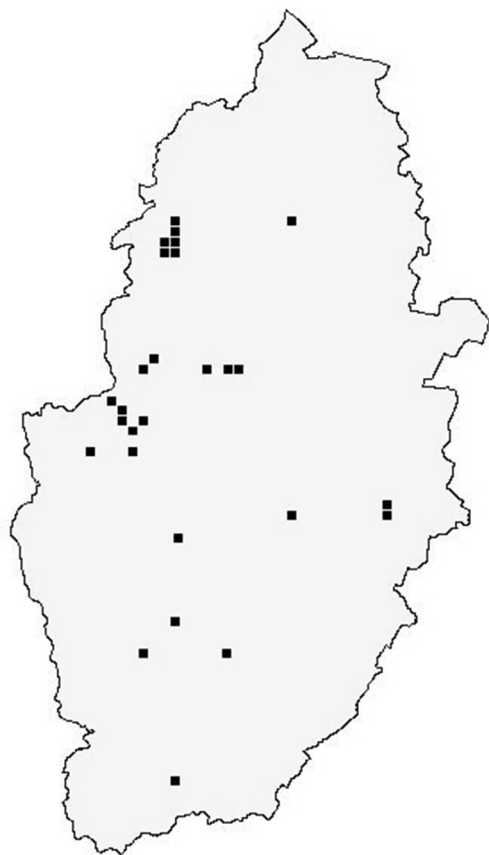
***Oligolophus tridens***



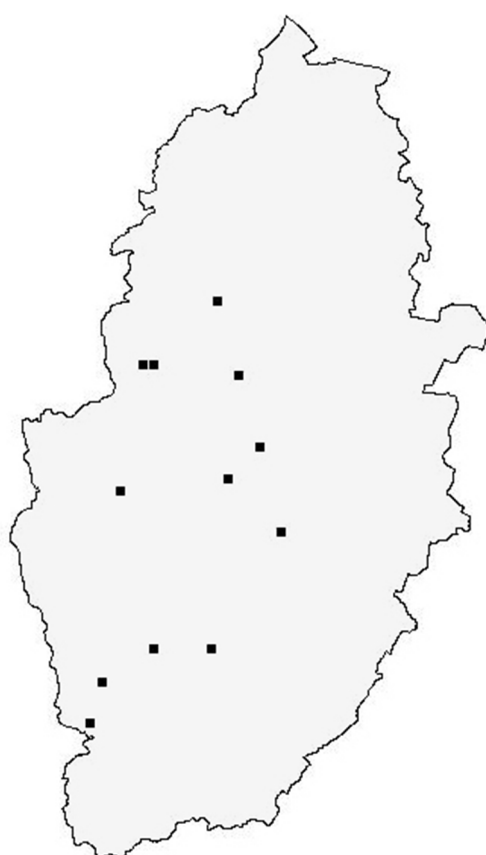
***Opilio canestrinii***



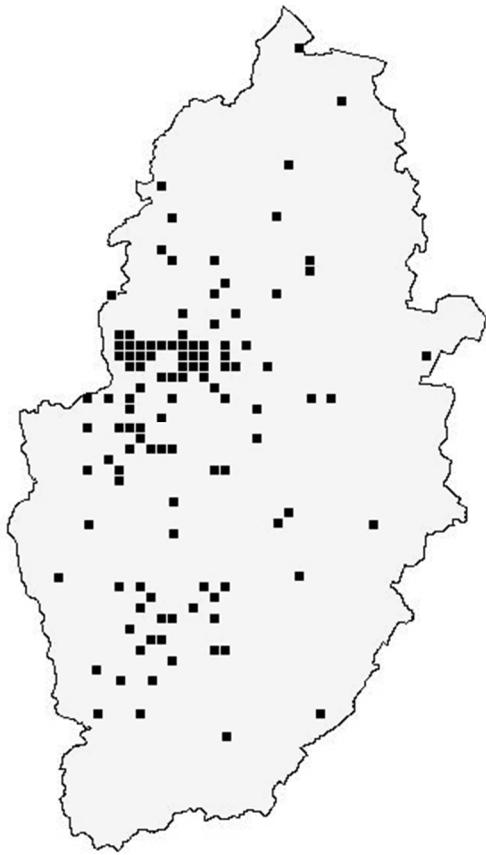
***Opilio parietinus***



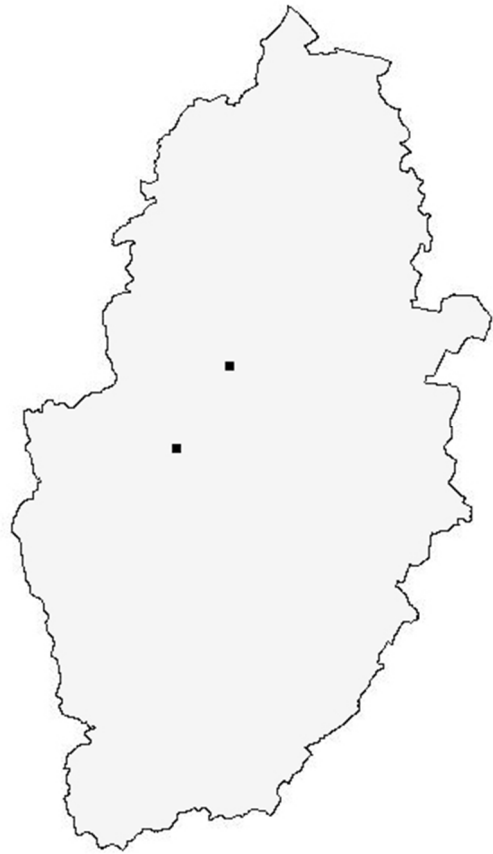
***Opilio saxatilis***



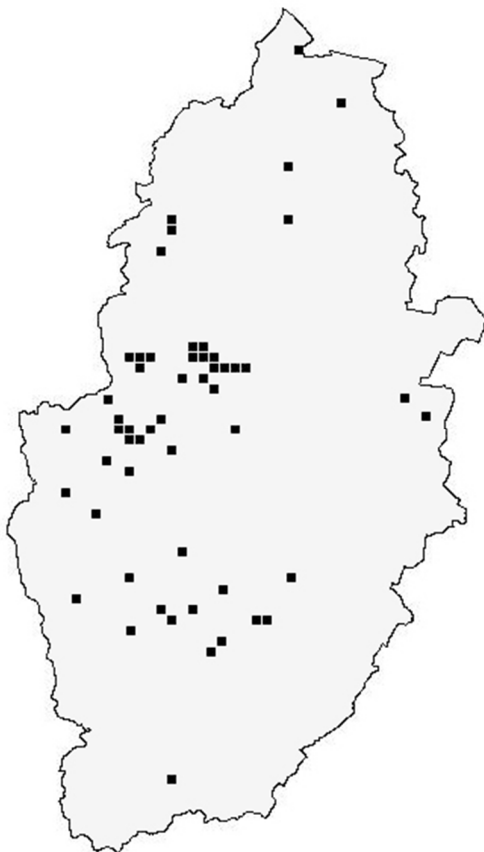
***Paroligolophus agrestis***



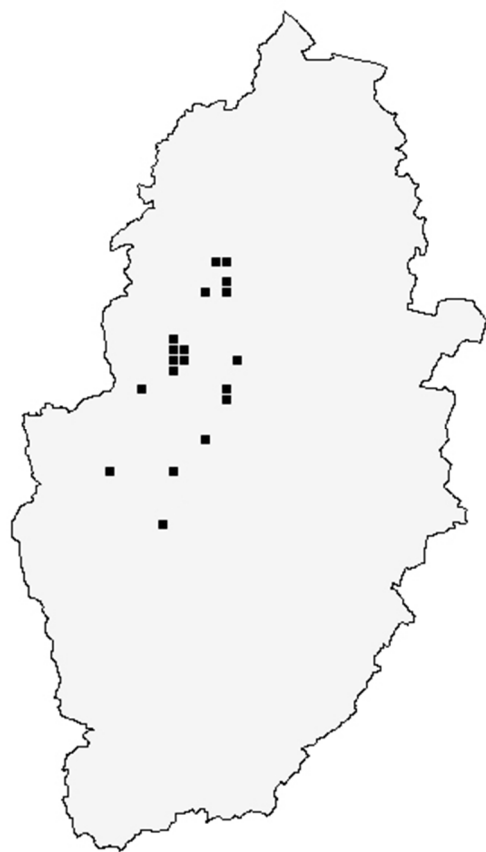
***Paroligolophus meadii***



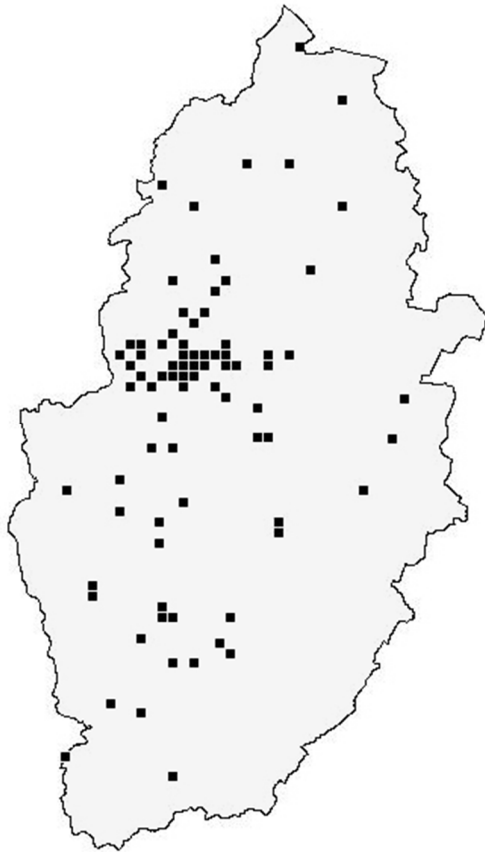
***Phalangium opilio***



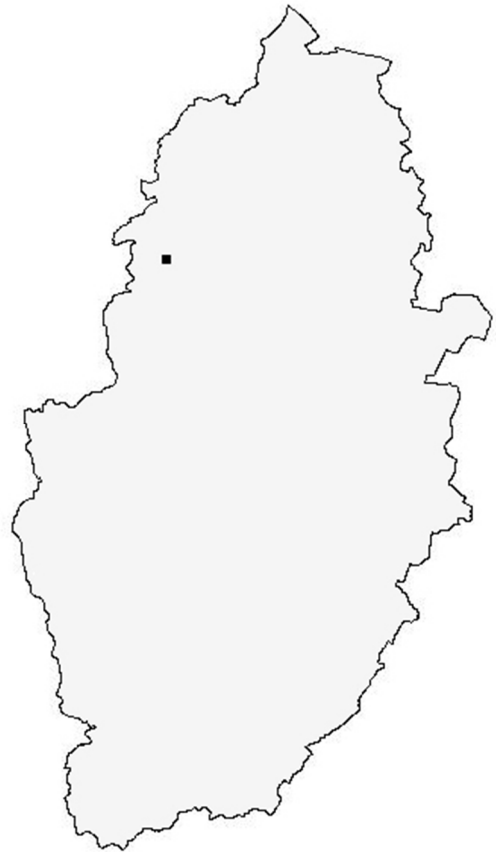
***Platybunus pinetorum***



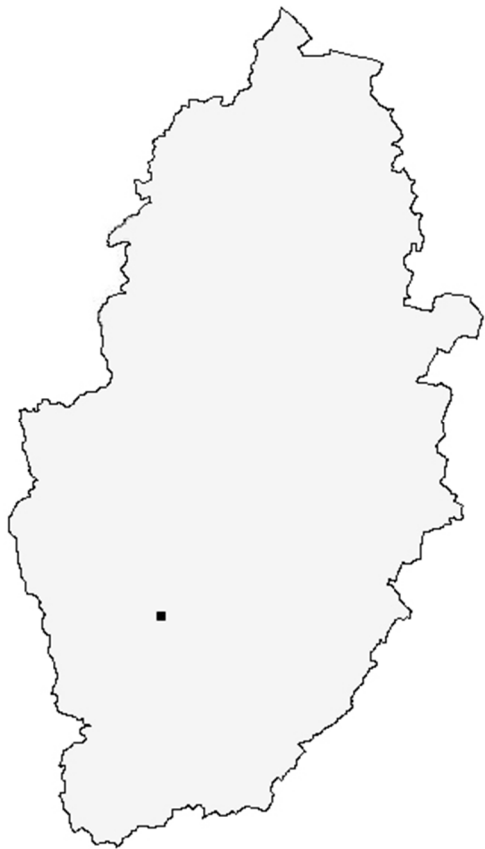
***Rilaena triangularis***



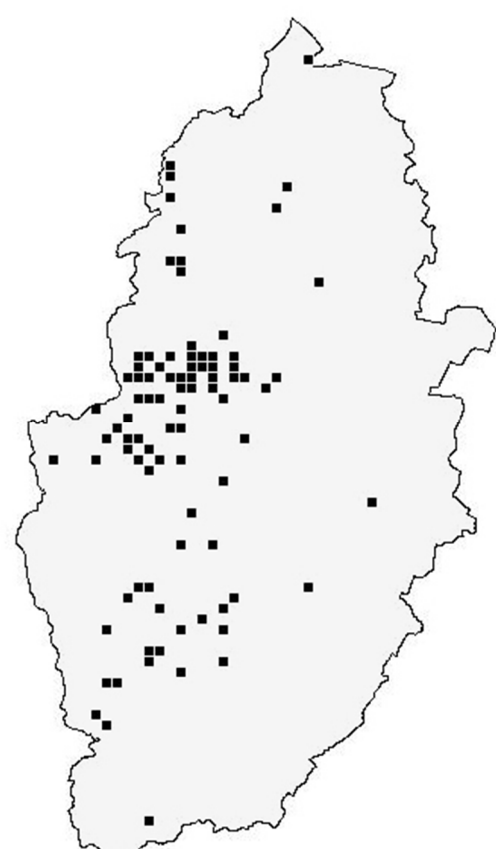
***Dicranopalpus caudatus***



***Dicranopalpus larvatus***

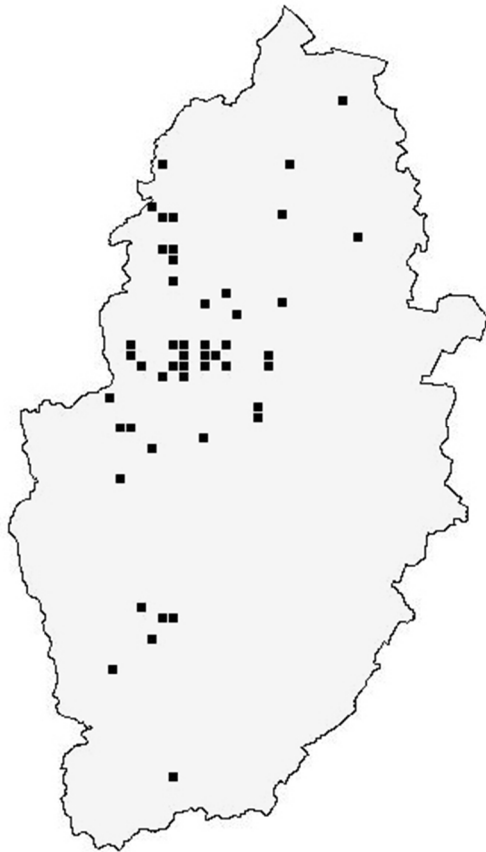


***Dicranopalpus ramosus***

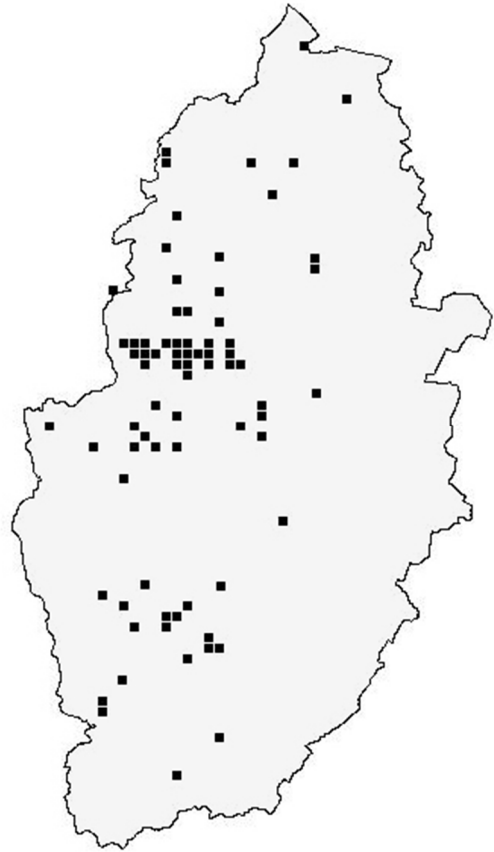




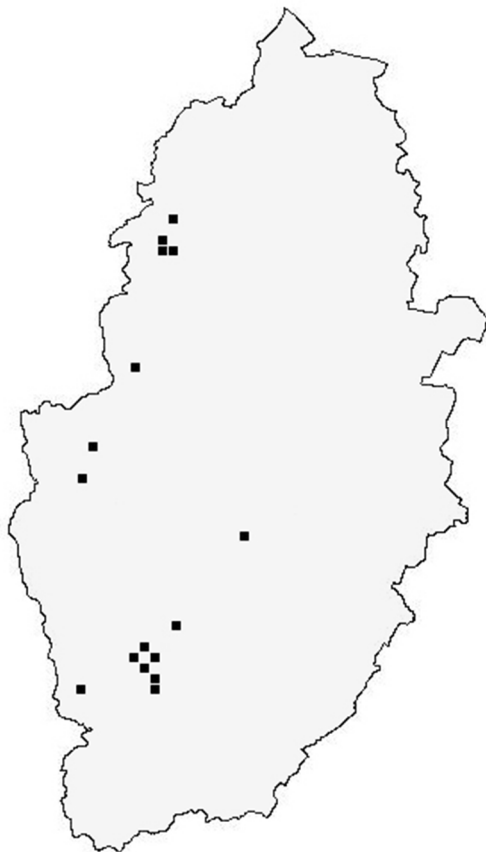
*Leiobunum blackwalli*



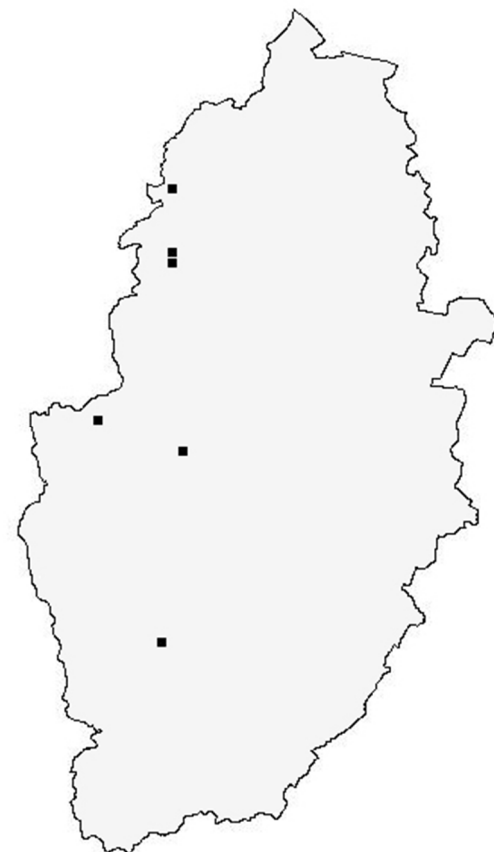
*Leiobunum rotundum*



*Leiobunum* sp. A



*Nelima gothica*



## Species photographs



*Mitostoma chrysomelas*



*Nemastoma bimaculatum*



*Lacinius ephippiatus*





*Lophopilio palpalis*



*Megabunus diadema*



*Mitopus morio*





*Odiellus spinosus*



*Oligolophus hansenii*

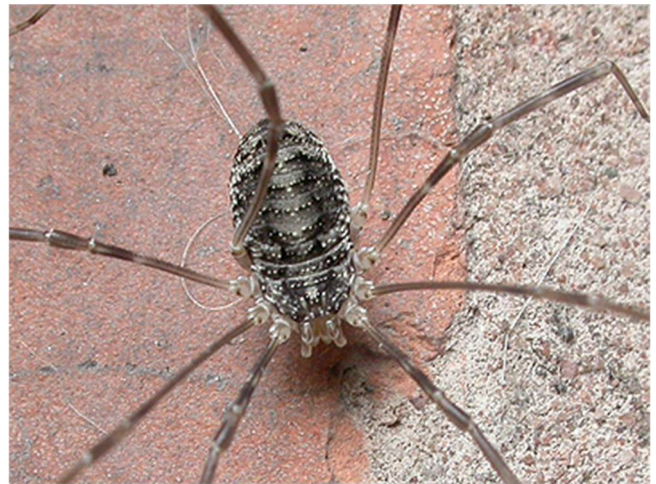


*Oligolophus tridens*





*Opilio canestrinii* (male shown above left and female above right)



*Opilio parietinus* (male showed above left and female above right)



*Opilio saxatilis*





*Paroligolophus agrestis*



*Phalangium opilio* (male shown above left and female above right)



*Platybunus pinetorum*





*Rilaena triangularis*



*Dicranopalpus caudatus*



*Dicranopalpus larvatus*





*Dicranopalpus ramosus*



*Leiobunum blackwalli* (male shown above left and female above right)



*Leiobunum rotundum* (male shown above left and female above right)





*Leiobunum* sp. A (immature male above left and mature male above right)



*Leiobunum* sp. A (immature/sub-adult shown above left and mature female above right)



*Nelima gothica*

## Appendix 1

### A Harvestman new to the UK – *Leiobunum* sp. A at Worksop in 2009

It remains important at this time, to again document (on paper or as a pdf file) the discovery of *Leiobunum* sp. A, at Worksop in 2009. At the time it represented the first ever record of this Harvestman for the UK, so quite a record.

#### The history of *Leiobunum* sp. A in Europe

The first records of a large, dark *Leiobunum* Harvestman came from near Nijmegen, The Netherlands in October 2004. Experts using Martens 1978 key, could not identify it as being any north-western or central European species, nor were they able to assign it to any European representative of the genus known to date.

Many more additional records were obtained from several localities near to Nijmegen during 2005 and 2006. First records from other European countries are Germany and Austria (2006) Switzerland (2007) and from France in 2009.

It is believed that this Harvestman arrived in Europe via importation. Efforts by Wijnhoven, Schönhofer & Martens to contact several specialists, saw them concentrate on Spain and Northern Africa, and then Mexico and the southern parts of the United States, in order to determine its origin. All their efforts have so far drawn a blank.

#### Circumstances of the Worksop record

The specimen was found on the wall of a Worksop house on the Prospect Estate at approximately SK59226 80970. This is situated off Gloucester Road, immediately north-west of Bassetlaw Hospital. The house is situated in a row of terraced town houses built in the 1970's, with small gardens facing east at the front and west at the back. Both gardens are enclosed, well planted with mature shrubs and conifers and sheltered by fencing. It is a typically designed estate of its time - a maze of paths and cut grass areas etc. Houses are arranged in short rows facing different directions.

Despite being part of an urban estate, this small garden had previously supplied us with numerous interesting invertebrate records and with a healthy list of Harvestmen including *Odiellus spinosus*, *Oligolophus tridens*, *Opilio canestrinii*, *Opilio parietinus* and *Paroligolophus agrestis*. Surprisingly, we never recorded either *Leiobunum rotundum* or *Leiobunum blackwalli*, two common, long-legged Harvestmen.

Being familiar with many of Nottinghamshire's Harvestmen for a number of years, a very dark bodied, extremely long-legged *Leiobunum* type Harvestman found on October 13th 2009, immediately stood out as being very different from anything else we had seen before. The Harvestman was found resting on a shady, north-west facing wall in the rear garden of the property, in a quite open position relative to the Ivy growing up the same wall. It was collected and taken home for photographing before being released.

#### Background of the 2009 Worksop record

Recording and photographing invertebrates, occasionally throws up something obviously very different from what you have seen before, but still remains unidentified despite a great deal of research. The result is that the images get put into the 'unidentified folder' and often sit there for months or even years. Images of this *Leiobunum* type Harvestman taken at Worksop in October 2009 did exactly that. Yet the inability to identify it, probably niggled us more than any other species and the 'unidentified folder' was subsequently opened several times in the intervening period.

In November 2011, a possible breakthrough came whilst searching for images of *Platybunus pinetorum*, a recent addition to the UK species list discovered by Paul Richards at Sheffield in June 2010. Images found during a Google search for the similar looking (to the Worksop specimen) *Leiobunum tisciae*, turned up images of an invasive and unknown *Leiobunum* found in parts Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Austria.

Further research quickly led us to the excellent paper "*An unidentified harvestman Leiobunum sp. alarmingly invading Europe*" (Arachnida: Opiliones) by Hay Wijnhoven, Axel L. Schönhofer & Jochen Martens and published in December 2007. There is a link to this paper at the bottom of this page. One particular image of a male in the paper, seemed to match the Worksop specimen perfectly, so we emailed images of the Worksop specimen to Jochen Martens and Paul Richards for possible identification and confirmation. Both replied back with the conclusion that this was indeed *Leiobunum* sp.

Jochen replied "*Certainly, it is the Leiobunum species presently extending its range within central and now even to NW Europe. Very amazing that it reached the British Isles with so short delay. I understand that only this male was present. This is unusual because in most cases the local population grows quite rapidly and form the mass aggregations of which you certainly have seen photographs. But locally, this may be only the beginning. So, please,*



keep an eye on the further development and ask around. According to my knowledge, this is the first record in the U.K. Many thanks for informing me (and hopefully so on further records to come)".

## Description and images of the Worksop male *Leiobunum* sp. A

A very large male *Leiobunum* sp. Size difference from *Leiobunum rotundum* and *L. blackwalli* extremely obvious at a glance. Maximum leg span of the Worksop specimen measured at 100mm, compared to an average sized male *Leiobunum rotundum* of 66.0mm. Body length 5.0mm.



A large species, much longer-legged and robust than other *Leiobunum* Harvestmen found in the UK. The body appears dark, almost blackish, but is noticeably dark metallic green, with only a few light markings. There is only minor dimorphism in colouration and dorsal pattern within males and females. Ventrums and Coxae of the legs are warm pale yellowish to pale light brown, strongly contrasting with the dark Trochanters, legs and dorsum. The legs are conspicuously long and slender, dark brown to black. Females have conspicuous white tips to the tibiae, which darken through age.

## The rediscovery of *Leiobunum* sp. A at Worksop in 2012

We had thought that after two years since we first recorded *Leiobunum* sp. A, it would now be sat on most house walls in the area of the original record. In late September 2012 we briefly tried searching the Prospect Estate again and still had no luck. Fine weather over the weekend of October 6-7th 2012, meant that conditions were again suitable, but despite several hours searching Bassetlaw Hospital and Worksop Priory Gatehouse each day we returned home failing to get the target species.

We made another visit to the area on October 13th 2012, a date which was already significant, as it marked the date on which we had first found *Leiobunum* sp. A back in 2009. We actually only realised the closeness of the date when researching and starting to write up the results of our Harvestmen surveys from the previous weekend on October 12th 2012, but it suddenly became an amazing coincidence when we returned to Worksop for one more search.

The weather forecasters had predicted showers on the day, but after being cloudy and dry all morning, the sun began to break through and we thought of going back up to Worksop for another survey and hopefully to find our elusive quarry.

Our first stop was a roadside wall on an industrial estate on Sandy Lane, that we had drove past the week before. We hoped that *Leiobunum* sp. A had possibly originated from one of the units there via importation. Unfortunately, the wall turned out to be devoid of any Harvestmen at all and so we moved on.

Next it was on to Bassetlaw Hospital and then across the road to the Prospect Estate. Again, very thorough coverage of all shaded walls and potentially suitable resting places were searched and although we did find plenty of Harvestmen, none were *Leiobunum* sp. A. By now, we had started to give up hope and looked for somewhere new to search. We tried a couple of old brick-built factories on Priorswell Road, before going to have another look on the walls of Worksop Priory and Gatehouse. The Gatehouse once again held a few examples of *Phalangium opilio* and *Opilio parietinus*, but then we found a male *Leiobunum blackwalli* by the door to Worksop Priory.

Not having many photographs of *L. blackwalli*, I took the opportunity to try and obtain more and it was thanks to the extra time spent taking photographs, that Dilys found a much larger Harvestman further along the wall. It was instantly recognisable as being *Leiobunum* sp. A and after much effort, we had finally been rewarded with our target species.



Some documenting photographs were taken, before we carried out a more detailed search of the Priory walls we could access. We were immediately successful and went on to record a total of 13 males and nine females along the southern wall of the Priory. All the *Leiobunum* sp. A we found were more or less at eye level, with only one female found about 20 feet up and they clearly preferred the vertical joints or tight recesses built along the southern side of the Priory walls.

## Appendix 1a

### Two Harvestmen of the Genus *Dicranopalpus* recently recorded new to VC56 Nottinghamshire in 2023 and 2025

Since the last edition of this Atlas, a further two new harvestmen have been added to the county species list. Both had been thought likely, and indeed, mentioned as being potential new additions back in 2023. In fact, one of these species, was found just a few weeks after the publication of the last edition of this Atlas.

In early April 2023, I visited Woodthorpe Grange in Nottingham, with a view to surveying for the Flatworm *Australopacifica atrata*. This is an invasive Australian native, accidentally introduced into the UK by the horticultural trade, which I had found at Woodthorpe Grange in 2020 and which I continue to survey for once or twice a year. *Australopacifica atrata* is typically found under a variety of objects on the ground, e.g. logs, bark, bricks and other discarded rubbish/objects. When I turned one well-rotted log over, I spotted a small harvestman on the underside, and although not obvious at first, it did look 'different' from the expected *Paraligolophus agrestis* and was instantly recognisable as being *Dicranopalpus larvatus* (Canestrini, 1874).

*Dicranopalpus larvatus* is another Harvestman recently found new to the UK, only first being recorded in 2020. Nationally, there soon followed occasional records from other widely spaced parts of the country including Norfolk, Yorkshire and Caernarvonshire and although still very rare, the number of sites continues to increase. It is unusual compared to other species, in that it matures later in the year than other harvestmen and so should be looked for under logs, stones and other debris etc, from late Autumn through to Spring.

A brief summary of all the county's known records include - 1♀ found under a small section of rotting wood, just outside the former kitchen garden at Woodthorpe Park on 09/04/23, followed later the same year by 3♀ and 1♂ at the same site on 18/12/24. It has continued to be found there since, with 4♀ and 1♂ present on 18/12/24, a single ♀ on March 13/03/25 and 4♀ and 1♂ again on 19/12/25 (all Pendleton, T.A.).



The county's other addition was not unexpected, as it was a harvestman which had almost certainly been present in Nottinghamshire for many years, just remaining overlooked because of identification difficulties and a general lack of interest in our Opilione fauna.

*Dicranopalpus caudatus* (Dresco, 1948) showed on the left, was for many years considered a synonym of *Dicranopalpus ramosus* (Simon, 1909) but after a revision of that species in 2015, the status of *D. caudatus* was revised and it was re-instated as a species in its own right.

In the UK, there had been no records of *D. caudatus* for around 30 years at the time, but it is now being found widely across much of the UK, but identification is extremely difficult and generally relies on examination of the male's genitalia. However, it is thought that there are external characteristics (obviously smaller size, pale, silvery colouration), which can point a specimen towards being suspected as *D. caudatus*.

*Dicranopalpus caudatus* was finally recorded new to Nottinghamshire in September 2025 (Pendleton, T.A.), when a male was found on the walls of Worksop Priory, during a survey for *Leiobunum* sp. A there, in September 2025.

## Appendix 2

Taken from the website [www.eakingbirds.com](http://www.eakingbirds.com)

### ***Platybunus pinetorum* - A Harvestman new to Nottinghamshire in 2020**

On a personal level, one of the overwhelming joys of invertebrate recording has always been the uncertainty of each trip out. Yes, admittedly with a degree of preparatory research and a degree of knowledge, it can be possible on most occasions to have an accurate expectancy as to what species are likely to be found at a site.

But add in the unknown factor, a factor for which invertebrate recording is notoriously capable of adding, and a 'routine' morning's recording, can suddenly be turned on its head. The incredible changes to our national and local climates (easily noticed by anyone older than 30 years old) has led to modern entomologists and naturalists being witness to remarkable changes in our fauna.

The changes seem to be ever increasing, no doubt highlighted by the ease and immediacy at which news regarding the latest sightings can be put out via social media. The days us older entomologists can remember, when the latest information dropped through your letterbox already about four months out of date, are (fortunately) very long gone.

### **Social media and invertebrate recording**

What technology has done for invertebrate recording is difficult to appreciate. Whilst it has undoubtedly created greater awareness and interest in our invertebrate fauna, the downside seems to be an increased tendency to ask the identity of something, without even attempting to identify it yourself.

But some invertebrate Orders have benefitted enormously from the greater exposure via the internet and social media. Once considerably neglected and much under-recorded, there has been a dramatic increase in interest shown towards Centipedes, Millipedes, Woodlice, False Scorpions and Harvestmen.

Harvestmen (Opiliones) have done well for new arrivals in the past ten or so years, with a number of new species turning up. While many of these new species have originated from southern counties, those of us living in the northern-half of the UK have by no means been left out and with worldwide plant importation to your local garden centre, there's every chance of finding something new to the UK in any part of the UK.

Three recent Harvestmen with 'northern roots' include the still un-named *Leiobunum* sp.A (Schönhofen & Hillen 2008, Toss 2009, Wijnhoven et al. 2007) from Worksop, Nottinghamshire in 2009, *Leiobunum limbatum* (L.Koch, 1861) from Colne, Lancashire in 2019 and *Platybunus pinetorum* (C.L.Koch, 1839) from a garden in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 2010.



***Platybunus pinetorum***  
(C.L. Koch, 1839)

### **Background history of *Platybunus pinetorum* in the UK**

Fortunately, the Sheffield garden in which *Platybunus pinetorum* was found belonged to Paul Richards, who himself has done much to promote and actively encourage the recording of UK Harvestmen over the past number of years. It was Paul who eventually found the second UK site for *Leiobunum* sp. A in Barnsley, after Dilys and I had found the UK's first in a small Worksop garden in 2009.

For a number of years, *Platybunus pinetorum* was recorded by Paul (continuing to this day) and then other records began to turn up elsewhere, including locally in Sheffield. Over the next few years, records came from Glasgow and Aberdeen in Scotland, in Northern Ireland and in the UK at Yorkshire, Northampton and a number of other towns. Unfortunately, most of these records have so far failed to find their way on to the NBN Atlas.

So, after a number of years promoting Nottinghamshire's Harvestmen on this website and then following the excitement of finding a species new to both the UK and Nottinghamshire, Dilys and I were always on the lookout for others and *Platybunus pinetorum* was probably at the top of our list, although we always suspected that the hard to find (and small) *Anelasmacephalus cambridgei* (Westwood, 1874) lurked in a local woodland somewhere.

Many of the *Platybunus pinetorum* records appeared to come from urban locations, so it was along any wall or fence that casual searches were made whenever the opportunity came along. Like the similar *Platybunus triangularis*, *P. pinetorum* is one of few Harvestmen to be found as adults during the Spring. *P. triangularis* is a common species of woodlands and other well vegetated sites, but it has proved to be common at a range of sites and we have recorded it from urban gardens around Nottingham. On the whole, we have found it to be widespread throughout Nottinghamshire, though with few records from sites east of the Trent Valley, which is (without doubt) entirely down to recorder effort.

## The Gleadthorpe find

Coincidentally, it was having *Anelasmacephalus cambridgei* in mind, that I decided to have a wander up to Holborn Hill Plantation on May 16th 2020. Holborn Hill Plantation is an area of mature Beech woodland, which is difficult to come by in Nottinghamshire and we'd always had it down as being a potential site for *A. cambridgei*. I thought it would be worth just having a wander and bringing back some suitable leaf litter to sort through later.

After parking the car, I began walking and occasionally stopping to photograph the odd thing, mostly as a reminder that I'd seen it and it saves taking a notebook out. I then cut off the main track and began heading towards the Beech woodland, but slowed to have a casual glance before entering the wood, for anything sat sunning itself on the low foliage.

As I walked, I spotted a Harvestman sat on a Hogweed leaf in typical *P. triangularis* fashion. I was going to carry on and just put it down to *P. triangularis*, then thought best to take a reminding record photograph. I never even considered the habitat as being suitable for *P. pinetorum*, really being swayed by the jealousy-inducing photographs on Facebook, from someone wanting to know if this 'is *Platybunus pinetorum* stuck on the side of their house'? As I approached to get a photograph, I was immediately struck by the chestnut brown ocularium (eye area). To me this was an obvious feature, noticeable even from a meter away. Then noticing the generally darker colouration of this specimen, I knew that I had somehow, accidentally stumbled on the county's first *Platybunus pinetorum*.

A pleasant surprise was finding it to be very approachable and unlikely to bolt. I thought it would (as most inevitably do) and so I did all I could to reduce the chance of it escaping into the vegetation. In the end I never needed to and it remained on the leaf, while I detached the leaf from the stem to get some less shaky photographs and it spent a few days in captivity, before being released back at the original location.

## Appendix 3

Taken from the website [www.eakringbirds.com](http://www.eakringbirds.com), with slight amendments.

### Surveying and recording the Harvestman *Platybunus pinetorum*

For those who find Harvestmen (Opiliones) an interesting field of study, the past ten or so years have been something of a bonus, or maybe that should be 'bunus' in view of the subject matter? Within the past ten years, the UK has seen five new species of Harvestmen reach these shores

The five include *Leiobunum* sp. A (Schönhofer & Hillen 2008, Toss 2009, Wijnhoven et al. 2007) from a Worksop garden in 2009, *Platybunus pinetorum* (C.L.Koch, 1839) from a Sheffield garden in 2010, *Scotolemon doriae* (Pavesi, 1878) from a Plymouth cemetery in December 2017 (Bilton, 2018a), *Leiobunum limbatum* (L.Koch, 1861) from Colne, Lancashire in 2019 and *Dicranopalpus larvatus* (Canestrini, 1874) from Guernsey in 2020.

As is well known and publicised across the website [www.eakringbirds.com](http://www.eakringbirds.com), Dilys and I had recorded *Leiobunum* sp. A, new to the UK from the wall of a Worksop house back in 2009. So, after Paul Richards found *Platybunus pinetorum* in his own garden in Sheffield, Yorkshire and then a few years later the same species started to turn up at other sites around the UK, we definitely had another species to look out for in Nottinghamshire.

### The first record of *Platybunus pinetorum* for VC56 Nottinghamshire

Holborn Hill Plantation is a superb area of mature Beech woodland situated about half a mile east of Meden Vale. In Nottinghamshire, decent sized areas of Beech woodland are difficult to come by and soon to become even rarer. Unfortunately, Holborn Hill Plantation and the adjacent Hangar Hill Plantation are both marked up for felling, probably to take place late in 2021 or early 2022. I decided to have a wander up there on May 16th 2020, at the time thinking it would be worth just going and bringing back some leaf litter, to sort through later.

Parking the car at Gleadthorpe, I began walking towards Holborn Hill Plantation, occasionally stopping to photograph the odd insect as a reminder that I'd seen it. It's a preferred practice of mine, as it just saves taking a notebook out.

I then cut off the main track heading towards the plantation, but slowed to have a casual glance for anything sat sunning itself on the low foliage. As I walked, I spotted a Harvestman sat on a Hogweed leaf in typical *Rilaena triangularis* fashion and to be honest that is exactly what I thought it was at first. But on close approach, I could see a distinct chestnut-coloured ocularium, easily noticeable from a metre away. Then noticing the generally darker colouration of this specimen, I knew that I had accidentally stumbled on the county's first ever *Platybunus pinetorum*.

### Refound in 2021 and survey results

On March 21st 2021 and with the weather being fairly mild, I made a first visit of the year to Gleadthorpe and Holborn Hill Plantation areas, in the thin hope of finding *P. pinetorum*. The search proved unsuccessful, but a return to the area on March 30th was met with almost immediate success, finding a specimen about two feet up the trunk of a Beech and no more than 50 metres away from the location of the original record.

I next visited on April 17th, with conditions pleasantly warmer and seemingly ideal. Surprisingly, the individual present on my last visit was still on the same tree and further searching revealed two more specimens on other Beech trunks nearby. All three *P. pinetorum* were recorded resting between two and four feet above ground level.

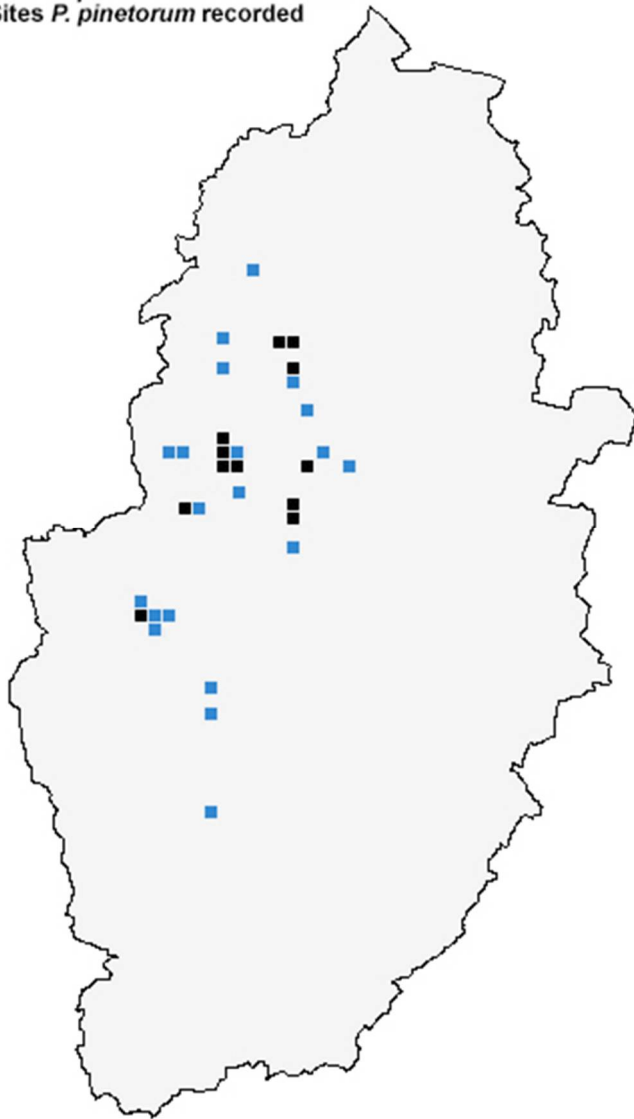
During a follow-up visit to the site on May 4th, I initially found just the one specimen, which was the individual first found on March 30th. It was still on its favoured Beech and had now moulted to adult. There was no sign of the other two individuals found on my previous visit to the site, but conditions were windy where they had been located and I presumed too exposed and cold this time.

I decided to try another area close by, which (especially today) was considerably more sheltered. Within a minute or so, I'd found a single specimen and then four more and all on the same Sycamore. Once again, all five were situated between three and five feet from ground level. Additionally, there was another individual on a Sycamore little more than five metres away. A total of seven *P. pinetorum* was more than I'd ever expected on a single day.



## *Platybunus pinetorum* surveys 2021

■ Sites *P. pinetorum* not recorded  
■ Sites *P. pinetorum* recorded



May 7th and I returned to Holborn Hill Plantation for yet another survey. This purpose this time, was to check which individuals (if any) were still present from May 4th and to survey the area much more extensively. In view of the future tree-felling on this site, I wanted to start and determine its range locally.

I walked south along the tarmac track and away from the area of the 2020 record and within a few minutes found my first *P. pinetorum* of the day. This already meant that I'd already extended the range on site, so now it was a case of by how much it could be extended.

Another specimen was found five feet up a Beech trunk at the top of Holborn Hill Plantation, so I continued to follow the edge of the woodland till I reached Hangar Hill Plantation.

By this time, it had become increasingly windy, due to a nearby passing shower and conditions weren't as good as they had been a few minutes earlier. But some twenty metres into Hangar Hill Plantation and I'd found another, which was moving round to find a more sheltered side of the trunk it was on.

I found no more until I reached the southerly edge of Hangar Hill Plantation, and was very surprised to find three more individuals in quick succession, one of which was found feeding on the leaf mining moth *Phyllonorycter maestingella*.

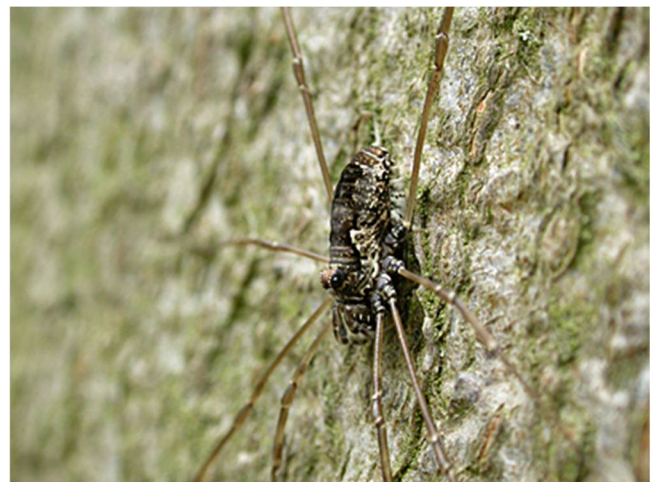
These were the last I found, although I continued to search eastwards to the edge of Budby South Forest.

With a lack of smooth barked trees to easily check, surveying was more difficult and much slower, but the targets set out at the start of surveying were more than reached during the visit. There's obviously a healthy population of *Platybunus pinetorum* here, but it's already under threat through loss of habitat via felling and timber extraction, with extraction being the most destructive part of the process, should *P. pinetorum* be relocated to somewhere safe? It's a tempting proposition, but the big problem in Nottinghamshire, is finding anywhere that's safe for release.

On May 14th I went further afield, although not setting out with the proviso of looking for *Platybunus pinetorum*. However, the decision was quickly determined as being a good one.

I drove a couple of miles north up the A614 and decided to look at a narrow roadside plantation of Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Pine, as it was an area we had never looked at before. I was met with immediate success and within half an hour, had recorded a staggering 104 adult and near adult *P. pinetorum*.

This was very much a minimum count, as I didn't cover the whole area and just stopped counting, as now I wanted to try other locations nearby, to determine the range here locally.





All individuals as seen before, were recorded on the trunks of trees at heights between one and eight feet (just one) from ground level. Several trees had counts of five individuals and certainly three to a tree was common. I recorded very few trees without any *P. pinetorum* on. As has always been the case so far, all those found have been well distanced from each other, usually well over a foot apart. Only once have I seen two individuals within touching distance and they certainly don't group in the way *Leiobunum* Harvestmen often do.

Site	Grid Ref	Year	Notes
Gleadthorpe	SK597700	2020 and 2021	One on 16/05/20 and one present from 30/03/21 to 04/05/22
Holborn Hill Plantation	SK597698	2021	Two on 17/04/21
Holborn Hill Plantation	SK597693	2021	One at this location on 07/05/21
Hanger Hill Drive	SK598697	2021	One on 07/05/21
Hangar Hill Plantation	SK594691	2021	One on 07/05/21
Hangar Hill Plantation	SK597687	2021	Three at this grid ref on 07/05/21
Clumber Park	SK648752	2021	Count of 104 on May 14/05/21
Apleyhead Wood	SK647776	2021	Five on 14/05/21
Ollerton	SK652686	2021	28 recorded on 16/05/21
Clumber Park	SK638776	2021	One recorded on 16/05/21
Mansfield Woodhouse	SK565655	2021	Four on 16/05/21
Rufford CP	SK641647	2021	Two at different locations just off the A614 on 18/05/21
Vexation Lane	SK642655	2021	One recorded on 18/05/21
Sherwood Forest	SK605686	2021	Three on 23/05/21 and one in the same area on 11/06/21
Sherwood Forest	SK603685	2021	One on 11/06/21
Thynghowe	SK600684	2021	One recorded on 11/06/21

Leaving this location, I drove north for another mile or so and stopped to try suitable looking habitat at Apleyhead Wood, close to the A614 and A1 junction and across the road from the entrance to Clumber Park. After a couple of minutes searching, I'd located a single *P. pinetorum* about seven feet up a Beech, then went on to find a further four more. This site does hold some very old Beech with wide girths, but none were found to hold any *P. pinetorum*. Two days later on May 16th, I surveyed a private area of Thoresby Estate woodland containing some Beech, Pine and Sycamore, which is adjacent to a large and frequently used lay-by.

This site also lies on the A614, but is situated close to a large traffic island at Ollerton and is a few miles south of the Clumber sites surveyed previously. *Platybunus pinetorum* was again found to be present here, with a total of 28 counted. A couple of other locations in the area were surveyed, including Boughton Brake which lies about half a mile east of the A614. No *P. pinetorum* were found here, so I headed north up the A614 and turned left on to the A57 towards Worksop.



The A57 marks the northern boundary of Clumber Park and a small strip of Sweet Chestnut woodland looked promising and eventually paid off with a single *P. pinetorum* despite a great deal of searching. After returning home, I made a check on two local woodland sites which seemed potentially suitable. To my surprise, four more *P. pinetorum* were found in Beech woodland on the A6075 Peafield Lane near Market Warsop, making this a discovery in another completely new area.

May 17th and 18th. So, after finding *P. pinetorum* well away from its recently discovered Clumber sites, the aim now was to try and determine the extent of its range.

With the Peafield Lane site being something of a local dumping area (in general line with most of the county's lay-bys) was the county's road system a key factor in helping *P. pinetorum* colonise Nottinghamshire? or had it been here at very low population levels all along and remained undetected? Only Howard Williams, Dilys and myself, had done any long-term recording of Opiliones in the county, but we had never recorded it, even after having visited a sites *P. pinetorum* has since been recorded from. So, is it likely that it has gone undetected over the years?

In Nottinghamshire, that must be considered as doubtful, as through mapping the distribution of *Psychidae* moths in the county, we'd spent many hours in the field (and at all of the sites on the above map) over the past 13 years, looking at tree trunks for larval cases of *Psychidae* moths and recording Harvestmen and other invertebrates at the same time. Certainly, we'd never seen it before.

But if it is as recent an arrival into the UK as records seem to suggest it is, then the speed of range increase is great. Nottinghamshire's woodland records seem quite unique, as virtually all other UK records of *P. pinetorum* are casual records from urban or suburban locations. But then again, is anyone making any attempt to check woodland sites in their county? It seems not and that may be because recorders deem it as being a waste of time, perhaps on the basis of the largely singular, urban nature of most county's records.

It was decided to check sites along the A614 closer to Nottingham, but suitable habitat at Gravelly Hollow near Calverton (containing Sycamore) and a small plantation of Beech on Longdale Lane near Papplewick, both proved negative. However, I eventually met with success at Rufford CP further north on the A614 and after a while searching mixed woodland at the site of the road, I finally found a single *P. pinetorum* at the entrance barriers. Now Rufford is less than a mile from the Ollerton site where I recorded *P. pinetorum* a day or so before, so it was not unexpected here. I then found an additional specimen a hundred yards away on a signpost and when I cross over the A614, I soon found it to be present at on a Sycamore at Vexation Lane.

On May 23rd I tried a small area of Beech woodland lying just on the edge of the Sherwood Forest NNR, at the south-west corner of Budby South Forest and the north-west corner of the Sherwood Forest CP. Once again, most of these trees are marked for felling (presumably later in 2021, or after) and includes some mature Beech and some younger trees. Three *P. pinetorum* were found in total, so another site for this most handsome and beautifully marked Harvestman. Two small groups of mature Beech covering just a few square metres within Seymour Grove (a belt of mostly Scot's Pine separating Budby South Forest from Sherwood Forest CP) were also checked.

There were no further surveys until June 11th when I again returned to the Budby South Forest area. One female was soon found at SK605686, where three were found on my previous visit. Continuing on, I located another female about a hundred yards or so slightly further west and finally found another on Beech next to Thynghowe at Hangar Hill Plantation.

## 2021 Winter records

One of the unknowns (at least personally) was the overwintering location/habitat of *P. pinetorum* juveniles. Within leaf litter was suspected, so in early December, I returned to the Clumber site alongside the A614. The aim was to collect some leaf litter samples to take home and sort through, but the first carrier bag full proved fruitless, but the sample did contain the Pseudoscorpion *Neobisium carcinoides*.



I tried the same sampling method at Meden Vale on December 4th, despite there being no record of *Platybunus pinetorum* from the location. There were two juvenile *Platybunus triangularis* in that sample, but no *P. pinetorum*, but it was worth checking and was at least very useful in giving me an idea of what sort of size *Platybunus* juveniles were in early December.

On December 7th 2021, I returned back to the Clumber site again and took another carrier bag of leaf litter home for sorting. The sample was taken from under some discarded carrier bags, half-covered with leaves. This time I was successful in finding two *P. pinetorum* juveniles (right) both turning up in the same handful and the mystery of overwintering location was known, though in all honesty, it wasn't any surprise.

## 2022 survey results and mapping

On March 18th 2022 and with the temperature being mild, I went to the Clumber site along the A614 for a first survey of the year. The weather was cool and there was a fairly strong breeze, but I was hopeful that at least one *Platybunus pinetorum* may have made the transition from leaf litter to tree trunk.

After a search of as many Beech trunks as possible within the time available, I found one juvenile/sub-adult on the trunk of a young Sycamore next to the road, which was already minus two legs. I returned again on April 8th and in a short search, soon found seven sat head down on the trunks of several Beech. The temperature was cool and there had been a light frost overnight, so numbers at this site should gradually build from now on.

Site	Grid Ref	Year	Notes
Clumber Park	SK648752	2022	One on 18/03/22
Clumber Park	SK648776	2022	Seven sub-adults on 08/04/22
Holborn Hill Plantation	SK597698	2022	Two on 23/04/22
Sherwood Forest	SK605686	2022	Singles at SK604685 and SK601682 on 23/04/22 (Brownley, N. and Brownley, S.)
Clumber Park	SK645746	2022	One close to the A614 on 28/04/22
Clumber Park	SK648776	2022	Seven adults on 30/04/22
Sherwood Forest	SK601680	2022	One on 01/05/22

The first *Platybunus pinetorum* of the year at Holborn Hill Plantation, were two found low down on the Beeches on 23/04/22 and two were also reported from nearby at SK604685 and SK601682 by Nick and Samantha Brownley. Both these locations were close to where the species was recorded in 2021, but the grid ref of SK601682 does represent a new location.

On the last day of April, I again revisited the A614 Clumber site on 30/04/22 and after expecting a high count, was somewhat disappointed to find just seven *pinetorum* in the northern half of the roadside woodland and concluded that peak numbers are a week or so away.

## 2023 survey results

It's now four years since Nottinghamshire saw its first record of this quite beautifully marked harvestman and it was hoped that 2023 will see extended surveying and recording, to help update the current range and status of *Platybunus pinetorum* in the county. Once again, by Nick and Samantha Brownley helped with the surveying and again found *P. pinetorum* in several new grid squares. This of course, has to be undertaken during the Spring period, usually any time after the middle of March and continuing into June. How late *pinetorum* remains active is somewhat unknown, but the latest Nottinghamshire date is currently June 11th, but the end of June are my own thoughts on what's a more likely latest possible date.

It's also worth keeping an eye out for the much smaller *Megabunus diadema* while surveying for *pinetorum*. In Nottinghamshire at least, the two species seem to have very different likes as per what they deem suitable habitat, but both species share a liking for smooth-barked trees, although again, this could purely be down to ease of locating by the observer?

While it is always possible that *Megabunus diadema* does indeed share the same tree as *pinetorum* somewhere, recent recording in Nottinghamshire continues to suggest otherwise and despite continued looking over a number of years now, *M. diadema* is still very much a harvestman of shaded, coppiced woodland, lying on heavier, clay-based soils in VC56.

By now (April 5th) both large juvenile and small sub-adult *pinetorum* are appearing on the trunks of suitable smooth-barked trees such as Beech, where they are much easier to see. In the previous two years, it has been noted that woodland with little or no ground vegetation is preferred. There are currently no records coming from woodland where the understorey is dominated by Bramble or other thick vegetation such as Bracken, and it is only known from woodland situated on light, sandy soils.

Site	Grid Ref	Year	Notes
Clumber Park	SK648752	2023	One juvenile on tree trunk on 16/03/23
Holborn Hill Plantation	SK597698	2023	Single sub-adult on 30/03/23
Clumber Park	SK648752	2023	Six (four juveniles and two sub-adults) 02/04/23
Clumber Park	SK620748	2023	Two on 30/03/23. A new 1km grid square.
Rainworth Tippings Wood	SK597576	2023	12 on 15/04/23. A new 1km grid square.
Clumber Park	SK648752	2023	16 including one juvenile/sub-adult on 22/04/23
Clumber Park	SK648752	2023	Record count of 131 from small section of the site, with 18 on one tree alone.

On the latest distribution map provided on the right, the vertical line of records represents this species' distribution along the A614. The most southerly record on this line is the entrance to Rufford CP and woodland directly across the road. Although it has been looked for at accessible sites further towards Nottingham, it has remained absent.

The first record of 2023 came on a mild March 16th, when a juvenile was located about four feet up a Beech trunk, from woodland at the side of the A614 at Clumber Park, providing a new earliest date in the process. No purposeful further surveying was undertaken and the visit was purely to see if *Platybunus pinetorum* was out and on the trunks.

*P. pinetorum* remains at Holborn Hill Plantation, with a sub-adult found in a leaf litter sample taken from the base of several Beeches on site and six were at the A614 Clumber site on 02/04/23. Nick and Samantha Brownley recorded two *pinetorum* near the visitor centre at Clumber on the same date, providing a new grid square in the process.

On April 15th, another new site was recorded by Nick and Samantha Brownley, this time at Rainworth Tippings Wood which is a small area of woodland bordering on to south-east Rainworth. This actually marks the joint most southerly record for *Platybunus pinetorum* to date, shown as the lower right-hand black grid square on the above map (updated April 15th). Surely, it has to be present nearer Nottingham in the south of the county, Newark to the east and Retford in the north-east?

## 2024 survey results

A very early record came of a juvenile/sub-adult from the western-end of Budby South Forest on a very mild February 17th. The surprisingly early find was accidental, coming while surveying ladybirds on a number of small Scot's Pines growing in a small open area adjacent to an area of mature Pines. It also marked the first documented occurrence of *Platybunus pinetorum* actually being recorded on foliage in Nottinghamshire, being found sat on a Pine cone at the end of a small branch at about five feet height and only being noticed when it moved.



It did drop to the ground, where it was later photographed (showed left) before being returned.

This record actually put another grid square on the current distribution map (see 2025 survey results) despite being in relatively close proximity to two other known locations for *pinetorum* in the Budby South Forest and Hangar Hill/Holborn Hill areas.

Another early count induced by the mild weather, came the day after the Budby record from the regular Clumber Park site at the side of the A614, when Nick and Samantha Brownley recorded at least 30 individuals during a short search, noting several multiple counts on a number of trees.

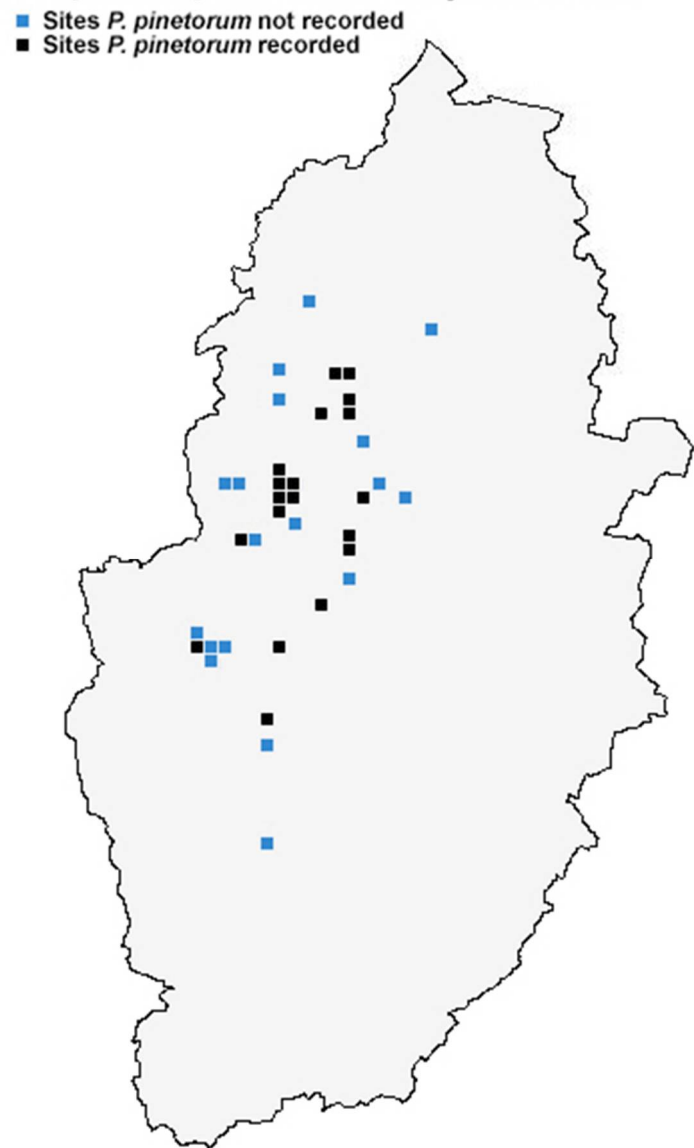
In April, beating mostly mature Scot's Pines at the western-end of Budby South Forest, a large area of lowland heath with scattered Pines and other trees, produced a number of adult *Platybunus pinetorum* from the lower branches of various Pines. There were no searches of trunks, but it was thought at the time that such searches would probably produce records. This confirmed that the record of a juvenile recorded on a scrub Pine in February, was certainly not a one-off occurrence and also proved that *pinetorum* may have been missed at Budby South Forest for several years.

Site	Grid Ref	Year	Notes
Budby South Forest	SK604690	2024	Juvenile on small Scot's Pine 17/02/24. A new 1km grid square
Clumber Park	SK648752	2024	At least 30 juveniles (Brownley, N. and Brownley, S.) on 18/02/24
Clumber Park	SK648752	2024	Ten juvenile/sub-adults 02/04/24
Budby South Forest	SK609688	2024	Eight adults beaten from mature Scot's Pines 16/04/24
Budby South Forest	SK609688	2024	Single adult beaten from mature Scot's Pine 18/04/24
Sansom Woods	SK588536	2024	Four adults beaten from Yew and Pine (Brownley, N. and Brownley, S.) 27/04/24
Sherwood Forest	SK601680	2024	Two adults on Beech 30/04/24
Clumber Park	SK648752	2024	New record site count of 162 adults (Brownley, N. and Brownley, S.) on 04/05/24
Black Pool Plantation	SK598671	2024	A single beaten from Yew (Brownley, N. and Brownley, S.) on 04/05/24. A new site.
Clumber Park	SK648752	2024	A record count of approximately 253 on 20/05/24



Certainly, the range expansion of *Platybunus pinetorum* is rapidly increasing, within both the Sherwood Forest area and over a much wider part of Nottinghamshire. Evidence to support this, was the discovery of *pinetorum* deep in the commercial Pine plantations of Blidworth Bottoms, when four adults were beaten from both Yew and Pines by Nick and Samantha Brownley on April 27th. This takes *pinetorum* closer to Nottingham than previously seen, but a search of suitable deciduous habitat at Burntstump CP a week earlier, had proved fruitless.

### Platybunus pinetorum surveys 2021-2025



May 4th saw a new record count of *Platybunus pinetorum* come from the regular Clumber Park site, just opposite the Clumber Hotel. Nick and Samantha Brownley counted a total of 162 and didn't even survey the entire roadside woodland. Nick and Sam later commented that the count would no doubt have easily reached 500, had the whole area been surveyed.

Later the same day, they beat a single specimen from Yew *Taxus baccata*, from the Black Pool area of Sherwood Forest, which marks another new 1km grid square in *pinetorum*'s range expansion.

### 2025 survey results

After a cooler Winter than has been the case for a number of years, the first *pinetorum* appeared in woodland alongside the A614 at Clumber Park on March 19th.

Other early reports include two from Nick and Samantha Brownley, of two found at one of the regular Clumber Park sites on April 15th, and five at Tippings Wood, Rainworth on April 16th and produced a welcome record from a new grid square, from woodland located off Inkersall Lane.

Site	Grid Ref	Year	Notes
Clumber Park	SK648752	2025	Juvenile/sub-adult on Beech trunk 19/03/25
Clumber Park	SK642772	2025	Two on dead wood 15/04/25
Rainworth Tippings Wood	SK597576	2025	Five sub-adults 16/04/25
Budby South Forest	SK609688	2025	Two adults beaten off Scot's Pines 17/04/25
Holborn Hill Plantation	SK597698	2025	Ten adults (including two beaten off Yew) 20/04/25
Inkersall Lane	SK626609	2025	Five adults 22/04/25
Redbrick House	SK565655	2025	A known site. 16 adults on 23/04/25
Clumber Park	SK648752	2025	A poor site count of 21 adults on 09/05/25



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