

Changes in structure of ground-living spider (Araneae) communities on peatbogs along a transect from Lithuania to Lapland

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Ground-living spiders were studied on peatbogs from southern Lithuania (54°N) to northern Finland (70°N). Communities of hunting spiders and web-building Linyphiidae (s.lat.) were compared at different latitudes. Geographical trends in the composition of species were found. Certain southern species were found only on Lithuanian bogs (e.g. *Aulonia albimana* and *Phrurolithus minimus*) and some other southern species were observed from Lithuania to southern Finland (*Maro minutus* and *Sintula corniger*). Of northern species, many were found only in Lapland (northernmost Finland), others occur in whole of Finland (*Gnaphosa lapponum* and *Mecynargus sphagnicola*), and some also in Estonia (*Pardosa atrata*). Species caught throughout the area include e.g. *Pardosa sphagnicola* and *Lepthyphantes angulatus*.

Key words: Araneae, peatbogs, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia

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