

# Distribution and ecology of the water spider, *Argyroneta aquatica* (Clerck) (Araneae, Cybaeidae), in Norway

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The distribution of the water spider *Argyroneta aquatica* in Norway is presented with a list of all known localities. The species is common in eastern parts of South Norway but absent from Western Norway. This absence may be due to topological constraints to dispersal and is unlikely to be caused by climate. The species is also known from Finnmark while it has not been found in most parts of Nordland and is apparently absent from Troms. Barriers formed by the mountains chains along the Norwegian/Swedish/Finnish border may be the cause of this. Notes on the ecology of the species are provided. *A. aquatica* may be found in both oligotrophic/dystrophic and eutrophic ponds and small lakes. It has also been observed in running water. The most important prerequisite appears to be vegetation such as *Sphagnum* where it can spin its egg sacs.

Key words: *Argyroneta aquatica*, Araneae, distribution, ecology, Norway.

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