

Biotop preference and size of *Lacinius ephippiatus* (C. L. Koch, 1835) (Opiliones: Phalangidae) at Karmøy, Western Norway

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Stol, I. 2004. Biotop preference and size of *Lacinius ephippiatus* (C. L. Koch, 1835) (Opiliones: Phalangidae) at Karmøy, Western Norway. *Norw. J. Entomol.* 51, 203-211.

The presently known distribution of *Lacinius ephippiatus* is summarized and presented as a map. The species is known from the Faroe Islands in west to Ural (Russia) in the east, and southwards to Spain and Bulgaria. *L. ephippiatus* was studied in 14 localities at the island of Karmøy, Ryfylke (EIS 13) in Western Norway from 7 different biotopes during the period of 18 July - 31 August 1997. During this period, 104 males and 455 females were collected with an average of 5 pitfall traps per locality. Notes on the ecology of the species are briefly presented. *L. ephippiatus* preferred gardens, next coniferous woods, mixed woods and beaches. Regarding morphological characters, body length, movable cheliceral finger, pedipalpal tarsus and the femur of the 2nd leg were measured. In both sexes, the smallest body lengths were found in specimens from coniferous wood and heather, whereas the largest body lengths occurred in specimens from the beach. Compared to Great Britain and Central Europe no geographical differences were detected regarding the four characters that were studied. The sizes of the movable cheliceral finger and the pedipalpal tarsus have not previously been reported. The statistical GT2-method was used to compare two means to see if they were significantly different.

Key words: Opiliones, *Lacinius ephippiatus*, distribution, ecology, size.

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