

***Talavera aequipes* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1871) (Araneae: Salticidae at Penny Hill Quarry.**

Kevin McGee.

Gardeners Cottage, Shakenhurst, Nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire. DY14 9AR. kevinmcgeeandrena@live.co.uk

One of two tiny spiders collected from dry stony ground at the former Penny Hill Quarry SO752614 on 05.06.2021 was later identified as a male *Talavera aequipes*, one of the jumping spiders in the family Salticidae. This is a new site for this species and only the second county record. John Partridge confirmed that the only previous Worcestershire record was of one collected by himself from old railway sidings at Honeybourne about twenty years ago.

Talavera aequipes is an uncommon species closely associated with dry open stony ground. The NBN Atlas has just 130 records scattered across the southern half of the UK and the species has a conservation status of Red List GB Post 2001.



01. *Talavera aequipes* (male) at Penny Hill Quarry, on 08.06.2021. K.McGee.



02. *Talavera aequipes* (male) at Penny Hill Quarry on 14.06.2021. This image has been included to try and convey just how small these spiders are. K.McGee.

Two more males were found at the same location on 08.06.21, and a single male was found at a different location closer to the northern side of Penny Hill on 14.06.2021.

These spiders are very small and very fast, and therefore a challenge to photograph in their natural habitat. Males and females average between 2.0-3.0mm in length. The two images shown are the best of a series taken on three dates in June; all of which are of an inferior quality in some way, being either a little out of focus or over/under exposed as they moved rapidly between intense bright light and the shade beneath the stones. Furthermore, the pain to kneecaps caused by the stony ground becomes intolerable after several failed attempts to get a spider to remain still!



03. *Talavera aequipes* habitat at Penny Hill Quarry on 05.06.2021. K.McGee.

References

Bee, L., Oxford, G. and Smith, H. 2017) *Britain's Spiders, a Field Guide*. Princeton University Press, Woodstock.
Roberts, M. J. 1996. *Field Guide to the Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe*. HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, London.
NBN Atlas *Species search* [on-line] <http://www.nbnatlas.org/> [Accessed 11.09.2021]

Images

- 01. *Talavera aequipes* (male) at Penny Hill Quarry on 08.06.2021. K. McGee.
- 02. *Talavera aequipes* (male) at Penny Hill Quarry on 14.06.2021. K. McGee.
- 03. *Talavera aequipes* habitat at Penny Hill Quarry on 05.06.2021. K. McGee.