

***Trachyzelotes pedestris* (C.L. Koch, 1837) (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) new for Worcestershire.**

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

A spider collected from beneath a small rock at Penny Hill Quarry (SO752616) (02) on 21.04.2022 is an immature female *Trachyzelotes pedestris* (01). This is the first record for Worcestershire and my initial identification has been confirmed by John Partridge.

Trachyzelotes pedestris is a localised species closely associated with dry grasslands on chalk and limestone in southern England and the Gower peninsula in Wales. However, it can be common in suitable habitats; especially in coastal areas. The distribution map on the Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website shows populations south of a line between the Bristol Channel and the Wash with the highest concentrations along the south coast and in East Anglia, although there are records from south Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. The species has a conservation status of Red List GB Post 2001.

The spider is one of the medium-sized all-black and quite shiny ground spider species in the family Gnaphosidae occasionally found beneath logs and stones on dry open land. Most are difficult to identify to species level and should, ideally, be collected for microscopic examination. However, *T. pedestris* can be identified in the field by the distinctive red-brown colouration of the final four segments on each leg (01).



01. *Trachyzelotes pedestris* (female) collected at Penny Hill Quarry, on 21.04.2022. K. McGee.

Refugia should be overturned in other suitable habitats in Worcestershire in search of further records; ideal habitats exist on Bredon Hill and parts of the Malverns.



02. Typical suitable habitat at Penny Hill Quarry. Photograph taken 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 08.05.2022]
- Spider & Harvestman Recording Scheme [on-line] <https://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Trachyzelotes+pedestris>. [Accessed 08.05.2022]

Acknowledgements

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Images

01. *Trachyzelotes pedestris* (female) collected at Penny Hill Quarry, on 21.04.2022. K. McGee.

02. Typical suitable habitat at Penny Hill Quarry. Photograph taken on 05.06.2021. K. McGee.