

Opilio canestrinii in Stourbridge.

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On August 24 2020, I noticed a “different-looking” harvestman in my Stourbridge garden. It was sitting on fleabane leaves where its very long darkish legs with orange bases were obvious (01).

I sent the photograph to Rosemary Winnall and Gary Farmer both of whom identified it as *Opilio canestrinii*, a relatively recent species in the UK, first recorded in the Lea Valley in Essex in 1999. It has since become widespread in gardens and urban areas as far north as Moray in Scotland, but the most recent map on the British Arachnological Society website has no records for Worcestershire.

There is evidence that it may displace other urban harvestmen such as *Opilio parietinus* and in the Netherlands it has caused a severe decline in this species, so it will be interesting to see how quickly it spreads in Worcestershire Vice-county 37 and whether it has a similar impact on our native species.



01. *Opilio canestrinii* in Stourbridge

Image

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