

Taxon Report

for

the spider

Scotophaeus blackwalli



Name: *Scotophaeus blackwalli*

Authority: (Thorell, 1871)

Order: Arachnida: Araneae

Family: Gnaphosidae

Records: 1133

First Record: 1861

Latest Record: 2017

1992-on hectads: 230

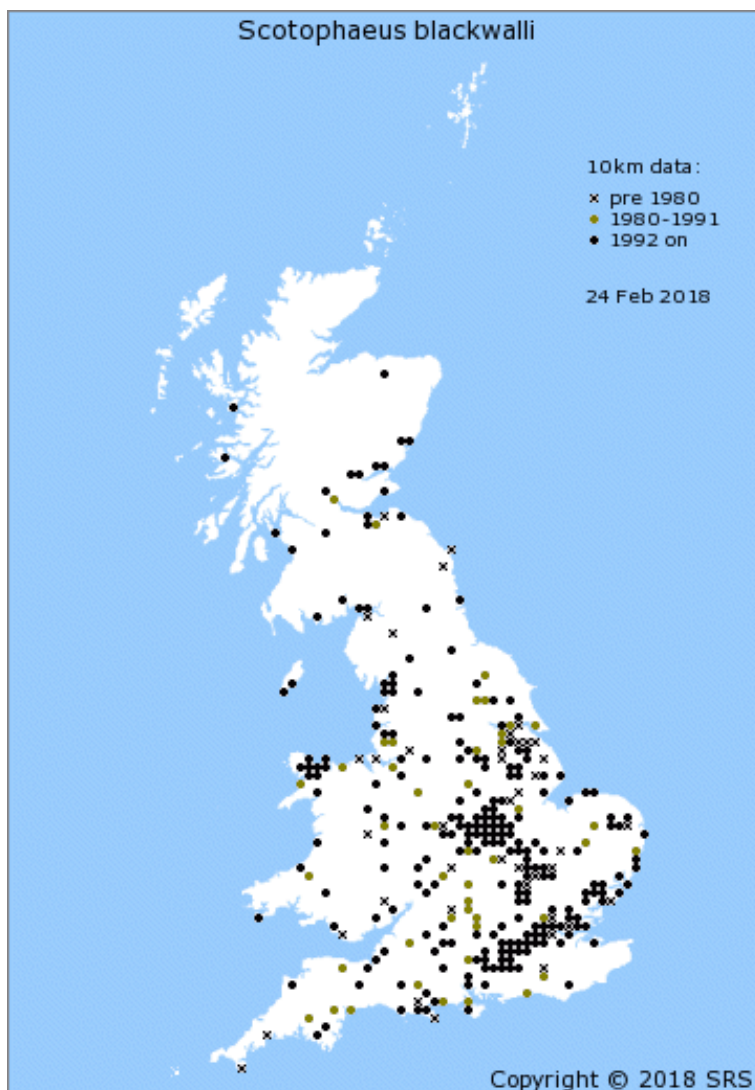
Pre-1992 hectads: 134

Total hectads: 318

Identification difficulty: 3

Adult voucher specimen needs checking under magnification and good lighting. The Recording Scheme would accept records from experienced recorders without further question unless the date, region or habitat was especially unusual. Voucher specimen should be retained. Records accepted from known experienced recorders.

ID notes: Useful to know habitat in UK - in or around houses, usually indoors



About this species

Recorded altitude range

1m to 400m

Distribution

The species is widespread in much of England with scattered records in Wales and Scotland as far north as Kincardineshire. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe and the Palaearctic in general.

Habitat and ecology

In Britain *S. blackwalli* typically seems to be restricted to houses, sheds, etc. which suggests that this species has migrated northwards from warmer places. It has been found in gardens on bushes and can be fairly common on wooden fences and under bark of dead trees in urban situations in Leicestershire (J. Daws, pers. comm.). These outdoor specimens have been noted as generally much larger than those from inside houses (Crocker & Daws 1996). Certainly, in the Mediterranean region, where there are more *Scotophaeus* species, these are often lighter coloured and are to be found under flakes of bark on trees (particularly pines) and even in the dried stalks of reeds. In Britain one often comes across *S. blackwalli* at night, creeping stealthily on the walls or ceilings of a house. It may be that *S. blackwalli* does so, unnoticed, during daylight and that it is its dark colour and sinister movement that catches the eye when the electric light is switched on. Adults have been recorded throughout the year, but mainly in summer.

Status

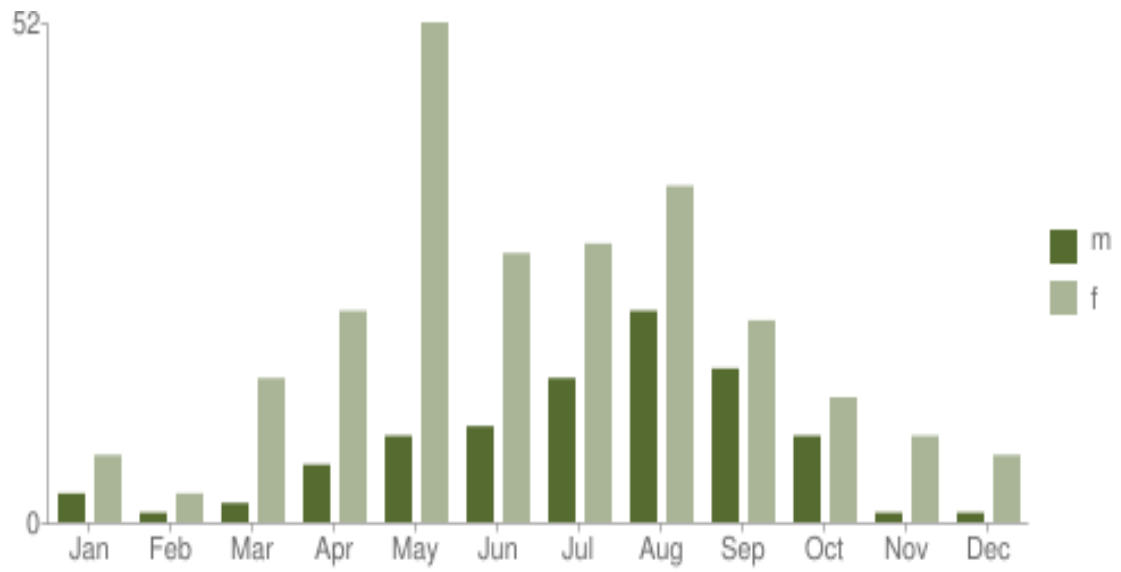
Relatively common.

Text based on:

Original author of profile: J.A. Murphy. Text based on Harvey, P.R., Nellist, D.R. & Telfer, M.G. (eds) 2002. Provisional atlas of British spiders (Arachnida, Araneae), Volumes 1 & 2. Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

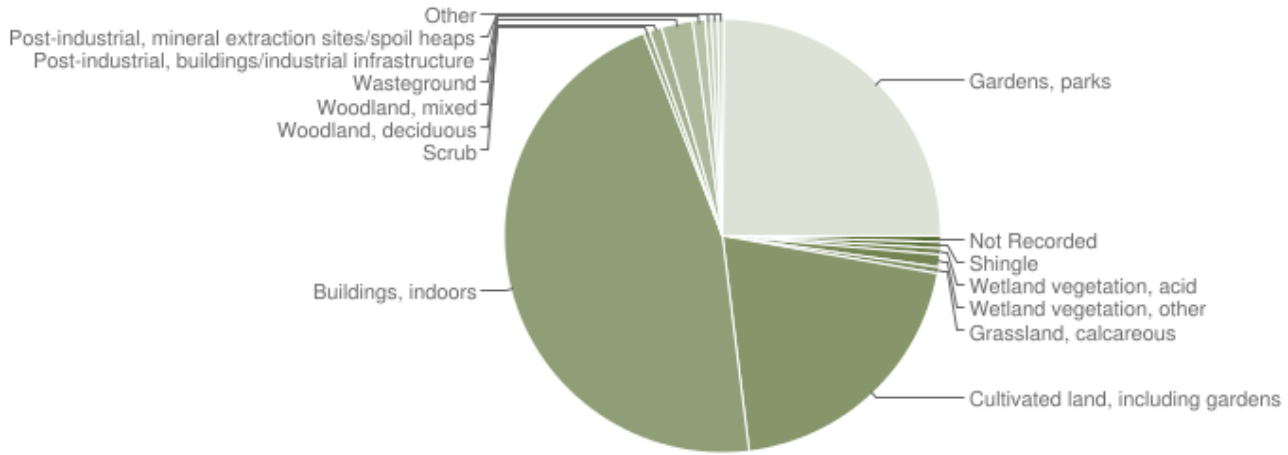
Adult season

Adult Season Data (based on 385 records with adult season information)



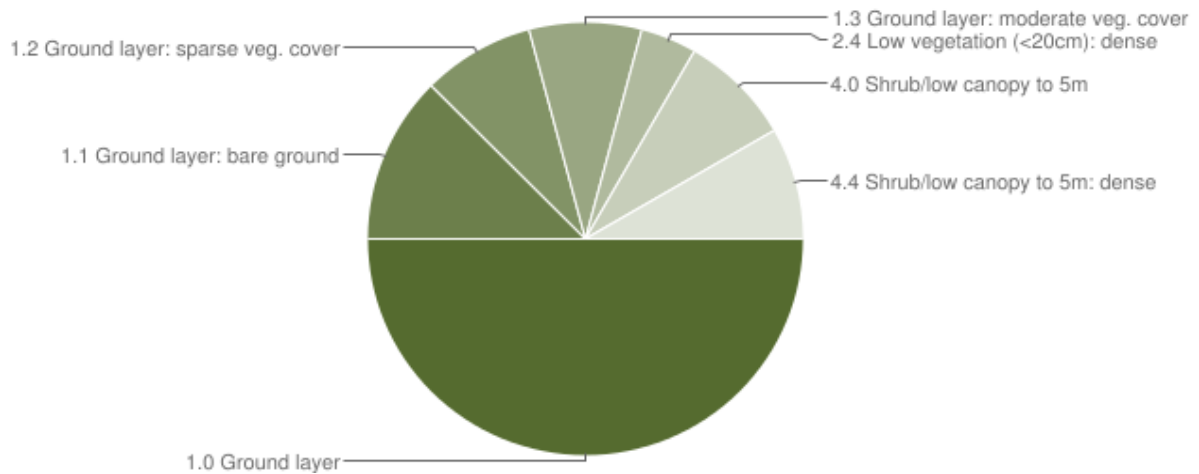
Habitats

Recorded broad habitats, based on 436 habitat records

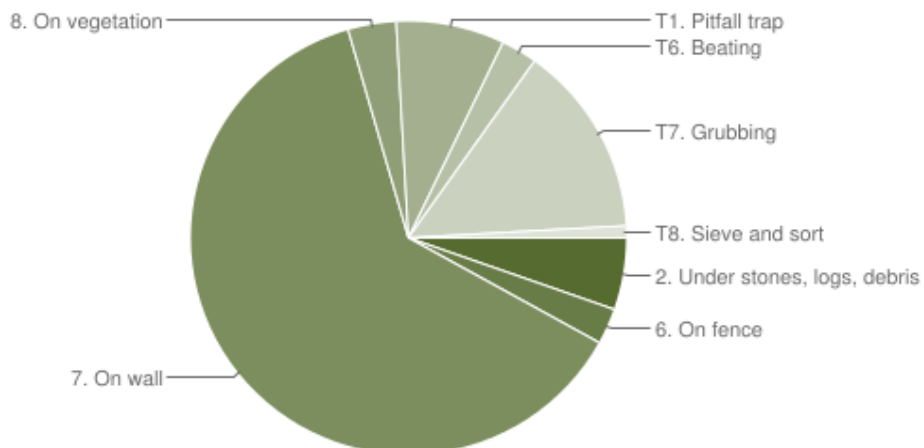


no subhabitat data available

Recorded structural habitats, based on 24 structural habitat records

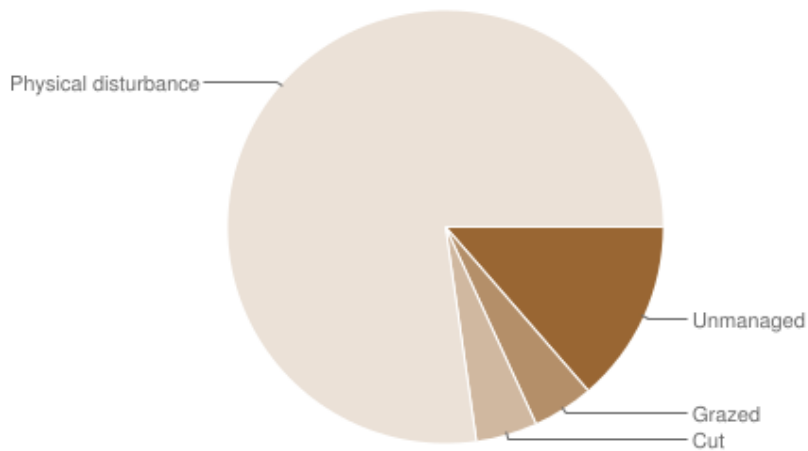


Habitat Detail and Method, based on 112 habitat detail and method records

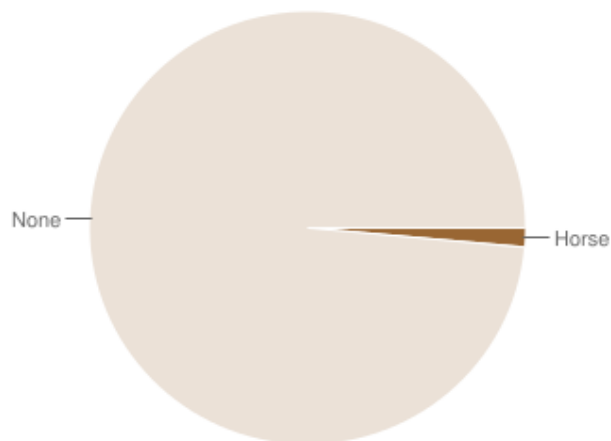


Recorded management in place

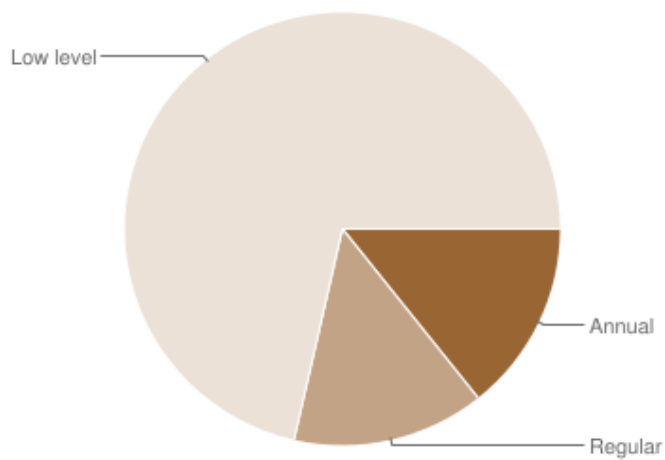
Management Data based on 22 management data records



Grazing Management Data based on 70 grazing records

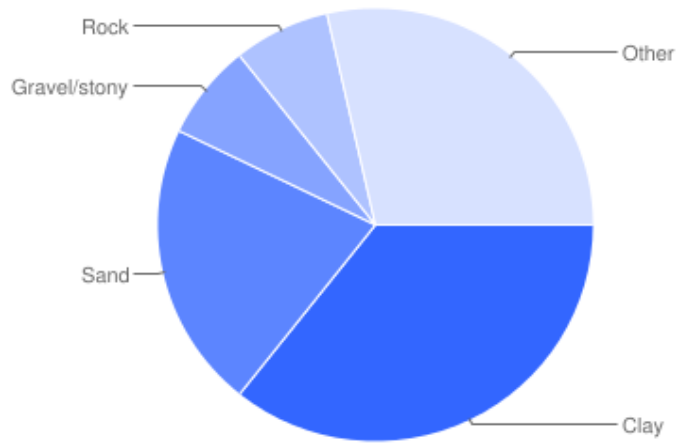


Management frequency Data based on 14 management frequency records



Substrate and Hydrology

Substrate Data based on 14 substrate records



Hydrology Data based on 43 hydrology records

