

Taxon Report

for

the spider

Steatoda nobilis

photograph copyright Tom Tams



Website: <http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk>. Email: srs@britishspiders.org.uk

Name: Steatoda nobilis

Authority: (Thorell, 1875)

Order: Arachnida: Araneae

Family: Theridiidae

Records: 776

First Record: 1879

Latest Record: 2017

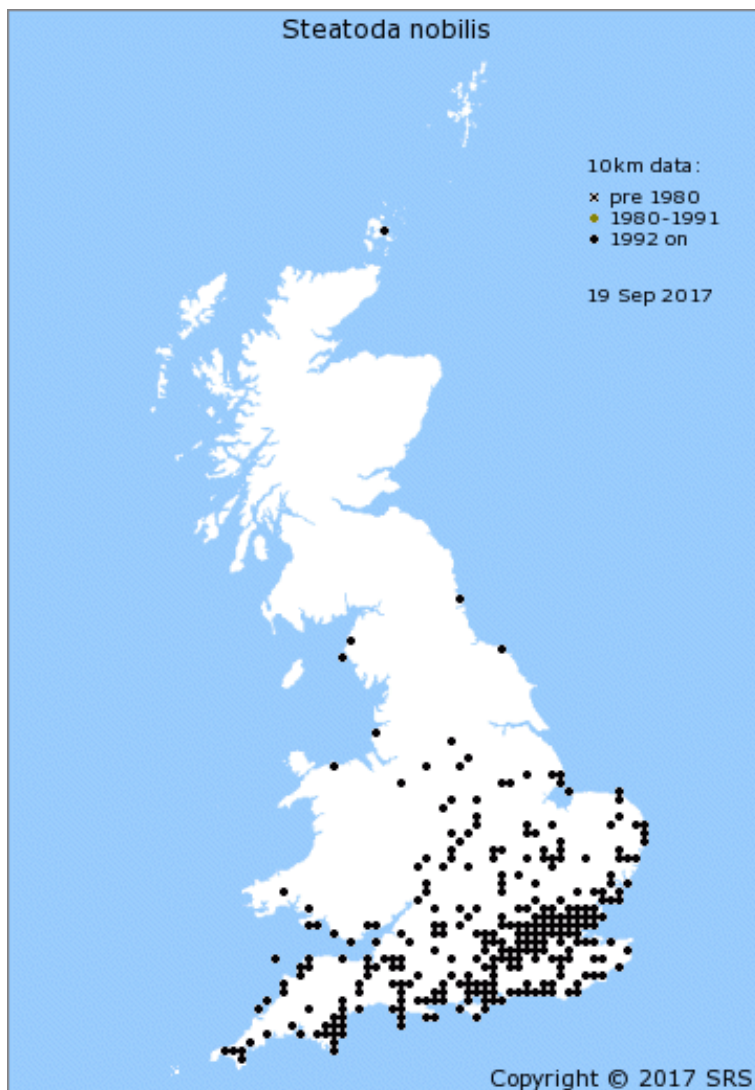
1992-on hectads: 280

Pre-1992 hectads: 3

Total hectads: 280

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.



About this species

Recorded altitude range

0m to 170m

Distribution

The spider became well established in various places along the south coast of England from Cornwall to Essex, and has increasingly been found established inland and further north. There are two recent records in Scotland, both believed to be the result of introduction with goods, and where long-term survival of any population is uncertain. In Europe the species is known from Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal. It is not listed in recent checklists for other western and central European countries.

Habitat and ecology

This spider is found mainly around houses, though more rarely indoors. It constructs a scaffold web that differs from others of the genus in the exceptional strength of the silk and in the tubular retreat that is at least partly concealed in a deep crack or hole. The species has been known to bite a human but the spider has received a lot of unjustified and inaccurate media statements about its danger to humans and its spread in Britain. Bites to humans are unlikely to happen in normal circumstances since the spiders are usually confined to their web, in cracks in walls or under window sills. The bite in most people would be little different to a bee sting, and there are currently few definite recorded occurrences in Britain since 1979, many reports almost certainly being the result of non-spider-related causes which have incorrectly been assumed to be the result of 'false widows'. The males are mature in the summer and autumn, the females probably throughout the year.

Status

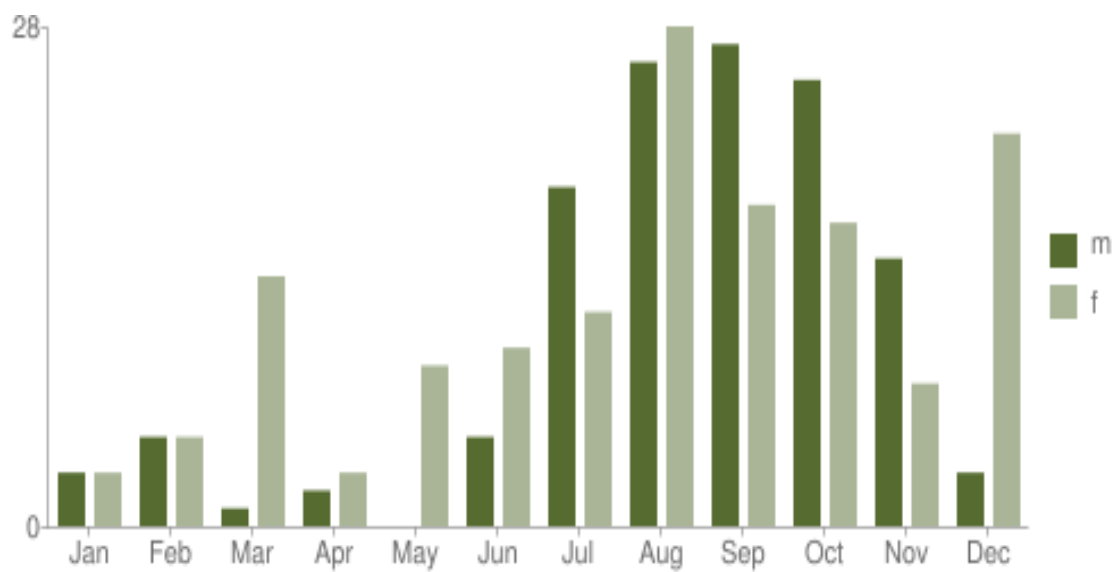
The species was first reported from near Torquay by Pickard-Cambridge (1879) and described from Britain by Snazell & Jones (1993). It is assumed to be introduced and is now naturalised in southern counties of England. It has been frequent in the southern coastal counties of England for a great many years, and is nowadays frequent and abundant in many areas of southern England and increasingly further north.

Text based on:

Original author of profile: P. Lee. 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.

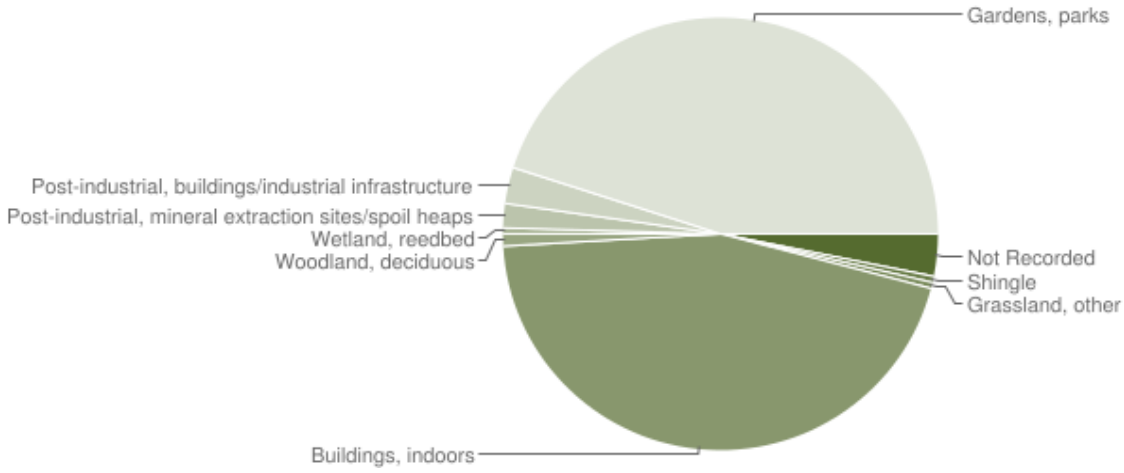
Adult season

Adult Season Data (based on 399 records with adult season information)

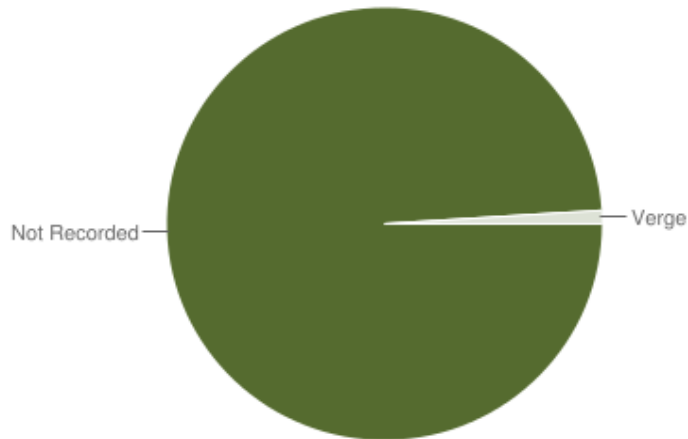


Habitats

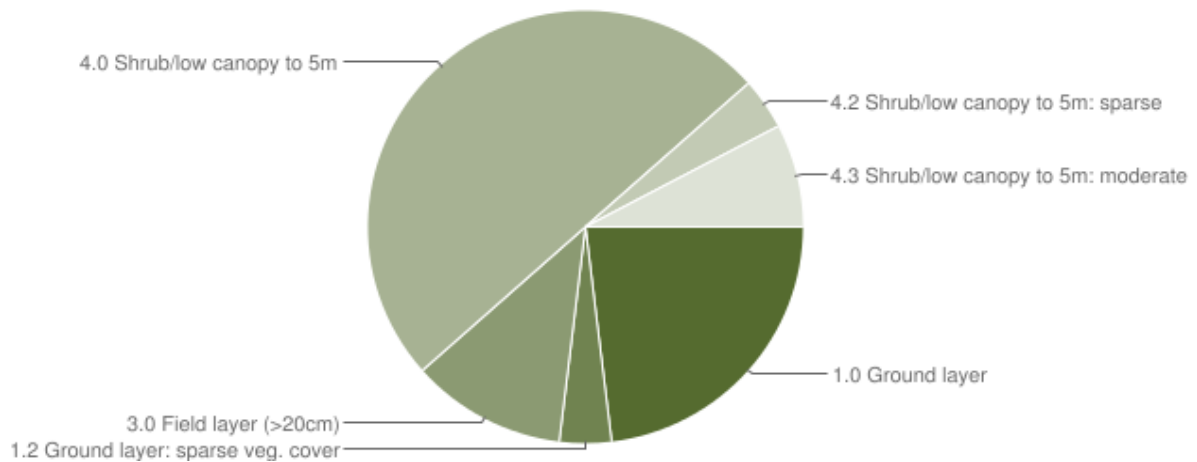
Recorded broad habitats, based on 398 habitat records



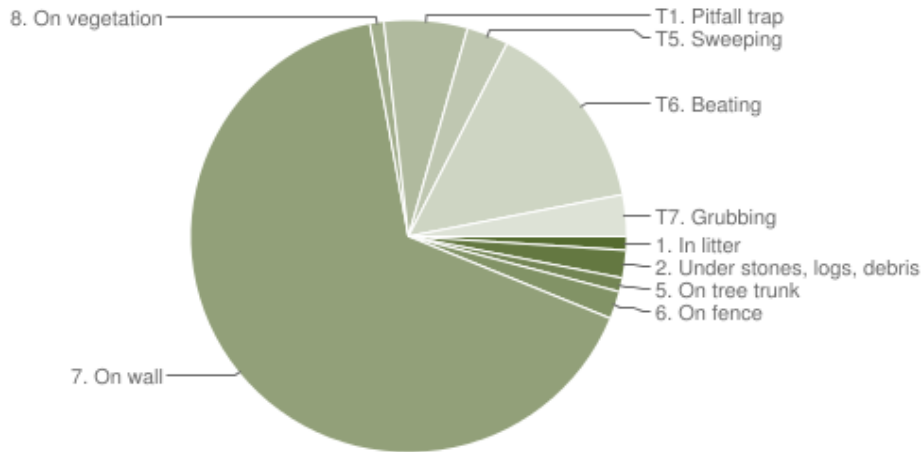
Recorded subhabitats, based on 1 subhabitat records



Recorded structural habitats, based on 26 structural habitat records

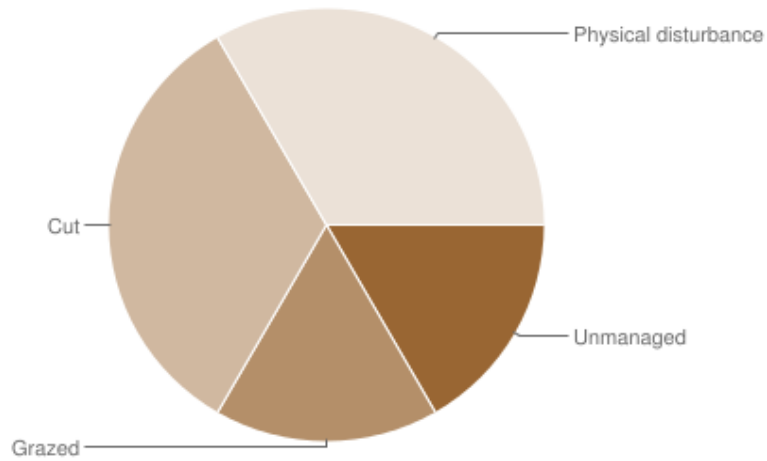


Habitat Detail and Method, based on 97 habitat detail and method records

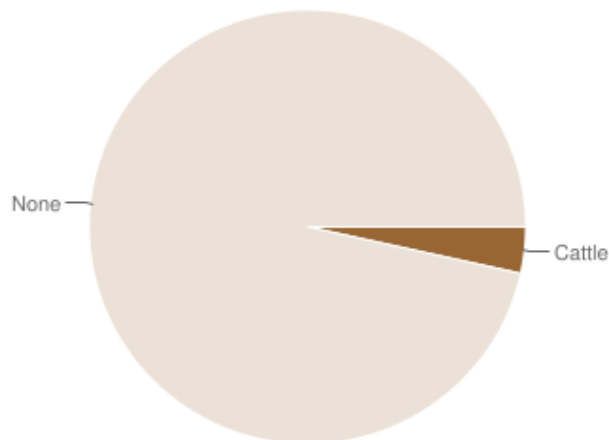


Recorded management in place

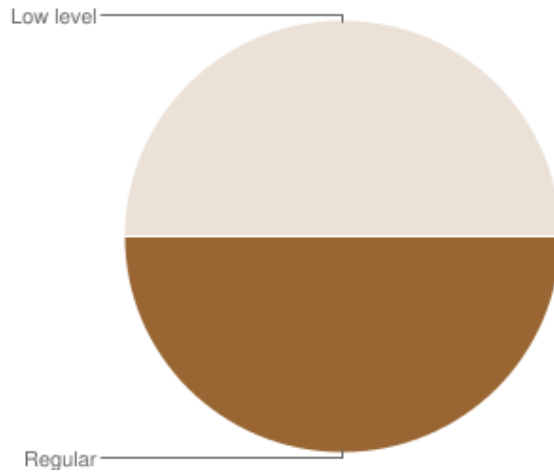
Management Data based on 6 management data records



Grazing Management Data based on 29 grazing records

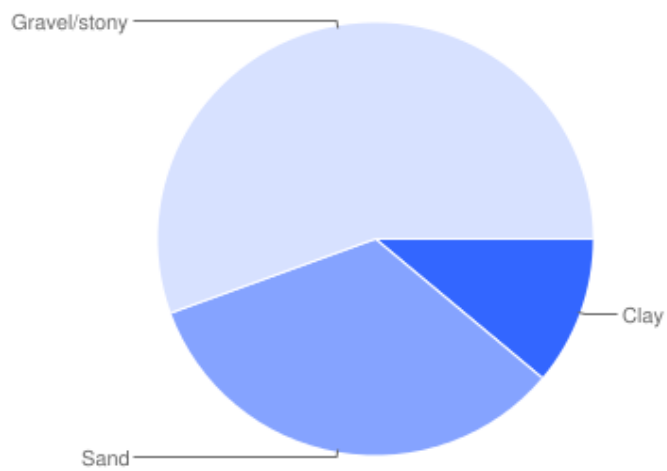


Management frequency Data based on 4 management frequency records



Substrate and Hydrology

Substrate Data based on 9 substrate records



Hydrology Data based on 30 hydrology records

