

FACTSHEET

Scottish Spider Search www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/scottish_spider_search.php

Daddy Long-legs Spider *Pholcus phalangioides*

Key features

A thin body with the two body sections very obvious, and long, delicate-looking legs.

Where to look

Indoors in houses, outhouses and cellars where it is protected from low temperatures. It favours undisturbed corners where it can build its untidy web.

Daddy Long-legs Spiders can be found in houses all year round

Diet

Any prey that becomes entangled in their web is taken – including other spiders, even much larger house spiders. They use their long legs to escape being bitten whilst throwing silk over their victim to immobilise it.

Distribution

Widespread in the southern half of Britain, but with few Scottish records, but it may be under-recorded. Observations suggest it is spreading northwards.

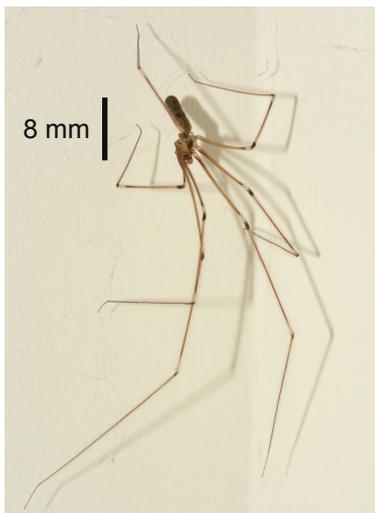
Don't confuse with!

Craneflies - insects with 6 long legs, 3 *body sections* and a pair of *wings*.

Harvestmen - can also have very long legs, but have a *more rounded body* made up of just 1 *section*.

More information

Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website:
<http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Pholcus+phalangioides>



LEFT PHOTO: Daddy Long-legs Spider, *Pholcus phalangioides*. Photo © Colin Legg. MIDDLE PHOTO: Harvestman, *Opilio canestrinii*. Photo © Geoff Oxford. RIGHT PHOTO: Cranefly, *Tipula paludosa*. Photo © Geoff Oxford.

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The Wildlife Information Centre
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