

## SPIDERS ON TREE TRUNKS IN GERMAN FORESTS (ARACHNIDA, ARANEAE)

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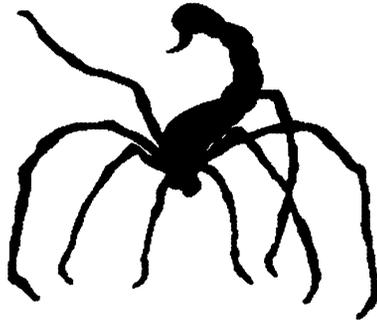
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Trunk eclectors in about 2-4 meter height on living trees were used in different regions of Germany (SW-Bavaria, Hesse, Brandenburg) in the last two decades. In Hesse eclectors were also used on dead beech trees (standing and lying). The data from May to October are compared – only from Hesse there are data from the whole year (incl. winter). Most data sets are from beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and spruce (*Picea abies*).

A total of 355 spider species has been recorded from these bark traps, i.e. more than 1/3 (35%) of the spider species known from Germany. The characteristics of the spider fauna of the trees are described and analysed: species composition; diversity; different classifications of the species, like "forest retention", "originality of the spiders' habitats", etc.; similarity of the fauna in different regions and on different tree species, comparison with pitfall trap data.

Only few species are common on bark in each region of research (e.g. *Amaurobius fenestralis*, *Drapetisca socialis*, *Moebelia penicillata*, *Xysticus audax*, *X. lanio*). Most species are only highly abundant on bark in a single region (e.g. *Diplocephalus cristatus*, *Hahnina pusilla*, *Lathys humilis*, *Pelecopsis elongata*, *Walckenaeria cuspidata*). No spider species seems to be restricted to a single tree species or even to a type of tree (e.g. needles, leaves), but most spider species are more abundant on one type of tree, for instance *Xysticus lanio* on broadleaf – *X. audax* on conifers. Also some species thought to be rare and with a restricted distribution (i.e. only small parts of Europe, and also outside of the high mountain systems) have been recorded in high numbers (e.g. *Kratochviliella bicapitata* and *Oreonetides quadridentatus* in SW-Bavaria, *Monocephalus castaneipes* in Hesse).

The diversity and importance of the spider fauna on bark in Central Europe is still underestimated.



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