

# *Troxochrus nasutus* Schenkel, 1925 in Denmark (Araneae, Linyphiidae)

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Gudik-Sørensen, O.: *Troxochrus nasutus* Schenkel, 1925 in Denmark (Araneae, Linyphiidae).

Ent. Meddr 65: 39-40. Copenhagen, Denmark 1997. ISSN 0013-8851.

*Troxochrus nasutus* has proved to be widely distributed in Denmark. Nearly all Danish records are from March and April. The preferred habitat is old spruce plantations. The species can be collected by beating dead branches lying on the forest floor or sitting on the trunks.

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*Troxochrus nasutus* Schenkel, 1925, is one of the small blackish 'money spiders'. It is remarkable in having the female forehead extended into a short snout, whereas the male head has a long snout (Wiehle, 1963). The species is considered to be a very rare spider (Heimer & Nentwig, 1991) with few, scattered finds in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Czechia, Poland, Sweden and Finland. This paper demonstrates that *T. nasutus* is a common spider in suitable habitats in Denmark.

The first Danish specimens were collected on 31.iii.1978 by Ole Bøggild by sieving needle litter from below a heap of dead branches, the location being a 40-50 year old plantation of common spruce. Until 1995 *T. nasutus* had been found in six locations in Denmark and refound in two.

In the spring of 1995 I did some collect-

ing to further map out the area of distribution. *T. nasutus* was then found in two of five investigated locations in the island of Funen, and in three of five visited locations in North Zealand. In the spring of 1996 *T. nasutus* was found in six of nine examined locations in South Zealand. *T. nasutus* was often the most common species collected, in one location it constituted more than 50% of the collected 'small black spiders'.

*T. nasutus* was normally collected with juveniles of *Cyclosa conica* (Pallas), *Lepthyphantes obscurus* (Bl.), *Neriene peltata* (Wider) and various small linyphiids, and often also *Lathys humilis* (Bl.), *Hyptiotes paradoxus* (C.L.K.), *Anyphaena accentuata* (Walck.) and *Pityohyphantes phrygianus* (C.L.K.) were present.

The Danish finds of *T. nasutus* are listed below:

♀♀	♂♂	juv.	Date	UTM	Location
					Zealand:
1	1		31.iii.1978	UB29	Lystrup Skov (O. Bøggild leg.)
1			1. iv.1992	UC20	Nejede Vesterskov
2			27.iii.1993	UC20	Nejede Vesterskov
3	3		28.iii.1994	UB38	Bøndernes Hegn
10	1		13.iii.1995	UB38	Bøndernes Hegn
2			9. iv.1995	UC30	Gribsø
8	4		12. iv.1995	UB38	Ganløse Orned
1			21. iv.1995	UB38	Bøndernes Hegn
1			24. iv.1995	UB38	Bøndernes Hegn
6	4		26. iv.1995	UB38	Ganløse Orned
1			7. vi.1995	UB38	Ganløse Orned

♀♀	♂♂	juv.	Date	UTM	Location
5	3		5. iv.1996	UB38	Bøndernes Hegn
2			10. iv.1996	PG85	Dyndet
17	4		10. iv.1996	PG85	Højbjerg Skov
1	4		10. iv.1996	PG86	Særløse
11	1		17. iv.1996	UB22	Vemmetofte
4	1		17. iv.1996	PG53	Lorup Skov
7	1		17. iv.1996	PG63	Vinstrup Overdrev
			22. v.1996	UB38	Bøndernes Hegn
					Funen:
1	1		22.iii.1995	NG90	Stenstrup
6	3		22.iii.1995	NG81	Sollerup Skov
					Jutland:
	1		18.iii.1990	NH66	Dr.borg skov (O. Bøggild leg.)
3		4	29.iii.1990	NH66	Dr.borg skov (O. Bøggild leg.)
1			25. iv.1993	NH74	Mygind Skov (O. Bøggild leg.)
1			?	NH61	Jeksendalen (Søren Toft leg.)

During a visit to Sweden 3.v.1995, *T. nasutus* was found in one of two investigated locations (Hammaren, VC38), 60 km east of Halmstad.

The locations investigated in 1995 and 1996 were usually rather large, old plantations of common spruce (*Picea abies*) or nordmannfir (*Abies nordmanniana*), but the location PG85, Dyndet, is part of a garden surrounded by fields and deciduous woods.

The collecting procedure was beating dead branches over an upturned white umbrella. Branches lying on the forest floor as well as such sitting on the trunks up to a height of 2 m were beaten. In each collecting site 50 or more branches were beaten.

The Danish finds of *T. nasutus* indicate that plantations of common spruce with dead branches on the lower part of the trunks, a closed canopy, and a forest floor with very sparse vegetation and scattered dead branches are the optimal habitat. In Central Europe *T. nasutus* has also been found on trunks of beech (Thaler, 1978).

Collecting activity in the reference areas in UB38 lasted from March to June in 1995 and from February to June in 1996. No juveniles were found, although they are easily identified (Ole Bøggild, pers. comm.).

As will appear from the above list, most Danish finds are in March and April, the late find on 7.vi.1995 representing a rather shrunken female. In 1996, after a long, hard winter, the period of adulthood was

clearly delayed 3 to 4 weeks.

Central European finds are from April to July and Finnish finds even later, May to October (Palmgren, 1976).

Moor & Nyffeler (1983) found *T. nasutus* in large webs in Switzerland. None such webs were seen in any Danish location. A female kept in a jar with needles and a few twigs for 10 days in May 1996 spun no web.

Thanks to Ole Bøggild for inspiration to the investigation and for comments on the manuscript.

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