"EXOTIC SPIDERS" (ARANEAE) ORANGE OR GREEN ON THE MAP, THAT IS THE QUESTION

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ABSTRACT
The status of the 49 exotic species in the Netherlands registered as was tested against their appearance on the distribution maps in Araneae Spiders of Europe. Suggested corrections on the maps are supported by recent finds or validated records in Citizen Science project) waarneming.nl. Of the 49 exotic species tested, seven were not marked for the Netherlands at all on the maps, a lapsus of the authors of Araneae Spiders of Europe, who failed to check all publicly accessible literature, amongst others the Catalogus van de Nederlandse Spinnen. Five species are marked in a wrong colour and should be corrected. The other 37 species are correctly coloured on the maps, amongst which one dubious species (with or without a breeding population).
Keywords: colouration on map, corrections, exotics, missing species

INTRODUCTION

Mistakes and errors in publicly accessible overviews and databases are a nuisance for users, and they can lead to the further spread of incorrect data, which can then unintentionally take on a life of their own. Arachnologists regularly use the worldwide overview of spiders, the World Spider Catalog (WSC), which contains the taxonomic literature of this animal group, both arranged by year and by species. For the species, their distributions have also been summarized. The catalogue is accessible to registered "members" via the internet (http://wsc.nmbe.ch).

Derived from this worldwide catalogue, or at least built up in parallel, also on the internet, an overview of the European spider fauna can be found: "Araneae Spiders of Europe" (https://www.araneae.nmbe.ch), which lists all spider species occurring or observed in Europe, including the exotics from other continents.

Araneae Spiders of Europe is essentially a continuation of Fauna Europaea, a three-year project subsidized by Brussels, where for each animal group a specialist put his energy in building a database of the occurrences of species for each country. After three years, Brussels assumed that the overview would be ready. Because of the dynamics in the world of flora and fauna, something like this is never finished. Many experts kept their file up to date, in the service of other projects, such as Araneae Spiders of Europe. The distribution maps of Fauna Europaea, recognizable by a small basic error in the boundaries of the countries, have simply been copied. Unfortunately, keeping track of changes in the distribution areas – usually dynamic, especially in these times of climate change – does not run flawless. This article lists some errors so that corrections can be made. I also take this opportunity to describe the latest state of affairs of the species concerned.

This article deals with the 48 exotic species registered in the Netherlands, their current status, and the way they are displayed on the distribution maps of Araneae Spiders of Europe. In an earlier publication (Van Helsdingen 2025a) I already did a number of species change status, from exotic to established species. This new status was based on an analysis of the amounts of data that appeared to have been reported in waarneming.nl and their distribution across the country, from which the occurrence of breeding populations could be deduced. A species that reproduces can be seen as an established species. The now compiled research was carried out on the species still marked as exotic – i.e. in square brackets – in the Catalogue of Dutch Spiders, version 2025.4 (Van Helsdingen 2026)

For all species concerned, it was examined whether additional observations could be found in waarneming.nl. The result of this test is always stated.

In addition, the current occurrence in our country per species was tested against the distribution map in Araneae Spiders of Europe, where the following markings are used for the state of occurrence per country: grey (does not occur), orange (imported/exotic), green (occurs as an established pecies).

Voor de provincies zijn de volgende afkortingen gebruikt: NL = Nederland, W = waddengebied, GR = Groningen, FR = Friesland, DR = Drenthe, OV = Overijssel, GL = Gelderland, FL = Flevoland, UT = Utrecht, NH = Noord-Holland, ZH = Zuid-Holland, ZE = Zeeland, NB = Noord-Brabant, LI = Limburg.

TREATMENT BY SPECIES

ARANEIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Gasteracantha cancriformis* (Linnaeus, 1758)] Map (orange)
Found in greenhouse in Kudelstaart or Aalsmeer (IJland 2023). Most likely imported with plants.
Map coloured correctly.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

CHEIRACANTHIIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Cheiracanthium mildei* L. Koch, 1864] **Not indicated on map**
Found in Barendrecht (ZH), imported with building materials (Bink 2019: 7). See Van Helsdingen 2026.
Should be coloured orange.on the map.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ ? *Cheiracanthium punctorium* (Villers, 1789) ? **Not on the map**
A dubious old record, which will probably never be clarified. Hence the question mark and no mention on the map in Araneae Spiders of Europe, but of course mentioned in the successive versions of the catalogue (Van Helsdingen 2026.1). Six (1858), Snellen van Vollenhoven (1895) and Becker (1879), all three cataloguing arachnologists from the 19th century, mentioned the species. We will never find out which species they saw.
The orange colouring on the map seems to be the best solution in this case.
Waarneming.nl: 1 not yet validated observation from Beek en Donk (NB).

CTENIDAE (2 imported species)
□ [*Acanthoctenis alux* Arizala, Labarque & Polotow, 2021] Map (orange)
In the Naturalis collection a jar was found with a label "Imported in Leiden (H)with bananas from Central America 1959". Someone had put that on my desk. Identification was not possible then. A new attempt in 2025 succeeded, albeit with some difficulty (Rivera et al. 2025), and that led to this species, which was described in 2021 (!). Perhaps the species was introduced more often, but never published, or not properly identified.
Imported, so the map is coloured correctly.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Phoneutria boliviensis* (F.O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)] Map (orange)
This species was first reported by telephone by the Flora Auction Hall in Rijnsburg (ZH), with a photo, which made it possible to identify to the genus. As an immediate reaction, the Flora Auction Hall was visited tin order to confirm the identification and preserve the specimen. Upon arrival, the specimen appeared to have been released outside the building because its considerable toxicity and could not be recovered: *Phoneutria* spec.: (Van Helsdingen 2015). Several years later reports of *Phoneutria boliviensis* were summarized (Noordijk 2019), originating from Alkmaar (NH), Amsterdam (NH), and Rijnsburg (ZH).
The orange colouration on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

FILISTATIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Filistata insidiatrix* (Forsskål, 1775)] **Not on the map**
A single case of import known Utrecht (UT) (Van Helsdingen 2011). It was a bycatch when catching a specimen of *Macrothele calpeiana* (Walckenaer, 1805) in the office of Rijkswaterstaat, just south of the A12 (Westraven) (UT). The animal had come along with an imported olive tree, which had been placed in the hall of the office.
This published observation was overlooked by the editor of Araneae Spiders of Europe. The Netherlands should be coloured orange on the map.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

LINYPHIIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Estrandia grandaeva* (Keyserling, 1886)] Map (orange)
Found once on the Westerheide near Hilversum (NH) (Van Helsdingen & Miller 2025). Repeated research in the area yielded no new specimens, and no trace of a population could be found. It is a

North American and North Eurasian species (Norway, Sweden, Finland, N- and -O European Russia). How the animal was able to reach the Netherlands remains unclear.
The orange colouring of the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

LYCOSIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Hogna radiata* (Latreille, 1817) **Not on the map**
Recently reported (Noordijk 2025) from Rimburg (LI)). The animal was discovered in a container with goods from Greece. The animal was released on the spot. No other known cases of import within Europe (Araneae Spiders of Europe).
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

MACROTHELIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Macrothele calpeiana* (Walckenaer, 1805)] Map (orange)
Earlier this century, reports of this species came in regularly. Specimens hitched a ride with imported olive trees, which were very fashionable at the time. Olive trees often have rough trunks with cavities, especially if they are a bit large, and that offers animals a shelter or living place, and also an opportunity to travel with them. By no means all finds have been published. The Catalogue of the Dutch spiders, version 2026.1 (Van Helsdingen 2026) therefore gives a distorted and incomplete picture of the observations. Published reports come from Utrecht (UT) and Uithoorn (NH) (both Van Helsdingen 2011) and Elsloo (LI) (Van Helsdingen 2015).
The orange colour on the map indicates the correct status for this species in our country.
Waarneming.nl: 5 non-validated observations, of which 1 recognizably correct: Lelystad (Warande Oost) (FL), Johann Prescher.

OECOBIIDAE (2 imported species)
□ [*Oecobius amboseli* Shear & Benoit, 1974] Map (green)
Oecobius amboseli is originally an African species, which was imported into three European countries, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands. The only find in the Netherlands was made in Leiden (ZH) (IJland 2013) in his house. How the species ended up in our country has not been determined. In their homeland, too, they live mainly – perhaps even exclusively – in buildings.
The map has been incorrectly filled in and should mark the Netherlands in orange.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Oecobius navus* Blackwall, 1859] Map (orange)
The oldest published observation (under the name *Oecobius cellariorum*) from Utrecht (UT) and Amsterdam (NH), can be found in the Catalogus Aranearum hucusque in Hollandia inventarum (Van Hasselt 1885), the first overview of the then known species of spiders in the Netherlands, which also included his own finds. His private collection – a reference collection with a few specimens per species – is stored in Natualis Biodiversity Centre at Leiden. In a 1949 overview of spiders imported into our country (Van der Hammen 1949b) these references were explained again.
Recent, but unpublished, observations come from the greenhouses of the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden, where the author of this article spotted them.
Therefore, the colouration on the map should be green.
Waarneming.nl: 3 non-validated observations from Eys (LI).

OONOPIDAE (4 imported species)
□ [*Heteroonops spinimanus* (Simon, 1892)] Map (green)
During a thorough inventory of the tropical greenhouse at Rotterdam Zoo in 2018, many species of Arachnids were collected, including *Heteroonops spinimanus*. (only ♀) (Bloem et al 2021). The species originates from North and South America, including the Caribbean, and has also been reported in Europe from greenhouses in Germany and the Czech Republic (Araneae Spiders of Europe 2026), and it is theoretically possible that the import into the Netherlands took place from those countries. The species was imported anyway.
On the map, the colour green should therefore be replaced by orange.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Ischnothyreus velox* Jackson, 1908] Map (orange)
During a study of arachnids in Dutch greenhouses (Van der Hammen 1969), the greenhouses in the Cantonspark in Baarn (UT) were visited. A single specimen of *Ischnothyreus velox* (♀) was collected,

and that was it. A species from tropical Asia and imported in various countries in Europe (United Kingdom, Germany, Czech Republic, and also in the Netherlands).
The orange colour on the map is correctly as far as the Netherlands is concerned.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

> ***>> Note****: Map error regarding Germany and Czech Republic (both imports, so orange) and the Czech Republic is not mentioned in the text of the map of Heteroonops spinimanus*!

□ [*Silhouettella loricatula* (Roewer, 1942)] **Not on the map**
There is only one male specimen present in the material identified by Van Hasselt as *Oonops pulcher* Templeton, 1835, preserved in the Van Hasselt Reference Collection in Naturalis Biodiversity Centre (Leiden, the Netherlands). The provenance of this single Imported specimen can, therefore, not be indicated more accurately than: DR, OV, UT, NH or ZH (Van Hasselt 1885).
Silhouettella loricatula is a southern, heat-loving species, which occurs in the Mediterranean region and was also imported into southern Germany (see map in Araneae Spiders of Europe). It is also listed as such in the Catalogue of Dutch spiders, version 2026 (Van Helsdingen 2026).
The Netherlands, therefore, should be coloured orange on the map.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Triaeris stenaspis* Simon, 1891] Map (green)
Triaeris stenaspis has been observed in two places in our country, both in greenhouses: the tropical greenhouse in Rotterdam Zoo (Bloem et al. 2021) and the greenhouses of a commercial grower in Brielle (Van Helsdingen 2024b) (both ZH). As far as our country is concerned, it can certainly be called rare, because the species has never been found during the many other inventories in greenhouses.
It is difficult to determine whether an exotic species, in this case from West Africa, is established in our country. Only found at two locations, despite fairly intensive inventories of fauna in greenhouses, means that it is rare. But since the sampling of the greenhouses in Rotterdam Zoo yielded a sighting of 7♀ and one juvenile, there must probably be a population after all. However, the density of populations in our country is probably low.
In Araneae Spiders of Europe we read: "This species of West African origin is not native to Europe (alien species). It had been imported into Europe at least once and did establish." Reports come from most of Central Europe, from the United Kingdom to Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, while no finds have been reported from the Spanish peninsula, Italy, the Balkans, the Baltic States and Scandinavia, with the exception of Finland, where a report has been made that does not (yet) indicate a settlement (coloured orange on the map). Reports are also known outside Europe. It is therefore a species that is actively expanding its area.
The green colour on the map seems correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

PHOLCIDAE (4 imported species)
□ [*Belisana ambengan* Huber, 2005] Map (green)
Belisana ambengan has so far been collected in two localities in our country, namely during the inventory of the tropical greenhouse in Rotterdam Zoo (Bloem et al. 2021). The observation concerned adult ♂, subadult ♀, and juveniles, so there is a population, however small.
For the second observation for the Netherlands, the somewhat confusing name "Waterwingebied Noordbargeres (DR)" was given as the location in waarneming.nl, which is the geographical name of the site to which the Wildlands Adventure Zoo near Emmen (DR) once moved. A specimen (♀) was found there in the tropical greenhouses (David Sies, 06-07-2019). This is a very small species – around 2.00 mm or smaller (Huber 2005; Bloem & Noordijk 2021) – so not easy to detect. The trained eye proves its merits!

In Araneae Spiders of Europe version 2026, Bali (Indonesia) is mentioned as a unique source from which import must have taken place and the import is so far unique as far as Europe is concerned. Perhaps they came with plants that were brought to the Netherlands from Bali. Colonization in the opposite direction.
Due to the presence of a population in one location (Rotterdam), the green colour on the map is correct.

□ [*Holocnemus pluchei* (Scopoli, 1763)] Map (green)

The species was first reported for the Netherlands after observations in Naaldwijk, Rilland and Rijnsburg (Van Helsdingen 2010), and more recently from Brielle (Van Helsdingen 2024a). The species had been expected for some time (in 2010) because of the finds in other, surrounding countries. In southern Europe, the species was common in shady places, such as under viaducts and in rock crevices (own observations). Spread in Europe probably accomplished on its own, but limited to sheltered conditions, in greenhouses), and currently limited to Central Europe. with the United Kingdom, Denmark and Poland as the northern border. It is to be expected that the species will spread northwards within the sheltered habitat in the near future.
If we now look at Araneae Spiders of Europe (Araneae 2026), it appears that the distribution area has not expanded. But waarneming.nl shows an avalanche of Dutch observations in 2025 and 2026, with a focus in South Holland, Utrecht, Zeeland, North Brabant and Limburg, and no or hardly any finds in the northern and northeastern provinces. Whether that process also occurred in the other countries is plausible, but falls outside the scope of this overview. It is my impression that *Holocnemus pluchei* is replacing the up till now common species *Pholcus phalangioides.* It has been clearly demonstrated that this European species has been transported to several other parts of the world (Huber 2022, fig. 2).
The green colouring on the map is completely correct.

□ [*Smeringopus pallidus* (Blackwall, 1858)] **Not on the map**
This species was observed in the past in our country, but recent observations are lacking. A Dutch observation of 1♂ by Van Hasselt (Van Hasselt 1885 and 1887) from a greenhouse in Utrecht (UT) under the invalid name *Pholcus rivulatus*, and by Van der Hammen (Van der Hammen 1949a) placed in *Smeringopus elongatus* (Vinson, 1863), a junior synonym of *Smeringopus pallidus* (Blackwall, 1858)].
It is a species that came over from Africa, which apparently gained a foothold thanks to imports, but was unable to build up permanent populations (see distribution in Araneae Spiders of Europe (Araneae 2026), with the United Kingdom, Germany and Finland coloured orange (imports, but no established populations).
The map must therefore be adjusted by orange colouring of the Netherlands.
Note: The above notification is not found in WSC and Araneae Spiders of Europe.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Spermophora kerinci* Huber 2005] Map (orange)
One specimen of either sex were found in the tropical greenhouse "Jungola" of Wildlands Adventure Zoo Emmen (DR) (Noordijk 2020). As far as we know, this was the only observation, which is understandable when you know how small the adults are (1.3-1.6 mm). That is easily overlooked. Two specimens (1♂ and 1♀) do not yet form a population, but it is plausible. Repetition of inventory can answer this question. Until then, maintaining the orange colouring on the map seems to be the best solution.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

SALTICIDAE (5 imported species)
□ [*Euophrys kataokai* (Ikeda, 1969)] Map (orange)
Indeed a case of import, with well-packaged toys from Japan (Van Helsdingen 2024a). Unpacked in Heerhugowaard (ZH). The orange colour on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Icius hamatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846)] Map (orange)
Icius hamatus was reported by Van Overdijk (Van Overdijk 2022) from Tilburg (NB), where it was found on a window. It is a strikingly striped spider from the Mediterranean region, which has probably been transported with fruit, or from one of the neighboring countries, where it has also been observed, such as the United Kingdom and Germany (Araneae Spiders of Europe).
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Icius subinermis* Simon, 1937] Map (orange)
Icius subinermis is a Mediterranean species, which was sent to me in 2006 by the finder in Enschede (OV). Inquiries showed that he had not recently been in the Mediterranean region, from which I had to deduce that it must have been a case of import without it being possible to trace by what route. At that time, in 2006, some observations were known from greenhouses in Switzerland (Canton of Geneva) and Germany (Cologne) (see Van Helsdingen 2006). In the meantime, additional reports have been

made, including from Hungary and Romania, while Germany and Switzerland are now coloured green on the map due to established populations. For the Netherlands, the colour is still orange, because no breeding populations have been observed.
Therefore, the map is still correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Phidippus audax* (Hentz, 1845)] Map (orange)
The genus *Phidippus* contains a number of wanderlust species, of which *P. audax* is one. It is a genus of the Americas, so this species was imported from there and ended up in Elst (GL) at an importer of American goods (Noordijk et al. 2016). So far, it has remained with this one case. Within Europe, the species has also been mentioned as imported from the United Kingdom and Germany.
The orange colour on the map is, therefore, correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Plexippus paykulli* (Audouin, 1826)] Map (orange)
The genus *Plexippus* is originally an "old world" genus – Afrika, Middle- and Far East Asia. *Plexippus paykulli* is the type-species of the genus and has spread from Africa all over the world. Both Dutch finds concerned imports with fruit: Veendam (GR) and Wageningen (GL) (see Noordijk 2024 for history).
The map is coloured in the right way.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

SCYTODIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Scytodes venusta* (Thorell, 1890)] Map (orange)
This species was mentioned by Van der Hammen under the name *Scytodes fusca* Walckenaer, 1837 (Van der Hammen 1949b). One specimen (♀) had come with a shipment from Buitenzorg (Bogor, Indonesia) to the National Museum of Natural History (now Biodiversity Centre Naturalis) in Leiden. Sri Lanka and Java Indonesia are the natural geographical ranges. No other cases of import into Europe are known. A legacy from colonial times.
The orange colour on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

SICARIIDAE (2 imported species)
□ [*Loxosceles deserta* Gertsch, 1973 Map (orange)
Together with a load of goods, this Desert Violin Spider traveled from California to Leeuwarden (FR) (Noordijk, J. & H. Donner 2024). The genus *Loxosceles* – family Sicariidae – is notorious for the fierce effect of its venom. It was a juvenile specimen, so there was no danger of the presence of imported egg packs, and, therfore, no chance of settlement.
The observation justifies the orange colour on the map.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Loxosceles rufescens* (Dufour, 1820)] Map (orange)
This is the more common *Loxosceles* species in terms of cross-contamination from its original range: Mediterranean region to Asia Minor. From there it was occasionally imported into some more northern European countries (United Kingdom. Switzerland, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands), but not yet established there, almost all over the world, such as tropical Asia, the Americas and Australia. The Dutch sighting dates back to 1948 (Van der Hammen 1949b) and came in with a shipment to Leiden (ZH) from Buitenzorg (Bogor, Indonesia) (see also under *Scytodes venusta*).
The map is therefore coloured in the right way.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

>> NB. Incidental remark outside the context of this article
Loxosceles laeta (Nicolet, 1849)
The caption to the distribution map of *Loxosceles laeta* (Nicolet, 1849) in Araneae Spiders of Europe 2026 states Gutemala; to be corrected in Guatemala.

SPARASSIDAE (8 imported species)
□ [*Barilestis variatus* Pocock, 1900] Map (orange)
The genus *Barilestis* is found in the African region. *B. variatus* has ended up in European countries several times, namely in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany. Czech Republic

and Finland. As far as the Dutch report is concerned, a specimen (♀) was found at the Flower Auction in Rijnsburg (ZH) (Van Helsdingen 2019), so the specimen must have been imported with plants or cut flowers.
The orange colouring of the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Eusparassus dufouri* Simon, 1932] Map (orange)
North of the known Mediterranean distribution – northern Africa, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Turkey – there are two known cases of import of *Eusparassus dufouri* from the Netherlands. from Arnhem (one house) and Rekken (brought in a motorhome from Spain (both GL) (Noordijk et al. 2017).
Species from the genus *Eusparassus* are nocturnal hunters, who crawl away during the day, under natural conditions behind bark or under stones, or spun in between leaves of shrubs (see below under *Olios argelasius).* Apparently a camper is an acceptable way to travel. The other one must have hitched a ride in a similar way.
Both are clearly imported, so the orange colouring on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Eusparassus walckenaeri* (Audouin, 1826)] Map (orange)
A second *Eusparassus* species was found in a house in Ridderkerk (ZH) in 2015 and delivered at Naturalis Biodiversity Centre at Leiden.. It turned out to be *Eusparassus walckenaeri*, a male specimen (Van Helsdingen 2015). People had no idea how the animal had ended up there in Ridderkerk, as is often the case with imported specimens.
The natural range of *E. walckenaeri* includes North Africa and the Middle East – as far as Iraq – and on the north side of the Mediterranean Sea Turkey, Greece and Italy (Sicily).
The orange colouring on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Heteropoda venatoria* (Linnaeus, 1767)] Map (orange)
There were regular imports of *Heteropoda venatoria,* which in our country is usually called the banana spider. They mainly came in from importers of tropical fruits. Usually they were females, sometimes males, but in 2015 I got a female of this species with an egg cocoon. Immediately after arrival, the young came out of the egg cocoon. a round, flattened, so disc-shaped cocoon, which was carried under the body. 18 young came out of the cocoon. In principle, a released or escaped female could start a temporary population in this way, but so far that has not happened.
Published reports from the Netherlands in general (Van Rossum et al. 1957), Bolsward (FR) and Rotterdam (ZH) (both Van der Hammen 1949b) do not give a good impression of the many finds from the past. Recent cases of imports of this species are rare.
Waarneming.nl: contains only a single find (Lelystad (FL), 1 specimen, 30.vii.2025). Whether the species is imported less or less noticed today remains unclear.
The orange colour on the map is correct.

□ [*Micrommata ligurina* (C.L. Koch, 1845)] Map (orange)
Micrommata ligurina was found once in the Netherlands. It concerned a female that had ended up in our country with lettuce from Spain, in Katwijk aan Zee (ZH) (Noordijk et al. 2017). An (unvalidated) record can be found on waarneming.nl (Eerbeek (Molenbeek), 27.vi.2025).
The distribution area includes North Africa and the European Mediterranean area, with reported import cases in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany.
The loose observation from Eerbeek is no reason to think of a breeding population.
Therefore, the map will remain coloured orange.

□ [*Nolavia antiguensis* (Keyserling, 1880 and *Nolavia* spec.] Map (orange)
Nolavia antiguensis, a species from Central America, has been split into regional subspecies in the literature, and the last word about this will not have been said yet. Both subspecies were reported as imported into Europe (Araneae Spiders of Europe 2026). Two finds have been published for the Netherlands: the first as *Nolavia* spec. (♀) from Hellevoetsluis (ZH) (Noordijk 2018) and a second one from Apeldoorn (GL) (♀) (Van Helsdingen 2024c). For both specimens, the origin could not be indicated more precisely than “with bananas from Central America”. They are discussed together for this overview.
The in Europe imported specimens ended up in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Given the large size of the females – a few centimeters in size – they will not easily go unnoticed, but it

is also conceivable that such large spiders are beaten to death out of fear. Incidentally, a fate that many spiders will meet. In any case, bunches of bananas are excellent transport options for stowaways. The chance that they will settle in Europe seems very unlikely.
The map is therefore correctly coloured with orange.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Olios argelasius* (Walckenaer, 1806)] Map (orange)
In 2017, only three reports were known (Noordijk et al. 2017). That number has now risen to 33 with 30 new reports (Van Helsdingen 2025a). The records come from most provinces, with the exceptions of Friesland, Drenthe, Flevoland, and Zeeland. Almost all observations were individual specimens. Therefore, we can conclude that the number of observations of introduced individuals has increased considerably, but that there are no indications (yet) for established populations.
Olios argelasius is a Mediterranean species (North Africa and Southern Europe) and, in addition to the Netherlands, imported to the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Poland. In the Mediterranean area, specimens spun between leaves can be found on shrubs and lower tree branches (higher ones may also be found, but they are out of sight). In this respect, *Arbutus unedo*, an Ericaceae, can be called the preferred habitat (own observations).
The map is therefore correctly coloured with orange.

□ [*Tychicus longipes* (Walckenaer, 1837)] Map (orange)
In many ways, this is a unique case. Historical, because in 1872 a specimen (♀) under the name *Ocypete longipes* and *Olios longipes* was discovered in a box with plants, which had been shipped from Java (then the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia) to the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden (the Netherlands) (Van Hasselt 1872). We may assume that this transport went through s'Landsch Plantentuin in Buitenzorg (Bogor), but that is no more than an assumption. Perhaps Java was no more than a stopover and the specimen came along with plants that had been collected elsewhere in the colony. Doleschall reports the occurrence of this species from Ambon as "On Amboina in residential houses common" (Doleschall 1857). This, therefore, points to transport from Ambon, via Java, to Leiden.
It is also unique that this is the only recorded case of import into Europe (Araneae Spiders of Europe 2026).
So the map is coloured correctly. A lonely orange spot on the map of Europe.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

THERAPHOSIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Euathlus truculentus* L. Koch, 1875] not in Araneae, for not a European species, No **map available**
According to Araneae (Araneae Spiders of Europe 2026), this species does not occur in Europe. The name does not appear in the list of species reported in Europe. The World Spider Catalog (version 27 ,2026) also does not indicate an occurrence in Europe. This is incorrect, because the species was mentioned as an imported species in the literature. An understandable omission, because the mention was very inconspicuously, casually included in an article about another spider species (Noordijk et al. 2023, page 27). I hope that the editors of the World Spider Catalog and Araneae Spiders of Europe can fix the mistake soon.
In the Catalogue of Dutch Spiders (Van Helsdingen 2026) the species was already correctly listed.
The sighting involved a specimen of *Euathlus truculentus*, which was found in a grape tray in a supermarket in Arnhem (GL). The container was imported from Chile.
On the map, now to be added, orange colouring for the Netherlands is then appropriate.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

THERIDIIDAE (11 imported species)
□ [*Coleosoma floridanum* Banks, 1900] Map (green)
Coleosoma floridana is an extremely small spider (1.7-2.1 mm), and for that reason probably escaped the eye of inventories by arachnologists. So far it has been established at three localities: Emmen (DR). ZH: Honselersdijk (ZH) and Rotterdam (Blijdorp Zoo) (ZH) (Van Helsdingen 1995, Bloem et al. 2021). A recent new site was entered on Waarneming.nl: Burgers Zoo Arnhem (♂♀) (GL). They all were found in greenhouses at all three localities. It is not impossible, but neither likely, that the species also occurs outside the greenhouses. However, the small dimensions make it difficult to find specimens outside greenhouses. Therefore, it seems correct to insert this exotic species – originating

from the Americas – after decades of occurrence in our country in our Dutch spider fauna, and to use the green colour on the map.
It is striking that in three nearby countries (Belgium, Germany and Poland) the species is treated as exotic, while in the United Kingdom, France, and Denmark it is registrated as a native species.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Cryptachaea blattea* (Urquhart, 1886)] Map (green)
A female with egg cocoon of *Cryptachaea blattea* was found on a tropical pot plant in a garden centre in Sliedrecht (ZH) (Bink 2014a). After this first find, 20 more were inserted into waarneming.nl, from various *provinces.* So we can now cautiously assume that the species has established itself in our country.
The map is coloured correctly with green.

□ [*Enoplognatha diversa* (Blackwall, 1859)] Map (orange)
A single specimen was found in a store in Leiden (ZH), the Netherlands, in a cauliflower wrapped in foil, which had been imported from Spain (IJland 2023). Not from surrounding countries listed. Its natural range is the Mediterranean region and includes the Iberian Peninsula and southern France, mainland Greece and Crete, and many other islands in the Mediterranean. Mentioned in Russia from the southern European part.
The orange indication on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Latrodectus geometricus* C.L. Koch, 1841] Map (orange)
In the World Spider Catalog (WSC 2026), Africa is listed as the original area of occurrence. This is repeated in Araneae Spiders of Europe. It is not clear to me why there is a deviation from the original mention of C.L. Koch (C.L. Koch 1841: 117, fig. 684), where the location is described as follows: "Vaterland. Südamerika, Columbien." As far as the current distribution is concerned, both in the World Spider Catalog and in Araneae, a worldwide introduction or permanent branches are mentioned. Within Europe, in addition to the Netherlands, observations from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Poland have been indicated.
Dutch observations of this species come from Delft (Noordijk et al. 2003), Rotterdam (Noordijk 2016) and Eygelshoven (Noordijk 2021). All cases of import.
Therefore, the orange colour on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Latrodectus hasselti* Thorell, 1870] Map (orange)
An Australian and Southeast Asian species, which was introduced in the Netherlands a number of times. Reports came from Veenendaal (GL) (Noordijk 2016), Amsterdam (Van Helsdingen 2019) and Den Helder (NH) (Noordijk 2016), and Sliedrecht (ZH) (Van Helsdingen 2019).
The orange colour on the map is, therefore, entirely justified.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Latrodectus hesperus* Chamberlin & Ivie, 1935] Map (orange)
□ [*Latrodectus mactans* (Fabricius, 1775)] Not marked on map
Since the two species, especially when they are immature, are difficult to tell apart, treating them under one heading seems the most practical. They are all imported records, which have arrived in various ways. A striking way was to come along with old cars, which were tracked down from the United States by enthusiasts of old models and transported to our country. Often such discarded bodies had lain in the field for a while and had formed a shelter for – among other things – spiders. Car mechanics in our country then report asking what they should do to get rid of the dangerous-looking Black widows. The red marking on the abdomen served as an alarm button. The advice was then to look for and destroy the spiders with eggs, so that a settlement would be prevented. That seems to have been successful so far.
Locations registered in the Netherlands (Van Helsdingen 2026): Damwoude (FR), Assen (DR), Glanerbrug (OV), Elst (GL), Amersfoort, Montfoort (UT), Aalsmeer (NH), The Hague, Ridderkerk, Waddinxveen (ZH), Best, Moerdijk (NB), Horst (LI).
The orange colour on the map is, therefore, entirely justified.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

>> NB: Noordijk, J., J. Vos & B. Schoelitsz 2013. Risk assessment of black widows and related spider species. EIS 2013-03, EIS-Nederland, Leiden & KAD Wageningen, 34 pp. + appendices. Internet: http://www.eis-nederland.nl/rapporten.html certainly deserves to be included in WSC Bibliography because of the clear identification possibilities.

□ [*Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* (Rossi, 1790)] Map (orange)
Latrodectus tredecimguttatus is a southern European species. A specimen was found in a caravan in Lochem (GL) after a holiday trip (Noordijk 2023). Since it was a female, which was found at the underside of the caravan, it is in principle possible that an egg package had produced spiderlings. However, no reports of this have been received.
The orange colour on the map is correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Meotypa spiniventris* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1869)] Map (orange)
Meotypa spiniventris was mentioned for the Netherlands in 1949 (Van der Hammen 1949a) under the then current original name *Theridion spiniventre ,* from greenhouses at four sites in the Netherlands, namely Wageningen (GL), Utrecht (UT), Delft (ZH) and Leiden (ZH). Despite a large number of inventions of greenhouses in the Netherlands, especially in the greenhouses of botanical gardens in university towns and zoos – as Van der Hammen had done – the species was never found again. The species originally came from SE Asia and has not been able to gain a foothold in our country, nor elsewhere in Europe.
Therefore, the orange colour on the map is justified.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Parasteatoda tabulata* (Levi, 1980)] *Map (green)*
This species was found on two occasions on the Maasvlakte west of Rotterdam and introduced in waarneming.nl. The observation from 2014 was published (Bink 2014b). The site is – or actually was – known as a special, new place for finding exotic spiders. The new dike – seawall – constructed at the time around the western extension of the Maasvlakte was covered with a crest of boulders from abroad. This cover resulted in a biotope with many cavities under and between the stones. A notable inhabitant of these spaces was *Theridion hannoniae* Denis, 1945 (Bink, J. & P.J. van Helsdingen 2014; Bink 2014b), which could be found under every stone. Over the years, however, the cavities were filled with drifting sand and plant remains. In short, the habitat on the crest of the dike disappeared and with it the fauna living in it. Perhaps a small residual population has remained here or there. Johan Bink, discoverer of the species in our country, apparently never found it again.
Given the regular inventory, we can therefore safely assume that the species has not left a breeding population there, and the green colour, therefore, should, become an orange one.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

□ [*Steatoda paykulliana* (Walckenaer, 1806)] Map (orange)
Steatoda paykulliana was in the Netherlands in four places, and all four were clearly imported: Assen (DR), Wageningen (GL), Callantsoog (NH) and Rotterdam (ZH) (Noordijk et al. 2023, Van Helsdingen 2023).
On waarneming.nl, another find in Venlo (auction site), 14.i.2026, has been inserted, but has not (yet) been validated.
The map in Araneae is, therefore, correctly coloured orange.

TITANOECIDAE (1 imported species)
□ [*Pandava laminata* (Thorell, 1878)] Map (green)
Known from the Netherlands and mentioned in the literature as a result of a first observation of this species in Poland. *Pandava laminata* had entered there through the import of plants from an orchid nursery in the Netherlands in the period 2009-2014 (Rozwalka et al. 2017). The species is native to tropical Asia and has also been imported to the European countries of Bulgaria, Germany, Finland, Great Britain, Hungary and Poland and the United Kingdom, as well as to countries outside Europe. Orchids are loved, and easier to buy through the trade than to collect them yourself (which will also be prohibited without a license).
The green markings on the map in Araneae are, therefore, based on the assumption that breeding populations occur in all nurseries. As long as the contrary has not been observed, the green colour can be maintained. Provisionally correct.
Waarneming.nl: no further records.

SUMMARY: OVERVIEW AND CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE

ARANEIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Gasteracantha cancriformis* (Linnaeus, 1758)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

CHEIRACANTHIIDAE (1? and 1 imported species)
[*Cheiracanthium mildei* L. Koch, 1864] **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE
[? *Cheiracanthium punctorium* (Villers, 1789)?] **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE

CTENIDAE (2 imported species)
[*Acanthoctenis alux* Arizala, Labarque & Polotow, 2021] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Phoneutria boliviensis* (F.O. P.-Cambridge, 1879)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

FILISTATIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Filistata insidiatrix* (Forsskål, 1775)] **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE

LINYPHIIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Estrandia grandaeva* (Keyserling, 1886)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

LYCOSIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Hogna radiata* (Latreille, 1817) **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE

MACROTHELIDAE (1 i imported species)
[*Macrothele calpeiana* (Walckenaer, 1805)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

OECOBIIDAE (3 imported species)
[*Oecobius amboseli* Shear & Benoit, 1974] **>> MAP TO ORANGE**
[*Oecobius navus* Blackwall, 1859] **>> MAP TO GREEN**

OONOPIDAE (4 imported species)
[*Heteroonops spinimanus* (Simon, 1892)] **>> MAP TO ORANGE**
[*Ischnothyreus velox* Jackson, 1908] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
***>>Note**: Map error regarding Germany and the Czech Republic (both imports, so orange) and the Czech Republic is not mentioned in the text of the map!*
[*Silhouettella loricatula* (Roewer, 1942)] **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE
[*Triaeris stenaspis* Simon, 1891] Map (green) **CORRECT**

PHOLCIDAE (4 imported species)
[*Belisana ambengan* Huber Huber, 2005] Map (green) **CORRECT**
[*Holocnemus pluchei* (Scopoli, 1763)] Map (green) **CORRECT**
[*Smeringopus pallidus* (Blackwall, 1858)] **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE

>>The above notification of *S. pallidus* cannot be found in WSC and Araneae Spiders of Europe.

[*Spermophora kerinci* Huber 2005] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

SALTICIDAE (5 imported species)
[*Euophrys kataokai* (Ikeda, 1969)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Icius hamatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Icius subinermis* Simon, 1937] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Phidippus audax* (Hentz, 1845)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Plexippus paykulli* (Audouin, 1826)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

SCYTODIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Scytodes venusta* (Thorell, 1890)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

SICARIIDAE (2 imported species)
[*Loxosceles deserta* Gertsch, 1973 Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Loxosceles rufescens* (Dufour, 1820)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
Loxosceles laeta (Nicolet, 1849)

>>NB Incidental remark outside the context of this article
Loxosceles laeta (Nicolet, 1849)
The caption to the distribution map of *Loxosceles laeta* (Nicolet, 1849) in Araneae Spiders of Europe 2026 states Gutemala; to be corrected in Guatemala.

SPARASSIDAE (8 imported species)
[*Barilestis variatus* Pocock, 1900] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Eusparassus dufouri* Simon, 1932] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Eusparassus walckenaeri* (Audouin, 1826)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Heteropoda venatoria* (Linnaeus, 1767)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Micrommata ligurina* (C.L. Koch, 1845)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Nolavia antiguensis* (Keyserling, 1880 in *Nolavia* spec.] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Olios argelasius* (Walckenaer, 1806)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Tychicus longipes* (Walckenaer, 1837)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

THERAPHOSIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Euathlus truculentus* L. Koch, 1875] **NO MAP**
not included in Araneae, no map available **>> MAP TO ORANGE**

THERIDIIDAE (11 imported species)
[*Coleosoma floridanum* Banks, 1900] Map (green) **CORRECT**
[*Cryptachaea blattea* (Urquhart, 1886)] Map (green) **CORRECT**
[*Enoplognatha diversa* (Blackwall, 1859)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Latrodectus geometricus* C.L. Koch, 1841] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
Latrodectus hasselti Thorell, 1870] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Latrodectus hesperus* Chamberlin & Ivie, 1935] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Latrodectus mactans* (Fabricius, 1775)] **NOT ON MAP**
>> MAP TO ORANGE
[*Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* (Rossi, 1790)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Meotypa spiniventris* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1869)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**
[*Parasteatoda tabulata* (Levi, 1980)] **>> MAP TO ORANGE**
[*Steatoda paykulliana* (Walckenaer, 1806)] Map (orange) **CORRECT**

TITANOECIDAE (1 imported species)
[*Pandava laminata* (Thorell, 1878)] Map (green)
PROVISIONALLY CORRECT

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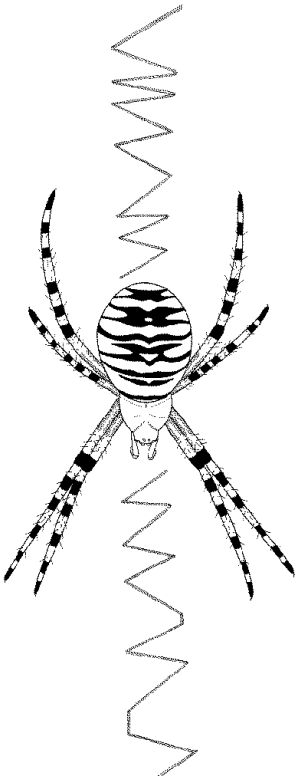
HELIOPHANUS TRIBULOSUS, UITBREIDING VAN AREAAL?

Heliophanus tribulosus Simon, 1868 werd in 2013 voor het eerst gesignaleerd door Frans IJsselstijn in zijn tuin in Cromstrijen (Klaaswaal). Hij voerde hem in op waarneming.nl, en herhaalde dat ieder jaar, omdat de soort elk jaar weer te zien was. De populatie heeft inmiddels meer dan een decennium stand gehouden.
Op waarneming.nl werden inmiddels een aantal nieuwe meldingen gedaan. Anonieme waarnemer meldt een exemplaar van Texel (De Cocksdorp, Vakantiepark De Krim) (2.v.2026). Daarnaast een anonieme melding van een exemplaar uit Poortugaal (ZH) (118.iv.2026). Ben Delbaere meldt een exemplaar uit Udenhout (NB) (15.v.2025).
Contact met een van de validatoren maakte duidelijk, dat dergelijke meldingen meestal niet verder komen dan *Heliophanus* spec., omdat soortherkenning binnen dit genus aan de hand van een foto bijna onmogelijk is, en men het in twijfelgevallen terugverwijst naar het genus. Zekerheid is altijd vereist. Daarom blijft de populatie van Cromstrijen voorlopig de enige populatie in ons land.

PJvH

Nieuwsbrief SPINED



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