

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Banksula incredula*
COMMON NAME: Incredible harvestman
CLASS, FAMILY: Arachnida, Phalangodidae

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION: Ubick, D., and T.S. Briggs. 2002. The harvestman family Phalangodidae 4. A review of the genus *Banksula* (Opiliones, Laniatores). The Journal of Arachnology 30:436, figs. 1-3, 6, 9-22 (lateral view of adult, lateral view and close-up of male palpi, venter of female, anterior half of female scute, female left palpus, male left palpus, dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of penis, dorsal view of left ventral plate).

TYPE MATERIAL: *Holotype:* Male – California: San Mateo Co.; San Bruno Mountain, from within a sandstone talus slope, 10 May 1991, D. Ubick. Deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, type #17951. Additional specimens (6 females, 4 males, and 2 juveniles) were collected at the same locality between 10 May 1991 and 26 Jan 1992.

RANKING/STATUS: G1S1 (NatureServe – CNDDDB).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: *Banksula* species are minute harvestmen with a row of setae-bearing dorsal tubercles on the palpal femur; the male penis has a bifurcate ventral plate with ventrally positioned prongs. *Banksula incredula* is orange in color, with pale orange appendages and white tarsi.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS: *Banksula incredula* is unusual in that it is the only known species in the genus not found in caves, and it is geographically isolated from the other species, occurring, so far as is known, in only one locality in the San Francisco area. It is larger than other species of *Banksula* (body length 2.56-3.00 mm), with a higher tarsal count (4 to 5-7 to 9-5-5 to 6), large eyes on a high eyemound, and additional palpal megaspines (4 ectobasal and 2 mesoapical on the femur). The ventral plate of the male genitalia has large apical spines and long setae; the female ovipositor is smooth with a pair of apical teeth.

OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS: None available.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the type locality, on the north slope of San Bruno Mountain ridge, just south of San Francisco.

HABITAT: The type locality site is a trailside talus slope consisting of Franciscan sandstone with a dense chaparral canopy. Apparently the talus slope was artificially formed during construction of a pipeline several decades ago. No *Banksula* were collected along other sections of the pipeline where talus was present.

LIFE HISTORY/BEHAVIOR: There is no published information about the life history or behavior of this species.

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