

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Calicina minor*
COMMON NAME: Edgewood Blind Harvestman
CLASS, FAMILY: Arachnida, Phalangodidae

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION: Briggs, T.S. and K. Hom. 1966. Five new species of Phalangodidae from California. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 42(4):263 (described as *Sitalcina minor*), figs. 3 (dorsum), 8 (lateral view of cephalothorax).

TYPE MATERIAL: *Holotype:* Female – CALIFORNIA: San Mateo County; under serpentine rocks on grassland hillside at 0.75 miles north of Crystal Springs Dam on County Road No. 14, 23 Jan 1966, T.S. Briggs and K. Hom, collectors. Deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, type #9392. *Allotype:* Male, same data as holotype. *Paratypes:* 4, same data as holotype.

RANKING/STATUS: G1S1 (NatureServe—CNDDDB).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Males of the genus can be recognized by their telescoping penis glans; they are the only Nearctic phalangodids with this character. Most males also have a dorsal spur on the palpal tarsus, a character unknown in other genera of phalangodids. Females can be distinguished from those of *Sitalcina* by having ovipositors with a double setal fringe, and microspines on the cuticle. *Calicina minor* is a minute yellow-orange species with neotenic characters (juvenile characteristics retained in adulthood), such as blindness (usually confined to cave-dwelling species) and reduction in size. This species is among the world's smallest harvestmen, measuring just over 1 mm in body length.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS: *Calicina minor* can be distinguished from all other species in the genus by its unique glans penis. The basal segment has transverse rows of small tubercles; the dorsal process lacks apical lobes but has prominent basal lobes. The male palpal tarsus has an enlarged mesobasal spine-bearing tubercle instead of a spur. The female ovipositor bears 6 pairs of apical and 3 pairs of subapical setae, and the microspines are restricted to the apex.

OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS: Briggs and Ubick (1987) presented a lateral view habitus drawing of this species. Briggs (1968) illustrates the dorsum (fig. 27, lateral view of eye tubercle (fig. 57), and ventral view of the penis (fig. 87) of *Calicina minor* (as *Sitalcina minor*). Ubick and Briggs (1989) illustrate the mesobasal spine-bearing tubercle in fig. 4c and the male genitalia in figs. 12a-d.

DISTRIBUTION: Originally collected at Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County, the species has not been collected there since the construction of Interstate 280. In spite of intensive phalangodid collecting in the Bay Area, the species is currently known only from Edgewood Park. Even where present, populations of this species are quite small. Briggs and Ubick (1987) reported that 5 days of collection effort yielded only 40 specimens.

A series of collections from Santa Clara County listed by Briggs and Hom (1966) as belonging to *Calicina minor* were later found to be a different species, *Microcina homi*.

HABITAT: Restricted to serpentine grasslands. According to Briggs and Ubick (1987), individuals of this species are found on the undersides of serpentine rocks in moist areas. They note that the species seems sensitive to disturbance; it is not found on overturned rocks, or on rocks populated by common, widespread species such as sowbugs and earwigs.

LIFE HISTORY/BEHAVIOR: Briggs and Ubick (1987) speculated that development occurs in the soil, because the juveniles, like those of most other species of *Calicina*, had not been collected up until that time. Adults are found only during the rainy season of November-April. The species is predaceous and may feed on springtails (order Collembola).

Because of its restricted habitat and small size, the species has a very low dispersal potential.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

- Briggs, T.S. 1986. Phalangids of the laniatorid genus *Sitalcina* (Phalangodidae: Opiliones). Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences (ser. 4) 36:1-32.
- Briggs, T.S. and D. Ubick. 1987. Letter to Dr. Jeurel Singleton, USFW.
- Ubick, D., and T.S. Briggs. 1989. The harvestmen family Phalangodidae. 1. The new genus *Calicina*, with notes on *Sitalcina* (Opiliones: Laniatores). Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences 46(4):95-136.

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