# MANUAL ARANEAE FAUNA EUROPAEA

**Version 2021.1**

***A database is never complete and loses its value as soon as updating stops. Let us keep it in shape together.***

**General statement**

**One is advised to use with preference this more recent and updated version 2021.1 on the ESA website and evade the official Fauna Europaea website because updating has stopped.**

## Origin

The database has derived from the Fauna Eurpaea Project carried out between 1999 and 2004. The Fauna Europaea website is now available but out of date since it was completed in 2003.

The database presented here is an up-date and can be used to everyone’s advantage. It is not interactive and one cannot make changes directly. Contact me for suggested changes ([Peter.vanhelsdingen@naturalis.nl](mailto:Peter.vanhelsdingen@naturalis.nl))

## Aim

The Fauna Eurpaea Project makes available a website with ***published*** data on the composition and distribution of the land- and freshwater fauna of Europe. The delimitation of Europe is shown on the map and the subdivisions of larger or complicated countries, e.g. European Russia, Greece, Spain and Portugal, are explained in an Appendix.

The Fauna Europaea website has many extras beside a list of species names and country distributions. One can find distribution maps for each species and ask for the number of species per taxonomic unit (order, family etc.). It also lists all the institutions which have cooperated to bring the data together.

## Format

The database presented here has a pricipally different format. It consists of two Excel spreadsheets. The one called ***Taxonomy*** lists the families, genera, species and subspecies, author and year of description, and recent synonyms. The other one is called ***Faunistics*** and shows the species distributions over the countries of Europe. The abbreviations of the countries are listed below and also at the top of the spreadsheat. They have also been inserted on the map. They are fully explained on the Fauna Europaea website (<http://www.faunaeur.org>).

## Nomenclature

As to the species names, authors and dates of publication I have originally followed Platnick’s on-line *The World Spider Catalog* in its successive versions. More recently this catalogue has evolved into a slightly different *World Spider Catalog* which is now located in Basel, Switzerland and can be accessed through http://www.wsc.nmbe.ch/ . The distribution data have been collected from all possible published sources, such as national fauna check lists, printed or on the Internet; published catalogues; papers in journals and Proceedings of Colloquiums; Inventory reports, etc. I have restricted myself to ***published*** data. Authors are kindly requested to send me reprints of papers to support the goal of this project.

## Subspecies and Nomina dubia

Arachnologists have reservedly made use of the subspecific status for taxonomic units. Usually one prefers to allow specific status to a newly discovered form. Subspecies in spiders are rare.

There has been ample discussion about the inclusion of *nomina dubia* in the Fauna Europaea database. In the official database they have not been included so far, but from Version 2008.2 onwards they contain all available *nomina dubia* within Europe, because they are available names (in the context of nomenclature). These names refer to described species, although we do not know which species the author had before him. According to me arachnologists have the task to solve this problem by seriously considering each of those names.

*Numbers of species per country and numbers of records per species*

Two new services were established on the *Faunistics* spreadsheet in version 2011.2 and are continued since. At the bottom row the number of species per country can be found. Nomina dubia *nd* and imported species *Pi* are not included in the addition. The last column but one shows the score for each species, i.e. the number of countries or regions the species is recorded from. Again, Nomina dubia and imported species are not included in the addition. A “0” in the column indicates either a “nd” or a “Pi” somewhere in that row.

## References and Sources

The last column shows the number(s) of the references for each species under which relevant publications can be found in the document “List of References”. These references are to be used as supplementary information next to the The World Spider Catalog (<http://www.wsc.nmbe.ch/>).

## How to proceed

As author I have the task to improve and update the database during the following years. The database was completed in 2003. Many new species have been described since and distribution data are collected continuously. After 2003 I have tried to insert new data when they became available, such as new species, new synonymies, and new distribution records. Former mistakes have been corrected whenever they were discovered. Through this action the database presented here has improved and is more extensive. However, it is quite clear that such a database is never ready in an active scientific discipline as taxonomy of an order, the Araneae, where so many arachnologists are at work all the time.

Putting this database on the website of the European Arachological Society (ESA) is the best way to test its value. I hope that many of the European arachnologists will use the database and suggest corrections and additions. Please contact me whenever you find mistakes, omissions, printing errors, forgotten species, incorrect distribution data, etc.

**Please note that the database concerns published data only.**

Because of the interval in time between the sending in of the database for the Fauna Europaea website and the present database (Version 2021.1) one is advised to use with preference this more recent and updated version 2021.1 on the ESA website and evade the official Fauna Europaea website for the time being.

The new database version adapted and corrected with your help will be transferred to the official Fauna Europaea website in due course.

## Contact

Comments are much welcomed. Please send them through e-mail to [Peter.vanelsdingen@naturalis.nl](mailto:Peter.vanelsdingen@naturalis.nl)

## Citation

One is kindly requested to refer in publications to the database in the following way:

Helsdingen, P.J. van, 2021. Araneae. In: Fauna Europaea Database (Version 2021.1). (<http://www.european-arachnology.org>)

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