

## Sampling spiders

Spiders can be found in a wide range of habitats, from our gardens, meadows, woodlands and even at the top of mountains! You don't need a lot of equipment to search for them— a camera and if you have a pot and hand lens is often enough to get started! Remember that many require examination of adults under a microscope to confirm species! A range of techniques are used when sampling for spiders:



Using a pooter while searching vegetation by hand



Shaking grass tussocks into a white tray



Sweeping vegetation with a net



Bark trap— left on a tree using a bin bag filled with straw



Malaise traps— used in long term surveys and collect other species



Using a leaf blower on reverse— bug vac!



Turn over stones and rubble to look for retreats and egg sacs



Pitfall traps— can be lethal or non-lethal and left on site (also collects other ground running species)

## Recording spiders

When searching for spiders make a note of what you find! Remember you will need the name of the location, a grid reference (or postcode), the date of when it was found and the name of the recorder—a description of the habitat where the spider was found is always helpful! Take a photo of your spider to help verifiers confirm your species.

Please share your records and information with the Spider Recording Scheme: [srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Species+surveys](https://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Species+surveys)

**Remember that not all spiders in the UK can be identified in the field without the aid of further examination of a mature adult under a microscope.**

You can also upload wildlife records onto iRecord ([www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/)) even if you only know the family or have managed to get down to genus – every record counts!

There are several books, guides and webpages to help with your identification and improve your confidence and experience of spiders, see the list of useful resources below.

## Links to useful resources

**Buglife:** [www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/featured-insects/love-spiders/](http://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/featured-insects/love-spiders/)

**British Arachnological Society:** [britishspiders.org.uk/wiki2015/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://britishspiders.org.uk/wiki2015/index.php?title=Main_Page)

**Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme :** [srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Welcome](https://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Welcome)

**Spiders of Europe:** [araneae.nmbe.ch/](http://araneae.nmbe.ch/)

Why not get involved with the **Scottish Spider Search:** [www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/scottish\\_spider\\_search.php](http://www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/scottish_spider_search.php)

**Field Study Council**— for information on courses and fold out guide to common garden spiders: [www.field-studies-council.org/](http://www.field-studies-council.org/)

**National Biodiversity Network Atlas** for distribution maps of different species: [nbnatlas.org/](http://nbnatlas.org/)

**Facebook**— British Spider Identification Group for help with identification: [www.facebook.com/groups/BritishSpiderIdentificationGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BritishSpiderIdentificationGroup/)

**iSpot** for help with identification: [www.ispotnature.org/](http://www.ispotnature.org/)

**iRecord** to upload wildlife records: [www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/)

**Identification guides:**

Collins- **Field Guide to Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe** by Michael J. Roberts (1996)

Wild Guides- **Britain's Spiders a Field Guide** by Lawrence Bee, Geoff Oxford and Helen Smith (2017)