

Phalangium opilio and *Mitopus morio* female comparison

Females of both species often have a dark saddle with a zigzag outline which can lead to confusion in the field. In both species the saddle can have a pale outline and there can also be a pale stripe running down the centre. In *Phalangium opilio* the saddle broadens to a sharp point which is noticeably wider than the rest of the saddle (arrowed below, left). In *Mitopus morio* the saddle outline is less angular with the width in the centre no greater than at the front (arrowed below, right). The overall colour in both species is very variable (especially in *Mitopus morio*). In *Phalangium opilio* the ocularium is set approximately its own length back from the edge of the carapace and is topped with two rows of black-tipped tubercles. In *Mitopus morio* the ocularium is set further back (roughly one and half times its length) and is topped with smaller, less prominent tubercles (giving a smoother appearance than *Phalangium opilio*). Both species have a variable number of small tubercles scattered in front of the ocularium, these are generally more prominent in *Phalangium opilio*.

The pedipalps in *Mitopus morio* often have very extensive dark markings.

NB *Phalangium opilio* females can be distinguished in all cases by the presence of two small tubercles set above the chelicerae, a feature not always that easy to see depending on the angle.

Photo credits: *Mitopus morio* Ian Beddison, *Phalangium opilio* Vanna Bartlett.



Phalangium opilio: saddle obscure.



Phalangium opilio.



Mitopus morio.



Mitopus morio: saddle obscure.



Phalangium opilio: dark saddle with pale border and midline stripe.



Phalangium opilio: saddle with pale midline stripe.



Mitopus morio: saddle with pale midline stripe.



Mitopus morio: dark saddle with pale border and midline stripe.

***Phalangium opilio* female.**

Photos Vanna Bartlett.

Phalangium opilio: the saddle broadens to a sharp point which is noticeably wider than the rest of the saddle area (arrowed right).



Phalangium opilio is readily distinguishable by the two small tubercles above the chelicerae although the angle of view can be critical (circled above).



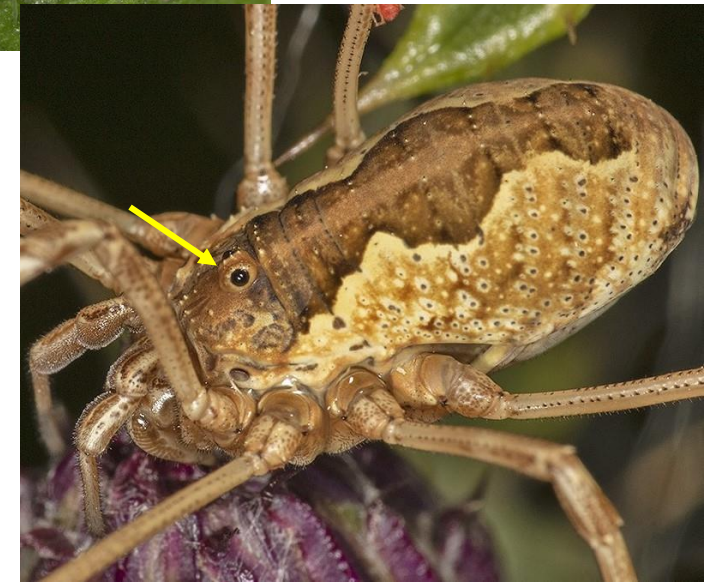
Phalangium opilio ocularium rather spiky looking with black-tipped tubercles (arrowed above). Carapace in front of ocularium with scattered pointed tubercles.



***Mitopus morio* female.**

Photos Ian Beddison.

Mitopus morio: width at centre of saddle barely broader than that at front or rear. Saddle outline less angular with rounder edge at centre (arrowed left).



Mitopus morio ocularium with a few small tubercles, looks comparatively smooth (arrowed above); set further back from edge of carapace. Fewer tubercles on carapace in front of ocularium. Overall 'smoother', less 'spiky' looking.