



## Species Conservation Profile

# Species conservation profile of the alpine stenoendemic spider *Vesubia jugorum* (Araneae, Lycosidae) from the Maritime Alps

Stefano Mammola<sup>†,§</sup>, Filippo Milano<sup>‡</sup>, Pedro Cardoso<sup>¶,¶</sup>, Marco Isaia<sup>†,§</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, University of Torino, Torino, Italy

<sup>§</sup> IUCN SSC Spider & Scorpion Specialist Group, Torino, Italy

<sup>¶</sup> IUCN SSC Spider & Scorpion Specialist Group, Helsinki, Finland

<sup>¶</sup> Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Corresponding author: Stefano Mammola ([stefano.mammola@unito.it](mailto:stefano.mammola@unito.it)), Marco Isaia ([marco.isaia@unito.it](mailto:marco.isaia@unito.it))

Academic editor: Pavel Stoev

Received: 16 Sep 2016 | Accepted: 04 Oct 2016 | Published: 07 Oct 2016

Citation: Mammola S, Milano F, Cardoso P, Isaia M (2016) Species conservation profile of the alpine stenoendemic spider *Vesubia jugorum* (Araneae, Lycosidae) from the Maritime Alps. Biodiversity Data Journal 4: e10527. doi: [10.3897/BDJ.4.e10527](https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.4.e10527)

## Abstract

*Vesubia jugorum* (Simon, 1881) (Araneae: Lycosidae) is a large-sized wolf spider that occurs in alpine rocky areas above 2,000 m altitude. The species is stenoendemic, with a limited number of populations documented in the literature from the Maritime Alps (Italy, France). Due to the climate change, the current observed extent of occurrence (EEO 4,412 km<sup>2</sup>) and the area of occupancy (AOO 835 km<sup>2</sup>) are declining.

## Keywords

Climate Change, wolf spider, high altitudes, IUCN, red list

## Contributors

François Breton, Christine Rollard, Christophe Hervé, Emanuele Biggi, Federico Crovetto, Raquel Galindo, Irene Frigo, Liliana Milano, Mariagrazia Morando, Mauro Paschetta, Edoardo Ricca, Elena Piano and Davide Giuliano contributed with occurrence data.

## Species information

**Taxon Name:** *Vesubia jugorum* (Simon, 1881)

### Common names

Giant alpine spider (English)

### Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Arachnida	Araneae	Lycosidae

### Taxonomic notes

*Vesubia jugorum* is a large-sized spider (body length: 15–20 mm, prosoma: 7-9 mm). The prosoma is generally blackish or dark brown, marked with black streaks irradiating from the fovea. The opisthosoma is dark grey dorsally and brown reddish ventrally. Legs are dark brown dorsally and reddish-yellowish ventrally, especially on coxae (Figs 1, 2). See Tongiorgi (1968), Tongiorgi (1969), Maurer and Thaler (1988) and Nentwig et al. (2016) for genitalic drawings and other relevant diagnostic features.

### Region for assessment:

- Global

## Geographic range

### Biogeographic realm:

- Palearctic



**Figure 1.**

Habitus of *Vesubia jugorum* — female. [Photo credit: Emanuele Biggi, 2003]



**Figure 2.**

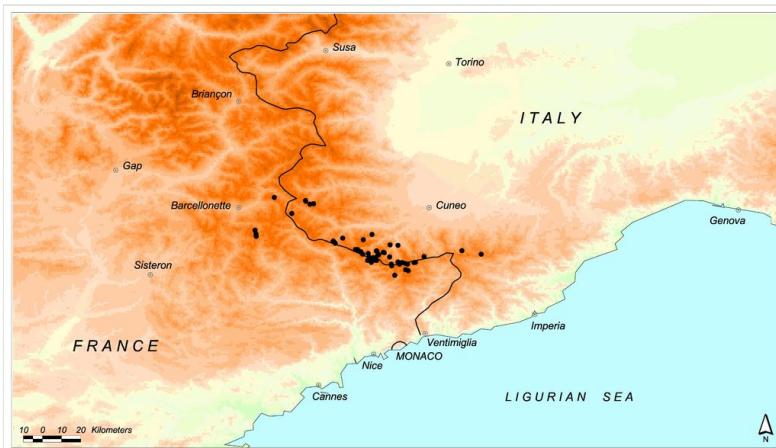
*Vesubia jugorum* — female with spiderlings. [Photo credit: Emanuele Biggi, 2016]

#### Countries:

- France
- Italy

#### Map of records (image):

Fig. 3



**Figure 3.**

Distribution map of *Vesubia jugorum* (black dots).

#### Map of records (Google Earth):

Suppl. material 1

#### Basis of EOO and AOO: Species Distribution Model

##### Basis (narrative)

We based the Species Distribution Model (SDM) on literature data (Isaia et al. (2015), Isaia et al. (2007), Maurer and Thaler (1988), Simon (1881), Tongiorgi (1968), Tongiorgi (1969)) and original unpublished data gathered during recent surveys (see New occurrences).

Occurrences were used to model the current distribution of the species through a MaxEnt model in *dismo* R package (Hijmans et al. 2014). See Mammola et al. (2015) and Isaia et al. (2016) for details on modeling procedure. We estimated the extent of occurrence (EOO) and the area of occupancy (AOO) from the model, as implemented in the *red* R package (Cardoso 2016).

To estimate the potential variation of the EOO and AOO due to future climate change, the model was projected in the future (year 2028; i.e. 3 spider generations) according to two different representative concentration pathways, namely rcp 2.6 (low emission rate) and rcp 8.5 (high emission rate).

**Min Elevation/Depth (m):** 2037

**Max Elevation/Depth (m):** 2939

## Range description

*Vesubia jugorum* was originally described from an unspecified locality at high altitude in the vicinity of St. Martin-Vésubie (Haute Vésubie Valley, France). The range of this stenoendemic species is centered on the Maritime Alps (43 records). Two additional subpopulations occur at the eastern and north-western corners of the range, in Ligurian (2 records) and Cottian Alps (2 records). Most localities are situated in the Site of Community Importance and Special Area of Conservation IT1160056 "Alpi Marittime" (NW Italy).

## New occurrences

### Materials

- a. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: France; stateProvince: Alpes-Maritimes; municipality: Uvernet Fours; locality: Col des Esbéliousses; verbatimElevation: 2500; minimumElevationInMeters: 2500; maximumElevationInMeters: 2500; decimalLatitude: 44.28240; decimalLongitude: 6.71840; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 23 Jul 2006; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Breton, Braud; identifiedBy: Herve; dateIdentified: 2006; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- b. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: France; stateProvince: Alpes-Maritimes; municipality: Uvernet Fours; locality: Le Trou de l'Aigle; verbatimElevation: 2748; minimumElevationInMeters: 2748; maximumElevationInMeters: 2748; decimalLatitude: 44.26490; decimalLongitude: 6.72290; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 20 Aug 2006; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Breton; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- c. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: France; stateProvince: Alpes-Maritimes; municipality: Meyronnes; locality: Les Courroies de David; verbatimElevation: 2405; minimumElevationInMeters: 2405; maximumElevationInMeters: 2405; decimalLatitude: 44.43750; decimalLongitude: 6.80880; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 25 Jun 2007; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 6; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Breton; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- d. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: France; stateProvince: Alpes-Maritimes; municipality: Allos; locality: Lac de la Petite Cayolle; verbatimElevation: 2600; minimumElevationInMeters: 2600; maximumElevationInMeters: 2600; decimalLatitude: 44.25400; decimalLongitude: 6.72370; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 03 Aug 2007; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Breton; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- e. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince:

- Cuneo; municipality: Valdieri; locality: Passo di Préfouns; verbatimElevation: 2395; minimumElevationInMeters: 2395; maximumElevationInMeters: 2395; decimalLatitude: 44.16970; decimalLongitude: 7.22490; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: vidit; eventDate: 09 Aug 2011; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 5; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Morando, Pala; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- f. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Entracque; locality: Sentiero Pagari; verbatimElevation: 2500; minimumElevationInMeters: 2500; maximumElevationInMeters: 2500; decimalLatitude: 44.13050; decimalLongitude: 7.41020; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: vidit; eventDate: 17 Aug 2011; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Giordano, Dalmasso; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- g. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: France; stateProvince: Alpes-Maritimes; municipality: Saint-Martin-Vesubie; locality: Lake Mercantour; verbatimElevation: 2600; minimumElevationInMeters: 2600; maximumElevationInMeters: 2600; decimalLatitude: 44.14031; decimalLongitude: 7.29012; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: vidit; eventDate: 02 Aug 2011; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Piacenza; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- h. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Valdieri; locality: Bivio Lago Nasta; verbatimElevation: 2792; minimumElevationInMeters: 2792; maximumElevationInMeters: 2792; decimalLatitude: 44.16750; decimalLongitude: 7.30020; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: vidit; eventDate: 30 Aug 2011; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Morando, Pala; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- i. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Valdieri; locality: Colle di Ciriegia; verbatimElevation: 2543; minimumElevationInMeters: 2543; maximumElevationInMeters: 2543; decimalLatitude: 44.14183; decimalLongitude: 7.28315; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 24 Jun 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 6; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola; identifiedBy: Isaia; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- j. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Valdieri; locality: Vallone di Ciriegia; verbatimElevation: 2265; minimumElevationInMeters: 2265; maximumElevationInMeters: 2265; decimalLatitude: 44.14887; decimalLongitude: 7.27741; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 24 Jun 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 3; sex: female; lifeStage: juvenile, adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola; identifiedBy: Isaia; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- k. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Valdieri; locality: Pian della Casa; verbatimElevation: 2037;

- minimumElevationInMeters: 2037; maximumElevationInMeters: 2037; decimalLatitude: 44.15387; decimalLongitude: 7.27433; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 24 Jun 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola; identifiedBy: Isaia; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- l. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Entracque; locality: Bivacco Moncalieri; verbatimElevation: 2710; minimumElevationInMeters: 2710; maximumElevationInMeters: 2710; decimalLatitude: 44.13331; decimalLongitude: 7.39079; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: vidit; eventDate: 23 Aug 2011; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Morando; identifiedBy: Isaia (Validated); datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- m. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Vinadio; locality: Alpine scree near Colle della Lombarda; verbatimElevation: 2342; minimumElevationInMeters: 2342; maximumElevationInMeters: 2342; decimalLatitude: 44.21163; decimalLongitude: 7.39079; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: vidit; eventDate: 20 Jul 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Mammola; identifiedBy: Mammola (Validated); datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: Based on photographs
- n. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Acceglie; locality: Passo dell'Escalon; verbatimElevation: 2939; minimumElevationInMeters: 2939; maximumElevationInMeters: 2939; decimalLatitude: 44.42262; decimalLongitude: 6.95581; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 25 Aug 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 2; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola; identifiedBy: Isaia; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- o. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Canosio; locality: Passo della Gardetta; verbatimElevation: 2568; minimumElevationInMeters: 2568; maximumElevationInMeters: 2568; decimalLatitude: 44.40713; decimalLongitude: 6.99455; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 25 Aug 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola; identifiedBy: Isaia; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- p. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Acceglie; locality: Oserot; verbatimElevation: 2508; minimumElevationInMeters: 2508; maximumElevationInMeters: 2508; decimalLatitude: 44.40522; decimalLongitude: 6.97708; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 25 Aug 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola; identifiedBy: Isaia; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- q. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Argentera; locality: Rocca dei Tre Vescovi; verbatimElevation: 2628; minimumElevationInMeters: 2628; maximumElevationInMeters: 2628; decimalLatitude: 44.36185; decimalLongitude: 6.89117; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol:

- hand collecting; eventDate: 19 Aug 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 2; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola, Biggi, Galindo; identifiedBy: Isaia; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
- r. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Entracque; locality: Vallone del Chiapous; verbatimElevation: 2324; minimumElevationInMeters: 2324; maximumElevationInMeters: 2324; decimalLatitude: 44.17833; decimalLongitude: 7.32277; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 06 Aug 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 5; sex: male, female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Milano; identifiedBy: Isaia; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
  - s. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Vinadio; locality: Passo Tesina; verbatimElevation: 2450; minimumElevationInMeters: 2450; maximumElevationInMeters: 2450; decimalLatitude: 44.23121; decimalLongitude: 7.08665; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 20 Jul 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 5; sex: male, female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola, Milano; identifiedBy: Isaia; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
  - t. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Vinadio; locality: Passo di Sant'Anna; verbatimElevation: 2397; minimumElevationInMeters: 2397; maximumElevationInMeters: 2397; decimalLatitude: 44.22240; decimalLongitude: 7.09513; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 20 Jul 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 5; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Mammola, Milano; identifiedBy: Isaia; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
  - u. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Valdieri; locality: Rifugio Bozano; verbatimElevation: 2390; minimumElevationInMeters: 2390; maximumElevationInMeters: 2390; decimalLatitude: 44.18480; decimalLongitude: 7.29145; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 01 Aug 2016; habitat: Rocky areas; individualCount: 4; sex: male, female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Milano; identifiedBy: Isaia; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen
  - v. scientificName: *Vesubia jugorum*; family: Lycosidae; taxonRank: species; scientificNameAuthorship: (Simon, 1881); continent: Europe; country: Italy; stateProvince: Cuneo; municipality: Chiusa Peso; locality: Canale dei Torinesi (Monte Marguareis); verbatimElevation: 2160; minimumElevationInMeters: 2160; maximumElevationInMeters: 2160; decimalLatitude: 44.17671; decimalLongitude: 7.69461; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; samplingProtocol: hand collecting; eventDate: 21 Aug 2016; individualCount: 4; sex: male, female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Isaia, Galindo; identifiedBy: Isaia; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen

## Extent of occurrence

EOO (km<sup>2</sup>): 4412

Trend: Decline (projected)

### **Justification for trend**

The species inhabits rocky areas of the subnival and nival zones of the Maritime Alps. The high altitude regions are particularly vulnerable to climatic variations due to climate change, with warming rates approximately doubling the global average (Böhm et al. 2001). In consequence of temperature increase, range shifts towards higher latitudes or altitudes are expected (Bellard et al. 2012), causing a decrease in the EOO. In particular, we predict a future reduction of the EOO ranging from 24% (low emission scenario) to 41% (high emission scenario).

**Future decline (%):** 41

**Causes ceased?:** No

**Causes understood?:** Yes

**Causes reversible?:** No

**Extreme fluctuations?:** Unknown

### **Area of occupancy**

**AOO (km<sup>2</sup>):** 835

**Trend:** Decline (projected)

### **Justification for trend**

Future forecasts based on different emission scenarios show a significant reduction in the bioclimatic range of *Vesubia jugorum* (details in Isaia et al. (2016)). We predict a future reduction of the AOO ranging from 12% (low emission scenario) to 32% (high emission scenario). In this perspective, it is important to take into account the connectivity of the suitable habitat, in order to provide coherent interpretations of the future trends. Suitable ecological corridors for this species would be represented by high-altitude rocky areas, which rarely occur between the Maritime Alps and the northern Alpine districts. The species is probably also limited by its low dispersal ability.

**Future decline (%):** 32

**Causes ceased?:** No

**Causes understood?:** Yes

**Causes reversible?:** No

**Extreme fluctuations?:** Unknown

## Locations

**Number of locations:** 1

### Justification for number of locations

The whole population is affected by the ongoing climate change.

**Trend:** Stable

## Population

**Number of individuals:** Unknown —a census/estimation of the population has never been attempted.

**Trend:** Decline (inferred)

### Justification for trend

Inferred from the decline in AOO.

**Causes ceased?:** No

**Causes understood?:** Yes

**Causes reversible?:** No

**Extreme fluctuations?:** Unknown

## Subpopulations

**Number of subpopulations:** 3

**Trend:** Decline (projected)

### Justification for trend

The main subpopulation of the species is centred in Maritime Alps. This core area includes over 90% of the known localities. Two additional subpopulations are identified at the north-western and eastern corners of the distribution range, corresponding to the Southern Cottian and Ligurian Alps, respectively. All future warming scenarios predict the extinction of the latter subpopulation.

**Extreme fluctuations?:** Unknown

## Justification for fragmentation

Within the core area the suitable habitat is roughly continuous, with peaks and rocky areas ensuring connectivity between local populations. However, unsuitable habitat —namely grasslands at lower altitudes— reduces connectivity between subpopulations.

## Habitat

**System:** Terrestrial

**Habitat specialist:** Yes

### Habitat (narrative)

The species is restricted to alpine rocky areas above 2,000 m. These include rocky debris, boulder fields, and alpine screes (Figs 4, 5).



Figure 4.

Typical rocky areas inhabited by *Vesubia jugorum* — Maritime Alps, Province of Cuneo. [Photo credit: Emanuele Biggi, 2016]

**Trend in extent, area or quality?:** Stable

### Justification for trend

The optimal habitat for the species is not expected to undergo significant variations in the future, as touristic pressure is negligible in the high mountain peaks of the Maritime Alps. Altitudinal shifts of vegetation due to climate change may hypothetically affect the extension of the subnival zone determining small variations in the extent of high altitude rocky areas.

**Habitat importance:** Major Importance

## Habitats:

- 6. Rocky areas (e.g. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)



Figure 5.

An example of rocky areas colonized by *Vesubia jugorum* — Maritime Alps, Province of Cuneo. [Photo credit: Filippo Milano, 2016]

## Ecology

**Size:** Body length: 15–20 mm, prosoma: 7–9 mm

**Generation length (yr):** 4

**Dependency of single sp?:** No

### Ecology and traits (narrative)

The species is active during the warm season, from the snow melting in late June to mid September. Males are mainly found from July to August, whereas females and immatures can be found throughout the whole season. During the day, individuals can be observed wandering on the rocks. Females with cocoons build retreats under stones (see illustration in Tongiorgi (1969)), usually of 10–15 x 3cm. Preliminary data on reared individuals and estimations based on body size suggest generation length > 3–4 years.

## Threats

### Threats

**Threat type:** Future

**Threats:**

- 11. Climate change & severe weather
- 11.1. Climate change & severe weather - Habitat shifting & alteration
- 11.3. Climate change & severe weather - Temperature extremes

**Conservation****Conservation actions****Conservation action type:** In Place**Conservation actions:**

- 1.1. Land/water protection - Site/area protection

**Conservation action type:** Needed**Conservation actions:**

- 3. Species management
- 3.3. Species management - Species re-introduction
- 3.4. Species management - Ex-situ conservation
- 4. Education & awareness

**Justification for conservation actions**

Most of the species range falls within the borders of national parks, sites of community importance and special protection areas, namely Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime (Italy), Parco Naturale del Marguareis (Italy) and Parc National du Mercantour (France).

In the light of the existing threats, it is expected that the survival of the species will depend on monitoring, conservation management and translocation programmes. Ex-situ conservation should also be considered, to ensure the preservation of healthy individuals for re-introduction in suitable habitats situated to the north from the current distribution area.

**Other****Research needed:**

- 1. Research
- 1.2. Research - Population size, distribution & trends
- 1.3. Research - Life history & ecology
- 2. Conservation Planning

- 2.1. Conservation Planning - Species Action/Recovery Plan
- 3. Monitoring
- 3.1. Monitoring - Population trends

## Acknowledgements

We are indebted to Wolfgang Nentwig for the helpful discussion about the life history of wolf spiders. Our thanks also go to Pavel Stoev, Gergin Blagoev, Wolfgang Nentwig and Christo Deltchev for their useful comments during the review process. We are greatful to Mattia, Adriana and Guido Colombo for providing logistic support at Rifugio Garelli, and to Emanuele Biggi for the photographs of *Vesubia* and its habitat. We also acknowledge the help of Luca Giraudo and the staff of Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime.

## References

- Bellard C, Bertelsmeier C, Leadley P, Thuiller W, Courchamp F (2012) Impacts of climate change on the future of biodiversity. *Ecology Letters* 15 (4): 365-377. DOI: [10.1111/j.1461-0248.2011.01736.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2011.01736.x)
- Böhm R, Auer I, Brunetti M, Maugeri M, Nanni T, Schöner W (2001) Regional temperature variability in the European Alps: 1760-1998 from homogenized instrumental time series. *International Journal of Climatology* 21 (14): 1779-1801. DOI: [10.1002/joc.689](https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.689)
- Cardoso P (2016) red: IUCN Redlisting Tools. 0.1.0.. R. URL: <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=red>
- Hijmans RJ, Phillips S, Leathwick J, Elith J (2014) dismo: Species distribution modeling. 1.0-5. R. URL: <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dismo>
- Isaia M, Milano F, Mammola S (2016) Threatening the giant: the response of *Vesubia jugorum* (Araneae, Lycosidae) to climate change. In: Cushing P (Ed.) Program and Abstracts. 20th Congress of Arachnology, Golden, Colorado, USA, July 2-9, 2016. Denver Museum of Nature & Science Reports, 3, 230 pp. [In English]. URL: [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)
- Isaia M, Paschetta M, Chiarle A (2015) Annotated checklist of the spiders (Arachnida, Araneae) of the Site of Community Importance and Special Area of Conservation "Alpi Marittime" (NW Italy). *Zoosystema* 37 (1): 57-114. DOI: [10.5252/z2015n1a4](https://doi.org/10.5252/z2015n1a4)
- Isaia M, Pantini P, Beikes S, Badino G (2007) Catalogo ragionato dei ragni (Arachnida, Araneae) del Piemonte e della Lombardia. Memorie dell'Associazione Naturalistica Piemontese 9: 1-161. [In Italian].
- Mammola S, Isaia M, Arnedo M (2015) Alpine endemic spiders shed light on the origin and evolution of subterranean species. *PeerJ* 3: e1384. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.1384](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1384)
- Maurer R, Thaler K (1988) Über bemerkenswerte Spinnen des Parc National du Mercantour (F) und seiner Umgebung (Arachnida: Araneae). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* 95: 329-353. [In German]. DOI: [10.5962/bhl.part.79655](https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.79655)
- Nentwig W, Blick T, Gloor D, Hänggi A, Kropf C (2016) Spiders of Europe. [www.aranea.e.unibe.ch](http://www.aranea.e.unibe.ch). Accession date: 2016 7 05.

- Simon E (1881) Arachnides nouveaux ou rares de la faune française. Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France 6: 82-91. [In French].
- Tongiorgi P (1968) Su alcuni ragni italiani della famiglia Lycosidae . Memorie del Museo di Storia Naturale di Verona 16: 107-112. [In Italian].
- Tongiorgi P (1969) *Vesubia jugorum* (Simon) un ragno licoside endemico delle Alpi Marittime. Atti della Società Toscana di Scienze Naturali 75(B): 255-264. [In Italian].

## Supplementary material

### Suppl. material 1: Extent of Occurrence of *Vesubia jugorum* (Simon, 1881)

**Authors:** Stefano Mammola, Filippo Milano, Pedro Cardoso, Marco Isaia

**Data type:** Geographic range

**Filename:** Vesubia\_jugorum.kml - [Download file](#) (851.00 bytes)