

Review of the distribution of the Mediterranean black widow *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* (Rossi, 1790) and the false widow spider *Steatoda paykulliana* (Walckenaer, 1806) in Italy with new records (Araneae: Theridiidae)

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Abstract: The current faunistic knowledge on *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* (Rossi, 1790) and *Steatoda paykulliana* (Walckenaer, 1806) in Italy are summarized and new records for both species are given. First occurrences of *L. tredecimguttatus* from Basilicata and *S. paykulliana* from Veneto, Marche, Abruzzo, Molise, and Basilicata are given. In addition, many records for new provinces are cited for both the species, improving considerably the knowledge of the distribution of these two spiders in Italy.

Keywords: faunistic, first records, theridiids

Introduction

The knowledge of the spider fauna in Italy is still far from being satisfactory and complete and even the distribution of some impressive species are known through scattered records. Within the most recognizable species of Italian fauna thanks to their distinct morphological and chromatic features there are *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* (Rossi, 1790) and *Steatoda paykulliana* (Walckenaer, 1806), which are two of the 116 species of Theridiidae known in Italy (PANTINI & ISAIA 2019), but even for these spiders the occurrence records in the country are scarce and their distribution seems to be very scattered (see PANTINI & ISAIA 2019).

The Mediterranean black widow *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* has a wide distribution from the Iberian Peninsula to southeastern Europe and Central Asia (WCS 2024). It is one of the few Italian spiders that can be dangerous to humans (see BARRA 1958, TRENTINI et al. 1993) and its poison results in latrodectism (see BETTINI 1963a, DI PAOLA et al. 2020, FUSTO et al. 2020). Despite many contributions on the consequences of its bite and cases of latrodectism described in certain areas of Italy, especially in Lazio (see PAMPIGLIONE 1958, BETTINI 1954, 1960a, 1960b, 1961, 1963b, BETTINI & FINIZIO 1960), these works cannot give precise information about the occurrence of *L. tredecim-*

guttatus in the territory. Surprisingly, there are relatively few works providing information on the actual distribution of this spider in Italy, summarized in PANTINI & ISAIA (2019). For each region where the species is reported, there are few records in the literature and sometimes the only ones available date back to the XIX century. So far, this spider is known from 14 Italian regions, but only in Sardinia the available records give quite satisfactory (although surely not completed) information on its the real distribution (MAGRETTI 1880, COSTA 1884, GARNERI 1902, BARRA 1958, PANTINI et al. 2013), that including Asinara island (TROTTA 2009)—*L. tredecimguttatus* is also one of the only three species of spiders reported for Sardinia in the oldest catalogue of Italian spiders, although without precise localities (CANESTRINI & PAVESI 1868).

In the other regions only 31 occurrence records with a precise locality or indicating at least the province are available from the literature and 12 concern minor islands—Elba (PAVESI 1876, DI CAPORIACCO 1950) and Isola del Giglio (de DALMAS 1922) in the Tuscan Archipelago, Caprera (DI CAPORIACCO 1951) and Pianosa (CECCONI 1910) in the Tremiti Islands, Capri (COSTA 1841), and Lampedusa (PAVESI 1878, FAILLA TEBALDI 1887, ROEWER 1960, PESARINI 1995, NICOLOSI et al. 2024). Therefore, only 19 localities are reported for the whole of mainland Italy and the other main island: four in Apulia (PEPE & INGUSCIO 1999, PEPE 2005), two in Tuscany (ROSSI 1790, PALAU 1878), LATIUM (STRAND 1909, BRIGNOLI 1967) and Sicily (CANTONI 1881, BRIGNOLI 1968), one in Liguria (BERTKAU 1890), Emilia-Romagna (PESARINI 1991), Umbria (DI CAPORIACCO 1936), and Abruzzo (PONTUALE et al. 1998).

Steatoda paykulliana is widespread in Europe, from the Mediterranean to Central Asia, and India (WCS 2024). Also for this species the occurrences in Italy are scarce and scattered, with the main islands being the more documented regions. In Sardinia the presence of this spider is reported for all provinces (MAGRETTI 1880, COSTA 1882, 1884, GARNERI 1902, TROTTA 2011, PANTINI et al. 2013) and there are several records also from some minor islands—Asinara (MAGRETTI 1880, GARNERI 1902, TROTTA 2009, PANTINI & SASSU 2009), Caprera (PAVESI 1878), and Sant'Antioco (GARNERI 1902). In Sicily, in addition to the records from Lampedusa (FAILLA TEBALDI 1887, ROEWER 1960, PESARINI 1995, NICOLOSI et al. 2024) and Pantelleria (HANSEN 1991), occurrence records are reported by CANTONI (1881), DENTICI & GALASSO (2021), DENTICI (2022), DENTICI & AMATA (2024), and DENTICI et al. (2024). The Tuscan Archipelago is also quite investigated—with records from Elba (DI CAPORIACCO 1950), Isola del Giglio (DE DALMAS 1922) and Capraia (DI CAPORIACCO 1928), reported also in BRIGNOLI (1975)—while data from the continental part of Tuscany are scarce (RIZZARDI 1898, CECCONI 1898, CIANFERONI et al. 2010, PICCHI 2020).

In the other regions where *S. paykulliana* is known, there are very few records. In Trentino-Alto Adige, in addition to the general report by CANESTRINI (1875) for the province of Trento, this theridiid is cited from two localities in South Tyrol (see NOFLATSCHER 1991, STEINBERGER 2008) four localities are reported from Emilia-Romagna (see ZANGHERI 1966, PESARINI 1991, GIOVANNELLI 2002) three old records are from Lombardia (SORDELLI 1868, PAVESI 1879), just two localities are reported for Liguria (BERTKAU 1890, JACKSON 1926), Umbria (DI CAPORIACCO 1936), Latium (CANESTRINI & PAVESI 1868, THALER & ZAPPAROLI 1993), Campania (CANESTRINI & PAVESI 1870, IJLAND & VAN HELSDINGEN 2014), and Calabria (KRITSCHER 1960, PANTINI et al. 2020), and only one precise locality is given for Apulia (DI CAPORIACCO 1951).

This paper provides new records for these two species and fills some of the major gaps in their distribution.

Material and methods

The material examined consists of photographed specimens from websites (see abbreviations below).

All listed records were confirmed by the author. Both *L. tredecimguttatus* and *S. paykulliana* can be recognised from photographs due to specific characters (NENTWIG et al. 2024). The colour pattern of *L. tredecimguttatus* is black with 3 longitudinal series of red spots on dorsal opisthosoma in female or more whitish in male blotches - sometimes these blotches are absent and the opisthosoma is completely black - even if in subadult specimens the outlines of the red spots are white. The colouration of *S. paykulliana* is also predominantly black, but the female opisthosoma has a red or yellow band around the front - sometimes with a median longitudinal series of chevrons - and the male has a whitish band around the front and a strongly dentate median longitudinal band. Only photos in which the specimens with these features were well visible are selected.

For each site, the following information is given (when available): locality, coordinates, date of collecting, number of specimens, photographer, source. Geographical coordinates are in decimal degrees (datum WGS84). The uncertainty (in meters) of data is indicated according to the point-radius method (WIECZOREK et al. 2004).

Abbreviations used under material examined are the following:

AP = Acta Plantarum (<https://www.actaplantarum.org/>)

FEI = Forum Entomologi Italiani (<http://www.entomologitaliani.net/>)

IN = iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>)

OB = Observations.org (<https://observation.org/>)

Results

Latrodectus tredecimguttatus (Rossi, 1790)

Liguria: Savona: Ceriale, 44.08775°N 8.21915°E (un. = 7250 m), 16.IX.2021, 1 female, photo by Pierpaolo Pessano (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/112076063>).

Tuscany: Grosseto: Grosseto, 42.81218°N 11.08684°E (un. = 357 m), 17.X.2023, 1 female, photo by Pamela Rustici (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/188008964>); idem, Alberese, 42.66591°N 11.10702°E (un. = 578 m), 19.VII.2021, 1 female, photo by Pono Pucci (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/87687624>).

Latium: Viterbo: Tuscania, 42.42905°N 11.85454°E (un. = 1200 m), 15.VII.2021, 1 female, photo by Germano De Simoni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/87176409>); Barbarano Romano, 42.24253°N 12.05129°E (un. not recorded), 13.XI.2022, 1 female, photo by Adriano Biressi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/187878271>); Metropolitan City of Rome Capital: Tolfa, 42.093056°N 11.998611°E (un. not recorded), 12.XI.2011, 1 female, photo by Agostino Letardi (IN) (FEI) (<http://www.entomologitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=28766&hilit=latrodectus>); idem, 42.04793°N 11.96691°E (un. = 366 m), 7.VIII.2021, 1 female, photo by “codazzurro09” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/133591731>); idem, La Scaglia, 42.03831°N 11.96482°E (un. = 401 m), 11.VIII.2023, 1 female, photo by “pluvialfern” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/133591731>).



Fig. 1: Female of *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* from Sperlonga, Latium
(photo by Paolo Mazzei).

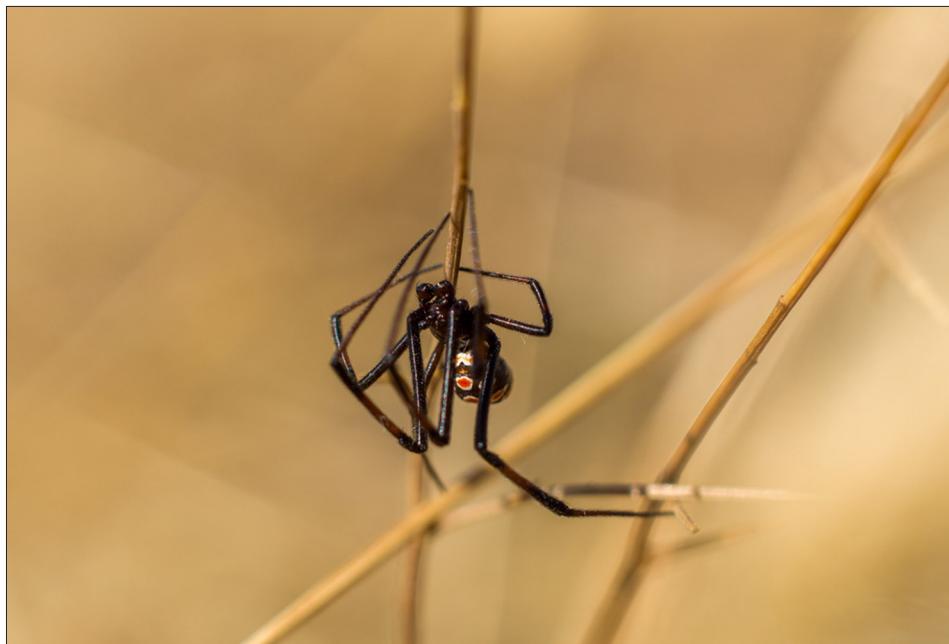


Fig. 2: Male of *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* from Salerno, Campania
(photo by “lucatr98”).

observations/187881104); Fiumicino, near Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, 41.91924°N 12.13713°E (un. = 411 m), 11.VI.2021, 1 female, photo by “emi_c” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/82581489>); Latina, Pontinia, 41.3905°N 13.14919°E (un. not recorded), 20.VIII.2021, 1 female, photo by Daniel Pizzoni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/91861737>); Sperlonga, 41.25591°N 13.46823°E (un. = 92 m), 4.IX.2008, 1 female, photo by Paolo Mazzei (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/20368214>); idem, 41.25556°N 13.46775°E (un. = 54 m), 29.VIII.2008, 1 female (Fig. 1), photo by Paolo Mazzei (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/21321509>); idem, 41.25518°N 13.46787°E (un. = 33 m), 29.VIII.2008, 1 female, photo by Paolo Mazzei (IN); idem, 41.25552°N 13.46838°E (un. = 54 m), 21.VI.2008, 1 female, photo by Paolo Mazzei (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/20384078>).

Campagna: Avellino: Mugnano del cardinale, 40.94847°N 14.65727°E (un. = 5 m), 6.VIII.2023, 1 female, photo by Marina Guglielmi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/194020066>); Salerno: Sarno, 40.81364°N 14.66523°E (un. = 229 m), 13.VI.2023, 1 specimen, photo by Giuseppe Paudice (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/190887983>); Salerno, 40.73621°N 14.85525°E (un. = 15 m), 3.VIII.2020, 1 male, photo by “lucatr98” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/55585635>); idem, 40.73557°N 14.85761°E (un. = 61 m), 1 male (Fig. 2), photo by “lucatr98” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/55585284>).



Fig. 3: Female of *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* with cocoon from Villaputzu, Sardinia (photo by Francesco Tarantino).

Apulia: Foggia: San Giovanni Rotondo, 41.72213°N 15.76485°E (un. = 5580 m), 24.VIII.2019, 1 female, photo by Mirko Galuppi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/31397132>); Metropolitan City of Bari: Gravina in Puglia, 40.92887°N 16.33959°E (un. = 1400 m), 8.VIII.2021, 1 female and 1 male, photo by Mirko Galuppi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/90511934>); Valenzano, 41.01444°N 16.90639°E (un. not recorded), 16.IV.2023, 1 female, photo by Leonardo Ancillotto (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/155132789>); Altamura, 40.83944°N 16.68°E (un. not recorded), 18.VII.2022, 1 female, photo by Leonardo Ancillotto (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/127113479>); Gioia del Colle, 40.80569°N 16.97379°E (un. = 3 m), 14.VI.2024, 1 male, photo by "maurizio9812" (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/222729085>); Taranto: Laterza, 40.71724°N 16.74838°E (un. = 4 m), 3.IX.2022, 1 female, photo by "philodendronjoe" (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/134608707>); Castellaneta, Riva dei Tessali, 40.45387°N 16.90526°E (un. = 1410 m), 2.X.2020, 1 female, photo by Annalisa Lucibello (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/61471860>); Lecce: Gallipoli, near Punta della Suina, 40.00246°N 18.01801°E (un. = 8 m), 23.VII.2015, 1 female, photo by Karol Tabarelli de Fatis (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/238385184>).

Basilicata: Matera: Matera, 40.67417°N 16.49469°E (un. = 122 m), 21.VIII.2022, 1 female, photo by "philodendronjoe" (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/132193344>); Scanzano Jonico, Camping Le Due Barche, 40.24733°N 16.74852°E (un. = 5 m), 5.V.2024, 1 female, photo by Andrea Battisti (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/220755344>); Potenza: Guardia Perticara, 40.33811°N 16.1543°E (un. = 8 m), 10.VII.2018, 1 female, photo by Rocco Labadessa (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/67248445>).

Calabria: Cosenza: Orsomarso, 39.79638°N 15.86440°E (un. = 2950 m), 22.VII.2024, 1 female, photo by Luigi Torino (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/231669051>); idem, 39.79516°N 15.86324°E (un. = 6600 m), 21.VII.2024, 1 female, photo by Luigi Torino (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/231667252>).

Sardinia: Sassari: Santa Teresa Gallura, Valle dell'Erica, 11.VII.2012, 1 male, photo by Luigi Lenzini (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=37341&hilit=latroductus>); Arzachena, 7.VIII.2012, 1 female, photo by Caterina Azara (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=37258&hilit=latroductus>); Tempio Pausania, 41.14322°N 9.28703°E (un. = 244 m), 23.VIII.2018, 1 female, photo by Luigi Lenzini (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/78820559>); Sedini, 40.86597°N 8.80093°E (un. = 24 m), 5.VII.2021, 1 female, photo by "walter1980" (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/85747527>); Berchidda, 40.73385°N 9.25248°E (un. = 2960 m), 21.VII.2021, 1 female, photo by "lateralus" (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/88141139>); Alghero, Spiaggia Mugoni, 40.61864°N 8.19661°E (un. = 1 m), 17.IV.2013, 1 female, Peter de Lange (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/2931822>); idem, Pischina Salida, 40.58152°N 8.16286°E (un. = 100 m), 29.VII.2020, 1 male, photo by "fededepa" (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/58480536>); Nuoro: Galtelli, 40.38703°N 9.59425°E (un. = 395 m), 7.VII.2020, 1 female, photo by Serafino Fronteddu (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/54717540>); Sud Sardegna: Villaputzu, 39.4387°N 9.57426°E (un. = 1030 m), 28.VII.2019, 1 female with cocoon (Fig. 3), photo by Francesco Tarantino (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/36642015>);

Steatoda paykulliana (Walckenaer, 1806)

Piedmont: Sondrio: Novate Mezzola, 46.22570°N 9.47950°E (un. = 2 m), 9.V.2021, photo by Fabio Bianchini (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/78046882>); Torino: Caselette, 45.10445°N 7.46269°E (un. = 78 m), 25.III.2023, 1 female [+ 4 specimens annotated], photo by Alessandro Bona (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/153181861>); Alessandria: Bosio, 44.55368°N 8.77762°E (un. = 2750 m), 29.X.2018, 1 female, photo by “luca-20” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/17933201>).

Lombardy: Bergamo: Palazzago, 45.77694°N 9.52511°E (un. = 2 m), 22.II.2018, photos by Alessandro Mazzoleni and Fausto Leandri (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/9977063>); Pavia: Zavattarello, Rossone, 44.85008°N 9.24482°E (un. = 28 m), 13.VIII.2022, 1 specimen, photo by Myriam Rutigliano (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/130671511>).

Veneto: Belluno: Ponte nelle Alpi, Arsie, 46.17093°N 12.32838°E (un. = 3 m), 5.V.2023, 1 female, photo by “khamul87” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/159891557>); Vicenza: Crespadoro, 45.65743°N 11.21927°E (un. = 1520 m), 1.IX.2019, 1 male, photo by Marco Vicariotto (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/32184362>); Valdagno, 45.63918°N 11.2925°E (un. = 15 m), 13.XI.2021, 1 female, photo by Marco Vicariotto (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/101144445>); idem, 45.60605°N 11.29287°E (un. = 61 m), 25.IV.2021, 1 female, photo by Marco Vicariotto (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/75333158>).

Liguria: Savona: Albenga, 44.0916°N 8.19423°E (un. = 6 m), 19.II.2017, 1 female, photo by Daniele Baroni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/5136160>); idem, 44.10596°N 8.22902°E (un. = 172 m), 27.IV.2019, 1 female, photo by Marco Bonifacino (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/25064708>); Cairo Montenotte, 44.41563°N 8.30837°E (un. = 8 m), 26.V.2020, 1 female, photo by Elan Zucchetti (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/47737216>); Genova: Santo Stefano d'Aveto, Allegrezze, 44.53275°N 9.43296°E (un. = 4 m), 27.I.2024, 1 female, photo by “lola96” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/197680522>).

Emilia-Romagna: Modena: Lama Mocogno, 44.26512°N 10.64435°E (un. = 4 m), 19.VIII.2024, 1 female, photo by “lpcasacci” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/236885046>); Metropolitan City of Bologna: Bologna, Portico di San Luca, 44.48966°N 11.30955°E (un. = 18 m), 16.II.2024, 1 female, photo by Claudio Famigni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/199469876>); idem, 44.4889°N 11.30878°E (un. = 20 m), 22.XII.2023, 1 female, photo by Claudio Famigni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/194594440>); idem, 44.48831°N 11.30778°E (un. not recorded), 15.II.2024, 1 female, photo by Francesco Martoni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/199359753>); idem, 44.48656°N 11.30352°E (un. = 20 m), 16.II.2024, 1 female, photo by Claudio Famigni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/199469886>); idem, 44.48508°N 11.30198°E (un. = 32 m), 15.III.2023, 1 female, photo by Claudio Famigni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/151214527>); idem, 44.48263°N 11.30275°E (un. = 20 m), 22.XII.2023, 1 female, photo by Claudio Famigni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/194594452>); Pianoro, 44.39764°N 11.38666°E (un. = 183 m), 21.III.2023, 1 female, photo by Andrea Piccinini (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/188054998>); Ravenna: Brisighella, 44.24523°N 11.81537°E (un. not recorded), 18.IV.2023, 1 male, photo by Mirco Gruppi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/155934038>); Forlì-Cesena: Bertinoro, 44.11415°N 12.12191°E (un. = 20



Fig. 4: Female of *Steatoda paykulliana* from Monterotondo, Latium
(photo by Luigi Lenzini).



Fig. 5: Male of *Steatoda paykulliana* from Bazzano, Abruzzo
(photo by Emanuele Santarelli).

m), 19.IV.2023, 1 male, photo by Claudio Danesi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/155630371>); Talamello, Cava, 43.91012°N 12.27845°E (un. = 6 m), 24.X.2023, 1 female, photo by “tcsenpai” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/189257038>).

Reggio Emilia, Vetto d’Enza, Spigone, IX.2009, 1 female photo by Villiam Morelli (AP) (<https://www.actaplantarum.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=14266&p=90029#p90029>).

Tuscany: Lucca: Lucca, 43.88513°N 10.52205°E (un. = 8 m), 7.IX.2020, 1 female, photo by Alessandra Rossi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/58825991>); idem, 43.82921°N 10.44705°E (un. not recorded), 11.IX.2023, 1 male, photo by “agosti” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/182934670>); idem, 43.7861°N 10.4599°E (un. = 2 m), 3.V.2024, 1 female, photo by Jan Eerbeek (OB) (<https://observation.org/observation/307634202/>); Firenze: Lamporecchio, 43.7985°N 10.89586°E (un. = 914 m), 12.VII.2021, 1 female, photo by Harald Peleman (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86777310>); Reggello, 43.66994°N 11.52676°E (un. = 24 m), 21.VI.2021, 1 female, photo by “p-france” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/83915812>); idem, 43.6764°N 11.5544°E (un. = 5 m), 8.VII.2024, 1 female, photo by Kasper Verhelst (OB) (<https://observation.org/observation/318102311/>); Siena: Casole d’Elsa, 43.34122°N 11.17571°E (un. = 189 m), 25.IV.2014, 1 female, photo by Andrea Benocci (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/125299526>); Grosseto: Monterotondo Marittimo, 43.14524°N 10.86001°E (un. not recorded), 12.IV.2024, 1 male, photo by Giorgio Brunialti (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/206784513>); Roccastrada, Montemassi, 42.9931°N 11.06424°E (un. = 263 m), 20.V.2020, 1 female, photo by “joarha” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/47239862>); Santa Fiora, 42.83242°N 11.58461°E (un = 16 m), 18.IX.2013, 1 female, photo by Emiliano Mori (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/534010>); Arcidosso, 42.82766°N 11.52432°E (un. = 7 m), 29.X.2022, 1 female, photo by Simone Meacci (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/140379356>); Semproniano, 42.71774°N 11.54023°E (un. = 4 m), 7.XI.2014, 1 male, photo by Luca Passalacqua (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/39445236>).

Marche: Pesaro-Urbino: Pesaro, Collina Baratoff, 18.XII.2013, 1 female, photo by Marco Paglialunga (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=50718&hilit=steatoda+paykulliana>); Fermo: Ortezzano, 43.02546°N 13.59249°E (un. = 10 m), 17.IX.2023, 1 female, photo by “antonioinoky” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/223960006>).

Umbria: Perugia: Scheggia e Pascelupo, 27.X.2011, 1 female, photo by Maura Bocci (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=31111&hilit=steatoda+paykulliana>); San Giustino, 43.50488°N 12.17996°E (un. = 5 m), 1.IV.2024, 1 female, photo by “mattia_qcc” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/204998399>); Magione, 43.12849°N 12.16934°E (un. not recorded), 11.VIII.2023, 1 female, photo by “pippo84” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/177814414>); Perugia, 43.10402°N 12.36947°E (un. = 129 m), 3.X.2024, 1 female, photo by Schelly Cramer (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/245375492>); idem, Ponte San Giovanni, 43.09198°N 12.42893°E (un. not recorded), 15.II.2024, 1 female, photo by “ubpizzoli” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/199391841>); Paciano, 43.02557°N 12.0774°E (un. = 13 m), 8.IV.2024, 1 male, photo by “moondragonitaly” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/206099949>).

Latiuum: Viterbo: Bassano Romano, 42.22063°N 12.18806°E (un. = 1380 m), 5.II.2022, 1 female, photo by Ludovica Liberati (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>)

observations/106182022); Rieti: Fiamignano, Lake of Rascino, 42.34945°N 13.14336°E (un. = 98 m), 7.IV.2024, 1 female, photo by Luca Tringali (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/206232296>); Petrella Salto, near Lake of Petrella, 42.32429°N 13.11014°E (un. = 77 m), 13.XI.2024, 1 female, photo by Luca Tringali (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/251668689>); Metropolitan City of Rome Capital: Civitavecchia, 42.06772°N 11.84222°E (un. = 121 m), 11.III.2023, 1 female, photo by “babunco” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/150978950>); Cerveteri, 42.01671°N 12.11959°E (un. = 190 m), 9.IV.2022, 1 male, photo by Leonardo Villa (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/110854163>); Riofreddo, 42.06°N 13.00083°E (un. not recorded), 4.I.2024, 1 female, photo by Leonardo Ancillotto (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/196018928>); Monterotondo, 42.04804°N 12.6585°E (un. = 244 m), 27.IV.2024, 1 female (Fig. 4), photo by Luigi Lenzini (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/211706851>); Roma, Oasi LIPU Castel di Guido, 41.88482°N 12.29302°E (un. not recorded), 3.IX.2022, 1 female, photo by “robertovi” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/133450380>); Anzio, 15.II.2012, 1 female (photo by Vittorio Risoldi (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=32314&hilit=steatoda+paykulliana>)); Frosinone: Trevi nel Lazio, 41.8574°N 13.22475°E (un. = 13 m), 4.II.2020, 1 female, photo by Edoardo Di Russo (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/38290925>); idem, Altipiani di Arcinazzo, 41.84069°N 13.19719°E (un. = 526 m), 18.IV.2019, 1 female, photo by Edoardo Di Russo (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/24159933>).

Abruzzo: L’Aquila: Campotosto, 42.56109°N 13.34769°E (un. = 8 m), 5.IX.2021, 1 female, photo by Emanuele Santarelli (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/93790744>); L’Aquila, Bazzano, 42.33686°N 13.45353°E (un. = 232 m), 12.IV.2024, 1 male (Fig. 5), photo by Emanuele Santarelli (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/207557912>); Pacentro, 42.0372°N 13.97917°E (un. no recorded), 16.VI.2023, 1 female, photo by Riccardo Novaga (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/168035129>).

Molise: Isernia, Pozzilli, 41.50023°N 14.06512°E (un. = 8 m), 19.III.2012, 1 female, photo by Daniele Ritella (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/88715492>); 41.50033°N 14.06567°E (un. = 15 m), 16.II.2017, 1 female, photo by Daniele Ritella (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/18896754>).

Campania: Avellino: San Michele di Serino, 40.87009°N 14.84317°E (un. = 220 m), 10.XI.2021, 1 female, photo by “vincedreux” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/123763928>);

Apulia: Foggia: Bovino, 41.2489°N 15.346°E (un. = 9 m), 10.V.2020, 1 male, photo by “fra_21” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/45534844>); Taranto: Martina Franca, 40.70287°N 17.33926°E (un. = 1840 m), 29.III.2020, 1 female, photo by “parmigiana” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/40972938>).

Basilicata: Potenza: Calvello, 40.46971°N 15.84977°E (un. = 947 m), 17.X.2018, 1 female, photo by Federico Biguzzi (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/142767243>); Terranova di Pollino, 39.9786°N 16.29632°E (un. = 540 m), 15.XI.2023, 1 female, photo by Luca Sattin (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/193210324>).

Calabria: Cosenza: Santa Domenica Talao, 39.79399°N 15.83009°E (un. = 267 m), 12.II.2019, 1 female, photo by “Golfopolikayak” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/57813576>); Catanzaro: Catanzaro, Viale Pio X, 38.92571°N 16.58144°E (un. = 13 m), 1.X.2022, 1 female, photo by “marekko” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/137294434>); San Pietro a Maida, 38.83624°N 16.34706°E (un. = 8 m), 4.IX.2022, 1 female, photo by Domenico Spanò (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/193210324>).

observations/138368703); Reggio Calabria: Bovalino, 38.15171°N 16.17886°E (un. not recorded), 23.II.2024, 1 female and 1 male, photo by “sofiacena2” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/200210263>).

Sicily: Messina: Gioiosa Marea, 38.16469°N 14.93029°E (un. = 320 m), 24.XI.2016, 1 female, photo by Mario Bassini (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/155946324>); Ragusa: Ragusa, Donnafugata, 12.XII.2019, 1 female, photo by Riccardo La Placa (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=88204&hilit=steatoda+paykulliana>); Siracusa: Palazzolo Acreide, 23.X.2019, 1 male, Riccardo La Placa (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=87319&hilit=steatoda+paykulliana>); Trapani: Alcamo, 37.90968°N 13.01348°E (un. = 977 m), 7.IV.2009, 1 female, photo by Geir Drange (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/39095259>); idem, 37.90751°N 13.01004°E (un. = 977 m), 7.IV.2009, 1 female, photo by Geir Drange (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/39095258>).

Sardinia: Sassari: Golfo Aranci, Nodu Pianu, 40.96078°N 9.58788°E (un. = 523 m), 27.IX.2021, 1 male, photo by “chris19921” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/96372643>); Tissi, 40.67656°N 8.56661°E (un. = 2100 m), 12.XI.2023, 1 male, photo by “spiderock” (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/190885831>); Alghero, 40.52575°N 8.35556°E (un. = 25 m), 22.III.2023, 1 female, photo by Anna Rosa Carboni (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/151944934>); Cagliari: Villaputzu, 39.44072°N 9.57576°E (un. = 777 m), 13.XII.2019, 1 female and 1 male, photo by Francesco Tarantino (IN) (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/36628241>); Quartucciu, Mela Murgia, 5.I.2011, 1 male, Pier Francesco Murgia (FEI) (<http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=421&t=15861&hilit=steatoda+paykulliana>).

Discussion

The knowledge of the distribution in Italy of *L. tredecimguttatus* and *S. paykulliana* is significantly increased, with 39 precise occurrence records for the first species (compared to 28 localities available from literature - see Introduction and PANTINI & ISAIA 2019) and 80 for the second (compared to 57 localities available from literature - see Introduction and PANTINI & ISAIA 2019). For *L. tredecimguttatus*, the first records are reported from Basilicata, while for *S. paykulliana* the first records are documented from Veneto, Marche, Abruzzo, Molise and Basilicata. In addition, many records for new provinces are given for both species (10 new provinces for *L. tredecimguttatus* and 24 for *S. paykulliana*). Figures 6 and 7 show the updated distribution of these theridiids in Italy.

The new records of the present contribution improve the faunistic knowledge in the country for these spiders, which was extremely poor up to now. However, there are still gaps due to lack of research. Further studies will be necessary to obtain a satisfactory knowledge of the distribution of these spiders.

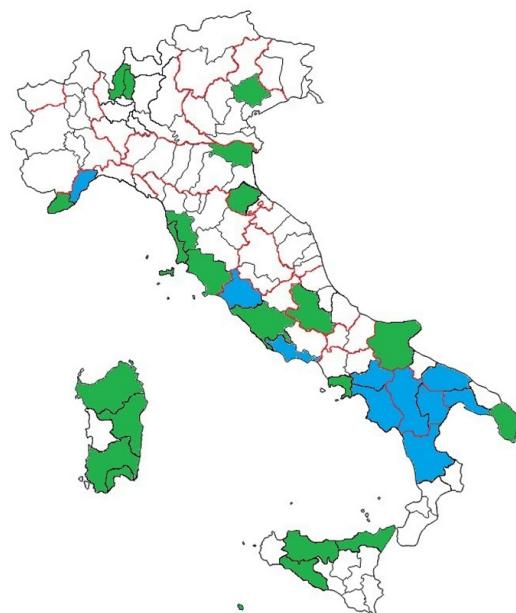


Fig. 6: Update distribution of *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* in the provinces of Italy.

Green = regions where the species known; azure = regions with new records;
white = regions with no records. The borders of the regions are marked with red lines.

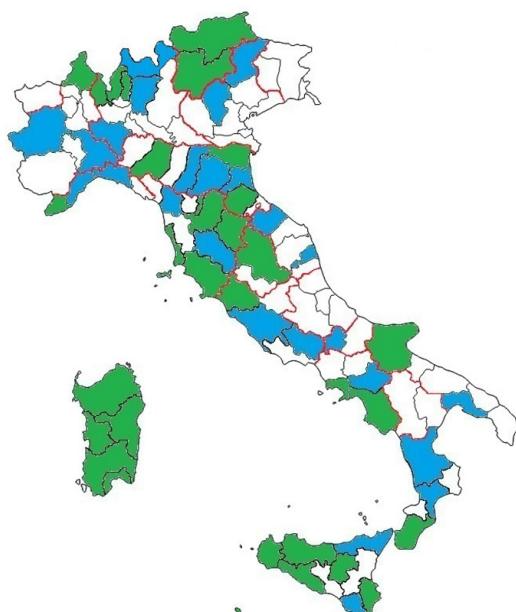


Fig. 7: Update distribution of *Steatoda paykulliana* in the provinces of Italy.

Green = regions where the species known; azure = regions with new records;
white = regions with no records. The borders of the regions are marked with red lines.

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