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THE ADVENTITIOUS SPIDER SPECIES *AGELENOPSIS POTTERI* (BLACKWALL, 1846) IN UKRAINE

Background. Due to the increasing mobility of the population, trade, fragmentation and anthropogenic transformation of natural ecosystems, adventitious species can spread to new areas quickly. It is currently possible to monitor the dynamics of distribution and monitor finds, in particular, adventitious species, using such specialized Internet resources as iNaturalist, GBIF, and UkrBin. Among the spiders of the fauna of Ukraine, *Agelenopsis potteri* (Blackwall, 1846) belongs to the adventitious species. It has structural features by which it can be easily identified. Based on this, the data obtained from the iNaturalist network and other similar resources are considered quite reliable, and on their basis, it is possible to create distribution maps that will reflect the current state of the species' range with fairly high accuracy. Based on information from specialized biodiversity databases, which are constantly being updated, it is possible to reliably track new locations of *A. potteri* findings both within a specific region and across Ukraine as a whole.

Methods. Data on the distribution of the adventitious species in Ukraine were obtained from the online biodiversity resources iNaturalist (inaturalist.org), GBIF (gbif.org), and UkrBIN (ukrbin.com) and faunal material from the collection of the Department of Ecology and Zoology was also analyzed. Data from GBIF and UkrBIN were checked by experts to prevent erroneous identification of species. In the case of iNaturalist, only research-grade records were used. In total, about 250 observations were analyzed. The initial data were collected using a standardized protocol through the management interface of the above resources. The initial data indicated the date, time, and place of collection, the username, and geographical coordinates of the finds, according to which original maps were created in the online service Google My Maps (www.google.com/maps), which were saved in PNG format. The available geographical coordinates of the finds and observations were converted to decimal degrees.

Results. As of January 2025, 250 observations of the adventitious species *A. potteri* have been identified in Ukraine: 128 in iNaturalist, 67 in GBIF, and 55 in UkrBIN, and corresponding maps have been created based on them. Most of the data on *A. potteri* in GBIF are duplicated with those from the iNaturalist network: 59 out of 67 findings coincide, which is about 88 %, the rest are data provided according to the geographical labels of faunal material indicated in scientific publications. Analysis of online biodiversity resources shows that the adventive North American species is mainly observed in urban environments, in large cities, districts and regional centers and towns, and outside urban agglomerations in non-urban settlements. The largest number of observations was found in Kyiv – 44, Rivne – 38, and Kharkiv regions, where 34 observations were recorded. In terms of geography of observations of the adventive species, the UkrBIN network demonstrates a somewhat narrower coverage of the territory of Ukraine, compared to the iNaturalist and GBIF resources. Currently, UkrBIN has no hope of registering the species in the Volyn, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Lviv, Rivne, Sumy, Cherkasy and Chernihiv regions. Analysis of collection samples showed that adults occur from June to October, and peaks in numbers are recorded in August and September. When comparing phenological data from the iNaturalist network, a similar scenario of activity of sexually mature individuals is observed, the maximum values occur at the end of summer and at the beginning of autumn, and the last observations of single female specimens are dated November.

Conclusions. According to the data of iNaturalist, GBIF, UkrBIN, and literature sources, *A. potteri* has spread over a significant territory of Ukraine. It has been detected in 19 out of 25 administrative units of Ukraine. Currently, there is no data on its presence in a several of southern regions (Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Kherson and in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) in Vinnytsia and Khmelnytsky regions. The probable reason for its absence in the southern regions of Ukraine may be the sensitivity of juvenile individuals to low humidity values. Since representatives of the genus *Agelenopsis* are not able to settle in air currents using a web, the main factor in the spread of the adventitious species across the territory of Ukraine is probably the increasing volumes of goods transportation and the extensiveness of the transport network. The species is mainly observed in urban environments, in large cities, district and regional centers and villages, and outside the urban agglomeration in non-urban settlements. In eastern Ukraine, it is a part of spider communities in nature reserves and lives in biotopes of various types. According to the iNaturalist resource, in the city of Zdolbuniv (Rivne region), in the villages of Shkarivka (Bila Tserkva district) and Prydniprovsk (Zolotonosha district), local stable populations of the adventive species are registered, which successfully reproduce for at least 3–4 years. According to the features of phenology, *A. potteri* is a typical summer-autumn species with a peak of activity of adults in August and September.

Keywords: spiders, fauna, urban ecosystems, adventitious species, *Agelenopsis potteri*, Potter's Grass Spider, citizen science.

Background

The globalization in tourism, economic and trade relations has contributed to the introduction of adventitious species of organisms, starting from the times of the

Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. Many species introduced several decades ago have only recently begun to spread rapidly in the ecosystems of the countries to which they have entered. Nowadays, there is a tendency

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towards an increase in the number of allochthonous species in ecosystems, and an increasing number of invasive species are noted (Randall, & Marinelli, 1996). Adventitiousness is of great importance in the formation of organism communities, since adventitious species can play a certain ecological role in them, and sometimes prevent the reproduction of native species, which negatively affects biodiversity. Forestry and agriculture suffer enormous losses due to insect pests, among which a significant part are adventitious species. Exotic species can be transported together with other organisms (e.g. on host plants), or in cargo compartments, holds, or packaging materials. The study of adventitious species provides an opportunity to understand the basic evolutionary processes, predict the risk of their spread in new ecosystems, and develop new or improve existing pest control strategies (Navia et al., 2009).

At the same time as scientific publications, it is currently possible to follow the dynamics of distribution and monitor finds, in particular, adventitious species, with the help of such specialized Internet resources as iNaturalist, GBIF, and UkrBin. These are social networks of amateur naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists, built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity around the world. Mainly, thanks to the contribution of the interested public, it is possible to obtain data on the detection of many discoveries (Matushkina, Protsenko, & Stavskiy, 2023).

Due to the increasing mobility of the population, the commodity circulation, and the fragmentation and anthropogenic transformation of natural ecosystems, many non-native species can spread quickly in new regions. Spiders, due to a number of their inherent features (relatively small size, the ability to go without food for a long time), can hide in the voids and crevices of goods and products and successfully enter new places (Polchaninova, 2015).

Among the spiders of the Ukrainian fauna, the adventitious species is *Agelenopsis potteri* (Blackwall, 1846). The studied spider has features that make it fairly easy to identify: body size, characteristic coloration, eye position, and morphology of the male copulatory apparatus. Based on this, the data obtained from the iNaturalist network and other similar resources are considered quite reliable, and on their basis, it is possible to create distribution maps that will reflect the current state of the species population range with fairly high accuracy. Relying on information from specialized biodiversity databases, which are constantly being updated, it is possible to reliably track new locations of *A. potteri* both within a certain region and across Ukraine as a whole.

The main objective – is to update and generalize the existing information on the distribution of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in Ukraine based on information from interactive biodiversity databases and literary sources. Based on the data on the time of observations in the iNaturalist network and the analysis of geographic labels of faunal material from the collection of the Department of Ecology and Zoology of Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University, establish the phenological features of this species.

Literature review. *Agelenopsis* Giebel, 1869 is one of 97 genera of spiders in the family Agelenidae. The genus includes 14 species that are distributed in North America: in Canada, the USA, and Mexico (World Spider Catalog, 2025).

A. potteri spider species (also known as Potter's Grass Spider) was first described by the British naturalist John Blackwell in 1846. The species name of the spider is given in honor of University College London professor Richard Potter, who assisted the author in his zoological studies (Blackwall, 1846). The body length of adult individuals varies from 7,3 mm to 12,7 mm in males and from 6,7 mm

to 16 mm in females (Chamberlin, & Ivie, 1941). The species has a one-year life cycle, and the peak of activity of sexually mature individuals falls in the autumn period (Earnshaw, 1973). Spiders of the genus *Agelenopsis* do not spread over the territory by air currents with the help of web threads and build funnel-shaped webs typical for spiders of the Agelenidae family (Paison, 1997).

A. potteri is widespread in the North of the United States (Washington, Idaho, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Men, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio) and Southern Canada to the East and the West of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains (Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia). The highest population density of this species is observed in the northwest of the Pacific and in the Great Lakes, which are northern regions with high humidity levels (Paison, 1997).

Although *A. potteri* is commonly found near human settlements (Chamberlin, & Ivie, 1941), the ecological tolerance of the species to the microclimate of the environment within its natural habitat is quite wide (Galasso, 2012). A. Earnshaw (1973) indicates that *A. potteri* occurs both in open meadow ecosystems and in deciduous forests, but the highest density of species is noted in ecotones. The spider webs of *A. potteri* are placed on trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, stone accumulation, and on the outer walls of buildings (Drew, 1967). Adults can withstand the temperature of the environment up to +30 °C (Earnshaw, 1973). The spread of *A. potteri* does not reveal a clear correlation between the range of species and its adherence to certain types of plant associations in North America (Paison, 1997).

In Ukraine, the adventitious species *A. potteri* was discovered for the first time in 1995 in the city of Donetsk. In the south-east of Ukraine, the spider was recorded mainly in broad-leaved forests, in man-made areas, in areas of psammophyte steppe (edges of pine forests), steppe meadows (under a large upturned stump), and in an unharvested sunflower field (Prokopenko, & Goidyk, 2006). This find is also considered to be the first for this adventitious species in Europe (Prokopenko, 2001). The authors note that only 35,6 % of individuals were recorded outside the Donetsk urban agglomeration, the rest of the findings were found in the city. In its natural range in North America, Potter's Grass Spiders also prefers buildings, meadows, forest edges, and deciduous forests (Prokopenko, & Goidyk, 2006). Having adapted to natural and anthropogenically altered landscapes, it coexists with the aboriginal species of the Agelenidae family, without displacing them from historically formed ecological niches (Polchanynova, 2015).

According to scientific literature sources, *A. potteri* is generally recorded for the territory of 8 regions of Ukraine (Table 1). On the territory of Left-Bank Ukraine, it is recorded for the Kharkiv region: the city of Kharkiv – in residential premises (Bengus, 2023; Polchaninova, 2009; 2015; Fedoriak, 2009); settlements of Milova and Shchaslyve of Izyum district – bayrach forests and places of outcrops of Cretaceous rocks (Polchaninova, & Slutsky, 2013); oak forests in the east of Kharkiv region (Polchaninova, & Honcharov, 2023); Dvorichansky National Nature Park, the vicinity of the village of Krasne Pershe, Kupyansky district (Parkhomenko, & Kletyonkin, 2023).

For the Luhansk region, the species was recorded mainly in the territories of the nature reserve fund: Prydintsivska floodplain (Stanychno-Luhansk branch of the Luhansk reserve), the vicinity of the village of Stanytsia Luhanska and the branch of the Luhansk reserve "Striltsivskiy steppe", Milovsky district, the village of

Krynychne (Prokopenko, 2001; Prokopenko, & Goidyk, 2006; Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2011), as well as in the city of Luhansk (Fedoriak, & Rudenko, 2009).

In the Donetsk region, Potter's Grass Spiders are widely observed in residential premises, city parks, forest areas of the city of Donetsk (Prokopenko, 2003; 2013), near coalmines, terrykons, in the industrial zone of Donetsk and the outskirts of the city, and agrocenoses of the Donetsk-Makiiv urban agglomeration (Prokopenko, & Goidyk, 2006; Prokopenko, & Savchenko, 2013). It is included in the list of spider species of the National Nature Park "Svyati Gory", where it inhabits pine forests on chalk coastal slopes, floodplain meadows, floodplain oak forests and settles along the banks of water bodies (Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2007). The species is indicated for the above-mentioned regions in the supplement to the list of species of Left-Bank Ukraine (Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2019).

In the west of Ukraine, Potter's Grass Spiders were found in Zakarpattia and Ivano-Frankivsk regions (Fedoriak, & Rudenko, 2009) and is mentioned in several works devoted to the study of species complexes of synanthropic and herpetobiont spiders in park areas of the city of Chernivtsi (Brushnivska, & Fedoriak, 2009; Fedoriak et al., 2010). This North American spider is also noted in various urban habitats, in forests and open areas on the outskirts of the city of Chernivtsi, green zones of industrial enterprises and residential areas, buildings (Fedoriak, et al. 2012), and in agro-landscapes of the Chernivtsi region (Tymchuk et al., 2021).

In the central part of Ukraine, *A. potteri* is indicated for the entrances of multi-story buildings in the city of Poltava (Fedoryak, 2009) and for the basements of outbuildings in the Holosiivskiy district of the city of Kyiv (Evtushenko, & Syngaevsky, 2008). In the Kyiv region, the species occurs among the agrocenoses of the Bila Tserkva and Myronivskiy districts (Evtushenko, Dyman, & Yashchenko, 2012), on the homestead plots of private residences in the vicinity of Vepryk, Fastivskiy district (Yanul, & Singaevsky, 2021).

Methods

Information on the distribution of the adventitious species *A. potteri* in Ukraine was obtained from the online biodiversity resources iNaturalist (inaturalist.org), GBIF (gbif.org), and UkrBIN (ukrbin.com). Faunal material of *A. potteri* from the araneological collection of the Department of Ecology and Zoology of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv was also analyzed.

The raw data of the observations were collected using a standardized protocol, through the management interface of the inaturalist.org, gbif.org, and ukrbin.com sites, an array of tabular data was downloaded in CSV format, where the date, time and place of collection, user name and geographical coordinates of the findings, according to which the original maps were created, were indicated. The number of processed records for each region of Ukraine is different and significantly depends on the availability of data on the iNaturalist, GBIF, and UkrBIN resources. A preliminary analysis of the available observations showed the presence of a certain proportion of duplications of finds on the studied resources. Data from GBIF and UkrBIN were checked by experts to prevent erroneous identification of species. In the case of iNaturalist, only research-level records were used. In total, about 250 records of observations of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* conducted on the territory of Ukraine were analyzed.

iNaturalist is a social network for naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists, built on the concept of mapping and sharing biodiversity observations around the world.

The database of the international organization GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) focuses on providing access to scientific information about biodiversity via the Internet. The National Biodiversity Information Network UkrBIN (Ukrainian Biodiversity Information Network) is a crowdsourcing online platform for collecting, accumulating, and sharing biodiversity data. UkrBIN is a public project supported by volunteers and funded by the public. The UkrBIN network allows you to document your observations, identify species with the help of experts, and accumulate data to create dynamic maps and graphs.

For further processing, the information obtained from the above sources in CSV format was converted into Microsoft Excel tables, with the help of which the downloaded data was sorted and organized for further analysis. For unification, all available geographical coordinates of finds and observations were converted to decimal degrees format. The obtained geographical coordinates were uploaded to the online resource Google My Maps (www.google.com/maps) – a free service from Google that allows you to create and edit interactive maps with markers, lines, polygons, and other objects. The created maps were saved in PNG format. Histograms of phenological features of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* were created using Excel software based on the analysis of the time and dates when the observations were made.

Results

According to the results of the analysis of biodiversity databases, as of January 2025, about 250 observations of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* were registered in the territory of Ukraine. 128 observations were found in the iNaturalist social network database, 67 observations – on the GBIF international database network resource, and 55 observations – on the UkrBIN National Biodiversity Information Network resource. In the case of data from the iNaturalist and GBIF resources, the observations uploaded to them are automatically merged, namely, out of 67 GBIF findings, 59 are duplicated with iNaturalist, that is, we have a coincidence that is 88%. In the case of the analysis of observations on the UkrBIN resource, we have 7 coincidences with iNaturalist data, which is about 12,7% of coincidences. In the case of GBIF and UkrBIN – no coincidences were found between the analyzed observations. Based on the available geographical coordinates of the processed observations, a map of the distribution of the Potter's Grass Spider and the territory of Ukraine was created (Fig. 1).

As of January 2025, all three studied biodiversity databases lack data on the findings of *A. potteri* in the territories of Vinnytsia, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson, and Khmelnytskyi regions, as well as from the territory of the Crimean Peninsula. The species was most often recorded in Kyiv (44 observations), Rivne (38 observations), and Kharkiv (34 observations) regions. There were some cases when a series of observations in a rather limited area of a certain settlement was carried out by one observer over several years. These cases will be considered separately.

Next, we will sequentially analyze the currently available (as of January 2025) information on the registration of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in biodiversity databases. According to iNaturalist resources, the largest number of observations falls in Kyiv (24 finds), Rivne (21 finds), and Kharkiv (16 finds) regions. In the Kyiv region, most of the findings (13 or 54.2%) are concentrated in the vicinity of the settlement of Shkarivka (Bila Tserkva district), observations were carried out from August 2020 to October 2024. In the territory of the Bucha district, the species was noted locally in the vicinity of the villages of

Kapitanivka, Myla, Muzychi, Petropavlivska Borshchahivka, and Poroskoten. There is also data on the detection of the species in the vicinity of the village of Dybyntsi, Obukhiv district, the villages of Hlevakha and Novosilky, Fastiv district, and in the territory of the private residential sector in the city of Vasytkiv. In the Rivne region, in particular in the city of Zdolbuniv, almost 86 % of observations (18 out of 21) were made by one observer in the vicinity of the city's Hydropark during 2021–2024. The species was also locally recorded in the city of Rivne, Varasky, and Rivnesky (near the village of Kamyana Hora) districts of the Rivne

region. Analysis of observations in the Kharkiv region showed a wider coverage of settlements: Bogodukhiv (the cities of Bogodukhiv and Valky), Dergachivsky, Kupyansky (the village of Zamist), Kharkiv (the villages of Budy and PISOCHYN), Chuhuivsky (the village of ZADONETSK) districts and the city of Chuhuiv. A total of seven observation points were identified in the territory of the city of Kharkiv: the village of Zhukovsky (Kyiv district), Novobavarsky district, the village of Saltivske (Saltivske district), the village of Herzen (Slobodsky district), the Oleksiyivka massif (Shevchenkivsky district).

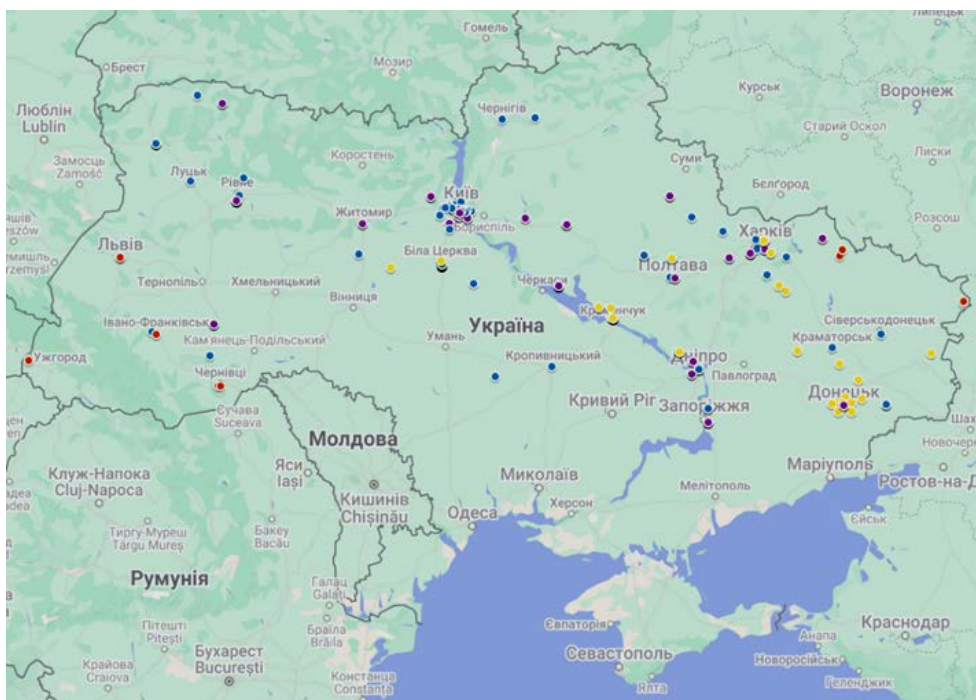


Fig. 1. Findings of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in Ukraine according to iNaturalist, GBIF, and UkrBIN resources (as of January 2025). Blue markers correspond to iNaturalist findings, red – GBIF, yellow – UkrBIN; purple marks the points of duplication of iNaturalist and GBIF findings, green – marks the points of duplication of iNaturalist and UkrBIN findings

In the iNaturalist network, 25 observations of *A. potteri* were registered for the territory of the city of Kyiv, which is the most significant result among all settlements and administrative-territorial units of Ukraine. In the territory of the left-bank part of the city, this adventive spider species was found in the Darnytskyi district: residential areas of Poznyaki, Osokorky, and Chervonyi Khutir. In the territory of the Holiivskyi district, it was found both in the residential area (Polotsky Lane, Demiivka, Zabaykiv'ya, residential area in the village of Feofaniya) and the forest park (in the vicinity of the National Natural Park "Holiivskyi" and the National Museum of Folk Architecture and Folkways of Ukraine and near the Orihuvatskyi ponds). A fairly significant number of observations is represented by Solomianskyi district, where the species was noted for the Batyeva Gora area (4 observations during 2021–2022), the area near the central railway station and in the vicinity of the village of Zhulyany. For Svyatoshyivskyi district, 5 observation points of this species are currently known, including 2 from the Galagany area. In the Shevchenkivskyi district, the species was noted in the city center near Maidan Nezalezhnosti. Isolated cases of observations were recorded in Obolonskyi (between Pryrichna Street and the Dnieper embankment), Pecherskyi (on the territory of the M.M. Hryshko National

Botanical Garden of the NAS of Ukraine), and Podilskyi (on the territory of the Vynohradar residential area) districts.

In several other regions of Ukraine, a significantly lower number of observations of the *A. potteri* spider species was noted. In the Donetsk region, 6 observations are known: 3 in the city of Chistyakove (former Torez), 2 in the central part of the city of Donetsk, and 1 in the city of Kramatorsk. In the Cherkasy region, 6 observations were also found, all in the vicinity of the settlement of Prydniprovsk, Zolotonosha district, dated 2021, 2023, and 2024.

In the Poltava region, a Potter's Grass Spider was recorded in the cities of Poltava (on the territory of the Aviagorodok residential area and in the Podilskyi district), Pyriatyn (near the eastern outskirts and in the central part of the city), and Myrhorodskyi district (near the village of Shyshaky). In total, as of January 2025, there are 5 *A. potteri* registration points in the iNaturalist network for the Poltava region.

For the Volyn region, 4 locations have been identified: in the cities of Kovel, and Lutsk and the vicinity of the village of Lyubeshiv (Kamin-Kashyr district). Also, 4 observation points are currently known for the Dnipropetrovsk region, all of them are located on the territory of Dnipro city: in Nizhnyodniprovsky (2 registration points), Central and Chechelivskyi districts (one registration point each).

Three observation points are currently known for Zaporizhzhia city (in particular, *A. potteri* was noted on the territory of Komunarskyi district), this species was not noted for the rest of the settlements of Zaporizhzhia region. In the Ternopil region, a Potter's Grass Spider was observed in the vicinity of the city park of Zalizhchyky and in the vicinity of the village of Horishnia Vyhnanka, which are territorially part of the Chortkiv district.

Isolated cases of observations are noted for Zhytomyr (surroundings of the city of Berdychiv, Bohunsky district of Zhytomyr), Sumy (surroundings of the cities of Lebedyn and Okhtyrka), and Chernihiv (Desnyansky district of Chernihiv and in the village of Stolne, Koryukiv district) regions. In the Kirovohrad region, the species was noted in the vicinity of

the village of Dobrovelichkivka (Novoukrainsky district) and the city of Kropyvnytskyi (in the northwestern part of the territory of the Fortechny district). The only observation point for the Luhansk region is located on the northern outskirts of the city of Severskodonetsk near Lake Kleshnia, it is dated October 2015.

Relatively recently, observations of *A. potteri* spider have appeared from the territory of the western regions of Ukraine: in the city of Ivano-Frankivsk (August 2023) and in the central part of Lviv (October 2024). As of January 2025, the iNaturalist network does not have information about the registration of a Potter's Grass Spider in the territory of the Zakarpattia region, however, it is indicated for the region in other biodiversity resources (Fig. 2).

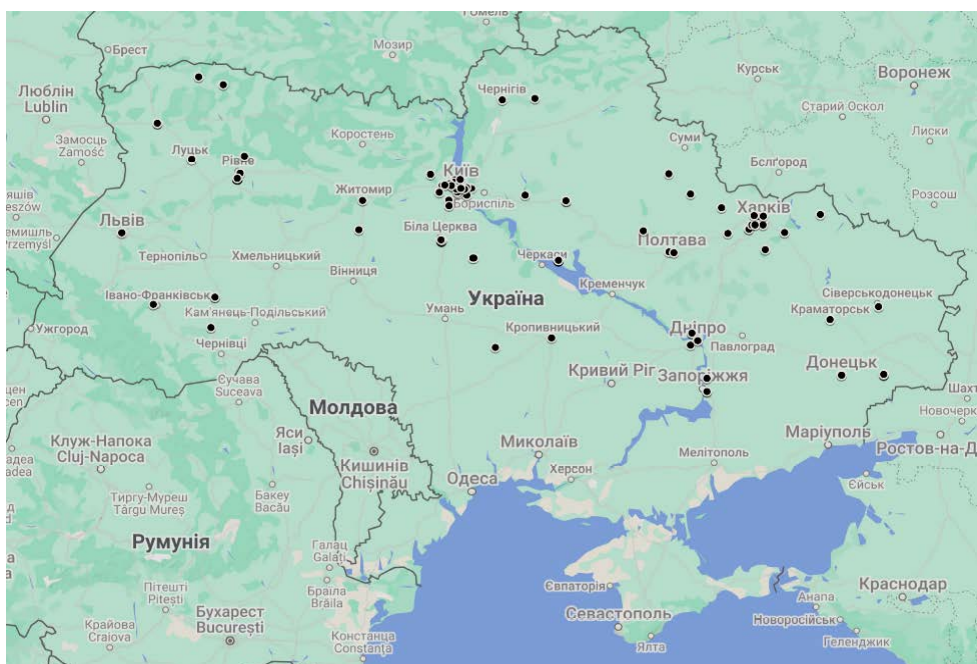


Fig. 2. Findings of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in Ukraine according to the iNaturalist resource (as of January 2025)

Most of the data on the findings of the adventitious spider species on the GBIF resource are duplicated (59 findings out of 67 coincide, which is about 88 %), with the results from the iNaturalist network already described above, the rest are data provided according to the geographical labels of the faunal material indicated in scientific publications. The largest number of findings of the species is indicated from the territories of Rivne, Kharkiv, Kyiv regions, and the city of Kyiv – 17, 11, 5, and 10, respectively. As of January 2025, no data on the registration of *A. potteri* are provided for the Kirovohrad and Chernihiv regions (but there are records for these regions on the iNaturalist resource).

For the Transcarpathian region, there is a single record in the village of Rozivka near the city of Uzhhorod, which is noted exclusively for the GBIF resource among other biodiversity databases. The observation is new for all the databases we have considered and adds this region to the list of regions where *A. potteri* occurs. In Ivano-Frankivsk, we also have one fixation point in the Kolomyia district of the city, unique for GBIF. For the Chernivtsi region, 2 observations are known: one in the city of Chernivtsi, and the other near the village of Zavoloka (Chernivtsi district). The data are given according to the material specified in the scientific publication (Fedoriak, & Rudenko, 2009). Also, for two

settlements of the Kharkiv region (Dvorichne and Krasne Pershe (Kupyansky district)), this species is indicated for the first time (Bengus, 2023). For the Luhansk region, the species is reported from the territory of the village of Krynychne, Starobilsky district, where it was found near the banks of the river (Polchaninova, 2023) (Fig. 3).

According to the results of the analysis of data from the National Biodiversity Information Network UkrBIN, as of January 2025, there are 55 observations of the adventitious North American spider species on the territory of Ukraine. The largest number of finds is recorded in Poltava, Kyiv, and Donetsk regions: 15, 14, and 13 records, respectively. The only find is known from the Zhytomyr region, from the outskirts of the city of Ruzhyn, which is in Berdychiv district. 2 finds are located in Luhansk region: one in the village of Stanytsia Luhanska (Shchastia district), the other – near the village of Krynychne (Dovzhansk district). For these settlements of the Luhansk region, *A. potteri* was previously indicated by O. Prokopenko (Prokopenko, 2001). Three observations were found in the Dnipropetrovsk region, all – in the village of Lobykivka (Dniprovskyi district). There are records of 7 cases of fixation of the species from the territory of Kharkiv region: 5 – in Kharkiv (3 – in Shevchenkivskyi and 2 – in the Industrialnyi districts of the city), 1 – in the village of Donets (Iziumskyi district) and 1 – in the village of Milova (Balakliyskyi

district). For Donetsk region, we have 13 observations: 1 each – in Oleksandrivka and Kostyantynivka (Kramatorsk district), in Horlivka (Horlivskiy district), in Nyzhna Krynka, in

Kashtanovoe, in Makiivka (Donetsk district), 3 – in the city of Donetsk and 4 observations of the species – in its vicinity.

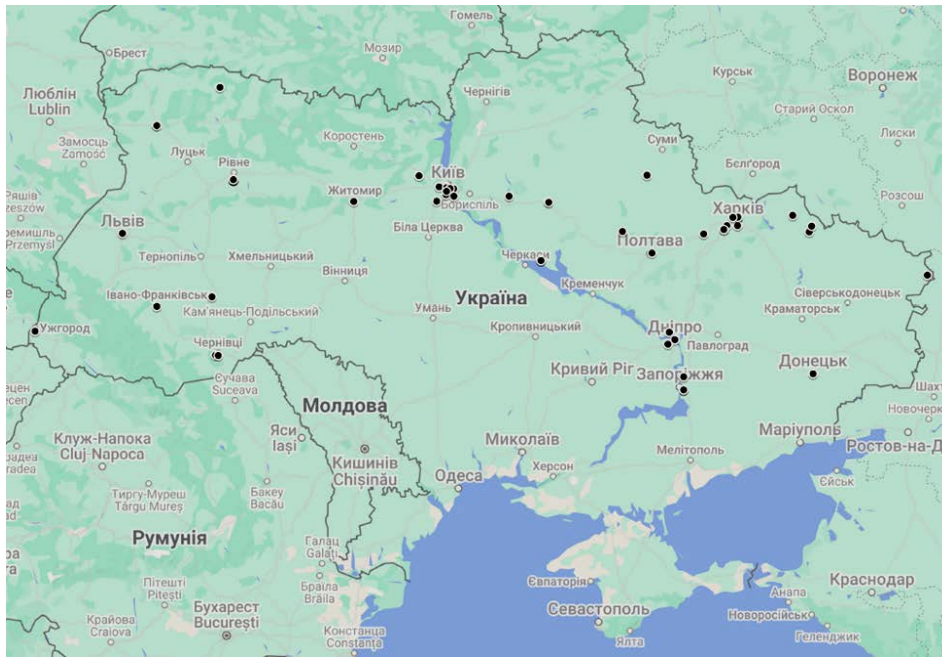


Fig. 3. Findings of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in Ukraine according to the GBIF resource (as of January 2025)

The UkrBIN network recorded 14 observations for the territory of the Kyiv region: 4 – in the city of Bila Tserkva and 10 – in the village of Shkarivka (Bila Tserkva district). This is where the duplication of observation records with the iNaturalist resource occurs. As already noted, the largest number of observations falls on the Poltava region: 2 – in the village of Hradyzk (Kremenchuk district), 2 – in the village of Dykanka, 1 each – in the villages of Myrne (Bilytskyi settlement community) and Kovalivka (Poltava district). 9 observations

of the adventitious species are noted in the territory of the Avtozavodskiy district of the city of Kremenchuk. According to the geography of available observations of *A. potteri*, the UkrBIN network demonstrates a somewhat narrower coverage of the territory of Ukraine, compared to the iNaturalist and GBIF resources. Currently, UkrBIN has no hope of registering the species in the territory of Volyn, Transcarpathian, Zaporizhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Lviv, Rivne, Sumy, Cherkasy and Chernihiv regions (Fig. 4).

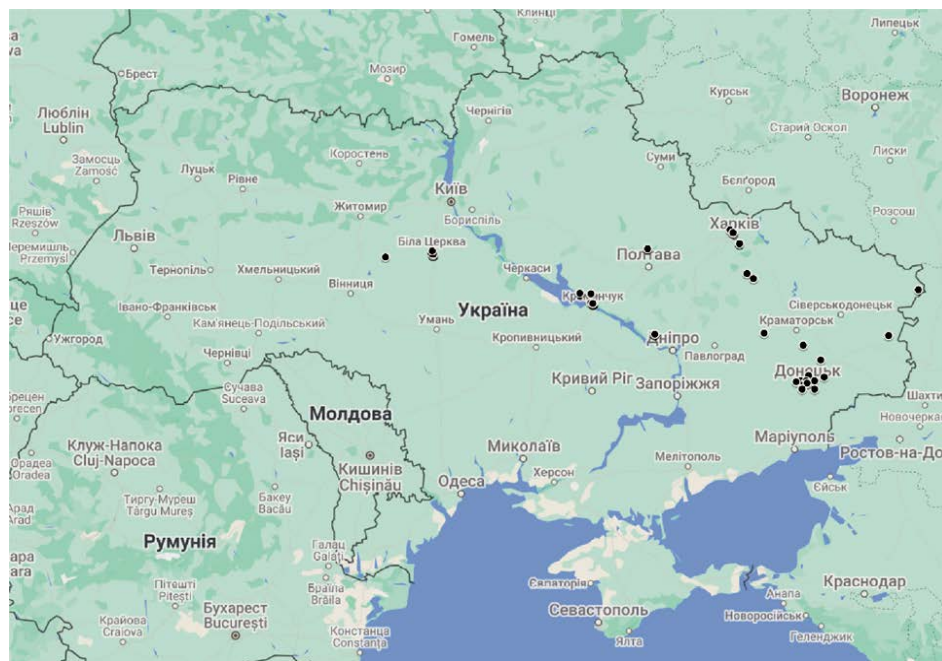


Fig. 4. Findings of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in Ukraine according to UkrBIN data (as of January 2025)

Based on the results of a partial processing of the faunal material collected by one of the authors (E. Singayevskiy), students and staff of the Department of Ecology and Zoology, starting in 2008, primary analysis and generalization of label data of 53 specimens of *A. potteri* (39 males, 13 females, and 1 juvenile) were carried out. Most of the processed specimens were collected using the pitfall traps method, which allows detecting, in particular, quantitative indicators of soil and litter animal communities over a long period.

Figure 5 presents the features of the phenology of *A. potteri* during the field research season in the city of Kyiv and the Kyiv region. Sexually mature spiders occur from

June to October, and the largest number of individuals in the city of Kyiv is recorded in August and September, which coincides with previous data of colleagues (Prokopenko, & Goydyk, 2006). In the territory of the "Lysa Hora" Regional Landscape Park in the third decade of March, a female was found wintering under the bark of a tree. Among the processed specimens in the collection, this is the only find of this species in the spring period.

Comparing phenological data from the iNaturalist network (by date of observation), a similar scenario of activity of sexually mature individuals is observed, with maximum values recorded in late summer and early autumn, but the last observations of single females were dated to November.

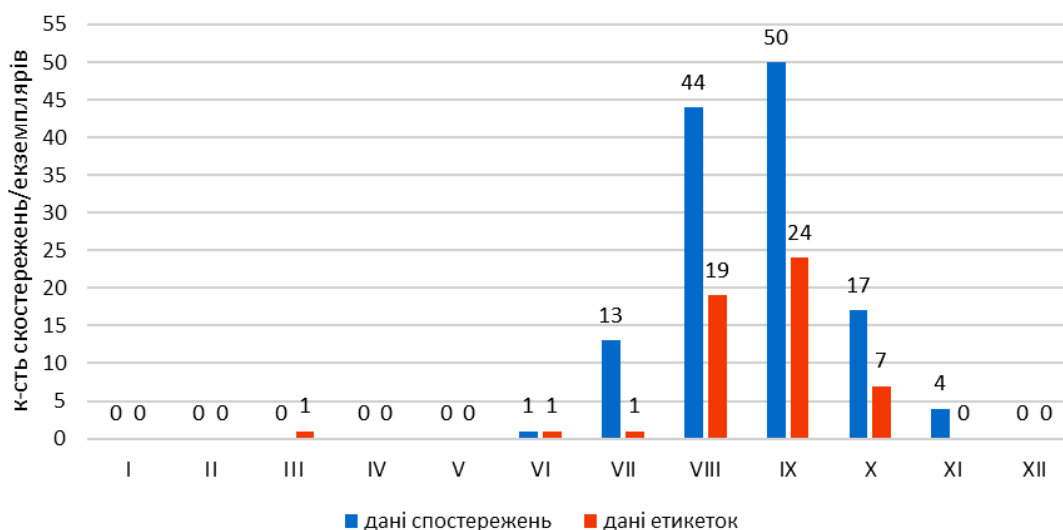


Fig. 5. Phenology of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* according to the iNaturalist resource (as of January 2025) and according to the label data of faunal material from the collection of the Department of Ecology and Zoology

Table 1

Findings of the adventitious spider species *A. potteri* in Ukraine according to the analysis of iNaturalist, GBIF, UkrBIN databases, and literary sources

Region/City	Number of finds iNaturalist	Number of finds GBIF	Number of finds UkrBIN	According to literary sources
Cherkasy	6	2	–	–
Chernihiv	2	–	–	–
Chernivtsi	–	2	–	Brushnivska, & Fedoriak, 2009; Fedoriak, & Rudenko, 2009; Fedoriak, Brushnivska, & Rudenko, 2010; Fedoriak et al, 2010; Fedoriak et al, 2012; Tymchuk et al, 2021
Dnipropetrovsk	4	3	3	–
Donetsk	6	1	13	Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2007; Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2019; Prokopenko, 2003; Prokopenko, 2013; Prokopenko, & Goidyk, 2006; Prokopenko, & Savchenko, 2013
Ivano-Frankivsk	1	1	–	Fedoriak, & Rudenko, 2009
Kharkiv	16	11	7	Bengus, 2023; Fedoriak, 2009; Parkhomenko, & Kletyonkin, 2023; Polchaninova, 2009; Polchaninova, 2015; Polchaninova, & Honcharov, 2023; Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2019; Polchaninova, & Slutsky, 2013
Kirovohrad	2	–	–	–
Kyiv	24	5	14	Evtushenko, Dyman & Yashchenko, 2012; Yanul, & Syngaevsky, 2021
City of Kyiv	25	10	–	Evtushenko, & Syngaevsky, 2008

Ending table

Region/City	Number of finds iNaturalist	Number of finds GBIF	Number of finds UkrBIN	According to literary sources
Luhansk	1	1	2	Prokopenko, 2001; Prokopenko, & Goidyk, 2006; Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2011; Polchaninova, & Prokopenko, 2019; Polchaninova, 2023
Lviv	1	1	–	–
Poltava	5	4	15	Fedoriak, 2009
Rivne	21	17	–	–
Sumy	2	1	–	–
Ternopil	3	1	–	–
Volyn	4	2	–	–
Zakarpattia	-	1	–	Fedoriak, & Rudenko, 2009
Zaporizhzhia	3	3	–	–
Zhytomyr	2	1	1	–

Discussion and conclusions

Since the first discovery of *A. potteri* in Donetsk in 1995, this North American species has spread over a significant territory of Ukraine. According to the data of iNaturalist, GBIF, UkrBIN, and literature sources, a Potter's Grass Spider has been found in 19 out of 25 administrative-territorial units of Ukraine. Currently, there are no data on its presence in several southern regions (Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Kherson and in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea), and Vinnytsia, and Khmelnytskyi regions. A probable reason for the lack of information on the findings of *A. potteri* in the southern regions of Ukraine may be the sensitivity of juveniles to low humidity values (Earnshaw, 1973), which prevents the formation of permanent populations.

It is worth noting that over the past year, the geography of observations of the adventitious species in Ukraine has expanded. For example, as of April 2024, this species was not indicated in the social network for studying biodiversity iNaturalist from the territory of Kirovohrad and Lviv regions. A similar trend towards expanding the geography of observations is predicted to continue in the future. The most indicative in this regard is the iNaturalist resource, as of April 2024 its database contained 72 research-grade records of *A. potteri* in Ukraine, and in January 2025 there were already 128 such records. Spiders of the genus *Agelenopsis* do not settle in air currents using a web (Paison, 1997), therefore the main factor in such a rapid spread of the adventitious species across the territory of Ukraine is the growing volumes of goods transportation and the extensiveness of the transport network. Using up-to-date information from specialized biodiversity databases, it is possible to reliably track new locations of North American spider findings both within a specific region and throughout Ukraine.

Analysis of literary sources and available faunal material indicates that the North American spider in the physical and geographical conditions of Ukraine tends to urban ecosystems and is mostly recorded in settlements and their surroundings. In eastern Ukraine, it also is a part of spider communities in nature reserves and is found in habitats of various types. The settlement of *A. potteri* in new anthropogenically modified landscapes and various natural ecosystems of a significant part of the territory of Ukraine indicates the successful adaptation of the species to local environmental conditions and its inclusion in the established trophic networks existing here.

Analysis of online biodiversity resources shows that *A. potteri* is mainly observed in urban environments (in large cities, regional, and district centers), as well as in

villages and outside the urban agglomeration. According to the iNaturalist resource, in the city of Zdolbuniv (Rivne region), the species is regularly recorded in the vicinity of the city's Hydropark from August 2021 to September 2024, in total, this is 18 out of 21 (or 85,7 %) observations in the Rivne region. A similar situation exists in the vicinities of Shkarivka village (Bila Tserkva district), where the species was observed from August 2020 to October 2024, more than 54 % of the total number of records in the Kyiv region. In the settlement of Prydniprovskoe (Zolotonishki district), *A. potteri* was noted from August 2021 to August 2024, this is the only point of occurrence of this species in the Cherkasy region so far. In the settlements described above, amateur naturalists register a local stable population of *A. potteri*, which can successfully reproduce its numbers for a long time.

In the south of Kyiv region, in the vicinity of Vasylykivskiy district, *A. potteri* is a common species in private homes, settles in barns and other outbuildings where it builds characteristic webs between window frames. Males were also noted outside the settlement in the litter layer of spruce-oak forests in late September – early October. Spiders hibernate both indoors and in natural conditions (under tree bark, etc.). In the Holosiivskiy district of Kyiv in February, females were found under the lids of beehives in a basement (Evtushenko, & Syngaevsky, 2008), and in March, a female was found under the bark of a tree in the "Lysa Hora" Regional Landscape Park. According to the phenology, *A. potteri* is a typical summer-autumn species with the peak of activity of adults in August and September, single females are also found in November, and in autumn they form cocoons that overwinter.

Authors' contributions: Evgen Singayevskiy – the general concept of the manuscript, collection, and laboratory processing of faunal material, methodology, preparation of the literature review; Maksym Kolesnyk – compilation of maps, arrangement of data, analysis of sources, preparation of the literature review; Pavlo Balan – general concept of the manuscript, preparation of the literature review, editing of the manuscript.

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АДВЕНТИВНИЙ ВИД ПАВУКІВ *AGELENOPSIS POTTERI* (BLACKWALL, 1846) В УКРАЇНІ

Вступ. Через зростання мобільності населення, товарообіг, фрагментацію та антропогенну трансформацію природних екосистем адвентивні види мають можливість швидко поширюватись у нові регіони. Стежити за динамікою розповсюдження та здійснювати моніторинг знахідок, зокрема й адвентивних видів, наразі є можливою за допомогою таких спеціалізованих інтернет-

ресурсів, як iNaturalist, GBIF та UkrBIN. Серед паєуків фауни України до адвентивних належить і *Agelenopsis potteri* (Blackwall, 1846). Цей вид має ознаки, за якими його можна легко ідентифікувати. На підставі цього дані, які отримані з мережі iNaturalist та інших подібних ресурсів, вважають цілком надійними, а на їх основі можна створювати карти розповсюдження, які відображатимуть поточний стан ареалу виду із високою точністю. Спираючись на інформацію спеціалізованих баз даних із біорізноманіття, які постійно доповнюються, можна достовірно відстежувати нові точки знахідок *A. potteri* як у межах певного регіону, так по Україні в цілому.

Методи. Дані про поширення адвентивного виду на території України отримано з онлайн-ресурсів із біорізноманіття iNaturalist (inaturalist.org), GBIF (gbif.org) та UkrBIN (ukrbn.com). Також проаналізовано фауністичний матеріал із колекції кафедри екології та зоології Київського національного університету імені Тараса Шевченка. Дані з GBIF та UkrBIN перевірено експертами для попередження помилкового визначення видів. У випадку із iNaturalist використано записи лише дослідницького рівня. Загалом проаналізовано близько 250 спостережень. Вихідні дані зібрано стандартизованим протоколом через інтерфейс управління вищевказаних ресурсів. У вихідних даних зазначено дату, час та місце збору, ім'я користувача й географічні координати знахідок, за якими в онлайн-сервісі Google My Maps (www.google.com/maps) створено оригінальні карти, які збережені у форматі PNG. Наявні географічні координати знахідок і спостережень переведено у формат десяткових градусів.

Результати. Станом на січень 2025 р. виявлено 250 спостережень адвентивного виду *A. potteri* на території України: 128 – в iNaturalist, 67 – на ресурсі GBIF та 55 – на ресурсі UkrBIN; на їх основі створено відповідні карти. Більша частина даних про *A. potteri* на ресурсі GBIF дублюється такими з мережі iNaturalist: 59 знахідок із 67 збігається, що становить близько 88 %, решта – це дані, що наводяться відповідно до географічних етикеток фауністичного матеріалу, зазначеного в наукових публікаціях. Аналіз онлайн-ресурсів із біорізноманіття показує, що адвентивний північноамериканський вид переважно спостерігають в урбанізованому середовищі: у великих містах, районних і обласних центрах, а також селищах, поза міською агломерацією в населених пунктах неміського типу. Найбільша кількість спостережень припадає на Київську (44 спостереження), Рівненську (38 спостережень) та Харківську (34 спостереження) області. За географією спостережень мережа UkrBIN демонструє дещо вужче охоплення території України, порівняно з ресурсами iNaturalist та GBIF. Наразі в UkrBIN відсутні дані щодо реєстрації виду на території Волинської, Закарпатської, Запорізької, Івано-Франківської, Кіровоградської, Львівської, Рівненської, Сумської, Черкаської й Чернігівської областей. Аналіз колекційних зразків показав, що дорослі особини *A. potteri* трапляються з червня до жовтня, а піки чисельності реєструють у серпні та вересні. При порівнянні фенологічних даних із мережі iNaturalist спостерігаємо схожий сценарій активності статевозрілих особин, максимальні значення припадають на кінець літа й початок осені, а останні спостереження поодиноких екземплярів самок датовано листопадом.

Висновки. За даними ресурсів iNaturalist, GBIF, UkrBIN та за літературними джерелами встановлено, що *A. potteri* поширилася на значній території України. Він виявлений у 19 із 25 адміністративних одиниць України. На сьогодні відсутні будь-які дані про його наявність у ряді південних областей (Миколаївська, Одеська й Херсонська та на території Автономної Республіки Крим), а також у Вінницькій і Хмельницькій областях. Імовірно причиною його відсутності у південних регіонах України може бути чутливість ювенільних особин до низьких значень вологості. Оскільки представники роду *Agelenopsis* не здатні розселятися повітряними потоками за допомогою паутини, то основним фактором поширення цього адвентивного виду територією України імовірно є зростання об'ємі перевезення товарів і розгалуженість транспортної мережі. Вид переважно спостерігають в урбанізованому середовищі: у великих містах, районних і обласних центрах та поза міською агломерацією в населених пунктах неміського типу. На сході України він входить до складу угруповань пауків природно-заповідних територій та мешкає у біотопах різних типів. За даними ресурсу iNaturalist, у місті Здолбунів (Рівненська обл.), у селі Шкарівка (Білоцерківський р-н, Київська обл.) та Придніпровське (Золотоніський р-н, Черкаська обл.) реєструють локальні стабільні популяції *A. potteri*, що успішно відтворюються упродовж принаймні 3–4 років. За особливостями фенології *A. potteri* є типовим літньо-осіннім видом із піком активності дорослих особин у серпні та вересні.

Ключові слова: пауки, фауна, урбоєкосистеми, адвентивні види, *Agelenopsis potteri*, citizen science.

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