Exploring taxonomic and geographic spread of iSpot citizen science observations

iSpotnature.org (iSpot) is a citizen science platform that was developed to help people learn how to identify wildlife with the help of an online community.

iSpot is a member of the NBN and a data provider. Here we use the NBN tools to review taxonomic and geographic spread of the iSpot British Isles observations recently added to the NBN Atlas. Recording effort by Vice County for the full British Isles iSpot dataset is also shown to emphasise the geographic variation.

The first 140,000 UK iSpot observations, covering a period up to the end of 2013, have recently been uploaded to the NBN Atlas.

Dataset exploration tools on NBN show over 1300 families and over 8000 species in this citizen science dataset.

To see the latest data added, interrogate iSpot species records and download distribution maps within the NBN Atlas visit iSpot British Isles observations: https://registry.nbnatlas.org/public/show/dr2701.

Observations on iSpot up to October 2023 were spread across all vice counties although there was a concentration in areas with more people or which were more frequently visited. The colours emphasise broad regional differences with fewer records in parts of Scotland and Wales but also relatively local differences in recording intensity such as between East Cornwall and South Devon and between North Lincolnshire and South West Yorkshire.