

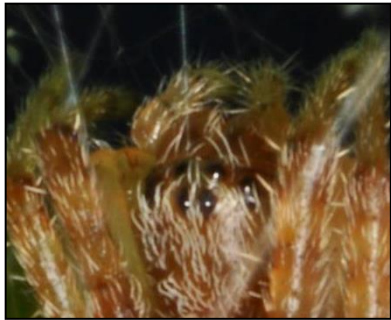
THE COMMON SPIDERS OF ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

by Stephanie M Cobbold

Web-building Spiders

Family *Araneidae* (orb web spiders)

- Build a circular spiral web on support lines that radiate out from the center
- The spider is often found waiting for prey in the center of its web
- Typical eye pattern: 4 median eyes clustered in a square shape



Eye pattern



Orb web



Neoscona (back and front views)



Banded Garden Spider (*Argiope*)

Family *Theridiidae* (cob web spiders)

- Abdomen usually ball or globe-shaped
- Have bristles on legs called combs. These combs are used to fling silk strands over captive prey.
- Web is loose, irregular and 3-dimensional



Black Widow (*Latrodectus hesperus*)



Theridion

Family *Linyphiidae* (sheet web spiders)

- Build flat, sheet-like or dome-shaped webs under which the spider hangs upside-down.
- Abdomen is usually longer than wide



Sheet web spider hanging under its web

Family *Dictynidae* (mesh web spiders)

- Make small, irregular webs of hackled threads
- Often found near the tips of plants



Family *Agelenidae* (funnel web spiders)

- Web is a silk mat with a funnel-shaped retreat at one end in which the spider waits in ambush
- Web typically found on ground or in low vegetation
- Posterior spinnerets are long and well separated



Agelenopsis aperta



Long posterior spinnerets

Family Tetragnathidae (long-jawed spiders)

- Long legs and elongated bodies with large powerful jaws
- Spin orb web similar to that of *Araneidae* but without the central part



Web with typical “hole” in the center



Long-jawed Spider resting on twig

Wandering Spiders (no web)

Family Salticidae (jumping spiders)

- Very large front central eyes, excellent vision
- Diurnal hunters that jump on their prey
- Front of cephalothorax (“head”) is square
- Short, stocky legs
- Often colorful
- Spin shelters under bark, stones, or leaves





Phidippus with characteristic metallic green fangs



Pelegrina



Zebra Spider (*Salticus scenicus*)



Synageles (ant mimic)

Family Thomisidae (crab spiders)

- First two pairs of legs are long and stout
- Hold their legs out to their sides, like crabs
- They can walk forwards, backwards, or sideways
- They are often found on flowers or on bark, waiting for prey



Bark Crab Spider (*Xysticus*)



Flower crab spider (*Mecaphesa*)

Family Lycosidae (wolf spiders)

- Often found running on the ground
- Females carry their egg sac attached to the spinnerets
- Characteristic eye arrangement: 4 larger eyes in the back that form a square and 4 uniformly small eyes in the front



The 4 posterior eyes form a square



Female wolf spider carrying her egg sac

Family Oxyopidae (lynx spiders)

- 6 eyes form a hexagon with 2 smaller eyes facing forward
- Legs have prominent spines
- Long, pointy abdomen
- Found on tall grasses and low shrubs
- Pounce on their prey, repeatedly jump when disturbed



Zakaria Jamieson



James Niland

Family Philodromidae

- Somewhat crab-like, second pair of legs longer than other legs
- Active predators in plants



Philodromus



Tibellus. Elongated body blends with vegetation.

Family Gnaphosidae

- Primarily ground dwellers, nocturnal
- Found under rocks or in leaf litter during the day
- Enlarged, cylindrical, well separated anterior spinnerets



Sergiolus

Family Dysderidae

- Only one species in North America: the Woodlouse Spider *Dysdera crocata*
- Abdomen is shiny and smooth
- Typical eye pattern in an inverted U shape
- Long fangs

- Nocturnal, found under rocks and logs during the day



Woodlouse Spider (*Dysdera crocata*)

David Short