

# INDOOR SPIDERS OF COLORADO

## FUNNEL WEAVERS (AGELENIDAE FAMILY)

Funnel weavers construct dense horizontal silk mats in vegetation and in corners near ground level. Funnel weavers in the genera *Agelenopsis* and *Hololena* develop outdoors but are often the most commonly encountered spiders in homes. They move into buildings as temperatures cool in early autumn. Funnel weavers in the genera *Tegenaria* and *Eratigena* are adapted to reproducing in buildings and are among the most common household spiders in the state. The funnel weaver spiders are harmless to humans.



A "grass spider", *Agelenopsis* sp., female (left) and male (right)



"Hobo spider", *Eratigena agrestis*, female



*Hololena hola*, a funnel weaver spider that commonly enters homes in late summer and fall

## CELLAR SPIDERS (PHOLCIDAE FAMILY)

The cellar spiders are very long-legged spiders that construct irregular sticky webs in corners of buildings. If disturbed, they may bounce in the web.



Longbodied cellar spider holding egg sac, *Pholcus phalangioides*.

Photograph courtesy of Jim Kalisch of the University of Nebraska



Roundbodied cellar spider, *Psilochorus* sp.

## WOLF SPIDERS (LYCOSIDAE FAMILY)

Although wolf spiders breed outdoors, they occasionally enter homes. This habit is most often seen with some of the very largest of the wolf spiders, the giant wolf spiders (*Hogna* spp.) and burrowing wolf spiders (*Geolycosa* spp.).



Giant wolf spider, male



Burrowing wolf spider

## GROUND SPIDERS (GNAPHOSIDAE FAMILY)

Ground spiders are commonly found outdoors under rocks and other covering debris. Representatives of a few genera tend to occasionally enter buildings, notably the "parson spiders" of the genus *Herpyllus*.



Parson spider, *Herpyllus* sp.

## YELLOWLEGGED SAC SPIDERS (MITURGIDAE FAMILY)

The yellowlegged sac spider, *Cheiracanthium mildei*, is one of the most common spiders that breeds in buildings. It is suspected of being the household spider that is the most common cause of human bites in Colorado, but effects of the bites are mild. The yellowlegged sac spider is not considered to be a dangerous species.



Yellowlegged sac spider, *Cheiracanthium mildei*, female  
Photograph courtesy of Jim Kalisch of the University of Nebraska



Triangulate cobweb spider, *Steatoda triangulosa*



"False black widow", *Steatoda grossa*, a species that superficially resemble widow spiders but lacks the red markings on the underside of the abdomen



*Parasteatoda tepidariorum*, the American house spider



The red-orange markings on the underside of the western widow can be quite variable



Western widow, *Latrodectus hesperus*, male and female



Immature stages of the western widow have patterning on the back of the abdomen

## DYSDERID SPIDERS (DYSDERIDAE FAMILY)

*Dysdera crocata* is a predator of sowbugs and pillbugs ("roly-polies"), which they subdue with very large fangs. In homes they are usually found in basements.



*Dysdera crocata*, the "roly-poly hunter"



Bold jumper, *Phidippus audax*



*Platycryptus* sp., a jumping spider found in homes



The Zebra spider, *Salticus scenicus*, a jumping spider sometimes found in homes.

Photograph courtesy of Joseph Berger/IPMImages.org

## JUMPING SPIDERS (SALTICIDAE FAMILY)

Jumping spiders are very active spiders that hunt their prey. They have enormous eyes and are capable of short jumps. A few species occasionally wander into homes.

## COMBFOOTED SPIDERS (THERIDIIDAE FAMILY)

The combfooted spiders produce tangled sticky "cobwebs" in areas that are dark and undisturbed. The spiders have a large bulbous abdomen. They hang upside down in the webs and rarely leave them. The males and females look very different, with the male being much smaller. This family includes the widow spiders, represented locally by the western widow (*Latrodectus hesperus*), which has a venom that is potentially dangerous to humans.

