

SPIDER IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Orb-weavers | Family Araneidae

Also known as orb web spiders, we have an impressive amount of variation in our family! Almost anything about our bodies, habitats, and spidery lives can be different from species to species. However, our webs often look like what humans think of as classic spider webs!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47535-Araneidae>

Wolf Spiders | Family Lycosidae

We don't spin webs, but we do have silk and we usually build a burrow or stay on the move. You can mostly find us on the ground running quickly, and sometimes we have an egg sac with us, or our babies on our backs. We can get big, but don't be intimidated: we're good spiders!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47416-Lycosidae>

Jumping Spiders | Family Salticidae

We are the biggest and most diverse family of spiders! We don't make webs, but we dispense silk and can use it as a lifeline to get away from danger quickly! We can be found jumping around almost anywhere, with large eyes and excellent eyesight to help us ambush our prey.



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/48139-Salticidae>

Crab Spiders | Family Thomisidae

Just like our name, we resemble crabs. Some of us even scuttle sideways like crabs, too! We are web-less and can be brown or bright-colored for camouflage, and you can often find us hunting for pests in flowers. We can snag moths, bees, flies, basically anything we are big enough to catch!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47866-Thomisidae>

Tarantulas | Family Theraphosidae

We are the largest spiders you can find, but we won't try to hurt you! We also don't spin traditional webs, but we do dig burrows and line them with silk. Females can live up to 35 years!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47424-Theraphosidae>

Trap-door Spiders | Family Ctenizidae

We often look like smaller, shinier tarantulas, with short and thick legs. We're named for our special method of capturing prey. We dig burrows and make a "trap door" of silk, then ambush prey when they get close!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/57327-Ctenizidae>

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Cellar Spiders | Family Pholcidae

You can often find our disorganized webs in all kinds of shaded places, like your basement, porch, or shed. We are slim and shy, and often wait upside down for prey to get caught in our webs. We're messy and don't clean up our webs, so they accumulate, or gather up, until something knocks them down!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47823-Pholcidae>

Nursery Web/Fishing Spiders | Family Pisauridae

Fishing spiders have a special talent: we can walk on still water surfaces and stay below the surface for as long as 30 minutes to catch small prey! Nursery web spiders and Fishing spiders can get big and can sometimes be confused with wolf spiders.



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/55788-Pisauridae>

Spitting Spiders | Family Scytotidae

The way we ambush prey might be considered rude to humans... Instead of using webs, we spit a sticky substance onto our prey to keep them still while we bite and inject venom. Look for our characteristic spots! We can protect rooms like your bathroom from other insect pests.



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47431-Scytotidae>

Lynx Spiders | Family Oxyopidae

Our webs are minimal and messy with no obvious shape, but they work just fine. We are quick hunters with great eyesight and have very spiky legs! You can often find us searching – or enjoying – our prey while on a plant. On a side note, our egg sacs kind of look like muffins. (Don't eat).



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/83843-Oxyopidae>

Six-eyed/Recluse Spiders | Family Sicariidae

We are important in our natural habitats but can get inside occasionally. **Be careful to not to ever touch us.** Our venom is extra potent, and we could bite from self defense. In Texas, the Brown recluse is the most famous sicariid. Look for the **fiddle/violin shape** behind our eyes!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/48140-Sicariidae>

Cobweb Spiders | Family Theridiidae

We have many members that are important in our natural habitats, and occasionally get inside. **Be careful to not to ever touch Widow spiders** because our venom is extra potent, and we could bite from self defense. Look for the **hourglass/hourglass-like shape** on our underside!



iNaturalist : <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47371-Theridiidae>