

Household Spiders and other Colorado Arachnids



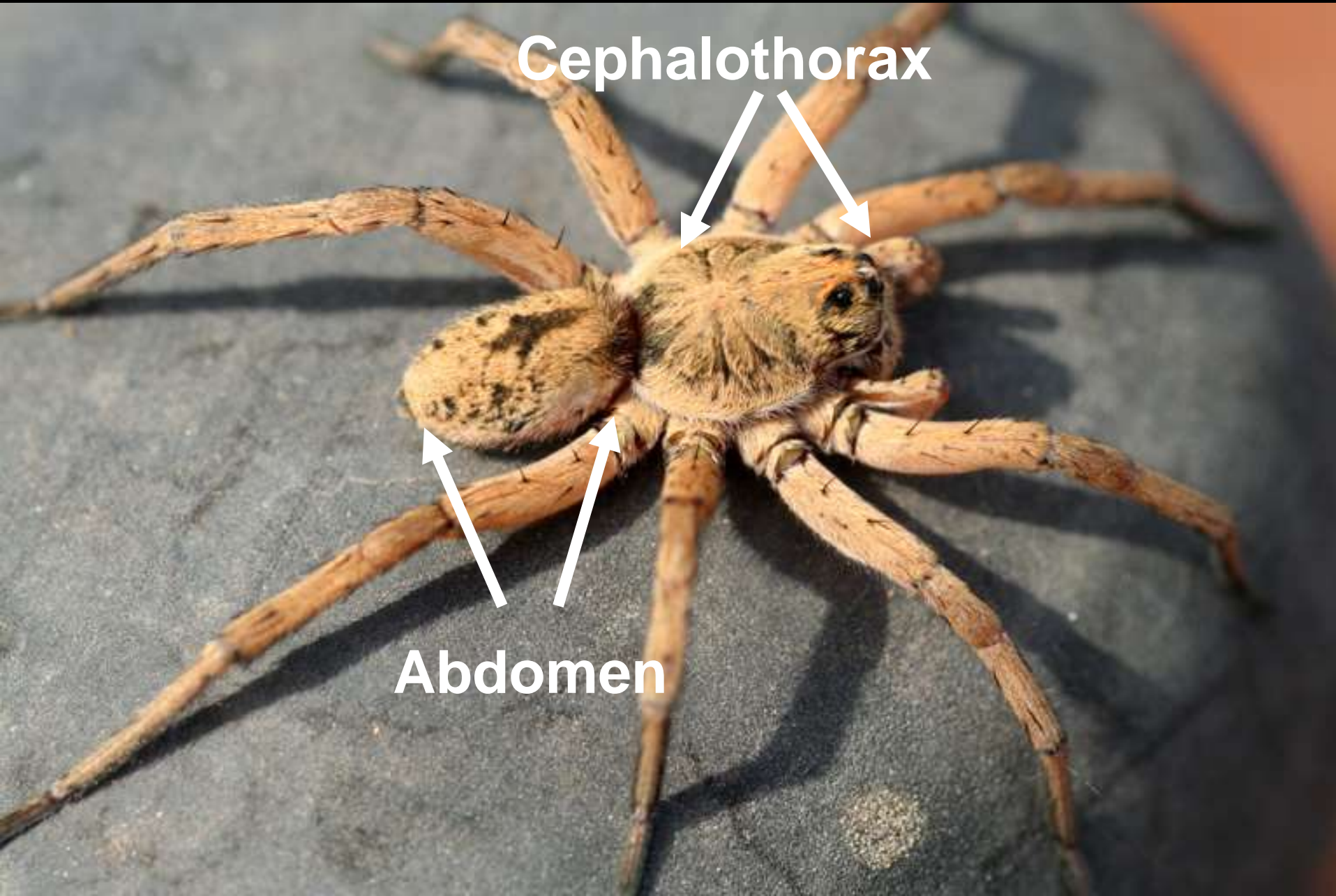
304 Credit



Whitney Cranshaw
Colorado State University




Arachnid Feature – Two Body Regions



**Spiders have 4
pairs of eyes
(rarely 3 pairs)**




Funnel weaver, uses
sheet web to tangle prey



Wolf spider, actively hunts
on ground for prey

The eyes are larger with spiders that actively hunt (r) than those that use webs for prey capture (l)



Orb weaver, uses vertical
sticky web to ensnare prey

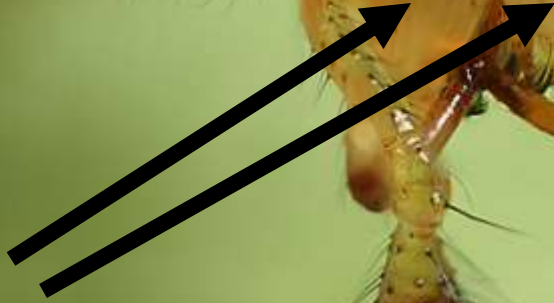
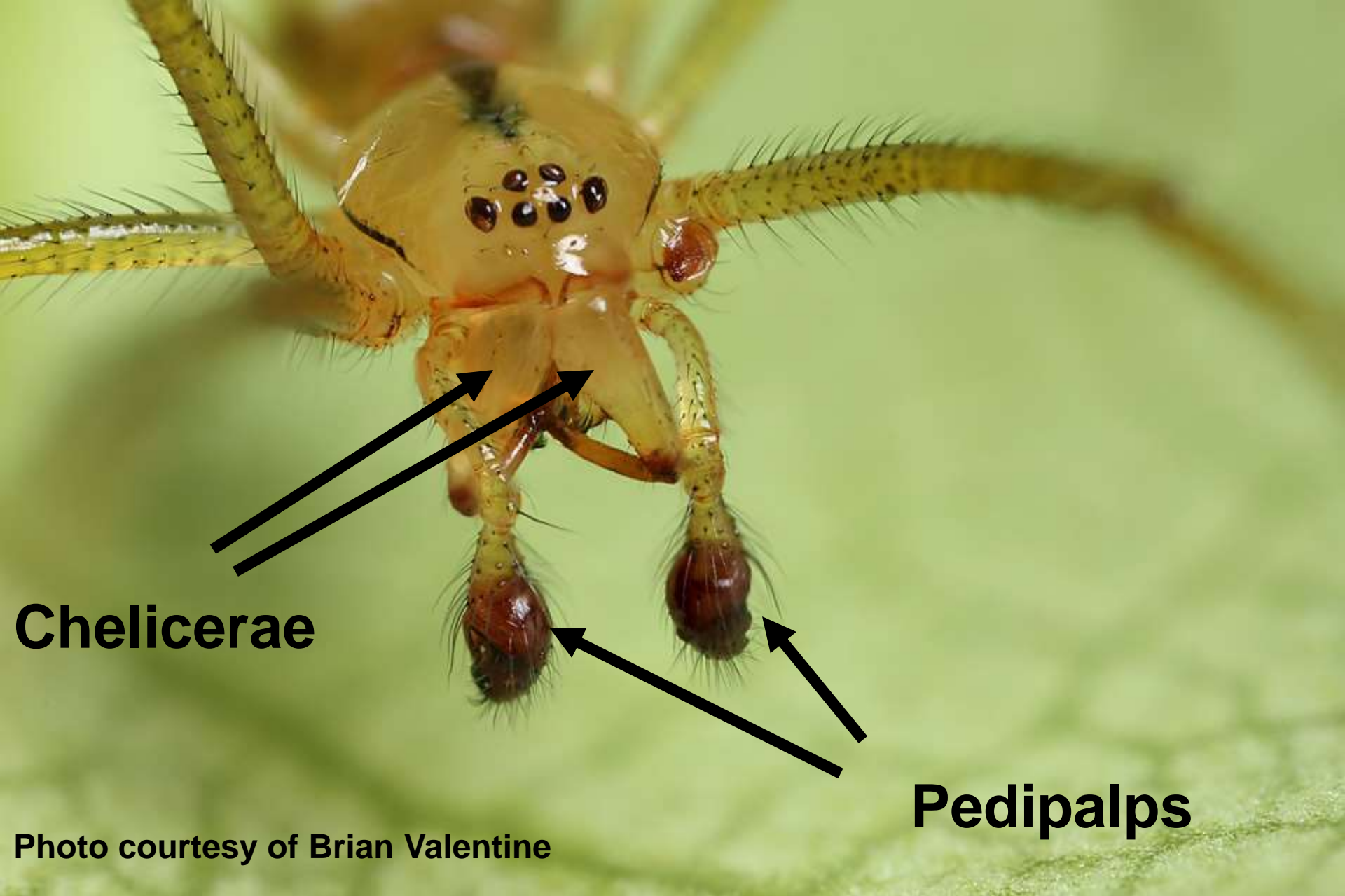


Jumping spider, actively
hunts on plants

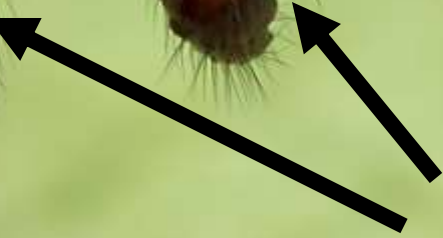
Photographs
left, right by
David Cappaert

Arachnid Feature – Four pairs of legs





Chelicerae



Pedipalps

Photo courtesy of Brian Valentine

Face of a longjawed spider showing chelicerae and pedipalps

Spiders

Order Araneae



SPIDER IDENTIFICATION CHART



smash it



smash it



smash it



smash it



smash it



smash it



smash it



set on fire



run like hell



smash it



set on fire



run like hell



smash it



set it on fire



shoot it



smash it



set it on fire



shoot it



set on fire



smash it



smash it



set on fire



smash it



smash it



Some spiders use webbing to snare prey



**Some spiders
hunt prey without
the aid of silk**



Brian Valentine

David Cappaert

The most popular fact sheet – by a huge margin – ever produced at Colorado State University

Colorado State University
Extension

Spiders in the Home

Fact Sheet No. 5.512

Insect Series | Home and Garden

by F.B. Peairs, W.S. Cranshaw and P.E. Cushing*

Spiders are beneficial arthropods, that survive by feeding on insects. Oftentimes they are the most important biological control of insect pests in gardens, fields, forests, and homes. However, their presence is a cause of concern to some people. Many people fear spiders because of stories or myths. Others object to spiders because of

Because spiders have a great ability to disperse, in addition to other factors that affect their survival, the number of spiders found in an area from one season to another naturally varies. Also, spiders are able to rapidly recolonize areas even if they have temporarily been eliminated.

Most spiders in Colorado have a life cycle



Quick Facts

- Spiders feed on insects and other arthropods. This makes them beneficial in helping manage pests.
- Some spiders wander indoors

Key Points – Household Spiders in Colorado

- **Many of the spiders found in homes are transients, that do not reproduce in buildings**
- **The only potentially dangerous species in most of the state the western widow**
- **Better identification of spiders can calm many concerns of clients**
- **Selective use of insecticides, trapping, cleaning out sites for breeding, and vacuuming are the primary controls for spiders**

Spiders Found In CO Homes

Seasonal Transients

- **Most funnel weavers**
- **“Roly-poly hunter”**
- **Jumping spiders**
- **Bark crab spiders**
- **Wolf spiders**

May Breed Indoors

- **Barn funnel weaver**
- **Widow spiders**
- **Other cobweb spiders**
- **Cellar spiders**
- **Yellowlegged sac spider**

Colorado Spiders of Interest that *Do Not* Occur Indoors

Texas (Oklahoma) Brown Tarantula

Aphelenoma hentzi



Great new YouTube video on tarantula mating in SE Colorado!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gOKd4cqFaY>



Part of the **Deep Look** series, produced by KQED TV

#tarantula #deeplook #spider

Tarantulas Take Hooking Up To The Next Level | Deep Look

Deep Look



Orb-weaver Spiders



Family Araneidae



Colorado Spiders of Interest that *Do Not* Occur Indoors

Banded Garden Spider

Argiope trifasciata



Colorado Spiders of Interest that *Do Not* Occur Indoors

“Catface Spider”

Araneus gemmoides



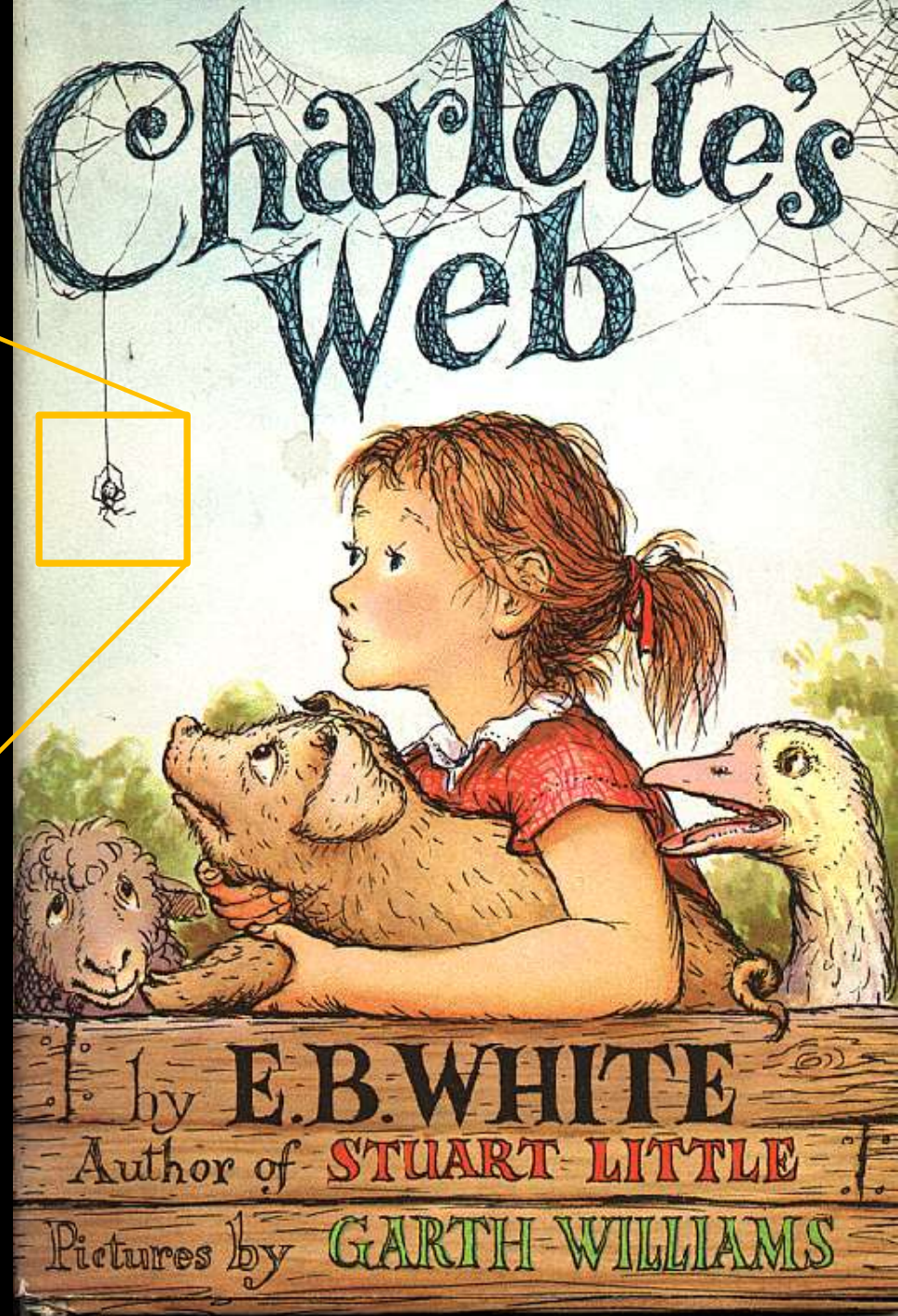
“Cat Face” Spider



“Charlotte A. Cavaticus”

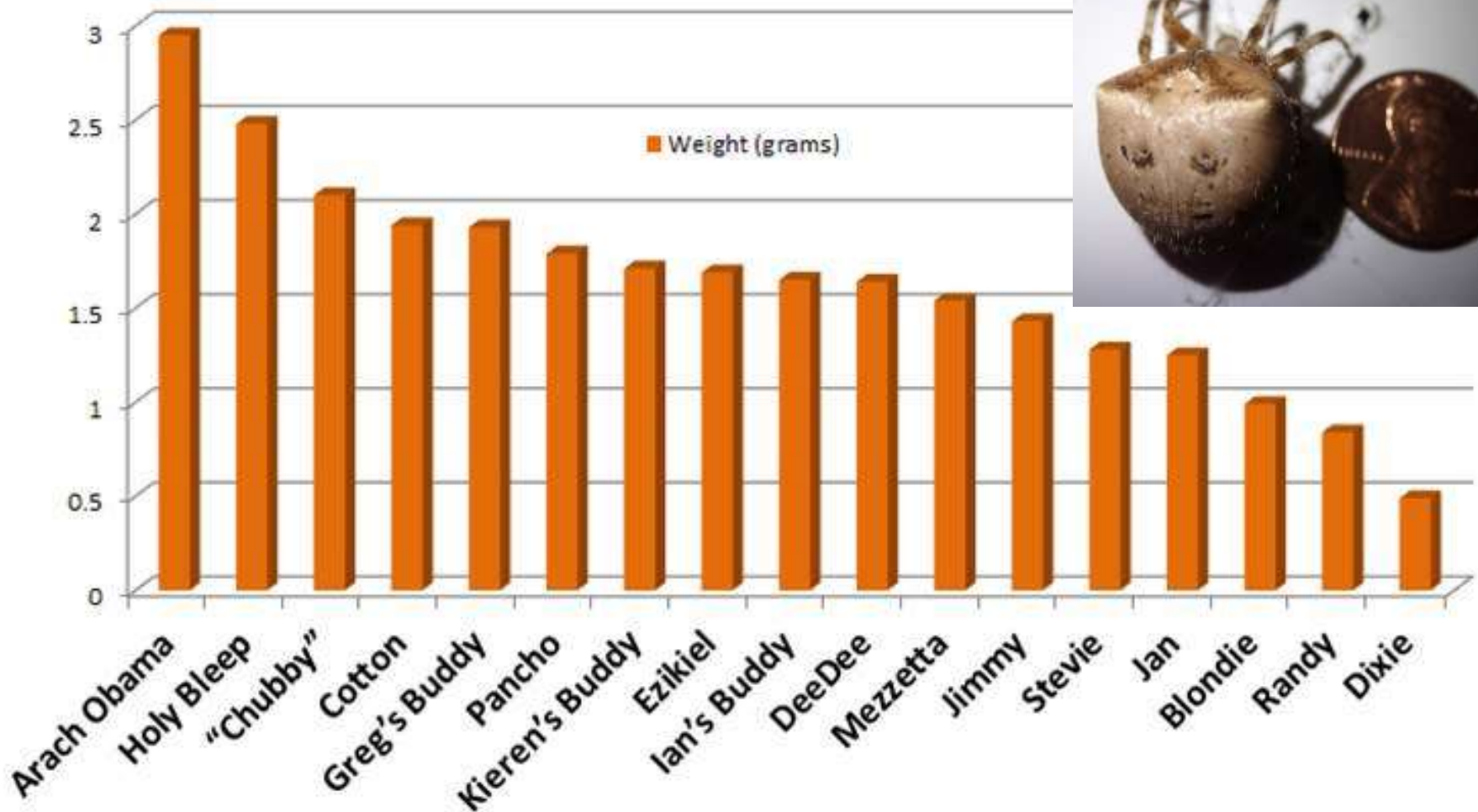


Araneus cavaticus,
sometimes called the
‘barn spider’



Results of the 6th Annual “How-Big-is-your-Catface-Spider Contest”

How-Big-is-Your-Catface-Spider Contestants – 2014 Final Results!!





Princess Raya

**Winner 11th Annual How-Big-Is-Your-
Catface-Spider Contest**

**3.75
grams!!!**

...and All-Time Champion!!



Princess Raya



**All Time
Champion**

Handler/Trainer:
Raya Davis Thompson
(4th Grade)



Spiders Found In CO Homes

Seasonal Transients

- **Most funnel weavers**
- **“Roly-poly hunter”**
- **Jumping spiders**
- **Crab spiders**
- **Wolf spiders**

May Breed Indoors

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- **Cellar spiders**
- **Yellowlegged sac spider**



Most Common Spiders in Homes

Funnel weaver Spiders

Family Agelenidae, three common genera





Funnel Weaver Spiders

Family Agelenidae





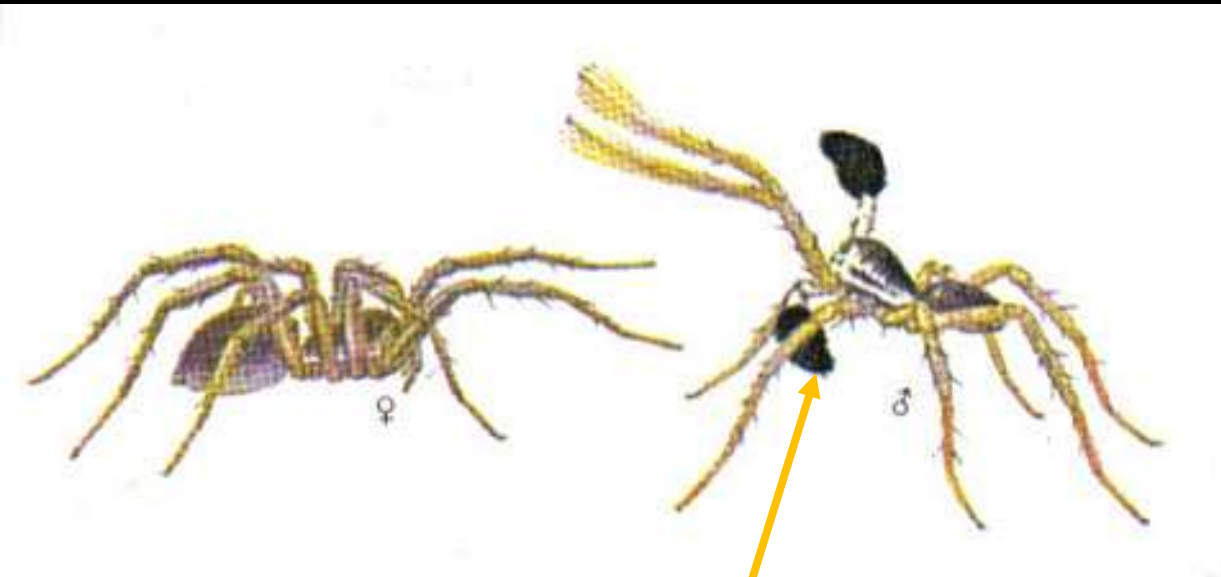
Funnel weaver webs



Male funnel weaver spiders have grossly enlarged pedipalps (*not fangs!!*)



Spider Mating – Transfer of Sperm Via Pedipalps



Pedipalps

Most funnel weavers found in homes are incidental transients, wandering indoors in late summer/early fall



Agelenopsis species



Hololena species

Some funnel weaver spiders can reproduce indoors

Tegenaria domestica



Barn funnel weaver/domestic house spider



Eratigena agrestis



Hobo spider





The Wood Louse (Roly-Poly) Hunter

Dysdera crocata

Associated with areas where pillbugs and sowbugs are present



Household “Bugs” associated with mulch around foundations

Pillbugs/Sowbugs and the “Roly-Poly Hunter”



Mulches and Nuisance Invaders



- **European earwig**
- **Springtails**
- **Millipedes**

- **Sowbugs/Pillbugs**
- **Field crickets**
- **Some ants**
- **Some spiders**



NEW DEADLY SPIDER SPREADS ACROSS USA

August 21

THE SPIDER FROM HELL .FIVE PEOPLE HAVE DIED THIS WEEK DUE TO THE BITE OF THIS DEADLY SPIDER .THIS SPIDER WAS FIRST SEEN IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN JULY SINCE THEN IT HAS CAUSED DEATHS IN WEST VIRGINIA ,TENNESSEE AND MISSISSIPPI. ONE BITE FROM THIS SPIDER IS DEADLY. US GOVERNMENT WORKING ON A ANTI VENOM AT THIS TIME PLEASE MAKE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AWARE



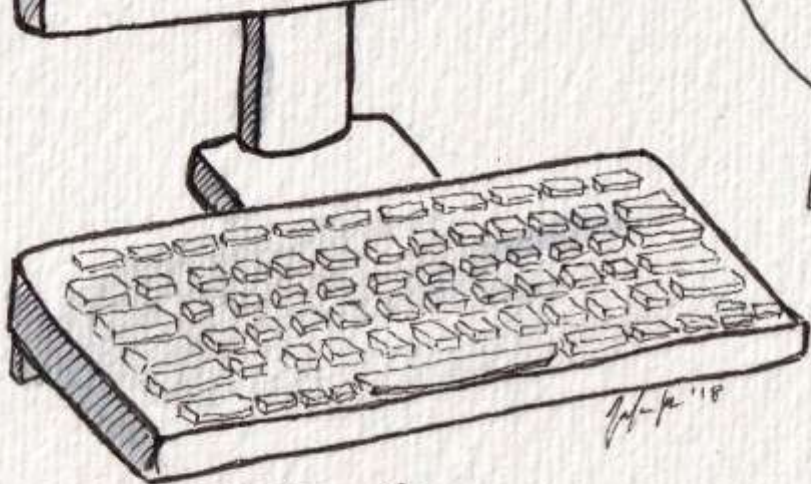


N University of Nebraska
Department of Entomology





DO YA THINK
THEY'RE
BUYING IT?



@jennrosefx

Drassodes sp.



Ground spiders
(Gnaphosidae family)
that may incidentally
enter buildings

Zelotes sp.



Herpyllus spp. – “parson spiders”





Jumping Spiders



Family Salticidae





Jumping spiders have the best visual acuity of any terrestrial arthropod

Photographs above/below Courtesy Brian Valentine



8 Legged Freaks

Warner Brothers Home Entertainment (2002)



Most common jumping spider found in homes

Bold Jumper
Phidippus audax



**Other Jumping Spiders
found indoors**



***Platycryptus* spp.**



**Zebra Jumper
*Scenicus salticus***

Bark crab spiders
sometimes wander
into building in
mid-late summer





Wolf Spiders

Lycosidae Family





Wolf Spiders carry the egg sac. It is attached to the spinnerets.



Wolf Spiders Carrying Young





Giant Wolf Spiders *Hogna* species



Burrowing Wolf Spiders

Geolycosa species



Note: The large wolf spiders are often mistaken for tarantulas





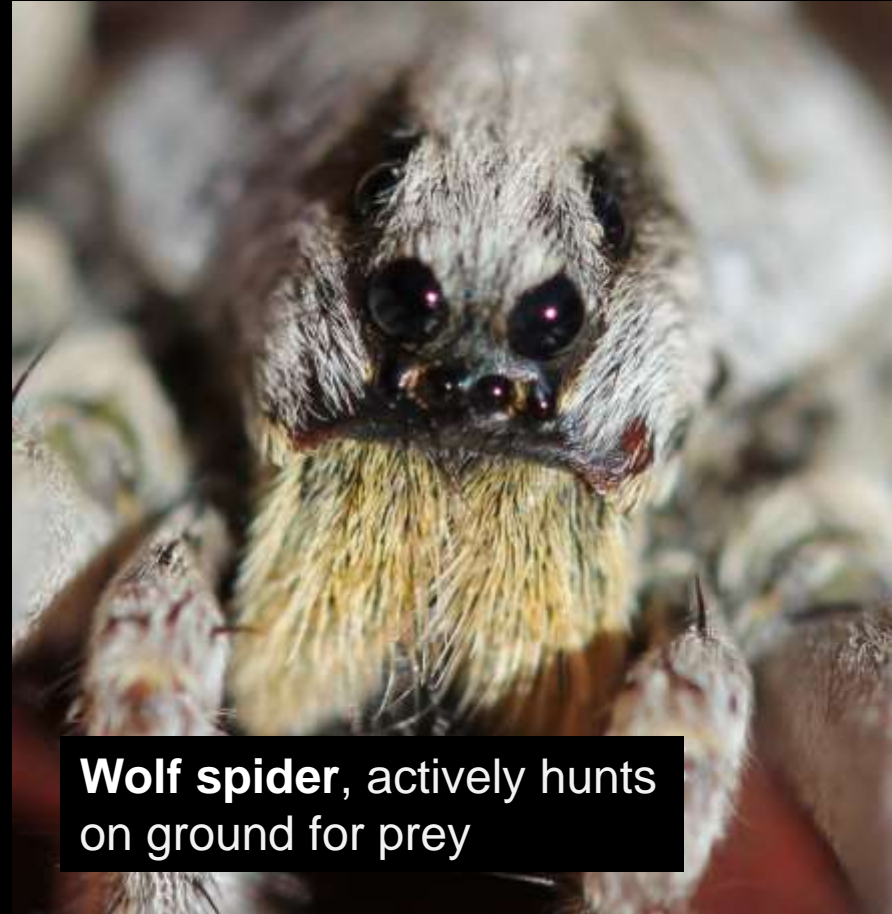
Note: Wolf spiders rarely enter homes and do not make webs nor climb walls

Funnel weavers are common in homes and often are mistaken for wolf spiders





Funnel weaver, uses sheet web to tangle prey



Wolf spider, actively hunts on ground for prey

The eyes are larger with spiders that actively hunt – like a wolf spider - than those that use webs for prey capture – like a funnel weaver

Spiders Found In CO Homes

Seasonal Transients

- **Most funnel weavers**
- **“Roly-poly hunter”**
- **Jumping spiders**
- **Ground spiders**
- **Crab spiders**
- **Wolf spiders**

May Breed Indoors

- **Barn funnel weaver**
- **Hobo spider**
- **Widow spiders**
- **Other cobweb spiders**
- **Cellar spiders**
- **Yellowlegged sac spider**

Some funnel weaver spiders can reproduce indoors

Tegenaria domestica



Barn funnel weaver/domestic house spider



Eratigena agrestis



Hobo spider





Prowling Spiders

**Longlegged Sac
Spiders**

Yellow Sac Spiders

Family Cheiracanthiidae





Cellar Spiders (aka
“daddy longlegs spiders”)

Family Pholcidae

Note: These spiders hunt and eat other spiders





Combfooted/Cobweb Spiders

Family Theridiidae





Enoplagnatha sp.

Some common – and harmless – cobweb-making spiders found in Colorado homes

Parasteatoda tepidariorum



Steatoda triangulosa





Steatoda grossa
“False widow spider”

Steatoda spp. are sometimes mistaken for widow spiders





Western Widow
Latrodectus hesperus



There are 5 species of widow spiders recorded from the United States

- Black widow (*Latrodectus mactans*)
- Western widow (*L. hesperus*)
- Northern widow (*L. variolus*)
- Red widow (*L. bishopi*)
- Brown widow* (*L. geometricus*)

* Non-native, introduced species



Western Widow (*Latrodectus hesperus*)



Sexual Dimorphism

Male western widow spiders are much smaller than females.

Males are often light brown with pale stripes. The red-orange pattern is present on the underside.

Males have greatly enlarged pedipalps.





Widow spider life stages





Immature female



Some symptoms of widow spider bites

- Pinprick, may not be noticed initially
- General sense of malaise, impending doom
- Pain, muscle tightening, settling into abdominal muscles
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Most deaths due to effects on blood pressure

Brown Spiders (*Loxosceles* spp.)

Includes the brown recluse/fiddleback spider, *Loxosceles reclusa*





©JIM BAILEY

Some features:

“Fiddleback pattern” on cephalothorax

Uniform coloration on the legs



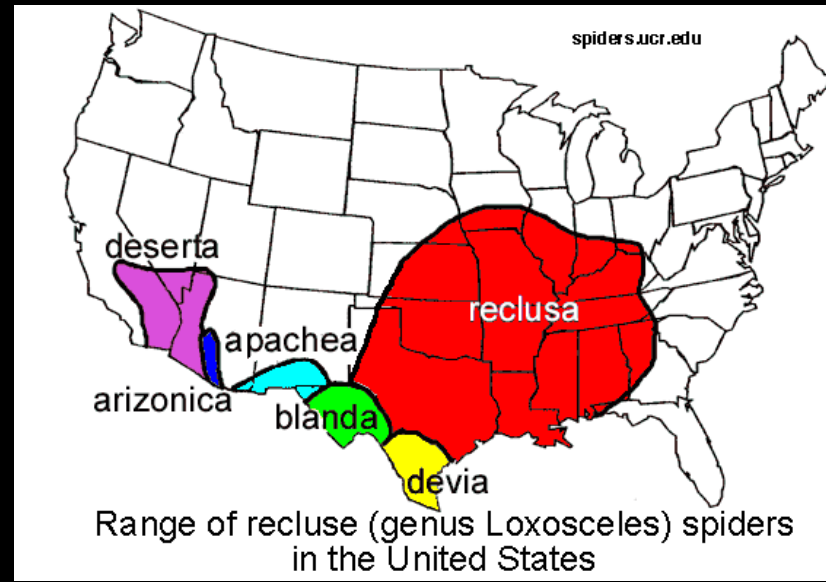
Three pairs of eyes

Confirmed *Loxosceles* Records from Colorado

- Five records of *L. rufescens* (Mediterranean recluse) - Denver, Bent, Larimer, Las Animas Counties
- Six (seven?) records of *L. reclusa* (Boulder, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo)
- One record of *L. apachea* (Larimer)

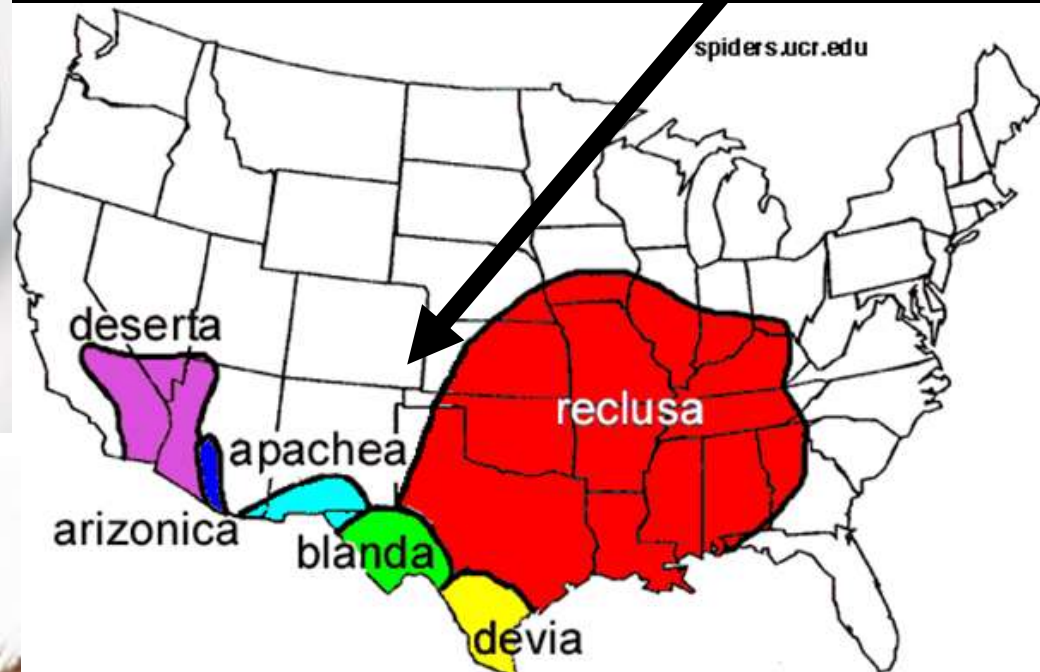


Brown recluse in home in eastern Nebraska.
Photograph courtesy of Jim Kalisch.





We should probably push this distribution a bit into SE Colorado



Range of recluse (genus *Loxosceles*) spiders in the United States



Brown recluse spiders found in a shed in Lamar last Fall. Photographs courtesy of Janeal Thompson.

Mediterranean recluse

Loxosceles rufescens

The most widely distributed
“brown spider” in Colorado
– but rare



Photographs by Lisa Ames,
University of Georgia

Funnel weaver spiders
(Agelenidae family)
are **very**, **very**, **very**,
very, **very**, **very**
commonly mistaken
for brown recluse
throughout Colorado





Clockwise, Top Left: Funnel weaver spider, solpugid/
sunspider, wolf spider, brown
recluse spider (lower left)



Colorado State University

Extension

Brown Recluse Spiders in Colorado: Recognition and Spiders of Similar Appearance

Fact Sheet No. 5.607

Insect Series | Home and Garden

by W.S. Cranshaw*

Brown recluse and related recluse spiders (*Loxosceles* spp., Family Sicariidae) are, by far, the most commonly misidentified spiders in Colorado. Unfortunately, also greatly overdiagnosed are purported spider bites caused by brown recluse spiders – a situation perpetuated by many in the Colorado medical establishment as well as through



Quick Facts

- Colorado has many kinds of spiders that are brown or have patterning that may resemble brown recluse spiders.

Some Symptoms of Brown Recluse Bite

- Often - pain at time of bite
 - Typically persists for 30 minutes or so
- Often reddened area or white halo at bite site
- *Very uncommonly* – ulceration and slow healing
- *Very uncommonly* – systemic effects that include nausea, fever, cramping

Factors affecting Severity of Bites from Brown Recluse

- Individual immune response
- Amount of venom introduced during bite
- *Secondary involvement of wound-infecting bacteria*

Misdiagnosis (overdiagnosis) of brown recluse bites as a cause for most any slow healing wound of unknown origin is probably, by far, the most common misdiagnosis US medical doctors make regarding arthropods

“Yep, that is
DEFINITELY a
Brown Recluse
bite”



Conditions That Can Be Confused With or Have Been Misdiagnosed As Recluse Spider Bites

Bacterial

Staphylococcus infection

Streptococcus infection

Cutaneous anthrax

Viral

Infected herpes simplex

Chronic herpes simplex

Varicella zoster (shingles)

Fungal

Sporotrichosis

Lymphoproliferative disorders

Lymphoma

Lymphomatoid papulosis

Vascular disorders

Focal vasculitis

Purpura fulminans

Reaction to drugs

Warfarin poisoning

Arthropod-induced

Lyme disease

Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Ornithodoros coriaceous bite (soft tick)

Insect bites (flea, mite, biting fly)

Misc. / multiple causative agents

Pyoderma gangrenosum

Pressure ulcers

***The Most Common Source of
Slow Healing Wounds in the US!***

**Methicillin-resistant
Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)**

**a.k.a., “flesh eating bacteria”, “false spider
bite diagnosis”**

MRSA Infections



Photo Credit: Major Kirk Waibel, MD

aka, “flesh eating bacteria”, “false spider bite diagnosis”



Photo Credit: Gregory Moran, M.D.



Photo Credit: Gregory Moran, M.D.

The Myth of the Toxic “Hobo Spider”



Eratigenia agrestis – aka “hobo spider”

- The most common household spider in most of Europe
- Introduced into US; now common in many areas of Colorado
- An original report suggested it might bite and cause slow healing wounds

This report has been completely refuted and discredited

Myth of the “Hobo Spider” Toxicity

- Published account in late 1980s appeared to link spider with necrotizing bites
 - Results of original paper have never been replicated
 - *Original paper is considered to be thoroughly discredited and without merit*
- Spider in Europe never associated with biting problems
- No difference in toxins between US and European spiders
- Necrotizing wounds thought to have been due to non-spider causes (MRSA, etc.)

USA SPIDER CHART

DEADLY & DANGEROUS



BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER



BLACK WIDOW SPIDER



HOBO SPIDER

SPIDER BITE FIRST AID

Keep patient calm

Apply ice to decrease pain and swelling

Use anti-inflammatories for pain relief

Contact your doctor

NOTICE: MALE SPIDERS HAVE A SMALLER ABDOMEN, LONGER LEGS & SWOLLEN PALPS (FOR REPRODUCTION)

TOXIC (POISONOUS) — PAINFUL BITE



FEMALE MOUSE SPIDER
ENLARGED HEAD & FANGS • DEEP PAINFUL BITE
GROUND DWELLING - OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR FUNNEL-WEB



MALE MOUSE SPIDER
SMALL SPINNERETS



Common BLACK HOUSE SPIDER
VENOMOUS • NAUSEA, SWEATING, ETC.
OFTEN FOUND IN THEIR WEBS IN WINDOW FRAMES, EAVES, ETC.



WOLF SPIDER
NON AGGRESSIVE
GROUND DWELLING

WARNING: MOST OF THESE SPIDERS CAN BE DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE WITH ALLERGIES OR HYPER SENSITIVITIES

THE "LOW RISK" SPIDERS

SPIDERS CAN BE BENEFICIAL IN THE CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES & FLIES • BUT IF THEY PRESENT A DANGER - CALL RUMPEST



FEMALE TRAP-DOOR
MILDLY TOXIC • NON AGGRESSIVE
GROUND DWELLING (BURROW - OFTEN WITHOUT A LID)



MALE TRAP-DOOR
SWOLLEN PALPS



GARDEN ORB-WEAVING
RELATIVELY HARMLESS • BENEFICIAL
OFTEN SEEN IN A LARGE WEB IN THE GARDEN



SAINT ANDREW'S CROSS



HUNTSMAN
TIMID • RARELY BITES
FOUND UNDER LOOSE BARK
MAY WANDER INDOORS

Spider Control in the Home





Regular vacuuming and movement of furniture kills and disrupts the activities of household spiders





Spider Traps



Caulking can prevent egress into the home by spiders that develop outdoors





Insecticides applied indoors *should only be used as spot treatments at points where spiders are expected to rest and establish webs*





Yellowlegged sac spider/prowling spider

Two household spiders that wander everywhere

Where would you apply an insecticide to try and control these?



Barn funnel weaver

Persistent insecticides applied to potential entry points can prevent egress into the home by spiders that develop outdoors



Outdoor lighting = attracted insects
Attracted insects = spider predators



Mulches and Nuisance Invaders



- **European earwig**
- **Springtails**
- **Millipedes**

- **Sowbugs/Pillbugs**
- **Field crickets**
- **Some ants**
- **Some spiders**

Daddy longlegs
(aka, harvestmen,
phalangids)

Class Arachnida

Order Opiliones



Daddy longlegs
Daddy longlegs
Daddy long legs
Daddy-long-legs

They're all OK spellings!



Common Colorado Species



Phalangium opilio

Leiobunum species





4 pairs of legs

Eyes mounted on a large dorsal tubercle



Daddy longlegs feed mostly on insects, which they tear with their mouthparts



Daddy longlegs *do* have:



- Very long legs (4 pair)
- A body of not clearly separated into regions
- A pair of eyes on top of the head
- Weakly muscled mouthparts, designed to tear, crush
- Defensive glands for protection

Daddy longlegs *do not* have:

- Glands for silk production
- Jaws connected to poison glands





WHAT IF I TOLD YOU

**THAT A DADDY LONG LEGS IS NOT THE MOST
POISONOUS SPIDER IN THE WORLD.**

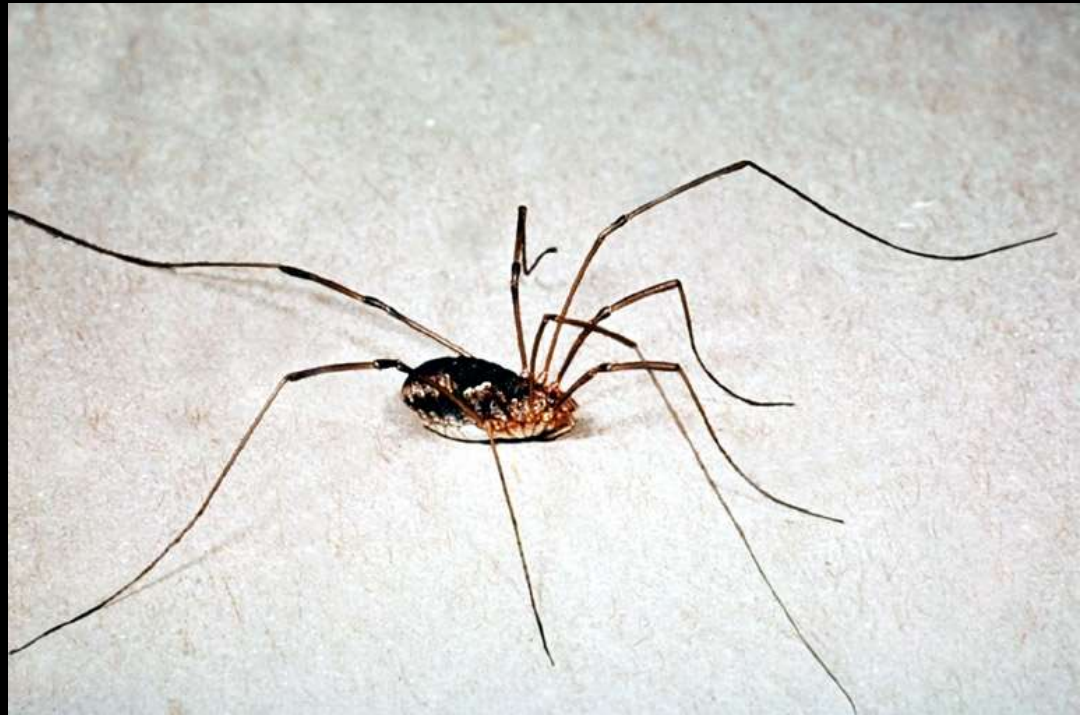


Cellar Spider

Order Araneae
(spiders)

Daddy long legs

Order Opiliones



Scorpions

Class Arachnida

Order Scorpiones



Colorado Arachnids of Interest

Scorpions of Colorado

Class: Arachnida

Order: Scorpiones

Families, Species and Common

Names of Scorpions Present in

the State: Buthidae, *Centruroides*

vittatus (Say) - Common striped bark scorpion

Caraboctonidae (Iuridae), *Hadrurus spadix* Stahnke - Northern desert hairy scorpion

Vaejoidea, *Paruroctonus boreus* (Girard) - Northern scorpion



Figure 1. *Centruroides vittatus*, the common striped bark scorpion

An adorable baby scorpion!



**Common
striped bark
scorpion**

Centruroides vittatus



Northern scorpion

Scorpions of Western Colorado



Photograph by Bob Hammon

Northern desert hairy scorpion





Pedipalps (chelae)
for prey capture



Scorpion chelicerae (jaws)

Stinger used for defense





**Normal indoor
lighting**

**Ultraviolet
light**



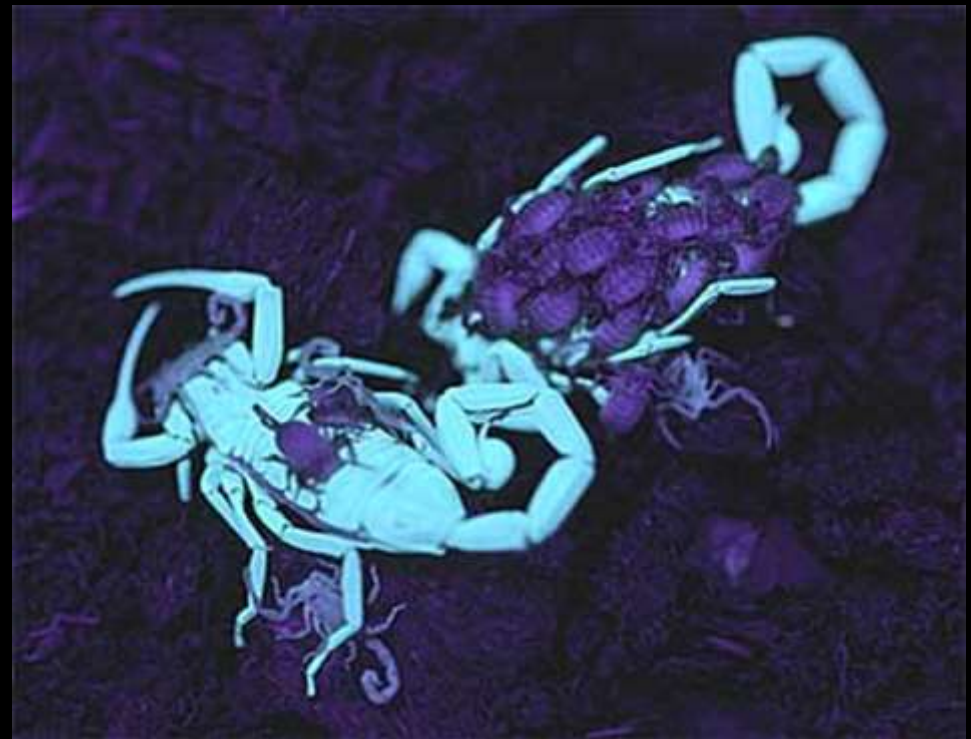
Scorpions fluorescing
under black light







**Scorpion
mothers carry
their young for
the first weeks
of their life**





An adorable scorpion picked up south of La Junta, CO

Stinger primarily used for defense



Medically Important Scorpions

- Only about 20-25 species (out of 1500) are considered to be medically important
 - No dangerous species in Colorado
 - Arizona bark scorpion (“Durango scorpion”) in southern AZ and northern Mexico is dangerous
 - Fattailed scorpions of North Africa have caused most human fatalities



Scorpions found in Colorado are not considered to be medically important

Fat-tailed Scorpions of Northern Africa – The worlds most dangerous scorpions



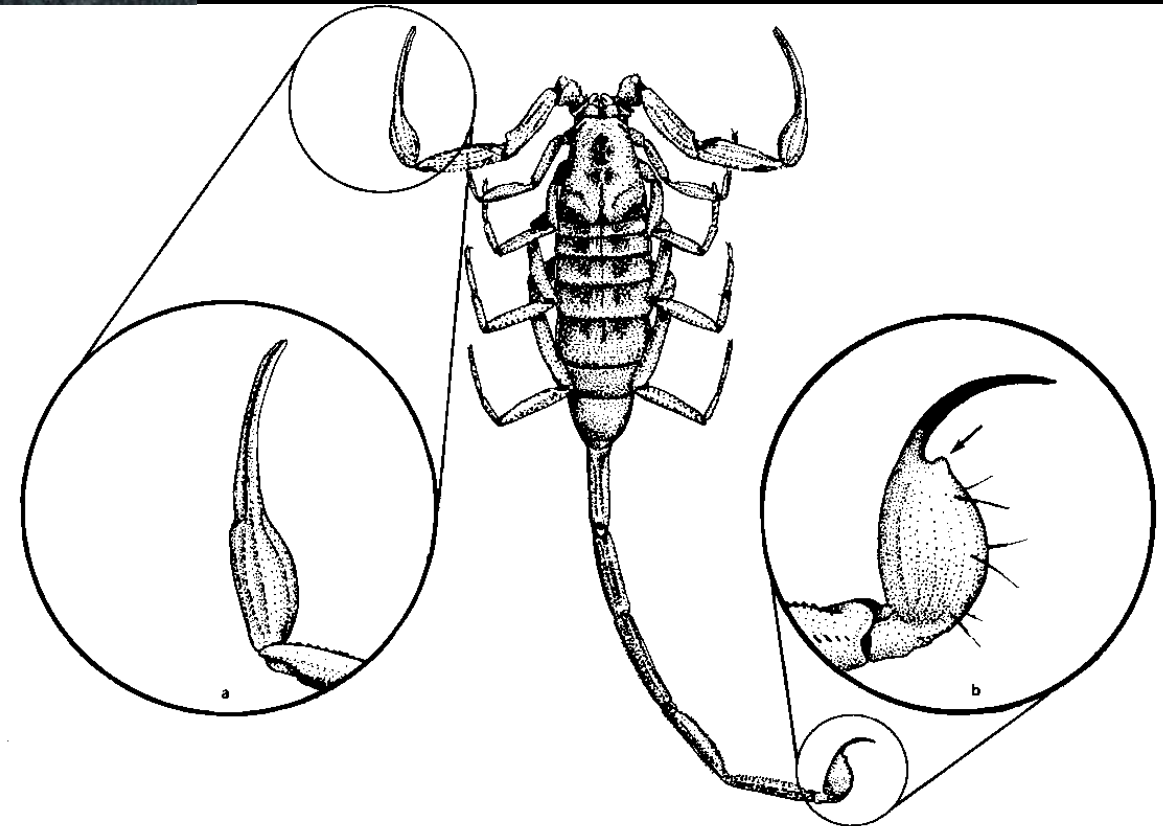
Arabian fat-tailed scorpion, *Androctonus crassicauda*



Arizona bark scorpion



Arizona Bark Scorpion



Symptoms from sting of Arizona bark scorpion

Immediate burning pain

- Pain quickly subsides
- Site remains very painful if (and after being) touched (Positive tap test)

Systemic reactions rare, but serious

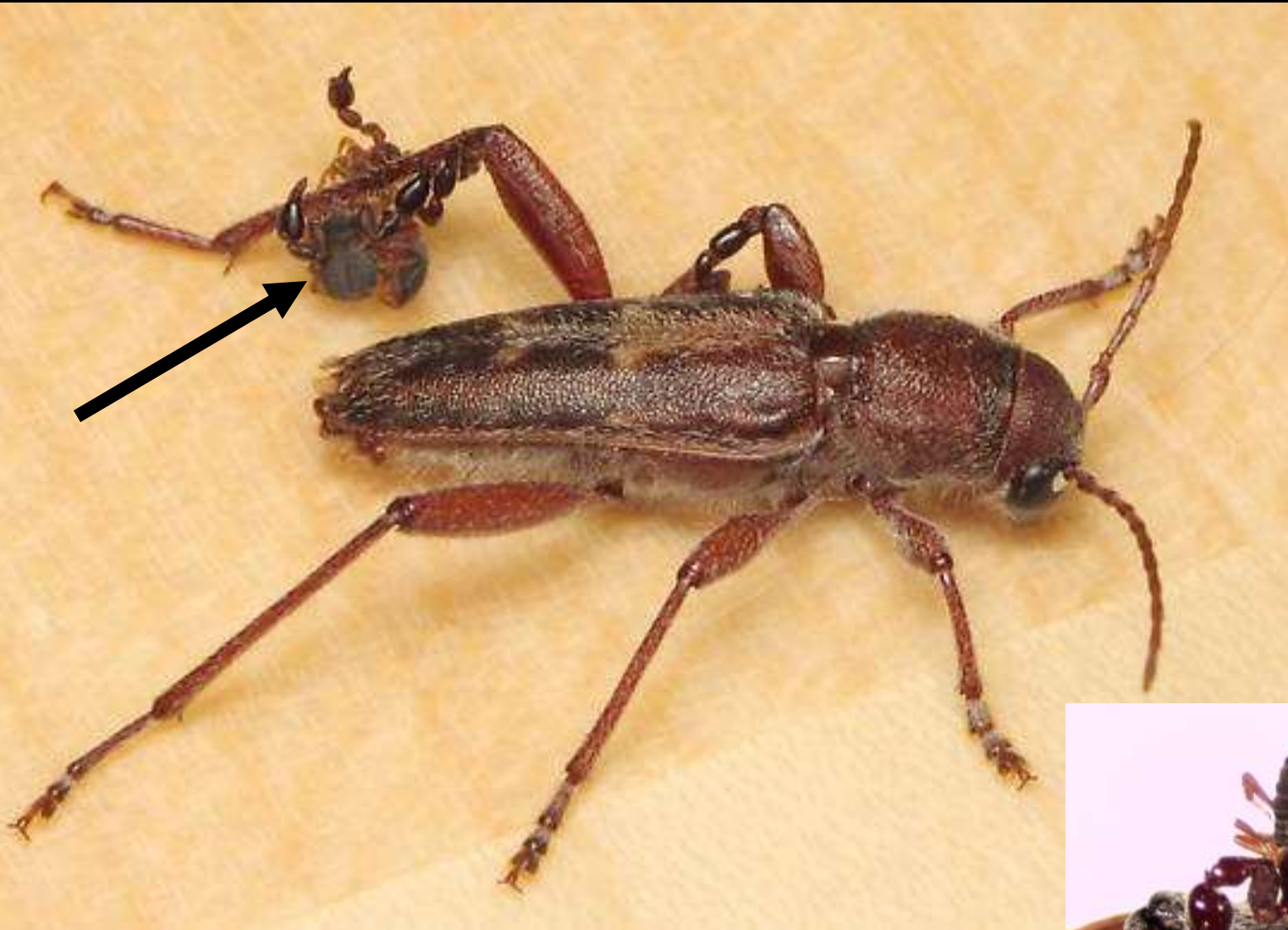
- Restlessness
- Thickened tongue, slurred speech
- Staggering
- Convulsions

Pseudoscorpions

(Order: Pseudoscorpiones)



Pseudoscorpions being transported (**phoresy**) by longhorned beetle



Windscorpions

(a.k.a. sunspiders, solpugids)



Class Arachnida
Order Solifugae





<http://collider.com/john-davis-interview-predator-predators-sequel/94895/>

Leglike pedipalps (chelae)



M. Camper 2008



Photograph by Mike Gittleson



Colorado State University
EXTENSION

Windscorpions (Sunspiders) of Colorado

Fact Sheet No. 5.589

Insect Series | Home and Garden

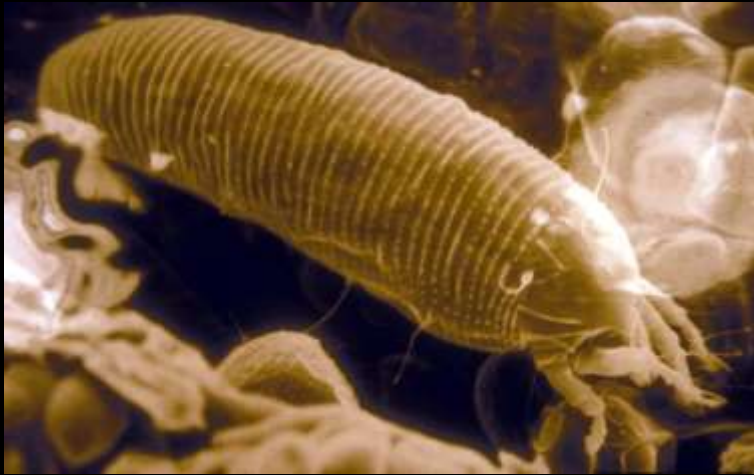
by W.S. Cranshaw¹, Paula Cushing², and Jack Brookhart²

Windscorpions are animals of bizarre appearance that can be found in most of the drier areas of Colorado below 7500 feet. These are a type of arachnid, categorized in the order Solifugae, and are distant relatives of “true” scorpions (order Scorpiones) and spiders (order Araneae). Other common names given to windscorpions include “sunspiders,” “solpugids,” “solifuges,” and, “camel spiders.” Presently 15 species are known to occur in Colorado (Table 1).



Quick Facts

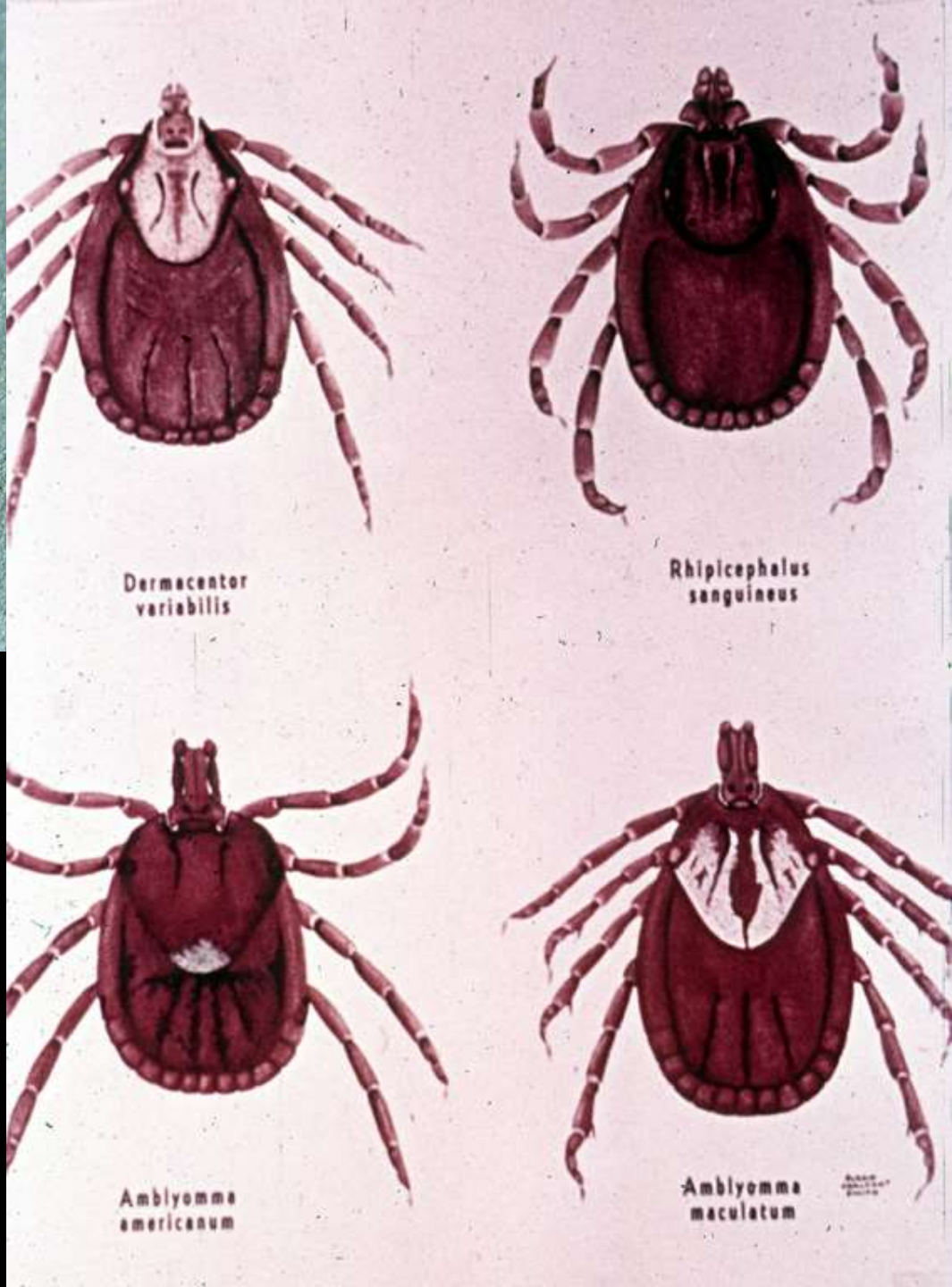
- Windscorpions are a type of arachnid native to many of the drier areas of Colorado below 7500 feet. Fifteen species are known to be present in the state.
- Other common names for windscorpions include



Mites and Ticks

Class Arachnida

Order Acari



Hard Ticks

Dermacentor variabilis

Rhipicephalus sanguineus

Amblyomma americanum

Amblyomma maculatum



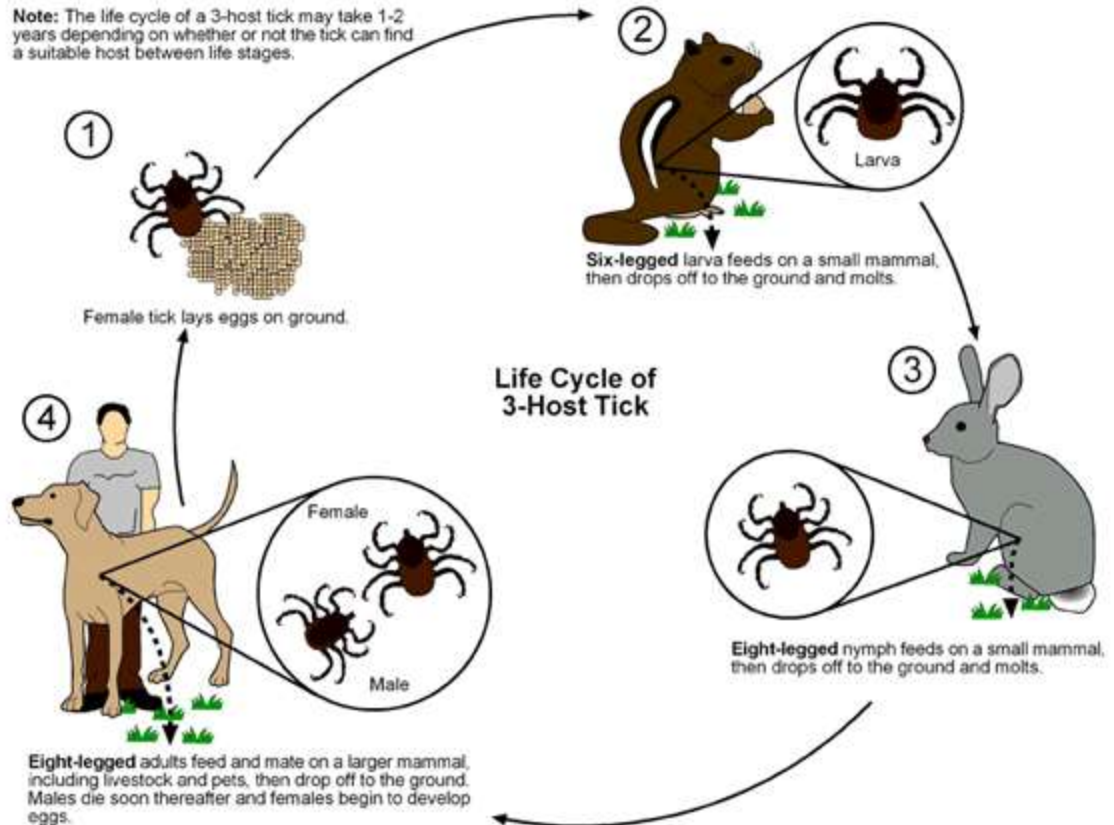
Dermacentor spp. include the Rocky Mountain Wood Tick and the American Dog Tick

Dermacentor species are 3-host ticks



Small mammals are needed to support the development of early stages

Note: The life cycle of a 3-host tick may take 1-2 years depending on whether or not the tick can find a suitable host between life stages.





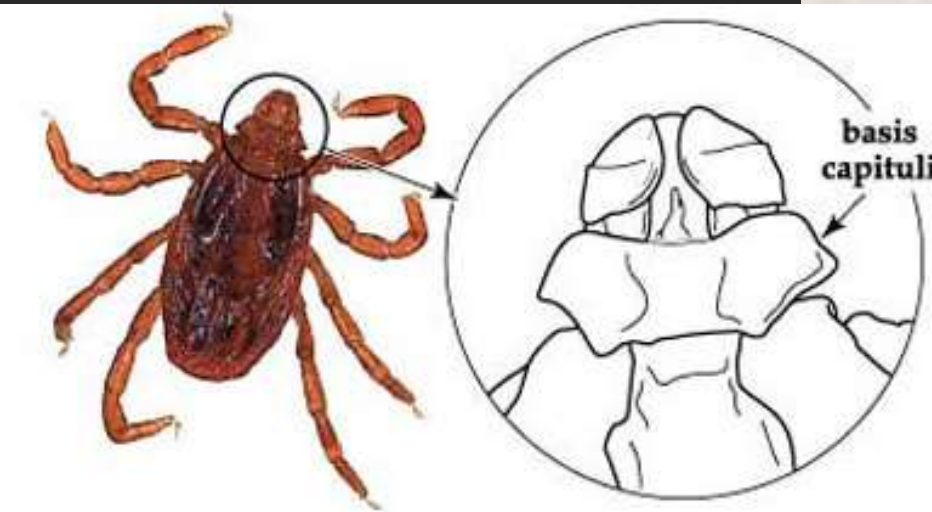
Brown Dog Tick

Rhipicephalus sanguinipes

A single host tick of dogs



The only tick in Colorado that can breed indoors



Tick-borne Diseases of Humans Known from Colorado

- Colorado tick fever (virus)
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever (rickettsia/bacterium)
- Tularemia (bacterium)
- Tick-borne relapsing fever (bacterium)

Updated this Spring



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Colorado Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases

Fact Sheet No. 5.593

Insect Series | **Trees and Shrubs**

by W.S. Cranshaw, F.B. Peairs and B.C. Kondratieff*

Ticks are blood-feeding parasites of animals found throughout Colorado. They are particularly common at higher elevations. Problems related to blood loss do occur among wildlife and livestock, but they are rare. Presently 27 species of ticks are known to occur in Colorado and Table 1 lists the more common ones. Almost all human encounters with ticks in Colorado involve the Rocky Mountain wood tick. Fortunately, some of the most important tick species present elsewhere in the United States are either rare (lone star tick) or completely absent from the state (blacklegged tick).

Ticks most affect humans by their ability to transmit pathogens that produce several important diseases. Diseases spread by ticks in Colorado include Colorado tick fever



Figure 1: Adult Rocky Mountain wood tick prior to feeding. Rocky Mountain wood tick is the most common tick that is found on humans and pets in Colorado.



Quick Facts

- The most common tick that bites humans and dogs in Colorado is the Rocky Mountain wood tick.
- Rocky Mountain wood tick is most active and does most biting in spring, becoming dormant with warm weather in summer.
- Colorado tick fever is by far the most common tick-transmitted disease of the region. Despite its name, Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Mites found In Homes

- **Associated with plants**
 - Clover mites
 - Spider mites of houseplants
- **Associated with birds and/or rodents**
 - Northern fowl mite
 - American bird mite
- **Associated with dogs, cats**
 - *Cheyletiella* mites



Clover mites

Mites associated with plants



Spider mites on indoor plants



Clover Mites

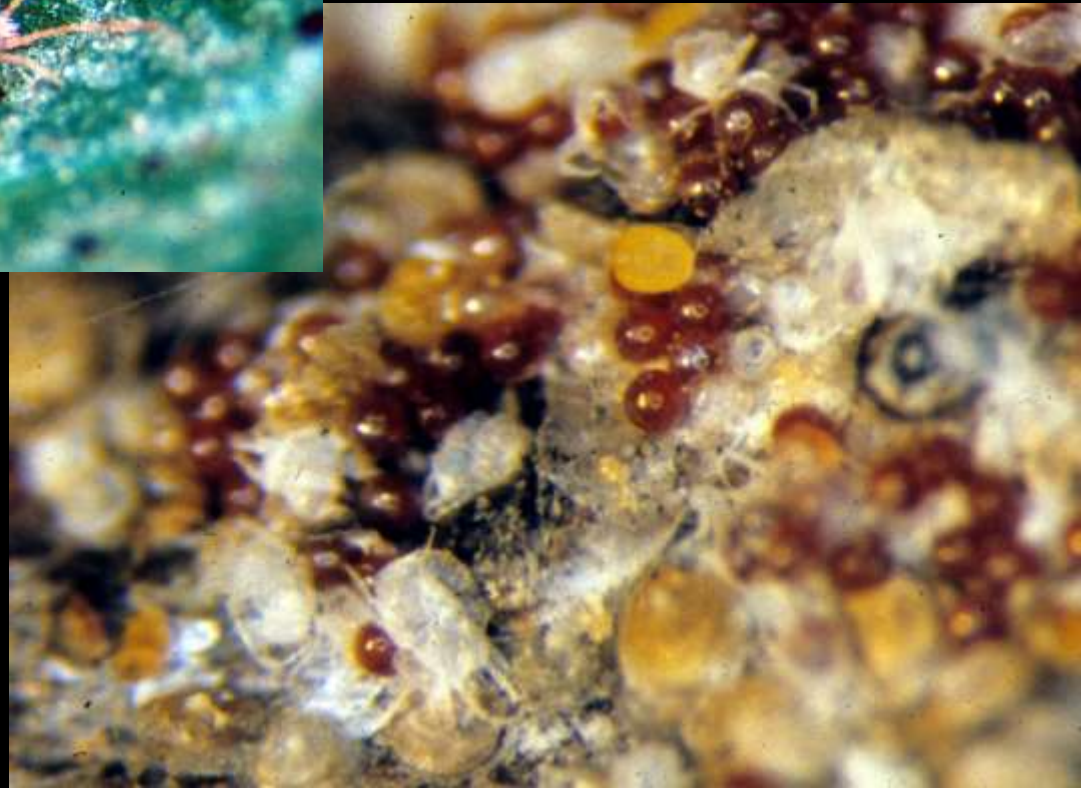


Clover mite activity – Late February through Late April





Clover mites often accidentally enter buildings during warm days in late winter and early spring



Buildings serve as surfaces on which they may molt and lay eggs. Entry into living areas in incidental.

Powdery materials (baby powder, corn starch, diatomaceous earth, etc.) can provide an impenetrable barrier to clover mites coming into homes around windows and other points of entry



Clover mites trapped on a sticky note

Harbingers of Spring

**Robin (left); First calls on
clover mites in homes
(below)**



Dust Mites

Dermatophagoides spp.



- An important human allergen (feces, cast skins)
- Feeds on fungus grown on skin flakes (*Aspergillus penicilloides*)
- Optimum humidity – ca. 75%
 - Minimum RH around 60%

How's Your Air Quality?



What the heck are
"Duct Mites"???

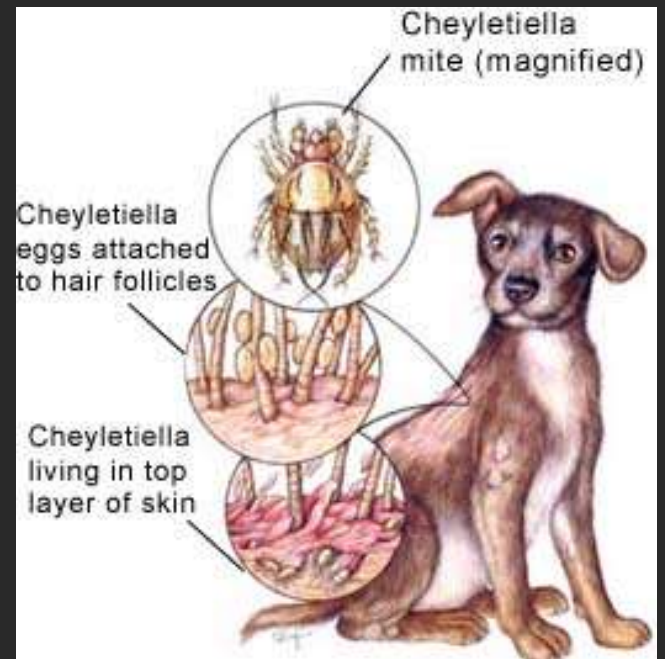
This is a typical example of dirty duct containing mold spores, bacteria, fungus, dust, pollen and other "Ductmites" causing "Sick Building Syndrome" and "Building Related Illnesses".



“Walking dandruff”

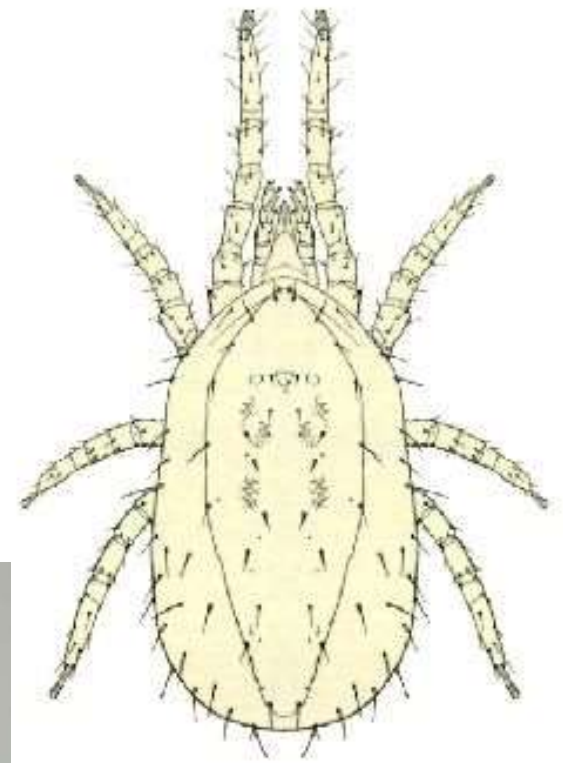
Cheyletiella Mange Mites

Cheyletiella spp.





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Northern Fowl Mite

Ornithyssus sylviarum





American Bird Mite
Dermanyssus americanus

Sampling for mites in home?



Bird mites as they appear through transparent tape
Donald Lewis
1911 Deception
June 2006



Photo by B. Ogg



Bird Mites as a Pest within Homes in Colorado

Wild and domesticated birds may be fed upon by a variety of mites and insects. A few of these, notably some of the “bird mites” and swallow bugs, may also bite humans when humans come in close contact with areas where birds nest or regularly roost.

The common bird feeding mites one can find in Colorado are northern fowl mite (*Ornithonyssus sylviarum*), chicken mite (*Dermanyssus gallinae*), and American bird mite (*Dermanyssus americanus*). All of these are external parasites of birds and may build high populations when birds are confined or remain in one location for extended periods, such as during nesting.

Life cycle of bird mites

Bird mites go through five life stages in their development: egg, three immature stages (larva, protonymph, deutonymph), and adult. During the last three stages mites will seek a blood meal. All of the bird mites are very small with northern fowl mite reaching a maximum size of about 0.02 inches (0.5 mm). Chicken mites are larger, about 0.06 inches (1.5 mm) and are most easily seen when engorged with a blood meal.

In the case of the northern fowl mite all stages take place on the bird host. Eggs hatch a day or two after they are laid producing a six legged stage (larva) that does not feed. Within about eight hours the larva molts to the protonymph stage, which does bite and feeds on blood. Five to seven days later, they become full-grown and reach the adult stage. The adult female will take one blood meal then lay a small number of eggs (typically 1-4). Adults are short-lived and

A sheet that lists the arthropods that do bite in homes, how to figure out if they are the cause, and alternative diagnoses.

Guidelines for County Extension Offices

Quick Facts

There are some insects, mites, and spiders that bite humans and/or can cause skin irritations or dermatitis.

Often sources of skin irritation or those that produce “bite-like” reactions include environmental allergens such as chemicals or irritant fibers. When handling a client with a concern about arthropod bites/itches, an open mind must be kept in regard to the possible identification of a source that may be the cause of the client’s concern.

Skin irritation resulting from bites of arthropods varies greatly between individuals, in large part due to individual immune responses.

Identification of an insect, mite or spider as the cause of a suspected “bug bite” is usually not possible based on just symptoms alone.

Very few arthropods can actually infest human skin (topically or subdermally) and reproduce. Scabies mites are a *rare* exception. Often clients that will insist otherwise.

Acknowledgment: The development of this fact sheet, adapted to Colorado, was largely derived from work that was developed for the University of Kentucky Extension fact sheet by Dr. Michael Potter: <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ent58>

Everyone has experienced at some time various skin bumps, sores, or persistent itching that have

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