

A Bug's Life

Crab spiders

Family: Thomisidae - 130 species in US and Canada

Fun facts

- Also called flower spiders
- Do not build web to catch prey
- Perch motionless in flowers and ambush pollinators
- Well camouflaged to match the floral background
- Some change color to match plant
- There are non-flower crab spiders on the ground or in structures



Identification

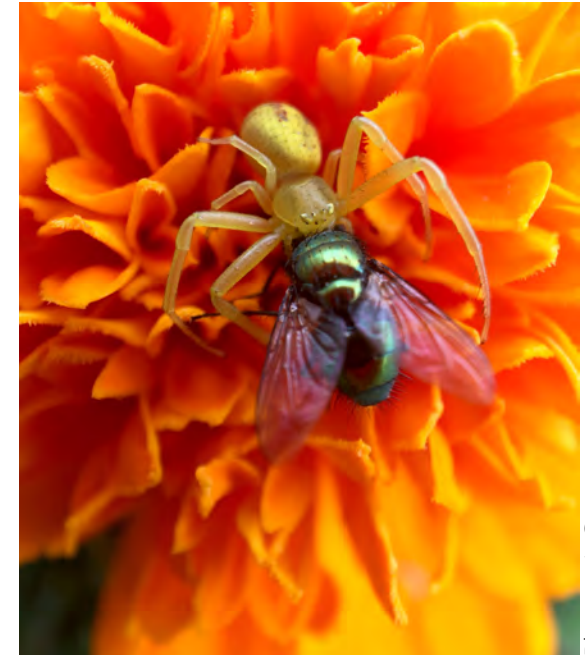
Eye arrangement (8): Elevated on a ridge, 2 rows of small eyes in transverse rows

Spider: Small to medium body length (2/10" to 1/2" long), round, flattened abdomen, body appears smooth with little hair, colors of white, yellow, pink and green, front legs held out and open like a crab



Management

- Rarely found indoors, unless it is a running crab spider
- May come inside on cut flowers
- Natural enemy of many insects in the garden, both good and bad
- Not harmful or aggressive to humans



Photos: J. Green