


A Bug's Life Nursery web spiders

Family: Pisauridae - 14 species in US and Canada

Fun facts

- Also called fishing spiders
- Do not build web to catch prey
- Active hunters, fast runners
- Rarely found on bare ground
- Female carries egg sac in her jaws
- Female builds nursery for egg sac and stands guard over spiderlings for a few weeks after hatching
- Some large species capture small fish and tadpoles from ponds

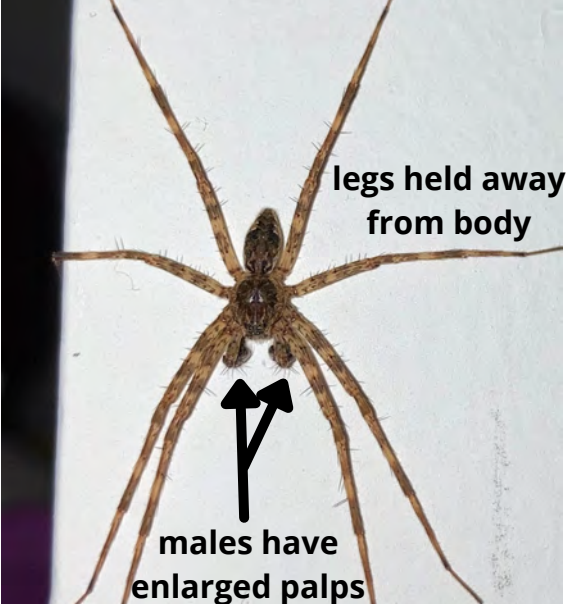
Identification

Eye arrangement (8): 4 small eyes in a straight line, under 4 larger eyes arranged in a curve towards the back of the spider 

Spider: Can be medium to very large (1" body length) in size, densely hairy, various colors with mottling and patterns (spots, bands, lines) on body and legs, holds legs out from body

Management

- Occasionally get inside under exterior doors, so install tight door sweeps
- Turn lights off at night so not to attract prey organisms to the building
- Manage vegetation and moist locations around foundation
- Remove debris such as logs, rocks, boards, and litter to limit hiding spots
- Not harmful or aggressive to humans
- May frighten people due to large size



Photos: J. Green