

A Bug's Life

Parson spider

Family: Gnaphosidae; Species: *Herpyllus ecclesiasticus*

Fun facts

- Do not build web to catch prey
- Nocturnal or active at dawn and dusk
- Usually found dashing from under ground shelter, fast runner
- Called parson spider because white markings on black abdomen resembled necktie worn by some ministers

Identification

Eye arrangement (8): 2 parallel, slightly curved rows of 4 eyes
Spider: Small to medium (1/5" to 3/5" long), dark brown body with white band down center of body, short, dense hair, prominent spinnerets

Management

- Turn lights off at night so not to attract prey organisms to the building
- Natural enemy of many insects
- Use glue boards to trap wanderers
- Not harmful or aggressive to humans
- Bite may occur if pressed up against body



Photos: J. Green