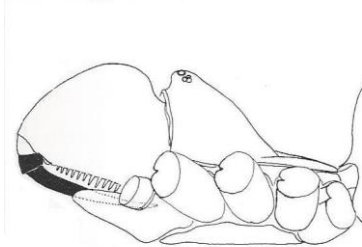


## Family Atypidae Purse-web spiders

- Chelicerae massive and projecting in front of the carapace, articulated for upward and downward movement.



Carapace of *Atypus* in lateral view showing massive jaw with vertically articulated fangs.

- Lives in silken tube (“purse”) half buried in soil.
- Only a single species (*Atypus affinis*) known in Britain. Largely confined to the southern half of the country where it is found on calcareous grassland, heathland and occasionally coastal dunes.



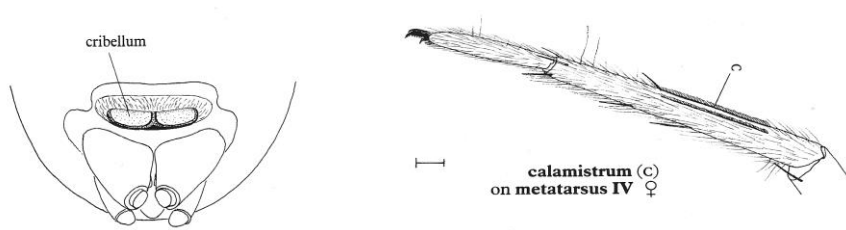
The purse-web spider (*Atypus affinis*), male.  
Length 10 – 15 mm.

Note: This is the only member of the sub-order Orthognatha (mygalomorph spiders) in the UK, recognised by the vertically articulated jaws. All other British spiders belong to the araneomorph sub-order in which the jaws articulate from side to side (scissor action).

## Family Eresidae

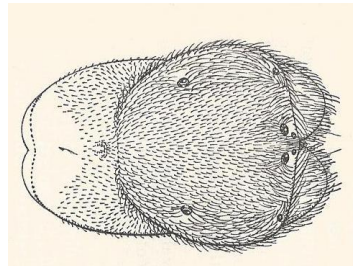
### Ladybird spiders

- Cribellum and calamistrum present



- a) tip of abdomen showing spinnerets and cribellum. b) fourth leg showing calamistrum (c).

- Large spiders (6-16 mm) with square-fronted carapace. Male strikingly marked in black and red, female uniformly velvety black



Carapace of *Eresus* from above showing square-fronted form.

- Only a single species, *Eresus sandaliatus* in Britain. An extremely rare spider confined to a few heathland sites in Dorset.



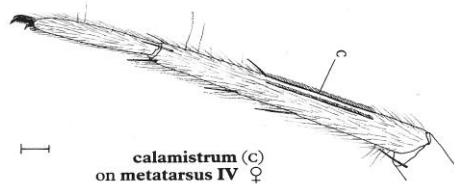
The ladybird spider (*Eresus sandaliatus*), male.

Length 6-16 mm.

Note: *Eresus* is fully protected under British law and, in the unlikely event of being discovered, should never be collected.

**Family Amaurobiidae**  
Lace-web spiders

- Fairly large cribellate spiders (5-15 mm). Calamistrum of female having a double row of bristles. Tarsi with several trichobothria.



Fourth leg of lace-web spider showing calamistrum (c).

- Three British species of *Amaurobius* which build tubular retreats in walls or bark with a collar of hackled silk. Two species of *Coelotes* which build similar tubular webs under logs, stones etc.
- All species other than *Coelotes terrestris* are widespread and common in Britain. *C. terrestris* is confined to southern England.

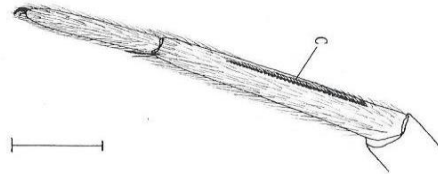


Lace-web spider, *Amaurobius fenestralis*, female. Note web of hackled (cribellate) silk.  
Length 4 – 9 mm.



**Family Dictynidae**  
Mesh-web weavers

- Small cribellate spiders (1.5 - 4.0 mm). Calamistrum of ♀ having a single row of bristles. Tarsi with either one or no trichobothria.



Fourth leg of *Dictyna* showing calamistrum (c).

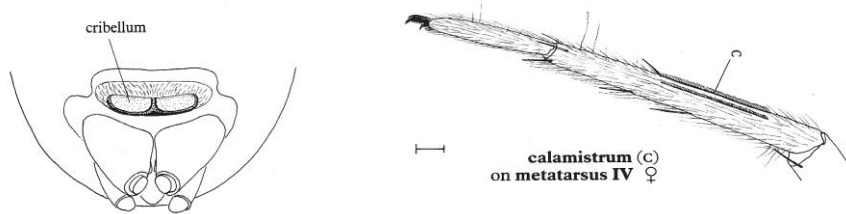
- Build small tangled webs of cribellate silk in dead flower heads, on tree leaves or on the ground.
- A small family of 16 species in Britain distributed between 9 genera. Members of the commonest genus, *Dictyna*, occur typically on bushes, heather and in dead flower heads.



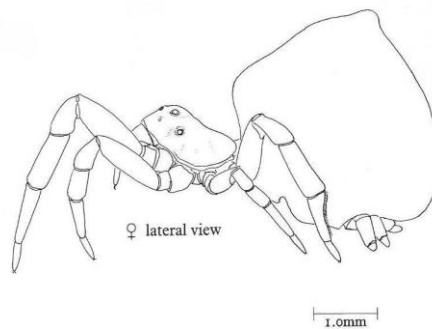
A common mesh-web weaver, *Dictyna arundinacea*. Female on heather flower.  
Length 2.0 – 3.5 mm.

## Family Uloboridae Triangle web spiders

- Cribellum and calamistrum present



- Small spiders (less than 4 mm) with a markedly triangular shaped abdomen.



*Hyptiotes* in lateral view showing triangular shaped abdomen.

- Build triangular webs on either trees or shrubs (including heather).
- Three British species belonging to two genera, *Hyptiotes* and *Uloborus*.



*Uloborus walckenaerius*, a triangle web spider, female.  
Length 3 – 6 mm.

**Family Oonopidae**  
Goblin spiders

- Spiders with six eyes, all clearly visible from above. Adult female lacking an epigyne and male palp with a simple bulb.
- Tiny hunting spiders (1.5 - 2.0 mm), uniformly pale with no dark markings. Chelicerae small.
- Only two British species, *Oonops pulcher* & *Oonops domesticus*.
- *Oonops domesticus* is found in houses and other buildings, mainly at night. *Oonops pulcher* is found in dry habitats including litter, under stones and tree bark and in grass tussocks.

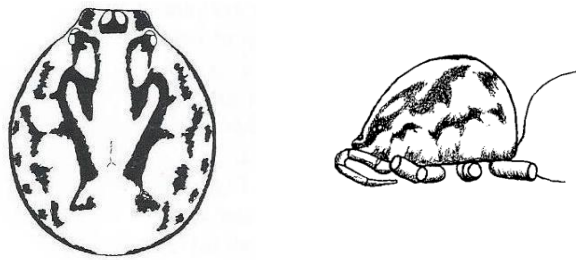


The tiny goblin spider, *Oonops domesticus*, male.  
Length 1.2 – 2.0 mm.

## Family Scytodidae

### Spitting spiders

- Spiders with six eyes, all clearly visible from above. Adult female lacking an epigyne and male palp with a simple bulb.
- Spiders marked clearly on carapace, abdomen and legs in black on a yellow background. Carapace elevated behind



Carapace of *Scytodes* from above and the side showing pattern and shape.

- A single British species, *Scytodes thoracica*, always found in houses or other buildings.



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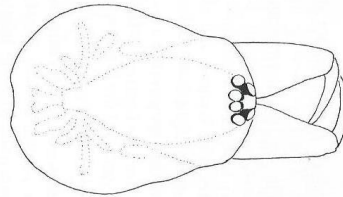
The spitting spider *Scytodes thoracica*, male.  
Length 4 – 6 mm.



## Family Dysderidae

### Woodlouse spiders

- Spiders with six eyes, all clearly visible from above. Adult female lacking an epigyne and male palp with a simple bulb.
- Large spiders (5-15 mm), eyes in a compact oval arrangement, abdomen lacking a defined pattern.



Carapace of *Dysdera* showing arrangement of eyes and enlarged jaws.

- A small family of hunting spiders in Britain with four species in two genera, *Dysdera* and *Harpactea*. *Dysdera* species have very enlarged jaws for capturing woodlice and other hard-bodied prey.

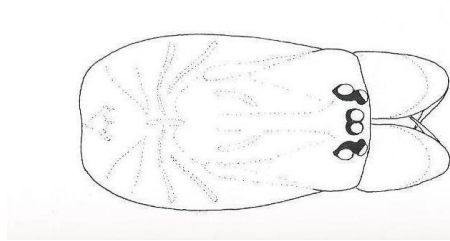


A woodlouse spider, *Dysdera erythrina*, female.  
Length 7 – 10 mm.



**Family Segestriidae**  
Tube-web spiders

- Large spiders (6-22 mm), eyes arranged as in figure below, abdomen elongate and with a clear dorsal pattern.



Carapace of *Segestria* from above showing eye arrangement.

- Only three British species belonging to the genus *Segestria*.
- Build tubular webs in walls, rock faces and tree trunks.



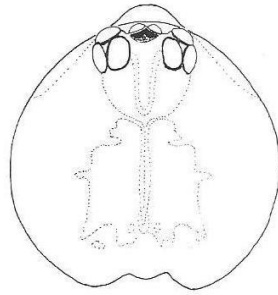
Tube web of *Segestria* in bark.



A tube-web spider, *Segestria senoculata*, female.  
Length 6 – 10 mm.

**Family Pholcidae**  
Daddy long-legs spiders

- Eight-eyed spiders with a roughly circular carapace and the eyes arranged in a more or less compact group



Carapace of *Pholcus* from above showing shape of carapace and arrangement of eyes.

- Only two British species, both normally found in houses and other buildings. With exceptionally long, thin legs relative to the body.

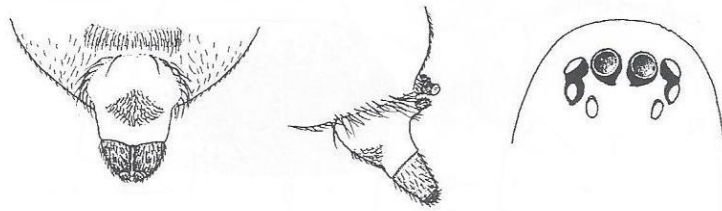


The common daddy long-legs spider, *Pholcus phalangioides*, male  
Length 7 – 10 mm.

## Family Zodariidae

### Ant spiders

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller
- Anterior spinnerets much larger than the others, arising on a large, pale cylindrical projection. Anterior median eyes larger than others.



a) Spinnerets of *Zodarion* from below and the side, b) eyes showing enlarged anterior medians.

- Among the four species of *Zodarion* found in Britain only one, *Z. italicum*, has been frequently recorded.

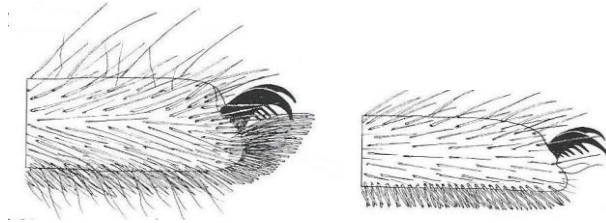


An ant spider, *Zodarion italicum*, female.  
Length 1.6 – 4.3 mm.



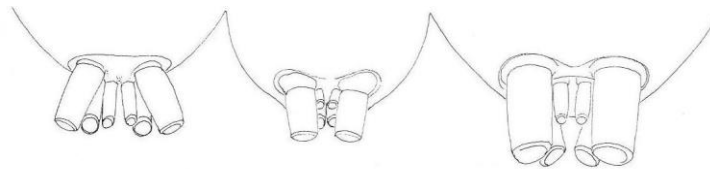
## Ground spiders

- Tarsi with only two claws which may be partially hidden by hair tufts.



Tip of metatarsi showing two claws with and without hair tufts.

- Anterior lateral spinnerets cylindrical (parallel-sided) and well separated so that anterior median spinnerets are easily visible.



Spinnerets of different ground spiders showing cylindrical shape.

- Most of the 33 species of ground spiders in the UK are recorded from warm, dry habitats. Only one third of the species are widespread, the remainder having a more southern distribution.



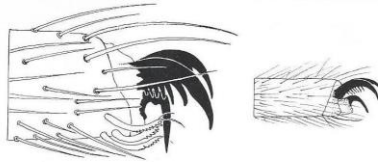
The ground spider *Drassodes cupreus*, female.  
Length 9 – 18 mm.



## Family Clubionidae

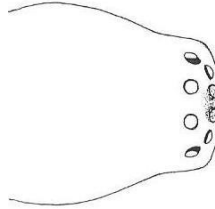
### Sac spiders

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller; spinnerets conical in shape



Tip of tarsi showing three clearly seen claws

- Maximum width of eye rows at least half width of carapace at its widest point



Carapace of *Clubiona* sp. from above showing distribution of eyes.

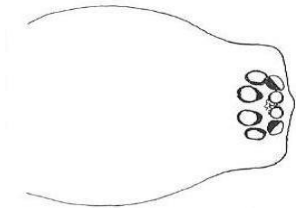
- More than half of the 25 British sac-spiders are common and widespread. The majority are found on the ground or in field layer vegetation.



A common sac spider, *Clubiona terrestris*, female.  
Length 5 – 7 mm.

**Families Liocranidae & Corinnidae**  
**No common names**

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller; spinnerets conical in shape.
- Maximum width of eye rows less than half width of carapace



Carapace of liocranid spider from above showing distribution of eyes.

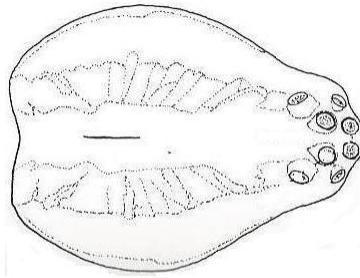
- Note: There are 12 species of liocranids and two corinnids (in the genus *Phrurolithus*) found in Britain. Two thirds of these species are almost confined to the southern half of Britain.



*Agroeca proxima*, female – a common liocranid spider.  
Length 4.0 – 7.5 mm.

**Family Zoridae**  
Wandering spiders

- Hunting spiders with eyes arranged in three more or less distinct rows
- Inner eyes of first row and eyes of second row slightly larger than others. Medium sized spiders (3.5-6.5 mm) with a cream carapace with darker markings.



Carapace of *Zora spinimana* from above showing size and arrangement of eyes.

- Four species belonging to the genus *Zora* in the British fauna, all but *Zora spinimana* are rare.



*Zora spinimana*, male.  
Length 4.5 – 6.5 mm.

## Family Anyphaenidae

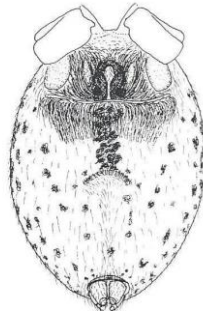
### Buzzing spider

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller; spinnerets conical in shape



Tip of tarsi showing three clearly seen claws

- Tracheal spiracles easily visible midway between spinners and epigastric fold. Single British species with a distinctive dorsal mark on abdomen



Underside of abdomen of *Anyphaena* showing central position of tracheal spiracle

- Our only species, *Anyphaena accentuata*, is found on the foliage of trees and shrubs.



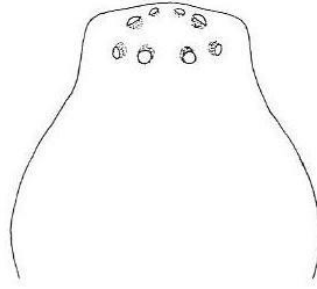
The buzzing spider, *Anyphaena accentuata*, female. Note distinctive dark mark on abdomen.

Length 4.0 – 7.5 mm.



**Family Sparassidae**  
Huntsman spiders

- Tarsi and metatarsi with scopulae, legs more or less even in length
- Posterior row of eyes procurved (curved forward)



Carapace of *Micrommata* from above to show arrangement of eyes.

- The single British species, *Micrommata virescens*, is a large and strikingly coloured green spider only found in southern counties of England.

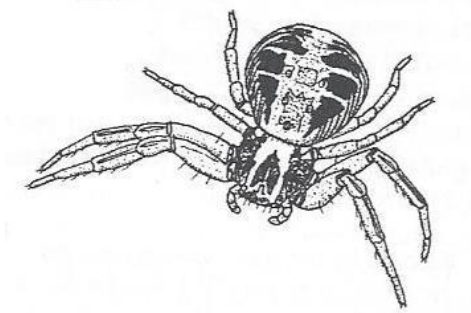


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Female of *Micrommata virescens*, a striking green huntsman spider.  
Length 7 - 13 mm.

**Fam. Thomisidae**  
Crab spiders

- Tarsi with only two claws. Legs laterigrade (directed towards side) giving a crab like stance



Dorsal view of a crab spider, showing orientation of legs to the side.

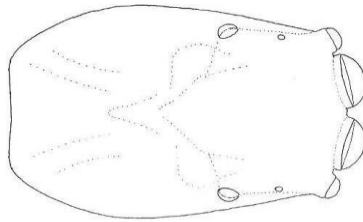
- Tarsi and metatarsi without scopulae. Legs I & II usually much longer than legs III & IV
- There are 26 species of crab spider recorded from Britain. About 40% are widespread but the remainder are largely confined to southern regions.



Male of *Xysticus cristatus*, the commonest British crab spider.  
Length 3-8 mm.

**Family Salticidae**  
Jumping spiders

- Eyes arranged in three more or less distinct rows.
- Anterior margin of carapace markedly square-fronted with two very large and two smaller eyes in the first row. Eyes of second row minute, those of third row larger.



Carapace of jumping spider showing eye arrangement and sizes.

- There are 38 species of jumping spiders recorded in Britain. Some are common and widespread but many are relatively uncommon or rare and mainly confined to southern areas.

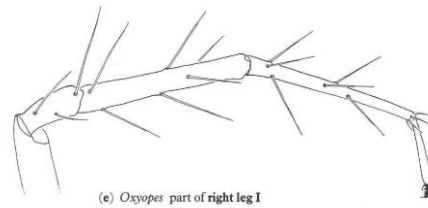
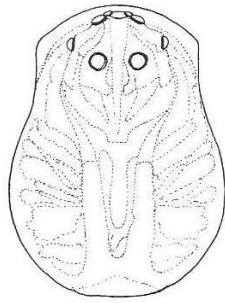


The zebra spider, *Salticus scenicus*, female. A common jumping spider.  
Length 5 – 7 mm.

## Family Oxyopidae

### Lynx spiders

- Eyes arranged in a roughly circular pattern, the anterior medians extremely small and difficult to see from above. Legs with very long erect spines.



- a) Carapace of *Oxyopes* from above showing arrangement of eyes. b) First leg showing long erect spines.

- The only British species, *Oxyopes heterophthalmus*, is a distinctive spider confined to a few southern heathland areas.

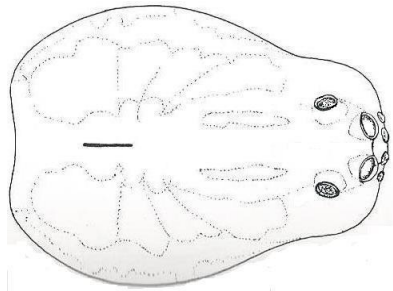


The lynx spider, *Oxyopes heterophthalmus*, female.



**Family Lycosidae**  
Wolf spiders

- Eyes arranged in three more or less distinct rows
- Anterior margin of carapace more or less curved. Anterior row of eyes small and difficult to see from above. Second eye row as wide as first and the eyes slightly larger than those of posterior row



Carapace of wolf spider from above showing arrangement and size of eyes.

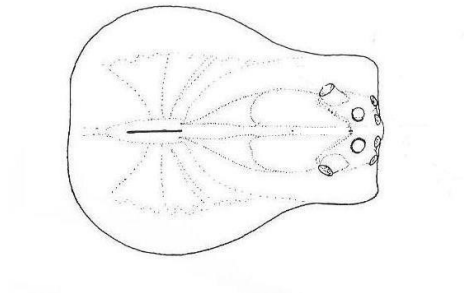
- There are 38 species of wolf spider in the British fauna which include some of our most widespread and common species.



A wolf spider, *Pardosa monticola*. Male  
Length 4 – 6 mm.

**Family Pisauridae**  
Nursery web spiders

- Eyes arranged in three more or less distinct rows.
- Eyes of second and third row more or less equal in size. Second row of eyes noticeably narrower than first. Large hunting spiders (9-16 mm)



Carapace of nursery web spider from above showing arrangement and size of eyes.

- Three British species belonging to the genera *Pisaura* and *Dolomedes*. *Dolomedes* species are the largest British spiders.

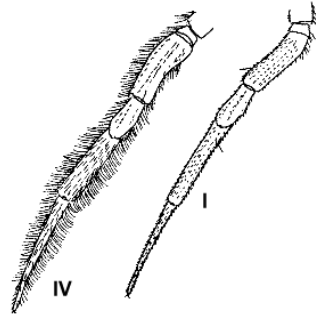


A nursery web spider, *Pisaura mirabilis*, female.  
Length 9 – 16 mm.

## Family Cybaeidae

### Water spider

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller; spinnerets conical in shape.
- Legs III & IV thickly covered in long, fine hairs, contrasting strongly with legs I & II which have very short, sparse hairs.



Legs I and IV of the water spider, *Argyroneta aquatica*, showing difference in setae.

- The only British species, *Argyroneta aquatica*, lives an almost entirely aquatic life. It is quite widespread in the southern half of Britain but infrequently recorded.



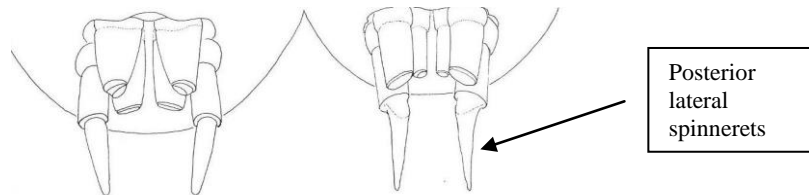
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The water spider, *Argyroneta aquatica*, male. Note the silvery bubble of air trapped in the hairs of the abdomen.  
Length 8 – 15 mm.



## Family Agelenidae Funnel web spiders

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller
- Posterior lateral spinnerets longer than others and consisting of two segments. Median spinnerets easily visible



Spinnerets of funnel web spiders, showing long, two segmented posterior laterals.

- Produce sheet webs with a tubular retreat in one corner
- The majority of the 11 British species are large spiders, many found in buildings.



A house spider, *Tegenaria gigantea*, male. A very common sheet web weaver found in buildings.

Length 10 – 16 mm.



## Family Hahniidae

Dwarf sheet spiders

- Tarsi with three, easily visible, claws, the central one often smaller; spinnerets conical in shape
- All spinnerets arranged in a single transverse row



- The family includes only nine British species in the genera *Hahnia*, *Antistea*, *Cryphoeca* & *Tuberta*.



*Antistea elegans*, female – a common hahniid spider of wet areas.  
Length 2.5 – 3.0 mm.

**Family MIMETIDAE**  
Pirate spiders

Legs I & II with a series of long curved spines on the metatarsus and tibia when viewed from above with small curved spines set at regular intervals between



First leg of *Ero* showing long curved spines on metatarsus and tibia.

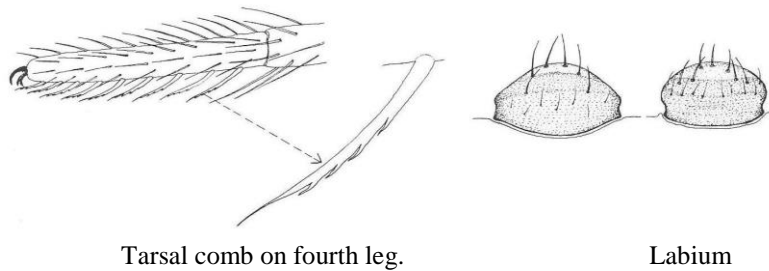
There are four species of pirate spider in Britain belonging to the genus *Ero* all of which are predators of web-building spiders.



The pirate spider, *Ero furcata*, female.  
Length 2.5 – 3.3 mm

## Family Theridiidae Comb-footed spiders

- Orb Web-building spiders with three tarsal claws
- Tarsi IV with a comb of serrated bristles ventrally and labium not swollen distally. The tarsal comb is often difficult to see in small species and careful examination is needed.



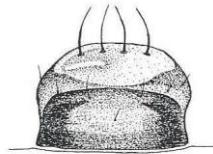
- Many of the 55 British species of comb-footed spiders are widespread and common. Web composed of irregular criss-cross strands, only occasionally forming a sheet below.



A common comb-footed spider, *Theridion sisyphium*, female.  
Length 2.5 – 4.0 mm.

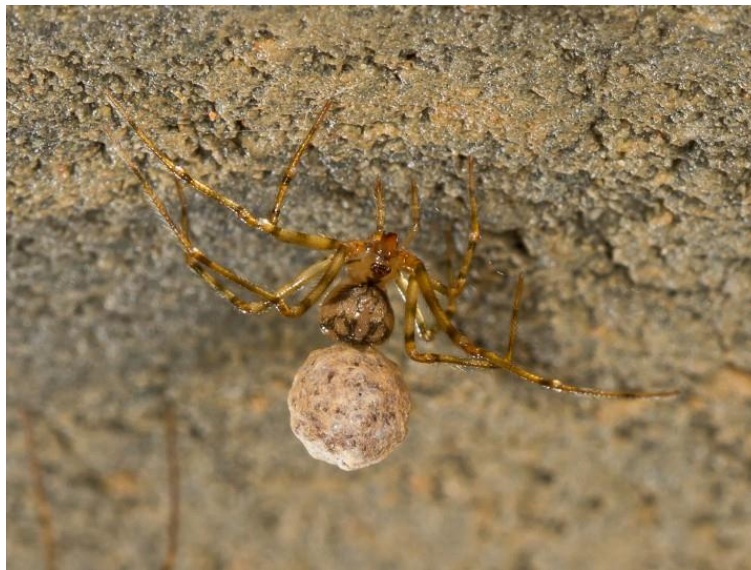
**Family Nesticidae**  
Cave spider

- Web-building spiders with three tarsal claws
- Tarsi IV with an easily visible comb of serrated bristles ventrally and labium distinctly swollen distally.



Labium of *Nesticus cellulanus*

- The single British member of this family, *Nesticus cellulanus*, lives in dark, damp places including caves, cellars, dark recesses in rocks and damp areas in dark woodland.



The cave spider, *Nesticus cellulanus*, female with egg-sac on ceiling of a cellar.

Length 3.5 – 6.0 mm.



**Family Theridiosomatidae**  
Ray spiders

- Web-building spider with three tarsal claws and tarsal comb on leg IV absent.
- Small spider (1.5-3.0 mm), both sexes with globular abdomen marked with silver.
- The single British species, *Theridiosoma gemmosum* is always found near water.

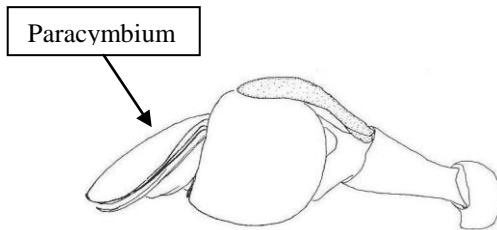


The ray spider, *Theridiosoma gemmosum*, female.  
Length 2 -3 mm.

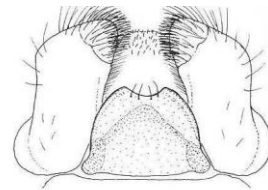
## Family Tetragnathidae

### Big jawed spiders

- Orb Web-building spiders with three tarsal claws
- Maxillae distinctly longer than broad. Female epigynes simple, male palps with elongate paracymbium.



Male palp of *Tetragnatha*.



Maxillae and labium of Tetragnathid

- *Tetragnatha* species have markedly enlarged chelicerae and elongate bodies but the other three genera have less characteristic body forms and are sometimes mistaken for araneids.
- There are fourteen British species in four genera.

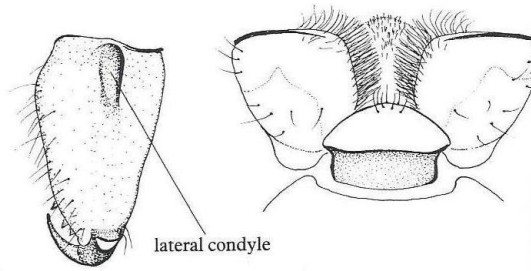


A female of *Tetragnatha extensa*, a common big-jawed spider.  
Length 6 – 11 mm.

## Family Araneidae

### Orb-web weavers

- Orb web-building spiders with three tarsal claws
- Chelicerae without stridulating ridges and normally with a lateral condyle. Araneids produce orb webs



- The orb-web weavers include 32 British species. The majority are medium to large spiders (5-15 mm) with sub-spherical brightly coloured abdomens, many of which have a marked dorsal pattern.



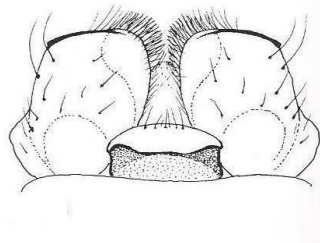
The common garden spider, *Araneus diadematus*, female in web.  
Length 10 -13 mm.

## Family Linyphiidae Money spiders

- Maxillae not or scarcely longer than broad. Chelicerae normally with stridulating ridges laterally and lacking a lateral condyle



Chelicera of money spider



Maxillae and labium of money spider

- Money spiders produce sheet webs and are the largest family in the British fauna, with over 280 species
- The vast majority are small (< 4 mm) dark coloured spiders but a few are larger and possess a dorsal pattern on the abdomen



A common money spider, *Neriene montana*, female.  
Length 4.5 -7.0 mm.