

## The Egg-web of *Phidippus regius* Koch (Araneae : Salticidae)

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Although several authors (McCook, 1890; Snetsinger, 1955; Gardner, 1965) have discussed reproduction in *Phidippus*, differences in structure between the egg web and the normal retreat web of the female have not been detailed. A female *Phidippus regius* Koch collected 3 November 1971 in pine flatwoods near Welaka, Putnam Co., Florida, constructed two retreat webs during eight weeks in captivity. These were hollow flattened cylinders about 50 mm long which were open at both ends and attached to the underside of a horizontal surface. On 2 January she abandoned the retreat web, constructed an egg web, and oviposited. The egg web, attached under a horizontal surface, was broadly triangular measuring 115 mm along the base, 50 mm from base to apex, and 15 mm in depth. It was bipartite in the vertical axis. The upper portion, constituting a closed cell, was approximately congruent with the lower but was one-third smaller. It consisted primarily of a curved sheet forming the sides and floor; the upper boundary was a loose sheet attached to the horizontal surface. At the centre of this cell was the egg sac. Below the upper cell a curved sheet formed the floor and sides of the second portion of the egg web. An entrance opening was left at each of the basal apexes, and the spider cut an additional opening in the sheet near the third apex.

The female occupied the lower compartment of the egg web except when foraging. She exhibited two

sorts of defensive behaviour. If a probe was slowly moved into an entrance hole, she would frequently advance and bite it. On a single occasion when she was hanging upside down from the floor of the upper compartment and a probe was inserted, she attempted to close the entrance hole by grasping the lower rim with her first pair of legs and pulling it upward.

The eggs hatched three weeks after oviposition. The juveniles (approximately 135) remained in the upper cell and moulted two weeks after hatching. Four days before the juveniles moulted, the female cut an opening 10 mm in diameter through the floor of the upper cell. Ten days after moulting the juveniles began leaving their cell, the majority through the sheet where it attached to the horizontal surface near the apexes of the web. Only one was observed leaving through the opening cut by the female.

### References

- GARDNER, B. T. 1965: Observations on Three Species of *Phidippus* Jumping Spiders (Araneae: Salticidae). *Psyche* 72: 133-147
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- SNETSINGER, R. 1955: Observations on Two Species of *Phidippus* (Jumping Spiders). *Ent. News*. 66: 9-15