

## **General Information**

- Found in the Southern and Midwestern states
- Can hitchhiked (shipped) to other areas
- Are not aggressive
- Most bitten direct contacted with the spider
- Putting on clothing or shoes not used for long periods of time
- Usually occur in houses on the floor or behind furniture ( undisturbed areas)

## **Other Contact Areas**

- Sleeping in an unused bed rolling over onto spider
- Accidentally touching the spider when cleaning out undisturbed storage

## **Spider Identification**

- Adult soft-bodied, yellowish-tan to dark brown
- About ¼ to ½ inch long
- Have long delicate grayish to dark brown legs
- Covered with short, dark hairs
- Leg span about size of half dollar.
- Three pair of eyes in semicircle
- Violin shaped dark marking behind semicircle with neck of violin pointing towards abdomen
- Eight legs
- Violin marking on the flattened head & thorax
- Male/female similar in appearance and equally toxic
- Immature stages closely resemble the adults except or size and a slightly lighter color.

## **Life Cycle and Habits**

1. Spin small loose white to off-white webs with irregular strands.
2. Female lays eggs may through August
3. Off-white silken cases (sacs) about 1/3 inch in diameter
4. Sacs containing 40 or more eggs
5. Over winter in sheltered, dark areas
6. Guarded by the female until her death
7. Each female may lay 300 eggs during life time
8. Spider lings emerge in 24 to 36 days
9. Slow development ( 10 to 12 months)
10. Influenced by weather conditions and food availability.
11. Can survive long periods without food or water
12. May live as long as two years

13. Most active at night
14. Food consisting of cockroaches and other small insects
15. During day time is spent in quiet, undisturbed places
  - Bathrooms
  - Bedrooms
  - Closets,
  - Basements
  - Cellars
  
- Sometimes take shelter
  - Under furniture
  - Appliances
  - Carpets
  - Behind baseboards & door facings
  - In corners and crevices
  
- Some have been found in
  - Stored clothing
  - Old shoes
  - On the undersides of tables and chairs
  - In folded bedding
  - Undisturbed towels stored for long periods of time

#### Outside Habits

Spiders are very adaptable and may be active in temperatures ranging from 45 to 110 deg F

- Found in sheltered corners among
  1. Debris
  2. Wood piles
  3. Under loose bark and stones
  4. In old barns
  5. Storage sheds
  6. Garages

#### **Bite symptoms**

1. Severity of a person's reaction depends on the amount of venom injected
2. Individual sensitivity to it
3. Bite effects may be:
  - Nothing at all
  - Immediate
  - Delayed
  - May not be aware of bite for 2 to 8 hours
  - Others feel a stinging sensation usually followed by intense pain if there is a severe reaction

- Small white blister at the bite site, surrounded by a large congested and swollen area

## Symptoms

- Some injured may not be aware of bite for 2 to 8 hours
- Others feel a stinging sensation usually followed by intense pain if there is a severe reaction
- Small white blister at the bite site, surrounded by a large congested and swollen area
  
- Within 24 to 36 hours a systemic reaction may occur
  1. Restlessness
  2. Fever
  3. Chills
  4. Nausea
  5. Weakness
  6. Joint pain
  
- Affected area enlarges
  1. Becomes inflamed and tissue is hard to the touch
  2. Venom contains an enzyme that destroys cell membranes in the wound area with affected tissue gradually sloughing away
  3. Exposing underlying tissues
  4. Within 24 hours bite site can erupt into a “volcano lesion” hole in the flesh
  5. Open wound may range from the size of an adult’s thumbnail to the span of a hand
  6. The sunken, ulcerating sore may heal slowly up to 6 to 8 weeks
  7. Full recovery may take several months and scarring may remain
  8. Plastic surgery and skin grafts are sometimes required

## First Aid

- Remain calm
- Collect spider
- Medical attention immediately physician, hospital or poison information center
- Apply antiseptic to prevent infection
- Ice packs relieve local swelling and pain
- Effective anti-venom is not generally available
- Physician use high doses of cortisone-type hormones
- Dapsone ( a drug used mainly for leprosy) may reduce the degree of tissue damage

### **Control Measures**

- Spiders are not aggressive and normally bites when crushed, handled or disturbed
- Aptly named since it is a reclusive creature seeking and preferring seclusion.

### **Insecticides Use**

- Adult spiders spend little time in direct contact with surfaces
- Found in or on spider webbing
- Fine particles such as ULV, aerosols or fogs
- Contact spiders in their webs causing quicker population reduction

### **Attics and Crawl space**

- Use space sprays such as:

### **Cracks and Crevices apply treatments in:**

- Decorative molding'
- Window & door trim
- Underside of tables, chairs
- Shelves
- Use residual pesticides
- Long lasting residual

### **Outdoors**

- Spray around perimeter of buildings
- Use formulations that will not damage plants
- Treat under eaves, patios and decks

### **Remember:**

Before using any pesticide, always read the label and follow directions and safety precautions.