

## *Dysdera crocata* “Roly-poly Hunter”

**Typical Location When Observed:** Under rocks or boards outdoor; occasionally in basements.

**Importance/Damage:** A common spider found outdoors that occasionally enters homes. Its bizarre appearance attracts attention/concern, although the species is harmless.

**Distinguishing Features:** *Dysdera crocata* is a spider of moderate-size, ranging 9-15 mm in length. The front half of the spider (cephalothorax) and the appendages are orange or reddish orange. The abdomen is grayish white. Perhaps the most striking feature is the very large jaws and associated fangs.



*Dysdera crocata*, aka “the roly-poly hunter”

**General Life History and Habits:** This is an introduced species of spider, native to Europe, that specializes on sowbugs and pillbugs (“roly-polies”).

**Resources:** This spider is discussed in Extension Fact Sheet 5.512, *Spiders in the Home*.

**Scientific Name:** *Dysdera crocata*

**Class:** Arachnida

**Order:** Araneae (Spiders)

**Family:** Dysderidae

Actual Length

Version: July 29, 2009