

Cat-faced Spider

Typical Location When Observed:

Outdoors, usually in the corner of a window or near a porch light. This species attracts attention when it matures in late summer and fall.

Importance/Damage: Mostly curiosity. This is a large spider of odd appearance, but is harmless.



Two mature female cat-faced spiders

Distinguishing Features: The large, full-grown females are the stage most often seen. They have a bulbous abdomen with a pair of projections on the front. A faint white line runs down the midline of front of the abdomen and it is crossed with small V-shaped markings. Over all coloration is highly variable and ranges from straw-colored to dark grayish brown.

Look-Alikes: Other large-bodied orb weaver spiders can be common in yards, gardens, and fields. Most of these are in the genera *Neoscona* or *Araneus* but these lack the distinctive markings and raised humps on the abdomen that characterize the cat-faced spider.

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

Scientific Name: *Araneus gemmoides*

Class: Arachnida

Order: Araneae (Spiders)

Family: Araneidae (Orb weaver spiders)

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