

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Bold jumping spider

Scientific Name: *Phidippus audax*

Order and Family: Araneae, Salticidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.13-1.33mm	Pale yellow to light green in color.
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Males- 6-13mm Females- 8-19mm	Overall, body is black and covered in hairs. Patterns of white, yellow, or orange are usually present on dorsal side of abdomen and is variable among individuals. Chelicerae (fangs) are typically an iridescent green.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Spiders have fangs in which they pierce their prey and then suck out the liquids.

Host/s: The bold jumper is predatory and feeds on a diverse group of prey including a variety of insects and other spiders.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): *Phidippus* jumping spiders, like all jumping spiders, are diurnal (active during the daylight). This group of spiders is also characterized by their large anterior median eyes and the ability to jump a good distance when pursuing prey. Jumping spiders in the genus *Phidippus* are larger than most jumping spiders with *P. audax* one of the most common. Spiders, in general, are beneficial in their predatory nature and ability to consume pest insects. *P. audax* appears frequently in cropping systems and thus has been included in prey density and predation studies to determine their impact in reducing pest insects. It should be noted that they do indeed eat many insect pests but because they are predators, they will eat other spiders and some beneficial insects as well.

References:

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Young, O. P. (1989). Field observations of predation by *Phidippus audax* (Araneae: Salticidae) on arthropods associated with cotton. *Journal of Entomological Science*, 24(2), 266-273.