

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Ray Simons, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Golden silk spider, golden silk orb-weaver, banana spider

Scientific Name: *Nephila clavipes*

Order and Family: Araneae, Nephilidae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Spiderling	Pupae (if applicable)
Length (mm)	Females: 50 mm Males: 8 mm	>1 mm in diameter	1 mm when hatched	N/A
Appearance	Mostly yellow, elongated abdomen, long hairy legs	In a yellow sac	Silver stripes or patches on their abdomens, vibrate when approached by a predator	N/A

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Sucking

Host/s: Golden silk spiders can be found in the southeast United States through Argentina and Peru. Golden silk spiders are most commonly found throughout Puerto Rico. Golden web spiders are found in areas of high humidity and relatively open space. They live in forest areas along trails and clearing edges.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Webs constructed by golden silk spiders are used to catch small insects. The prey is first entangled in the web, and then it is wrapped in a silk like casing. The spider then incapacitates it with a bite and brings it back to the hub of the web.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). Chapter Eleven: Beneficial Arthropods: golden silk spider. In *Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs*. (p. 560). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Golden Silk Spider. University of Florida Entomology and Nematology, 2004. Retrieved April 2, 2016 from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/golden_silk_spider.htm

Nephila clavipes. Encyclopedia of Life. Retrieved April 2, 2016 from <http://eol.org/pages/1193392/details>