

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Erin Bauer, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

**Common Name:** Brown Recluse Spider

**Scientific Name:** *Loxosceles reclusa*

**Order and Family:** Araneae: Sicariidae

**Size and Appearance:** The *Loxosceles reclusa* spider is well known in the United States for its painful bite, but it actually has a small range, covering parts of the Midwest, Southwest, and Western states. As its name suggests, both sexes are brown in color, which can vary by individual. Brown recluses have a unique darker fiddle-shaped design on the back of their cephalothorax, though this is not always present. They have 6 eyes grouped in pairs in 3 rows on the front of the head. Adults are roughly 6-11 mm in length.

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	6 mm in diameter (sac)	Off white egg sac produced that often has 31-300 eggs inside.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-12 mm	Spiderlings resemble the adults except paler in coloration. Go through 9 instars with 1 molt taking place in egg sac.
<b>Adult</b>	12-13 mm , female 5-6 mm, male	Adults vary in brown shades but usually have a dark violin or fiddle-shaped design on their cephalothorax. Also feature 3 rows of paired eyes.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host/s or Prey:** *Araneidae* spp. feeds on small invertebrates.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Most likely to be solitary, in a dark seldom used area. Only bite when disturbed; for instance, in bed linens of a rarely used guest room. Bite can lead to infection if left untreated.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Brown Recluse and other Recluse Species'. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.2.3). National Pest Management Association International.

Edwards G.B. (2003). Brown Recluse Spider, *Loxosceles reclusa* Gertsch & Mulaik (Arachnida: Araneae: Sicariidae). University of Florida, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/in/in57600.pdf>