

Pest Profile



Photo credit: "Cellar Spider" via www.wikimedia.org public domain

Common Name: Cellar Spider

Scientific Name: *Phoecididae spp.*

Order and Family: Araneae: Phoecididae

Size and Appearance: Phoecididae Spiders cover a large group of spiders known for having an affinity for dark, damp places akin to basements, cellars, crawlspaces, and bathrooms. They are similar in appearance to Daddy Long Legs, which are in the arthropod order Opiliones. Adults are about 2-8 mm in length with a very small waist. They are generally pale in coloration and often light brown, yellow, or gray. They usually have 8 eyes present but some species may only have 6. Like the Daddy Long Legs, their narrow body form gives them the appearance of having extremely long, thin legs.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.0-3.0 mm in diameter (sac)	3 egg sacs can be produced, housing about 30 eggs apiece. The sacs are "see through" due to the thin silk used in crafting them. Carried in jaws by female until spiderlings hatch.
Larva/Nymph	1-8 mm	Spiderlings resemble the adults and go through 5 molts over the course of a year.
Adult	2-8 mm	Light brown, gray, or yellow in color with 6-8 eyes. Long legs, small waist, and noticeable chelicerae.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

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

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Flying insects are favored prey of Cellar Spiders. If opportunity presents itself, they will put up webbing near doorways and lights in order to enhance their chances to feed. Mostly considered a nuisance pest due to amount of webbing they produce.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Cellar Spiders. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.3.2). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (2002). Long bodied Cellar Spider. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 4th, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/longbodied-cellar-spider>