

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** "Cobweb Spider-Ventral-mze" By Solmeber (public domain) via [www.wikimedia.org](http://www.wikimedia.org)

**Common Name:** Cobweb Spider

**Scientific Name:** *Steatoda sp.*

**Order and Family:** Araneae: Therididae

**Size and Appearance:** *Steatoda sp.* spiders are a common household pest throughout the United States. They are small in stature at about 2-3 mm in length. They are able to blend in to their environment fairly well given their brownish-orange coloration; also white markings may be present. The legs are a lighter shade, often yellow and they generally have 8 eyes present.

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	1.0-3.0 mm in diameter (sac)	Egg sacs are produced between Spring and Fall and usually contain 30 eggs each.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-3 mm	Spiderlings resemble the adults and often overwinter before completing cycle.
<b>Adult</b>	2-3 mm	Brownish-orange in color with light yellow legs. Distinct white markings are often present, as are 8 eyes.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

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

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Cobweb spiders, as their namesake would suggest, are prolific at creating webbing which has sealed their status as a nuisance pest. Though they often live in homes, they rarely bite humans and are not considered medically important.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Cobweb Spiders. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.4.2). National Pest Management Association International.

Ogg, B. (2008). Triangulate Household Spider: A Common Harmless Spider. University of Nebraska Department of Entomology Resources. Retrieved on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/resources/triangulatespider.shtml>