

Pest Profile



Photo credit: “Hobo Funnel Spider” By Dr. Lee Ostrom via Wikimedia.org

Common Name: Funnel Web Spider

Scientific Name: *Agelenidae spp.*

Order and Family: Araneae: Ageleidae

Size and Appearance: Funnel spiders cover a vast family with inhabitants on most continents. Here in the United States, people are most familiar with the Hobo Funnel-web Spider (*Tegenaria agrestis*) due to the fact it invades homes and tends to be aggressive. Its namesake comes from its behavior of “hitching rides” on people to move from place to place. Females of funnel spiders are about 11-14 mm in length, and males are a bit smaller at 7-11 mm. The color varies by species but the cephalothorax is generally a brown shade. Dark stripes and other markings are also common. All funnel spiders have 8 distinct eyes in 2 rows about the mouth.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.01 mm	Eggs laid in a sac that is hung in the spring. They emerge in June.
Larva/Nymph	1-10 mm depending on molt and sex	Spiderlings resemble the adults and do not come out of the sac prior to their second molt.
Adult	Females: 5-10 mm Males: 4-9 mm	Females larger than males. Brown body color often with dark markings, 8 eyes in 2 rows on head.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

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

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Funnel spiders mostly stay outdoors but may move indoors when food becomes scarce. They are mostly a nuisance spider due to their behavior of producing several webs. The Hobo Spider is known for producing a painful bite but is not considered medically important.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Funnel Spiders. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.4.3). National Pest Management Association International.

Hahn, J., Pellitteri, P. Jesse, L. and Lewis, D. (2012). Common Spiders in and Around Homes. University of Minnesota Extension. Retrieved on July 4th, 2016 from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/common-spiders-in-and-around-homes/>