

# Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska--Lincoln

**Common Name:** Sac Spiders

**Scientific Name:** *Cheiracanthium spp.*

**Order and Family:** Araneae: Miturgidae

**Size and Appearance:** Sac spiders received their interesting moniker from the yellow color they feature as well as their behavior of building silk sacs. Adult females are between 5-10 mm in length and the males are 4-9 mm in length. They are usually colored on the pale side, often yellow. Eight eyes are present in 2 distinct rows on the head and the spinnerets are quite visible on the backend.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	< 0.01 mm	Females place egg sacs in rolled up leaves outside of the silk sac habitat. She generally keeps guard over them from the sac. Up to 70 spiderlings hatch in the fall.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-10 mm depending on molt and sex	Spiderlings resemble the adults.
<b>Adult</b>	Females: 5-10 mm Males: 4-9 mm	Females larger than males. Pale yellow body color, 8 eyes in 2 rows on head, very visible spinnerets on back of abdomen.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

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

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Sac spiders mostly stay outdoors but may move indoors when food becomes scarce. They are a nuisance pest; however, they are notorious for being one of the most common spiders to bite humans. The bite, though painful, is rarely life threatening.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Sac Spiders. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.7.1). National Pest Management Association International.

David, R.S. (October 2008). Yellow Sac Spiders. Utah State University Extension, Pest Fact Sheets. Retrieved on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <https://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/yellow-sac-spiders08.pdf>