

FACTSHEET

Scottish Spider Search www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/scottish_spider_search.php

Four-spotted Orbweb Spider *Araneus quadratus*

Key Features

This is a large spider (females 9-20 mm, males 6-8 mm). The body colour varies greatly, but there are always **four separate large white spots** on the abdomen.

Where to look

Vegetation that has sufficient height and strength to support the orb web, including:

- Undisturbed grassland
- Heather and gorse

It is **not normally found in gardens**.

The web is usually found stretched across the gap between plants, and the spider can often be found hiding in a large tent-like retreat to one side.

Don't confuse with!

The **Garden Spider** (*Araneus diadematus*) can look similar but the markings on its back usually form a more-or-less joined up cross-shaped pattern. Unlike the Four-spotted Orbweb Spider, Garden Spiders are often found in gardens and close to buildings, but they can also be found in the same habitat as the Four-spotted Orbweb.

More information

Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website:
<http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Araneus+quadratus>

*The Four-Spotted Orbweb Spider
is the heaviest spider in the UK.*



Different colours of Four-spotted Orbweb Spider. Note four white spots on the back of the large round body, and the chunky stripy legs. Photographs © Chris Cathrine.

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www.britishspiders.org.uk



The Wildlife Information Centre
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