

FACTSHEET

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

Nurseryweb Spider *Pisaura mirabilis*

Key Features

A large spider (adults 10-15 mm long) shaped a bit like a short cigar with quite long and robust legs. When resting, the front pairs of legs are typically held outstretched and close together to the front. Body colour is variable but the front segment of the body almost always has a darker central band with a thin white or yellow line down the middle.

Nurseryweb Spiders construct a nursery for their young - a dense silk tent, built amongst vegetation.

Where to look

Tall vegetation in places such as rough grassland, woodland rides, heathland and marsh edges.

Distribution

Most abundant in the south of the UK, there are scattered records for the spider throughout Scotland, but few from southern Scotland.

Don't confuse with!

Wolf spiders also carry their egg sack, but attached to their spinnerets at the end of their abdomen rather than at the front of their body. Wolf Spiders are most often found running over the ground.

Garden spiders (*Araneus diadematus*) also construct silk tents, but their tents have a more open structure, and contain spiderlings with distinctive, round, yellow abdomens marked with a dark, backward-pointing triangle.

More information

Spider & Harvestman Recording Scheme website: <http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Pisaura+mirabilis>

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British Arachnological Society
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www.britishspiders.org.uk



The Wildlife Information Centre
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www.caledonianconservation.co.uk



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Nurseryweb Spider. Note the thin white line running down the back of the head and the long oval body. Photograph © Chris Cathrine.



Female Nurseryweb Spider carrying her whitish egg sac under the front of her body in her mouthparts. Photograph © Chris Cathrine.