

# marbled orb-weaver

*Araneus marmoreus*

## FEATURES

The large, oval abdomen of the marbled orb-weaver spider is yellow above with a brown-to-purple central band. The sides of the abdomen have dark spots. The belly of this spider has a dark central area surrounded by light marks. The eight eyes are arranged in two rows. Female marbled orb-weaver spiders' legs have bright orange color on them. The segments of the male's legs are yellow at the base and dark at the tip. The female is about one-fourth to three-fourths inch in length while the male is about one-fourth inch long.

## BEHAVIORS

The marbled orb-weaver spider may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in woods or the edges of woods in trees and shrubs. It hides above its vertical web in a retreat built of leaves held together by silk. The spider holds a signal line that runs to the web. When the line vibrates, the spider knows that something has disturbed the web, possibly a prey item. Adults are active from the middle of summer through the middle of fall. Egg sacs are produced in October.

## TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Chelicerata  
Order: Araneae  
Family: Araneidae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## ILLINOIS RANGE





**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge