

scallop-banded spider *Pisaurina mira*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Arachnida

Order: Araneae

Family: Pisauridae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The scallop-banded spider has a yellow-brown body with a broad, dark stripe along the center. On the abdomen the edges of this stripe are scalloped and outlined with white. The eight eyes are circled with black and arranged in two rows. Legs are long and tapered. The female is one-half to three-fourths inch in length. The male is slightly smaller.

BEHAVIORS

The scallop-banded spider may be found statewide in Illinois. It is a common resident of forests and grasses at the edge of forests. This spider does not build a web to catch prey. It roams about hunting prey. The female carries the egg sac with her until the young spiders emerge, then builds a nursery web for them in herbaceous plants or shrubs. She guards the web until the young spiders leave it, usually in about one week.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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