

# spined micrathena spider

## *Micrathena gracilis*

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

The female is about 0.25 to slightly less than one-half inch in total body length. The male is much smaller, ranging in size from just over one-tenth inch to just less than one-tenth of an inch. A circle of dark dots can be seen on the center top of the abdomen. The lower side of the abdomen is shaped like a cone. The abdomen is usually black, some combination of black and white, orange or yellow. The carapace is black or orange.

### BEHAVIORS

The web is built in forest or open woodlands. Males are active in late summer. Females are present from summer through fall. They do not wrap their prey.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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female



female

**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests, coniferous forests, upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none