

# Araneae, Spiders of North-West Europe

[Nederlandse versie](#)

This European spider site contains more than 1300 pictures of over 260 spiders commonly found in NW-Europe, especially in the area between the Netherlands and the south of France.

There is a [thumbnail page](#) and a [Spider location chart](#) for a quick overview of all the spiders posted on these pages.

Of all photographed spiders, there is a short description about their habitat, size and other interesting facts.

And here is an [Overview of spider know how](#).

Apart from the European spiders I have also posted around 700 pictures of [Australian spiders](#).

Most pages are translated in [Dutch](#) and some in [Esperanto](#).

Most people think that spiders are dangerous creatures that should be wiped away with a cloth, sucked up in the vacuum cleaner or smashed with a newspaper. That is not wise because spiders play a very important role in our Eco-system. They catch many annoying and harmful insects and are therefore very useful creatures. As you will see on these pages, many of the spiders are beautifully colored, and therefore very pleasant and wonderful to look at. Since most spiders are very small, you need a magnifying glass or a camera to study them or to reveal their beauty.

I receive many questions about **poisonous/venomous** spiders. Most spiders use venom to kill their prey. Spider venom is almost always harmless to humans. However, there are a few exceptions. In Europe there is one spider, called "Black widow", whose effects of the bite may hurt. The stories about her deadly venom are exaggerated. She lives in the southern parts of Europe.

Recent, controlled, studies show that the necrotic or neurotoxic effects of spider bites are often mild and of no medical importance. Severe necroses is never caused by a spider bite.

Only the Australian funnel back spiders are to be avoided, but with only two registered bites a year, not to worry about.

More about venomous spider bites in [this review](#). Comments are welcome.



Which spiders can we find around the house? (**More spiders [here ->](#)**)



[Argiope bruennichi](#)

tiger or wasp spider is moving up north and is spotted in The Netherlands and Great Britain.

or



Daddy longleg. House spider with daddy-longleg



House spider



Glue spitter



Garden spider

The **house spider** ([Agelenidae](#)) is a famous "scary" spider. In autumn the males are often spotted searching for a female. He runs on his long legs through our house, especially if we are watching television. Leave him alone and after a few minutes he is gone or eaten by the cat.

The **garden spider** ([Araneidae](#)) is also often seen in her wheel web. To see the **glue spitter** ([Scytodidae](#)) you have to look better.

The **daddy longleg** ([Pholcidae](#)) is the greatest killer inside your house. In winter she almost kills all surviving insects and they even kill their own kin.

The spider often seen in the US is the

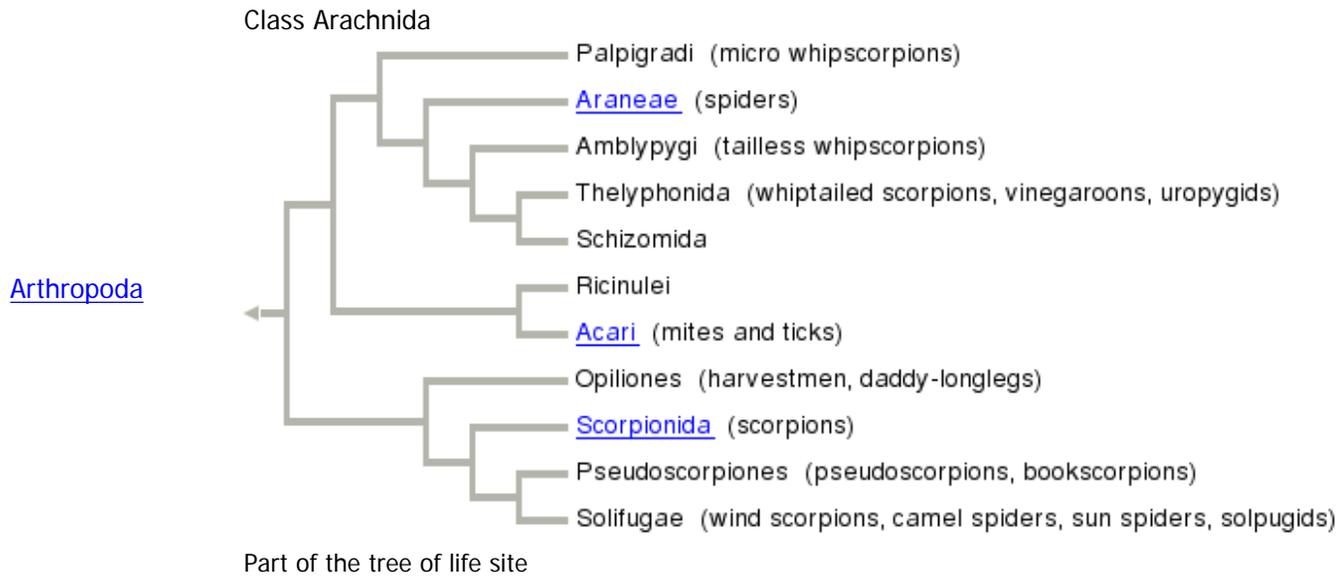
[Argiope](#)  
[aurantia](#) (Family Araneidae).  
Pictures of Argiopos from different continents can be seen on the following pages: [Europe](#), [USA](#) and [Australia](#).

In a study, the Panamese wheel spider was observed for a year. It consumed an average of 1.63 insects (= 0.089 g) a day. A study in Great Britain estimated an average of 130.8 spiders living in a meadow per square meter. If we extrapolate this to Holland with 15 million habitants on 36150 square kilometers (4.4 human beings per hectare), we can make the next calculation: spiders living on one hectare consume 116.4 kg of animal material every day. In other words, spiders eat the weight of all humans living in Holland in three days!



[Argiope aurantia](#) from the  
USA

Many people confuse spiders with insects. Both belong to the phylum Arthropoda in the animal kingdom, which consists of animals with segmented bodies and jointed appendages. The phylum Arthropoda is divided into 5 classes. Animals with 4 pairs of legs such as spiders belong to the class called Arachnida and animals with 3 pairs of legs such as insects belong to the class called Insecta. Scorpions, pseudoscorpions, mites, harvestmen and ticks (which can cause [Lyme disease](#)), also have 4 pairs of legs, and therefore also belong to the Arachnida. Within the class Arachnida the spiders belong to the order called Araneae.



[Opiliones, harvestmen, Mitopus morio](#)



[Acari, Tick, Ixodes ricinus](#)  
before and after feeding



[Acari, Velvet mite. Neotrombicula sp.](#)



[Scorpionida, Euscorpis italicus](#)



[Pseudoscorpiones, Neobisium sp.](#)



[Camel or sun spider, Solifugae](#) ( by Oleg Kucheryavenko, Moscow)

Inter site links	Common spider information
<p><a href="#">Spider location chart, find your spider by behaviour</a></p> <p><a href="#">Australian spider site</a>  <a href="#">Back to my start page</a>  <a href="#">Thumbnail pictures for a quick overview</a>  <a href="#">Glossary of terms</a>  <a href="#">Perfect camping site in France</a>  <a href="#">High resolution detail of the fangs of a spider</a>  <a href="#">How thick is a thread to stop a Boeing-747 in full flight?</a>  <a href="#">Spiders on La Gomera, Canary islands</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Spider information</a></p> <p><a href="#">Spinneninformatie (Dutch)</a>  <a href="#">Pri araneoj en Esperanto</a>  <a href="#">The anatomy of a spider</a>  <a href="#">The spinnerets and the properties of silk</a>  <a href="#">The construction of a wheel web</a>  <a href="#">American Argiopes</a>  <a href="#">List of spider families, genera and species from NW-Europe by name</a>  <a href="#">All kind of mails _</a>  <a href="#">****Go back in time****</a></p>

## Pictures and information by family

### Order Araneae - Spiders

#### Sub-order - Orthognatha (Mygalomorphae, primitive spiders)

[Atypidae, Purse-web spiders](#)

## Sub-order Labidognatha (Aranaeomorphae, modern spiders)

### Cribellatae (These spiders have a cribellum and a calamistrum)

[Amaurobidae, funnel weavers](#)

[Eresidae, lady bird spiders](#)

[Uloboridae, Cribellate orb spiders](#)

[Dictynidae, Small cribellate spiders](#)

[Oecobiidae, disc web spiders](#)

## Ecribellata

### Haplogynae (six eyed spiders)

[Dysderidae, Cell spiders](#)

[Scytodidae, Spitting spiders](#)

[Oonopidae, Dwarfcel spiders](#)

[Segestriidae, Six-eyed spiders](#)

### Entelegynae (eight eyed spiders)

[Agelenidae, Funnel weavers, house spider](#)

[Cybaeidae Argyronetidae, Water spiders](#)

[Clubionidae, Sac spiders](#)

[Erigonidae, Dwarf spiders](#)

[Hahniidae, Dwarf](#)

[funnel spiders](#)

[Liocranidae](#)

[Lycosidae, Wolf spiders](#)

[Mimetidae, Pirate spiders](#)

[Philodromidae, Crab spiders](#)

[Pisauridae, Big wolf or nursery web spiders](#)

[Tetragnathidae, Stretch spiders](#)

[Theridiosomatidae,](#)

[ray spiders](#)

[Zodariidae](#)

[Zoropsidae](#)

[Anyphaenidae, Sac spiders](#)

[Araneidae \(Argiopidae\), Orb web spiders](#)

[Gnaphosidae, Ground spiders](#)

[Heteropodidae, Hunt crab spiders](#)

[Linyphiidae, Sheetweb spiders](#)

[Metidae, Orb stretch spiders](#)

[Miturgidae, Prowling spiders](#)

[Oxyopidae, Lynx spiders](#)

[Pholcidae, Daddy longleg spiders](#)

[Salticidae, Jumping spiders](#)

[Theridiidae, Nesticidae, Scaffold web spiders](#)

[Thomisidae, Crab spiders](#)

[Zoridae \(Ctenidae\), Wandering spiders](#)

## Order Opiliones - Harvestmen

[Trodulidae & Nemastomatidae & Phalangiidae](#)

### [More informational links](#) (<-- click link)

#### European spiders

[The Arachnology home page](#)

[Belgische Arachnologische Vereniging](#)

[Central European Spiders](#)

[Jørgen Lissner Spiders of Europe](#)

[Spiders of Britain & Europe, Nick Loven](#)

[Groupe d'etude des Arachnides, Lionel Dabat](#)

[Aranea Norvegiae](#)

[Arachnids, arthropods, reptiles of Europe](#)

[Arachnodata](#)

[Arachnologische gesellschaft e.V.](#)

[Hoehlenspinnen](#)

[Aracnis, European spiders & their kin](#)

[Belgian spider site from Gie Wyckmans](#)

[Opiliones in Belgium from Luc Vanhercke](#)

[French jumping spiders from Yvan Montardi](#)

[British Arachnological Society](#)

[The Families of Spiders Represented in the British Isles](#)

[Russian spiders](#)

#### Australian spiders

[Australasian Arachnological Society](#)

[The Australian spider page from Glenda Crew](#)

[Steve's Australian spider pics](#)

[Brisbane Spiders by Peter Chew](#)

[The Find-a-spider Guide](#)

#### Special sites

[Salticidae of the world by Jerzy Proszynski](#)

[The world spider catalog, Platnick](#)

[Camel spiders or Solifugids](#)

[Tree of life](#)

[Venomous spiders](#)

[Arachnophilia, The wonderful world of spiders](#)

[The spider myth site](#)

[Spider control](#)

[Spider links](#)

[Spinnen in terraria Belgium](#)

[Insects and spiders in Japan](#)

#### Brown recluse

[Brown recluse spider.com](#)

[Brown recluse, univ of California](#)

[Brown Recluse Spider, Ohio state univ](#)

[Recluse spiders, Hobo spider web site](#)

Hobo spider

[Hobospider.com](#)

[Hobo spider web site](#)

#### Black Widow, Red back

[Red back, Queensland museum](#)

[Red back, Australian museum](#)

[Black widow spiders, Desert USA](#)

[Black Widow Spider, Univ of Michigan](#)

[Latrodectus species \(German\)](#)



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Because of their big variety in color, shape and size, it is difficult to determine a spider from a picture. The only secure way is to catch the spider, kill it and have proper books on identification. With several books about spiders, I have tried to give them the right name. If you can correct, E-mail me.

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Ed Nieuwenhuys, 1 september 2007

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**For non-European readers:** I am not very familiar with the spiders living outside Europe. Therefore I may not be a lot of help in identifying the spider you come across. Anyway, have a look at the pictures of the crab spiders and the orb web spiders. There is a 90% chance that the spider you found resembles either of these two.

E-mail: [Click here](#)

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