

## Cat-faced Spider

**Typical Location When Observed:**

Outdoors, usually in the corner of a window or near a porch light. This species attracts attention when it matures in late summer and fall.

**Importance/Damage:** Mostly curiosity. This is a large spider of odd appearance, but is harmless.



Two mature female cat-faced spiders

**Distinguishing Features:** The large, full-grown females are the stage most often seen. They have a bulbous abdomen with a pair of projections on the front. A faint white line runs down the midline of front of the abdomen and it is crossed with small V-shaped markings. Over all coloration is highly variable and ranges from straw-colored to dark grayish brown.

**Look-Alikes:** Other large-bodied orb weaver spiders can be common in yards, gardens, and fields. Most of these are in the genera *Neoscona* or *Araneus* but these lack the distinctive markings and raised humps on the abdomen that characterize the cat-faced spider.

**Resources:** This spider is discussed in Extension Fact Sheet 5.512, *Spiders in the Home*.

**Scientific Name:** *Araneus gemmoides*

**Class:** Arachnida

**Order:** Araneae (Spiders)

**Family:** Araneidae (Orb weaver spiders)

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