

Funnelweaver Spiders

Family Agelenidae

HANDOUT

There are approximately 300 species of funnelweaver spiders occurring in North America north of Mexico. These spiders have eight small eyes grouped in a flattened oval or sideways “D” shaped pattern. The abdomen is elongate with a pair of long spinnerets extending from the posterior end. Spider color ranges from yellowish-tan to brown and the legs are long, fuzzy, and spiny in appearance. Legs end in three claws.

Species in the Genera, *Agelenopsis* and *Agelena* are commonly referred to as grass spiders. These spiders rest inside the tubular corner of their funnel-shaped webs during the day. At dusk, the spiders place themselves on the outer triangular sheet-like portion of the webs. Outdoors, webs may be found close to building foundations on shrubs, ivy, tall grass, decks, and in window wells and recessed vents. While a bite from one of these spiders might feel like a pinprick of bee sting, they are not considered to be of medical importance.



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