

marbled orb-weaver

Araneus marmoreus

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The large, oval abdomen of the marbled orb-weaver spider is yellow above with a brown-to-purple central band. The sides of the abdomen have dark spots. The belly of this spider has a dark central area surrounded by light marks. The eight eyes are arranged in two rows. Female marbled orb-weaver spiders' legs have bright orange color on them. The segments of the male's legs are yellow at the base and dark at the tip. The female is about one-fourth to three-fourths inch in length while the male is about one-fourth inch long.

BEHAVIORS

The marbled orb-weaver spider may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in woods or the edges of woods in trees and shrubs. It hides above its vertical web in a retreat built of leaves held together by silk. The spider holds a signal line that runs to the web. When the line vibrates, the spider knows that something has disturbed the web, possibly a prey item. Adults are active from the middle of summer through the middle of fall. Egg sacs are produced in October.

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge