

pale jumping spider *Thiodina sylvana*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Arachnida

Order: Araneae

Family: Salticidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The pale, or woodland, jumping spider is dark brown with four streaks of white on the sides of the thorax. Its abdomen is yellow-brown and has a pair of narrow white lines that are surrounded by small, black spots. The first two pairs of legs are black, while the second two pairs of legs are lighter in color. The female averages about one-half inch in length, while the male is about three-eighths inch long.

BEHAVIORS

The pale jumping spider may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in shrubs and other undergrowth in forests. This spider builds silken retreats for molting or hibernating, but does not build webs as traps. It hunts by sight, capturing its insect prey with a sudden jump.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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