

red and black jumping spider *Phidippus clarus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Chelicerata

Order: Araneae

Family: Salticidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The female red and black jumping spider is yellow to brown with black and white markings. Black is present in her eye region. Her legs are ringed with bands of light and dark colors. The male is black except on the upper abdomen that has a black band, red stripes on the sides and a white band at the base. The male's legs are dark brown with light bands. The female is about three-eighths inch long while the male is about one-fourth inch long.

BEHAVIORS

The red and black jumping spider may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in tall grasses and shrubby vegetation. Adults are seen from early summer through the first frost. 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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