

reticulated pirate spider *Mimetus notius*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Arachnida

Order: Araneae

Family: Mimetidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The reticulated pirate spider is an eight-eyed spider. It occurs across North America. Females are one-half inch to three-sixteenths inch long. Males are slightly smaller, about one-eighth inch long. The covering (carapace) of the front part of the body is longer than wide and is covered with long curved spines. It is pale yellow with black markings, including four black lines. The lines extend backward from the eyes and converge on a groove in the thorax. The front legs have strong spines that are slightly curved and surrounded by smaller spines. The abdomen is high in front, yellow and mostly covered with black markings. It is armed with long, straight spines. The legs are pale with black spots and bands.

BEHAVIORS

This species is slow-moving, and sometimes can be found on the ground. Pirate spiders hunt on plants, mainly at night. They hide during the day. They feed on other spiders but will also take insects as food.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests, coniferous forests, upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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