

rock weaver spider *Titanoeca brunnea*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Chelicerata

Order: Araneae

Family: Titanoecidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

There are four species of rock weaver spiders in the United States. Their abdomen is usually plain-colored. The body color is generally dark brown.

BEHAVIORS

They build sheet webs, usually under rocks, and tend to occupy dry habitats. These spiders use a cribellum instead of spinnerets to release silk. The cribellum is made of plates, and each plate is covered with thousands of tiny spigot openings.

These openings release silk strands that are very thin and gathered into silk that appears “woolly.” Adults are active from late spring through early fall.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests, coniferous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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