

## Some local spiders

### Redback spiders (*Latrodectus hasselti*)

**Range:** across Australia  
**Habitat:** common in urban areas  
**Description:** female redbacks are black (or sometimes brown) with an obvious orange to red stripe on their abdomen  
**Diet:** mostly insects

**Body Size:** females are 1 cm while males are 3 - 4 mm  
**Web:** tangled, funnel-like shape from which vertical, sticky catching threads run to ground attachments  
**Notes:** redback bites can be serious (see factsheet 5)



Redback spider: photo: John Hodgson

### White-tailed spiders (*Lampona cylindrata* and *Lampona murina*)

**Range:** common in southern Australia  
**Habitat:** common in urban areas  
**Description:** grey, cigar-shaped body and dark orange-brown banded legs. They have a white spot at the tip of their abdomen  
**Diet:** mainly other spiders (e.g. black house spiders, red-backs and daddy-long-legs)

**Body Size:** females grow to 18 mm while males grow to 12 mm  
**Web:** no web for catching prey, they hunt at night  
**Notes:** white-tail bites cause local pain of limited duration (see factsheet 5)



White-tailed spider: photo: John Hodgson

### Huntsman spiders e.g. brown huntsman (*Heteropoda* species)

**Range:** across Australia; 94 described species  
**Habitat:** huntsmen live in crevices and under bark and rocks  
**Description:** large and long-legged; mostly grey to brown, sometimes with banded legs  
**Diet:** invertebrates (mainly insects)

**Body Size:** up to 2 cm; total length (including legs) up to 15 cm  
**Web:** no web for catching prey  
**Notes:** they commonly enter houses and cars. Bites are uncommon, but can cause local pain of limited duration (see factsheet 5)



Huntsman spider: photo: Phillip Roetman

### Garden orb weaving spiders

**Range:** across Australia  
**Habitat:** webs are placed in openings between trees and shrubs where insects are likely to fly  
**Description:** stout, reddish-brown or grey spiders with a leaf-shaped pattern on their fat, roughly triangular abdomens. They sometimes have a white or brown dorsal stripe  
**Diet:** flying insects

**Body Size:** females grow to 3 cm; males grow to 2 cm  
**Web:** suspended, sticky, wheel-shaped orb webs  
**Notes:** generally, the spider constructs its web in the evenings and takes it down again at dawn



Garden orb spider: photo: Phillip Roetman

### Daddy-long-legs

**Range:** across Australia  
**Habitat:** often in and around houses  
**Description:** long, thin legs  
**Diet:** insects and other spiders (particularly redbacks)

**Body Size:** up to 1 cm; total length (including legs) up to 10 cm  
**Web:** irregular  
**Notes:** the species commonly found in houses (*Pholcus phalangioides*) has been introduced to Australia, but there are closely related native spiders (from the genus *Pholcus*)



Daddy-long-legs with eggs: photo: John Hodgson

### Wolf spiders

**Range:** across Australia  
**Habitat:** shrubland and woodlands; often found in urban gardens  
**Description:** mostly drab brown with grey and white patterns  
**Diet:** arthropods

**Size:** body up to 1.5 cm; total length up to 8 cm  
**Web:** no web for catching prey, spiderlings use web for "ballooning"  
**Notes:** mostly wandering hunters, but some build burrows. Females carry spiderlings on their backs



Wolf spider: photo: John Hodgson