

Cave Spider



The term Cave Spiders refers simply to web spiders that prefer to live in caves.

What do cave spiders look like?

The tooth cave spider is very small with legs measuring 1 to 16 mm long. The legs are the biggest part of this spider. The spider's body is hairy. It has a pale white face with primitive eyes and fangs.



How do cave spiders catch their food and what do they eat?

Most spiders crunch their prey with their jaws. Other spiders wrap their prey in silk, to make sure the victim does not bite them. Web weaving spiders wrap the prey in silk and wait until the prey is dissolved before sucking it empty. Crab spiders do not use silk but use a rapid poison.



Spider jaws of a common house spider.



Cave spiders will eat moths, flies, beetles and other insects that get caught in their web.

What are the mating habits of a cave spider?

After mating, the males of some species must be extremely careful. Sometimes the female tries to kill the male for an easy meal. Often the male escapes. The males of some species do not care to live longer and he is eaten without objection. Other species live together happy for a long time after mating. The males of most species do not live long after mating because their goal is reached and the purpose is fulfilled. Females often live longer than males. Some females die after the eggs have hatched and some females are even eaten by the young ones. Others may live on for years. Most females guard their eggs and youngsters. Wolf spiders carry their egg sac at their spinners and carry the young on her back until their first change of skin. Orb weavers often guard their egg sac.



Female spider with egg sac.



A female spider with young hatchlings.



After a few months once the spiderlings can make a web and eat they will leave and go out on their own.

Are cave spiders poisonous?

There are two problems with this idea: "poisonous" and "venomous" are two different things. I can't think of any spider that is poisonous (harmful to eat, breathe or touch). Mushrooms are sometimes poisonous, but spiders are not; they are venomous (their toxins are proteins and work by being injected, not by being eaten).

We have a set of false assumptions about spider venoms. Almost all spiders are venomous; only two small families lack venom glands. The purpose of spider venom is to subdue the spider's prey, almost always insects. In brief, it's an insecticide. Spider venom does not exist to harm creatures, like humans, which are too large for spiders to eat, and in nearly all cases has little if any effect on humans.

A minority of spider species have venom that can cause localized pain in humans, like the venom of bees or wasps, bees and wasps are far more dangerous than spiders.

"If you wish to live and thrive, let the spider run alive."

Spider pictures!

