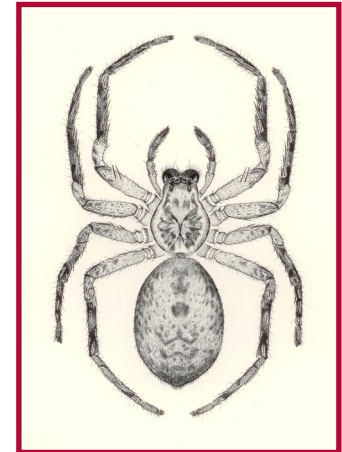




Arachnologists at the California Academy of Sciences are interested in documenting the current distribution and spread of *Zoropsis spinimana* spiders in California. The spider, native to the Mediterranean coastal countries and northern Africa, somehow migrated to Northern California, probably by hiding inside someone's suitcase or inside shipments. Although harmless to humans, this spider is considered invasive, as it competes with local species. With the help of citizen scientists, we can study how the *Zoropsis* spider population is spreading in the Bay Area.



How can you contribute to the project?

If you have an interest in helping with a long-term scientific study to document the presence of this spider, send us a photograph of the species each time you spot it. You can use a simple digital camera, or even the camera from your cell phone, to take a low resolution picture. E-mail the picture together with the attached data sheet to wantedspider@calacademy.org.

If you feel comfortable collecting the spider, send your specimen, along with the attached data sheet, to the Naturalist Center for curation.

>> **Santa Clara County residents:** Please send photographs only.

ATTN: Bay Area's Most Wanted Spider
Naturalist Center
California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118

SHIPPING LIVE SPIDERS: Put the specimen(s) in a non-glass container with a crumpled paper towel, which will give the spider something to hold on to and hide in during its trip to the museum. If you mail the spider, please place the container in a box with sufficient protective packing. You do not have to put holes in the container; there will be enough air for the spider to survive the trip.

SHIPPING DEAD SPIDERS: Before mailing, soak the spider in rubbing alcohol for a day or two to keep the specimen from decomposing during shipping. On the day of mailing, pour off the alcohol before packaging up the spider because it is complicated to mail flammable liquids. If you do wish to send the spider in alcohol, please consult the regulations at your local post office.

Identification Tips

Zoropsis spinimana

Body size is the first thing you will notice about this species. The spider is up to 3/4" in body length, and 1-1/2" to 2" long when legs are included. The spider's coloration is mostly dark brown, peppered with grayish spots on the legs and abdomen. On the dorsal side of the abdomen, there is usually a dark pattern that flares outward two or three times before constricting to a pointed end. *Zoropsis* spiders have eight eyes arranged in two rows of four, which gently curve toward the rear of the body. *Zoropsis* spiders look like wolf spiders but have much smaller eyes.

>> If you would like to try to identify your spider under a microscope, make an appointment with Naturalist Center staff.

Call (415) 379-5494, or e-mail wantedspider@calacademy.org.

Data Sheet



BAY AREA'S MOST WANTED SPIDER

Complete the following information. Be thorough!

Number of spiders photographed: _____

Date photographed: _____

Number of spiders collected: _____

Date collected: _____

Collector Information

Full Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Email addresses will not be sold to a third party.

Mail your photo, data sheet, and/or specimen to:

ATTN: Bay Area's Most Wanted Spider
Naturalist Center
California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118

Or, send by email to:

wantedspider@calacademy.org

Collection Locality Information

Type of location: _____

(e.g., Jefferson Elementary School; Skyline Regional Park; private residence)

Habitat: _____

(e.g., on wall; on window; outside)

Street address: _____

Nearest cross street: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip code (if known): _____

Specimen Information (optional)

Common name: _____

Scientific name: _____

Other comments (e.g., GPS coordinates): _____

Thank you for participating in citizen science!

