



[Home](#) / [Discover & Learn](#) / [Animal factsheets](#) / [Spiders](#) /

Comb-footed Platform Spider, Achaearanea

Comb-footed Platform Spider

Scientific name: *Achaearanea mundula*

Author(s)

Dr Mike Gray



Comb-footed Platform Spider, *Achaearanea mundula* Image: Mike Gray



© Australian Museum



Fast Facts



Classification

Species	<i>mundula</i>
Genus	<i>Achaearanea</i>
Family	Theridiidae
Order	Araneae
Class	Arachnida
Phylum	Arthropoda
Kingdom	Animalia



Size Range

5 mm - 8 mm



Habitats

woodland



Life history mode

arboreal



Feeding Habits

arthropod-feeder, carnivorous, insectivorous

Introduction

The Comb-footed Platform Spider is named both for the comb-like structure of its feet and its platform web.

Identification

The Comb-footed Platform Spider has a striking patchwork colour pattern, but is best recognised by its moderately large, distinctive web with a leaf detritus retreat.

Habitat

The Comb-footed Platform Spider is common in bushland and gardens in eastern Australia.

Distribution



Feeding and diet

When insects fly into the 'knockdown' network of threads of the Comb-footed Platform Spider's retreat, they fall through onto a silk sheet where they are seized by the spider.

Other behaviours and adaptations

The Comb-footed Platform Spider is not as specialised a retreat builder as the leaf-curling orb weavers; however a curled leaf may be used, or some leaf detritus may be loosely silked together. The retreat is placed in the centre of a network of threads spun above a horizontal, close-meshed silk sheet. These webs are usually built among understorey shrubs and low trees and are often seen in overgrown gardens.

Breeding behaviours

The egg sacs are placed inside the Comb-footed Platform Spiders' silk retreat.

Predators

The complex webs of the Comb-footed Platform Spider harbour a range of other animals, from small moth larvae that scavenge along the silk lines to spiders that find prey in the outer parts of the web. Some of these are small prey stealers of the genus *Argyrodes*. However, they include one species that is a specialist predator on *A. mundula*. *Argyrodes incurtus* is a small, jet black spider with a single red spot on its abdomen. Somehow, the smaller spider kills the larger *A. mundula* and eats it, finally making its own egg sac within the dead host's retreat.

Copyright © 2019 The Australian Museum
ABN 85 407 224 698

The Australian Museum is a New South Wales Government funded cultural institution.

