

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

# Garden Wolf Spider

**Scientific name:** *Lycosa godeffroyi*



- Image: Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness  
creative commons



## Fast Facts



## Classification

Species *godeffroyi*  
Genus *Lycosa*  
Family Lycosidae

Order	Araneae
Class	Arachnida
Phylum	Arthropoda
Kingdom	Animalia

**Size Range**

1.5 cm - 2.2 cm

**Habitats**

woodland

**Life history mode**

terrestrial

**Feeding Habits**

arthropod-feeder, carnivorous, insectivorous, predator

## Introduction

Wolf spiders are robust, agile, fast-moving ground hunters that chase down or ambush prey.

## Identification

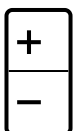
The Garden Wolf Spider is large and strongly patterned in grey, brown and white with a black underside. They have large eyes with which they locate their prey. Their characteristic eye formation is four large eyes arranged in a square on top of the head with four smaller eyes in a row at the front.

## Habitat

Garden Wolf Spiders prefer urban areas, forests and woodlands and heath.

## Distribution

Garden Wolf Spiders are found throughout southern Australia.



---

## Other behaviours and adaptations

Most live in leaf litter or in burrows in fairly open ground. Its open burrows are often seen in Sydney gardens. The best time to see wolf spiders is at night when they are searching for prey. Use a torch to spot the greenish yellow reflection from their large eyes.

## Life history cycle

Female wolf spiders carry their egg sac behind them, attached to the spinnerets (silk-spinning organs) on the abdomen. When the eggs hatch, the spiderlings hitch a ride on the mother's back, clinging onto special knobbed hairs.

## Danger to humans

Not known to be dangerous.

Copyright © 2019 The Australian Museum  
ABN 85 407 224 698

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

