

Latin name : Araneus diadematus

Size : 4 to 11 mm for males

Size : 10 to 22 mm for females

Lifespan : 1 year

Garden cross spider

The garden cross spider is one of the most common varieties of spider. The diadem spider can be recognised by the cross on its abdomen. A 40cm web requires 20 metres of thread. Small droplets of a substance similar to glue are deposited on the web. These droplets are charged with static electricity and allow the web to move spontaneously (up to 2mm) towards the prey (positively charged by friction with the air).



Many females do not lay all their eggs at once, but spread their clutches over several days. Some species wait for the eggs from the first clutch to hatch before laying the second. In this way, they are able to look after all their eggs. Baby spiders are born in groups of 150 to 300 eggs, and sometimes more than 1,000! But of all these eggs, only 1 in 100 survive to adulthood. The mother watches over and protects her eggs until they hatch. Some species prefer to carry the cocoon on their body to prevent other animals from attacking them. All eggs from the same clutch hatch at the same time. For the first few days or weeks, the babies stay together and when they know how to hunt, they disperse into the wind.