

# Calisoga Spider



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Class	Order	Family	Species
Arachnida	Araneae	Nemesiidae (formerly Dipluridae)	<i>Calisoga longitarsus</i>

## Range

California and Nevada

## Habitat

Chaparral, grassland scrub

## Niche

Common throughout the inner coastal range of northern California. A burrow is constructed and the upper fourth is lined with silk which spreads out from the burrow's mouth.

## Diet

**Nature:** Predators of any arthropod small enough for them to handle  
**Captivity:** 1 cricket per week

## Reproduction

**Growth:** gradual, molts several times  
**Egg:** many eggs are encased in an egg sac made of silk  
**Adults:** males become sexually mature after their last molt and die after one mating season. The females live longer than the males and continue to molt about once a year after becoming sexually mature.  
**Behavior:** mating season is in the fall and this is the times when these spiders are most likely to be found wandering about.  
**Life Span:** several years

## Physical Characteristics

**Mouthparts:** chelicerate, fangs are perpendicular to the body line. A duct from a poison gland opens from the base of each fang. The mouth and jaws are on the underside of the head area (cephalothorax).  
**Pedipalps:** the first pair of appendages, leg like in appearance but shorter  
**Legs:** 4 pairs, hairy  
**Spinnerets:** a pair of these silk producing structures are located at the tip of the abdomen  
**Color:** grayish brown  
**Body:** short hairs covering body, length of female is 25-46mm, the male is approximately 15mm

Mature males can be differentiated from females due to the presence of a hook on each of their first pair of legs.

## Special Adaptations

**These spiders are not poisonous to humans** although they will bite if molested. Calisoga spiders are about the same size as the local California Tarantula (family: *Theraphosidae*; species: *Aphonopelma eutylenum*) but they are in a different family of spiders. It is possible to tell them apart by the color (Calisoga spiders are more grayish brown), the shorter hairs and more aggressive behavior of the Calisoga spider.

## Sources

(23)

