

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska--Lincoln

Common Name: Woodlouse Hunter

Scientific Name: *Dysdera crocata*

Order and Family: Araneae: Lycosidae

Size and Appearance: The Woodlouse Hunter is common throughout the United States. It is roughly 15 mm in length, with the males being a slightly smaller 10 mm. Its appearance makes it easy to identify as the cephalothorax and legs are a bright orange whereas the abdomen is white. They also have 6 distinctive eyes arranged in an oval shape on the head.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.01 mm	Females keep egg sac with them in a protected silk-lined hideaway. She produces roughly 70 eggs at a time and the spiderlings remain with her when hatched.
Larva/Nymph	1-15 mm depending on molt and sex	Spiderlings resemble the adults.
Adult	Females: 13-15 mm Males: 8-10 mm	Females larger than males. Red body color except for abdomen, which is bright white. Six eyes arranged in an oval on the head region.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s or Prey: *D. crocata* feeds on woodlice and other small invertebrates.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Woodlouse hunters do not do any real damage to homes or plants but they are considered medically important. Bites from the spider can cause dermatitis and most individuals experience intense itching that dissipates over time.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Woodlouse Hunter. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.10.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (March 2002). Woodlouse-hunter. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 4th, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/woodlouse-hunter>