

# Wolf Spider (*Hogna aspersa*)



**Diet:** Wolf spiders eat insects and other invertebrates, and really large females might eat very small vertebrates, like amphibians and reptiles.

**Habitat:** Wolf spiders are found all around the world, and about 2,300 species are known. They are most common in open habitats like grasslands, and are often found in farm fields and meadows. Some wolf spiders hunt along the shores of ponds and marshes, and may even dive into the water to capture prey.

**Predators:** Wandering wolf spiders rely on speed and camouflage to escape predators. They have good vision and are very sensitive to ground vibrations which help to detect predators. Some species hide in tunnels in the ground. Wolf spiders will bite to defend themselves if necessary. Predators include other spiders, wasps, birds, small reptiles, toads and other amphibians, and shrews.

**Behavior:** Wolf spiders are solitary creatures that roam alone in the night, stalking prey. They are mostly nocturnal and often are mistaken for tarantulas. Wolf spiders will inject venom if continually provoked. Symptoms of their venomous bite include swelling, mild pain and itching.

**Lifespan:** Males live less than a year and females live 2-3 years.

**Growth and Development:** The female wolf spider carries her egg sac in a unique way: She attaches it to her spinnerets at the bottom rear of her abdomen. Later, she carries her babies on her back.

**Endangered Status:** Some other species of wolf spider are of least concern or decreasing, but this particular species is data deficient.

**Fun Fact:** Often mistaken for Hobo spiders, both can be distinguished by eye arrangement. From top to bottom; Wolf 2:2:4 and Hobo 2:6.