



## BUTTERFLY PAVILION

### Ogre Face Spider (Deinopis sp.)



**Country:** United States, Venezuela and St. Vincent

**Habitat:** Found in various regions around the world, including tropical and subtropical areas.

**Diet:** Ogre-faced spiders primarily feed on a variety of insects, including moths, flies, and other small arthropods.

**Predators:** Birds, Other Spiders, and Predatory Insects

**Behavior:** These spiders are nocturnal hunters that rely on silk draglines and a unique capture strategy. They build a small, horizontal web between their front legs, forming a net-like structure. At night, they dangle upside-down from vegetation or other elevated surfaces, holding their web with their front legs. The spider then waits for an insect to come close, and when the prey is within range, the spider rapidly lunges forward, using its long, stretchable legs to envelop the prey in the net.

**Lifespan:** Several months to a year or more, Females generally live longer than males.

**Growth and Development:** After becoming adults, male and female ogre-faced spiders engage in mating rituals. This involves courtship behaviors, silk production, and copulation. In some cases, the female may cannibalize the male after mating.

**IUCN Endangered Status:** The status of this species is undocumented.

**Fun Fact:** Ogre-faced spiders have exceptionally large and forward-facing eyes compared to most other spider species. These eyes are adapted for low-light conditions and are highly sensitive to movement. The most prominent pair of eyes, known as the anterior median eyes or "night eyes," are specialized for capturing prey during nighttime or in dim light.



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