



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Cellar Spider (*Pholcus phalangioides*)



Country: Native to North America

Habitat: This species is found on every continent except Antarctica. Most commonly found in human habituated areas where they can create webs in dark damp recesses like caves or attics.

Diet: This species of spider will often raid other spider webs to eat the host, eggs or their meal. Most common spiders they eat include redbacks, huntsman and house spiders.

Predators: Larger spiders, birds and rodents.

Behavior: This spider will trap their prey in silk as fast as they can before injecting venom. This spider is in the araneomorph family alongside orb weaving spiders due to its chelicerae point diagonally forward in a crisscross pattern. When threatened, this spider will vibrate in a gyrating motion in their web. It is believed that this spider does it to make it hard for predators to catch them.

Growth and Development: The female will cover the eggs in a silk casing where the spiderlings will eventually hatch looking like small adults. The spiderlings will molt their exoskeleton as they grow throughout this time until they reach maturity, where they will molt much less frequently.

Lifespan: These spiders reach maturity around one year and will live another two years.

IUCN Endangered Status: List status or “The status of this species is undocumented.”

Fun Fact: Commonly called the “daddy long legs”, which is confused with the Harvestmen spiders.