

## Jumping Spiders

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The jumping spiders, from the family Salticidae, are quite distinctive spiders. They normally display a short and stout posture, as well as bright colors. Some even show stripes like zebras. Jumping spiders also have a large cephalothorax. On the wide front, the eyes have a peculiar arrangement of 4 pairs. Thus, they hold the distinction of having the keenest vision in the spider world. They are hunting spiders that stalk their prey, including insects and even other spiders. As they approach their prey, they jump suddenly and quickly. Not only do they jump considerable distances but they can walk backwards and sideways as well as forward. They are usually found in open places on tops of low plants, cement walls, and decks. Jumping spiders make no cobwebs, but some make silken tubes in which to molt, lay eggs, or overwinter. Most of the smaller species are probably harmless. Some of the larger species (e.g. *Phidippus* sp., up to ½ inch or more), however, can be quite aggressive with little provocation.

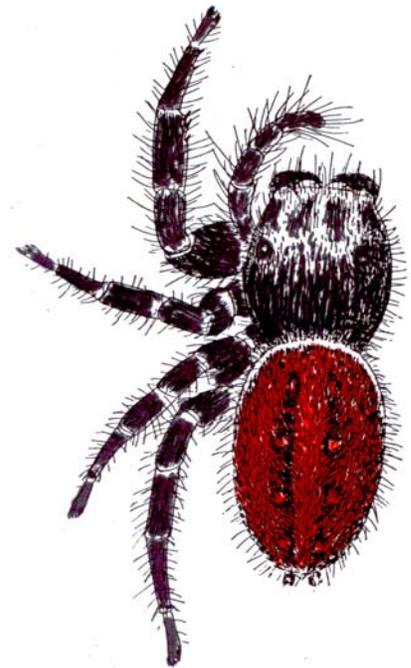


Fig 1. A jumping spider (6X)

### References

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Kaston, B.J. 1972. *How to Know the Spiders*. The Picture Key Nature Series. 272 pp.