COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Brown Widow Spider *(Latrodectus geometricus)*

Other common names: Brown button spider, Gray widow, Geometric button spider.
Distribution: Worldwide in tropical and subtropical regions. In the U.S.: from Florida to Texas and in California.
Ecology and medical importance: The webs can be located under and between log piles, stones, outdoor furniture, decks and potted plants. Brown widows may also inhabit different structures. *L. geometricus* has a bite which is venomous to humans, but it is quite shy spider and only bites when seriously provoked.
Field ID: Female has brown cephalothorax and tan to light brown legs with dark brown bands. The abdomen is highly variable in color. Dorsal part of the abdomen may display white, black and orange markings of various shapes. Hourglass pattern on the underside of the abdomen ranges from yellowish-orange to reddish-orange color. **Male** is smaller and has narrower abdomen.
Egg sacs of this species are very distinctive and easy to identify. They are tan, spherical and are covered with numerous pointed projections (spikes).

Adult female

Photo by G. Arakelian

Abdomen (dorsal view)

Ventral view of the body

Egg sacs

Prepared by Dr. Gevork Arakelian, Senior Biologist, Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
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