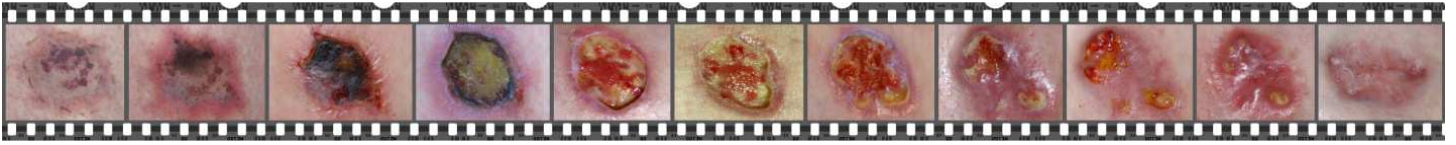


BRDWN RECLUSE SPIDER

Most spiders don't bite humans! With a few exceptions, spider venoms aren't harmful to humans. It has been reported that relatively few people—only 5% (or five of every 100 people) react seriously to brown recluse bites. For people who don't experience a severe reaction, a bite area may resemble a "pimple" four to six hours later, and then disappear.

Below is an example of a brown recluse spider bite reaction, Day 7 to Day 127, with photos taken one to two weeks apart:



Recognition:

The brown recluse, commonly referred to as a "fiddleback" spider, is soft bodied, secretive and light tan to dark brown. An "adult" is about ½" in length with long delicate legs. The spider has three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the forepart of the head, with an "upside down" violin-shaped dark marking immediately behind the semicircle of eyes; the neck of the violin points towards the bulbous abdomen.



Male Brown Recluse

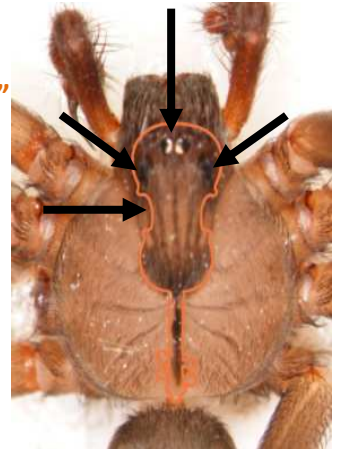


Female Brown Recluse

Identifying "fiddleback" markings

Violin or fiddle shape illustrated by outline

Three pairs of eyes



Other spiders often confused with "fiddlebacks"



Grass spider



Wolf Spider



Cellar Spider—has a similar fiddle back pattern with longer, more delicate legs than a brown recluse.



Habitat

The brown recluse:

- Is most active at night
- Rests in quiet, undisturbed places during the day

• **Indoors:** often found in old clothes, shoes, behind pictures, in storage boxes, stacks of paper, underside of tables & chairs, behind baseboards, and in corners or crevices; also in attics and crawlspaces

• The presence of "shed skins" in and around the home may indicate an infestation.

• **Outdoors:** under rocks and bark, in barns, storage sheds, cellars/basements, garages, and in crawl space under houses.

Prevention

Frequent cleaning of closets, cellars etc. helps keep spiders away. Screening, weather stripping and caulking to seal buildings prevents spider entry; also, washing under roof eaves with a water hose helps.

Control

Brown recluse spiders can be extremely difficult to control! Use "sticky traps" to help control spiders and to know when you need to treat a home or building. If "fiddlebacks" are commonly seen, it is best to employ a pest control firm to make thorough treatment to all areas. Control often requires more than one treatment. Reducing "clutter" to eliminate sites for spiders to dwell is also recommended.

First Aid

To relieve local swelling and pain, apply an ice pack or alcohol directly to the spider bite area. If bite reaction is severe, or known to be from a brown recluse or black widow spider, contact a physician immediately. If possible, take along the biting spider in a sealed clear container, for positive identification. Locate county OSU Extension Offices for assistance with spider identification, at:

<http://countyext2.okstate.edu>



Bringing the University to You!