

SPIDERS

There are approximately 1,000 different species of spiders in Germany and Europe. **There are NO spider species in Germany that have venom strong enough to harm humans.** If you are bitten by a spider, be sure to clean the area to prevent infection.

Spiders rid our homes and environment of nuisance insects, including mosquitos, flies and even other spiders. If you do not want to share your living space with spiders, simply take them outside to a green space.

Here are the most common species of spiders in Bavaria:



Giant House Spider
Credit: Sebastian Fiedler

Giant House Spider or “Winkelspinne”

Eratigena atrica

This spider is found in caves, dry forest and buildings. They are dark and light brown, with a series of three light spots along each side of the body, and their leg span is approximately 2 inches long. The house spider’s web has a funnel at one end, from where they hide to leap out at their insect pray as they get trapped in the web. While their bites can be painful, their fangs rarely penetrate human skin.



Cellar Spider
Credit: Olaf Leillinger

Cellar Spider or “Zitterspinnen”

Pholcus phalangioides

Otherwise known as the “skull spider” due to the human skull shape on their abdomen, this spider is found on ceilings of rooms, caves, garages or cellars. They are dark and light brown in color, and have long, spindly legs. The cellar spider’s body is approximately 9 mm long, with the legs ranging from 5-6 times the length of their body. Their fangs are very tiny and unable to penetrate human skin, and they have a very weak venom.



For more information, please contact USAG Bavaria, Directorate of Public Works (DPW)
Environmental Division, DSN 475-8222 (CIV 09641-83-8222)

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Garden Spider
Credit: Andre Karwath

Garden Spider or “Gartenkreuzspinne”

Araneus diadematus

The garden spider is also dubbed the “cross spider”, as the white and yellow markings on its abdomen often take the form of a cross. On average, these tiny spiders range from 5-10 mm, and they are often found on spider webs built on trees, bushes and flower beds. If threatened, the garden spider will bounce up and down on its web to appear larger and tougher; more often than not, they will drop to the ground and take cover after such a display. As their mouthparts are so small, their fangs rarely penetrate human skin and they are non-venomous.



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