Simplified Key to Families of Common California Spiders

[Prepared by P. J. Marer, after B. J. Kaston How to Know The Spiders]

I. with a cribellum in front of the spinnerets and a calamistrum on metatarsus IV

**CRIBELLATE SPIDERS:**

A. anal tubercle large and prominent, two-segmented with a fringe of long hairs

![Oecobiidae - sheet webs](image)

B. anal tubercle of the usual type, without a conspicuous fringe of hairs; chelicerae fused together at the base, and each provided distally with a lamella drawn out to a tooth

![Filistatidae - funnel web spiders](image)
b. six eyes, in three diads

Loxoscelidae - brown recluse spider

B. chelicerae not fused
1. tarsi with two claws, with or without claw tufts
   a. eyes in three or four rows

   (1). eyes in three rows, the first row has four eyes on a more or less vertical face, the medians much the largest; the second row of two very small, often minute, eyes; the third row of two medium sized eyes

Salticidae - jumping spiders
(i). colulus absent

Sparassidae - giant crab spiders

(ii). colulus present

Thomisidae - crab spiders [flower spiders]

(b). all legs of the usual prograde type

(i). anterior spinnerets contiguous or almost so, and not more heavily sclerotized than the posterior. Eyes homogenous or almost so

Clubionidae - 2-clawed hunting spiders - tubular retreat in leaves/stones/litter
(a). tarsus IV (for at least one-sixth of its length from the distal end) with a ventral row of 6 to 10 curved serrated bristles forming a comb (spiders hanging in an inverted position in irregular webs)

(b). tarsus IV without such a comb

(i). tarsi with a single row of trichobothria, which increase in length toward the distal end (spider living in funnel webs over which they run in an upright position)

(ii). tarsi with trichobothria numerous, but irregularly distributed; posterior row of eyes so strongly recurved that it may be considered to form two rows

Theridiidae - cobweb spiders; black widow

Agelenidae - funnel web spiders; grass spiders

Lycosidae - wolf spiders
(b). clypeus usually as high as, or more commonly higher than, height of median ocular area; eyes heterogeneous; most do not weave orb webs

*Linyphiidae* - irregular snare, usually with platform or dome
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spider</th>
<th>Insect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body regions</strong></td>
<td>two</td>
<td>three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antennae</strong></td>
<td>lacking</td>
<td>one pair</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legs</strong></td>
<td>four pairs</td>
<td>three pairs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pedipalps</strong></td>
<td>one pair of six segments; modified in male for sperm transfer</td>
<td>absent</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Poison apparatus</strong></td>
<td>opening on fangs of chelicerae</td>
<td>if present, usually opening at posterior end of abdomen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wings</strong></td>
<td>always lacking</td>
<td>most commonly present</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eyes</strong></td>
<td>always simple ocelli; most commonly 8, or 6</td>
<td>commonly compound; sometimes with 2 or 3 ocelli in addition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Silk apparatus</strong></td>
<td>always present, opening at hind end of abdomen below anus</td>
<td>only in some larvae and opening on lower lip</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Genital pore</strong></td>
<td>on ventral side near anterior end of abdomen</td>
<td>terminal, just below anus at posterior end of abdomen</td>
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<td><strong>Food digestion</strong></td>
<td>always occurs before swallowing, by regurgitation of enzymes</td>
<td>usually takes place after swallowing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Development</strong></td>
<td>direct; no larval stages; spiderlings resemble their parents</td>
<td>may have a metamorphosis with larval and pupal stages, or with nymphs</td>
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