

COLORING WITH SPIDERS: our favorites from Florida

Illustrated by Samm Wehman Epstein
with text by Lisa Taylor



COLORING WITH
SPIDERS:
Our favorites from Florida

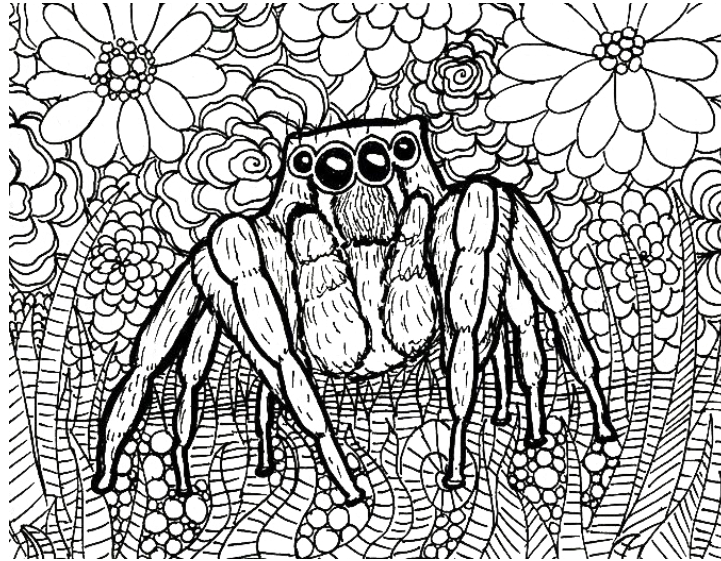
Illustrated by Samm Wehman Epstein
with text by Lisa Taylor

About this coloring book:

Our goal with this coloring book is simple: to spread the love of spiders.

Help us by sending your friends to www.coloringwithspiders.org to download a free PDF of this (and other) spider coloring books.

This version of the coloring book has text that highlights some interesting aspects of spider biology. If you would like a text-free version with only the illustrations, you can download it from www.coloringwithspiders.org.



About the creators:

Samm Wehman Epstein (sammwehman@gmail.com) is a research technician at the Florida Museum of Natural History and a lab manager in the Taylor Lab in the Entomology and Nematology Department at the University of Florida. She is also an artist and paints custom pet portraits and animal artwork in her free time. Other hobbies include cooking delicious vegan food, volunteering at her local animal shelter, and hanging out with her rescue dogs.

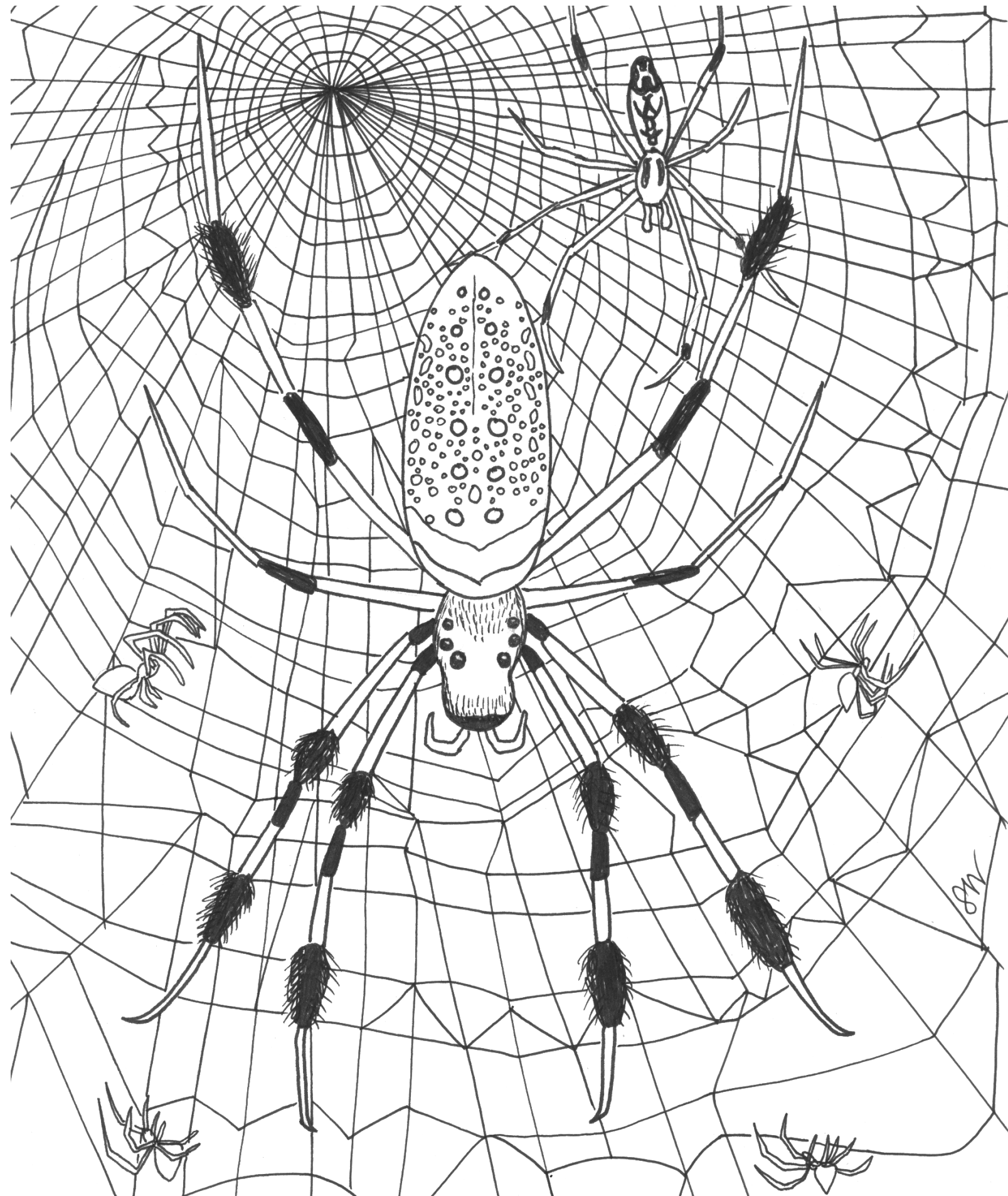
Lisa Taylor (lisa.taylor@ufl.edu) is a behavioral ecologist driven by a fascination with biodiversity. She is a faculty member in the Entomology and Nematology Department at the University of Florida. One goal of her work is to understand the extravagant and brilliantly colored displays that animals such as jumping spiders use to attract, impress, and deceive each other (see more here: spiderpalooza.wordpress.com). One of her recent missions is to combat arachnophobia by showing people how fascinating and beautiful spiders can be.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/). This means that anyone is free to download and distribute it with attribution as long as you don't modify it, or use it for commercial purposes.



This work was supported in part by the National Science Foundation and the Entomology and Nematology Department at the University of Florida.

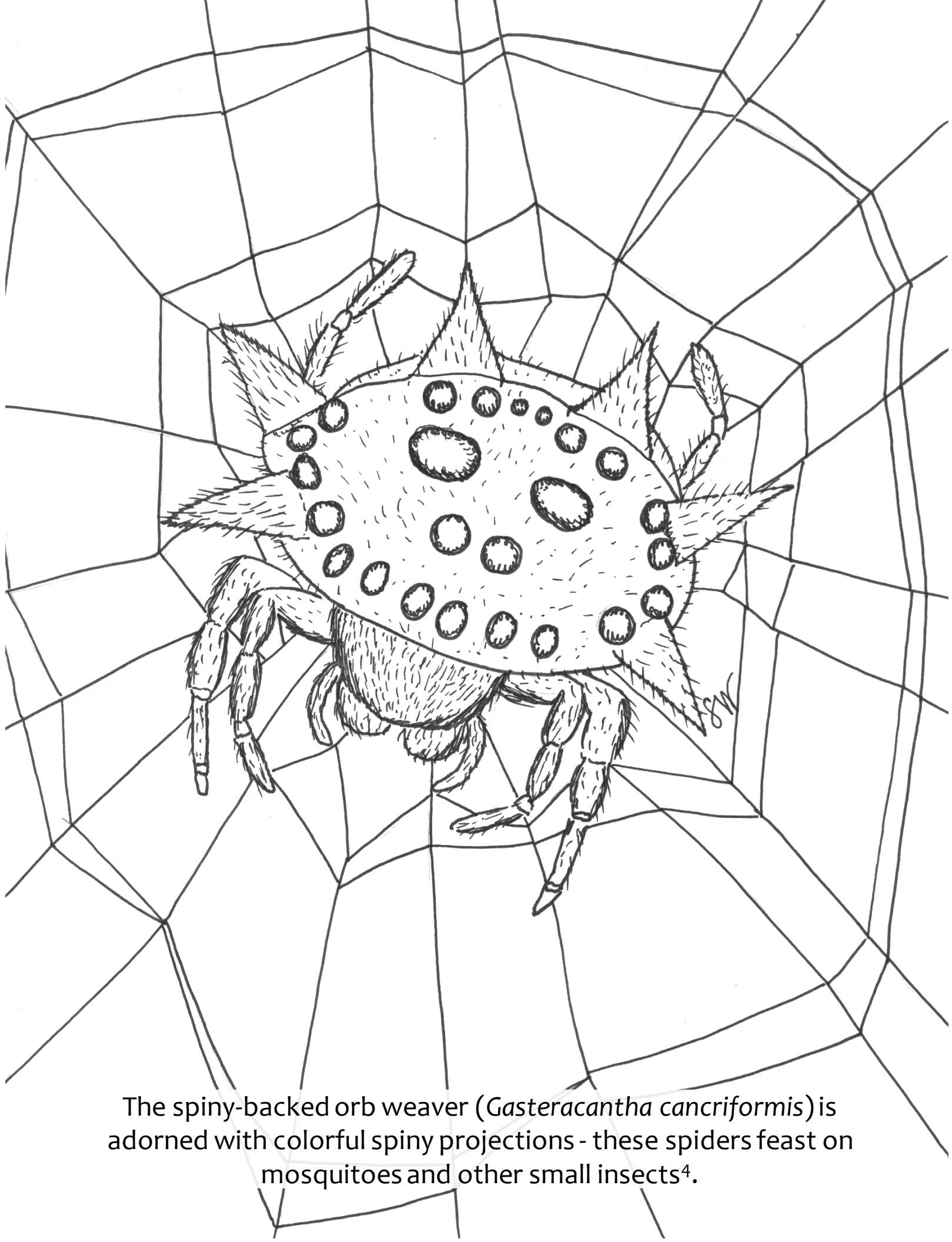




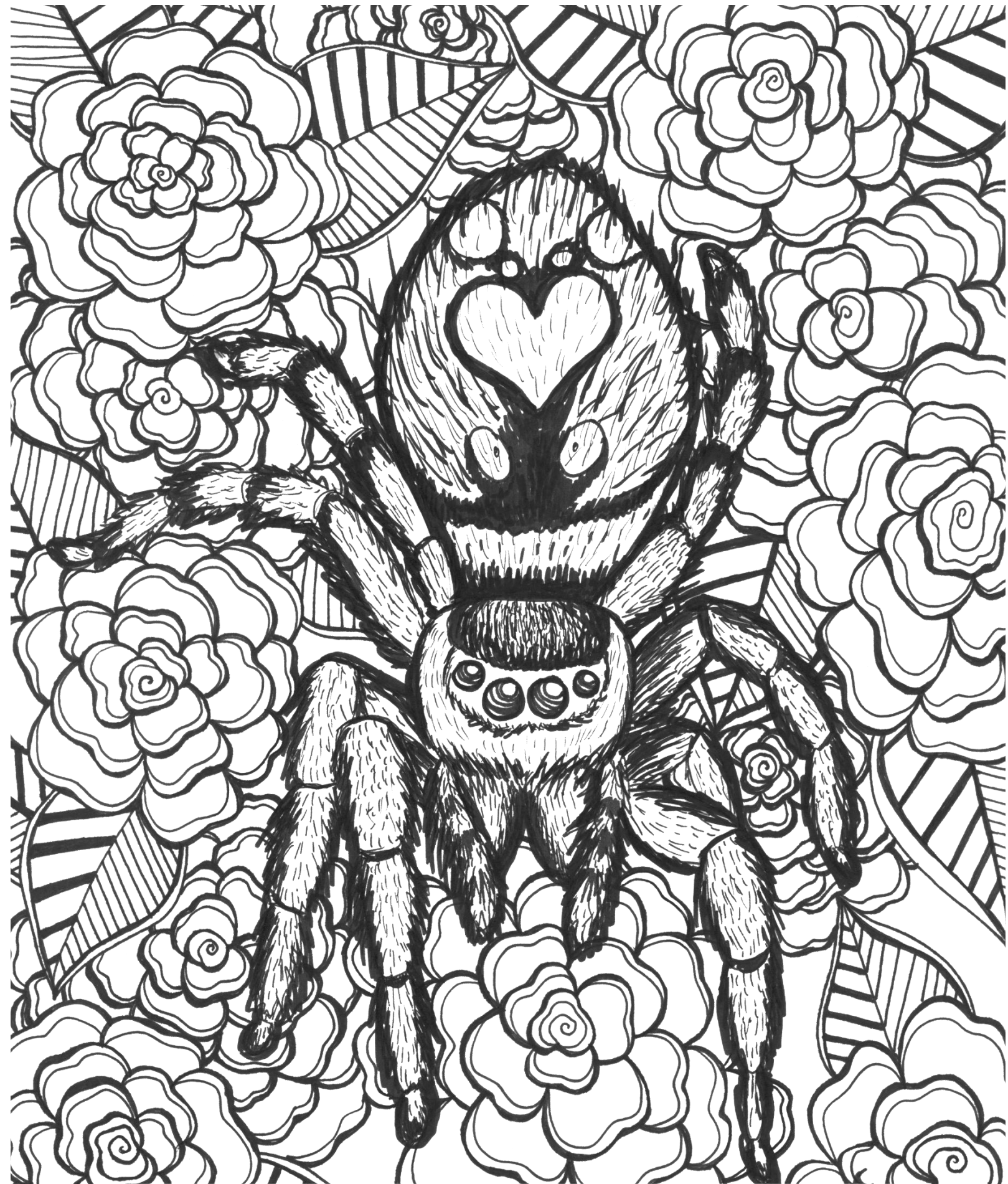
The female golden silk orb weaver (*Nephila clavipes*) often has smaller spiders lurking in her web with her, including tiny males (a fraction of her size)¹ and kleptoparasitic *Argyrodes* that nibble on left-behind prey².



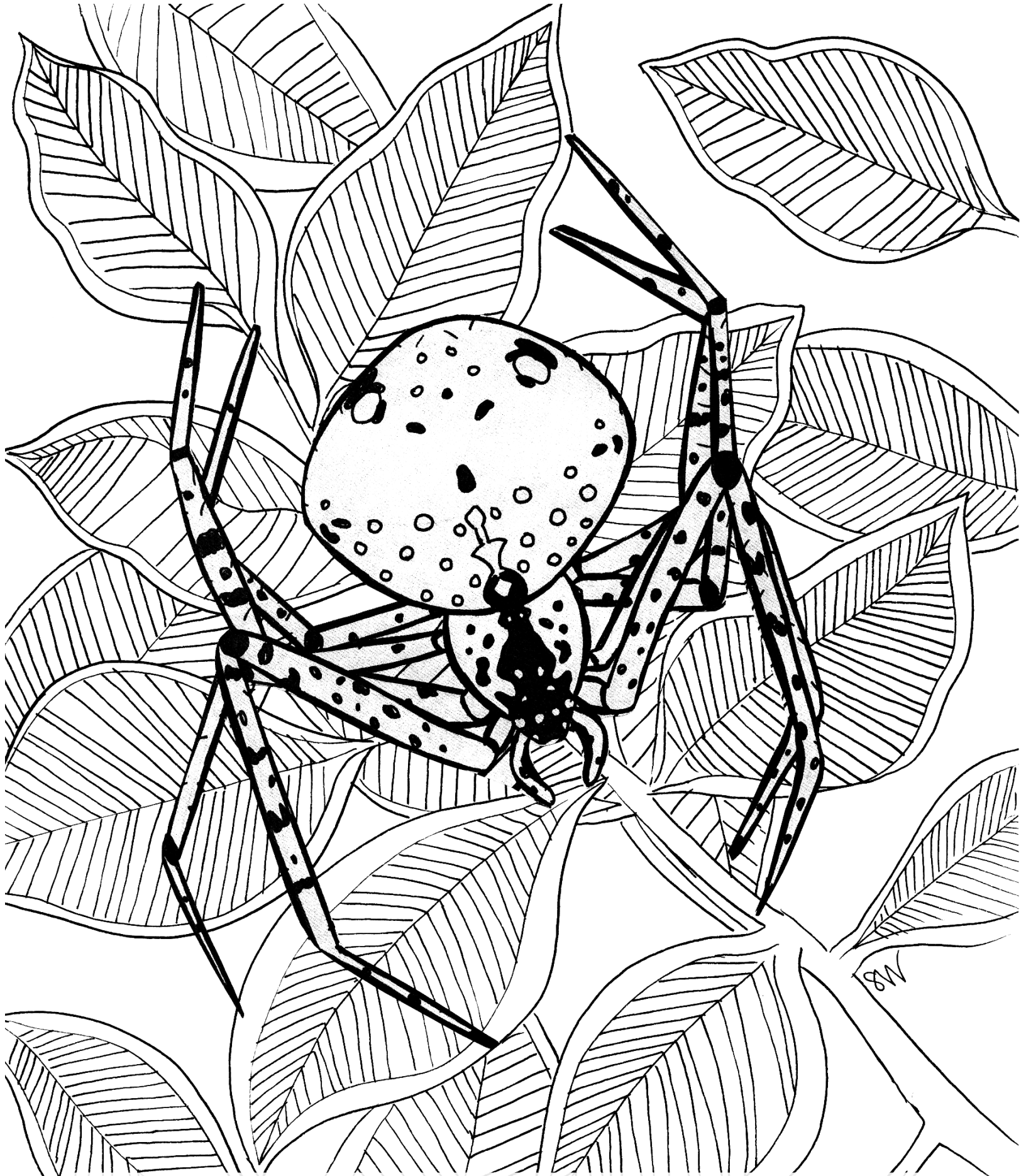
Male *Habronattus* jumping spiders are known for their elaborate courtship dances that combine color, motion, and substrate-borne vibrations, all to impress females³.



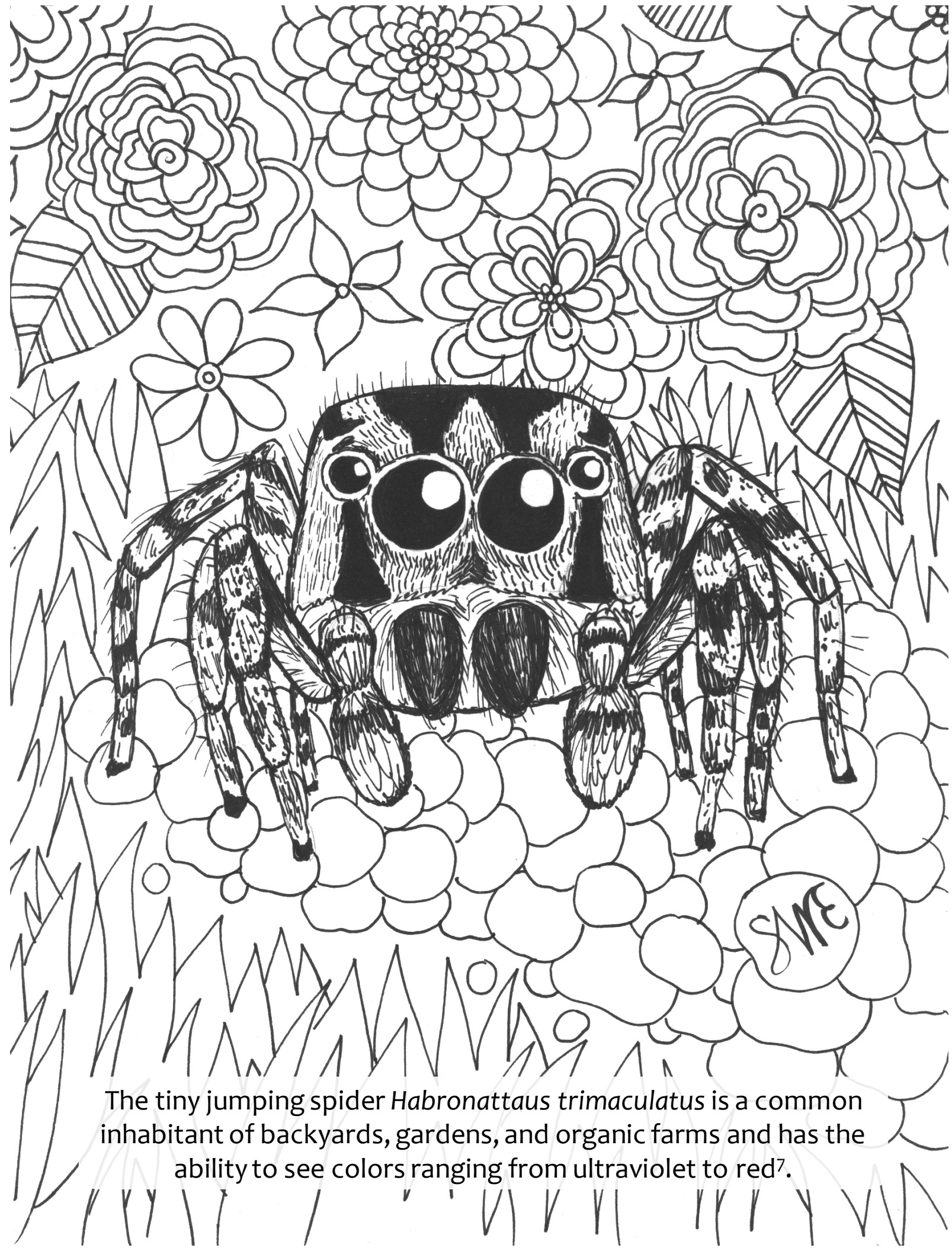
The spiny-backed orb weaver (*Gasteracantha cancriformis*) is adorned with colorful spiny projections - these spiders feast on mosquitoes and other small insects⁴.



Despite the cute face, *Phidippus regius* is a voracious and catlike predator that can take down prey much larger than itself, including small frogs and lizards⁵.



Pirate spiders (Mimetidae) creep into the webs of other spiders and pluck on their silk lines. When the resident spider comes out to investigate, the pirate launches a surprise attack and eats them⁶.

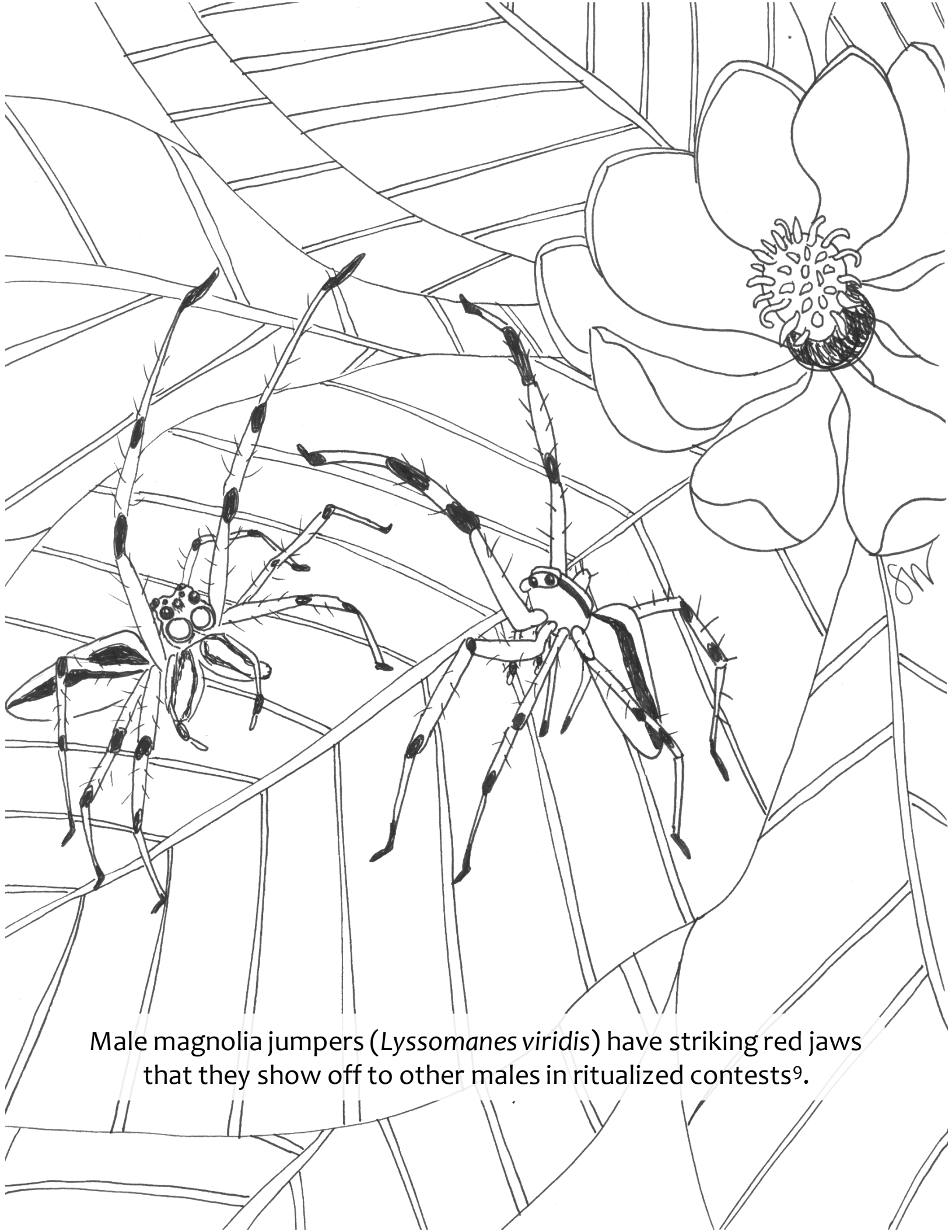


The tiny jumping spider *Habronattus trimaculatus* is a common inhabitant of backyards, gardens, and organic farms and has the ability to see colors ranging from ultraviolet to red⁷.

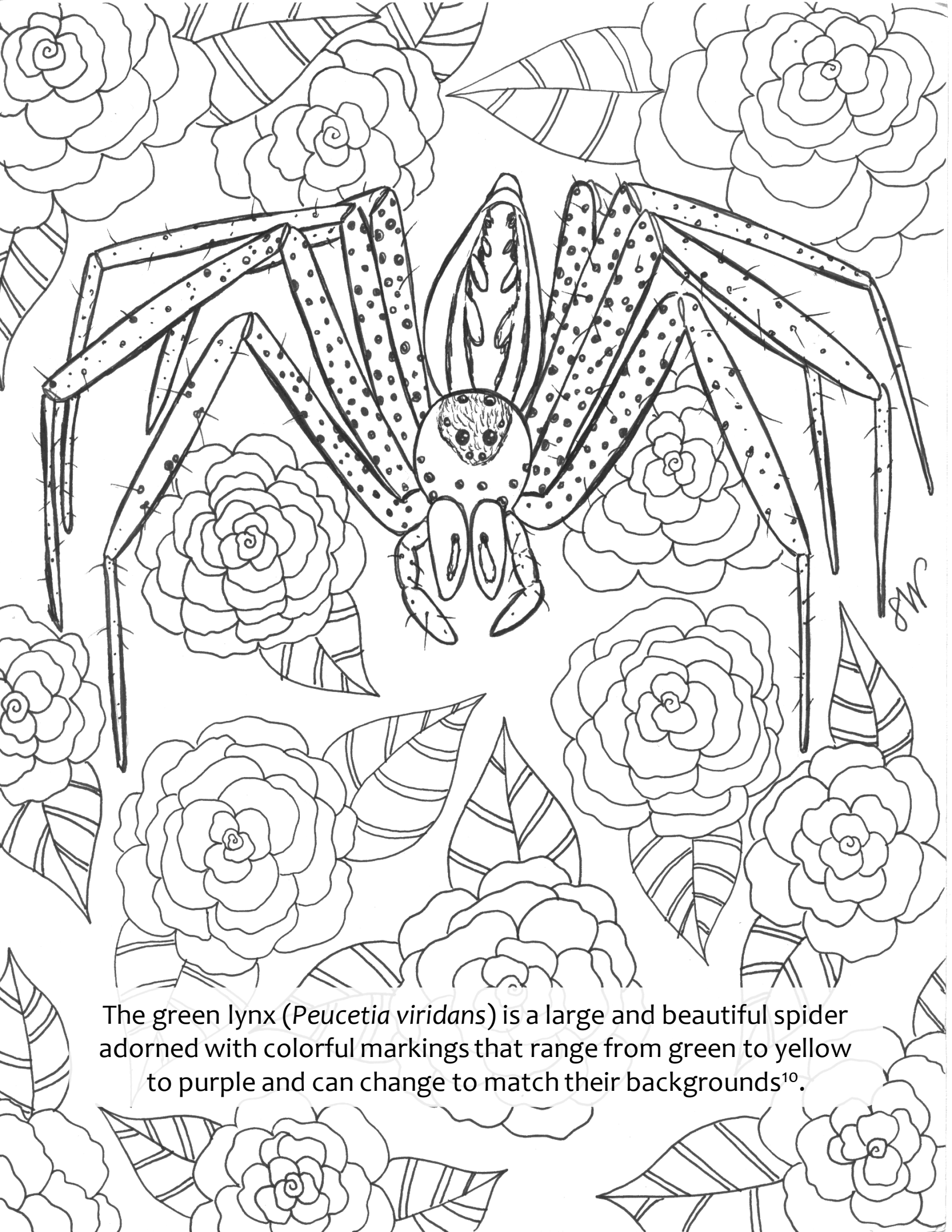


Wolf spiders (Lycosidae) make great moms. When their eggs hatch, they carry their spiderlings on their back until they are big enough to fend for themselves⁸.

WNC



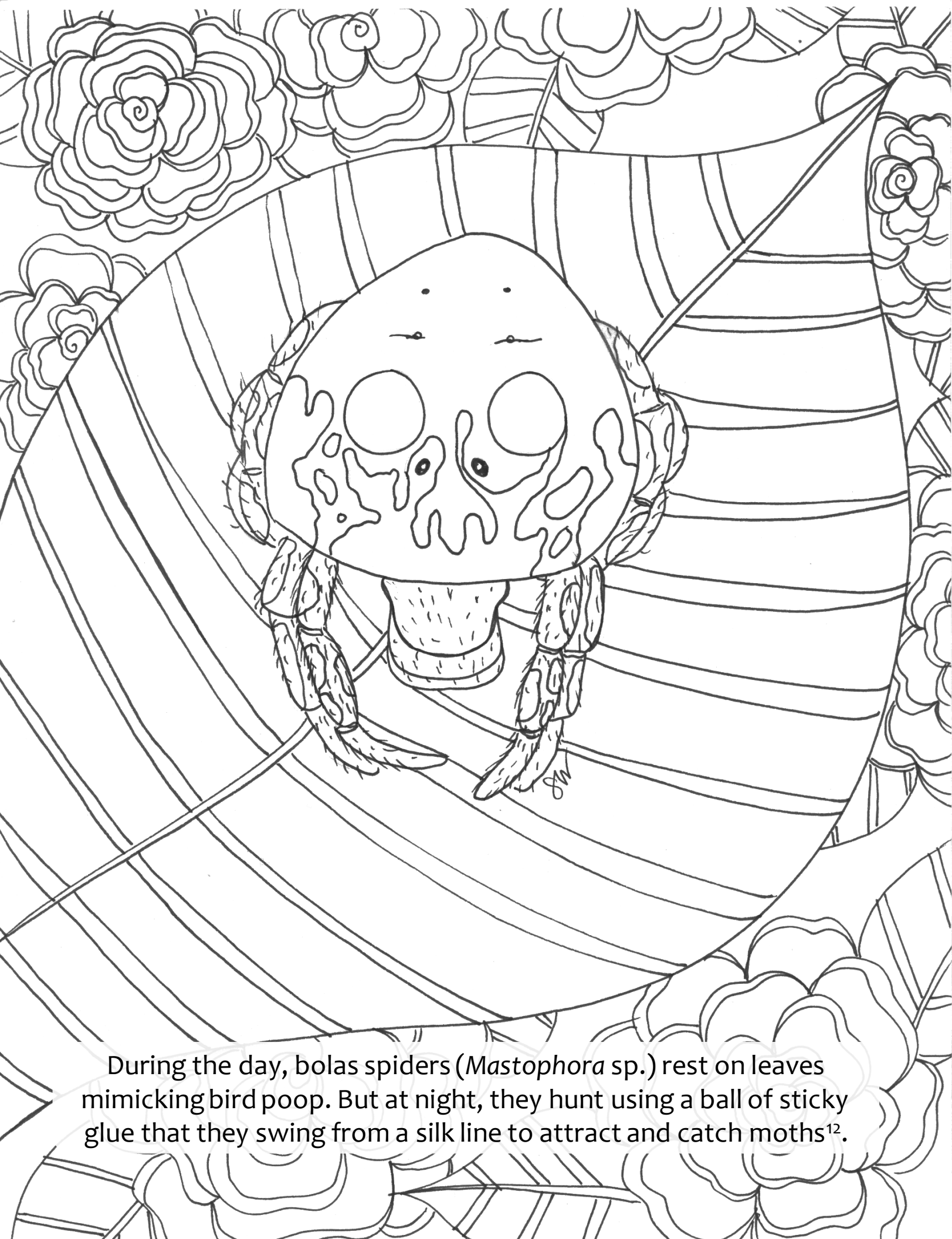
Male magnolia jumpers (*Lyssomanes viridis*) have striking red jaws that they show off to other males in ritualized contests⁹.



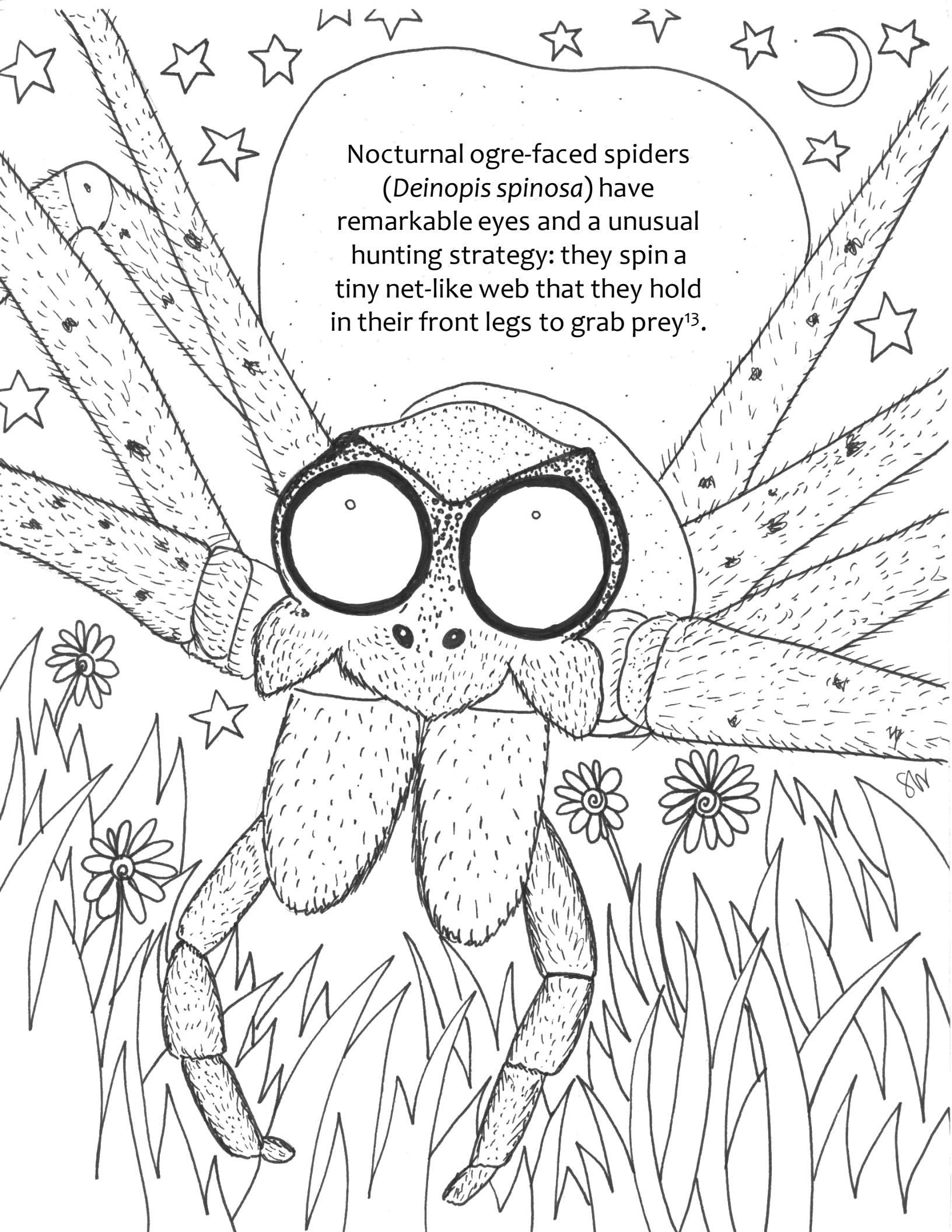
The green lynx (*Peucetia viridans*) is a large and beautiful spider adorned with colorful markings that range from green to yellow to purple and can change to match their backgrounds¹⁰.



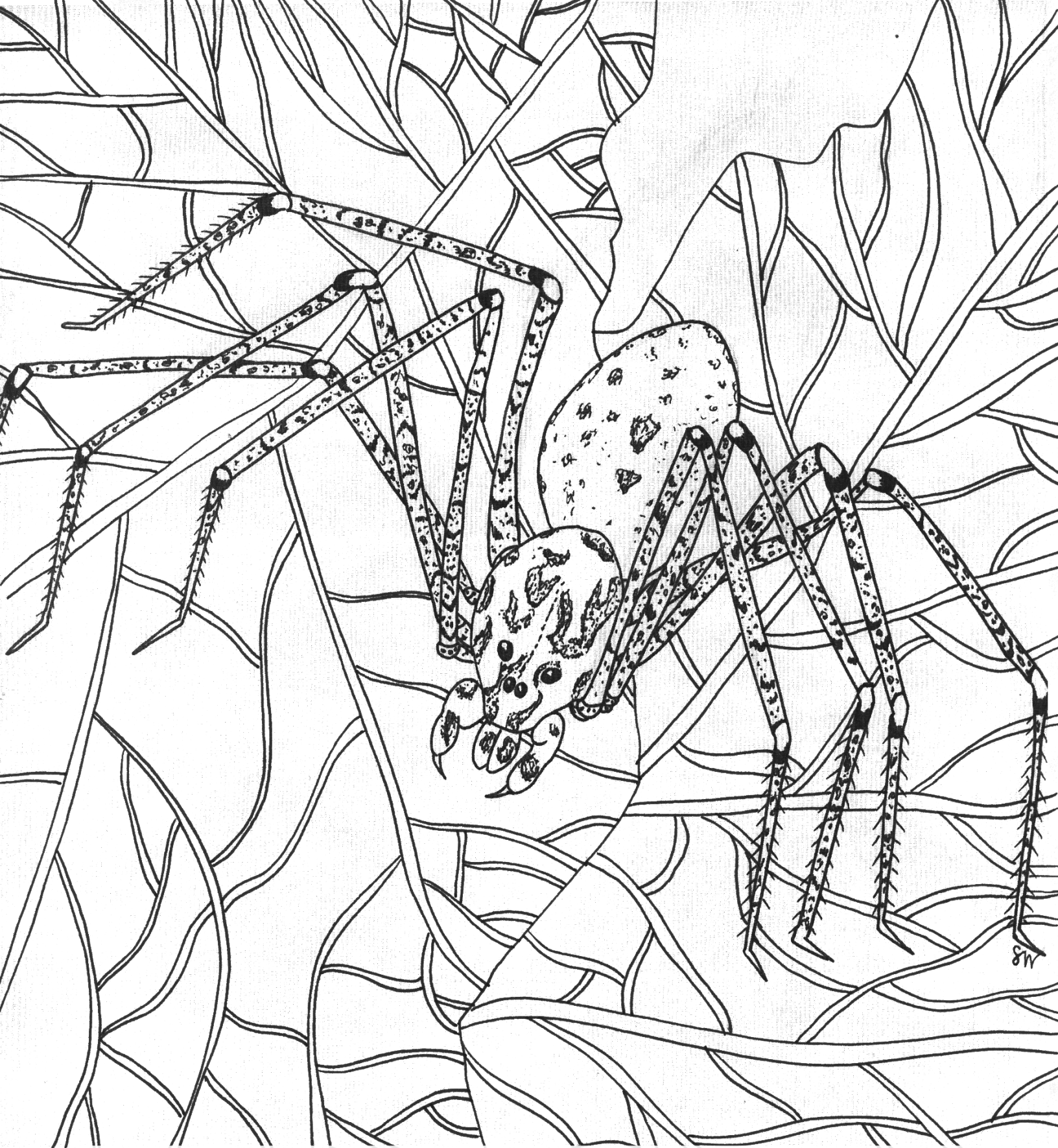
In the dimorphic jumping spider (*Maevia inclemens*), males come in two morphs: the tufted morph has three adorable black sprouts of hair on his forehead while the gray morph has striking zebra-striped legs¹¹.



During the day, bolas spiders (*Mastophora* sp.) rest on leaves mimicking bird poop. But at night, they hunt using a ball of sticky glue that they swing from a silk line to attract and catch moths¹².



Nocturnal ocre-faced spiders
(*Deinopis spinosa*) have
remarkable eyes and a unusual
hunting strategy: they spin a
tiny net-like web that they hold
in their front legs to grab prey¹³.



Spitting spiders (Scytodidae) are known for a unique hunting trick: they spit a sticky glue on their prey to pin them down before attack¹⁴.

References cited

1. Christenson TE, Goist KC. 1979. Costs and benefits of male-male competition in the orb weaving spider, *Nephila clavipes*. *Behav Ecol Sociobiol.* 5(1):87-92.
2. Agnarsson I. 2003. Spider webs as habitat patches - The distribution of kleptoparasites (Argyrodes, theridiidae) among host webs (Nephila, tetragnathidae). *J Arachnol.* 31(3):344-9.
3. Elias DO, Maddison WP, Peckmezian C, Girard MB, Mason AC. 2012. Orchestrating the score: complex multimodal courtship in the *Habronattus coecatus* group of *Habronattus* jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae). *Biol J Linnean Soc.* 105(3):522-47.
4. Gregory BM. Field observations of *Gasteracantha cancriformis* (Araneae, Araneidae) in a Florida Mangrove Stand. 1989. *J Arachnol.* 17(1):119-20.
5. Nyffeler M, Edwards GB, Krysko KL. 2017. A vertebrate-eating jumping spider (Araneae: Salticidae) from Florida, USA. *J Arachnol.* 45(2):238-41.
6. Jackson RR, Whitehouse MEA. 1986. The biology of New Zealand and Queensland pirate spiders (Araneae, Mimetidae) - aggressive mimicry, araneophagy, and prey specialization. *J Zool.* 210:279-303.
7. Zurek DB, Cronin TW, Taylor LA, Byrne K, Sullivan MLG, Morehouse NI. 2015. Spectral filtering enables trichromatic vision in colorful jumping spiders. *Curr Biol.* 25(10):R403-R4.
8. Higashi GA, Rovner JS. Post-emergent behaviour of juvenile lycosid spiders. 1975. *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society.* 3(5):113-9.
9. Tedore C, Johnsen S. 2012. Weaponry, color, and contest success in the jumping spider *Lyssomanes viridis*. *Behavioural Processes.* 89(3):203-11.
10. Robertson MW, Adler PH, McCreadie JW. 1994. Colour change in the green lynx spider, *Peucetia viridans* (Araneae: Oxyopidae). *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society.* 9(290-292).
11. Clark DL, Uetz GW. 1993. Signal efficacy and the evolution of male dimorphism in the jumping spider, *Maevia inclemens*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.* 90(24):11954-7.
12. Yeargan KV. 1994. Biology of bolas spiders. *Annu Rev Entomol.* 39:81-99.
13. Stafstrom JA, Hebets EA. 2016. Nocturnal foraging enhanced by enlarged secondary eyes in a net-casting spider. *Biol Letters.* 12(5):4.
14. Gilbert C, Rayor LS. 1985. Predatory behavior of spitting spiders (Araneae, Scytodidae) and the evolution of prey wrapping. *J Arachnol.* 13(2):231-41.

Some other useful spider resources

- Bradley RA, Buchanan S. 2012. *Common Spiders of North America*. U. California Press.
- Edwards GB, Marshall S. 2002. *Florida's Fabulous Spiders*. World Pubns.
- Foelix R. 2011. *Biology of Spiders*. Oxford University Press.
- Levi H, Levi LA, Strekalovsky N. 2001. *Guide to Spiders and Their Kin*. St Martins Press.
- Mammola S, Michalik P, Hebets EA, Isaia M. 2017. Record breaking achievements by spiders and the scientists who study them. *PeerJ.* 5:e3972.
- Ubick D, Paquin P, Cushing P, Dupérré N. 2017. *Spiders of North America: an identification manual (2nd edition)*. American Arachnological Society.