

British Nature Guide

Spiders are not insects (Part 1)



Spiders are arachnids and not insects. Arachnids have 8 legs. Most insects have six legs. Above you can see a Mouse Spider, a Cucumber Green Spider and a Raft Spider. We have lots of different types of spiders in Britain.



Arachnids have 2 body parts. The front part with the legs attached is called the cephalothorax. Spiders do not have a separate head. The back part is called the abdomen or opisthosoma.



Study the Jumping Spider above and you might be able to see it has 8 eyes. Spiders have large jaws and 2 palps which they use to hold food. On the House Spider the palps look like boxing gloves.