

SPIDERS

This is just a small sample of the spiders at the farm, but some of the more interesting ones....

BLACK LACE WEAVER

Amaurobius ferox

Found under log in Wildlife Garden in April.

They are found under stones, logs etc and in dark areas of buildings, and shouldn't be handled as they can give a painful bite!



It is a matiphagous (mother-eating) spider, meaning that the young devour the mother after hatching! This BBC video explains and shows: www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Amaurobius_ferox#p005brzp

CANDY-STRIPE SPIDER

Enoplognatha ovata

Found in June in plants in riverside veg gardens.

This species comes in different colour forms, including one with red stripes, hence its common name. The colour form of this particular photographed specimen is called *lineata*. This spider is tiny (5-6mm) and quite common on vegetation.



Lepthyphantes species

Found under stone on farm edge alongside paddock in April.



**GOLDENROD CRAB SPIDER /
FLOWER CRAB SPIDER:**
Misumena vatia (female)

Found on Alexanders in Dye Garden in May, and on True Valerian in Herb Garden in June.

This is a hunting spider, that lies in wait for prey alighting on flowers. The females are able to change their colour from pale green to white and yellow for camouflage on flowers, though both specimens seen here, on different dates and plants, were white.

A few days after seeing it on the True Valerian, it was found on the same plant, having successfully caught, and now starting to devour, its prey!

