

# How to Take Identifiable Photos of Arachnids for iNaturalist.ca

## Pro Tip

Use the **macro feature** on your phone or camera to get clearer photos of organisms that are close to the lens.

**Did you know?** Spiders, scorpions, and ticks are all arachnids.

**And...** iNaturalist observations have a **notes** section that you can use to write down any information that was not captured in the photo(s) or sound recording, such as the number of individuals or any noteworthy behaviour.



© Getty Images

**1** Arachnids have **eight legs** and unlike insects, they **do not have antennae or wings**. By taking a clear photo of the arachnid, the number of legs can be counted, and the lack of any insect features can be noted. If possible, include something else for **scale** (such as the flowers below) to help others understand the size of the organism. By including the surrounding habitat, identifiers may also be able to distinguish the arachnid from other species.

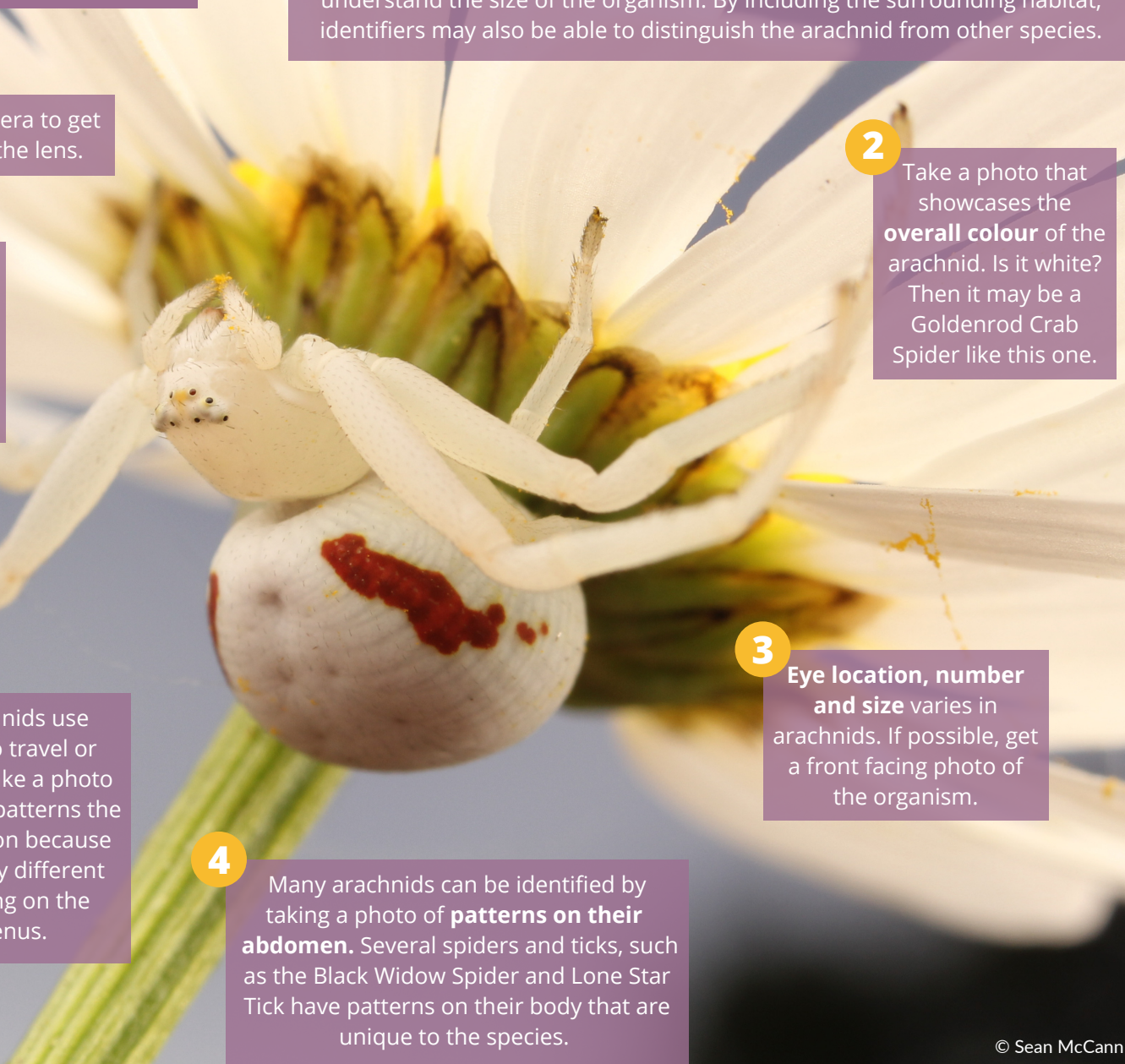
**2** Take a photo that showcases the **overall colour** of the arachnid. Is it white? Then it may be a Goldenrod Crab Spider like this one.

**6** Try to get an accurate photo of the **leg shape and size in comparison to the body** as this can be an identifiable feature in arachnids.

**5** Numerous arachnids use **strands of silk** to travel or catch their prey. Take a photo of any silk webs or patterns the arachnid is found on because these can be vastly different shapes depending on the species or genus.

**4** Many arachnids can be identified by taking a photo of **patterns on their abdomen**. Several spiders and ticks, such as the Black Widow Spider and Lone Star Tick have patterns on their body that are unique to the species.

**3** **Eye location, number and size** varies in arachnids. If possible, get a front facing photo of the organism.



© Sean McCann

It can be difficult to take photos of wildlife. It is not essential to photograph every point on this diagram to get an identifiable observation. Just try your best! Although some people may find arachnids frightening at first, they play an incredibly important role in the ecosystem by keeping down the populations of pest insects that would otherwise feed on crops or trees.



For more information, please visit [iNaturalist.ca/help](https://www.inaturalist.ca/help).