

Fact Sheet #4 – Redback Spider



Latrodectus hasselti

Description

Typical spider with 8 legs and 2 body segments. Pea shaped abdomen up to 1cm across, with a red or orange wide stripe on back (and abdomen). Coloured section may have white outlining. Seek medical advice if bitten.

Habitat

Found all over Australia in dry bushland or urban environments. Particularly attracted to dark, still areas such as fence capping, wood piles and outside toilet seats.

Biology

Web is often small and has sticky threads. The males are eaten after mating and are brown and about 4mm long. Females produce up to 8 egg sacs 1cm across, each containing up to 200 eggs. Most of the newborn young are eaten by the female. Females live for 2-3 years. Males can live up to 3 months.

What you can do to limit infestation:

- Remove leaf litter from near external doorways.
- Relocate entrance lights that attract insects (food source).
- Carefully inspect flowers brought into the home.
- Remove tall grass & items stored close to external home walls.
- Remove stagnant water where mosquitoes and midges breed (food source).
- Ensure pipe penetrations through walls are well sealed.
- Keep plant stress to a minimum. Stressed plants attract insects which attract spiders.
- Repair leaking pipes.
- Regularly vacuum windows, corners, storage areas, basements and other seldomly used areas.
- Reduce cluttered areas for spiders to harbour, particularly garages and sheds.
- Trim plant growth away from houses.
- Caulk small cracks in walls and around piping.
- Ensure doors and windows are well fitting.
- Vacuum and dust regularly under furniture.







If you get an infestation:

Put your mind at rest, call 13 PEST (13 7378)

For over 20 years the Termimesh Group has been a trusted and respected industry leader installing termite barriers in new homes in Australia and overseas.

Termitrust (formerly Termimesh Pest Management), is a national pest management company that provides quality pest services to existing homes and commercial premises. You can be assured that our reliable and effective service will provide you with the best environmentally aware treatments for your pest problems.

We specialise in termites and our services include:

-  PRE PURCHASE TIMBER PEST REPORTS
-  INSTALLATION OF TERMITE BARRIERS
-  TERMITE INSPECTIONS
-  TERMITE INTERCEPT STATIONS
-  TERMITE COLONY CONTROL
-  COMMERCIAL PEST MANAGEMENT

We also offer a complete pest management service for the control of other pests such as:

-  COCKROACHES
-  SILVERFISH
-  ANTS
-  SPIDERS
-  RODENTS
-  FLEAS
-  BED BUGS
-  BIRDS

**Our pest management programs are your very best protection
against termites and other pests.**

Put your mind at rest, call **13 PEST (13 7378)**

www.termitrust.com.au