



Wandering the Woods with Matt

Jumping Spiders
(family salticidae)

Observed 5/18/2020

in Matt's backyard

with 6 observations
on PHLT preserves
to date

I'm not a huge fan of spiders, but I love jumping spiders. Jumping spiders represent the family salticidae within the order of spiders, and the family is incredibly diverse with over 6000 species described. Most jumping spiders do not spin webs, they pounce on their prey (like virtually every spider, jumping spiders are mainly predatory, though apparently many will drink nectar and at least one eats plant material) and immobilize it with venom.

Jumping spiders have excellent vision, with eight eyes (four in the front, two on each side) that give them a nearly 360 degree field of view. They hunt during the day, which makes them relatively easy to find. They are small – a big jumping spider might be only 1 cm long – but beautifully colored, and the large central eyes give the jumping spiders a “cute” appearance. Cute to us, that is. Deadly to their prey.

These are common spiders. I have many photos of different species found in my small backyard. I have had less luck on PHLT preserves, though, with only 6 observations representing 3 genera in Monroe County. That being said – they are out there. Go and take some photos and see if we can improve that list!

