

INTERFERENCE COMPETITION BETWEEN SALTICIDS AND WEB SPIDERS.

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Both *Phidippus audax* and *P. clarus* attack *Argiope* species (Araneidae), and sometimes they are victims of the latter (Wayne Tolbert, pers. comm.). A few similar records can be found in the literature. With regard to Enders' (1975) hypothesis that small araneids compete with large salticids for prey, these competing spiders should try to eliminate each other. A salticid could visually recognize an orb-weaver; salticids of the genus *Linus* may specialize on orb-weavers as prey.

Large theridiids (about the same size as small araneids) also prey upon jumping spiders. While living in Pennsylvania, I frequently observed that individual *Metacyrba undata* had been captured by *Achaeearanea tepidariorum*, as well as by (possibly) *Steatoda triangulosa*. An occasional *P. audax* also fell victim to one of these theridiids. I probably missed many occasions when the tables were turned. In Florida, I observed a subadult *P. otiosus* stalking a female *A. tepidariorum*, but it was not able to penetrate the web of the latter. Once I saw a male *Corythalia aurata* attack an immature *A. tepidariorum* about one-fourth of his size. The salticid missed and became entangled in the web. In turn he was attacked by the theridiid which began to throw silk upon his legs. The *C. aurata* struggled vigorously, causing the theridiid to retreat temporarily toward the edge of the web. This sequence was repeated several times over a period of 4 minutes. During each reprieve the *C. aurata* would bite through the restraining threads, until it finally bit through all of them and dropped safely to the ground. If the theridiid had been larger, I am certain that it would have captured the salticid.

REFERENCE:

ENDERS, FRANK 1975. The influence of hunting manner on prey size, particularly in spiders with long attack distances (Araneidae, Linyphiidae, and Salticidae). Amer. Naturalist 109: 737-763.