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## Eastern parson spider diet

One of the more common and distinctive members of the Gnaphosidae family is the Eastern Parson Spider, *Herpyllus ecclesiasticus*. Its common name comes from a black and white color scheme that resembles an outfit worn by former clergy. It also sometimes makes home calls that can be disturbing for homeowners. This species feeds mainly at night, and I find it quite often around buildings, hoping to prey on small insects attracted to the light outside. It climbs well, so you can see it well from the ground. During the day, it hides under loose bark or stones, planks and other debris on the ground. Specimens that enter homes at night can seek shelter in clothing, shoes and other items. The spider can bite if it is trapped, but the effect of the bite depends mainly on the immune response of the victim. Rarely, the symptoms exceed mild inflammation. It is a medium-sized spider, males with a body length of 6.5-13 millimeters. Males have 4.5-6.5 millimeters. Spinnerets are visible in both sexes, characteristic of the Gnaphosidae family. Each spinneret is like a shower, with many small holes through which silk is extruded. Eastern Parson Spider is widespread everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, from southern Alberta through New Scotland and south to Texas and Florida. West of the Rockies is replaced by the Western Parson Spider, *Herpyllus propinquus*. Look for it in deciduous forests. Mature specimens of this spider can be found all year round, which suggests that it is quite long-lived. Covered with females spin a bag of eggs in autumn. The case is flat and complex in a silky seclusive, where the mother guards her. One egg bag in Connecticut, found under a loose bark, contained 130 spiders. Sources and links: Aitchison, C.W. 1984. Low feeding temperatures by spiders active in winter, *J. Arachnol.* 12: 297-305.Cox, Shelly. Eastern Parson's Spider, MObugsEdwards, Robert L. and Eric H. 1997. Behavior and selection of niche by mailbox spiders, *J. Arachnol.* 25: 20-30.Guarisco, Hank. 2007. Kansas Ground Spiders Checklist, *Kansas School Naturalist* 55: 16 pp. Minerva Webworks, LLC. 2012. Eastern Parson Spider, Sutton, Massachusetts, suttonmass.org. Joined Jan 21, 2008 News 345 We have these little guys (Parson spiders) in our house often. They are usually happy if I manage to find them before our kittens do (I find many dead ones that the cats have been blinking around). I often just put them out, but I thought it might be nice to try to keep one for a while. I caught one of those wandering around our carpet the other day (took a little chasing!), and now I got it in a deli container my g. rosea came home (about 5 inches in diameter container, 1.5 inches tall, small holes at the top I have about 1/2 inch layer of coir at the bottom, a few small fake leaves tidied up including for it to hide hide and a shallow bottle cap with a little water. I just got some small crickets (though they are actually quite close to its size) to feed it. In general, I only wonder about the care of these guys - dry or damp, more earthy (I don't see them climb much in our house, so I'm guessing so) or climbers or burrows, etc. Any hints at all (I read here that they are quick, and he also seems to be, and that their bite can cause a mild reaction). I just want to make sure I provide the needs of the little guy, and I got him, and figured out if anyone here had any advice that would be great! I'll try to take some pictures - but my camera doesn't work well with small photos, so we'll see. Thanks in advance for any advice or even just for reading! Joined July 21, 2002 News 1,709 These are solid spiders. I kept a few without substrate at all - only in bare plastic containers, and they seem to be doing pretty well. Being Gnaphosidae, however, and given their habits, I would go for a wetter approach - not a steamy jungle, but just a little damp. As I'm sure you've noticed, these are voracious feeders! I love the way i just dive all over the food, and chase it when it's missing, lol. Otherwise, bottle-cap waterdsh, and FOOD. They are not particularly fragile, IME. Just don't swamp them. Joined Mar 23, 2008 News 149 Parson Spiders? Hmm.. I live in southeastern Michigan, Oakland County to be exact. Are these little black spiders that I still see outside in my grass? They are so small that I can barely take a good look. They tend to be dark gray or black, sometimes with a light graying on the abdomen. Something like the squat of a little Hogna sp.? I wanted to catch him, take a closer look. The placement of the Parson Spider's eye is very visible, and I would like to recognize it immediately from the photos I saw here on the forum. Joined Jan 21, 2008 News 345 Thanks for the info! When I set mine I made the coir slightly damp, wondering that there would be a good neutral way to go until i figured out more. Because it seemed that the earth spiders thought the deli mug would work until I got a better enclosure for it. I had no idea what it was when I first found it, only that we had them in our house (and our kittens found them first) very regularly. It took me a while to track down the ID! He/She's been fun so far - actually webbed up some of the container and hanging on to it, it seems really like eating too - but also quite spazzy. Because it's a deli container its hard to open without disturbing the little guy - causing a crazy dash around the container. I'll probably get a mini animal keeper and hot glue a little siphoned, or maybe some heavy (as from delicatessen containers) with holes in it along the ventilation part to secure it. But it will make it easier to keep it closed when I open feed or give water! He's fun to watch, much more spazzy than my rosie (though Flower has her moments of madness). I just got it a few weeks ago and then decided to try to keep this guy. Heh - cheaper than getting another T, but it allows me to stave off the drive to get more!!!! Thanks again for the info - maybe once I have it in a better case (though it seems like the one where it is) I can get some pictures of it. Oh - and I'm in the center of IL, so little black spiders with a grayish stripe down them in Michigan can be very well the same little guys. I was wondering what it's been for years, LOL. Joined May 2, 2009 News 1,959 Hey, I know this is an old thread, but it has something to do with parson spider slings. You are definitely right about humidity. I checked on slings frequently and 7 out of 17 died when the paper towel dried up. I check it every day now for water. I found a trick if you don't have a small enough victim or are still waiting for it to be shipped. When I mixed some honey with crushed crickets, they almost delve into it. Just don't make it too sticky. A little extra sugar is probably a real treat for such an active spider, and I mean ACTIVE(!) spider. He joined the September 2, 2011 News 1,640 Herpyllus, and most earth spiders (gnaphosids) prefer dry rather than moist. They can cope with humid conditions, but if you gave it a semi-damp, half-dry housing, it will spend 99% of its time on the dry side. I give my Gnaphosids dry peat, a cap with water, because they are heavy drinkers like most spiders. They are powerful hunters and can be fed to anything that is not big. I give my stray spiders that look lost lol. Pretty cool to watch them sneak up on another spider and throw. Just my experience with them. Honestly, as Venom said, you can almost put them in nothing and they will be ok. Joined Jan 26, 2003 News 1,148 Right they make it lil dry and if they are doing a well built shelter [sac] then maybe sprits them once... lil black spiders you see in the grass are probably lil wolf spiders.... parsons don't like too much during the day... prefer darker conditions or evening hunting.... Joined February 13, 2006 News 1,059 Can these little black spiders still see outside in my grass? They are so small that I can barely take a good look. They tend to be dark gray or black, sometimes with a light graying on the abdomen. Be. Pretty close description. Often found in homes. good advice for all. if there was a Nascar spider, my money would be on Parsons. Wrong to take this bet! My basement spider vs parson &gt; Joined August 8, 2017 News 2 So a week ago I caught spider parsons on my fan and just got got with vaction and there is after 3 weeks i finally get his den/tape during the day, which is the best thing to feed him I thought small carpentry ants or small flies or even crickets Joined on August 8, 2017 News 2 Joined Mar 7, 2012 News 3,838 which is the best thing to feed him I thought small carpentry ants or small flies or even crickets More information about Herpyllus ecclesiasticus (except for the scope data, this also applies to Herpyllus propinquus): I would not feed ants to any spider that is not a specialist in ants. Ants have strong mandibles for biting. Many ants can also sting and/or spray corrosive formic acid. And even those that simply bite contain formic acid, which many predators consider unsavory. Small prey such as crickets, meal or small feeder roaches are likely to work. Joined July 20, 2017 News 404 We have these little guys (Parson spiders) in our house often. They are usually happy if I manage to find them before our kittens do (I find many dead ones that the cats have been blinking around). I often just put them out, but I thought it might be nice to try to keep one for a while. I caught one of those wandering around our carpet the other day (he took a little chasing!), and now I have it in a deli container my g. rosea came home (about 5 inches in diameter container, 1.5 inches tall, small holes in the top of the air). I have about 1/2 inch layer of coir at the bottom, a few small fake leaves tidied up in that for him to hide underneath, and shallow bottle lids with a little water. I just got some small crickets (though they are actually quite close to its size) to feed it. 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Joined September 16, 2020 9 I just caught what I think is Herpyllus propinquus (downtown Oregon, kitchen floor). Thanks for all the information here. Are these guys building ribbons for hunting or just sheltering? Shelter? it says speed, although I think my weave funnel barn is faster, but this

parsons can be old or hungry, it's pretty big. How often do you feed parsons? Parsons?

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