



Photo by Colin Hutton

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**COLOR A SPIDER BEAUTIFUL! COLOR CHANGES IN A JUMPING SPIDER AS IT MATURES**

**DENVER—November 10, 2014—** The American Arachnological Society, the premier society in North America for the study of spiders and their relatives, announces the discovery that color patterns in jumping spiders change as spiders mature. Jumping spider males are known for their often vivid color patterns used to attract mates. In the jumping spider species *Habronattus pyrrithrix*, males have bright red faces, bright green legs, and white pedipalps (first appendages) that they use to attract females.

In a [new paper](#) just published in the *Journal of Arachnology*, authors Lisa Taylor, David Clark, and Kevin McGraw report that the bright red markings found on adult male *H. pyrrithrix* spiders appear even before the males are mature but the red pattern gets brighter as the males approach sexual maturity. In contrast, the bright green legs and white pedipalps only appear after the males have become sexually mature and the green legs fade as the adult male ages.

This is the first study to show how color patterns in spiders change as they age.

**About the American Arachnological Society**

The [American Arachnological Society](#) was founded in 1975 to further the study of arachnids (spiders and their relatives), foster closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional arachnologists, and to publish the [Journal of Arachnology](#), one of the premier scientific journals presenting current research about arachnids. Connect with the AAS on its [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

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