

## Scuttling spiders

### Video transcript for scuttling spider video presented by Bill Oddie

What is it about spiders that freaks out so many humans? Well, by far the commonest answer is that they're scuttly. There's something about those legs just creeping around that sets our primal instincts on edge.

Even if we can see that they're scuttling away - I don't know, that movement still seems to make some of us squirm. Quite seriously, I've heard people say, "I can't stand spiders, they've got too many legs. "

I'm sorry? Too many legs? Too many legs for whom? I don't know, I suppose the reasoning is that if they had fewer legs they wouldn't be able to scuttle quite so well. Don't we trust them? Do we expect them to suddenly leap out and frighten us by scuttling towards us?

Or do you think that they're all going to bite us, and they're poisonous? Well - that one is, but that's Australian.

In fact, in Britain, about the most dangerous spider we have is the woodlouse spider, which is indeed equipped with giant pincers so strong it could pierce the shell of a woodlouse, and it MIGHT give you a little bit of a nip when you're gardening,

and if you're allergic you might have to go to hospital, for a bit, but you'll survive. No other British spider can do you any harm at all, but they're all tarred with the same brush because of stuff like this.

Which keeps their frightful reputation pretty much intact. And, of course, there's that whole thing about the female eating her husband after mating. It's a hormonal thing, it doesn't always happen.

Anyway, let's not dwell on the dark side. Come on, there are few more extraordinary and beautiful things in nature than spiders' webs. And a spider can build one of these in, frankly less than an hour, I've seen them do it.

Now THAT is what I call a craftsman. Oh yes, and one last lovely thing - the babies are called "spiderlings". Come on, just a little "Aaah". CHORUS: "Aaah. "