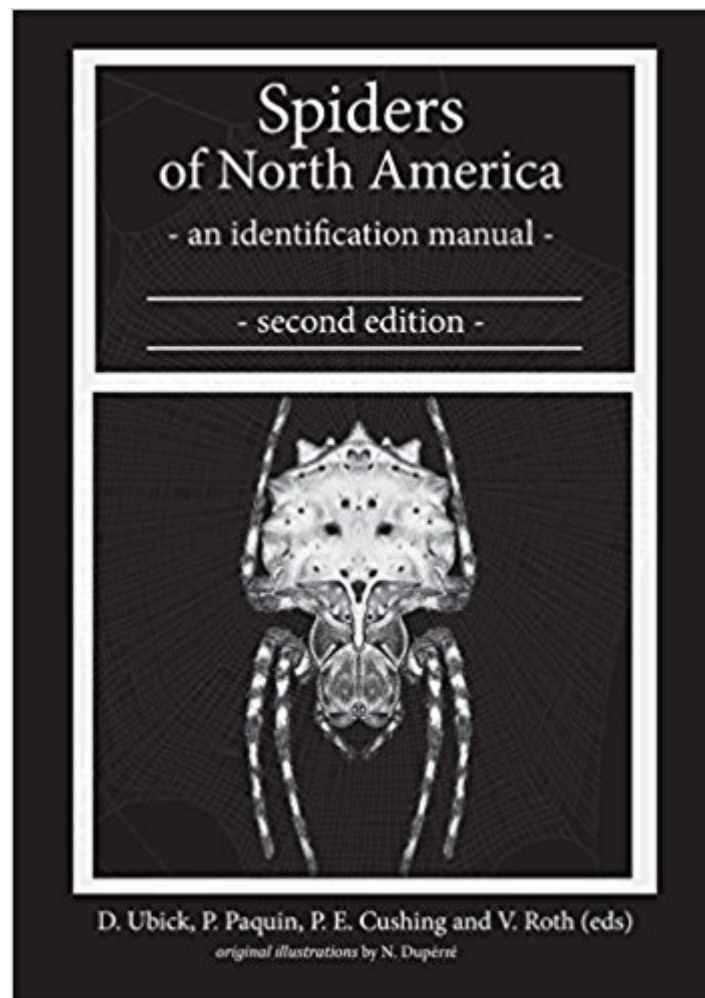




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Spiders Of North America: An Identification Manual, Second Edition



Synopsis

The 2nd edition of this beautifully illustrated guide to the spiders of North America, north of Mexico, provides completely updated keys and information about this important part of North American fauna. This is an indispensable reference for anyone interested in spider diversity or identification. This updated edition provides more than 1,400 illustrations and keys to the genera in 71 spider families. Over 600 genera are included. Taxonomic changes since the publication of the 1st edition in 2005 are reflected in every chapter. The manual includes 76 chapters and a wealth of information including an introduction to spider morphology, natural history, collecting techniques and preservation methods; an overview of the current status and most recent developments in spider phylogeny and evolutionary history; a key to the families of spiders found in North America, north of Mexico; keys to the genera in each of these families; an etymological dictionary explaining the derivation of the names of spider genera and families; a well-illustrated glossary; a pronunciation guide to the names of common taxa; and a complete bibliography. This is the first completely revised version of the manual since its original publication in 2005. Note that this is not a photo-ID guide to spiders; it is intended to aid in accurate identification and to do this one must become familiar with some of the details of spider morphology/anatomy. To aid in this task, a guide to morphology used in classification is provided in the introduction. The information on spider biology and identification make this manual especially suitable for both amateur naturalists and professional arachnologists. With contributions by: Darrell Ubick, Pierre Paquin, Paula Cushing, Nadine Dupuis, Adalberto Santos, Bruce Cutler, Michael Draney, Daniel Mott, Matja Kuntner, Lara Lopardo, James Cokendolpher, H. Don Cameron, Ingi Agnarsson, Joseph Lapp, Stephen Lew, Vince Roth, Robert Kallal, Sarah Crews, Charles Griswold, Warren Savary, Bernhard Huber, Frederick Coyle, Patrick Craig, Gustavo Hormiga, Alan Brady, Charles Dondale, Herbert Levi, Martin Ramírez, Joel Ledford, G.B. Edwards, Marshal Hedin, Marisa Sripracha, Eric Parrish, Brent Hendrixson, Thomas Prentice, Jason Bond, Robert Bennett, Diana Silva Dávila, Jonathan Coddington, Brent Opell, James Carico, David Richman.

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Customer Reviews

Darrell Ubick is a Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Entomology at the California Academy of Sciences. He is a well-known spider taxonomist who has published on a variety of taxa. His recent research focus has been on spiders in the family Oonopidae. Pierre Paquin is a well-known spider taxonomist with an expertise on cave fauna. He and illustrator, Nadine Dupont, have published numerous articles and identification manuals focused on the spider fauna of Canada. Paula Cushing is Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Her research focus is on the systematics and taxonomy of camel spiders in the arachnid order Solifugae. She has also published on spider-ant symbioses. Nadine Dupont is the Collections Manager for Arachnology at the Centrum für Naturkunde, Universität Hamburg - Zoological Museum in Hamburg, Germany. She is a well-known scientific illustrator who has been involved in numerous taxonomic revisions of spiders.

Up front I am one of the authors (3 chapter authorships, 3 senior authorships and 4 junior authorships) and as such received a free copy. The effort of the 40 authors involved in producing this second edition was remarkable, and the work of our editors, Darrell Ubick, Pierre Paquin, and Paula Cushing (the late Vince Roth was included as the original idea and first few editions of the original keys were his) and main illustrator, Nadine Dupont, was nothing less than heroic. I have been involved in this effort from the start as part of the American Arachnological Society Spider Genera of North America Revision Team (SGNART). The first edition was published in 2005, but much has happened since then, especially the revision of the "clubionoid" families by Ramirez, several major revisions of major groups or families, the description of a totally new family (Troglograptoridae) and much added information on spider phylogeny. I was asked to work on this project by Paula Cushing of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the start of the development of the first edition. The concept of a manual to North American spider genera was

initiated by one of my mentors and great friend, the late Vincent D. Roth, and it was he who produced three editions of the original "Spider Genera of North America." It was with great pleasure to be able to help continue the work that Vince started. This is not a picture book, but a technical manual, so it will be of more use to those who are seriously interested in spider identification. For those who want a solid manual with color habitus illustrations I highly recommend Rich Bradley's "Common Spiders of North America." While I can in no way judge my own contributions, those of my coauthors and of the authors of other chapters, and of our editors and illustrators were exemplary and I thus recommend this manual, especially to those who want to do serious work with spiders.

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