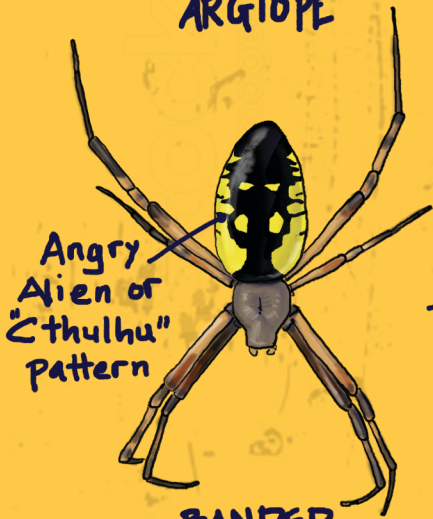


WEB of MYSTERY

Fall is here and it is time to go looking for spiders! Seek out *Argiope* in open grasslands. These spiders sometimes make zig-zag "stabilimenta" in their webs, but why? We don't know! These web decorations can reduce prey capture by 30% and may attract predators.

BLACK & YELLOW ARGIOPE



Common throughout the Bay Area

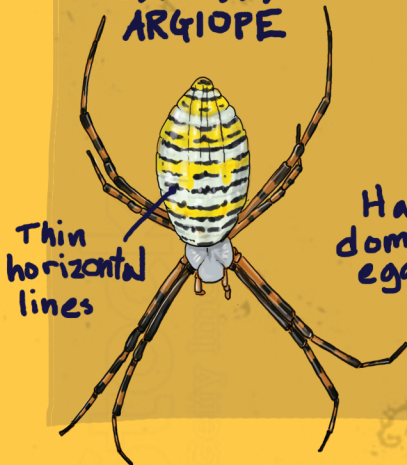
Oval or teardrop egg sac



Web decoration variations *

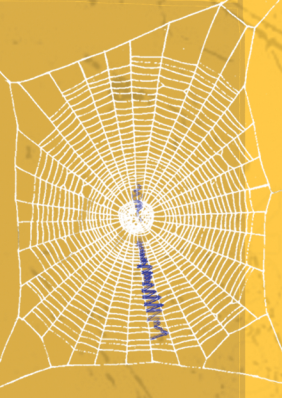
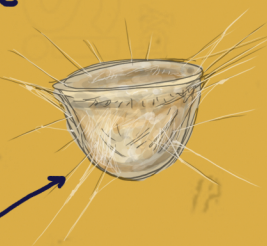


BANDED ARGIOPE



Rare

Half-dome egg sac

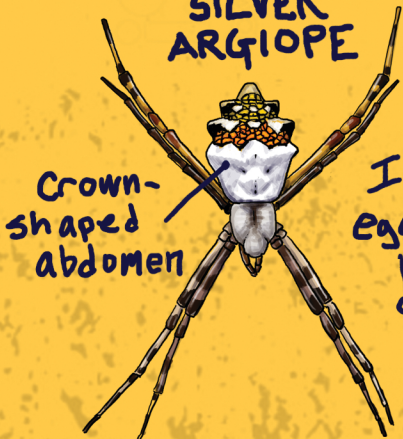


COULD IT BE?

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR WEB DECORATIONS

- Reflect UV light to attract some insects.
- Warn birds not to fly into the web. Help the spider hide in the middle of the web.
- Something else...

SILVER ARGIOPE



Very rare - seen near Carmel & Hollister

Irregular egg sac may be green or yellow



Patterns darkened for emphasis - in real life they are white.

Report sightings at inaturalist.com.