



Goldenrod Spider preying on a Pearl Crescent.

James W. Case

A REPORT OF A GOLDENROD SPIDER PREYING ON A PEARL CRESCENT

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On 4 July, 1976, I was able to do some butterfly collecting in the Boundary Lake area of west-central Alberta, about 165 km WNW of Peace River. While exploring an old trail through young aspen woods near MacLean Creek, I noticed an individual of Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) apparently sitting on a flower cluster of Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) at a very peculiar angle. Upon closer examination I observed that the butterfly was in the clutches of a cream-

white coloured crab spider. Due to the preoccupation of the spider, I was able to get a close-up photograph of the predator with its prey.

As it turns out, the spider is a female Goldenrod Spider (*Misumena vatia*). It is a holarctic species which regularly preys on nectar-feeding insects. The Pearl Crescent is a common butterfly in meadows and at the edge of woodlands across North America from the Northwest Territories south to Mexico, but is represented by several rather indistinct subspecies in this large range.

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