
MYSTERY PHOTO



This photo, taken 22 May 1999, shows a cluster of jelly-like fingers growing on a branch of Creeping Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*). Do you know whose fleshy appendages these are? You may send your response to the editors of Blue Jay. The ANSWER will appear in the next issue.



"Most bees are unable to hover in midair while they drink nectar, so most bee-pollinated flowers are equipped with petals or sepals modified to form rigid landing platforms complete with runways well marked with nectar guides. That's why the flowers of so many orchids, snapdragons, mints, irises, jewelweeds (*Impatiens*), and peas have stiff lower lips, aprons, or keels."

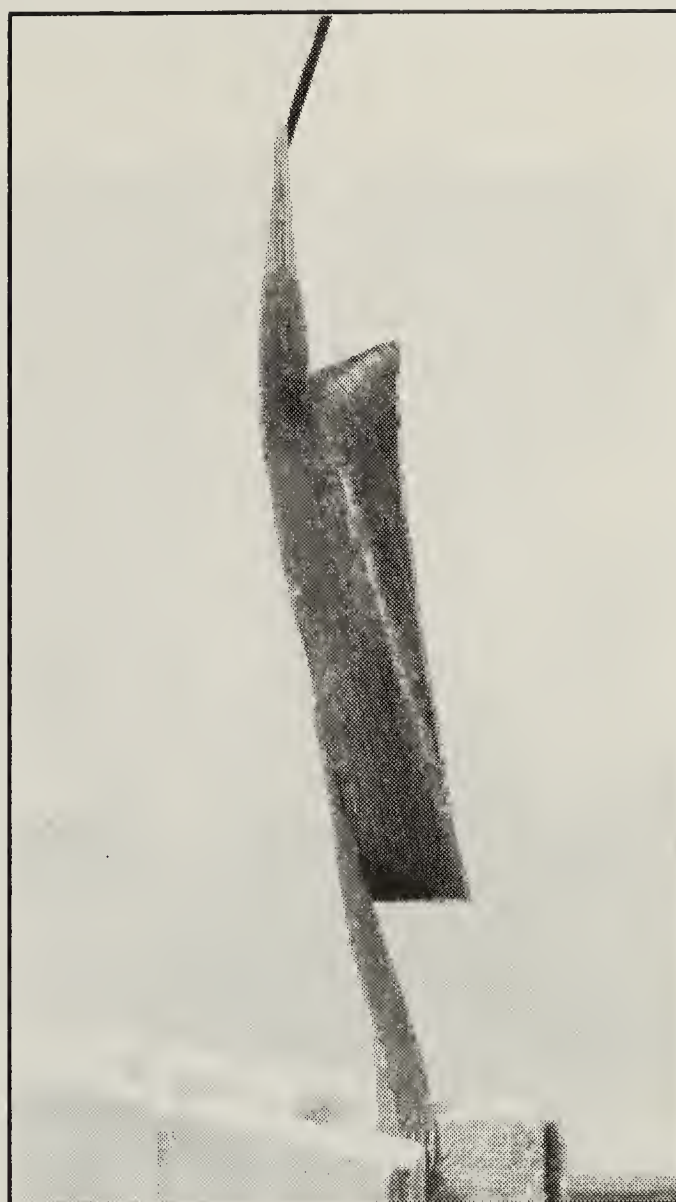
Peter Bernhardt, *The Rose's Kiss*, p. 167

Answer for DECEMBER 1999 MYSTERY PHOTO

The December mystery photo shows an enclosure built by a female spider to protect her egg sac. The female folds a grass leaf in two places, and then seals the edges completely from the inside, leaving no sign of who made it or where the entrance is. She stays inside this folded-grass fortress with her "magnum opus" (as E.B. White's Charlotte calls it) until the eggs hatch. This species of spider, *Clubiona riparia*, lives in tall grass and occurs throughout eastern and central North America.

Correct responses were received from David Peters in Saginaw, Michigan and Jim Wolford in Wolfville, N.S. David Peters mentioned that these egg cases are particularly common on Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) along open roadsides adjacent to bottomland forests in Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, where he works.

In Nova Scotia, these occur in tall grass in marshy areas according to Jim Wolford. Jim provided us with two references that include information on these spiders : The Country Life Guide to Spiders of Britain and Europe, 1983 by Dick Jones (which has a photo of a



similar egg sac made by a European species) and How to Know the Spiders, 3rd Edition, 1978 by B. J. Kaston.

The editors would like to thank Don Buckle for providing the information on this mystery structure.



"In ancient Greece, human souls were thought to become butterflies while searching for a new reincarnation. Carvings on sarcophagi show a butterfly soul flying over a corpse, skeleton, or skull, and the ancient Greeks placed gold butterflies in the tombs of loved ones to symbolize their reawakening to a new life. Psyche was the Greek word for both soul and butterfly and in art was often represented as a maiden with butterfly wings, or simply as a butterfly."

Joanne E. Lauck, *The Voice of the Infinite in The Small*, p. 264.



Damselfly

Juhachi Asai