

## Giant Golden Orb *Nephila pilipes*

When to look:  
*Summer to Autumn*

### Similar species:

Pirate spider (commonly called Quicksilver Spider): may be mistaken for a male orb spider, it has a conical-shaped abdomen (body).

Coastal Golden Orb Spider (*Nephila plumipes*): doesn't have the red colouring on its palps and has yellow bands near the end of each leg segment (the Giant Golden Orb Spider has discrete patches of bright yellow only on the underside of its leg joints).

Golden Orb Weaver (*Nephila edulis*): Same differences as with the Coastal Golden Orb, and it has black "brushes" or hairs along its legs which the Giant Orb lacks.

The body is 4-4.5 cm in length, legspan can reach up to 15 cm

Male:  
Significantly shorter in length (only about 5-6 mm)

Female:  
Brown to yellow abdomen with short, silvery-white hairs



*Image courtesy of Oliver Bradshaw*