

Las Vegas, NM Flora: and Some of the Associated Spiders

**Abandon all Arachnophobia, all Ye who Enter Herein.
The hairy many-eyed and fanged beings dwelling here
are searching smaller prey than thee.**

Science estimates the total world human population weighs 287 million metric tonnes; another group of scientists estimate that the total weight of all the insects eaten by all the spiders in the world is 400-800 million metric tonnes. The earth needs them!



*Bold Jumping Spider (Phidippus audax)
before jumping into the chasm behind her*

Sat, 22 September 2018 at La Cueva Raspberry Farm, Kathryn was enjoying a raspberry ice cream when along come a spider who sat down beside her, scaring her and ice cream away leaving Peter and camera to play with their guest. The spider quickly lost interest in the game of chase spider around the table taking pictures and left via my left fore finger., jumping she landed on my bag and I deftly dumped her right back on the table. She immediately headed away from me cross table, pausing at the space 'tween two boards, she turned, posed for a portrait and jumped into the chasm.

On 23-29 October I discovered immature Bold Jumpers (*Phidippus audax*) on the firewood I was stacking. I believe that an egg sack hatched in the wood recently in the warm weather we have been experiencing.

On 26 October 2018 I again see an immature Bold Jumper on the portal as I was photographing a Honey bee investigating the Hollyhocks. That Bold Jumper saw the bee acting like a carnivorous wasp and jumped into a 10mm hole in the ancient concrete surface of our portal. Still exposed to the sky the spider noticed the gap between the toe of my shoe and the concrete into which he next jumped. After the departure of the bee I very carefully stepped back and our Bold jumper dashed off into the garden.

All photos and words are from one page of three of Bugs associated with the local Flora, my most recent obsession abetted by Kathryn and the cats. Soon at: www.kayakpeter.net



*Bold Jumper leaving hole heading for safety
under my shoe*