

## SANTA ROSA WOLF SPIDER

*Arctosa sanctaerosae*

**Order:** Araneae  
**Family:** Lycosidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S2S3  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** none



**Description:** A medium-sized spider up to about one inch in total length with legs extended. Easily identified by its overall translucent white coloration with no dark markings. There are black setae ("hairs") on the upperparts of each leg. The abdomen is brighter white than all other upperparts. The underside is a muted orange color. This species exhibits blue biofluorescence under 365 nm ultraviolet light, helping to separate it from other Lycosidae sharing coastal habitats.

**Similar Species:** This is the only translucent all-white spider found on panhandle beaches. *Arctosa littoralis* ranges from gray to brown and has dark markings on the legs, thorax, and abdomen. Other wolf spiders living on dunes are brown.

**Habitat:** Found on coastal dunes and coastal scrub with exposed white sand. This spider avoids areas with plants or leaf litter (Robert Gundy, pers. obs.). Individuals live in shallow burrows in the sand during the day.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Present year-round.

**Florida Distribution:** Found on beaches in the Florida panhandle from Escambia County to Wakulla County.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Along Gulf Coast beaches from Mississippi eastward to Wakulla County, Florida.

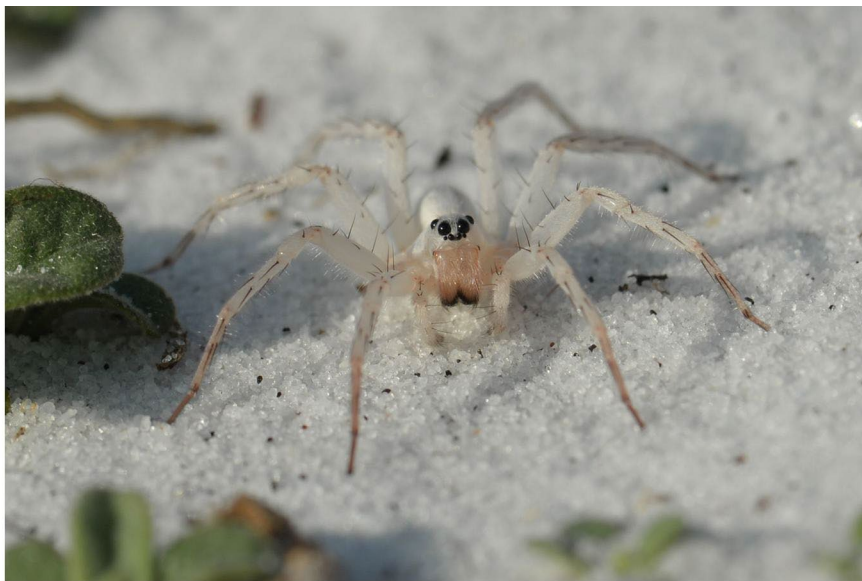
**Conservation Status:** The dune habitat for this species is protected on numerous public lands throughout its range.

**Protection and Management:** Invasive plant removal on coastal dunes is needed at some sites, such as Bald Point State Park. In coastal scrub habitats, periodic fire should be used to create more areas of open sand.

**Santa Rosa Wolf Spider**

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**References:** Dondale and Redner 1983, Gertsch and Wallace 1935



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Adult biofluorescing 365 nm UV light. © Robert Gundy

