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Argiope lobata (Pallas, 1772) - Italy, Sicily (PA): Monte Pellegrino

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The genus Argiope Audouin, 1826 (Araneae Araneidae).

Argiope Audouin, 1826 (Araneae Araneidae) is a genus of spiders belonging to the family Araneidae Clerck 1757. This genus includes 85 species and 3 subspecies, distributed on every continent, excluding the poles. The name of this genus, which derives from Greek, means bright white sight and refers precisely to the conspicuousness of these spiders that show a bright white or yellow background color, broken by black transverse bands. There is a very marked sexual dimorphism in this genus. The females, very large, reach sizes ranging from 14 to 25 mm, while the males range from 4 to 6 mm. Even the circular and regular web makes this genus easily recognizable. In fact, the webs are very large, built between shrubs or stems and with a central zigzag “*stabilimentum*”.

On the cover photograph, a specimen of *A. lobata* (Pallas, 1772) is shown while it feeds on *Graphosoma* sp. (Hemiptera), trapped in its web. Same species and station for the photo on the right.

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