

The Morphological Characteristics of the Venom Gland in the Funnel Web Spider, *Agelena limbata*

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The fine structure and histochemical characteristics of the venom producing organs in the funnel web spider, *Agelena limbata* were studied using light and electron microscopes. The *Agelena limbata* has a pair of poison glands in the prosoma portion. Each poison gland consists of a long cylindrical part and an adjoining duct, which terminates at the tip of the cheliceral fang. The venom secreting epithelium composed of long interdigitating epithelial cells running perpendicular to the muscular sheath and extending into the central lumen of the gland. Each secretory cell has well developed rough endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, Golgi complex and secretory granules. The secretory venom granules that have various electron density and size were scattered in the cytoplasm of the venom secreting epithelial cells.