



Completed underwater home of *Argyroneta* with female spider inside. The nest is a tightly woven silken sheet held in place among aquatic plants and filled with air which the spider brought down from the surface in repeated dives. Stale air is released through holes which the little spider cuts in the top of the sheet and then reseals with fresh silk. Air supply is replenished with new bubbles as oxygen is exhausted.



above  
 Displaying her underside. *Argyroneta* shows how her air bubble is held to her abdomen and her breathing apparatus. When bubble is exhausted, she returns to the top and replenishes her air supply. If she does not move about, she can stay under water for as long as 16 hours without coming up for air; in the cold season she remains inert in her diving bell home for months at a time.

below  
 Like a silvery bubble, little *Argyroneta* paddles about in search of likely food. An excellent swimmer, she does most of her hunting at night, like many of her terrestrial sisters.