

SPIDER DIVERSITY IN KARNATAKA

Introduction

Spiders are one of the most familiar, fascinating, diverse and effective predators in terrestrial ecosystems. They belong to Phylum Arthropoda, Class- Arachnida and Order- Araneae. The order Araneae ranks 7th in total species diversity among all other groups of organisms. Currently 40998 species belonging to 3747 genera and 109 families have been described. India has 1685 spider species from 438 genera and 60 families.

LIST OF SPIDERS IN KARNATAKA

1. Telamonia dimidiata
2. Myrmarachne plataleoides
3. Oxypes biramanicus
4. Plexippus petersit
5. Hyllus semicupreus
6. Hersilia savignyi
7. Ctenus cochunensis
8. Leucauge decorate
9. Cyrtophora citricola
10. Gasteracantha geminate
11. Argiope amula
12. Argiope Pulchella
13. Thomisus lobosus
14. Zosis geniculatus
15. Nephila maculata
16. Stegodyphus sarasinorium

Myrmarachne plataleoides

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| Habitat | Trees, bushes and walls |
| Distribution | India , Sri lanka , China and South East Asia |
| Size | Female: 6-7mm; Male: 9-10mm |
| Common name | Red Ant mimic |



Oxypes biramanicus

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| Habitat | Shrubs in gardens and secondary forests |
| Distribution | India, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia. |
| Size | Female:7-9mm; Male: 6-7mm |
| Common name | Burmese Lynx spider |

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Hersilia savignyi

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|---------------------|--|
| Habitat | Tree trunks of large trees |
| Distribution | Karnataka , Kerala , Gujarat , Singapore |
| Size | Female: 8-10mm Male: 5-8mm |
| Common name | Two – tailed spider |



Hyllus semicupreus

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|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Habitat | Foliage and tree trunks |
| Distribution | India , Australia , Madagascar, Iran |
| Size | Female: 8-9mm; Male: 7-9mm |
| Common name | Heavy body jumper |

Leucauge decorate

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|---------------------|---|
| Habitat | Grasses and low shrubs in shaded moist environment. |
| Distribution | India , Australia , Singapore , Thailand , Srilanka |
| Size | Female:7-9mm Male: 8mm |
| Common name | Silver orb web spider |



Argiope amula

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| Habitat | Lower shrubs, beside hiking trails at the fringe of primary and secondary forests |
| Distribution | India , Singapore , Malaysia |
| Size | Female: 25-30mm; Male: 5-8mm |
| Common name | Zipper spider , Wasp spider |
| Web | “X” shaped web found on shrubs |

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Gasteracantha geminate

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Habitat | Tall shrubs in forest and garden |
| Distribution | India , Sri lanka |
| Size | Female: 6-8mm; Male: 5-7mm |
| Common name | Spiny orb weaver |
| Web | Orb webs |



Nephila maculata

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Habitat | Trees and shrubs |
| Distribution | India , Japan , China ,Sri lanka |
| Size | Female: 4.8-5.1cm; Male: 1.2-2cm |
| Common name | Giant wood spider |
| Web | "Y" frame web |

Zosis geniculatus

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|---------------------|---|
| Habitat | Under bridges or in old garages and abandoned sheds |
| Distribution | Throughout the tropics |
| Size | Female: 5-7mm; Male: 4-6mm |
| Common name | Grey house spider |

