

Common Spiders

Lemelin, R. H., & Yen, A. (2015). *Human-spider entanglements: Understanding and managing the good, the bad, and the venomous*. *Anthrozoös*, 28(2), 215-228.

History

There are many misconceptions about spiders that feed into the public's arachnophobia. From reports in Australia, the most common venomous spiders are the funnel-web, redback, whitetail, and huntsmen. There are only a few species of spiders that are researched for the purposes of creating antivenom worldwide. These spiders are the widow, recluse, hobo, south American-armed, and Sydney funnel-web.

Threats

Many forms of human interference pose threats to spiders. There are the standard threats, such as land development and habitat destruction. However, disturbance is also a main contributor toward the decline of spiders. Oftentimes, spiders do not feel threatened enough to attack people unless they are poked and prodded, or if they feel vulnerable. Sometimes spiders find their way into homes and feel threatened when discovered, resulting in spider bites.

Relocation far away from the home is the best and safest option for both humans and spiders. Most spiders live in tree hollows, bushes, under rocks, etc. However, sometimes they make their home closer to humans, especially if the land was recently developed on their habitat. This results in spiders making nests in all the nooks and crannies of homes.

In addition, false information also harms the reputation of spiders and, in turn, the spiders themselves. There are sometimes instances where medical reports indicate the wrong spider as the source of injury, sully the species. While there are indeed many dangerous and venomous species of spiders, they are not very common in people's lives unless you live in their habitat, or if you intentionally go looking for them. Lastly, many spider bites do not result in fatal or even major injuries, and can often be compared to mosquito bites. All of these factors feed into arachnophobia, which can also result in entomophobia. Proper and accurate education must be available to the public.

Recovery Plan

One way to protect spiders includes providing the public with correct information regarding deadly spiders. In addition, this will encourage future generations to not fear every spider or every insect they come across. The fear is often taught, and creating better insect education or hosting 'bug camps' can help alleviate some of the fear and, in turn, boost the spider population.

Tourism Location

Many of the most common spiders reside in Australia.