



WORKSHOP ON
**TAXONOMY OF
SPIDERS**

20-23 March 2018

**DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA**

Collaboration with
**DIVISION OF ARACHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
SACRED HEART COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THEVARA, KOCHI**

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SPIDERS are one of the most diverse groups of organisms. Though they form one of the most ubiquitous and diverse groups of organisms in India, their study has remained largely neglected and ignored due to human tendency to favour some organisms over others of equal importance. The Western Ghats is listed in the 34 'Biodiversity hotspots' of the world due to its high species endemism. However, the diversity of spiders in the Western Ghats remains unexplored because of the lack of awareness about them. There are many environmental factors that affect species diversity. Studies have demonstrated that a correlation exists between structural complexity of habitats and species diversity. Spiders are extremely sensitive to small changes in the habitat structure including habitat complexity, litter depth and microclimate characteristics. Spiders generally have humidity and temperature preferences that limit them to areas within the range of their "physiological tolerances", which make them the ideal candidates for conservation studies. Therefore, documenting spider diversity patterns in the ecosystem can provide important information to justify the conservation of the ecosystem.

Arachnology is still in its infancy compared to the breadth and depth of the entomological research in India. Spiders receive relatively little attention, both from the conservation community and from the taxonomists alike. This lack of scientific awareness is a major oversight, considering that spiders (Order Araneae) constitute one of the most diverse animal orders with more than 47,000 described species in the world over. The taxonomy of spiders is the main constraint in studying and conserving these creatures. Hence, we would like to organize a workshop on 'Taxonomy of Spiders' in the Department of Zoology, which will impart the knowledge on the classification of spiders.

Date of workshop: 20th to 23rd March 2018

Venue: Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram.

REGISTRATION FEE:

Faculty/Scientists: Rs. 2,500/- (Accommodation is not included)

Research Scholars: Rs. 1,500/- (Accommodation is not included)

Who can apply: The number of participants is limited to 20 and those who are working in spiders or wish to do research in spiders only need to apply. The interested candidates may send their bio-data along with a half page write up on why you want to attend the workshop. The registration fee will be collected from the selected candidates at the time of registration.

Accommodation can be arranged on payment basis for limited number of participants.

ORGANIZING SECRETARY

Dr. G. Prasad, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology
University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 581, Kerala
Email: porbios1@gmail.com | **Phone:** +91 94972 54158