

## Discovery of new Spider Species from Giant Panda Sanctuaries, China

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There are a relatively small number of spiders recognized worldwide despite scientists expect that many new species are still awaiting discovery. Mysmenidae are one of the least studied groups among orb-weaving spiders which are believed to be due to their small size. The family Mysmenidae to which the new species belong is composed of minute eight-eyed spiders. Being extremely minute, up to 2 mm in total and having cryptic lifestyle these creatures become rather hard to find. The spiders live in moist leaf litter, and their obscure places such as moss and even caves and they prefer very humid habitats. Spiders from this family are believed to widely throughout the tropical and subtropical regions. The two new species found in China are considered endemic to their type localities in the Sichuan and Chongqing. The tiny new spiders are less than 2 mm in length, with Trogloneta yuensis being as little as 1.01 mm and Mysmena wawuensis measured to be even tinier 0.75 mm, which classes it among the smallest spiders known. The two species have a bizarre body shape with disproportionately big spherical posterior body. A recent survey shows that 1206 individuals of giant panda are currently living in Sichuan, which makes the region remarkable with about 76% of the whole wild panda population in China being concentrated there attesting for the great biodiversity of the province.



### REFERENCE

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