

SPECIES

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Spider Diversity in Karnatak College Dharwad (KCD), Karnataka, India

Shreyas Betageri^{1*}, Ningaraj S Makanur¹, Kotresha K¹, Prashant Karadakatti²

ABSTRACT

The spiders are critically analyzed biological species in biodiversity, as we surveyed and listed out the species inside of campus from Karnatak College Dharwad (KCD) Karnataka, India. It includes 50 species and 19 families in that 33 are outdoor spiders (Wild habitat / Nature), 10 are indoor spiders and 07 are intermediate shelters (Indoor and outdoor). 30 spiders are rarely distributed based on their encounter in fewer locations and 20 are commonly distributed and encountered regularly in each field survey.

Keywords: Arthropod, Dharwad, Fauna, Web builders.

1. INTRODUCTION

Spiders are occasional and rare once with commonly distributed species and even it has a biological activator model, an important role in nature with a mimic on several aspects. Spiders belong to a large group of animals classified as arthropods (Greek: arthro=jointed, poda=legs) with 8 legs and two fangs. Fangs are used to stun the prey by injecting the poison (Karthikeyan, 2022). As per the World Spider Catalog, (2023), there are around 51,090 species accepted all over the World. In India in 1948 spider diversity is recorded as per Arenea in India. Study On the diversity of Spider Fauna in Jnana Sahyadri Campus, Shimogga recorded 17 spiders representing 10 families were recorded. Out of 17 species recorded, 6 belong to the family Salticidae, and 2 belong to the families of Oxyopidae and Pholcidae (Prashanthakumara et al., 2015).

A preliminary Study on spiders of Gulbarga, Karnataka recorded 25 species from 10 families and 17 genera (Ashwini and Ravindra, 2016). All spiders are predators, feeding almost entirely on other arthropods, especially insects. Some spiders are active hunters who chase and overpower their prey. These typically have a well-developed sense of touch or sight. Other spiders instead weave silk snares, or webs, to capture prey. According to seasonal distribution, spider diversity of Karnatak University Campus recorded 41 species belonging to 32 genera under 15 families differentiating outdoor, indoor, and endemic.

Distribution of Spiders in Gogi, Yadgir District reported 1060 individuals of 82 species of spiders (44 genera and 19 families) were extracted. Lycosidae was the dominant family represented by 17 species followed by Tetragnathidae (13), Araneidae (12), Theridiidae (8), Salticidae (6), Thomisidae (5), and Oxyopidae (4).

Philodromidae (3), Miturgidae (3) and Uloboridae with two species (Sunil et al., 2017). Spider diversity on Mangalore University Campus recorded 32 species of spiders belonging to 9 families and 16 genera (Sumangala et al., 2018). Occurrence of Spider Species in and around Mysore City, Karnataka recorded 65 spider species which belonging to 15 families of the order Araneae were observed at different ecosystems (Mubeen and Basavarajappa, 2018).

Diversity of Spiders from Tumkur University Campus, Tumakuru, India reported 46 species of spiders belonging to 34 genera of 13 families (Kokilamani et al., 2019). Spider Diversity along the Tungabhadra Irrigation Channel at Ballari, Karnataka reported 50 species belonging to 19 families, among them 12 species belong to the Salticidae family followed by Araneidae (12 species), Pholcidae (5 species), Linyphiidae (three), Theridiidae (two), Tetragnathidae (two), Oxyopidae (two). The Gnaphosidae, Thomisidae, Platoridae, Sparassidae, Dinopidae, Selenopidae, Aagelenidae, Corinnidae, Eutichuridae, Sclerosomatidae and Lycosidae comprise one species each (Raiz-Tabasum et al., 2018).

Diversity of Spiders at Amanikere Park in Tumakuru District, Karnataka recorded 50 species of spider fauna; out of which only two spiders were identified family level. They belong to 41 genera of 14 families (Shraddha and Chaturved, 2020). Burrow characteristics of a trapdoor spider (*Idiops* sp.) in the Western Ghats of Uttara Kannada reported the *Idiops* sp. constructed simple tube-like burrows with a "D"-shaped trapdoor, the difference in thickness of the entrance door was observed, based on which, trapdoor can be categorized to two types i.e., Wafer like thin door (Neha Gupta). Spiders from Tavandi Ghat, (Nipani Range), Karnataka reported 75 species belonging to 52 genera and 18 families (Lazarus et al., 2020).

2. MATERIAL METHODS

Study area

The Dharwad is known as the educational hub of Karnataka, Karnatak College Dharwad was the first institution of higher learning in Northern Karnataka. It was established on 20th June 1917 by the then Governor of Bombay (erstwhile Bombay Province). The gigantic building of Karnatak College is a major landmark of Dharwad. Karnataka College lies at 15° 27' 12" N 74° 59' 52" E, with lush green natural vegetation with hill and well-balanced biodiversity with the floristic composition of 303 plant species, belonging to 238 genera in 75 families (Kotresha et al., 2011). The campus is spread over an area of 57 acres, it has a tropical climate and lies 741m above sea level (Figure 1). Maximum temperature during summers may rise to 41 °C and the minimum in winters may go down to about 11 °C. The temperature averages 24.3 °C and annual rainfall is 885 mm. Trees are dominant on campus with a total of 1387 individuals of 98 species belonging to 83 genera of 33 families (Mouna et al., 2021). The survey was conducted throughout campus by repeated visits to different spots in various seasons throughout the year.

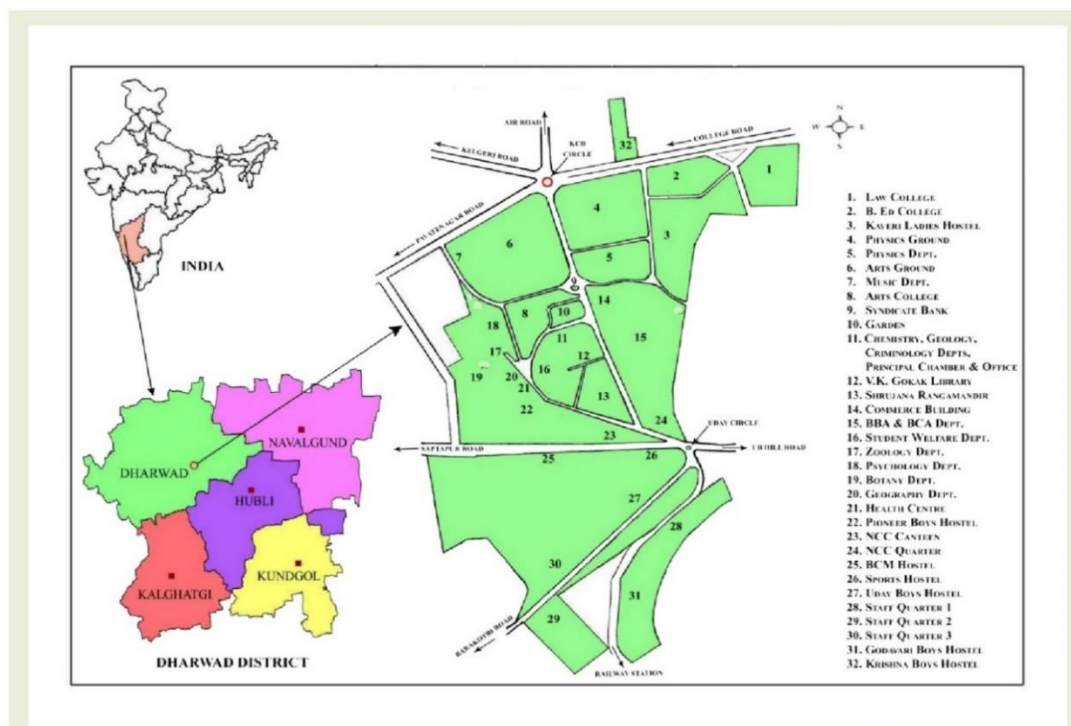


Figure 1 Map of Karnatak Science College, Dharwad

Photography

Spider Photographs were clicked during day and night using D7200 and mobile macros lens in various angles (Side, top, down) without disturbing the spider and its web.

Identification

The photographed spiders were identified with the help of field guides (Sebastian and Peter, 2017; Karthikeyan, 2022; Ashalatha, 2018).

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

A checklist of spiders of Karnatak College Dharwad is prepared with 50 species without disturbing the spider web (Figure 5-9). It shows that 30 spiders are rarely distributed (R) based on their encounter in fewer locations and 20 are commonly distributed (C) based on their common distribution and more regular encounter (Figure 2). As per Table 1, 2 spiders are recorded from Grasses (G), 18 spiders are recorded from garden and garden plants (g), 15 spiders are recorded at Indoor wall corners (WC), 9 spiders are recorded under tree shades and tree trunk-Tree shades (TS), 2 spiders are recorded at ponds and tanks-Near wetland (NW), 2 spiders are recorded on land-Terrestrial (T), 1 spider recorded at Demolished building corners (DBC); 26 species are web builders (WB), 23 species are without web (WOB), 11 species builds web during predation (WOBP) (Figure 3).

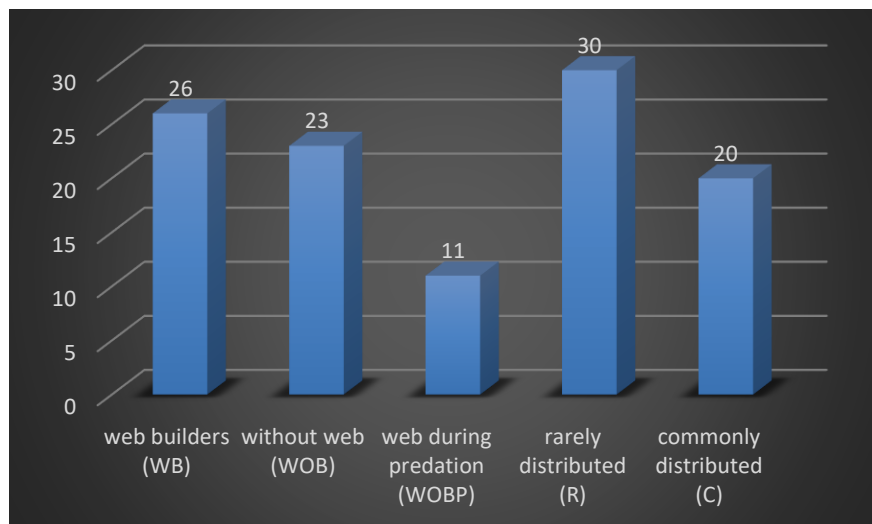


Figure 2 Web pattern types and distributional status

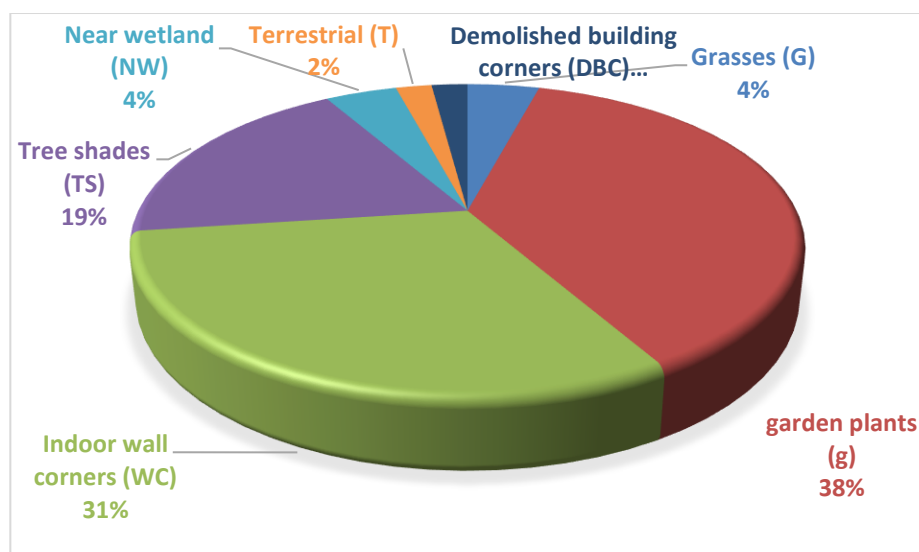


Figure 3 Habitat distribution of spiders

The surveyed list comprises 50 species which approximately have 19 families in that 33 are outdoor spiders (Agelenidae, Araneidae, Salticidae, Hersiliidae, Sparassidae, Lycosidae, Theridiidae, Sclerosomatidae, Tetragnathidae, Uloboridae, Oxyopidae, Thomisidae, Theraphosidae, Thomisidae, Theraphosidae, Cheiracanthiidae, Oecobiidae, Scytodidae), 10 are indoor spiders (Salticidae, Pholcidae, Sparassidae, Theridiidae, Pisauridae, Liocranidae) and 07 (Araneidae, Salticidae, Oxyopidae, Oecobiidae) are both indoor and outdoor spiders (Table 2). The most common types of webs encountered during the survey are Normal Cob Web; Signature type of Web; Triangular type of Web; Trapping type of Web; Inverted Funnel type of Web; Deep pit type of Web (Figure 4).

Threats

Like most terrestrial invertebrates, spiders are affected by habitat alteration such as deforestation, agriculture, grazing, and urbanization (Wells et al., 1983). Spiders are very delicate with factors like temperature, humidity and radiation. Hyper factors like fire, wind, water and light (radiation) may lead to destruct the nature of the spider and its shelter even, clear-cutting of forests reduces spider abundance and changes spider community composition drastically (Coyle, 1981; McIver et al., 1992). Some evidence says that paved roads and railway lines may act as linear barriers to dispersal, isolating some cursorial spider species into fragments of habitat (Mader et al., 1990). The magnitude of this effect leads to other dispersal abilities of species.

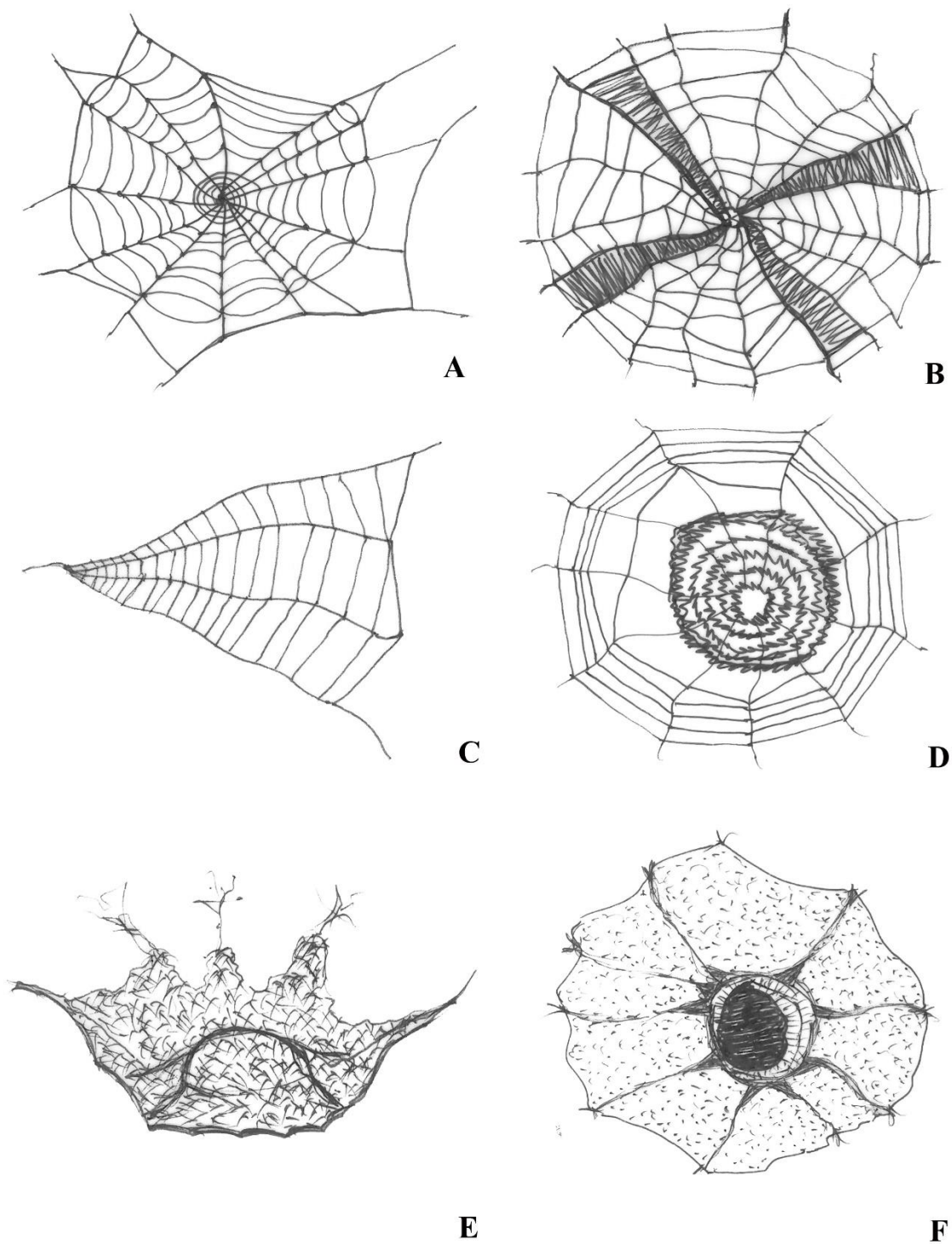


Figure 4 Types of Webs encountered during survey, A. Normal Cob Web; B. Signature type of Web; C. Triangular type of Web; D. Trapping type of Web; E. Inverted Funnel type of Web; F. Deep pit type of Web.

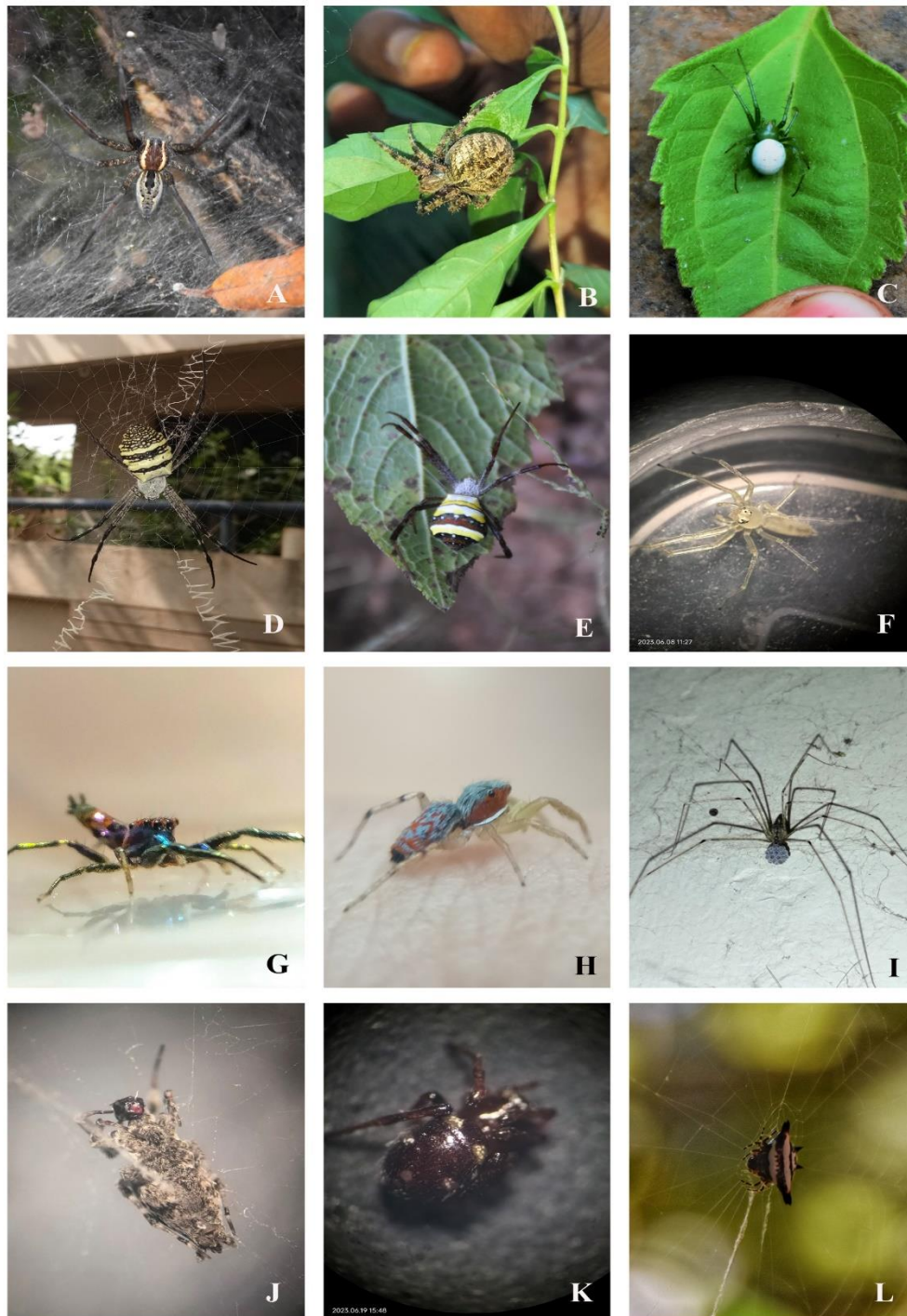


Figure 5 A. *Agelenopsis* sp. B. *Araneus ventricosus* C. *Araneus viridisomus* D. *Argiope aemula* E. *Argiope anasuja* F. *Cheiracanthium* sp. G. *Chrysilla volupe* (Feamle) H. *Chrysilla volupe* (Male) I. *Crossopriza lyoni* J. *Cyclosa* sp. K. *Euryopsis* sp. L. *Gasteracantha geminata*

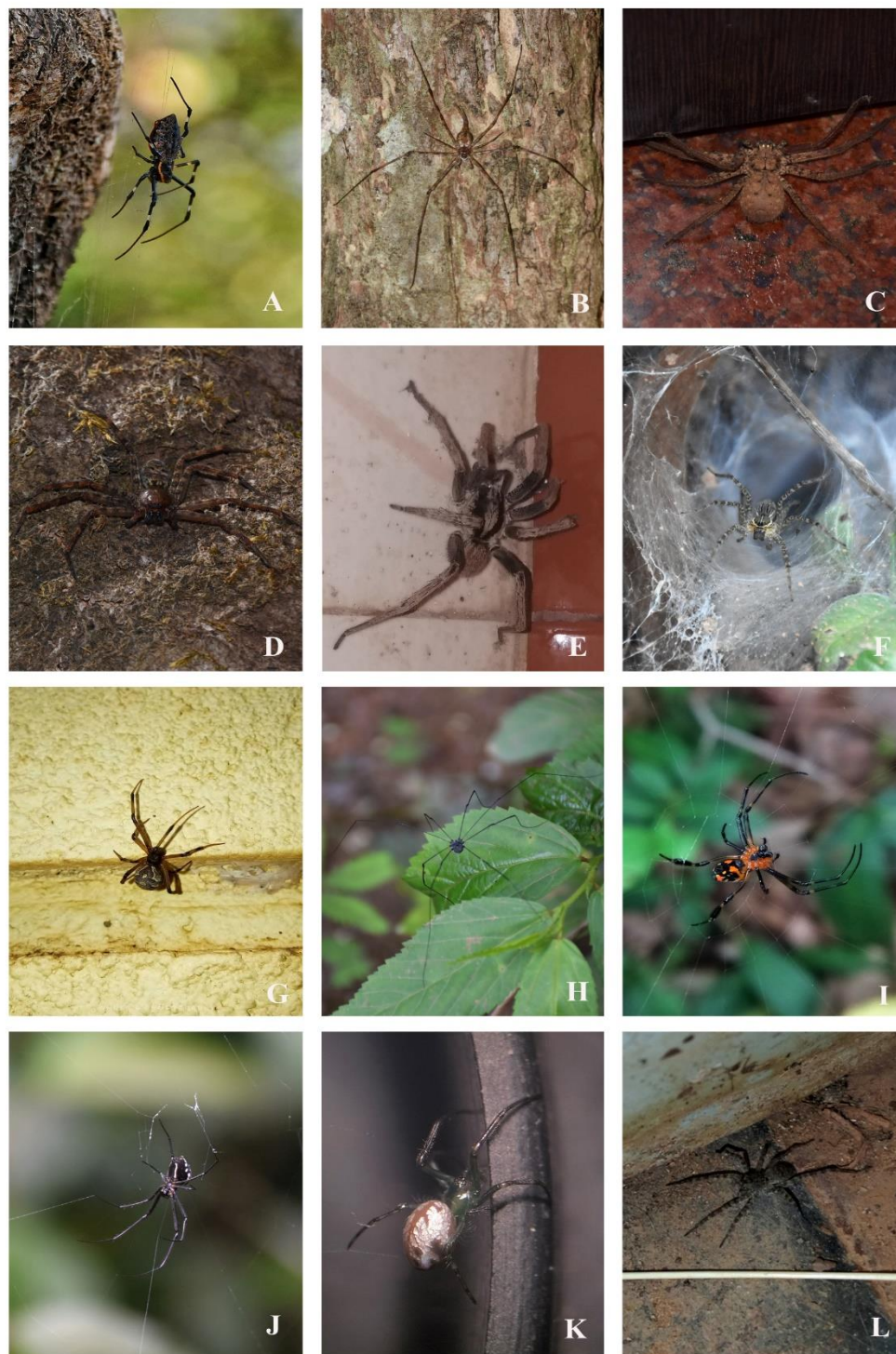


Figure 6 A. *Herennia multipuncta* B. *Hersilia savignyi* C. *Heteropoda* sp. 1 D. *Heteropoda venatoria* E. *Heteropoda* sp. 2 F. *Hippasa agelenoides* G. *Latrodectus geometricus* H. *Leiobunum* sp. I. *Leucauge fastigata* J. *Leucauge* sp. K. *Leucauge venusta* L. *Lycosa* Sp.

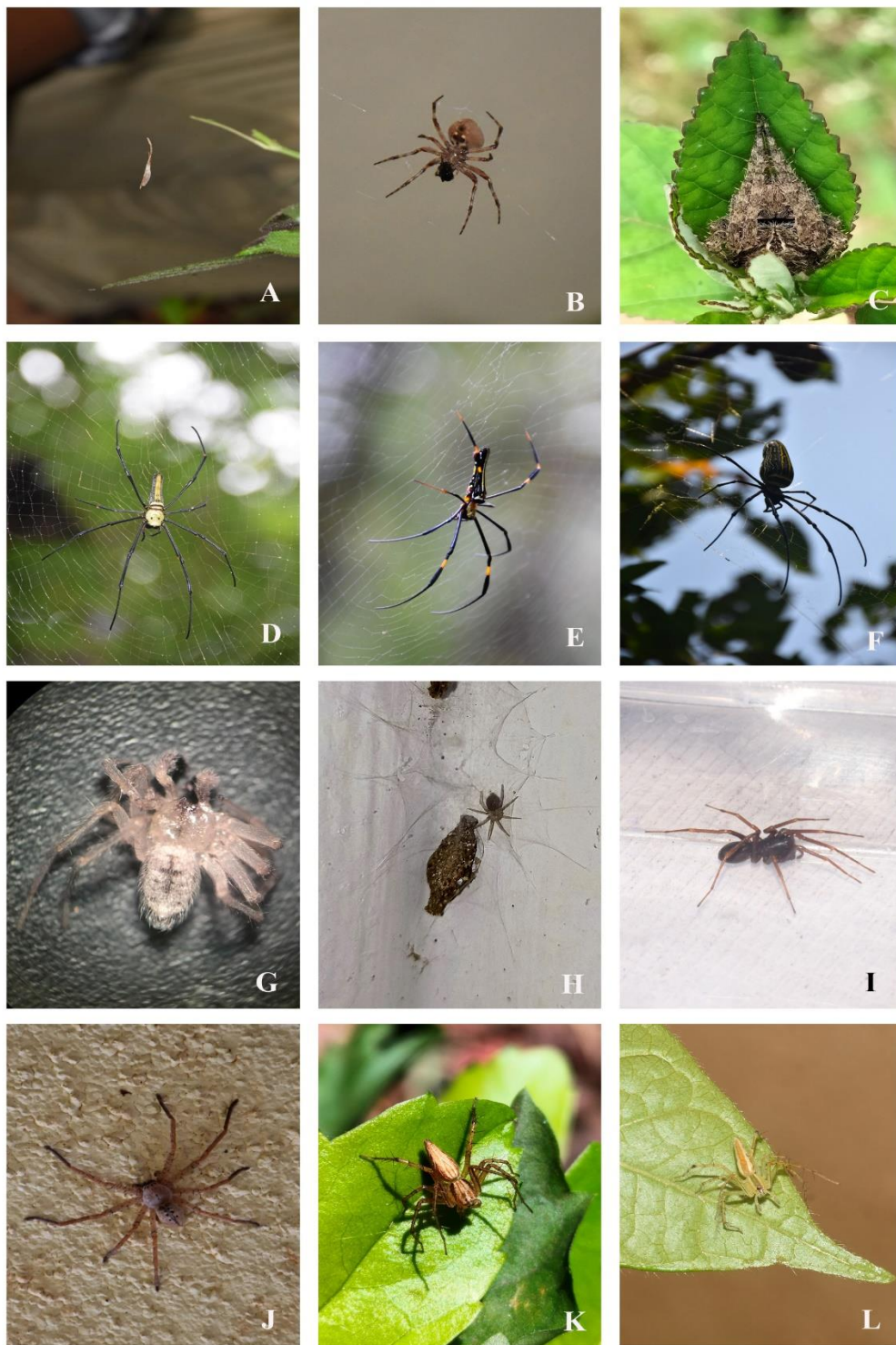


Figure 7 A. *Miagrammopes bradleyi* B. *Neoscona bengalensis* C. *Neoscona puntigera* D. *Nephila pilipes* E. *Nephila pilipes* F. *Nephila* sp. G. *Oecobius maculatus* H. *Oecobius putus* I. *Oedignantha scorbicualta* J. *Olios* sp. K. *Oxyopes javanus* L. *Oxyopes lineatipes*

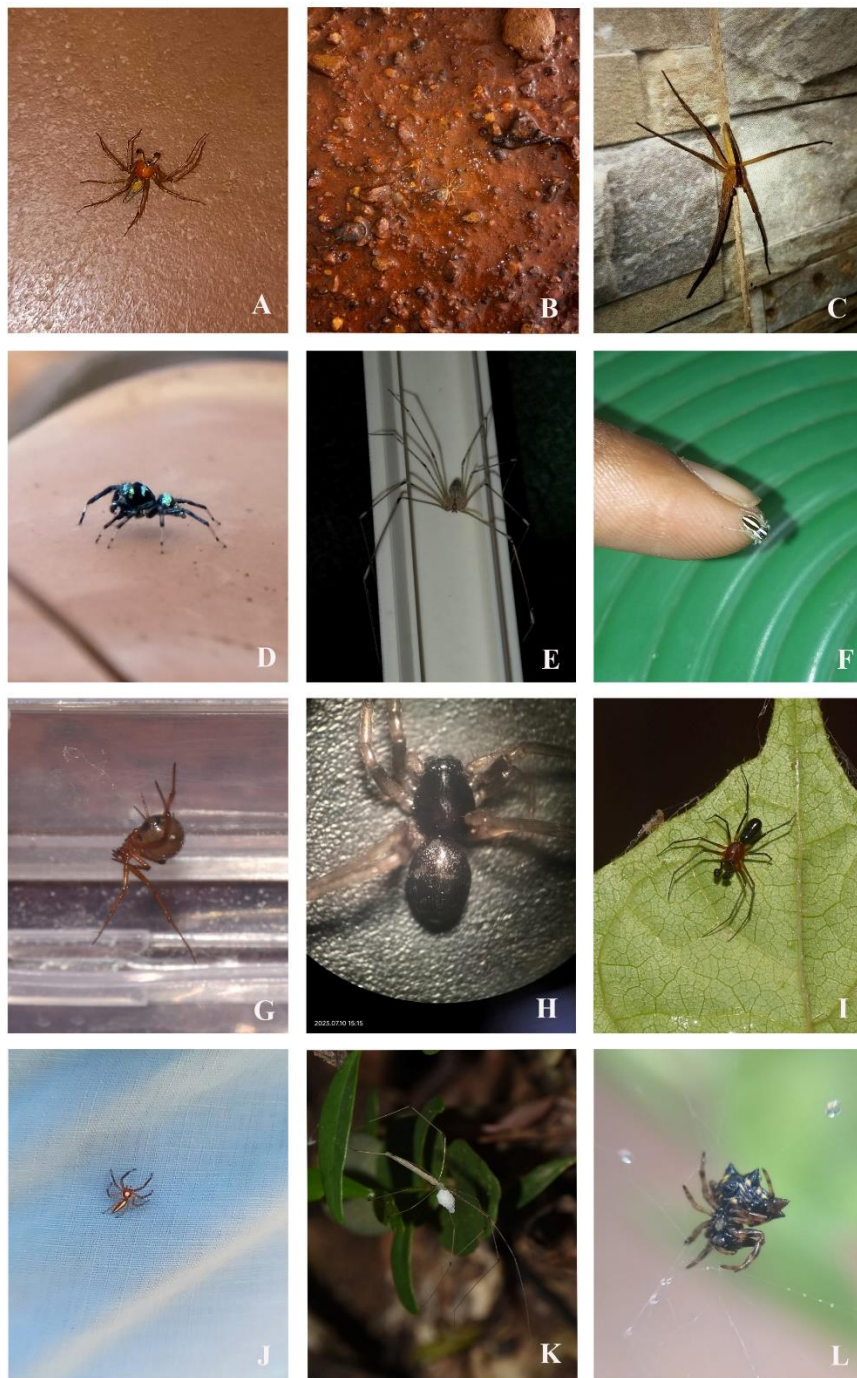


Figure 8 A. *Oxyopes* sp. B. *Paradosa* sp. C. *Perenethis venusta* D. *Phintella* sp. E. *Pholcus phalangioides* F. *Plexippus paykuli* G. *Portia* sp. H. *Scytodes fusca* I. *Steatoda* sp. J. *Telmonia dimidiata* K. *Tetragnatha* sp. L. *Thelacantha brevispina*



Figure 9 A. *Thomisus spectabilis* B. *Thrigmpoeus truculentus* C. *Zosis geniculata*

Table 1 Checklist of Spiders in Karnatak Science College, Dharwad

Sl no.	Scientific name	Family	CN.	S.	H.	St.	Type
1	<i>Agelenopsis</i> sp. (Giebel, 1869)	Agelenidae	Pennsylvania funnel-web spider	July	G	R	WB
2	<i>Araneus ventricosus</i> (L. Koch, 1878)	Araneidae	Large nocturnal spider	June	g	R	WOBP
3	<i>Araneus viridisomus</i> Gravelly (1921)	Araneidae	-	May	NW	R	WB
4	<i>Argiope aemula</i> (Walckenaer, 1841)	Araneidae	Oval St Andrew's cross spider	May	g	R	WB
5	<i>Argiope anasuja</i> (Thorell, 1887)	Araneidae	Signature spider	January	g	C	WB
6	<i>Cheiracanthium</i> sp. (C. L. Koch, 1839)	Cheiracanthiidae	yellow sac spiders	June	g	R	WB
7	<i>Chrysilla volupe</i> (Karsch, 1879)	Salticidae	Jumping Spider	April	g	R	WOB
8	<i>Crossopriza lyoni</i> (Blackwell, 1867)	Pholcidae	Tailed daddy longlegs	May	WC	C	WB
9	<i>Cyclosa</i> sp. (Anton Menge in 1866)	Araneidae	Trashline Orbweavers	June	g	C	WB
10	<i>Euryopsis</i> sp. Anton Menge in 1868)	Theridiidae	False Widow Spiders	June	WC	R	WOBP
11	<i>Gasteracantha geminata</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	Araneidae	Oriental spiny orb-weaver	December	TS	R	WB
12	<i>Hasarisus adansoni</i> (Audouin, 1826)	Salticidae	Adanson's House jumper	May	WC	C	WOB
13	<i>Herennia multipuncta</i> (Doleschall, 1859)	Araneidae	Ornamental tree trunk spider	May	TS	R	WB
14	<i>Hersilia savignyi</i> (Lucas, 1836)	Hersiliidae	Two-tailed spider	May	TS	C	WOB
15	<i>Heteropoda</i> sp.1	Sparassidae	Huntsman spiders	April	WC	R	WOB
16	<i>Heteropoda</i> sp.2	Sparassidae	Giant Huntsman spiders	May	WC	R	WOB
17	<i>Heteropoda venatoria</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	Sparassidae	Huntsman spiders	April	On	R	WOB
18	<i>Hippasa agelenoides</i> (Simon,	Lycosidae	Common funnel	December	G	C	WB

	1884)		web spider				
19	<i>Latrodectus geometricus</i> C.L. Koch, 1841	Theridiidae	Brown black widow	May	WC	R	WB
20	<i>Leiobunum</i> sp.	Sclerosomatidae	Harvestman spiders	August	DBC	R	WB
21	<i>Leucauge fastigata</i> (Simon, 1877)	Tetragnathidae	Pear-shaped leucauge	July	NW	C	WB
22	<i>Leucauge</i> sp.	Tetragnathidae	Long-jawed orb weaver	August	TS	R	WB
23	<i>Leucauge venusta</i> (Walckenaer, 1841)	Tetragnathidae	Long-jawed orb weaver	May	g	C	WB
24	<i>Lycosa</i> Sp.	Lycosidae	Wolf spiders	June	T	R	WOBP
25	<i>Oedignatha scrobiculata</i> (Thorell, 1881)	Uloboridae	Cribellate Orb weavers	July	WC	R	WB
26	<i>Miagrammopes bradleyi</i> (O.P. Cambridge, 1874)	Araneidae	Spotted orb weaver or barn spider	April	TS	R	WB
27	<i>Neoscona bengalensis</i> (Tikader & Bal, 1981)	Araneidae	Ghost orb weaver spider	August	g	R	WOBP
28	<i>Neoscona puntigera</i> (Doleschall, 1857)	Araneidae	Giant golden orb weaver	August	g	R	WB
29	<i>Nephila pilipes</i> (Fabricius 1793)	Araneidae	Giant golden orb weaver	July	TS	C	WB
30	<i>Nephila</i> spp. (Leach, 1815)	Oecobiidae	Tiny House Dweller	August	TS	C	WB
31	<i>Oecobius maculatus</i> (Simon, 1870)	Oecobiidae	Tiny House Dweller	June	g	R	WB
32	<i>Oecobius putus</i> (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876)	Lyocranidae	Swollen Jaw Spiny-legged Spider	June	g	C	WOB
33	<i>Olios</i> spp. (Walckenaer, 1837)	Sparassidae	Huntsman spider	April	TS	R	WOB
34	<i>Oxyopes javanus</i> (Thorell, 1887)	Oxyopidae	Lynx spiders	May	g	C	WOBP
35	<i>Oxyopes lineatipes</i> (C.L.Koch, 1847)	Oxyopidae	Lynx spiders	June	g	R	WOBP
36	<i>Oxyopes</i> sp.	Oxyopidae	Lynx spiders	June	WC	R	WOBP
37	<i>Paradosa</i> sp.	Lycosidae	Thin-legged Wolf Spider	August	T	C	WOBP
38	<i>Perenethis venusta</i> (L. Koch, 1878)	Pisauridae	Nursery web spiders	May	WC	R	WOB
39	<i>Phintella vittata</i> (L. C. Koch, 1846)	Salticidae	Banded Phintella Jumping spider	August	g	R	WOBP
40	<i>Pholcus phalangoides</i> (K. F. Johann, 1775)	Pholcidae	Long-bodied cellar spider	May	WC	C	WB
41	<i>Plexippus paykuli</i> (Audouin, 1826)	Salticidae	Pantropical Jumping Spider	April	WC	C	WOBP
42	<i>Lyniphadae</i> sp.	Arachnida	Intuitive learners	June	WC	C	WB
43	<i>Scytodes fusca</i> (Walckenaer, 1837)	Scytodidae	Spitting Spider	June	WC	R	WOB
44	<i>Steatoda</i> sp. (Sundevall, 1833)	Theridiidae	Ant mimic spider	July	g	C	With Web
45	<i>Telmonia dimidiata</i> (Simon, 1899)	Salticidae	Jumping Spider	April	WC	R	WOB

46	<i>Tetragnatha</i> sp.	Tetragnathidae	Jawed orb-weavers	March	TS	R	WB
47	<i>Thelacantha brevispina</i> (Doleschall, 1857)	Araneidae	Asian spiny-backed spider	August	g	C	WB
48	<i>Thomisus spectabilis</i> (Doleschall, 1859)	Thomisidae	White Crab spider	March	g	C	WOBP
49	<i>Thrigmopoeus truculentus</i> (Pocock, 1899)	Theraphosidae	Karwar large burrowing spider	April	WC	R	WOB
50	<i>Zosis geniculata</i> (Olivier, 1789)	Uloboridae	Humped spider or grey house spider	May	g	C	WB

CN- Common name; S- Season; H- Habitat; St- Status; R-Rarely distributed, C-Commonly distributed; G-Grasses; g- garden; WC- Indoor wall corners; TS-Tree shades; NW-Near wetland; T-Terrestrial; DBC-Demolished building corners; WB-Web Builder; WOB- Without Web; WOBP-Without web, but uses web during predation.

Table 2 Outdoor and indoor spiders

Sl no.	Family	Indoor spiders	Outdoor spiders	Both Indoor & Outdoor
1	Agelenidae	-	1	-
2	Araneidae	-	9	4
3	Salticidae	1	3	1
4	Pholcidae	2	-	-
5	Hersiliidae	-	1	-
6	Sparassidae	3	1	-
7	Lycosidae	-	3	-
8	Theridiidae	2	1	-
9	Sclerosomatidae	-	1	-
10	Tetragnathidae	-	4	-
11	Uloboridae	-	1	-
12	Oxyopidae	-	3	1
13	Pisauridae	1	-	-
14	Thomisidae	-	1	-
15	Theraphosidae	-	1	-
16	Cheiracanthiidae	-	1	-
17	Oecobiidae	-	1	1
18	Liocranidae	1	-	-
19	Scytodidae	-	1	-
Total		10	33	07

4. CONCLUSION

A spider's checklist of Karnatak College Dharwad is prepared and documented with 50 species. The spider's biodiversity is critically analyzed, surveyed, and listed the species inside of campus from Karnatak College Dharwad (KCD) Karnataka, India.

Informed consent

Not applicable

Ethical approval

The ethical guidelines for animals are followed in the study for sample collection & identification without disturbing the webs and insects, only by photograph.

Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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The study has not received any external funding.

Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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