

# ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

## SPIDER (mentioned in Quran with Surah named Al-Ankboot)

### HABITAT

- These are found in damp places, in leaf litter, under small rocks or logs, on or within tree bark
- Around 45700 spider species have been recorded so far.
- These are different from insects in that the usual body segments are fused

### DISTRIBUTION

- Found worldwide on every continent except for Antarctica
- Have become established in nearly every habitat with the exceptions of air and sea colonization.

### FUN FACTS

- Largest order of arachnids and rank seventh in total species diversity among all other orders
- Venom of a few species is dangerous to humans
- Research is being done in using of spider venom in medicine and as non-polluting pesticides
- Few species, put out silk threads which are caught by the wind, carrying them up and away, called Ballooning
- Arachnophobia, abnormal fear of spiders or anything reminiscent of spiders, may sometimes affect humans psychologically



### THREATS

- Habitats are being destroyed by the clearing and degrading of bushland
- Grazing sheep and cattle damage vegetation, trample the ground and compact the soil
- Making the soil so hard that burrowing spiders cannot recolonize the area.

### IMPORTANCE FOR HUMANS:

venom and silk are being used in

- Medical research (Artificial tendons or ligaments, supports for weak blood vessels)
- Pest control (insect specific pesticides)
- Fiber technology (transgenic biosilk production)

**Stephenson's Natural History Museum invites you to visit and have a look at preserved animal diversity . You will surely enjoy this visit!**