STUDY OF SPIDER DIVERSITY FROM WASHIM REGION, MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract:
Spiders are air-breathing arthropods. Indian faunal diversity indudes an extremely abundant group of animal, the spiders. They are present in both agricultural and environment. We have suryed faunal diversity of spiders from April 2025 to July 2025 feom the different areas of Washim regions, Maharashtra. A total of 10 spider specimens were captured from different plants and areas, of these, 40 Specimens were females & males and 28 specimens were immature /sub adults.
Keywords: *Spiders, Diversity, Washim, Maharashtra*

Introduction:-

Araneae asse abundant generalist predators in terrestrial habitats and are themselves an important food source for other animals forms a valuable component of ecosystem functions. The genus, is represented by 12 different species of Neoscona given by **Chapke Sonali and IA Raja (2015).** Agriculture is a human activity which makes great use of terrestrial ecosystems. Although the spiders are a diverse arachnid order consisting of more the 1520 species in India, all are obligate predators, and many feed upon herbivorous pest insects. Many researchers have provided descriptions of spider species abundance on composition in a variety of agroecosystems but none on cotton.

Spiders from the sevenths largest animal order in terms of numbers of known species and are common predatory arthropods in all terrestrial and many aquatic ecosystems. Arachnids are a diverse group of invertebrate populations that exploit a wide range of spatial and temporal niches in virtually all biomes on the earth. Araneae are an important group of arthropods although poorly studied given by **Ujwala P. Lande (2023).**

Araneae is the largest entirely carnivorous group of animals on the planet. Researchers have described overs 75,000 species of arachids worldwide with many more undescribed. Spider has also an important role in the ecosystem maintenance. They feed on small insect and it turn eaten by birds and other carnivores maintaining the trophic balance of nature, studied by **Selvaraj Selvamurugan, Usha Balasubramanian and K. Vasanthi (2022).**

Materials and Method:-

Study Area : The spiders were observed from photographs taken in Washim Region, Maharashtra.

Study period and Identification of spiders:-

The diversity of spiders throughout the study period was investigated by the hand picking method from April 2025 to July 2025. The spotted spider specimens were photographed in the same environment without disturbing it. All specimens using the taxonomic keys for using Indian spiders.

Result and Discussion:-

The diversity of spider in Washim region, spiders are highly specialized their surrounding. Species of spiders were photograph of the first time which will be useful in studies in future. On the basis of number of identified species Salticidae was the most dominant family represented by 10 species followed by Araneide family. Detailed classification included in following table.

Sr. No.	Common Name	Class	Family	Genus	Species
1	Sac spider	Arachnida	Clubionidae	*Clubiona*	*Clubiona drassodes*
2	Orb-web spider	Arachnida	Araneidae	*Telecantha*	*Telecantha brevispina*
3	Jumping spider	Arachnida	Salticidae	*Menemerus*	*Menemerus bivittatus*
4	Wolf spider	Arachnida	Lycosidae	*Pardosa*	*Paardosa birmannicus*
5	Hunt's man spider	Arachnida	Sparassidae	*Heteropoda*	*Heteropoda venatoria*
6	Garden orb web spider	Arachnida	Araneidae	*Neoscona*	*Neoscona mukerjei*
7	Sheet weaver spider	Arachnida	Linyphiidae	*Gonatium*	*Gonatium crassipalpum*
8	Long cellar spider	Arachnida	Pholcidae	*Crossopriza*	*Crossopriza lyoni*
9	Crab spider	Arachnida	Thomisidae	*Xysticus*	*Xysticus cristatus*
10	Black house spider	Arachnida	Desidae	*Badumna*	*Badumna insignis*

Photographs of Spiders Species:

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