

**The Sarawak Museum Journal****Vol. LIX No. 80****December 2004****ISSN: 0375-3050****E-ISSN: 3036-0188**

Citation: Jongkar Grinang. (2000). Spiders. The Sarawak Museum Journal, LIX (80): 327-332

SPIDERS**Jongkar Grinang**

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents some families of spiders (Order Araneae) found in Bau Limestone Area. A total of 13 families was identified. Two families each of Scorpions (Order Scorpiones) and Harvestman (Order Opiliones), and one family each from Whipscorpions (Order Uropygi) and Tailless Whipscorpions (Order Amblypygi) are also listed in this paper to show the diversity of arachnids in the area.

Keywords: Arachnida, Bau Limestone Area

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Jongkar, G. (2004) Spiders. In: *Sarawak Bau Limestone Biodiversity* (eds H.S. Yong, F.S.P. Ng and E.E.L. Yen). *The Sarawak Museum Journal* Vol. LIX, No. 80 (New Series); Special Issue No. 6: 327-331.

INTRODUCTION

Arachnida is one of the five classes under the phylum Arthropoda (see Koh, 1989). It comprises about 4.5% of the total living things in the world. The adult arachnids are easily distinguished from other groups of arthropod by having two body parts (cephalothorax and abdomen), four pairs of legs and no antennae.

The spiders (Order Araneae) are among the most well known arachnids as some of them are venomous. They occupy a wide range of habitat from the natural habitat to the human settlements like houses, gardens, stores and old buildings. About 40,000 species of modern and 1,960 species of primitive spiders have been recorded in the world and more than 3,815 species from 723 genera are found in the South East Asia region (Murphy and Murphy, 2000).

In Sarawak, at least 85 species of spiders have been described (see Murphy and Murphy, 2000). Several species have been recorded from the limestone habitat, mostly from Gunung Mulu National Park in Miri. One species that has been recorded from Bau Limestone Area is *Hyllus nebulosus* (Araneae: Ctenidae) found in Bidi area.

The Bau Limestone Area is of Upper Jurassic to Cretaceous age and has a pale, massive, fine-grained poorly bedded and jointed rock of high purity