A Study on Diversity of Spiders at Malavagoppa Village, in Shimoga District, Karnataka

Shraddha Kumari K¹, Chaturved Shet R²

¹Department of Applied Zoology, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga.

Email: shraddhakkumari@gmail.com

²Reseracher and Co-founder, Harish R Bhat Science Foundation, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore.

Email: chaturvedshet@gmail.com

Abstract— Spiders belong to the order Araneae which is the largest order among the class Arachnida. Spiders are considered as indicators of overall species richness and the health of terrestrial communities. The village with different plantations harbors a good number of spiders. The survey was carried out from February 2018 to January 2019 by using active searching, beating, leaf sampling and net sweeping techniques. During the study, a total number of 51 species belonging to 42 genera of 16 families were documented. In the present study it was found that the family Araneidae was dominated by having 14 species followed by the family Salticidae having 12 species and the least were from Clubionidae, Corinnidae, Eresidae, Gnaphosidae, Hersiliidae, Linyphiidae, Sparassidae, Theridiidae and Uloboridae with a single species from each family.

Keywords— Araneidae, Malavagoppa Village, Spiders Diversity.

I. INTRODUCTION

Spiders form one of the most ubiquitous groups of predaceous organisms in the animal kingdom (Riechert and Lockley 1984). Among all organisms, spiders (Order: Araneae) form the seventh largest order in terms of number of known species (Sebastian and Peter, 2009). They belong to the class Arachnida of the Phylum Arthropoda that possesses jointed appendages with a chitinous exoskeleton system. They are characterized by two body parts, the cephalothorax having 4 pairs of segmented legs and the abdomen. They have simple eyes, no antenna and no wings, which differentiate them from insects.

Spiders are the key components of all ecosystems in which they live. They are the ancient animals with a history going back over 350 million years (Sebestian and Peter, 2010). This is the most diverse, female dominated and entirely predatory order in the Arthropod world. Globally, spiders include about 48,147 described species in 4131 genera and 117 families. (World Spider Catalog, 2019). They are distributed on every continent except

Antarctica and have adapted to all known ecological environments except air and the open sea (Foelix, 1996). Spiders of the Western Ghats are poorly studied compared to other parts of the country. With respect to its geographical, climatic and ecological features, the Western Ghats harbors a rich amount of arachnids out of which spiders have a huge share. Studies on Indian spiders were initiated by Blackwall (1850). Different studies have shown that spiders regulate prey populations depending on their density. Recent studies have shown that the spiders act as ecological indicators and early warning signs of environmental changes (Kremen et. al., 1993).

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II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Study site:

Malavagoppa village, located at 13.8998°N 75.6194°E Shimoga district, Karnataka. This village is an urban area with good number of vegetation.

Methods:

Study sites included indoor habitats such as inside houses and other buildings, surroundings of human dwellings; outdoor habitats included were gardens, areca plantations, and open field.

The study was carried out from February 2018 to January 2019 covering all three seasons.

Survey was done 2 times in a week. The techniques involved were all out active searching, beating, visual observation and photographic methods. Collections were done by hand picking, gentle beating on surroundings so as to make the individual pass into the collection box. Detailed morphological study was done using Stereozoom and compound microscope. Identifications were done by referring 'Spiders of India' book, literatures and other scientific papers.

Statistical analysis:

Calculations were done by using Microsoft excel. Formulae used:

Frequency = $\frac{\text{Number of seasons studied}}{\text{Total number of seasons studied}}$

Density $=\frac{\text{Total number of individuals of a species}}{\text{Number of seasons studied}}$

Abundance

 $= \frac{\text{Total number of individuals of a species}}{\text{Number of seasons in which occured } 2a}$

Shannon's diversity index, $H = -\sum Pi \ (lnPi)$ Simpson's value, $D = \sum ni \ (ni-1) \ /N \ (N-1)$ Where, $ni = Number \ of individuals \ of a species$ $N = Total \ number \ of \ all \ individuals$

III. RESULTS A. Species diversity of spiders

The study site has a great spider diversity of 51 species belonging to 42 genera of 16 families.

In the present study site, the family Araneidae is dominated by having 14 species (9 genera) followed by the family Salticidae having 12 species (12 genera), the Tetragnathidae with 6 species (3 genera), Lycosidae with 3 species (3 genera), Oxyopidae with 3 species (2 genera), Thomisidae and Pholcidae with 2 species (2 genera) in each and the Clubionidae, Corinnidae, Eresidae, Gnaphosidae, Hersiliidae, Linyphiidae, Sparassidae, Theridiidae and Uloboridae were identified with single species in each (Table.1).

Table.1: Spiders recorded in Malavagoppa village during Feb 2018- Jan 2019

Sl. No	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Species count	
		Araneus spp (Clerck, 1757)	Angulated Orb Weaver		
		Argiope anasuja (Throell,1887)	Signature Spider	7	
		Argiope pulchella (Throell,1881)	Garden Cross Spider	7	
		Argiope spp.1 (Audouin, 1826)	Signature Spider		
		Cyclosa bifida (Doleschall, 1859)	Long-bellied Cyclosa		
		Cyrtophora cicatrosa (Stoliczka, 1869)	Tent-web Spider		
		Cyrtophora citricola (Forsskal, 1775)			
1	Araneidae	Eriovixia spp.(Archer, 1951)		14	
1	Araneidae	Gasteracantha geminata (Fabricius, 1798)	Oriental Spiny Orb-weaver		
		Gasteracantha spp.1 (Sundevall, 1833)	Spiny Orb-weaver		
		Neoscona crucifera (Lucas, 1838)	Common Garden Spider		
		Neoscona nautica (L. Koch, 1875)	Grey Sphere Spider	7	
		Parawixia dehaani (Doles chall, 1859)	aani (Doleschall, 1859) Abandoned Orb-weaver		
		Thelacantha brevispina (Doles chall,			
		1857)	(Double Spotted Spiny Spider)		
2	Clubionidae	Clubiona spp. (Latreille, 1804)	Leaf Curling Sac Spiders	1	
3	Corinnidae	Castianeira zetes (Simon, 1897)	Black Ant-mimicking Spider	1	
4	Eresidae	Stegodyphus sarasinorum (Karsch, 1892)	Indian Social Spider	1	
5	Gnaphosidae	Gnaphosa spp. (Latreille, 1804)	Ground Dwelling Spider	1	
6	Hersiliidae	Hersilia savignyi (Lucas, 1836)	Two Tailed Spider	1	
7	Linyphiidae	Neriene sundaica (Simon, 1905)	Black Dwarf Spider	1	
	Lycosidae	Geolycosa spp.(Montgomery, 1904)	Wolf spider		
8		Hippasa agelenoides(Simon,1884)	ppasa agelenoides(Simon,1884) Funnel Web Spider		
		Pardosa spp. (C. L. Koch,1847)	Wolf Spider	3	
	Oxyopidae	Oxyopes javanus (Throell,1887)	Striped Lynx Spider		
9		Oxyopes sunandae (Tikader, 1970)	Oxyopes sunandae (Tikader, 1970) Orange Lynx Spider		
		Peucetia viridians (Hentz,1832)	Green Lynx Spider		
10	Pholcidae	Crossopriza lyoni (Blackwall, 1867)	Tailed Cellar Spider	2	
		Pholcus spp. (Walckenaer, 1805)	Daddy long leg spider	-	
11	Salticidae	Asemonea spp. (O. Pickard-Cambridge,1869)	Green jumping spider	12	
11		Bavia kairali (Samson & Sebastian, 2002)	Scorpion Spider	12	
		Carrhotus viduus (C. L. Koch,1847)	Double Striped Carrhotus		

		Chrysilla volupe (Karsch,1879)	Colored Jumping Spider	
		Epeus indicus (Proszynski,1992)	White Spotted Green Jumper	
		Hyllus semicupreus (Simon, 1885)	Heavy-bodied Jumping Spider	
		Menemerus bivittatus (Dufour, 1831)	Gray Wall Jumper	
		Myrmarachne plataleoides (O. Pickard-	Kerengga Ant-like Jumper	
		Cambridge,1869)		
		Phintella vittata (C. L. Koch,1846)	Banded Phintella	
		Plexippus paykulli (Audouin, 1826)	Pantropical Jumping Spider	
		Portia albimana (Simon, 1900)	Fringed Jumping Spider	
		Telamonia dimidiata (Simon, 1899)	Two-striped Jumping Spider	
12	Sparassidae	Heteropoda venatoria (Linnaeus, 1767)	Huntsman Spider	1
	Tetragnathidae	Leucauge decorata (Blackwall, 1864)	Decorative silver orb weaver	
		Leucauge tessellata (Throell,1887)	Long jawed orb weaver	
		Leucauge spp.1 (White, 1841) Decorative spider		
13		Opadometa fastigata (Simon, 1877)	Pear Shaped Leucauge	6
		Tetragnatha mandibulata (Walckenaer, 1841)	Long-jawed Orb-weaver	
		Tetragnatha spp.1 (Latreille, 1804)	Long jawed Spider	
14	Theridiidae	Theridion spp. (Walckenaer, 1805)	Comb-footed Spider	1
15	Thomisidae	Misumenops rubrodecoratus (Millot,1942)	Green Crab Spider	2
		Thomisus spectabilis (Doleschall, 1859)	White Crab spider	
16	Uloboridae	Uloborus spp. (Latreille, 1806)	Feather-footed Spider	1

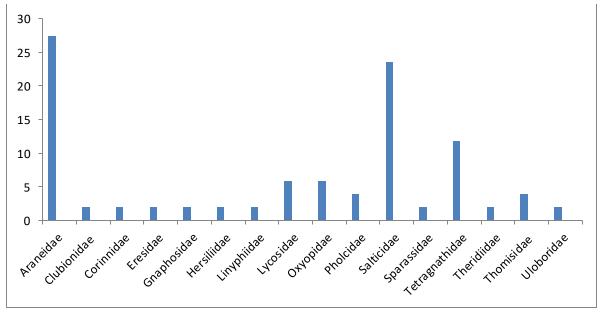


Fig.1: Graph of species percentage under each family

B. Diversity richness and seasonal abundance

Three main seasons were studied viz., rainy, winter and summer. Most spider species were found

throughout the study period and few were found only in two seasons. But, only one species (*Oxyopes sunandae*) has occurred in one season (rainy). (Table 2).

Table.2. Shows individual counts of each species during different seasons.

	Table.2. Snows individual coi	Indivi du	<u>*</u>		
Sl No.	Spider Species	di	Total count		
		Rainy	Winter	Summer	
1	Araneus spp	11	9	3	23
2	Argiope anasuja	12	13	9	34
3	Argiope pulchella	13	14	8	36
4	Argiope spp.1	6	5	3	14
5	Asemonea spp	8	9	6	23
6	Bavia kairali	2	1	0	3
7	Carrhotus viduus	4	4	3	11
8	Castianeira zetes	15	16	11	42
9	Chrysilla volupe	12	13	16	41
10	Clubiona spp	14	8	6	28
11	Crossopriza lyoni	50	55	50	155
12	Cyclosa bifida	25	23	15	63
13	Cyrtophora cicatrosa	40	44	25	109
14	Cyrtophora citricola	20	20	12	52
15	Epeus indicus	4	4	3	11
16	Eriovixia spp.	4	3	3	10
17	Gasteracantha geminata	12	12	0	24
18	Gasteracantha spp.1	2	1	0	3
19	Geolycosa spp.	40	45	50	135
20	Gnaphosa spp	8	7	2	17
21	Heteropoda venatoria	6	4	4	14
22	Hersilia savignyi	10	11	11	32
23	Hippasa agelenoides	30	31	29	90
24	Hyllus semicupreus	4	3	2	9
25	Leucauge decorata	12	15	7	34
26	Leucauge tesselata	4	2	0	6
27	Leucauge spp.1	2	1	0	3
28	Menemerus bivittatus	10	8	9	27
29	Misumenops rubrodecoratus	1	2	0	3
30	Myrmarachne plataleoides	16	17	15	48
31	Neoscona crucifera	32	34	33	81
32	Neoscona nautica	4	3	2	9
33	Neriene sundaica	30	34	15	79
34	Oxyopes javanus	45	50	50	145
35	Oxyopes sunandae	2	0	0	2
36	Opadometa fastigata	2	2	0	4
37	Parawixia dehaani	1	1	0	2
38	Pardosa spp	45	56	60	161
39	Peucetia viridans	20	25	16	61
40	Phintella vittata	2	4	8	14
41	Pholcus spp	55	50	55	160
42	Plexippus paykulli	62	65	64	191

43	Portia albimana	0	2	2	4
44	Stegodyphus sarasinorum	7	8	14	29
45	Telamonia dimidiata	13	12	10	35
46	Tetragnatha mandibulata	9	11	8	28
47	Tetragnatha spp.1	1	2	0	3
48	Thelacantha brevispina	9	9	0	18
49.	Theridion spp.	9	10	9	28
49	Thomisus spectabilis	4	5	0	9
51	Uloborus spp	4	5	2	11
Total count during each season		753	788	650	2174

Table.3: Frequency, density, abundance and species importance value of each species

Sl	Table.3: Frequency, density, abundance and species importance value of each species					
No.	Species	F	D	A	SIV	
1	Araneus spp	1.00	7.67	7.67	3.21	
2	Argiope anasuja	1.00	11.33	11.33	3.76	
3	Argiope pulchella	1.00	11.67	11.67	3.71	
4	Argiope spp.1	1.00	4.67	4.67	2.80	
5	Asemonea spp	1.00	7.67	7.67	3.21	
6	Bavia kairali	0.67	1.00	1.50	1.58	
7	Carrhotus viduus	1.00	3.67	3.67	2.66	
8	Castianeira zetes	1.00	14.00	14.00	4.08	
9	Chrysilla volupe	1.00	13.67	13.67	4.03	
10	Clubiona spp	1.00	9.33	9.33	3.44	
11	Crossopriza lyoni	1.00	51.67	51.67	9.23	
12	Cyclosa bifida	1.00	21.00	21.00	5.03	
13	Cyrtophora cicatrosa	1.00	36.33	36.33	7.13	
14	Cyrtophora citricola	1.00	17.33	17.33	4.53	
15	Epeus indicus	1.00	3.67	3.67	2.66	
16	Eriovixia spp.	1.00	3.33	3.33	2.61	
17	Gasteracantha geminata	0.67	8.00	12.00	2.53	
18	Gasteracantha spp.1	0.67	1.00	1.50	1.58	
19	Geolycosa spp.	1.00	45.00	45.00	8.32	
20	Gnaphosa spp	1.00	5.67	5.67	2.93	
21	Heteropoda venatoria	1.00	4.67	4.67	2.80	
22	Hersilia savignyi	1.00	10.67	10.67	3.62	
23	Hippasa agelenoides	1.00	30.00	30.00	6.27	
24	Hyllus semicupreus	1.00	3.00	3.00	2.57	
25	Leucauge decorata	1.00	11.33	11.33	3.71	
26	Leucauge tessellata	0.67	2.00	3.00	1.71	
27	Leucauge spp.1	0.67	1.00	1.50	1.58	
28	Menemerus bivittatus	1.00	9.00	9.00	3.39	
29	Misumenops rubrodecoratus	0.67	1.00	1.50	1.58	
30	Myrmarachne plataleoides	1.00	16.00	16.00	4.35	
31	Neoscona crucifera	1.00	33.00	33.00	6.68	
32	Neoscona nautica	1.00	3.00	3.00	2.57	
33	Neriene sundaica	1.00	26.33	26.33	5.76	

34	Oxyopes javanus	1.00	48.33	48.33	8.78
35	Oxyopes sunandae	0.33	0.67	2.00	0.81
36	Opadometa fastigata	0.67	1.33	2.00	1.62
37	Parawixia dehaani	0.67	0.67	1.00	1.53
38	Pardosa spp	1.00	53.67	53.67	9.51
39	Peucetia viridans	1.00	20.33	20.33	4.94
40	Phintella vittata	1.00	4.67	4.67	2.80
41	Pholcus spp	1.00	53.33	53.33	9.46
42	Plexippus paykulli	1.00	63.67	63.67	10.88
43	Portia albimana	0.67	1.33	2.00	1.62
44	Stegodyphus sarasinorum	1.00	9.67	9.67	3.48
45	Telamonia dimidiata	1.00	11.67	11.67	3.76
46	Tetragnatha mandibulata	0.67	1.00	1.50	1.58
47	Tetragnatha spp.1	1.00	9.33	9.33	3.44
48	Thelacantha brevispina	0.67	6.00	9.00	2.26
49.	Theridion spp.	1.00	9.33	9.33	3.44
49	Thomisus spectabilis	0.67	3.00	4.50	1.85
51	Uloborus spp	1.00	3.67	3.67	2.66

F- Frequency; D- Density; A- Abundance; SIV- Species Importance Value

Frequency value is 1 for those species which found throughout all seasons, 0.67 for which found in only two seasons and 0.33 tells it was found only in one season. Highest density is 63.67 for *Plexippus paykulli*, followed by 53.67 of *Pardosa spp*. The least density is of *Parawixia dehaani* which is 0.67. Abundant species was *Plexippus paykulli* showing the abundant value 63.67 and the least abundant was *Parawixia dehaani*, having the abundant value 1.00. SIV is highest for *Plexippus paykulli* i.e. 10.88 shows the greater dominancy of the species followed by *Pardosa spp*. with 9.51 and least was for *Parawixia dehaani*.

Shannon index is 3.39 and Simpson value is 0.447 which indicates greater biodiversity of spiders in the study area (Table.3).

IV. CONCLUSION

From the present study it is evident that spiders can survive in different habitats as Ground runners (Lycosidae, Salticidae, Corinnidae, Gnaphosidae, and Sparassidae) Foliage runners (Clubionidae, Hersiliidae) Stackers (Oxyopidae and Salticidae), Ambushers (Thomisidae), and Web-builders. The types of vegetation greatly affect the population and diversity of spiders. The study area being an urban region, provide a good environment for the survival of spiders. Rainy season and winter season provide favourable condition for these creatures by supplying a large population of prey insects. Shannon index being 3.39 indicates good species diversity in all three main seasons. The individual count

was highest during winter season and lowest during summer season. This indicates overall diversity richness in the study area as they are both good predator and prey. Species occurrence and abundance is also related to habitat preference.

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Study sites

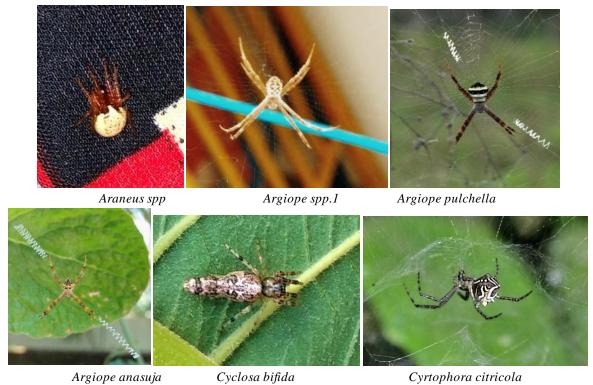


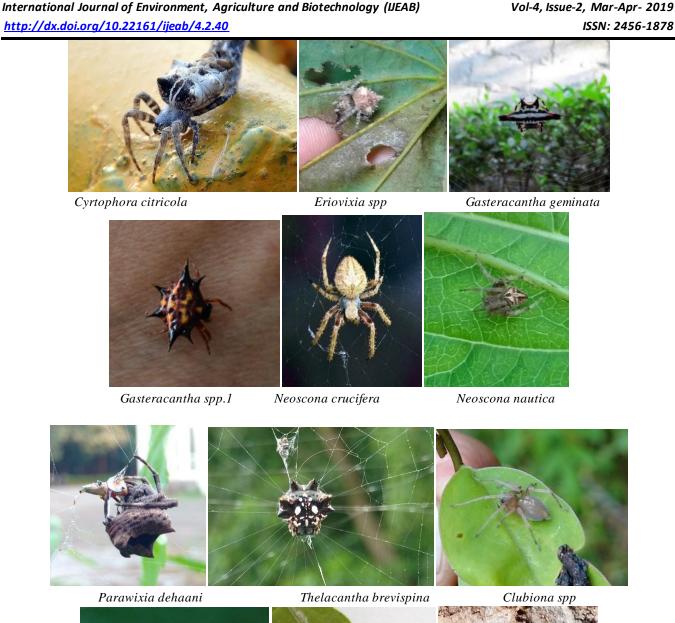






Species Plates





Castianeira zetes $Stegodyphus\ sarasinorum$ Gnaphosa spp.



 $Crossopriza\ lyoni$

Pholcus spp.

Peucetia viridians



Asemonea spp

Bavia kairali







Chrysilla volupe



Epeus indicus



Hyllus semicupreus

Menemerus bivittatus



Myrmarachne plataleoides



Phintella vittata



Plexippus paykulli







Portia albimana

 $Telamonia\ dimidiata$

Heteropoda venatoria







Leucauge decorata

Leucauge tessellata

Leucauge spp.1







Opadometa fastigata

Tetragnatha spp.1

Tetragnatha mandibulata







Theridion spp

 ${\it Misume nops\ rub rode coratus\ Thom is us\ spectabilis}$



Uloborus spp