

## Lycosidae: the grassland spiders

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**Abstract:** The hypothesis is formulated that the Lycosidae co-evolved with grassland and dispersed with the expansion of this type of habitat. Arguments that sustain this view are the abundance of Lycosidae in open habitats with low vegetation and their relative rareness in dense forest, the lack of typical hunter adaptations to achieve grip on smooth surfaces and the fact that the family is only known in the fossil record from the Miocene onwards, which is in synchronization with the spreading of grassland.

**Key words:** adaptation, grip, Miocene, Araneae, Pisauridae