

Spiders of Gaderská and Blatnická Dolina valleys in the southern part of Veľká Fatra Mts., Slovakia (Araneae)

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Abstract: During the years 1974-1976 and 1986-1990, a research of epigeic spiders of the Gaderská and Blatnická Dolina valleys was carried out in 71 study sites. Altogether, 3295 spiders belonging to 293 species and 28 families were captured in the non-forest, ecotones and forest habitats. Out of the identified species, 32 are listed in the Red List of Spiders of Slovakia and one species (*Centromerus semiater*) has not been previously reported from Slovakia. The occurrence of *Meioneta innotabilis* is faunistically very important because it was considered an extinct species in Slovakia. *Zelotes puritanus* has been reported from Slovakia only from this area. The family Linyphiidae was eudominant in species composition (101 species – D=34.5%). Specimens from the families Linyphiidae, Lycosidae and Cybaeidae were the most abundant (D=23.4%, 17.4% and 12.3%). Eurytopic psychrophilous and mesophilous spiders represented the highest number of species. Species diversity in the research area is rather high, consisting of approximately 32.5% of the Slovak araneofauna. Four of the study forest habitats (relict origin oak, beech, fir-beech and pine forests) and two non-forest habitats (dry calcareous grassland and subalpine meadows) were evaluated as important habitats for spider diversity conservation and conservation of threatened spider species (territories with high diversity of spiders, with the highest proportion of endangered and rare species).

Key words: spiders, faunistics, nature conservation, Veľká Fatra National Park, North Slovakia