

## Spiders in Mangalavanam, an ecosensitive mangrove forest in Cochin, Kerala, India (Araneae)

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**Abstract:** A preliminary study was conducted to document the spider fauna in Mangalavanam, an ecosensitive and threatened mangrove forest located in the heart of Cochin City in Kerala state, India. Mangalavanam is popularly known as the Green Lung of Cochin City. The faunistic survey yielded 51 species of spiders belonging to 40 genera and 16 families. This represents 27% of the total families reported from India. Araneidae was the most dominant family recording 12 species belonging to 8 genera. On species level, *Pisaura gitae* TIKADER, 1970 was the dominant species. Guild structure analysis revealed seven feeding guilds, namely orb weavers, stalkers, ground hunters, foliage runners, sheet web builders, scattered line weavers and ambushers. Orb weavers and stalkers were the dominant feeding guilds representing 33% and 29% respectively of the total collection. The genus *Tapponia* is reported for the first time from India.

**Key words:** Mangalavanam, diversity, urban forest, spiders, *Tapponia*