

# A First Contribution to the Arachnofauna (Arachnida: Araneae) of the Nestos Delta (NE Greece)

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**Abstract:** This paper presents the first compilation of spiders of the western part of the Nestos Delta. In 2002 and 2004 spiders were caught on 33 sites using pitfall trapping and hand sampling. Altogether 213 species from 28 families were found. 61 spider species are new records to Greece, 126 species were found in Macedonia for the first time. Interesting faunistic records are *Monaeses israliensis*, new to Europe, *Dolomedes plantarius*, *Pelecopsis parallela* and *Pellenes arciger*.

All species were classified into 17 zoogeographical categories, grouped into 4 complexes. Most of the species are widely distributed. The European complex comprises 21 species, while the Mediterranean complex is presented by 17 species. *Brachythele denieri*, *Aelurillus guecki*, *Chalcoscirtus helverseni* and *Xysticus thessalicoides* are considered to be Balkan endemics.

**Key words:** Araneae, Greece, East Macedonia, Nestos Delta, faunistic survey, zoogeography