

# The Spiders (Araneae) in the Caves of the Western Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria)

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**Abstract:** A total of 37 species from 12 families found in 87 (30 newly established) underground localities (caves and artificial galleries) of the Western Rhodopes are reported. Three species are new to the Bulgarian cave spider fauna and 9 are new to the caves of the Western Rhodopes. This number represents 37% from all species found in Bulgarian caves (100 species). The percentage of the endemics is comparatively high (27%). *Histopona tranteevi* DELTSHEV, 1978 is discussed from a taxonomic point of view, the description of unknown male is also presented. The names “*Diplocephalus cristatus*” (= *foraminifer*) and “*Histopona myops*” (= *tranteevi*) are deleted from the list of Bulgarian spider fauna.

**Key words:** Cave spiders, taxonomy, fauna, Western Rhodopes, Bulgaria