



## Private Life of Spiders

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By Paul Hillyard,

Princeton University Press March 2008, 2008. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. With more than 100 different families and 40,000 individual species, spiders are among the most successful creatures on Earth. Highly adaptable, they live almost everywhere, from equatorial rainforest to Arctic tundra. And they come in a huge range of shapes and sizes, from the tiny 'Patu digua,' measuring less than half a millimeter, to the immense bird-eating tarantula, which can reach a span of eleven inches. In 'The Private Life of Spiders,' spider expert Paul Hillyard takes the reader on a fascinating and richly illustrated tour of the lives of some of the world's most remarkable spiders. 'The Private Life of Spiders' reveals the intriguing behaviors of these complex creatures, from their extraordinary web-spinning skills and hunting strategies to their courtship displays and devoted care for their young. The book also describes other surprising skills of some spiders, such as the ability to cross vast stretches of open water. Written in an engaging style, 'The Private Life of Spiders' also looks at why people are scared of spiders, explains why such fear is generally misplaced, and shows why more needs to be done to protect endangered spiders. Features spiders from a...



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### Reviews

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And they come in a huge range of shapes and sizes, from the tiny *Patu digua*, measuring less than half a millimeter, to the immense bird-eating tarantula, which can reach a span of eleven inches. In *The Private Life of Spiders*, spider Read Full Overview. Edition Details. Format:Paperback. Language:English. ISBN:0691150036. ISBN13:9780691150031. Review Paul Hillyard's *Private Life of Spiders* is enjoyable to read, very informative, and beautifully illustrated. The photographs are truly stunning and make a wonderful complement to the text's excellent information on spider life and biology for the general reader. This book will be a terrific addition to any naturalist's or spider lover's library. (Paula E. Cushing, president of the American Arachnological Society). view at amazon.com - login or register to post comments. Contributed by Jeffrey A. Heupel, WHN. on 11 January, 2009 - 7:05am. The idea of a complex spider society "in which thousands of spiders live, hunt, and raise their young together in a single colony" is unsettling to many of us. We are perhaps lucky then that this scene is relatively rare among arachnids. Among the 40,000 known species of spiders, the vast majority live solitary lives and will often show aggression toward other spiders they encounter, even within their own species. There are fewer than 25 known species of social spiders, distributed broadly across 6 different families and 9 different genera. Not only do these spiders live in social groups, but th HILLYARD, PAUL. 2008. *The Private Life of Spiders*. Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, NJ 08540 USA. 160 pp. Nearly every page has a color picture, and there are many full-page close-up views of spiders. Paul Hillyard is the former curator at the Natural History Museum in London, and an authority on spiders. There are 9 chapters, with the first chapter introducing the body structure of spiders and their general biology. In successive chapters, Hillyard covers spiders that hunt, build webs, and live in holes in the ground with trap doors including tarantulas. Additional chapters cover silk formation, mating and breeding, and venom and its medical and insecticidal roles.