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SPIDER DIVERSITY AND WEB PATTERNS IN THE ELATHUR ESTUARY, KOZHIKODE COASTLINE, INDIA- A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

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Abstract:

To document the variety of spiders in the eco-sensitive mangrove systems of the Elathur estuary, Kozhikode coastline, India, preliminary research was carried out from May 2017 to April 2018. The major order in the class Arachnida, the order Araneae, includes spiders. Spiders are thought to be good markers of the sustainability of wetlands and the diversity of all species. 29 species of spiders from 18 genera and 12 families were identified as an outcome of the study that was done. With 15 species belonging to 8 genera, Araneidae was the most prevalent family. *Pisaura gitae* was the most prevalent species at the species level. Seven feeding guilds, including orb weavers, stalkers, ground hunters, foliage runners, sheet web builders, dispersed line weavers, and ambushers, were identified through an investigation of the guild organization. The two main feeding guilds were orb weavers and stalkers.

Keywords: Spiders; Elathur Estuary; *Pisaura gitae*; Araneidae; orb weavers