

THE WORLD OF ARACHNOLOGISTS

Arachnologists are scientists who study **arachnids** – a group of animals which includes spiders, scorpions, and **harvestmen**.



*Lots of arachnologists' work is done outdoors, so they can study spiders and other arachnids in their natural **habitats**. They may use cameras to photograph the animals and magnifying glasses to see them up close without disturbing them.*

WHAT DO ARACHNOLOGISTS DO?

An arachnologist's work is very important because it helps us learn about arachnids and how they interact with the world around them!

FIELDWORK

Arachnologists travel to lots of different places to view spiders and arachnids in their natural habitats. This work might involve identifying different types of arachnids in a particular location or observing how they interact with other animals or plants there. They may also collect spiders or samples of their silk to take back to the lab to study more closely.



LAB WORK

In the lab, arachnologists study the information they've collected to learn more about arachnids and the places they live. They also look at specimens to better understand the animals, including how they move and behave, and how their bodies work. Sometimes they study spider silk or **venom** to discover how strong they are or if they can be useful.



WHO DO ARACHNOLOGISTS WORK FOR?

Many arachnologists work for universities or museums, carrying out research and sharing their knowledge with students or visitors. Others work for governments, using research about spiders to help make decisions about people's health or farming. Some arachnologists even work for medical companies, learning about venom or spider silk!

FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Arachnologists have made so many amazing discoveries that have changed our understanding of spiders. Here's just a few of the biggest and best!



VEGETARIAN SPIDERS

Most spiders eat other animals, like flies, ants, and mosquitos, but the Kipling's Jumping Spider prefers the taste of plants! It's a very unusual animal.



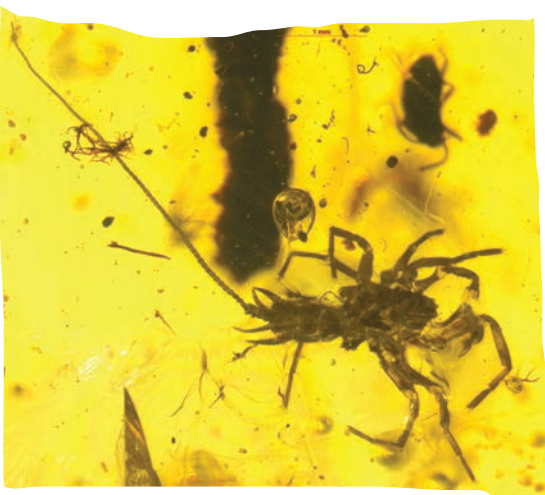
A HUGE DISCOVERY

The biggest spider is the Goliath Birdeater which is the size of a dinner plate! Despite its name, it doesn't usually eat birds, preferring frogs, rodents, and snakes.



SPIDERY TAILS

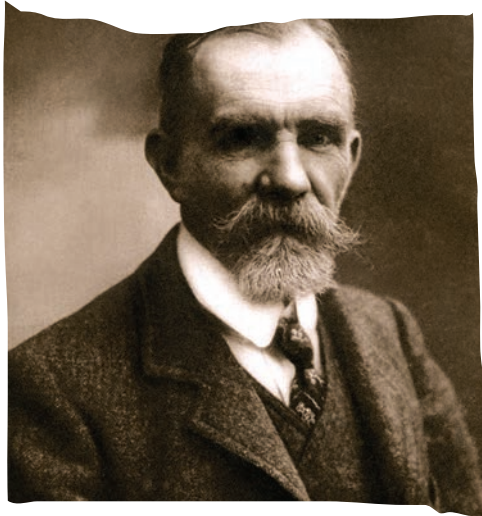
A relative of spiders that lived 100 million years ago had a thin, whip-like tail! Scientists made this discovery from **remains** that have been **preserved** inside amber.



Arachnologists are making discoveries all the time; who knows what they might discover next!

FAMOUS ARACHNOLOGISTS

There have been so many clever scientists over the years who have contributed to the study of arachnology. Here's just a few of the most famous.



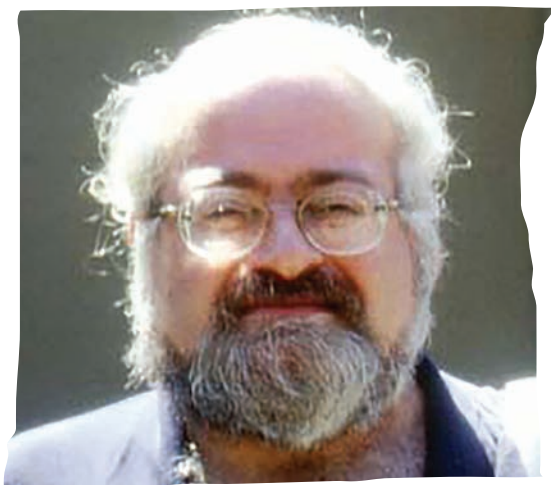
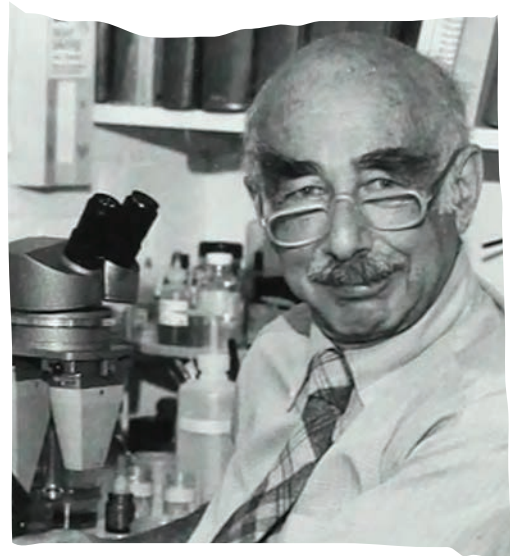
EUGÈNE SIMON

Eugène was a natural history expert who focused on insects and spiders. During his career, he identified and described more than 4,000 **species** – a huge record within arachnology.



HERBERT WALTER LEVI

Herbert was a professor of arachnology who wrote more than 150 research papers about spiders and how to protect them. More than 40 different species have been named after him!



NORMAN I. PLATNICK

Norman was a talented arachnologist who documented thousands of new species. For many years, he also looked after the World Spider Catalog – an online list of all the spider species ever identified!



These are just a few of the many scientists who have made a huge difference to the study of arachnology.

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