

SUMMARY

The present study was designed to explore the fauna and population dynamics of spiders reside on foliage as well as at ground surface of rice field located in Nishter Colony, Lahore. Hand picking and pitfall traps were used to collect the specimens. A total of 1199 specimens of families Lycosidae, Araneidae, Oxyopidae, Thomisidae, Salticidae and Erigonidae were collected. These were represented by 13 genera and 20 species.

The specimens of family Lycosidae belonged to three species viz., *Pardosa pseudoannulata*, *Pardosa birmanica*, *Lycosa terrestris* and *Evippa pakistanicus*. Family Araneidae was represented by seven species i.e., *Nephila oblongus*, *Nephila maculata*, *Leucauge decorata*, *Leucauge ventralis*, *Neoscona theisi*, *Larina phthisica* and *Gea subarmata*. Oxyopidae was represented by three species i.e., *Oxyopes vulgatus*, *Oxyopes sheikhupuriensis* and *Oxyopes azhari*; Thomisidae by two species i.e., *Runcinia albostriata* and *Thomisus costatus*. Salticidae was represented by three species i.e., *Phidippus indicus*, *Phidippus notabilus* and *Phidippus variegates*. Erigonidae was represented by only one species i.e., *Erigon spp.*

Species richness for hand picked spiders was highest in VII session and for pitfall spiders was highest in II session. Highest diversity for both ground and foliage dwelling spiders were noted in III session.

In hand picked spiders both *Nephila oblongus* and *Oxyopes vulgatus* found the highest peak in VII session. In pitfall spiders, *Pardosa pseudoannulata*, *Pardosa birmanica* and *Lycosa terrestris* found the highest peak in I session.