

## The Study of Spiders

### Week 4

#### Aspiration Method

**Vladimir:** Under the bark of trees is a very good ecological niche to collect spiders because these places have a very high humidity and spiders like these and insects like these places, and insects are the spiders' food. The aspirator is a very simple tool for scientists—arachnologists and entomologists. Inside the aspirator, we have a small screen. This small screen prevents you from sucking spiders or insects into your mouth. If you collect by hand, and the spiders are very small, it's very difficult to actually catch spiders and not break them. If you use an aspirator, the spiders will be completely alive and all the legs will be in their proper place. When you collect using an aspirator, don't collect so many spiders in your vial: collect maybe 5 or 6, no more. After that, transfer them to a vial with alcohol, because if you have too many spiders in the aspirator vial they will start to hunt and eat each other. Or, if you are planning to study live spiders, you need to transfer and study them in a large jar. Do this very gently because some spiders run very fast and you can lose them.