



## The Study of Spiders

### Week 5: In the Lab

#### Wet Collection

**Vlad:** This museum is one of the oldest museums in the United States. We have in this museum the largest spider collection. We call it a "wet" collection because all the spiders are preserved in alcohol, about 75 percent of which is ethanol.

So why do we collect and preserve spiders in ethanol? Because spiders have very soft bodies and it is very easy to destroy them if they were to be pinned like an insect. This is why, traditionally, most spider collections, including arachnids like scorpions, and daddy long legs, are preserved in our wet collection.