



The Study of Spiders

Week 6: Why Study Spiders?

Vlad's Work

Vlad: Presently, we are working on a National Science Foundation project called Ground Spiders of Australia and Australasia. This project includes a revision of five families of spiders of Australia -- these spiders are practically unknown in Australia. We expect approximately 1000 species in this group and probably 90% will be new and undescribed species.

This is our collection from when we returned from an expedition. This one is called *Hemicloia*. It is "Species 19" - we don't know the name yet. This spider lives only in Australia. In this case, this spider is very flat and they live under the bark of eucalyptus trees. This group is one of the largest of ground spiders in Australia. After the expedition, we return with spiders and sort these spiders and identify these spiders.