



2021 Eagle Hill Institute
Online Natural History Seminars

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Introduction to Spiders: Biology, Ecology, Behavior and Field Identification

Kefyn Catley

November 15th–29th, 2021

This seminar will present a comprehensive introduction to spider systematics, morphology, behavior, physiology, ecology, and spider/human interactions, myths and folk law. Format will be based around Powerpoint presentations that not only provide information but pose questions and encourage class discussion. A phylogenetic approach will be used describing each taxon as a function of its evolutionary history and distribution of characters. Characters that allow for field identification will be highlighted and participants are encouraged to share spider photos and observations for class discussion. Fall is a good time to find adult female spiders in their webs and methods for finding and collecting spiders will also be discussed

Scheduling Details

November 15, 17, 19, 22, 29

7–9 PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:

<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

About the Instructor

Dr. Kefyn Catley (kcatley@wcu.edu) is an emeritus professor of biology at Western Carolina University where he taught and conducted research in organismal evolutionary biology and science education. He holds a PhD in arthropod systematics from Cornell and was a research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. Traveling extensively, he has studied spiders on four continents, held faculty positions at Rutgers and Vanderbilt universities and has taught the Spiders of the Southern Appalachians class at Highlands Biological Station, NC since 2004. Please feel free to email me with questions.

Samples of his images can be found here: www.hiddennatureimages.com