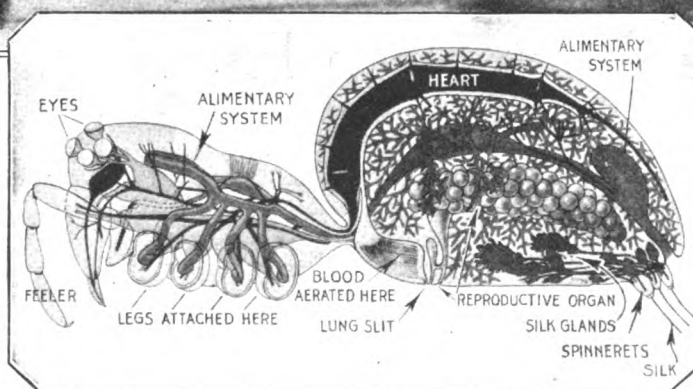




Can you blame the fly, caught in the meshes of a spider's web, if it is terrified when this hairy ogre approaches? Here is a remarkable close-up of the harmless common house spider that pounces on harmful insects that invade your home



Scientists tell us that spiders may be said to be nearer to the crab family than to the insect family, in which people generally class them. In the cross-sectional view of the spider's anatomy, at left, note the crablike feelers

than a few hours' pain, if the victim's blood is in normal condition.

Spiders are usually fascinating creatures for their strange habits, their business of spinning webs, and their ability to excel in the art of camouflage. One of the most ingenious of the family is the hairy black trapdoor species, found in our southern and southwestern states. This powerful spider's home is a burrow constructed of clay—a tube, lined fantastically with silk webbing, and fitted with a hinged door so perfectly adjusted that when it is closed, not the slightest crack can be detected from above. When frightened, the spider runs into this tube, shuts the door behind, and remains in safety until danger is past.

In one of our most common families of spiders the female imitates Indian squaws. She carries an egg case on her back, and the young, when they emerge, are carried by her like Indian papooses, until they are well grown.

Amazing Facts of Spider History

In the process of evolution, some spiders have developed to an amazing degree their "instinct" of cunning and camouflage, for self preservation. One species that will deceive even the sharpest eyes resembles the excreta of a bird—a resemblance that has been gradually developed through countless years of natural selection.

Sexes of spiders are distinct, and the female of the species unquestionably is more dangerous than the male. The male usually does his wooing cautiously, fearing to arouse the anger of his mate, who is large enough to annihilate him. The number of eggs produced by the female varies, according to the species, from half a dozen to hundreds. Immediately

after laying her eggs, the female constructs about them a cocoon of silk, in some cases carrying this cocoon about with her, and in others keeping it in the silken nursery within the burrow, or attaching it to the stalk of a plant.

Professor Baerg observed that one female tarantula he captured had constructed a large silken bag about the size of a black walnut. She spent practically all of her time sitting on the bag and when this was removed a few weeks later, it was found to contain 113 young spiders and 460 eggs. Further examination convinced him that the young spiders subsisted on some of the

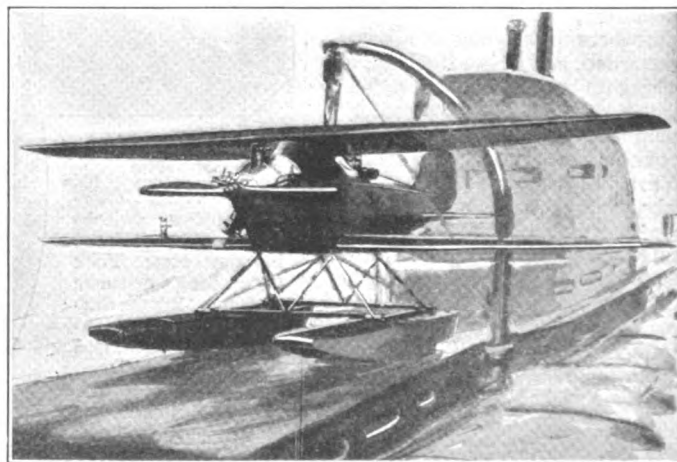
when in desperate need of food.

Wasps are the arch enemies of the spider, capturing them almost at will and carrying them off to their "adobe" homes. In some of these homes have been found as many as 30 spiders being prepared as food.

In web spinning the spiders' skill is amazing. There are hundreds of types of these webs, the most common being circular in form. The spider, at the center, uses a sort of telegraphic system to locate a fly caught in the meshes, the vibration set up by the fly's struggles communicating itself to the nearest radiating thread and thus to the center.

Seaplane Launched from Submarine

THE invention of a small seaplane that can be stored in a submarine, assembled on the deck in five minutes, and launched, provides a new weapon of attack. The seaplane has a wing spread of only 21 feet. It can be knocked down and stored in a four-foot hold of a submarine.



Launching the seaplane from deck of submarine