

Trevor J. Hawkeswood 2003.

**Spiders of Australia:
An Introduction to their
Classification, Biology
and Distribution**

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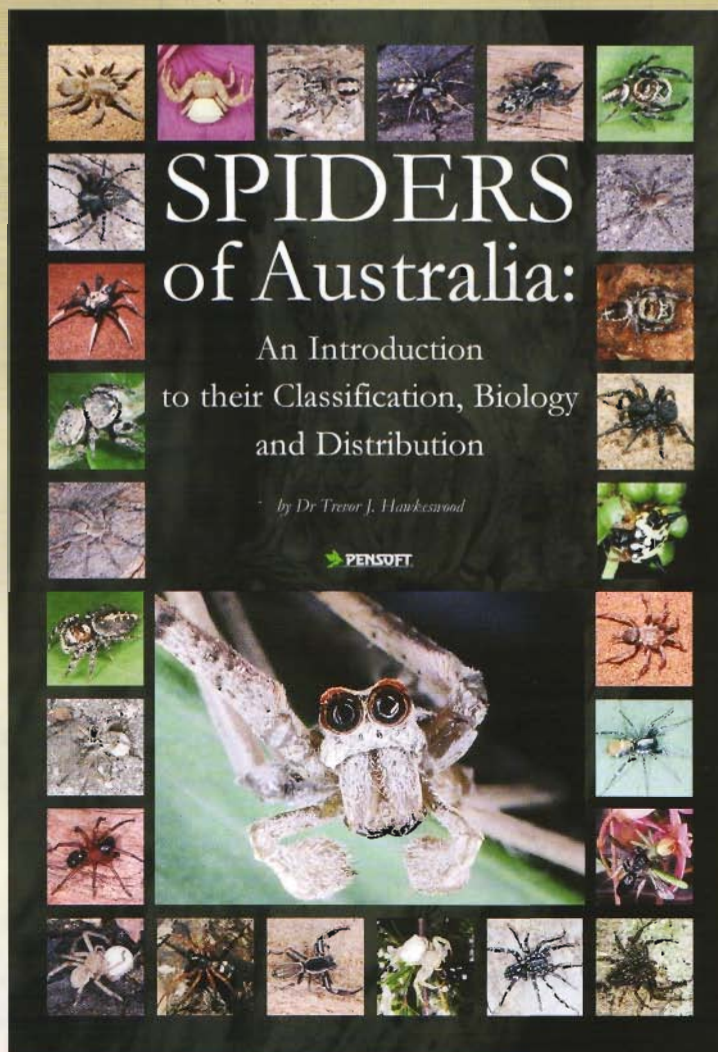
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The most complete reference book on Australian spiders ever published!

This book introduces the Australian spider fauna and includes many species that are well known to Australian biologists, naturalists, gardeners and pest controllers, such as the infamous and deadly Red-back Spider (*Lactrodectus hasselti*, Theridiidae) and the highly venomous Sydney Funnel-web Spider, *Atrax robustus* (Hexathelidae). *Spiders of Australia* provides for the first time information on a vast spectrum of the Australian spider fauna and illustrates and describes over 150 species in some detail. Many other species are mentioned and discussed and a thorough summary of spider morphology, biology and classification is also provided. All representative families are described in some detail and the numbers of each family are listed on Australian and World levels. The families dealt with in the book include the following: Desidae, Deinopidae, Uloboridae, Pholcidae, Scytodidae, Lycosidae, Dysderidae, Oxyopidae, Zodariidae, Clubionidae, Miturgidae, Corinnidae, Lamponidae, Gnaphosidae, Hersiliidae, Salticidae, Sparassidae (= Heteropodidae), Thomisidae, Araneidae (= Argiopidae), Tetragnathidae, Theridiidae, Barychelidae, Theraphosidae, Actinopodidae, Dipluridae, Nemesiidae, Hexathelidae, Idiopidae and Ctenizidae. Most of the major genera of each family are described and representative species illustrated and described. Most of the spiders



illustrated are photographed alive in their natural settings while approx. 30 species are represented by paintings of living specimens. The illustrations and descriptions make it easy for the layperson to identify many common spiders and provides also for the first time, an up to date reference list of hundreds of old and more recent scientific papers, books and other articles on Australian and related spider species. This reference list is organized into families and

will prove to be an indispensable tool for serious workers on these Arachnida. Much of the information provided for many of the species is new, based on the author's own field observations. This book is aimed for the scientist, naturalist, student and layperson both in Australia and overseas and is written in an easy read style with high level scientific jargon kept to a minimum. The book deals with more species in detail than any other book presently available on

Australian spiders and information on the various species is summarised from published literature and the author's personal observations in most cases. A further highlight of the book is the high standard of photography by 4 photographers, B. Coulson. T. J. Hawkeswood, C. J. Parker and M. Peterson, with classy paintings by J. R. Turner, one of Australia's leading wildlife artists. In total there are 166 colour plates. The photography has been achieved over a number of years in many areas of Australia. The book is written by Dr T. J. Hawkeswood, a well-known biologist from New South Wales, Australia, who has travelled the globe studying the fascinating world of plants and animals. He has written over 270 scientific papers and other articles in biological and natural history journals throughout the world and particularly in Europe. In addition to these scientific papers, Hawkeswood has published two books, these being, *Beetles of Australia* (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, Australia, 1987) and *Host Plants of Chrysomelidae of the World: An Essay about the Relationships between the leaf-beetles and their food-plants* (Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1995), the latter with the famous French entomologist and all round biologist, Dr. P. H. Jolivet. All of the published information of T. J. Hawkeswood relating to spiders is referenced in the present book.



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