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## Spider Systematics: Past and Future

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Spider systematics has a history that reaches back over 250 years, to the publication of Carl Clerck's *Svenska Spindlar* (Clerck, 1757). Linnaeus (1758), in the famous 10<sup>th</sup> edition of his *Systema Naturae* that was published the following year (and which serves as the starting point for the rest of zoological nomenclature), recognized only 39 species of spiders, worldwide, even though he knew (and cited) Clerck's book. Clerck had already recognized more species than that from Sweden alone, and (unlike Linnaeus) provided good, color illustrations of them, often including even drawings of the male palps. So it is not surprising that arachnologists take Clerck, rather than Linnaeus, as their starting point.

The most current version, 13.5, of the World Spider Catalog (Platnick, 2013) lists a total of 43,678 currently valid species, placed in 3,898 genera and 112 families (Table 1). The database version of the catalog has recently been updated to include the information from version 11.0 of the text catalog (previously, only the information from version 8.5 was accessible in database form). The relational database version is managed in R:base 9.1 Extreme ([www.rbase.com](http://www.rbase.com)); data were converted from the original XyWrite III+ files, and the family and other statistics checked back against those original files. The names of authors, journal titles, and distributions were normalized, with distributions coded into seven biogeographic regions (Australian, Palearctic, Nearctic, Ethiopian, Oriental, Indian, and Neotropical). The availability of the updated database, covering the literature through mid-2010, allows us to make some observations about the progress of spider systematics, from Clerck to the present. Although the data allow us to determine whether species were first described from males only, females only, both sexes, or only from juveniles, they do not allow us to determine whether species were described from more than a single male and/or female specimen.

**TABLE 1.** Currently valid spider families, genera, and species (as of Dec. 13, 2012).

Family#	Family	Genera	Species	#	Family	Genera	Species
1	Liphistiidae	3	90	59	Anapidae	38	153
2	Atypidae	3	49	60	Micropholcommatidae	19	66
3	Antrodiaetidae	2	33	61	Mysmenidae	23	123
4	Mecicobothriidae	4	9	62	Synsphyridae	3	13
5	Hexathelidae	12	112	63	Pimoidae	4	37
6	Dipluridae	24	179	64	Sinopimoidae	1	1
7	Cyrtacheniidae	10	102	65	Linyphiidae	590	4429
8	Ctenizidae	9	128	66	Tetragnathidae	47	957
9	Euctenizidae	7	33	67	Nephilidae	4	61
10	Idiopidae	22	314	68	Araneidae	170	3037
11	Actinopodidae	3	40	69	Lycosidae	120	2393
12	Migidae	10	91	70	Trechaleidae	16	119
13	Nemesiidae	43	364	71	Pisauridae	48	331
14	Microstigmatidae	7	16	72	Oxyopidae	9	444
15	Barychelidae	44	307	73	Senoculidae	1	31

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