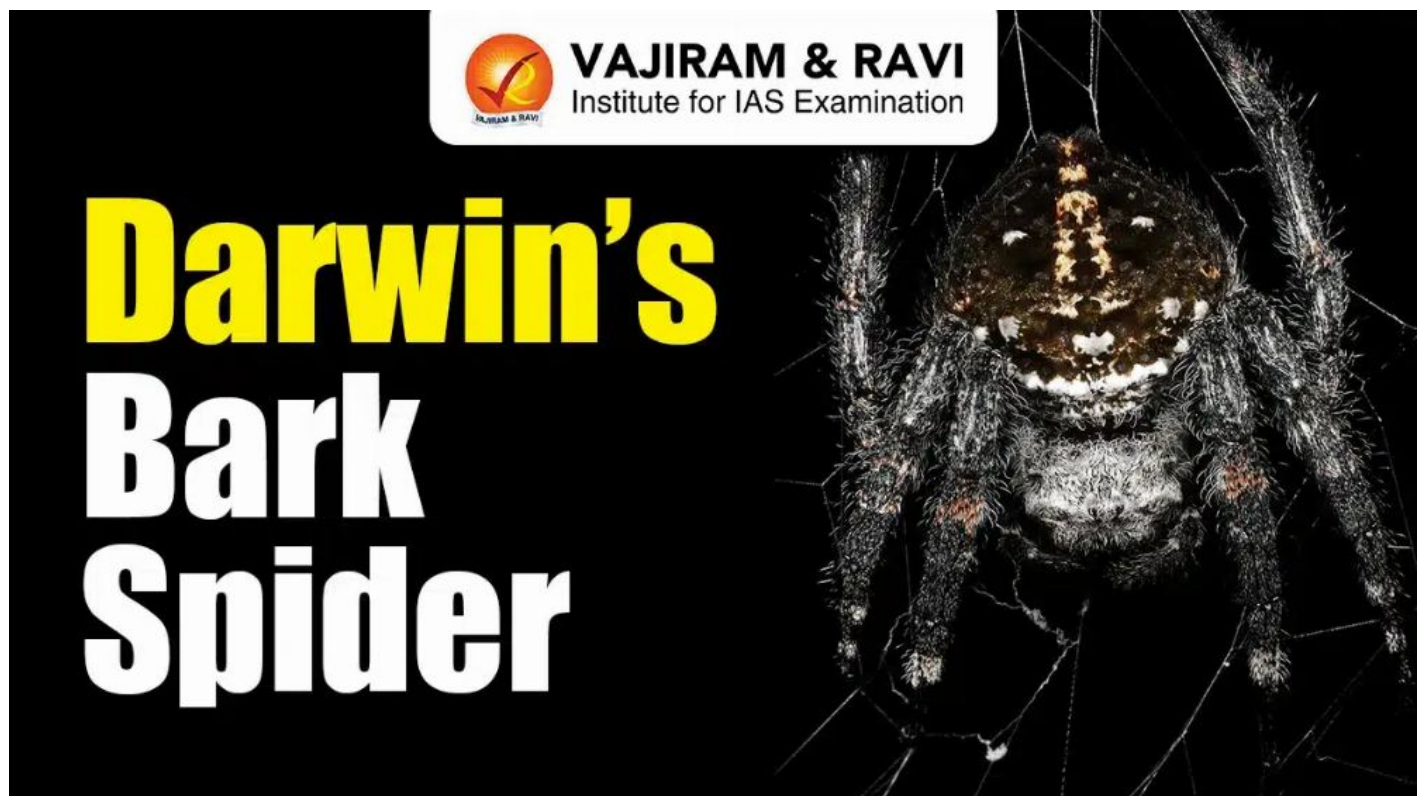


Darwin's Bark Spider

January 21, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Darwin's Bark Spider Latest News

Recently, scientists from institutions in China, Madagascar, Slovenia, and the US studied bark spiders (*Caerostris darwini* and *Caerostris kuntneri*) to understand the conditions in which they produce the tough silk.

About Darwin's Bark Spider

- The Darwin's Bark Spider (***Caerostris darwini***) is a **remarkable arachnid famed** for producing the largest and toughest known webs in the animal kingdom.
- It belongs to the **family Araneidae**, or **orb-weaver spiders**.
- It was discovered in 2001 and formally described in 2009.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits **riverine forests and wetlands**.
- **Distribution:** It is found in the forests of Madagascar.

Appearance of Darwin's Bark Spiders

- These are **medium-sized**, with females reaching about 0.8–1 inch (2–2.5 cm) in body length, while **males are significantly smaller**.

- They are typically dark brown with mottled patterns, which helps them blend into tree bark.

Characteristics of Darwin's Bark Spiders

- It weaves silk that **outperforms steel and most human-made fibres** in both strength and toughness.
- Their silk is more than twice as tough as any other spider silk studied.
- **Web-Building Ability:** Darwin's bark spiders construct orb webs that can span rivers and streams, with diameters up to 82 ft (25 m).
- **Lifespan:** They have **relatively short lifespans**, typical of orb-weaving spiders, with **females living longer than males**.
- **Unique Habitat:** Unlike most orb-weavers, it **builds webs over open water rather** than in vegetation.
- **Ecological Role of Darwin's Bark Spiders:** They play an important role in controlling **insect populations**

Source: **TH**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/darwins-bark-spider/>

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