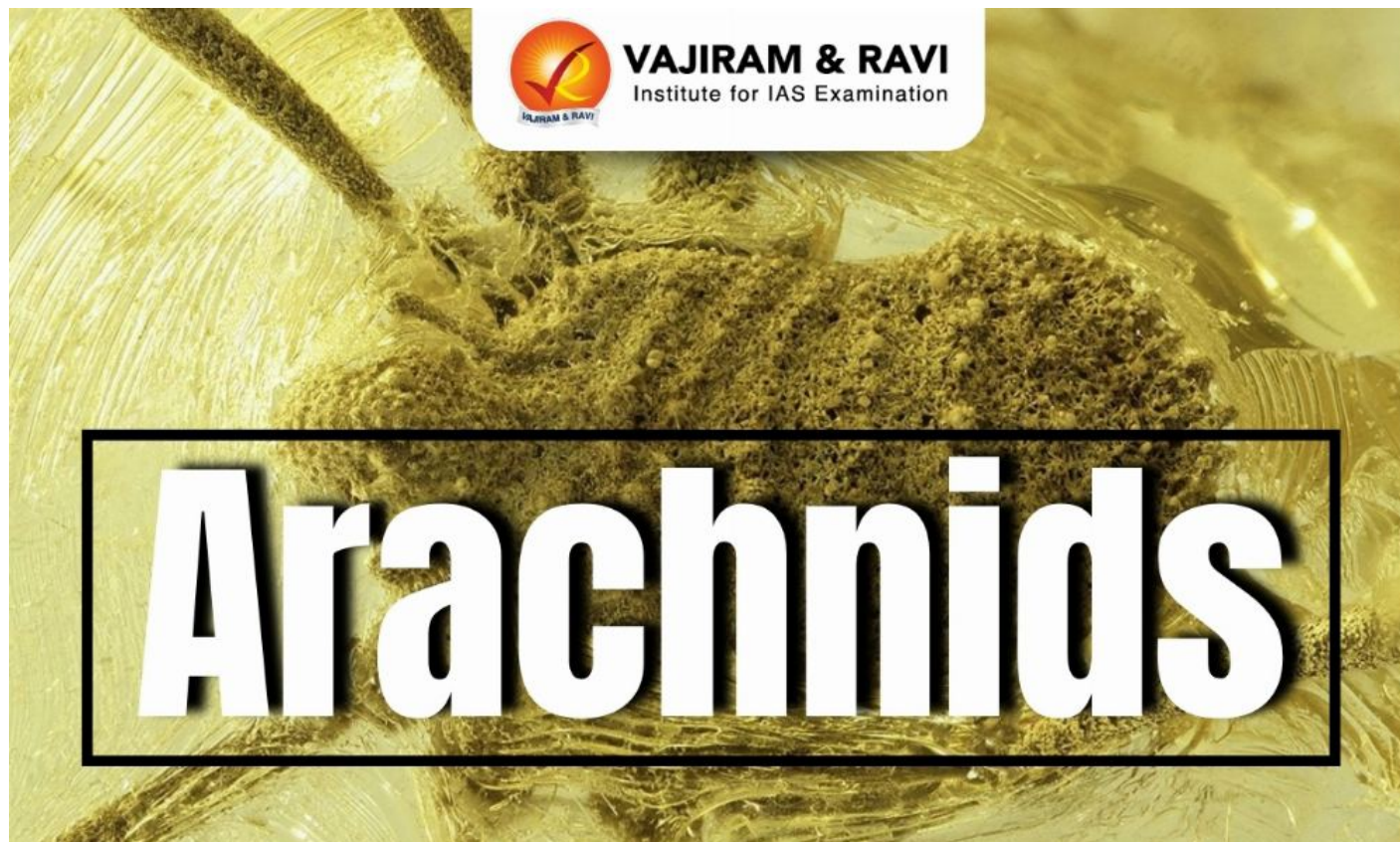


Arachnids

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Arachnids Latest News

A fossil harvestman identified using advanced imaging techniques shows that extinct arachnid lineages once lived in Europe.

About Arachnids

- Arachnids are **chelicerates**, **one of the five groups of the phylum Arthropoda**, which loosely means **'jointed foot'**.
- These arthropods are primarily **carnivorous**, **wingless**, and have **8 legs**.
- **Like all arthropods**, arachnids have **segmented bodies**, **tough exoskeletons**, and **jointed appendages**.
- Comprising around 100,000 species, there are **more arachnids than all vertebrate animals** (e.g., mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians) **combined**.
- They encompass **various orders**, including **spiders**, **scorpions**, **ticks**, and **mites**, making arachnids **prevalent in terrestrial habitats across all continents**, with **some found in freshwater**.

environments.

- They are notable for their anatomical adaptations, such as **specialized mouthparts for prey capture** and **unique respiratory structures**, like **book lungs and tracheal tubes**.
- Arachnids **lack jaws** and, **with only a few exceptions, inject digestive fluids into their prey** before sucking its liquefied remains into their mouths.
- They exhibit **various lifestyles**, including **free-living, predatory, and parasitic** behaviors.
- **Noteworthy members** include **highly venomous species**, such as the **black widow spider** and certain scorpions, which can pose risks to humans.
- At a glance, **insects and arachnids** are easy to mistake for one another. The two **easy-to-spot differences** between the two are:
 - **Body segments:** While **arachnids** have **two body segments**, **insects have three** body segments.
 - **Number of legs:** **Insects have six legs** compared to **arachnids' eight legs**.

Source: STD

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/arachnids/>

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