

# FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST

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## ARTHROPODA: ARACHNIDA: SOLIFUGAE, Sundevall, 1833

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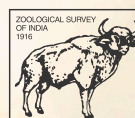
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**Comments on the checklist:**

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**ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**  
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**Introduction:** Solifugae is an arachnid order, commonly known as camel spiders, wind scorpions, or sun spiders. Solifugids are spider-like, nocturnal, cursorial, and hunting creatures. Their size varies from 12 to 15 cm (Bano & Roy, 2016). The most prominent character of the order Solifugae is the large chelicerae, which often longer than the prosoma. The camel spider's body is divided into two main tagmata: the prosoma, or cephalothorax, is the anterior tagma, and the 10-segmented abdomen, or opisthosoma, is the posterior tagma. The individuals of this order are endemic indicators of desert biome.

**Global diversity:** A total of 1209 species of camel spiders under 144 genera and 12 families are reported across the world. However, 05 fossil species under 05 genera have also been described (World Solifugae Catalog, 2022).

**Diversity in India:** 21 species belonging to 06 genera under 03 families have been described from India.

## Diversity in states

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Species
	<b>INDIA Total</b>	<b>21</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3	Assam	1
4	Bihar	1
5	Chhattisgarh	1
6	Gujarat	3
7	Goa	0
8	Haryana	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	1
10	Jharkhand	1
11	Karnataka	0
12	Kerala	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	3
14	Maharashtra	4
15	Manipur	0
16	Meghalaya	0

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Species
17	Mizoram	0
18	Nagaland	0
19	Odisha	1
20	Punjab	2
21	Rajasthan	2
22	Sikkim	0
23	Tamil Nadu	5
24	Telangana	1
25	Tripura	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	2
27	Uttarakhand	0
28	West Bengal	2
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0
30	Chandigarh	0
31	Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0
32	Delhi	1
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1
34	Ladakh	1
35	Lakshadweep	0
36	Puducherry	0
37	State Unknown	2

**Endemism:** Out of 21 camel spiders, 14 species are endemic to India.

**Habitat:** Camel spiders are found in all types of warm deserts and scrublands in all continents except Antarctica and Australia. They are easily found in semi-arid areas and scrub (Punzo, 1998). In India, they are also reported from forests. Some of the species can dig holes in the ground, and the females live in burrows for the protection of themselves and their young during the breeding-season (Pocock, 1900). They are nocturnal in habit and exclusively carnivorous.

**Ecological Significance:** Camel spiders are active predators and feed upon termites, darkling beetles, and other small, ground-dwelling arthropods. They are very aggressive hunters and voracious feeders (Punzo, 1998). Being predatory in nature, camel spiders help in maintenance of ecological balance by reducing the richness of its prey.

**Human Significance:** The camel spiders usually do not attack humans. However, their chelicerae can penetrate human skin. It is very painful if a camel spider bites a human. Few incidences of such biting have already been reported (Schmidt, 1993).

**Threatened species:** None of the species is included in the list of threatened species as per IUCN.

**Protected species as per WPA (2022):** None of the species is considered as protected species as per WPA (2022).

**Species under CITES:** None of the species is considered under CITES.

**Invasive alien species:** None of the species is treated as invasive alien species.

**Gap areas:** In India, camel spiders are very poorly documented. It is expected that more studies can provide us with the exact diversity of these arachnids and lead to new findings.

**Systematic list of Solifugae of India (Endemic species marked with \*)**

**Order Solifugae**

**Family Daesiidae Kraepelin, 1899**

1. *Gluviopsis atrata* Pocock, 1900 \*

**Family Galeodidae Sundevall, 1833**

2. *Galeodes agilis* Pocock, 1895 \*
3. *Galeodes annandalei* Hirst, 1908
4. *Galeodes australis* Pocock, 1900 \*
5. *Galeodes bengalicus* (Roewer, 1934) \*
6. *Galeodes ctenogaster* (Roewer, 1934) \*
7. *Galeodes dekanicus* (Roewer, 1934) \*
8. *Galeodes fatalis* (Lichtenstein, 1796)
9. *Galeodes gravelyi* (Roewer, 1934) \*
10. *Galeodes indicus* Pocock, 1900 \*
11. *Galeodes orientalis* Stoliczka, 1869
12. *Galeodes pallescens* Hirst, 1908 \*
13. *Galeodes rufulus* Pocock, 1900
14. *Galeodes sabulosus* Pocock, 1900
15. *Galeodes turki* Harvey, 2002 \*

**Family Rhagodidae Pocock, 1897**

16. *Rhagoderma assamensis* Roewer, 1933 \*
17. *Rhagoderma nigriceps* (Pocock, 1895)
18. *Rhagodima annulata* (Simon, 1885) \*
19. *Rhagodima nigrocincta* (Bernard, 1893) \*
20. *Rhagodomma vittata* (Pocock, 1899) \*
21. *Rhagodopa brevipes* (Gervais, 1842)

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- Bano, R. & Roy, S. 2016. First record of *Galeodes indicus* Pocock, 1900 (Arachnida: Solifugae: Galeodidae) from Rajasthan, India. *J. Threat. Taxa*, 8(3): 8623–8625.
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