



SPIDERS: IDENTIFICATION, BIOLOGY, AND ECOLOGY

July 8 - 14, 2018

This seminar presents a comprehensive introduction to spider systematics, morphology, behavior, physiology, and ecology. Through the lens of phylogenetics major spider taxa will be introduced as products of their evolutionary history. Spiders from a wide array of local habitats will be studied, including boreal and hardwood forests, marshlands, seashore, and open ground with an emphasis on field identification characters. A significant component of the seminar will involve the collection and identification of spiders using a variety of collection and observation methods including night collecting and early morning web walks. Evenings will be available for students to work on identification. It is expected that students spend as much time as necessary working on collections in the lab. During the course we will view spider videos, have informal discussion sessions on aspects of spider biology, systematics, evolutionary biology etc.



About the instructor

Dr. Kefyn Catley (kcatley@wcu.edu) is professor of biology at Western Carolina University where he teaches and conducts research in organismal evolutionary biology and science education. He holds a PhD in arthropod systematics from Cornell and was a research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. Traveling extensively he has studied spiders on four continents, held faculty positions at Rutgers and Vanderbilt universities and has taught the Spiders of the Southern Appalachians course at Highlands Biological Station, NC since 2004. Please feel free to email me with questions.