**Spider guilds in the sugarcane fields of two districts of Sindh, Pakistan**

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**Abstract:** Guild (Ecology) a group of closely related species which exploits/compete same kinds of the resources in similar ways as a result of their shared ancestory. Especially for spiders (abundant arthropods) forage for a common resource mostly insects and other arthropods which has led to numerous attempts to classify them into guilds. Their study is very important because spiders can play predatory role and could be helpful in reducing pest damage to crops. At this juncture, we intend an unconventional approach to guild classiﬁcation of spiders, using quantitative analysis of ecological characteristics of spider families. For this two districts of Sindh, Hyderabad and Matiari were selected and in this effort 1735 specimens were collected and a few live behaviors of spiders were observed during May-November 2016. This material was sorted out into nine families and fourteen genera. Most abundant spider families are lycosidae, salticidae and sparassidae simultaneously. Among nine families seven were mostly found on foliage while two on ground. This approach also recommends two guilds of spiders, one on the basis of spiders feeding habits and other on their circadian behavior. The relative abundance of guilds based on numbers of individuals varied greatly, which may reﬂect availability of resources within a sugarcane crop type (duration). Patterns of similarity in guild composition suggest the possibility of plant habitat structure as an inﬂuence on the spider community. As recent studies have shown that assemblages of spiders can impact pest populations and reduce crop damage, a better understanding of spider guild composition and variation in spider community structure among crops is essential in future studies of the arthropod fauna in agroecosystems.

**Key words:** Guild; Predator; Sugarcane; Circadian behavior; Pest infestation.