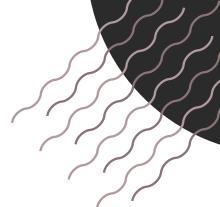


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**BOOK
OF
ABSTRACTS**



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Persian silk road: diversity and distribution patterns of Iranian spiders under sampling bias

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Over the past two decades, Iranian spiders have been the focus of extensive taxonomic and faunistic surveys. Currently, approximately 1,000 species are known from the country, including roughly 250 endemics. However, large portions of the country remain poorly studied, with vast regions either inadequately sampled or entirely unsurveyed. We conducted a comprehensive review of spatial variation in the diversity patterns of Iranian spiders and assessed the impact of sampling bias on our current understanding of their distribution. For this, we compiled a database of over 4,400 non-duplicate spider records from Iran. Despite significant advancements in taxonomic research over the past two decades, the records were found to be highly unevenly distributed across the country and its 18 terrestrial ecoregions. Most records are concentrated near major population centres, with approximately 85% of the country's land area lacking a single documented spider record, which suggests a severe Wallacean shortfall. On the other hand, we observed a significant reduction in the Linnean shortfall concerning the Iranian spider fauna, as evidenced by a sharp increase in recorded and described spider species for the country, at a rate higher than the global average. Our analyses revealed a strong correlation between the number of spider records and species richness with the number of records of plants and other animals in Iran, suggesting that the biodiversity shortfalls observed for spiders likely extend to other taxa. Similar biases are expected in other countries, as land area alone explained only 33.24% of spider species richness across 171 compared countries.