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Batesian mimicry in jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae)

Abstract

During their evolution, jumping spiders have developed an immense variety of forms and strategies that have enabled them to survive in different niches. It is therefore not surprising that we encounter herbivorous species, skilled predators, and even nest raiders of other animals. However, due to their diurnal lifestyle, they are attacked by various predators from which they must protect themselves. Consequently, some have developed mimicry to deter predator attacks. A very significant group comprises species that have started to mimic ants, displaying imitations of appearance, behavior, and in some cases, specific chemical compounds. This ant mimicry has independently arisen in distantly related species in different parts of the world. Given the scope of this topic, this paper aims to summarize the findings to date and potentially highlight missing information or suggest possible directions for further research.

Keywords: jumping spiders; Salticidae; Batesian mimicry; myrmecomorphy; myrmecoidy; myrmecophily; myrmecophagy; phylogenesis; predator protection