

Chapter 1 : My Cousin Has Eight Legs! : Jasper Tomkins :

This very tall tale introduces Victor, an orange octopus who "slithered out of his cave in Puget Sound" to take in the nearby sights. Attaching himself, as it were, to the boy's family, the tentacled invertebrate climbs Mount Rainier, goes to the zoo and, clad in human clothes, poses as the.

How to identify venomous house spiders. And so, in the spirit of enlightenment, I have devised a way to help any and all who are curious learn about which spiders pose a danger and which do not. Biggest Threats The leading ladies and gentlemen on this list are of course the ever-beautiful female *Latrodectus hesperus* black widow spider and her renowned accomplice the *Loxosceles reclusa* brown recluse spider. The runner-up to and lesser known than these two is *Tegenaria agrestis* hobo spider. Black Widow Click thumbnail to view full-size Few spiders are as recognizable as the black widow. Source Black widows are experts at web building, and are extremely helpful in vineyards where they catch tiny insects such as gnats and flies. Source Female black widows are perhaps the most easily identifiable spider in human history. The striking red markings on their undersides are a dead giveaway to their species. Whether the red mark is in the shape of an hourglass or a simply a dot, it is safe to assume that any shiny black spider with a bulbous abdomen falls under this category. The males of this species are smaller, shyer, and less venomous than their female counterparts. In fact, there has been much speculation as to whether or not they are more deadly than the common garden spider! Black widows, like cockroaches, can be found anywhere in the United States providing there is: A stable source of heat such as a human dwelling An ample supply of food flies, woodlice, other spiders, etc. Dark places the space under your bed, in your shoe closet, etc. They are more prominent in warmer states because they can breed and catch food outside. Natural enemies of this spider do exist and consist mainly of wasps such as the blue mud dauber and the spider wasp. Black Widow Bites Source Two red marks are the first sign of a black widow bite. Some spider bites are "dry" and no venom is injected. However, if venom is injected, then the following symptoms are often muscle cramps and spasms near the site of the bite, fever, and nausea. If this happens, see a doctor immediately. Stay calm and apply concentrated heat to the bite to minimize the spread of the venom and alleviate pain. Brown Recluse Click thumbnail to view full-size Brown recluses have a distinctively smooth appearance compared to most other spiders their size. Source Source While the black widow is easily identified by her shiny black exterior, large abdomen, and red shape on the underside, the brown recluse is less easily recognized because of his dull colors. Perhaps the only foolproof way of identifying these tricky arachnids is to count their eyes. While most spiders have eight eyes, the brown recluse is unique in that it has only six. Also, the abdomen of the recluse spider is devoid of markings, and their legs are smooth with no thick hairs. Brown recluses have a smaller range than most people think, not straying further west than the Rocky Mountains and rarely venturing north of Nebraska. Because the brown recluse is so excellent at hiding, there have not been many studies on them outside of research on the effects of their bites. So, the statement that the brown recluse has no natural enemy should be taken with a grain of salt. People who have watched and collected data from the brown recluses in their homes have noted seeing other spiders particularly the jumping spider attack and kill them with relative ease. Brown Recluse Bites Red itching skin is the first symptom of the bite of a brown recluse spider. The area then develops into a blister, followed by an open sore, which in turn is accompanied by a rash of tiny red dots. Fever and nausea can also occur. If you are bitten by a brown recluse, see a doctor immediately. The venom of a brown recluse causes necrosis, or the death of tissue, which can take a long time to heal. Hobo Spider Click thumbnail to view full-size Hobo spiders are often confused with giant house spiders or brown recluses. Hobo spiders have 8 eyes, like most spiders, whereas brown recluses have 6. Source Hobo spiders may not be as dangerous as people once thought. Source The hobo spider is one that more people need to be aware of. They are the real cause of countless so-called "brown recluse bites. Their legs are also hairier than those of the brown recluse. The easiest way to differentiate brown recluses from hobo spiders is by geographic location. The hobo spider was introduced to the Port of Seattle from Europe in the late s, and they have since spread throughout the Northwestern United States and Western Canada. Brown recluses do not live in the Northwest or Canada.

Fortunately for us Northwesterners, the hobo spider has a nice list of natural predators, particularly the crab spider , Pardosa wolf spider , and again our friend the jumping spider. Hobo Spider Bites Purported hobo spider bites have had symptoms similar to the bites of brown recluse spiders, though no fatalities have been reported. The research is murky because most people who report bites do not capture the spider, so experts have not been able to identify whether the hobo spider is actually associated with dangerous bites. If bitten, it is imperative that the spider be captured or preserved as entirely as possible, and then sent to a lab many state universities have labs that are appropriate for this to aid in identification and future research.

Chapter 2 : My cousin has eight legs! (Book,) [blog.quintoapp.com]

*My Cousin Has Eight Legs! [Jasper Tomkins] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This very tall tale introduces Victor, an orange octopus who slithered out of his cave in Puget Sound to take in the nearby sights.*

Why is the Mississippi such an unusual river? Who is the fastest runner in the whole world? If you threw a White stone into the Red Sea, what would it become? A Jailer watches cells. But he did not get hurt. One was not a nickel, but the other one was! What goes up and down, but never moves? It comes back to him, even though nothing and nobody touches it. It capsized, but only two got their hair wet. I peel layers like onions, but still remain whole; I can be long, like a flagpole, yet fit in a hole. Share your laugh-out-loud jokes and riddles! We will only accept ones that have it included. Please, please also do a site search to see if your joke or riddle is already here! Tell your friends you are officially published online and keep sharing the laughter Tell us if this is an animal, food, or just plain silly joke or riddle. Your story will appear on a Web page exactly the way you enter it here. You can wrap a word in square brackets to make it appear bold. For example [my story] would show as my story on the Web page containing your story. Since most people scan Web pages, include your best thoughts in your first paragraph. Upload Pictures or Graphics optional [? Click the button and find it on your computer.

My Cousin Has Eight Legs! (Ages 4 to 8) by Jasper Tomkins My Cousin Has Eight Legs! is also available on Amazon.

Ricinulei Each of these are described briefly below: Araneae, the true spiders: These obviously are the primary reason for the existence of this website and their anatomical and behavioural characteristics are described in detail on other pages. However, as a prelude to a description of each of the other arachnid Orders it is appropriate to summarize the fundamental features of a typical true spider. Unlike the relatively rigid prosoma the abdomen is soft and easily damaged. On its underside are one or two pairs of book lungs and perhaps a pair of respiratory spiracles, as well as up to three pairs of silk-secreting spinnerets, and at least on adult female araneomorph species an epigynum into which the male injects his sperms. The silk glands are used to create insect-trapping webs, retreats and egg sacs. Spiders do not have conventional jaws and therefore digest their food, which is almost always insects or other spiders, extracorporeally and ingest it in liquid form. Acari, the ticks and mites: These are characterised by the presence of a very small prosoma tightly and broadly joined to a much larger and usually oval abdomen. At least on ticks the fused chelicerae have rows of backwards-pointing barbs that make the tick difficult to dislodge while it is feeding. There are four pairs of conventional legs but no spinnerets or other abdominal appendages, though some mites make a form of silk from their mouthparts. Because ticks and mites are of both medical and agricultural importance they will be discussed in more detail than any of the other arachnid Orders listed above. The total number of tick species present in Australia is uncertain but at least one author claims there are about 75 different species in this country. The scrub or paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*, which is found in moist bush settings along the east coast of Australia; 2. The so-called bush tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, common along both the east and west coasts of Australia; 3. The cattle tick, *Rhipicephalus microplus*, mostly found in Northern Australia; 4. The brown dog tick, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*, found in all coastal regions except those of South-west Australia. The paralysis tick is by far the species of greatest concern in Eastern Australia. It possesses a glycoprotein neurotoxin that inhibits the actions of acetylcholine at neuromuscular synapses and hence causes flaccid relaxed paralysis of the voluntary muscles and especially the breathing muscles. There can also be other adverse effects, including allergic reactions, and ticks can also carry a *Rickettsia* that causes a form of typhus and, at least in some countries, the pathogen for a debilitating disorder called Lyme disease. A specific tick venom antitoxin has been prepared by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories for human use so it is now rare for people to die from tick bites. The following diagram summarizes the life cycle of the paralysis tick. This takes approximately a year to complete with the adult stage being most common in spring and early summer. The environmental conditions play a significant role in determining how fast the cycle can proceed, warm moist weather favouring surges in tick numbers. Adult females lay approximately eggs in leaf litter but only a small percentage of these hatch out as viable six-legged larvae. These are very small but can still climb up low vegetation and then get brushed onto the bodies of passing animals such as bandicoots and rats. They acquire a blood meal from this first host then drop off and moult to become eight-legged nymphs. These are still very small but are capable of latching onto a second passing host and even of causing a degree of paralysis in it. After another blood meal the larva again leaves its host and transforms into a male or female adult. Both sexes try to find a third vertebrate host, the female feeding so voraciously that it becomes grossly distended. It then drops off and lays its eggs in leaf litter to commence the next cycle. Curiously, the male rarely feeds on this third host. Instead, it mates with the female and then sometimes parasitizes her. The above diagram also shows a typical mite life cycle. This is somewhat less complex than that of ticks because mites are not obligate blood feeders and do not need a blood meal before they can moult. Of the species that have been studied so far the majority have a larva and two nymph stages between the egg and the adult, though it seems some manage with only one nymph and others have at least three of them. The so-called spider mites that are pests of many cultivated plants and fruit trees spin small webs using silk glands that are associated with the palps rather than the abdomen. The extent to which mites are present in the Australian environment is largely unknown by the general public, probably because all common mite species are very small less than 2

mm and only a few of them cause us any serious problems. There are many different species in this country and it is likely that a large percentage of them have not even been formally named and classified as yet. Thus, anyone who sifts through leaf litter from a forest is very likely to find mites among the creatures living there. For the sake of brevity the following paragraphs will be restricted to some Australian mite species that are of agricultural, veterinary or medical significance. Many cultivated plants are subject to attack by mites, including fruit trees, grape vines, strawberries, vegetable crops and ornamental plants. Such mites are usually sap suckers and serious infestations can therefore lead to impairment of growth and hence a reduced yield. Another potential problem is that mites can act as vectors for transfer of plant pathogens such as viruses that can severely damage plant growth. It is for this reason a variety of synthetic miticides are now available for use on fruit trees and some other important crops to control mite infestations. There are even a few predatory mites that are deliberately added to crops to reduce the numbers of plant-feeding mite species. For example, it is possible to purchase colonies of the predatory mite, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, to disperse through crops that are being attacked by the red spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae*. Most of the mite species that are of medical or veterinary importance in Australia are a problem because they feed on skin cells and thereby cause itch, allergic reactions and sometimes systemic illness. Some grass mite species such as *Acomatacarus australiensis* inhabit inadequately mown areas of lawn or footpath and are readily acquired by simply walking through the grass. Their presence is noticed only when the victim develops itch sensations in the lower legs or the undersides of small animals like cats and dogs. Bird mites are often a problem for people who raise poultry, breed pigeons, or have birds as pets. These mites irritate the skin of the birds themselves but often attack their owners as well. A somewhat similar situation can develop when sparrows or other birds take up residence in the eaves of houses, the mites being added to the dust that is inevitably present to some extent within the house. Dust mites such as *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* are present in many Australian houses and are a particularly important problem because they feed on shed human skin scales and then can be inhaled to cause asthma attacks in people susceptible to this disorder. It is for this reason there are frequent reports in the popular media about the need to replace pillows regularly because the skin scales that accumulate in them inevitably lead to a build up of dust mite numbers within the pillow fabric. Mites are a cause for concern for both humans and smaller domesticated animals and even for some small animals such as the burrow-dwelling mygalomorph spiders. There are even some mite species that are adapted to feed on aquatic animals and mites can be extremely irritating in the ears of dogs. However, by far the most important example is the scabies mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, which burrows just under the human skin mainly of the hands and there causes an intense rash and itch which is at least partly secondary to an allergic reaction.

Scorpiones, the true scorpions: These are up to 12 cm but typically about 6 cm for Australian species in body length and, like spiders, have 4 pairs of legs plus a pair of palps. However, the latter appendages are larger than on any spider and have strong terminal pincers that the scorpion uses to tear off pieces of its prey and place them next to its mouth so the juices can be sucked out. The prosoma and opisthosoma are fused together and the latter has a number of segments and a long tail called a telson which arches forward over the abdomen and has a venom gland and a sharp stinging barb at its end. There are two large eyes in the middle of the head and up to 5 sets of small lateral eyes but scorpions are largely nocturnal hunters and do not have very good vision. Instead they depend more on sensory hairs and other proprioceptors as well as odour detectors called pectines. There apparently are no recorded human deaths from stings by Australian scorpions although people who are stung can expect local pain and swelling. On the other hand, there are some overseas scorpion species that have potent neurotoxins that act on calcium or potassium ion channels and are known to be potentially lethal to humans. Fortunately, scorpions are not naturally aggressive towards large creatures like us, their normal prey being insects and other small arthropods. They lack silk-secreting glands so they do not use webs when catching their prey. Like spiders scorpions use abdominal book lungs four pairs to obtain oxygen but they do not mate in the same way. Instead the male deposits a packet of sperms on the ground near the female, who then moves over it to become inseminated. Scorpions also differ from spiders in that they produce living young instead of laying eggs, the young scorpions passing through several moults to reach adulthood and riding on the back of the adult female while very young. According to the available published reports there are Australian scorpion species and these

normally live under logs or loose rocks especially on rocky hillsides, desert species such as *Urodacus yashenkoi* preferring burrows in the ground. A few species are quite often found in domestic backyards, the brown scorpion *Urodacus manicatus* and marbled scorpion *Lychas marmoreus* probably being the species most often seen there. Pseudoscorpiones, the false scorpions: In many respects these arachnids resemble true scorpions but are considerably smaller in overall size, most species being only mm long. They also have a fused prosoma and opisthosoma, the latter being very obviously segmented, as well as an enlarged pair of palps with strong pincers that include venom glands. Pseudoscorpions are predators of other small invertebrates and, as the following image shows, also larger ones killed by other predators which they grasp in their pincers, envenomate, tear open, and digest extracorporeally in a manner similar to that for true spiders. The prosoma has pairs of primitive eyes. They resemble all arachnids other than the true spiders in lacking abdominal spinnerets but like the spider mites they can secrete silk from glands in their chelicerae. This silk is not used for catching prey but for building small retreats and for wrapping packets of sperms. Some male pseudoscorpions then physically position the female over the sperm packages. After fertilization is complete the female retains the eggs in a brood sac attached to her genitalia until the first of three juvenile stages hatches out. It is said that some pseudoscorpion species then promote their dispersal by clinging to the bodies of insects. Pseudoscorpions are most often found in leaf litter and under rocks and loose bark but are also known to survive in a wide range of other habitats, even including seashore ones. Some live in caves; others have even been found within older buildings. There are many Australian species, the actual number being at least 82 species some authors claim twice that number exist here belonging to ten different families, yet few Australians have ever seen a pseudoscorpion. How can this be? The main reasons are that all pseudoscorpion species are very small and do not bite people or cause any kind of medical problem and they also are not known to damage cultivated crops or domesticated animals. These typically have bodies less than 10 mm in length but relatively long, slender and hairless legs, the fourth pair of which are sometimes comparatively robust and bizarre in shape. The prosoma is so closely fused with the somewhat larger, visibly segmented opisthosoma that for some species there is no distinct join between the two. The opisthosoma may be oval or grossly distorted in both shape and markings, presumably for camouflage purposes. There are no spinnerets or book lungs, opilionids using a tracheal system to obtain oxygen. The chelicerae are very short and lack venom glands while the palps vary greatly from species to species and are often quite long and equipped with large spiny processes. Curiously, male opilionids do not use their palps for sperm transfer as true spiders do and neither do they follow the scorpion and pseudoscorpion practice of depositing small sperm packages for the female to pick up. Instead they have a long penis that allows direct insemination of the female. Moults lead to nymphal instars between the egg and adult stages. And another unusual characteristic of the Opilionidae is their willingness to live in close colonies of up to individuals. Opilionids have just one pair of eyes sometimes reduced in size or entirely absent in the case of some cave-dwelling species oriented to face sideways.

Chapter 4 : what has eight legs and my first science library

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Chapter 5 : NPR Choice page

Attaching himself, as it were, to the boy's family, the tentacled invertebrate climbs Mount Rainier, goes to the zoo and, clad in human clothes, poses as the narrator's cousin at elementary school.

Chapter 6 : My Cousin Has Eight Legs!: Jasper Tomkins: blog.quintoapp.com: Books

This was a gift for several of the young nephews in the family. i was so happy to see it in print still, though wish it was available in hardbound. it is a great adventure story for a boy and the graphics are some of the most imaginative!

Chapter 7 : NPR Choice page

Order the book, My Cousin Has Eight Legs [Paperback] in bulk, at wholesale prices. ISBN# by Jasper Tomkins.

Chapter 8 : My Cousin Has Eight Legs! by Jasper Tomkins (): blog.quintoapp.com: Books

Get this from a library! My cousin has eight legs!. [Jasper Tomkins] -- Follows the adventures of a young boy and an octopus who poses as his cousin.

Chapter 9 : My Cousin Rachel Movie Review

South & Central Puget Sound Puget Sound has glorious views and an incredible range of special places. Hood Canal A mile-long glacier fjord with outstanding fishing but few protected anchorages. North Puget Sound Many communities host festivals and have excellent seaside restaurants like Anthony's in Anacortes.