3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Attempt to sketch the early history of Arachnida more so of spiders seems to be meaningless particularly after the beautiful resume presented by Savory (1977). Yet precisely – Aristotle* (384-322 B.C.) described spiders as egg producers with a note on apparent rarity of males, courtship, webs and habit. Curio and Araneus diadematus are the author of the first book of spider and first well described and illustrated species of spider respectively. The period of 1650-1800 may be described as the time of adolescence of Arachnology.

It is impossible to refer to all those who have given us accounts of the faunas of their own lands and it is undiplomatic to mention but a few. Nevertheless it is impossible to pass in complete silence over the names of Leuen Hook* (1632-1723), Clerck* 1757, Linnaeus* (1707-1778), Lamarck* (1744-1829), Latreille* (1762-1833), Blackwall* (1851), Thorell* (1830-1901), E. Reimoser* (1864-1940), C.L. Koch* (1778-1857), O.P. Cambridge* (1880-1914), Simon* (1848-1924).


Although spiders are extremely abundant throughout the country, our knowledge on the Indian spider fauna started from 1864. Blackwall (1864, ’67a, ’67b) described 7 spider species from East India. He was followed by Cambridge (1870, ’74 and ’82). Thorell (1895) published a descriptive catalogue of about 200 species of Burmese (the then in British India) spiders. Pocock (1900) recorded 215 species from British India in his book ‘The Fauna of British India, Arachnida’. This book provides the first list of spiders along with enumeration and new description. Simon (1899) recorded many species from the Himalayas. Sheriffs (1919, ’27, ’28 and ’29) and Reimoser (1934) described many interesting species of spider from South India. Gravely (1921, ’22, ’35) contributed considerably to the knowledge of Indian spider. A number of species from Lahore (the then in British India) were described by

* For detail of citations see Savory (1977).
Dyal (1935). Sinha (1951) contributed on Lycosidae, Araneidae and Hersilidae. Tikader and his associates (1970, '80, '82 and '87) streamlined and popularized spider studies in India through his publications, a few of which included identification keys along with species description for all the genera belonging to six spider families [namely Lycosidae, Araneidae, Gnaphosidae, Thomisidae, Heteropodidae (now Sparassidae) and Clubionidae]. Patel and Reddy (1991, '93) described spiders from Andhra Pradesh. Biswas and Biswas (1992) accounted the spiders of West Bengal as well as the spider fauna of Manipur in 2004. Raychaudhuri and his group have been exploring the biodiversity of spiders of forest of Dooars, West Bengal since 1994. Till date they have in their collection 350+ species including new taxa. Biswas and Majumdar (1995) worked on the spider fauna of Meghalaya. Gajbe, U. A. (1999, 2004a, b, '05a, b, '08a, b) and Gajbe, U. A. & P. Gajbe (2000a, b, c, d, and 2004a, b) described many new species of spiders from Madhya Pradesh. Deb (2001) was the first to work out the spider fauna of Buxa Tiger Reserve. Sebastian and his associates (2001, '02, '05 '06) are also engaged in exploring the biodiversity of spiders of South India. Recently "A pictorial handbook on spiders of Sunderbans, West Bengal" published in 2007, documented the work of Majumder on Sunderban spiders.

Explorations of spider fauna in the recent years in Indian subcontinent were done by Benjamin (2010), Bosselaers (2010), Chakrabarti (2009), Dhali et al. (2010a, 'b, '11 and '12), Hore and Uniyal (2008a, 'b), Javed and Tampal (2010), Javed et al. (2010a, b), Jose (2011), Keswani et al. (2012), Logunov (2010c), Maqsood Javed et al. (2010), Marusik et al. (2012), Mirza and Sanap. (2012), Raychaudhuri et al. (2012), Sebastian and Peter (2009), Sen et al. (2009a,'b, c, '10a,'b,'c,d, '11a,'b,'c, '12a,'b); Senglet (2011), Siliwal and Raven (2010), Siliwal et al. (2010).

It is necessary to mention that none of the workers, except Raychaudhuri and his associates, [Roy et al. (2009,'10a, b)] are addressing the araneofauna of agricultural system like tea. Glimpses of spiders in the past decade of the recorded families are presented here.

3.1. DEINOPIDAE C. L. Koch

(NET CASTING SPIDERS)

3.2. ULOBORIDAE Thorell

(HACKLED WEB SPIDERS)


3.3. ERESIDAE C. L. Koch

(SOCIAL SPIDERS)


3.4. ZODARIIDAE Thorell
(BURROWING SPIDERS)


3.5. SALTICIDAE Blackwall
(JUMPING SPIDERS)


3. 6. SPARASSIDAE Bertkau

(GIANT CRAB SPIDERS)


3.7. THOMISIDAE Sundevall

(CRAB SPIDERS)

(op.cit.) did even record the hitherto unknown male morph of *Indosmodicus bengalensis* Sen et al.

### 3.8. GNAPHOSIDAE Pocock

(MOUSE SPIDERS)

3. 9. MITURGIDAE Simon

(DARK SAC SPIDERS)


3. 10. CLUBIONIDAE Wagner

(SAC SPIDERS)


3.11. HERSILIIDAE Thorell

(TWO TAILED SPIDERS)


3.12. OXYOPIDAE Thorell

(LYNX SPIDERS)


3.13. **PISAUROIDAE** Simon  
(NURSERY WEB SPIDERS)


### 3.14. LYCOSIDAE Sundevall

(WOLF SPIDERS)

3.16. LINYPHIIDAE Blackwall

(SHEET WEB SPIDERS)


### 3. 17. TETRAGNATHIDAE Menge

**LONG-JAWED ORB WEAVERS**


3. 18. NEPHILIDAE Simon

(LONG-LEGGED ORB WEAVERS)


3.19. ARANEIDAE Clerck

(TRUE ORB WEAVERS)