THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGING TRENDS IN BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES (ETBAS-2026)

ETBAS-2026

ORGANIZED BY:
SHRI MOUNI VIDYAPEETH'S
KARMAVEER HIRE ARTS, SCIENCE, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION COLLEGE,
GARGOTI, TAL - BHUDARGAD,
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January 5, 2026

Abstract Book

HABITAT PREFERENCE OF OXYOPIDAE FAMILY SPIDERS IN THE WAI REGION, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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Abstract:

The Oxyopidae family, commonly known as lynx spiders, are dynamic cursorial predators found in various landscapes, including agricultural, semi-natural, and natural ecosystems. This research examines the habitat preferences of Oxyopidae spiders in the Wai area of Maharashtra, India, highlighting variations in species composition and abundance across different vegetation types and microhabitats in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons. A standardized sampling strategy was employed across four primary habitat types: crop fields, grasslands, riverine vegetation, and scrubland. The Oxyopes saturatus was the most abundant species (46.67 %) while Oxyopes Shweta showed the least abundance (6.67). The species richness indices are Oxyopidae spider assemblage showed moderate diversity with uneven species distribution, dominated by Oxyopes sataricus, while Oxyopes shweta occurred as rare species. The abundance of Oxyopes spiders showed clear seasonal trend, with maximum occurrence in the Post-monsoon period and minimum during monsoon, reflecting the influence of rainfall and Vegetation structure on spider distribution.These insights deepen our understanding of Oxyopidae ecology while providing essential data for conservation efforts and agricultural pest management within the Wai region.

Keywords: Oxyopidae, lynx spiders, habitat preference, biodiversity, Wai, Maharashtra