

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Invertebrate of the Month

July 2009



Spider Mother

Not only mammals look after their progeny, parental brood care is common among spiders. Female wolf spiders (family Lycosidae) are attentive invertebrate mothers. They carry their egg sacs wherever they go, and after the spiderlings hatch they climb up onto their mother's back. As the spiderlings develop they will gradually fall off and move away from mum and start their own burrow. Wolf spiders are ground dwellers and are named from the way they hunt down prey, much like a wolf or wild dog.