

Abstract

Maternal care is any behaviour of the mother which directly benefits its offspring usually at the cost of future reproduction of the female. Many types of maternal care are known among spiders, but a comprehensive review of all different types of maternal care across spider diversity is still largely missing. With the summarisation of research concerning maternal care and thanks to the implementation of genomic data and subsequent advances in spider systematics and evolutionary research, different types of maternal care are interpreted in an evolutionary context and mapped on the up to date phylogenetic tree. Guarding behaviour is common across spider families. On the contrary, various forms of feeding are rare. Some phenomena (matriphagy and regurgitation) evolved repeatedly in distantly related spider families.