

Wolf spider feeding on *Philautus cf. leucorhinus*

Higher vertebrates generally prey on lower vertebrates and it is a quite common phenomenon in the food chain. Very rarely, vertebrates do become prey for invertebrates, which are hierarchically at lower evolutionary lineage than the vertebrates. Here, I am illustrating one such incidence; where I could able capture the feeding of a wolf spider on a shrub frog *Philautus cf. leucorhinus*. It was 27th July 2004, evening 5:30, after a brief shower for some time, I started searching for amphibians in the forest of Vatehalla, in the downstreams of Sharavathi River basin. All of a sudden, just a meter away from me, a *Philautus* species jumped and got caught by a wolf spider. Though initially the shrub frog struggled to come out of the catch, but with each wriggling the spider tightened its hold and made the frog immobile and a mute prey. Within next few minutes the frog was squeezed by the spider, though intact, but without life.



Photographs and Text

Gururaja K V

Energy and Wetlands Research Group,
Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore – 560 012.

gururaj@ces.iisc.ernet.in

