

Amazing SPIDER Facts

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Spiders consume an estimated **400-800** metric tonnes of insects annually and play a critical role of pest controllers in the ecosystem.

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Almost all spiders produce venom to paralyze their prey before they eat it. Only around **30** of the around **48,000** known species of spiders produce venom that is dangerous enough to pose a threat to human health.

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Fortunately, no spider in India is considered harmful to humans and no fatal bites have ever been recorded.

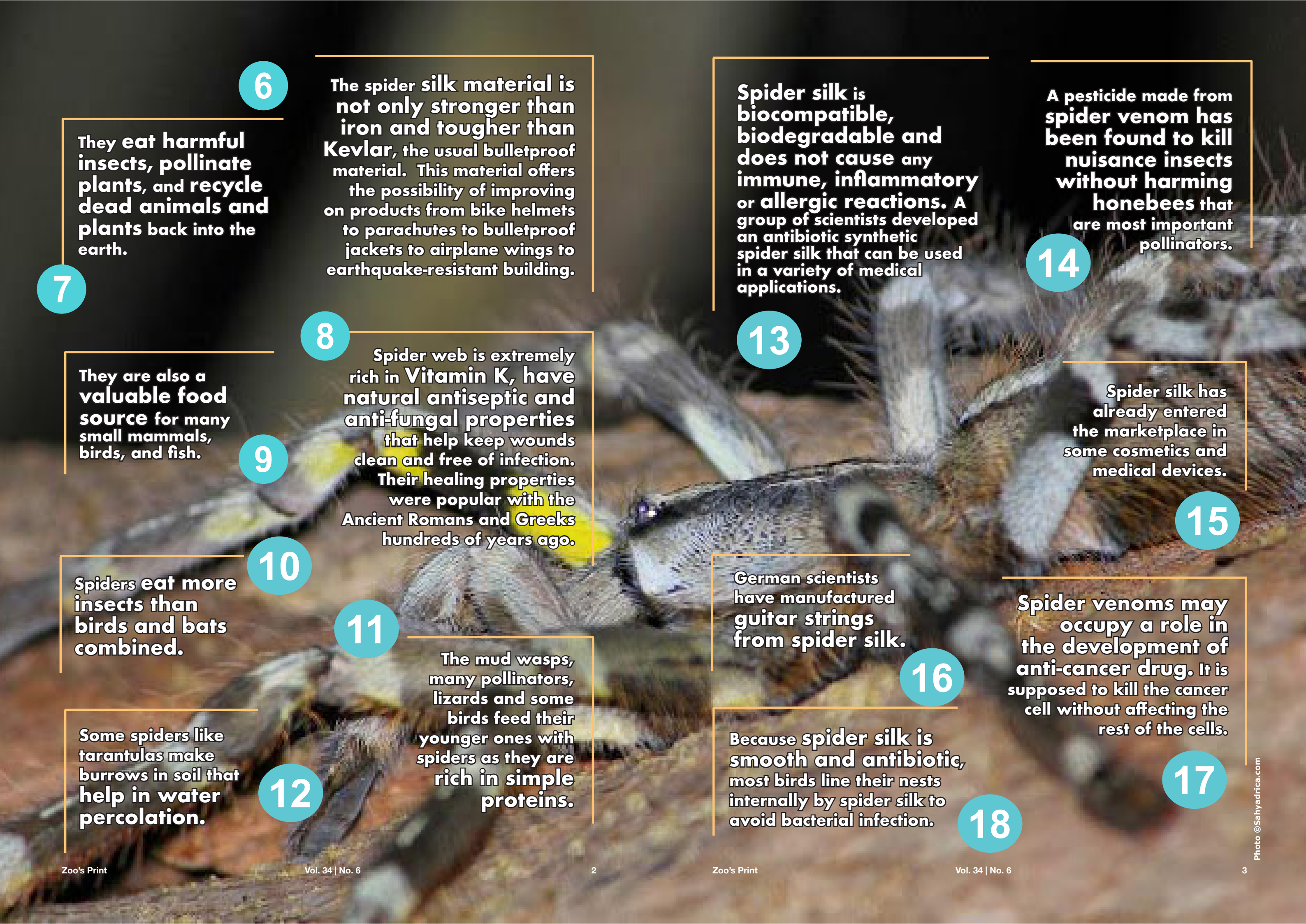
Most spiders' fangs are too small or weak to puncture human skin.

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Most of the spiders feed on mosquitoes and protect us from Malaria and other similar mosquito borne diseases.

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They eat harmful insects, pollinate plants, and recycle dead animals and plants back into the earth.

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They are also a valuable food source for many small mammals, birds, and fish.

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Spider web is extremely rich in Vitamin K, have natural antiseptic and anti-fungal properties that help keep wounds clean and free of infection. Their healing properties were popular with the Ancient Romans and Greeks hundreds of years ago.

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Spiders eat more insects than birds and bats combined.

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The mud wasps, many pollinators, lizards and some birds feed their younger ones with spiders as they are rich in simple proteins.

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Some spiders like tarantulas make burrows in soil that help in water percolation.

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Spider silk is biocompatible, biodegradable and does not cause any immune, inflammatory or allergic reactions. A group of scientists developed an antibiotic synthetic spider silk that can be used in a variety of medical applications.

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A pesticide made from spider venom has been found to kill nuisance insects without harming honeybees that are most important pollinators.

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Spider silk has already entered the marketplace in some cosmetics and medical devices.

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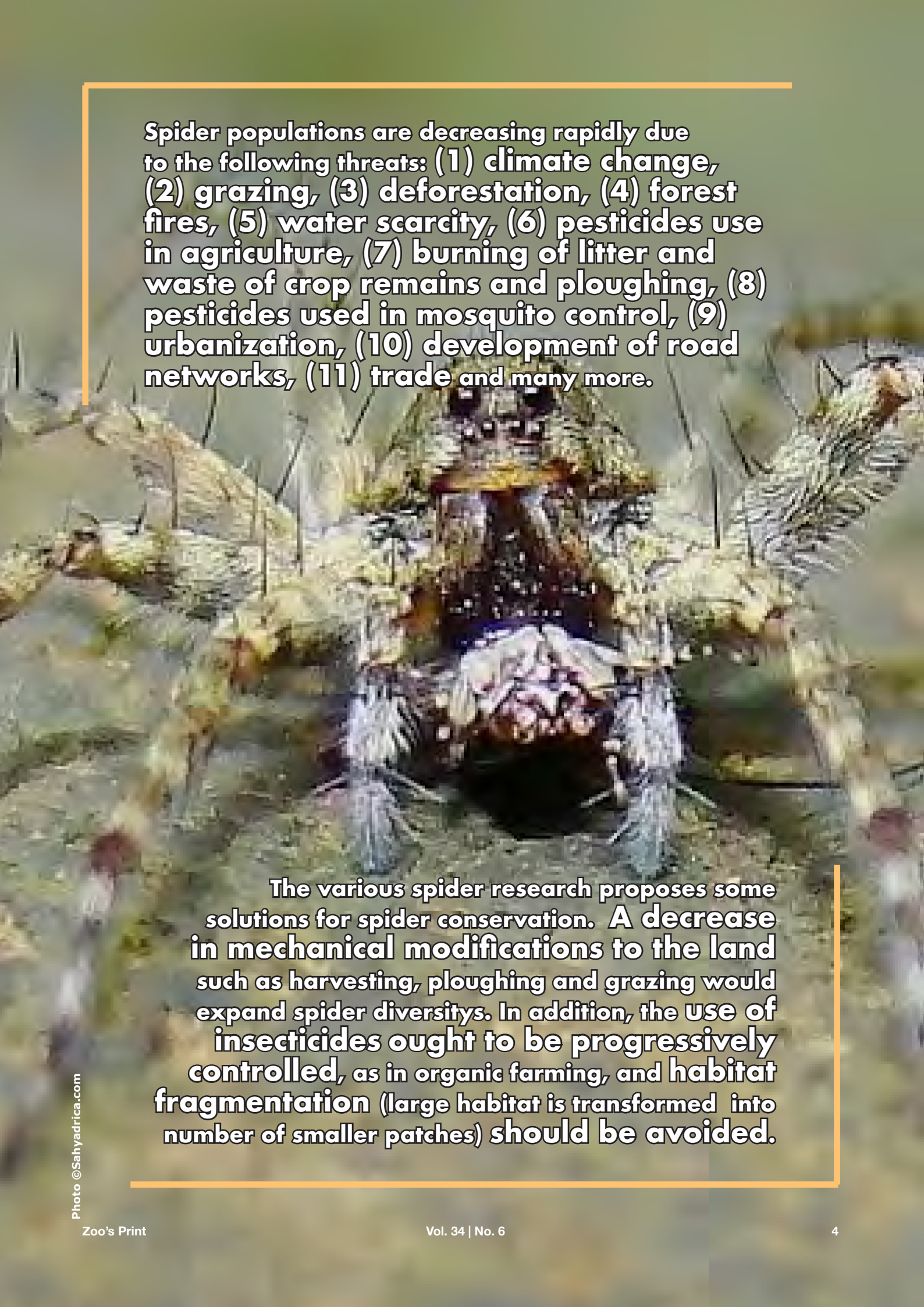
German scientists have manufactured guitar strings from spider silk.

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Because spider silk is smooth and antibiotic, most birds line their nests internally by spider silk to avoid bacterial infection.

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Spider venoms may occupy a role in the development of anti-cancer drug. It is supposed to kill the cancer cell without affecting the rest of the cells.

A large, hairy tarantula spider is shown in a close-up shot, clinging to a thick, textured branch. The spider's body is dark and covered in fine hairs, while its legs are lighter and more sparsely hairy. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with green foliage.

Spider populations are decreasing rapidly due to the following threats: (1) climate change, (2) grazing, (3) deforestation, (4) forest fires, (5) water scarcity, (6) pesticides use in agriculture, (7) burning of litter and waste of crop remains and ploughing, (8) pesticides used in mosquito control, (9) urbanization, (10) development of road networks, (11) trade and many more.

The various spider research proposes some solutions for spider conservation. A decrease in mechanical modifications to the land such as harvesting, ploughing and grazing would expand spider diversitys. In addition, the use of insecticides ought to be progressively controlled, as in organic farming, and habitat fragmentation (large habitat is transformed into number of smaller patches) should be avoided.