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The eye-catching, metallic blue-green Peacock Tarantula was rediscovered in 2001 a century after its first description in Andhra Pradesh. While the male crawlies of the big, hairy species roam about in search of mates with their sharpened spidey sense, the females live, lay eggs, and raise their babies in tree holes in old growth forests. Shot at Andhra Pradesh by S. Molur, ZOO; posted on 04 Jun 2019.



The perennial shrub Yellow Flax (बसंती, प्याउली) is found in the Himalayan and Western Ghats hotspots and belongs to the genus Reinwardtia, the only member of its family of flowering plants, in recognition of the 19th Century botanist Reinwardt. The scented golden yellow flowers have fine reddish veins in their throats and are used for dyeing clothes and making paints. Shot at Chamba by S. Molur, ZOO; posted on 27 May 2019.



Sea Cucumbers are “ultra cool” nutrient recyclers of the sea—these squishy fleshy superheroes live in shallow rock pools as well as at incredible depths of the sea floor, feeding on microscopic organic matter to keep the nutrient cycle going. Don’t be misled by their dull appearance or slow movement, as these cool cucumbers have strange funky habits that few other animals match up to—breathing through their anus, squirting out their innards to deter predators, and simply regrowing those parts—talk about Wolverines of the ocean! Shot at Rameshwaram by B. Ravichandran, ZOO; posted on 04 May 2019.



Picking up his sweeping train off the floor, the male Common Peafowl fans out his quills and rustles them in a spectacular display of colours—all for the benefit of the girls in the block! As for the peahens, they have their eyes trained on the mesmerizing ‘eye’ spots at the end of his quills—the more spots there are, the better the chance he stands at sweeping the girls off their feet! Shot at Coimbatore by B. Ravichandran, ZOO; posted on 30 Apr 2019.

We bring to you every week shots and tidbits of incredibly diverse species from around the natural world! Follow us on Instagram to be part of a growing community that celebrates our natural heritage: <https://www.instagram.com/threatenedtaxa/>

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Captions by Vidya Mary George, ZOO.