



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

**American Arachnological Society**

Paula Cushing, AAS Secretary

303.370.6442

[Paula.Cushing@dmns.org](mailto:Paula.Cushing@dmns.org)

## **MOSQUITO TERMINATORS AND VAMPIRE SPIDERS**

**DENVER—July 1, 2015—** The [American Arachnological Society](#) announces [a review in the \*Journal of Arachnology\*](#) by [Robert Jackson](#) and Fiona Cross about the biology of two species of jumping spiders in the family Salticidae that feed preferentially on mosquitoes. One species, *Evarcha culicivora*, like an eight-legged vampire, is particularly drawn to female mosquitoes whose guts are filled with blood. Another species, *Paracyrba wanlessi* preferentially feeds on mosquito larvae lurking in pools of water inside bamboo.

*Evarcha culicivora* has a particular hankering for *Anopheles* mosquitoes – the very mosquitoes notorious for being malaria vectors. *Evarcha culicivora* and *Anopheles* are both found in Kenya and both are attracted to human odor (particularly the odor of dirty socks). Thus, this little spider is a predator that likes us and eats our enemies. By eating blood-filled mosquitoes, this spider also acquires a blood perfume that is attractive to members of the opposite sex.

These two spiders, in their own different ways, are highly specialized mosquito assassins. Like Arnold Schwarzenegger in the James Cameron movie *The Terminator*, these little specialist predators ignore any other insects that get in the way as they pursue their target victims – mosquitoes.

### **About the American Arachnological Society**

The American Arachnological Society was founded in 1975 to further the study of arachnids (spiders and their relatives), foster closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional arachnologists, and to publish the [Journal of Arachnology](#), one of the premier scientific journals presenting current research about arachnids. Connect with the AAS on its [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

**NOTE: Photos available**

**###**