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A field guide

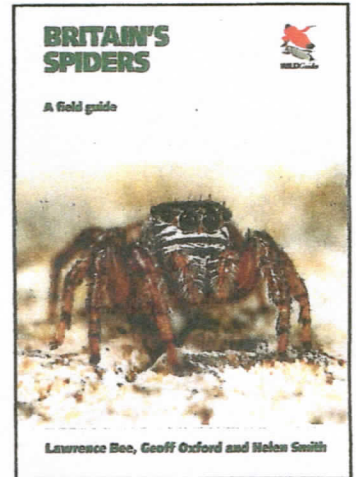
Lawrence Bee, Geoff Oxford and Helen Smith

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Britain's Spiders is a photographic guide to all 37 of the British families, focussing on spiders that can be identified in the field. Illustrated with a remarkable collection of photographs, it is designed to be accessible to a wide audience, including those new to spider identification. This book pushes the boundaries of field identification for this challenging group by combining information on features that can be seen with the naked eye or a hand lens with additional evidence from webs, egg sacs, behaviour, phenology, habitats and distributions. Individual accounts cover 395 of Britain's approximately 670 species, with the limitations to field identification explained. As the first photographic field guide to British spiders to be published since 1989, this book fills a major gap in the resources available to everyone with an interest in this fascinating, diverse and important group of animals.

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• Maps and charts showing distributions and adult seasonality
• Introductory chapters exploring the biology of spiders, and where, when and how to find them, including equipment needed in the field
• A complete list of the spiders recorded in Britain, indicating the degree of identification difficulty
• Information on how to record spiders and make your records count
• Guidance on how to take your interest further

Lawrence Bee is an ecological consultant and educator, and is the author of the Field Studies Council's Guide to House and Garden Spiders. Geoff Oxford is a biologist at the University of York and an authority on both colour variation and speciation in spiders. Helen Smith is a conservation biologist and currently leads the conservation programme for the endangered Fen Raft Spider.

This book is produced in collaboration with the British Arachnological Society www.britishtspiders.org.uk, of which all three authors are active members.

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