

## **Is silk the secret to the spiders' success?**

You do not have to cover everything, choose whether your essay will be an overview or pick an aspect that interests you most and go into detail. Regardless, outline what you have chosen to discuss and why in your introduction. Remember to link whatever you have chosen to write about to survival/reproduction and natural selection acting on the spider. Don't forget to answer the question too after your discussion!

**For this tutorial we will meet in Darwins in the Zoology Department.**

### **Reading list:**

Course texts give an overview but not much detail:

Anderson D.T., (2006), *Invertebrate Zoology*, 2nd edition. OUP, Oxford.

Chapter 14.

Barnes, R.D. and Ruppert, E.E., (1994), *Invertebrate Zoology*, 6th edition. Saunders, Philadelphia.

Pages 634-653. (or different editions may have different pages)

For detail, once you have decided what you wish to write about:

Foelix, R. F., (1996), *Biology of spiders*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. OUP, Oxford.

Section 458.4 in the Radcliffe Science Library!

Relevant articles:

Vollrath, F., (1999), Biology of spider silk, *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*, 24, pp. 81-88.

Blackledge, T. A., *et al.*, (2009), Reconstructing web evolution and spider diversification in the molecular era , *PNAS*, 106, 13, pp. 5229-5234.