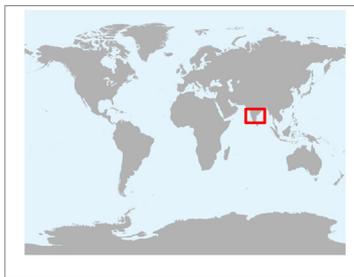




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Peacock Parachute Spider

The **Peacock Parachute Spider**, *Poecilotheria metallica*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This species is found in a single severely fragmented area of forest in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh, between Nandyal and Giddalur. It was in this location that the Peacock Parachute Spider was rediscovered in 2001 after 102 years of not being seen.

This spider is thought to inhabit a range of less than 100 km². This small area is undergoing severe habitat loss and degradation, as a result of lopping for firewood and cutting for timber. An additional threat to the species is collection by international pet traders, which could have an impact on the population. Together, these threats may lead to the extinction of the Peacock Parachute Spider in its single known location in the near future.

It is not known whether or not this species occurs in other parts of the Eastern Ghats. Extensive field surveys are required in order to understand the distribution of this species. Threats other than collection from the wild, such as habitat loss, are yet to be fully understood.

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