

33 rare varieties of spiders found

Express News Service

Kochi, Feb 8

Research scholars from Sacred Heart College, Thevara, have identified 33 rare varieties of spiders at Mangalavanam, including two species that face extinction: Lycosa and Opodomata.

The Pisaura Spider which is normally found in marshy areas is seen very rarely in the country and Mangalavanam houses around 250 of this variety, says P.A. Sebastian, Reader, Division of Arachnology, Department of Zoology.

The 33 varieties belong to 13 families, of which some can spin the web while others can't. The Aranido species which spins webs can play an important role in biotechnology



Opodomata and Lycosa, the two new species of spiders identified at Mangalavanam.

as its threads can help in the production of artificial silk.

The Division of Arachnology in SH College is now trying to develop this technology and has planned a few programmes in association with the Department of Biotechnology.

M.J.Mathew, A.V.Sudhikumar and E.Suneesh are the members of the team which identified the spiders.

MANGALAVANAM

■ See P3