Socotra island is known from Arabian Peninsula as common and you can find it close to the water (streams and ponds where hunt needed. The most common one is Hogna ferox (D, E). This spider is very diurnal and you can see them even walking on the surface of water. Other wolf spiders are mainly night active and taxonomic revision is really needed. The most common one is Monocentropus balfouri (Teraphosidae) (A). This big spider, also called by local people: Nama, is burrowing species living in soil, stones or dead tree trunks. It is possible to see this species outside of its burrows, just during the rains and in time of mating, when males are looking for females. The other big species is orb-weaver Nephila sumptuosa (Nephilidae) (B). This species is also known from Horn of Africa and south part of Arabian Peninsula, but there are just a few records in museums. The species is local, but the webs of this species are very large and visible.

The most widespread spiders - Wolf spiders (Lycosidae)

The largest species known from Socotra is endemic baboon spider Habrocestum Hasarius adansoni. It is common in Hadiboh and other settlements, the third one lives in the natural habitats. Large family represented by ground dwelling spiders which are very unpopular or hated group of animals. But they are very important group of bioregulators and they are very important for function of all ecosystems. There are known almost 44 000 species of spiders, 1600 scorpions, 100 uropygids, 100 amphiropygids (whip spiders) and 6500 harvestmens in the world. At this moment, is from Socotra Island officially recorded 59 species of spiders, 3 amphiropygids and 1 harvestmen. These numbers are horribly underestimated and we are expecting numbers several times bigger.

The smallest spiders - Oonopidae (C)

The smallest spiders of Socotra are goblin spiders (Oonopidae). These small creatures live in the leaf litter locally and it is difficult to find them but it seems that this family is one of the most numerous around the world but not studied well. There are 6 species known from Socotra but there are more spiders of this family. The smallest known is Oonopidae Loxosceles rufescens (J). This is typical Mediterranean species, which is spreading by different goods around the world, but it is highly probable that there are other species too (in caves for example). These species could be danger for children, old and sick people only and there is no evidence of leucism from recent. We can expect some in future because the expansion is quite recent.

Jumpers – jumping spiders (Salticidae)

The most diverse and species rich family of the island and one from the most species rich families of the world. Actually is known 18 species of jumping spiders from the island. The most widespread is very common Rhabidus insignipapis (K), orange-red spider with perfect mimicry to red ground. Other common species is relatively big species Aelurodes firma (L). This species can be found on the trees and rocks. Females laid their eggs into different hollows, like empty trunks of Adenium or empty land-snail shells. The smallest known species is Helophanus panulirus (M), nice shiny species living close to ant colonies on different trees. The most species rich genus of jumping spiders is genus Neobroccostum (N), and generally is possible say, that even this genus is distributed from African to South Africa, the highest species diversity is known from Socotrains island. Panropical or generally widespread species on Socotra island are Neosurus adonis. Pseudeuophrys nitens (O) and Thyene imperialis. First two are common in Hadiboh and other settlements, the third one lives in the natural habitats.

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The most widespread and visible are these two families of spiders. Spiders are presented on the island by giant and dwarf forms together. The largest species known from Socotra is endemic baboon spider Habrocestum Hasarius adansoni (Teraphosidae) (A). This big spider, also called by local people: Nama, is burrowing species living in soil, stones or dead tree trunks. It is possible to see this species outside of its burrows, just during the rains and in time of mating, when males are looking for females. The other big species is orb-weaver Nephila sumptuosa (Nephilidae) (B). This species is also known from Horn of Africa and south part of Arabian Peninsula, but there are just a few records in museums. The species is local, but the webs of this species are very large and visible.

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