

SHADOWSCOPE: Small but not insignificant. They roam about in the greenery of the garden, among the flowers of our roof top garden. A small creature that doesn't catch one's attention immediately, but strikes in a lightning speed animal larger than itself. Sucks out the body juice in an instant killing the victim. It spews poison in self-defence and to save its children too.

In this issue, a young budding photographer Mr Arunava Dey presents us with glimpses of such a small creature ~ the Lynx Spider along with a write up, his zealous work of two years intense photography.



ARUNAVA DEY: I got interested in photography in 2016, all of a sudden obviously to re-tune myself against some fabled or visible presence. I became a member of PSM where I met Mr Swapan Mukherjee, a renowned macro photographer of WB. I started taking macro photos with Nikon D3300 and Nikon 18-55 reverse lens method. Initially I photographed all types of insects but later on I tried specialising on photographing spiders as I found them quite interesting and finally my target became the Green Lynx spider (*Peucetia Viridana*). I have been trying for more than two years to record their habits and behaviours.

GREEN LYNX SPIDER (*PEUCETIA VIRIDANA*)

Green lynx Spider though very common in our garden is generally found all over the world. They do not build a nest or web but pounce upon their prey and capture them. They prey on insects that are many times larger than itself.

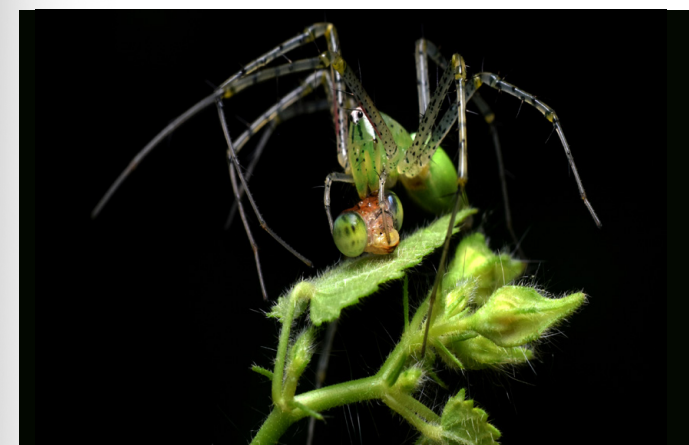
The body of the full-grown female is around 22 millimeters (0.87 in) long. The male is smaller, slimmer and averaging 12 millimeters (0.47 in) in length. There often is a red patch between the eyes, with a few red spots on the body. The Green Lynx Spider can be distinguished from other families by their distinctive

hexagonal eye arrangements and the prominent spines on their legs. Their legs also have numerous black spots which are particularly noticeable on the femora.

Spider cannibalism also is found in Green Lynx Spider. Sometimes the female Green Lynx Spider which quite larger than male, eats male before, during, or after mating. It is also seen that female spider attacks other female and kills and eats to protect her egg sac.

Mating occurs while hanging from a strand of silk. Gravid (pregnant) females are able to change the colour of their abdomen to blend in with green, purple, yellow and white backgrounds. The Green Lynx Spiders have one generation a year with females constructing one or two egg sacs, in September to December.

The female Green Lynx Spider shows great parental care, protecting her eggs and later, when the egg



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sac hatches, guarding her young until the spiderlings can fend for themselves. (Each egg sac contains 25 to 600 bright orange eggs, with an average of 200 eggs in a sac). The post-embryo remains in the egg sac, requiring 11 to 16 days to hatch.

The lynx spider can spit venom nearly 8 inches to protect itself. Despite their aggressive nature when hunting or defending their brood, green lynx spiders seldom bite people. In rare cases when a person is bitten and envenomated, the venom causes only local pain, itching, redness, and swelling.

The green lynx spiders are important predators for crop pest. That may be very helpful to the farmers and gardeners.

For capturing different moments of Green lynx spider I used my Nikon D7500/D5300 camera with 70-300mm Nikon lens and macro filter with Manual Flash & Homemade Flash Diffuser.



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