

#STRANGE

A Spider Like A Leaf

Leaf-Mimicking Orb-Weaver of Yunnan: A Master of Disguise



Deep within the lush rainforests of Yunnan Province, China, lives a remarkable arachnid known as the leaf-mimicking orb-weaver spider. A rare and fascinating member of the

Araneidae family, this spider has evolved an extraordinary defense: it looks almost exactly like a dead or decaying leaf. This form of camouflage allows it to evade predators and surprise prey in one of Asia's most biodiverse ecosystems.

Camouflage and Appearance

The leaf-mimicking orb-weaver, likely a species from the genus Polys or closely related genera, displays a flattened body with jagged edges, earthy brown or greenish colouring, and markings that resemble leaf veins. Some individuals even appear to have a central 'midrib' down their abdomen, mimicking the natural texture of a

real leaf. When the spider sits motionless among real foliage, it becomes nearly invisible.

During the day, it rests on leaves or tree bark, curling its legs to enhance the illusion. At night, it becomes more active, often leaving its hiding spot to build its intricate orb-shaped web to catch flying insects.

Habitat in Yunnan Rainforest

The Yunnan Rainforest, located in southwest China near the borders of Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam, is a biodiversity hotspot. This region hosts tropical and subtropical forests with rich plant and insect life, ideal conditions for orb-weaver spiders. In this dense, humid environ-

ment, survival often depends on the ability to avoid being seen. Birds, reptiles, and larger insects are natural predators, and camouflage is key. The orb-weaver's mimicry not only protects it from predation but also increases hunting success by allowing it to ambush prey more effectively.

Behaviour and Web Construction

Like other orb-weavers, the leaf mimic constructs large, symmetrical webs, often between trees or shrubs. These webs are designed to capture flying insects like moths and bee-

ties. The spider typically hides during the day and spins its web at dusk. If disturbed, it will retreat to a nearby hiding spot or drop to the ground, remaining still to maintain its disguise.

Ecological Significance

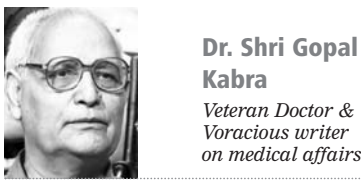
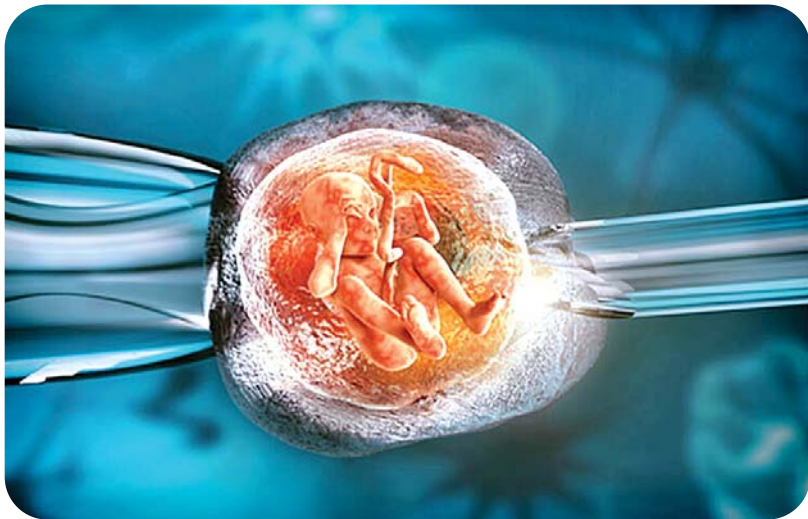
This spider plays an important ecological role as a predator of harmful insects. In turn, it supports a balanced food web in Yunnan's forests.

Its presence also indicates a healthy ecosystem, as such specialized species rely on stable environmental conditions to survive.

Final Thoughts

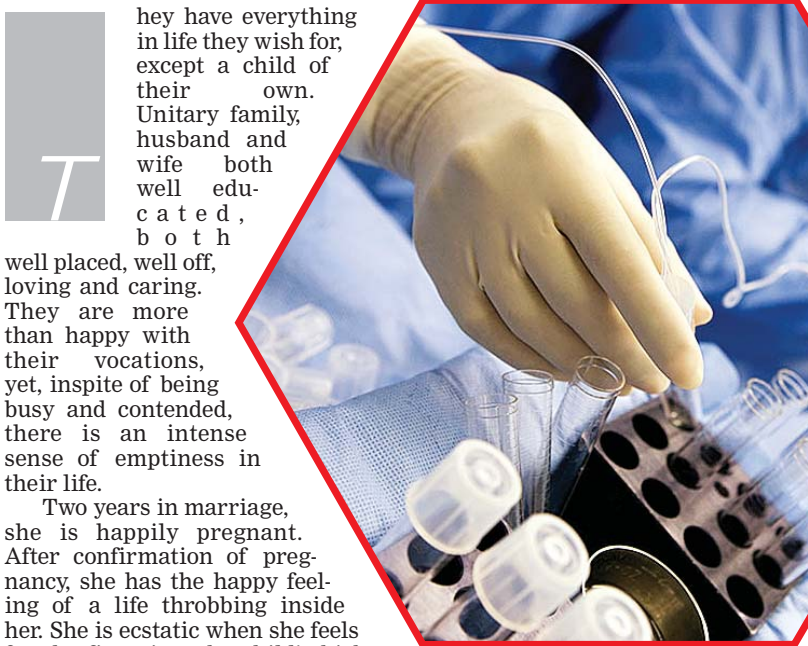
The leaf-mimicking orb-weaver of Yunnan is a striking example of evolution and adaptation. Its ability to disappear in plain sight highlights nature's ingenuity. As

habitat loss threatens species across China, preserving the Yunnan Rainforest is crucial, not just for the spiders, but for the entire web of life that thrives there.



Dr. Shri Gopal Kabra
Veteran Doctor & Voracious writer on medical affairs

Two years pass, she has not conceived. Worried, she consults her doctor. A battery of tests is done including the one to test the patency of the uterine tubes. She does not like the intrusive test. The bolt strikes when the results come. With



They have everything in life they wish for, except a child of their own. Unitary family, husband and wife both well educated, both well placed, well off, loving and caring. They are more than happy with their vocations, yet, inspite of being busy and contented, there is an intense sense of emptiness in their life.

Two years in marriage, she is happily pregnant. After confirmation of pregnancy, she has the happy feeling of a life throbbing inside her. She is ecstatic when she feels for the first time the child's kick. She shares it with her husband. He too feels it, smiles contently with a kiss.

The misfortune strikes. She slips while cleaning a fan. Hurts herself. And worse, it leads to miscarriage, followed by severe infection. Aggressively treated, she recovers. Back home, the husband cheers her; this is not the end. We will be happy again. They live a happy married life.



a glum face, the gynecologist discloses that both her uterine tubes are blocked. But for some miracle, she is told that normal conception is unlikely. Back home, she breaks down in the arms of her husband.

She waits long enough for the ova are removed (harvested) laparoscopically. Number of these harvested ova are fertilized in a petri dish. The fertilized ova are then incubated and grown. A number of these embryos, as they are called, are manually transferred to her uterus.

She is told of possibility of multiple pregnancies and the failure rate of the procedure. She may need repetition of the procedure once or twice. She is tense, her heart thumps, her grip on her husband's hand tightens as she visualizes herself undergoing the painful intrusive procedure. She is not willing. The only alternative is adoption, adds the gynecologist, as the couple rises to leave.

Back home, she shares it with her two sisters, elder, a senior gynecologist, owning a hospital and practicing down south, and the younger, a happily married mother of two children.

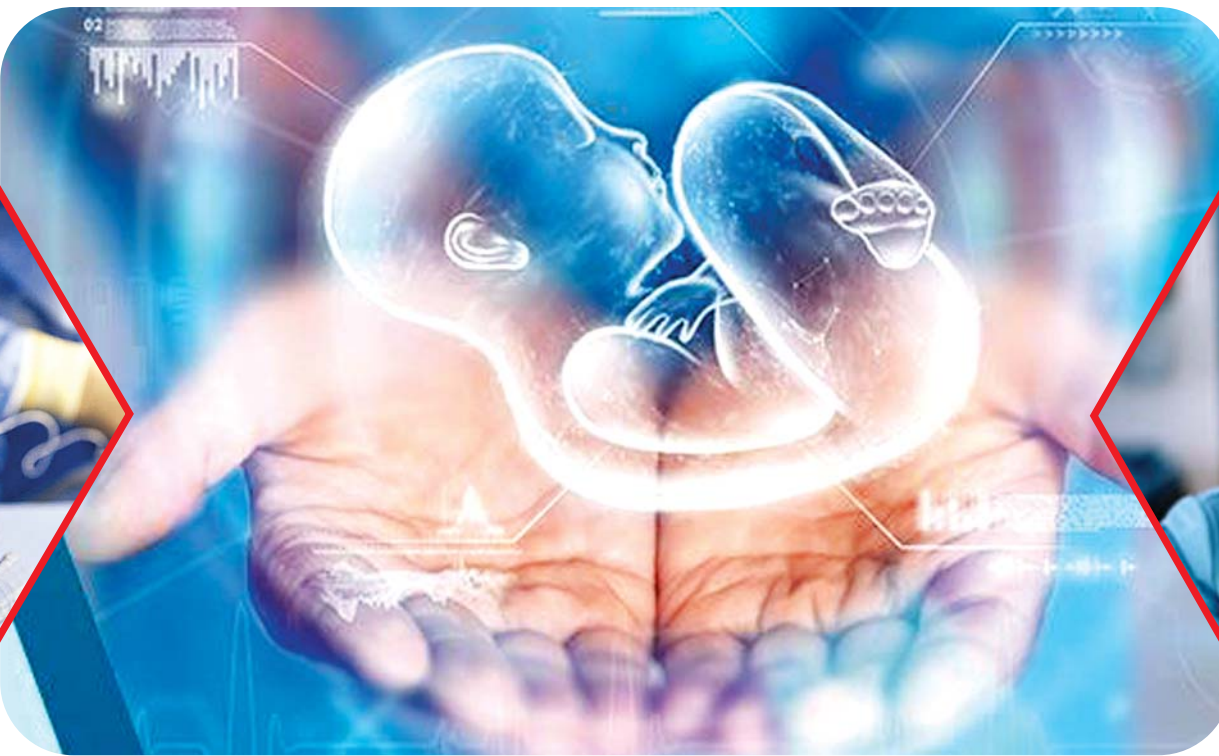
One late evening, she receives a phone call from her younger sister. She tells her that though they never

A Case Of Compassion and Law

Two years pass, she has not conceived. Worried, she consults her doctor. A battery of tests is done including the one to test the patency of the uterine tubes. She does not like the intrusive test. The bolt strikes when the results come. With a glum face, the gynecologist discloses that both her uterine tubes are blocked. But for some miracle, she is told that normal conception is unlikely.



#SERVE ALL



Tells her that they will continue the pregnancy to term, will come to her for delivery and leave the child and disappear. The lady requests, 'Please Madam, give the child to some decent couple to bring up. Don't report to the police, and send



in favour of her childless sister who is keen to adopt a child.

She asks the couple. They are more than willing to do it. But she knows that, even though it is in the interest of all, virtually saves a life, this is not something regular and in strict conformity of the surrogacy and adoption laws.

She persuades the couple to come for delivery and get registered in the assumed name of the adopting parents. Deliver and then leave. She tells her sister of her plan. Register her as pregnant patient for 24 weeks duration.

Later, when the couple comes for delivery, she summons her sister to come. The pregnant lady is admitted under the case file in the name of her sister. She tells the couple about their assumed names. This ensures that all documents and birth certificate etc. are in the name of her sister and her husband. After delivery and discharge, the couple comes to the house of the obstetrician with the child and documents, hands them over to the obstetrician, and leave.

The obstetrician sister escorts her younger sister and her husband to the airport and watches with immense content, as her sister leaves, cradling the child against her breast. The third sister joins them through a video call.

Compassion, love and law, the ideal human trinity!

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



it in her mind, the presence of the child in her womb. She remembers and virtually feels the child's kick. She shivers imagining a newly born child put to her breast. But her hope and happiness are short-lived. She is informed that that her younger sister had a miscarriage. Then what happens is beyond her imagination.

She receives a phone call from her elder sister, the Obstetrician. She is asked to come with her husband. No, it's not an emergency, and adds she cannot tell her on the phone, it's something very private and personal, insists they come immediately.

What she learns is very unusual and intriguing. The obstetrician sister tells her about a young couple that had come for MTP for the unwanted child conceived because of contraceptive failure. Unfortunately, on investigation, it is found that the pregnancy is already 24 weeks old and beyond the permissible limit. The couple insists for an abortion, tells they just cannot afford to keep the child, for reasons they are not willing to disclose. The obstetrician cautions it will be very risky if they go for abortion by a quack. The couple in the evening comes to the home of obstetrician.

#

band has normal sperm count, in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer is suggested. This way they will have their genetically own child. She is told the details of the procedure. She will be given medications to induce ovulation. The ova are removed (harvested) laparoscopically. Number of these harvested ova are fertilized in a petri dish. The fertilized ova are then incubated and grown. A number of these embryos, as they are called, are manually transferred to her uterus.

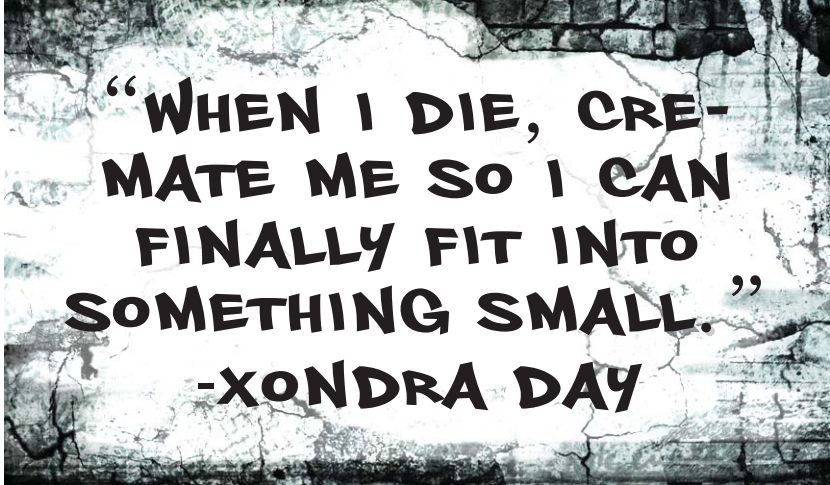
She is told of possibility of multiple pregnancies and the failure rate of the procedure. She may need repetition of the procedure once or twice. She is tense, her heart thumps, her grip on her husband's hand tightens as she visualizes herself undergoing the painful intrusive procedure. She is not willing. The only alternative is adoption, adds the gynecologist, as the couple rises to leave.

Back home, she shares it with her two sisters, elder, a senior gynecologist, owning a hospital and practicing down south, and the younger, a happily married mother of two children.

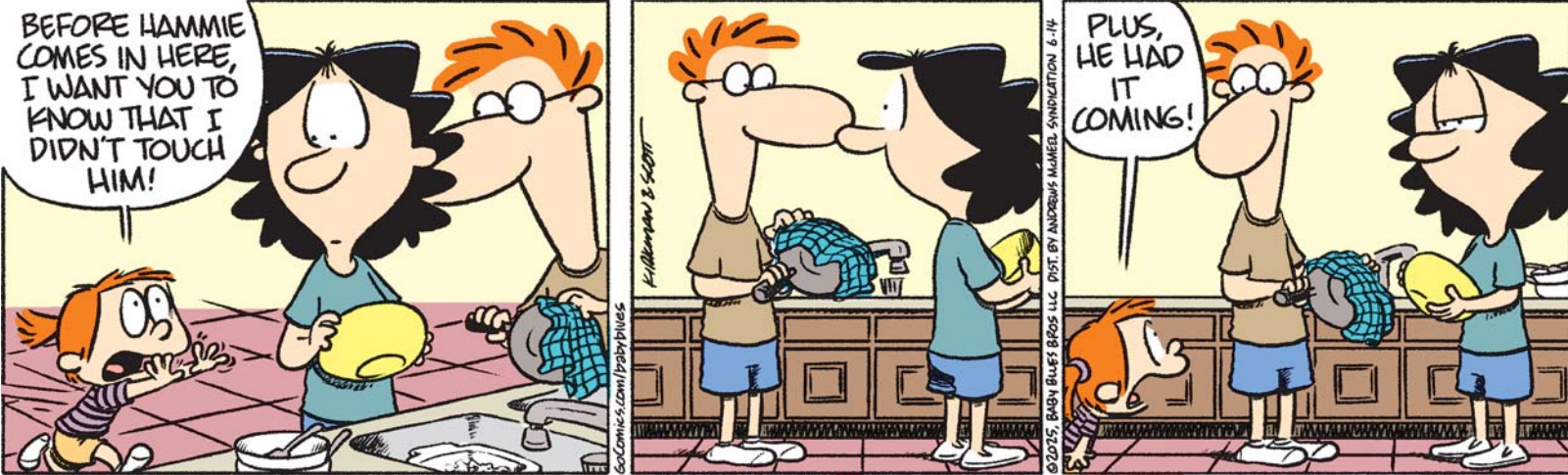
One late evening, she receives a phone call from her younger sister. She tells her that though they never

wanted a third child, because of contraceptive failure, she has conceived again. Her husband wants her to undergo MTP. She is reluctant. She has discussed it with their elder gynecologist sister. The younger sister is willing to continue the pregnancy for the sake her childless sister. That's God sent. She is more than happy to agree. She recalls her feeling when she was pregnant. She virtually relives

THE WALL

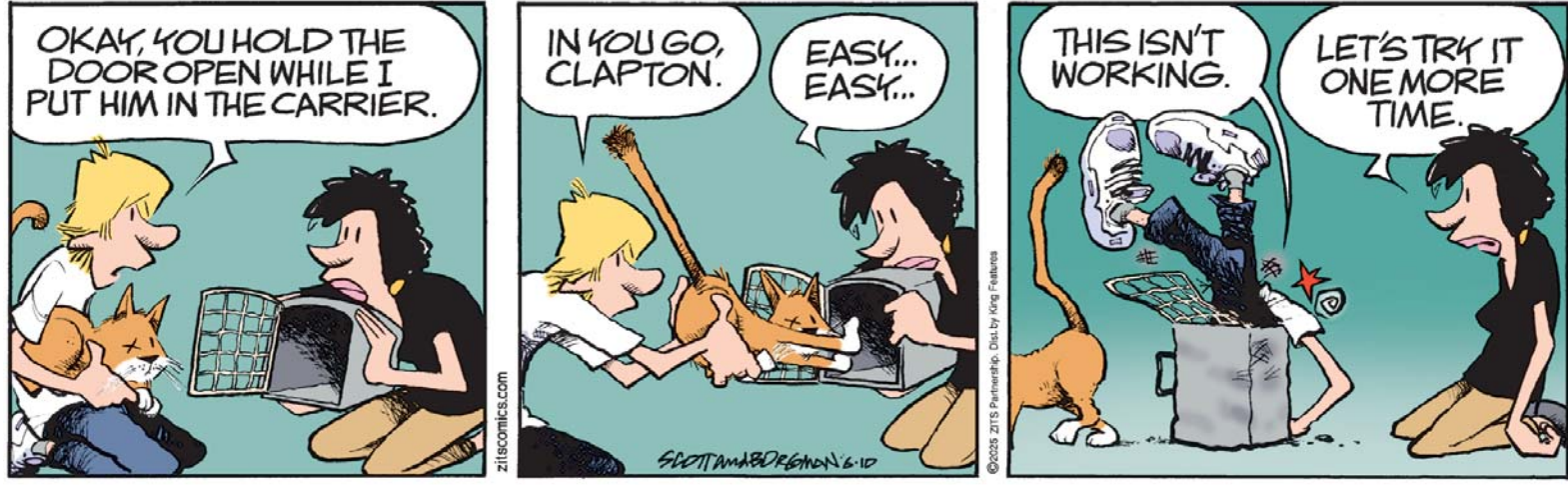


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman